

OPPORTUNITY

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Spring 2023

NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE



Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

San Jac announces new College mascot

The wait is over! San Jacinto College introduces the community to its new mascot — the Raven.

In 2022, San Jac recognized the time to unify the College with one mascot representing its diverse students, employees, and alumni.

More than 1,300 community members submitted ideas, with Ravens and Jaguars standing out as the two top contenders.

Last fall, the San Jac community voted. For one month, the lead mascot switched back and forth, showing how strong each contender was. Eventually, the Raven soared to the top.

Now the process has begun to give the Raven life. San Jac will work with the community to select a name, then reveal the final design in late spring.

While remembering its storied past with different campus mascots, San Jac welcomes the new Raven era and the traditions and memories ahead as a unified College.



Music students break records

Twenty-seven San Jacinto College music students have been selected for two-year college All-State choir, jazz band, and symphonic band — the highest honor community college music students can achieve.

“This is the largest group of students we’ve ever had make these honor ensembles, and we are incredibly proud of them,” said Lynne Brandt, department chair, music and audio engineering.

Led by Professor Michael Mizma, the Central Campus Steel Band will also perform selections from its recent world premiere concerts at a Texas Music Educators Association Convention showcase in San Antonio. Mizma submitted ensemble recordings in spring 2022 for a blind audition. This honor is rarely granted to community college ensembles.

Central Campus student Vincent Del Angel also ranks as the first San Jac student to win the Texas Community College Band Directors Association concerto competition. He will perform with the all-state symphonic band at TMEA.

Learn more at bit.ly/311WNTP.

San Jac community recovers after tornado

At San Jacinto College, our hearts go out to everyone whose homes, businesses, and lives were impacted by the severe weather Jan. 24.

Many in Pasadena, Deer Park, and Baytown will be picking up the pieces for some time after a tornado ripped through the community.

After the disaster, the College invited the community to help impacted students and employees. The San Jacinto College Foundation has been distributing these emergency funds based on need. Every donation, no matter the amount, is making a difference for those in the storm’s path.

Whether you donated,

served meals, or donned work gloves, thank you for helping our community rebuild. From tropical storms to tornadoes, our community unites after disasters — stronger together.

Emergencies happen anytime, but you can lessen the impact. Help students who are experiencing crises like severe weather, unexpected medical bills, and more. Visit sanjac.edu/donate and choose “Student Emergency Fund” to give.

Event empowers future Ravens

Sponsored by East Harris County Empowerment Council and Comerica Bank, Males, Money, and More on Dec. 9 taught financial literacy and more to future San Jacinto College students.

Held at the Generation Park

Campus, the event welcomed 250 Channelview ISD middle schoolers for campus tours, career panels, an interactive library visit, and faculty STEM demonstrations.

“We were excited to have these future Ravens participate in a wonderful day of learning and empowerment,” said Mareo Henderson, Generation Park Campus director of student services.

Local banking partners taught financial literacy concepts to these middle school boys. For some, this was their first experience on a college campus.

East Harris County Empowerment Council is working with Channelview ISD to repeat this event for girls.

“The students were very excited to be on a college campus and engaged in each activity,” Henderson said. “It introduced them to what San Jacinto College has to offer.”



Photo courtesy of East Harris County Empowerment Council

PAVING THE WAY FOR WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

By **Neesha Hosein**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

With 48 years in the petrochemical workforce, Linda Brown has witnessed an evolution of change in the industry — more women, technology, and safety in the workplace.

Brown, a San Jacinto College process technology adjunct professor for 17 years, uses her hard-earned knowledge to train process technicians how to work safely and efficiently.

Teaching at San Jac is her “love job.” She relishes the opportunity to help others succeed.

“I train students to



understand fundamental basics to become a process technician in the refinery and petrochemical environment,” Brown said. “That includes things like how to open and close valves, how a process system works, how units operate, safety, personal protective equipment, and routine maintenance.”

More than just an income

Salary draws many to petrochemical careers. Brown teaches there is more to this field than the money.

“First night of class, I scare them on purpose so they know the gravity of this career,” Brown said. “I tell them if you do the wrong thing you can jeopardize your life and lives around you, including the community.”

If students express self-doubt, Brown tells them “bear with me for about two weeks,” after which most stick with the program. Brown considers the course evaluations proof that students are learning a lot and enjoying her classes.



Photos courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

It wasn't always easy

Brown worked as a keypunch operator at NASA in the 1970s during the Apollo era. After a layoff, a recruiter told her about an industry position for which they wanted women to apply. Her husband, Jesse, a plant operator, was her inspiration for embracing the opportunity. She was one of only four women hired as a process operator at Charter Oil Refinery.

