



Access

Volume 3, Issue 1

SUMMER 2018
Advancing Community
College Education for
Student Success

Making a Living Doing What You Love!

Top Ten Universal Access Community Endowment Scholars 2018

Matthew Avina
Haelen Betancourt
Taylor Johnson
Asia Lee
Leslie Lujan
Maria Quevedo
Yessica Ramos-Barrios
Ethan Torres
Kyle Wheeler
Litao Xiao

Like her mother and her grandmother before her, Galveston artist **Samantha Wiley** uses real-life moments as the foundation for her art, telling stories of people, places and special events through her captivating portraiture work.

A 2005 graduate from Ball High School, she enrolled in dual-credit courses at Galveston College, and went on to take many of her core courses here. She ultimately graduated from the University of Houston in 2009 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting. Her sister, **Rachel Wiley-Janota**, who graduated with an associate's degree from Galveston College and an art degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, both have artwork displayed in their family gallery, **René Wiley Gallery**. While her sister (continued page 7...)



Rachel Wiley-Janota, Class of 2011, depicted in the black and white photo to the left of Samantha Wiley.



New GCF Award for Excellence

This spring Galveston College Foundation initiated the inaugural "Top Ten" Universal Access Community Endowment to the UA scholars with the top ten highest GPAs. These students received an additional award of \$500 towards their non-tuition educational costs. Congratulations to these students for their hard work!

Left: UA Top Ten Scholars Litao Xiao, Maria Quevedo, Yessica Ramos-Barrios, Leslie Lujan, Asia Lee, Matthew Avina. See other top performing scholars on page six.

From the Desk of...Galveston College Board Regent Armin Cantini



My grandfather was a 17-year-old immigrant from Italy who arrived in Galveston as the Island was recovering from the 1900 Storm. He worked as a laborer on the Seawall before starting his own business. He came with nothing but a determination to work hard and educate his family. He succeeded. And it changed the lives of his children and grandchildren. I see that same thing happening today with many first generation college students who attend GC.

My first college experience was at Galveston College. It included a summer of government and history courses. It was a positive experience, and I have always appreciated the important role our college has played in the lives of so many Galvestonians.

In the mid 1980's, it was my hope, and that of many others, that no child on the Island would decide not to attend Galveston College for lack of financial resources.

This was a dream shared by others in our community. **Roland Bassett** and **Fred Raschke** joined me in the creation of the initial Galveston College Foundation Board. It was also part of the synergy which created the Universal Access Scholarship. The vision and guidance of the late **Jan Coggeshall** and **Carl Robertson** for these initiatives was invaluable from the onset.



Early investors in the "Dream" were **The Mary Moody Northen Endowment, The Moody Foundation, Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund, Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust, Galveston Daily News Corporation** and the **Permanent Endowment Fund of Moody Methodist Church** along with over 152 individual families and donors. The Kempner Fund grant, a matching grant, generated a number of great gifts from individuals and families who believe in the cause.

My family has been honored to establish the **Lynn Levin Cantini Memorial Nursing Endowment** which supports the education of students pursuing a career in nursing. We know the important roles nurses play in the delivery of health care, and the ways in which their work blesses patients and their families. We hope through the education they receive at Galveston College and beyond, they will become both competent and compassionate practitioners. The desire these young people demonstrate to be in service to others, makes us proud of all they are accomplishing.



In 2017, the Texas Legislature voted that Galveston College can pursue accreditation to offer a four-year technical baccalaureate degree in nursing and healthcare management. This will undoubtedly help meet the escalating healthcare workforce needs of our region and be an important new opportunity for our students.

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Seated above, GC Regent **Armin Cantini** and **Dr. Gail Ayers Cantini**. Standing, Cantini scholars **Rachel Vaughn** and **Robert Clay**, with **Joan Moss**, ADN Faculty. Top left, Mr. Cantini and Ms. Moss are observing and evaluating via real time camera that captures and records the medical simulation. Lower left, Rachel and Robert demonstrate how the simulation laboratory is used in teaching and practicing theoretical concepts.



Head Baseball Coach Christopher Joblin, 2018 Rob Brasier Memorial Award scholar, athlete, and recent graduate (Class of '18) John Hunter Christopher and President Myles Shelton.

Welcome back to your ACCESS newsletter "Advancing Community College Education for Student Success!"

