

2010-2012
Report to the
Community



College of the Mainland®

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend of College of the Mainland:

Greetings on behalf of the Trustees, faculty, administration and staff of College of the Mainland. We understand that we are working for you, the citizens of mainland Galveston County, to provide the highest quality of higher education and job training possible in an affordable and easily accessible manner for you—via day or night classes or the Internet.

We take that responsibility seriously because we know that this College helps power the local and regional economy. I am not talking merely about the fact that this college has a \$267 million economic impact on our district according to the economic study done by the highly respected company, EMSI. I am talking in a more practical way about the fact that our graduates help run local refineries safely, provide healthcare when you are ill, patrol your streets as law enforcement officers to keep your lives and property safe and provide fire protection for your homes and businesses. We provide excellent, affordable instruction for the first two years of college.

This allows you to earn an associate degree that enables you or your family member to transfer successfully to and graduate from a university to come back to this area as a dentist, accountant, banker, pharmacist, physician, teacher, attorney or businessperson.

“We understand that we
are working for you.”

~Dr. Larry Durrence,
Interim President

Please take time to read about our outstanding faculty and staff, the successes of our students and the initiatives of the College. This report provides evidence of our commitment to helping students succeed in achieving their goals. The success stories about our graduates also demonstrate that an education at COM can transform lives.

Dr. Larry Durrence
Interim President



ABOUT US

Our vision

College of the Mainland will be a valued and vital community partner by striving to enrich our expanding community and preparing our students to learn, work and live in a diverse, dynamic and global environment.

Our mission

College of the Mainland is a learning-centered, comprehensive community college dedicated to student success and the intellectual and economic prosperity of the diverse communities we serve.

Our values

- Student success and academic excellence
- Continuous improvement and accountability
- Mutual respect, civility and integrity
- Diversity and inclusiveness
- Innovation and adaptability
- Campus and community collaboration

Board of Trustees

(Photo to the right)

Seated left to right: Rosalie Kettler, Secretary;
Ralph Holm, Chair; Roney McCrary, Vice Chair

Standing left to right: Wayne Miles, Clemon Prevost,
Bennie Matthews, Nick Stepchinski

Our 2008–2012 institutional goals

1. Increase enrollment and improve students' attainment of their educational goals.
2. Implement and utilize viable evaluation systems that improve employee performance and demonstrate accountability.
3. Increase underrepresented populations and the diversity of our students and employees to reflect our service area.
4. Exemplify an open and friendly environment that will increase mutual respect, civility and integrity among students, staff, faculty and administrators.
5. Increase community and campus collaboration in order to maximize communication and institutional effectiveness.
6. Use innovation and adaptability to better serve the educational needs of our campus and community.



COM HIGHLIGHTS

- *G.I. Jobs* magazine selected COM as a military-friendly school for 2011.
- COM Law Enforcement Academy students had a 100 percent pass rate on the state licensing exam.
- COM signed a reverse articulation agreement with University of Houston–Clear Lake. The agreement permits eligible students to transfer certain credits from UHCL to COM to complete requirements for an associate degree. College of the Mainland has similar articulation agreements with Texas Southern University, University of Texas at Arlington, Sam Houston State University and several other Texas colleges.
- The Associate Degree Nursing Program graduated 90 students, the largest number in program history, in 2011. Twenty-six of these were students who were admitted to the first class in January 2010 and graduated in July 2011. Of these 26 students, 25 passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses on their first attempt.
- Members of the National League of Nurses Accreditation Commission conducted an on-site visit to the Associate Degree Nursing Program in April 2011. The Board of Commissioners affirmed the program’s continued accreditation status extending through Spring 2017. The visit ensured that the program and the College could meet the needs of its increased student enrollment.
- College of the Mainland’s Emergency Medical Service program received a new 2010 Frazer ambulance to provide real-world experience for students preparing for careers as emergency medical technicians.
- The Vocational Nursing Program had a 100 pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, continuing its 100 percent pass rate since its inception in January 2005.
- The COMPACT alternative teacher certification Program maintained a 100 percent pass rate for students who have taken the state teacher certification exams, both the TExES content exams and the TExES Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities test in 2010 and 2011.
- College of the Mainland’s Associate Degree Nursing program received the 2010 Interfaith Caring Ministries (ICM) Community Partnership Award for its students many volunteer hours that dedicated to ICM’s resale shops in League City and Webster.
- COM’s Adult Education Program was awarded platinum-level recognition from the Texas Adult Education and Family Literacy Collaboration. The award celebrates the College’s student academic performance and program management for the 2009-2010 program year. The program met all federal performance levels and demonstrated high quality of services, timely and accurate reporting, accountability and positive return-on-investment for the community and the state.
- COM implemented the HyperAlert system to improve the College’s ability to communicate unscheduled school closings and emergency notifications to students, faculty and staff.
- COM installed a new electronic display board along Emmett F. Lowry Expressway to inform students, staff and the community of important dates and events on campus.



STUDENTSPOTLIGHT

Beating the odds: “miracle baby” graduates with associate degree

Donald Lacy Jr. has been fighting the odds since he was born. “I was a miracle baby,” he said. Missing part of his intestines at birth, Lacy underwent surgery, which was successful, as an infant to correct the birth defect.

Growing up, Lacy was close to his father. His dad often took him on hunting and fishing trips. “That’s when we really had man-to-man talks,” Lacy said.

When Lacy was a senior in high school, his father died. Lacy had learned about grieving from his father at the funeral of his father’s brother. He had never seen his father cry and watched to see if his father would for his brother. He never did.

“That day when I saw that, it taught me that death is inevitable. When my dad passed, I tried to have the same mentality, but when my mom brought me up to the casket, I lost it,” he said.

Besides grief, the tragedy brought new responsibilities for the 17-year-old. “I basically became the man of the house,” he said.

That fall Lacy, while working a full-time job, began the Process Technology program at College of the Mainland after receiving a scholarship from BP. “I wasn’t ready mentally,” he said. After the spring semester, he dropped out of school.

But he wasn’t satisfied with his choice. One day his uncle sat down with him and said, “You know, you can do better than you’re settling for.” Lacy had been considering his options and knew his uncle was right. “I had a goal and knew what I needed to do to meet that goal,” he said.

That fall, he enrolled again at COM. Choosing to major in business administration, he had a focus this time.

And this time he succeeded.

He made the dean’s list, then the dean’s highest honors list. He became an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, the student honor society.

A member of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), Lacy was vice president and became acting president this year. SAAB advisor, Leroy August, said he encouraged Lacy to “step up; take responsibility. And that’s what he does.”

Lacy said, “I told myself that I can’t just sit back and do nothing. I need to be involved.”

He decided to help others using his passions. “I love numbers,” Lacy explained. “I’ve had a passion for business since I was young.” As a child, his brother started a candy business that Lacy became involved in, which fueled his entrepreneurial interest at an early age.

At COM he organized a personal finances seminar for students, arranging for a speaker to explain practical topics.

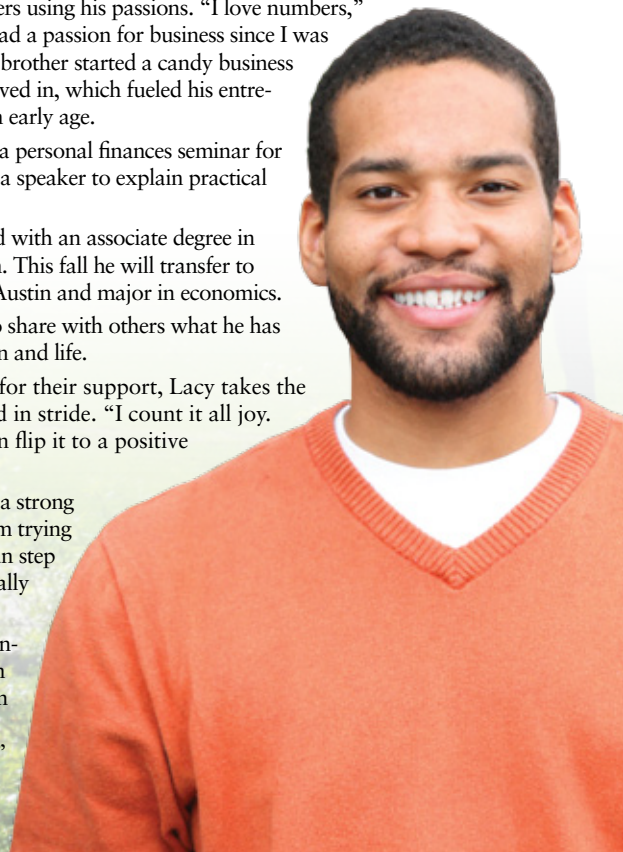
In May, Lacy graduated with an associate degree in business administration. This fall he will transfer to University of Texas at Austin and major in economics.

