

# Right **Now**

SPRING/SUMMER 2023 ISSUE

Drama's Open  
Door Allows  
**Students to  
Flourish**

**ACC**  
ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STRIVE Helps Students with Disabilities  
**Maintain Their Stride**

Dreams of Improving the Childbirth Experience  
Fueled this **Dual Enrollment Graduate**

Paralegals and the Start of **Something Big**

# MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

# FULFILL YOUR DREAMS

AT ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



"I will be able to buy my own boat!"

"I will become a graphic design/communications expert."

"I will become a Nurse Practitioner one day."

"I plan on completing law school."

"I will become a pediatrician."

As we listen to our students express their dreams, we are again reminded of the incredible wealth of opportunities that Alvin Community College provides for our community. The statements above are just examples of what is possible. We have a wide range of programs to prepare you for the workforce upon completion of a two-year degree or certificate, or to transfer to a university and complete your bachelor's and graduate degrees.

"I will be able to buy my own boat!" stated one recent Process Technology graduate as she

prepares to enter the world of Petrochemical employment earning a significant salary. She loves to fish and has dreamed of having her own boat so that she can enjoy her hobby.

In today's world, a career in communications and graphic design provides multiple opportunities for a successful and rewarding career. Yes, you will find exceptional programs of study ranging from our Law Enforcement Academy to multiple Healthcare programs to Cybersecurity to Business degrees to STEM programs to ... The list is extensive and I encourage you to become a member of the ACC Family by enrolling here with us.

You will find an environment that encourages and supports your dreams. You will find a place where you belong, a place characterized by our belief in you and your dreams. And, you will find an environment rich with the complete college experience. An experience that includes rich

opportunities for student involvement in various organizations, athletics (including Esports), the Arts (performing and visual), and direct connections to caring, compassionate, and positive people.

Check us out. ACC is the place for you!

Fins Up!

Sincerely,

Robert J. Exley, Ph.D.  
President

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# Right **Now**

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# FUN AND HARD WORK ARE PAYING OFF FOR THE LADY DOLPHINS

*By Asia Daggs*

**A**CC Softball offers student athletes more than just the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level.

If you held a magnifying glass up to the program, you would find an exciting, education-focused, results-producing machine.

“The expectations are very high,” Head Coach Jerri Torres-Farmer said. “We have to set a team standard.”

The athletes are required to complete 8 hours of learning lab each week, participate in morning and afternoon workouts, pass monthly grade checks, and maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average. The coaches help prepare the players for life after community college by creating a mindset that includes both independence and responsibility.

“The majority of ACC students are local, while the athletes are usually away from home. You have to be self-sufficient,” Farmer said. “You have to learn how to prioritize.”

“When you are having fun, good things are going to happen.”

On top of academic and athletic goals, the Softball program stays very busy helping local charities. The team hosts a free Softball Sisters camp for all league players that has led to over 600 participants! They have also created a Christmas tradition of donating gifts to Kidz Harbor, a local foster home for children. They have donated more than 1,000 toys so far!

“I want them to be successful in life,” Coach said. “They know they are going to work hard, but we keep it fun. When you are having fun, good things are going to happen.”

“One of our main priorities is making sure that every student graduates from ACC,” Coach Torres-Farmer said. I have eight sophomores this year, and all eight will be graduating.”

Seven of those players have committed to four-year universities to further their collegiate careers, while the eighth has been accepted into a Sonography program to pursue her career goals.

While reflecting on the completion of another softball season, Coach Torres-Farmer exclaimed, “When I walk out of this door and I turn around and see my field, I think to myself, I cannot believe this is my job.”

