



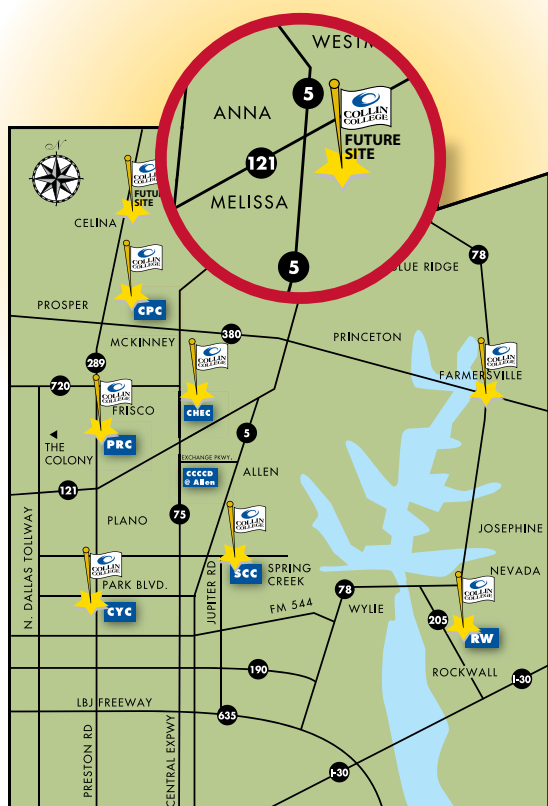
# CONNECTION

FALL 2010

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

As a record number of freshmen prepare for 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.

According to Board of Trustees Chair Brenda Goodell, major land donations facilitated some of this expansion. "The new structures you see today are the result of years of planning. The recent land donations are historic and very strategically located. Gracious gifts of this proportion will shape our future."



### Melissa: regional first-responder center

In March, Collin College received a gracious land donation from the city of Melissa. Located at State Hwy. 121 and Country Road 420, the donated site totals 25 acres and is the future home of the college's law enforcement, fire science and emergency medical services training facility.



These popular programs currently are squeezed into space at the Central Park Campus in McKinney, which has become one of the fastest-growing sites in the district.

The Melissa site will be a significant upgrade. The new facility will become a regional training facility for not only educating future firefighters, police officers and emergency personnel, but also for current first responders. Projected amenities will include a driving course, a scenario village that replicates the real-life challenges faced by fire, paramedics and police as well as a state-of-the-art firing range that allows multiple scenarios/simulations to be staged for various firearms training applications.

"The college's presence in Melissa has both tangible and intangible benefits to Melissa," said Reed Greer, mayor of the city of Melissa.

### LAND DONATIONS:

**Who:** City of Melissa

**Donation:** 25 acres at State Hwy. 121 and Country Road 420

**Result:** New regional law enforcement, fire science and EMS training facility

**Who:** City of McKinney and McKinney Economic Development Corporation

**Donation:** 5.5 acres at the northeast quadrant of the intersection of State Hwy. 121 and Central Expressway

**Result:** Collin Higher Education Center, opened January 2010

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## Hallmark of Opportunities Creating a Legacy

Collin College's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary marks the perfect opportunity to join the "Hallmark of Opportunities, Creating a Legacy" campaign. This Collin College Foundation major gift program benefits students who need funding to achieve their educational goals. The uniqueness of this fundraising program is that even though donors benefit with naming recognition on buildings, all contributions are designated for scholarships not the cost of the bricks and mortar.

### *All contributions are designated for scholarships.*

"The superb quality of leadership, faculty and multitude of educational options available to students attending Collin College is amazing," David McCall, campaign chair, said. "I believe so strongly about the economic and positive impact of the college that I want to invite others to join me in raising scholarship funding. Together, we are making a difference in our community – today and in the future."

Campaign contribution levels range from \$25,000 to \$3 million and can

be paid with multi-year commitments. The campaign offers options to support donors' interest in specific academic programs, scholarship criteria or transferring to one of Collin's 10 affiliated universities.

Included on the list of marquee buildings are the board room at Collin Higher Education Center, the library and clock tower at the Central Park Campus, Culinary Arts Institute at the Preston Ridge Campus and Black Box Theatre at the Spring Creek Campus.

Aside from these, donors also have the opportunity to forever etch their names on main buildings, conference centers, classrooms, student development centers and labs.

The first phase of the Foundation's goal is to raise \$5 million by 2013. "College graduates are the key to a competitive and dynamic workforce," said Cary Israel, president of Collin College. "As a donor through this campaign, you will not only have an opportunity to touch the lives of many Collin College students, but your gift will ensure a future for the next generation of law enforcement officers, nurses who care for our loved ones, educators who teach our children and professionals who help keep Collin County economically vibrant, making it a better place to live, work and conduct business."

