**Board extends Kays’ contract**

The Kilgore College Board of Trustees voted unanimously Jan. 27 to extend President Brenda Kays’ contract through 2021.

Hired as the ninth KC president, Kays’ original contract covered her employment through Aug. 31, 2018. An extension in February of 2017 pushed the date to Aug. 31, 2020. This latest extension adds one year to Kays’ contract. The vote at Saturday’s board retreat was unanimous 8-0 with trustee James Walker absent.

“The board is very pleased with her (Dr. Kays’) performance and she has the full support of the board,” said Larry Woodfin, board president.

The board’s property and facilities committee will meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, in the R.E. “Sonny” Spradlin Executive Board Room to discuss the results and feedback from an energy services audit performed by McKinstry Essention, LLC. The full board will meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, in the McLaurin Administration Building.

**KC embracing ‘Radical Hospitality’**

...something for every employee to strive for

Kilgore College unveiled a theme for the new semester at convocation Jan. 8 -- something for every employee to strive for -- radical hospitality.

“Radical hospitality. This is our commitment to be the higher education institution of choice in Northeast Texas,” said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president.

Quoting Maya Angelou, Kays said, “People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Kays introduced the theme after quite an entertaining entrance by KC Hospitality Committee members, dressed as the Seven Dwarfs, marched into Dodson Auditorium to the song, “Heigh-Ho” from “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.”

Each of the committee members held signs above their heads displaying each of their mottos: (Be like) Happy, (Be like) Sneezy, (Don’t be) Bashful, (Be like) Doc, (Don’t be) Grumpy, (Be like) Sleepy and (Don’t be) Dopey.

After the grand entrance, Manny Almanza, coordinator of marketing and outreach, explained to employees how the Seven Dwarfs’ message can translate to high-quality customer service offered at KC to our students, parents and guests.

“Make eye contact and smile. Greet and welcome each other and every one of our customers. Spread the spirit of hospitality. It’s contagious,” Almanza said. “Provide immediate service recovery. Create dreams and preserve the magical customer experience. Thank each and every customer.”

“We must never forget that students have a choice of where they decide to invest their tuition dollars. There are 11 institutions of higher education within a reasonable commute to Kilgore,” Kays said.

**RANGER PREVIEW DAY set for Feb. 24**

Kilgore College will host its annual Ranger Preview Day Saturday, Feb. 24, to give potential students an opportunity to learn more about the educational opportunities KC offers.

“We are excited to have prospective students on campus,” said Chris Gore, director of new student relations.

“If you are in charge of a department, program or club/organization, you should have received an e-mail from Wade Cates with a form attached to reserve a table at Preview Day. MORE INFO

**How can I participate?**

Your participation in the academic & organization fair will give prospective students and their parents a glimpse of what KC has to offer. If you would like to participate with Preview Day, call Wade Cates at (903) 988-7542 or email wcates@kilgore.edu.
TITLE III GRANT - STATUS UPDATE!

Many moving parts are coming together in support of the implementation of our Title III - Strengthening Institutions Department of Education Grant. I recently attended a meeting where progress on that grant was discussed. Year one of the grant is well underway and I was excited to hear about the progress being made—I thought you would also be interested in some of the developments to date:

1. Position announcements for two grant-supported staff members, an E-Learning Faculty Development Specialist and an E-Learning Technician, were posted at the beginning of January. Applicants will be vetted within the next two weeks which will hopefully lead to the grant being fully staffed for year one by the first part of March.

2. Zoom technology is being beta tested by staff as the next iteration of ITV (Interactive Video) technology. Zoom is recognized as a more portable solution that provides enhanced flexibility for students and faculty.

3. Three faculty members have volunteered to take part in year one course redesign. Stephanie Laszik (English), Brandon Walker (math), and Jesse James (Biology) will be working with the Title III staff to redesign their online courses. During year two of the grant, these same faculty members will be beta testing their redesign with students who enroll for the redesigned section. Thank you to these three individuals—we look forward to hearing more about their experience.

4. Within the next two-four weeks, the switchboard will be relocated to the Devall Student Center, the student computer lab formerly housed in the Woodfin Center will be upgraded and the hardware relocated to the Student Support Center to create a second open lab, and renovations will begin on the Woodfin Center to create the Faculty Innovation Center. The Woodfin Center will now house a “green screen” studio and editing room as well as a faculty collaboration room.

