



COM-FOUNDATION GALA TO HONOR FIVE MAINLAND HEROES

The College of the Mainland Foundation will hold its annual Mainland Heroes Gala on Thursday, May 21, 2009, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., in the COM Library.

Individual tickets are \$40 and sponsorship levels from \$500 to \$2,500 are available. The proceeds from the annual fundraising gala go towards COM scholarships. Last year the Foundation awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships. The 2009 Mainland Heroes are: Bruce Blankenship, Santa Fe; Bruce Clawson, Texas City; Charles Jackson, Texas City; Elizabeth White, Texas City; and Jerry Ziegler, Dickinson. For tickets and sponsorship information, call, ext. 508.

TEAM UP FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

COM is Galveston County's host site for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, May 8 and 9. Each building is forming a team to have some fun and to put "COM" in "community." There are cancer survivors in our COM family as well as our own families, and the Relay is the perfect place to celebrate their journey while raising awareness and funds for others. The relays are overnight events, up to 12 hours in length and you can walk or run. Get involved by contacting either Marlon Stevens at ext. 175 or Tige Cornelius at ext. 421.

FINALISTS NAMED FOR OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

COM students selected five finalists for the 2009 Instructor of the Year award. A committee of students now evaluates the five faculty members in their respective classrooms and a winner will be announced at the Employee Recognition Dinner May 1 at the Doyle Center. Congratulations to the finalists: **Elizabeth Hammett** (Academic Success); **Julianne Clancy** (Public Service Careers); **Donna Bohmfalk** (Nursing); **Selina Rahman** (Business & Computer Education); and **Regina Julian** (Humanities).

COM PTK CHAPTER NAMED TOPS IN TEXAS

College of the Mainland's Sigma Delta chapter of the international honors society Phi Theta Kappa was named "Texas Top Chapter" at the Texas regional convention of the honors society in Waco. In addition to having the top chapter in Texas, the COM chapter received a Five Star Level designation—the highest level attainable—and recognition for its chapter adviser **Ndu Dikeocha** who was inducted into the Texas Advisors Hall of Fame. COM student Kaye Slay received a Superior Achievement Medal for successfully completing her term as District IV vice president, and chapter executive vice president Paola Lemus was inducted into the Texas Hall of Honors for members.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? – FORMER STUDENTS CHECK IN



Mark Ciavaglia, a successful Galveston County attorney, enrolled at COM when he was 27—the average age of most COM students. He began attending COM at night where he

completed part of his bachelor's degree in accounting before transferring to UHCL. He graduated from UHCL on a Saturday and two days later began law school at South Texas College of Law.

Three years later, Mark Ciavaglia was awarded his Jurisprudence Doctorate and admitted to practice by the State Bar of Texas.

"Like so many others, my journey was long and challenging. But it began with a small, simple step - enrolling at College of the Mainland.

I often remind my children that their work ethic will likely be the principal factor in determining their success in life. There will always be someone who is smarter, more attractive or more talented.

But over the long term, hard work, determination and diligence will overcome everything. College of the Mainland provides everyone the opportunity to find their dreams and reach their goals. All it takes is desire and hard work. It's not easy, but nothing worthwhile is easy."

Mark is a partner in the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP and serves as the managing partner of the firm's Galveston County office.

HENRY V CONTINUES REIGN AT COM COMMUNITY THEATRE

Shakespeare's HENRY V plays resumes April 16 at our COM Community Theatre. HENRY V is packed with political intrigue, thrilling battles, shocking betrayals, courage, cowardice, and a delightful romance between the brave English king and a quirky French princess. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. The play runs through April 26.



Stop by and see performances by COM employees **Rob de los Reyes** (kneeling) and **Roger Stallings** (far right) in Henry V.

CHOCOLATE IS MUSIC TO THE EAR

What do chocolates and flutes have in common? Both sound good? Both are sweet? Both are soothing to the soul? To find out, attend the Chamber and Chocolate Flute Ensemble Concert Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Fine Arts. The concert is free and so is the chocolate. *Sweet!*

LET'S RODEO!

The big one just left town but Galveston County's annual rodeo is about to move in. COM will have an information table out there from April 17-25. Stop by and say "Howdy!"

SWA BIZ FOLLOW-UP

Remember to use the COM SWABIZ number when booking college-related travel on Southwest Airline. You earn your FF miles and COM earns kudos from Southwest that could translate into free tickets as door prizes for future community events. Just go to swabiz.com and follow the instructions.

