

# the VALLEY

FALL 2006



JUNIOR ROSE BOWL 1965  
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPS 1994

NATIONAL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPS 1994

NCA CHAMPIONS 1989-91

MEN'S BASKETBALL REGION CHAMPS 1982

**Homecoming 2006**

Cardinal Athletics Through the Years

# WELCOME TO THE VALLEY!



We are very proud to present to you the third edition of "The Valley."

This year, we have included a special tribute to the rich history of sports at Henderson County Junior College-Trinity Valley Community College, as well as other informative articles and information about the many positive things that continue to happen on our campuses.

Homecoming 2006 will be Saturday, Oct. 21, and we hope you will join us for that event. This year, former students from the classes of 1966-1970 will be attending the game and having a post-game reception.

Should other groups wish to get together in the future, please let our office know and we will be happy to assist.

Also, our alumni association needs your help. We are always seeking information about those who have called TVCC home in the past.

For more information on joining our alumni association, call 903-670-2620 or send an e-mail to [dhubbard@tvcc.edu](mailto:dhubbard@tvcc.edu).

We also encourage you to visit our online virtual alumni store at [www.tvcc.edu/alumni](http://www.tvcc.edu/alumni), where you will find many items designed for alumni.

This portion of our Web site also includes a forum where former students can tell us about their lives since leaving HCJC-TVCC.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

**David Hubbard - Office of Development & Alumni Relations  
Class of '71**

## Honoring HCJC-TVCC athletics



Cardinal Brandon Verrett avoids a tackle during a game against TJC in 2001.



The 1989 Lady Cardinals celebrate after winning the conference title.



Jimmy Griffey - a member of the Cards basketball team in the 1970s, dribbles around a Lon Morris defender.



The Cardinal Cheerleaders show their championship style during the 1996 NCA Finals.

Classes were just beginning at Henderson County Junior College when the students held a meeting to make some very important decisions.

The student body met in the summer of 1946 and selected the colors red and white for their new school and the cardinal as the mascot. That gathering was the beginning of the Henderson County Junior College-Trinity Valley Community College sports program.

When practices first began for HCJC sports that summer, the college had no gym and classes were being held at Athens High School. Students traveled to high schools in Cross Roads, Malakoff, Athens and Brownsboro to practice.

**Over the years, the face of Trinity Valley Community College sports has changed ... But one thing has remained the same: The sports program is an important part of life at TVCC.**

Between that summer meeting and the start of the fall semester, the land where the Athens campus now stands was purchased and students had a place to practice and play outdoor sports. That first year, students played baseball, tennis, football, volleyball and basketball.

A building which later came to be known as the A.L. Tompkins Gymnasium was moved onto the campus the next year, and was renovated into a spectator gymnasium in 1951.

Over the years, the face of Trinity Valley Community College sports has changed. Activities such as track, tennis, baseball and even intramural badminton have come and gone.

But one thing has remained the same: The sports program is an important part of life at TVCC.

In this issue of "The Valley," we will look at sports of yesteryear and today. Specifically, we will focus on the four activities which have been constant throughout HCJC-TVCC history: football, girls and boys basketball and cheerleading.



# CARDINAL FOOTBALL

## HCJC-TVCC teams build a reputation on the gridiron

What could arguably be the highest moment in Cardinal football history came in 1994, when Coach Randy Pippin led the Cardinals to the team's first national championship 24-17 in overtime against Northeastern Oklahoma A&M.

That performance would be repeated three years later, when Coach Scotty Conley would coach the undefeated Cards to a 12-0 season and their second national title.

But those years were not by far the first glory days on the gridiron for HCJC-TVCC. The team has won 18 conference championships over the years and has 328 all-time wins.

The Cardinal football program made a name for itself from the start. The first players hit the field in the fall of 1947, under Coach Wallace 'Rock' Johnson.

In the first season, Johnson led the Cards to an 6-3 record. "Dawg" Dawson, Reggie Gilbert and Robert Hooks were named to the all-conference team that first year.

In the Cardinals' second year, the team finished 6-3-2 and played its first bowl game, falling in the Little Oil Bowl to Wharton.

From 1947 until 1957, the Cardinals went through five head coaches. Wallace Johnson was followed in 1949 by Cecil Johnson. In 1951, Wallace Johnson again took the reins for a year before being replaced by Ray Fuller. In 1954, Leland Willis spent a year as head coach and was succeeded the next year by John Owens.

Despite the turnover in the head coaching staff, the early Cardinals still did well for themselves, having seven winning seasons out of their first 10

years. There were many shining moments, such as in 1955, when Cardinal Ed Cheek broke the national junior college record for throwing 52 touchdown passes during his career.

In 1956, there was no football.

Financial concerns led the board to vote unanimously against having games that year. Owens left his position as head coach during that year.

In 1957, Tommy Steigleder took over the Cardinals, bringing stability to the team.

Steigleder took the Cardinals to a 3-6 record in '57, but quickly turned things around and the team was 7-4 in 1958. He led the team until the end of the 1963 season. The team only had one losing season under his leadership.

Steigleder was succeeded by his assistant, Bob Baccarini. The first year of Baccarini's dynasty was explosive for the Cardinals. The team went 10-1 that year, with the only loss coming in the last game of the season, when the Cardinals were defeated by Fullerton, CA, 20-15 in the Little Rose Bowl.

Agreeing to compete in the Little Rose Bowl was a bold step for the Cardinals, since it was against Texas Eastern Conference regulations. The move placed the Cardinals on athletic suspension for the next 12 months, keeping the basketball team from competing that winter.

The next year, the Cards went 10-1 again (the only loss came 44-30 against Cisco) and found themselves again in California. They took Pasadena College by storm, winning the Junior Rose Bowl 40-13.

