

The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

**WINTER/SPRING 2012:**  
Volume 9, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)  
View Credit Class  
Schedule  
View Continuing Education  
Schedule  
Admission & Registration  
Make a Gift  
Contact Us

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate  
degree:  
One degree leads to  
another

Collin College named  
Texas' first Center of  
Excellence in Nursing  
Education

Collin College group  
awarded \$20 million  
federal grant

Congressional Veteran  
Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success  
despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets  
her dance career off the  
ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the  
animals*

Frisco campus expansion  
opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Fall 2011**

Vol. 9 Issue 1

**Connection, Summer  
2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2010-  
2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 2

**Connection Fall 2010**

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The National League of Nursing (NLN) recently recognized Collin College as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education--Texas' first and only program with this prestigious designation. Of the more than 1,800 nursing programs in the country, only 19 have been named a Center of Excellence, placing Collin College alongside Johns Hopkins and Villanova University.

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Vol. 8 Issue 1

Connection Summer 2010

Vol. 7 Issue 3

Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010

Vol. 7 Issue 2

Connection Fall '09 Vol. 7 Issue 1

Connection Special Edition Summer 2009

Vol. 6 Issue 3

Connection Winter/Spring 2009 Vol. 6 Issue 2

Connection, Fall 2008

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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portfolio.  
[Click Here for Full Story]



**Where are they now?**  
***Flying high: Alumna gets her dance career off the ground***  
Emmy Walker is one Collin College graduate who does not keep her feet on the ground. She is a professional aerial dancer who defies, among other things, gravity.  
[Click Here for Full Story]



**Where are they now?**  
***Waging a war for the animals***  
*Simon McNeny has always loved animals and knew he wanted to be a zookeeper as a teenager, so he took his first science classes at Collin College and earned an associate degree in 2007 followed by a bachelor of science degree in Wildlife and Fishery Science from Texas A&M University.*  
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**Frisco campus expansion opens**  
Collin College's campus at 9700 Wade Blvd., in Frisco is expanding with the opening of two new buildings this spring.  
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[Click Here for Full Story]

The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

HOME

WINTER/SPRING 2012:  
Volume 9, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)  
[View Credit Class Schedule](#)  
[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)  
[Admission & Registration](#)  
[Make a Gift](#)  
[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate degree:  
One degree leads to another

Collin College named Texas' first Center of Excellence in Nursing Education

Collin College group awarded \$20 million federal grant

Congressional Veteran Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets her dance career off the ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the animals*

Frisco campus expansion opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Fall 2011**

Vol. 9 Issue 1

**Connection, Summer 2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2010-2011**

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Sarah Claunch will never forget her father's message. Though he no longer walks the earth, she can hear his words of wisdom as though he were right beside her. In a flash she is back in middle school, and he is earning his master's degree. Reflecting on his educational achievement he turns to his daughter and says, "Set a goal, and when you achieve that goal—set another goal."



Sara Claunch

After her husband passed away, Claunch wanted to make sure that her children would heed her father's advice, so she made the decision to start setting her own educational goals. Her first was to earn an associate degree from Collin College. She followed her father's advice, kept setting goals, and today she is practicing law in Frisco.

America may soon be seeing more people like Claunch—those with both an associate degree and a bachelor's degree on their resumes, particularly as federal officials turn to community colleges to put more degreed labor into the workforce.

For years community colleges have been graduating nurses, firefighters, dental hygienists and many other two-year degrees that allow graduates to immediately enter the workforce. But what about the transfer student who intends to earn a bachelor's degree?

According to Collin College District President Cary Israel, the issue is not whether to pursue either an associate degree or a bachelor's degree. "Students benefit from earning both associate and bachelor's degrees," he said.

The vast majority of students enroll at Collin College with the intent to transfer to a university for a bachelor degree. The college has one of the highest rates of successful transfer in the nation, and now an effort is underway to help more students finish the associate degree too.

"It is a natural progression that can save students and their families a substantial amount of money," Israel said. "In industry, employers need people who finish what they start. If there are two candidates for a job with otherwise equal qualifications, the one with both an associate degree and a bachelor's degree may have an advantage."

After Claunch earned a Collin College associate of arts degree, she earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University and a law degree from Texas Wesleyan University. Both of her children followed in their mother's footsteps and after attending Collin College, earned bachelor's degrees and are currently teaching in Frisco.



- Vol. 8 Issue 2
- Connection Fall 2010
- Vol. 8 Issue 1
- Connection Summer 2010
- Vol. 7 Issue 3
- Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010
- Vol. 7 Issue 2
- Connection Fall '09
- Vol. 7 Issue 1
- Connection Special Edition Summer 2009
- Vol. 6 Issue 3
- Connection Winter/Spring 2009
- Vol. 6 Issue 2
- Connection, Fall 2008
- Vol. 6 Issue 1
- [MORE]

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"I made a commitment to graduate from Collin College, and fulfilling that commitment was rewarding. I had stepped over the hurdle of an associate degree. It gave me a sense of accomplishment, a sense of worth, a feeling that I could do anything. I could have just transferred to TWU, but emotionally I needed that degree to show myself that I had accomplished my goal. It was vitally important to me. It gave me the confidence to work on my bachelor's and then law degree. It was empowering. I knew I could do it because I had that piece of paper from Collin College."

According to an article in Community College Week, "There is irrefutable data to show that those who complete the two-year degree prior to transfer will succeed at the university level at a higher level than the students who went directly to the four-year school."

Troy Johnson, University of North Texas vice president for enrollment, adds that to help save time and money students should get advice from Collin College and university advisors to be sure the courses they take apply to the appropriate bachelor's degrees. Collin College is even working with university partners to retro-actively grant associate degrees after transferring to a university. If a student transfers from Collin College to a university, and then completes any remaining requirements for an associate degree during the course of a baccalaureate program, the student can petition for a "Reverse Transfer" associate degree.

According to Johnson, "Collin College has really bright students who are already contemplating the fastest route to graduate school. Associate degrees can help students as they are working toward bachelor's degrees. An associate degree can be a benchmark and increase confidence."

This was certainly the case for Dr. Roderick C. Hunter Jr. who graduated from Collin College, transferred to the University of Texas at Dallas and is currently a third year podiatry resident.

"My Collin College experience meant a lot to me because I earned a degree. It was a confidence builder that I took something to completion. I walked across the stage, the district president, Cary Israel, shook my hand, and I have a piece of paper that shows I earned a degree. It can't get any more real than that. You can transfer with credit, but it was important to me to earn my associate degree. I have run into a lot of people who have university credit but didn't finish their bachelor's degrees."



Dr. Roderick C. Hunter Jr.

Hunter says he feels a special connection to Collin College because the professors took a vested interest in him. "The learning experience is all cumulative. You take what you learn with you when you go. My desire for learning was harvested at Collin College, and it has not stopped. If I had not graduated from Collin College I may not have had that. That was my foundation which is why I am where I am today."

For more information on associate degree programs or reverse transfer associate degrees, call 972.758.3895.

