

Right **Now**

SPRING 2022 ISSUE



From Strangers to Business Partners

How a Chance Encounter at ACC Changed Two Lives Forever

INSIDE

Evan Geiger realizes dream to become a **Sports Broadcaster**

Get a free **Health Screening** to help with early detection

Two **New Programs** lead to high-paying, in demand careers

MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

FROM **BOBBY** TO **DR. ROBERT J. EXLEY**, ACC PRESIDENT

An Unlikely Story



As the seventh president of Alvin Community College, I am a most improbable success story. And, it is all due to this most amazing of institutions – the American community college.

Nowhere else in the world will you find institutions like our community colleges, and nowhere else will you find so many amazing success stories. Stories just like mine.

As the third child in a family of six (mom, dad, two older brothers and a younger sister) from extremely modest means, the idea of attending college never crossed my mind when I was growing up. College was for other families who could

afford it. I did successfully complete high school and secured a good job working in a petrochemical plant as an operator. My future was set, or so I thought. But after five years of shift-work and at the urging of a close friend and bible study teacher (who just happened to be a full-time Psychology instructor at our local community college) I enrolled at San Jacinto College, and much to my own surprise I excelled at academics.

On the college campus I found amazing faculty and staff who supported me, challenged me, and guided me to the completion of my Associate's Degree. From there I completed my Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. I eventually completed my doctoral studies at The University of Texas at Austin. This May marks the thirtieth anniversary of my graduation with the Ph.D. The journey since May of 1992 has been wonderful and adventuresome, going from community colleges in Miami, Florida to Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Champaign, Illinois to Boaz, Alabama and finally back home to Texas and Alvin Community College.

I was always known as 'Bobby' to my friends, my parents, my parents' friends, and others. I still hear long-time friends,

as they shake their heads in wonder, ask, "How is it that Bobby is now Dr. Exley, President?"

Two words explain – community college!

I am forever grateful for how the community college permanently changed the trajectory of my life. Now, my life-calling is to lead Alvin Community College as we continue the same amazing work for other Bobbies throughout our community.

It is an astounding and transformational journey – this evolution of Bobby to Dr. Exley, President.

I invite you to become part of the ACC family and experience your own transformational journey. As you do so, you will be surprised at just how much you are capable of accomplishing in life.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Exley, Ph.D.
President

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IN THIS ISSUE



4 **FEATURE STORY**
Kellie Moeller's Incredible Journey from High School Dropout to Private Home Birth Business Owner



6 ACC's Newest Programs Can Lead to Well-Paying, Exciting Career Opportunities

10 A Dream Realized: Evan Geiger's Road to Becoming a Sports Broadcaster

12 **COVER STORY**
From Friends to Business Partners: How a Chance Encounter at ACC Changed Two Lives Forever

15 Prevention is Better than Cure! A Free Health Screening Can Help with Early Detection

16 From High School Freshman to College Graduate: Alexis Harper Takes Full Advantage of Dual Enrollment Courses

19 Culinary Corner with ACC Chef Laura Trigo

20 ACC Instructor Connects with Ancestral Tradition and Earns Prestigious Art Fellowship

22 3 Simple Ways to Take Control of Your Life and Health

23 TDCJ Students Celebrate a Life-Changing Achievement: Graduation

24 The ACC Foundation Needs Your Support!



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Kellie Moeller's *Incredible Journey* from High School Dropout to Private Home Birth Business Owner

By Sammi Sanders

When Kellie Moeller dropped out of high school halfway through her sophomore year, she had no idea what her next step would be. Little did she know, she would go on to obtain her GED, graduate Alvin Community College's Nursing Program, join Baylor's Class of 1989, and ultimately open her own private home birth practice.

Growing up, Moeller dreamed of becoming an educator.

"I had a passion for anything pregnant," said Moeller. "I really thought I wanted to teach childbirth education classes." With that goal in mind, an eighteen-year-old Moeller contacted a local Lamaze instructor for advice on where to begin. Much to her surprise, the instructor suggested Moeller begin with nursing school.

"When I quit high school, I thought my life was over. College just wasn't going to happen for me," said Moeller. Having grown up in the area, Moeller was familiar with ACC.

"I checked in and found out I could get my GED," she said. Moeller obtained her GED, and immediately began taking nursing courses. In 1983, while five months pregnant with her third child, Moeller graduated from ACC's Associate Degree Nursing program and went straight to work at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Following the birth of her third child, Moeller stayed home to raise her family. When she decided to re-enter the nursing field, she worked at multiple Houston-area hospitals, gaining experience that would eventually lead to her dream job in labor and delivery.

"Many hospitals would not hire labor and delivery nurses without prior experience," said Moeller. "I worked in women's health departments until I was finally able to get into labor and delivery."