## GRADUATING SOPHOMORES:

**Menina Cavazos**, *Huston-Tillotson, Softball & Graphic Design*

**Liberty Herrera**, *Academy of Art University, Softball & Fashion Design*

**Alexis Obregon**, *Huston-Tillotson University, Softball & Sociology*

**Alyssa Pena**, *Huston-Tillotson University, Softball & Sociology*

**Tavery Ortiz**, *Texas Lutheran University, Softball & Nursing*

**Zoyie Smith**, *Louisiana Christian University, Softball & Criminal Justice*

**Kaleiah Tatlonghari**, *Louisiana Christian University, Softball & Nursing*

**Haily Villarreal**, *Lone Star College-Kingwood, Diagnostic Medical Sonography*



[athletics.alvincollege.edu/sports/sball](https://athletics.alvincollege.edu/sports/sball)



*“I can  
honestly  
say that  
I love  
my job.”*

# ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY STUDENT PERSEVERES THROUGH HEART CONDITION TO GRADUATE AND HELP OTHERS

*By John Tompkins*

**W**hen former ACC student Corley Hodde was a teenager, he suddenly found himself suffering from endocarditis, a life-threatening infection of the heart's inner lining and was hospitalized more than once to treat the condition.

During his second hospitalization, Hodde met an echocardiograph technician for one of his tests and was immediately fascinated with the process. "He told me about the ups and downs of what being an echo tech entailed, and I knew it was something I wanted to do," Hodde said. "I researched schools, and Alvin Community College was at the top of the list for pediatric echocardiography, so I knew that's where I had to be."

Attending ACC became the key to finishing his education and transitioning to making a difference in

other's lives as part of the workforce. Hodde recently finished his degree and is now working in the field, conducting his own echocardiographs for Dell Children's Hospital in Austin.

"Once he enrolled in the program, he took to the material quickly and was motivated to learn and join the field," said Kathryn Trantham, ACC Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography instructor. "He had to persevere through clinical shutdowns during the initial COVID-19 outbreak, distance education, and delays in graduation," she said. "He triumphed over many hurdles, and I think he will do the same for any job that he encounters. Pediatric Echocardiography is a special field to work in. Technologists have to be empathetic, caring, and hardworking, and Hodde meets all of those categories with flying colors."

Hodde was born with a rare, congenital heart condition called Truncus Arteriosus and has dealt with heart issues since he was an infant.

"In utero my aorta and pulmonary arteries had fused together to form a common trunk," he said. "I underwent surgery when I was 3 weeks old to repair the defects. At age 13, I underwent another surgical repair to replace parts from the original surgery that were in need of updating. At 16, I contracted my second infection of endocarditis and was hospitalized again," he explained.

Throughout the process, Hodde became more and more fascinated with the technology that was used to measure his heart's activity. While talking to the technician about the equipment, he began learning more about the anatomy and tools involved with taking the echocardiograms. Hodde said these experiences and interactions inspired him to make echocardiography his career.

"The rest of my high school classes were directed toward getting into Alvin," he said.

While taking prerequisite courses at McLennan Community College he suffered a third bout of endocarditis, which impacted his ability to finish his education. "I was forced to drop out of MCC due to my health, but I persisted," he said. "The semester after I resumed my studies, I was more motivated than ever before and completed the prerequisite courses. Afterwards I transferred to ACC."

He faced many obstacles while trying to earn his education but was able to reach the finish line this year.

"Finishing my degree was a massive relief," he said. "In my second to last semester my heart began having more issues and my energy levels declined rapidly. Thanks to the help of my great professors Kat Trantham, Ashley Gill, and Danielle Kemendo as well as the clinical preceptors in the program, I was able to complete the semester and delay the next semester to undergo the surgery I desperately needed."

After earning his degree, Hodde said he was eventually able to find a job in Pediatric Echocardiography. He added that he's finally able to make a difference in the lives of children just like him.

"I was very fortunate to end up working at Dell Children's Hospital in Austin," he said. "They are very supportive of my work and growth. I can honestly say that I love my job."

While he works in the field that he fought hard to join, Hodde said in a way, his education will never be finished, and he will learn more as he continues through his career.

"While formal education may be completed, there is still a lot of learning to be done on the job," Hodde said. "A degree is great: however, experience is what helps us go above and beyond. I plan on obtaining the necessary experience in the field before I try to advance my career further."



