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NEWS FROM YOUR COLLEGE

Whirlwind honors Germany trip reflects on history, memory

Fifteen San Jacinto College students visited pivotal sites in German and world history during the honors program's first overseas trip since 2018.

From May 18-26, students and three faculty members toured Munich, Nuremberg, and Berlin to cap off the History and Memory in Germany honors class. Their tour highlighted the complexity of interpreting and remembering industrialization, colonization, the Holocaust, world wars, and more.

Dr. Abbie Grubb, history professor and trip coordinator, knew the trip was off to a good start when they arrived in Munich only to find local trains and buses had gone on strike. Students showed their ability to pivot and remain positive.

"What should have been 10 minutes by local public transportation turned into a two-hour walk of over four miles with our luggage," Grubb said. "The students' attitudes



Photo by Abbie Grubb, San Jacinto College

remained fantastic for the whole thing."

Among other sites, the group visited Brandenburg Gate, Charlottenburg Palace, Checkpoint Charlie and the Berlin Wall, the Pergamon and Neues Museum, the Nazi Rally Grounds of Nuremberg, Dachau Concentration Camp, and Neuschwanstein Castle.

Despite the whirlwind pace, students took time to stop and reflect.

"In their post-trip reflections, they wrote how much more they understood history when they had the opportunity to stand at places like Dachau Concentration Camp and see where the history took place," Grubb said.

San Jac summer camps combine fun and learning

Kids and youth beat the heat with San Jacinto College's summer camps – from athletics and career exploration to music and STEM.

Campers enjoyed a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including a theatre production, science experiments inside a lab, and dance.

They also learned the ins and outs of nursing and got hands-on practice with training manikins in a simulated hospital setting.

View more photos at bit.ly/SJCsummercamps23.



Photo by Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College



Photo by Neesha Hosein, San Jacinto College



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

STARS ALIGNED FOR ALUMNUS' CAREER IN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

By **Neesha Hosein**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

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.

Gabriel Braun consistently submitted work ahead of deadlines, read directions carefully, and asked for feedback on his work. To Cristina Cardenas, San Jacinto College speech professor, he showed great potential.

“His willingness to learn from his mistakes and not repeat them was very impressive,” Cardenas said. “Not everyone

has the ability to do this at such a young age.”

During Braun's time at Clear Horizons, networking was a boon to his future.

Connecting the dots

Cardenas' husband coincidentally became Braun's mentor, guiding him into a software engineering career at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

The curriculum included a one-semester internship for which Braun had to find a mentor in his field of interest. Both Braun's parents are engineers at Johnson Space Center, and his dad introduced him to Ramirez.

“I first got involved with Clear Horizons through Gabriel,”

said Daniel Ramirez, software engineering senior technical professional for KBR. “Gabriel is my former coworker's son. He contacted me because he knew I had degrees in computer and software engineering, and computer science was a career interest to Gabriel.”

With encouragement from Cardenas, Ramirez, and his parents, Braun had a solid support system into the next phase of his life — the pursuit of career happiness.

To the moon and back

During the internship, Braun and Ramirez developed a three-degree-of-freedom launch trajectory simulation of a vehicle launching from Earth into space and back. This activity sparked a deeper interest in software engineering and led to Braun pursuing his current position.

He graduated from San Jac in 2019 with an Associate of Science degree in mathematics and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas. Today, 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.

“The Gateway program aims to revolutionize spaceflight operations through the introduction of autonomy,” Braun said.

The Gateway is a lunar space station that will orbit the moon and serve as an important outpost for lunar missions and as a staging point for deep-space exploration. In Braun's work, one important component of Gateway is the vehicle system manager, an autonomous system that manages the Gateway, like a self-sustaining mission control.

He is eager to develop tools that could aid in things like simulations and scientific demonstrations. Braun believes the vehicle systems manager is going to be a “big change that could potentially help a lot of people in the future.”

“I didn't have an interest specifically in aerospace, but there was an intersection between my interest in developing helpful tools for others and NASA creating an autonomous space station,” Braun said. “It's an exciting time for the space program, and I'm honored to be part of the future of space exploration.”



Photo courtesy of Gabriel Braun

What is to come

Although Braun is a working professional, the learning experience is far from over.

“San Jac helped me by kickstarting my college education at an earlier age, which ultimately saved me time and money while studying for my bachelor's degree,” he said.

Within the next five years, Braun plans to earn a master's degree in software engineering from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

“I hope to continue my education indefinitely as long as I have the time and the resources,” he said. “My career goals are to become a subject matter expert in software and to continue supporting the Gateway program while it is in lunar orbit.”



