

Spring is in the Air..... 1

The Haps..... 1

- \* Black History Month
- \* Strategy Mixer
- \* Diversity Speaker
- \* SE Texas Reads
- \* Green Day

Spotlight..... 4

- \* ACE Program Certifies 1,000 Teachers
- \* Speech and Debate Team on a Roll
- \* Quiz Bowl Team
- \* Welding Center
- \* Papers and projects

Looking Forward..... 5



# the INFORMER

News for the Employees of Lamar State College-Orange

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## The Daze of Spring

Spring's here already? Indeed it is, and so is the unpredictable weather of Southeast Texas. As the waves of heat move back and forth, so do the students across the campus.



Schedules for the May mini and summer sessions, in

addition to the fall semester, have been published and the students have been making their rounds through the admissions, financial aid, and advising offices. With all of our



classroom and lab spaces complete, faculty and students are gearing up for full load of

coursework. We're also looking forward to a batch of new programs to begin during the summer and fall terms, especially the online Upward Mobility Nursing program and the Process Operating Technology degree program. Other potential new programs include theater, horticulture, and physical therapist assistant.

As the spring semester's end draws near, we can look back on the previous semester and

*(continued on pg. 2)*

## The Haps

LSC-O celebrated **Black History Month** with a poster contest for area students and a special program titled "What if there were no black people?" on Thursday, February 26. Contest winners were from Anderson Elementary, West Orange Middle School, and a homeschooled student. There were dance and musical performances, as well as selected readings from local authors.



Fat Tuesday was a great day to host the first annual **Strategy Mixer**. The Mar-



keting Advisory Committee began planning this function last fall, but "Ike" is to blame for the date change. The Committee waited for the right time and campus atmosphere, and that time happened to fall on February 24. The mixer was a huge success; the Committee received insightful feedback from employees, and it



gave employees a chance to mix and mingle (and dance). Stay tuned for decisions on LSC-O's logo, colors, and future activities.

"Walking is over-rated," according to **Matt Glowacki**, who served as the **diversity speaker** in February. He was born healthy, but with no legs, which to most people may seem like a major disability, but

*(continued on pg. 2)*

# The Daze of Spring (cont.)

have an optimistic outlook for what's to come. The 40th anniversary will be a great milestone for LSC-O, and we look forward to celebrating the journey to that mark.

All employees should know that their hard work is appreciated. Everyone is working diligently to support the main goal of growing the campus, in numbers and in presence. Although work is a priority, do not forget to take time away during those busy days. Enjoy the breeze on a nice day. Grab your favorite



coffee drink from the Bronz. Browse the books in the library for that novel you've been meaning to read for the past month. Visit a colleague that you haven't seen around campus in a while. Invite someone you've wanted to know more about to lunch. Volunteer some spare time to help with a school function. Attend a campus organization meeting to learn more about our students. These are only a handful of suggestions, but find what works for you. After all, you control the outcome of your day, so make it a great one!

# The Haps (cont.)

to him its normal. Matt participates in competitive sports, has participated in the Olympic games, and has three businesses—wheelchair building, mobile disk jockey and entertainment services, and consulting and speaking.



His speech was titled "Diversity according to 'South Park' and 'Family Guy'" - the title alone raised a lot of eyebrows. There was pizza, drinks, and king cake; students gathered in the Student Center Gym, and some appeared to be come only for the freebies. However, once Matt took the stage, and began speaking on all facets

of diversity in a candid way, those that seemed to be waiting for the right time to leave made their way to seats. So many students and employees attended that extra chairs had to be set up in the back of the room. Matt touched on all aspects of diversity including race, gender, handicap, body image, and religion, among other things. His message was broad, yet inclusive enough, to capture the attention of a variety of people. According to Wendy Elliott, this speaker event was one of the most highly attended.

LSC-O partnered with the Stark Foundation and Lucher Theater to participate in **Southeast Texas Reads**, part of The Big Read Texas campaign, to promote the reading of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Although this was the first year, the campaign events, including a play, public readings, and a movie night, were successful:

- 1,365 attended the play
- 1,119 attended reading events
- 230 bought copies of the book
- Hundreds of Southeast Texans, young and old, get excited about reading.



**Green Day** was appropriately held on St. Patrick's Day...faculty, staff, and students definitely displayed their green pride. A band called "the Crisis" showed up and showed out, playing a mix of popular music.



# You Don't Say?

April is **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**, a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and encourage individuals and communities to support children and families. LSC-O's Dental Assisting and Pharmacy Technology students will be collecting new flip flops for the children and teenagers of Buckner Children and Family Services. New socks and shoe strings will also be collected. You may drop off items in the Allied Health building, room 100 or 217.



