Destination Success

First-Year Focus

What's your destination?
FROM THE TOP

Last week I announced my retirement after 35 years in higher education and three wonderful years at Blinn College.

When I arrived in November 2011, I was determined to strengthen our Distance Learning and Workforce Education programs and to improve campus discipline and safety. Three years later, I’m proud to say that we have been successful in each of those three fronts.

Our Distance Learning program continues to experience tremendous growth, as we not only introduce more students to the convenience of our online education offerings, but also train faculty to teach within the online format. Within the past two months, our Division of Workforce Education has been awarded more than $500,000 in grants as we partner with Axis Pipe & Tube and Blue Bell to provide technical and safety training for their employees. Additionally, our discipline efforts have ensured that our campuses continue to provide our students an atmosphere where education always comes first.

I’m proud of the strong partnerships we have with elite universities throughout the state and the Memorandum of Understanding we recently signed with Baylor University that will guarantee admission and transfer scholarships for Blinn College students.

While it hasn’t been any easy process, I have no doubt that the College’s reorganization will prove beneficial in the years to come as Blinn continues to grow. Our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaffirmation efforts will forever remind me of our ability to come together for the college we all love and put forth a tremendous effort for the sake of our students’ success.

Moving forward, I’m looking forward to putting the final touches on our preparation for our on-site visit Oct. 28-30 and assisting with the presidential transition in whatever way I can. Blinn College is a comprehensive community college 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 community.

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 phone 404-679-4500, or visit www.sacscoc.org for questions about the accreditation of Blinn College.

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

ON THE COVER

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

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Blinn College has named Brenham resident Richard Powell to its Board of Trustees. A retired attorney who has lived in Brenham since 1990, Powell was appointed to fill the Precinct 1 seat vacated in July when Norwood Lange resigned after 24 years of service. Powell’s appointment runs until the next general election in May 2015.

“We are excited to welcome Richard Powell to our board,” said Board President Douglas Borchardt. “His leadership and experience will be a valuable resource to Blinn College and help us continue to provide affordable academic excellence for our students.”

Powell earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from Baylor University and his Juris Doctor from South Texas College of Law. After earning his license, he went to work at Briscoe & Shaffer in Houston, where he became a partner and the firm was renamed Briscoe, Shaffer & Powell. Powell practiced law until 1990, when he moved to Brenham.

“We fell in love with this community,” Powell said. “No one can live up to a person like Norwood Lange, but I will do my best to be prepared.”

He and his wife Barbara have been married 40 years and have four children. They are members of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.

Prior to Powell’s appointment, the board read a resolution in recognition of Lange’s 24 years of service to the Board of Trustees. During his tenure, Lange helped to oversee a period of incredible growth at Blinn, as enrollment leapt from 6,930 students in 1990 to 18,413 last fall. The College also opened new campuses in Bryan, Schulenburg and Sealy.

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Blinn College has attracted a record number of students from across the state for the second consecutive year, the College has announced.

Fueled by strong growth on its Bryan campus and in its online course offerings, Blinn registered 19,317 students for the Fall 2014 semester, an increase of 4.9 percent over last year and the highest total in the College’s 131-year history. Since 2006, Blinn’s enrollment has increased 37.5 percent.

According to the Texas Association of Community Colleges, two-year college enrollment is down slightly statewide.

Overall contact hours – the number of hours students spend with their instructors – increased 2.7 percent to 3,626,080. State funding is based on contact hours and student success milestones.

The Bryan campus saw a 6.4 percent increase with 13,587 students – 816 more than last year. The College is also seeing increased demand for its online courses, with 1,267 students electing to take courses through Blinn’s Distance Learning Program. That program has seen a 24.8 percent increase since last fall.