In our latest issue, we celebrate the opportunity to open doors to your future, help change your life, and give your family the best possible future. Throughout are stories about how former students and alumni are making a living by doing what they love and are making it possible for others to do the same. For more than fifty years, Galveston College has been an integral part of the dynamism that propels individuals and the community of Galveston forward.

Ninety-six point two percent (96.2%) of our graduates are employed and/or pursuing additional education within one year of graduation. Over the last five years, new semester-hour credit programs were established to meet community and industry needs, including, but not limited to pipefitting, patient care technology, maritime logistics, and IT/Cisco technology. In addition, heating/air conditioning, electrical-electronics technology, medical administration and cosmetology are housed at the Charlie Thomas Applied Technology Center, our satellite campus on Broadway.

Finding keys to the doors of your success is the responsibility of many of the people at Galveston College. The senior Administration and Faculty have recently expanded academic and dual credit opportunities for area high school students.

Cantini Continued...

Fundraising plans for a five-story Nursing and Health Sciences Building with a dedicated Culinary Arts/Nutrition Science floor will begin in earnest. Other facilities expansion are on the drawing board, including buildings for multi-purpose instruction, law enforcement, and performing and visual arts.

One thing that has most impressed us in letters of appreciation we receive is almost every student talks of one day wanting to generously do something to benefit others. This has been so meaningful, and we pray that will be the case.

The return on our investment will be what these young, hard-working people accomplish in their careers, what they do for the betterment of their families, and how they will contribute to their communities. In many cases, they will be the first in their family to attend college, and in doing so, they will show the way for future generations.

The College is where big dreams require big plans. My wife Gail and I consider it a privilege to be part of this investment in the lives of young people in our community, passing on some of the blessings we have received in our lives.

And the Galveston College Foundation, a separate 501 (c) (3) community endowment, continues to serve our students by cultivating, managing, and investing private gifts from individuals, families, foundations and businesses for scholarships, program support, and capital growth. The Universal Access Scholarship is nearly fully endowed and a second \$6M endowment campaign began this year for non-tuition educational expenses.

And finally, doors will open (literally!) at the "The Abe and Annie Seibel Residence Hall" which will house 42 student athletes. Please see a rendering below of what to expect. You will be invited to a groundbreaking later this year. We look forward to having you join us.



Fourth Annual President's Reception Recognizes Scholarship Donors and Scholars



On February 1, 2018, more than 200 scholarship recipients and donors were feted in Mardi Gras fashion at the Fourth Annual Galveston College President's Reception recognizing donors and scholars in the Abe and Annie Seibel Foundation Wing.

President Myles Shelton and **Maria Tripovich**, Director of Development and the Galveston College Foundation, honored **Larry Del Papa, JoAnn Del Papa, Laura Del Papa and Del Papa Distributing Company** for the establishment of the **Lawrence J. Del Papa Memorial Nursing Endowment Scholarship**.

Galveston College **Regent Armin** and **Dr. Gail Ayers Cantini** were honored for their contributions in establishing the **Lynn Levin Cantini Memorial Nursing Assistance Endowment**.

Charli Rohack, wildlife rehabilitator and master falconer, and **Dr. Jim Rohack**, emeritus professor of Medicine and Humanities at Texas A&M University, discussed their work with local birds and future opportunities for students who are interested in careers in engineering and related sciences affecting habitats and the eco system.

Dr. Laimutis Bytautus, assistant professor of Chemistry, shared an overview of the opportunities available to students. The event celebrated the success of 297 scholars supported by 184 donors. Awards reflected not only the renowned Galveston College Foundation Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship, but additional private, named and endowed scholarship funds from area families, local foundations, regional corporations, and third-party scholarships from fraternities, sororities, county and Island employers, as well as state and national civic organizations.

Private philanthropic gifts totaled over \$373,000 in support for students who excel academically in their chosen course of study as they prepare for careers in Nursing/Health Sciences, Elementary Education, Applied Science, Applied Technology, Mathematics, Engineering, Fine Arts, Humanities, Business Administration, Culinary Arts and more.



Photos counter-clockwise: President Myles Shelton accepts check from Joanne, Larry and Laura Del Papa; Charli Rohack holds Solo, a one-year-old barn owl who was found as a baby with a deformed wing and cannot fly. Solo serves as an educational ambassador and visits schools with Mrs. Rohack. Laura Ansted of the Texas Book Company and scholar Annabelle Bellow; representing Daughters of the American Revolution George Washington Chapter Catherine Polk and Cheryl Tucker, scholar Madalean Strawn (center). University Federal Credit Union representatives Amelia Serrano and Geneva Spiller with scholars Jesus Ramos, Juan Vela, Raegan Homes, Oscar Mendoza and Geneva Spiller of University Federal Credit Union.