April is also **Poetry Month**. On Thursday, April 30, from 5 - 6 p.m., there will be an evening of poetry readings. If you are a poet and would like to read your poetry to the group, contact Mary McCoy at x3083. Drue Keogh will share some of her poetry that night as LSC-O celebrates Poetry Month. And yes, there will be food.

There is also a **"Travel Central"** in the front lab of the library brimming with brochures and information about great places to visit this spring or summer. The library will also pull some travel books to house near Travel Central. Take any brochures you want and if you travel this spring or summer, bring back any information you pickup on your travels.

Bishar Sethna and Cliff Ozmun, along with fellow classmate Niveen Yaseen, presented a paper at the Lamar University Education Research Conference on March 27, 2009. The title of the paper was, "Equity Audit of Access to the Dual-Credit Program at a Southeast Texas Junior College." An abstract of the paper will be published in the conference proceedings. Bishar, Cliff, and Niveen are students in the

Doctor of Education program at Lamar University. The paper they presented was in partial completion of the requirements for the course, "Cultural Influences in Education."

On March 25, Andy Preslar was the pronouncer for the **district UIL spelling contest** in Sabine Pass. It was a "great opportunity to serve the district's most academically-oriented students from top area high schools, while serving as a goodwill ambassador for LSC-O. I will perform the same service at the PNG Invitational tournament on Saturday, April 4," says Andy.

Andy or Karen Priest will serve as the pronouncer for the **Greater Orange Area Literacy Services' annual spelling bee**, to be held on Friday, May 8. Teams from local schools, industries, agencies, nonprofit serve organizations, and businesses compete for a traveling trophy and their supporters, gathered to cheer their respective teams on, compete for a spirit stick. The college has been an active supporter of this adult literacy program for many years and a number of our faculty and staff serve or have served in leadership roles on its board of directors. The spelling bee is the organization's most important annual fundraising event and draws many donors, large and small, from Orange and surrounding communities. For more information about the bee contact Sharon LeBlanc, GOALS director, at 886-4311.

Several of our faculty and staff, including Barbara Robnett, Dr. Joyner, Karen Priest, Suzonne Crockett, Andy Preslar, and others, attended a retreat for a **P-16 initiative** involving public school teachers from all levels. The retreat, held at Artesian Lakes on April 7 - 8, was organized by LSC-O; it's purpose was to gain familiarity with the state College Readiness Standards and curriculum alignment in the math and English disciplines.

## New Faces

Let's welcome our three newest LSC-O employees! You may have already seen them on campus, but didn't know who they were. Well now you have a name to put with the face...so be sure to say "Hi" next time.



Jeffrey Collins  
Property Inventory Clerk



Toren Swift  
Facility Worker II



Melissa Thomas  
Director of Finance



# SPOTLIGHT

The **ACE Program** reached a monumental milestone last month. Over the last eight years, ACE has certified over **1,000 Texas teachers**. Judy Williams describes what this mark means to her and her staff:

For the "Little Program That Can," we have certified over 1000 Texas teachers. ACE began in 2001 with eight students. Our highest years of enrollment were 2004 with 309 students, 2005 with 330 students and 2006 with 338 students. We currently have 192 active students and continue to produce effective teachers.

I am thankful for the wonderful instructors that work diligently with our students to prepare them for the TExES exam and to be an effective master teachers....Our Advisory Board plays a vital role in the leadership of our program. Our field supervisors have supported our interns on a weekly basis in helping them survive and succeed in their first year of teaching. The accomplishment of certifying 1,000 teachers and them being successful in the classroom could not have been possible without everyone involved in the ACE Program. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.



## CONGRATS ACE PROGRAM!

LSC-O's **Speech and Debate Team**, under the leadership of **Kevin Doss**, has been phenomenal in their regional and national tournaments. **Andrew Gibson**, the team's superstar, has often been the sole competitor for the college. The team has won numerous awards, including:

- 8 awards at the Phi Rho Pi Regional

Tournament

- 1st place - Communication Analysis
- 2nd place - Extemporaneous Speaking, Program Interpretation, and Persuasive Speaking
- 3rd place - Informative Speaking
- 4th place - Impromptu Speaking and Top Individual Event Speaker for Tournament
- 3rd place, Parliamentary Debate
- placed 7th out of 182 competitors in Impromptu Speaking and 15th out of 115 competitors in Extemporaneous Speaking; received a Superior plaque in Impromptu Speaking and an Excellent plaque in Extemporaneous Speaking at the 46th Biennial Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament
- Warren Duhlin Fellowship Award, and Bronze Award for Individual Event Sweepstakes, Silver Award for Debate Sweepstakes, and Silver Award for Overall Sweepstakes for Small College entries at the Phi Rho Pi National Junior College Speech and Debate Tournament



A reception was held to honor the team, and Kevin and Andrew showcased their crafts. The team's triumphant season is over, and we congratulate them on their talents and awards (which fill almost two trophy cases—WOW!). We look forward to seeing them next season!

