

OPPORTUNITY

NEWS



2 News from
Your College

4 Central Campus
Gallery Opens

6 Veteran Pivots from
Military Encrypting

NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

San Jac launches space experiment competition

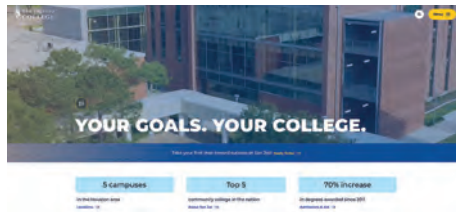
San Jacinto College — in collaboration with the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education — is offering an opportunity for students to partake in scientific exploration beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

Current College students and area high school students are ready to unleash their scientific creativity by designing microgravity experiments to be conducted in Pasadena and aboard the International Space Station simultaneously. This unprecedented initiative was unveiled in late September during the grand opening of the South Campus STEM Center, marking a new era of collaboration between education and space exploration.

Students will form teams of three to five and find a faculty advisor and industry advisor. Then, the teams will collaborate to conceive, design, and develop their groundbreaking experiments, exploring how different physical and chemical processes behave in the absence of Earth's gravity.

The winning experiment will be selected in December and sent to the International Space Station in September 2024.

The Student Space Flight Experiments Program is a program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education 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 works with NASA under a Space Act Agreement using the International Space Station as a national laboratory.



Give the gift of education Nov. 28

The season of generosity is upon us. Why not give the gift of education on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28?

The San Jacinto College Foundation needs your help providing scholarships for students who could not complete a degree or certificate without financial help.

The Foundation's 2023 Giving Tuesday goal is 120 donors in 24 hours.

Foundation scholarships help students like Cyndie Vo, a Promise @ San Jac Scholarship recipient. This scholarship covers 100% of an associate degree or certificate for in-district high school seniors who attend San Jac after graduation.

"I had been thinking about working two jobs to make it through college," Vo said. "Instead, Promise allowed me to work part time and focus more on school."

Mark your calendar now to give to San Jac students through the Foundation on Giving Tuesday. Help students achieve their educational dreams! Learn more at by scanning the QR code.



College launches new website

San Jacinto College launched its new website this September. The new site was built from the ground up to streamline content and update the voice and tone to support the College and current and future students.

San Jac's website is the "front door" for prospective students, who often explore the College online before deciding to visit a campus or apply. The new site is easier to navigate and offers more robust search options so students can find anything they need to know.

Check out the new website at sanjac.edu.

GIVING TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 28

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

An Equal Opportunity Institution

DOUBLE TAKE: ZAVALA BROTHERS SHARE COLLEGE, CAREER GOALS

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

It's like "The Parent Trap" when San Jacinto College student ambassadors Marcos and Francisco Zavala help new students with orientation, campus tours, and course selection.

Cue the double take.

"Half the time, when a student walks into our lab, we say the exact same thing at the same time," Marcos said. "And half the time when the student leaves, they think I'm my brother, and my brother is me."

"It's like a comedy honestly," Francisco added.

Looking and sounding alike aren't the only things the brothers share — despite being 11 months apart.

They're also earning associate degrees in business administration debt-free through the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship. Available to all in-district high school seniors, the scholarship covers a San Jac degree or certificate 100% after other financial aid.

The former home-schooled students learned about Promise @ San Jac through a cousin. Both thought it sounded "too good to be true" but decided to apply while finishing high school in spring 2022.

Not only was the scholarship real, but they were also both eligible.

"We don't have to worry about ever having to pay for a class here at San Jac," Marcos said. "That's taken a huge load off ourselves and our family as well."

Although they had always wanted to attend college, the scholarship removed the guesswork from deciding when and where to start.

"It's helped me by allowing me to focus on my studies instead of working or taking a gap year so I could afford to go to college," Francisco said.