In the 1960s, the Cardinals won or shared the conference title four years



The 1994 Cardinals were the first football team in the history of HCJC-TVCC to win a national title. They defeated Northeastern Oklahoma A&M 24-17 in overtime to claim their victory.



Roger Edmonson breaks free of his defenders during the 1965 Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, CA. The game was played in front of a crowd of 55,000 fans.

straight. They were knocked from power in 1969 by Tyler Junior College.

Baccarini went on to coach the Cardinals for five more seasons before leaving the position in 1972. For a year, Bob Lee led the Cardinals and was replaced in 1973 by Jim Owens.

In 1973 the Cards went 8-2, besting the record of the past five years. Owens led the Cardinals until the 1978 season.

Ray Penn was head coach from 1978 until 1981, when he was replaced by Carl Address. Address was the coach when HCJC became TVCC in 1986.

The team's best season of the 1980s was in '88, when the Cards went 9-1-1



1956 Cardinal football game

See FOOTBALL, Page 13

# CARDINAL FOOTBALL

## Cardinals starting season with high expectations

TVCC football Head Coach Mark Sartain knows his team has the talent to go all the way this year.

The 2005-06 season ended with the Cardinals as champions of the Southwest Junior College Football Conference and Region XIV. In the last game of the season, the Cards took down Northeast Mississippi Community College 24-14 in the Pilgrim's Pride Bowl Classic, ending the season at 9-3.

It was a great season for the Cardinals, who were ranked seventh nationally. Sartain believes the team can go even further in 2006-07.

"I'm not going to make a bunch of predictions, but we control our own fate right now. The opportunity is there to play in the national championship. We'll see if we're ready to seize it," Sartain said.

For the Cardinals, controlling their own fate means holding the number two spot in the national rankings. When the season is over, the first and second ranked teams play in the national championship.

This is Sartain's fourth year as head coach. At the beginning of last season, Sartain put forth a "no excuses" approach. And the team responded.

"The ebb and flow of the season was a little unusual last year, but it flowed at the right time," said Sartain. The team ended the season on a four-game winning streak and defeated five of the top 10 nationally ranked teams.

This year, the players have developed an "it's up to you" theme.

"We've been seeing 'National champions – it's up to you.' scrawled on boards all around here," said Sartain. "We have the talent and we have a focus I haven't seen before in my coaching career."

The sophomores are strong in this year's starting lineup. A total of 13 starters and 32 lettermen return to the playing field.

Of the returning group, two were named to last year's First Team All-American last season: tailback Eric Ransom and placekicker Sinisa Vrvilo.

Both players are also on this year's



ABOVE: A group of Cardinals take down a Tyler Junior College player during the 2005 season. BELOW: Tailback Eric Ransom was named to the First Team All-American team last season and is on the pre-season honor roll for 2006.

pre-season honor roll, joined by free safety Nevin McKenzie, quarterback Ben McMahan, offensive tackle Jacob Patton and linebacker Jacob Martin.

There is one new face on the coaching staff: offensive line coach Scott Hawks. Hawks is a graduate of Idaho State University and Fort Hays State University. He coached the offensive line at Lanett High School and New Mexico Military Institute and was a linebacker coach at Garden City Community College in Kansas.

Other coaches are Offensive Coordinator Nick Jones, Defensive Coordinator Corey Chancellor, Wide Receiver Coach Chris Gillert and Linebacker Coach Cody Robinson.



### 2006 CARDINAL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
<b>Aug. 26</b>	<b>Garden City CC</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
Sept. 2	@Tyler (Chapel Hill HS)	7:00 p.m.
<b>Sept. 9</b>	<b>Georgia Military</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>
Sept. 16*	@ NEO	7:00 p.m.
<b>Sept. 23*</b>	<b>Cisco (Family Day)</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
Sept. 30*	@Navarro	7:00 p.m.
<b>Oct. 7*</b>	<b>Blinn</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.</b>
Oct. 14*	@Kilgore	3:00 p.m.
<b>Oct. 21*</b>	<b>Tyler (Homecoming)</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.</b>
Oct. 28	Open	
Nov. 4	Conference Playoffs	TBA
Nov. 11	SWJCFC Championship	TBA
Dec. 2	Conference Bowl Game	TBA

\*Southwest Junior College Football Conference Games



# CHEERING ON

## Cardinal squad creates winning tradition

When the first cheerleading squad at HCJC-TVCC organized in the late 1940s, it was an informal group.

A few of the students got together and decided they would like to cheer for the team, and so the college's cheerleading program was born.

In the early years, the squad often didn't cheer at away games and didn't travel with the team.

Frances Grayson led the squad from 1953 until 1955, making her the college's first cheer coach.

Today, the Cardinal Cheerleaders hold more national titles than any other TVCC team – eight in all.

Five of those titles came through the leadership of former cheer Coach Connie Russell. Russell joined the staff at HCJC in the mid-1960s. For her first few years at HCJC, Russell had her hands full teaching physical education classes and serving as coach for both the girls basketball team and the cheerleading squad.

In the late 1970s, Russell gave up her role as basketball coach and concentrated on the cheerleading squad. By the mid-1980s, the Cardinal team was competing in National Cheerleading Association events.

The squad captured its first national title in 1989 at a competition in Dallas. That year, TVCC was the only junior college allowed to compete.

Russell and the Cardinal squad continued to take national titles in 1990, 1991, 1993 and 1996. The same year

the squad took its fifth national title, the group was invited to participate in the opening of the Olympics in Atlanta, GA.

In 1997, Russell retired from TVCC. She was succeeded by Shannon Davidson, who continued meeting the standard set by her successor.

Davidson – who worked at first in the student activities office in addition to leading the cheerleaders – coached the squad to two national titles in 2001 and 2002. Partway into her time as a coach, she took over the position full-time.

