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Tulsa Community College

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year Tulsa Community College's Foundation will hold its fourth annual Vision for Education Leadership Dinner (formerly the LEAD Dinner). The dinner was first held on the College's 30th anniversary in 2000. The enormous success of the dinner inspired us to continue the event, make it a tradition and dedicate the evening to an individual who reflects the highest standards of education leadership. The award was renamed the Vision in Education Leadership this year to best capture the quality that is required to ensure our children, our community and our state continues to benefit and grow from sound higher education investment and academic excellence. Vision, coincidentally, became the name for the recent bond issue that included significant projects for our higher education infrastructure.

Recently, Jim Dunn, president of Mill Creek Lumber and past chairman of the Metro Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, pointed to Tulsa Community College as a "shining example" of the rewards of having a higher education vision and investing in that vision through local taxation. More than 30 years ago, the citizens of Tulsa voted to tax themselves to create a junior college — the first public higher education in the City in its history. Today, Tulsa Junior College, renamed Tulsa Community College, provides Tulsans four geographically dispersed campuses with more than 23,000 students attending those campuses. Many Tulsans launch new careers, new education paths and new lives by walking through TCC's doors. And hundreds of businesses each year turn to TCC for training and academic enrichment for their employees.

Our Vision honorees this year — Dr. Jim and Ann Halligan — set the bar high when they came to Oklahoma. Their vision has created a more dynamic and stronger institution at Oklahoma State University. And even more important to our community, their vision extended across the state and included the role Tulsa and TCC could play in strengthening higher education delivery to northeastern Oklahoma as partners with OSU.

When the landscape at your feet is rough and thorny, it is difficult to cast your eyes to the horizon. Tulsa's history is replete with leaders with the vision to create a strong and exciting future even amidst difficult times. TCC and its Foundation is pleased to have the opportunity to recognize those visionary higher education leaders and support our students through our annual dinner.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dean P. VanTrease
President and CEO
GRADUATION GROWTH RATE FUELS BRAIN GAIN

“The future prosperity of the state depends more on its intellectual capital than any other factor.”
— Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE)

According to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, a correlation exists between the state’s economic success and the number of its college educated residents. Consequently, OSRHE established the goal of increasing the number of Oklahoma’s college graduates through a program called “Brain Gain 2010.”

The long-range plan of Brain Gain 2010 is to move Oklahoma from the bottom third of the nation in the number of associate and bachelor degree holders into the top one-third by 2010. In order to achieve the goal, OSRHE established a $2.2 million incentive fund for Oklahoma’s colleges and universities.

Leo “Tony” Champagne, a 2003 TCC Nursing School graduate represented the type of student Dr. John Kontogianes, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at TCC, hoped to see enroll at the College. Before entering the nursing program, Champagne drifted between dead-end and low paying jobs in California.

“I worked in a convenience store,” said Champagne. “Time and life were slipping by and I had absolutely no direction.” Then family circumstances brought him to Sand Springs to stay with his godparents.

“My godparents suggested I should talk to someone at TCC,” said Champagne. He visited with a faculty member in the nursing department. The meeting convinced him that the nursing program might be the compass in his life.

The work would be challenging and the rewards of helping people suited his personality. Champagne set a goal of becoming a nurse and settled in for two years of demanding academics and clinicals.

Champagne, who just a year earlier had little direction or goals in life, also found himself on the cover of the summer 2008 TCC class schedule along with his cousin Daniel Oliva, andQuantin Holt, a friend and fellow nursing student.

In May, when he walked across the stage at the Mabee Center, Champagne’s mother and godparents watched with pride as the young man who had seen his life passing him by received his diploma and a new life. Not only did he have a degree, but he also had a job at St. John Medical Center.

In May, when he walked across the stage at the Mabee Center, Champagne’s mother and godparents watched with pride as the young man who had seen his life passing him by received his diploma and a new life.

“Brain Gain 2010 represents performance based funding for colleges and universities to reward increased numbers of first-time, full-time degree seeking students at the institutions,” said Kontogianes.

Benchmarks for the colleges and universities included five common to each institution plus two self-directed goals. “TCC chose to increase the number of degrees awarded to first-time, full-time students over the age of 21 as one of its goals,” said Kontogianes.
Motivated Students and Enthusiastic Instructors Make it Happen

Tina Peña, an assistant professor of Spanish at TCC's Metro Campus, blew into the classroom like a West Texas wind. "¡Hola clase!, ¿Cómo estás?" said Peña, a Peruvian native.

During the first hour of each day, English becomes a language non grata for her students in the Spanish Language Institute that compresses a semester of coursework into eight, six-hour days.

In addition to Spanish, three other Language Institutes are offered during the summer session – Italian, French, and German. "The first language institutes began in 1987 in response to the needs of students, employers and people planning to travel to foreign countries," said Dr. Laura Walker, the Dean of Global Education and International Language Center.

"In the past, many colleges and universities required no more than six hours of a foreign language for students in their international business program," said Walker. "Now, students need as many as 16 credit hours to graduate."

Although the goal of each institute is to provide students language training, differences in the programs are apparent as with the Spanish and the Italian Institutes.

The Spanish Institute uses two instructors for "team teaching," while Pam Chew, an Italian language instructor at Northeast Campus, teaches the Italian Institute alone.

There's a sense that the students' goals in the two classes are different. The Spanish Institute appears populated mostly with students in search of a semester of language credit crammed into two weeks of work, while the students in the Italian Institute seem motivated more by an interest in Italian culture and travel.

Fawna Mason, a senior at OSU-Stillwater and a student in the Spanish Institute, took advantage of the Institute's two-week sessions to put credits on her transcript in a short time. "It's a convenient way to get six credits in four weeks," said Mason.

Regardless of the students' motives, both the Spanish and the Italian Institutes share the philosophy of immersing them in the language during the demanding two-weeks.

Class convenes at 8:00 a.m. and continues until 1:50 in the afternoon with a half-hour lunch and short breaks, time enough for the students to race to the restrooms if they don't daily.

Many of the students in Peña's second level Spanish course struggled the first morning to adjust to her insistence on Spanish only. It's a difficult task to respond when the question is not fully understood.

Peña wants the students to practice finding the words even if they are mispronounced or stick in their throats. She encourages them to act out a word they don't know. Barking students are not uncommon.

Michael Lobmeyer, an adjunct instructor who served as the other half of the teaching team during the Spanish II Institute, stressed the importance of commitment to outside study. "Anyone can learn Spanish," said Lobmeyer. "It's just time consuming."

Humor, the universal language, helps students learn. An animated Lobmeyer made the students break out in laughter by screaming insults in Spanish while gesturing at imaginary drivers on the streets of Caracas, Venezuela.

Although it's part of the learning process, time spent in the language labs served as a mental recess for students in both the Spanish and Italian Institutes. Computer monitors and headsets allow the students to work by themselves or with partners.

During the lab sessions, students read to each other from textbooks, ask questions, and encourage one another. At the same time, the instructors listened to the students' pronunciation and grammar as they respond to their lab partners.

