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## HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Fall registration
- \* Orientation 08
- \* Student Appreciation Day
- \* Award recipients

## Welcome Back!

After a nine-month hiatus, *The Informer* returns with a fresh look and updates from the fall semester. Now that Thanksgiving is over and 2008 is about to come to a close, and it's time to make that final push to make it to the long holiday break.

The fall semester brought us many surprises, some good and others not so good. Thanks to the hard work of our star recruiter, Brianne Moreau, **Orientation 2008** was a huge success, with over 200 students in attendance. This was only the second year to host one large orientation in hopes that attendance would be up. "With one large

Orientation, we were able to have a guest speaker, Patrick McGarrity, from Chicago, give a 'Big Money' presentation," said Bri. The presentation's purpose was to give our students a better understanding of the different types of student debt, and how to manage your assets efficiently.

She also mentioned that "Patrick added a little excitement to the show by throwing out handfuls of money into the audience, and having some students participate in grabbing wads of cash in the money machine."

Faculty and staff from different departments gave briefings on important topics that LSC-O students should

know. Students were broken into small groups according to their major, which gave them the chance to meet their program director before ever starting school. The day finished with lunch and a tour of the campus.

Fall '08 also brought us **record-setting registration**



**numbers.** Despite Hurricane Ike's disruption falling on our  
*(continued on pg. 2)*

## The Haps of Fall '08

In between running from hurricanes and tropical storms, LSC-O still found time to get in some education and fun times during the fall semester with activities for students and the community.



Cindy Wyles and Geneva Adams of AITP serve flavorful snow-cones to students.

**Student Appreciation Day**, held on September 10, just beat Ike's evacuation order. This year, there was a major emphasis on getting registered to vote and being knowledgeable about polling locations and the candidates. Student groups showed their presence - AITP, Phi Theta Kappa, L.O.D.A.S., and Teachers of Tomorrow served water, popcorn, snow-cones, hot dogs, candy, and cookies. There was even a booth where students and staff could



Suzonne Crockett poses with her son and shows off the photo of her and Barack Obama.

order personalized dog tags and get photos with the 2008 presidential candidates.

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# Welcome Back! (cont.)

original 11th class day, we still were able to achieve a record fall enrollment of 2,149 students. Once classes resumed on October 6, only a couple weeks later things were in a manageable state for both students and employees. Faculty and staff worked diligently to accommodate employees whose offices were damaged, as well as students whose course materials were destroyed.

Before Ike, our numbers were still on track to be our highest fall enrollment. Dr. Gunter commented on the main factors that contributed to our increasing numbers:

“We have expanded our offerings both within programs and with new programs. We have increased the enrollment (increased capacity and allowed more students into the program) in competitive entry programs such as nursing and will be adding a

new dental assisting student cohort in January.”

She also mentioned that the campus experienced an increase in co-enrolled students who are still in high school, in addition to an increase in online enrollment due to the convenience and less money spent on gas, food, etc.

After Ike’s surge had receded, our “mud-slingers,” especially the Computer Center, Cindy Wyles, security and maintenance, and the Business Office, took their time in sorting through soggy files, furniture and equipment. Once it was safe to return to campus, faculty and staff banded together for the greater good of the college, while also being mindful of everyone’s external situations. Nearly four months later, things are looking on the bright, and a bit chillier, side. I would like to extend a special thanks to everyone who has made our post-Ike progress possible.



**Above:** Can you spot the boots?

**Below:** Linda Burnett, Linda Cheatham, and Mary Beth Derouen take a break from the rummage to enjoy some pizza and soda.



# The Haps (cont.)

Former congressman J. C. Watts served as the speaker for this fall’s Distinguished Lecture Series. In front of over 600 guests at the Lutchter Theater, Watts delivered a charismatic speech filled with personal anecdotes, life lessons, and the main issues afflicting the American public.

As a businessman, pastor, former congressman and football phenom,



Watts explained how his background, especially being an athlete, shaped his character. Born in Eufaula, Oklahoma, he is a big believer in hard work, sacrifice, and commitment – the values he learned in rural America, the values learned from his parents, grandparents, coaches, the values that provided his foundation. In his book, *What Color Is a Conservative*, he writes:

“...I know exactly where I came from. I know because every decision I make every day is based on the values and lessons I learned growing up on the poor side of the tracks in a dusty little Oklahoma town that most people have never heard of and nobody can spell right the first time.”