[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]

The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

[HOME](#)

**WINTER/SPRING 2012:**  
**Volume 9, Issue 2**

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)

[View Credit Class  
Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education  
Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate  
degree:  
One degree leads to  
another

Collin College named  
Texas' first Center of  
Excellence in Nursing  
Education

Collin College group  
awarded \$20 million  
federal grant

Congressional Veteran  
Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success  
despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets  
her dance career off the  
ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the  
animals*

Frisco campus expansion  
opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Fall 2011**

Vol. 9 Issue 1

**Connection, Summer  
2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2010-  
2011**

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The New York City-based NLN invites nursing schools to apply for Center of Excellence status based on excellence in faculty development, nursing education research, student learning and professional The power of an associate degree One degree leads to another development.

Programs must also have a proven commitment to continuous quality improvement. Since 2006, more than 650 Collin College nursing students served more than 215 community partners in response to community needs, providing more than 4,000 service hours each semester totaling more than 40,000 service hours in five years.

In addition, 2011 Collin College nursing graduates scored a 97.3 percent pass rate, far exceeding the state average of 89.3 percent. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has lauded the program for having one of the top three graduation and licensure rates in the state.

**[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]**



Vol. 8 Issue 2

**Connection Fall 2010**  
Vol. 8 Issue 1

**Connection Summer 2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**  
Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**  
Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

[HOME](#)

**WINTER/SPRING 2012:**  
**Volume 9, Issue 2**

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)

[View Credit Class  
Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education  
Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate  
degree:  
One degree leads to  
another

Collin College named  
Texas' first Center of  
Excellence in Nursing  
Education

Collin College group  
awarded \$20 million  
federal grant

Congressional Veteran  
Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success  
despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets  
her dance career off the  
ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the  
animals*

Frisco campus expansion  
opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Fall 2011**

Vol. 9 Issue 1

**Connection, Summer  
2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2010-  
2011**

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A consortium led by Collin College recently was selected for a \$19,998,974 grant, part of nearly \$500 million in federal grants targeted to help unemployed workers who are changing careers.

More than 200 community colleges around the country applied, and 32 were selected by the U.S. Department of Labor in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education.

"This is the largest grant in college history, and it is very important to the economy," said Brenda Goodell, who chairs the Collin College board of trustees. "We live in a time when people are likely to experience a layoff at some point in their life. However, it is possible to land on your feet in a new, better career. This grant will help displaced workers retrain on the emerging technology of the future."

Collin College leads a consortium of six community colleges in the National Information, Security and Geospatial Technology Consortium (NISGTC). Partner colleges include Bellevue College (Seattle), Bunker Hill Community College (Boston), Del Mar College (Corpus Christi), Moraine Valley Community College (Chicago), Rio Salado College (Arizona) and Salt Lake City Community College as well as Collin College.

Career seekers targeted in this grant include computer software engineers, application developers, computer security specialists, database administrators, network systems and data communications analysts, geodetic surveyors and surveying and mapping technicians.

**[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]**

Vol. 8 Issue 2

**Connection Fall 2010**

Vol. 8 Issue 1

**Connection Summer 2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**

Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

[HOME](#)

**WINTER/SPRING 2012:**  
**Volume 9, Issue 2**

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)

[View Credit Class Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate degree:  
One degree leads to another

Collin College named Texas' first Center of Excellence in Nursing Education

Collin College group awarded \$20 million federal grant

Congressional Veteran Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets her dance career off the ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the animals*

Frisco campus expansion opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Fall 2011**

Vol. 9 Issue 1

**Connection, Summer 2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2010-2011**

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**[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]**



*Sam Johnson recognized U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Paul Simeon*

Vol. 8 Issue 2

**Connection Fall 2010**  
Vol. 8 Issue 1

**Connection Summer 2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**  
Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**  
Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

HOME

WINTER/SPRING 2012:  
Volume 9, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)

[View Credit Class  
Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education  
Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate  
degree:  
One degree leads to  
another

Collin College named  
Texas' first Center of  
Excellence in Nursing  
Education

Collin College group  
awarded \$20 million  
federal grant

Congressional Veteran  
Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success  
despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets  
her dance career off the  
ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the  
animals*

Frisco campus expansion  
opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

Connection, Fall 2011

Vol. 9 Issue 1

Connection, Summer  
2011

Vol. 8 Issue 3

Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2010-  
2011

## You're hired!

### Alumni find success despite economy

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In fact, students in Collin College programs like paralegal, surgical technology, culinary and hospitality management, graphic design, convergence technology and others are being snatched up even before they graduate.

"Hospitals often call to notify us that they have positions and ask if we have anyone that needs a job," said Don Martin, director of the surgical technology program. He said the program has a 90 percent placement rate for graduates, and the U.S. Department of Labor is projecting a 34 percent job growth in the field for Dallas-Fort Worth. Surgical technology students have found employment at Children's Medical Center, Presbyterian hospitals in Plano and Dallas, Baylor Medical Center in Plano and Craig Ranch in Frisco, to name a few.

**Mary Hawkins**, the first graduate of Collin College's Convergence Technology Program, was not protected from the wayward economy, but her education made her resilient. She was laid off twice within the span of a year. The second time, she was laid off on a Monday and hired on the next Friday. Each time, she found a new job with a pay increase.



Mary Hawkins

"Because of the specialization and the training I got at Collin College, I've been able to find a job quickly," she said. "The classes I took were all hands-on. You had a couple of hours of lecture and the rest of the time it was working in a lab with the routers, switches, computers and servers. There's no way I could've gained a tenth of that knowledge without Collin College."

**Clinton Quillan** wanted a better life, and he had a 13-year-old son to consider. Abandoning a career in retail, he discovered the paralegal program at Collin College.



Clinton Quillan

Before he graduated, he already had a job. Starting at an entry-level position, he is now the approvals manager (or lead paralegal) at Coats and Todd, a local firm specializing in social security disability, family law and bankruptcy. With his position, Quillan knows where to find new talent. "I've hired two other Collin College students as well," he said. "I know if I receive a résumé from a Collin College student, they were put through the works, and whatever grade they received, they earned it."

The phone rings frequently in the office of Karen Musa, who is director of the Collin College Institute for Hospitality and Culinary Education. Restaurants, hotels, organizations and other with openings call her regularly with opportunities and jobs for her students. Luckily, she maintains a large database of current and former student emails. A dozen or so times a week, she'll email a new job from a local hotel or restaurant seeking to fill a

- Vol. 8 Issue 2
- Connection Fall 2010**
- Vol. 8 Issue 1
- Connection Summer 2010**
- Vol. 7 Issue 3
- Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**
- Vol. 7 Issue 2
- Connection Fall '09**
- Vol. 7 Issue 1
- Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

- Vol. 6 Issue 3
- Connection Winter/Spring 2009**
- Vol. 6 Issue 2
- Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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position.

"Hospitality is the world's largest industry and is huge in this area but it's still a small community," Musa said. "Once a person has hired one of our students, they tell someone else. It's by word of mouth that employers know about the program. It's not just a job to our students. It's a career, and there's a big difference."

When it comes to the employment, **Scott Perlmutter** has never found himself on the outside looking in. He started in the hospitality program at Collin College in 1997, and his management career took off. His first job was managing a local Italian restaurant and now he is dual property general manager of Town Place Suites and Fairfield Inn DFW Airport South.