In 1985, Moeller was excited to finally receive the offer she had been waiting for.

"When I quit high school, I thought my life was over."

"I worked in Labor and Delivery until 1987 when I was told about the Baylor College of Medicine's Midwifery Program," said Moeller. Following graduation in 1989, Moeller worked as a midwife for Baylor at Jefferson Davis Hospital, and then LBJ Hospital.

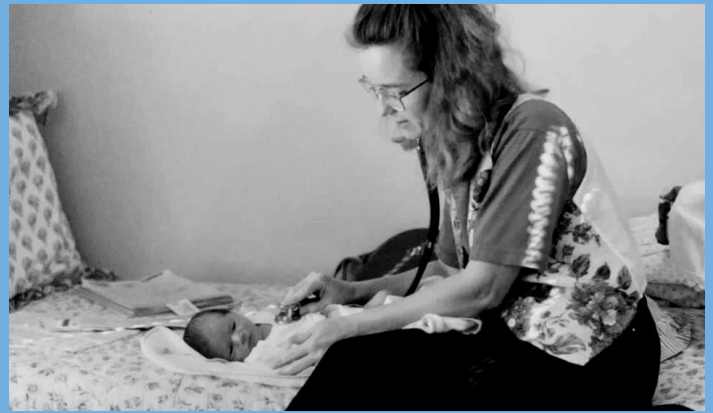
"I worked with Baylor until the summer of 1992 when I had my son," explained Moeller. "That's when I went to work for the home birth midwife who helped with my recent delivery."

Moeller worked as a midwife under Pat Jones' private practice, Women's Health and Birth Care until deciding to become a stay at home mother in 1997.

With her children all in school, Moeller returned to labor and delivery in 2001 at a Houston-area hospital. By 2006, she was expecting her first grandchild.

"When my daughter became pregnant I reached out to Pat hoping she could help me assist my daughter in a home birth," said Moeller. "She told me she was looking to retire and asked if I'd be interested in opening my own practice. I said yes, absolutely! At that point I jumped right in."

Since opening her private home birth practice, HomeBirth Experience, Inc., Moeller has "caught" well over 400 babies. "My role as a Certified Nurse Midwife is to support women's autonomy," said Moeller. "Women choose home birth because they want their wishes and views to be heard and honored."



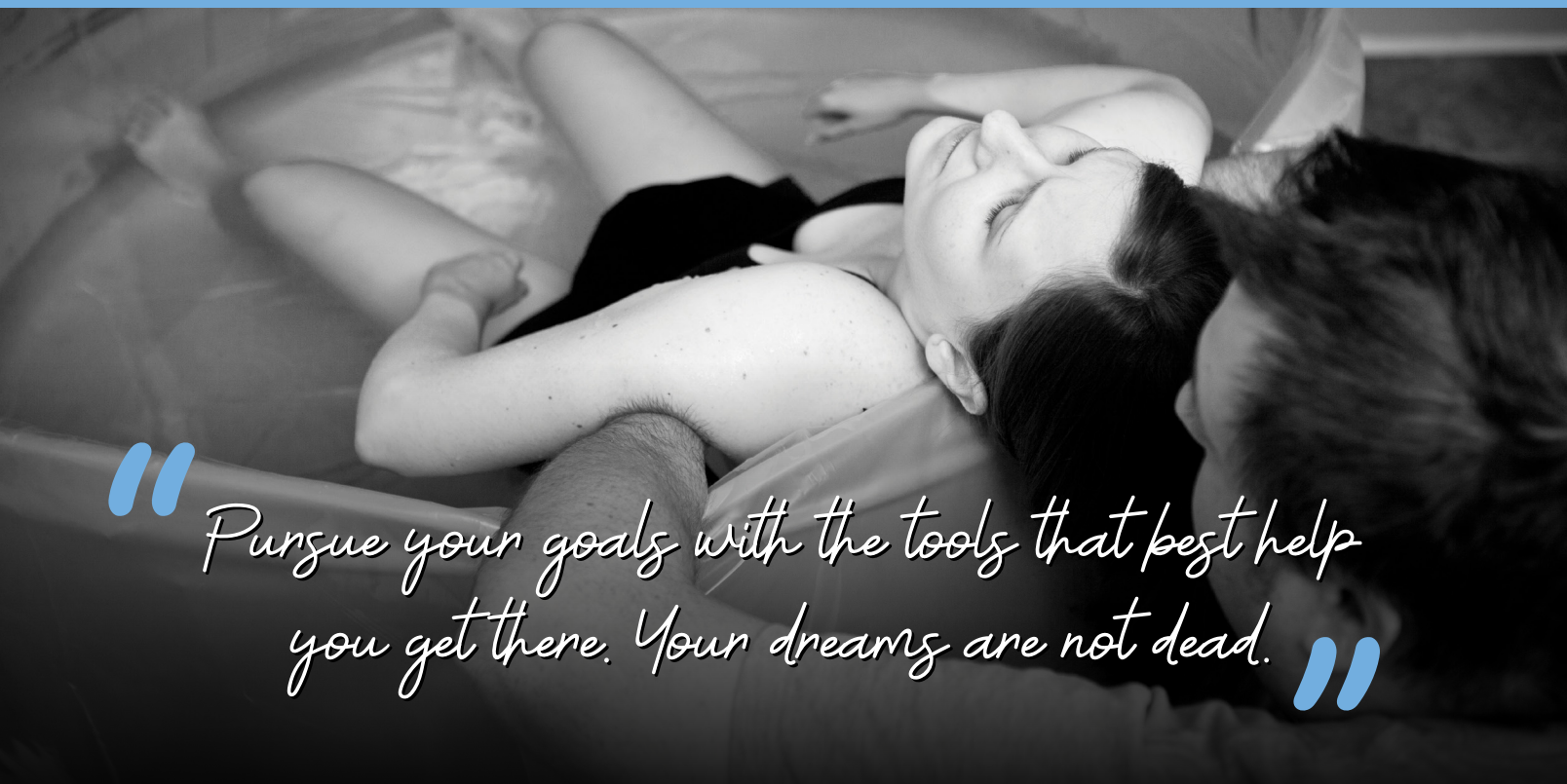
These mothers are making their own decisions. It's one of the biggest reasons women choose home birth."

