

## Record-setting 5th win:

# Collin College professor named 2012 Texas Professor of the Year

A young college student dreaded physics homework. One problem would lead to hours of frustration. In desperation, she made an appointment at the new math tutoring center and a graduate student literally taught her how to take the fear out of physics.

"She would get that look of 'I am a little bit afraid of what you just said,' and I would always say, 'Don't despair. We can finish this problem.' By the end of the first semester, she would stop and sigh and get that same look, and she would say aloud, 'Don't despair,' and I would say, 'That is right,'" laughed Collin College physics professor Dr. Greg Sherman, who was a graduate student at the time.

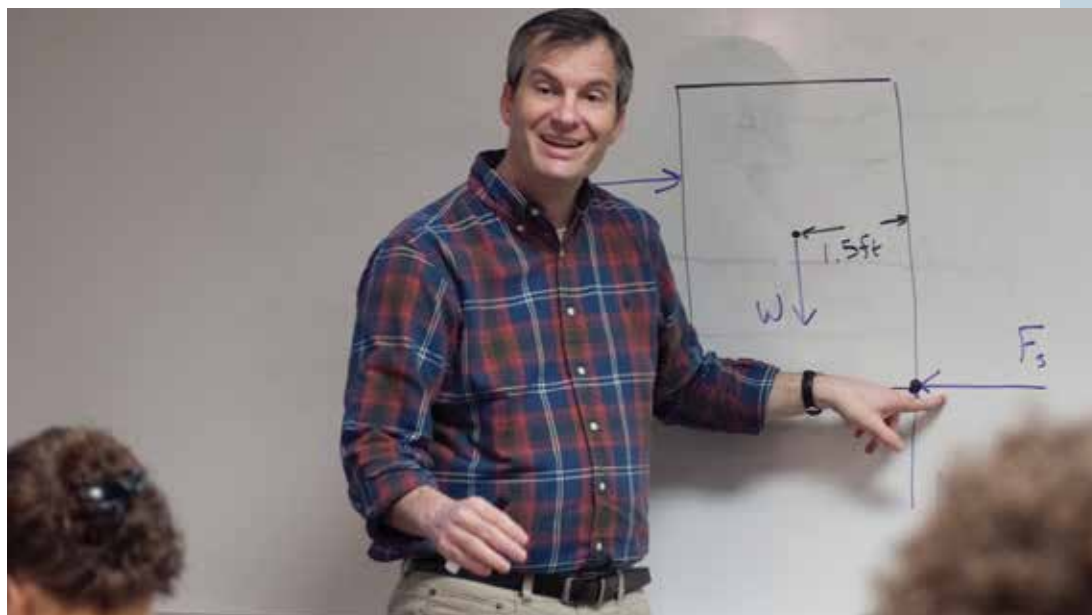
Little did the young student know that the tutor who traversed the tumultuous sea of physics with her would one day become the 2012 Texas Professor of the Year because of his gift for teaching.

Dr. Sherman made Collin College history in November when the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) named him the number one college or university professor in the state of Texas.

According to Mac Hendricks, chair of the Collin College Board

of Trustees, this impressive honor is well deserved. "We applaud Dr. Sherman's momentous achievement," he said. "Dr. Sherman is a dedicated professor and an asset to the college and the community."

The Professor of the Year program,



Dr. Greg Sherman, 2012 Texas Professor of the Year

now in its 32nd year, is the only national initiative that focuses solely on excellent undergraduate teaching and mentoring. The highly-coveted award is considered the pinnacle of collegiate teaching, and Dr. Sherman accepted the award at a Washington D.C. ceremony at the National Press Club followed by a Congressional reception at the Folger Shakespeare Library on Capitol Hill.

According to Collin College District President Cary A. Israel, Dr. Sherman's win is historic because it marks the fifth Professor of the Year at Collin College, surpassing the state record previously held by Rice University and Texas Christian University with four faculty honorees each. The University of Texas at Austin has three.

"Dr. Sherman's achievement is a testament to the cadre of outstanding professors teaching at Collin College, and it adds to our legacy of academic excellence. With three U.S. Professors of the Year and two Texas Professors of the Year, Collin College is the only college or university in the state with five winners," Israel said.