Double take continued on page 6

Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Through Dec. 1	Art Exhibit: Ominous Passages	1-3 p.m.	Free/North Campus Gallery, N1.106 (contact joe.clark@sjcd.edu)
Through Dec. 7	Art Exhibit: Like Dust, I Lose All Form Once I Hit Water	Varies	Free/South Campus Gallery, S15.143 (contact bradly.brown@sjcd.edu)
Nov. 6	Woodwind Studio Recital	3:30 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Monte Blue Music Building, Corbin Hall (C5)
Nov. 8	Brass Studio Recital	3:30 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Monte Blue Music Building, Corbin Hall (C5)
Nov. 9	Jazz Ensemble Concert	7 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Monte Blue Music Building, Corbin Hall (C5)
Nov. 10	Vocal Area Recital	3 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Monte Blue Music Building, Corbin Hall (C5)
Nov. 14	Orpheus Concert	7 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Monte Blue Music Building, Corbin Hall (C5)
Nov. 15	Steel Band Concert	7 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Slocomb Auditorium (C12)
Nov. 17	String Ensemble Concert	3:30 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Monte Blue Music Building, Corbin Hall (C5)
Nov. 17 & 18	World Dance Extravaganza Concerts	7 p.m.	Tickets: sanjacdance.ludus.com / South Campus Proscenium Theatre (\$15.151)
Nov. 20	Piano Area Recital	3:30 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Monte Blue Music Building, Corbin Hall (C5)
Nov. 20	Guitar Ensemble Concert	7 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Monte Blue Music Building, Corbin Hall (C5)
Nov. 22-26	Thanksgiving Break	Closed	All campuses, online
Nov. 27-30	Art Exhibit: Jedmy Centeno	TBA	Free/North Campus Gallery, N1.106 (contact joe.clark@sjcd.edu)
Nov. 28	Giving Tuesday	All day	Learn more at sanjac.edu/foundation.
Nov. 30	Wind Ensemble Concert	7 p.m.	Free/Central Campus, Slocomb Auditorium (C12)

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

CENTRAL CAMPUS GALLERY OPENS IN NEW LOCATION

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

The San Jacinto College Central Campus Gallery has a new address after a months-long relocation to the Lee Davis Library.

“The new location gives us much more foot traffic and opportunities to collaborate with the library,” said Carmen Champion, gallery coordinator. “It features a main gallery and a

smaller ‘black box gallery’ along with a custom-built reception desk to greet visitors.”

The 1,300-square-foot space is also equipped to store 2D and 3D works with a designated workbench and table to create labels and frames for the featured exhibitions.

“The robust industrial look and design offer an enhanced environment for students to learn about various types of art, to expand their knowledge of art

through touring exhibitions, and participate in student exhibits as they progress through the College’s art programs,” said David Sample, facilities operations manager. “Hats off to the design and construction teams who helped deliver the product we envisioned.”

The gallery’s inaugural exhibit, “Miguel Covarrubias: Caricaturista,” coincided with the College’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Produced in partnership with the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin and Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the exhibition features the work of one of the foremost Mexican artists of the 20th century.

“Miguel Covarrubias: Caricaturista” focuses on the sophisticated caricatures that made Covarrubias famous. His

caricatures provide a unique window into the cultural and political milieu of the 1920s and ‘30s. A quintessential humanist, he made essential contributions to anthropology, archaeology, theater, and dance.

In the spring, Champion will host a public grand opening for the gallery.

To learn more, scan the QR code.



ASHLEY
Early Childhood
Education

CHANGING IMPOSSIBLE TO

I'M POSSIBLE

SAN JACINTO
COLLEGE

FOUNDATION

It's the season of giving.
Make students' dreams possible
by supporting the San Jacinto
College Foundation on
Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Give now at sanjac.edu/foundation.



Photos by Melissa Trevizo, San Jacinto College

VETERAN PIVOTS FROM MILITARY ENCRYPTING TO COMPUTER NETWORKING

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

At 17, Keisha Parkes signed an Army contract so her single mom would never worry about her having money or food. At 41, she enrolled at San Jacinto College with a different mission.

“I want to show my 21-year-old daughter it’s never too late to go after your dreams,” she said.

Parkes, who is pursuing a computer science associate degree, has always enjoyed working with computers and troubleshooting. During her 15 years in the Army, she served as a signal support system specialist, encrypting communications for satellite, antennas, and radio.

“Troubleshooting is second nature to me,” she said. “If I don’t know how to do it, I’ll find a way to do it.”

After graduating from San Jac next year, the veteran plans to complete her bachelor’s degree at Texas Southern University. Then she may work in the private sector as a network architect or administrator. Thanks to her military experience, cybersecurity could also be an option.

Parkes loves computers, but she didn’t love the fears she faced returning to the classroom after two decades. Questions tumbled in her mind: “So much

has changed since I graduated. How am I going to do this? Will I be good enough?”

“Keisha,” her mom countered, “you’re smart. You can do this.”

Just as her biggest cheerleader predicted, Parkes could handle it. She has taken online classes at Generation Park, San Jac’s newest campus, and picked up classes at other campuses. She has even received an invitation to join the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

As a full-time student, she applies military discipline to her studies.

“I haven’t had a final grade lower than 89,” she said. “I try to schedule my classes early in the day to give myself the evening to pace out my homework. I like a four-day schedule for school, with Friday to relax — I do absolutely nothing school-related. After that, I finish whatever I have to do.”

Although the Army operates on perfection, Parkes has learned to give herself grace with assignments and course material.

“Sometimes you’re not going to understand something the first go-around,” she said. “It’s OK to ask for help. Take it one day at a time.”

