

SHARPEN YOUR PENCIL

DMC professor directs a writers workshop fostering a space for creativity.

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DANCE THROUGH LIFE

Locally owned dance studio offers classes for all stages of learners.

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Ceremony honors former DMC professor

College dedicates plaza to former English instructor Anzaldúa, who died in '12

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Former students and faculty showed their admiration for their late professor at a ceremony to dedicate the Mike Anzaldúa Plaza on April 21.

"He was our King Arthur, our Socrates, our Zeus," said Bret Anthony Johnston, a 1994 Del Mar College graduate who now serves as director of the James A. Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas.

Johnston said the plaza will be a place to remember Anzaldúa's legacy.

The ceremony marked the official opening of the plaza, along with the 141,429 square foot General Academic Music Building. The official grand opening was originally planned for April 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic forced it to be postponed.

The building is filled with general learning classrooms, labs and music rooms, which also include technology used for music practice, Virtual Acoustic Environment.

Del Mar College President Mark Escamilla welcomed and recognized the "first and largest transformation of the 2014 bond referendum."

"Mike Anzaldúa Plaza, where we are now, is the heart of this facility," Escamilla told the crowd.

Anzaldúa taught at Del Mar College for 43 years and according to many students and peers, he was very passionate about his teaching.

Anzaldúa, who died in 2012, left more than \$400,000 to scholarships at DMC for students in music, English and Mexican-American studies.

Joel Hernandez, a DMC graduate, performed "Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet" by Igor Stravinsky as a tribute to Anzaldúa, who also played the clarinet.

"Of course, this Mike Anzaldúa Plaza is the feature that ties all these buildings together and it's a great testimony to Mike's memory," said Carol A. Scott, chair of DMC Board of Regents.

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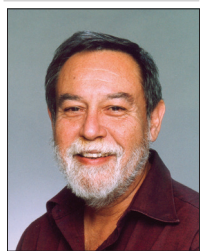
DMC President Mark Escamilla leads the dedication ceremony for Mike Anzaldúa Plaza on April 21.



The Honorable Hilda G. Tagle speaks on behalf of Anzaldúa's family at the event. She described Anzaldúa and his work as "passionate."

MIKE M. ANZALDÚA JR.

- Graduated with his associate degree in English at DMC in 1966
- 2004 Western Region Faculty Member Award for Teaching Excellence and Leadership
- 2004 Dr. Aileen Creighton Award for Teaching Excellence
- Developed the interest in teaching Mexican-American studies at Del Mar College in the '70s, which would be the start of the area of study
- 2013 DMC Foundation's Blue and Silver Award for Distinguished Faculty



Anzaldúa gave over \$400,000 in scholarships to DMC.



PHOTOS BY NICHAELE SHAHEEN | FOGHORN NEWS

Along the plaza, students and faculty can view Anzaldúa's favorite inspirational quotes, along with two of his very own.

Donation of \$1M benefits students

Scholarship gives priority to students studying in areas to help community

PHILIP J. PEREZ | OPINION EDITOR
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First-generation Del Mar College students now have another opportunity to help pay for their education thanks to a new scholarship.

The Legamaro Family Endowed Scholarship is a \$1 million gift in appreciated stock that will be used to support first-generation students in specialized fields of study.

"This will take students all the way through their programming here at Del Mar, particularly in those areas that help get good jobs in the community," said Mary McQueen, executive director of development for the Del Mar College Foundation, when making the announcement on April 14. "It also can help them through a bachelor program, so this is also a very unusual scholarship that they are really trying to help people obtain their dreams."

Students who receive the scholarship are able to continue receiving funds if they continue their education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi or in Kingsville.

The scholarship also gives preference to students who have graduated from Flour Bluff High School since the Legamaro family lived and raised their family in the Flour Bluff community.



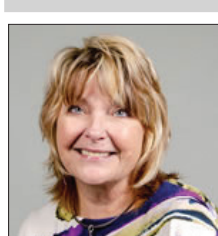
Mark Escamilla (from left), Mary McQueen, Tim Legamaro, Cindy Legamaro and Julio Reyes unveil the ceremonial check announcing the scholarship on April 14.

Occupational therapy assistant student Brittany Jones, who spoke at the event, is one of the first 14 students to receive the scholarship, which will be able to help 10-15 students per year with a tuition-free education.

"It has made a world of difference," Jones said. "I am a student who is completely dependent on financial aid in order to go to school."

Jones, who worked to support her family while her husband went to school to pursue a career in physical therapy, said now the roles are reversed as her husband is now the sole bread winner while she is in school.

"Having this scholarship and this opportunity has helped tremendously," Jones said. "It has helped us to make ends



McQueen said this scholarship will help students "really obtain their dreams."

meet when we would have otherwise not been able to."

"It has given me the opportunity to actually finish this degree that I wanted to rather than to have to put things on hold, work and wait," Jones said.

Each year, the foundation awards between \$1.4 million and \$1.9 million in scholarships and helps between 1,400 and 1,700 students.

"I would definitely tell students to contact the DMC Foundation because of opportunities like this," Jones said. "I was not aware of how many opportunities there are out there and I have truly been blessed to have received this scholarship."

Students can apply for scholarships by logging on to delmar.edu/foundation/scholarships/index.html.

In-person graduation resumes

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For the first time in over two years, Del Mar College will hold an in-person commencement ceremony.

Spring 2022 graduates will be able to walk across the stage at the American Bank Center May 20. Graduation ceremonies had been virtual since December 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ceremony, which begins at 7 p.m., will be streamed live for friends and family of graduates who are unable to attend. The livestream will be available at boxcast.tv.

Dr. Osbert Blow, president and chief medical officer of the Christus Spohn Health System, will be the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Blow, a graduate from the Duke University School of Medicine in 1987, has been on Christus Spohn's leadership team since he was named trauma medical director in 2006. From 2015-19, Blow served as chief medical officer for Christus Spohn Health. In 2019, Blow was named president of the Christus Spohn Health System.

Commencement ceremony regalia (cap, gown and tassel) are available for purchase online at www.dmcbookstore.com or by contacting the DMC Bookstore by email at dmc@texasbook.com. The bookstore can also be contacted by phone at 361-884-1823 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

For up-to-date information on the upcoming graduation ceremony, students are encouraged to enroll in the "Graduation Information Center Spring 2022" class on their Canvas account. Graduates should expect to receive their diplomas in the mail six to eight weeks after the commencement ceremony.