He plans to continue to share with others what he has learned about education and life.

Grateful to his family for their support, Lacy takes the challenges he has faced in stride. “I count it all joy. I count it all gain. I can flip it to a positive any day.

“I had a sense of being a strong man from my father. I’m trying to achieve more, so I can step up more. Then I can really be that man,” he said.

“I made a complete turnaround from the person I was to the person I am today. Now I’m being the person I should be.”



COM IN THE COMMUNITY

Dance around the world

Dancers with roots across four continents performed at College of the Mainland's 10th annual International Festival. Among the groups performing were the Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston, Czech Heritage Singers and Dancers of Houston, Ballet Folklorico Fiesta Mexicana de Texas City and an Egyptian belly dancer.

Simulcast brings together business community

Partnering with Express Employment Professionals, College of the Mainland offered members of the business community a live simulcast, Refresh Leadership Live 2012, featuring speakers who have built distinguished careers based on the principles of great leadership. Presenters included Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith, legendary former professional football players and Pro Football Hall of Fame members. Patrick Lencioni, *New York Times* best-selling author, and Dr. Bertice Berry, author and educator, spoke on leadership and finding one's purpose. Emceed by Andy Buckley, known for his role as David Wallace on "The Office," the event connected business leaders from across the community.

Remembering 9/11

In collaboration with area first responders, COM held a commemoration event on Sept. 9 in the COM Gymnasium to remember the many Americans who lost their lives in the terror attacks and to honor those who wear police, EMS, fire and military uniforms. Events included an emergency vehicle display, commemorative ceremony, tree dedication and 21-gun salute.

\$1 + \$1 = \$2

COM has partnered with Junior Achievement to teach local elementary students about the community and economics. Six employees taught at Northside Elementary School in the spring. They introduced students to the basic concepts of business and economics and the ways education is relevant to the workplace.



Giving back to the community

United Way: COM contributed more than \$10,000 to Mainland United Way in 2010.

Boy Scouts: COM partnered with the Boy Scouts of America, Texas City and Texas Parks and Wildlife to provide more than 3,500 area youth with the opportunity to learn about the environment, local animal life, energy and environmental conservation and outdoor sports during a five-day event.

Relay for Life: The American Cancer Society's third annual Relay for Life held at COM in April raised more than \$63,000 for cancer research. Teams raffled off items to raise money and increase awareness for cancer research.

Empty Bowls Benefit: COM art students created and sold ceramic bowls and donated the proceeds to the Jesse Tree of Galveston. The annual event raised awareness about world hunger and food insecurity.

Wellness Program: COM raised \$4,300 for student scholarships through the Mainland Medical Wellness contract.

COM-Bay Area Triathlon (COM-BAT): More than 400 people participated in the annual triathlon in May.



NEW INITIATIVES

STOP

The COM Police Department has created Student Teams On Patrol (STOP), a student-worker program, to give students an opportunity to gain introductory experience in public service. COM Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety and security of the students, parents, faculty, employees and guests who visit our campus, and the STOP program is an integral part of these efforts.

STOP are employed by the police department to expand the patrol division. While they do not perform the same duties as police officers, they do serve as extra eyes and ears for the department. STOP can be found on foot or in golf carts. Two-way radios keep them in contact with a police dispatcher and police officers on patrol.

They're responsible for reporting suspicious activity and hazardous conditions, checking buildings for door and window violations, providing the campus community with campus information and assisting police officers in nonenforcement activities (i.e., traffic control). One of their more important duties is to provide handicap and safety escorts to any destination within the campus. STOP are not permitted to make contact with people involved in suspicious activity. They understand and abide by the student code of conduct and present themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times.



COM OFFERINGS

Learn at home

During the 2010-11 school year COM had 4,634 enrollments in 434 online and hybrid classes. All the core classes a student needs to transfer to a four-year institution are offered online. COM Online allows working people to earn an Associate of Arts in General Studies or Criminal Justice completely online. Business students can complete a certificate in retail operations or small business operations entirely online as well.

New training to combat electrician shortage

College of the Mainland and the Safety Council of Texas City partnered to launch a new program, Electrical Skills Training. Through a combination of classroom instruction and an abundance of hands-on experience, this two-year program provides the necessary training to become a certified electrician. The program is taught by an instructor with more than 30 years of industry experience.

The partnership between COM and the Safety Council of Texas City will benefit students. Now is an opportune time for students to enter the electrical field, said Mike Kukuk, COM program coordinator of continuing education. “The industry is crying for workers. There is a shortage of workers now and an even more critical shortage will occur with baby boomers retiring,” he said.

“This is a pilot program of our coming together,” said Jim Gossett, executive vice president of the Safety Council of Texas City. “We’re excited and we anticipate good things to come.”

Partnering for safety

College of the Mainland has partnered with Brazosport College, Lee College and San Jacinto College to address the training needs of petrochemical partners in a five-county area. The partnership allows in-network specialized training at each of the schools.

The Gulf Coast Safety Institute offers Occupational Safety and Health Administration challenge opportunities that help companies improve their safety management systems. Currently 92 companies are going through the program.

COM seeks to expand offerings in North County

A growing area, the North County, though outside COM’s taxing district, is a strategic place for COM to expand its current educational offerings. Population projections show that by 2017 the working-age population (ages 20–54) inside the College’s taxing district will decline by 1,800, while outside the taxing district the working-age population will increase by 3,406. Furthermore, state law requires COM to serve the five independent school districts in the taxing district and all the areas of mainland Galveston County outside the taxing district, which includes most of the Friendswood and League City ISDs. It is important to our economy’s growth that COM enroll, educate and train more students in the League City and Friendswood area through the COM North County Learning Center in League City (NCLC).

In operation for about 10 years, the NCLC works with high schools in Friendswood and League City to provide students with dual credit classes.

However, too many students take advantage of this opportunity. In 2012 COM’s board of trustees reviewed the status of the NCLC. State funds and tuition payments from students cover the facility costs and operations of the NCLC on a break-even basis. Students outside the taxing district pay a higher tuition than students in the taxing district, and that tuition will increase by a small amount in 2012–2013 to offset any increased operating expenses. COM is seeking a larger facility to serve the North County in a self-sustaining way while increasing the number of classes and enrolled students.



COMFOUNDATION

Foundation Net Assets

\$2.15 million

Scholarship Funds Awarded in the 2010-11

\$146,399 to 152 students

Donors of the Year:

Bruce Latimer and Mainland Medical Auxiliary

New Scholarships:

AMOCO/BP's Ex's Association Scholarship

COM Ambassadors Scholarship

Del Papa Distribution College Endowment

Joseph Milton Glasco Memorial Scholarship

Mainland Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship – LVN

Mainland Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship – LVN transition to RN



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'10-'12 MAINLAND HEROES

Each year, COM Foundation hosts a Mainland Heroes Gala to honor that year's recipients of the Mainland Heroes Award for their community service and to raise money for COM student scholarships. The 2012 Mainland Heroes Gala raised more than \$16,000 for COM Foundation scholarships, which are granted based on academic success as well as other criteria such as personal interests, volunteer activities and financial need. The Foundation grants nearly 100 scholarships each year to deserving students. "Our goal is to make sure that deserving students are able to get scholarships so they don't have a reason to say, 'I can't go to college,'" said Don Parsley, president of the COM Foundation.

Left to right:

(2010-11 Heroes) Emken Linton, Texas City; Merretta Vasquez, Mainland Heroes Scholarship recipient; Fred Newhouse, at large; Sharon Free, Sante Fe; Mitchell Dale, Dickinson; Rev. D.N. Bedford Sr., La Marque

(2011-12 Heroes) Winnie Corsaro, Santa Fe; Catherine "Kitty" Potter, Texas City; Vicki Mims, Dickinson; Lee Sander, Hitchcock; John Glowczwski, accepting for the posthumously awarded Maryann Urick Glowczwski of Texas City; Tillie Henson, La Marque; Barbara White, Texas City



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

PTEC graduate becomes BP asset

One of the first students to complete an associate of science through the Process Technology program at College of the Mainland quickly ascended the career ladder. Erik Montemayor, BP employee, was promoted to asset coordinator for the 500 and 600 Sections of the Residual Hydrotreating Unit, a critical asset at BP's Texas City refinery. "PTEC gave me the basic skills, and it allowed me to get my foot in the door. They helped me find that job opportunity I needed," he said.