Earlier this year, Dallas-based architectural design and planning firm BOKA Powell projected that Blinn’s Brazos County campuses could see enrollment exceed 15,000 by 2017 and approach 20,000 by 2025. Those growth projections were based upon Blinn’s strong academic reputation and its partnerships with Texas A&M, Sam Houston State and Texas State universities, and the universities of Texas and Houston. The Blinn TEAM (Transfer Enrollment at A&M) Program allows selected applicants to Texas A&M’s freshman class a unique co-enrollment opportunity with the chance to earn full Texas A&M admission. The first of its kind between a major university and a community college, the initiative received the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Recognition of Excellence.
New initiative will change the way Blinn teaches first-year students

‘Destination Success’ initiative will use learning communities to help students transition to college coursework

After more than 130 years, Blinn College is changing the way it helps high school students transition to college coursework.

This year, the College is implementing an ambitious initiative titled “Destination Success: First-Year Focus,” that will create learning communities to help first-year college students adapt to the expectations of a collegiate curriculum. To do this, Blinn will create learning communities consisting of first-year college students, which national research has shown increases students’ learning outcomes and retention.

In creating these learning communities, Blinn has identified four courses with high first-year student enrollment but success rates below the College average. Beginning in Fall 2015, first-year students will be placed in learning communities in which they will take two of these courses with high first-year student enrollment but success rates below the College average. Beginning in Fall 2015, first-year students will be placed in learning communities in which they will take two of these courses with high first-year student enrollment but success rates below the College average. Beginning in Fall 2015, first-year students will be placed in learning communities in which they will take two of these courses with high first-year student enrollment but success rates below the College average. Beginning in Fall 2015, first-year students will be placed in learning communities in which they will take two of these courses with high first-year student enrollment but success rates below the College average.

“Research suggests that learning communities have the best results in improving student success and retention rate compared to other initiatives, and linking these communities to a student success course makes a lot of sense,” Barnes-Tilley said. “The research suggests that students master the subject matter better than if they are in a regular class because they have a support network to help them and students are more engaged in the learning process.”

This Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is part of Blinn’s Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation. Colleges throughout the nation undergo the QEP process to develop an important element of their institutional mission, addressing a well-defined, focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning.

Learning communities have been around for roughly 20 years, said QEP co-director Mary Barnes-Tilley, but have become more popular in the last decade as colleges and universities have developed successful models.

Learning communities will begin with a pilot program in Fall 2015. That semester, the College will create approximately a dozen learning communities consisting of first-time college students with no declared major. At least one learning community will be created on each of Blinn’s four campuses, and each learning community will have no more than 35 students. The College then plans to steadily grow the program, with all-first-time college students enrolling in learning communities by the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

For more information, visit www.blinn.edu/qep.

Texas A&M Blinn TEAM Program named one of the state’s best educational initiatives

The Texas A&M Blinn Transfer Enrollment at A&M (TEAM) Program has once again been recognized as one of the exceptional educational partnerships in the state of Texas.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has named the co-enrollment partnership, which allows hundreds of additional students to qualify for Texas A&M University’s freshman class each year, one of eight finalists for the 2014 Star Awards. The awards recognize exceptional contributions toward meeting one or more of the goals of the Texas higher education plan, Closing the Gap by 2015.

Star Award winners will be revealed Nov. 21 during the annual State of Higher Education luncheon, held in conjunction with the 2014 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference.

The first co-enrollment program of its kind between a major university and a community college, the TEAM Program received the Coordinating Board’s Recognition of Excellence in 2013. This Fall, 1,091 students enrolled in the program.

TEAM allows students to enroll at both schools with part-time admission to Texas A&M and is offered only to qualifying students during the Texas A&M freshman admissions process. Participating students are enrolled in one academic course at Texas A&M each semester and complete the remainder of their courses at the Blinn – Bryan campus. Students who complete 45 Blinn credit hours and 15 Texas A&M credit hours within two years, with a 3.0 grade point average at each school, are automatically admitted to Texas A&M.

TEAM students can apply for transfer admission sooner when they meet the eligibility requirements.

“The TEAM Program demonstrates the collaborative potential between elite four-year institutions such as Texas A&M and community colleges with strong academic standards such as Blinn,” said Dr. Harold Nolte, Blinn College district president. “We’re very proud to be part of a program that has proven so successful in helping students realize their academic dreams.”