Davidson left TVCC in 2002, taking a job as a basketball and golf coach at Eustace High School. Davidson had played both sports in college and had never been involved in cheerleading. Until she came to TVCC, neither had Russell.

For several years, Lucy Strom served as team aide, driving a van when needed and traveling with the Cardinal squad. When Davidson departed, Strom took her place. Like her two predecessors, Strom also has never been a cheerleader.

The TVCC squad brought home its



Members of the 2003 Cardinal cheerleading squad perform their annual homecoming routine as the bonfire blazes on behind them.

most recent national title in 2004-05. The school holds more national cheerleading titles than any other school in the nation.

Although the team finished second in last year's national competition in Daytona, FL., the Cardinals set a record during the preliminary round of the competition. TVCC scored higher than all the Division 1A schools at the competition, the first time a junior college has earned that honor.

The squad will return to the national competition in spring 2007.



A few members of the 1969 cheerleading squad strike a pose during a cheer.



The 1954-55 cheerleaders cheer on the Cardinals, proving that stunts can be done in long skirts.

# SAYING GOOD-BYE

## Spencer a big part of Cardinal history

When the TVCC-HCJC Cardinals played their first game in the 1946-47 season, the program had a few obstacles to overcome. But didn't take long for the basketball program to get rolling.

Under the watchful eye of coach A.L. Tompkins, the team played its way to an 8-12 record in conference play, taking the fledgling Cardinals to third in the conference.

In honor of their season, Tompkins took the boys on a fishing trip.

Tompkins was an impressive force in the early days of the Cardinals. He served as both coach and athletic director until 1952, when he became vice president.

There were good seasons and bad seasons, but by 1951 the Cardinals were a force to be reckoned with. That year, while still under Tompkins, the team notched a 15-4 record and was named the Zone 2 champions in the Texas Junior College Conference.

The Cardinals later played inside the campus gymnasium, which eventually was named after Tompkins.

By 1956, Tompkins had moved on to administration and Leland Willis had taken the reins of the Cardinals.

One year later, the team picture reveals a grainy face that would soon become the central figure in Trinity Valley Community College basketball: Leon Spencer.

### The Spencer years

Spencer came to the college in 1957 on a basketball scholarship. In his childhood days at Harmony High School near



The 1982 Cardinals basketball team saw more success than any other boys basketball team in the school's history. That year the team finished third in the nation.



Spencer watches his team play during a game in 2004. In the background are the banners commemorating his winning record. Now, a banner honoring Spencer's 800th win hangs in the gym.

Gilmer, he had spent a little time on the court.

But he also had a love for the gridiron, a fact football coach Tommy Steigleder learned shortly after Spencer arrived. So that year, he played both sports.

It was the only year he would play HCJC basketball. The second year he played football only.

After his time at HCJC, Spencer went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees at East Texas State University.

"I was offered a three-year scholarship and I thought, being a poor boy from the country, I'd better take it," said Spencer.

Spencer went into coaching after college, starting his career as head basketball coach and assistant football coach at Atlanta High School. But in the fall of 1964, when a coaching position opened up at HCJC, he took the job, which was previously held by Coach James Culpepper.

"I came here and it was the only job I had after that," said Spencer.

Over the years, Spencer wore a variety of hats, including dorm director, biology lab instructor and teacher of physical education



Members of HCJC's 1947-48 A basketball team were: (front, from left) R.C. Dodd, Glenn Gandy, Truett Wallace, Harold Johnson, W.E. Daniel Jr, Raymond Stephens, (back row) Coach A.L. Tompkins, Grady Cumble, Aaron Conard, Clyde Crow, James L. Black, Melton Willingham, Lawrence Crist and Mgr. Loye Kinabrew.

classes in addition to his teaching duties. Five months into his tenure at HCJC, he took on the athletic director's position, a job he would have until his departure in 2006.

The one constant for Spencer for more than 40 years was his job as the head coach for the Cardinals basketball team. After working as assistant football coach for several years, Spencer concentrated on just basketball.

"It was hurting my recruiting because some people said we weren't putting enough emphasis on basketball," said

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### Cardinals' Season record under Spencer 1964-2006

Season	Record	Season	Record
1964-65	14-9	1987-88	17-11
1965-66	17-9	1988-89	15-15
1966-67	14-19	1990-91	15-15
1967-68	13-19	1992-93	14-15
1968-69	25-4	1993-94	19-11
1969-70	27-6	1994-95	30-8
1971-72	11-17	1995-96	24-8
1972-73	26-5	1996-97	16-14
1973-74	21-6	1998-99	25-12
1974-75	25-10	1999-00	23-9
1975-76	21-9	2000-01	22-10
1976-77	27-8	2001-02	13-18
1977-78	27-5	2002-03	8-22
1978-79	20-8	2003-04	7-23
1979-80	19-11	2004-05	19-13
1980-81	21-12	2005-06	10-20
1981-82	33-3		
1982-83	25-6		
1983-84	22-8		
1984-85	19-14		
1985-86	24-7		
1986-87	21-11		





# Winning ways

## Lady Cards take TVCC to the top

Trinity Valley Community College has become a household name among those involved in junior college basketball. In the past 12 years, the Lady Cardinals have brought home five national championships and been the most dominant team in the former Texas Eastern Conference, now the Region XIV Conference.

Not bad for a team that got a slow start.

For the first 10 years of TVCC sports, female students were involved in sports such as tennis and volleyball, but were not involved in conference play.

The first step toward forming the Lady Cards came in 1957, when an eight-girl basketball squad came into existence. The members of that first squad were Jackie Elkins, Helen Hardin, Wanda Murphy, Mary Lou Walker, Charlene Alphin, Anita Richardson, Barbara Woolverton and Will Ann Brewer.

The group had no team name and did not participate in conference play.

The squad got its first name in 1968, when Connie Russell came on board as coach and began to build the girls' bas-

ketball program. The team became known as the Chicks. Sandra Andrews and Sue Matthews were co-captains of that team.