Like Dr. Sherman, Collin College psychology professor Jennifer O'Loughlin Brooks was Texas Professor of the Year in 2006. In 2009,

*continued on page 2*



From left to right: Collin College District President Cary A. Israel, 2012 Texas Professor of the Year Dr. Greg Sherman and Collin College Board of Trustees Chair Mac Hendricks.

## Breathing room and a view: Majestic library anchors historic expansion

Students who want to attend morning classes at Spring Creek Campus typically enroll as early as possible. They know those courses are popular, and Spring Creek Campus, the largest in the college's district, fills up quickly.

Over the past few months, a change has been rising from the ground right before their eyes as construction crews put the finishing touches on the most monumental expansion of the campus since it opened 24 years ago. In January, the doors open to a new library building facing Jupiter Road, adding much-needed classroom space and forever changing the face of the campus and east Plano.

### MASTER PLAN

The project is a triumph for the college's master expansion plan, which spanned four locations over the course of a decade. The magnificent facility follows the design plan completed

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SPRING CREEK CAMPUS





# Student Leadership Academy celebrates a decade of nurturing leaders

When Kimberly Sumner first enrolled in the Collin College Student Leadership Academy (SLA), the Plano resident's first inclination was that it would look great on her resume. But like many before have delightfully realized, the Student Leadership Academy is much more than a note on a resume.

"This course has had a major impact on my life because it made me step out of my comfort zone," Sumner said. Now at the University of North Texas studying to become a forensic accountant, Sumner continued, "SLA helped me to realize I can achieve my goals by not giving up and working hard."

According to Professor Meredith Martin, who teaches the course, SLA provides opportunities that not only define who students are – both professionally and personally – but also identify the type of leadership qualities they admire and aspire to emulate. "The academy truly embodies a holistic approach to creating strong leaders," said Martin.

## A Decade of Nurturing Leaders

Fortunately for Collin College students, the college's SLA program has continued to nurture future leaders in this way for 10 years.

Professor Jenny Warren, who also teaches the course, makes it a point to not only teach SLA students about leadership but also to allow them the opportunity to practice becoming leaders.

In doing so, Warren said, her students try various leadership styles and are able to figure out how different situations, followers and goals often dictate the most effective way to lead. Students are also required to spend at least 10 hours with a mentor and attend a Collin College Board of Trustees meeting.

"In these instances, students are granted access to leaders in the community, both to observe and network with them," Warren continued. "I want them to be able to apply their new-found knowledge."

## A Unique Learning Experience

Each semester, SLA students accomplish this goal and other professors' objectives through assigned readings such as those from the Harvard Business School and the *Wall Street Journal* on topics such as communication, leadership styles, diversity, vision development, strategic planning, relationship building, group dynamics, wellness and stress management and problem solving. In addition, students gain invaluable knowledge about the importance of goal setting and values, social responsibility, community service and volunteerism, making choices that lead to success and defining the importance of ethics.

"What I enjoyed most about being involved in SLA were the people and the experiences we had together, from having to reach out to people I didn't know to see if they would be interested in talking to a class of college students to helping the girl next to me build her confidence in order to jump off a pole during the ropes course," said Sumner, who was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society while attending Collin College.

Students interested in the Student Leadership Academy must have a desire to work hard, a commitment to personal leadership development, at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and must submit an application for the program.

For more information, contact the Center for Scholarly & Civic Engagement at [www.collin.edu/academics/sla](http://www.collin.edu/academics/sla).



Student Leadership Academy exercise on the ropes course.

## Record-setting 5th win continued from page 1

Dr. Tracey McKenzie, professor of sociology, won U.S. Professor of the Year as did developmental mathematics professor Dr. Rosemary Karr in 2007 and theater professor Brad Baker in 2000.

"We are very proud of Dr. Sherman," Israel continued. "His dedication and hard work have led students to amazing discoveries in the classroom, in the laboratory and even in outer space. Dr. Sherman's research students competed against peers from around the world and discovered an asteroid!"

Dr. Sherman and Dr. Mike Broyles led an undergraduate research project at Collin College through NASA that led to the discovery of a main belt asteroid between Mars and Jupiter. The students—Adrian Boysselle, David Golynskiy and Deepak Joseph—received NASA research awards for discovering the asteroid and are officially listed as co-discoverers at the Minor Planet Center located at Harvard University.

