Students ill-prepared for emergency

SOUTHEAST

Kinesiology department chair on SE dies at 39

By Jamil Oakford

A month after the Feb. 5 death of SE kinesiology department chair Danny Lee Aguirre, officials still have not determined the cause. He was 39.

The cause of death is pending toxicology results, according to the Dallas County Medical Examiner's office.

Aguirre, a Grand Prairie resident, is survived by his wife, his parents, two brothers and a niece. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 10.

SE Campus administrators remembered Aguirre as a loyal and dedicated employee and colleague.

Campus president Bill Coppola said the campus feels the loss of his presence strongly.

"Danny was a very important member of the SE family," he said. "He was the type of individual that any president would want on their campus."

Coppola said he was always willing to step forward if it meant someone received the help they needed.

"Danny was fun, loving and dedicated to helping others," he said. "He never hesi-tated to jump in whenever needed."

Aguirre began working at TCC 10 years ago as an SE interior sports director. After six and a half years, he became the kinesiology department chair.

Tommy Avery, SE mathematics, engineering, science and HPE divisional dean, said his colleague was someone who looked at his work with a purpose.

By Kathryn Kelman

TRINITY RIVER

He, too

TR instructor shares his story as sexual assault victim

By Kathryn Kelman

Seldon Smart has battled poverty, homelessness and immigration and survived.

The Trinidad and Tobago native is the first in his family to attend college and has earned a doctorate. He’s been a full-time TR speech instructor since 2013, a mentor with the Men of Color mentoring program, a life coach and educational technician at a substance abuse rehabilitation clinic.

He is a YouTuber and he’s hoping to publish a novel at the end of this year.

Seem promising, but it was a casual conversation with a friend while watching TV last fall that he realized he needed to speak up about something else — the fact that he was sexually assaulted.

"I'm watching it and we're talking about it and I'm realizing, 'Geez man, I fit into this category, but I'm not saying any-thing and they are,'” he said.

He said this class is designed to not only offer the students an edge in the practical skills area of their resumes but to give them guidance in an area where students with autism typically struggle.

"Most of the students who take these classes are highly skilled in mathematics," CIE director Vickie Moss said. "So when they get into these classes, one of the ways they deal with social skills is by working in teams."

In these teams, students will help develop code for various products, such as the class can also effectively help students with autism on their interpersonal skills by having a small, manageable class size.

"Python is a coding language used for web programming and desktop applications, was chosen over other coding languages because of the program for Python-fluent coders in the workforce," Moss said.

"We were trying to meet the need of the Texas Workforce Commission to include tech and provide access for the students that can be used in the workforce immediately after completing this class,” she said.

Some of the students are finding this coding language to be a breeze.

"This is my first coding class," SE student Connor Tyngser said. "So far, this has been pretty easy. Nothing too complicated.

For SE student Ellen Clinton who is in her 80s and already a professional, she finds this class to be exciting.

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Smart

SE student Jonathan Torres has attended the campus part time since 2014 and has also never participated in any drills. But he isn’t too worried about the drills.

“We’ve been practicing that stuff ever since elementary school,” he said. “Depending on the emergency, I think I’d be OK.”

Both Torres and Gujosa said they feel safe on their campuses because of the high police presence and because they’re never unoccupied.

Police Officer and Security Director Travis Driver said the protocols were last updated in August 2016, but there’s a plan to update it.

“Sometimes when you’re young, ignorance is good because I showed up thinking, ‘Well, I saw it on TV and other people can go to America and they could make it,’” he said.

When his flight landed in Miami, Smart purchased a $10 calling card and used it to let his family know he’d made it to the U.S. In Clarendon, Smart worked several jobs off campus and turned and turned and turned until he Smart said he’d like to see more men speak up about their stories with sexual assault.

“I wish there were more Sheldons in the world,” she said. "I want to know how he made it through the hardships he faced, Cothran said.

"We would rather have students update their profiles, faculty and staff to do is update their MyTCC alert profile files, he said. All students, faculty and staff can automatically enrolled to receive myTCC alerts through email, but legally, the college can’t enroll anyone to receive the alerts via text. “Sometimes when you’re young, ignorance is good because I showed up thinking, ‘Well, I saw it on TV and other people can go to America and they could make it,’” he said.

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Good grades. Smart remembered, said things like, “It’s OK. It’s normal. ‘No one will believe you if you say anything.

The molestation went on until Smart was old enough to stop having to go there. He never Smart did what he’d been taught to do, which was to pray and be strong.

The man watched him because Smart was too old to be lying anymore, Cothran said. “Well, maybe if you let it happen several times, after that, maybe you want it,” he said.

He was awake the whole time but feigned sleep. The two were in a bunk bed, Smart on the top bunk with his abs on the bottom.

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