

May 2008

Volume 4, Issue 2

**Special Interest
Articles:**

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**Campus Manager's
Staff**

Campus Manager, Judy Van Cleve

Campus Manager Adm. Asst. III, Melissa Brown

Evening Operations Coordinator, Rita Banninger

Senior Clerk, Jeanette Brownlee

Duplication Clerk, Diana Gatica

Custodians, Lee Vallejo and Bynum Thomas

The Creativity Edition

We are featuring the creative achievements of Pinnacle staff. We hope you enjoy reading about their accomplishments as much as we do.

Terry Thomas, History Professor, has been awarded a sabbatical for the next academic year. Terry will be conducting research on "Women in Texas During the Civil War and Reconstruction." She will also be collecting photographs of women during this period for a separate book and website.

Raquel Gavia, Foreign Languages Professor, had a recent movie role in the independent film, "August Evening." The film has recently won the Cassavetes Award for Best Film at the 2008 Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, California.



Catherine Waterston, left, with friend



(12) United States Patent
Box et al.

(10) Patent No.: US 7,335,830 B2
(45) Date of Patent: Feb. 26, 2008

(54) METHOD AND DEVICE FOR ATTACHING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT STRING TO A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUNING PEG

(76) Inventors: Kenneth William Box, 1117 W. 9th St., Austin, TX (US) 78703; Thomas McGarrigle, P.O. Box 457, Liberty Hill, TX (US) 78642

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 11/200,745
(22) Filed: Aug. 10, 2005

(65) Prior Publication Data
US 2006/0048626 A1 Mar. 9, 2006

(66) Related U.S. Application Data
Provisional application No. 60/600,422, filed on Aug. 10, 2004.

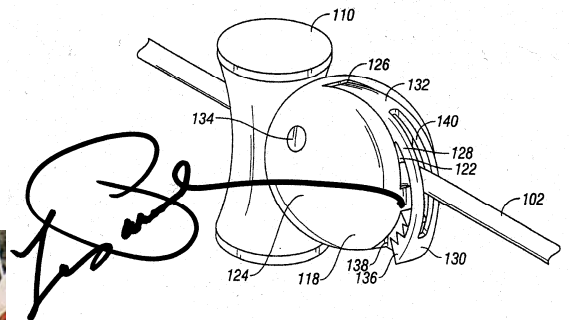
(51) Int. Cl. G10D 3/74 (2006.01)
(52) U.S. Cl. 84/304; 84/304; 84/297 R, 312 R, 298, 290; D17/20, 21
² See application file for complete search history.

(56) References Cited
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
842,329 A 1/1907 McClean

(*) cited by examiner
Primary Examiner—Lincoln Donovan
Assistant Examiner—Jianchun Qin
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Gregory K. Goshorn; Greg Goshorn, P.C.

(57) ABSTRACT
Provided is a string tuning mechanism that enables a musician to clamp and anchor a musical instrument string to a musical instrument tuning peg. The claimed subject matter enables the musician to put on and take off the strings of a stringed instrument easily and rapidly. The string attachment device also enables the installed musical instrument string to equalize to pitch faster than currently possible and enables a stringed musical instrument to remain in tune longer. The disclosed device is designed to fit easily against a tuning peg and to enable the musician to use the locking of the string to the peg technology without permanently changing the physical state of their musical instrument. Another purpose of the claimed subject matter is to provide a method and device that enables the musician to use the same strings he has always used, and not to have to buy special strings.

7 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



Ken Box's Patent Abstract Title Page
Autographed by Les Paul, famed guitarist.

Ken Box, Master Control Engineer, Distance Learning, has recently had his patent granted with co-inventor, Thomas McGarrigle, for their invention called "String Kings" which are strings for any instrument that always stay in tune.

Catherine Waterston, Testing Center Assistant, completed her first marathon, the ATT Austin Marathon beating her own goal of 5 hours by 10 seconds.

“Inside the Faculty High-rise”

James Lipton, actor and host of “Inside the Actors’ Studio” when interviewing actors for his show, always asks what he calls the “Pivot” questions. For the “Creativity Edition” we thought we would ask our deans and department chairs THE PIVOT QUESTIONS:

The “Pivot” questions

1. What is your favorite word?
2. What is your least favorite word?
3. What turns you on creatively, spiritually, or emotionally?
4. What turns you off creatively, spiritually, or emotionally?
5. What sound or noise do you love?
6. What sound or noise do you hate?
7. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?
8. What profession would you not like to do?
9. If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?



L. to R. **Charles Quinn, Vicki Payne and Marcella Phillips**

The “Pivot” answers

Charles Quinn, Dean of Business Studies:

1. Jugendherberge
2. Oops
3. A lovely woman named Susan
4. Perpetual negativity
5. Laughter
6. That squeaky sound made by two pieces of Styrofoam rubbing together
7. High-end auto mechanic
8. Assistant to Dick Cheney
9. “You’re late.”

Vicki Payne, Assistant Dean, Professor of Mathematics:

1. Peace
2. Can’t
3. Knowledge
4. Stupidity
5. A baby laughing
6. Nails on the chalkboard
7. No other profession – I love what I do
8. I would not like any profession in which each day is routine.
9. “You were right and you did a good job!”