Dr. Sherman's research through the college's Center for the Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences has ranged from asteroid detection to variable star photometry at McDonald Observatory. He has taught nearly every physics class offered at the college, including General Physics, University Physics, The Solar System Stars and Galaxies and the Physics of Music and Sound. In addition, he taught Engineering Mechanics I and co-taught the

Learning Community astrobiology course "Life in the Universe." To help reduce textbook costs, Dr. Sherman developed lab manuals for two physics courses and co-developed manuals for four additional courses. Today, students can download these lab manuals for free.

Outside of the classroom, he has been involved with the Texas Community College Aerospace Scholars, a NASA program for Texas community college students. He and his students had the opportunity to interact with scientists and engineers at NASA's Johnson Space Center. He serves as a secondary advisor for the Collin Robotics Club and enjoys watching the wonder in community members' eyes as they gaze through telescopes at the college's Star Parties.

According to Dr. Sherman the fact that this award exists demonstrates that teaching and professors have value.

"It is nice to have affirmation that I am moving in the right direction and doing some good for my students. This is an award for the whole faculty because I am surrounded by so many wonderful professors at this outstanding college."

Dr. Sherman will have an award to hang on his wall, but he takes the greatest pride in the accomplishments of his students, like David Golynskiy, who was afraid of physics and avoided it in high school. However, with Dr. Sherman's help, Golynskiy mastered calculus-based physics, discovered an asteroid with classmates, gave a presentation at a national physics conference and is currently pursuing a degree in biology and criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas.

"I knew I was in for a ride, but what I didn't know was that Dr. Sherman is one of the most passionate and enthusiastic professors from which I would have the honor to learn. I earned A's in both semesters with Dr. Sherman, and I feel like I have a solid understanding of physics, which is important for my future in the health care field. If I have to pick one thing I learned from Dr. Sherman it would be don't be afraid and challenge yourself! The only thing stopping you is yourself, so go out there and take a chance."

There is no doubt that Dr. Sherman's students are heeding his advice. With this 2012 Texas Professor of the Year the sky is the beginning, not the limit.

## Five CASE/Carnegie Professors of the Year



Professor Brad Baker  
2000 U.S.  
Professor of the Year

Professor Jennifer  
O'Loughlin-Brooks  
2006 Texas  
Professor of the Year

Dr. Greg Sherman  
2012 Texas  
Professor of the Year

Dr. Rosemary Karr  
2007 U.S.  
Professor of the Year

Dr. Tracey McKenzie  
2009 U.S.  
Professor of the Year





# “Is there a doctor in the house?”

## Collin College and Plano ISD create academy to fill void in health care industry

“A tsunami is coming.” This declaration came from Collin College District President Cary A. Israel recently as the Board of Trustees discussed ways to avoid catastrophe with the projected shortfall of health care professionals in Texas.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a nationwide employment increase in the health services industry of 21.4 percent – or 4 million jobs – through 2018. For Texas, the prognosis is not good with a projected shortage of 71,000 nurses and 39,000 family physicians by 2020. Unfortunately, this is just the tip of the health care iceberg, so help cannot come soon enough.

However, the road to med school and other health care professions will be shorter thanks to a unique partnership between Collin College and the Plano Independent School District (PISD) to create a first-ever Health Sciences Academy. The unique academy will offer selected students a head start on careers in health care while still in high school, starting as early as ninth grade.

### New Academy

Starting in fall 2013, the Health Sciences Academy will offer Plano students interested in health careers the opportunity to earn up to 59 hours of college credit. Students can also complete certifications that prepare them to enter the health care workforce upon graduation from high school.

“Time is the enemy between our state’s population and health care capacity,” Israel said. “In a very real sense, this academy

combines some elements of college and high school and readies our community to take care of a growing number of Texans. We believe this unique partnership will serve as a model for other communities to get ahead of the curve. We applaud Plano educators for their commitment to collaboration.”

### Dual Credit & Options

Using specialized curriculum and “dual credit” courses, which satisfy high school requirements while earning college credit at the same time, this special academy will help students save both time and money. Students in the academy can choose from a path that offers a solid health science foundation for college or university majors such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, allied health and more or a path toward a certification in electrocardiography, EMT, pre-health information management or as a certified nurse aide to start working immediately after high school graduation.

