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NORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Winter, 1993

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## Communities' voice guides future plans of district

**A**T WHAT MIGHT be the most critical time in the 19-year history of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District, the district is enlisting the voice of the communities it serves in preparing a five-year master plan.

NHMCCD recently hosted advisory committee meetings to give key members of the community an opportunity to talk directly

with members of the Board of Trustees and representative administrators, faculty and staff of the district's four colleges - North Harris, Kingwood, Tomball and Montgomery.

The district, which has grown every year of its existence, is facing a variety of challenges relevant to growth. Seventeen-hundred additional students enrolled in the fall semester, bringing the total enrollment to nearly 19,000.

"We're growing by leaps and bounds," said NHMCCD Chancellor Dr. John Pickelman. "We cannot accommodate this rate of growth without increasing resources."

"For example, we have over 400 people on the nursing program waiting list. Do we forge ahead or do we cap (some programs)? Our need for insightful planning is acute and community leaders play an invaluable role in this effort."

The discussions of the colleges' advisory committees, made up of representatives of local school districts, businesses, chambers of commerce, service organizations, community leaders and agencies, centered around three questions:

- Whom should the colleges serve?
- What programs, services and facilities should be provided?
- What resources need to be developed to achieve the colleges' goals?

Each college president will provide a summary of the committees' comments in a report to be presented to the NHMCCD Board of Trustees at its January meeting. Those reports, along with the recommendations of faculty, students and staff, will be incorporated into NHMCCD's master plan.

Said Dr. Bonnie Longnion, assistant to the chancellor: "The plan will provide a framework for the development of strategic plans that will address programs, resources, equipment, personnel, facilities and services needed to attain our goals." ★

### Maxim brings news of quality education to public

*Maxim* is derived from the Latin word *magnus*, which means great. The intent of this publication is to inform the community-at-large of all the great things going on at North Harris Montgomery Community College District — Great, fully accredited, outstanding colleges. Great, talented, scholarly faculty. Great, ambitious, knowledge-thirsty students. Great, challenging, innovative programs.

NHMCCD is a college district committed to being the best of the best — to taking quality education to the max!



Chancellor John Pickelman, left, and Board President Diana Morales Taylor review the agenda for the community advisory meeting with civic leader Cooper Slay.

# Chinese businessmen study U.S. economy at NHMCCD

**N**ORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY Community College District recently had an opportunity to play a role in China's attempts to convert to a free-market economy.

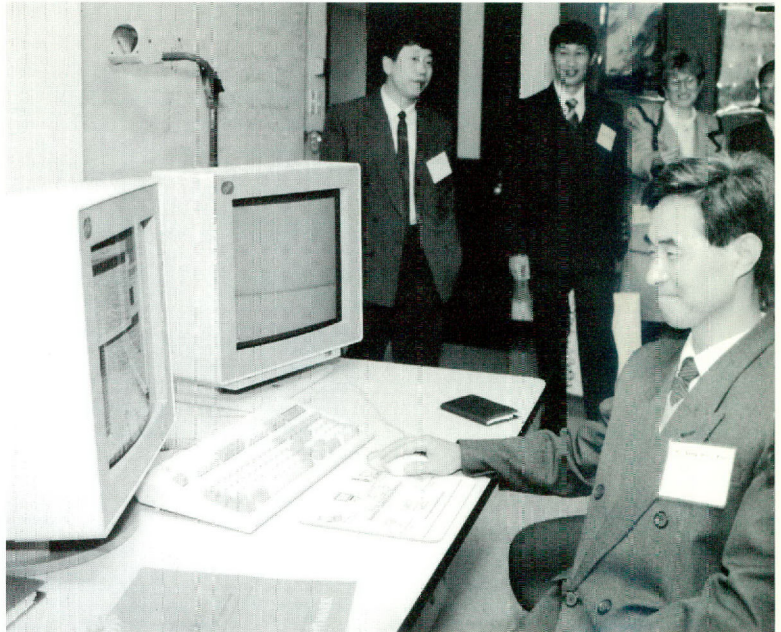
Thanks to NHMCCD, such terms as "supply and demand" and "marketing strategy" are no longer foreign to six top executives from China National Oil Development Corp. who completed two weeks of training in U.S. economics and business management practices in late November.

"The key thing they wanted to learn was, what are the good points about a free-market economy and how they could utilize those things in their specific jobs in China," said Pam Stanley of the college district's Center for Business and Economic Development.

Added Zhao Yao De, deputy director of CNODC, "We're gradually trying to change to a free-market economy."

