

The Bat



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Stitching for the stars

The Bat

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Cover Photo

Holly Banks is pictured with two poet's vests, as well as a vintage dress she made herself.

Photo by Christina
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Sew what?



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

From left: Nicolin Pasch, William Walker, Michael Montgomery, Kevin Calhoun and Jordan Carter all work on class projects. Pasch and Carter partner up to work on pajama bottoms, while Walker shows Montgomery and Calhoun a pattern for a poet's shirt.

DAVID DANNHEIM STAFF WRITER

The hum of sewing machines breaks softly over the voices of eager students as they pick out new patterns for future projects. The instructor hovers over a table full of diverse classmates, guiding them wherever they need it. The classroom itself is comfortable, but busy.

Drama instructor William Walker introduced DRAM 1342 (Intro to Costume Design), a new course in the curriculum, this spring.

"Well, for one, everybody likes to dress up for Halloween," says Walker jokingly. He quips that 1342 is a class that any student may take, and students wanting to take the class will learn skills that come in handy later in life.

At its core, Walker says, the

course is a basic introduction to textile work; students learn to craft and repair their own clothing, gathering useful skills along the way.

Michael Montgomery, one of the class's male students, says, "These are skills that people used to have to know, and with the economy like it is, I think we need to go back to those skills."

He adds, "In fact, we need to have more courses like this on campus. Hopefully, this class will encourage more classes like it to come to PJC."

Montgomery says the overall feeling of the classroom is great, and that nobody feels left out, or outdone by their peers.

Students taking the course work on three different projects: two projects chosen by the instructor and then a final project where students choose their own article of clothing to make.

Walker hinted at the chance that some of the clothes, like the poet's shirts and vests that were crafted this semester, would be used for future plays.

The classroom itself is quaint; it is filled with dramatic clothes, modern apparel and beautiful vests meant for poets. The students themselves range from expert to novice, and they all work to better learn the craft of costume design.

"I've been sewing for a while," says Holly Banks. "But the course is a nice break from regular fashion."

She says she enjoys being able to make somewhat over-the-top period wear, such as the vintage mid-20th century dress she is wearing on the cover of "The Bat."

See Costume page 7

From the ground up

CHRISTINA GUNLOCK
EDITOR

A mild Texas winter has left the construction on the new Math and Science Building only two days behind schedule, according to Dr. Pamela Anglin, PJC President.

Anglin does not consider two days delay a bad thing compared to several days delay in dorm construction last winter.

The 42,000 square foot building is taking shape quickly with the steel shell up. Construction, begun last fall, is scheduled to finish in time for the 2013 spring semester.

The next step in the process, pouring the concrete for the second floor deck, is scheduled for next week. After that, they will begin closing in the building. Anglin hopes the building will be completely closed in by the end of April.

The interior of the building will be decorated in several neutrals, and a gray blue.

"I like to use neutrals, so it doesn't age the building," says Anglin.

Anglin says, "We involved all the math and science faculty in the design stages."

Faculty input enabled designs to be customized. Equipment placement was also customized. Faculty was also able to request specific equipment such as overhead projectors and elmos. Labs were also designed per faculty requests.

Barriers along the stairs and second floor areas opening into the foyer will be clear, heavy-duty Plexiglas, lending an open feeling to the entrance of the building. The building will feature faculty offices on

the first floor, 14 classrooms and a new math center.

Wireless Internet in the halls, study areas, and alcoves for students, are features designed to increase a sense of community in the building. Anglin wants the building to be a place where students sit, chat, and study together, not a place they immediately leave after classes are through.

"I like to call them student friendly buildings," says Anglin.

Balfore Batty, the construction company, will also start several smaller projects on campus during summer break.

See Ground on page 7



Christina Gunlock/ The Bat

The stage of construction on Feb. 13 after a light snowfall. The construction was not delayed because of snow, as was the case last year during the men's wing dorm construction.



Kaitlyn Skidmore/ The Bat

The second floor deck concrete is scheduled to be poured next week.

Going down fighting

ALEXANDER THOMAS
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

The Lady Dragons ran this season with what seemed to be a dominating performance in most of their games. Ending the season with a 24-7 record and a 13-5 conference play for several weeks they were ranked in the top 20 in the region.

Their season ended at the Region XIV Tournament in Tyler on March 9.

“When your team has a good season, it makes people want to come and watch,” said Beth Shelton, Associate Dean of Communications & Fine Arts. She has tried to make it to all the games and is a fan of the Lady Dragons

“Ms. Dennis and I were in Dallas receiving text messages (about the final game against Trinity Valley) it was very exciting.”