Dylan Hix, who enrolled in the Spanish Institute to meet the University of Oregon's graduation requirements, brought the concentration of a ten-year-old at a Harry Potter screening to his class. "I'm intent on not cutting corners," said Hix.

"Learning a language is a great experience," said Hix. "I like the integrated approach and the different techniques used in the class," he said. "I enjoy learning to read and write using the various media."

Judy Dosson, an author and TCC alumna, enrolled in the Spanish Institute to complete the requirements for an American Studies degree at
OSU-Tulsa. Dotson, who commuted from her home in Bartlesville, is representative of the type of student committed to the rigors of the course. "I've never had a class that was so demanding," she said.

"Some students just need the credit or hours and are not particularly worried about grades," said Dotson. "But I'm not that type of person. I put in six hours of study a day so I don't get to do much other than study and attend class."

If a student does not need the credits, auditing the course allows them to learn without the pressure of tests or grades.

Nancy Shelton audited Peria's Spanish II class. An adjunct instructor at the Southeast Campus, Shelton teaches an introduction to WEB page design and Computer Concepts and Applications class. "I just thought it would be good to learn Spanish," she said.

Shelton sees an additional benefit of the fast pace. "There's a lot of exposure to the language in a short time," she said. "That momentum carries over outside the class and makes a person want to go out and use what they've learned."

Sandra Lofton, who is retired, learned to speak Spanish while working in Caraqua, Venezuela in the early 1980s. "I don't want to let my Spanish get away from me," she said. And although she already speaks the language, she hopes that academic recognition on her college transcript will help find a job utilizing her bi-lingual skills.

Just as with the Spanish Institute at the Metro Campus, students in the Italian Institute at the Northeast Campus "bring a high level of commitment to the classroom," said Chew.

Although team teaching might appear easier on the instructor, Chew's infectious enthusiasm and energy created a special bond with her students.

"I love what I do," said Chew.

"These students come into the classroom with zip and are ready to learn."

"I love what I do," said Chew. "These students come into the classroom with zip and are ready to learn." Chew said that by the second day of class, the students understand what is expected and her teaching techniques. "I've been in teaching long enough to visually gauge what's happening to my students," said Chew.

"I can see when they are having trouble and I'll change from conjugating verbs to working on conversation. Then I'll move back to the verbs when I see they are ready."

Assistant professor Tina Peña and adjunct instructor Michael Lobeneyer taught the two-week Spanish class, which included (front row, l to r) Fawna Mason, Tathe Gregg, Duane Jarrod, Bobby Cook, Katherine Meek and Marye Barnett. Back row (l to r) are Michael Lobeneyer, Laura Bellows, Joanne Martin, Dylan Hix, Madeline Barker, Stephen Clark, Tina Huggins, Marguerite Lofton and Tina Peña. Photo by John Hall
Chew's students bring remarkable motivation to her class. "I have students who travel to Italy to experience the cuisine and culture," said Chew. "Some of them go to Italy to attend cooking school. Some want to bicycle in Tuscany where they can eat the fabulous food and meet the people of the region."

One student, Beki Fash Larsen, offered a unique explanation for enrolling in Chew's class. "Languages are a hobby of mine," said Larsen who works full-time at Oklahoma Energy Services and has a masters in international management.

"TCC's language curriculum is the best I've seen, even compared to those at well-known universities," she said.

"TCC's language curriculum is the best I've seen, even compared to those at well-known universities," she said. "I just wish the program could be converted to a four-year degree."

Larsen's praise for TCC's language courses means a lot coming from a person who has taken Spanish, German, French and Latin while enjoying her "hobby" at the College.

Another of Chew's students, Keri Burman, took both the Italian I and II Institute classes prior to traveling to Italy in mid-July. Burman, a sophomore at Oklahoma Baptist University, was scheduled to sing in an operatic group at the Spoleto Vocal Arts Symposium in Spoleto, a town in central Italy, and needed to learn the material before performing.

The youngest student in Chew's class at age 19, Burman hoped the Italian classes would not only help master her songs, but also enable her to "speak with the people in their own language and in their culture."

On the last day of the Italian Institute, Burman expressed her impressions of the course and Chew's teaching style. "Pam's a great teacher," said Burman. "She has fulfilled the reason I came here. She makes it fun."

Another of Chew's students, Yann Irlinger, plans to earn an Italian degree from TCC. Irlinger, an instructor at the Tulsa Ballet, came to the United States from France eight years ago "to experience change."

The 33-year-old Irlinger danced with the Tulsa Ballet before deciding that teaching ballet would be a good way to give his body the rest it demanded. Besides teaching ballet and attending college, Irlinger is a licensed flight instructor at the Riverside Airport. With his experience teaching people to fly on the stage and in the air, Irlinger's appraisal of Chew carries weight.

"She is very enthusiastic about what she does. She motivates us," said Irlinger. "It's easy to tell she loves what she does. I wish all instructors were as good."

Although the two-week language institutes are not for everyone, many students feel the work is worth the effort. Whether it's earning credits to graduate, enhancing a travel adventure, or improving one's value in the workplace, TCC Language Institutes provide students the education to meet their needs.
What's in a name? For Claude Bolze, a geology-physical science instructor at TCC's Metro Campus, a name represents more than a means of identity or a legal seal. Names reflect history, human interest, and individual achievements.

For more than 30 years, Bolze has gathered autographs of the famous and not so famous. Bolze doesn't know how he became interested in collecting the signatures, other than he "collects for the opportunity to meet people." Among his many autographs are the names of authors Joyce Carol Oates and Neil Simon, along with Chuck Yeager, the first person to fly beyond the speed of sound. He's even got the autograph of a pre-Hollywood body builder named Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Growing up on a farm near Landisburg, Pennsylvania, Bolze spent countless hours walking the fields picking up rocks, which seemed to grow from the soil. But instead of tossing them into the wagon, he found himself studying the stones' textures, patterns and colors. Those rocks in a Pennsylvania farm field eventually led to a geology degree from Penn State.

After college, Bolze worked as a petroleum geologist for Sun Oil until the late 1980s when the oil bust forced him to consider a career change. Bolze had taught as a TCC adjunct instructor while working in the petroleum industry and joined the College as a full-time faculty member after leaving Sun Oil. The decision worked well for both Bolze and the College. His physical geology and historical geology classes continue to attract students.

Collecting more than the occasional autograph of opportunity requires research and sometimes perseverance, according to Bolze. Once he decides to acquire a particular autograph, Bolze sends a short typed letter beginning with a sentence explaining his interest in the person's life or work.

Then he mentions a memorable passage in the book or an event in the person's life he's found through research. Bolze wants to express his interest in the individual, not just his pursuit of another autograph for his collection.

He closes by saying, "I would be honored to have your autograph on the enclosed book label." He includes a self-addressed stamped envelope with the request. The personal touch works. Bolze rarely fails to get the autograph.

In 1980, when Bolze still lived in Pennsylvania, Eugene Eby, the author of Grist Mills of Perry County, worked in a gristmill in the town of New Bloomfield, just ten miles from Bolze.

