

OPPORTUNITY

SAN JACINTO COLLEGESM

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North Shore Challenger Division



NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Summer camps offer fun activities for all ages

Summer is just around the corner, and San Jacinto College is offering a number of fun, creative, and educational summer camps. Whether you're looking for camps for athletes, actors, roboteers, or musicians, San Jac has you covered.

Camp offerings include:

- EnergyVenture Summer Camp
- KidSpot Summer Musical Theatre Camp
- National Summer Transportation Institute Program
- Middle School Band Camp
- Youth Baseball Camp
- STEMPACT 2.0
- Pathways to Careers – Information Technology
- Girls Rise Up: STEM from Dance
- Pathways to Careers – Health Care
- Maritime Career Day
- Exploring Industry Career Fairs – Petrochemical/Energy
- High School Woodwind & Brass Camp
- Roboteers Start Here!
- San Jac Girls Softball Camp
- All-State Choir Camp

For more information about summer camps, registration, and fees, visit sanjac.edu/summer-camps.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

Last Step Scholarship offers adult learners chance to finish

Adult learners who put their educational goals on hold because of COVID-19 or family crises can now take that last step and complete their certificate or degree with tuition, books, and class materials 100% covered at San Jacinto College with the Last Step Scholarship.

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, these students can move into well-paid positions and the careers of their dreams.

To qualify, applicants must...

- Be at least 24
- Have completed at least half the credits needed to earn a credential (15 credit hours for a certificate or 30 credit hours for an associate degree)
- Have stopped out of college for a minimum of one full semester (not been enrolled at any college in spring 2022)
- Apply for financial aid (but do not have to qualify for financial aid)

Learn more at sanjac.edu/last-step.

See to Succeed provides glasses to more than 1,200 students

About 25 percent of children in the U.S. have vision problems that hinder learning. San Jacinto College students witnessed this firsthand during See to Succeed Feb. 28 to March 4.

For the first time since the pandemic began, the College's eye care technology program teamed with area health organizations to provide free eye exams to almost 1,300 Pasadena ISD students.

Held at the Central Campus for more than a decade, the weeklong event moved to Campbell Hall at the Pasadena

Convention Center this year, allowing for social distancing.

"When we reached out to the City of Pasadena regarding the need for a large venue, Mayor Jeff Wagner did not hesitate to rescue this year's See to Succeed mission," said Debra Clarke, eye care technology program director. "Pasadena ISD children received the urgent eye care they needed because of his quick actions."

San Jac, Berkeley Eye Center, Essilor Vision Foundation, Eye Care for Kids Foundation, Houston Health Department, Prevent Blindness Texas, University of Houston College of Optometry, and Walmart partnered to provide a critical tool for classroom success: correct vision and healthy eyes.

"I realized this was not just helping the kids see but giving them a whole new level of confidence, pride, and excitement to go out into the world and



Photo courtesy of Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

be who they were capable of being," said Christine Pettys, eye care technology student.

Thanks to See to Succeed, 1,228 Pasadena ISD K-12 students received glasses, and 333 received medical referrals. The program covers the cost of frames, prescription lenses, and emergency medical care for all participating children.

For the event photo album, visit bit.ly/3tTqPLG.



SEE YOU ON CAMPUS *this* SUMMER AND FALL!

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STEEL DRUM COMMUNITY BANDS GIVE STUDENTS RHYTHM

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

In 2014, music professor Michael Mizma needed to find a home for steel drums in storage at the San Jacinto College Central Campus Music Department. This quest led to the creation of the community steel band program at San Jac.

“We had these old drums in storage that were used but in great shape,” Mizma said. “I couldn’t see sending them to auction when I knew there was a great opportunity to share them with the community.”

Mizma contacted band directors Rick Brockway at League City and Garrett Sanborne at Park View Intermediate schools to ask whether they were interested in borrowing the instruments to start a steel band. Both directors accepted the challenge and created opportunities for their students to get involved.

