Holda announces January retirement
...begins 40th year of employment at KC, 19 as president

Dr. William M. "Bill" Holda has announced he will step down as president of Kilgore College effective Jan. 31, 2016.

Holda was selected as the eighth president of KC on July 2, 1996, by the KC Board of Trustees.

"There are many reasons that this is the best time for me, for my family and for Kilgore College. At the top of the list is the expectation of our first grandchild in December," Holda said. "Also the institution will kick off its re-accreditation efforts in 2016. This is a process that culminates with a challenging off-site review and on-site review in 2018 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges."

Holda said having been through four of these reaffirmations at KC over the past 40 years, it is critical that the individual who serves as president in 2018 for the culmination of the accreditation process should be here to initiate the review in 2016.

He also said he is encouraged by the recent elections of KC board members.

"The Kilgore College Board has committed to work together as a team and to improve its own functioning and communication with one another and with the college leadership," Holda said. "The college is in better hands as it prepares for the next era of leadership."

TRIO awarded grant to continue service through 2020

The Kilgore College TRIO Program will be awarded a $1.15 million federal grant to continue its services through the year 2020.

The primary goal of the program is to help first-generation, low income and disabled students to attain an associate's or bachelor's degree.

The TRIO Program at KC is in its 14th year and has helped 1,329 students with their educational needs.

In that time period, 460 degrees have been earned by KC TRIO students: 272 associate's degrees and certificates, 155 bachelor's degrees, 30 master's degrees and three doctorate degrees.

The program, first introduced in 1968 under the Higher Education Act, was named TRIO because it consisted of three programs: Upward Bound, Talent Search and Student Support Services. It now consists of seven.

KC's TRIO director is Bindy Tice. TRIO assistant director is Dennis Cliborn.

Board of Trustees will honor employee, student monthly

The KC Board of Trustees has created new employee and student recognition programs, "Employee Spotlight" and "Student Spotlight." One outstanding employee and one outstanding student will be recognized at each board meeting. Employees will be nominated by their supervisor/director/dean/manager.

Kendra Roberson, a nursing student at KC, was named this month's "Student Spotlight." Kendra serves as a tutor in the Zone and is vice president of fellowship for Phi Theta Kappa.

Above: Dr. Holda's official press photo from 2006.
Left: Dr. Holda greets students in the Lee Mall area the first week he was hired as president in 1996.

Above: Terry Huckaby was presented with the first KC Board of Trustees Employee Spotlight. Huckaby, the Safety & Logistics Specialist at KC, will retire effective Aug. 31 after 24 years of service.

To nominate a deserving student: Contact Dr. Mike Jenkins for a nomination form.

More info
President’s perspective

Arriving
Where We Started

“We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.” —T.S. Eliot

As we start the month of August, we return to a place very familiar to many of us – the beginning of a new semester and the commencement of a new school year. As we try to finalize the budget, repair air conditioning units and order books for the bookstore, the campus is busy with activity.

With the erection of the fence around the library and mall area, we are excited to see those projects begin. Hopefully within 6 months, the fruits of these projects will be visible to all. In the meantime, we all will have to adjust to alternate routes.

In some other ways, this year will be challenging. Certainly, the elimination of 38 positions and the reduction of numerous other budgets creates additional stress in the operation.

If we focus on the opening quote, we read “we shall not cease from exploration.” Indeed, this is a time to explore – to explore ways of improving student success, initiatives that might help increase enrollment, uncovering creative means of achieving our mission with fewer resources, creating new modes of course delivery, and conducting a host of other explorations.

Kilgore College has a great mission and we do very good work. Rather than approaching this semester with a zero-sum mentality or a mentality of scarcity, we have this wonderful challenge and opportunity to discover different approaches to achieve our mission.

As we approach this new fall semester, my hope for all of you is that you will be able to begin the semester with energy, enthusiasm and a commitment to make this a great year!

President Dr. Bill Holda

Bridges will speak at summer graduation

Justice David L. Bridges will speak at KC’s summer commencement Aug. 6. He was elected to the Fifth District Court of Appeals in 1996 and is the father of KC Feature Twirler Alex Bridges. Born in Fort Worth in 1955, Bridges resides in Rockwall. After graduating from law school, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Smith County and as the Assistant District Attorney in Upshur County. He served as Senior Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas and when he left the State Bar, he was First Assistant in charge of litigation for the State Bar of Texas. He has been Board Certified in Criminal Law since 1989 and Board Certified in Criminal Appellate Law since 2011.