Among the subjects the Chinese businessmen studied were stocks and bonds, banking and international finance, economics and management-employee relations and marketing.

Petrocorp Exploration China Limited, which sponsored the training because of a joint venture with CNODC, awarded NHMCCD the contract over four other area colleges because the college district was able to tailor the training specifically to the Chinese' needs, NHMCCD officials said.



*Song Shan Kun tries his hand at geology software at North Harris College. In background: Fu Zhi Tian, Luo Zhong Yan and Pam Stanley*

"(We learned) the consumer is always king and we need to pay attention to the consumers' needs – not only follow orders," said the Chinese businessmen, speaking through a translator.

The Chinese were fascinated with the way companies motivate their employees, and the positive attitude among American employees "impressed us very deeply," said Zhao.

Some important local economic benefits could result from the Chinese' trip to Houston. The Chinese businessmen were so impressed with the pneumatic tools and precision-drilling equipment they saw at Indresco that they invited an Indresco executive to China to discuss a possible deal. They also asked for the name of Compaq's Hong Kong sales representative.

"This is a good example of how a college can play a major role in economic development," Stanley said.

While the Chinese businessmen learned about free-market economics, their American hosts learned from the Chinese.

"They're extremely polite – very respectful of one another and us," said Gary Huddleston, manager of consumer affairs for Kroger. "In business, we often take that for granted."

The Chinese and their hosts exchanged gifts after enjoying an American-style Thanksgiving buffet at North Harris College. The Chinese presented small, glass decorations to their hosts. Through a translator they said, "These gifts are small, but our thanksgiving has no limit." ★

## *How a college district plays a major role in economic development*

To help overcome language barriers, the district used a translator and employed charts, graphs and case studies to make lessons easier to understand. Additionally, classroom lessons were followed up with tours of Indresco, Kroger's distribution center, Compaq Computer Corp. and Entex.

"International business development is emerging as an important role for our college district," said Ray Laughter, executive director of NHMCCD's Center for Business and Economic Development. "We have other proposals for training for Chinese groups and Russian executives."

After decades of communist control, virtually every aspect of the U.S. economy interested – and often surprised – the Chinese.

NORTH HARRIS COLLEGE



**NANCY PFEIFER** created a unique and thought-provoking sculpture in instructor Roy Hanscom's class and has donated her clay feat to North Harris College. The seven-foot figure, titled "20/20 Hindsight," is "an armless figure with no external eyes – all of his vision is turned inward," explains Pfeifer, a returning student who received her bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1968 and is now contemplating a career change.



**BARBARA CHADWICK** is flying high, and flying high as an artist. Chadwick, who holds a bachelor of fine arts degree, is a flight attendant for Continental, and takes ceramics classes at NHC. An example of her artistry is now on tour in Illinois in the Fourth Annual Cup Show. Chadwick is enjoying her travel opportunities, which allow her to view many of the world's great art works.

KINGWOOD COLLEGE



**SELMA SPIKER** was a December 1992 honors graduate of Kingwood College's Travel and Tourism program. She first enrolled in a private travel school but felt she was not getting her money's worth out of the program. She hopes to work her way up in the hotel industry and someday hopes to open her own agency specializing in travel to her native country, Holland.



**DIANE SHAPER** is both a student and a teacher at Kingwood College. She is currently working toward a certificate in Desktop Publishing and teaching art and computer courses in the college's Community Education division. Shaper was chosen CE Instructor of the Month for June 1992 and has also been honored by Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

# NHMCCD Stars

TOMBALL COLLEGE



**KAREN WARD** is the president of the PTK Chapter at Tomball College. She is a wife, mother, and attends school full time. She has been responsible for several community service projects, including a drive to collect magazines for residents of a local nursing home and a drive to collect college school supplies for Hurricane Andrew victims.



**WEYLAND SIMMONS** is preparing to attend Texas A&M University, where he'll major in chemical engineering. The 20-year-old sophomore carries a 3.1 GPA and enjoys sports in his spare time. He also works in the Community Education office. Simmons says he enjoys studying chemistry because it's "the basis of how things work in the world."

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE



**JANET GASSMAN** is a pre-nursing major who plans to transfer to the University of Texas to become a registered nurse. A resident of Conroe, she is married and has three children. Gassman was a gas accountant for a natural gas pipeline company. But she and her family moved to Conroe so Janet could pursue her true career love, nursing.



**VICKI SHUMARD** has changed her major from nursing to biotechnology. "What I wanted to do was work in a lab. I love the sciences," she said. Shumard, who is married with two children, has worked with disabled children as a teaching assistant. She views biotechnology as a way to have a direct impact on improving the lives of the disabled.

