

## GREETINGS!

Greetings from the Advising Services staff! This is the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter for students which will provide you with information as well as items of interest. I hope that your first few weeks of classes went smoothly.

The advising staff is available to assist you with questions about your program of study, class selection or anything else you

need. Please utilize us as your "go to" resource on campus. If time does not permit a visit to our office, email us at [advising@alvincollege.edu](mailto:advising@alvincollege.edu). A staff member will reply to your inquiry as quickly as possible.

Have a great Spring semester!




*Stephanie Stockstill  
Director of Advising Services*



*Diana Stiles  
Counselor (LPC)  
Career Services Coordinator*



*Eileen Cross  
Disability Services Coordinator*



*Toby Herzog  
Academic Advisor/  
VA Certifying Official*



*Julio Quiralte, Counselor (LPC)  
New Student Orientation*



*Angela Fox  
Testing Coordinator*



*Melissa Ramirez  
Career Services Specialist*



*Alpha Trevino  
Academic Advisor  
International Student Advisor*

## RESOURCE TIP - PROGRAM EVALUATION

*By: Stephanie Stockstill, Director of Advising Services*

Most students that I see for advising are missing out on a valuable tool that is located right in their Web Access student account. In a box all alone sits a link "Program Evaluation". This valuable resource is the primary tool used by advisors to ensure that students are taking the correct courses for their major. When students are preparing to graduate, the Registrar's Office uses this tool as a means to determine that degree or certificate requirements have been met. This resource is

available to students 24/7 year around. By following the program evaluation, students can assure themselves of remaining on track for their degree or certificate so that they do not take unnecessary courses. Students receiving financial aid will not be funded for courses not required on the degree or certificate, so accurate information is crucial!

Please take a few minutes the next time you log into Web Access and print your program evalua-

tion. See an advisor if your courses don't all appear on your degree plan or if you have any questions about the evaluation.



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2015 SEMESTER

January	February	March	April	May
<p><b>20</b> Classes Begin 16 week and Mini 1</p> 	<p><b>16</b> Registration opens for Mini 2</p> <p><b>24</b> Withdrawal Deadline for Mini 1</p>	<p><b>6</b> Graduation Application Deadline</p> <p><b>10</b> Final Exams Mini 1</p> <p><b>12</b> Mini 2 Classes Begin</p> <p><b>16 - 22</b> Spring Break</p>	<p><b>3 - 6</b> Spring Holiday / Study Day!</p> <p><b>20</b> Withdrawal Deadline 16 week term</p> <p><b>27</b> Withdrawal Deadline for Mini 2</p>	<p><b>11 - 16</b> Final exams 16 week term / Mini 2</p> <p><b>19 - 20</b> Commencement</p> 

## OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

By: Eileen Cross, Coordinator Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students attending ACC including dual credit and continuing education who need support services due to a disability. Students who had services in the past or have a newly diagnosed disability should self-identify with ODS before beginning college and are welcome to come throughout the semester. Current documentation is required to receive academic accommodations.



If documentation is not available or you are unsure of what documentation is required, ODS provides referrals and mentoring in alternative ways to approach the difficulties encountered in class. Services vary student by student based on diagnosis and the documentation provided. No one is turned away.

Use of ODS is not recorded on academic records and is confidential. Services may include but are not

limited to, accessible testing, CART providers, interpreters, classroom accommodations, alternative format for texts, tests and other printed materials.

There are 2 accessible labs in the Library that provide speech to text, text to speech, and other software for students to use for equal access. It is best to have an appointment, however; if you are on campus and would like information please visit the Enrollment Services Center in building A100.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

By: Julio Quiralte, Counselor

"Failing to plan is planning to fail," is a quote that has been attributed to Allen Lakein, but has been traced back to Winston Churchill and Benjamin Franklin. As a counselor I often work with clients to create a goal and then we devise a plan to achieve that goal. One option often used is a vision board. The vision board can be a poster board or even an app on a phone. The board allows a client to post pictures that serve as a reminder and motivation to work towards the predetermined

goal. Goals tend to be easier to accomplish if they have been visualized. So, how many students set a GPA goal when a new semester begins?

Let's say a student sets a GPA goal of a 3.0 in every class. By setting this GPA as a goal, a student will have a marker for how to perform on each assignment, quiz, and test. This would encourage the student to take ownership of their studies and work proactively to-

wards accomplishing a strong GPA.

Students at Alvin Community College have a variety of educational goals. Some are looking to earn scholarships and transfer to a university. Others are looking to join the

work force after they graduate. Whatever path an ACC student is looking to take, a strong GPA will be important, so a plan is crucial! Remember, "failing to plan is planning to fail!"