“It kind of works as a ‘pay it forward’ system,” Mizma said. “The school district education foundations and the San Jac Foundation have been so supportive of our bands. Once one school receives a grant to replace the instruments, we take the used ones and start a new community band.”

Eight bands in three school districts have benefited from steel drum program, impacting hundreds of students. One of these students, Serina Guerra, has seen the initiative come full circle.

A freshman at San Jac and a member of the College’s steel drum band, Guerra

picked up a set of drumsticks for the first time seven years ago as a student at Park View and then at Sam Rayburn High School. She is what Mizma calls a legacy student.

“Serina was a flute player at Park View. She arrived the fall after the community band started and was one of the first students to show a deep interest in steel band,” Sanborne said. “She especially loved to play lead pan and worked very hard at it. When I wrote new music, I didn’t have to worry because she would master even the most challenging parts.”

Through guidance from Mizma and Sanborne, Guerra learned quickly and developed a new passion. At Sam Rayburn, she continued to thrive under the direction of Michael Royer.

“I love playing steel drums because it can be very liberating. I take my stress and frustration and put that into playing,” Guerra said. “I was nervous to

join the band at San Jac because I hadn’t played for about a year, but you can feel the energy of the group, and you just go for it.”

Guerra is studying to become a pediatric cognitive behavioral psychologist and looking to transfer to the University of Houston-Clear Lake after San Jac. Though Guerra isn’t a music major, she plans never to stop playing.

“In the future, I would like to help build community bands and give other people the same opportunity I was given,” she said.

Mizma hopes to expand the program beyond school districts to local organizations, but for now, he’s proud of what has been accomplished in the last eight years.

“The way the community bands keep growing and thriving is so fulfilling,” he said. “I can’t wait to see what the future holds and to see how far we can reach.”



Steel drum band member Serina Guerra



Photos courtesy of San Jacinto College

Hear the band next weekend

The San Jacinto College Steel Drum Band will perform at Miller Outdoor Theatre on Saturday, May 7, at 8:15 p.m. The concert marks the world premiere of “River to the Sea,” a six-movement original work by composer C.J. Menge. The free concert will conclude with a mass performance by the College’s steel drum band and six of the community bands.

San Jac’s steel drum band performs at the Hermann Park Conservancy Kite Festival on Sunday, March 27, at Miller Outdoor Theatre.

SAN JAC ALUMNA SHARES GENERATIONS OF NOSTALGIA

By Neesha Hosein
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Lois Zinnecker worked full time, raised five kids, ran a family business with her husband, and took college classes, all in an era before smartphones, Google, and the internet.

Proud that she graduated fourth in her high school class and was named outstanding student, Zinnecker was ready for higher education. With her interest in business and finance, Rice University was the first stop.

A family legacy

William J. Philpot, Zinnecker’s father, worked full time at a paper company and was mayor of Galena Park in the 1940s and 1950s. He drove her to classes at Rice University, but his busy schedule, the long commute, and her reluctance to use public transportation became a deal breaker.

“He said he was going to work on getting a college in our area, which would eventually be San Jacinto College,” Zinnecker said. “In the meantime, I went to the University of

Houston for a year, then got married and had five children. Needless to say, I took a break from school for a while.”

Zinnecker eventually returned to UH but decided, once again, the commute was a hassle. It wasn’t until her late 40s that Zinnecker started her journey at San Jac. The College was closer to home, and she attended alongside her daughter, Dawn South.

South said Zinnecker has always been a go-getter, and “it was a great experience” taking classes with her mom. The two helped each other and managed to have fun along the way.

“I was a returning student just kind of taking whatever I wanted,” Zinnecker said. “Finally, Dawn said I should focus on one area and look into getting an actual degree. I was still interested in business, so that’s when I made the decision.”

The two took classes at varying times, including Saturdays, to work around their busy schedules. Like her mom, South ran a business and had a family while attending San Jac. The pair took core classes together, including algebra, history, and government. South focused on foreign languages, namely Spanish and Portuguese, while Zinnecker added real estate, business, physical education, and piano classes to her credits.