Over the last thirteen years, Moeller was able to deliver most of her twelve grandchildren, which she describes as being the most exciting and memorable moments of her life.

Moeller's life experiences have given her a unique perspective that allows her to counsel young students who have also dropped out of school.

"Your life isn't over because you chose to stop going to school," she says. "It simply doesn't have to be the end." Her advice to those students is to consider what they are passionate about.

"What makes you excited?" she asks. "Start there. Then pursue your goals with the tools that best help you get there. Your dreams are not dead."



"Pursue your goals with the tools that best help you get there. Your dreams are not dead."

ACC's Newest Programs Can Lead to *Well-Paying,* Exciting Career Opportunities

By Sammi Sanders



Cybersecurity

ACC is excited to offer two new programs to prepare students for careers in fast-growing industries: Cybersecurity and Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management, both two year programs offering Associate of Applied Science degrees and certificates.

“As consumers, we’re wanting our products delivered to our doorstep overnight,” said Michael Fernandez, Instructor of Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management. “The entire process has to do with supply chain, distribution, and creating and maintaining systems to enable quick delivery.”

With the convenience of online shopping and overnight shipping, comes the risk of cyber-attacks.

“We’re spending more time online, putting more of our information online, and even conducting business online,” said Mikel Chamblee, Instructor of Cybersecurity. “Today, nearly everything has some sort of online component or interaction. Cybersecurity refers to the methods, efforts, and tools used to protect that digital data, as well as networks and devices.”

While these two industries differ greatly within their day-to-day duties, one thing is certain: career opportunities are growing rapidly.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, both the logistics and cybersecurity industries are projected to grow 33% by 2030, much faster than the average for other occupations.



Currently, logistics workers are making an average of **\$54** an hour, while cybersecurity professionals are making an average of **\$57** an hour.



Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management

“Many large companies are moving their businesses to Texas,” said Fernandez. “Large new warehouses being built in our area directly translate to huge employment opportunities for our graduates.”

Currently, logistics workers are making an average of \$54 an hour, while cybersecurity professionals are

making an average of \$57 an hour, according to Texas Wages and Employment Projections for the Texas Gulf Coast.

If you’re looking to start a new career in either Cybersecurity or Logistics, ACC can get you there.

Interested in more information?



Cybersecurity

- 🌐 www.alvincollege.edu/cybersecurity
- ✉ cybersecurityprogram@alvincollege.edu



Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management

- 🌐 www.alvincollege.edu/logistics-supply-chain
- ✉ logistics@alvincollege.edu

Enroll **Today!**

Cybersecurity is set to kick-off in fall 2022 and is currently accepting students.



Ally



“ I love the Criminal Justice staff! They do a fine job educating and leading me where I want to go. ”



“ The ACC culinary program has been amazing. Not only does it have a great curriculum and facility, it also has fantastic chefs who truly want the best for you and your education. ”



Oscar

WHY ACC?



“ I chose ACC because it's affordable and close to home. There are a variety of pathways students can choose from, and there's always something going on around campus. ”



Ian

“ My favorite thing about ACC is how helpful everyone is! ”



Emmanuella

“ ACC holds the students to the highest standard of excellence to ensure the students reach their full potential. I also love the intelligent, caring, and patient educators! ”



Analisa



Discover the *Many Benefits* of **Alvin Community College**

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can get *you* there.