*ACC's Pediatric Echocardiography program is currently on pause with the hopes of reactivating it once fully staffed. Students interested in a Sonography career can still enroll in the Adult Echocardiography or Vascular Sonography programs and complete an Associate Degree or a technical certificate.*



# *Congratulations Graduates!*

CLASS OF 2023



# STRIVE Helps Students with Disabilities



*Maintain Their Stride*

By Asia Daggs

**S**tudents leaving the public school system with intellectual disabilities face many challenges and there is an unspoken need for continued assistance and developmental programs.

Parents are often faced with a new reality when their special needs children phase out of public schools. Are they self-sufficient? Are they prepared for the real world? Are they hireable?

ACC is helping parents bridge that gap with the STRIVE program. STRIVE stands for Skilled Training Rewarding Independence and Vocational Education. This post-secondary program provides adults with special needs opportunities to further their education and develop skills to help them join the workforce.

Mary Vlahovich is the program coordinator and has been a part of STRIVE since its inception in 2013.

“We started from scratch,” she said. “We barely had anything, now this year was our largest class with 30 students. Our program is different, as it conforms to what the student’s needs are, not the other way around.”

Job placement, fostering independence, and providing resources to both students and parents are STRIVE’s main priorities. The goal is to get the students prepared to provide for themselves and live an independent lifestyle.

“We are helping students build employable skills. We’re also teaching the students how to self-advocate,” Vlahovich explained.

It is illegal for interviewers to ask candidates if they have a disability, so it is important that they are able to advocate for themselves in the workplace. STRIVE educates the students on how to disclose their barriers and the reasonable accommodations they are legally allowed.

The program matches students with internships and job opportunities that are aligned with their capabilities and interests. They are encouraged to find employment before graduation in order to get the most

out of hands-on guidance from STRIVE. STRIVE students often volunteer around campus helping ACC faculty and staff. They work in the garden, help maintain the van fleet, restock the Blessing Boxes, assist the ACC athletics teams, and more.

“We want to be intermixed into the campus population as much as we can. The staff is amazing with us,” Vlahovich said. “I also believe it is important for the students on campus to see this population as valuable people who can make a difference too.”

Graduation hasn’t always been a reality for adults with intellectual disabilities. STRIVE takes pride in making a difference in our students’ lives.

“Graduation is always a special night. It’s something that parents never thought they would see,” she said.

When asked about job opportunities, Vlahovich provided great insight to parents of students with special needs, stating, “My advice is to start early. I would reach out to a Texas Workforce Commission VR Counselor to learn about opportunities. I would set up multiple tours to find the best fit for my student, because they are all unique.”

“My favorite words are, ‘I got the job!’” When someone comes in with a job acceptance, we all celebrate,” stated Vlahovich.

The STRIVE instructors invite local parents and Special Education teachers to tour the program and learn what ACC can offer the students after they leave high school.



[alvincollege.edu/cewd/strive](http://alvincollege.edu/cewd/strive)

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# ACC'S STUDENT CLUBS PROMOTE WELL-BEING, BELONGING, AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*By John Tompkins*



## WELL-BEING

Everyone needs peace.

## BELONGING

Everyone needs community.

**E**very Monday afternoon, a group of ACC students gather in the college Fitness Center and take turns practicing leg sweeps, escapes and guard passes.

The students are part of a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club that was recently started on campus.

"I looked at all the clubs ACC had to offer. I was interested in finding a general fitness/weight lifting club and saw that there was a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club!" said Caitlyn Nichole Crittendon, club vice president. "I knew nobody in the club prior to joining. It was attractive to me because it was a martial art with no punching or kicking."

ACC Government/Economics Chair Albert Pasaoa decided to create the club after he noticed a couple of students on campus wearing Jiu Jitsu practice clothing.

"After scouting out the Fitness Center, I saw they had a room and enough mats for a decent-sized group," Pasaoa said. "At the least, I would have one or two people to train with, but I was hopeful for something bigger. The day we brought mats to the Wellness Fair last Spring, I knew we were onto something. We had dozens of people practicing moves on the mats and joining the interest list."

The Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club is one of many at ACC that is built around student interests.

Research has shown that students who are more involved with campus activities and student organizations perform better academically.

"It's important to feel connected," Pasaoa said. "At community college in particular, it's a little too easy to just stop by for a lecture then head back home or work and forget that you're a student. Coming to a campus club, any club, keeps you in touch with people who are on a similar journey. I hear my club members chatting about school stuff before or after we train. Even those small interactions create a type of accountability. I think that's what's behind the higher retention rate of students who do campus activities."

There are almost a dozen student clubs at ACC with a variety of interests including: Student Government Association, DECA Business Club, Black Student Alliance, Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, Active Minds, PRIDE Alliance and more. Student Life Coordinator Querencia Joshua said having these clubs is a vital part of campus life.

"Student engagement and involvement in campus clubs and activities serve as great ways to help students feel connected to the college," Joshua said. "Many students have expressed that being involved has allowed them to feel a sense of belonging."

Student Life hosts a social event every fall semester to give students a chance to learn about campus clubs and organizations.

Pasaoa said he hopes the students in his club learn the value of defending themselves while also being physically active.

"I want them to have fun," he said. "But fun through struggle, sweat, failure and the craving to do better. Jiu Jitsu is a weird thing: people are trying to strangle each other for a few minutes, then, when the timer goes off, they're all smiles and friends. That's how I know things are going right. They're closer because of it. I want them to realize that you're only as good as your training partners, so that's why you have to take care of each other."

For Crittendon, the club has been an important source of fitness and has also become a "therapeutic" outlet.

"I enjoy the quick thinking and 'mental puzzle' aspect of it from a fitness standpoint," she said. "I feel stronger in a more practical way than I did from lifting weights. I've made a lot of great friends by being in the club, and I've joined a whole community that's bigger than I could have imagined. I'm looking forward to taking great care of the club for as long as I'm here at ACC."



[alvincollege.edu/campus-life](http://alvincollege.edu/campus-life)



# DRAMA'S OPEN DOOR ALLOWS STUDENTS TO FLOURISH

By Asia Daggs

**W**hen you walk into the Green Room, a special meeting room in ACC's Drama department, it's as if you're transported into an eccentric, yet cozy home. The booming voices, the belly laughs, and the smell of the shop is what makes this place so special.

Over time, the Drama department's open-door policy has helped it grow into a community staple. Throughout the year performances are staged by faculty, students and community members. Theatre patrons are quick to rave about the wonderful environment it has to offer. "This is a very warm place, and they accepted me with open arms. It was very harmonious," Technical Production Manager D'Carrey Stell

said. "When anyone comes through here, I hope that they leave with the same feeling that I had when I first got here."

The department's aura frequently leaves an indelible impression upon its students. Last December's performance of *A Christmas Carol* featured not only current and past students, but even a prospective student who will be attending ACC after high school graduation! That show also produced the highest attendance for a holiday production since 2019.

In the world of theatre there is a day in the week called a 'dark day.' This is when the crew relaxes after a grueling schedule featuring multiple shows

over a few days' time. The faculty were elated when the Drama majors all showed up to hang out in the Green Room for the most recent 'dark day.'

"This is a safe space for them. Even when they don't have to be here, they want to be here," Director Chris Tennison explained. "Everything else we've done up to this point lets me know that we are doing the right thing."

The department also works intently with the college's veteran community. The opportunity gives the veteran men and women a space to de-escalate. The director believes it helps them successfully reintegrate into society, knowing a mistake won't lead to a disaster.

"Our students are able to grow here," Tennison said. "There is no culture war in here. We have trans students, conservative Christian students, vets, and people from all ages and backgrounds. It's a beautiful intersection."

Though most performances feature young and older adults, the Summer Children's Theatre Festival is one of the department's biggest productions. This year marks the 38th annual performance, and they are expecting a huge turnout. Last year's festival included 35 cast members! The auditions are open to the community, and children ages 6 and up can be a part of this fun opportunity. The festival is a perfect way for everyone to learn more about the arts and have a great time while doing it. "We work hard to cultivate the sense of fun, the sense of wonder," Stell said.