Bolze’s uncle drove a truck between Landisburg and the mill in New Bloomfield each day. Bolze made out a check to Eby and sent it with his uncle to the author at the gristmill. That afternoon, an autographed copy of Grist Mills of Perry County was added to Bolze’s collection.

Some of the respondents sign only their name while others add a personal phrase. James A. Michener, author of Chesapeake and Centennial, returned the book label Bolze sent with just a signature, while others such as Norman Mailer write a personal message.

After college, Bolze worked as a petroleum geologist for Sun Oil until the late 1980s when the oil bust forced him to consider a career change.
Ironically, Bolze had printed his name on the back of a business card to ensure Pavarotti had the correct spelling. When he presented a book and the business card to Pavarotti, the internationally known tenor looked at the card and put it in his pocket.

"Perhaps someday he'll need a geologist and will call me," said an amused Bolze.

When he presented a book and the business card to Pavarotti, the internationally known tenor looked at the card and put it in his pocket.

"Perhaps someday he'll need a geologist and will call me," said an amused Bolze.

In 1981, Bolze obtained one of his most prized autographs when he met the Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti. After a performance, Bolze and dozens of other concertgoers milled around in the lobby hoping to see Pavarotti. A member of the singer's entourage approached the crowd and said they would have the opportunity to meet him.

Mailer, best known for *The Naked and the Dead*, a novel of war in the South Pacific, visited Tulsa several years ago to receive the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. Bolze arrived at the event carrying a copy of *Harlot's Ghost*, another Mailer novel.

Bolze's early research revealed that Mailer graduated with an engineering degree from Harvard in 1943 before enlisting in the military. That information enabled Bolze to capture an individualized autograph when he told Mailer they had similar educational backgrounds. The requested autograph read, "To a fellow engineer – Cheers Norman Mailer."

One of Bolze's early autograph triumphs came while still a student at Penn State in 1970. Isaac Asimov, the author of over 500 books of science fiction and non-fiction, visited the campus. As a member of the Science Fiction Club, Bolze had a special interest in meeting Asimov, one of the most prolific writers ever to put pen to paper.

On the way to the speaking engagement, Bolze stopped at a bookstore to buy one of Asimov's books. However, the only book available was a copy of an obscure work entitled *The Neutrino*. When Boyles passed the $1.95 book to Asimov, the author looked at it then said, "Aw, *The Neutrino*, this is a good book."

Although Bolze didn't collect the signature himself, he owns a book signed by President Herbert Hoover. The book survived a house fire in Angel's Camp, California and was rescued by Bolze's brother-in-law. Although the book sustained smoke damage, it remains intact with Hoover's signature still in good condition.
A very personal autograph goes back to one of Bolze’s ancestors. Bolze’s great-grandfather, Franklin Pierce Spots, kept his thoughts on the inside of a textbook he used when he taught in a one-room schoolhouse in the early 1900s. While Spots did not write the geometry book, *Mensuration, with Special Application of the Principleal Formula*, he individualized it with a flowing calligraphy style that reflected a skill and artistry seldom seen today.

Other authors of regional books have provided their autographs for Bolze. One book titled, *Johnstown Flood*, by David G. McCullough, chronicled the 1889 disaster that took the lives of over 2,200 people. Bolze’s copy of the book was well worn when he presented it to McCullough for his signature. McCullough expressed his pleasure by saying, “These are the kind of books I like... one’s that have been read.”

When Bolze read *The Perfect Storm*, a novel chronicling the forces of nature that doomed the fishing vessel, Andrea Gail and her crew, his autograph quest paid unexpected returns. A tavern, known as the Crow’s Nest Inn, played a prominent role in the book and film adaptation.

During the hours while the century’s most powerful storms battered the Andrea Gail, friends and families of the crew waited for the inevitable news in the tavern. Bolze sent a letter addressed only to the “Crow’s Nest Inn” with a request to pass around a sheet of paper for patrons to sign. He also enclosed ten dollars and asked for a coaster or some other souvenir.

A handwritten note on Crow’s Nest Inn letterhead came back along with the ten-dollar bill. A number of people including Mary Anne Shaffer, the sister of Bobby Shaffer who perished in the storm, signed the sheet of paper. Bolze placed the poignant collection of names in a protective sheet along with the ten-dollar bill.

Another autograph in Bolze’s collection resulted from the same storm that claimed the Andrea Gail.

Linda Greenlaw, the sword-boat captain of the Hannah Boden wrote *The Hungry Ocean*, a book about her experiences. Bolze in turn wrote a review of Greenlaw’s book. He sent a request for her autograph and included a copy of the review. Greenlaw responded with a note written on her letterhead featuring a picture of the Hannah Boden. “I am so glad to hear that you enjoyed TLIO. Nice of you to take the time to write,” said Greenlaw.

Bolze doesn’t restrict his autograph to the insides of books or the book labels he mails. The granddaughter of Pierre and Marie Curie inscribed her name on a periodic table of elements after a lecture at the University of Tulsa.

The autographs are not limited to book authors. Included in his collection is a photograph signed by Gene Autry, the western actor, singer, professional baseball team owner, and the only entertainer to have five stars on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame. However, Autry’s autograph presented a challenge that would have stopped a less determined collector.

Bolze wrote to the Autry Museum of Western Heritage in Los Angeles using his usual method of including a self-addressed envelope and book label. He received a reply that only photographs are autographed and he could buy one from the museum. Bolze sent the money for a photograph. When the photo arrived, it wasn’t signed. He mailed it back to the museum with another request for Autry’s signature. “It took about six months altogether,” said Bolze. Apparently some cowboys are capitalists at heart.

In addition to the names of well-known people, Bolze has a two-inch high stack of index cards bearing the autographs of relatives. Some of the cards bear a single signature, while an entire family including the father, mother and their children, signed others. Family members know Bolze avidly collects autographs and send him contributions to the growing stack even if they’ve never met him.

Family autographs may be more valuable to future generations than ones of a well-known individual living today. “I encourage people who collect autographs to get family members’ autographs,” said Bolze. “Each is unique. It’s a way to collect something of the person.”

Bolze said he doesn’t pursue autographs as passionately as he once did. But if an individual’s achievements or a well-written book catches his interest, he’ll gather a self-addressed envelope and book label before beginning a letter with “I read your book with great interest...”

Family autographs may be more valuable to future generations than ones of a well-known individual living today. “I encourage people who collect autographs to get family members’ autographs,” said Bolze.
Careers Academy Hopes to Inspire Young Scientists and Engineers

When Miranda Renfrow and Valerie Ritter, two medical students at the OSU Center for Health Sciences, pulled on latex gloves and retrieved the box of human organs from the refrigerator, the potential careers of the 14 high school students swung like the needle on a compass.

For some of the students in the Science and Engineering Careers Academy, any thoughts of pursuing a medical career headed south. Others responded with the universal teenage response — “cool.”

Renfrow and Ritter, both intelligent and articulate women, held the hearts and pointed out the functions of the various chambers and arteries. Some of the academy students seemed entranced and asked questions such as why was one heart much larger than the other and was it possible to tell if the heart came from a person who had suffered a heart attack.