Although most of her male counterparts were unkind and

management tried to talk her out of staying, Brown stuck with it, passed the probationary period, and became a permanent employee. While working full time and raising a family, Brown earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Houston.

“Being a female in this industry has made me challenge myself a lot,” she said. “I got to a point when I knew more than the men around me. Knowledge is power, and they could not manipulate me. That's a driving force.”

Knowledge and experience mean everything

Brown can boast several firsts.

“I am the first female to become a chief operator on a fluidized catalytic cracking unit on the Houston Ship Channel,” she said. “I am the first female to become a process expert lead supervisor in charge of four refinery operating units in southern California and to become a refinery shift foreman responsible for operating the facility on the Houston Ship Channel.”

The Crown Central Petroleum refinery management team and employees named their Linda Brown Training Center in her honor.

Brown is proud to see how times have changed for the better.

“The tides have turned,” she said. “It's much better today. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission upholds regulations, and all the things I've experienced are no longer tolerated. I feel like I'm treated as a professional. Process technology is amazing.”

Learn more about the process technology program at sanjac.edu/program/process-technology.

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Through March 21	Lamar University BFA Graduate Show		Central Campus Art Gallery (C4)
March 8	Education Career and Transfer Fair	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	North Campus, Monument Room (N12.200; for anyone interested in an education/child development career)
March 8	Focused on Finishing: Picture Hanging Workshop	3-5 p.m.	North Campus, Fine Arts Center (N1.103; free to public)
March 13-19	Spring Break	Closed	All campuses and online
March 23 – April 13	Naomi Lemus: Art Exhibit		North Campus Art Gallery (N1)
March 24-25	San Jac Student-Produced Plays and Films	7:30 p.m.	Central Campus, Powell Arena Theatre (C13)

All times and event schedules listed are subject to change. For more information, visit sanjac.edu.



\$1M NURSING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT STARTED WITH 'I DO'

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

It's not every day someone calls to donate \$1 million. At best, those voicemails raise eyebrows. At worst, they get deleted as spam.

That's the trouble Burl Clifton "B.C." Black Jr. ran into when he called several Houston institutions to make a sizeable gift for nursing students. Only San Jacinto College responded.

But the Katha and Clifton Black Nursing Scholarship is not about who answered the phone. It's about a love story.

Lifelong sweethearts

B.C. met Katha Stroud at a Billy Graham revival in 1952. In just five minutes, B.C. knew the brunette with the fetching smile was "the girl I want to marry." In 1954, the high school sweethearts married. B.C. started his own electric company, and Katha went on to graduate from Houston's Lilly Jolly School of Nursing. Three sons followed: Mike, Pat, and Tim.

Eventually, Katha became a full-time nurse for Pasadena ISD, while master electrician B.C. added rancher and real

estate/stock investor to his resume.

The pair balanced each other well. Katha cared for everyone around her — from communicating in a special language with the family pets to whipping up lasagna for her hungry clan and any friends sidling up to the table. The only time she didn't put others first was during her do-not-disturb power nap.

While B.C. was "hard-working and self-made," he enjoyed mentoring others. He also knew how to save, dealing bread slices like cards before dinner to ensure leftovers or emptying grocery shelves of 8-for-\$1 cans of pork and beans.

"We think his taste buds were tied to getting a good deal," Mike joked.

Although the couple enjoyed getting away from it all at their lake house, they also showed up for anyone who needed help. Katha nursed aging family members, and she and B.C. cared for each other too.

"The devotion between the two of them was pretty special to watch," Tim said.

In February 2017, while hospitalized with cancer, Katha nursed for the last time, examining B.C.'s sore wrist. Hours later, just weeks shy of their 63rd anniversary, she passed away.

Loving legacy

In 2018, B.C. found the best way to honor his beloved wife. At his granddaughter's dance show, he wiped away tears as several high school seniors announced they planned to



become nurses.

"That totally inspired my dad," Mike said. "It takes a special kind of person to be a nurse and be a good one like our mother was."

In the end, San Jac was a fitting place for B.C.'s gift: Mike and Pat had attended the College, and San Jac had also produced strong nursing graduates since the 1960s. Before his passing in 2020, B.C. started to create the scholarship endowment.

Today, his gift represents one of the largest private donations in San Jac's history. The endowment, which began awarding scholarships in fall 2022, will help working registered nurses who are pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to advance their careers.

Speaking of their parents, Mike, Pat, and Tim choke up a little. They hope this

scholarship touches those whose work touches everyone else.

"Watching both our parents as they got older, it's so important to have good caregivers," Pat said. "We want to make it easier for those who are inspired to pursue that career path."