Scott Perlmutter

"Hospitality is about learning accounting, the front of the house, the back of the house, housekeeping, food and beverage, management and human resources. Having that degree is the best foundation that anyone can get," he said. "The degree was crucial to my success. It put me on the fast track with Marriott."

Visit [www.collin.edu/academics/programs/](http://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/) for more information about programs at Collin College.

[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]

The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

HOME

WINTER/SPRING 2012:  
Volume 9, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)

[View Credit Class  
Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education  
Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate  
degree:  
One degree leads to  
another

Collin College named  
Texas' first Center of  
Excellence in Nursing  
Education

Collin College group  
awarded \$20 million  
federal grant

Congressional Veteran  
Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success  
despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets  
her dance career off the  
ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the  
animals*

Frisco campus expansion  
opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Fall 2011**

Vol. 9 Issue 1

**Connection, Summer  
2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2010-  
2011**

## Where are they now?

### *Flying high: Alumna gets her dance career off the ground*



Emmy Walker

Emmy Walker is one Collin College graduate who does not keep her feet on the ground.

She is a professional dancer who defies, among other things, gravity. The walls and ceiling are her stages, and the ground is just a convenient option when the show is over and the curtain closes.

The Plano East Senior High School graduate is an aerial dancer, a relatively new art form that utilizes anything from extremely long swathes of cloth, harnesses, pulleys, wheeled-tracks and any other simple machine that will take a dancer from the ground to the ceiling and back again.

Walker first learned about the genre after she earned an associate degree in dance from Collin College and transferred to The University of Texas. There, she helped choreograph a piece titled "Portrait" during the Cohen New Works Festival with a professor, who also



Vol. 8 Issue 2

**Connection Fall 2010**  
Vol. 8 Issue 1

**Connection Summer 2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**  
Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**  
Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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performed with the Blue Lapis Light, an aerial dance company in Austin.

The installation piece required harnesses and a track system set-up with skateboard wheels set in a grid allowing the dancers to prance, cavort and move on the walls and ceilings. The props – table, chairs – were nailed to the wall. Walker, soon, would begin taking classes at Blue Lapis Light.

Walker began gymnastics as a child and started dance at the relatively late age of 13. It was not until she entered Collin College that she became a technically-sound dancer. As an elective, she took a ballet class, and found the program so inviting and the professors so professional that she auditioned for the Collin Dance Ensemble. By learning the techniques and intricacies of modern, jazz and ballet, she became a well-rounded artist.

It is the lessons she took from Collin College and her foundation in gymnastics that fuel her aerial dance career.

"I knew that's the direction I wanted to go with my dance," Walker said about aerial. "I like gymnastics and dance because they are both acrobatic, and aerial dance is a lot like both. It is gymnastics and dance in the air."

After a two-year stint with Aerial Dance Chicago and a couple of years performing in Los Angeles, Walker is now near Boulder, Colo. (the site for the annual Aerial Dance Festival) starting her newest initiative, Emagination Aerial Dance, with Travis Moon, a friend from Plano East.

"Going to Los Angeles, I realized aerial dance was more in the circus world and not the dance world. I wanted to create a company where I could create what I wanted to do – combine aerial and dance together as one consistent art," Walker said.

Emagination Aerial Dance is an outreach company with the intentions of educating students – elementary school age to university-level dance programs – about aerial dance.

"Aerial dance has been around 20-30 years, but no one really knows about it," Walker said. "I want to introduce them to this art form as an option that they can do after graduation and let them know that it is an appreciated dance form and not just entertainment. Over time, Walker and Moon want to expand and have a base resident company with the idea of training technical dancers to be aerial dancers. Unlike her dance routines, there is no ceiling to Walker's potential.

"I really loved Collin College, and the experiences and opportunities that I received in the dance program were priceless. Leaving Collin College and transferring to UT was hard. Collin College was my family for two years, and if I could have finished my bachelor's degree there, I would have never left. I came into Collin College as a photography major and left as a dance major because the dance program and the professors helped fuel my passion for the arts and helped me realize that dance is the path that I want to take with my career."

[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]

The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

HOME

WINTER/SPRING 2012:  
Volume 9, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)

[View Credit Class  
Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education  
Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate  
degree:  
One degree leads to  
another

Collin College named  
Texas' first Center of  
Excellence in Nursing  
Education

Collin College group  
awarded \$20 million  
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Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success  
despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets  
her dance career off the  
ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the  
animals*

Frisco campus expansion  
opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

Connection, Fall 2011

Vol. 9 Issue 1

Connection, Summer  
2011

Vol. 8 Issue 3

Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2010-  
2011

## Where are they now?

### *Waging a war for the animals*



Simon McNeny

*For the Vietnamese Javan Rhinoceros, the battle is over. According to The Christian Science Monitor, the very last Javan rhino was poached this year— for its horn. The only real predator for the rhino was mankind. Now, these unique animals are gone forever. But the fight for the endangered Grevy's zebra and the threatened okapi is still on. And for Collin College graduate Simon McNeny, the fight is up close and personal.*

*Just six months after he started working at the Dallas Zoo, McNeny assisted in training Wester, a baby Grevy's zebra and a member of the largest and most endangered of the three zebra species. One important aspect in caring for the Grevy's zebra is training. According to McNeny, zookeepers train animals to accept medical care, such as inoculations, without traumatizing the animals. McNeny says zebras, like people, have distinct personalities.*

*It took months for Wester to trust his trainers, but once he allowed them to come near him it did not take this intelligent animal long to touch an appointed training target. However, like any playful young boy, Wester had to push the envelope.*

*"He got within an inch of the target and then turned his head to see if he was going to get alfalfa," McNeny said, laughing.*

*"Zoos aren't prisons; they are sanctuaries to promote education. We are not training animals like circuses. We don't do it for show and tell. We show only natural behaviors they would do in the wild."*

Vol. 8 Issue 2

Connection Fall 2010

Vol. 8 Issue 1

Connection Summer 2010

Vol. 7 Issue 3

Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010

Vol. 7 Issue 2

Connection Fall '09

Vol. 7 Issue 1

Connection Special Edition Summer 2009

Vol. 6 Issue 3

Connection Winter/Spring 2009

Vol. 6 Issue 2

Connection, Fall 2008

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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*McNeny has always loved animals and knew he wanted to be a zookeeper as a teenager. After homeschooling, he took his first science classes at Collin College. He earned an associate degree in 2007 and a bachelor of science degree in Wildlife and Fishery Science from Texas A&M in 2009.*

*"All my siblings attended Collin. You walk in and you can feel the vibrancy of this college. I learned critical thinking and questioning and came out of my shell here. I even had the opportunity to isolate DNA from snake skin in my genetics class. I am proud to be a Collin College graduate."*

*McNeny does not want to imagine a world without Grevy's zebras or their unrelated, striped zoo neighbors the okapi. While Wester tolerates McNeny's presence, several okapi seem to enjoy his company. Ann, a three-year-old okapi, perks up when McNeny enters her stall and allows him to stroke her neck. This relationship made it easy for him to check her tuberculosis test.*

