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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE



Photo courtesy of Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

College celebrates Black History Month

San Jacinto College students, staff, and the community celebrated Black History Month with events districtwide.

The South Campus iConnect Center presented an open-mic event, “What Does Black History Mean to You?” Participants joined Natandra Gradney, biology professor, and Janie De Hoyos, iConnect Center resource specialist, to express themselves through speech, song, and poetry. The group showed off dance moves together under the grand stairway in the academic hall.

“Being that community within and outside the College is very diverse, this event was very beneficial,” Gradney said. “It showed that the College embraces diversity, encourages representation, and inclusion.”

De Hoyos believes these events are important because they allow students from different ethnic backgrounds to unite in celebrating Black heritage and sharing what Black history means to them through artistic expression.

“It was a chance for the students to build relationships with their peers and to connect with one another,” De Hoyos said. “This event also allowed students to feel welcomed, acknowledged, validated, and valued and to feel comfortable participating in all aspects of campus life.”

Grow business with Center for Entrepreneurship

Wanting to start your own business or grow the one you already have?



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

The Center for Entrepreneurship at San Jacinto College’s Generation Park Campus in northeast Houston provides non-credit workshops and events to support community entrepreneurs and future small business owners.

Topics range from developing, planning, financing, and marketing your business to team building, leadership coaching, problem solving, navigating conflict, managing time, and more.

In late fall and early spring, the resource-based center hosted seven evening workshops for its Small Business Workshop Academy. The academy’s nine students graduated during National Entrepreneurship Week in February.

Thanks to a generous donation from Commissioner Rodney Ellis’ Precinct 1 office, each graduate — along with National Entrepreneurship Week participants — received Chromebooks to attend a national entrepreneurship workshop. Academy graduates also enjoyed three months of free Nimble Workspace thanks to Generation Park developer McCord.

The center is currently planning its third Small Business Workshop Academy.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

To register or learn more, contact centerforentrepreneurship@sjcd.edu.

“We are here for anyone interested in how to start, manage, and grow a business or in understanding the competencies of an entrepreneurial mindset,” said Sheila Simon, director of business operations, supply chain, and entrepreneurship for continuing and professional development.

The Generation Park Campus is at 13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044. For one-on-one help, you may also consult the College’s Small Business Development Center at sbdc@sjcd.edu.

Students explore inner geek with Mind Trekkers

San Jacinto College encouraged local students to “get their geek on” with the Mind Trekkers Adventures in STEM Festival March

9-10 at the Central Campus LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology.

During the day, nearly 5,000 sixth graders from Channelview, Clear Creek, Deer Park, Galena Park, La Porte, Pasadena, and Sheldon independent school districts and The Rhodes School engaged in more than 100 hands-on science experiments.

During the public Mind Trekkers Family Night March 9, families and children also enjoyed the same science experiments and activities.

“This was a great opportunity for our local sixth graders and community to appreciate science, technology, math, and engineering and learn more about our STEM programs at San Jac,” said Dr. Allatia Harris, vice chancellor, strategic initiatives, workforce development, community relations, and diversity.

Major sponsors this year included LyondellBasell, INEOS, Dow, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, Kaneka, Chevron Refinery, and more.

View photos at bit.ly/SJCMindTrekkers23.

SUCCESSFUL CAREER HAS SAN JAC ROOTS

By **Neesha Hosein**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

One neuropathologist has made quite a name for himself since his days as a San Jacinto College student.

Once a University of Houston English major, Dr. Gregory Fuller quickly realized it was a passion but not the right career for him. He dropped out and worked briefly as a security guard, also not his forte.

In summer 1973, Fuller resumed his education goals by taking botany and zoology at the Central Campus, which was close to home. He calls this his life's

"pivotal moment."

"My San Jac experience was transformational," he said. "It

reignited my passion for the life sciences — specifically, the mentorship I received from professors Harrell Odom and John Lock, which laid the foundation for all that followed in my professional career. They were both included in the group of seven teachers, from grade school to graduate school, to whom I dedicated my Ph.D. dissertation. To this day, I have nothing but fond memories and great respect for San Jac."

A little inspiration went a long way

Odom and Lock's influence reignited Fuller's love for science, and he decided to stick with San

Jac beyond just prerequisites. He graduated from the Central Campus with an associate degree in 1974 and transferred to Texas A&M University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in zoology in 1976.

He went on to earn a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from the University of Texas MD Anderson UT Health Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 1983 and his Doctor of Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine in 1987. After completing residencies and earning board certification in anatomic pathology and a neuropathology fellowship at Duke University, Fuller joined the faculty of University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 1992 and rose to tenured professor status in 2003.

He was recently inducted into Texas A&M's Academy of Distinguished Former Students, one of 68 honorees who have made significant accomplishments in math, statistics, science, and medicine.

