

OPPORTUNITY

NEWS



2 News from Your College

3 Rhythm of Success: Teagle's Path

5 Longtime Board Chair Leaves Lasting Legacy

NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Interprofessional Day gives students real-world therapy experience

San Jacinto College's occupational therapy assistant and physical therapist assistant students teamed to practice real-world patient care during their annual OTA/PTA Interprofessional Day in October.

Working with clinical partner TIRR Memorial Hermann, about 30 second-year students cycled through four stations in the South Campus Science and Allied Health Building: mobility/orthopedics, neurological conditions transfers, cognition impairments, and interdisciplinary collaboration medical case rounds.

"This event aims to help our students understand teamwork's value and role in our health care professions," said Dr. Sheina Farooqui, occupational therapy assistant program director. "Our TIRR Memorial Hermann partners were blown away by the innovative collaboration our students receive before entering the industry."

Students alternated acting as patients with different diagnoses, including cognition and health literacy issues, mental/physical health dysfunction, and neurological disorders impacting mobility. Meanwhile, other students in the group brainstormed treatment techniques and practiced skills and safety.

Visit bit.ly/SJC-OTA-PTA-Day to



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

view photos or scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac's health science programs.



Photo by Tonja Conerly, San Jacinto College

San Jac honors students model excellence

San Jacinto College's honors program students modeled academic excellence and community service this fall.

Two San Jac Phi Theta Kappa - Alpha Gamma Zeta student members - Aws Al Ezzi and Savannah Coulter - will receive \$1,000 scholarships as the 2024 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars.

This Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation program recognizes 200 Phi Theta Kappa members with awards totaling \$200,000. A panel of independent judges selected this year's recipients from about 1,500 applicants based on academic achievements and proven leadership potential.

San Jac has also provided community service through service learning to the Houston/Galveston area since 2010. The Houston Food Bank is one

of the College's many service learning community partners, allowing students to help coordinate food donations for the region.

"This is a win-win situation for our College. Not only are we helping our community, but we also supply food directly to the food pantries on the campuses for our students," said Tonja Conerly, sociology professor.

On Sept. 28, South Campus honors service learning students volunteered at the Houston Food Bank under Conerly's supervision. They sorted food and labeled and boxed items for distribution. They will also volunteer at the South Campus food pantry with the student engagement and support team.

"For the students who are transferring to four-year colleges/universities, service learning/civic engagement is a requirement," Conerly said. "San Jac continues to be proactive as we provide these courses for our students."

STEM expos inspire future mad scientists

San Jacinto College and Communities in Schools of Southeast Harris and

Brazoria County inspired budding mad scientists during their annual STEM expo collaboration this past fall.

STEM expos at the North, Central, and South Campuses in October and November spotlighted STEM education and careers for approximately 1,650 children and family members from Communities in Schools of Southeast Harris and Brazoria County programs.

The theme for this year's expos was "Mad About Science."

San Jac students, faculty, and staff members ran math, science, petrochemical, and health science booths and demonstrated experiments.

Exhibits ranged from robotics demos, CPR race stations, and virtual cadaver lab tours to dissection tables. Engineering technology, one of San Jac's newest programs, also participated this year.

At the South Campus, attendees also enjoyed a stargazing event on the observation deck after the expo.

View photos at bit.ly/SJC-stem-expo-2024. Or scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac's STEM programs.



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

RHYTHM OF SUCCESS: TEAGLE'S PATH FROM SAN JAC TO JAZZ PERFORMANCE AT TSU

By **Melissa Trevizo**

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

San Jacinto College alumnus Terrance Teagle's love for music developed in a household filled with diverse sounds.

Teagle grew up surrounded by his parents' varied music tastes. His mother, a third-generation musician, gravitated toward gospel, neo-soul, and R&B, and his father, funk, hip-hop, and rock.

"I grew up with music always playing," he said. "A music career was the only thing that ever truly made sense."

After graduating from Dobie High School in 2020, Teagle attended San Jac because of the smaller, more intimate environment and the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship.

"I participated in a joint concert with the Dobie jazz band and the San Jac jazz ensemble," he said. "I liked what I saw, and the facilities were great."

At San Jac, Teagle broadened his skill set, calling his experience "enriching." His versatility now spans flute, clarinet, and piano, but his primary instrument has always been the saxophone.

In 2022, Teagle earned his Associate of Arts in music and transferred to Texas Southern University, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in jazz performance.

With its rich jazz tradition and the famed "Ocean of Soul" marching band, TSU felt like the next step for a young musician passionate about jazz.

"If you ask certain people who play on the scene and around town where to study jazz, they say TSU," he said.

Jazz and the freedom of improvisation have become central to his musical identity.

"In jazz, technically, you can say whatever you want. It's that freedom you don't necessarily get from other parts of life," he said. "I can tell a story, a happy one or a sad one. I can rearrange an idea a lot of different ways."



Photo by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

Recently, Teagle returned to San Jac for a special moment — leading a jazz improvisation clinic for students. For him, the experience felt like a homecoming, a chance to demonstrate how far he has come.