*"Hoof stock play a huge role in our ecosystem. They are misunderstood and difficult to read. Since they are prey, they hide their illnesses. For okapi, there is a high price in the wild for showing weakness. Kwanini was holding her ear ever so slightly down, so I knew she had an ear infection. If Kwanini ever left any food, I would know something is wrong, but Niko leaves food all the time. Ann loves me, and lets me put my head on her shoulder and Niko leans into me," McNeny said.*

*McNeny enjoys his zookeeper talks. It gives him the opportunity to show visitors the importance of these rare animals. He explains that there are only 5,000 okapi living in the Ituri rainforest in the Congo and that of the 150 living in captivity 37 were born at the Dallas Zoo. He adds that the typical lifespan in the wild is in the teens.*

*"We have the oldest okapi in the world here. She is 29 years old. Okapi are related to giraffes, not zebras. The population is getting low because of deforestation. They were hunted. It is illegal now, but animals still get poached. These guys need all the help they can get. We share the okapi to keep the gene pool moving. Ann weighs 710 pounds and soon she will be sent to Switzerland and then to France and Germany," McNeny says wistfully.*

*McNeny's passion for these amazing creatures is not lost on a young girl with a long braid who asks the poignant question, "Is she your friend?" McNeny responds with a smile, "Yes, she is."*

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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

[HOME](#)

**WINTER/SPRING 2012:**  
**Volume 9, Issue 2**

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)

[View Credit Class  
Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education  
Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate  
degree:  
One degree leads to  
another

Collin College named  
Texas' first Center of  
Excellence in Nursing  
Education

Collin College group  
awarded \$20 million  
federal grant

Congressional Veteran  
Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success  
despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets  
her dance career off the  
ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the  
animals*

Frisco campus expansion  
opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Fall 2011**

Vol. 9 Issue 1

**Connection, Summer  
2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2010-  
2011**

## Frisco campus expansion opens



### Preston Ridge Campus

Collin College's campus at 9700 Wade Blvd., in Frisco is expanding with the opening of two new buildings this spring. Included in this growth are 33 new classrooms, four state-of-the-art science labs and a 900-seat conference center. The new facilities are designed to accommodate the explosive growth that the Frisco campus has experienced in the past five years.

**[PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION]**



Vol. 8 Issue 2

**Connection Fall 2010**

Vol. 8 Issue 1

**Connection Summer 2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**

Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

HOME

**WINTER/SPRING 2012:**  
Volume 9, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)

[View Credit Class Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

The power of an associate degree:  
One degree leads to another

Collin College named Texas' first Center of Excellence in Nursing Education

Collin College group awarded \$20 million federal grant

Congressional Veteran Commendation

You're hired!  
Alumni find success despite economy

Where are they now?  
*Flying high: Alumna gets her dance career off the ground*

Where are they now?  
*Waging a war for the animals*

Frisco campus expansion opens

Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Fall 2011**

Vol. 9 Issue 1

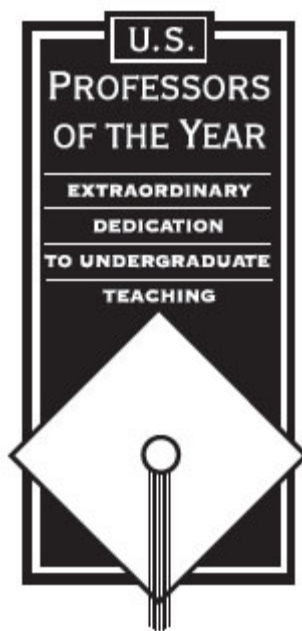
**Connection, Summer 2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2010-2011**

## Did You Know?

Did you know the following honors have been presented to Collin College recently? These are just a few examples of how your local college is "Making a Mark on History, One Student at a Time."



Vol. 8 Issue 2

**Connection Fall 2010**

Vol. 8 Issue 1

**Connection Summer 2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**

Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

[MORE]

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Special Edition



# CONNECTION

Fall 2011

Special Edition Fall 2011:  
Volume 9, Issue 1

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)  
[Make A Gift](#)  
[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)  
[Admission & Registration](#)  
[View Credit Class Schedule](#)  
[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

A degree WORTH MORE than you paid  
 Outstanding Students and Alumni  
 Outstanding Faculty  
 College Honors  
 Did You Know?

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Summer 2011**  
 Vol. 8 Issue 3  
**Connection, Winter/Spring 2010-2011**  
 Vol. 8 Issue 2  
**Connection Fall 2010**  
 Vol. 8 Issue 1  
**Connection Summer 2010**  
 Vol. 7 Issue 3  
**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**  
 Vol. 7 Issue 2  
**Connection Fall '09**  
 Vol. 7 Issue 1  
**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**  
 Vol. 6 Issue 3  
**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**  
 Vol. 6 Issue 2  
**Connection, Fall 2008**

## A degree WORTH MORE than you paid

Policy makers and the general public are asking whether student loan debts outweigh the quality of the degrees and their earning power. We believe community colleges like Collin College are a bastion of hope for those who fear they will be priced out of higher education. As you will see in this special edition of our community newsletter *Connection*, the quality of Collin College is among the finest in the nation. Yet the cost—both to the individual student and the taxpayer—is low.

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## Outstanding Students and Alumni

3rd in the World, Asteroid Discovery, Best in U.S., Alzheimer's Research, Mock Trial v. Harvard, Brown & Tufts, Tennis National Championship, Microbiology Fellowship at Cornell, Broadway & Hollywood, National Civic Fellow, MIT Summer Research Program, *Zoological Science* Cover Story, Texas Outstanding Dental Hygiene Student, Diversity Leadership, New Christian Artist, Pearson Prize, Top Licensure Rates, *Smithsonian*, Cisco, Jazz Honors

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Outstanding  
Students  
& Alumni

## Outstanding Faculty

U.S. Professor of the Year, Piper Professor, Historical Commission Award, Elite Nursing League, Tennis Coach of the Year, Basketball Coach of the Year, National Mentorship Award, Global Challenge Winner, Johnson & Johnson Award, Top CPA, English Teaching Award, Texas Chef of the Year, Early Childhood Certification, U.S. Embassy Invitation, New York Times Best Seller

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Outstanding  
Faculty

## College Honors

Center for Excellence in Nursing Education, Carnegie Classification, President's Honor Roll, National Science Foundation Grant, Federal Summit on Education, Texas Top 3 in Nursing, County's 1st University Center, Award-Winning Campus Design, AAA Rating, Military-Friendly, Fiscal Management Accolades, Frisco Person of the Year, James H. Boswell Award, Republicans' Highest Honor, National Pacesetter, Exemplary Programs, Association Presidency, Plano Educators of the Year, Small Biz Center of the Year, Health Librarian Honor, Plano Citizen of the Year, National Psychology Awards

College  
HONORS

Vol. 6 Issue 1  
**Connection, Winter 2008**  
Vol. 5 Issue 2

[MORE]

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Did You Know?

