Dr. Brenda Kays selected as 9th president of KC

The Kilgore College Board of Trustees unanimously voted Nov. 23 to appoint Dr. Brenda Kays as the ninth president of the college.

Kays comes from Stanly Community College (N.C.) where she has served as president since 2011.

As the first woman president in college history, she will succeed Dr. Bill Holda who has served as president of KC since July 2, 1992. Holda will retire as president effective Jan. 31, 2016.

Kays is a former Vice President of Student Learning and Success at Guilford Technical Community College (N.C.) and former Chief Academic Officer and Dean of Instructional Services at Vernon College (Texas). Kays will begin work at Kilgore the first part of January.

She earned a Master of Education in counseling from Midwestern State University and a Doctorate of Education from the University of North Texas.

(Above) Dr. Brenda Kays speaks to employees and community members during a public forum Nov. 12 on the second floor of the McLaurin Administration Building.  Photo by Jon Vashey/KC

College partnering with American Honors

Kilgore College is partnering with a new program soon that will allow students to receive an associate degree with honors and transfer to a top four-year university to complete their bachelor’s degree, saving a significant amount on the cost of their overall tuition for a bachelor’s degree.

Students in the American Honors program will take rigorous classes at their community college designed to prepare them for junior- and senior-level coursework at top academic institutions.

By beginning at the community college, students are able to reduce the total cost of their education and graduate from the American Honors program well-positioned to receive scholarships from their four-year schools.

Beginning fall of 2016, KC will join seven other community colleges across the U.S. to offer the American Honors program. Look for more details next week on this exciting program.

Miracle on Nolen Street

The Kilgore College Rangerettes will host their fifth annual Christmas show on Sunday, Dec. 6.

The one-day-only Broadway-style show, “Miracle on Nolen Street,” will feature the world-famous Rangerettes and guest performances by local dance groups.

Two shows are set for 2 and 5 p.m. in Dodson Auditorium on the Kilgore campus.

All seating is reserved. Tickets are $10 each and are available through Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the ticket office.

Remaining tickets will be sold at Dodson Auditorium 45 minutes prior to each show.

Local dance groups featured in the show will include Elite Dance Center, In-Step Dance Co. and the Ballet III class from the KC Dance Department.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call the Rangerette Box Office at 903-983-8179.
Since I announced my Jan. 31 retirement plans on July 2, I have been experiencing a series of “lasts” – the last budget, the last Homecoming, the last Hall of Fame luncheon, and so on. Since we do not publish a January newsletter, this will be my final opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I think I counted about 150 or so of these newsletters over the past 19 ½ years.

My first thoughts turn to the future – your future. I hope you will join your colleagues in the Kilgore College family to make Dr. Brenda Kays welcome, to help her make Kilgore College a much better place, and to exercise leadership from your position. Be a team member.

Secondly, I hope you will embrace changes that happen. Attitude affects outcomes and our predisposition usually becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. I know that there is always some fear and trepidation, some hesitancy when a new leader arrives and change begins to happen. And then years hence, we look back and see how all of the pieces of the puzzle actually fit together.

Comedian Gilda Radner, in a more serious moment observed, “I wanted a perfect ending. Now I’ve learned, the hard way, that some poems don’t rhyme, and some stories don’t have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what’s going to happen next.”

I have had the privilege of spending my adult working life with you who make Kilgore College what it is. I shall miss being with you. My wife, Scotti, tells me that if I am a healthy human being, I will undergo a grieving process. Nonetheless, I know it is time; I have goals and dreams and a brand new grandson. In the fictional book, Shiloh Autumn, author Brock Thoene observes that “It always is harder to be left behind than to be the one to go.”

The poem, Sea of Life, by Suzy Kassem sums up my thoughts:

This is not the end, my friend.
Just as the ocean sings songs to infinity
Our friendship too will flow onward
Until the day one of us
Turns and leaves
And the seasons will turn too
As our shells
As they return back to sand
And the tides that brought us
Forth
Will take us back
Again.

I will never leave you, my friend.
Every time you see a wave rushing to
Meet another,
Two friends unite.
Every time you see a wave crashing,
Two friends depart.
The journey will go on, my friend.
Our memories are recorded
In seashells
To show and tell
The lessons learned
In these heavens and hells
Part of this sea of life -
And when the tide is right,
We shall cross paths again
When the ocean sings our song.