Good luck!

## CAREER SERVICES

By: Diana Stiles, Counselor/ Coordinator Career Services

Many students that enter college are undecided about what career path or academic program they want to pursue. This is not uncommon. ACC offers career exploration services such as career assessments and career counseling to assist in narrowing one's choices and to

ultimately develop an action plan and career goals. Students who are undecided about their major are encouraged to take advantage of career assessments. Knowing more about oneself can help one decide an education direction.

Since personal career development is a "process" rather than event, take that first step of self-exploration today! Stop by the Career Center, A-205 (next to the library) or call Melissa Ramirez at 281-756-3560 to schedule your assessments.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

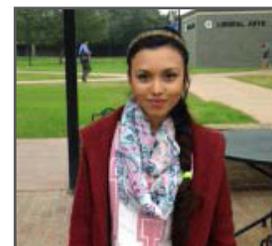
By: Alpha Trevino, Academic Advisor

Alvin Community College, although small in size, has a large presence from around the world! This spring we have International students on campus from Nigeria, Vietnam, Haiti, India, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Philippines, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Benin, Mexico, China, Bangladesh and the Bahamas.

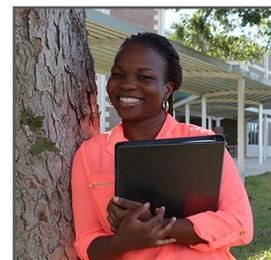


*Meet a few of our outstanding International Students!*

**Sadia Afrin Kornia** originates from Bangladesh. Sadia enrolled at ACC in the fall 2013 semester in the Business Administration Degree. She will be graduating in the summer of 2015. Her goal is to pursue a Marketing degree at UH. Sadia has received two scholarships since she started attending ACC, has volunteered at several events, and is also the president of the International Student Club. Sadia said, "I love the friendly environment at ACC."



**Elodie Savi** originates from Benin, in West Africa. She transferred from Santa Fe College in Florida in the fall 2014 semester. She is in the Business Administration program. Elodie is a student assistant in the Student Activities Department. She has received scholarships from ACCEOP and the ACC Foundation. Elodie is also involved in five clubs at ACC, the Student Government Association, Christians United for Israel, the Dolphin Lead, the Church of Christ Club, and she is the Vice President of the International Student Club.



**Purelily Ekpo** originates from Nigeria. She transferred from Western Illinois University to Alvin Community College in the spring 2014 semester. She has been on the Dean's list for the past two semesters and has taken honor classes. Purelily received a scholarship in the fall 2014 semester from the Rev. David Garcia Memorial Scholarship and a scholarship from the ACC Foundation for the spring 2015 semester. She is presently a member of the Church of Christ Student Fellowship and the International Student Club at ACC. Purelily has volunteered at various events on campus, including the Fall Festival and National Alliance on Mental Illness.



## VETERAN'S SERVICES

By: Toby Herzog, Academic Advisor

Alvin Community College is committed to helping our veterans succeed in the classroom. We have endorsed the 8 Keys



to success as identified by the Department of Education and the VA. Our Student Veterans Club is vital in the implementation of these keys to success. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday February 4, 2015 in the Library at 12:30. We encourage all veterans on campus to attend and provide input on how we can better serve you.

Please see the Keys to success below:

1. Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans.
2. Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership.
3. Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
4. Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space for them (even if limited in size).

5. Collaborate with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans.
6. Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention, and degree completion.
7. Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans.
8. Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans.

## CAREER SPOTLIGHT: PARALEGAL

Would you like to pursue a career that is both interesting and challenging? If so, a paralegal career may be for you. A paralegal plays a very important role in the legal office. Under the supervision of an attorney, paralegals perform a broad variety of tasks in the legal office. Paralegals are employed in all types of organizations including small practices, large firms, corporations, banks, insurance companies, federal, state, and local governments, legal aid organizations. According to the U.S. Labor statistics, employment



of paralegals and legal assistants is projected to grow 17 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations.

The need for persons to assist the legal profession has expanded greatly with population increases and the growing demand for legal services. See U.S. Dept. of Labor Occupational Outlook for more information about the Paralegal profession.

ACC's paralegal program educates students regarding legal terminology, research and investigation, document drafting, litigation, immigration laws and



computer and organizational skills. It focuses on providing students with the education and skills required by employers, as well as offering an internship program. The Paralegal program offers both face-to-face and internet classes. For more information please contact Dr. Karen Barnett at [kbarnett@alvincollege.edu](mailto:kbarnett@alvincollege.edu) or 281-756-3642.