“I take great pride in the collaborative partnership that Plano ISD is entering into with Collin College on specific college and career paths for students,” Richard Matkin, superintendent of schools at Plano Independent School District, said. “The Health Sciences Academy is only the first step in what I hope is a joint partnership between our outstanding education entities which are both focused on student learning.”

### First Applicants

The Health Science Academy will make its home base at Williams High School and Plano East Senior High School. Ninth and tenth grade students began applying in November in anticipation of the Academy debut in fall 2013.

“Parents and students need to know that this is a great opportunity. Medicine and allied health are very competitive fields and this academy stands to give students an edge,” said Dr. Brenda Kihl, Collin College’s vice president/provost of Preston Ridge Campus. According to Dr. Kihl, who assisted with the start-up of the program, research shows that Texas high



school students who complete a college course, like dual credit, before graduation are 50 percent more likely to earn a college degree. “Anything we can do to create more graduates and build a more educated workforce makes Texas more competitive,” she said.

Tuition and fees will apply for coursework in the Health Science Academy, but students will be able to take advantage of the lowest rates in the state with Collin College tuition and fees at just \$34 per credit hour.

“Time is money, so offering students the chance to bank nearly two years of college credit during high school is a tremendous advantage. 2020 will be here before we know it, so we have to work together if we hope to succeed,” Israel said.

For more information about the Health Sciences Academy, visit <http://healthsciences.pisd.edu>.





## Right time, right place: Collin alumnus engineers a new career in dentistry

He could not sleep because he was in so much agony. The searing pain in his tooth was relentless. He could not make it another day or even another hour, so he began the dreaded drive to the emergency room. Along the way, he saw a dental office and decided to stop in. Carlos Carrion miraculously had an opening at the right time. Within minutes the pain was gone.

“This grown man could not sit still in his chair because he had a bad infection. I was able to anesthetize him, remove the fluid and get rid of the pain. For him, it was instant gratification,” Carrion said.

Another “right time at the right place” story began long after Carrion earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electronic systems engineering from Monterrey Institute of Technology, a Master of Science degree in computer science from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and a Master of Science degree in applied mathematics from Southern Methodist University. It originated from the burst of the telecom bubble and a decision to finally fulfill a life-long dream to change careers from engineering to dentistry. Carrion watched his experienced colleagues losing their jobs and knew it was time for him to become his own boss. However, he had a family and needed to work full time and hold on to his job for as long as he could. The answer to his challenge was to take night classes at Collin College.



Carlos Carrion with patient

“Attending class at Collin College was one of the best times in my life. I learned so much. I was an engineer and knew math and physics, but the chemistry and biology were really new to me. Each student has his or her own way to learn. I learned from my organic chemistry professor, Dr. Fred Jury, that the more angles from which you see a problem, the better. Take how the liver works, for example. The textbook teaches you one way, gross anatomy teaches you another way, so you are receiving information a second time with a different perspective in a real, live, three-dimensional organ. A third time, you consult with your professor or classmate or research the liver. The more ways you can see or review this information, the more it will be retained. That process helped me remember, conceptualize and understand the information,” Carrion said.

Carrion received his dental degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Dental School in 2011. He is practicing dentistry at Copperfield Crossing Dental, which offers general dentistry, implants and endodontics.

He understands patients’ financial concerns and fear of dentists and takes extra time to photograph patients’ mouths and explain in detail why they need crowns or other expensive treatments. He has countless stories from his rotation days in dental school in which he was able to observe oral surgeons completely restructuring a patient’s face to his own contributions including the time he helped a Harley Davidson biker who was white knuckling his chair due to a needle phobia. Carrion has no doubt that he made the right decision many years ago, and he is grateful he had the opportunity to follow his dream.

“Without Collin College I would not be where I am today. I have nothing but gratitude for Collin College, and I hope I can pay it back some day. Recently, I treated a little boy with mental challenges. He had a hard time just paying attention for a few minutes. He was spent after having to stand still for the x-ray series. It was a big task to clean his teeth, and he cried. I guess he realized we were trying to help him because at the end of the day he gave me a hug. It was fantastic. In that moment, I knew I chose the right career path. You don’t get that very often as an engineer.”