A few students sat silently rooted to their chairs, not daring to draw attention to themselves in case Renfrow or Ritter decided to pass the heart down the row of academy students sitting at the laboratory tables. Fortunately for the majority of students, handling hearts was not part of the day’s program.

This was the first year for TCC’s Science and Engineering Careers Academy, which attracted 14 high school students from cities in Oklahoma and Texas. The academy offered the young people an opportunity to talk with professionals in science and engineering fields, while seeing first-hand their working environment.

During the weeklong academy held in July, the students visited companies in the Tulsa area such as John Zink, a company known for its manufacturing of industrial burners used throughout the world. They also toured FlightSafety International, a company that supplies multi-million dollar flight simulators to the airline industry, where they not only talked with the engineers but flew one of the simulators.

The Science and Engineering Careers Academy evolved from a conversation between Dr. Jack Sellers, assistant professor of TCC Aviation Sciences Technology and personnel from the National Aviation and Space Administration. “The NASA folks indicated to me they were experiencing a severe shortage of scientists and engineers,” said Sellers. “They asked me if there was anything we could do to interest young people in a career in science.”

“The NASA folks indicated to me they were experiencing a severe shortage of scientists and engineers,” said Sellers. “They asked me if there was anything we could do to interest young people in a career in science.”

As a result of the conversation, the Tulsa Aviation Education Alliance (TAEA), a consortium of schools including Tulsa Technology Center, Tulsa Community College, Oklahoma State University and OSU-Tulsa, developed the Science and Engineering Careers Academy.
Retired Col. Charles Precourt, a former astronaut and the Deputy Program Manager for the International Space Station, and Dr. Merri Sanchez, the Houston Expedition Seven Manager at NASA, provided students in the Science and Engineering Careers Academy unique insights into the ISS program.

Students in the Science and Engineering Careers Academy asked questions of astronauts Ed Lu and Yuri Malenchenko during a live broadcast between the International Space Station and the Tulsa Aviation Education Alliance at Riverside Airport. Photo by John Hall
The TAEA had already built a strong relationship with NASA over the past several years, according to Sellers. So strong, that according to Sellers, the Alliance is known as "NASA North." Because of this close association, NASA agreed to provide a live transmission between the International Space Station (ISS) and an audience of students and visitors at the Tulsa Technology Center's Riverside Campus.

NASA also sent retired Air Force Colonel Charles Precourt, Deputy Program Manager for the ISS to the Riverside Campus and Dr. Merri Sanchez, the Houston Expedition Seven Manager to talk with students. Colonel Precourt served as the liaison between NASA, the space station, and the Tulsa facility.

Sanchez impressed the audience with her responsibilities in the space program including the design of a prototype space station escape vehicle. She also enumerated the benefits of the space program, explaining that for each dollar spent, seven were returned to the public in new products and technology.

During the hookup with the ISS, Science and Engineering Academy students asked the two astronauts aboard the space station, Ed Lu, Flight Engineer and Science Officer and Yuri Malenchenko, Commander, questions related to space travel and the future of the space program. Stephanie Brandt, a junior at Broken Arrow High School, asked Lu what sort of education and qualifications she would need to work in the aerospace industry or to qualify as an astronaut.

Lu explained that NASA and the aviation industry needed people with many types of backgrounds and skills. He stressed that the most important thing was to study and build on their education in a field that they enjoyed.

Speaking through an interpreter, Malenchenko fielded a question from Kevin Gourd, a senior at Tahlequah High School. Gourd asked about the physical and mental challenges of training for a space mission and living in the confines of the International Space Station.

Malenchenko explained that the astronauts put in full days operating the ISS and performing experiments, while they maintained their fitness levels with exercise equipment adapted to the space station. Then he showed the Exercycle the astronauts rode while enjoying the view of the earth passing below them at 6,000 miles an hour.

Questioning the astronauts who were 250 miles above the earth probably will be the first thing the students talk about when they return to school in the fall. Still, other memories of the Academy will remain and perhaps evolve into a science or engineering career.

Valerie Ritter, a medical student at the OSU Center for Health Sciences, captured the attention of the Science and Engineering Careers Academy students when she used human organs in her presentation. Photo by John Hall
One student, Laura Kappel, a junior at Claremore High School, plans to study chemical engineering. "I was impressed by the tour of the John Zink Company and the lecture by Dr. Baukal," said Kappel. "He has written a book about combustion."

Another student, Geoffrey Wood, a senior at Skiatook High School, said "Even though I don't watch a lot of CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) on television, I found the tour of the Tulsa Police Department forensic lab very interesting."

The five-day Academy passed too quickly for many of the students who found encouragement and camaraderie among other young people who shared their interests. On the final day of the Academy, the students launched model rockets they had built during the week. As the rockets sped upward, the young engineers watched their futures take flight.

In addition to the OSU Center for Health Sciences, John Zink Company, FlightSafety International, and the International Space Station, students were guests at several other Tulsa area companies including:

- Oklahoma School for Science and Math
- Science and Engineering in Architecture – OSU
- Aeromet, Inc (Optical Sensing and Missile Tracking)
- OSU Center for Health Sciences (Stem Cell Research and Cloning)
- Nordam, Inc. (Engineering opportunities at Nordam)
- Syntroleum
- Boeing Plant (Engineering opportunities at Boeing)
2003-2004 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The George B. Kaiser Family Fund established a generous challenge grant of $75,000 to match every dollar contributed to the Annual Campaign. Other donors include:

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The Anne and Henry Zarrow Family Foundation
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Dorothy Zumwalt

Innovative Instructors Receive Nearly $34,000 in Foundation Grants

For the third year in a row, the Tulsa Community College Foundation awarded Faculty Innovation Grants to support instructors who bring innovative teaching to the classroom. The awards were presented August 13th at Fall 2003 Convocation, the annual gathering of faculty and staff in anticipation of the start of classes. Henry Primeaux, Treasurer and Secretary of the Foundation, presented the grants. Primeaux explained that the College's Foundation develops key relationships in the community and raises money for scholarships and special TCC programs like the Faculty Innovation Grants.

AWARDED FOR 2003-2004:

$11,800 to West Campus’s Business Services for “The FIRM,” a business simulation combining traditional instruction with an ongoing cross-discipline project. Students build an e-portfolio and earn credits in computer science, speech, accounting, economics, management and business ethics.

$10,990 to Metro Campus’s Communications Services for the Jump Start Reading Program. The program provides a summer reading and academic strategies class for 25 juniors and seniors in high school who are reading below college level.

$956.50 to Metro Campus’s Allied Health Services for Life Skills Group. This service learning project supports occupational therapy students in leading groups at the Day Center for the Homeless. Service learning is an important new higher education initiative that couples classroom instruction with curriculum related community service projects for students and faculty.

$6,067 to Metro Campus’s Nursing Division Enhanced Health/Nursing Skills in Multicultural Environment. This is a “Train-the-Trainer” program for faculty in nursing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, in which faculty teach and model for their students. The goal is to enhance allied health and nursing graduates’ skills in leadership, collaboration, communication and problem solving so that these graduates will function optimally in their careers.

In addition Jody Worley, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, was awarded $3,890 as a stipend for three credit hours per semester to evaluate the Faculty Innovation Grant’s impact on student learning.