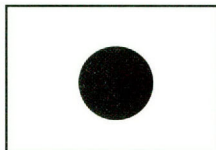
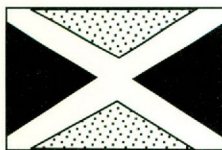
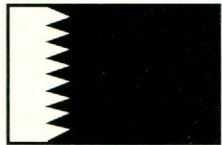
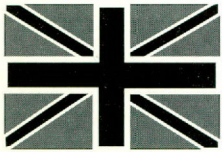
# NHC: a world apart

**N**ORTH HARRIS COLLEGE students who seek a diverse, quality learning experience and the opportunity to meet people from many different lands don't have to travel far to do so. In fact, they needn't look much further than across the classroom or down the academic hallway.

North Harris College's forestial north Houston campus has drawn students from all over the globe. At last count, the college's students were born in more than 70 different nations, and NHC students are current citizens of some 40 countries.

The list of homelands reads something like a United Nations roster, with students hailing from Burma, Egypt, Iran, Finland, Lithuania, Spain and Trinidad, just to name a very few. The greatest percentage of foreign students, roughly 10 percent, are from Pakistan, and other small clusters have come to North Harris College from Canada, El Salvador, Lebanon and the Philippines.

These students make a world of difference in the classrooms, adding points of view that are both unique and refreshing.



"Our international students give different perspectives based on their own cultures and life experiences," explains Rami Shafiee, who is the division head for behavioral sciences and was, himself, born in Iran.

"The cultural diversity makes for more intriguing classroom discussions and gives us new and welcome perspectives. In economics, for instance, I can use a variety of different examples to illustrate concepts because of the diversity of my students."

The college sponsors an International Students Organization which gives students the opportunity to meet each other, as well as to socialize and perform community service activities.

What draws an international student population to North Harris College? Reasons include academic excellence, a strong faculty, a supportive environment, proximity to their homes, and friends or relatives who have had positive experiences at the college.

Foreign students who have succeeded at North Harris College often recommend the college. Take Cam Le, a Vietnamese student who arrived in the United States three years ago. Though she spoke

little English, she enrolled in classes at North Harris College shortly afterward on the advice of her brother, who had come to this country a decade earlier and attended NHC.

Today, Cam is nearly finished with an associate's degree in computer information sciences, and she carries on the role of helpmate by assisting other Vietnamese students who are enrolling at North Harris College. In fact, she translated important information into her native language for the college's Office of Financial Aid, so that the staff could communicate more effectively with Vietnamese students. "I am so glad to help them," she explains with a smile.

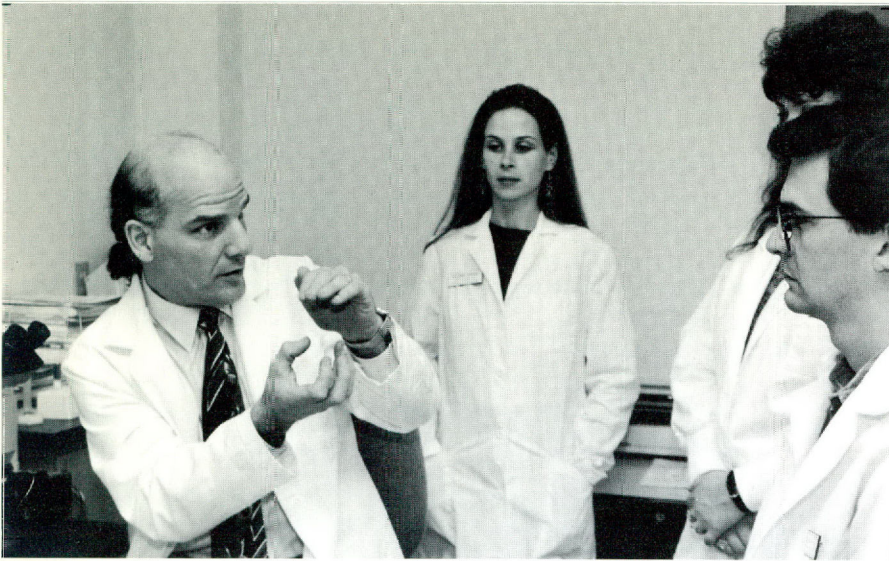
A supportive, friendly and professional student services staff is one of North Harris College's biggest strengths, she notes. Her experiences working with the personnel of the Financial Aid Office, and with adviser Linda Gilbert, in particular, have helped a shy student who spoke very little English to evolve into a vibrant, witty woman with the ambition to begin a career and make a difference in the lives of others who are new to American education.