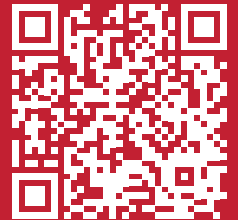
Register Now - *Classes begin soon!*

Summer II July 6

Fall 16-Week & Mini I August 22

Fall 12-Week September 21

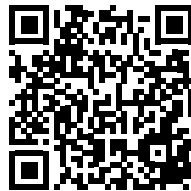
Fall Mini II October 17



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for a chance to

**win a
prize!**

Alvin Community College

PODCAST & RADIO SHOW



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and airs on 89.7 FM KACC twice a week.





A Dream Realized:

Evan Geiger's Road to Becoming a Sports Broadcaster

By John Tompkins

Ever since he was a teenager, Evan Geiger knew. Whether it was in front of a camera or behind a microphone, Geiger wanted to talk about sports.

Baseball, basketball, football - it didn't matter to the Alvin Community College Communications student.

"I've always been into sports. I've always known I wanted to work in sports," said Geiger, of Rosharon. "When you see a game's winning touchdown or the walk-off home run, electricity just courses through your veins."

Finding a passion for a career has been an important goal for Geiger.

"My father told me to do something you love," he said. "Your life will be a lot easier."

Geiger enrolled in ACC's Communications program at the onset of the COVID pandemic. While it has been difficult to move forward with his education, Geiger hasn't let it stop him.

"Evan is a highly focused individual, the type of student every educator wishes for," said Jason Nichols, ACC Communications Chair. "He knows what he wants to do for a career and he is on the path to get there."

Geiger says his love for sports broadcasting differs

from most fans. He watches every game and pays close attention to the style of the commentators.

“I watch it in a different way than other people,” Geiger said. “That’s just how I’ve always been.”

sports. Geiger said the experience has been enjoyable and has helped him find his broadcasting voice.

“Now I broadcast whole games by myself,” he said. “It just kind of happened, and it worked. It was amazing!”

“There’s so much good in sports... leadership, character. A lot of this stuff translates into the real world.”

Hoping to learn more about broadcasting, Geiger volunteered to participate in the KACC 89.7 FM broadcast of Alvin ISD football games. He eventually started keeping statistics at the games and then began to speak about the stats during the broadcasts.

“By the fifth week, I was the third color commentator for the games,” he said.

Recently Geiger was hired by Texas Sports Radio Network, a radio and television network dedicated to regional

Geiger is close to finishing his education at ACC and plans to transfer to the University of Houston to earn a Bachelor’s degree. Hopefully, just like at ACC, he’ll get an opportunity to be behind the mic at Cougar sporting events.

“I know the students can get involved,” he said. “I hope through that process I can diversify my experiences. I want to learn as much as I can so I can always have a job in the field.”

There are many life lessons and values that fans can learn in the world of sports. Geiger hopes he can highlight those aspects in his commentary.

“There’s so much good in sports,” he said. “There’s so much passion. There are so many good things that come from it; leadership, character. A lot of this stuff translates into the real world.”

To hear more about Geiger’s story, you can listen to the ACC podcast available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Amazon, Spotify and YouTube.



To learn more about our Communications program:




🌐 www.alvincollege.edu/communications
✉ radiotv@alvincollege.edu

From **Friends** to **Business Partners**

How a Chance Encounter at ACC

*Changed Two
Lives Forever*

By John Tompkins

A photograph of two women, Zoe Trang Ulrickson and Samantha Maddox, smiling and wearing red blouses. They are standing in front of a white wall with framed pictures. Zoe is on the left, and Samantha is on the right.

Zoe Trang Ulrickson

Samantha Maddox

It all started with a missing textbook and spilled apple juice during a class at Alvin Community College. This chance encounter eventually blossomed into a friendship and later a business partnership.

When Samantha Maddox showed up to her paralegal class without her book one day in 2016, she asked to look on with classmate Zoe Trang Ulrickson. Later, Ulrickson accidentally spilled apple juice all over the book and their work and went into a panic. Maddox sprung into “Mom-mode” and cleaned it up quickly.

“Luckily for me, that little incident didn’t hinder her from wanting to work with me again,” Ulrickson said. “She ended up sitting next to me for the rest of the semester. After that, we took every class together and have been actual best friends ever since. Our friendship changed my life, and I don’t think I would be the person I am today without her.”

“We bonded over food and our love for our paralegal professor,” Maddox said. “I consider Zoe an extension of my family, and my children love her.”

As their friendship grew, Ulrickson and Maddox decided to go into business together. They opened their boutique ZOMADD in downtown Alvin in August, 2021. The store features contemporary women’s clothing, shoes and accessories.