Collin College students excel academically and thousands transfer to prestigious universities. See examples, including a record number of SMU scholarship recipients!  
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# CONNECTION

**SUMMER 2011:**  
Volume 8, Issue 3

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)  
[View Credit Class Schedule](#)  
[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)  
[Admission & Registration](#)  
[Make a Gift](#)  
[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

*1 of 12 in U.S.*  
 Carnegie Foundation honors Collin College student service, volunteerism

*Bursting at the Seams:*  
 Trustees approve expansion for Spring Creek Campus

*Where are they now?*  
*Educational clairvoyance and Parkinson's disease*

*Goodbye, commute. Hello eCollin.*

*Student & Alumni Highlights*

*Faculty and Staff Highlights*

*Did You Know?*  
 Top 5 ways to ace online college classes

*FREE Podcast: Historical Giants*

## Previous Issues

**July 11 2011 Cougar News**

Vol. 1 Issue 610

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2010-2011**

Vol. 8 Issue 2

**Connection Fall 2010**

Vol. 8 Issue 1

**Connection Summer 2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-**

### *1 of 12 in U.S.*

## **Carnegie Foundation honors Collin College student service, volunteerism**

Students and professors at Collin College take civic engagement very seriously, and now their effort has been nationally recognized.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



### *Bursting at the Seams:*

## **Trustees approve expansion for Spring Creek Campus**

To meet the needs of students at the Spring Creek Campus in Plano, the Collin College Board of Trustees approved plans for a new library building.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



### *Where are they now?*

## **Educational clairvoyance and Parkinson's disease**

Vincent Nguyen has a gift. He will tell you that many people helped him get where he is today, including Collin College professors, Columbia University professors and now MIT scientists.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



### *Goodbye, commute. Hello eCollin.*

Perhaps you live 45 miles away, work long hours or have family commitments that deny you an opportunity to earn the college education you crave. Attending college online through Collin College's eCollin program may be the solution.

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### *Student & Alumni Highlights*

## **Student & Alumni Highlights**

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



2010  
Vol. 7 Issue 2  
**Connection Fall '09**  
Vol. 7 Issue 1  
**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3  
**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**  
Vol. 6 Issue 2  
**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1  
**Connection, Winter 2008**  
Vol. 5 Issue 2

[MORE]

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

Faculty & Staff Highlights

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Did You Know?  
Top 5 ways to ace online college classes

Thinking about taking classes online? It is different than a typical lecture class, but with these tips you'll be prepared.

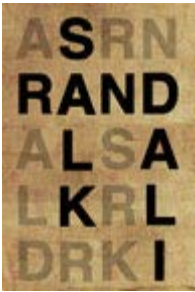
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FREE Podcast: Historical Giants

Check out this special podcast series with lessons from the collegiate classroom. Collin College professors and deans explain the legacy left for society by three groundbreaking scholars.

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# CONNECTION

**WINTER/SPRING 2011:**  
Volume 8, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)  
View Credit Class Schedule  
View Continuing Education Schedule  
Admission & Registration  
Make a Gift  
Contact Us

## In This Issue...

Collin College counters economic downturn with grant to save, create local jobs

*The Road to Graduation:*  
Students find success, savings with Collin College 'core'

Where Are They Now?  
Alumnus works to cure cancer one molecule at a time

Bestowing a Legacy of Lifetime Gifts

Collin College student awarded research fellowship at Cornell

Conference center gift honors 'Living Legends'

Student & Alumni Highlights

Faculty and Staff Highlights

2011 Collin Cabaret set for Feb. 25

Did You Know? *Collin College Pop Quiz*

## Previous Issues

**Connection, Summer 2011**  
Vol. 8 Issue 3

**Connection Fall 2010**  
Vol. 8 Issue 1

**Connection Summer 2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-**

## Collin College counters economic downturn with grant to save, create local jobs

Recession. Unemployment. Almost everyone has felt the consequences of the unsteady economy. Now, 430 people in our community will be able to keep their jobs and 25 will have new jobs thanks to a Collin College grant from the state of Texas.

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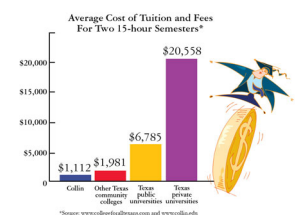


## *The Road to Graduation:*

### Students find success, savings with Collin College 'core'

While many college students and families are struggling to budget for necessities like gas and food, students who start at Collin College before transferring to a university can save automatically on travel, books and housing.

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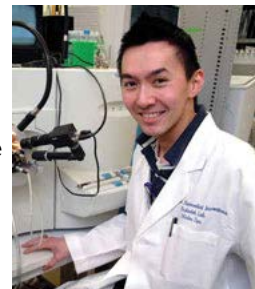


## Where Are They Now?

### Alumnus works to cure cancer one molecule at a time

A heart-felt thank you note renewed Dr. Niclas Tan's resolve to work even harder to achieve a goal that many people do not believe will happen in their lifetimes. A mother wrote that a disease had degraded her quality of life so much that she was not able to tie her shoes. Today, she is able to care for her family.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Bestowing a Legacy of Lifetime Gifts

Well-respected, local attorney and community activist David McCall of Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon & Roberts, P.C. was one of the founding fathers of Collin College. Now, he is asking area residents for a new commitment to excellence in education.

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## Collin College student awarded research fellowship at Cornell

Stephanie Brown entered a whole new world, an alternate reality of the life she previously led. Armed with new vision, in the form of a microscope lens, and new tools, also known as scientific assays, she began to alter this new world full of life forms that outnumber the human race and literally cover individuals from

**2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**

Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special  
Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection**

**Winter/Spring 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

**Connection, Winter  
2008**

Vol. 5 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2007**

Vol. 5 Issue 1

[MORE]

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**Conference center gift honors 'Living Legends'**

Thanks to the continued generosity of patrons who have collectively given donations of \$250,000, the Spring Creek Campus Conference Center has been renamed the "Living Legends Conference Center."

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**Student & Alumni Highlights**

**Student & Alumni  
Highlights**

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

**Faculty and Staff Highlights**

**Faculty & Staff  
Highlights**

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

**2011 Collin Cabaret set for Feb. 25**

The stage is set! For the first time, Collin Cabaret will be showcased on the Hill Performance Hall's main stage at the Charles W. Eisemann Center on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Combining the expressive and creative talents of Collin College's faculty, alumni and students alike, this evening promises to be an "Evening of Entertainment for Education," with all proceeds directed to student scholarships.

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**Did You Know? Collin College Pop Quiz**

How many students attend online? How long has the tax rate decreased? Read on for this and much more!

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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

Fall 2010:  
Volume 8, Issue 1

College Links

- www.collin.edu
- Collin College Catalog
- Continuing Education Schedule
- Admission & Registration
- Make a Gift
- Contact Us

In This Issue...

- Next Stop: Melissa  
*College expansion eased by land donations*
- Hallmark of Opportunities,  
Creating a Legacy
- Where Are They Now?  
*Former Collin student solves problems that save lives*
- Student Highlights
- Faculty and Staff Highlights
- Alumni tell why they love  
Collin College in new eBook
- National Champs!  
*Collin College men's tennis team wins NJCAA Division I championship*
- Did you know?

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Issue Archive

- Connection, Summer 2011
- May 2011
- Vol. 8 Issue 3
- Connection, Winter/Spring 2010-2011

Next Stop: Melissa  
*College expansion eased by land donations*

As a record number of freshmen take their first step onto a college campus this fall, the footprint of Collin College is growing to welcome them as well as students of the future. Several campuses are expanding and new sites are underway.