According to Zinnecker’s daughter Lelia Winkelman, her mother was “a star student and worked very hard in everything she did.” Winkelman was a director for continuing education at San Jac in the early 2000s.

Graduation day

In spring 1981 at South Campus, the mother-daughter duo walked across the stage to celebrate their shared milestone. Zinnecker graduated with an Associate of Arts in business, and South with an Associate of Arts in foreign language. Zinnecker said “it was such an exciting day” for both the event and group photos with family.

“It was pretty awesome that we were both graduating at the same time,” South said. “Someone at graduation told us we were the first mother-daughter duo to graduate from the South Campus.”

Life after San Jac

“My dad would’ve been so proud to see how far San Jac has grown,” Zinnecker said.

At 93, the College alumna still drives, enjoys her independence, and likes to stay busy.

“I’m active in my church, and I go to the senior center and do biking and chair volleyball because I have to use a walker,” Zinnecker said. “I have 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. It’s a lot of fun.”

South went on to earn a master’s degree from the University of Texas and currently runs a uniform and embroidery business that she’s had since she was just out of high school.

“San Jac played a big role in motivating me to complete my degree at UT at age 41,” South said. “It was overall a wonderful experience.”



Photo courtesy of Zinnecker family

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
May 1	Coyotes Softball vs. LSU Eunice	1 & 3 p.m.	South Campus, Softball Field
May 2	Wind Ensemble Concert	7 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5)
May 3	Vocal Area Recital	7 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5)
May 5	Choir Concert	7 p.m.	Central Campus, Corbin Hall (C5)
May 6-7	Kaleidoscope: Spring Dance Concert	7 p.m.	South Campus, Proscenium Theatre (S15)
May 7	Steel Band Concert: World Premiere - ‘River to the Sea’	7 p.m.	Miller Outdoor Theater
May 13	Spring Commencement	7 p.m.	NRG Stadium
May 20	Step Brightly into the Future Gala	6-10 p.m.	Central Campus, CPET (C45)
May 30	Memorial Day holiday	Closed	All campuses, online

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



SAN JAC GATORS HOST NORTH SHORE CHALLENGER DIVISION

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

The San Jacinto College Gators baseball team partnered with the North Shore Little League Challenger Division to commemorate its second annual Challenger Day event Saturday, March 26. The day was celebrated by fans of the NSLLCD and Gators alike with special guest Wayne Oquin from the North Shore Rotary Club.

“We are very fortunate to be able to positively impact the lives of the kids and families around us and to instill a foundation of community support in the young players at San Jac,” said Tom Arrington, College head baseball coach.

The NSLLCD started five years ago as part of the national Little League Challenger Program. The division enables boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, ages 4-18 or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school, to enjoy baseball along with the millions of other children who participate in the sport. More than 30,000 athletes participate in 950 Challenger programs worldwide.

Both the Gators and the Alvin Community College Dolphins acted as buddies during the game. The buddies assist the Challenger players on the field as needed. Whenever possible, players bat and make plays themselves.

The day was inspired by Gators assistant coach Kory Koehler’s son

Keaton, who was born with brain deformities. Doctors told the Koehlers their baby would not live more than five to 10 hours without oxygen. Keaton survived and has been diagnosed with desmoterolosis, a condition on the cerebral palsy spectrum. The 10-year-old now competes with the other 60 athletes in the NSLLCD.

“My wife, Erika, and I couldn’t be more grateful for the opportunity to involve our son and the North Shore Little League Challenger Division into our spring schedule of events,” Koehler said. “Challenger Day provides tremendous life lessons to our student-athletes while putting joy in the hearts of families that endure the struggle daily. If for just a

few hours, it provides a world’s worth of smiles to those who need it.”

Eric Kirchner, North Shore Little League president and Galena Park ISD program director of special education, says events like the Challenger Game “help us to get the word out about our organization to a different audience but also help our community and buddies like the Gators to see our special needs children as the diverse and dynamic group they are.”

