



CONNECTION

SUMMER 2010

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



Is there a way to be smarter about college? 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 will tell you the answers you are looking for can be found at Collin College. Both of these women blurred the lines between high school and college and got a jump start on their college degrees with the college's dual credit program.

Currently a senior premed student at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), Rahebi graduated from Allen High School a year early by taking Collin College dual credit classes. She earned her associate of science degree at Collin College in May 2009. Today she is trying to decide whether she wants to graduate with a biology degree, one year ahead of her peers, or earn a neuroscience degree before attending medical school.

"There is no reason not to take dual credit classes. It makes perfect sense. I liked the flexibility of choosing the times and professors. You experience the college environment. It is an opportunity to prove to your parents that you are responsible," she said.

Rahebi, who plans to become an anesthesiologist, says she prefers dual credit classes to Advanced Placement (AP) classes.

"If you score high on your AP test, there is no

guarantee that the university you choose to attend will take the credit. I never had a problem transferring my Collin College dual credit classes."

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High School Student Programs from Collin College

Collin College is dedicated to helping college-bound students succeed. Check out these offerings for high school students.

Dual Credit

High school juniors or seniors take Collin College courses to satisfy high school requirements and earn college credit at the same time. Contact ahuppe@collin.edu.

Destination College

Helps students prepare for and succeed in college. Workshops, assistance and planning. www.collin.edu/destinationcollege.

Global EDGE Tech Prep program

Select high school courses, ranging from marketing to criminal justice, transfer to Collin College www.collin.edu/globaledge.

Biotech in a Box

Free science experiment kits for area high schools. High school teachers contact biotech@collin.edu.

Youth Leadership Academy

Free, three-part series focusing on contemporary leadership topics. Email yla@collin.edu.

Math Summer Bridge program

Free, three-week program for graduating seniors who are not ready for college-level math. Individualized math curriculum taught by college professors.

www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/explore/destinationcollege/2010MathSummerBridge.html.

A Day of Science

Want to start the college experience even earlier? Designed for middle school students, parents, siblings, teachers and staff. Annual, interactive day of experiments. Contact cwhitney@collin.edu.

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. Competing with students from nine countries on four continents, Adrian Boysselle, David Golynskiy and Deepak Joseph identified asteroid 2010 CK12. They will receive NASA research awards for their discovery as part of the International Asteroid Search Campaign (IASC). In addition, the Minor Planet Center, an office of the International Astronomical Union located at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, will publish their names with their finding.

A premed student majoring in biology and criminology, Golynskiy says he and his fellow students participated in the asteroid search as part of a Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences (CASMNS) project with physics professors Dr. Mike Broyles and Dr. Greg Sherman.

"It is an important discovery because we found an asteroid in the main belt, the region between Mars and Jupiter, which could have an effect on Earth."

The students' finding was substantiated with follow up images from the Russian Academy of Sciences. The students also provided new orbit information for two additional near-Earth objects.

Joseph, who plans to pursue a degree in astronautical engineering, says the process was challenging because of interference and pixilation, though he notes that the satellite images from the new Wide-Field Infrared Survey

Explorer were much easier to analyze.

"We had one potential asteroid that passed through a star on the third image. We could not separate the brightness of the star from the brightness of the asteroid."

The students presented their discovery to the Society of Physics Students at the joint Texas meeting of the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers and the Society of Physics Students in Austin.

For Boysselle, a future astronautical engineer, the undergraduate research experience and discovery coalesce with his perpetual curiosity about the universe.

"I've always been fascinated with anything outside of our atmosphere. Did you know that to get a satellite to Mars in 12 months, you have to send it 2,500 miles per hour?"



Collin College students Adrian Boysselle, Deepak Joseph and David Golynskiy discovered an asteroid.





John Moran

Where are they **NOW?**

Farmersville city manager credits Collin law enforcement 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.

Moran did not quite know what personality to expect from Farmersville, before accepting his new job in eastern Collin County, but he immediately fell in love with the city's close-knit vibe.

"I have developed a fondness for the area because Farmersville has a strong sense of community, which is what I like most about the city," he said.

Moran became the city manager of Farmersville last September after a six-year stint as the first city manager of Lorena, Texas. He has

also worked as city manager of Hubbard, Texas. In addition, he has experience with the Carrollton Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office and Colorado Bureau of Investigations.

He holds a bachelor's degree with a double major in chemistry and microbiology, as well as master's degrees in business administration and management and organization. He is also a 1992 graduate of the Collin College Law Enforcement Academy.

"Although I had previously earned my bachelor's degree when I attended Collin College, I was uncertain as to what I wanted to do at the time," Moran said. "Getting my law enforcement background from Collin College opened up a variety of career fields.