If you have any questions or are just wanting to know more about the grant and your opportunity to be involved (faculty, don’t forget that there are stipends available for those of you interested in course redesign) contact Dr. William Stowe at ext. 8602.

Until next month,

FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER!
@KCBrendaKays

Welcome New Employees!

Annita Bates – Prof. Support Assistant, KC-Longview,Began 9/25/2017
Lisa Bischof – Prof. Support Assistant, Adm. & Registrar, Began 9/11/2017
Callie Blakeley – Admissions Counselor, Began 9/5/2017
Patrick Brophy – Institutional Research Data Specialist, Began 9/27/2017
Jana Campbell – Support Specialist, Purchasing, Began 11/1/2017
Zachary Carnes – Interim Government Instructor, Began 1/8/2018
Amy Collins – Vocational Nursing Instructor, Began 1/11/2017
Tonya Davis – Prof. Support Assistant, Financial Aid, Began 9/25/2017
Halen Dorsey – Project Advisor- Upward Bound, Began 10/17/2017
David Fonteno – Psychology Instructor, Began 9/1/2017
Fred Gore – VP of Administrative Services & CFO, Began 10/16/2017
Askala Harris – Executive Director of Development, Began 10/1/2017
Robert Horn – Workforce Development Specialist, Began 11/8/2017

Blake McCrary – Fitness Center Manager, Began 9/11/2017
Jackie McDonald – Certified Nursing Assistant Instructor, Began 1/8/2018
Lesley Pacini – Prof. Support Assistant, Residential Life, Began 8/24/2017
Tami Phelps – Support Specialist, Purchasing, Began 10/17/2017
Uriel Ramirez – Systems Administrator, Server Support, Began 1/2/2018
Tami Yates – Vocational Nursing Instructor, Began 10/18/2017

A photograph by KC photography instructor O. Rufus Lovett is on exhibition at the Tyler Museum of Art through March 25. The exhibit, “Best Friends II: The dog as subject in fine art photography,” features Lovett’s photo, “Speckled Dog, Weeping Mary,” along with 30 other fine art photographers. The photographs selected for this exhibition, in collaboration with the SPCA of East Texas, explore the universal, symbiotic relationship between people and their dogs as captured on film.

The student organization, Latinos en Acción, thanks KC employees who supported its Taco sale Jan. 9 during Late Registration. In just four hours, the organization sold 320 tacos. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Latinos en Acción is sponsored by Manny Almanza, coordinator of marketing and outreach.

The KC Hospitality Committee has scheduled the 2018 KC Picnic for Friday, May 4, from Noon to 3 p.m. (the Friday before the week of final exams). The Hospitality Committee is looking forward planning the picnic and it hopes all KC employees will take some time out for food, fun and fellowship!

Good News:

Congratulations to Jackie Kelley, assistant financial aid director, on the birth of a grandson, Lorenzo Amuer Banks, born Jan. 26 in Longview. He weighed 8 lbs, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. He is the son of Cheyenne and Terrance Banks.
KC raises $20K for dual credit scholarships at inaugural Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

Kilgore College raised more than $20,000 for dual credit scholarships Jan. 12 at the inaugural “Continuing the Dream through Education” Martin Luther King, Jr. Dual Credit Scholarship Breakfast.

The breakfast was established this year to raise funds to help students enrolled in dual credit classes continue their education at KC.

Three high school seniors enrolled in dual credit classes spoke at the breakfast about the importance of dual credit to them and how it has prepared them for the next step.

“It was a bit of a shocker to go from high school straight into college courses,” said Kilgore High School senior Mikaila Williams. “We’ve learned that you have to manage your own time, so you learn that very quickly in dual credit courses that if you don’t manage your time...”

Taking college-level courses in high school allows students to learn communication and time management with their instructors before entering college – where they would have to learn those same lessons at a much higher tuition cost.

“More than 60 percent of jobs in the future will require a postsecondary degree. We have tracked our dual credit students through a statewide database and we’ve learned that approximately 22 percent of the students who take dual credit courses while they’re still in high school earning college credits never matriculate,” said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president.

Data indicates that these students are not taking courses with KC, nor have they transferred to any other community college or university to continue their education.