Adult Education student's efforts rewarded

COM student Carmen Bahena was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from The Barbara Bush Texas Fund for Family Literacy. As a GED student in COM's Adult Education Program, Bahena, of Texas City, volunteered in her children's schools and at civic groups. She was the first in her class to take the GED exam, while encouraging other adult learners to challenge themselves academically. Bahena continues to be a role model for her four daughters, ages 3 through 15, as she begins her college career at COM. This scholarship is funded by a donation from the family of long-time Texas Fund volunteer Patricia "Pat" Marie Peebler and honors Pat's dedication to programs that support family literacy, working women and single mothers in Houston.

Students awarded in jazzy competition

The soulful sound of saxophones filled the air at the Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium Jazz Festival where nine COM students won Outstanding Musician Awards.

Judges praised the Jazz Ensemble's outstanding performance, and Ed Copeland on the tenor saxophone and David Loyd on the baritone saxophone received Outstanding Musician Awards. Judges also recognized the trumpet section's performance on "Backrow Politics" by Gordon Goodwin.

Members of the Jazz Combo also received Outstanding Musician Awards, including Kim Chavez on the trumpet, Wesley Moseley on the piano and Trent Minter on the guitar.

Cutting-edge contest

COM cosmetology student, Tammy Sybert, of Texas City, placed second in a cut-and-color contest through the CHI Environmental School Program and Houston-based Farouk Systems, Inc. The contest challenged students to cut and color a model's hair. Sybert's prize was a CHI flat iron and blow dryer valued at more than \$200. "The students have become more motivated to enter competitions and try different hairstyles after seeing a fellow student do so well in a competition," said Ellen Chicon, cosmetology instructor.

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CHS student part of five percent

Collegiate High School student Christine LaFoy, of League City, received the Girl Scout Gold Award, the organization's highest award. Only five percent of eligible Girl Scouts receive this award, according to Girl Scout statistics. "When I realized what it means to receive the award, I was determined to complete it," LaFoy said. For her Gold Award project, she helped create scrapbooks for patients with Alzheimer's at The Cottages in Clear Lake.

Art Bout rewards students' creativity

In COM's inaugural Art Bout, students from six area colleges stretched their creativity by choosing one or more of six words—glitter, journey, nature, retreat and seclusion—to provide a theme for their artwork. Students from COM, Houston Community College Central, HCC Southwest, San Jacinto College South, Alvin Community College and Brazosport College competed individually or in groups.

Eleven COM students entered in the event including winners, Christian Carlin and Natalie Rivas, who named their project, "Media's Retreat from Seclusion." Chad Pessarra of Brazosport College won the individual award for his work, "Journey of the Pen." The team and the individual winner each received a \$100 grand prize. The Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium's Art Committee cosponsored the event.

A performance of note

Jack McLaughlin, dual credit student at COM, earned an award in the Dorothy Kelly Competition sponsored by Houston Music Teachers Association, and he performed in its year-end Winners Program. He was also featured in the annual Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium Master Class with internationally renowned concert pianist David Syme. As a recipient of the Joe Darde Humanities Scholarship, McLaughlin attended COM full time as a music major.



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

COM students inspired to mentor high school students

Inspired by a statewide Latino-affairs conference, students in COM's student club Amigos decided to encourage high school students to pursue further education. At the Hispanic Student Leadership Conference at College of the Mainland, they shared what they had learned with Texas City and Dickinson High School students.

Amigos historian Luis Santos said they wanted to share with high school students, "pointers for success, a little bit about our experience as students, what to expect." They encouraged them to "continue their education, to not give up, not to let anything stop them," he said.

Faculty members Julie Garcia, advisor to Amigos, Mayuko Gray and Mark Greenwalt also encouraged students to pursue education. Garcia, along with six COM students from Amigos, attended the 24th Annual Student Conference on Latino Affairs at Texas A&M University. Garcia said that after hearing the speakers, "students were asking, 'What do we do with this information? We want to do something now!'" After discussing options, they thought, "Why don't we become the mentors?" After their successful sharing, Amigos students are considering other ways to share more with high school students this fall.

COM students win Coca-Cola scholarship

Students at College of the Mainland, Christine LaFoy and Merretta Vasquez, both of Texas City, were named 2012 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholars, receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. An independent panel of judges considers outstanding academic rigor, grade point average, academic and leadership awards and engagement in community service in selecting students for this award. Community colleges may submit no more than two nominations per campus.

Without debate, COM club top team

COM's Debate Club, a student organization initiated in 2012, made quite an impact at its first tournament. COM was recognized as the top community college at the 2012 Mardi Gras/Alumni Classic Debate Tournament at Louisiana State University. The COM debate team finished third within the Team International Public Debate Association division. More than 60 students from 14 colleges and universities in six different states competed in the tournament.



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FACULTY PAPERS

Taking it to the next level

In addition to their teaching responsibilities, several faculty members have written and presented papers at professional conferences.

- Dr. Pam Millsap presented at several conferences on the topics of leadership and student success, including speaking at Achieving the Dream's 2012 Annual Meeting on Student Success in Dallas, Texas. She presented with Dr. Larry Durrence, Dr. Millicent Valek and Dr. Lynda Villanueva.
- English professors Stacey Burleson and Gilchrist White presented their paper, "The Horror! The Horror!: Using Stephen King's Fiction in a Composition I Classroom," at the Two-Year College English Association-Southwest Conference in 2011.
- Brian Anderson, English professor, presented literature-analysis papers at the Seventh Interdisciplinary Food Representation in Literature and Film Conference in 2012 and at the Two-Year College English Association-Southwest Conference in 2011.
- Speech professor Nakia Welch had two papers accepted for presentation at the Southern States Communication Association Conference in 2012. His papers addressed teaching etymology and student grade discussions in the classroom.
- English professor Dale Serda had two creative nonfiction pieces accepted for presentation, one at the 2011 meeting of Conference of College Teachers of English and another at 2012 UTSA English Graduate Symposium Celebrating Women's History Month.

Sharing the arts

The work of COM's art department not only benefits the local community but is shared with other communities to further appreciation of the arts.

- COM director Mark Adams guest directed a production of the musical revue, "SHOUT! The Mod Musical," for Theatre Lab Houston in January and guest directed the children's musical, "How I Became a Pirate," for the Main Street Theater for Youth. He also served on the Playwright Services committee for the American Association of Community Theatre.
- Art Gallery Director Mayuko Gray had solo exhibitions at various organizations, including "Japanese Calligraphy My Way" at Galveston Arts Center, "Following the Path" at Mary Matteson-Parrish Art Gallery at Lone Star College-Montgomery and "Seasons" at Lone Star College-Kingwood. Her works were also included in Vol. 18 of *Studio Visit* magazine.
- Art professor Mark Greenwalt and Mayuko Gray were included in the group exhibition "The Book" at Hooks-Epstein Galleries in Houston.
- George Bowes had three works accepted in the permanent collection of the Akron Art Museum in Ohio, and his work will be included in the forthcoming book *Craft and Art of Clay*, 5th ed., by Susan and Jan Peterson.
- Sparky Koerner was a guest artist who conducted performances, presented a music clinic and performed as a soloist in jazz concerts for Region 23, Region 13 and Region 19 of the Texas Music Educators Association. He led Sparky's Jazz Express in more than 30 performances this past year and continues to perform trumpet with the Galveston Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Sunday and The Galvanized Brass. Koerner also directed the COM Jazz Ensemble in a performance at the Texas City ISD Jazz Festival with international guest artist Ron Wilkins performing on the trombone.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY

Larsen helps students blast off to better math skills

Designated by SoftChalk as a power user for uploading more lessons than any other user, Marilyn Larsen, associate professor of developmental math at COM, won second place in the 2012 SoftChalk Lesson Challenge. The national contest is sponsored by SoftChalk, an educational software company, and judged by educators from across the U.S.

Larsen's winning lesson, "The Real Numbers," combined photos, interactive quizzes and even a video of a space shuttle launch countdown to demonstrate how positive and negative numbers are used in the real world.