Their journey from friends to business partners started with a personal discovery, they said.

“Zoe and I got bored during the pandemic around October 2020 and started shopping at all the local boutiques as a way to just get out of the house,” Maddox said. “It became sort of a hobby, and we would take weekend trips boutique-ing.”

Making all of those trips inspired them, and they felt that the Alvin community could benefit from the same type of business.

“We’d often talk about how cool it would be to have our own boutique,” Ulrickson said. “Honestly, I think at first it was more of a joke than anything.”

“The knowledge and skills I gained from my time at ACC allowed me to advance in both life and career settings.”

But as they joked about starting a business, there was always a hint of realism to their discussion.

“We saw a need in Alvin for something like ZOMADD,” Ulrickson said.

Their original vision was to open an online shop to offer their boutique products, but they found a space in downtown Alvin on Gordon Street and fell in love with it.

“Alvin has been the core of our friendship, Samantha’s life, and realistically, it was a no brainer,” Ulrickson said. “We went from planning to have an online store, to signing a lease on a storefront in just ten short days. We had absolutely nothing besides a building and a dream. We quickly hit the ground running.”

While their friendship led them to become entrepreneurs, their educational paths diverged. Maddox finished her Associate’s Degree in Paralegal Studies and now works as a paralegal for the City of Alvin. Ulrickson is pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Relations with a minor in Marketing.

ACC helped Maddox get into the workforce which helped pave the way for starting her own business, she said.

“The knowledge and skills I gained from my time at ACC allowed me to advance in both life and career

settings,” Maddox said. “ACC also built the foundation of my friendship with Zoe, which ultimately lead to the creation of ZOMADD.”

Ulrickson said attending ACC was her first positive experience with higher education, and it gave her the confidence to pursue a degree and start her business.

“In all honesty, I didn’t believe I had what it would take to obtain a higher level of education beyond an Associate’s degree, let alone be successful at anything,” she said. “After two years at ACC, I realized that I was capable of so much more than I had previously believed and decided to pursue a higher level of education. From then on, I have always pushed myself to be better and to do better, even when the feat seems tough.”



High School Freshman to College Graduate:

Alexis Harper Takes Full Advantage of Dual Enrollment Courses

By John Tompkins



When Alexis Harper started taking classes at Danbury High School, she was already wondering if she was cut out for college, so, she decided to find out.

Harper enrolled at ACC through the Dual Enrollment program.

"I started taking college classes my freshman year," she said. "Then I continued to take Dual Enrollment classes throughout high school."

In May, she received her Associate's Degree before she even receives her high school diploma.

"I feel more prepared for a university after experiencing college in high school," Harper said.

Harper was highly motivated to complete her education. Student motivation is pivotal to finishing the Dual Degree program, said Sharmeal Archie, ACC Dual Enrollment Advisor.

"It has been a pleasure working with Alexis," Archie said. "She is a great student, very ambitious and mature for her age."

Most Dual Degree students begin their journey as freshmen, taking classes on their high school campus, at ACC and online. Advisors say it takes a lot of work and the students have to stay on task.

"Alexis takes full advantage of her opportunities and is very goal-oriented," Archie said. "Her drive will take her very far in life."

Harper's mother Annie Sralla said her daughter had been planning to take Dual Enrollment courses since seventh grade.

"She has always been a very disciplined student and held herself to high standards,

so I was not surprised by her desire to get a head start on college," Sralla said. "I knew that she would be mature enough in ninth grade to be successful and be able to handle the extra responsibility the classes would require."

Sralla said she could not be more proud of her daughter earning a college degree at the same time she's finishing high school.

"It was difficult at times, and she had to make some sacrifices," Sralla said. "She spent late nights doing homework after getting back from extracurricular activities, taking her computer on school trips to not miss deadlines, having to complete assignments while at church camp or spring break and using the summers to take classes she could not fit into her schedule during the school year. Ultimately her drive and determination have paid off."

Participating in the program requires the completion of 60 hours of college coursework throughout the students' time in high school.

The program is also helpful for parents and students looking to save money. The cost of two years of Dual Enrollment is much less than two years at a university.

"There is a significant financial benefit to taking Dual Enrollment classes," Sralla said. "The cost per semester hour was nearly half of what it would have been if she would have taken these classes after high school."

While the program helped Harper earn an Associate's Degree, she also gained important skills that will prove invaluable as she pursues her education further.

"The highlight of my Dual Enrollment experience has been not only learning the material from my classes, but also learning how to study independently, how to use technology to my advantage, and how to make the most out of my time," she said. "My persistence and ability to manage my time has led to me successfully completing college credit. I have made studying a priority and trained myself to do my best work 100 percent of the time."