Photos counterclockwise: Representing the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of The Incarnate Word, Sr. Mary Patricia Driscoll, scholar Mary Stewart, Sr. Rachel O’Keeffe, and scholar Zsolt Petko. GC Foundation Directors Paulie Gaido and Victor Pierson with Betty Massey, Executive Director of the Mary Moody Northern Endowment. Mrs. Andrea and Regent Carroll Sunseri. Mrs. Vida Rector, of the Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust Fund. President Shelton accepting check for the Lynn Levin Cantini Memorial Nursing Assistance Endowment from Regent Armin Cantini. Scott and Elizabeth Cryder, Regent Cantini, and scholars Timothy Rorie, Haley Webster and Robert Clay. Philip “Brother” Molis Law Enforcement Scholars Barrington Hanna, Mario Reyes and Eric Vela.

Thank you to our generous donors. Every gift counts!



Another Key to Our Success: Universal Access Scholarship \$4,620!

Over the last 15 years, the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship supported almost **1,600** students. These students were not eligible for federal or state funding-- oftentimes because their income exceeded eligibility limits, yet they still needed financial assistance to complete their studies and graduate. Since late fall 2014, Galveston College Foundation raised **\$5.4 million** for the Universal Access Community Endowment and individual scholarships. **Thanks to consistent generosity from the Galveston community, area foundations, and businesses, the Universal Access Community Endowment upgraded tuition support annually.** Beginning in the fall of 2018 the Endowment Scholarship will provide **\$4,620** toward tuition and required fees, along with a one-time \$200 book stipend.

For more information on the Universal Access Scholarship, eligibility and participation guidelines see:

www.gc.edu/give/about-the-gc-foundation/universal-access-scholarship/

Opening doors...Changing lives.

Top Ten Universal Access Community Endowment Scholars

(Continued from Page 1)

Counter-clockwise:

Scholars Kyle Wheeler, Taylor Johnson, Ethan Torres and Haelen Betancourt.



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Making a Living Doing What You Love...Continued from Page 1

works in watercolor, acrylic and mixed media, Samantha specializes in oil portraits, working mostly from photographs and from live models when possible. "I paint a lot of kids and grandkids," Samantha said, adding that she mostly does commissioned pieces for families.

"My grandmother did a lot of portrait work, and I've always enjoyed painting and drawing people," Samantha said. "In school, I remember drawing portraits of everyone in my classes."

They are the daughters of **René Wiley**, one of the most prolific, well-known and well-collected oil painters in the United States. Samantha grew up around art and artists, eventually settling on oil and graphite charcoal as her mediums of choice. "I've been drawing for as long as I can remember," Samantha said. "Growing up, we had a big sunroom that was my mom's studio. I was always in or near the studio." She also has been a photographer since childhood. Her father built her a darkroom at age 11.

When Samantha was 15, her family moved from Conroe, Texas, to Galveston, where her father, **Ben Wiley**, served as a captain and fishing guide, and her mother painted and taught art classes until Hurricane Ike destroyed her studio in 2008. That same year, the family decided to represent René's work exclusively in Galveston, opening the René Wiley Gallery in the historic 1858 Pix Building on Post Office Street in the Island's downtown.

Active in the Galveston art scene, Samantha's portraits of fifteen Island musicians were featured last summer in an exhibit at the Proletariat called "Musical Minds." A gallery in San Miguel de Allende in Central Mexico also hosted an exhibit of her work called "Flower Girls," which featured oil paintings of young women from Galveston with flowers in their hair.

Samantha lives on a farm in Hitchcock near her parents and younger sister, Sarah. Her daughter, 4-year-old Genevieve, already excels at drawing. When she's not at the gallery or her Galveston studio, Samantha can be found teaching yoga or art at the



Working in her studio located in the 1907 Island City Woodworking Co. building (right).



In her studio holding one of her portraits.

Satori School. As for advice for student-artists at Galveston College, Samantha encouraged them to pursue their passion. **"Find a way to make a living doing what you love."**

Samantha can be followed on Instagram **@samiwiley** or through her website **samanthawiley.com**.