Through SoftChalk Larsen shares her lessons with educators around the world. She recently assisted an educator from Dubai Men's College.

Dr. Sewell serves as president of historical association

Dr. Steve Sewell, COM history professor, completed his service as president of the Southwestern Historical Association, an affiliate of the Southwestern Social Sciences Association, the oldest interdisciplinary social studies association in the nation. During his year of service, he enjoyed "watching graduate students grow as they present. They're the lifeblood of this organization. I presented there myself as a graduate student 25 years ago." Sewell remains active in the organization, serving as a session chair and discussant at the spring 2012 annual meeting.

Dr. Allen wins Paragon Award

Student growth, service and academic success are goals that Dr. Chris Allen helps his Phi Theta Kappa students reach. For his role as advisor to the COM chapter of the national honor society, he received the Paragon Award for New Advisors at the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention. Students in COM's chapter nominated him for the award, and out of 700 advisors the organization selected him as one of 30 to receive this honor.

As an advisor, Allen said he enjoys "watching the students grow and learn more about themselves."

COM's Sigma Delta chapter was recognized as one of the top 100 chapters in Phi Theta Kappa out of 1316 chapters internationally. The chapter is also designated a Five-Star Chapter in recognition of its meeting organization requirements including "further involvement in the region and in international activities or events," according to PTK's website. Sigma Delta is actively involved in both the national organization, attending conferences locally and out of state, and in the community. As a recent service project, the Sigma Delta chapter offered free basic computer classes to community members.

Dr. Millsap wins outstanding faculty award

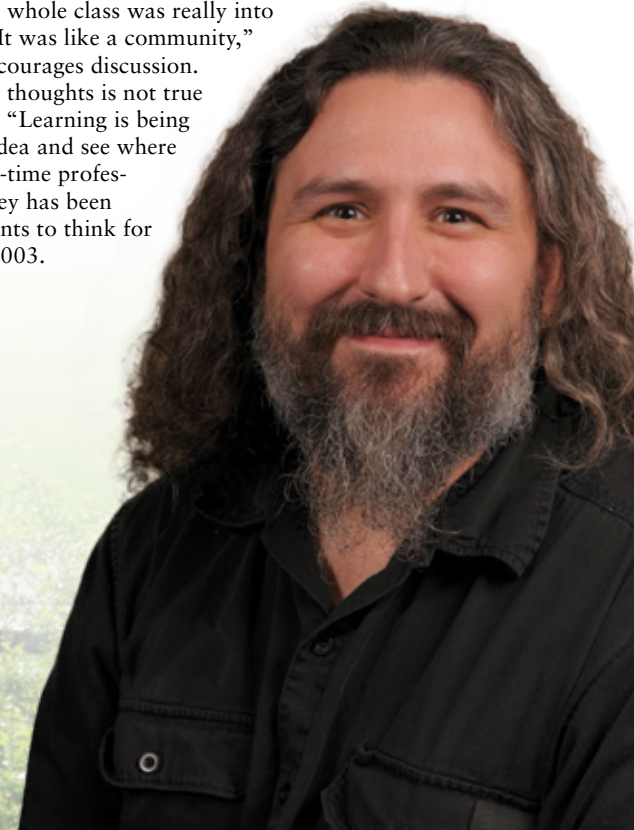
Dr. Pam Millsap, COM professor of psychology and chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, was awarded the 2011 Association of Community College Trustees Western Regional Outstanding Faculty Member. The award was presented at the ACCT Leadership Congress in Dallas and was granted based on criteria including demonstrated leadership, innovation and excellence in teaching.

“When I learned that the board had nominated me, I was incredibly honored. When I found out that I won, I was stunned,” she said. “I appreciate the honor and am glad to work at an institution where people really want to focus on student success.”

Dr. Smiley reprises Teacher of the Year

Zombies, books and world travel are just a few of the things that interest Dr. Bernie Smiley. He is also passionate about teaching students to think through literature discussions filled with characters, controversy and humor. His students appreciate his efforts. For the second time the COM English professor received the student-nominated Teacher of the Year Award.

After student voting, a student selection committee visited the classes and interviewed the five finalists before naming Smiley the winner of the award. Marcus Helton, a member of the selection committee, said that in Dr. Smiley’s class he saw passion—both his and his students. “The whole class was really into the conversation. It was like a community,” he said. Smiley encourages discussion. “Parroting others’ thoughts is not true thought,” he said. “Learning is being able to take that idea and see where it leads.” As a full-time professor at COM, Smiley has been encouraging students to think for themselves since 2003.



COM ALUMNI

Honoring distinguished alumni

In 2012 College of the Mainland created the Distinguished Alumni Award to honor its remarkable alumni and their achievements. At spring commencement, Interim President Dr. Larry Durrence, announced the first recipients of the award: Julie Dues Masters, mayor of Dickinson; Mark E. Ciavaglia, Texas City attorney; and Troy E. Sybert, M.D.

All three alumni have been actively involved, professionally and personally, in the community. Their accomplishments “demonstrate to our current students that their education at COM gives them the educational foundation to become leaders as well,” said Durrence.

In addition to her mayoral duties, Masters is the executive director for Keep Dickinson Beautiful and vice president of the Optimist Club of Dickinson. She is also a board member and past president of Galveston County Children’s Services Board.

Ciavaglia; managing partner of the Galveston County office of Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, LLP; also serves as president of the Mainland Community Crime Stoppers. He is chairman of the board of the Texas City–La Marque Chamber of Commerce and charter board member of Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County.

Sybert currently serves as vice president/chief medical information officer of Wellmont Health System, which operates eight hospitals in

Tennessee and Virginia. A former professor at UTMB, he is an adjunct professor at the College of Public Health at East Tennessee State University.

“This inaugural group of three distinguished alumni are highly deserving of recognition and are worthy examples of the type of success we desire to see our graduates achieve in life,” said Durrence.

COM alumnus named police chief

COM Police Academy alumnus Henry Porretto was named police chief by the Galveston City Council on June 28, 2012. He is a 22-year veteran of law enforcement and has held the post on an acting basis since July 2011. COM’s outstanding Police Academy has graduates who serve as chief of police in Santa Fe (Kenneth Campbell), and in Santa Fe ISD (Walter Braun), Dickinson (Ronald Morales), Friendswood (Robert Wieners), Texas A&M – Galveston (Anthony Martinez), Jamaica Beach (Andrew McLane), Bayou Vista (Paul Odin), Kemah (Gregory Rikard), La Grange (Jackie Skelton), Alvin ISD (Eugene Lewis) and COM (Butch Carr). In addition, hundreds of graduates, such as Galveston County Precinct 4 Constable Jimmy Fullen, serve on city police departments, sheriff departments, university and college departments, state law enforcement agencies (including Texas Parks and Wildlife), ISD departments and port authorities across Texas.

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STUDENTSPOTLIGHT

“This time, I’m doing it right:” Single mom graduates from COM with associate degree

By 26, Merretta Vasquez had quit college several times. “I blew off college when I first went, right after I graduated from high school,” she said. “I went back a few years later, but I had to drop out when I had my son.”

It was when her son grew older that Vasquez decided she needed to return to school. “This time I’m doing it right,” she said. But by “this time,” she had been out of high school for eight years.

The thought of college “just terrified me,” the young mother explained. “I knew I was going to be ten years older than everybody—the ‘old lady’ on campus.”

Now, as a 2012 College of the Mainland graduate with an associate degree, she laughs about her initial fears. “I loved it here. I know everybody.”

Even so, there were challenges. During a chemistry lecture, “I sat there and wanted to cry because I had no clue what they were talking about,” she said. Though frustrated, she chose to persevere. “I decided, ‘If I fail all my classes, I fail all my classes. At least I tried,’” she remembers. Vasquez went back, took the chemistry test and earned an A. That’s when she realized, “I can do this.”

Dr. Chris Allen, one of her science instructors, remembers Vasquez as a new student in his class. “She stood out as an academically successful student,” he said. Besides teaching, Allen has been an advisor to Vasquez. He said, “Over the years, I have seen her grow from a quiet, introspective student to a student leader on campus.”

Vasquez became part of the honor society. Based on her academic record and demonstration of leadership, she was named a 2012 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholar and received a \$1,000 scholarship.

She also became a supplemental instruction leader, assisting small groups of students with the concepts teachers presented in science lectures. One of the subjects

she helped students with was the same chemistry lecture that discouraged her as a new student. She now wonders, “What was so hard about this?”