Through TEAM, students enjoy the university experience afforded by Texas A&M and the smaller classroom environment and lower costs offered at Blinn. Students enrolled in 15 semester credit hours in the TEAM program save as much as $1,500 compared to students enrolled in 15 credit hours at Texas A&M.

“Cost savings for TEAM students are phenomenal,” said Dr. John O. Beaver, dean of Educational Partnerships. “In addition to the lower costs Blinn offers, students are eligible for Texas A&M financial aid, dorm residence and activities such as sporting events.”

Approximately 76 percent of students enrolled in TEAM earn full enrollment at Texas A&M, and of those who matriculate, 88.8 percent go on to graduate. TEAM’s success is one of the reasons why Blinn’s academic transfer rate is one of the highest in the nation.

The Coordinating Board received 53 nominations and 28 applications for this year’s Star Award Program. This year’s other finalists are:

• Lee College and Goose Creek ISD – Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success
• Odessa College – Drop Rate Improvement Program (DRIP)
• San Antonio College and San Antonio Independent School District – San Antonio College GED to College Transition
• Texas A&M University – Commerce – Office of Hispanic Outreach and Student Programs
• Texas A&M International University – First Year Experience Program
• University of Houston – Downtown and Project GRAD – UHD & Project GRAD Partnership
• The University of Texas at El Paso – Developmental Math Program

These finalists represent the state’s most effective efforts for closing the education gaps that challenge our state,” said Raymund A. Paredes, commissioner of higher education. “The Coordinating Board is proud to recognize the people and the institutions that develop and implement these programs, as well as the organizations and others who support them. We look forward to announcing the winners in November.”

For more information regarding the TEAM Program, visit www.blinn.edu/teams and blinnteam.tamu.edu.
Blinn awarded $400,000 grant to provide Blue Bell safety and technical training

Blue Bell is the nation’s third-highest selling brand of ice cream

The Texas Workforce Commission has awarded Blinn College a $403,981 grant to provide a wide array of training programs for almost 700 employees at Blue Bell Creameries. The grant will allow Blinn to add 693 incumbent employees and 57 new employees in safety, welding, the use of programmable logic controllers (PLCs), refrigeration, robotics, pneumatics, computer technology, food safety, AutoCAD Electrical, fork lift operation, manufacturing processes, manufacturing and distribution and other topics.

“With this training, Blue Bell employees will build upon their skill sets, master new technologies and have opportunities for career advancement,” said Megan Costanza, dean of Workforce Education. “We are excited to partner with Blue Bell and help its employees master the latest skills and techniques in the industry.”

Founded in 1907 and based in Brenham, Texas, Blue Bell is the third highest-selling ice cream brand in the United States, despite only being sold in 23 states. The regional company offers more than 60 ice cream flavors as well as frozen snack items and a variety of health claim products.

“For more than 100 years we have dedicated ourselves to producing a superior product,” said Paul Kruse, Blue Bell CEO and president. “The training provided by this grant will be an asset to everyone and help us continue making the best ice cream in the country.”

The Skills Development Fund is the premier job-training program in Texas, providing training dollars for Texas businesses and their employees. Administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, success is achieved through collaboration among businesses, public community and technical colleges, local workforce development boards and economic development partners.

From Sept. 1, 2013 – Aug. 31, 2015, the Texas Workforce Commission has budgeted $115,145 to provide safety and skills training for almost 200 employees at a new pipe and tube facility in Bryan.

Axis Pipe and Tube, which plans to open a 183-acre plant later this year to produce pipe and tubing for the oil and gas industry, is partnering with Blinn College to train 156 new employees and upgrade the skills of 33 existing employees using funds awarded through the grant. The $120 million facility will go into operation this fall and will eventually employ 285 people.

“The training identified in this project will provide the opportunity for Axis’s employees to improve their basic skills, learn and master new technological skills and provide opportunity for career advancement,” said Dr. Cynthia Griffith, vice president for instruction for technical and workforce education. “This training will allow Axis Pipe and Tube to successfully implement the new and advanced technology necessary to become efficient in its business model and manufacturing processes.”