Photo courtesy of Gabriel Braun

SAN JAC HAPPENINGS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	SITE
Aug. 14	Summer hours end		Administrative offices return to regular business hours
Aug. 28	Fall 2023 semester begins		
Sept. 1	Promise Pledge Opens		sanjac.edu/promise
Sept. 4	Labor Day holiday	Closed	All campuses, online



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

BACK TO SCHOOL: RESOURCES YOU NEED TO SUCCEED IN 2023-2024

By Courtney Morris
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

August is here, and so is the mad dash for scissors, No. 2 pencils, and spiral notebooks.

If you're a new or returning San Jacinto College student, you can skip the school supply scramble. The College has other resources for you to succeed in 2023-2024.

Meals and winter gear

If you're taking at least three credit hours, you may use the San Jac Marketplace, a convenience-style store. Receive up to 30 pounds of groceries per week no matter what your income/need level — no questions asked!

You can also get 16 café meals per month if you are a full-time student and eight meals per month if you are part-time.

"If you don't have the ability to purchase these things at home, that could hinder your experience at San Jac," said Brandon Ward, student engagement and support director. "We don't want you in the classroom worrying about things you don't have at home."

The Marketplace is open Monday through Thursday, with hours varying among campuses. Find the Marketplace at ...

- Central Campus (second floor of student center)
- South Campus (first floor of student center)
- North Campus (second floor of student center)

Also nearby is the Coat Closet, where you can pick up coats, gloves, and hats in

winter. To learn more about these resources and get a café meal card application, contact sanjacsea@sjcd.edu.

After-hours advising

Busy during the day? Get help on weeknights and weekends through virtual advising.

"We offer virtual services during late-night hours to be more accessible for you," said Adriana Elizondo, advising, career, and transfer director. "For academic planning, you should still go to your assigned program advisor. But these virtual advisors can handle quick questions about registration, account holds, and degree plans."

Virtual advisors can help Monday through Thursday, 2-11 p.m., and Sunday, 5-10 p.m.:

1. Visit the live virtual lobby (www.whos-next.com/sanjac/actvirtual/).
2. Sign yourself in.
3. A virtual advisor will contact you through Microsoft Teams when you're next in line.

Also check out the live chat option in your SOS account.

Free counseling

Is it stress or something more? If you're facing a challenging season, when should you get help?

According to San Jac mental health services director Robert Murray, look for changes in your sleep and eating habits. Are you always feeling anxious or pressured?

"It depends on you as an individual," Murray said. "When you're too stressed,



Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

you won't function as you once did. Come to student support services or schedule an appointment on the College website. We will listen in a non-judgmental way and help you problem-solve."

As a San Jac student, you have access to free short-term counseling with the College's licensed mental health counselors:

- Meet with a counselor by visiting the advising, career, and transfer office in each campus welcome center.
- Schedule a virtual appointment: appointments.sanjac.edu (click Student Support

Services > In-Person or Virtual > Mental Health Counseling).

- Or call 281-998-6350: ext. 1014 (Central Campus), ext. 2317 (North Campus), or ext. 3444 (South Campus).

100% Online programs

San Jac Online offers 60 fully online associate degrees and certificates in business, industry, education, health science, public safety, human/consumer services, and STEM.

This means you can earn a workforce-ready credential on your schedule with plenty of time left for family and more. The entire process from registration to graduation

is available online, and you have a network of online and on-campus resources to help you reach the finish line.

Learn more at sanjac.edu/online.

Resources at your fingertips

If you're on campus, look for "San Jac on the Go." Almost weekly, student engagement and support staff set up tables in high-traffic buildings, sharing resources and answering questions to improve your college experience.

"If you take advantage of the resources here, you'll do better as a student, and your academic experience will be better," Ward said. "We're here to help you."

PLAY BALL: 14 RAVENS EARN 2023 SEASON ACCOLADES

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

The National Junior College Athletic Association recognized 14 San Jacinto College athletes for their achievements during the 2023 season.

In Ravens softball, athletes earned the following awards:

- Ella Casas, infielder, Second Team All-South Conference
- Izzy Farmer, infielder, First Team All-South Conference, Second Team All-Region XIV
- Chloe Foster, outfielder, First Team All-South Conference, Second Team All-Region XIV
- Emma Garcia, infielder, Second Team All-South Conference
- Christin Haygood, pitcher, First Team All-South Conference, First Team All-Region XIV
- Leslie Longoria, outfielder, First Team All-South Conference, Second Team All-Region XIV
- Haleigh McDonald, catcher, Second Team All-South Conference
- Arriana Wright, infielder, First Team All-South Conference, First Team All-Region XIV, and Second Team All-American

Additionally, Haygood and Wright were named Pitcher of the Year and Player of the Year respectively for both All-South Conference and All-Region XIV. During the 2023 season, sophomore pitcher Haygood made 161 strikeouts in 149 innings with a 1.50 ERA. Freshman infielder Wright hit a .522 batting average with 17 home runs and 71 runs batted in.