Earn Your BSN Degree at San Jac

Are you a registered nurse wanting to take the next step in your career? Earn your Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree conveniently and affordably at San Jac. Scholarships are available.

Apply from April 18 to Aug. 17 for the fall 2023 cohort. Designed to fit around your work schedule, this flexible one-year program includes mostly online classes.

Learn more: sanjac.edu/bsn or sanjacbsn@sjcd.edu



Photos courtesy of Black Family

COOKING UP A NEW CAREER IN CULINARY ARTS

By **Neesha Hosein**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

From crunching numbers to crafting gourmet food, Dorothy Carter chose San Jacinto College as her steppingstone to a new career. The culinary arts major will graduate in spring 2023 from the North Campus with a certificate of technology.

While cooking has been a lifelong interest, it was not her bread and butter.

“This major is a total career change for me,” Carter said. “I worked primarily in banking and real estate, but I chose culinary arts because cooking has always been my passion. Cooking is who I am.”

She chose San Jac because of its reputation and convenience to home.

Why the bold move?

Carter is a licensed Texas realtor and has also held the titles of real estate clerk and financial service representative. She

believes “sometimes you just know when the time is right to make a change,” and the moment came when her lifelong love of cooking took the wheel.

“My love of cooking is not a hobby but stems from memories with my mother and grandmother in the kitchen,” Carter said. “The love and how to cook, not to mention the smells and conversation, put me right back there today. I still cook teacakes that are a hit, just as they were so long ago.”

Overcoming challenges

Going back to school in her 50s was a concern for Carter. “I hesitated to become a student at San Jac because I thought the curriculum would be too difficult or challenging and I would get lost in the crowd of younger students due to the age gap,” she said. “Boy, was I wrong. It was the best experience ever, and the curriculum was actually a perfect fit.”



Photos courtesy of Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College

Once she realized insecurity was causing her hesitation, Carter found ways to overcome her anxiety.

Understanding the assignments was a challenge, one she overcame by asking questions. Building relationships has been her favorite part of the college experience, and Carter believes she pulled through because of her “faith, family, and the support received at San Jac” from professors and peers.

In the kitchen, comfort food is her favorite food to cook but with a healthier spin. She enjoys tweaking an original recipe to make it her own. In doing so, one aspect she finds challenging is learning to work with unfamiliar ingredients.

“Another challenge with cooking is the clean-up afterwards,” she said. “Even though it is imperative to clean as you go, there will always be clean-up at the end of a nice meal.”

Advice to others

“My best advice for handling stress is to communicate and not be afraid to ask for help,” Carter said. “For new students, my advice would be to take school seriously, ask questions to get a better understanding, and do the work because it will pay off in the long run.”

To those who are considering a career change, Carter advises to go for it.

“People should believe in themselves

and their decision to go back to college or adjust their career path later in life,” she said. “Do what you love. Don’t shy away from the challenge. Surround yourself with people who support your decision.”

What’s ahead?

Carter is looking forward to her new adventures in culinary arts.

“After graduation, my career plans are to work in some capacity within the hospitality industry,” she said. “My dream job in the hospitality industry would be working in a culture where I can thrive and grow. I would someday like to own my own bed and breakfast.”

Learn more about the College’s culinary arts programs at sanjac.edu/program/culinary-arts.

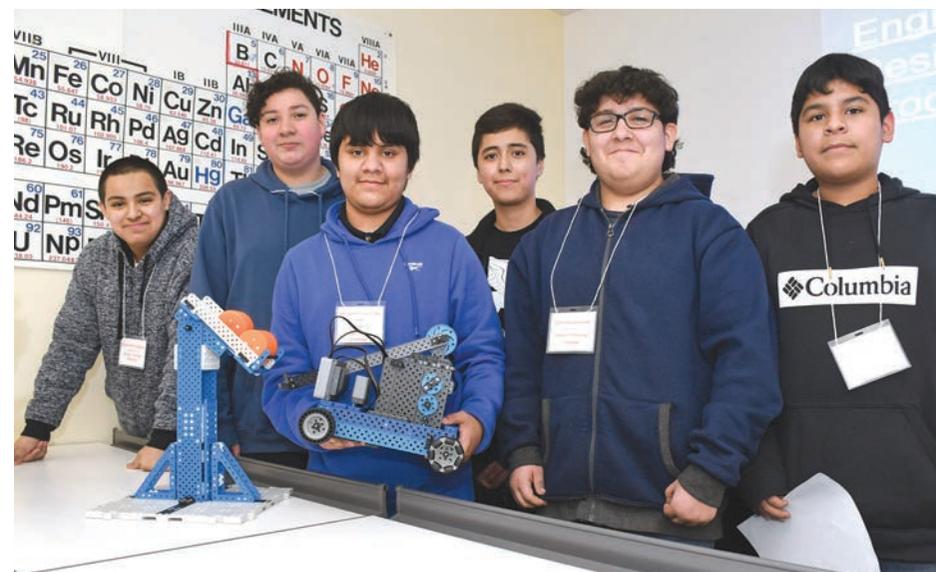


**2022 ■ REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY**

San Jacinto College invites you to learn about the highlights and accomplishments of 2022 by visiting sanjac.edu/report-community.