Vasquez initially planned to major in health information management and began the required courses. However, through her classes and COM trips to speak with those in the field, she discovered health information was not what she wanted to pursue. She went to Allen, who taught the only class she enjoyed, and asked him about other options in the science field. He suggested several. Vasquez thought the clinical laboratory sciences program at UTMB sounded interesting, so she visited and discovered she loved it.

She applied to the competitive program and was one of about 30 students accepted. She plans to earn her bachelor’s at UTMB and begin her career as a lab technician.

Vasquez is glad she persevered and thankful for the support she received from her family and friends. Through college, she learned to “step back and focus on what’s important.”

Keeping that focus even when overwhelmed and continuing to pursue education is essential, she said. “Then once you do it, you’re like, ‘I did it and it wasn’t that bad.’”



CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

COM's Continuing Education Department works with companies to design specific training to meet their needs. Whether employees need leadership or welding skills, expertise in email communication or training in workplace ESL, the Continuing Education Department can create a course customized for them. Continuing Education also offers a wide variety of professional development courses designed for industry members to learn specific skills. In addition, Workforce training courses prepare those who desire to enter the industry. Personal enrichment courses offer an opportunity to broaden students horizons with new skills and discoveries. Continuing Education courses provided training and enrichment to more than 7,500 students in 2010-11.

Previously developed customized trainings

Business

- Email Communication
- First Line Leadership Training
- Shift Superintendent Training
- Industrial Safety
- Computer Training
- Project Management
- Presentation Skills
- Six Sigma
- Problem Solving
- Business Communication
- Train the Trainer
- Facilities Rental and Food Service
- Skills Development Grants for Business Training
- Vocational ESL
- CPR Training
- Quality Customer Service
- Team Building
- How to Deal with Difficult Customers

Industrial

- Microsoft Office Training
- I&E Motor Control Training
- I&E Level Control Training
- I&E Control Valve Training
- Pump Systems Operation
- Reaction Process Training
- Distillation Process Training
- Process Troubleshooting
- Plant Start-Up and Operations Training
- Specialty Welding Training
- Storage Tank Emissions
- Welding Skills Upgrade
- Hands-On Skills Testing
- BP Craft Apprenticeship Programs
- Electrical Apprenticeship Program
- TCEQ Basic Equipment Training
- Machinist
- Mechanical Maintenance

Standardized courses

- HVAC
- Electrical
- Welding
- Process Technology
- Machinist
- Mechanical Maintenance
- High School Craft Offerings
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- ECG Technician
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Medication Aid
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Administrative Assistant
- Real Estate Agent
- Firefighter Academy
- Police Academy
- Security Officer

STUDENTSPOTLIGHT

From COM's Collegiate High School to medical school

Eddie Hicks has dreamed of becoming a medical doctor for as long as he can remember.

"I've always wanted to help people," Hicks said. "Being in a hospital or clinic feels comfortable. That's where I want to be. I can't imagine myself in any other job."

The 19-year-old Hitchcock native credits College of the Mainland's Collegiate High School program with helping him reach those goals.

Students enrolled in the CHS program are full-time students in both high school and college. They return to their high school campus for extracurricular activities and graduation, but they're also eligible to participate in COM extracurriculars.

Hicks graduated from CHS as the salutatorian with an Associate of Science and 70 college credits. He simultaneously was named the valedictorian of Hitchcock High School and enjoyed the challenge of preparing graduation speeches last spring for both CHS and HHS.

Hicks will use most of the credits he earned at CHS toward his biology/premedical degree at University of Texas at Arlington, and he plans to graduate from the Metroplex school next spring.

"I'm really glad I did the Collegiate High School program," Hicks said. "It gave me a thorough insight into what I had to look for (in college). The only reason I'm at UTA now is because of COM."

Hicks, who last spring became the first person in his family to earn a college degree, earned an automatic full scholarship to UTA by being named to the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team.

Hicks was one of 50 community college students nationally, and one of five from Texas, to be named to the Academic Team's Silver Scholar list. Each of those students was awarded a \$1,250 scholarship.

During his two years at CHS, Hicks was very involved with Phi Theta Kappa, the official honor society for community colleges.

"It was an amazing experience," Hicks said. "It really promotes excellence and academic enjoyment."

Hicks served as vice president of service for PTK's Sigma Delta Chapter at COM and represented the honor society at its international convention in Seattle.

"He's very studious, very disciplined," said Dr. Chris Allen, COM Science professor and PTK advisor. "He's very dedicated to his academic goals that he had set for himself. When I first met with him, he pretty much knew he was going to be a doctor."

Hicks enjoyed the program's small class sizes and the opportunities it provided.

"You become a family once you're part of CHS," said Hicks.



EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

Collegiate High School

Collegiate High School is a program for high school students who seek a mature, academically challenging educational environment. CHS offers rigorous academic instruction, career guidance, academic counseling and work-based learning opportunities. By optimizing dual credit opportunities, students may complete high school graduation and associate degree requirements simultaneously.

Local ISDs have signed agreements allowing a certain number of their juniors and seniors to enroll full-time at COM in the CHS to complete high school requirements and begin taking college courses. Eighty-one students were enrolled in CHS in Fall 2010 and 79 students in Spring 2011. Of the students enrolled 34 were seniors and finished their high school diploma. Fourteen seniors also earned an associate degree. In 2012, 35 students graduated from CHS, 28 of whom had earned associate degrees, enabling them to transfer to a university as a junior.

Adult Education Program

The Adult Education Program is a learning-centered, basic-skills program dedicated to student success by improving students' reading, writing, mathematics and English language skills and enhancing the opportunities and economic prosperity of the diverse community we serve.

College of the Mainland offers Adult Basic Education courses leading to General Education Development preparation and English as a Second Language courses at two dozen locations throughout the Mainland Galveston County, Galveston Island and Bay Area Houston/NASA areas.

In 2011, College of the Mainland had 1,039 Adult Basic Education/Adult Secondary Education students, 928 ESL students and 113 GED graduates.

Dual credit saves students money on higher education

High school students have increasing numbers of options. Dual credit classes, which count toward both college and high school credit, are a great way for students and parents to save money on a college education. Since 2006 state law has required ISDs to allow students to earn at least 12 credit hours while still in high school, and College of the Mainland has dual credit arrangements with nine area high schools in seven ISDs. Since 2007 dual credit enrollment at COM has grown from 532 to 860 (452 students from Friendswood and League City), and COM has resources to continue to enroll an increasing number of students in this exciting, cost-saving program.



JUST THE FACTS

COM graduates

College of the Mainland conferred 391 associate degrees and 244 certificates to 602 graduates. Of the 602 graduates, 111 enrolled in a university following graduation. *Please note:* The number of graduates does not equal the number of awards given as students may have been conferred more than one award.

Associate degrees

Program	Number conferred
Associate of Arts – General Studies	143
Associate of Applied Science – Nursing (ADN)	90
Associate of Applied Science – Petrochemical Process Technology	71
Associate of Arts – Business	16
Associate of Arts – Criminal Justice	10
Associate of Science – Natural Science	10
Associate of Arts in Teaching – EC-6 Generalist or EC Degree Specialization	7
Associate of Applied Science – Graphic Design/Web Design	6
Associate of Applied Science – Health Information Management	5
Associate of Applied Science – Occupational Safety and Health Technology	4
Associate of Arts in Teaching – Grade 8-12 and EC-12	4
Associate of Science – Mathematics	4
Associate of Applied Science – Fire Technology	3
Associate of Applied Science – Network Systems Technology/ Internet Web Administration	3
Associate of Arts – Music	3
Associate of Applied Science – Emergency Medical Services	2
Associate of Applied Science – Business Administration/Emphasis Accounting	2
Associate of Arts in Teaching – EC-6, 4-8 and Special Education	2
Associate of Science – General Studies	2
Associate of Applied Science – Child Development/Education	1
Associate of Applied Science – Criminal Justice	1
Associate of Applied Science – Geographic Information Systems	1
Associate of Arts – Visual Arts	1
Total associate degrees conferred	391