The total amount awarded for Faculty Innovation Grants was $33,709.50. On behalf of the Tulsa Community College Foundation, Henry Primeaux congratulated representatives of each grant and thanked them for their work. Representatives included Ann Hammer, Mary Philpott, Jack Williams, Tamra Davis, Melinda Smith, Sarah Stetcher, Judy Roberts, Rebekah Buck, Jennifer Campbell, Helen Bryce, Nancy Vitali, and Kathleen Johnson.

Faculty Innovation Grants were presented during the Fall 2003 Convocation to encourage innovative approaches to instruction. The recipients were (back row l-r): Jack Williams, Melinda Smith, Tamra Davis, Henry Primeaux (Foundation Treasurer and presenter), Jody Worley, Helen Bryce and Jennifer Campbell. Front row l-r: Sarah Stetcher, Mary Philpott, Ann Hammer and Nancy Vitali. Not shown are Judy Roberts, Rebekah Buck and Kathleen Johnson. Photo by John Huf

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Dr. Jim Halligan and Ann Halligan Honored as Education Visionaries

Oklahoma State University Emeritus Dr. Jim Halligan and his wife Ann received the Vision in Education Leadership award for their contributions to higher education during the Vision in Education Leadership dinner hosted by the Tulsa Community College Foundation. Halligan retired as president of OSU in the spring of 2003 after almost a decade of service.

Under Dr. Halligan’s leadership, OSU was named America’s Best College Buy and a Truman Honor Institution. Also during his tenure, the freshman to sophomore retention rates increased to 85 percent, OSU-Tulsa was opened, administrative costs were lowered, and OSU’s first capital campaign raised more than twice its original goal.

TCC and the then new OSU-Tulsa worked closely to implement the new higher education model in Tulsa that offered the first two years of a baccalaureate at TCC and the third and fourth years at OSU-Tulsa. This was accomplished under Dr. Halligan’s leadership.

A native of Iowa, Halligan earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Chemical Engineering at Iowa State University. He then worked as a chemical engineer for Exxon before returning to academia as a professor.

Halligan spent ten years as president of New Mexico State University and another year-and-a-half as chancellor at the University of Arkansas before assuming the presidency of OSU.

Ann Halligan received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education from Texas Tech University and taught business courses at Coronado High School in Lubbock, Texas. She later had a successful residential real estate career in Missouri and Arkansas.

As a university first lady in both New Mexico and Oklahoma, she turned her skills to community work including, American Red Cross, Tulsa Ballet, the Magic Empire Girl Scouts, United Way, and hospice and food bank organizations. She also served on several university scholarship committees and helped found a Women’s Leadership program at OSU.

During their time at OSU, the Halligans invited thousands of students into their home, learning from them as well as serving as mentors.

TCC President and CEO Dr. Dean VanTrease expressed his admiration for the Halligans’ commitment to student success. “As soon as I met Jim and Ann, I considered them friends. Even then I wouldn’t have been able to predict the level to which they would elevate higher education in our state and in our community.”

Ed Keller, Regent for Oklahoma State University and Chief Executive Officer for Oklahoma Private Client Services of Bank One, served as Honorary Chair for the Vision dinner.

“Jim and Ann Halligan left their imprint on OSU in many ways. Perhaps most importantly they reversed a decade long enrollment decline, they launched OSU-Tulsa and they changed the look and the appeal of the OSU campus. The scope and durability of their accomplishments are very significant for OSU,” said Keller.

Bill McKamey, general manager for community affairs at AEP-PSO, served as the TCC Foundation Dinner Chair. “I first met Dr. and Mrs. Halligan while Jim was Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Arkansas,” said McKamey, “I saw what he was able to accomplish there and was delighted when many years later he was selected to head Oklahoma State University.”

Mollie Williford, Foundation and Dinner Chair for the first dinner held in 2000, spoke of the Halligans’ role in increasing educational opportunities for students in Tulsa. “Jim and Ann Halligan have created a tremendous educational resource for Tulsa residents,” said Williford. “The partnership between TCC and OSU shows what determined and innovative leadership can accomplish.”

Proceeds from the Vision dinner benefit TCC students, faculty and staff through the TCC Foundation. Last year’s dinner provided funds for enrichment projects, particularly the Faculty Innovation Grant program to encourage innovative classroom instruction and scholarships for students. The TCC Foundation is dedicated to providing the critical resources necessary to give students from every walk of life an accessible, affordable and quality education.
Mollie Williford Brings Experience and Commitment to TCC Foundation

"Mollie is an indispensable member of the TCC Foundation team. Her energy, her enthusiasm and her professionalism – not to mention her commitment to the College – is an inspiration to everyone who works with her. Good things happen when Mollie gets involved both at TCC and in the community. We feel fortunate to have her on our Foundation" said Lauren Brookey, TCC’s Vice President of External Affairs.

Mollie B. Williford, the 2003 Chair of the TCC Foundation, has earned the respect of both business and civic leaders in the Tulsa area through her business acumen, volunteer activities, and commitment to serving the arts in Tulsa.

Williford served as an Honorary Chair for the first Foundation LEAD dinner four years ago, said Dr. Tom McKeon, TCC Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "Mollie was instrumental in developing what has become a premiere event," he said. "She continues to help the Foundation through her active participation and leadership role."

As Chairman of The Williford Companies, Williford oversees several corporations including SafetyTrainings Systems, the Williford Energy Company, and the Williford Building Corporation, which holds commercial real estate properties.

The SafetyTrainings Systems Corporation builds aircraft flight simulators and was recently selected by the Boeing Company to build simulators for the Air Force’s B-17 bombers. The contract is the largest ever awarded by Boeing to a female-owned business.

Williford’s business savvy allows her to see the potential expansion of the Foundation’s role in serving the College and community. "I’m excited about the tremendous growth of the Foundation and excited about its path to providing more services to TCC’s many programs which touch people’s lives," said Williford.

Williford knows that an organization is only as good as its leadership and feels Dr. Dean VanTrece, TCC President and Chief Executive Officer, epitomizes the highest standards of dedication and service to TCC. "I want to give credit to Dr. VanTrece," she said. "He’s a wonderful example for the community and a special person. Dr. VanTrece is truly a fine man and I’m pleased to work with him."

VanTrece also knows that the Foundation could not have selected a better Chairwoman than Williford. "Mollie Williford is an exceptional person and community leader. She is very generous with her time and gifts," said VanTrece.

“She has headed numerous fund raising drives and leads by example. The College is privileged to have her serve as the TCC Foundation Board Chair,” he said. “She is leading the Foundation to new heights in funding projects for TCC faculty and students.”

A partial list of Williford’s many volunteer projects provides evidence of that leadership – the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the Children’s Medical Center, The Gilcrease Museum, Ronald McDonald House, The Signature Symphony at TCC, the Tulsa Philharmonic, and many others.

Williford also served as a past member of the Board of Trustees of Philbrook Museum of Art, the Eastern Oklahoma March of Dimes and the Tulsa Opera, Inc.