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
Your Goals. Your College.

An Equal Opportunity Institution



STEM EXPLORATION PICKS UP STEAM

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Part science fair, part college orientation, the annual STEAM Fair on Feb. 3 allowed Pasadena ISD intermediate and high school students to showcase their work and explore San Jacinto College programs.

The South Campus hosted approximately 150 Pasadena ISD students

and their families. Students toured the Science and Allied Health Building, including health science labs, and Engineering and Technology Building and presented their STEM and art projects for judging. The day ended with hands-on demos in the science building and an awards ceremony.

To view the full photo album, visit bit.ly/STEAMFair23.



Photos courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College





1

1 The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized San Jacinto College as one of five institutions to receive the state's Star Award for helping to "Build a Talent Strong Texas."



2

2 Culinary arts instructor Melissa Menendez shared a recipe with a seasonal twist on a classic dessert — pumpkin sopapilla cheesecake!



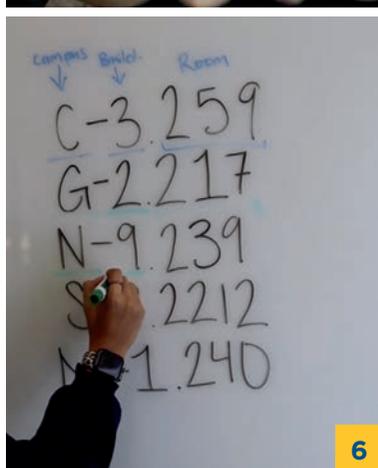
3

3 Students shared their plans and traditions for the holidays.



4

4 Math professor Joseph Maire, who is also currently enrolled in the College's process technology program, received tons of praise from current and former students.



6

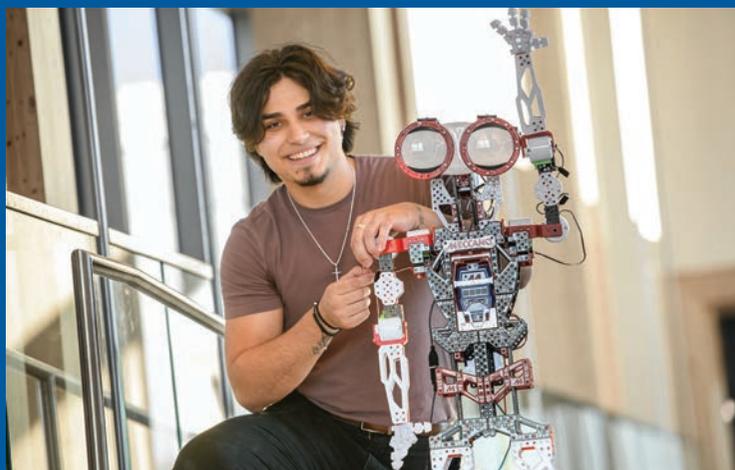
5 We answered the top five questions about the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship.

6 We gave incoming students a crash course on how to read their schedules and find their classes.

ANSWERED:

5 Common Questions About the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

NORTH CAMPUS
5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS
8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS
13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS
3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS
13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

ONLINE
sanjac.edu/online

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An Equal Opportunity Institution

VISION & MISSION



Vision — San Jacinto College will advance the social and economic mobility of all members of our community. We will be known for our excellence in teaching and learning, our intentional student-centered support, and our commitment to every student. We will be the preferred workforce and economic development partner in the region and a champion for lifelong learning. San Jacinto College will inspire students to explore opportunities, define their educational and career paths, and achieve their goals and dreams.

Mission — San Jacinto College is focused on student success, academic progress, university transfer, and employment. We are committed to opportunities that enrich the quality of life in the communities we serve.

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



A gift to the San Jacinto College Foundation transforms lives, enriches our community, and provides tomorrow's community leaders. For more than 25 years, the Foundation has helped thousands of students reach their goals. Our former students and graduates have filled vital roles in hospitals, classrooms, executive offices, manufacturing plants, and laboratories across our region and beyond. They have also won the World Series and NBA championships, starred in major motion pictures, and created major theatrical productions. Help our students today with the gift of education. Contact the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104 or visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is one of the top five community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

