AUGUST 2021

KC employees who go “Above & Beyond”

Schlunda Hall (support assistant for arts & sciences) displays radical hospitality on a daily basis. Here are some examples:

- Helping a student find a quiet place to study.
- Helping students who have forgotten to bring supplies to class.
- Walking students to a class or an office they can’t find.
- Counseling with students who are discouraged or stressed.
- Helping students (and faculty members) who are having issues with technology.

“I’ve never heard Schlunda say she can’t help someone with a problem. She always finds a way.”

- by Jase Graves
  Department Chair, Instructor
  English Language Development Dept.

FEBRUARY 2022

CenterPoint will donate $25,000 toward nursing education facility

Representatives from CenterPoint Energy will be on the Kilgore campus Feb. 2 to present Kilgore College with a $25,000 check to use for completion of the new, state-of-the-art facility planned at the old Roy H. Laird Memorial Hospital.

The check presentation is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, in the McLaurin Administration Building. The media and the local community are invited to attend.

Christus Good Shepherd, the Roy H. Laird Memorial Hospital Foundation, the City of Kilgore and KC are all collaborating on the development of the new facility, to be called the Roy H. Laird Medical Center.

The center will include new teaching and lab space for KC, as well as an expansion of Christus Good Shepherd’s footprint near the existing Emergency Center to provide more health care services and health education opportunities.

MORE

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McPherson named KCPD chief

William “Bill” McPherson has been named KC Police Chief and Director of Public Safety & Risk Management.

McPherson has a master’s degree in communication and graduated from the FBI National Academy, Class 263.

“He has a wealth of experience and a deep level of knowledge in all areas of policing,” said Dr. Staci Martin, VP of student services. “Kilgore College is fortunate to hire someone who has this level of experience in law enforcement, including a long tenure in various supervisory roles.”

McPherson served four years in the United States Air Force before earning a bachelor’s degree in 1990 from The University of New Mexico and a master’s degree in communication from Central Missouri University in 1993.

McPherson started in patrol at the Houston Police Department in 1993 where he worked is way up to Commander by the time of his retirement from the HPD in 2020.

“I am a firm believer in community service,” McPherson said. “Kilgore College Police Department can only achieve its goal of ‘Protecting the Future of Texas’ by working with the students, staff and surrounding communities to not only improve campus safety initiatives, but to also elevate the overall college campus experience.”

MORE

MORE

Pruitt named athletic director

Kilgore College has named Longview native Courtney Pruitt as athletic director, as announced by Dr. Staci Martin.

Pruitt served a short time as KC’s part-time assistant athletic director, then assumed the role of full-time interim athletic director in November.

She began duties as full-time athletic director on Jan. 1.

“She is very well-qualified to take on the day-to-day management of KC’s athletic programs, beginning her coaching career in 2005 after playing basketball collegiately,” Martin said.

Pruitt has served as associate head women’s basketball coach at Prairie View A&M University; head women’s basketball coach at Alcorn State University; associate director of athletics at Wiley College; head women’s coach at Tyler Junior College; head women’s basketball coach at Ranger College; and assistant women’s basketball coach at Lon Morris College.

Pruitt said she is happy to be home after a long and successful coaching career.

MORE
Congratulation to KC’s newest innovators!

During the fall convocation, I announced that the KC Board had once again approved a set-aside to foster innovation and innovative ideas at KC. In fact, for this fiscal year, the board increased the line item from $10,000 to $25,000! The only “catch” was that interested faculty/staff had to complete a grant application to apply—and I am excited to announce that indeed we did receive applications!

The number of grant applications received this year noticeably increased over last year. The number of applications, each representing great ideas, made the job of the Innovation Committee very difficult.

Innovation Grant applications were due in early Fall. Members of the Committee then reviewed the applications in late November/early December. All awardees have received notification that their “ask” was funded. Awardees must begin innovating by spending their grant awards and launching their respective projects before Aug. 31, 2022.

Please help me in congratulating the following KC Innovators:

Karen Dulweber: Addition of a laptop computer for the Writing Studios to facilitate remote tutoring methods using Google Docs for remote and face-to-face tutoring.

Tina Rushing: Seed money to launch an addiction conference to be held annually at KC that will bring chemical dependency counselors, social workers and professional counselors from the East Texas area to our Kilgore campus.

Courtney Akvan: 1) A Wacom tablet to allow faculty the ability to write/draw/record on the tablet to produce a larger display and repository for student access. 2) A webcam system that will allow faculty to record lectures, lab demonstrations and competency check-offs to enable students to review these critical elements for assessment.

Meredith May: Seed money for a Local History Celebration, designed to give KC students enrolled in History 1302 an opportunity to create a historical artifact. Students will conduct research and present their findings as an exhibit to promote the academic work at KC and forge connections between KC/KC East Texas Oil Museum and the Gregg County Historical Museum.

Kristi Kleinig: 1) Two webcam systems to enable the program to record practical examinations allowing faculty and students to review lab practical performance to discuss where the students performed well or areas that need improvement. 2) Three additional neuroanatomy models to provide students with a hands-on component to their lecture course.

Sarah Whitfield: Resources to facilitate the emerging hyflex teaching model for two Engineering and Science Building classrooms.

I have provided you with a “teaser” for each of these awardees, but you will have the opportunity to hear much more about their projects and the innovation’s predicted impact on KC Student Success. These individuals will be featured during the February Board of Trustee meeting, and we’ll hear more about their innovations and successes during the Fall 2022 Convocation.

