Clark named Dean of Business & Information Technology

Dr. Mark Clark has been named as Dean of Business & Information Technology, as approved by the KC Board of Trustees in December.

“It has been a real dream come true to join historic Kilgore College and return home to East Texas,” Clark said. “The KC team is top-notch in every way, and I am honored to be assigned as the new Dean for Business & Information Technology. I promise to work hard and ensure that our students get what they want from their education at KC.”

Clark comes from Houston Baptist University where he served from 2018 to present as assistant professor of Entrepreneurship; the director of the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise; and was program coordinator for the Master of Science in Management and Entrepreneurship.

“We’re very excited to have Dr. Mark Clark join the instructional team. He brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to this vital position, and we look forward to the innovation that will benefit our students,” said Dr. Mike Turpin, VP of instruction.

Before HBU, Clark was research director at the Axiom Academy in Peterborough, England, from 2017-18, and worked at New Mexico State University from 2014-17 as an assistant professor of Management & Marketing.

From 2015-16 he worked in Bogota, Columbia, as an economics instructor at Universidad de LaSalle. From 2007-14, Clark served as Professor of Business Administration, Economics and Personal Finance at Collin College, and from 2002-07, he was VP of land acquisition at the Lemar Corporation in Miami, Fla.

From 1998-2002, Clark served as associate athletic director and coach for The University of North Texas. Prior to UNT, he worked at Texas Instruments where he was VP of Facilities Management.

He earned the following degrees from The UT Dallas: Bachelor of Arts; Master of Science in Marketing; Master of Business Administration; Master of Arts in Entrepreneurship & Public Policy and a Doctorate of Philosophy.

KC employees who go “Above & Beyond”

Portia Scott

“Portia Scott, English instructor and assistant department chair, has voluntarily created displays over the last several months in the downstairs showcases in Old Main. One is a colorful "Welcome to KC" display and another is an impressive exhibit on African-American authors. She also created displays recognizing African-American authors Gwendolyn Brooks and Chadwick Bozeman, and a display honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. When I asked for volunteers to fill the displays, she happily volunteered her services and is to be commended for creating these wonderful displays in Old Main.”

- Becky Johnson, Dean of Arts and Mathematical Sciences

Spring convocation canceled

Spring Convocation has been canceled for this semester, although the presentation of service award recipients will be held later this semester. The Human Resources office will keep employees posted about when, where and how the recognitions will take place. Once the new employees’ photos have been taken, a PowerPoint presentation will be sent out through email introducing each of them. The information that would have been shared by Dr. Kays, the vice presidents and interim CFO during convocation will be presented soon. For any questions, please contact Tony Johnson.

New print shop manager named

With the retirement of Mike Ford in December, Kelly (Thompson) Kinney has been named KC Print Shop manager.

She has worked at KC since 1988, and takes over the day-to-day management of Print Services, located in the KC Commons Building adjacent to the softball field. To contact the print shop, call (903) 988-7586.

SAVE THE DATE! KC VIRTUAL DATA SUMMIT 2021

“Unmasking the Student Experience!” - 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 16
President’s Perspective by Dr. Brenda Kays

HAPPY FEBRUARY!

Unfortunately, due to the weather and resulting slippery road conditions, we could not hold KC Spring Convocation as initially planned. That meant that I did not have the opportunity to officially welcome you back from the holidays or provide you with an overview of KC’s expected new developments over the next calendar year. To remedy that deficit, in this month’s newsletter article, you will find some excerpts from the message that I planned to deliver on Jan. 11. Next month, as your resident prognosticator (similar to Punxsutawney Phil, but hopefully a little more accurate), I plan to share my predictions for KC over the next calendar year!

Excerpt from Convocation Speech—January 11, 2021:

Welcome to 2021!

I sincerely hope that everyone had a safe and peaceful holiday season. I also hope you were able to rest and recharge after an exhausting 2020. As I reflect on our work together over the past few years, and especially during 2020, we have reinvented ourselves to a marked degree.

It is a continuous process for us as we seek to shed our old Sears operating mindset in favor of a more Amazon-like perspective. A perspective where we embrace an organizational philosophy that values every student. A stand where we fight to get students here, keep students here, and have them realize their dreams here. I see many examples of KC being agile, innovative and student-focused. I see a KC that stepped up to respond to and meet students’ needs desiring to continue their academic journey during a global pandemic. I am so very proud to be a part of that KC!