Blinn will provide customized technical training for the manufacturing of pipe and tubing as well as safety training, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations and the safe operation of forklifts, and will provide first aid, CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) training.

The Prolama Group announced it was opening its Bryan facility in April 2013, to be operated under the newly-formed Axis Pipe and Tube. Inc. The company expects to produce approximately 300,000 tons of pipe and tubular products each year.

“We are happy to have a resource like Blinn in the community,” said Francisco Garza, vice president and general manager for Prolama. “Their commitment to education has reinforced to us the good decision we made in choosing Bryan, Texas for this major investment.”

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From Sept. 1, 2013 – Aug. 31, 2015, the Texas Workforce Commission has budgeted $448 million in Skills Development Funds to support high-quality, customized job training projects across the state. Blinn has been awarded more than $500,000 in Skills Development Funds so far for training in 2014-15.

“Blinn is excited about the opportunity to partner with more local businesses in applying for these funds,” said Rod Thomas, director of workforce and corporate partnerships.

“The training provided through the Skills Development Fund produces better employees who in turn contribute to the community’s economic vitality.”

Blinn’s Division of Workforce Education improves the local economy by helping job-seekers obtain the skills and credentials they need to succeed in the workplace, and by partnering with local businesses to offer training opportunities for incumbent and new employees.

Blinn, Bryan ISD partnership makes training more accessible to Bryan families

Blinn Workforce Education opens location on Bryan High School’s Blue campus

A new partnership between Blinn College and Bryan ISD is bringing Blinn’s workforce training to Bryan High School’s Blue campus.

The agreement, approved this month by the Bryan ISD Board of Trustees, will allow Blinn to offer phlebotomy and pharmacy technician courses taught by the College’s Division of Workforce Education instructors to high school students.

Beginning in January 2015, Blinn will begin teaching additional professional and workforce training courses at the location after 5 p.m.

“The agreement is another example of the close partnership between Blinn and Bryan ISD, making Blinn Workforce Education courses more accessible to Bryan ISD students and their families,” said Megan Costanza, dean of Workforce Education. “With House Bill 5 encouraging strong partnerships between high schools and higher education institutions, this agreement represents an outstanding step in our plan for workforce education in the Brazos Valley.”

For the agreement, Bryan ISD will pay Blinn instructors to teach its students, while Blinn would provide the consumables, equipment and instructors.

“In this day and time, collaborative partnerships are a must, and colleges and school districts cannot work in isolation,” said Dr. Thomas Walls, Bryan ISD superintendent. “This partnership is a win-win for both Blinn College and Bryan ISD.”
Blinn names interim vice president for instruction for academic programs

Kirkland brings more than 30 years of administrative experience

Blinn College has named Dr. Joseph Kirkland in interim vice president for academic programs. Kirkland brings more than 30 years of administrative experience, including the last five years as vice president for academic affairs at Lamar State College – Orange, and more than a decade’s experience as an English instructor. As vice president for academic affairs at LSC – Orange, Kirkland oversaw the college’s instructional curriculum, administration, budget and faculty, and supervised its information technology, library and continuing education and contract training programs. As liaison to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Kirkland played a key role in LSC – Orange’s successful reaccreditation process.

“Dr. Kirkland’s leadership skills and commitment to student success make him an outstanding selection for this role,” said Dr. Harold Nolte, Blinn College president. “We are excited to welcome him to the Blinn family.”

Prior to his tenure at LSC – Orange, Kirkland served as dean of instruction at San Jacinto College from 1999-2003 and, after seven months in an interim role, was named dean of instruction at San Jacinto College from 1999-2003. He served as assistant professor at Prairie View A&M from 2004-2010, and has taught online courses at American Public University since 2012. He has also served as a visiting assistant professor at Texas A&M University and has been a part-time faculty member at the Blinn – Bryan campus since 2001 before moving to a full-time role this Fall.

Blinn College has named Dr. Kenneth Howell its interim vice president for academic affairs at LSC – Orange. Howell has an M.S. in U.S. history from Texas A&M-Commerce. He earned his Ph.D. in history from Texas A&M University – Commerce. He has been a part-time faculty member at the Blinn – Bryan campus since 2004.