In addition to running The Williford Companies, she currently sits on the boards of ONEOK, Inc., the Peggy V. Helmerich Women’s Health Center, the Tulsa Ballet, the Parent Child Center of Tulsa, the Tulsa Historical Society and is an Advisory Board Member for Up With Trees, The Mental Health Association in Tulsa and Assistance League of Tulsa.

Williford’s family also has ties to Tulsa Community College. Her son Richard A. Williford, Jr. graduated from TCC then transferred to The University of Tulsa where he earned a bachelor degree and an MBA. Last year, her daughter-in-law also took classes at TCC.

Although she volunteers countless hours each year to the community and the arts, Williford, a Houston native who moved to Tulsa in 1973, always gives credit to others.

“I’m pleased with the dedicated members of the Foundation Board who provide the best direction for our relationship with TCC," she said. "I appreciate and wish to give credit to all of the faculty and staff for the commitment and services they provide to the Tulsa community."
In May, "Best of TCC 2003" recognized the workplace and community achievements of 38 TCC alumni during a dinner at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills. Several hundred employers and family members listened as TCC President, Dr. Dean VanTrase, proudly spoke of the former students' role in their community and how they represented what makes the College so special. Each honoree then received an inscribed black obelisk in remembrance of the occasion.

The Best of TCC recognized four common themes – quality instruction, motivated students, employment opportunity and success in local business and industry, and the economic vibrancy of the Tulsa area.

The honorees represented diverse backgrounds – from schoolteacher to firefighter, manufacturing technician to wine maker and banker to baker.

One honoree, Peggy Tierney, a book publisher for the Child Welfare League of America in Washington DC, became the first alumna from outside Oklahoma to be honored with a Best of TCC Award.

Tierney completed TCC's legal assistance training in 1987 and received an Associate Degree in English in 1990. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in comparative literature from American University of Paris (American University).

The 37 remaining TCC alumni honored during the program included: Jason Anderson and Jessica Parks, Bank of Oklahoma; Sheila Asberry Clark and LeeAnne Power, Tulsa Public Schools; Matthew Broaddus, Sapulpa Daily Herald; Todd Brown, John Zink Company; Myriam Bryant, Bama Companies; Tim Clement, NeoSource, Inc; Michael Cooper and John Sanders, Southwestern Bell Company; Michelle Cox and Wilma McGuire, Gastroenterology Specialists Inc.; Sue Curry, Parent Child Center of Tulsa; Sheilah England and Holly Warner, Williams; Eric Farque, CDI; Jan Figart, Community Service Council; Don Fitzgerald, Best Roofs by Fitzgerald; Ruth Floch and Jay Garrett, Southcrest Hospital; Keri Fathergill, City of Tulsa; Debbie Guilfoyle, Crosstown Learning Center; Kimberly Hardt, Saint Francis Hospital; Shonday Harmon, Stillwater National Bank; Patricia Hert and Jennifer Letcher, Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Nancy Langley, Zarrow Family Office; Mark Lund, Chandler Engineering Company; Perri Montgomery and Sarah Stecher, TCC; Karen Morgan, Magic Empire Council, Girl Scouts; Nancy Morris, Oklahoma Heart Institute; Barbara O'Neal, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start; Karen Rodgers, Indian Health Care Resource Center; Jonnette Selvidge, St. John Medical Center; Dr. Phillip Tyndall, DDS; and Linda Henshall Wilson, Langston University.

The John Zink Company served as the presenting sponsor for Best of TCC. Other corporate sponsors included the Chandler Engineering Company and Williams.
TCC Program Produces Valued Members of Medical Community

After two years of study and national certification exams, graduates of Tulsa Community College’s Occupational Therapy Assistant program (OTA) sometimes bake a cake.

Actually, their clients who have suffered a stroke bake the cake as part of their rehabilitation schedule. "When a person bakes a cake, he or she uses a number of related skills," said Gary Braswell, Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Director at the Metro Campus. "They have to read and follow directions, then they have to manipulate the environment by moving around utensils, and they have to do it safely."

Although these seem like simple tasks, the steps required to bake a cake can help restore lost skills and develop self-confidence," said Braswell.

Braswell joined the Occupational Therapy Assistant program in 1993. Together with clinical coordinator Jennifer Campbell and instructor Helen Bryce, the three serve as the foundation of the OTA program, which trains students to work in various rehabilitation programs.

"It was harder on my father than me," he said. "I was stubborn and wasn’t going to use a wheelchair. I’d drag myself around on crutches until I thought I’d die," he recalls.

Braswell brings personal experience to his leadership role. In his senior year of high school, he lost the use of his legs in an automobile accident. "It was harder on my father than me," he said. "I was stubborn and wasn’t going to use a wheelchair. I’d drag myself around on crutches until I thought I’d die," he recalls.

Braswell laughs as he talks about trying to complete a five-kilometer run on crutches. At that point, said Braswell, "I decided to use a wheelchair and made some decisions about my future."

"A newly acquired wheelchair and a high school diploma wouldn’t get me anywhere," he said. "I knew I didn’t want to go to school for a traditional wheelchair job such as computer operator."

That decision led to college in Arkansas and a degree in Occupational Therapy. After graduation, Braswell worked at St. John Rehabilitation Center in Tulsa where he served as a clinical instructor. In this role, he worked with students from Tulsa Community College and the University of Oklahoma during their clinical rotations. While at St. John, Braswell accepted the position of program director for TCC's OTA program.

Braswell admits that attracting enough qualified applicants to fill the OTA programs in past years presented a challenge. However, whether it’s the result of a weak economy or a change in the perception of the role of occupational therapists, the trend reversed itself. Consequently, Braswell has the luxury of seeing a stack of applications from people wishing to enter the program.

Students accepted into the OTA program choose either a two or three-year track depending on their needs. Selection for the new classes are made during the summer session and the new class begins its course of study with the fall semester. Typically, class size is limited to 18 students.

Initially, the students enroll in courses such as neuroanatomy and physiology. "We want them to recognize what is normal before we teach them what’s not normal," said Braswell.

At the end of one and a half years of coursework, observation and community based learning, the students are assigned two, eight-week clinical rotations under the supervision of a licensed Occupational Therapist.

The clinicals often take place at adult rehabilitation centers where the students work with people suffering from strokes and injuries such as hip fractures.

Graduates of the program find employment in various settings including different types of hospitals, school systems, outpatient settings, adult day care, assisted living centers, nursing homes and other sites.

The OTA program attracts people ready to commit the time and effort to prepare for a personally satisfying job. "Students from 18 to 50 are enrolled in the program," said Braswell. "The older students are a joy to work with," he said.
Sadler believes accessibility to the instructors is an area where the program excels. "I've talked with students attending universities who say it's very difficult to contact their instructors," he said.

Sadler and other occupational therapy assistants perform a vital role in the rehabilitative and exercise treatment for people whose normal life functions have been affected by fractures, strokes, and traumatic mental and physical injuries.

Braswell said that the need for skilled OTAs would continue to increase as older people work to maintain their independence and stay in their own homes.

The increasing demand for OTAs means a positive employment outlook for graduates of the program.