Director Tennison encourages the community to visit the theatre and maybe even audition for a show. He believes there is something marvelous happening in ACC's theatre and wants the community to be a part of it.

"You come and attend one of our shows, and you'll see why," Tennison said.



 [alvincollege.edu/drama](http://alvincollege.edu/drama)

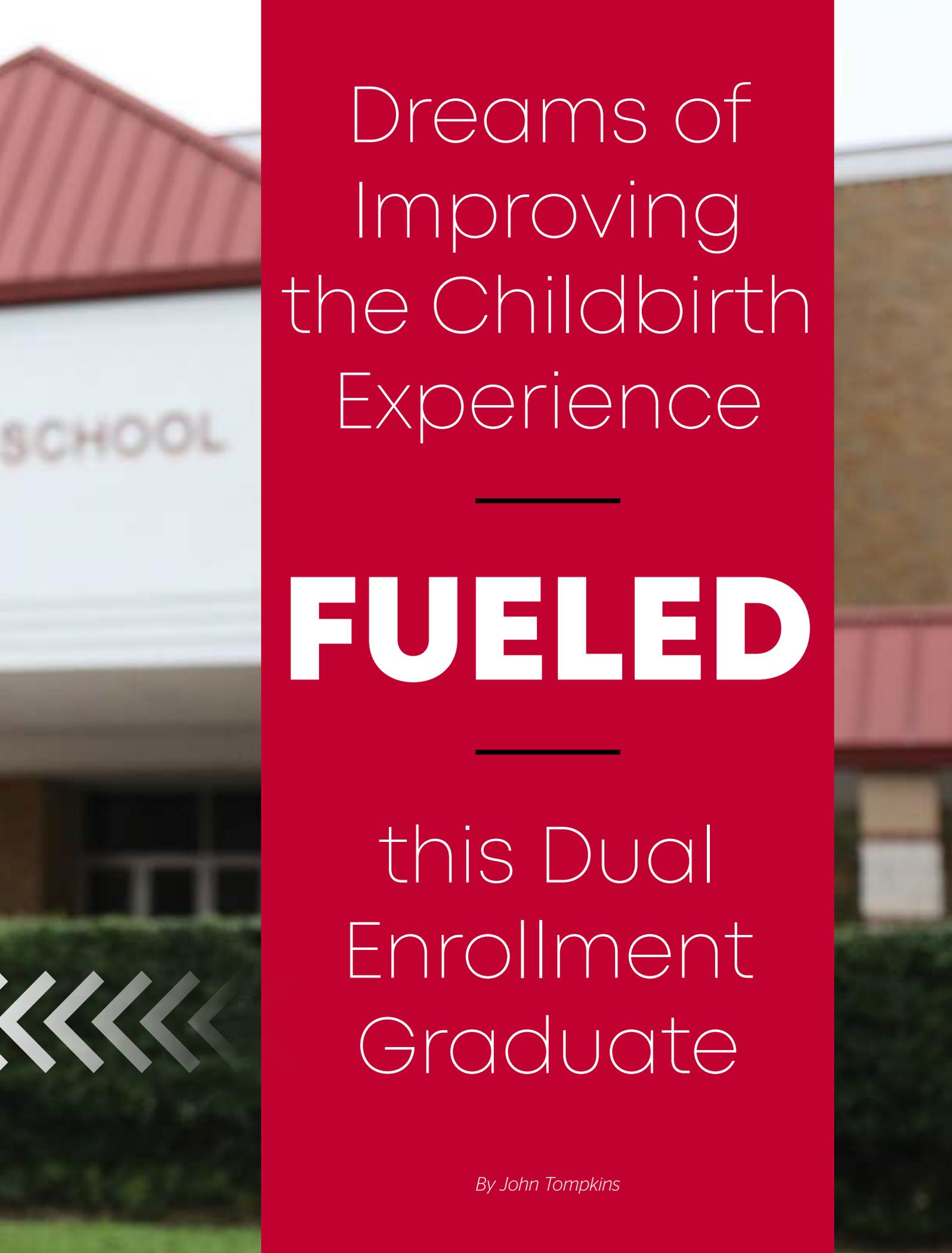


 [alvincollege.edu/drama/theatre-season](http://alvincollege.edu/drama/theatre-season)