“All funds raised today will go directly to dual credit scholarships,” Kays said. “The college will work directly with high school counselors in the area to identify students who have taken dual credit courses but may not otherwise be able to continue their education. We want to make sure they have the same advantages anybody else would have.”

KC Coordinator of Dual Credit Education Terry Booker taught his first dual credit history course in 1977 as an adjunct instructor for Angelina College.

D’Wayne Shaw, technical dual credit coordinator (who was filling in for Booker who was ill) said dual credit used to be limited to students whose parents knew about college and understood the transition from high school to college courses. At the beginning of dual credit classes, KC saw about 25 or 30 dual credit students per year.

That has increased into the thousands with a boost from superintendents who have helped push the programs and with advances in the Texas Legislature to encourage schools to offer dual credit and for students to enroll.

“As a result, the number of dual credit students throughout the state of Texas grew by leaps and bounds. It was no longer a secret. It was no longer just for children from educated families. It was for all of God’s children,” Shaw said. “We think we can probably get an ‘Amen’ from Dr. King on that. If they want to be doctors, lawyers, welders, automotive technicians, engineers, social scientists, nurses’ aides or just about anything you could think of, they could start at the high school and at Kilgore College.”

Shaw quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., saying, ”Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase. The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and critically. Intelligence plus character, that’s the goal of true education.”

The goal of the KC dual credit department is focusing on identifying the 22 percent of students who are not continuing their college careers and encouraging them to enroll, Shaw said.

“We want to help close that gap,” he said. “You being here today and being a part of this fundraiser, you’re now a part of that team to help us do that. Together, we can help them continue to dream.”

Softball opens season Feb. 2 in Galveston

The Kilgore College softball team will open its 2018 campaign at the Galveston College Invitational 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 2, versus Lamar State College. KC will play five games in Galveston Friday through Saturday. KC, under the leadership of head coach Leslie Messina, will begin its sixth season. Last year’s team had a banner year, qualifying for the Region 14 Tournament for the first time in its five-year history. The Rangers finished last year’s season 33-21 overall and 19-9 in conference play with seven players named to the Region XIV Conference East Division, Region XIV regional and academic softball teams. Assistant coaches for the Rangers are Trish Robinson and newcomers Nicole Parnell and Bianca Van Vlerah. KC’s first home games are set for 1 & 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, versus Grayson County College at the Ballpark at KC Commons.

Theatre will present comedy ‘All in the Timing’ March 1-4

The Kilgore College Theatre Department will present “All in the Timing,” a collection of one-act plays by the American playwright David Ives. The short plays are all comedies, focusing mainly on language and wordplay, existentialist perspectives on life and meaning, and the complications of romantic relationships. The play is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 1-3, with a matinee performance 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4. General admission tickets are $10 for adults, $7 for students and $5 for KC students with a student ID. Discounted ticket pricing is available for groups of 10 or more. The play is rated PG-13. Children under the age of 8 will not be admitted. Late arrivals will also not be admitted. KC employees can receive two complimentary tickets by emailing a request to boxoffice@kilgore.edu. Tickets can be purchased online at www.kilgore.edu/drama or by phone at 903-983-8126. The play is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Tutoring available for students

Did you know there are tutors available for free to assist your students in various courses?

The Zone – Kilgore campus: Tutoring and computer services are available in The Zone Tutoring Lab Mondays-Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Student Support Building, Room 119. For more information, please contact Ronda Lee at 903-988-7491 or email me at rlee@kilgore.edu.

The North Zone - Longview campus: The Longview North Zone Tutoring and Computer Lab is located in the Longview North Building, Room 100, at KC-Longview. Tutoring is available Mondays-Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to Noon. For more information about Longview services, please contact Ebony Dennis at 903-236-2030 or edennis@kilgore.edu.
On-Campus Calendar