"I always wanted to be in management, and while I loved law enforcement, I wanted to see the whole picture of governmental work," Moran said.

"I did my research, and it looked to me that city management would be perfect. You have the law enforcement component, which I'm very versed in, but you also have the utility component, planning for growth, etc."

While there are many challenges Moran must tackle as city manager, he is ready for the tasks and responsibilities. Fortunately, the law enforcement training Moran received from Collin College is helping him adjust to being Farmersville's new city manager.

"I know that growth is expected here," Moran said. "I'm in it to the end."

"The city council brought me on board to continue to build on the existing foundation and to be ready for the growth when it happens, so that it can be more manageable. I'm very dedicated to improving the daily lives of the residents and the city while continuing to make Farmersville a great place to live."

Undergraduate research offers unique opportunities for Collin College students

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.

Research is a hot topic in Texas higher education as several universities are vying to be the state's next "Tier 1" research center. This hot topic has taken a new twist at Collin College.

"Our undergraduate research affords college freshmen and sophomores an opportunity to be involved in scholarly activities that are rarely available at two-year institutions and are typically reserved for upper classmen or graduate students at most colleges and universities," Dr. Nelson Rich, professor of biology said. "It provides a source of recognition for the quality of academic resources available at Collin College."

The Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences (CASMNS), under the direction of Dr. Rich, is one example. Through CASMNS, students enrolled in select courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and geology conduct in-depth research projects.

Scientific research, under the supervision of a skilled researcher, is especially crucial for students who wish to pursue psychology as a career, according to psychology professor Jennifer O'Loughlin-Brooks. "A vast majority of admissions requirements for graduate study in psychology emphasize undergraduate research. Also, studies have indicated that 'hands-on' research is a

proven method of engaging students in academia," she said.

Dr. Rich concurred, "Our undergraduate research promotes student engagement in course work, provides an opportunity to explore a topic area of interest in depth, cultivates analytical and technical skills and develops communication skills," Rich said, noting that each research project is mentored by a professor. "Undergraduate research enhances professional and academic credentials. It also clarifies a career path and provides mentoring and networking with professionals who may help with career decisions and serve as references for future endeavors."

In addition, Collin College has a number of programs and events involving research for students of many majors. Cultivating Scholars is an annual event in which students studying any field present research projects and practice their presentation skills. Collin College students can also spark their intellectual interest while learning how to bridge the gap between knowledge and experience at the college's annual Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Student Research Conference.

"Our undergraduate research at Collin College is unique in that it is designed to

encourage students who have never been interested in research before to do scholarly work," Brett Adams, professor of history, said. "Students are encouraged to develop their own interests, and the hope is that participation will spark an intellectual interest that will continue throughout their college careers."

To learn more about all of Collin College's undergraduate research opportunities, visit www.collin.edu.



RECENT RESEARCH TOPICS by Collin College Students

Superoxide Dismutase and Worms

Visual Demonstrations for Calculus Using Mathematica

The Level of Cognitive Control Over Hypnotic Susceptibility

Psychological Benefits of Dance

Female Stalkers and Harassment

Emotional Contagion and Interpersonal Relationships

The Over Diagnosis of Depression

Hetch-Hetchy Valley and the Beginnings of the Conservation Movement

The Whiskey Rebellion

Women on the Overland Trail

Student & Alumni Highlights

Faculty & Staff Highlights



Five students— **Hugh Faison**, **Shirin Tavakoli**, **Emmanuel Yadoglah**, **Andrew Kohut** and **Angela Piegari** (not pictured)—were named to the 2010 Coca-Cola All-Texas Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Also, Coca-Cola selected **Tavakoli** as a Bronze Scholar and **Kohut** as a national finalist. Both will receive \$1,000.

Collin College dental hygiene students received first- and third-place honors for their table clinics at the Texas Dental Hygiene Educator's Association and Student Dental Hygiene Association annual meeting. The first-place table clinic was titled, "Saliva as a Diagnostic Tool: Early Cancer Detection." The topic was researched by **Jennifer Jackson** and **Shaina Dickson**. Jackson received a certificate of recognition and a trip to present at the American Dental Hygiene National meeting in Las Vegas. The third place went to Bridget Blaylock and Joslyn Dodge for their table titled "Coenzyme Q10 in Periodontal Therapy."

The **Mock Trial Team** received a bid to the opening round championship in St. Louis due to their results in the Houston Regional Tournament. Competition included more than 600 teams in regional tournaments around the country. Until last year, no two-year institution had advanced in the American Mock Trial Association collegiate tournament. Collin College has received the invitation for the second year in a row.