News & Reminders:

KC will receive $250,000 to train area child caregivers

Thanks to the efforts of Lara Pauley, program coordinator KC’s Child Development and Education Department, the college has been selected to be a “Texas School Ready!” Comprehensive Lead Agent for the 2015-17 school years and will receive a grant worth around $250,000. The two-year grant will allow KC to hire three coaches to go out and mentor/train area child caregivers to improve outcomes for the children in their classrooms to ensure kindergarten readiness. These coaches will mainly be out in the field at the various child care centers, but they will office upstairs at the Early Childhood Center.

Rangerette Showoffs set for Aug. 21 in Dodson

The Kilgore College Rangerettes will hold Showoffs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21, in Dodson Auditorium. Five new officers will be named and the freshmen will be formally introduced and perform for the first time. Sophomores will perform the new field kick and jazz routines. Thirty-six young women became the newest members of the world-famous Kilgore College Rangerettes dance and drill team July 17.

Life Line Screening will host affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, in the Devall Ballroom. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of stroke and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a wellness package which includes four vascular tests (EMSI) and passed the certification exam, which certifies her for EMSI Data. More info

FACULTY & STAFF reports

Patty Bell, director of Career Services & Service Learning, attended certification training put on by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI) and passed the certification exam, which certifies her for EMSI Data for Career Development.

Good News:

Mathematics instructor Matthew Wickes and his wife Erica welcomed new daughter, Charlotte Rose Wickes, to the world on May 5. She weighed 6 lbs., 11 ounces and was 19 inches long. Erica has a big brother named Elliot.

Congratulations to mathematics instructor Elizabeth Johnson and her husband for the birth of their son on May 23. Paul Bennet Johnson weighed 8 lbs., 7 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Jamaria Thomas, granddaughter of Toni Perry (Mail Technician), received the following awards during Kilgore Middle School Awards ceremony on June 2: Hall of Fame Athlete in 8th grade; Mathematics (highest average); Math Achievement Award (6th highest score on STARR); Business Docs Pro (Mrs. Johnson’s 8th grade Computer Literacy Class); 2015 Top Athlete in District Track - 36 points; track team back-to-back district champions; school record in the 4x200 meter relay - 1:49.63; district champion in the 4x100 meter relay - 51.17; and district champion high jump - 4'-8". She also had a 95.2 GPA. She will be a freshman cheerleader at Kilgore High School this school year.

Marcus Thornton Day set for Aug. 29

KC Athletics will hold a “Marcus Thornton Day” Aug. 29 to honor the current NBA player (and former KC Ranger) for his upcoming induction into the KC Athletics Hall of Fame. Thornton will be on campus that day for a meet-and-greet in Masters Gymnasium from 3 to 5 p.m. and will be honored at halftime of the KC football game that night. Thornton played at KC from 2005-07 under head coach Scott Schumacher. He currently plays for the Houston Rockets.

Health screenings set for Aug. 19 in DSC Ballroom

Life Line Screening will host affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, in the Devall Ballroom. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a wellness package which includes four vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from $149 ($139 with a member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and receive a $10 discount off any package priced above $129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.
**HOLDA - Continued from page 1...**

Holda is a native of Lafayette, Ind. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Ind.; a Masters of Music in Voice Pedagogy from Indiana University; and a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Administration from East Texas State University.

He has worked at KC since 1975, starting out as an instructor of voice, ear training, opera workshop and music theory.

In May of 1976, he was named Director of the Fine Arts Division and supervised the departments of music, art, theater and dance until 1981.

From 1981-90, he was an instructor of music and philosophy, serving in various capacities at the institution, as well as on numerous state and local committees and task forces.

In November, 1982, following four years of study, he was ordained to the Order of Permanent Deacon for the Catholic Diocese of Dallas.

In May of 1990, he was named Dean of Admissions and Registrar at KC. During that administrative tenure, he supervised the offices of guidance and counseling, testing, admissions and recruiting, financial aid, job placement, institutional research, the college library and instructional media center.

In the spring of 1992, Holda entered The Graduate School of East Texas State University, and in August 1995 was awarded the Doctor of Education degree with highest distinction, majoring in Supervision, Curriculum, and Instruction (Higher Education) with a minor in music.

He assumed the presidency of KC on Sept. 1, 1996.

He has been an active member (and past president) of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and highly involved in numerous professional, civic, state and national organizations and boards.

These efforts, along with innumerable professional accomplishments, have garnered Dr. Holda respect and admiration nationwide.

He has served various churches in the region, both in a musical and ministerial capacity, and also performs as a tenor soloist for various musical events.

He and his wife, Scotti Wood, have six children: Patricia, John, Elizabeth, Nicholas, Lindsay and Allissa.