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Hallmark of Opportunities, Creating a Legacy

Collin College's 25th anniversary marks the perfect opportunity to join the "Hallmark of Opportunities, Creating a Legacy" campaign.

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Where Are They Now?  
*Former Collin student solves problems that save lives*

Parents find their toddler unconscious and surrounded by open prescriptions. They rush to the hospital, but doctors need to know what this little girl ingested to give her the best treatment. In this critical timeframe, medical professionals look to former Collin College student Mindy Edwards for the answers.

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Student Highlights

Student  
HIGHLIGHTS

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Faculty and Staff Highlights

Faculty & Staff  
Highlights

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Alumni tell why they love Collin College in new eBook

As Collin College celebrates its 25th anniversary, the college is marking the



January 2011  
Vol. 8 Issue 1  
Connection Summer 2010  
May 2010  
Vol. 7 Issue 3  
Connection, Winter/Spring  
2009-2010  
December 2009  
Vol. 7 Issue 2  
Connection Fall '09  
November 2009  
Vol. 7 Issue 1  
Connection Special Edition  
Summer 2009  
June 2009  
Vol. 6 Issue 3  
Connection Winter/Spring  
2009  
February 2009  
Vol. 6 Issue 2  
Connection, Fall 2008  
September 2008  
Vol. 6 Issue 1  
Connection, Winter 2008  
January 2008  
Vol. 5 Issue 2  
Connection, Fall 2007  
August 2007  
Vol. 5 Issue 1

[MORE]

occasion with the release of  
a new e-book titled In the  
Words of Alumni.

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## **National Champs!**

### ***Collin College men's tennis team wins NJCAA Division I championship***

The men's tennis team capped off a brilliant season in May after the top-ranked squad shared its first National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I national championship.

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## **Did you know?**

Collin College is led by a nine-member Board of Trustees elected at large.

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# CONNECTION

**Summer 2010:  
Volume 7, Issue 3**

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)  
[View Credit Class Schedule](#)  
[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)  
[Admission & Registration](#)  
[Make a Gift](#)  
[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

High School to College:  
Collin College helps area  
high school students fast-  
track to college degrees

Students discover asteroid  
and receive NASA award

Research offers unique  
opportunities for  
undergrads at Collin

Student & Alumni  
Highlights

Faculty and Staff  
Highlights

Where Are They Now?  
Farmersville city manager  
credits Collin law academy

Did you know?

## Previous Issues

**June 11 2010 Cougar  
News**  
Vol. 1 Issue 585

**Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2009-  
2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**  
Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special  
Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection  
Winter/Spring 2009**  
Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

## High School to College:

### Collin College helps area high school students fast-track to college degrees

Can you reduce the time to degree? Where can you turn for help to make sense of the different college options? Kim Rahebi and Christina Shafer found the answers to these questions and more at Collin College where they got a jump start on their college degrees with the dual credit program.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Students discover asteroid and receive NASA award

Three Collin College students discovered a four-and-a-half-billion-year-old rock that most likely formed at the beginning of the solar system.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Research offers unique opportunities for undergrads at Collin

Whether it is extracting DNA from soil, analyzing the conservation movement or exploring the physics of table tennis, students at Collin College have an opportunity that few undergraduates do—conducting research.

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## Student & Alumni Highlights

# Student & Alumni Highlights

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

## Faculty and Staff Highlights

# Faculty & Staff Highlights

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

## Where Are They Now?

Vol. 6 Issue 1  
**Connection, Winter 2008**  
Vol. 5 Issue 2  
**Connection, Fall 2007**  
  
Vol. 5 Issue 1  
**Connection, Winter 2007**  
Vol. 4 Issue 2  
**Connection, Fall 2006**  
  
Vol. 4 Issue 1  
  
[MORE]

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**Farmersville city manager credits Collin law academy**  
John Moran compares the makeup of a city to a person. No matter the town's size, the new Farmersville city manager explains, it has its own personality that differentiates it from other cities.  
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



**Did you know?**  
More than 2,000 local high school students enrolled in dual credit courses from Collin College last fall. Click here to see how many were from your local high school.  
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# SILVER ANNIVERSARY CONNECTION

WINTER/SPRING 2010:  
Volume 7, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)  
View Credit Class  
Schedule  
View Continuing Education  
Schedule  
Admission & Registration  
Make a Gift  
Contact Us

## In This Issue...

Collin College celebrates  
third U.S. Professor of the  
Year Award winner in nine  
years

New university center  
opens:  
Baccalaureate, graduate  
programs now nearby at  
the Collin Higher  
Education Center

Where Are They Now?

Forging an Era of Fusion:  
*A reflection on the future  
of education in Collin  
County*

Historic Faculty Excellence

Did you know?

Student & Alumni  
Highlights

Faculty and staff highlights

Collin College offers  
associate degrees for  
future hot jobs

College moves to new  
home on the web

## Previous Issues

**August I Cougar  
News 2010**  
Vol. 1 Issue 588

**July II 2010 Cougar  
News**  
Vol. 1 Issue 587

**Cougar News July I  
2010**  
Vol. 1 Issue 586

## Collin College celebrates third U.S. Professor of the Year Award winner in nine years

Congratulations to Dr. Tracey McKenzie who was selected as the 2009 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Her honor makes Collin College the only community college in the nation with three U.S. Professors of the Year.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## New university center opens: Baccalaureate, graduate programs now nearby at the Collin Higher Education Center

On January 11, juniors and seniors will step into classrooms at a magnificent, new Collin College campus for the first time, where they will find the finest bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs from area universities.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Where Are They Now?

In honor of the college's silver anniversary, *Where Are They Now* shines the spotlight on three outstanding alumni.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Forging an Era of Fusion:

### *A reflection on the future of education in Collin County*

As the college celebrates its 25th anniversary, President Cary Israel shares insight into higher education trends and America's success in the next 25 years.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Historic Faculty Excellence

With three U.S. Professor of the Year recipients in the past nine years, one Texas Professor of the Year, five Piper Professors and two Fulbright Scholars, the faculty members at Collin College continue to earn state and national acclaim.

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**June II 2010 Cougar News**  
Vol. 1 Issue 585

**Connection Summer 2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection Fall '09**  
Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Special Edition Summer 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**  
Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

**Connection, Winter 2008**  
Vol. 5 Issue 2

[MORE]

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Collin College Milestones Then & Now ...

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Student & Alumni Highlights

Student & Alumni Highlights

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Faculty and staff highlights

Faculty & Staff Highlights

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Collin College offers associate degrees for future hot jobs


The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the number individuals employed to increase by 16 million by the year 2016. A direct result of this increase will be the number of high-growth jobs, many of which can be accessed through associate degrees from Collin College.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

College moves to new home on the web

Effective Jan. 11, 2010, Collin College will change its web address.