Looking ahead to the new decade’s promise, I am optimistic about the journey before us and the impact that we will make. 2020 took us to new heights as an organization, granted often kicking and screaming… but it also left us with a sense of pride, and I hope a resolve not to let those efforts be for nothing, but to remain resolute that what we’ve become is our way forward.

The exhausting work that we performed in response to COVID-19 will see us through the spring and beyond as needed. But perhaps more importantly, and very similar to the medical advances behind the new vaccine, it will permanently change how we go about performing our crucial mission. It will change the way that we go about helping students to achieve their educational goals and dreams. We, and they, will be better because of it!

I sincerely hope that your Spring semester is off to a great start!

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

FACULTY & STAFF REPORTS

Danny Darden, Computer and Information Technology instructor, attended the 2021 WASTC ICT Educators Conference over the winter break. As part of a contest at the conference, he was one-of-two out of more than 400 attendees that successfully decoded a series of encrypted communications. He was awarded a one-year pass worth $700 to Laura Chappell’s Wireshark Network and Fraud Analysis courses, which are often used by the U.S. government and defense customers to train network analysts.

News & Events:

TRIO celebrating Black History Month with ‘My Dream’ cards

One of the ways TRIO is celebrating Black History Month is by reflecting on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech. Pondering the words from MLK, and other black leaders that have influenced our lives, TRIO asks, “Do you have a dream?” TRIO invites all employees to come and write their dreams. The “dream box” will be placed outside of the TRIO office (in the Student Support Services building) for employees to drop off their dreams. These will be posted on the TRIO bulletin board.

Library offering online resources celebrating Black History Month

Randolph C. Watson Library presents a new database of primary sources just in time for Black History Month. The library invites you to try Black Freedom Struggle in the United States from ProQuest. It is available on the database list on the library website.

Donate to the student food pantry

The KC Student Food Pantry is low on canned meat, canned fruit/veggies, healthy snacks, rice, pasta/sauces, peanut butter/jelly, ramen noodles and soups. Please consider purchasing something from this list and bring it to Amy Reed at the Visitor Center in the Devall building in Kilgore or to the front office at KC-Longview.

Welcome New Full-Time Employees!

Stephanie Arriola, eLearning Student Support Coordinator
Luz Cervantes, Support Specialist – Cashier’s Office
Mark Clark, Dean of Business & Information Technology
Manny Garcia, Director of High School Student Success
Sheri Gillis, Vocational Nursing Instructor
Shelly Grible, Success Coach/Advisor, High School-Based
Kristyl Hester, Success Coach/Advisor, High School-Based
Derek Keith, Police Officer

Missy King, Records & Reports Specialist – Registrar
Amber Patch-Drotar, Coordinator of Verification & Accounts Specialist
Nikki Runnels, Associate Degree Nursing Instructor
Reagan Silvey, Graphics Designer & Print Shop Assistant
Alan Sims, A/C & Refrigeration Technology Instructor
Kelley Shorette, Success Coach/Advisor, High School-Based
Terry Tompkins, Associate Degree Nursing Instructor
Jason Teague, EDUC Instructor & Assistant Football Coach
On-Campus Calendar:

Feb. 3, Basketball (W) vs. Panola College (5:30 p.m.)
   Spring 16-week 12th class day
   Official reporting day
Feb. 5, Softball vs. Hill College (Noon & 2 p.m.)
Feb. 6, Basketball (M) vs. Navarro College (1 p.m.)
   Basketball (W) vs. Jacksonville (3 p.m.)
Feb. 10, Basketball (M) vs. Coastal Bend (5:30 p.m.)
Feb. 12, Student Services staff planning day
   (Limited service In Student Services offices)
Feb. 14, Softball vs. Galveston College (Noon & 2 p.m.)
Feb. 15, SP 16-week (20th Class Day )
   Last day for refunds on any and all drops
Feb. 20, Basketball (W) vs. TJC (2 p.m.)
   Basketball (M) vs. TJC (4 p.m.)
Feb. 26, Softball vs. Western Texas College (1&3 p.m.)
   SP1- Spring 1st eight-week term
   Last day to drop class
   Last day to withdraw from enrollment with a “W”
Feb. 27, Basketball (M) vs. Trinity Valley CC (4 p.m.)

DATA: Did you know?

84% of first time in college full-time students enrolled in Fall 2020 returned for Spring 2021.

Data provided by the KC Office of Institutional Planning

Oil museum presents exhibit by famous Mexican artist

The East Texas Oil Museum at KC presents an exhibit through Feb. 20 by Miguel Covarrubias who was one of the most famous Mexican artists of the 20th century. The traveling exhibit, “Miguel Covarrubias: Caricaturist,” focuses on the sophisticated caricatures that made Covarrubias famous.

