KC Theatre will present ‘Almost, Maine’ April 14-17

The Kilgore College Theatre Department will present John Carioni’s “Almost, Maine: A new romantic comedy” beginning April 14 in Van Cliburn Auditorium.

The play is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 14-16, with a matinee performance 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 17.

General admission tickets are $10 for adults, $7 for students and $5 for KC students with a student ID.

The play is appropriate for all ages but children under the age of 7 will not be admitted. Tickets can be purchased online at www.kilgore.edu/drama or by phone at 903-983-8126. For more information e-mail the KC Theatre Box Office at boxoffice@kilgore.edu.

About the play: “Almost, Maine” is about very ordinary people dealing with love under the magical northern lights. It is both sad and glad. For each person, love is a struggle and probably very scary, even painful. But if and when they dare, love might just be one of the most beautiful experiences they have.
President’s Perspective by Dr. Brenda Kays

Listening to the Voices of our Students...

Greetings. As I mentioned in my March column, my goals for March and April focus on hearing the voices of our students and their perceptions of Kilgore College. Monday afternoon I had the opportunity to talk with the members of the KC Student Government Association (SGA).

When I asked them why they chose to attend Kilgore College their paraphrased responses included wonderful faculty, small town environment where I won't get lost in the crowd, individual attention, low cost access to education, and close proximity to home. Next, I posed the question, “As you look around our college what is missing?”

In summary to that prompt, students responded that they would like to see more of a one-stop approach to the enrollment process, additional student-friendly spaces in the student center and around campus, a unique space for veterans, a club hour each week filled with more student activities and student housing renovations.

The students further commented that they would like to see more variation in the times/days that sophomore courses are scheduled as well as the opportunity to revisit a recent campus curfew rule from a student-driven perspective. Finally, they expressed concerns over how KC will implement the campus carry legislation.

None of the responses that I heard on Monday were overly surprising. I had heard some of these same themes during our faculty/staff forums as well as from other students, administrators and community members. And, since the conversation that I had with the SGA wasn't just an opportunity to hear their voices, but to also isolate ways that we can improve the KC experience for our students, I have already enlisted the help of Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Turpin.

They have agreed to work with me in terms of sorting through these specific challenges and others that I pick up on as I continue my listening tour with students during the month of April. We have agreed that some of the items addressed by our students may spur immediate change. Others will require further study and I expect that a few will actually be reflected on our next strategic plan.

I know that many of you have conversations with our students on a regular, if not daily, basis and I appreciate the fact that you listen to their voices and strive to help them solve their problems and obtain their educational goals and dreams. Interestingly, when we think about listening to the voices of our students our thoughts immediately gravitate to a verbal/auditory exchange.

In reality, we also all had the opportunity to listen to the voices of our students earlier this week through a visual prompt from the Institutional Research Office. On Monday we received an email containing a bar graph summarizing the reasons why students dropped classes at KC. If you look closely at that graph you will discover that 40% of our students dropped a class due to “lack of success.”

What is that collective student voice telling us? It might be that we need to better advertise our student tutoring center or it could be that we must further disaggregate the data in order to reach any level of conclusion. I believe that this example is a good illustration of the various means at our disposal to listen to our students. It is through the listening process, despite the median, that we hear their voices and learn how to better meet their needs and foster their success.

Hope to see you around one of our campuses soon!

Dr. Brenda Kays

Welcome, new employees!

With Jeannie Butler retiring, Ashley Finley has taken over as the Administrative Assistant for the Office of Student Life.

Also, welcome to Clifford King, ETPA instructor; Donald Willeford, KCPD officer; and Derek Hunter, government instructor.

Good News:

Congratulations to Jane Hanlon, Admissions/Dual Credit Specialist, and husband, Tom, for the birth of their first grandchild, Connor Thomas Hanlon. Connor was born March 6, 2016, to parents Patrick and Amy Hanlon in Midland. He weighed a healthy 9 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Jane said she looks forward to frequent trips to Midland and lots of snuggles!

The Ranger softball team, coached by Leslie Messina, is proud to announce that $882 was raised for the American Cancer Society through the Strike Out Cancer Initiative. Funds were raised through inning sponsors, T-shirt sales and a raffle. Winners of the autographed pink softballs are: Lilly Lee, the Christian Campus Center; Saundra Renfro, Theresa Burgess and Laura Mulanax. The winner of the Louisville Slugger autographed bat is Lori Truman.

News & Reminders:

Donations needed for KC ECC silent auction

The KC Early Childhood Center will host a silent auction in April as part of its Week of the Young Child festivities. The center is in need of donated items to be auctioned. In addition to material goods, if you or your department offers camps, trainings or special services, those can be auctioned as well. Please contact Katie Moses, KCECC director/instructor, at 903-988-3793 if you have anything that could be auctioned.

Take library survey for a chance to win $25

Complete a library survey for a chance to win a $25 Walmart gift card. All answers and comments are anonymous, but at the end of the survey, you can enter your name and phone number for a chance to win. A winner will be chosen at random from names entered in the contest. Survey ends April 15.
Women in non-traditional occupations education fair set for April 2 at KC-Longview

The Women in Non-Traditional Occupations (WINTO) Education Fair will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, April 2, at KC-Longview. The fair is designed for Career Technical Education (CTE) program directors, business and industry leaders to provide attendees information on educational and career opportunities, especially for women. The educational fair will allow students and potential students to meet and network with program directors and employers, which will provide a smooth transition to the classroom and from the classroom into the workplace. For more information, visit www.kilgore.edu/winto.