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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

Fall 2009:  
Volume 7, Issue 1

## College Links

[www.ccccd.edu](http://www.ccccd.edu)

View Credit Class  
Schedule

View Continuing Education  
Schedule

Admission & Registration

Make a Gift

Contact Us

## In This Issue...

Collin College Issues  
Second Report Card

College unveils partners,  
programs for university  
center

Collin College  
lowers/freezes costs

Where are they now?  
Former Collin College  
student goes *Greek*

Collin College graduate  
works in U.S. district court

Texas Top 3:  
Nursing program earns  
acclaim

Did you know?

## Previous Issues

**August I Cougar  
News 2010**  
Vol. 1 Issue 588

**July II 2010 Cougar  
News**  
Vol. 1 Issue 587

**Cougar News July I  
2010**  
Vol. 1 Issue 586

**June II 2010 Cougar  
News**  
Vol. 1 Issue 585

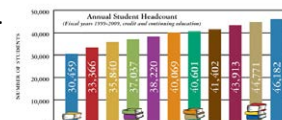
**Connection Summer  
2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2009-  
2010**  
Vol. 7 Issue 2

## Collin College Issues Second Report Card

One year ago, Collin College published its first report card. We now present an updated report card to show progress over the past year.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## College unveils partners, programs for university center

In January of 2010, the landscape of higher education in Collin County will change dramatically.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Collin College lowers/freezes costs

The economic crisis has taken a heavy toll on all walks of life. However, students at Collin College will soon see a welcome sight on the horizon as they plan for spring semester—lower fees.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

## Where are they now?

### Former Collin College student goes *Greek*

Last year 1.6 million people watched Scott Michael Foster on television. More than six feet tall with tousled brown hair and piercing blue eyes, Foster plays the fun-loving character Cappie on the hit ABC Family show *Greek*.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Collin College graduate works in U.S. district court

Nicholas Palmer was planning to become a professional musician, but his path from oboe player to lawyer intercepted a particular class at Collin College. After that class, Palmer chose law and never turned back. Today he is an attorney clerking for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, in the chambers of Judge Jane Boyle.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Texas Top 3: Nursing program earns acclaim

The state of Texas recently honored the Collin College nursing program as one of Texas' best in terms of graduation and licensure rates.

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Connection Special  
Edition Summer 2009

Vol. 6 Issue 3

Connection  
Winter/Spring 2009

Vol. 6 Issue 2

Connection, Fall 2008

Vol. 6 Issue 1

Connection, Winter  
2008

Vol. 5 Issue 2

[MORE]

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Did you know?

Collin College is celebrating its silver anniversary, so in this issue of Did You Know compares statistics from the college's inception to today.

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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



# CONNECTION

**SPECIAL EDITION**  
**ACHIEVEMENTS**  
**TRIUMPHS**  
**LANDMARKS**

**SUMMER 2009:**  
**Volume 6, Issue 3**

## College Links

[www.ccccd.edu](http://www.ccccd.edu)  
[View Credit Class Schedule](#)  
[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)  
[Admissions](#)  
[Make a Gift](#)  
[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

Back-to-back Piper Professors:  
Spotlight shines on Collin professor as one of Texas' best

NASA hand picks 11 Collin students as aerospace scholars

Where are they now?  
Dr. Chad Lemaire graduates No. 1 in med school

Create a legacy honoring those you love and respect

Crème de la crème:  
Frito-Lay food scientist finds recipe for success in Collin College culinary program

Student Highlights  
Faculty and staff highlights

Prestigious book award for Collin professor

Did you know?

## Previous Issues

**August I Cougar**  
**News 2010**  
Vol. 1 Issue 588

### Back-to-back Piper Professors:

#### Spotlight shines on Collin professor as one of Texas' best

As a 22-year teaching veteran, Dr. Peggy Brown's enthusiasm for her profession and students shines through in her efforts to "nurture, inspire, challenge and engage" her students. The English and humanities professor's idealistic spirit caught the attention of the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation recently, which awarded her the 2009 Piper Professor award for superior teaching at a Texas college or university.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



### NASA hand picks 11 Collin students as aerospace scholars

NASA selected 11 Collin College students as Community College Aerospace Scholars. The students participated in a three-day, Mars-exploration project, designed for science and engineering students, at the Johnson Space Center.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



### Where are they now?

#### Dr. Chad Lemaire graduates No. 1 in med school

Growing up on an alligator farm, Chad M. Lemaire did not imagine that he would attend medical school, let alone graduate at the top of his class. However in 2006, the former Collin College student graduated No. 1 in his class at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and became the outstanding student in a class of 175 at one of the country's top medical schools.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



### Create a legacy honoring those you love and respect

Collin College is announcing an opportunity for patrons to make a high-profile and profound tribute. The college has earmarked a handful of landmark buildings and facilities for permanent naming rights tied to scholarship funds.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



### Crème de la crème:

#### Frito-Lay food scientist finds recipe for success in Collin College culinary program

Susan Licker had already earned a master's degree in food science from Cornell University. But when she wanted to broaden her expertise with skills she could use in her job in product development at Frito-Lay Inc. in Plano, she turned to Collin College.

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**July II 2010 Cougar News**

Vol. 1 Issue 587

**Cougar News July I 2010**

Vol. 1 Issue 586

**June II 2010 Cougar News**

Vol. 1 Issue 585

**Connection Summer 2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**

Vol. 7 Issue 1

**Connection Winter/Spring 2009**

Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2008**

Vol. 6 Issue 1

**Connection, Winter 2008**

Vol. 5 Issue 2

[MORE]

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**Student Highlights**

**Student HIGHLIGHTs**

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**Faculty and staff highlights**

**Faculty & Staff HIGHLIGHTs**

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

**Prestigious book award for Collin professor**

Dr. Kyle G. Wilkison received the 2008 T.R. Fehrenbach Award for his book *Yeomen, Sharecroppers, and Socialists: Plain Folk Protest in Texas, 1870-1914* from the Texas Historical Commission.

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**Did you know?**

Learn about students attending college during high school, alumni starring on television and nursing excellence.

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# CONNECTION

**WINTER/SPRING 2009:**  
Volume 6, Issue 2

## College Links

[www.ccccd.edu](http://www.ccccd.edu)

[View Credit Class Schedule](#)

[View Continuing Education Schedule](#)

[Admission & Registration](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In This Issue...

Alumni who protect and serve: will they be here tomorrow?

Core Values lead Collin College

Q&A with the Mayors

Where are they now?

Student highlights

Faculty and staff highlights

Collin College, schedules local town hall meetings.

Did you know?

## Previous Issues

**August I Cougar News 2010**

Vol. 1 Issue 588

**July II 2010 Cougar News**

Vol. 1 Issue 587

**Cougar News July I 2010**

Vol. 1 Issue 586

**June II 2010 Cougar News**

Vol. 1 Issue 585

**Connection Summer 2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 3

**Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010**

Vol. 7 Issue 2

**Connection Fall '09**

Vol. 7 Issue 1

## Alumni who protect and serve: will they be here tomorrow?

Imagine an empty fire station, a classroom with no teacher, the vacant police cruiser. Is this an end-of-days scenario? No, it is a crisis averted in 1985 when voters established Collin College.