"It is amazing the way things work out," Fuller said. "I was born in Hermann Hospital right here in the Texas Medical Center. When I finished at Duke, I'd interviewed at 10 different academic institutions, and it just so happened that MD Anderson Cancer Center needed an

oncologic neuropathologist, and I was very fortunate to secure that position. I started in July 1992, in my hometown, as fate would have it."

Today

At MD Anderson Cancer Center, Fuller served as a pathology professor, chief of the Section of Neuropathology in the Department of Pathology, and deputy chair of the department of anatomical pathology.

He retired this March, but you won't find him on the golf course or dabbling in the garden. An expert in brain tumor diagnosis, he has much to share with the next generation and seasoned professionals in the field. With his passion for teaching, he plans to continue part time as a tenured professor in pathology and neuroradiology.

"Everything depends on the diagnosis," he said. "It's a fabulous time to be in diagnostic medicine."

Fuller promotes learning and professional development with his monthly Integrated Diagnostic Medicine Case Conference via a live Zoom broadcast that includes a group of about 30 medical professionals worldwide.



Photos courtesy of Tina Fuller

Outside the career box

As Fuller adjusts from a hectic 16-hour workday to part-time, he has plans for his newfound free time. This includes spending time with his wife Tina, daughter Muholeza, and their four dogs.

"We adopted our daughter from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2016, and he loves the role of daddy," Tina Fuller said.

Fuller remains fascinated by the English language and studies vocabulary and words, reading and collecting books like the Oxford English Dictionary. He also enjoys reading a good mystery, Sherlock Holmes being his favorite.



Photos courtesy of Tina Fuller

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
May 19	Summer hours begin	Noon	Administrative offices closed every Friday at noon through Aug. 11
May 19	Spring Commencement	7 p.m.	NRG Stadium
May 29	Memorial Day	Closed	All campuses and online
June 5	Summer classes begin	Varies	All campuses and online



EMPTY BOWLS: COMBINING ART AND CHARITY TO TACKLE HUNGER



By Melissa Trevizo
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Alongside Empty Bowls Houston, the San Jacinto College Central Campus invited students, staff, and the public to get creative to tackle hunger with a pottery bowl-a-thon Feb. 18.

Art students and families put their creativity to the test with a mound of clay. The College provided the needed supplies, and no experience was necessary.

“In total we made 85 bowls to contribute to the event,” said Michael Unger, San Jac ceramics instructor. “We offered guidance and assisted where needed, but most people created a bowl on

their own.”

San Jac has participated in Empty Bowls each year the event has occurred since 2005.

Unger and students glaze and fire the bowls, which then go to Empty Bowls Houston for sale. This year’s sale will be Saturday, May 20, at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.

“Potters across the Houston area donate bowls, and when they are sold, 100% of the proceeds go to the Houston Food Bank,” said Unger.

For a minimum \$25 donation, attendees can choose from hundreds of handcrafted bowls, then receive to-go soup prepared by the Houston Food Bank’s 535 Catering. The event will also feature pottery and woodturning demonstrations and live music.



To learn more about Empty Bowls Houston, visit houstonfoodbank.org/emptybowls. View San Jac Empty Bowls photos at bit.ly/SanJacEmptyBowls.



Photos courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

100,000 STUDENTS AND COUNTING RECEIVE GIFT OF BETTER VISION

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Better vision means a better chance of school success. For the 11th year, San Jacinto College Eye Care Technology Program students teamed with eye care professionals to provide free eye screenings, exams, and glasses fittings for Pasadena ISD students.

Held Feb. 13-17 at Pasadena Convention Center, See to Succeed celebrated its 100,000th student.

This year's numbers:

- **20,000:** Estimated K-12 Houston-area kids with vision issues
- **1,427:** Pasadena ISD students participating
- **1,379:** Glasses provided
- **300:** Students receiving medical referrals for other eye issues



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Photos courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

TWO CAREERS STEM FROM SAN JAC SUMMER CAMP

By **Neesha Hosein**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

When her 3-year-old son Myles brought a tool belt to his mother's day out program show-and-tell, Marquelle Chapman knew this was a sign.

"Kids brought blankets, teddy bears, toys, and Myles took a tool belt and electrical outlets. He was under the table pulling wires and showing the kids how to install them," she said. "That was a

sign of the direction he was going."

Supporting his proclivity for science, she found STEM-related activities to keep him engaged. In summer 2013, one such opportunity proved golden.

Energy Venture summer camp

An online search led Marquelle Chapman to San Jacinto College's Energy Venture summer camp.

"We did science projects,

team-building activities, and small competitions with rewards," Myles Chapman said. "I remember the San Jac professors being so energetic."