“I’m still down about it,” said Kiera Oby, a member of the Lady Dragons, “We should have won when we had the chance.”

Their losing game was to Blinn on March 9, where they lost 61-56. Even so, four of



Courtesy Photo

The Lady Dragons ended the season with a 24-7 record. Yasmeen Thompson, #40, and Kiera Oby, #20, (pictured above) received All Conference honorable mentions.

the Lady Dragons have gotten All-Conference honorable mentions. The Lady Dragons who received them are Chikilra Goodman, Yasmeen Thompson, Kiera Oby, and Bianca Hannah.

“This is a big achievement for all the girls because Region XIV is considered the deepest

conference in the country for NJCAA,” Sean LeBeauf, head coach of the women’s basketball team said.

“We made it the point to be the hardest defensive and offensive team out there,” said LeBeauf.

The highlight of this season, in LeBeauf’s opinion it that the

Lady Dragons were “ranked 11 in the nation at one point. “That has never happened here,” LeBeauf said.

“I had heard this from someone. This is the first time in the last 20 years that the women have had a longer win streak than the men’s team.”



These four Lady Dragons were named to the honorable mention all-conference team at the NJCAA Region XIV tournament. From left: Chikilra Goodman, Yasmeen Thompson, Kiera Oby, and Bianca Hannah.



MY TOWN

Alexander Thomas
Student Life Editor

Bianca Hannah is one of the Lady Dragons basketball members and has recently received an All-Conference honorable mention. She comes to PJC from Bradenton, Florida.



Courtesy photo

Bianca Hannah

What place was your favorite to live in?

Bradenton, Florida. It is my favorite place because I grew up there.

What is Bradenton known for?

It is a small city, kind of like Paris but bigger. A lot of athletes come from there.

What are your favorite hangouts or places to go around Bradenton?

The park, my home or my cousin's home.

What is the culture like in Bradenton?

Kind of mixed. Mostly black, some Hispanic and some white though.

Would you ever move back to Bradenton?

No, not really. Too much to go back to.

Is there a specialty food Bradenton is known for or a food from there you miss?

Seafood, lots of seafood places.

What is the main weather like in Bradenton?

It is always sunny, year round.

What is it like this time of year in Bradenton?

Mostly fishing, going to the beach. A lot of fishing.

Are there any special holidays this time of year in Bradenton?

No, but there is a rib festival every year. The ribs are grilled, it is a festival for the whole county.

What are your favorite activities in Bradenton?

I shop, play b-ball and chill with friends. I shop for shoes and clothes mostly. I like to chill and hangout with friends

because I do not get to see them when I am at college.

What is your earliest memory in Bradenton?

High school. Winning championships, breaking records. That's how we do it.

What one word would you use to describe Bradenton?

Loyal, everyone knows everybody.

What else can you tell me about Bradenton?

Football, basketball. Everybody plays one or the other, we have two people who played in the NFL from Bradenton. One was for the Eagles, the other for the Cowboys. Bradenton is not as bad as people think it is. The community, the people are supportive.

What is your major in school?

I don't know, I am undecided.

Where are you headed after PJC? I have not decided yet; I am still looking.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

A decent job and able to take care of myself; be somewhere stable.

Dragon



Puffs

Student Activities

Student Activities is planning a skate/golf night at the Paris Fun Center at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3. Also, on Tuesday, April 10, Student Activities will be having a Luau Cook-out at the Sand Volleyball Court at 3 p.m.

National Library Week

Wednesday April 11, the library will hold Patron Appreciation Day.

Dropping classes

The last day to drop with a 'W' will be Thursday, April 12.

Blowout Gaming Night

April 12, there will be a gaming night in the library starting at 10 p.m.; people may come early to practice. There will be two tournaments; Halo, Reach, and Just Dance. An Xbox Kinect will also be set up for people not playing in the tournaments.

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Blake, a pre-med student, chose to attend Texas A&M University-Commerce because of its affordability and its close proximity to his home and family.

“What I like about Texas A&M University-Commerce is that it’s large enough to have a half-million dollar microscope, yet small enough that you can go down the walking mall, see someone you know.”

Blake values his university experience, and sees it as a great tool that will prepare him for a future medical career. Thanks to the tight-knit campus life and small, personal classroom experiences, Blake has had the privilege of building relationships with professors and fellow students alike.

Professors like Dr. John Paul Stovak have provided Blake with inspiration in the classroom to pursue his dream of becoming a pediatrician, providing him with valuable guidance and information. Classes like animal biology have also complemented Blake’s academic aspirations by challenging him to think critically and perform simple procedures.