In the 1975-76 season, the Chicks earned the respect they deserved and became a conference team. The first year of conference play, the Chicks went 7-10. Captains Sharon Shelton and Theresa Leigh led their team to the first round of the Region XIV Tourney, where the Chicks fell to Temple Junior College, a team ranked third in the nation. Shelton led the team in scoring and rebounding.

The second year of conference play, the Chicks went 5-14. The third year in conference play, the team went 3-19 under Coach Gary Yancey.

Russell remained with the college, but gave up her basketball coaching duties in the late 1960s.

The 1978-79 season was the beginning of the Gary Ashlock dynasty. The first season under Ashlock was 10-16. That was also the first year the group went by the name Lady Cardinals.

After finishing fourth in the Texas Eastern Conference in Ashlock's first year, the Lady Cardinals began to come into their own as the powerhouse team they are today. In the 1979-80 season, the ladies took the regional title.

The next three years, HCJC took the conference title. In the 1980s, the Lady Cards earned a total of five conference titles.

Ashlock ended his career with TVCC in 1990 with a record of 281-96 and was succeeded by Joe Curl.



The 1975-76 Chicks were the first girls basketball team to represent HCJC-TVCC in conference play. Team members were: (back, from left) Mgr. Vernell Hammer, Debbie White, Debbie Luce, Sharon Shelton, Coach Connie Russell, Becky Donaldson, Jean Brysch, Mgr. Judith Toney, (front row), Judy Mewbourne, Debra Minifie, Theresa Leigh, Cassandra Lowrie and Bobbi Evans.



In the 1991-92 season, the team finished in the top 15 ranked teams in the nation. The team played once again in the conference championship and Curl was named Coach of the Year in the Texas Eastern Conference.

In 1992-93, the Lady Cards again took first in the conference, coming in second in the region. Curl left in 1993 with a 66-23 record.

It was not until the coming of Head Coach Kurt Budke that the Lady Cards would move on to the next level. Budke's first year with the team, the ladies went 35-1 and ended the 93-94 season as national champs.

It would not be the last time.

In 1995, the team finished second in the national tournament. They didn't stay down for long, taking the national title in 1996 and 1997. In 1998, they were second place again, but once again bounced back and brought home a fourth national title in 1999.

Budke left the Lady Cards in the 2000-2001 season with a 226-16 record. Michael Landers took his place and is still the Lady Cards' coach.

Under Landers' direction, the Lady Cards now have a fifth national trophy, earned in 2004. The team was unsuccessful in a bid for a sixth national championship in 2005, ending last season with a 32-3 record.

### Lady Cardinals' Record 1975-2006

Season	Record	Head Coach
1975-76	7-10	Connie Russell
1976-77	5-14	
1977-78	3-19	Gary Yancey
1978-79	10-16	Gary Ashlock
1979-80	25-5	
1980-81	25-4	
1981-82	34-7	
1982-83	29-4	
1983-84	21-10	
1984-85	20-11	
1985-86	21-10	
1986-87	26-5	
1987-88	27-4	
1988-89	30-4	
1989-90	13-16	
1990-91	17-12	Joe Curl
1991-92	23-7	
1992-93	26-4	
1993-94	35-1	Kurt Budke
1994-95	31-2	
1995-96	32-4	
1996-97	34-2	
1997-98	34-1	
1998-99	36-0	
1999-2000	24-6	
2000-2001	28-4	Michael Landers
2001-02	32-3	
2002-03	30-1	
2003-04	36-0	
2004-05	28-3	
2005-06	32-3	

# STANDING TALL

## Technology Center set to open by spring

This time last year, the last remnants of the A.L. Tompkins Gymnasium were being swept away from the face of the Athens campus. Now, in only a few months' time, the site is home to TVCC's latest – and largest – construction project.

The 51,000 square-foot building has been named the Technology Center, an apt description of what the new structure will hold once it is complete. Each of the building's three stories contains five classrooms, four computer labs and office space.

The new facility is expected to open near the end of the fall semester.

In addition, the parking lot between the campus Learning Resource Center and the Gibbs Academic Building has been converted into a plaza.

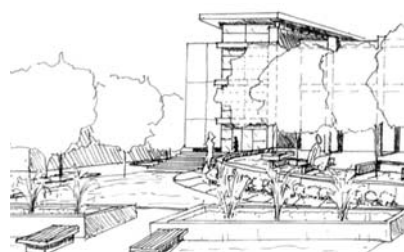
Both projects are part of the college's master construction plan, said TVCC President Ron Baugh.

The plaza was originally planned a decade ago, said Baugh. However, when the bids for the project were not within the college's budget, the project was placed aside.

"It hurt me that we didn't get to carry it through. However, it was designed to accommodate the (Tompkins) gymnasium and it would have been very difficult to tie in with the Technology Center if it were already in place," said Baugh, noting that the original plaza was designed at a different height than the new.

The contractor is WRL Construction Co., of Flint. The company has completed two other building projects for the college.

The new facility will be home to the



This architect's rendition is a rough outline of the new building and adjacent plaza.

classes now taught in the Technical Building, which is located just south of the new structure.

Those classes include computer operations, drafting, business education, criminal justice and child care.

The project began as a way the campus could keep up with the growth in the computer-aided drafting and computer programming classes.

The building is designed to shoulder future growth, which means at first the facility will not be completely full.

Since some spaces will not have a designated use, Baugh said he is considering using one of the computer labs – if possible – for general use. Decisions have not yet been made on how other undesignated spaces in the building will be used.

"We've never had the luxury of having room before," said Baugh.

Once those departments have moved from the old building to the new, the remodeling of the old Technical Building will begin.

There is asbestos tile in the old building, and so the remodeling process will take time. The entrances to the building will have to be closed off while the asbestos removal takes place.