Cam Le is just one of nearly half a million foreign students enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities this past year, an all-time high, according to a report by the Institute of International Education. Within the state of Texas, North Harris College is in good company in attracting an international crowd. A ranking of U.S. schools with the greatest number of foreign students placed two Texas schools in the top 10, with the University of Texas at Austin in first and Texas A&M University in tenth place.

***'Our international students give different perspectives based on their own cultures and life experiences.'***

***Rami Shafiee,  
Behavioral Sciences Division Head***

"It is our great fortune to have these students learning in our classrooms, becoming an integral part of our campus life and enriching our cultural diversity," says Irene Mullins, admissions coordinator for international students. "It represents what a positive environment foreign students find at North Harris College, as well as the great value that people in other nations place on an American education." ★



*Biotechnology instructor Terry Sawma (left) teaches practical research techniques to students in the Biotechnology Program at Kingwood College.*

## Biotechnology: hot career field

**S**OME PEOPLE WANT to build a better mouse trap. Then again, there are those who'd like to build a better mouse.

Well, sort of.

Actually, they're building better cows and onions, among other things. Oh, they're working on cures for AIDS and cancer, too.

Such endeavors are all part of the amazing world of biotechnology, a technology that one Houston entrepreneur says is as hot as the computer industry was in the 1960s.

Biotechnology technicians throw around such words as "oligonucleotides," and "custom peptides" like football coaches use "punt" and "field goal." But biotechnology companies speak a universal language, too.

Put simply, "The name of the game in biotechnology is bucks," says Terry Sawma, who oversees the biotechnology program at Kingwood College — the only such program in Texas.

Sawma offers these examples of the things biotechnology research has produced:

- The "10-15" onion — a milder, tastier onion that produces no tears among its users;
- Cows that give twice the usual amount of milk on half the usual feed;
- Oil spill "bugs" (used to clean up oil spills) that feed on crude oil;
- "Humulin" — a type of insulin produced by human bacteria, instead of insulin extracted from the pancreases of pigs and cows. The advantage is that humulin is human insulin, not derived from pigs or cows, and does not cause complications as pig or cow insulin can.

Sawma says biotechnology companies are also working on producing plants, such as corn and cotton, that manufacture their own insecticides and fungicides while growing; the insecticides and fungicides would biodegrade after harvesting, however.

Such benefits do more than solve nuisances like fire ants; they mean a cleaner environment, he says.

"Today, we use chemical toxins (to kill fire ants) that pollute the water," Sawma says. The same holds true for insecticides and fungicides that are sprayed on crops. "Ninety-nine percent of those go into the air (and eventually) into our water," he adds.

But the majority of biotechnology research is in the medical field, Sawma says.

### *Designing more effective medicines with fewer side effects*

Research at Baylor College of Medicine's Biotechnology Center in The Woodlands includes such areas as cancer diagnosis, chemotherapy drugs and drugs that could cure Parkinson's Disease and cystic fibrosis.

"We're designing medicines that will be more effective with fewer side effects," says Tim McGrath, president of Genosys Biotechnology, Inc. in The Woodlands. "(Biotechnology research) will change medicine dramatically over the next 10 to 20 years."

Sawma and others say the biotechnology field is just now beginning to blossom. For those who want to work in the field, the jobs will be there, McGrath says.

According to McGrath, the field is so specialized that many students with bachelor of science degrees in a related field such as biology may not be qualified for positions in some biotechnology laboratories.

"The students who will come out of (Kingwood College) after two years will now have more practical knowledge than someone who comes out of some university after four years," McGrath says. "The biggest problem we have is hiring people who know absolutely nothing practical."

McGrath has high praise for Kingwood College's biotechnology program. "I think what Terry Sawma is doing at Kingwood College is right on the nose for what we need." ★

# Community asks; college reponds

**T**OMBALL COLLEGE'S HUMAN Services program literally went out of its way recently to help meet the needs of the community.

In October, the department established a class to accommodate the needs of the staff at Daytop Village, a counseling center in Chappell Hill. The center is part of the world-wide Daytop organization that is based in New York and works with predominantly black youths, ages 13-17, with histories of substance abuse.

When Daytop Village opened, the owners and managers discovered the counselors needed additional training to become Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors. They contacted Steve Haberman in the Tomball College Human Services program. He, along with Humanities Division Head Dr. Mary Ella Phelps and Dr. Francette Carnahan, vice president for Student and Organizational Development, responded with a special short-term class for 19 of the Daytop counselors. The class is meeting at Tomball College and is the first of several expected to be exported to Daytop Village.