Watts’ speech was empowering, as he encouraged the audience to take

a step back and think about our future, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans.



The lecture was a success, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the next Distinguished Lecture Series in April 2009 featuring Ed Begley Jr.

(continued on pg. 3)

# The Haps (cont.)

The Dental Assisting Program celebrated **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** for the second consecutive year. In conjunction with Allied Health, the students passed out sweet treats, lemonade, informational pamphlets on breast cancer awareness, and raffle tickets for various prizes. Since they were set up in the lobby of the library building, they caught the attention of everyone coming and going.



**“Octoberfest Under the Stars”** was just what the community needed for this year’s young, and old, trick-or-treaters. Due to the damage from Hurricane Ike, the Student Center that held Octoberfest in past years was in no shape to house the event. However, campus leaders felt that it was still important to have the activities. With a lot of phone calls, research, and collaborative efforts from faculty and staff, Octoberfest 2008 was revived with an even better outcome.

Between 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., the college’s lawn transformed from areas of green grass to a complete fun zone



filled with games, candy, contests, sweet treats, balloon animals, and inflatable stations. SGA created a mini haunted house under the Student Center terrace, using garbage bags, a smoke machine, special lighting effects, and costumed characters jumping out into the open. Upward mobility nursing students held a cake walk competition, with cakes, cupcakes, and cookies as prizes. Kids made multiple rounds on the inflatable slide, the “Adrenaline



Rush” obstacle course, and the laser tag tent.

Faculty and staff also participated with several games and giveaways, including balloon animals, bean bag and ring toss contests, temporary tattoos, candy bags, and finding candy in a haystack. Towards the end of the event, Wendy Elliott announced the costume contest, which was held in different age groups. SGA members voted in each category, and winners received prizes for having great costumes.



As the candy ran low and the inflatables began to sink, the lawn was still scattered with kids that did not want the evening to end. Most of the attendees agreed that having the event

outside was the best idea. Being outdoors in the open gave the kids more freedom to run around and provided a more cohesive flow for the different booths and activities set up on the library lawn.

LSC-O held its first **“Movie Night”** on the evening of November 22, with “Iron Man” as the feature presentation. MadNonnie.com came and set up a huge inflatable screen on our front lawn and played some great music as guests awaited the start of the movie. The EducationFirst Federal Credit Union kindly donated enough popcorn and soda for 200 people, and the Stark Museum handed out informa-



De’Awn with Buddy Aucoin (l) from EducationFirst FCU and Amelia Wiggins (r) from the Stark Museum.

tion on upcoming exhibits. Wendy Elliott provided some hot chocolate to keep everyone warm as the temperature dropped during the evening. Although it was a bit chilly, people still came out with their lawn chairs and blankets, while some watched the movie drive-in style.



We were able to show a great movie and give out some great prizes, as well as provide a free event for the community to enjoy on a Saturday night. Be on the lookout for our next movie night in the spring!



# SPOTLIGHT



Carolyn Flippen, director of the Dental Assisting Program, was one of four recipients of the **Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award**. The other recipients were Conrad Cooper of LSC-PA, Leslie Delong of LIT, and Les Warren of LU.

Carolyn is a very giving and caring, yet modest, individual. She is highly involved with public outreach and educating others about dental health measures in addition to recruiting students by promoting LSC-O in the community.

In conjunction with LSC-O, she represents the college at local schools and daycare centers to share information on oral hygiene. She also attends safety fairs to promote oral care and discuss the dangers of smoking and tobacco products. For the past two years, she has headed the celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

In the community, Carolyn volunteers with the reading program at Buna Elementary School. Twice a year, she and her husband, Dr. James Flippen, go above the call of duty by collecting clothes, blankets, food, and toiletries. They then travel to Beaumont and Houston to pass out those items to the homeless.

During the awards ceremony, Dr. Shahan said that Carolyn is so dedicated to serving others, that after Hurricane Ike left all but one campus building flooded, the Flippens were some of the first on campus to see how they could help.

“After pulling out wet flooring, she didn’t miss a beat before being moved into a temporary classroom where she went right back to making impressions on her students – and their teeth,” Dr. Shahan said.

We applaud Carolyn for her service to the college and the community.