The building will have to be rebuilt so that it meets the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, said Baugh. An elevator must be added and other changes will be made to make the building more accessible.

Baugh said he will decide at a later date what purpose the old building will



Construction is almost complete on TVCC's newest structure. The Technology Building will contain classrooms, computer labs and office space.

have after the remodeling is finished.

Among the options he is considering, he said, is transforming part of the building into a home for the college's continuing education program. The offices for that program – which offers non-credit job training to well over 1,000 students a year – are now in the administration building and there are no classrooms dedicated for continuing education.

"All options are open at this point," said Baugh.

Future construction plans include expansion of the Fine Arts Building, a new spectator gymnasium and remodeling of the Cardinal Gym for use as a student activity center.



# FOUNDATION AT WORK

## Fund to help 21 more students attend TVCC this fall

The Trinity Valley Community College Foundation's capital campaign has come a long way from its beginning.

The efforts toward building the Enhancing Opportunity and Excellence through Endowment capital campaign fund began with only \$125. The campaign is now approaching \$1.5 million.

Several different scholarships are available through the scholarship fund, including the Cain Endowed Academic Scholarship, the Ginger Murchison Endowed Academic Scholarship, Archie and June Dennis Endowed Math and Science Scholarship, Willard and Sarah George Endowed Business Scholarship and the Opportunity and Excellence Endowed Academic Scholarship.

Using the interest from the scholarship endowment fund, the first scholarships were awarded during the 2004-2005 school year. That year, 12 students received aid. The next year, 16 scholarships were awarded.

For the 2006-2007 school year, 21 scholarships were awarded. The 2006 scholarship recipients are:

### **Ginger Murchison Endowed Scholarship Award (seven scholarships)**

- James Ayscue of Gun Barrel City is a graduate of Mabank High School and plans to major in nursing at TVCC.
- Dustin Turner of Kemp is a graduate of Kemp High School and has not yet decided upon a major.
- Ratana Khy of Malakoff is a graduate of Malakoff High School and plans to study architecture.
- Devin Groothuis of Brownsboro is a graduate of Brownsboro High School and has not yet declared a field of study for when he attends TVCC in the fall.
- Jaclyn Largent of Neches, a graduate of Neches High School, is planning a career in physical therapy.
- Chelsey Hoffman of Palestine is a graduate of Neches High School and plans to major in physical education.
- Megan Maltos of Eustace is a graduate

of Eustace High School and plans to pursue a career in physical therapy.

### **Archie and June Dennis Endowed Math & Science Scholarship (six scholarships)**

- Caitlin Roland of Terrell is a graduate of Forney High School and plans to study nursing at TVCC.
- Jamie Hass of Eustace is a graduate of Eustace High School and plans to study nursing.
- Diana Salinas of Terrell is a graduate of Canton High School and plans to pursue a career in nursing.
- Austin Monroe of Athens is a graduate of Malakoff High School and will study architecture.

- Seth Jezek of Athens is a graduate of Malakoff High School and is planning a career in chiropractic care.
- Joshua Cole of Poynor is a graduate of LaPoynor High School and will major in animal science – pre-vet.

### **Cain Endowed Academic Scholarship (four scholarships)**

- Jennifer Crow of Fruitvale is a graduate of Fruitvale High School and is planning a career in education.
- Brandon Smith of Wills Point is a graduate of Wills Point High School will study theater at TVCC.
- Monyca Warren of Athens is a graduate of Athens High School is planning a career in secondary education
- Stormy Pearce of Athens is a graduate of Cross Roads High School and is planning a career in nursing.



Leaves on the Tree of Opportunity and Excellence identify donors in the college's capital campaign to raise funds for student scholarships.

### **Willard and Sarah George Endowed Business Scholarship (two scholarships)**

- Karen Morris of LaRue is a graduate of Celina High School and plans to study property taxation.
- Chandra McClelland of Grapeland is a graduate of Slocum High School and will be studying business management at TVCC.

### **Opportunity & Excellence Endowed Academic Scholarship (two scholarships)**

- Laci Goodrich of Mabank is a graduate of Eustace High School and plans to study early childhood education.
- Bridgette Franklin of Elkhart is a graduate of Elkhart High School and plans a career in speech pathology.

The money for the scholarships has

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# CARDINAL ACHIEVEMENTS

## PHI THETA KAPPA CHAPTER EARNS CONTINUED EXCELLENCE AWARD



**By Tina Perkins**

Iota Alpha, the TVCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International earned numerous honors at the Phi Theta Kappa 2006 International Convention in Seattle April 18-23.

Iota Alpha received the Beta Alpha Continued Excellence Award. To receive this award a chapter must be ranked in the top 25 chapters for three consecutive years.

The Hallmark Awards pertain to the three Phi Theta Kappa honor topics: service, leadership and scholarship.

"To receive one of these awards is a great honor and we won three," said Yulanda McGilvra, president of Iota Alpha.

"The chapter officers set goals for each Hallmark and works throughout the year to successfully complete them," said LaCrisha Keeling, member of Iota Alpha. "At the end of the year each chapter writes an essay explaining the goals they made, the programs they implemented and the outcomes whether positive or negative."

These essays were judged against more than 600 chapters internationally and 10 awards were presented in each

Hallmark area for an outstanding job.

Iota Alpha received the Hallmark Leadership Award and the Hallmark Scholarship Award.

Keeling won the Bierkoe Distinguished Member Award for going above and beyond in her works as a member. Keeling was nominated by Iota Alpha officers, advisor, and Dorothy Hetmer-Hinds, management instructor.

Tina Perkins, vice-president of Leadership, won the Most Distinguished Officer Award at the state level and at international level. Perkins was nominated by the chapter president, the advisor, and Nancy Whitworth, business instructor.