The exhibition was created in cooperation with the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin and a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, contact Olivia Moore, ETOM manager, at (903) 983-8297 or omoore@kilgore.edu.

The museum is open Wed-Sat from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is limited to 75 guests at a time due to COVID-19 protocols. Face coverings are required for all visitors.

In Memoriam: KC former employees

Dr. Gerald Pinson
Dr. Gerald Pinson passed away Nov. 30. He worked at KC for 26 years serving in the positions of Dean of Continuing Education, Assistant to The President, and Vice President until his retirement in 1990. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1950-53, then earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from East Texas State University.

Read obituary

Kathy Fair
Kathy Lee Fair of Kilgore passed away on Dec. 5 in Longview. She worked at KC for 20 years serving as library director. Her life revolved around her family, her cats, her job, her love of reading, cooking and singing.

Read obituary

Marie Hughes
Marie Hughes passed away at the age of 84 on Jan. 9. She graduated from KC in 1990 and later graduated from University of Texas at Tyler in 1995. Marie was the support specialist for the KC Physical Plant for 29 years until her retirement. She was known by many people from her work as the ticket-taker and greeter for the KC football and basketball teams.

Read obituary

Dr. Wayne Fortson
Dr. Wayne Everett Fortson of Kilgore passed away Jan. 29 at the age of 79. Dr. Fortson was the team doctor for KC football and basketball teams, as well as Rangerette physician for 20 years. He was inducted into the KC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009.

Read obituary

Dewey Greer
Funeral services for Dewey L. Greer, Jr. will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at Sovereign Life Fellowship, located at 3001 West Hawkins Parkway in Longview. He retired from Eastman Chemical Company after 30 years, and began a second career in higher education at KC teaching Process Technology for more than 10 years.

Read obituary

Jan Jaynes
Janet “Jan” Jaynes passed away Jan. 24 at the age of 72. She gave tremendous personal energy and generous resources to the Rangerettes organization, the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation, and the Texas Shakespeare Festival. She taught merchandising at KC and served as director of the Rangerette Museum & Showcase for four years. To honor her memory, her family suggests donations to the charity of your choice, the Rangerette Scholarship Fund, the Texas Shakespeare Festival or the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation.

Read obituary

Oil museum presents exhibit by famous Mexican artist

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The museum is open Wed-Sat from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is limited to 75 guests at a time due to COVID-19 protocols. Face coverings are required for all visitors.
Oil museum adds digital photo archive

More than 40 years ago, the community filled the museum with items that helped the museum achieve its mission of telling the story and preserving the history. This outpouring of items and support included photographs. Many have been enlarged and are included in our exhibits, but there are many more that we have not been able to share publicly – until now.

The ETOM now features an online image archive available on the ETOM website featuring more than 1,500 searchable images. This initiative has been made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas. Without their support, we would not be able to bring this to you today. The project began in July of 2019, and we scanned our first photograph in July of 2020. Since then, we have logged many hours to get all the data and information in place to launch.

Several of the volunteer docent tour guides have assisted in this project by carefully viewing, verifying against the catalog and accession records, and finally scanning the image. Docents have spent more than 100 hours working toward our goal with special thanks to Ms. Barb Ramsey, Ms. Dee Baker, and Ms. Joy Jordon. KC work-study student, Cedric Pete, has also spent more than 50 hours scanning images.

Photo above: Mike Ford (27 years of service), Pam Gatton (21 years of service), and Barbara Prater (16 years of service) were given a “socially distanced” retirement party in December to celebrate their retirements. Photo by Rachel Stallard/KC Marketing

Photos below Left to Right: Toni Perry (32 years of service) retired as Mail Technician/Support Specialist, Richard Crutcher (27 years of service) retired as Dean of Business & Information Technology and Bennie Brown (51 years of service) as English instructor.

Artwork by D.L. Simmons on display in Turk Fine Arts Gallery

The KC Visual Arts Department presents selections from “Evanescence Eidolon” by artist D.L. Simmons through March 11 in the Turk Fine Arts Gallery. Simmons is an assistant professor of art at UT Tyler, delivering a wide array of mediums through his art and his teachings. For more information, visit www.dls-ink.com. For more information, contact Larry Kitchen.

February Birthdays

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SUPPORT KC STUDENT-ATHLETES

Schedules available at: www.kilgore.edu/athletics