**I hope to give  
women the care  
that they deserve.**





Dreams of  
Improving  
the Childbirth  
Experience

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**FUELED**

---

this Dual  
Enrollment  
Graduate

*By John Tompkins*





**A**fter watching her sister go through a painful and prolonged childbirth, Amy Chavez decided to dedicate her career to helping women avoid the same experience.

Chavez, an ACC Dual Enrollment student from Alvin High School, began taking college classes one summer as a freshman to see if she could handle the rigor.

“It definitely opened my eyes to the difference between high school and college,” she said. “It helps you mature a little quicker.”

Chavez, a first-generation college student, excelled in the Dual Enrollment program and graduated in May with her Associate Degree before receiving her high school diploma. She also graduated from high school at 16, a full year early.

“From the beginning, I really wanted to do this,” she said. “I decided that I liked the format. It’s taught me a lot of life skills. You take an array of

classes and really figure out what you’re good at and what you need to work on.”

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

The number of students seeking a Dual Degree has increased dramatically since ACC’s first dual degree grad, Thomas Schuenemann, in 2008. There are now 2,556 students taking Dual Enrollment courses at nine area high schools within Alvin, Danbury and Pearland ISDs.

The program was attractive for Chavez who is hoping to eventually enroll in medical school, which she’s dreamed of since she was in kindergarten.

“It’s a thing I’ve always wanted,” she said. “I’ve always wanted to help people.”

Chavez said she is planning to seek a specialty in obstetrics and wants to conduct research to improve birthing procedures.

"I hear about so many women having horrible birth experiences, and I just don't think that's right," she said.

Chavez has relatives who have had difficult experiences in pregnancy, including her own birth with her mother. Chavez was born premature and doctors had told her parents that she did not have a strong chance of surviving.

Now that she's completed her Associate Degree, Chavez wants to help other parents avoid the same trauma.

"I hope to give women the care that they deserve," she said. "I want to go through it with them and let them know that I'm here and I understand. So many people are mistreated."

To graduate early, Chavez has been taking classes year-round to ensure that she was earning enough credits to finish the program.

Chavez said her motivation to complete her education has been fueled by her parents, who did not have the opportunity to go to college. They have supported her fully throughout her journey in the Dual Enrollment program.

"With the opportunities they've given, I try to achieve every day because they inspire me so much," she said. While the Dual Enrollment program is not for every student, Chavez encouraged her fellow students to consider it because it helps get a jump start on a good education.

"It's so much more than just the classes," she said. "You meet so many people, and it's just an experience that I would like others to have."



# CULINARY CORNER

*By Chef Laura Trigo | Instructor, Culinary Arts*



 [alvincollege.edu/culinaryarts](http://alvincollege.edu/culinaryarts)



## INGREDIENTS

12-15 large mushroom caps  
½ lb blue crabmeat  
2 tbsp butter  
1 tbsp fine diced green bell pepper  
1 tbsp fine diced red bell pepper  
2 tbsp fine diced yellow onion  
1 tbsp fine diced garlic  
1 egg  
1 tbsp panko bread crumbs  
2 tbsp shredded parmesan cheese  
1 tsp Cajun seasoning  
1 tsp black pepper  
1 ½ tsp salt

# TEXAS BLUE CRAB STUFFED MUSHROOM



## DIRECTIONS

Clean mushrooms and pull stems. Sauté vegetables and garlic in butter until tender. Remove from heat. Add crab meat, seasonings, bread crumbs, and cheese to form a stuffing. Fill the mushrooms with the stuffing and top with more cheese. Put in the oven at 350 degrees and bake for 12-15 minutes.