COM SWABIZ number: 99739345

CAREER FAIR AT COM

COM hosts a career fair Thursday, April 30 in the gym from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you know a person with a small business in the community that would like to be involved, ask him/her to call ext. 277 or go online to www.com.edu/careerfair and fill out a participation form. *It's free.*

WANDA'S RELAY FOR LIFE



Wanda Bass, admissions specialist at COM, is a cancer survivor with a renewed appreciation for life and a goal of raising awareness and money at this year's Relay for Life.

"I'm thankful for everyday that I open my eyes," says Wanda. "My breast cancer was discovered during a well woman exam in late 1999, and I had the surgery

in 2000. I remember the anxiety about my first appointment which was not scheduled until February 2000. I did not want to wait; I just wanted the cancer "out of me." Nevertheless, my daughter, an oncology nurse at M.D. Anderson, convinced me to wait, and I am grateful because the treatment option I chose was totally different from the initial opinion.

"I had a simple mastectomy with breast reconstruction. It was a 12-hour surgery, and since they used tissue from my abdomen to make a new breast, I got a tummy tuck out the deal," she added. "Since my cancer was caught so early, radiation and chemotherapy weren't necessary." She also had skin cancer removed from her back during this same period.

Wanda credits her friends, coworkers and family members with helping her get through that difficult period of her life. **Al Bass**, her husband-to-be at the time, was a source of strength, too. "He has been there every step of the way."

Dealing with cancer has changed Wanda Bass's life for the better. "I feel like I've been blessed with a second chance. I have six beautiful grandkids. I have an opportunity to participate in their lives. Also, I am healthier, more active and have walked in several half-marathons."

Wanda plans to walk 10 miles in this year's Relay for Life and "raise as much money as possible."

Her advice for others who may one day face the cancer challenge? "Live your life to the fullest and ignore all the rumors and myths you hear about cancer. Educate yourself on prevention and early detection. I also think people should avoid tobacco, eat healthy, maintain a healthy weight, exercise, and protect yourself from the sun."

Join Wanda, other COM employees, and the rest of Galveston County May 8 and 9 for the Relay for Life, right here on our COM campus.

MARK YOUR MAY CALENDAR NOW

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta at COM

Tuesday, May 5, 12:30 p.m. outside COM Library.

Free food, music and fun.

If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Gina Castro, ext. 243 or Rosie Rojas, ext. 271.

Free Community Band Concert

May 4 at 8 p.m. in the COM Fine Arts Building

PTEC PROGRAM TO BE HIGHLIGHTED ON WEB-BASED TELEVISION NETWORK

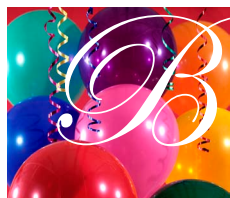
A film crew was on campus recently shooting video and interviewing process technology students and staff for a National Science Foundation sponsored web site called ATE-TV (Advanced Technological Education TV). The web-based network features episodes about emerging technical careers. **Jerry Duncan**, director of COM's process technology program, along with PTEC and CAPT staff, was on hand to help focus the filming on our process technology program and the variety of career opportunities in the petrochemical and manufacturing industries.

The interviews with COM students, staff and plant officials will be broadcast on the web at a later date.



WELCOME TO COM

Jack Berry
 Temporary Director
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 NSF
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APRIL

Birthdays

LOOK WHO'S HAVING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!