“Whether you take two classes or 10, college credit in high school is an important step toward your future.”



Harper also enjoyed connecting to her professors throughout her time in school because it helped provide direction for her education.

“The biggest benefit of being a Dual Enrollment student has been that I have experienced higher level education in high school. That has given me an advantage in high school level courses, and I have

acquired connections to professors who have given me recommendations to universities for my performance in class.”

Harper plans to attend Texas A&M University where she will continue her education in Neuroscience.

Harper said that high school students should consider the Dual Enrollment

program because it provides so many benefits and opportunities.

“I would recommend for every student to take a Dual Enrollment course and decide whether it is something they would like to continue,” she said. “Whether you take two classes or 10, college credit in high school is an important step toward your future.”

Why Dual Enrollment?

Save Money – Students that take Dual Enrollment courses on their high school campus **save up to 75% in tuition.**

Save Time – Earn high school credit and college credit for the same course!

Fulfill Requirements – Satisfy requirements for the Texas High School Distinguished Achievement Plan.


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Gulf Blue Crab & Avocado Dome Salad



CULINARY CORNER

By Chef Laura Trigo | Instructor, Culinary Arts

Recipe

- 2 large egg yolks
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 grates lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, grated
- 1/8 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1 tablespoon chives, chopped
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 cup lump blue crab meat
- 4 avocados pureed with 1 tbsp lime juice (pressed into a mini dome shaped silicone mold and frozen)
- 1/4 cup toasted Texas pecans (for garnish)
- 1/4 cup fried rice noodles (for garnish)
- 4 teaspoons chutney flavor of choice (Bing cherry chutney featured in photos)
- Sprinkle of fresh rosemary (garnish)
- 1 slice of grilled tomato (base)

Directions

Puree avocados and lime. Smooth into a silicone mini dome mold and freeze (20 minutes or until firm). Mix the first nine ingredients in a blender to create an aioli. Fold the crab meat into the aioli. Pop out the avocado domes, then fill with aioli and crab salad. Smear the chutney flavor of choice onto the plate, then in the opposite direction smear some of the aioli. Lay the grilled tomato centered between the smears. Lay the crab filled dome down on the tomato. Sprinkle with Texas pecans and fried rice noodles, and finish with fresh rosemary garnish.

ACC Instructor

Connects

with Ancestral Tradition and Earns

Prestigious

Art Fellowship



By John Tompkins

When it comes to crafting his art, ACC instructor Alex Ordóñez likes to focus on something that isn't always available to the viewer: perspective.

Ordóñez's work involves creating objects with native cultural symbols on a cube so that only part of it can be seen when viewed from certain angles. This also prevents a viewer from seeing all of the object at the same time.

Ordóñez was recently awarded an *Equity in the Arts Fellowship* from the Talley Dunn Gallery in Dallas.

"That was something really incredible," he said. "Most of the time I am working on my lessons, so I have a limited time to work on my art. Having the opportunity for somebody to recognize and notice the value of my art, that really impacts the way I feel about my art. The feedback is super positive. That makes me extremely excited."

The year-long fellowship is an instructional and professional development program for emerging Indigenous artists and artists of color. The fellowship also provides mentorship and resources for the artists to

pursue their work and learn about the inner workings of the art world.

"Much of his work is concerned with the ways Western social sciences flatten and otherize Indigenous cultures by employing culturally biased research methods," the gallery states about Ordóñez's work.

Ordóñez feels the fellowship is an important opportunity because it recognizes emerging artists while giving them an opportunity to exhibit their work.

"The idea is helping to understand the mechanics of working in a gallery," he said.

The fellowship will also provide guidance on presenting works of art, including transporting projects, setting up exhibits and connecting with other galleries.

"We will also address how to identify galleries who work together and have the same style and concept of the artist," Ordóñez said.

Ordóñez is a native of Ecuador and began taking classes in English and Art at ACC in 2006.

"It has been a journey," he said. "I have been working with clay all this time. My art, at this point of my career is kind of conceptual, but also involves a lot of connection with my ancestral tradition. The cultural issues and elements of the society are a strong part of my art and the images I impose."

His inspiration for art stems from his background as a sociologist as well as cultural elements of his native Ecuador. During his education as a sociologist, Ordóñez said he noticed there was a prejudiced, Eurocentric perspective into how other cultures are understood.

He infused his view into a work series he calls Cultural Epistemology.

"I was trying to make a social commentary because when you're around anthropology you learn all of these different systems and ways to understand and make interpretation of different cultures," Ordóñez said. "There are a lot of elements that are outside the understanding of scientists because of the nature of how this science was created with a Eurocentric perspective. So I decided to create a metaphor of that in an image."

In each of his ceramic cube works, he incorporates Native American designs.