Source: CBM009, National Student Clearinghouse

Certificates

Program	Number conferred
Fire Protection Technology Continuing Education Certificate	47
Police Academy Continuing Education Certificate	40
Basic Peace Officer Academy Certificate	21
Pharmacy Technician Certificate	19
Welding Advanced-Level Certificate	18
Cosmetology High School Operator Certificate	17
Medical Assistant Certificate	12
Occupational Safety and Health Certificate	11
Vocational Nursing Certificate	11
Web Design Advanced Certificate	10
Medical Coding Certificate	6
Facial Specialist Certificate	5
2D/3D Modeling Certificate	4
Administrative Support Certificate	4
Cosmetology Instructor Certificate	4
Child Care Administration Certificate	3
Desktop Support Technician Certificate	3
Paramedic Certificate	3
Professional Bookkeeper Certificate	2
A+ PC Maintenance Technician Certificate	1
Business Services/Retail Operations Certificate	1
Child Development Associate Caregiver Certificate	1
Geographic Information Systems Analyst Certificate	1
Total certificates conferred	244

Source: CBM009, National Student Clearinghouse

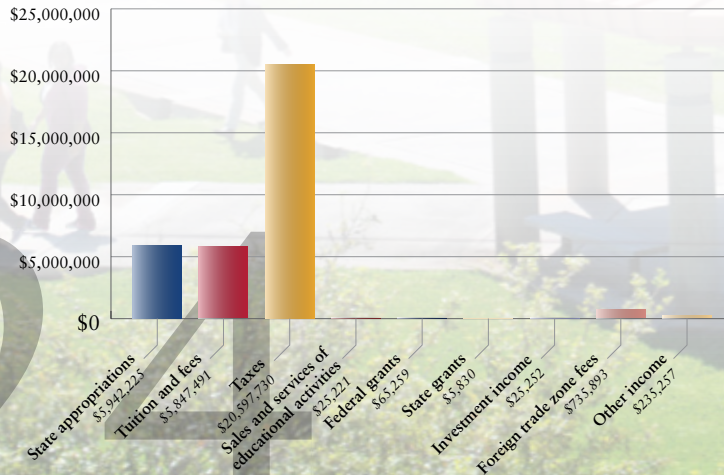
OVERVIEW OF COM

With a main campus in Texas City and facilities in League City and La Marque, COM enrolls approximately 4,000 credit students and more than 7,500 Continuing Education students in a variety of workforce, academic and professional and personal enrichment programs each year.

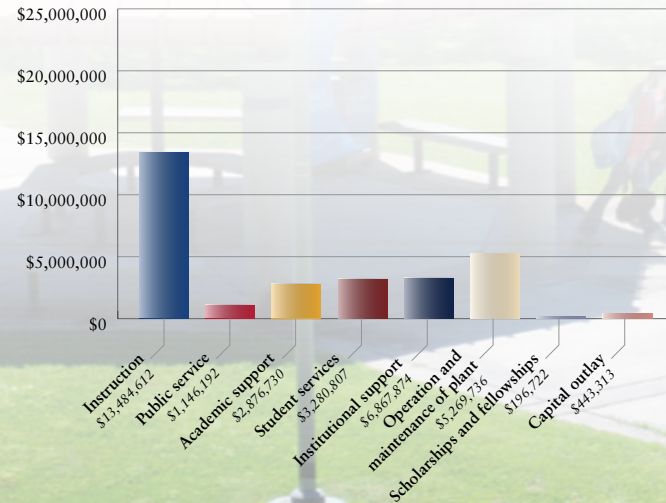
COM's impact on the local economy

College of the Mainland makes a significant contribution to the economic vitality and quality of life of its service area. Graduates earn, in a lifetime, about \$335,000 more than students with only a high school diploma, and they contribute to their community through taxes, productivity, job satisfaction, improved health and stability. COM brings state and federal revenues into the region and prepares a strong workforce, which in turn benefits the region by reducing expenses associated with incarceration, welfare, health care support and other social needs. In order to quantify the economic impact of COM on mainland Galveston County, COM contracted with a professional firm that does economic impact for businesses and organizations in Texas. That study determined that when the calculating the value of the education and training programs as well as the total spending of the college and the spending of students from inside and outside the District, the college provides an economic impact of \$262.7 million, making it one of the region's largest and most important economic contributors.

Operating Revenues
(\$33,480,158)



Operating Expenses
(\$33,565,986)



GRANTFUNDING

Investing in student success

College of the Mainland has been awarded a \$600,000 Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success grant to increase the success of students who enroll unprepared for college credit courses in math or English. “This grant will, among other things, enable us to transform the way we teach math and enable students to accelerate through developmental math and reduce their time to complete a degree,” said COM Interim President Dr. Larry Durrence. It will also assist COM in creating a more seamless transition from high school to college. The grant is made possible by Houston Endowment and managed by the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin.

Donating for safety

Texas Mutual Insurance Company has awarded a \$100,000 grant to College of the Mainland’s Gulf Coast Safety Institute to fund free workplace safety courses for employers, employees and the general public.

This is the 11th consecutive year that Texas Mutual has contributed to COM its donations total \$1 million. Since 2001, more than 16,000 students have enrolled in more than 175 free safety, health and environmental classes at COM.

Renewing the vision

The federal government has renewed Upward Bound’s grant and awarded the program \$262,338 per year for the next five years.

The grant allows for an increase in the total number of students in the program from 55 to 65. The program assists first-generation, low-income students with their high school studies and helps prepare them for college through tutoring, sharing ACT and SAT strategies and providing field trips to colleges. Upward Bound works with three area school districts: Dickinson, Hitchcock and La Marque. Students can apply to the program beginning in their freshman year. The program not only prepares students for college but helps them in high school. “We have a 100 percent graduation rate from high school,” Ciro Reyes, director for Upward Bound said.

COM Grant Funding

Federal Grants

TRIO – Student Support	\$1,266,325
CBJT – GC Health	
Care Partnership	\$555,775
Framing the Future	\$189,992
Carl Perkins	\$139,697
Tech Prep	
Area Coordinator	\$120,334
Tech Prep	\$2,980

Total funding from federal grants \$2,275,103

State Grants

Nurse Shortage Reduction – Under 70 Program	\$175,754
JET EMS Program	\$91,970
TWC –Electrician Apprenticeship	\$38,869
JET Grant	\$20,612
Nurse Shortage Reduction	\$13,905

Total funding from state grants \$341,110

COMABROAD

Friendship across the border

The unique friendship between College of the Mainland and the Universidad Autónoma “Benito Juárez” de Oaxaca will continue through a signed Memorandum of Understanding that was renewed in 2011 for three more years. The agreement will continue to bring opportunities for COM faculty to give masterial lectures to international audiences in the university’s various academic departments and allow COM artists and professors to showcase their work or to produce art in collaboration with Oaxacan artists.

An example of this extraordinary opportunity occurred in April 2012 when COM professor John Presnall was invited by the master’s program at the School of Law to give a lecture on “Problems in Modern Political Philosophy” to a large audience of faculty and students of the school. He presented in the same building where the Mexican hero Benito Juárez lectured Oaxacan students. In 2010 professors James Tabor and Bernie Smiley presented lectures on topics of American literature at the School of Languages to great acclaim to an audience of students and faculty.

The Oaxaca Study Abroad Program, a success since its inception in 2001, has provided COM students and faculty an opportunity to immerse themselves in the cultural, linguistic and artistic world of one of the most magical places in Mexico and return with a wealth of knowledge and experiences to share with our community.

Professor becomes cultural ambassador of University of Oaxaca

Rafael Naranjo was named the first cultural ambassador of the University of Oaxaca. The rector of the university recognized Naranjo’s drive to teach Spanish and the culture of Oaxaca to students in the U.S. The highest recognition that an Oaxacan citizen can receive is to become an Oaxacan ambassador to other societies.

Sharing art, sharing identity

On display at COM this spring, the “From Costa Chica” exhibit featured artifacts and art from Costa Chica, Mexico. Opening reception guest of honor Father Glyn Jemmott lectured on the topic “emerging identity,” discussing how community members view themselves and each other. Father Glyn Jemmott has been working to promote cultural awareness and to support African-Americans in Mexico and helped residents build a library and a secondary school.

United we paint

In collaboration with COM students, internationally renowned mural artist Maestro Shinzaburo Takeda, chair of the art department at Benito Juárez Autonomous University of Oaxaca, painted a mural at COM. The mural represents people coming from Mexico to Texas and expresses the close relations between the University of Oaxaca and COM. Immigrants are bearing gifts symbolizing the rich traditions and culture that Mexico has contributed to Texas.