A field trip to LyondellBasell during the camp became his defining moment. It "unlocked a whole new world" seeing a chemical processing plant for the first time. He left amazed at the facility's size and sounds.

"I'd never seen anything like this before, aside from driving by," he said. "It was very loud, had a lot of different equipment, and a lot to potentially get your hands on."

Air Products was one of several camp sponsors.

"I remember decorating my Air Products hard hat," Myles Chapman said. "I later learned that decorating hard hats is an industry thing, something even the senior plant engineers and operators do."

Since Energy Venture was a one-time opportunity, Marquelle Chapman soon realized "no other schools in this area had anything like it." She found the next best opportunity in Indiana, where her son attended a two-week camp at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in a minority youth engineering program.

Opportunities keep knocking

Later, Myles Chapman majored in engineering at Purdue University, and the Energy Venture camp experience remained relevant.

"Air Products was on campus my freshman year interviewing for their co-op positions," he said. "I mentioned I was an Air Products scholar at Energy Venture camp. It was a great conversation starter and got the ball rolling."

He was offered a paid co-op, something Marquelle Chapman deemed "meant to be" as it was uncommon for a freshman, and it helped ease the financial hardship of out-of-state tuition.

"The paid co-op was a blessing," Myles Chapman said. "As I returned for subsequent co-op sessions and got raises, it was always enough to pay for the next semester of school."

Camp experience comes full circle

Myles Chapman will graduate in August 2023 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Purdue. His five-year plan of study has included valuable co-ops and internships with Air Products and LyondellBasell, giving him almost two years of work experience — and a full-time job back in Houston — before he walks across the stage.

"At the end of my last co-op term, I was given the full-time job offer," he said. "I'm going to be working for LyondellBasell as a polymers process engineer, and I'm pretty sure it's the same chemical unit that I first visited in the camp," he said.

The Energy Venture camp experience inspired yet another career.

"Without realizing it, Myles helped me get the job I have at San Jac," Marquelle Chapman said. "I shared Myles' story in my interview. I explained how this program worked out for my son and that I've spread the positive feedback to others. So, Myles' experience ricocheted back to me."

She serves as the apprenticeship training project coordinator for continuing and professional development at the Central Campus.

Marquelle Chapman is proud her son will return home a degreed, employed professional. He looks forward to being near his family, joining the LyondellBasell team, and once again enjoying the delicious diversity of Houston cuisine.

Beat the Heat with Summer Camps

To explore summer camp opportunities at San Jac, visit sanjac.edu/summer-camps.



Photo courtesy of Myles Chapman

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram

UT has Bevo. UH has Shasta. Texas A&M has Reveille. Baylor has Bruiser. San Jac has [?]. We want our students to help name San Jac's mascot! Submit your ideas by MARCH 10.



187 likes, 39 comments, 12 saves



Facebook

Three years after high school, Jorge Medellin was still working at the chemical plant where he had interned. He wanted to reach higher for his family and community, so he pivoted. Today, not only has Medellin finished two semesters of San Jacinto College's engineering program, but he also numbers among the College's first students pursuing Rice University through the new Take Flight STEM Pathway.



99 Reactions, 11 comments, 5 shares



Twitter

We're partnering with @nuro to create the first AV technician certificate program in Texas as part of Nuro's Autonomous Upskilling Initiative!



8 likes, 2 retweets, 43 clicks



LinkedIn

With 48 years in the petrochemical workforce, adjunct professor Linda Brown has witnessed an evolution of change in the industry — more women, technology, and safety in the workplace. "Being a female in this industry has made me challenge myself a lot," she said. "I got to a point when I knew more than the men around me. Knowledge is power, and they could not manipulate me. That's a driving force."



48 reactions, 1 comment, 69 clicks

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



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5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS
13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS
3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS
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VISION & MISSION



Vision — San Jacinto College will advance the social and economic mobility of all members of our community. We will be known for our excellence in teaching and learning, our intentional student-centered support, and our commitment to every student. We will be the preferred workforce and economic development partner in the region and a champion for lifelong learning. San Jacinto College will inspire students to explore opportunities, define their educational and career paths, and achieve their goals and dreams.

Mission — San Jacinto College is focused on student success, academic progress, university transfer, and employment. We are committed to opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve.

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



A gift to the San Jacinto College Foundation transforms lives, enriches our community, and provides tomorrow's community leaders. For more than 25 years, the Foundation has helped thousands of students reach their goals. Our former students and graduates have filled vital roles in hospitals, classrooms, executive offices, manufacturing plants, and laboratories across our region and beyond. They have also won the World Series and NBA championships, starred in major motion pictures, and created major theatrical productions. Help our students today with the gift of education. Contact the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104 or visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is one of the top five community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