Marilyn Husby	Faculty, Nursing.....	04/01
Jewell Mobley	Laboratory Assistant	04/01
Susan Gilbert	Theatre Box Office Manager	04/01
Mark Adams	Director of Theatre Programs	04/04
Anne Howard	Administrative Assistant, Nursing	04/05
Mona Kupsa	Administrative Assistant, Instructional Admin.....	04/05
Patricia England	Administrative Assistant, Continuing Education	04/05
Mary Gonzalez	Accounting Specialist, Financial Services	04/09
James Heffel	Faculty, Performing/Visual Arts.....	04/10
Stephen Wethington	Faculty, Industrial Technology.....	04/11
Leticia Wilson	Accounting Specialist I, Financial Services	04/12
Douglas Meneke	Director of Applications & Web Services	04/12
Carla Anderson	Faculty, Public Service Careers	04/14
Bonnie Mitchell	Child Development Specialist.....	04/15
Patrick Harris	Mail Room Clerk, Purchasing.....	04/16
Katherine Moser-Haden	Dean of Transitional Ed./Prof. Development	04/17
Naomi Grimaldo	Administrative Assistant, Adult Education	04/18
Cynthia Cobb	Administrative Assistant, NSF Grant Department.....	04/19
Elizabeth Plasek	Child Development Specialist.....	04/20
Steven Sewell	Faculty, Social and Behavioral Science	04/20
Marilyn Vodovar	Admin. Assistant, Weekend College/Sp. Projects	04/21
Homer Gentry	Faculty, Humanities.....	04/23
Rosie Rojas	Executive Admin. Assistant, President's Office	04/24
Jamie Powell	Faculty, Cosmetology	04/25
Tad Pfeifer	Research Analyst, Institutional Research.....	04/26
Cissy Matthews	Dean of Public Service and Health Occupations.....	04/27
Jane Saldua	Admin. Assistant, Prof. Development Academy	04/28
Giselle Hewitt	Accounting Specialist, Financial Services	04/28
Sheryl Wright	Faculty, Business and Computer Education	04/30

DON'T FORGET TO R.S.V.P.

The annual **Employee Recognition Dinner** will be at the **Doyle Center** **May 1**, with a cocktail hour from 6 to 7 p.m and the awards program starting at 7:30 p.m. This year's theme is *Celebrity Night – Come as your Favorite Celebrity even if it's Yourself!*

There will be a DJ for music and Karaoke (for the future "American Idols" present), door prizes, great food and dancing. A list of all milestone employees to be recognized (years of service) will be sent out soon.

So mark the calendar, dig out your Elvis suit, and plan for a great evening out.

APRIL IS JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH JAZZING IT UP IN APRIL

Sparky Koerner is jazzed up and so is the Fine Arts lobby—April is **Jazz Appreciation Month!** Check out the photos of the pioneers of jazz—Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald and others. The Jazz Appreciation Month display includes a variety of jazz DVDs, such as the Ken Burns “Jazz in America;” and books on jazz, such as “To Be or not to Bop” by Dizzy Gillespie, “Bass Lines” by Milt Hinton, “Artistry in Rhythm” about the Stan Kenton Orchestra. The exhibit will be up through the month of April.

And the COM Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo will present a free concert with vocalist Kathy Kosins on April 21 at 8 p.m.

COM JAZZ STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

The COM Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble, directed by Sparky Koerner, participated in the GCIC Jazz Festival held at Lee College’s new Performing Arts Center. Eleven jazz groups performed from the various GCIC community colleges.

Receiving recognition for excellent jazz improvisational solo performance were COM Jazz players Kim Chavez on trumpet, Josh Migueson on tenor saxophone, Zach Von Ruff on guitar and Robby Parker on drums. Kim, Josh and Zach received recognition for their solos with the Jazz Ensemble. Kim Chavez was also recognized as the Outstanding Soloist of the Day.

The Jazz Combo will be performing at the University of North Texas Jazz Festival on April 17.



KOERNER SERVES AS ADJUDICATOR AT JAZZ FESTIVALS

Sparky Koerner, professor of music served as an adjudicator at two jazz festivals. On March 12 he spent the day at Blinn College in Brenham listening to 16 jazz ensembles that included middle schools and high schools. On March 27 and 28 the judging took place in Kingsville at Texas A&M University at Kingsville. Once again jazz ensembles from middle school and high schools performed. The judges listen for musical interpretation of the jazz style, improvised solos, overall balance of the ensemble, rhythmic precision, program choice and stage presence. Sparky said “after a day of writing comments for all those jazz groups my writing hand sure is tired. It is great to give corrective criticism to help the young jazz ensemble musicians improve” he added.

GROUNDS BEAUTIFIES THE CAMPUS

President Elam has stated that appearances are important at COM and that our campus should be clean, well manicured and welcoming to students and visitors. “The outside of our campus is the first thing that students and visitors see,” said Dr. Elam. “We want the outside to be as inviting and welcoming as the people on the inside.”

Watch for other improvements to the campus including improved outside signage and new, attractive college banners.

Oscar Hernandez, Troy Terrell and the rest of the Grounds crew have been busy helping spring come alive at COM. It’s not easy being Green, as Kermit once said. But the COM “gardeners” have put their green thumbs to work to spruce up the campus after Ike and winter took their toll on local vegetation. The front entrance of the Administration Building presents a good Before/After view of how spring is coming alive at COM.