The **Galveston College Department of Visual Arts** features an exhibition gallery and state of the art studio classrooms for courses including ceramics, photography, drawing, painting and design. For more information about the program, contact **John Stovall, Associate Professor of Fine Arts** at **jstovall@gc.edu**.





Furthering the knowledge base in higher education training for the next generation of professional instrumentation technicians while meeting the labor market needs of advanced technology employers is the goal of Galveston College. The **Advanced Technology National Science Foundation Education Program** grant of **\$199,530** was awarded in 2016 and funded revamping the College’s Electrical and Electronic (E/E) program into an Advanced E/E and Instrumentation Program (INT). The new Instrumentation certification program will begin in fall 2018. The program is helping meet the future demand for almost 3,000 new instrumentation technicians needed in the Gulf Coast region and increasing employability for program graduates.

Under the direction of Principal Investigator, **Tyree Bearden** and Co-principal Investigator, **Dr. Laimutis Bytautas**, the College collaborated with local employers, government agencies and industries to form the **Industry and Business Implementation (IBIT)** board. The current IBIT Advisory Board includes **Marathon Petroleum, Farmer’s Alloy Fabricating, Inc., Kemah Boardwalk & Pleasure Pier, SpawGlass, University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), Economic Development Division of Galveston County and Galveston Independent School District.**

IBIT fills an important duty, increasing interaction between the education and industry partners to identify and facilitate change in training to maintain current with employer needs. It offers the opportunity of providing assistance in program mentoring, implementation and outreach. By adapting its Integrated Curriculum for Technician Education (ICF-TE) the GC ATE program will advance knowledge and understanding among community colleges about technician education. This will strengthen the recruitment, retention and employability of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students.

The grant aims to increase the number of individuals of underrepresented groups working in STEM technical fields. “Increasing the number of women in the field is one of our objectives for the ATE grant,” said Bytautas. The best practices and instructional strategies learned through this grant will be adopted by other Galveston College STEM programs and passed on to other institutions around the nation improving teaching and learning.



Left: Workers at Katie’s Seafood prepare red snapper for market. Located at Pier 19 in Galveston, Katie’s Seafood has supplied fresh Gulf seafood since 1998 and served as the basis for the National Geographic Channel’s series, “Big Fish Texas.” **Katie’s Seafood House** restaurant is scheduled to open in fall.

Below left and right: Reviewing drawing plans for updating the restaurant and testing electrical wiring and circuits. An Associate’s in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Electrical and Electronics will put Victor Resendiz in line for one of the high-demand jobs in the construction and building trade.



This new grant will serve the Galveston community by training students and moving them into the local work force. **Victhor Resendiz**, Class of 2018, is the type of student who will benefit from this program. Victhor finished his electronics and electrical certification II, plans to earn his certification III this summer, and will finish his *Electronics and Electrical (E/E) Associate's in Applied Science* degree in spring 2019. He is a recipient of the **TG Charley Wootan Program Scholarship**.



Pictured below: On-site at the future, Katie's Seafood House restaurant, Derrick "Ricky" Gutierrez, operations manager; Robert Reeves, electrical production manager of Farmer's Alloy Fabricating, Inc., and Tyree Bearden, Galveston College's electrical and electronics program director, give E/E student Victhor Resendiz (above) a taste of his future.



Photographs and content courtesy of the following Galveston College offices: Development, Galveston College Foundation, Grants Development, and Public Affairs.

Phi Theta Kappa Oberndorf Scholar Graduates



Lakee Babineaux, a student at Galveston College, was named as an **Oberndorf Scholar** by **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society** and received a \$1,000 scholarship in late 2017. The **Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship** helps Phi Theta Kappa members overcome unanticipated financial barriers preventing the completion of the first college credential, an associate degree, or

certificate, while enrolled in a two-year college. Ms. Babineaux is one of seven students selected internationally to receive the award. Upon graduation, Lakee plans to transfer to the University of Houston-Clear Lake to continue her education.

"I would love to have a career in geriatric social work," Ms. Babineaux said. "There are many programs for children and families; however, we don't have as many programs for our elderly. I look forward to helping to make a difference."

Graduated this spring, Lakee's round-about story of getting to Galveston College is one that starts in Port Arthur, where her mother, **Brenda Gipson**, lived while working as a nurse at John Sealy Hospital.

Lakee worked hard making choices towards achieving her goals. She earned her GED and moved to Austin where she started college. Unfortunately her mother became ill, at which time she left college to care for her. For a time she worked in the advertising field, but her mother convinced her to consider medicine. Lakee followed her mother's advice and went back to school to study surgical technology.

