Students lend support to instructor in time of crisis

The success of an educator is often measured by the career achievements of his or her students. The value of a man can be measured by the way he touches the lives of those around him. Gary Ham is a successful educator. But more importantly, to the students in the South Plains College Automotive Service Technology Department, he is highly valued as a man.

In an act of kindness, several students recently participated in a day-long fund-raiser on behalf of Ham and in honor of his wife, Donna. Kirill Kucheryavenko of Russia, Jonathan Lucio of Whiteface and Veronica Trevino of Plainview spearheaded the drive to raise money for the Hams.

Donna recently was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she had undergone surgery. Gary was there by Donna’s side throughout the ordeal. But the Ham family did not go through the experience alone. It also impacted the SPC automotive students who wanted to do something special to show their support.

“I had this idea and told them that we should collect money for the family,” Lucio said. “Everyone in the office, the whole faculty, auto parts stores and everybody just jumped on it and tried to help.”

For their efforts, the students collected $307. They also chipped in and purchased three pink roses. They presented their gifts to Ham on his first day back at school after his wife’s surgery. The students also donned pink ribbons on their work shirts in honor of Donna.

“These guys are really special, and I am so appreciative of them,” Ham said.

The students rallied around Ham to talk about his importance in their lives.

“We just love Mr. Ham,” said Lucio. “He’s a good instructor who has taught us a lot of things we didn’t know when we came here. We wanted to do something for him.”

The sentiment was echoed by one of the two female students in the class. “A lot us have been touched by cancer, and we know it could have been our mothers or our sisters,” Trevino added. “It could have been me.”

Ham currently is in his ninth year at SPC. Donna is in her fifth year as a full time piano instructor in the Fine Arts Department.
Upcoming events

November
17 – Pickin on the Plains @ 12:15 p.m., Tom T. Hall Studio
17 – SPC Jazz Band @ 7 p.m., Coronado High School
19 – SPC Classic (Nov. 20-21) @ 7 p.m./1 p.m., Texan Dome
19 – Student Recital Low Brass, Percussion Ensemble @ 4 p.m., Vickie Wisian Recital Hall
19 – Lady Texans @ Lubbock Christian, 6 p.m., Rip Griffin
20 – Miss Caprock Pageant @ 7 p.m., Tom T. Hall Studio
21 – Cross Country @ NJCAA Half Marathon, TBA, Overland Park, Kan.
23 – Lady Texans vs. Wayland Baptist @ 6 p.m., Texan Dome
24 – Country Jukebox @ 12:15 p.m., Tom T. Hall Studio
24 – Men’s Basketball @ Lubbock Christian JV, 5 p.m., Rip Griffin Center
25-27 – Thanksgiving Break
27 – Men’s Basketball @ Collin County, 8 p.m., Plano, Texas

Shamberger honored by the Pope

Associate Professor of Reading Glenda Shamburger along with 11 other laypersons and four priests in the area were honored by the Vatican for their service to the Catholic Church and to Pope Benedict XV.

Top Catholic officials in Rome honored the 16 individuals within the diocese for their service and devotion to God through the diocese’s 62 Catholic churches in 25 counties.

Shamberger was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross from the Pope - the highest papal honor a layperson can receive. It translates from Latin as “For Church and Pope.”

Shamberger has been serving the Catholic Church for more than 45 years. She has been serving the diocese program for 25 years. She has helped with Catechus for more than 30 years. Shamberger is the Parishioner of St. Michael Parish in Levelland.

“Father Rudy called this morning to congratulate me, and I hadn’t heard,” said Shamberger. “I didn’t believe it. I had to go to the library to read it in the newspaper.”

Many of the nominees were honored for their service to the community.

“I am delighted and extremely happy that our Holy Father - in the name of the Roman Catholic Church - has recognized these monsignors and lay Catholics who are outstanding in their service and holiness,” said the Most Rev. Placido Rodriguez, bishop of the diocese who nominated the individuals.

Eight of the 12 laypersons that Rodriguez nominated were women.

“I am so pleased that the bishop recognizes the work that women do in the diocese,” said Shamberger.

Family matters

Jade Alexandria Danford was born Oct. 23 at 6:28 p.m. to Mya Danford, daughter of Myrna Whitehead, coordinator of News and Information. Jade weighed 7 pounds and 3 ounces, and she is 19 inches long.

Melissa Strickland and Rex Henderson announce their plans to be married at 6 p.m. Dec. 26 at Monterey Baptist Church in Lubbock. Melissa is a Testing and Assessment Assistant at the SPC Reese Center.
Livestock Judging Team begins year in Kansas City
The SPC Livestock Judging Team recently competed in the first national contest of the season. The contest was hosted at the American Royal Complex in Kansas City and featured 29 colleges from across the country battling for championship honors.

In the swine and sheep division, SPC finished in fifth and seventh place. Individual honors were awarded to Trisha Williams of Seagraves for seventh highest in sheep and Clay Burson of Abilene with a top 20 finish overall. Other team members include Jennifer Warren of Dumas, Derrick Drury of San Antonio, Justin Dennis of Stinnet and Tera Carroll of Hereford.

Coach Cade Wilson said that he was pleased with the progress of this group and he is looking forward to helping these young men and women improve their national standings. The teams’ next stop will be in Louisville, Ken., Nov. 18.

Plainsman Press wins at journalism conference
The Plainsman Press and several of its staff members were the recipients of awards during the Texas Community College Journalism Association fall conference, which was held Oct. 30 at the downtown Hilton Hotel in Austin. The fall conference was held in conjunction with the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Advisors National College Media Convention. The conference featured 103 participants representing 14 community colleges.

Tausha Rosen, a sophomore public relations major from Wolfforth, placed third in Editorial Writing in Division II in the contest for previously-published material. She serves as editor-in-chief of The Plainsman Press.

Also, Britni Palomino, a sophomore photojournalism major from Plainview, received an Honorable Mention award for Layout and Design in Division II, and John Stewart of Brownwood received an Honorable Mention award for Sports News. The Plainsman Press staff placed third in Headline Writing in Division II.

In addition, Charlie Ehrenfeld, assistant professor of journalism, was elected to serve a two-year term as president of the Texas Community College Journalism Association. The TCCJA features 17 member institutions.

South Plains College Mathematics and Engineering Department recently took students to participate in a field study in Astronomy, the First Math Science Retreat in Crowell. The retreat was sponsored by Three Rivers Foundation for the Arts and Sciences. Attending the retreat were Colby Wilmeth, Tiffany Cavazos, Tiago Jabur, Reegan May, Manuel Ordaz, Raymond Kern, Easton Day, Derek Lee, Sam Newberry, and Chris Rodriguez. Also, included in the picture are Dr. Stan Smith, Patrice Faye, Hudson Anderson and Dr. Phil Anderson.