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where I am today.  
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but gratitude for  
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Carrion took all the prerequisites he needed for his Dental Admission Test (DAT) from Collin College including physics, chemistry, organic chemistry and English. He took a few additional upper level prerequisites at The University of Texas at Dallas that were required before entering dental school.

## Opportunities in Health Care





# A Breath of Fresh Air: Collin College's Respiratory Care Program

It should have been a time of great joy. After all, she had just given birth to her first child. Instead, Kimberly Wade experienced sheer panic. As she lay in recovery after her C-section, she felt like an elephant was sitting on her chest. The nurses called a respiratory therapist who knew it was an extreme allergic reaction. The room got dark—Wade was coding. Suddenly, a tube was pushed into her windpipe, and an amazing machine breathed oxygen and life into her body.

"I always had bad allergies, but not asthma. I acquired that as an adult for the first time in the hospital. I was on the ventilator for four days," said Wade, who is now a second-year respiratory care student at Collin College.

Wade earned a bachelor of science degree in social work from Texas Woman's University and a master of science degree in social work from Our Lady of the Lake University. As a social worker, she frequently worked with respiratory therapists in the hospital emergency room.

"The more I watched and talked to respiratory therapists, the more I wanted to do what they did. I chose Collin College because it has an awesome reputation."

Anna Bennett, who earned an associate of applied science degree from Collin College while on scholarship, is now respiratory care manager at The Medical Center of Plano and serves on both the respiratory and emergency medical services advisory boards at Collin College. She earned a bachelor of science degree from Columbia Southern University, and she is currently pursuing a master of science degree in organizational leadership.



Anna Bennett

"I know the quality this program provides to the students who are the health care community's future employees. I hire Collin College graduates because I know we will receive new hires with solid foundations to begin their careers. Collin College graduates are knowledgeable, eager and prepared. I caution anybody wanting to enter a professional program, such as respiratory care, to do their homework and ensure the program they choose has good outcomes as far as the student pass rates with

the national board examinations, as well as the percentage of graduates with job placement post-graduation," Bennett said.

According to Araceli Solis, Collin College director of Respiratory Care, last year's graduates had a 100-percent pass rate on the Certified Respiratory Therapist exam and a 95-percent pass rate on



the advanced-level Registered Respiratory Therapist exam. This class also has a 95 percent job placement rate.

"We have exceeded all thresholds set by our accreditation committee, and this is what makes our program distinguished among respiratory care programs nationwide. Another aspect that makes our program unique is the dedicated faculty. Our classroom instructors teach the theory, and our clinical instructors help them apply these concepts to the bedside. We prepare our students for real-life situations by utilizing our simulation department. These mannequins are as close to the 'real thing' as you can get. They can speak, blink, breathe, can be placed on a ventilator and have a pulse," Solis said.

For Wade the story has come full circle. Soon she will officially be on the other side of the hospital bed making sure her patients can breathe freely. However, she is already making a difference in the lives of people in our community.

"I had a patient who was intubated. She didn't speak English and did not understand what people were doing. I was able to speak with her in Spanish and explain that we have to take arterial blood gases, including levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood. When you have asthma, carbon dioxide levels can be abnormally high, while oxygen levels can be below normal. I had the opportunity to educate her about asthma and how to keep it under control. Upon recovery, she said she was really happy to talk to me."

For more information on the Respiratory Care program, visit <http://www.collin.edu/rcp/> or call 972.548.6870.



## egin at Collin College . . .





# Did you KNOW? Health Care Edition








Did you know that Collin College graduates are working as health professionals at these major local hospitals? (See examples below.)

Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano  
Baylor Medical Center at Frisco  
Baylor McKinney  
Centennial Medical Center

Children's Medical Center at Legacy  
The Heart Hospital-Baylor Plano  
Medical Center of McKinney  
Medical Center of Plano

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Allen  
Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano  
The Hospital at Craig Ranch  
Forrest Park Medical Center Frisco

Did you know Collin College produces top health science graduates that employers hire immediately?