Recently, she felt honored to be named Generation Park’s recipient of the San Jacinto College Veteran Student Success Scholarship.

to see us succeed,” Marcos added.

As student ambassadors, the brothers even help newer Promise Scholars navigate college too, reminding them of deadlines and credit requirements. After San Jac, they will transfer to the University of Houston-Clear Lake to pursue bachelor’s degrees in finance.

“Figuring out transferring here has been a breeze,” Marcos said. “I have my whole two-year degree mapped out and my two-year degree at UHCL mapped out as well.”

While Marcos may work in a medical or oil field business office or become

“It’s OK when you think you’re doing good,” she said. “It’s even better when someone you’ve never met before thinks that.”

To celebrate Veterans Day, the San Jacinto College Foundation presented the scholarship to seven students Nov. 3. Whether Veterans Day or any other military celebration, Parkes welcomes the appreciation. When her service ended in 2015, she had deployed multiple times to Iraq and ranked as a sergeant in the reserves.

“When we sign our military contracts, we’re often young kids,” she said. “We sign for different reasons. No one really knows after signing what that means or entails. We go through a lot in our process of military service.”

Many know what should be done to protect freedoms, but few do the work. According to Parkes, every day — Veterans Day or not — is an excellent opportunity to thank a veteran in your circle and your community.

“I haven’t seen any celebration that is pointless,” she said. “Being seen and recognized means a lot.”

Scan the QR code to learn more about San Jac’s support for veteran students.



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

2023 Veteran Student Success Scholarship Recipients:

- Christopher Alcala
- Santos Castro
- Jhanqia Johnson
- Stephen Meeks
- Sidney Montalvo
- Abdiel Nava
- Keisha Parkes

Double take continued from page 3

“Now I’m saving up more money in the long run for a university and focusing on making better grades for future scholarships.”

While debt-free college was a big perk, both have found San Jac a second home because of the people.

“I’ve made friends who have the same goals and aspirations as I do, and they motivate me to do better in and out of school,” Francisco said.

“Everybody — from the faculty to the school administration — is extremely helpful and genuinely wants

a personal financial advisor, Francisco is eyeing the government sector. After getting workforce experience, they hope to open a gym together someday.

For now, though, they’re laser-focused

on finishing their studies at San Jac. What’s it like working and attending college together?

“It’s fun,” Marcos said. “We save gas for sure.”

Cash for College

November is National Scholarship Month, and San Jac offers plenty of scholarships to make a college degree or certificate within your reach!

High school seniors who live in San Jac’s taxing district are eligible for the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship. Learn more at sanjac.edu/promise.

Beginning Feb. 15, current students may apply for San Jacinto College Foundation and departmental scholarships at sjcd.academicworks.com.

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram

Behind the scenes with the San Jacinto College Ravens softball team during their photoshoot!



516 Likes | 1 Comment | 138 Shares



Facebook

Today, San Jacinto College turns 62! What started as two rented buildings in downtown Pasadena with 876 students has grown to five campuses with an annual enrollment of 41,000 students. Over these years, San Jacinto College has had more than 90,000 graduates.



67 Reactions | 3 Comments | 8 Shares

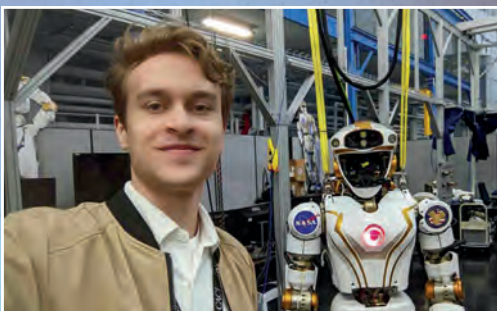


X

Have a great day tomorrow, and remember to share your photos with us using #SJCfirstday!



7 Likes | 1 Reply | 3 Retweets



LinkedIn

One Clear Horizons Early College High School student gave his professor something many educators hope for — seeing students transform from the classroom to a career they love. Today, Gabriel Braun works as a software engineer for CACI, a Johnson Space Center contractor, supporting the Gateway program, part of the Artemis program, which will take humans back to the moon.



19 Reactions | 1 Share | 13 Link Clicks

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTOSM COLLEGE

NORTH CAMPUS

5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049

CENTRAL CAMPUS

8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505

SOUTH CAMPUS

13735 Beamer Rd., Houston, TX 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS

3700 Old Hwy. 146, La Porte, TX 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS

13455 Lockwood Rd., Houston, TX 77044

ONLINE

sanjac.edu/programs/online

Join San Jacinto College in achieving
excellence in higher education.

Find your next career:
sanjac.edu • 281-998-6150

Connect with us on



An Equal Opportunity Institution

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 41,000 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 and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's. For more information about San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu.