Both the German “Auf Wiedersehen” and the French “Au Revoir” are translated, “until we see again” rather than “Farewell” or “Goodbye.” So until we see again, my hopes for all of you are contained in the wishes of the Old Irish Blessing that says “Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.”
2. Basketball (W) vs. Blinn, Masters Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
Basketball (M) vs. Lamar St, Masters Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m.
3. Unpaid Classes Dropped Today
Basketball (M) vs. NW State, Masters Gymnasium, 7 p.m.
Wiley College Recruiter, DSC Hallway, 10 a.m.
KC Band Christmas Concert, DSC Ballroom, 12:45 p.m
4. KC Retirees Luncheon, DSC Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
5. Basketball (W) vs. Coastal Bend, Masters Gymnasium, 2 p.m.
KC Football Heart of Texas Bowl Game, Copperas Cove, 11 a.m.
SAT Testing, Old Main, 8 a.m.
6. Rangerette Christmas Show, Dodson Auditorium, 2 & 5 p.m.
7-10, Final Exams
8, UT Tyler Recruiter, DSC Hallway, 9 a.m.
9. Superintendent Luncheon, 2nd Floor of McLaurin Building, Noon
Vocational Nursing Pinning, DSC Ballroom, 3 p.m.
Basketball (W) vs. Angelina, Masters Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
Basketball (M) vs. Angelina, Masters Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m.
ETBU Recruiter, DSC Hallway, 9 a.m.
Spring Registration Payment Deadline
10, Cafeteria Closes at 6 p.m.
Residence Halls Close at10 p.m.
Board Meeting, 2nd Floor of McLaurin Building, 6:30 p.m.
11, Grades Due to Registrar’s Office by 10 a.m.
Campus Closes Early at 2:45 p.m.
Graduation, Dodson Auditorium, 6 p.m.
KC Holiday Luncheon, DSC Ballroom, 11 a.m.
ADN Pinning Ceremony, Dodson Auditorium, 9 a.m.
12, Basketball (W) vs. SW Christian College, Masters Gymnasium, 2 p.m.
14-Jan. 8, Mini-Term Four-Week Classes (no class Dec. 25 & Jan. 1)
29, Basketball (M) vs. Houston SW C.C., Masters Gymnasium, 3 p.m.

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**News & Reminders**

Counseling Department accepting donations for House of Hope

The Counseling Department is taking donations for the House of Hope and Hiway 80 Rescue Mission for the holidays. Donate items in boxes located in the counseling office on the 2nd floor of the Doyett Student Center. Both organizations are in need of personal hygiene items, gloves, hats, scarves, socks and undergarments for adults, teens and children. Hiway 80 also accepts unwrapped, new toys/gift items to give out to children and teens in need. Either place items in the boxes or let Deborah Metcalf know you have items and she will pick them up on her lunch break.

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**PTK awards Excellence in Teaching awards**

Howe  Lewis  Rushing

Each fall semester, Phi Theta Kappa administers the selection process for the Kilgore College Excellence in Teaching Award. Please congratulate the following three instructors selected as the 2015-2016 award recipients: Ronda Howe, chemistry; Julie Lewis, mathematics; and Tina Rushing, sociology and social work.

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**Retirement parties set for several longtime employees**

Employees are invited to celebrate three retiring employees: Dr. Jerry Fuller, Charlotte Dunaway and Lou Ann Procell. Fuller’s retirement party is set for 1-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in the Devall Room. A retirement party for Dunaway and Procell is set for 3-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, in the Woodruff Adult Education Center.