To participate through naming rights or volunteering, contact Mary Frazier, executive director, at 972.599.3143 or e-mail [mfrazier@collin.edu](mailto:mfrazier@collin.edu).



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## Mindy Edwards

Clinical Pharmacist

A young child sees bright, candy-colored pills in jars and somehow manages to open the containers. Within minutes a variety of powerful medication is coursing through her system. One pill reacts with another, and the dosages are far too much for such a little body. Aghast, her parents find her surrounded by open vials and rush her to the hospital. Though they bring containers and loose pills with them, the pediatric pharmacist is not able to identify some of the drugs. 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 they need.

Edwards is a clinical pharmacist in the drug information department of Scott and White, a major healthcare organization with more than 30 clinics and a 700-bed hospital that serves as the teaching hospital for Texas A&M medical school students. While many pharmacists fill prescriptions or work on hospital floors assisting with drug therapy decisions, Edwards' job is

different. She fields medication questions, such as off-label drug uses and drug dosing, from doctors, nurses, pharmacists and patients.

Edwards came to Collin College with degrees in anthropology and history from The University of Texas at Austin (UT). She decided to take her pharmacy prerequisite courses at Collin College because of the college's reputation and the small classes taught by Ph.D.s. She returned to UT and earned a pharmacy degree.

"Going to Collin is one of best things you can do. I experienced a lot of camaraderie in my classes. Most of the people were going on to nursing, pharmacy or medical school. Everyone was serious, and we wanted to help each other. The environment was very conducive to learning. UT is ranked number two in the nation for pharmacy. It is really hard to get in. Ninety-five percent of my science courses came from community college, and obviously that wasn't a problem for UT. I am here to prove that you do not have to take all of your sciences at a major university," Edwards said.

One experience at Collin College helped set Edwards apart in her pharmacy school interview. She completed a Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences (CASMNS) undergraduate research project on the effects of soy on thyroid function.

"I think they definitely wanted to see that I had done something outside my coursework to show that I was interested in science and pharmacy. My CASMNS research was helpful in the application process. It showed that I had experience with a scientific project and that I was serious about finding out how things work in a biological way," Edwards said.

Edwards has not stopped learning or researching since she left Collin College, and that is why she loves her job. More often than not, Edwards is solving a problem that can affect the lives of numerous individuals, like the time she worked with the Food and Drug Administration to help identify a counterfeit drug that caused a bad reaction in a patient.

"The thing that is cool about my job is that we constantly get different questions. I learn something new every time. I really like the research and the puzzle. I also like offering medicinal advice and drug therapy recommendations and actually making a difference in people's lives. It sounds cliché, but behind the scenes there's a puzzle, a problem to be solved, something hard to find, and that's where I come in."

## Alumni tell why they love Collin College in anniversary publication

As Collin College celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the college is marking the occasion with the release of a new e-book titled **In the Words of Alumni**. This commemorative anthology brings together the thoughts and comments of just a few accomplished alumni. Below are excerpts from the book. To view or download a free copy, go to [www.collin.edu/alumnibook](http://www.collin.edu/alumnibook).



Dr. Guillermo Ameer

### Guillermo Ameer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Surgery, Northwestern University, Founder and President of ProSorp BioTech, Inc. and Vessel Tek BioMedical, LLC.

*"The price I paid for my education could have been 30 times as expensive."*



Adele DeVries

### Adele DeVries

Project Manager at Barnard Howard LLC

*"I was empowered to grow into a scholar, leader and servant in school, my community and nation. Not only did the funding from scholarships enable me to complete my degree, it also provided an imperative incentive that spurred me to greater excellence in all my endeavors."*



Dr. Vu Phung

### Vu Phung, M.D.

Geriatric Fellowship, University of Cincinnati

*"At Collin College the professors gave us challenging problems to help us understand difficult concepts, so I was able to comprehend new concepts easier than other people. Even now, when I am reading medical articles about the latest advances, I find that the new concepts are not that difficult to understand because of the solid base I acquired at Collin College."*



Dawn Spradling

### Dawn Spradling, R.N.

Registered Nurse, Denton State Supported Living Center and Camp Summit

*"If it wasn't for Collin College, I would not be a nurse today. On the day I found out I passed the nursing certification, I sat down and cried on the steps of the Central Park Campus because I knew I was a success. I never in my whole life dreamed I would make as much money as I am making now."*





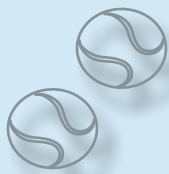
## National champs!