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER! @KCBrendaKays
**On-Campus Calendar**

**February**

2, CenterPoint Energy Check Presentation, McLaurin, 10 a.m.
5, Basketball (M) vs. Navarro, Masters Gym, 4 p.m.
9, Softball vs. Weatherford College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1&3 p.m.
Basketball (W) vs. TJC, Masters Gym, 5:30 p.m.
12, Gussie Nell Davis Classic, Multiple Areas, 8 a.m.
Softball vs. Lamar State – Port Arthur, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1&3 p.m.
14, Bake Sale – Diversity Alliance Club, Devall Hallway, 11 a.m.
Alumni Valentine’s Day Celebration, Kilgore: Devall Room, 8:30 a.m.
Alumni Valentine’s Day Celebration, Longview: Employee Lounge, 2 p.m.
16, Softball vs. Angelina College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1&3 p.m.
Basketball (W) vs. Coastal Bend, Masters Gym, 5:30 p.m.
18, East Texas Regional Science Fair, Virtual Event, 8:30 a.m.
Softball vs. San Jacinto College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1&3 p.m.
19, Basketball (M) vs. Panola, Masters Gym, 4 p.m.
20, Softball vs. Alvin College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1&3 p.m.
22, Softball vs. Galveston College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1&3 p.m.
23, Basketball (W) vs. Jacksonville, Masters Gym, 5:30 p.m.
24-27, KC Theatre production: “Ada & the Engine”
25, ETBU E-6 Program Review, BSM Building, 9 a.m.
Softball vs. Temple College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1&3 p.m.
26, Tailgate Men & Women Basketball, Lee Mall/Mike Miller Plaza, Noon
Basketball (W/M) vs. Panola/Paris, Masters Gym, 2&4 p.m.
28, Softball vs. Hill College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1&3 p.m.

**Birthdays**

- 2-17 Susan Wilson
- 2-19 Kayla Cook
- 2-21 Danielle Schoenbacher
- 2-23 Susan Schoenbacher
- 2-24 Mandy Key
- 2-24 Sherri Morris
- 2-25 Sarah Booker
- 2-25 Darby Cockrell
- 2-25 Karen Tutt
- 2-26 Amber Kinsey
- 2-28 Cody McCoy
- 2-28 Mark Stephens

**Black History Month: Did You Know?**

- The Gregg County Historical Museum is hosting a Black History Month Exhibit Feb. 5 to March 26. [Click here for GCHM Exhibit Information](#)
- Here is a link to learn about the Origins of Black History Month, Black History Documentaries and a photo gallery: [Origins of Black History Month](#)
- Longview Museum of Fine Arts is celebrating Black History Month with their installation of four large-scale paintings by emerging Black artists. Check them out! “Addressing the Moment”
- Zaila Avant-garde, a 14-year-old from New Orleans, won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee. She is the first African-American winner in the competition’s nearly 100-year history.
- Kilgore College was desegregated in 1966, 11 years after Brown V. Board of Education. Betty Cotton was the first Black student. In 1973, Freddie Deloise Goosby Evans became the first Black Rangerette at KC.

**Save the Date!**

**KC Data Summit 2022**

“Dedicated to DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)” - 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 29, via Zoom
Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for online/on-campus program rankings and higher education planning, has ranked KC as the 15th best community college in Texas, and also ranked three Kilgore College programs as some of the best in the nation: Online Fire Science Degree program; Probation Officer Degree program; and Online Associate in Fire Science Program.

The research identifies top programs based on flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost and reputation, comparing 704 programs from 2,900 universities and colleges across the United States.

Intelligent.com implements a unique methodology that ranks each program on a scale from 0 to 100 across five categories. The scoring system compares each college/university according to program strength, student readiness, return on investment, cost and student engagement.

KC was noted for its flexible distance learning that appeals to busy adults or hybrid models that include on-campus and online formats. Experts at Intelligent.com assessed programs that help students enhance and develop advanced skills for a variety of in-demand positions. MORE

KC Theatre will present ‘Ada & the Engine’ Feb. 24-27

Kilgore College Theatre will present “Ada & the Engine” by Lauren Gunderson 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 24-26, with a matinee performance at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27.

KC employees should check their email soon for information on how to receive complimentary tickets.

General admission tickets are $10 and $7 for KC students with student ID.

Discounted ticket pricing is available for groups of 10 or more.

The play is rated PG so parents are encouraged to attend with children younger than 13 years old.

The box office will open one hour prior to each performance. Face coverings are encouraged.

Purchase tickets online at www.kilgore.edu/drama or by phone at (903) 983-8126.

For more information, email the KC Theatre Box Office at boxoffice@kilgore.edu. The play is produced by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Services.

About Ada & the Engine:

As the British Industrial Revolution dawns, young Ada Byron Lovelace (daughter of the flamboyant and notorious Lord Byron) sees the boundless creative potential in the “analytic engines” of her friend and soulmate Charles Babbage, inventor of the first mechanical computer. Ada envisions a whole new world where art and information converge—a world she might not live to see. A music-laced story of love, friendship, and the edgiest dreams of the future. Jane Austen meets Steve Jobs in this poignant pre-tech romance heralding the computer age.

KC mourns losses of former employees

Robbie Rogers, 84, passed away Jan. 23. He served in the U.S. Army and then entered an almost life-long career in the oil and gas industry. He worked at the East Texas Oil Museum from 1992-2015.

View full obituary

Dr. Bill Sorrell, 91, passed away Dec. 31 in Kilgore. He began working at KC in 1967 as an instructor in computer science and business. In his 23 years at KC, he also served as Chairperson of the Data Processing Department and Director of the Business Administration Division.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Sorrell Scholarship at KC.

View full obituary

David Stroud, 77, passed away Dec. 20. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he began teaching at KC in 1977. Through his 39-year teaching career at KC, he inspired a love for American and Texas history among his students. He also authored five books and enjoyed podcasting about his favorite historical events.

View full obituary