“Seeing these big guys out there with our Challenger athletes, laughing and chasing them around the bases, makes us all smile,” Kirchner said. “We see our regular volunteer buddies from the high schools and other sports come in and make long-lasting connections and friendships with our athletes, and that’s what it’s all about.”

To learn more about NSLLCD, visit www.facebook.com/NSLLChallengerDivision.



Photos courtesy of Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College



SAN JACINTO COLLEGE THROUGH THE YEARS: 2000-2009



sanjac.edu/60-years

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SAN JAC GALA WILL SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS FUND

By Courtney Morris

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Presented by LyondellBasell and the Sinor Family, the “**Step Brightly into the Future**” gala, San Jacinto College’s 60th anniversary gala, will benefit the student success fund endowment supporting Promise @ San Jac Scholarships.

The gala will be at 6 p.m. on **Friday, May 20, 2022**, at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology at the Central Campus.

ABC13 news and sports anchor Adam Winkler will emcee the gala, while keynote speaker Sen. Larry Taylor will receive the 2022 Legacy Award for his continued support of the College.

Guests will enjoy a gourmet dinner, a punch wall, silent auction, truffle box favors from the culinary arts program, and the chance to engage with San Jac students and scholarship recipients. The College’s music program will provide entertainment, and students will entertain guests with demonstrations.

Silent auction items range from

autographed Dusty Baker and Yuli Gurriel baseballs, Kendra Scott jewelry, and a Waterford crystal bowl to a private wine class for 20, a one-night stay at South Shore Harbour Resort, and more.

Sponsors include ...

- **Presenting Sponsors:** LyondellBasell, Sinor Family
- **Transformational Sponsor:** Tellepsen, Trncak Family
- **Game Changer Sponsor:** FMG, Generation Park, Haworth, Brenda and Rusty Hellyer
- **Inspiration Maker Sponsors:** Steven L. Cowart, Teri and Kevin Crawford, Goldman Sachs, Thompson & Horton LLP
- **Mission Sponsors:** Armand Bayou Nature Center, BASF, East Harris County Manufacturers Association, Gilbreath, Health Services Management Network of Companies, H-E-B, Houston Pilots, Huitt-Zollars, Houston Pilots, INEOS, North Channel Area

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- **In-Kind Sponsors:** Career Uniforms, Houston Chronicle, Vision
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- **Event Printing Underwriter:** 1Vision
- **Silent Auction Sponsors:** State Rep. Dr. Greg Bonnen, District 24

To learn more, visit sanjac.edu/gala or contact the San Jacinto College Foundation at 281-998-6104.



Photo courtesy of San Jacinto College

Bianca Compean

A promising future starts without debt

Promise @ San Jac started in 2020 with three Pasadena ISD high schools. Thanks to a \$30 million donation from philanthropists MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett, San Jac is creating an endowment to offer Promise @ San Jac scholarships beginning fall 2022 to all high school seniors within its taxing district.

Promise was the solution for South Houston High School senior Bianca Compean.

Before Promise, Compean imagined four years of part-time classes to earn a two-year degree and avoid student loans. Thanks to Promise, she started San Jac in fall 2020 and is reaching her goals faster as a full-time student.

The last-dollar scholarship covers up to three years of tuition and books so she can finish her associate degree debt-free. No debt, no sweat.

The scholarship also opened an unexpected door. With most basics out of the way, Compean is eyeing the diagnostic medical sonography program because of her own experience with a pre-surgery ultrasound years ago. She looks forward to quality medical training at no cost.

“I wanted to be a sonographer at heart,” she said. “After graduating from San Jac, I am hoping to get hired on in the medical field.”

Since money is no object, Compean can laser-focus on her classes and achieve her dreams debt-free. That’s a *promise*.

“An opportunity like this comes around once in a lifetime,” she said.

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INTO THE
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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 20 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. San Jacinto College is among the top five community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence in 2021 and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually, and 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. San Jacinto College's impact on the region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.