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## Core Values lead Collin College

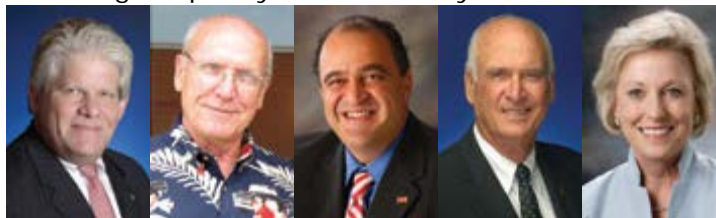
It is challenging to put a face on institutions of higher education because colleges are more than buildings; they are a myriad of diverse, living beings and evolving, intangible ideas. However, it is surprisingly simple to describe Collin College because the professors, students and staff exude its core values.

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## Q&A with the Mayors

How does Collin College impact your community?



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## Where are they now?

Collin College leads Dr. Sydney Anne Barcus to new career path in industrial psychology.

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## Student highlights

Student  
**HIGHLIGHTS**

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

## Faculty and staff highlights

Faculty & Staff  
**HIGHLIGHTS**

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Connection Special  
Edition Summer 2009

Vol. 6 Issue 3

Connection, Fall 2008

Vol. 6 Issue 1

Connection, Winter  
2008

Vol. 5 Issue 2

[MORE]

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Collin College, schedules local town hall meetings.

Collin College is seeking community input for its next strategic plan through a series of town hall meetings scheduled in Plano, Farmersville, Celina, Allen, Frisco and McKinney.

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Did you know?

Collin College is among the largest employers in the area, supporting hundreds of Texas businesses.

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# CONNECTION

The Community Update from Collin County Community College District

FALL 2008:  
Volume 6, Issue 1

## College Links

[www.ccccd.edu](http://www.ccccd.edu)  
View Credit Class  
Schedule  
View Continuing Education  
Schedule  
Admission & Registration  
Make a Gift  
Contact Us

## In This Issue...

Collin College releases  
report card  
Coming soon: Bachelor's,  
Master's and Ph.D's  
Where are they now?  
*War-torn dreams lead  
brothers to become  
physicians*  
Faculty and Staff  
Highlights  
Students News  
Honor societies emphasize  
excellence at Collin  
College  
College commits to water  
conservation effort

## Archive

**June 11 2010 Cougar  
News**  
June 2, 2010  
Vol. 1 Issue 585  
**Connection Summer  
2010**  
May 4, 2010  
Vol. 7 Issue 3  
**Connection,  
Winter/Spring 2009-  
2010**  
December 8, 2009  
Vol. 7 Issue 2  
**Connection Fall '09**  
November 2, 2009  
Vol. 7 Issue 1  
**Connection Special  
Edition Summer 2009**  
June 3, 2009

## Collin College releases report card

Accountability is one of the hottest words in higher education. In fact, the State of Texas is considering a report card to compare success measures for colleges and universities. Collin College is so committed to accountability that we are proactively releasing a report card to the community.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

## Coming soon: Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D's

Soon, local residents will not have to leave Collin County for junior and senior-level college classes as well as graduate and doctoral programs. Collin College is finalizing program plans for the new Higher Education Center in which university partners will offer a variety of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



## Where are they now?

### *War-torn dreams lead brothers to become physicians*

Read how war-torn dreams led two brothers who are Collin College alumni to become physicians. Dr. Tri Phung is now an anesthesiology resident and Dr. Vu Phung is a family practice resident.

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## Faculty and Staff Highlights

### HIGHLIGHTS Faculty & Staff

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

## Students News

### HIGHLIGHTS Student News

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

## Honor societies emphasize excellence at Collin College

Collin College has six academic honor societies. These organizations promote the college's core value of "Academic Excellence," as students are required to achieve and maintain a minimum grade point average in addition to volunteering.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Vol. 6 Issue 3

**Connection  
Winter/Spring 2009**

February 3, 2009  
Vol. 6 Issue 2

**Connection, Winter  
2008**

January 4, 2008  
Vol. 5 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2007**

August 2, 2007  
Vol. 5 Issue 1

**Connection, Winter  
2007**

December 18, 2006  
Vol. 4 Issue 2

**Connection, Fall 2006**

August 1, 2006  
Vol. 4 Issue 1

[MORE]

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**College commits to water conservation effort**

McKinney, Texas uses 50 percent more water for outdoor irrigation than the national average. That alarming statistic led city officials to develop a water conservation plan, and when Collin College officials began the expansion of Central Park Campus, college leaders worked with the city to adopt an innovative landscaping plan to conserve water.

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# Collin College

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## ARCHIVE

### [June 1 2012 Cougar News](#)

May 15, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 629

### [May 15, 2012 Cougar News](#)

May 1, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 628

### [May 1 2012 Cougar News](#)

April 16, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 627

### [April II 2012 Cougar News](#)

April 2, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 626

### [Collin Compass](#)

March 20, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 256

### [April 1 2012 Cougar News](#)

March 20, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 625

### [March 15 2012 Cougar News](#)

March 1, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 634

### [Cougar News March 1 2012](#)

February 17, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 623

### [February 15 2012 Cougar News](#)

February 2, 2012  
Vol. 1 Issue 622

### [Connection, Spring 2012](#)

December 16, 2011  
Vol. 1 Issue 250

### [Connection, Fall 2011](#)

August 10, 2011  
Vol. 9 Issue 1

### [Connection, Summer 2011](#)

May 19, 2011  
Vol. 8 Issue 3

### [Connection, Winter/Spring 2010-2011](#)

January 3, 2011  
Vol. 8 Issue 2

### [Connection Fall 2010](#)

August 11, 2010  
Vol. 8 Issue 1

### [Connection Summer 2010](#)

May 4, 2010  
Vol. 7 Issue 3

### [Connection, Winter/Spring 2009-2010](#)

December 8, 2009  
Vol. 7 Issue 2

### [Connection Fall '09](#)

November 2, 2009  
Vol. 7 Issue 1

[\*\*Connection Special Edition Summer 2009\*\*](#)

June 3, 2009  
Vol. 6 Issue 3

[\*\*Connection Winter/Spring 2009\*\*](#)

February 3, 2009  
Vol. 6 Issue 2

[\*\*Connection, Fall 2008\*\*](#)

September 16, 2008  
Vol. 6 Issue 1

[\*\*Connection, Winter 2008\*\*](#)

January 4, 2008  
Vol. 5 Issue 2

[\*\*Connection, Fall 2007\*\*](#)

August 2, 2007  
Vol. 5 Issue 1

[\*\*Connection, Winter 2007\*\*](#)

December 18, 2006  
Vol. 4 Issue 2

[\*\*Connection, Fall 2006\*\*](#)

August 1, 2006  
Vol. 4 Issue 1

[\*\*Connection, Winter 2006\*\*](#)

December 12, 2005  
Vol. 3 Issue 2

[\*\*Connection, Fall 2005\*\*](#)

June 7, 2005  
Vol. 3 Issue 1

[\*\*Connection, Winter 2005\*\*](#)

February 17, 2005  
Vol. 2 Issue 2

[\*\*Connection, Fall 2004\*\*](#)

September 21, 2004  
Vol. 2 Issue 1

[\*\*Connection, Winter 2003\*\*](#)

December 3, 2003  
Vol. 1 Issue 1

[\[RETURN\]](#)