College was something I never really had my sights on when leaving high school. The longer I went without furthering my education, the harder it was to find a job worth making a career out of. Then, years later, I started seeing advertisements for ACC, and began hearing about their certification programs in which I could strictly study for the specific trade of my choice, that trade being welding. For the first time since high school I took that first step into furthering my education, and the results have been outstanding. I began the course completely green, having never welded a day in my life. A year later I almost have all of the training needed to land just about any welding job I can think of, with the exception of underwater. The instructors have been amazing and beyond qualified in every area of what they do, inside and outside of ACC. I've also never met a more helpful staff than that of ACC. Especially when it comes to guiding me through my entire college experience and educating me on any and all questions I have regarding the schooling process. You could say that they've held my hand the whole way thus far, and the entire journey has been quite an enjoyable experience!

- Cody

# WHY ACC?



I can say my experience at ACC has been helpful. Throughout my classes I'm able to learn new things, get to know new people, and practice my English. This has helped me a lot to improve as a person, by improving my confidence to start new friendships and when speaking English.

- Saray



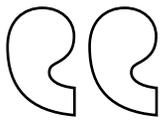


I chose ACC because I've always heard nothing but great things. ACC has a multitude of programs to choose from, and there is something for everyone. So far, my experience has been great and I'm very excited to obtain my degree here!

- Envoye



# FINS UP



Having grown up in Alvin, I've always felt at home when being involved with the community. That's why it only made sense for me to start off my college education at Alvin Community College. Not only am I comfortable at ACC, I am also well supported and guided by the ACC staff. ACC has an abundance of resources to help you succeed and make sure you feel like you are putting your very best forward. I am just in my 1st semester of the Nursing program, and I have received the most support I ever have throughout my whole education experience.

Everyone's path is unique, not one is linear. So, believe in yourself and you can conquer anything.

- Whitney



# PARALEGALS AND THE START OF SOMETHING

# BIG

*by John J. Murray Jr., JD | Instructor, Paralegal*

**I**n the Fall of 2020, with a campus closed due to COVID-19, I took over as the Paralegal Program Director at ACC. I had a bold vision for the program, the students, and myself. In the midst of uncertainty, online classes, and separation, we were going to become great together. Almost three years later, the ACC Paralegal program has become a shining example for others to follow.

## THE STUDENTS

Students in the Paralegal program come from all different walks of life. Some come straight from high school. Others are the first in their family to pursue a college degree. A number of them have families and jobs while balancing college classes in the middle of a busy life. Other students already work in law firms and want a degree to move up or compliment their professional experience. Some may have the end-goal of being a paralegal, while others have their eyes on attending law school.

Regardless of their situation or goals, the Paralegal program has a place for all of them. The diversity in experience, race, socio-economic status, goals, and beliefs makes our law classes rich and lively.

Students have a home in our program, not just a place to take classes.

In addition, many program classes offer flexible options for students to fit into their busy schedules. While some may be skeptical of online classes, paralegal students often choose them due to their flexibility and the option to watch lectures repeatedly. The program has committed to making online courses “feel like an in-person class” through

individualized feedback, mentorship, responsiveness, and engaging lecture videos. For those who desire the in-class experience, many courses are offered with a hybrid option where part of the work is online, and in-person sessions occur once per week. This helps students maintain their family and work commitments while making meaningful steps toward earning their degree.

For students who have financial concerns, the Paralegal program is

fortunate to have a private donor, the Marty Family, who has donated over \$15,000 to the ACC Foundation each year since 2020. The funds help students in need and rewards them for academic achievement and humanitarian efforts within the community. These funds are in addition to assistance offered by ACC’s financial aid department.



## LEARNING FROM THE BEST!

Our Paralegal students learn from some of the very best. They get to hear real stories from my days as a Special Assistant United States Attorney, Military Magistrate Judge, and Law Instructor at the United States Army Military Police School. I share litigation cases I handled in private practice and put them “in the room where it happens.” I provide them with tips and skills to become great legal writers and share my experience in becoming a bestselling and award-winning author.