KC American Honors program continues making progress for fall 2016 debut

KC will launch the program in the fall of 2016 with six classes offered for the AH students: ENGL 1301, MATH 1342, SPCH 1315, GEOL 1403, SOCI 1301, GOVT 2305 and EDUC 1300 honors sections. Six faculty are hard at work this semester developing these honors courses. Students will take two honors courses a semester and will be in traditional courses also. To earn an AH diploma at KC, students need to complete 21 hours of honors courses with certain grade standards and complete the requirements of the program. The program is open to incoming freshmen as well as current students. A certificate is also offered for students currently enrolled who are not able to take the full 21 hours of coursework to earn the AH diploma. The program focuses on scholarship as well as leadership as it prepares students to transfer successfully to a university. For more information, visit the KC American Honors webpage.

Laurence Sabeta is employed by AH and serves as full-time Associate Program Director for KC. He can be reached at 903-988-7421, and he is currently housed in SS 203. However, he is out and about recruiting students much of the time but does check his phone calls and email. He will serve as the advisor for AH students, so please refer students or others to him who are interested in the program.

Five KC art majors win $1,000 scholarships

Five KC art majors won scholarships at the annual UT Tyler Art Symposium in February. Each student won a $1,000 scholarship. Photo at right: First row, left to right: Haley Russell, Shelby Martin, Yan Fang He (Cherry) and Amanda Robbins. Back row, far right: Rachel Armour.

Johnson retirement reception scheduled for Friday, April 8

The public is invited to a retirement reception for Jeanne Johnson set for 2-5 p.m. Friday, April 8, in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Building. Johnson, known as “Mamma J,” chair of the Music & Dance Department, is retiring this year after 40 years of teaching at KC.

Show support for upcoming Relay for Life events in Kilgore

The KC Relay Rangers (American Cancer Society Relay for Life Team) thanks everybody who helped with its annual baked potato fundraiser. As the Relay event quickly approaches (April 15), other local teams are having fundraisers and exciting things are taking place. KC Relay Rangers look forward to seeing you at these events. For more information, contact Jennifer Quine at 903-983-8285 or email her.

Upcoming Relay for Life Events:

- **Friday, April 1**, Reservations due for the Chandler “Faith” Family’s Hands of Hope Chicken ‘n Spaghetti Lunch ($7 for Chicken ‘n Spaghetti, green beans, garlic bread, brownie delivered to your work place)
- **April 1-15**, Paint Kilgore Purple Emphasis (This is a spirit contest to decorate Kilgore with as much purple as possible. Put a little purple out in your area to show KC’s support of Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society.)
- **Monday, April 4**, Chandler “Faith” Family’s Hands of Hope Chicken ‘n Spaghetti Lunch deliveries
- **Monday, April 4**, Survivor/Caregiver Dinner at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. (If you are a cancer survivor or caregiver, please sign up for this dinner. It is a night to honor you)
- **April 5-10**, Purple Spirit Judging
- **Friday, April 8**, Citizens Crawfish/Catfish Dinner at 6 p.m., 325 Kilgore St. (behind old City Hall), $25, tickets sold in advance
- **Friday, April 15**, Relay for Life, 6 p.m. to Midnight (downtown Kilgore)

Take the Employee Institutional Effectiveness Survey today

It is once again time to complete the Employee Institutional Effectiveness Survey. The survey data is used to measure KC’s effectiveness as an institution, so it is very important that everyone takes a few minutes to complete it. In addition, survey results help us to identify areas of improvement as we all strive to live up to our commitment to Emphasis Excellence. It will be available through Friday, April 8. Please complete the survey at your earliest convenience by clicking here.
### APRIL Calendar

1. **Math Club Meeting**, Devall Conference Room, 12:30 p.m.  
2. **KC Board Meeting**, McLaurin Admin. Bldg., 6:30 p.m.  
3. **PTK Meeting**, Communications & Automotive Building - Room 104, 5:15 p.m.  
4. **Rangerette Revels**, Dodson Auditorium, 1 & 7 p.m.  
5. **Spring Vocal Recital**, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  
6. **Spring Masterworks Concert**, featuring the KC Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra, is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Longview. The concert, featuring Mozart’s "Great Mass in C Minor," will spotlight performers Alyssa Marshall, soprano; Melanie Sullivan, soprano; Jon Starling, tenor; and Eric Thomas, bass. It will also feature the KC Children’s Chorus. Admission is free.

#### Orientation Leaders needed

KC is looking for some outstanding students to be Orientation Leaders this summer. If you have any students with the following qualifications, please have them pick up an application in Gail Jackson’s office (Student Support Building, Office 120). For more information, contact Kasey Nisbett at 903-988-7491 or email her.

**Qualifications:**
- 2.5 GPA or better
- 2nd Semester student preferred
- Friendly and outgoing
- Hardworking and responsible
- Trustworthy

#### Health screening April 18

Life Line Screening will host a free health screening 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 18, in the Devall Ballroom. The event is held in April because it’s Public Health Month.