This effort has created some additional contacts with Prairie View A&M, which has increased interest in a special articulation agreement for students in the Human Services program to be accepted as juniors at Prairie View in the school of Social Work. The articulation agreement is in the final phase, according to Phelps and Haberman.

A third effort in the Human Services program is a joint project of Haberman, Phelps and Dr. Susan Orr, dean of Community Education, to establish the Tomball College Counseling Institute as a vehicle for special seminars for continuing education of Licensed Professional Counselors and other counseling professionals. The Institute will attract noted professionals such as Dr. George W. Fairweather from the University of Texas, whose seminar is tentatively scheduled for spring 1993. ★

## Students conquer the elements in popular Phys Ed course

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor tornadoes could stop the Tomball College Venture Dynamics class from camping out the weekend of Nov. 20. The group camped on the San Marcos River near Martindale and also went canoeing.

The next stop was Pedernales Falls, one of the most beautiful locations in the state. The students had a great time in the park backpacking, climbing and rappelling. Located in the middle of the Texas Hill Country, Pedernales Falls State Park is listed as one of the two best state parks in Texas.

The group returned tired but felt the entire experience was well worth the effort.

Venture Dynamics is an outdoor physical education course, emphasizing not only recreation but self and group dynamics. The course is gaining in popularity as students who have taken the course tell others about it. Jack Caddell, an instructor at Texas A&M, drives to Tomball to teach the course. ★

## Vet Tech nears full accreditation

**T**HE TOMBALL COLLEGE Veterinary Technology program is another step closer to full accreditation.

On Nov. 13, Dr. Tom Nelson from the American Veterinary Medical Association, local AVM representative Dale Owens, and registered veterinary technician Terri Radebaugh visited Tomball College to evaluate some of the recent changes in the Veterinary Technology program as part of the final accreditation process. This visit was a follow-up to the initial, more extensive accreditation visit in 1989.

The accreditation committee made a few major and minor recommendations after the 1989 visit, primarily focusing on the need for additional full-time veterinary technology faculty and staff, as well as some minor facility adjustments. The recommendations were satisfied this fall, which made the veterinary technology program eligible for full accreditation status.

The accreditation committee toured the facility, met the new faculty and staff in veterinary technology, met with other school officials and also spoke with some of the veterinary technology students to get their impressions of the program. The visit was a success and Nelson announced that full accreditation will be recommended to the accreditation committee. ★



Montgomery College President Dr. Bill Law (standing at podium) welcomes North Harris Montgomery Community College Chancellor Dr. John Pickelman and the Board of Trustees (at right) to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Conroe Center on Dec. 12.

## Conroe Center opens with full range of college classes

**M**ONTGOMERY COLLEGE TOOK off the wrapping Dec. 12 on a Christmas present for the residents of Conroe: the new Conroe Center.

The opening of the 21,000 square-foot facility signals the beginning of a new era of higher-education opportunity for Montgomery County and Conroe-area residents.

Approximately 1,500 students are expected to enroll for spring 1993 classes at Conroe Center, which is located in the former Fair department store building in the Pinehollow Shopping Center at North Loop 336 and I-45.

Students will be able to choose from 116 courses, covering most of the subjects offered at other North Harris Montgomery County Community College District campuses.

Conroe Center contains 18 class rooms, two computer labs, a learning center/library and administrative service facilities where students can register and pay for classes, and receive counseling.

"The opening represents the first steps in providing a wide range of learning opportunities for adults throughout Montgomery County and surrounding areas," said Montgomery College President Bill Law. "It's very rewarding to all of us to follow up on the vote of the citizens in March 1991, when they authorized the creation of the college."

While students will benefit from access to computers at Conroe Center, they'll also be able to receive some old-fashioned assistance. In

addition to tutors and special learning support, counseling will be available in such areas as time management, note taking and test anxiety.

Said Law, "It's no longer sufficient to merely provide a seat in the classroom. We have to make people successful (in college), so they can get and keep jobs."

"(Conroe Center) is an outstanding facility," said NHMCCD Chancellor Dr. John Pickelman. "It speaks to our commitment to bring the best services possible to this area."

Law agreed, and added, "My singular commitment is that we be the very best. We want to plan and really deliver first-class service."

*' ... the first steps in providing learning opportunities for adults in Montgomery County and surrounding areas.'*

*Bill Law, President  
Montgomery College*

During the ribbon-cutting ceremonies, Law announced another surprise — a privately funded, full-tuition scholarship named in memory of his father, William D. Law Sr., for a working father living in the Conroe Independent School District.

The public viewed Conroe Center during an open house Jan. 10. ★