They lived two streets from Galveston College, and Lakee soon discovered the library. Thus her relationship with the College began. She enrolled in January of 2015 and graduated in May 2018.

Lakee has been accepted into University of Houston-Clear Lake where she will pursue a bachelors, and eventually a master's degree in Social Work.

GC Students Grateful for the Help

A \$25,000 grant from the **Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT)** and **Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (ICUT)** enabled Galveston College Foundation to award disaster relief funds to twenty-seven students who were heavily impacted by Hurricane Harvey. These awards resulted in helping students continue their studies even while displaced from their homes and attempting to recover a relatively normal living situation. Applicants applied and were selected by the Harvey HELP Committee.

Being a single parent has been both challenging and rewarding. To provide for my family I worked tirelessly as a Patient Care Technician for 12 years. I do my very best to maintain both my personal and educational responsibilities in such a way that I am able to effectively and efficiently balance and success. However, my situation took a drastic turn on August 26, 2017 when Hurricane Harvey made landfall and devastated my community.

In this event, my house was completely submerged in six feet of water. My home was uninhabitable. I had to be rescued by boat... The one thing that kept me grounded was the anticipation of starting a new academic year at Galveston College. I am humbled by this opportunity to thank you for your gracious generosity...

-Brandy Booty



I grew up in Dickinson, TX. It was so surreal to watch my hometown become submerged under Harvey's deluge on that fateful August night. I was stranded under the overpass at I-45 and FM 517 with my dog, watching while my car disappeared under ever-rising waters. I later learned that the home in Santa Fe, TX, where I had evacuated most of my valuable possessions, was also under four feet of water. All of my school work was stored on my laptop in the home and was a total loss. I have been struggling ever since, but I am thankful that Galveston College provides resources for students to complete required assignments.

However, having the freedom to once again access my schoolwork and submit assignments from wherever I am located is liberating in ways I cannot describe. I would not have been able to replace the crucial piece of equipment with the generous aid of the Communities Foundation of Texas.

I will not forget it, and I truly hope that I am in a position to pay it forward in the future... With sincerest and deepest thanks,

Robert Lehman



I thank you so much for your generosity. Being a resident of Dickinson, my family and I were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. My apartment and car were flooded. Slowly but surely we are rebuilding. The award has been a blessing for my family. How amazing it is to know that there are organizations like the Communities Foundation of Texas able to help others in need. I can't wait to finish my degree and one day give back to my community as you have done for my family...

-Hilda Chavez-Morales

My car was submerged by water and is currently in the workshop. By the grace of God and with your help, the car will be ready for use at the end of the month. This will alleviate my problem of inconveniencing others with their vehicles for the daily trip from Houston to Galveston.

The award will enable me to remain focused and face my academic activities which will result in a timely graduation from Galveston College and obtain my Associate Degree in Nursing. The degree will enable me also to contribute to my community in future.

Ezekiel Amos Akpanowo



First Generation Power Couple



Galveston College graduates, **Barbara and Ryan Garcia**: The term *dynamic duo* takes on a whole new meaning.

Both first-generation college students and Galveston natives, Barbara and Ryan Garcia participated in the dual-credit program while students at Ball High School. They graduated from Galveston College in 2008, receiving Associate of Arts degrees in general studies. Barbara, who graduated with highest honors, went on to become a summa cum laude graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelor of Arts in history. She later earned a Master of Business Administration from

Western Governors University and now works for a financial planning firm. Her typical day on the job means watching the market, developing tailored financial plans, and addressing current needs of each client.

Ryan, also an honors graduate, earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Texas State University-San Marcos. He currently serves as an aviator in the U.S. Navy. Ryan is attached to Strike/Fighter Squadron THREE ONE, the Tomcatters, and flies the F/A-18E Super Hornet. He is working on his Strike Fighter Weapons and Tactics syllabus with the focus on becoming a flight lead. He has flown at 500 miles per hour just 200 feet off the ground, performed aerobatic and tactical maneuvers 20,000+ feet above, and has landed on an aircraft carrier in pitch-black night.

Ryan and Barbara have been married for four and a half years, have been together since they were 16 and are best friends. Their lives have taken them out of Galveston, but they still consider Galveston home. Galveston is a small town and feels smaller when you live here your entire life, so Barbara did not think she would have been ready for a four-year university right out of high school.