"Once people understand the logic of why those elements were created, they enjoy the history behind it," Ordóñez said. "The important message here is the fact that the signs are used in a way they were not intended originally. They have lost all the connection with the original meaning of the symbol. Now they are just put on a cube which we are trying to understand."



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3 Simple Ways to Take Control of Your Life and Health

By Dr. Stacy Ebert | Interim Vice President of Instruction

Life has been a bit unpredictable lately, which can trigger anxiety and fear of losing control. Like it or not, you can't predict the future, but you can influence the outcomes by controlling what is within your power. As Gandhi once said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." That change begins with YOU. Yes... YOU! Time to take control of your life. Self-empowerment will help calm the fear and anxiety, allowing you to live the quality life you deserve.

Now for the big question: HOW do I do that?

Answer: Work toward YOUR optimal health—not your mom's, or your friend's. We are all biochemically and emotionally individual, so be the best YOU and follow these simple guidelines:

#1 Exercise

Putting in the time and effort to exercise is something YOU control, and it serves as a reminder that YOU matter! Aside from the physical benefits of exercise, it also improves your mood and stress level. As soon as you start to move, your brain begins to release chemicals like serotonin, dopamine, norepinephrine, and acetylcholine, that help reduce feelings of stress and anxiety. The American Academy of Sports Medicine and the CDC recommend 150 minutes of moderate intensity aerobic activity per week, such as brisk walking, with additional full body muscle strengthening at least twice a week. Start by setting small obtainable goals, like 10 minutes of exercise per day, increasing duration by 5 minutes each week.

#2 Eat Well

A common question is "What supplements should I take?" Do not focus on

supplements, unless you have a diagnosed deficiency. Take a look at your current diet and ask yourself "Am I eating enough fruits and veggies?" If not, then you need to modify your food choices. According to the CDC, "depending on their age and sex, federal guidelines recommend that adults eat at least 1½ to 2 cups per day of fruits and 2 to 3 cups per day of vegetables as part of a healthy eating pattern." Fruits and vegetables are packed full of essential nutrients that help maintain your optimal health. The food you put in your body is controlled by YOU! Make good choices!

#3 Choose Happy

YOU choose your mood. People, situations, or events may trigger emotions such as anger or sadness, but ultimately YOU choose how you react and what your mood is each day. When you wake up in the morning, choose happiness. The same stress lowering chemicals our body releases when you exercise are also released when you smile. Studies show that chemicals like dopamine, serotonin, and endorphins are released even if you force a smile... so choose to smile! Do not let things you cannot change control YOU. Remember the saying, "misery loves company"? Don't fall victim...choose to smile at misery. Your mood and state of happiness is controlled by YOU!

When life feels like it is spiraling out of control, STOP! Take a deep breath...the breath that YOU control. Take charge of your thoughts and actions, so you can achieve the outcome you desire. YOU control your destiny.

Cheers to health, happiness, and a sense of empowerment! Enjoy the new you!



TDCJ Students Celebrate a Life-Changing Achievement:

Graduation

By John Tompkins

When someone is serving time as an inmate, they often come to accept their condition and their circumstances, Albert Yancey said. "It's easy to get caught up in the everyday movements of prison. You get comfortable with the slamming of iron gates. You get comfortable with lockdowns."

As Yancey gave the Commencement address for Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) graduates during the ceremony on April 9 he further stated, "But earning an education can help inmates change their focus and look forward to an improved life."

"You sacrificed your time, your energy and your focus to get this degree," Yancey told them. "The diploma you received, it reminds you of what you can put your mind to and accomplish. Whatever you put your mind to, you can do it."

Fifteen graduates were honored with their Associate's Degree from Alvin Community College after several years of remaining dedicated to their education despite difficult circumstances. Several inmates also received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

TDCJ studies have shown that the rate of recidivism, or chance of returning to prison, greatly declines as an offender's educational level increases. Offenders, on average, have less than a seventh-grade education.

"Today, be proud of the man you've become," said UHCL graduate Will Moseley during his Commencement address. "Today, you have secured your future."

ACC offered the first college classes to inmates at the Texas Department of Corrections in 1965. ACC was also the first institution of higher education in Texas to offer college programs at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. In 2016, ACC was one of 67 colleges throughout the United States to be chosen to participate in the Second Chance Pell program, which provides grants to student inmates.

Recently, ACC received approval to begin offering two new degrees and certificates through its Welding and Automotive Technology programs. Inmates at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Jester 3 unit will soon be able to work towards an Associate of Applied Science degree and a Level 2 Certificate for Automotive Technology. ACC will also begin offering an Associate of Applied Science and a Level 2 certificate in Welding.

Prior to enrolling in college while in prison, each inmate must first earn their high school diploma or GED, and pass all the same entrance tests required for every college student.