						
<b>Nursing</b>	<b>Respiratory Care</b>	<b>Dental Hygiene</b>	<b>Surgical Tech</b>	<b>Health Information Management</b>	<b>EMS</b>	<b>Polysomnography (Sleep Disorders)</b>
<b>Founded 1988</b>	<b>Founded 1992</b>	<b>Founded 1997</b>	<b>Founded 2008</b>	<b>Founded 2010</b>	<b>Founded 1986</b>	<b>Founded 2012</b>
<b>98.08%</b> pass rate on the R.N. licensure exam	<b>100%</b> pass rate on the Certified Respiratory Therapist exam**	<b>100%</b> pass rate	<b>100%</b> pass rate on the certified surgical technologist exam	<b>90%</b> pass rate on the Registered Health Information Technician credential exam	<b>93%</b> pass rate on paramedic exam	<b>NEW!</b>
<b>96%</b> employed*	<b>95%</b> employed**	<b>100%</b> employed	<b>100%</b> employed	<b>100%</b> employed	<b>761</b> certified	
<b>Best pass rate in the state!</b>			<b>Surgical Assisting Certificate of Merit award winner!</b>			
						* 2010 data ** 2011 data.

## Faculty & Staff HIGHLIGHTS



Michele Brown

Pastry Arts **Professor Michele Brown** won a bronze medal at the IKA Culinary Olympics 2012 with the Epicurean World Master Chef Society. Brown's team was one of 50 regional teams in the world and one of three for the United States.

Professor and Director of Jazz Studies **Kris Berg's** new CD, "This Time/Last Year" by **Kris Berg & The Metroplexity Big Band** is on the 55th Grammy Ballot in four categories—best large jazz ensemble album, best instrumental composition, best instrumental arrangement and best improvised jazz solo. The Metroplexity Big Band has also been invited to perform at the Jazz Education Networks International Conference in January. The band will be the closing act on the Thursday night main stage concert and will be heard by thousands of jazz fans, musicians and educators.



Kris Berg



Shirley McBride

English Professor **Shirley McBride** received the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge National Awards Program for her work in educating the nation's youth about the country's rich heritage, principles and freedoms.

**Dr. Levi Bryant**, professor of philosophy, recently published: "The Other Face of God: Lacan, Theological Structure, and the Accursed Remainder" in *Speculations III*, Brooklyn: Punctum Books and "Alliances and a Throw of the Dice" in *Dungeons & Dragons and Philosophy*, Jon Cogburn, ed., Chicago: Open Court, 2012.

**Dr. Ann Beheler**, executive director of emerging technology grants, was quoted as an expert in a *Community College Journal* article titled "Gaining an edge in technical careers" in a section about the next killer app. Her comments focused on work from the National Convergence Technology Center at Collin College.



Dr. Levi Bryant



Dr. Ann Beheler

Visual and Performing Arts Professor **Tiffanee Arnold** has been appointed to the National Board of Directors of the American College Dance Festival Association for the South Central region.



Tiffanee Arnold

**Dr. Dallie Clark**, professor of humanities, has been selected as presiding chair of the Community College Humanities Association Southwestern Division. Dr. Clark also published a book of poetry titled *Pink*.



Dr. Dallie Clark



Dr. Rosemary Karr

**R. Scott Yarbrough** published the poem, "Buzzard Starts Fire: A Texas Newspaper Headline" in the *Concho River Review*. Yarbrough's poem titled "Upon My Cousin's Decision" is scheduled to appear in the Winter/Spring issue of *The Fox Chase Review*. He also presented at an event featuring his poetry at the Veteran Writers' convention and gave the keynote address for the Texas Poet's Association.

**Dr. Rosemary Karr**, professor of developmental mathematics has been selected as a fellow with the Council of Learning Assistance and Developmental Education Associations for "lifetime contributions and national/international influence within the field of postsecondary learning assistance and developmental education."

**Dr. Alicia Huppe**, dean of enrollment and academic success momentum, has been named president of the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators. In the organization's 87-year history, Dr. Huppe is the first president from a community college.



Dr. Alicia Huppe

**Dr. Colleen Smith**, senior vice president of academic affairs and student development, and **Dani Day**, associate vice president of teaching and learning, were selected by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to present a session at the association's annual meeting. Dr. Smith has also been appointed to chair commission accreditation committees for various colleges seeking reaffirmation of accreditation in the southern region. Dr. Smith was also appointed by McKinney Mayor Brian Loughmiller to serve as a member of the McKinney Community Development Corporation.