Galveston College provided the perfect solution. She took courses through dual credit and continued at Galveston College without missing a beat. It was close to home, just a few blocks away, and wasn't going to cause a hardship financially. She was thankful because she was able to complete the first two years of her undergraduate degree for a fraction of the cost at a university. All of her courses transferred to Texas State and she finished her degree in May of 2010. "Galveston College provided the foundation that gave me the confidence and ability to complete my undergraduate degree and is the reason that I had the opportunity to continue on to graduate school and complete my MBA with Western Governors University," Barbara states.

Ryan is the first of his immediate family to get a degree from both a community college as well as a university. He credits the majority of his accomplishments to his wife who put him in contact with Building Bridges to Success (BBS) at Galveston College, a program designed for first-year college students. BBS makes the transition from high school to college very easy and assist with the many challenges it presents. Galveston College was the start of Ryan's personal and professional development, and he is "forever grateful."

When asked for advice for current and future students Barbara states, "**Take it seriously. This is an amazing time in your life. What you're doing now and the skills you're learning here are going to benefit you for the rest of your life.**" Galveston College is a great resource that will help you reach your goals and allow you to achieve things you never thought possible." Ryan advises, "Success is in your behavior, and hard work is the by-product. Achieving your life goals is a long-term process...Have fun, but take (your goals) seriously."



For full version of this article, see: www.gc.edu/alumni-power-couple-soars-success/

Making a Living by Doing for Others



Professor of Accounting and Business Administration and Management Program Coordinator, **Don F. Davison** has been with Galveston College since 1999 and served as immediate past Faculty Senate President. Professor Davison is known for his quick wit, kind professional demeanor and personal generosity.

The Davison family has two scholarships at Galveston College Foundation named for beloved relatives. During his youth, he recalls his **Aunt Olga Olson** (1896 – 1983), who always made time for him and his family. She was shy, yet never met a stranger. When she was a young woman her mother became very ill. She stayed at home to care for her. Ms. Olson remained a single lady, eventually supporting herself as a cook. Initially she worked at local refineries Shell and Dupont which had cafeterias at that time. She went to work as a cook at Boys Harbor in Morgan's Point (now named Today's Harbor for Children), then later she worked at a nursing home. In remembrance of her devotion to Professor Davison's family, he

memorialized her through the creation of the **Olga Olson Culinary Scholarship**.

With help from **Chef Paul Mendoza** and the **Galveston College Foundation**, it was funded, and now four scholarships per year are granted, two per

semester. This past year **Francisco Sanchez** and **Oscar Mendoza** (seen in picture below with **Chef Paul Mendoza**) were the recipients of the scholarship each semester.



Professor Davison's family continue their philanthropic support of Galveston College Foundation through the creation of a second scholarship in honor of his step-grandfather, **Fred B. Lane**. When fully funded, this scholarship will support

business majors with thirty hours and a GPA of 2.8 or higher.

Outside of Galveston College, Professor Davison supports the Galveston community through his involvement in the Galveston ISD Educational Foundation (GEF) Board as treasurer, the City of Galveston Pension Board, Texas Community College Teachers' Association (TCCTA), and membership in the Rotary Club.

A fan of the Twilight Zone, he has even been known to watch an entire Twilight Zone marathon during the New Year's holiday. He and his wife, **Janene Davison**, Assistant Professor of Speech Communication, and their three sons enjoy traveling the country to catch a baseball game at many of the major stadiums. Maybe PNC Park in Pittsburgh sometime soon? Play ball!



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“Do what you love, and you’ll never work a day in your life.” Anonymous

Professor John C. Rimar’s office is a room of curiosities, full of antique calculus and math books, slide rules, a global collection of Coke bottles, and memorabilia from his travels to Japan and other exotic locations. His extensive collection of slide rule calculators belongs in a display showing how far technology has come. Naturally there is a story behind all of these objects spanning his career, and if you want to know the story, he will be glad to tell you!

In Snyder ,Texas, in the 1940s, Professor Rimar’s mother, **Mary Nell**, was a math and chemistry major at Texas Tech who graduated and went on to teach chemistry. His father, **Michael John Rimar**, was from New Jersey and stationed in Midland during WWII. He graduated from Texas Tech with an electrical engineering degree. The two met at the Cardinal Newman Club near the Midland Army air base and eventually married. The Rimars moved to Fort Worth, where Professor Rimar grew up. He followed their educational path at Texas Tech and graduated with a B.S. and an M.S. in mathematics in 1978. In August of that year, he moved to the Island to teach at Galveston College .