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

Around this time last year, Collin College Tennis Coach Marty Berryman promised his men's team that if it won the NJCAA Division I national championship he would shave his head. True to his word, Berryman cut his hair after guiding the men in the spring to Collin College's first national championship since 1995.

The top-ranked cougar men's tennis team tied Laredo Community College and Tyler Junior College after an on-court drama in May that stretched into the night. Collin College sophomore Damian Hume, the number-one ranked junior college player in the country, lived up to his billing by winning Flight One singles and becoming the 2010 NJCAA Men's National Singles Champion. Adding to the list of top honors, freshman Rodolfo Bustamante became Collin's third NJCAA men's First Team All-American by winning the Flight Four singles title. As a result of the championship along with leadership throughout the last season, Coach Berryman received the highly-coveted NJCAA Division I Coach of the Year award – hairless and all.

"Cutting my hair was a fun experience for the entire team," Berryman, who started Collin College's tennis program in 1989, said laughing. "This was a special year...but the team deserves the credit for my award. They played and fought hard all season. Our success would also not be possible if not for Collin College, which is a great academic institution that has great community support."



## Faculty & Staff Highlights

**Sam Roach**, member of the Collin College Board of Trustees, was named *Frisco Style's* 2010 Person of the Year. Trustee Roach was featured in a cover story in the June edition.



*Sam Roach*

Professors of History **Dr. David Cullen** and **Dr. Kyle Wilkison** were awarded the 2010 Robert A. Calvert Book Prize for the textbook they edited, *The Texas Left: The Radical Roots of Lone Star Liberalism*. Dr. Wilkison's book *Yeomen, Sharecroppers and Socialists: Plain Folk Protest in Texas, 1870-1914* also won the Kate Broocks Bates Award for Historical Research from the Texas State Historical Association.

Photography Professor **Lupita Tinnen**, who serves as advisor for the Collin College chapter of the League for United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), was named the National Young Adult Council Advisor of the Year by LULAC.



*Lupita Tinnen*

Sociology Professor **Larry Stern** published an article in the American Psychology Association's *APA Monitor* on the memory-transfer episode regarding feeding trained worms to their cannibalistic brothers.



*Larry Stern*

**Collin College** received the vaunted AAA Bond rating from Standard and Poor's. This is a direct reflection of quality leadership and fiscal management.

**Dr. Collin Thomas**, biology professor, is co-principal investigator on a NASA grant application with noted award-winning Professor Lynn Rothschild of Stanford.

## Student & Alumni Highlights



*Jesus Valdivia*

Collin student **Jesus Valdivia** has been named National Young Adult Man of the Year by the League for United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Students **Hugh Faison** and **Janna (Jeong Ah) Kwon** will publish "The Effect of Television and Video Games on Adolescent Aggressive Behavior" along with Professor Michael Rose in the spring 2011 edition of the *Journal of Psychological Inquiry*.

**Brent Croom**, a Collin College nursing student, was nominated for the Spirit of Nursing Award by the U.S. Army Nursing Corps. The award is bestowed upon an undergraduate nursing student who demonstrates excellence in the classroom as well as in the clinical site and shows active involvement in extracurricular activities.



*Brent Croom (right)*

The **dental hygiene class of 2010** had a 100 percent pass rate for the 2010 National Dental Hygiene Board Exam.



*Vincent Nguyen*

Collin College graduate **Vincent Nguyen**, who is currently attending Columbia University's general studies program, was recently selected to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Summer Research Program.

Collin College culinary students came out big winners at the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association's Scholarship Awards Dinner. **Wil Wilbur** was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to attend Texas Woman's University in the fall. Meeting and event planning student **Pamela Kerns** was awarded a scholarship to cover expenses to the Meetings Professional International Conference in British Columbia this summer, and **Karen Bolanos** received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Research Chefs Association. Collin College is the second-most selected school after the Culinary Institute of America for incoming college students.

Three Collin students—**Shirin Tavakoli**, **Michael Lundie** and **Paul Boynton**--have been awarded full scholarships to Southern Methodist University (SMU). Tavakoli and Lundie participated in Collin College's pre-admission program with SMU.



*Michael Lundie*



*Shirin Tavakoli*



*Paul Boynton*

**Lisa Smith**, former student, was the grand prize winner in the Texas Monthly "Bucket List" cover photo contest. View her winning photograph and all other entries at [www.texasmonthly.com/covercontest/gallery](http://www.texasmonthly.com/covercontest/gallery).

**Michael Urie**, former student, won a 2010 TheatreWorld Award for his work on the Off-Broadway show, "The Temperamentals." Urie also was nominated for a Lortel Award as Outstanding Lead Actor in "The Temperamentals."