COM students learn at home—and abroad

COM students can choose the convenience of learning at home and at the same time experience the world through optional trips abroad led by faculty. Students in Dr. Bernie Smiley’s online World Literature II class in 2010 traveled to Paris, Amsterdam and Copenhagen. The trip focused on the authors and places of three books: Anne Franks’ *The Diary of a Young Girl*, Franz Kafka’s *The Trial* and John Paul Sartre’s *No Exit*.

In 2011 Smiley led a World Literature I trip to Germany and Switzerland that students enjoyed. “They really like reading about something and going to see it,” said Smiley. “With the diary of Anne Frank, you read about it and see where it is. It is a very moving—and for some people, painful—experience. Travel brought the literature home.”

STUDENTSPOTLIGHT

From Germany to Texas: discovering passion at COM

Patrick Damrath, a German foreign exchange student who attended Texas City High School, discovered his passion at College of the Mainland. “I really fell in love with sciences the last two to three semesters at COM just because of great instruction and professors,” he said.

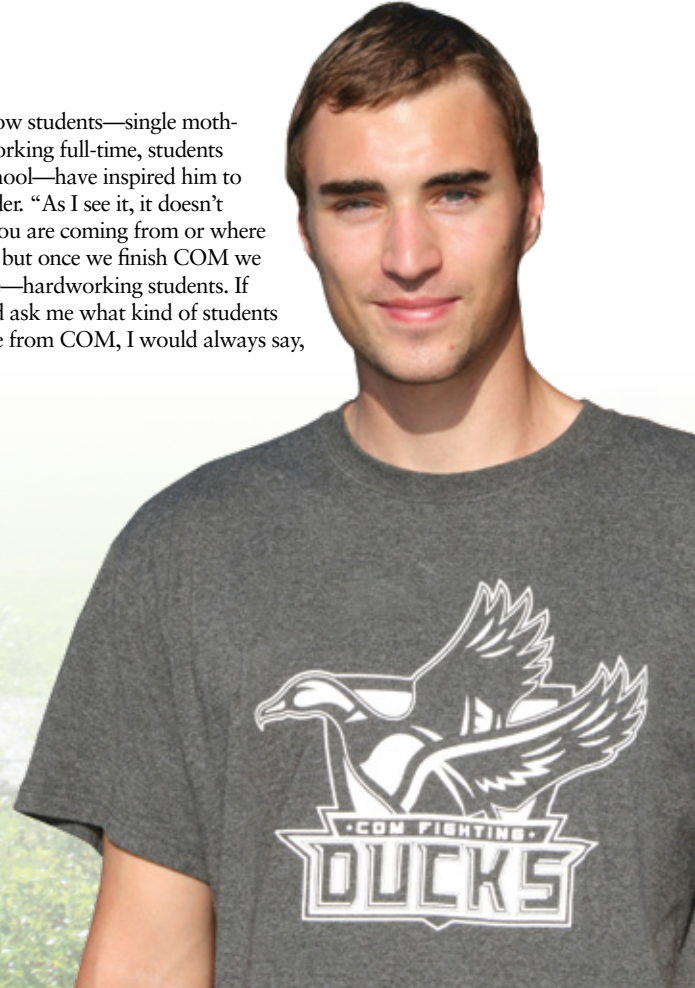
While he was becoming interested in the sciences, he was also hard at work at the COM gym as a student worker and athlete. Damrath described his job at the gym as “different every day.” He worked as a lifeguard, with the COMBAT triathlon, at the front desk and with the after-school program Kids in Danger. “That experience was just so valuable. I wouldn’t trade it for anything...I was really a gym rat. The more time I spent there, the more I learned about physical education.”

Fueled by his newfound love of the sciences and enthusiasm for his job at the COM gym, he plans to pursue physical therapy as a career.

Damrath said the best part of his time at COM was “finding out what I really want to have as a career. I’m sure not another place could offer me that. I was able to get a job here right away, and it was actually something that I really wanted.”

He earned both an associate of science and an associate of arts degree at COM with highest honors and plans to transfer to UHCL.

He said his fellow students—single mothers, students working full-time, students returning to school—have inspired him to work even harder. “As I see it, it doesn’t matter where you are coming from or where you have been, but once we finish COM we are all the same—hardworking students. If someone would ask me what kind of students would graduate from COM, I would always say, ‘Underdogs!’”



STUDENTSPOTLIGHT

Transferring for success

The first in his family to graduate from college, Warren Marsh II, likes a challenge. “He’s worked two jobs, off campus and on campus, while completing his degree,” said Tamara Hoodye, director of Student Support Services.

A transfer student from Texas Southern University, Marsh came to COM to be closer to home. With all his credits transferring, he earned his associate degree after a year and a half at COM.

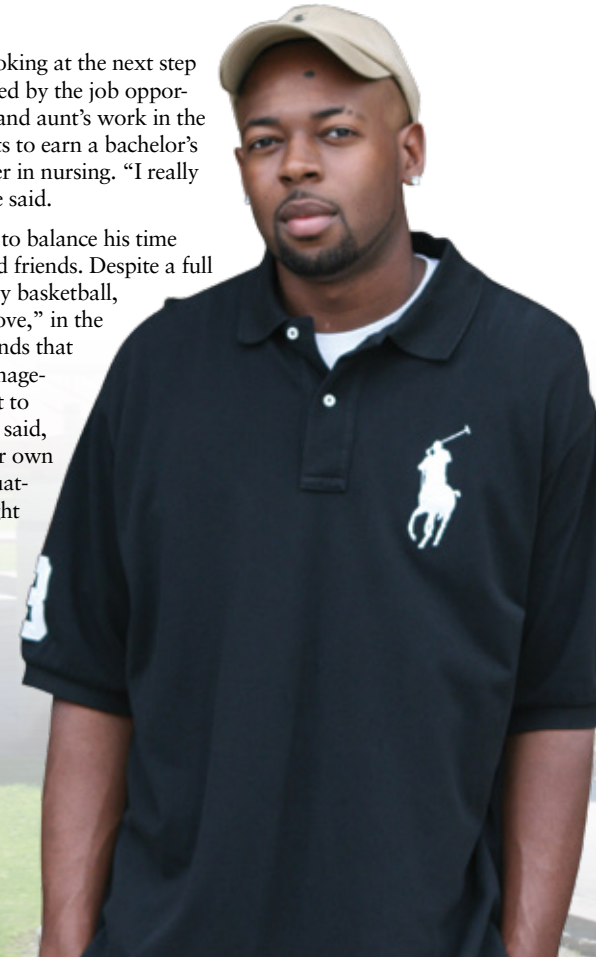
But it was a busy three semesters for Marsh. “He came in, hit the ground running. He worked hard,” said Hoodye. She described him as a role model for many students who often found him at a computer studying. “A lot of my other male students were looking up to him to see him going to class, concerned about grades.”

Marsh said that COM advisors with TRIO, a federally-funded program for first-generation students, assisted him as he worked on his degree. “They do whatever it takes to help you out. They help you with books and advising. They let you know what scholarships are available,” he said. Marsh received a Pell grant for his education. “He really just needed a lot of encouragement and guidance, and that’s what we gave him,” said Hoodye.

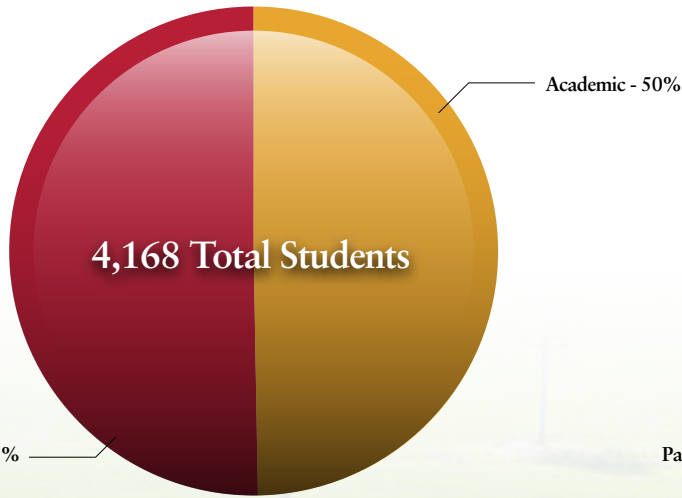
With the encouragement he has received, Marsh is now encouraging others. He wants to inspire his siblings by “trying to be the example.” One of his brothers is at University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio. His younger brother has a full scholarship to McNeese State University for football. “I’m trying to motivate both of my brothers to do what they need to do, stay focused,” he said.