As vice president for academic affairs at LSC – Orange, Howell spearheaded efforts to establish a new historical association that will promote and facilitate interest and research in the history of the Central Texas region. The proposed association looks forward to partnering with Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association and Star of the Republic Museum administered by Blinn College to encourage Texas history scholarship and education.

Blinn named Dr. Kenneth Howell its director for establishing a regional Texas historical association.

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Proposed association would promote and facilitate interest in Central Texas history

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Bryan theatre season offers everything from classic drama to an evening of modern one-act plays

Blinn College – Bryan campus Theatre Director Greg Wise is challenging Brazos Valley residents to swap four nights of their Netflix for live and interactive entertainment as the College presents four plays during the 2014-2015 theatre season.

The lineup promises to have viewers wrapped up in a modern twist on a classic Greek drama and rolling with laughter during a night of one-act plays.

“It’s a great evening of free entertainment in the Brazos Valley. What have you got to lose?” Wise said. “Come on out and interact. Be a part of an experience.”

The season kicks off Oct. 16 with Owen McCafferty’s adaptation of “Antigone” by Sophocles and runs through April with “Welcome to the Moon and Other Plays,” an evening of one-act plays by John Patrick Shanley. All performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room in the Blinn – Bryan campus Student Center. Admission is free to the public.

Owen McCafferty’s adaptation of the Greek classic “Antigone” offers a profound reflection on the nature of power, democracy and human rights. As civil war has ended, a young woman is faced with a difficult decision. She goes against civil law, the king and her uncle to do what she believes is morally just. “Antigone” runs Oct. 16-18.

Bllin will present “Lightning in a Bottle: 10-Minute Plays” by various playwrights Nov. 20-22. This evening of one-act plays packs a punch from some of the most prominent and up-and-coming American playwrights. Students will present some of the highlights from the Actors Theatre of Louisville’s internationally-acclaimed Humana Festival, which is known for showcasing exciting new playwrights. Wise has used the Humana Festival plays as scene study for acting students for the past six years and said he is thrilled to have them showcase some of their best work.

Bllin will kick off the Spring semester with “Crimes of the Heart” by Beth Henley and “Humana Festival Plays” by four of the world’s largest scientific society.

An 11-year Blinn veteran, José served as a volunteer member of the ACS 2008 general chemistry conceptual exam committee and will serve on the 2015 committee. He has been involved with test item development for teacher certification tests for the Educational Testing Service since 2007.

During his time as chemistry program coordinator on the College’s Bryan campus, José implemented the use of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) on a national scale.”

José was asked by a veteran board member to represent the College on a national scale.”

José earned his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Indiana University in 1994. After a six-year career as a biochemist, José enrolled at Texas A&M University, where he would earn his master’s degree in chemical education in 2002. Several of José’s publications appear in biochemistry and chemical education journals. His areas of interest include molecular visualization and assessment of group learning.

“I genuinely makes everyone laugh out loud so hard that I thought it would be a great experience for this season’s lineup,” Wise said. “That’s what theatre offers: a wonderful, communal experience. I think audiences will be pleasantly surprised with the quality of work we’re able to offer.”

Blinn professor named to American Chemical Society Exams Institute board of trustees

Blinn College – Bryan campus Chemistry Professor Thomas José was recently selected to the board of trustees for the American Chemical Society (ACS) Exams Institute, a division of the world’s largest scientific society.

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During his time as chemistry program coordinator on the College’s Bryan campus from 2008-13, José implemented the use of ACS general chemistry exams as summative assessments of student performance. These nationally-normed exams range from high school through the entire undergraduate chemistry curriculum in the United States, and many graduate programs use ACS exams to measure the knowledge of students beginning graduate school.

“I really wouldn’t have been in this position if I hadn’t have been able to serve as coordinator,” José said. “Without that experience, I would not have been able to show evidence of my leadership and management skills. I’m thankful for the opportunities Blinn has offered me and I’m proud to represent the College on a national scale.”