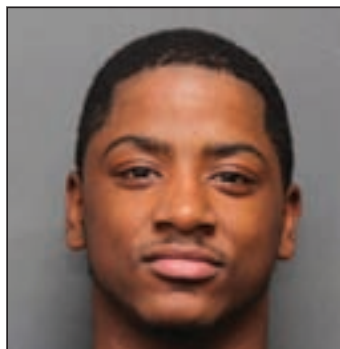
Grateful for the foundation A&M-Commerce has provided, Blake is confident that the groundwork he has started here will help him achieve great things in the future.

“I’ve gotten so much more than just an education here,” Blake said. “I love this university.”



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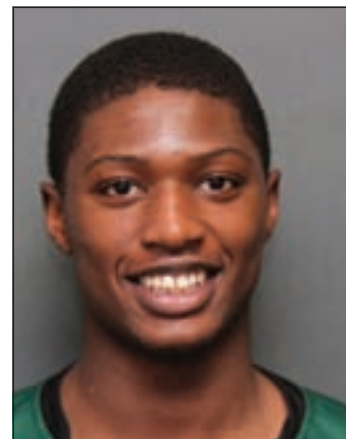
Five Dragons honored by Region XIV



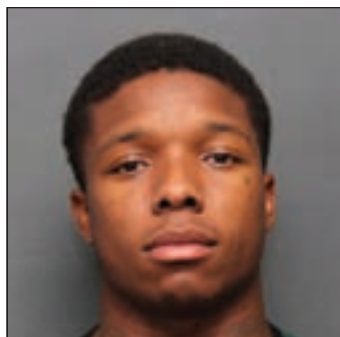
Anthony Adams



Coach Chuck Taylor

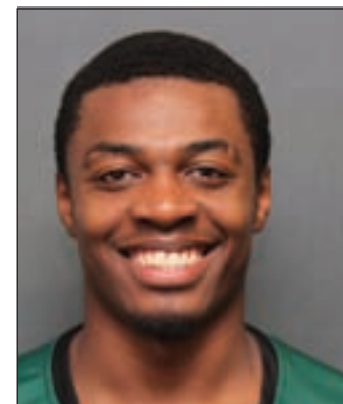


Cornelius Cammack



Phil Hawkins

These five men were honored after the Regional tournament. TJ Taylor was named to the All-Region team, Phil Hawkins to the All-Region second team. Anthony Adams was named to the All-Conference third team and Cornelius Cammack was named to the honorable mention. Coach Chuck Taylor was named Region XIV Coach of the Year for leading the Dragons in a conference record of 15-4.



TJ Taylor

Costume from page 2

Banks also mentions that, like Montgomery, she is pleased with the respectful air that exists in the classroom as the students work, and that she definitely enjoys the class.

Walker hopes to offer the course again during 2013's spring semester.

The size limit is currently 16, offered this semester from 1 to 2:15 on Mondays and Wednesdays. If students wish to join, they need to get on-board before these slots fill out.

Johnni Usher, another student in the class, urges students to give the course a try.

"The clothes are different, but the class is fun and the people are great," she says.

Ground from page 3

The parking lot in front of the new Math and Science Building will be redone. The project (in the original contract but cut because of uncertain funding) was recently added back into the contract. The parking lot in front of the Student Center will also be redone.

A change order to the building contract was recently approved by the Board of Regents to update the main entrance to the Administration Building. The steps and concrete to the street will be removed and re-poured. The monument will be placed back into the center of the entrance.

However, the entrance will

be completely concrete, without dirt in the center, to prevent water from getting under the concrete, causing it to shift and settle.

Benches and 3' 5" standing lights will be added along the sides of the entrance area to create an inviting feeling.

The Board of Regents requested changes to the entrance last year, but the project was too complex to be completed over the winter break.

Anglin says having the construction company move from project to project on the campus is the most efficient. It prevents repetitive set-up costs and keeps the same construction staff working on campus,

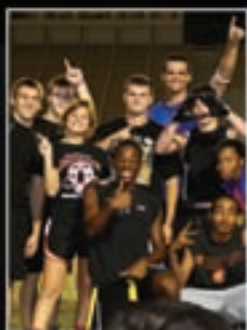
thus building solid working relationships.

Other renovations are in PJC's near future. In 2013, once the Math and Science Departments are moved into their new building, the Natural Sciences area will be renovated. The Social Sciences Department will be moved from the WTC into the newly renovated area.

As to the challenges of building while running a college, Anglin says it just adds another job.

"There is an old saying, 'If you want something done, ask a busy person,'" says Anglin.

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