The LSC-O **Quiz Bowl team** travelled to beautiful Chattanooga, Tennessee, in late March for the "Moon Pie Classic." "This tournament saw our team taking on teams from four-year schools for the very first time, and the results...well, turned out to be a lesson in humility and the need to redouble our efforts to perform better in the future," says Eric Owens.

Congrats to LSC-O's top scorer, Chris Williamson. Other team members included Jessica Bradley, Minh Duong, Chris Fields, Spencer Gifford, and Jennifer LeLeux.

This event marked the end of the LSC-O Quiz Bowl season, but preparations are already underway for the 2009 – 2010 season.

The **Welding Center** proudly announced the graduation of **30 students** on April 14. The class provides nationally recognized safety, and welding instruction by Dale Carter, Bobby Parrott, and Philip Dupree. They have created an important career opportunity for over 400 people in our area. Our students are trained to safely enter a vocation that will open doors for the rest of their lives. If you have not been to the welding facility, it is located at 1207 Pier Road, down from the Orange boat launch. Currently, classes are held the last two weeks of odd numbered months and the first two weeks of even numbered months.

On February 26 and 27, **Andy Preslar** went to New York for an author's meeting in Manhattan at the corporate offices of **McGraw Hill** at Madison Square Garden. He has been under contract with the publisher since last November to write the instructor's manual for a cutting-edge comprehensive (60-chapter) college English handbook coming out this October. Andy described the trip:

I had a working dinner with the handbook author, the publisher of the educational materials division, the project editor, the people preparing the other ancillary materials, and others. The next morning we discussed ways to make the ancillaries mesh closely with each other, with the style and emphasis of the handbook, and with the company's vision for the unique niche the handbook will occupy in the literary marketplace. It's a daunting project but an exciting opportunity.

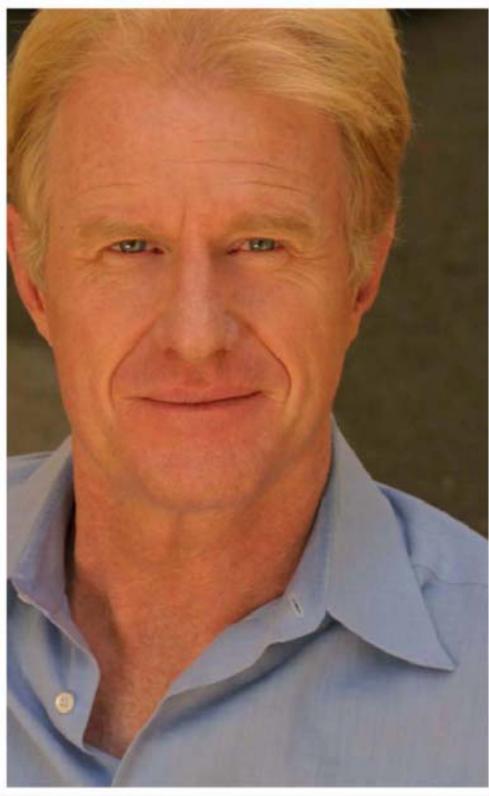
## APRIL EVENTS

16	Cypress Branches Awards Ceremony, Ron E. Lewis Library, 4 p.m.
21	Annual Career and Teacher Job Fair, Student Center, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
21	Distinguished Lecture Series feat. Ed Begley Jr., Lutch Theater, 6:30 p.m.
22	Administrative Professional Day Luncheon, The Brown Center, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

## MAY EVENTS

13	Last class day
20-22	Spring mini-session class days
20	Annual Employee BBQ, Student Center
21	Spring 2009 Commencement
25	Memorial Day

*You are cordially invited to*



The Lamar State College-Orange  
Distinguished Lecture Series

featuring

**Ed Begley Jr.**

*"Living **Green** with Ed"*

Tuesday, April 21 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lutch Theater

**FREE EVENT!**

For more information, visit  
[lsc.edu](http://lsc.edu) or call (409) 882-3097.

The Baptist Student Ministry, led by Chrissy Warren, invites you to join them on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Student Center. Stop by to fellowship with others, submit prayers requests, and grab a great meal provided by local churches.