Yancey graduated from ACC while in TDCJ and has since been released. He started his own business and oversees a ministry to help at-risk youth.

"Earning an education is an important step in building their lives and no student should stop learning once they graduate," Yancey said.

"True vision is what you see for your life and your future in the darkest moment," he told the graduates. "You must learn how to fail and win at the same time. No longer should you say 'I can't' because it's been proven in adverse circumstances that you can."

The Alvin Community College Foundation

Needs Your Support

For more than 50 years the Alvin Community College Foundation has supported the mission of the college by providing student scholarships, support for innovative programs and recognizing staff excellence.

Every year the ACC Foundation hosts events, such as the Gala, to help raise donations for student scholarships. In 2022, the Foundation issued more than \$100,000 in scholarships to students at local high schools with Alvin, Pearland and Danbury ISDs as well as ACC students.

The Foundation also presented approximately \$30,000 in grants and awards for faculty staff.

A portion was awarded through the Innovative Initiative grant for programs such as a biodiversity project, incubators for Allied Health programs, equipment upgrades for the Music Department, support for students in TDCJ and much more.

Also the Foundation created a \$10,000 endowment for a scholarship program to benefit students in ACC Dual Enrollment courses.

The Foundation presented the Foundation Excellence Awards which recognize college faculty and staff






members. Winners this year were Marketing Director Lorrent Smith, Executive Administrative Assistant for Student Services Carolyn McCollum and Biology faculty Dr. Nancy Fitzgerald. Each received \$1,000.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization. Its mission is to provide opportunities for students, faculty and the college.

The organization can assist in the creation of endowment in memory or honor, establishing a scholarship program, planned giving, fundraisers and more.

To learn more or help the Foundation continue its mission through a donation, contact us:



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Join us for our 23rd Annual Foundation Gala

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Friday, November 11, 2022
 South Shore Harbour
 2500 South Shore Boulevard
 League City, Texas

6:00pm | Social Hour
 7:00pm | Dinner & Dancing



FOUNDATION

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SUMMER CAMP

July 18 & 19

10:00am - 2:00pm

FREE registration: open to all ACC undeclared majors considering the Business Management degree, to 2022/2023 in-coming undeclared or Business Management declared high school seniors. **9th-11th grade high school students** with a business management interest will also be considered.

Space is limited to the first 25 qualified applications.

Scan to Register



THE 37TH ANNUAL

Summer Children's Theatre Festival

THE ADVENTURES OF PETER COTTONTAIL

by Thornton W. Burgess, dramatized by R. Eugene Jackson

June 20-23 • 10:00am | June 23 • 7:30pm

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

adapted by William Glennon

July 25-28 • 10:00am | July 28 • 7:30pm



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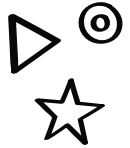
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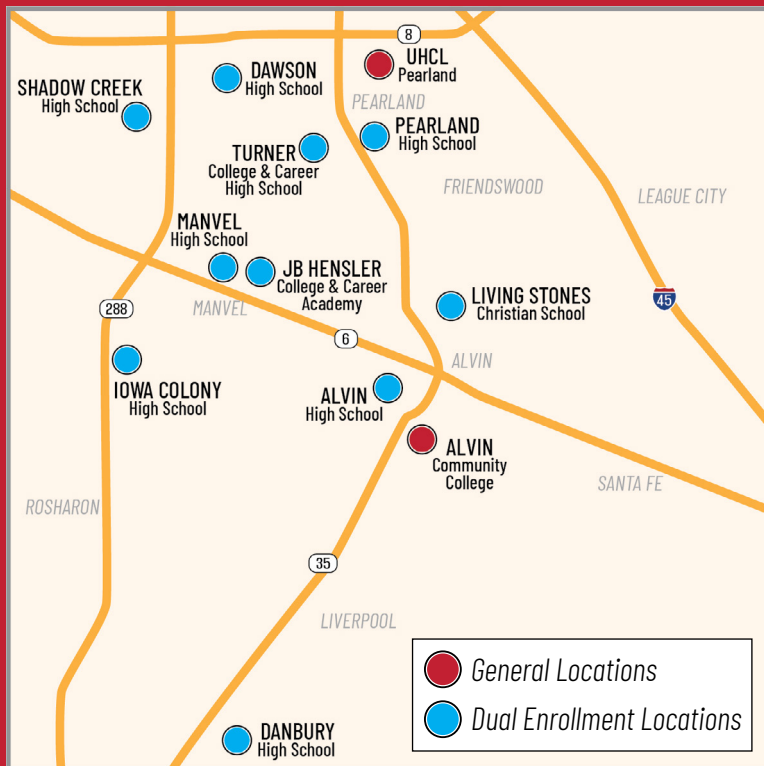
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