Hospitals and rehabilitation centers from as far away as the west coast attempt to recruit graduates of TCC's OTA program. Fliers from Las Vegas and towns in northern California seeking OTAs find their way onto a bulletin board near Braswell's office.

"The current number of occupational therapy assistant graduates falls short of demand," according to the U.S. Department of Labor statistics. "Employment of occupational therapist assistants is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2010."

After completing the course, graduates may sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.

Graduates of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program find personal satisfaction in their careers. Through the OTA's work, people whose lives have been affected through strokes, injuries or disease are given the opportunity to improve their quality of life.

"The OTA program is excellent," said Sadler. "The instructors' excitement is infectious and carries over to the students."
Twenty years ago, a young computer whiz in a movie called "War Games" hacked into a top-secret super-computer, which controlled the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The computer challenged him to a simulated war game between America and Russia. The problem arose when the computer forgot it was a game and the countdown toward World War III began.

Of course the 15-year-old emerged victorious and avoided the annihilation of the earth's inhabitants. After all, it was just a movie, right?

But could life imitate art? Is it possible for an individual or terrorist group to breach the security of complex computer network systems and do unimaginable harm to the United States military, air traffic control, communications networks and power grids?

Dr. Sujeet Shenoi, a University of Tulsa computer science professor responsible for the University's Computer Information Security program believes the threat not only exists but also continues to grow. "Cyber terrorism is a huge threat which can only become worst," said Shenoi. At this time, 37,000 more computer security experts within the federal government are needed, he explained.

"We are fortunate that al-Qaeda is on the run and they are not yet technologically savvy," said Shenoi. "Cyber terrorism is a huge menace because it can be carried out from a distance with a devastating effect on our economy."

Shenoi is one of the leaders in Computer Information Security and his University of Tulsa CIS program is one of only six institutions selected by the government to train students for a federal "cyber corps" to combat technology armed terrorists.

TU's expertise in the field benefited the information security program at TCC's Northeast Campus when two Tulsa Community College faculty members enrolled in 15 credit hours of CIS graduate courses during the spring semester.

Tuition and expenses for Dewayne Willis and Jerry Humphreys were paid through a federal grant awarded to the University of Tulsa and "subcontracted" to Tulsa Community College according to Dr. John Kontogianes, TCC's Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer.

The grant not only paid for the men's books and tuition, but also reimbursed TCC for their salary and benefits when they became students. Although they carried a heavy class load, they both continued to teach at least a three-hour class at the Northeast Campus.

Willis and Humphrey, assistant professors of Computer Information Systems at TCC's Northeast Campus, expanded their knowledge through classes in computer and network security, computer forensics, and information assurance during an intense semester of study.

The two instructors committed themselves to completing the graduate level courses. "We were approached the Wednesday before classes began and offered the chance to go," said Willis.

"I knew I couldn't pass up the opportunity. It's not something you're presented with everyday," he said. "Being computer people already, Jerry and I knew TU's program was one of the best in the country."
In the fall 2003, Joe Siebers and Glenn Jones, two faculty members in the Information Security program at Northeast campus enrolled in TU graduate level courses. However, unlike Willis and Humphrey, Siebers and Jones did not take a 15-hour course load. Instead, they will complete the hours in the spring 2004 semester.

The time spent at TU will provide a means of upgrading the Computer Information Security program at TCC. "Sending our people to TU builds on their knowledge and experience," said Fockler. "The opportunity provides us with an increased level of knowledge for our faculty."

The need for information security specialists will only increase, whether it’s to combat a 17-year-old hacker trying to steal credit card numbers or a terrorist organization attempting to disrupt government operations. Consequently, allowing faculty members to enroll at TU ensures TCC’s own CIS students receive relevant and state-of-the-art training.

Students graduating from TCC’s Information Security program will find employment in a challenging and ever changing field. Fockler hopes that graduates will consider continuing at the University of Tulsa.

Kent Fockler, Associate Dean of TCC’s Business and Information Technology Department knows first-hand the seriousness of Information Security and the necessity for more graduates in the field. "This is an area that needs more people, including those with a two-year degree," he said. But getting into the program requires the students meet certain requirements.

For instance, the applicant must interview with a faculty member to ensure the student has a computer background. Students who lack the prerequisite computer training are advised to take courses to meet the requirements.

"If the student meets the training requirement, we have them complete an information security ethics agreement which lets them know their responsibilities in using what they’ve learned," said Fockler. "We also require the student to submit a request for an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Criminal History Report."

Students graduating from TCC’s Information Security program will find employment in a challenging and ever changing field. Fockler hopes that graduates will consider continuing at the University of Tulsa.
Libraries Launch Online Lifeline for Researchers

I t may not be a $1 million lifeline like those on TV, but having your own reference librarian just a click away becomes pretty darn close.

Ask a Librarian, an online service that debuted at 11 Oklahoma libraries on July 1, will help people find answers to almost any question.

The libraries joined in a one-year pilot project that permits people to submit questions to qualified reference staff via a link on the libraries' websites as well as talk to a librarian with real-time chat during certain times of the week.

"Libraries have always worked together and this program builds on existing cooperation and strengths," said Mike Rusk, Dean of TCC's Learning Resources Center. "The service moves the librarian closer to the user."

"Libraries have always worked together and this program builds on existing cooperation and strengths," said Mike Rusk, Dean of TCC's Learning Resources Center.

The information provided by the service tends to be very specific, according to Southern Campus Reference Librarian Suzanne Haynes.

"Ask a Librarian Online ensures reliable and current information not always available using the standard search engines," said Haynes. "Statistical information may be difficult to find," said Haynes. "For example, if a person needs a current map showing the religious, economic and population breakdown of a region, we have the databases to get that information."

"Ask a Librarian is not geographically limited," said Haynes. "If the experts should come to the country or even around the world, we can communicate with them using QuestionPoint, a service developed by the Library of Congress and the Online Computer Library Center," said Hardin.

"QuestionPoint is a global reference network, so just think about the possibilities," said Hardin. "If you have a question about New Zealand, you could actually get your answer from an expert in New Zealand."

Service to Oklahoma Department of Libraries customers is through the agency's home page, www.okdigis.ok.gov.

Clicking Ask a Librarian allows users to find e-mail and chat access. Chat is available with ODL librarians on Tuesday through Thursday, from 1000 am to 12:30 pm, and from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Questions may be submitted via e-mail at any time. Most of the e-mail questions will be answered the next day, but could take up to five business days depending on the nature of the question, according to Hardin.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries funded the project with a federal Library Services and Technology grant. Libraries participating in the project are:

- ODL, Oklahoma City
- Barstow Public Library
- Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
- Laverne Public Library
- Mc Alester Public Library, Southeastern Public Library System
- Muskogee Public Library, Eastern Oklahoma District Library System
- Nash Library, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha
- Oklahoma State University-Tulsa Library
- Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
- Tulsa City-County Library System
- Tulsa Community College Learning Resources Center

Rusk believes that in the future, accessing a reference librarian through email will be like using a book. Both are resources which serve the public.
SCHOOL-AGE CERTIFICATE ADDRESSES PARENTS' CHILDCARE CONCERNS

TCC Program Graduates First Seven Students in Nation

Becky Litterell, program director for the Sand Springs Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, knows children. For over 12 years, Litterell has worked with children in before and after school programs as well as summer day camp. In May, she and six other TCC students became the first in the nation to graduate with a Child Development School-Age Certificate of Achievement.