When he came to the College, it was one main building, Moody Hall the only building. The campus has changed much throughout the years, and Professor Rimar can tell stories about days gone by when Sarah H. Hermes was the spirit of the College community.

In addition to teaching full-time at Galveston College, Professor Rimar has taught the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC class at Ball High since 1992, which is the equivalent of the standard college level Calculus I and Calculus II class. It has a mixture of Galveston College dual credit students and AP students.



Amy Leuchtag, Building Bridges to Success Student Advisor, had Professor Rimar as a Ball High student in 2005-06. That year a television reporter came to observe his class, because his students had the highest pass rates on the AP calculus test, and they wanted to know why. Amy knows. “He taught in a really dynamic , non-traditional way compared to most math teachers.” From lessons on discs using donuts, to being a consummate story teller, he relayed his love of mathematics in a way that was contagious. A former student said he could “teach math to a brick!”



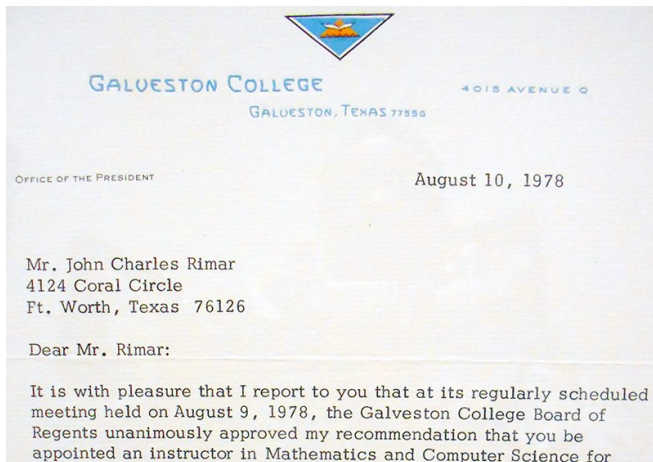
On their last class he gave each student an individualized small gift and a note of what he saw for their future. He took a class picture, then told them the “last thing I will give you is the shirt off my back” and let them cut off a piece of his shirt. His students knew he was dedicated to their learning. For Amy, his class was the turning point to figuring out whether she was “good or not good at math.” After realizing she was good, she had the confidence and skill set to go on to get a bachelors in engineering.

For his GC students Professor Rimar stays very up to date with current technology and writes programs to be downloaded onto students’ calculators. He uses One Note to electronically distribute handouts and class notes live, giving students who may have to miss a class the ability to access them off campus.

Outside of Galveston College, Professor Rimar has been very involved with the Lions Club, and dedicated time

towards their projects. You can find Professor Rimar on Facebook, but don’t expect him to post much...he is not a fan!

Professor Rimar will be celebrating 40 years as a Galveston College professor this fall and continues to impact many students’ futures through teaching a love of mathematics. He can be quoted as saying, **“At the end of the day, it’s all math!”**



UnGala 2017 Cabaret Au Lapin Agile-Paris—No Regrets

UnGala II 2017 No Regrets. No rules, just fun and a little fun(d) raising. We know you enjoyed what is fast becoming known as the most unexpected event at the College.

The evening of October 14 was a tribute to our late friend and Regent **George Black**, who served the College for 14 years. As a Regent, he was an advocate for Galveston College Foundation's Universal Access Scholarship program, and was instrumental in strategic facilities planning especially for the highly anticipated Nursing and Health Sciences Building. The evening raised \$53K towards the Nursing and Health Science Building.

UnGala Cabaret Au Lapin Agile—Paris was everything from fast machines, fine artists, a third engagement from The Music Box Theater-Houston, and a very generous gift of haute cuisine from our UnGala II underwriter *Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and Convention Center's Shearn's Seafood -Prime Steaks*. The College's Culinary Arts students were also privileged to work with Moody Gardens and Shearn's executive chefs **Cedric Geddes, Bethany Boedicker, and Felipe Gonzales**.



George & Sherry Black—UnGala 2015





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Whitecap student-athletes and scholarship recipients left to right: Joel Torres; Adriel Acevedo; Ian Matos; Christian Sepulveda; Vladimir Susana; proprietor of Lagniappe and Mr. C's Custom Deli and Catering, Michael Carrasco; Andres Romero; and front, Ryan Velazquez.