According to Nancy Long, Phi Theta Kappa advisor, "We have never had a distinguished chapter officer win at state level. The reason this is such an accomplishment is that there is only one chosen from the entire state. At the International level they are chosen 1 out of 25."

Long was awarded the Distinguished Advisor Award. This was the fifth time she has received this award. Long has been a Phi Theta Kappa advisor for 33 years.

## SHOWGIRLS WIN NATIONAL ACADEMIC COMPETITION

The Cardette Showgirls proved they have the brains to match their beauty at the American Dance National and International Championship this spring.

The Showgirls, the competitive arm of the Cardettes, won the national collegiate academic competition, which is based on the participants' grade point average.

They compete with squads from Division I, IA and II colleges and universities.

The Showgirls placed third in the Division II Dance competition.

"I'm absolutely ecstatic about their win," Cardette Director Darla Mansfield said. "They have raised the bar. They're headed up and not going to stop."





# CARDINAL ACHIEVEMENTS

## RODEO TEAM SET FOR DEBUT IN THE NATIONAL ARENA

Cara Mizell is making rodeo history at Trinity Valley Community College.

The Buffalo sophomore finished the year as the Southern Region Reserve Champion Barrel Racer and became the first TVCC Rodeo Team member to qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR).

Each year approximately 350 college students begin their campaign to qualify for the CNFR, but only the top three contestants in each event will fulfill their goal.

Mizell traveled to Casper, WY, in June to compete against the top collegiate barrel racers in the country. She finished 17th, but her place in TVCC history was set.

"Cara has been an excellent student and cowgirl this year," said Steve Keith, TVCC Rodeo coach, "Mizell has won three All-Around Cowgirl titles, and was also the Champion Barrel Racer



Cara Mizell

at the Northeast Texas Community College Rodeo, which was held this year at Panola College."

Mizell also competes in break-away calf roping and goat tying.

Keith said the team is poised to send more students to the national finals next year.

Other members of the TVCC Rodeo Team who were in contention to qualify for the National Finals were Will Lowrance from Jacksonville, who finished fourth in bareback riding; Michael Tarrant of Jacksonville, who finished fifth in tie-down roping and 12th in team roping and won five of the 10 first rounds this year; and Clayton Hamil of Montabla, who earned points in tie-down roping and team roping.

Keith said he expects the TVCC Rodeo Team to continue to grow and increasingly be contenders for the CNFR with improvements to the TVCC rodeo facilities over the past year and with the talented students who have come to compete.

Keith said he has signed some key recruits for the 2006-07 season. TVCC awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to the Texas High School Rodeo Region IX Champions in goat tying, break-away roping, barrel racing, and two scholarships in men's all-around.

## TVCC SHOW TEAM WINS BIG AGAIN IN HOUSTON

The Beef Cattle Show Team has earned quite a name at the Houston Livestock Show. The team won the Good Herdsman Award for the sixth consecutive year this past spring.

They also brought home numerous other awards, including the Junior Champion Female and First in Class awards.

The team competes in the Charolais division and each year fills a wall of the Agriculture Building with its ribbons.

The team also competed in the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth this spring, where, among other honors, they won the Reserve Junior Champion Female and First in Class awards.

The Good Herdsman Award is a prestigious honor and difficult to win since it takes constant vigilance. For the award, students are judged on how well they keep the livestock and exhibits throughout the show.



Show Team members with their champion yearling.

## CARDETTES, BAND INVITED TO PERFORM IN IRELAND

The Cardettes and Cardinal Regiment Band have been invited to join the St. Patrick's Day celebration in Dublin, Ireland this coming March.

The two groups will march in the Lord Mayor of Dublin's St. Patrick's Day Parade through the heart of ancient Dublin. They will be joined

by other parade participants from around the world with various types and styles of parade entries.

Between 300,000 and 500,000 people attend the parade each year.

The band and Cardettes received the invitation during the spring semester and both have fund raising activities planned through the

fall.

Both groups were well traveled during the past year. In addition to numerous parades, the Cardettes traveled to Virginia for the Azalea Festival and the Wild Card Jazz Ensemble traveled this summer to Washington D.C. along with the Cardinal Choir.

# ALUMNI AWARDS - 2006

## HONOREE TO BE RECOGNIZED AT HOMECOMING

### CARDINAL AMBASSADOR AWARD Benny Rogers

When Benny Rogers first started covering HCJC sports in 1979, Rubik's Cubes were flying off the shelves, The Knack was crooning out "My Sharona" over the airwaves and nobody had ever heard of TVCC.

Rogers began covering HCJC sports in 1979, writing as a correspondent for the Athens Daily Review and doing work for The Malakoff News. When he became a full-time journalist in 1981, covering the Cardinals was part of his job. Five years later, in 1986, the name change took place and TVCC became a common sight in Rogers' stories.

Over the years, Rogers has penned thousands of articles about the Cardinals, covering students from their first warm up to their post-college days. In his career, he estimates he has covered over 500 football and 1,000 basketball games at both the high school and college levels.

Rogers is a lifelong resident of Malakoff, the son of Leamon and Bobbie Rogers. He has two sisters, Lori Douglas of Athens and Mandy Rogers of Keller. Mandy is the head girls basketball coach at Haltom High School.

A 1977 graduate of Malakoff High School, Rogers was the quarterback for the Tigers. As a senior, he received the coveted Charles M. Turner Sportsmanship Award, the highest honor given to a male athlete at MHS. He also attended HCJC from 1977-79 before going on to attend the University of Texas at Tyler.

Rogers says there have been many highlights in his time on the TVCC sidelines, but perhaps the best years were in the mid-1980s.

"The biggest thrill was getting to cover my youngest sister Mandy as a Lady Cardinal for two seasons," said Rogers.