Litterell, along with Kerrie Janssen and Carla Lucas, of Dewey; Jami Leavenworth and Barbara Wall, of Bartlesville; Cynthia Thompson, of Sand Springs; and Margaret Patton, of Chandler, donned purple caps and gowns and participated in graduation ceremonies held at the Mabee Center.

The School-Age Certificate of Achievement evolved to meet the educational needs of childcare professionals working with children five to 12 years of age. The childcare programs include public school before-and-after school care, private school-age programs, summer camps, Salvation Army and YMCA programs.

"This has been a traditionally neglected training area for child care providers," said Ginny Davis, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts on the West Campus. "In the past the attitude was that people providing this type of care didn't need training."

Litterell agrees with that assessment. "A lot of people have the impression childcare is a high school student babysitting kids," she said.

Working with the Boys and Girls Club, Litterell implemented prevention and leadership programs for the first to sixth grade students under her care. "Although I have a lot of experience with the children, the training at the Child Development Center taught me additional skills," she said. "I learned better methods of socializing the children who vary in age. The younger ones are sometimes intimidated... now I better understand ways to get them active."

"We're terribly excited about the future of the program and we're seeing increased enrollments," said Davis.

"We're terribly excited about the future of the program and we're seeing increased enrollments," said Davis. "In fall 2003, we have almost 20 students per class and we're offering five classes."

The School-Age Certificate is a 12 academic credit program. The course content is based on the curriculum used by the military to educate childcare providers who work with school-age children. National bases and other facilities serving the children of families employed by the federal government.

The curriculum builds on a competency-based approach that includes the study of child development, health and safety, child guidance, program management, family involvement, and professionalism.

"Before-and-after school programs provide a stimulating, positive environment for children and thus impacts the juvenile crime rate in communities. In addition, research shows that productivity in the workplace goes down each day between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. when parents begin to worry about their school-age children getting home from school and then being alone."

The success of the initial School-Age Certificate of Achievement culminated in an expansion of the curriculum. "In fall of this year, we are offering a School-Age Certificate of Mastery," said Davis. "This is the second level on the REWARD (Rewarding Education with Respect for Dedication) ladder and qualifies the students for a financial incentive in the form of an education-based salary supplement program for child care professionals."

Litterell and Cynthia Thompson received the newly designated School-Age Certificate of Mastery by taking summer classes at the West Campus.

Earning her School-Age Certificate ensures the Salvation Army's childcare in Sand Springs maintains a two-star rating with the Department of Human Services, according to Litterell. "For parents concerned with the quality of the child care program, this builds their education and places the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club among the best. In August, we began the first of our classes leading to a degree in Early Childhood Development."
"Camp Scrubs - It's a Guy Thing!" gave 10 to 13 year-old boys and girls the opportunity to explore careers in nursing. Howard Doss, a nursing student, showed students how to apply arm casts. Enrolled in the program were (alphabetical order) Tyler Arlan, Trevor Baker, Robert Beall, Austin Boardman, David Clark, Levi Duethman, Evan Gallen, Mikel Gordon, Tiffany Grant, Chelsea Guillory, Johnnie Guillory, Jonathan Hallford, Kevin Manley, Ryan McCall, Bao Nguyen, Adam Simms, Andrew Simms, Jessica Susczynski, Sage Watahaie and J.R. White. Photo by Steve Bagsby

TCC Regent Ron Looney presented diplomas to spring 2003 graduates, after Dr. Paul G. Risser, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, gave the commencement address. Graduates of TCC's nursing program left little doubt as to their degree program. Photo by John Hall

The 2003 Aviation Careers Academy allowed high school students to explore aviation careers. The students visited area businesses, the Tulsa Airport, and spent an hour at the controls of a light aircraft. The students (in alphabetical order) are Drake Accardi, Joseph Allen, Matthew Bookout, Cooper Farish, Alexander Fisher, Amanda Green, Anthony Hurst, John Isbello, Brandon Johnston, Sarah Kunkler, Ryan Paul, Daniel Price, Adam Sunderman, Chase Talcott, Thomas Toliver and Joshua Vale. Photo by John Hall

The E-based Horticulture Summer Academy merged math, science and technology with hands-on horticulture applications. The 9th-12th grade students (in alphabetical order) were Terrence Banks, Kendall Davis, Sage Dicks, Chadidy Green, Michelle Harding, Jane Huggins, Tyler Kirkland, Michael Lucas, Nathan McFeder, Ariana Newsome, Brandon Richert, Anna Ries, Mali Riera, Oumie Riley, Jessica Roe, Crystal Washington, LaQuetna Washington, and Dave Wilson. Mary Wilkins, wearing the apron, taught floral design. Photo by John Hall

The smiles on Dawn Patos (center), an instructor of Child Development at West Campus, and graduates Margaret Randall and Devalynne Simpson reflected the festive mood of spring 2003 commencement. Randall and Simpson both received Associate degrees in Child Development. Photo by John Hall
The Veterinary Technology program graduated ten students in May. They are (back row l. to r.) Sabin King, Teresa Oxford, Mindy Davis, TCC President Dr. Dean Van Trease, Sarah Bryant and Steve Spiegel. In the front row (l. to r.) are Sonia Langham, Katie Roberts, Kimberly Siegrist, Tracy Jacques and Kelly Sofer. Photo by John Hall

Early suffrage crusader Charlotte Perkins Gilman, shared tea with anti-suffrage Senator James W. Wadsworth and his wife Alice Hay Wadsworth during the Provost Chautauqua Tea at the Metro Campus. Susan King, assistant professor of English at Metro, brought Gilman to life, while retired TCC drama instructor Ted Kachel and his wife Nancy Kachel portrayed the Wadsworths. George Black, Director of Evening Operations at Metro, stayed neutral while serving the three adversaries. Photo by John Hall.

Dorothy F. Zumwalt received a plaque and accolades in honor of her service as Chairwoman of the 2002-2003 TCC Board of Regents. Shown presenting the award during a Regents' meeting at the Northeast Campus are Ronald S. Looney, the 2003-2004 Chairman, and Dr. Tom McKeon, TCC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Photo by John Hall.

Six people received the Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence during the 2003 Convocation at the Southeast Campus. Sitting (l. to r.) are Ann Hammer, West, Karen Ward, Northeast, and Marilyn Inhofe-Tucker, Metro. Standing (l. to r.) is Allan Weintraub, Metro, Cathy Cole, Southeast, and Carter Schell, Southeast. Photo by John Hall.

The Classified Staff Service Excellence Awards recognized contributions to TCC as a learning center during the Fall 2003 Convocation. Seated (l. to r.) is Judy Lowther, Northeast, and Kathy Henry, Southeast. Standing is Dave Johnson, Metro and Carol Carr, Conference Center. Marc Elenstein, West Campus, is not shown. Photo by John Hall.