Both players were also recognized by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, with Haygood earning Second Team NFCA Midwest region and Wright earning First Team NFCA Midwest region and Second Team NFCA All-American.

“It is nice to see our student-athletes receive awards for all their hard work,” said softball head coach Kelly Saenz. “Each of them makes us proud.”

Ravens softball finished the season with an overall record of 42-19, 18-6 in conference play.

In Ravens baseball, athletes earned the following awards:

- Jake Bennett, catcher, First Team All-South Conference, All-Region XIV
- Lex Garcia, pitcher, First Team All-South Conference

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Photo courtesy of Rhonda Nieman




Photo by Courtney Morris, San Jacinto College

A NATIONAL


TOP 10

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FINALIST

2023



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AIR CONDITIONING TECH ALUM DONATES TRAINING UNIT TO PROGRAM

By **Melissa Trevizo**
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

If actions speak louder than words, then San Jacinto College alumnus Terry McWilliams shouted to the rooftops after a recent visit to the South Campus air conditioning technology facility.

“I was in the area on a service call, and I decided to stop into the new training facility for a quick tour,” McWilliams said. “I was impressed by the use of space for mock home installations and the variety of residential and commercial equipment, but I noticed they didn’t have any high-efficiency systems.”

With ever-changing efficiency standards and federal regulations, these systems will be the most common in the future, according to McWilliams.

“I felt a responsibility to my craft to fulfill the need of the program,” he said. “I want students to get exposure to the technology now so they can be more ready when they encounter it in the field.”

McWilliams, who owns Texcellent Heating and Cooling in Deer Park, made a call to his distributor and manufacturer to donate a high-efficiency specialty training system to the program. With Allied Air

Enterprises and Johnson Supply on board, McWilliams and his team completed the unit installation in April.

“This new unit will give our students an even broader range of experience working with technology that is the future of our profession,” said James Fairleigh, air conditioning technology instructor. “I appreciate when someone in the industry, especially a former student, sees a need and meets it for our program. Terry and his team did a high-quality, meticulous installation of the unit. He’s a great example for our students.”

McWilliams graduated from San Jac in 2015 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in air conditioning technology. He also serves on the HVACR advisory committee, advising on curriculum, instructor qualifications, equipment, and facility requirements to ensure graduates have appropriate skills for employment.

“I’m proud to give back to our local community college and to our industry,” McWilliams said. “My company hopes to cultivate a consistent standard of high quality in our craft by playing an active role in our community. I look forward to seeing more craftsmen come out of this program that holds the



industry to a high standard and strives to be the best.”

Fairleigh sees the value in tapping into alumni for mentorship and leadership for his students.

“Out of the seven instructors in our program, five are San Jac alumni, including myself,” he said. “As former students, we believe in the program and its future. It’s rewarding to see those who have come before giving back.”

To learn more about air conditioning technology at San Jac, visit sanjac.edu.



Photos courtesy of Terry McWilliams

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- Cale Lansville, pitcher, First Team All-South Conference
- Luke Nail, outfielder, First Team All-South Conference
- MJ Rodriguez, infielder, Second Team

All-South Conference
• Joan Roman, pitcher, Second Team All-South Conference
“I am proud of the players for their hard work and dedication to our program and institution,” said baseball head coach Tom Arrington. “It is an honor to

be recognized for their performances and awarded all-conference and all-region.”

Ravens baseball finished the season with an overall record of 33-22, 22-14 in conference play.

“We are proud of these players, as we are all of our student-athletes,” said

Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College vice chancellor for strategic initiatives. “We take pride in our competitive athletics teams and our rigorous academics. Our student-athletes work hard on and off the field, so this recognition is well-deserved.”

THIS MONTH *IN* SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram

We hope you had a fantastic time celebrating with your loved ones and fellow graduates!



632 Likes | 4 Comments | 30 Shares



Facebook

Interesting facts about Spring 2023 commencement:

- Our youngest graduate is 15
- Our most senior graduate is 75
- 735 dual credit students are graduating
- 42 veterans are graduating



1,316 Reactions | 162 Comments | 85 Shares



Twitter

Congratulations to our graduates! Your hard work and dedication have paid off, and we couldn't be prouder. Stay connected with us and make your mark in the world. The future is yours!



20 Likes | 4 retweets | 334 Video Views



LinkedIn

After 37 years of public service on the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees, Dr. Ruede Wheeler retired and was named a Trustee Emeritus on June 5. Erica Davis Rouse and Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson were also sworn in to Positions 1 and 2.



126 Reactions | 1 Comment | 2 Shares

YOUR GOALS. YOUR COLLEGE.



SAN JACINTOSM COLLEGE

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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

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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.