"I set up the deal to challenge the students," he said. "It's a shock to the system to put you on the spot. It forces you to rise to the occasion."

In November, Teagle returned to San Jac again to perform in a joint concert

featuring the Dobie High School, TSU, and San Jac jazz ensembles, creating a full-circle moment.

As he reflects on his journey, he emphasizes the importance of trusting oneself, especially when it comes to improvisation.

"You're thrown in there, and then they kick off a song, and everybody's waiting to see what you're going to do," Teagle said. "Even if it doesn't go well, at least you saw it through."

Teagle will graduate from TSU in May 2025. So what's next?

"My top choice for grad school is Loyola University," he said. "I plan on studying there with sax player Wes Anderson. I've seen some of his work, and I like his style. I'd love to study in the great city of New Orleans."

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac's music program.



SKY'S THE LIMIT: STUDENTS LAND RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

By Courtney Morris

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Three ... two ... one ... liftoff!
On Nov. 4, the ground shuddered as the SpaceX rocket roared off the launchpad at Kennedy Space Center. What made the sight even more spectacular to Marcus Pitre, Maheen Bukhari, and Amna Qureshi — sitting on bleachers at the nearest viewing site — was knowing their science experiment was aboard.

In fall 2023, a year earlier, 52 San Jacinto College students competed in the Student Spaceflight Experiments

Program*, hoping to send their research projects on a supply mission to the International Space Station. Pitre, Bukhari, and Qureshi met through the South Campus STEM Club and formed a team with chemistry professor Dr. Carrie Owens as their advisor. They proposed using the mustard plant species “*Arabidopsis thaliana*” to measure cell wall growth in microgravity versus on Earth.

“All the right elements have to come together for plants to grow,” Pitre said. “If we can grow plants [for food] in space, we can have longer space flights.”

Their proposal won. But the hard part was still ahead: optimizing the experiment to fit inside a 7-inch mini lab operated by clamps an astronaut would open or close in space. Challenges ranged from sourcing NASA-approved supplies to finding lab space on campus to work together every week.

“This team is testing out something that’s never been done before,” Owens said. “Our department made sure we had all the supplies needed.”

All deadlines and safety checks met, their experiment finally launched in early November. Since their experiment returned to Earth approximately six weeks later, they have been comparing the results of the microgravity and ground control experiments.

What’s next for the teammates? Bukhari and Qureshi are both completing associate degrees at the

College through Clear Horizons Early College High School, with Bukhari eyeing a science career and Qureshi biomedical engineering or cybersecurity. Pitre, a computer engineer, is taking prerequisites to reskill for a critical care medicine career.

“It’s definitely been a unique experience — learning to work together as a team and use the college lab equipment,” Qureshi said.

Although Pitre has managed teams before, he gained an appreciation for the planning, checks, and balances behind every launch.

“One thing I always leave with [my teams] is we don’t manage time — we manage our use of time,” he said. “That’s what we need to succeed with these ventures. This team did a good job of that.”

Bukhari remembers her parents’ surprise as she broke the news about their team winning the space competition.

“It was very unexpected,” Bukhari said. “I didn’t think we’d be the team.”

Lesson learned: Prepare for the unexpected.



Photos by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College



LIVE UP TO

YOUR PROMISE

By Feb. 28, 2025
Complete the Promise
pledge and apply to
San Jacinto College.

By April 30, 2025
Complete and
submit the FAFSA
or TASFA.

By June 30, 2025
Complete all
enrollment steps and
register for fall classes.

Mission Patch Competition

San Jacinto College conducted two mission patch art competitions encouraging students to highlight this mission or any part of their STEM interaction with the College. Winners included Penny Carlisle (grades K-5) and Aiden Effenhauser (grades 9+).

**The Student Spaceflight Experiments Program [or just “SSEP”] is a program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE) in the U.S. and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education Internationally. It is enabled through a strategic partnership with Nanoracks LLC, which is working with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.*

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LONGTIME BOARD CHAIR LEAVES LASTING LEGACY

Former San Jacinto College Board of Trustees Chair Marie Flickinger passed away Monday, Nov. 11, shortly after retiring from the Board after nearly 30 years of service to the institution.

Flickinger was a fierce advocate for student success. Along with her fellow trustees, she worked tirelessly to remove barriers for students, enabling them to earn their higher education credentials. She was passionate about the work being done at San Jac, and her dedication will leave a legacy.

“I have been fortunate in my lifetime to do a lot of things, but what has given me the most satisfaction has been serving on the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees,” Flickinger said before her retirement. “When you serve alongside individuals who are passionate, dedicated, and focused on student success, it makes you feel good

about the work you’ve done. I know that my fellow trustees will continue the important work and that this institution will continue to be a leader in higher education.”

In 1995, Flickinger was elected as the first woman on the College’s Board of Trustees. She has championed San Jac since day one, putting students and employees at the heart of every decision.

During her nearly three decades on the Board of Trustees, the College has grown its enrollment, added new campuses, unified as one College, increased the number of programs, simplified tuition, and consistently been ranked one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute.