José was asked by a veteran board member to apply for the open position and was one of two applicants selected. During his three-year term, which begins Jan. 1, 2015, the board will select a new Exams Institute director and continue to guide the operations of the 161,000-member nonprofit.

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“We’re proud of Thom for this prestigious appointment and extend him warm congratulations,” said Dr. Robert Brick, Interim Dean of the Division of Science, Engineering and Mathematics. “We appreciate his dedication to the College and his students.”

Star of the Republic Museum to host genealogy workshop Oct. 11

With the workshop is $40 and includes a boxed lunch. To register or learn more about the workshop, email star@blinn.edu or call 979-878-2461, ext. 234. Pre-registration is required and seating is limited. The deadline to register is Oct. 3.

For Blinn College students preparing for a career in biotechnology, there may be no better place in the nation to gain hands-on skills than the National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing (NCTM).

This semester marks the first time Blinn Therapeutics Manufacturing students have begun practicing in the NCTM, a first-in-class, flexible biopharmaceutical workforce training and good manufacturing practices (GMP) facility located on the Texas A&M University campus. The NCTM provides an interactive learning environment for students, researchers and industrial partners through its 48,000-square-foot academic wing that includes state-of-the-art lecture halls, teaching wet labs, a mock GMP process suite, cell culture facilities and a computer laboratory.

“The exposure students get through using the NCTM is an incredibly important part of the program,” said John Ferreira, Blinn Therapeutics Manufacturing Program director. "They are exposed to the latest technologies used in the quality manufacturing of biologic and therapeutic products. They’re studying in the same facility in which a GMP company, Kalen Biotherapeutics, operates daily. It’s an opportunity students can’t find anywhere else.”

Ferreira is a 30-year veteran of the biotech industry. During his term as director of quality for Caliber Biotherapeutics, Ferreira was assigned to assess compliance measures, overall layout, and product and personnel flow of the NCTM during construction. He joined the Blinn faculty in May 2013 to develop curriculum for the new program in response to Texas A&M’s 2012 announcement that it would be designated as one of three biodefense centers in the nation.

“Blinn’s Therapeutics Manufacturing Program addresses the local need for trained technicians to support the biotech corridor right here in Bryan,” Ferreira said. The use of the NCTM better prepares students to enter the industry or to seek more advanced degrees.

In a recent lab session, students learned an aseptic processing technique from Vera Ferreira, an industry expert with more than 30 years of experience in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and large-scale vaccine manufacturing.

“We’re using the equipment we’ll use in the industry,” said Goran Sabjic, a second-year student from College Station. “The professors are extremely qualified and the standards are high, just as they would be in a real-life laboratory setting.”
Brenham, Bryan, Schulenburg, Sealy SEPTEMBER 2014

AROUND THE CAMPUSES

The Blinn College – Brenham campus theatre season promises to have something for everyone as it takes audiences through character transformations in a Texas comedy, 1900s melodrama, love story, Holocaust drama and the classic Willy Wonka.

The 2014-15 season, “A Year of Transformations,” kicked off last month with “Greater Tuna” by Jaston Williams, Ed Howard and Joe Sears, and runs through April with “I Never Saw Another Butterfly” by Celeste Raspanti.

All performances will be held in the Dr. W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center. Admission is $5 and performances are open to the public. Blinn’s theatre program also reserves morning and afternoon performances for local high school and elementary school students. Tickets can be purchased and seats selected in advance at www.blinn.edu/ticketoffice, by calling 979-830-4024, or by emailing bfricel@blinn.edu.

Blinn will present “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” by R. R. Sullivan Oct. 16-18 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. Students will use the first script ever produced to showcase their version of the 1900s melodrama. Just in time for Halloween, students will tell the story of a London lawyer who investigates the transformation of his old friend Dr. Henry Jekyll into the evil Mr. Edward Hyde.