2, Art Symposium, Devall Ballroom
   International Student Orientation, Devall Conference Room, 1 p.m.
   Art Symposium Luncheon, McLaurin Building, 11:30 a.m.
3, Bach Piano Festival, Turk Fine Arts Center
   Basketball (M) vs. Navarro College, Masters Gymnasium, 4 p.m.
   A Touch of Fame & Fashion (KHS), Dodson Auditorium, 6 p.m.
4, Phi Theta Kappa Meeting, CA-104, 5:15 p.m.
   Ranger Ambassador Meeting, Devall Conference Room, 4 p.m.
5, The Write Stuff, Devall Ballroom, 4 p.m.
6, Softball vs. Grayson College, Kilgore, TX, 1/3 p.m.
   Housing Meeting, Devall Ballroom, 3 p.m.
7, SFA Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
   Game Club Meeting, Devall TV Room, 3 p.m.
8, Gussie Nell Davis Dance Classic, Multiple Areas
   ACT Testing, Old Main Building, 8 a.m.
   KC Chorale 50th Anniversary Reunion, Turk Fine Arts Center
9, Softball vs. Centenary JV, Kilgore, TX, 1/3 p.m.
10, Ranger Ambassador Meeting, Devall Conference Room, 4 p.m.
11, SGA Meeting, Devall TV Room, 11:30 a.m.
    Emotion Matrix, Devall Game Room, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
12-14, PTK Valentine Flower Sale, Devall Hallway
13, Game Club Meeting, Devall TV Room, 3 p.m.
14, Softball vs. Texas College, Kilgore, TX, 9 a.m.
15, Softball vs. Murray State, Kilgore, TX, 1 p.m.
16, Softball vs. Texas College, Kilgore, TX, 3 p.m.
17, Softball vs. Murray State, Kilgore, TX, 1 p.m.
18, Softball vs. Texas College, Kilgore, TX, 3 p.m.
19, Basketball (W) vs. Bossier Parish CC, Masters Gymnasium, 2 p.m.
   Basketball (M) vs. Bossier Parish CC, Masters Gymnasium, 4 p.m.
20, Phi Theta Kappa Meeting, CA-104, 5:15 p.m.
   Ranger Ambassador Meeting, Devall Conference Room, 4 p.m.
21, SGA Meeting, Devall TV Room, 11:30 a.m.
22, UT Tyler Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
23, Game Club Meeting, Devall TV Room, 3 p.m.
24, Softball vs. Iowa Western College, Kilgore, TX, 1/3 p.m.
25, Ranger Preview Day, Multiple Areas, 8 a.m. to Noon
   Basketball (W) vs. Panola College, Masters Gymnasium, 2 p.m.
   Basketball (M) vs. Panola College, Masters Gymnasium, 4 p.m.
   KCC – Kilgore Chamber Orchestra, Dodson Auditorium, 7 p.m.
26, Phi Theta Kappa Information Meeting, Devall TV Room, Noon
   Ranger Ambassador Meeting, Devall Conference Room, 4 p.m.
27, TA&M-Commerce Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 8 a.m.
   SGA Meeting, Devall TV Room, 11:30 a.m.
   Save a Life Tour, Devall Game Room, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
28, Basketball (W) vs. Angelina College, Kilgore, TX, 5:30 p.m.

Nominate deserving students to be honored by board

The KC Board of Trustees recognizes an outstanding student at each of its board meetings. Please consider nominating a deserving student. To be considered for this recognition, students must be nominated by a KC faculty or staff member and should exemplify excellence in learning, leadership abilities and co-curricular activity. Selected students will be expected to attend the first part of the board meeting in which she/he will be recognized. The faculty or staff member making the nomination will also be expected to attend the first part of that meeting in order to introduce themselves and the student to the board and present a brief description of the accomplishments of the student while at KC. The board’s next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12. To nominate a student, contact Dr. Mike Jenkins.

DATA: Did you know?

84% of first time in college (FTIC), full-time students at KC progressed from Fall 2017 to Spring 2018*

*as of 1/31/18

Data provided by the
KC Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness

February birthdays
02-01 Mary Heiden
02-02 Kathy Knighton
02-02 Cindy Thurman
02-03 Katie Owens
02-05 Brandon Belken
02-05 Bennie Brown
02-08 Manny Almanza
02-08 Pam Davis
02-08 Zachary Marshall
02-08 Staci Martin
02-08 Anmita Bates
02-11 Brandon Walker
02-12 Jennifer Quine
02-14 Molly Reavis
02-14 Dawn Wilder
02-15 Jody Bush
02-16 Melanie Sullivan
02-17 Susan Wilson
02-19 Susan Waite
02-20 Rufus Lovett
02-25 Sarah Booker
02-25 Karen Tutt