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the INFORMER

News for the Students and Employees of Lamar State College-Orange

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It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

This week may have kicked off one of the most dreaded weeks in a student's life (Exam Week), but students and staff all around campus are slowly, yet surely, getting into the holiday spirit. A number of local charities and organizations are in desperate need of help this season and many students, as well as faculty and staff members have incorporated doing some good into their holiday plans.

Student Government Association vice-president, Lisa Bertrand, says she will be participating in Toys for Tots this

month. Kendall Morphew, member of SGA and the Criminal Justice Society, says he, along with other members of the CJ Society, will be assisting with the Blue Santa program through the Sheriff's Alumni on Dec. 18. Our very own Brianne Moreau, campus recruiter, is going to spend her vacation the same way she spends most of her vacations: fostering dogs for Labs4Rescue.

This organization provides temporary homes for labs who may otherwise be euthanized at a high-kill shelter in our area.

"Fostering is extremely rewarding and my husband and I have fostered countless dogs over the years," she said. "Christmas time is our favorite because pictures start rolling in of our previous fosters with their new families, all gathered around a Christmas tree."

She urges anyone that has space in their home and room in their heart to contact her about more information on Labs4Rescue. Regardless of your holiday plans, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

What's Shakin'?

- ◆ A big congratulations to Corey Guilbeaux for being the first annual LSC-O Ping-Pong Tournament champion!



- ◆ December Commencement will be held Dec. 17 at the Lutchter Theater at 7:00 p.m. To all of the LSC-O December grads, we wish you all of the best in your future endeavors!

- ◆ Winter Mini classes begin Dec. 16 and the Spring Semester begins Jan. 10. Register at www.lSCO.edu.

- ◆ New Phi Theta Kappa Fall 2010 inductees are: Tina Andrews, Barbara Ball, Raymond Henderson, Sandra Stark, Sheila Lansdale, Nicole Crawford, Tammy Bonds, Jennifer Sheffield, Loretta Cockrell, Talanna Holden, Candice Pflieger, Lacy McGallion, Renee Clark, Joni Day, Annette Hoffner, Michelle Rhodes, Kathy Shepherd.

- ◆ The LSC-O theater department held their first performance ever on Nov. 18. More than 150 people showed up to watch their production of "Cheaper By the Dozen."



- ◆ Follow LSC-O on Facebook and Twitter:

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: Lamar_Orange

Girl Power

Less than two years ago, the process technology department at LSC-O began offering a new and improved option for students wanting to work in the process technology field. The fall semester of 2009 marked the first time that students could earn their associate of science degree in process technology, rather than just a certificate of completion in the program. This month the first LSC-O student to earn that degree will graduate.

As if being the first graduate from the program wasn't special enough, graduate Tracie Ray will also have the distinction of being the first woman to graduate from LSC-O with her process technology degree. A self-proclaimed "daddy's girl," Ray says she has always enjoyed working outside, with tools and in the shop. With both of her parents having worked in plants her entire life, she says the decision to major in process technology was eventually an easy one.

"My family suggested the medical field in which I could have many different options, such as radiology or nursing," she said. "I tried that for a few semesters, but it didn't interest me in any way."

After graduating from Orangefield High School in 2007, Ray began attending LSC-O that fall, not knowing what she was going to major in. After giving the medical field a chance, she switched her major to Operations in the spring of 2009 and graduated with her process technology certificate in May of this year. On Dec. 17 she will not only graduate with her process operating technology degree, but also an industrial technology degree and a safety, health and environmental certificate.

"I've been very blessed to have full support from my family and my fiancé through this," she said. "I'm extremely excited and relieved to finally be finishing. I am happy with the fact that it's just over."

Ray says her mother was one of the first of seven women to work in the FINA refinery as an operator and that her mother was a pioneer that helped pave the way for younger women like her. Though she is one of only a few females in the program, Ray says that the learning environment at LSC-O was not negative or intimidating because of that fact, and that she doesn't consider herself to have faced different challenges than any other student. She feels that this is proof that the "playing field" has become more even for men and women.

"I have learned so much in this program at LSCO," she said. "I was taught by educators whose teachings have helped me to be able to question things and have an idea of what life in the refineries will be like."

After graduation, Ray plans to find a job and begin working as soon as possible.

LSC-O Sets Record Enrollment This Fall

September 8, 2010 was an exciting day at Lamar State College-Orange, as the numbers for enrollment were tallied on the official census date for the fall semester. Though it took several weeks to finalize the numbers, it was clear from the beginning of the semester that we had set a new record. As of the morning of Aug. 8, 2,655 students were registered, an increase of 17.37 percent compared to last year's record of 2,262.

The credit hour total is up 18.75 percent and the number of contact hours shows an increase of 20.04 percent. The contact hour production for this fall is up 27.85 percent compared to the monitored period from two years ago.

"Given the enrollment trend since Hurricane Ike, I expected an increased number of students this fall," said Dr. Michael Shahan, president of LSC-O. "I was surprised, however, by the size of the increase."

Shahan also says the increase could not have come at a better time because the enrollment numbers from this semester will be factored into the formula that the legislature uses to determine our state appropriation.

"The higher enrollment should help us increase our state funding," said Shahan. "This is by far the largest enrollment we have ever had on campus."

On behalf of all of the administration, faculty and staff at LSC-O, we all sincerely thank our students for making this possible. 2010 was a big year for our beautiful little campus downtown, but we believe 2011 will be our best year yet!