The Rogers family established the award in 1979 to encourage Lamar faculty and staff members to vol-

unteer their services and talents to benefit the community. The LU Foundation maintains an endowment that provides for the award.



The four Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award recipients pose with their respective presidents and Regina Rogers.

November was a busy month for LSC-O’s **Speech and Debate Team**. The team went to Tyler Junior College for two tournaments, the Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association Fall Tournament and Tyler Junior College Individual Event Tournament.

Andrew Gibson received a 10th place speaker award, and took 2nd place in the state in Communication Analysis. In the TIFA tourney, LSC-O was the 1st Place Individual Events Sweepstakes Limited Division Champions for 2008. In the second tourney, he placed 3rd in Communication Analysis and Impromptu Speaking.

The team also traveled to LSU - Shreveport for the Red River Swing Speech and Debate Tournament, where they won the tournament! Out of 30 colleges and 265 competitors, our Andrew Gibson took 1st Place Speaker over the whole tournament in individual event and debate points!

The **Star Service Recognition Program** recognizes and expresses

gratitude to LSC-O employees whose actions go above and beyond in working with faculty, staff, students, and/or others. At a recent faculty meeting, Dr. Shahan was presented with a plaque for his hard work in getting us



back on track after the hurricane. Once again, he showed his dedication and appreciation for LSC-O employees. Thanks and congrats Dr. Shahan!

**Steve Hodges’** exhibit, “Steve Hodges-Recent Works,” has been on display in our library since early September. Retired Lamar art professor, Hodges, husband of Lisette Hodges, is a native Port Arthuran who has lived and worked in Louisiana, Florida, and New York. In addition to the Beau-

mont campus, Hodges also taught at LSC-PA and LSC-O.



Since his first solo exhibition in Port Arthur in 1958, Hodges has been exhibiting his paintings regional and national competitions, galleries, and museums. He describes his latest work as “a series of highly-stylized and wild-haired single human figures.” His work is in many private and public collections, including the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Art Museum of Southeast Texas in Beaumont.



# You Don't Say?

Matt McClure, director of the Math and Science Program and biology instructor, published a research paper titled "Snapping Shrimp from the Dampier Archipelago Expedition, Western Australia" in August 2008. He worked with Dr. Mary Wicksten of Texas A&M University to perform research; they identified the species of snapping shrimp that were collected from the Dampier Islands expedition.

Matt has published 11 papers in peer-reviewed journals. His research has mainly been associated with snapping shrimp and their taxonomy and population biology. Among other things, he has named and published two new species, *Alpheus angulosus* in 2002 and *Alpheus hortensis* in 2003. He has been published in the US, Mexico, Australia, and the Netherlands.

The Caprice Civic Club of Dallas is an organization of 32 women that has been in existence for nearly 60 years. Through two Bridge City residents, the group learned of the devas-

tation to the Bridge City community by Hurricane Ike. The club met and voted to designate the Bridge City library as the charity of their donation for this year. Our very own Charlotte Chiasson, who serves as the treasurer of the Friends of the Bridge City Public Library, had been in contact with the Caprice Civic Club's treasurer, Phyllis Payne. Caprice made a generous donation to the Friends group, who will use to money to replace books and computers.

Our very own library is collecting books for local libraries that were seriously impacted by Hurricane Ike. Normally each year round the holidays, the library collects children's books for the AAUW group, "A Book of their Own" but this year we are collecting books for the libraries in Bridge City and Orange. The average cost of a basic elementary school library collection is \$80,000.00. We are looking for new and/or gently used books. LSC-O has agreed to store the

books collected until the schools have a place to house their materials.

This year, we have a newly elected **SGA**. The SGA strives to represent LSC-O students and serves as a liaison between students and administration and all student organizations. The members are:

Chris Williamson, President  
Minh-Nhat Duong, Vice President  
Kristina Manuel, Secretary  
Joe Peevey, Communicator  
Balie Viator, Senator  
Heather Hardin, Senator  
Haylee Taylor, Senator  
Kristina Peoples, Senator  
Logan Steward, Senator  
Thai Phan, Senator  
Jason Pachar, Senator  
Greg Perry, Senator  
Kassey Humberson, Senator  
Sally Pope, Representative

This group of students is very present on campus and regularly performs service activities in the community. They recently volunteered at the Lions Club Carnival and took part in our movie night, in addition to hosting their annual food drive (see "Community Service.")