Since graduating, he is looking at the next step in his education. Motivated by the job opportunities and his mother’s and aunt’s work in the medical industry, he wants to earn a bachelor’s degree and pursue a career in nursing. “I really want to do radiology,” he said.

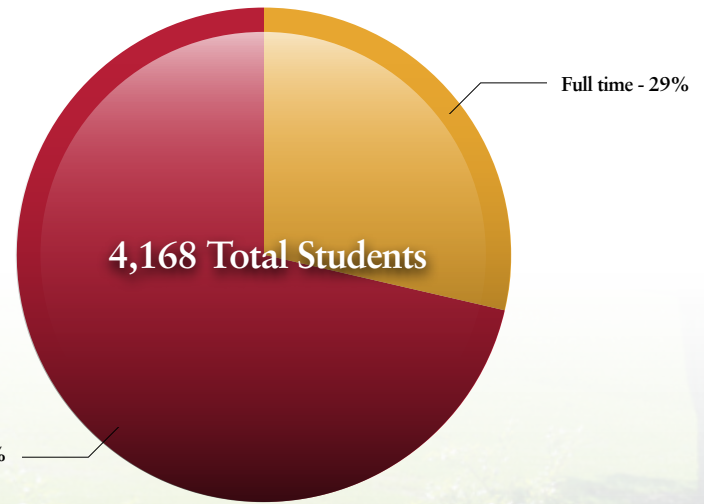
At COM, Marsh learned to balance his time between school, work and friends. Despite a full load, he made time to play basketball, which he calls “my first love,” in the COM Gym. He understands that learning life and time management skills was important to his success. At college, he said, “You’ve got to make your own decisions. Since I’m graduating, I guess I made the right choices.”



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

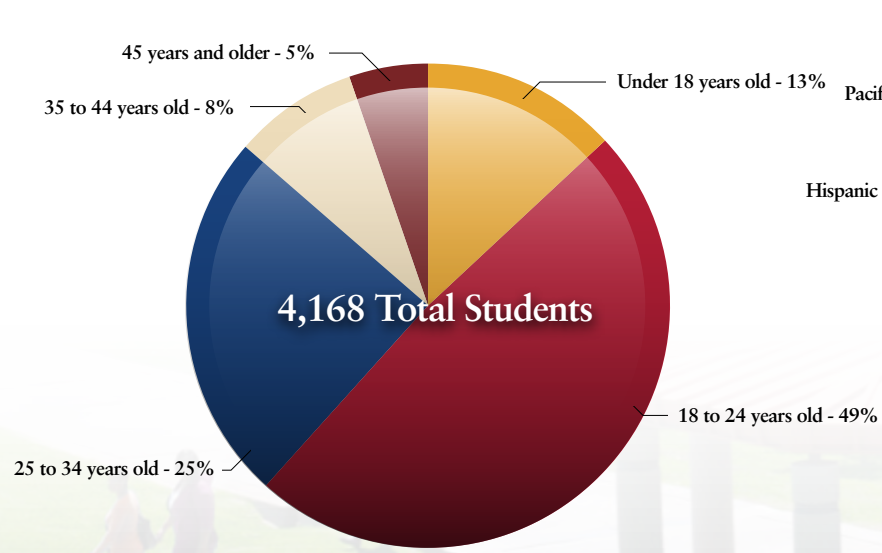


Academic vs. workforce enrollment

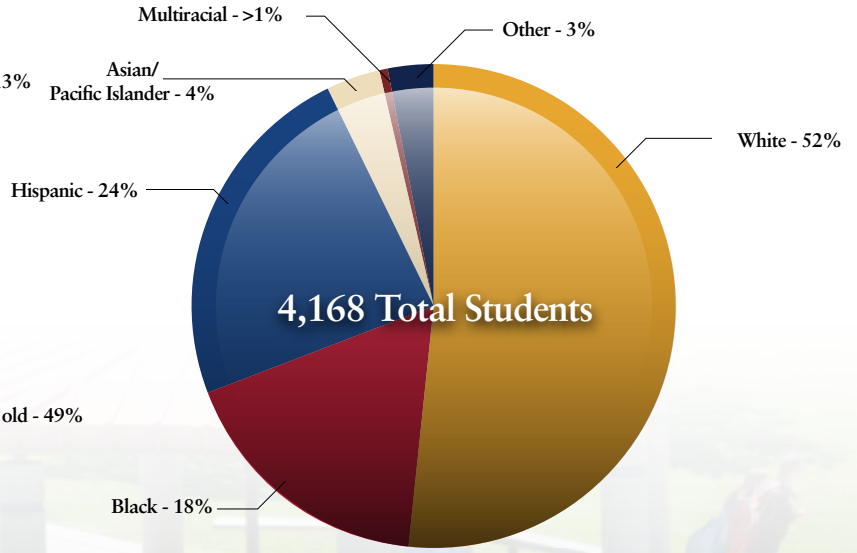


Full-time vs. Part-time enrollment

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



Age

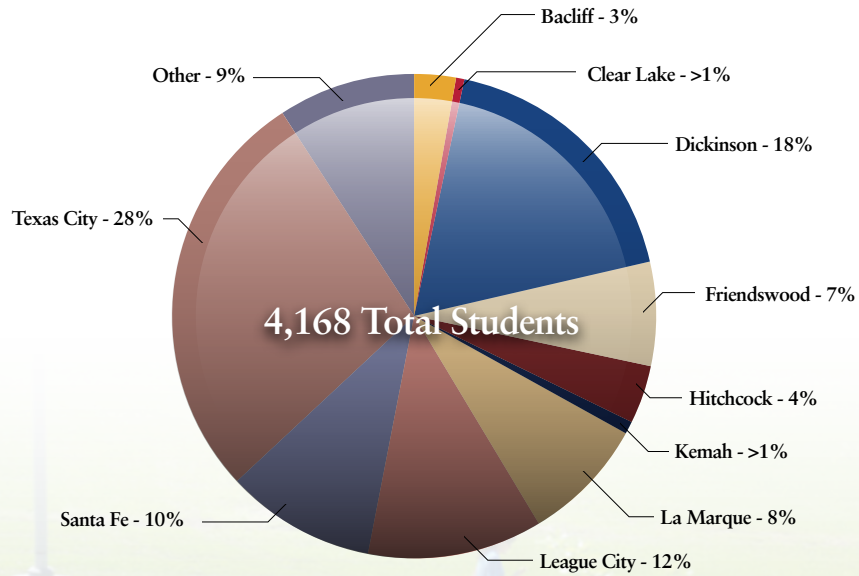


Ethnicity



Gender

30



Geographical student enrollment

STUDENTSPOTLIGHT

Whether overseas or home, seeking to serve

After an almost four-year break from college to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps, Santiago Guerrero, 24, came back to COM with a new goal. A general studies student previously, he now—just as he was in the military—is focused on public service. He graduated from COM's Police Academy and plans to become a police officer.

After graduating from Texas City High School in 2007, Guerrero took general studies courses at COM in Spring 2008.

He decided to join the Marines so he could serve his country and travel.

"I had a little bit of fight in me," said Guerrero. "It was a good opportunity, a nice challenge."

Stationed in Okinawa, Japan, for most of his service, Guerrero also served in Afghanistan and Thailand but was not engaged in direct combat.

Honorably discharged on December 18, he enrolled at COM to pursue another career that serves the public.

He credits the military with preparing him for college. "I feel like I'm more responsible and I know what needs to be done," he said.

The military also gave him a passion for service. "I already fought for my country. Why should I not fight for my community?" Guerrero said. "I want to do anything that I can to make it more secure at home."

Another way he gives back is through participating in the COM Veterans Club, an organization that helps veterans ease back into civilian life.

Members help each other by sharing their own struggles and solutions. "You have a problem that someone else (had), and they will help," Guerrero said.





College of *the Mainland*

Education *for Everyone*

Accreditation

College of the Mainland is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees and certificates. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of College of the Mainland. The Commission is to be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support the institution's significant noncompliance with a requirement or standard.

Title IX Nondiscrimination Statement

College of the Mainland does not discriminate in its education programs and activities on the basis of sex. Inquires concerning the application of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, may be referred to the College's Title IX Coordinator or the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. The College District designates the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments: Lonica Bush, Director of Diversity and Equity and In-House Council, E-mail: lbush@com.edu, Address: 1200 Amburn Road, Texas City, TX 77591, Telephone: 409-933-8413.