Dr. Colleen Smith



Dani Day

Counselor **Amy Lenhart** has been elected to the board of the American College Counseling Association.



# Majestic library anchors historic expansion

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at Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco in 2005 and Central Park Campus in McKinney in 2010, with libraries constructed as the centerpieces of the campuses.

The Spring Creek Campus expansion is the largest of the three library buildings with 88,000 square feet and two stories. Much like the Central Park Campus library, it features an award-winning architectural design inspired by Thomas Jefferson's style at the University of Virginia.

The campus plan itself is based on a teaching model known as a "Learning Community," which the college uses extensively. According to the college's district president, the Learning Community model combines multiple subjects with multiple professors for a single, combined class. This allows for more in-depth learning because the overlap creates connections that stimulate discussions between professors and students. Likewise, the Collin College campus plan uses the library as a hub and then connects learning spaces between classrooms, faculty offices, study spaces, hallways, libraries and even entertainment.

"We believe that to move the physical environment into the next century, it is important to ensure that libraries serve as a convening place and reflect contemplative thought as well as engaged learning," President Israel said.

The new library creates a new front entrance featuring a 15-foot armillary sphere. The building itself features striking classic stone columns and brick accents leading into a grand reading room capped by a 60-foot dome and overlooking a grassy courtyard. On the second floor, classrooms, study rooms, faculty offices and an instructional design center overlook the reading room and add to the vibrant energy of the space.

"When students walk in, information is at their fingertips, and they see a blizzard of activity," Israel said. "It is a comfortable, interactive oasis for learning."

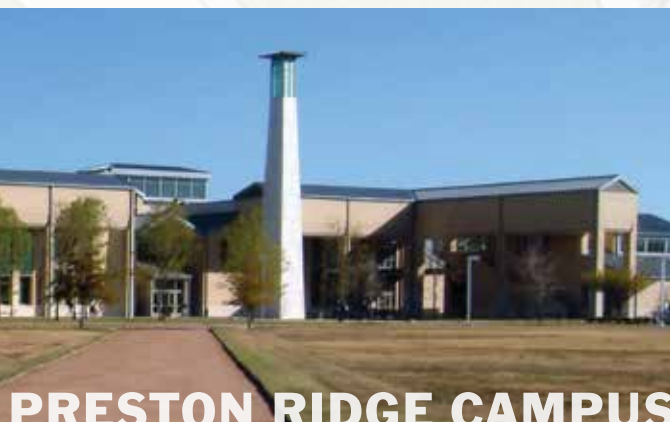
PBK Architects worked with President Israel and the Board of Trustees on the design of both the Spring Creek Campus and Central Park Campus expansion projects. According to Chris Leija, a project executive at PBK, "The thought behind the library was for it to have a classic design, to give it a style that resembles education historically and what people anticipate when they go to a place of higher education," he said.

## STATE-OF-THE-ART LOCALE

Overall, the new building and renovation of space vacated by the old library yields 16 classrooms—space that is likely to fill quickly by student demand. The Spring Creek Campus

was originally built to accommodate 7,000 students, and in fall 2012 the college squeezed in 13,188 students with creative scheduling like Weekend College.

"The new library will be the cornerstone of the campus, and it will provide a dynamic new learning environment for our students," said



Dr. Mary McRae, vice president/provost of the Spring Creek Campus. "The library also features a new e-learning center, quiet study spaces, reading areas and a computer quick study area for students." In fact, the new library building triples the number of small and large study rooms and common areas.

One of the most interesting features of the new library building is a mock trial courtroom on the second floor. There, aspiring student attorneys from the college's mock trial team (*see related story below in Student Highlights*) can learn to plead cases in front of the bench, complete with audio and video. The courtroom can also be converted into a large, general-purpose classroom for courses like speech, when needed. Most of the new classrooms in the new building will host courses in communication, humanities and social sciences.

The area the library previously called home will be renovated and repurposed. This phase of construction will add classrooms and space for Honors classes, a veterans resource office, computer labs, writing and math labs, tutoring, conference rooms, a new print shop, and a counseling area. It will also relocate facilities for students with disability service needs. Additional projects include an American Sign Language lab, widening of the main stairways to accommodate increased enrollment, a refurbished atrium and new police offices. The college is also converting existing space for two new science labs for courses in environmental science, biology and microbiology.