Blinn will close the Fall semester with “Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka,” the timeless story of a chocolate maker and his quest to find an heir. This new stage adaptation by Leslie Bricusse and Tim McDonald features songs from the classic family film, as well as several new songs. The play is produced as part of Blinn College’s Service Learning project and features the Brenham Children’s Choir. Performances run Nov. 20-22 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 23 at 2 p.m.

The Spring semester will open with “Pygmalion” by George Bernard Shaw, the classic romance tells the story of Professor Henry Higgins, who bets that he can transform a simple flower girl into an upstanding woman of society. He never dreams that while teaching the girl the ways of a lady, she would fall in love with him. “Pygmalion” runs April 9-10 at 7 p.m.

Blinn will close the season with “I Never Saw Another Butterfly” by Celeste Raspanti, a Holocaust drama that follows a young girl’s experience living in a Jewish ghetto. With the help of her teacher, the girl is encouraged to express her feelings through drawings and poems.

“It’s going to be a great season,” Nies said. “We have a lot of great student performers and we want everyone to come out because we love a full house.”

BOARD NOTES

Regular board meeting September 23, 2014, Brenham, Texas

The board received or heard reports from:

- Dr. Harold Nolte, district president, on administrative announcements.
- Sylvia McMullen, president of Brazos County campuses, on updates from Brazos County campuses.
- Andrea Liner, dean of Admission & Records/registrar, and James Reed, director of housing, on enrollment and housing.
- Joe Baumann, dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Enrollment Management, on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaffirmation update.
- Jeremy Thomas, QEP co-director, on the Quality Enhancement Plan.
- Joe Baumann, dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Enrollment Management, on strategic objectives.
- Richard O’Malley, executive director of facilities, planning and construction, on buildings and grounds.
- The board reviewed the financial statement and list of checks for the period ending August 31, 2014.

The board voted to:

- Adopt a resolution in appreciation of Norwood Lange for his service on the Blinn College Board of Trustees.
- Adopt a resolution appointing Richard Powell to fill a position on the Blinn College Board of Trustees until the next regularly-scheduled trustee election.
- Adopt a resolution for the 2014 baseball team and coach of the year.
- Approve the minutes for the August 8, 2014 workshop meeting and the August 19, 2014 regular meeting.
- Accept a gift to the College of mini-medical radiology developer for student veterinary technology training.
- Accept a gift to the college of stage setting for the theatre arts program.
- Adopt additional fees beginning Spring 2015.
- Enter into an agreement with Brazos County Emergency Communications District for emergency communication dispensing for the Bryan campus.
- Authorize administration to purchase a 15-passenger shuttle bus.
- Authorize administration to negotiate a professional services agreement with Arklea Studios, Inc., for design and construction phase services related to district-wide facility compliance improvements.
- Authorize administration to negotiate a professional services agreement with Marmor Mok, Inc., for design services related to gymnasium floor improvements of the Physical Education Building on the Brenham campus.
- Authorize administration to negotiate a contract with Xiralight Manufacturing for lighting improvements on the Bryan campus.

BUCCANEER ATHLETICS

Blinn cheer, dance receive their 2014 national championship rings

Championships mark the first in each program’s history

The Blinn College cheer and dance teams received their national championship rings on September 6 at Cub Stadium in Brenham.

The cheerleaders received their National Coed Cheerleaders Association championship rings prior to the Buccaneers’ game against Tyler Junior College, while the dance team received their National Dance Alliance championship rings at halftime.

Each championship marked the first in program history.

In April, the Buccaneer cheer team scored 93.33 points at the NCA championships in Daytona, Fla. To defeat Shorter (Ga.) University for the title. The win came one year after missing out on the title by four-tenths of a point.

The dance squad was also coming off a second-place finish in 2013 but bounced back to win the top prize in 2014, scoring 9,632 out of a possible 10 points to claim their first national championship and dethrone two-time defending national champion Ramapo College.

Sarah Barland is Blinn’s spirit coordinator and head dance coach, while Michael Brewster serves as head cheer coach.

