

## New dorm construction to begin January '07

By Katie Hall  
Editor

For years, TJC has faced the problem of too few student dorms on campus. The eight dorms total 600 beds, Marketing and Public Information Director Fred Peters said. That leaves a desperate need for more student housing because each year more than 600 students are turned away.

Construction will begin

on a new residence hall in January 2007. It is expected to be completed by summer 2008 so students can move in when the 2008 fall semester arrives.

The "Louise H and Joseph Z Ornelas Residence Complex" will be named to honor the generous donations made by the couple. The Ornelases are long-time TJC supporters who have contributed to many academic and athlet-

ic scholarships. They also supported the Health and Physical Education Center refurbishments that were made.

The 4-floor residence complex will have 462 beds. The 152,193 square foot building will face Blackwell Avenue and be cornered on the north by Lake Street and on the south by Adair Street.

Plans are to build two separate buildings connected by walkovers with a creek bed running between

the two structures.

The TJC Board of Trustees selected Denson Construction to handle the entire project, Peters said. A satellite power plant will be constructed nearby with heating units and chillers for air conditioning.

"We are looking forward to this new facility that will allow us to meet the need for more student housing while increasing student life opportunities on campus," Peters said.

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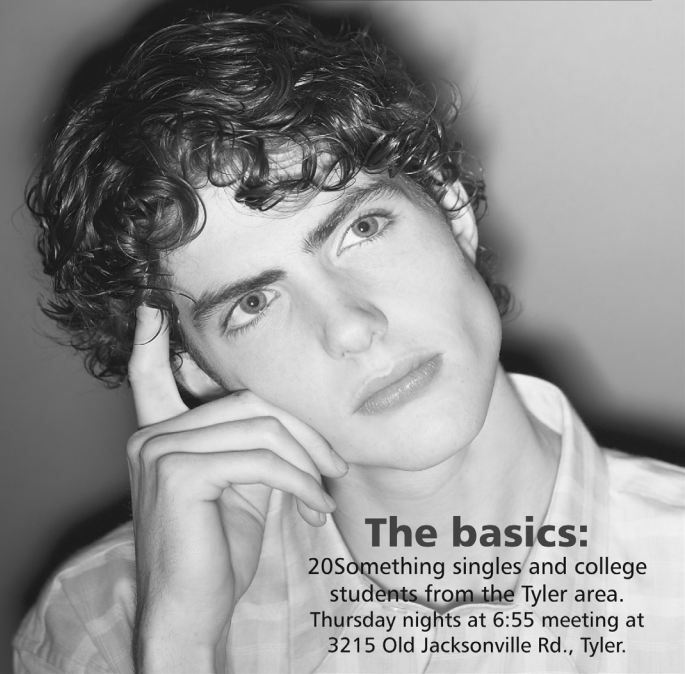
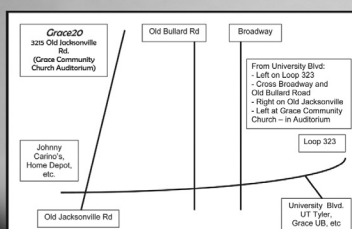
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20Something singles and college students from the Tyler area. Thursday nights at 6:55 meeting at 3215 Old Jacksonville Rd., Tyler.

## Students nation-wide pay tuition with help from Financial Aid

By Tim Carista  
Staff Writer

Paying for college is expensive, even at a local community college, but it can get easier. Obtaining financial aid from your school, state and/or nation can be a simple process.

The first step in getting financial aid is filling out the Free Application for Federal Students Aid, Financial Aid Director Devon Wiggins said. After students have completed and submitted the FAFSA online or on paper, TJC will automatically receive the application and send the student a letter with directions explaining what to do online. Most students forget to do, ignore or are confused about this part, Wiggins said.

The Financial Aid staff discovered this problem,

and they are now trying to get a new program called Banner. Banner is supposed to be simpler, less confusing and requires less paper work. Wiggins thinks this program will make it easier for everybody who deals with financial aid and it will "streamline everything."

After students do the correct paperwork, TJC will notify them if one of three things happen: they need more information, they made corrections on the forms or everything is correct and the student will receive an award letter. Every student can get this information on Campus Connect, a program all enrolled students have so they can view their registration information.

Then students can gain the opportunity to receive Pell grants, state grants,

scholarships and/or student loans. TJC itself is not a lender, but students can get loans from Stafford Student Loan programs, parent loan programs, banks and other sources.

Students who think they can never get financial aid or don't need it, are wrong. This year alone 235,179 dependent students applied and 306,738 independent students in colleges all over the United States have applied already for the 06-07 year, Wiggins said.

Wiggins said the two most important statements she tells to students are: "Everyone should fill out the FAFSA" and "Complete it by April. Those who have any questions concerning financial aid, can call 903-510-2385 or email [faid@tjc.edu](mailto:faid@tjc.edu).