Members of Collin College's chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta — **Kirsten Bloss**, **Philip Fullman**, **Meghan Nelson**, **Richard Poindexter III** and **David Winn** — were accepted to present their work at the Sigma Tau Delta/Sigma Kappa Delta International Convention in St. Louis.

Charles Collins, nursing student, was elected as the northern director of the Texas Nursing Student Association at a conference in San Antonio.

Texas Highways magazine published a photo by Collin College photography student **Chris Burt**, titled "Route 66 Remnants."

Wolfram Research published an online demonstration by students **Mita Are** and **Daniel Relix** from the Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The demonstration is titled, "Strips of Equal Width on a Sphere Have Equal Surface Areas." Search for it at <http://demonstrations.wolfram.com/>.



Collin College student **Frances DeArman** has been chosen as Mrs. Collin County International 2010. DeArman represented Collin County at the 2010 Mrs. Texas International Pageant in San Antonio, where she competed for \$15,000 in cash and prizes and a chance to advance to the Mrs. International competition in July. DeArman serves as the treasurer/PR representative for the Active Minds student organization at Collin College.

The **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society** chapter won five Pinnacle Awards, the maximum amount for a chapter in one year. Collin College's chapter is the largest in Texas and the third largest in the United States.



Dr. Don Weasenforth, professor of English as a second language, has been named the 2009 *TexTESOLer of the Year* by the Texas Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TexTESOL).



Dr. Rosemary Karr and **Marilyn Massey**, professors of developmental mathematics, co-authored the sixth edition textbook *Beginning & Intermediate Algebra, An Integrated Approach*.



Dr. Jerry Sullivan, professor of anthropology, edited an edition of the journal *Pacific Studies*. This special issue was titled, "The Gang of Four: Gregory Bateson, Ruth Benedict, Reo Fortune and Margaret Mead in Multiple Contexts," June/September 2009. Dr. Sullivan also contributed an article titled, "Of External Habits and Maternal Attitudes: Margaret Mead, Gestalt Psychology, and the Reproduction of Character."

Elaine Wilkinson, chair and professor of child development, received her doctorate from Texas Woman's University after a successful defense of her dissertation, "All About Me: Child Development and Early Childhood Education Students."



Dr. Chris Grooms, professor of English, contributed to a new archive of traditional Welsh music for Smithsonian Folkways. The song title was *Blodeuwedd: Song of the Flowers*. Dr. Grooms was the only American invited to contribute to this anthology of native Welsh music and song. Dr. Grooms also won the 2009 Independent Music Award for "Best World Traditional Album."



Cary Israel, president of Collin College, was named the Citizen of the Year in Plano at the "Super Citizen 2010" event hosted by the Plano Chamber of Commerce. He also received the Leadership Achievement Award during the *Collin County Business Press*' "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" event.

Dr. Mary McRae, vice president and provost of the Central Park Campus, received the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction from Phi Theta Kappa. The award is given to an outstanding college official who has provided extensive support and resources for the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Also, Dr. McRae has been identified as one of *McKinney Living* magazine's "Outstanding Women in Business."



Sherry Schumann, associate vice president of Distance and Weekend College, received her doctorate from the University of North Texas after successfully defending her dissertation, "The Relationship of Student Characteristics, Help Seeking Behavior, Academic and Environmental Variables with Student Course Completion in Community College Online Courses: An Application of a Conceptual Model."

Lisa Huang, the allied health sciences librarian at the Central Park Campus, has been named the Librarian of the Year by the HealthLINE, a Metroplex organization of librarians involved in the health and medical library field. HealthLINE includes institutional members such as UT Southwestern Medical Library, UNT Health Science Library, Cancer Resource Center and corporate members such as Alcon.



Alicia Huppe, associate dean of recruitment and programs for new students, was elected to serve as vice president for administration for the Texas Association for College and University Student Personnel Administrators.

The Collin College **Child Development** program received the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) two-year college accreditation. It is currently the only child development program to receive the NAEYC accreditation and "exemplary" status from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Pam Love-White, counselor, received the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service and Leadership at the annual Texas Counseling Association conference in Dallas.