In his time writing TVCC sports, Rogers has watched the football team gain both of its national titles in 1994



Rogers, who has been covering HCJC-TVCC sports since the 1970s, can often be seen watching Cardinal teams at practice. Here he observes this year's Cardinal football players going through their paces during a pre-season workout.

and 1997. He was on the sidelines for nine of the Lady Cardinals' 12 national tournament appearances, and celebrated with the team when they brought home five national titles.

When he first started writing about TVCC, Rogers said the football program was strong and the men's basketball program was already "established as a powerhouse." The biggest changes in TVCC sports in his time, he said, have come in the cheerleading and girls basketball programs.

"The women's basketball program was still in its infancy, though it had started having success under Gary Ashlock, who had taught and coached me at Malakoff," said Rogers. The cheerleading program under Connie Russell, Rogers added, was also beginning to evolve into the nationally recognized team it is today.

"Once the 1990s rolled around, the overall athletic program took off and was one of the most successful in the state and in the nation, especially where women's basketball is concerned," said Rogers.

Although he has always worked for area newspapers, Rogers says he feels he is a part of TVCC.

"No question about it, TVCC (beloved HCJC back in the day) is a very special place. I have many fond

memories from my days there as a student and even more from having the "best seat in the house" for sporting events.

"There's a bond between students, former students and fans that you can sense at events, and I don't necessarily sense that when I visit events at other schools. The Valley is special."

## Join US For a Tailgate Party

**Noon-2 p.m. Oct. 21, 2006  
at Bruce Field**

**Hamburger Lunch**  
\$6 (reservation and advance payment required)

Bring your lawn chairs  
Bring a tent  
Bring your family  
Bring your grill  
(if you want to create your own lunch!)

**Call 903-670-2620**  
Office of Development & Alumni Relations  
for information & reservations



## SPENCER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Spencer. "And it was really hard on me. I remember in September and October I would have to work out with football in the afternoons and then go back at night to work out for basketball."

As with any other coach, the Cardinals had good seasons and bad under Spencer's tutelage.

However, the seasons that stick out in Spencer's mind are the few where the national title was within his grasp. In 1982, 1995 and 1999 the Cardinals made the trip to nationals. In 1982, the team came the closest ever to the top title, placing third. In the other two years, TVCC placed seventh and ninth respectively.

Then there was one year when the Cardinals almost made a fourth nationals bid.

"There were so many exciting nights and great games," said Spencer. "I remember one regional championship where we went four overtimes during the third of a three-game series. We lost that game to San Jacinto. We didn't go to nationals that year, but it took three-and-a-half games to decide who would."

### Spencer out, Smith in

Spencer said good-bye to Cardinal basketball following the 2005-2006 season, retiring as the winningest coach in junior college basketball with 809 wins.

"I don't know how many losses right off. You try to forget those," said Spencer.

Over the years, he said, TVCC has become his home and there are so many people he will always remember. Over the years, dozens of TVCC players have gone on to play in the NCAA. Players Nick Van Exel and Shawn Kemp have gone on to play on NBA teams.

Spencer has coached numerous All-American, All-Region and All-Conference players. He took the Cardinals to more than a dozen conference championships and three regional titles.

He also led teams at events such as the National Sport Festival, the USA International Cup Team and the World University Games in Mexico.

He was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1996.

"I've had just great assistants and



Spencer disputes a call with an official during a game in 2001.

have so many good memories of them and their hard work. I've had a great support staff, good fans and strong administrative support. You don't go anywhere without those things," said Spencer.

Spencer has been replaced as head coach by Pat Smith, who was most recently the head men's basketball coach at Bimidji State University in Minnesota.

Lady Cards head coach Michael Landers took over Spencer's position as athletic director when Spencer retired in May 2006.

The Cardinals finished the 2006 season with a 10-20 record.

## FOOTBALL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

and defeated Holmes, MS, in the Texas Juco Shrine Bowl.

In 1991, still under Andress, the Cards had a 7-3 season and were co-conference champions. After a 3-7 season in 1992, the Cardinals went 8-1-2 in 1993.

Pippin took over the team from 93-95. He was succeeded by Conley, who ended his time in the 1999 season with the college's second national title to his credit.

Coach Chuck Langston took the next three years. He ended his career with TVCC in 2002 after taking the team to the conference championship. The Cards lost 7-14 to NEO and ended the season with a 10-2 record.

Coach Mark Sartain came on board in 2003. The Cards ended last season 9-3 and were ranked second in the nation at the beginning of the 2006 season.

## FOUNDATION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

been provided by the faculty and staff of TVCC, individual members of the community and various organizations and businesses. Those who contribute \$1,000 or more are given recognition on the leaves of the Tree of Opportunity and Excellence, which is displayed in the Orval Pirtle Administration Building.

Those who have given \$10,000 or more have their names engraved on the small stones at the base of the tree while those who have contributed more than \$25,000 have their names engraved on the large stones at the tree's base.

In addition to general fundraising, efforts have been made to conduct events in the community in order to support and raise awareness of the scholarship program, said TVCC Assistant to the President David

Hubbard. Those events included wine and cheese fundraisers as well as an annual pledge campaign.

Planned giving awareness programs have been developed, directed at increasing visibility of the college and the campaign. Potential donors are encouraged to give through wills, estate planning and bequeaths.

The college has been working to increase awareness and participation by working with area service clubs. College alumni are being encouraged to give by supporting the Alumni Scholarship program for sons, daughters and grandchildren of former HCJC-TVCC students.

Also, a golf tournament was held in May 2006 at Indian Oaks Golf Course near Kemp, Texas. Another golf tournament is scheduled at Athens Country Club on Monday, November 6, 2006.

# MEMORIES

## Recent thoughts and updates from alumni

For other memories, visit our website: [www.tvcc.edu/alumni](http://www.tvcc.edu/alumni)

### '40's

**Edo Biasatti**, Class of '49-'50, passed away June 6, 2005.

Edo was a proud member of the first Cardinal football team.