Students also get to take courses with three different judges who also serve as ACC adjuncts. Judge Toria J. Finch, Judge Yahaira Quezada, and Judge Shannon Baldwin are incredible women who lead courts during the day and still have a heart for mentorship, giving back, and teaching. They are also community leaders, teachers, authors, and have a passion for the law. Judge Finch even shares her inspiring journey from a paralegal, to an attorney, to a judge with the students.

Still, other courses are taught by attorneys who are experts in their field. These attorneys have years of practical experience in the law and in teaching. Their courses are guided by real knowledge, humor, and professionalism.

I am proud of the instruction offered by these incredible individuals each semester. They have picked up the baton to make the Paralegal program great. They are focused on training our students to be leading professionals in the field.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the program, students have amazing opportunities to further their classroom learning in real settings. Each semester, students are offered an opportunity to participate in the University of Houston-Blakely Advocacy Institute’s Mock Trial event. This opportunity places students into mock court cases as jurors. Students are able to hear law students make arguments, deliberate as a juror, and network with other legal professionals.

In addition, each semester the program hosts an event designed to educate students about

different career pathways and expose them to the legal world outside of the classroom. This past semester, we were honored to have Jenna Quinn, a national speaker on sexual assault and the namesake behind “Jenna’s Law” in Texas, speak to our students on how to rise from being a victim to becoming a victor. Last fall, we featured Melissa Skillern, who started the Texas Paralegals page on Facebook which connects almost 6,000 legal professionals together. As a paralegal and entrepreneur, Melissa gave students a whole new perspective of what their reach in the legal community can be.

One of the most important opportunities the ACC Paralegal Program offers students is its vibrant internship opportunities. Upon taking over the program, I made it a mission to create a network of internship opportunities for students during their “Co-Op” semesters based on the location, area of the law, and experience they are looking to gain. Since my time as program director, no student has been unable to find an internship. Paralegal instructor Tricia Pryor has also been instrumental in coordinating this evolving process each semester. Many students start internships during the program and end up with job offers before it ends or at the time of graduation.

## THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

Way back in the 1900s, I remember being a freshman in college and going to my first orientation. The first speaker gave a motivational speech that reached into my heart and has stuck with me ever since. She said, “This is your chance. This is the start of something big for each of you.”

Three years ago, we began creating a place worthy of a student’s pursuit toward greatness. It’s now ready for you. This is your chance. This is the start of something big for each of you. I look forward to walking with you on your journey. You will not be alone. You will be welcomed like family. I have no doubt we can do great things together and make your dreams your reality.



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# MAGIC SQUARES

For each of the large squares, use the list of numbers provided to fill in the boxes such that the rows, columns, and diagonals add to the given sum.

## SUM = 15

Use the numbers 1-9 to fill in the boxes.


### TRIVIA

Circle the numbers 1, 4, 8, 9 and arrange them to create the year ACC was established.

## SUM = 75

Use the numbers 21-29 to fill in the boxes.


### FUN FACT

The sum of this square is a reference to ACC's upcoming 75th anniversary!

## SUM = 8

Use the numbers -6-11 to fill in the boxes.

Note: You will not use the numbers 6 or 7.


### FUN FACT

ACC offers 8 degree pathways!

## SUM = 89

Use the numbers 14-32 to fill in the boxes.

Note: You will not use the numbers 26, 27 or 28.


### FUN FACT

ACC offers 89 different programs!

by Elayni Kinsey | Instructor, Mathematics

23	18	17	31
16	32	22	19
29	15	20	25
21	24	30	14

SUM = 89

3	-2	-3	10
-4	11	2	-1
8	-5	0	5
1	4	9	-6

SUM = 8

24	29	22
23	25	27
28	21	26

SUM = 75

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

SUM = 15



ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



1948-2023

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## OUR **LOCATIONS**



## MORE **INFORMATION**

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