"The students, faculty and staff are all excited about the new changes at the Spring Creek Campus," Dr. McRae said. "This campus opened its doors in 1988, and this is a welcome transformation. We are appreciative to District President Cary Israel and our Board of Trustees for their vision."

## A VISION FULFILLED

So what can students and the public expect? Of course, the new construction is driven to accommodate students' needs, first and foremost. However, the new and improved face of Spring Creek Campus brings a sense of renewal to a solid, established sector of Collin County. The breathtaking library creates a striking vista not just from Jupiter Road, but from as far away as Parker Road, leaving passersby with an impression that is unmistakably collegiate.

"It definitely is the focal point," Leija concluded. "When you arrive at the campus now, it's almost like the building is a symbol. When you drive by, it is easily recognizable, and everyone will know that this is a building the college went above and beyond to create for their students to thrive in and use as a learning tool."

The new library hosts its first classes on Tuesday, Jan. 22. For more information on the Spring Creek Campus or any Collin College campus, visit [collin.edu](http://collin.edu) or call 1-877-COLLIN1.

## Student & Alumni HIGHLIGHTS

Collin College's Mock Trial Team won two major awards in a recent competition. Student **Michelle Davis** won "Top Attorney" with a perfect score and **April Cheney** tied for first place as "Top Witness". Last year, Collin student Chris Arnell was the first student from a two-year institution to earn a perfect score as "Top Attorney" and now the college has achieved it for a second time!

**Denise Thatcher**, Collin Nursing Student Association president, was elected to chair the Texas Council of School Presidents' Committee, and **Kelli Jones** was nominated to run for Texas Nursing Student Association vice president.

**Richard Alexander** joined 40 community college students from across the nation for three days at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., as part of the National Community College Aerospace Scholars project. Aside from learning about careers in science and engineering, Alexander's adventure at the space center included forming a team and establishing a fictional company interested in Mars exploration.



Jake Nelson

Former student **Jake Nelson** received a full scholarship and is now studying opera at the famed Juilliard School in New York City. To hear Jake's story along with his amazing voice, watch this video on the college's You Tube channel: <http://bit.ly/UWn5je>

## BEHIND THE SCENES Collin College trustee, alumna offers perspective

*Trustee Quarterly*, a magazine from the Association of Community College Trustees, published a guest article by Collin College Trustee Stacy Anne Arias discussing the importance of forging an alliance between students and trustees to foster an active and engaged student body. In this exclusive preview to the publication, Trustee Arias shares a few of her insights.



Stacy Anne Arias

**Q:** As a Collin College alumna who used the college as a platform to enter the civic engagement arena, ultimately serving as a Collin College Trustee, what are some benefits for students who become actively involved in the college and their community?

**A:** By far, the greatest impact on students who become actively engaged is the statistically proven, enhanced success rate. Through the collective participation in academics and civic engagement, students develop into thoughtful and vital members of our communities.

**Q:** What do you believe is your greatest impact on students and the community as a member of the Collin College Board of Trustees, and why?

**A:** As trustees, we expect the college to offer nationally recognized programs that lead to gainful employment as well as academic offerings that put our students on a pathway to great success. We also have a fiduciary responsibility to offer what the community needs while maintaining a very low tax rate and a cost effective business and education model.



# Did you KNOW?

1,800

student veterans attend Collin College,  
which has received  
the following designations:



78%

of graduates from  
Texas 4-year institutions  
previously attended  
a community college



73.4%

of Collin College students  
work through college



## SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday,  
February 23, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

### STETSON & STILETTO STANDOFF

A Texas trivia night benefiting student scholarships  
Join us inside the new library  
at Spring Creek Campus in Plano!

With the backdrop of Jeffersonian architecture  
and a magnificent dome,  
guests will square off in a trivia competition  
inspired by the Lone Star State and Collin County,  
while raising funds for a great cause.

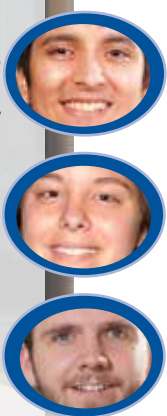
Attire: Cowboy-Chic Call 972.599.3145 for details!



FOUNDATION

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