### '60's

**James Jenkins**, Class of '68, played football for Coach Baccarini and was captain of the team in 1968. He now lives in Ft. Worth, Texas.

**Grady Smith and Peggy Dean Smith**, Class of '68, live in Garland, Texas and would like to hear from their classmates.

### '70's

**Sharon Schmitz Kuver**, Class of '73, was Student Senate Secretary and a Cardette co-captain. She lives in Combine, and works for Crandall ISD as the network manager.

She has one living child, Sam, who graduated from Texas A & M, is married and lives in Houston. Her daughter, Amy, passed away in 1994 at the age of 17.

**Dewayne Vaughan**, Class of '77, graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1981.

He now serves as a National Program Director with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.

He is married to Cynthia Oelkers from San Antonio and they have two grown children, Dewayne II, who is in the U.S. Air Force and Kimberly,

who is married.

**Dan Walls**, Class of '75, passed away in the spring of 2006. He was a member of the Cardinal Band, Wild Cards, a member of the Executive Council of the BSU and a music major. He wrote a column for the Athens Review entitled, "Athens Memories," about things and people that he remembered from his days of growing up in Athens. He also enjoyed playing the guitar.

### '90's

**Daryl Davis**, Class of '91-'93, graduated from Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in 2001.

He passed the State Board of Funeral Service in February of this year.

He was married in May of this year. He is currently funeral director and operations manager for Gregory W. Spencer Funeral Directors, Inc. in Fort Worth.

**Donna Flowers Teague**, Class of '92, was a Cardette. She is married and has two children. She lives in Rowlett and works as a legal assistant for a Dallas law firm.

**Amy Carrizales Tyre**, Class of '95, was a Cardette from 1993-1995.

She taught third grade for five years and is now staying at home with her two year old daughter, Trinity Scarlett.

She and her husband now live in Nacogdoches.

**Cynthia Wiley**, Class of '97, was a member of the Cardinal Regiment, Color Guard and Student Senate. She was runner up for Cardinal beauty.

She can be reached by e-mail at [smgrad800@aol.com](mailto:smgrad800@aol.com).

**Ashley Williams**, Class of '97, was a Cardette and has moved from Texas to California. She works for Long Beach Mortgage as an accounts manager.

**James Zotzky**, Class of '93, graduated from Regis University in Denver, CO, and currently is the pharmacy purchasing supervisor at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston.

He is married to Mimi Baty, Class of '96, and they have three children.

### '00's

**Michael "Jamaica" Matthew**, Class of '00, played football at TVCC and later attended Northeastern Oklahoma University, where he also played football and received his bachelor's degree, passed away in February of 2005. (Information furnished by Jeff Mallory).

**Christian Reed**, Class of '00, graduated from UT Tyler after leaving TVCC.

While at UTT, he was on the Dean's list and in the UTT Choir. He also held lead rolls in university musicals over a two year period and graduated Magna Cum Laude.

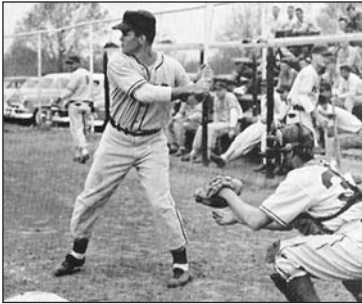
He now teaches music for Mabank ISD. He is married and has three children.





# THE LOST SPORTS

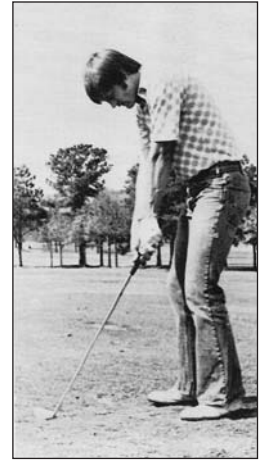
Images from activities no longer offered at TVCC



Cardinal baseball player Gary Mathews keeps his eye out for the pitch during a 1956 game.



The 1948 baseball team was 5-3 and defeated Clifton to win the conference championship.



Scott McNeal, a member of the 1975-76 HCJC linksters, practices his shot.



Mary Russell, a member of the 1955 tennis team.



Students in the 1965 women's archery class.



The 1966 HCJC track team poses for a team picture.

## WE NEED YOU!

**Our Association has the opportunity  
to grow and flourish...**

**but its going to take a lot of effort and  
enthusiasm to continue this growth.**

For more information e-mail us at  
[dhubbard@tvcc.edu](mailto:dhubbard@tvcc.edu) or call 903-670-2620

***Join the HCJC-TVCC Alumni Association Today!***

# HOMECOMING 2006 SCHEDULE

## Cardinal Athletics Through the Years

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

- 10:00 a.m. —Reception for classes of 1966-1970  
Orval Pirtle Administration Building
- 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.—Tailgate Party  
Bruce Field - \$6.00 per person  
(Reservations and payment required in advance. Call 903-670-2620)
- 12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.—Awards luncheon for honored alumni  
TVCC Cafeteria Conference Room
- 2:30 p.m.—Pre-game activities  
including the crowning of the Homecoming Queen for 2006

### HCJC MULTI-CLASS REUNION 1966-1970

This group is looking for classmates from 1966-1970 to invite to a reunion of these classes during Homecoming 2006 on Saturday, October 21, 2006. Events will include:

- Reception
- Tailgate Party at Bruce Field
- Homecoming football game
- Evening social gathering

If you attended HCJC during this time period and are interested in the reunion, please contact Nancy Brown at 214-675-5708 or nbrown@latexoisd.net (for information regarding classes 1966-1968) or Rita Sterling at ritamck@swbell.net (for information regarding classes 1969-1970, or contact the TVCC Alumni Relations Office at 903-670-2620 for more information and to make reservations.



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