Lauren Davis, daughter of Angela Reeves, received a Bravo Award from the Orangefield ISD for scoring the highest possible score on the reading comprehension section of the 7th grade TAKS test. Only five students in her grade received this honor.

# Community Service

SGA held its annual **food drive** again and it was a great success - two large boxes of non-perishable food items were collected. Proceeds were donated to Orange Christian Services.

Around campus, there have been two **toys drives** for this holiday season - one held by the sociology department, which ended already, and now the Orange County Blue Santa drive. Please look for the large boxes and give a donation for those in need.

On December 1 - 2, the LifeShare Blood Center was on campus for the **blood drive**. They also had centers set up on other Lamar campuses. The

on-site crew was very helpful and patient; we look forward to seeing them again in the spring!



# New Faces...New Spaces

Although some are newer than others, I'd like to put faces to the names of all those who have joined the LSC-O family since February 2008. If you have not been formally introduced to the employees pictured below, please take a look and say "hi" the next time you see them around campus.



**Julie Camara**  
Customized Training  
Coordinator,  
Education  
*(Photo Unavailable)*



**Angela Cole**  
Instructor of LVN  
*(Photo Unavailable)*



**Tom Conley**  
Systems Analyst III



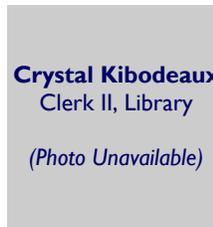
**Candace Denison**  
Accounting Clerk I

**De'Awn Barkers**  
Director,  
Public Information

**Robin Clements**  
Administrative  
Assistant II, OIRE



**Susan Dorman**  
Administrative  
Assistance,  
Workforce  
Development  
*(Photo Unavailable)*



**Crystal Kibodeaux**  
Clerk II, Library  
*(Photo Unavailable)*



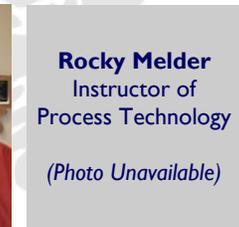
**Kungwha Kim**  
Library Technical  
Services Manager



**Gary Martin**  
Instructor/Director  
of MLAB



**Mike McNair**  
Director,  
Arts & Sciences Division



**Rocky Melder**  
Instructor of  
Process Technology  
*(Photo Unavailable)*



**Jennifer Petitjean**  
Web Administrator  
*(Photo Unavailable)*



**Elizabeth Pressler**  
Learning Lab  
Manager  
*(Photo Unavailable)*



**Clint Reading**  
Instructor of Biology



**Dr. Jerry Sanford**  
Instructor of  
Nutrition



**Stephanie Townsend**  
Accountant I

**Courtney Mummy**  
Clerk II, Admissions

Here are the employees that have recently been promoted. Let's give them a pat on the back for their hard work!

**Erica Dumes** - Accounting Clerk II

**Diana Kinto** - Financial Aid Advisor

**Jessica Porter** - Accounting Clerk IV

**Aubrey L. Schubarth** - Technical Services Librarian

**Lynn Scales** - Administrative Assistant II, Financial Aid

**Mary Helm** - Administrative Assistant II, Computer Center

*(There is also a host of part-time faculty that we would like to thank for being a part of our college community.)*

 <b>DECEMBER EVENTS</b>		<b>JANUARY EVENTS</b> 	
4	<a href="#">Lutcher Theater</a> presents "Jason and the Argonauts"	5	Classes resume
5	LSC-O Holiday Social The Brown Center, 7:30 p.m. - Midnight	14-15	Lutcher Theater presents "Drumline"
16 & 18	<a href="#">W.H. Stark House</a> Holiday Open House (free) 5 - 8 p.m.	19	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
18	Lutcher Theater presents the musical comedy " <a href="#">The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</a> "	20	First class day for spring semester and 8-week Session I
12/22-1/2	LSC-O Holiday Break	23	Fall 2008 Commencement

# Season's Greetings!

*Wishing you and your families Happy Holidays  
and a prosperous New Year!*

Don't forget to get your copy of the first edition of the

## LAMAR STATE COLLEGE ORANGE

### CAMPUS COOKBOOK

Books are tentatively scheduled to be available for sale on December 12/17 for only \$10. Be on the look-out for an email announcing their availability. Proceeds will go towards LSC-O scholarships and a percentage will be donated to local charities.