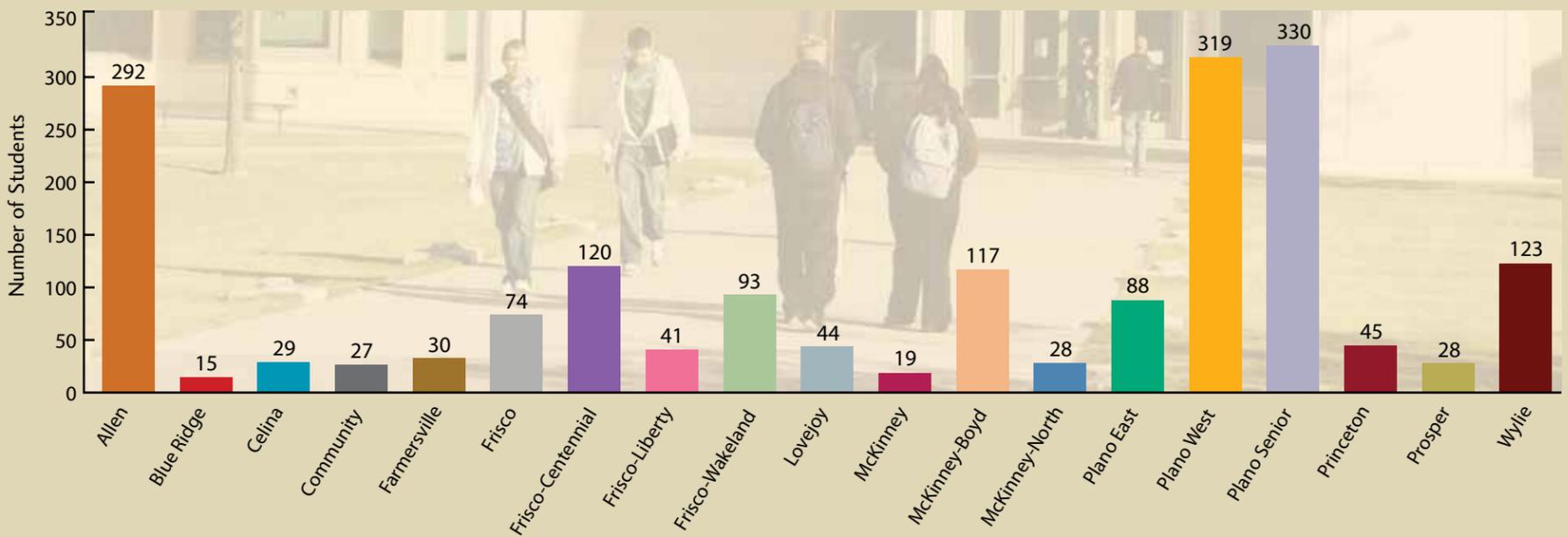


Did You Know?



College During High School

Collin County public school students enrolled in dual credit fall 2009



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Collin College's dual credit classes allow high school students to take college classes and earn high school and college credit simultaneously. This year, the college started a new dual-credit, service-learning government class, allowing high school students to serve the community while earning high school and college credit. In fall 2009, more than 2,000 students from close to 30 high schools were participating in the college's dual credit program.

Christina Shafer, a senior architecture major at Texas A&M University, says she enjoyed the fact that her classes at Collin College usually had somewhere between 20 and 30 people.

"I got a lot of one-on-one time with the professors at Collin College. I wouldn't have graduated on time with my architecture degree without dual credit. All the credits from Collin College transferred, and dual credit helped me to keep my class load to 15 credit hours or less each semester. I definitely wish I had taken dual credit classes my junior year of high school," said Shafer, who is currently applying to graduate schools.

According to Dr. Rick Reedy, Frisco Independent School District superintendent of schools, studies show that students who earn college credit before graduating from high school are more likely to earn a college degree. All three of Dr. Reedy's sons took dual credit classes at Collin College before graduating from Frisco High School.

"All of my sons lessened the load on four-year tuition by having college credit prior to entering college. Dual credit classes are really popular at FISD, which is always a test of whether something is well-received. The courses are interesting and in line

with the full-time program they will have as college students. Students are better prepared if they have a taste of college before they leave high school," he said.

DR. RICK REEDY, FRISCO ISD SUPERINTENDENT:

Studies show that students who earn college credit before graduating from high school are more likely to earn a college degree. (All three of Reedy's sons took dual credit classes at Collin College before graduating from Frisco High School.)

Still, planning and preparing for college can be a confusing and frustrating experience. That is why in 2006, Collin College unveiled Destination College, a program designed to help parents and students prepare for and succeed in college no matter where they go. The program offers free workshops throughout the year that cover a variety of topics including scholarship essay writing, ACT versus SAT and preparing to send your child to college.

"Though my husband and I have three college graduates, we found the parent workshop information to be a helpful refresher course for our current high school sophomore. I can vouch for the accuracy of the preparation hints that President Israel gave. I also appreciated all the speakers encouraging parents to de-stress the process, as well as to back away from the helicopter role. We have encouraged many people to attend Collin College. It offers great classes, and the value is terrific," Ellen Ellwood said.

Visit www.collin.edu/destinationcollege for more info.

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