Read more by scanning the QR code.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY: A COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

By **Melissa Trevizo**

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

What makes a company send its employees overseas for training? For Saudi Aramco's Ras Tanura Refinery, it was the opportunity to move them from operations to team management with some of the best training in the world.

International student Abdulaziz Albabtain is one of three employees Ras Tanura Refinery sent to San Jacinto College's LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology to train in the environmental health and safety field. The center is at the forefront of training future environmental health and safety professionals. This program promotes sustainable practices, workplace safety, and regulatory compliance across diverse industries.



Abdulaziz Albabtain

"I've worked for Saudi Aramco for 13 years, including a few months as a safety advisor, before coming to San Jac," Albabtain said. "Although I had experience, I've gained so much more here. I was the first from my refinery to study at San Jac and will graduate next semester. When I return, I'll be the safety team supervisor."

The program gives students the knowledge and skills to manage environmental risks in private and public sectors, addressing the growing demand for environmentally responsible and safety-conscious professionals.

"At San Jac, we're committed to advancing our environmental health and safety program to meet the evolving demands of fields like construction, petrochemicals, and health care," said Shawn Dickerson, process technology department chair. "Our curriculum reflects the real-world needs of operations and maintenance, ensuring that students acquire relevant, practical skills that lead directly to job opportunities. Our industry partnerships provide networking and hands-on experience, giving graduates a competitive edge."

The curriculum combines theory with strong experiential learning. Students engage in

laboratory exercises, fieldwork, and simulations that replicate scenarios they'll encounter in their careers. This practical approach ensures graduates are well-prepared, with a solid grounding in industrial practices, environmental and safety regulations, and current issues.

"Safety management is a constantly evolving field," said G.C. Shah, process technology professor. "Often students are former nurses or operators, but I work with students of all backgrounds to close knowledge gaps and master essential safety topics like confined space entry and fall prevention. Success in this industry requires attention to detail, teamwork, and a commitment to ongoing learning — qualities we foster in our students."

The program's partnerships with local industries further enhance its value, providing students with networking opportunities that bridge academic knowledge and practical application.

San Jac is a preferred training site for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and for companies preparing to become Voluntary Protection Program Star Sites, thanks to its high-quality facilities.

In addition to environmental

health and safety training, the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology offers degree programs in process technology, instrumentation, electrical, and inspection technology. The building includes 35 specialized labs and an 8,000-square-foot outdoor glycol process unit, all used to support degree programs and provide training for current industry workers based on the specific needs and goals of the field.

As organizations prioritize sustainability and regulatory compliance, the demand for skilled environmental health and safety professionals grows.

Graduates may work as

environmental health officers, safety managers, industrial hygienists, and compliance officers. The program also encourages students to pursue additional certifications, such as Certified Safety Professional or Certified Industrial Hygienist. Dickerson is also working to create a transfer pathway from the associate degree to the University of Houston-Clear Lake occupational safety and health bachelor's degree, further enhancing graduates' career prospects.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



Photos by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Jan. 13	Spring Classes Begin		All campuses and online
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Closed	All campuses and online
Feb. 6	College Community Day		No classes

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

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA

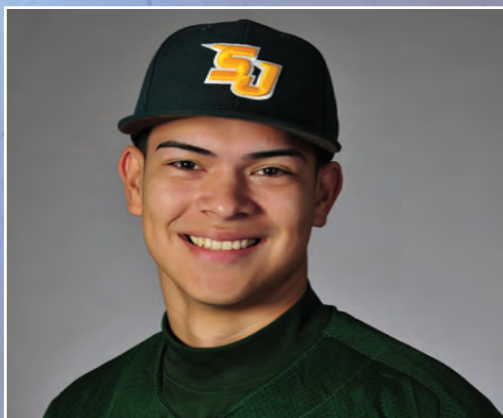


LinkedIn

Today, we lost a true champion for San Jacinto College. Marie Flickinger served this institution and its students with heart and compassion for nearly 30 years. She was a fierce advocate for student success and worked tirelessly alongside the College and her fellow Board members to remove barriers for students to earn their higher education credentials. She was passionate about the work being done at San Jacinto College; her dedication to San Jacinto College will leave a legacy. Our hearts are with her husband, David, her sons, Fred and Davey, and the entire Flickinger family.



127 Reactions | 7 Shares | 6,581 Impressions | 333 Engagements



Facebook

Proud of our alum! Congratulations to former San Jacinto College baseball player and current Los Angeles Dodger Anthony Banda on winning the World Series! He has made four scoreless World Series appearances as part of the Dodgers' bullpen.

During his time at San Jac, he had a 7-1 record with a 2.01 earned run average and 73 strikeouts, earning a National Junior College Athletic Association third-team all-American Honor.



345 Reactions | 29 Shares | 1,586 Post Clicks | 5,778 Impressions



Instagram

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!! The people have spoken, and with more than 50% of the votes, Cowboy Poe will ride off into the sunset as the winning Halloween costume. Thank you to everyone who voted.



189 Likes | 1 Save | 2,449 Impressions | 207 Engagements

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MARITIME CAMPUS

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VISION & MISSION



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

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

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



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

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 45,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA+ by Standard & Poor's and Aa2 by Moody's.

For more information about San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu.