A Hero Among Us

It was another normal June day for Little Cypress-Mauriceville senior and LSC-O co-enrolled student, Alexis Newton. She arrived at Smith Lake that afternoon, where she was spending her second summer in a row working as a lifeguard. After manning her post on the water for several hours, she decided to take her break and sat up on a hill by the Smith Lake concession stand, not knowing that only minutes later, she would be deemed a hero.

As a lifeguard, Newton had been trained on what to do in case of an emergency, but had never had to put that training to use. She spent most of her days on the job going over the procedures in her mind, knowing that any day could be the day she would have to recall them in the midst of chaos. That particular day, she was on duty with fellow lifeguard and good friend, Brittney Hale.

"While on break, I heard Brittney come over the radio and yell 'kid down,'" said Newton. "I raced down after her."

By the time Newton arrived to where Hale was, she saw a young boy laying face up in the sand, completely unconscious. Hale told her there was no pulse and no respiration and the girls immediately began alternating CPR. With screaming parents and onlookers hovering over the scene, Newton describes it as "crazy," but says she and Hale continued to work.

"His eyes were glazed with foam coming from his lips," she said. "I honestly didn't think he was going to make it."

The girls continued to alternate CPR steps with blows to the boy's back to try and get some of the water out of his lungs, which seemed a vain effort until they realized he was trying to breathe. With the crowd thickening and the scene growing more and more intense, Newton grabbed the boy and ran him to the hill she was sitting on only moments earlier.

"After a few blows to the back, I was finally able to get him to start throwing up the water," she said. "He started to cry, which was a very good thing."

As soon as Newton realized the boy was resuscitated, the paramedics from Acadian arrived and took over. It was only then that she was informed that the boy was six-years-old and the only member of his family that was able to speak English was his brother. The paramedics told Newton that he had a medical condition that prevented him from pushing himself to the surface after he had jumped off of a floating side and into the lake.

After an incident report was filed and everyone was calmed down, Newton and Hale were finally able to grasp the situation and the fact that they had just saved a life. It was then that she says she was grateful for her lifeguard training and her ability to remain calm in that situation.

"When I was actually doing the rescue it's like my brain was on cruise," she said. "It was going by itself. I didn't really think about what I was doing, I just knew what I had to do and did what it took. You never actually think you will have to do what you're trained to do, but freak accidents happen."

Doing Our Part

It's been a tough year for a lot of families in the Southeast Texas area, as well as right here at home in Orange. With so many people to provide help for, the local Salvation Army asked for help of their own. LSC-O put together a group of "elves" this year, comprised of faculty and staff members, to organize a number of fundraisers to help benefit the Salvation Army that were held right here on campus.

Everyone pitched in and made the fundraisers a huge success for everyone involved. So far, the money raised has totaled more than \$3,000. Our first fundraiser, the "Smart Link" sale raked in \$381 and provided lunch for students and faculty; the bake sale raised \$340 and also provided several people with their Thanksgiving Day desserts; the Silent Auction brought in \$470 and gave everyone the chance to start early on their Christmas shopping; the pictures with "Santa" raised \$345 and was a lot of fun for all; the departmental basket auction raised a whopping \$762, and the "casual dress" for faculty and staff has raised \$718, so far.

The Salvation Army is came to campus to collect toys donated at the "Toy Time" Wednesday, Dec. 8, as well. More than 150 toys were donated to them by our faculty, staff and students. Several on-campus organizations have also pitched in for the Salvation Army: the sociology students collected coats and blankets and had an "off the charts" reception from students, faculty and staff. The SGA has also had a large volume of donations for their canned food drive.

Many thanks to everyone on campus who helped contributed in some form or fashion for this wonderful cause.

Get Involved!

As of November, the LSC-O Student Government Association has a new president. Robyn Boudreaux, who acted as vice president for the beginning of the semester, has taken the position of president for the remainder of the year. The new president requests that students check their MYLSCO email accounts often next semester, as there will be several SGA senator positions opening up soon.

The SGA also encourages students to get involved with the organization, or any campus organization, before Spring Day next semester. SGA are the reigning champs in the annual Spring Day Softball Tournament and they don't plan on giving up that title any time soon.

"If students want to be a winner, they need to join SGA!" said Boudreaux.

The LSC-O Speech and Debate Team started off their semester by breaking all of the previous winning records. They started off the school year with three major wins at Tarrant County Community College and Lone Star College-Kingwood. The four-person team consists of students Zech Turk, Daniel Sharpless, Skylar Huckaby and Andrew Gibson. More often than not, LSC-O has the smallest team that is competing against major universities like the University of Texas, who have at least 15 team members.

"It's kind of a David and Goliath story," said Turk. "We beat off the giants that were there, most of whom brought four times the amount of people we have."

For more information on how you can join the Speech and Debate team, call Kevin Doss at 882-3368.



Calendar of Events:

Check LSCO's homepage, FB and Twitter pages for more updates and important dates!

December 16– Winter Mini Session Begins

December 17– Fall Commencement at the Lutchter Theater @ 7:00 p.m.

December 22-31– Holiday Break (Bldgs. Closed)

January 7– Winter Mini Session Ends

January 10– 1st class day of Spring Semester

On Dec. 2, our very own Dr. Shahan dressed up like Santa Claus to help raise money for the Salvation Army.



The new officers for SGA this Spring semester:

President: Robyn Boudreaux
Vice-President: Lisa Bertrand
Secretary: Gerard Richard
Communicator: Chris Hueble