Marcella Phillips, Associate Professor, English:

1. Tintinnabulation
2. But ... as in (good news), but (bad news)
3. Nature – I just saw a yellow-breasted chat in my yaupon!
4. Snobbery in any form
5. A ripe watermelon splitting open/purring/the back door slamming when my son comes home
6. My car’s fender crunching against a two foot high concrete post
7. Psychologist/interior decorator/park ranger
8. Work in a chicken processing plant
9. “Don’t worry! I’ve got lots of books!”



Spotlight on Raquel Gavia



Raquel with Kris Kristofferson on the set of "Fastfood Nation."

Raquel Gavia, Professor, Foreign Languages, is also an accomplished actress during her down time from Austin Community College. "Fastfood Nation," "Kabluey," and "August Evening" are three films in which she had speaking roles during the past few years.

"Fastfood Nation" was directed by Richard Linklater. Raquel's scene in this movie was with Kris Kristofferson and Greg Kinnear. The work involved flying to Colorado Springs, Colorado on location. Raquel has this to share about her experience making this film:

"Richard, the director, was good enough to accept and use some changes in script that I suggested. This allowed my character, Rita, to speak in Spanish. Since Rita was Hispanic, we both thought the changes fit the character."

"Kabluey" was directed by Scott Prendergast. Raquel's part was shot in Austin last year during June. All her scenes were shot on a Capital Metro bus. The main star in this film was Lisa Kudrow (of the TV show "Friends").

"Unfortunately, I did not work with her or even get to meet her. After I saw the film, I realized that several of her scenes were shot about three blocks from my home in South Austin."

Most of the film "August Evening" was shot in Gonzales and San Antonio, Texas. Raquel's scenes were shot in the month of August in Gonzales, Texas. This film has won several awards for both the director and the cast.

So check out these fine films and keep your eye out for Professor Gavia.

The PIN Welcomes

Adrienne Abel, Special Project – Virtual College of Texas Coordinator. Adrienne graduated from Texas State University in 2005 with a B.A. in Communication Design.

Adrienne worked in the private sector for the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce and a company in north Austin before coming to the Pinnacle.

Congrats & Kudos

Megan Fullen, on her promotion to Student Life Coordinator, Student Life.

Christopher Andrew Mota, born April 25, 2008 to **Angela Cole-Mota**, PIN Advising Specialist and her husband **Pedro Mota**, Associate Professor, Mathematics.

Ladies' Quartet Serenades Jim Sondgeroth



Jim Sondgeroth, Dept. Chair, Social and Behavioral Sciences, was happily surprised by his wife on Valentine's Day with the singing quartet, "Intrigue."

PIN Calendar of Events

May 10, 2008	Election Day Voting, Student Commons
May 11, 2008	Spring Semester 2008 Ends
May 12 – May 23, 2008	Intersession Schedule, Reduced Hours (see PIN Calendar online)
May 26, 2008	Memorial Day, All ACC Campuses Closed
May 27, 2008	Summer Session begins

For a complete list of PIN activities please refer to our Campus Calendar of Events at: www2.austincc.edu/cgi-bin/cgiwrap/calciium/Calcium.pl/Calcium.pl?Op=ShowIt&CalendarName=pin - 21k -

In Memoriam: John Bradford Goodman

ACC Pinnacle student, **John Bradford Goodman**, 36, of Austin, Texas passed away April 9, 2008. Born June 11, 1971 in Laredo, Texas, John grew up in Austin, attended the University of Texas, later moved to California, and in recent years returned to Austin.

Born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, John never let his disability keep him from living his dreams. Despite his limited mobility, John graduated from San Diego State University with a bachelor's degree in film and writing.

A talented screenwriter, he wrote, directed and produced an award-winning independent film, "Angels of Light," and wrote several episodes for the television show "Malcolm in the Middle."

John was enrolled in biology and history classes here at the Pinnacle Campus. His biology class, taught by **Yvonne Estes**, recently planted a Bradford pear tree at the Hampton branch of the Austin Public Library to honor his memory.

John is survived by his mother, Diana Vela, his sister, Lisa Goodman Merkl and her husband, John his nephews, Bradford John Merkl and Travis Merkl, and his niece, Alexandra Merkl. He is also survived by his many aunts, uncles and cousins, his loyal attendants, Antonio Marco Paredes and Ernesto Cano, and his beloved pets, Duke, Einstein, and Baby Boy.

(Parts of this story are reprinted from the Austin American Statesman online.)

ASK ANNIE

Q. How long has the Pinnacle newsletter been in circulation?

A. The Pinnacle newsletter has been published in various forms since 1995 when it was called, "The Pinnacle News."

It has gone through various transformations and we had a motto contest in 1996 when **Marieline McGhee**, Instructional Lab Manager submitted the winning one, "Reaching New Heights in Education" which still happily appears on our masthead.

In its current form, the publication is called "... From the Pinnacle," and its editor, **Rita Banninger**, Evening Operations Coordinator, is always appreciative of any and all campus input.

from the PINNACLE is a campus publication with Rita Banninger, Evening Operations Coordinator, serving as editor. For Austin Community College information please contact our website at www.austincc.edu