**Congratulations to Retirees!**

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College will honor longtime employees Dec. 11

KC WILL CELEBRATE 625 YEARS OF SERVICE AMONG 45 EMPLOYEES AT ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCH

40 YEARS
Jeanne Johnson - Chair, Music and Dance Department

30 YEARS
Dana Blair - director, Rangerettes
Ginger Holley - professional support assistant, Dean of Liberal & Fine Arts

25 YEARS
Brad Bunt - director, SBDC
Dennis Gronewald - academic counselor, KC-Longview
Paula Jamerson - coordinator, Alumni Relations
Dr. Mike Jenkins - vice president, Student Development
Brenda Stapleton - technician, KC Print Services
Louise Wiley - dean, Math, Science & Health Sciences
Charleen Worsham - director, eLearning

20 YEARS
Lou Ann Procell - support asst., Dean, Public Services/Fire Acad.

15 YEARS
Eddie Bernaldez - program director, EMT
Brenda Brown - Senior Training and Development Coord., WDCE
Dayna Davidson - director, Associate Degree Nursing
Leah Gorman - Director of Development
Ray Jackson - computer programmer, Information Technology
Dr. Staci Martin - vice president, Institutional Planning
Lara Pauley - program coordinator, Child Devel. & Education
Sandy Teel - assistant coordinator, Special Populations
Bindy Tice - director, TRIO Fast Track Program
Michelle Wilder - instructor, English

10 YEARS
Cody Edwards - instructor, Welding
Ronnie Gothard - Online Fire Academy
Jane Hanlon - admissions/dual credit specialist
Mariane Hastie - instructor, Associate Degree Nursing
Ronda Howe - instructor, Chemistry
Nancy Law - assistant to the president
Julie Lewis - instructor, Mathematics
Jeanette Miller - academic advisor
Micah Ruddell - assistant manager, KC Bookstore
Luke Saintignan - network/systems administrator
Mary Stephens - assistant coordinator, Inst. Student Support
David Whitfield - network administrator, Unified Communications

5 YEARS
Judy DeRouen - support specialist, Marketing & Facilities Rental
Catherine Elueze - instructor, Chemistry
Heidi Everett - learning specialist, TRIO
Vickie Gramling - AEC billing clerk, Purchasing & Accounts Payable
Schlund Hall - eLearning Help Desk
Gus LaFosse - instructor, English & Integrated Reading & Writing
Deborah Metcalf - administrative assistant, Counseling & Advising
Jerry Morris - systems support specialist
Kenya Ray - program director & instructor, Corrosion Technology
Rachel Stallard - instructor, Communications & Journalism
Dr. Karl Steddom - instructor, Agriculture & Biology
Glenn Wells - director of bands

The college will honor these 45 employees who have served for a combined 625 years of service at the annual service awards Christmas luncheon 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom.

All employees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to the banquet for Helping Hands of Kilgore.
Football bowl game Saturday will be streamed live on Fox Sports Go app

For fans who cannot make the trip to the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl Saturday in Copperas Cove, the game will be streamed live online on the Fox Sports Go app.

Fans can view the game by visiting www.foxsports.com/foxsportsgo on a desktop computer or by downloading the Fox Sports Go app in the Google Play store or the iTunes App Store from a mobile device.

The game will also be broadcast live on the Internet and on local radio with Manny Almanza’s play-by-play on the KC Sports Network.

The game will be on 105.3 FM and 1240 AM in Kilgore, 101.9 FM in Longview and 107.9 FM in Henderson. Fans can also listen online at www.kdokradio.com and the TuneIn Radio app.

KC will face the East Central Community College (Miss.) Warriors with kickoff set for 11 a.m. at Bulldawg Stadium in Copperas Cove.

The game will be a top-20 national matchup with KC ranked 20th in the NJCAA poll and ECCC (7-3) ranked 15th.

The Rangers (7-4) defeated the Navarro Bulldogs, 42-28, to claim the SWJCFC championship on Nov. 7 in Corsicana.

Kilgore is 11-8 in its previous 19 bowl appearances, including a 47-36 loss to Northwest Mississippi in the inaugural Brazos Valley Bowl played at Texas A&M University’s Kyle Field in College Station.

The Rangers have played in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl twice, defeating Fort Scott (Kan.) 19-7 in 2006 and falling to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College 62-28 in 2007.

For more information on the bowl game, visit www.heartoftexasbowl.com.

Ticket info:

Where to purchase? KC Athletic Office located on the first floor of the Student Support building on the Kilgore campus.

When to purchase and how much? Tickets are on sale for $20 in the KC Athletic Office through noon on Friday, Dec. 4.

Please Note: KC will keep proceeds for the tickets sold on campus so fans are encouraged to purchase tickets from KC. For additional ticket information, call Jimmy Rieves at 903-988-7536.