**Dr. Chris Doumen**, professor of anatomy and physiology, recently published an article in the June 2010 issue of the international journal *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology - Part B: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology*. His article presents data on the cDNA sequences of the California black worm and the sludge worm.

**Ceilidh Charleson-Jennings**, chair and professor of communication studies, published *Scent of the Missing: Love and Partnership with a Search-and-Rescue Dog* in April 2010. The book made the IndieBound and *New York Times* best seller lists.



*Ceilidh Charleson-Jennings*

**Michele Brown**, professor of culinary arts, was named Pastry Chef of the Year by Texas Chef's Association.



*Dr. Amina Tassa*

*Heart International*, an international peer reviewed journal that keeps cardiologists up to date with advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease, has published a research paper co-authored by Biology Professor **Dr. Amina Tassa**, Associate Professor **Dr. Mounir Errami** and others. Dr. Errami also was named one of the top 12 InnoCentive solvers for 2009. This is an international recognition shared by 12 solvers in five countries.



*Dr. Mounir Errami*



# Did You Know?

Collin College is led by a nine-member **Board of Trustees** elected at large. Trustees serve six-year terms, and elections are staggered so three seats are up for re-election every other year. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/administration/board\\_of\\_trustees.html](http://www.collin.edu/administration/board_of_trustees.html).



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Chair



Mac Hendricks  
Vice Chair



Tino Trujillo  
Secretary



Stacy Anne Arias  
Treasurer



Dr. J. Robert Collins



Jenny McCall



Sam E. Roach



Larry Wainwright



Nancy Wurzman

## College expansion

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“There most certainly will be a positive financial impact because of the volume of visitors the Collin College regional training facility will bring to Melissa. The opportunities are endless and could include the potential for hotels, restaurants, and consumer service businesses. That being said, the financial impact of Collin College’s presence in Melissa is just a piece of the package. The quality of life a higher education facility brings is one that will impact Melissa for years to come.”

Jason Little, Melissa’s city administrator, said “the focus of true regionalism in its training and facility planning by Collin College is to be commended. Having Melissa serve as the physical location for critical service training of firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians is an opportunity we accept with great pride.”

*“The quality of life a higher education facility brings is one that will impact Melissa for years to come.”*

*Reed Greer  
Mayor of Melissa*

## McKinney: university center

In 2007, the city of McKinney and the McKinney Economic Development Corporation entered into a development agreement to give land to Collin College for the county’s first university center—the Collin Higher Education Center. The 5.5-



acre site is located at the intersection of U.S. 75 and State Highway 121 (the Sam Rayburn Tollway). The agreement also provided \$2 million for a parking structure at the site. This historic gift was the largest in college history, and it marked the first time land was donated for a new site.

“It has always been important to have secondary and higher education facilities in a community,” said David Pitstick, director of the McKinney

*“It has always been important to have secondary and higher education facilities in a community. In fact, history has proven they are the only true local safeguard against national and international downturns in the economy.”*

*David Pitstick  
Director of McKinney  
Economic Development*

Economic Development Corporation. “These institutions are now more important than ever. Retraining and reshaping the local workforce is the most important economic development tool there is. In fact, history has proven they are the only true local safeguard against national and international downturns in the economy.”

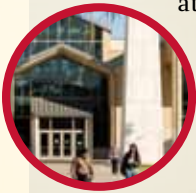
In January 2010, the Collin Higher Education Center opened, offering junior- and senior-level college classes from local universities in addition to master’s and doctoral programs. Participating universities include Dallas Baptist University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas Woman’s University, The University of Texas at Dallas and the University of North Texas.

The center also serves as a multi-purpose facility for administrative departments and also provides space for meetings and training for the growing district as well as area non-profits and community groups.

## Frisco: new classroom/conference facility

Construction begins in the fall at the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco on a new two-story classroom building totaling 70,000 square feet. The new facility, located on the northwest corner of the campus, will help with the growing number of students attending classes at the Preston Ridge Campus. Enrollment at the Preston Ridge Campus has jumped from 5,468 in spring 2008 to 7,954 in spring 2010.

The college is also building a new 18,000-square-foot conference center and re-purposing the existing event center to house a dance studio, further expanding Collin College’s renowned and award-winning fine art programs at the Frisco campus.



Without a doubt, demand for higher education has far out-paced the expectations of the founders 25 years ago. However, thanks to the foresight of the trustees and President Cary Israel, the college’s expansion boom has been eased by the donation of valuable property. As the community continues to be among the brightest stars on the economic horizon, Collin College will continue to seek out new supporters to help provide the highest quality higher education for Collin County.

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