Blinn by the Numbers:

- 1: current offensive ranking for football in the NJCAA
- 3: total number of sets lost by Volleyball through 66 sets
- 4: current ranking for Volleyball in the NJCAA National Poll
- 10: number of touchdowns thrown by quarterback Jake Hubenak against Arkansas Baptist on Sept. 20
- 15: consecutive wins for Volleyball to start the season
- 18: consecutive wins for Football in the NJCAA National Poll
- 25: consecutive wins for Volleyball dating back to last season
- 67.8: average points per game by Football after first four games
- 271: number of points scored by Basketball through first four games
- 534.5: average passing yards per game by Buccaneer offense
- 841.0: average total offense per game by Buccaneer offense

Both Volleyball and Football have started out the season in dominating fashion. Here’s a quick breakdown of some of the key numbers.

BLINN CONNECTION

Brenham, Bryan, Schulenburg, Sealy SEPTEMBER 2014

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PERSONAL NOTES

Professor Essie Childers was recently named the College Reading and Learning Association Distinguished Teaching Award winner for 2014.

Dr. Marcelo Bussiki, dean of Visual & Performing Arts, was recently named artist of the year by the Arts Council of Brazos Valley. In addition to his duties at Blinn, Bussiki is music director and conductor of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Police Sergeant Malcolm Carter was recently promoted to captain on the Brenham campus.

Former Blinn College football player Marion Grice was recently signed by the Arizona Cardinals. Grice transferred from Blinn to Arizona State University, where he also played football.

Find Blinn College on:

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCT. 1 ........ Writing Center Workshop: MLA Tips, Bryan campus Writing Center, 5-6 p.m.
OCT. 2 ........ Sam Houston St. Advisor Available, Brenham Advising Office, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
OCT. 4 ........ Buccaneer Marching Festival, Cub Stadium, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
OCT. 7 ........ Volleyball vs. Lee College (Dig Pink Night), P.E. Building, 6 p.m.
OCT. 8 ........ Bryan campus Health Fair, Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
OCT. 9 ........ Faculty/Staff Fall BBQ, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park, 5-8 p.m.
OCT. 10 ........ CIRT Sky Warn Training, Bryan E-132, 1-4 p.m.
OCT. 11 ........ Genealogy Workshop, Star of the Republic Museum, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
OCT. 12 ......... Football vs. Trinity Valley, Cub Stadium, 5 p.m.
OCT. 13 ........ Writing Center Workshop: Commas, Bryan campus Writing Center, noon – 1 p.m.
OCT. 14 ........ Texas A&M Advisor Available, Brenham Advising Office, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
OCT. 15 ........ Volleyball vs. Victoria, P.E. Building, 6 p.m.
OCT. 16 ........ Final Class Day, 8-Week Session
OCT. 16-18 .... “Antigone” Theatre Performance, Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room, 7:30 p.m.
OCT. 18 ........ Baseball Home Run Derby Fundraiser, Leroy Dreyer Field, 5:30 p.m.
OCT. 21 ........ Board of Trustees Meeting, Brenham Administration Building, 6:30 p.m.
OCT. 22 ........ Student Concerto Competition, O’Donnell Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.
OCT. 23 ........ Writing Center Workshop: Formal Academic Writing, Bryan Writing Center, 5-6 p.m.
OCT. 24 ........ Volleyball vs. Laredo, P.E. Building, 6 p.m.
OCT. 25 ........ Hall of Honor Banquet, Janis Sneed Banquet Room, 11:30 a.m.
OCT. 26 ........ Football vs. Navarro (Homecoming), Cub Stadium, 3 p.m.
OCT. 29 ........ 10th Court of Appeals Session, Barbara L. Pearson Banquet Room, 9:30 a.m.
OCT. 30 ........ Volleyball vs. Trinity Valley, P.E. Building, 6 p.m.

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BLINN IN THE MEDIA

BLINN / BAYLOR SIGN TRANSFER AGREEMENT
www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9e0ypYwwXk

BLINN RELEASES BRYAN THEATER SEASON
www.kbtx.com/bvtm/headlines/Blinn-College-Bryan-Campus-Theater-Season--276906541.html

CAM NEWTON: PART 3 OF “HUDDLE UP”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xi2cdn9ofo