Kilgore College honored four faculty members at spring convocation as recipients of the annual Excellence in Teaching award. The individuals are selected by KC’s Instructional Leadership Team. Along with the winner of KC’s Beeson Award & Piper Professor nominee (Bennie Brown), who was selected by a faculty committee, these individuals are submitted to NISOD for the Excellence Award.

TREVIS CROFT
Electrical Power Technology Instructor

DR. GINGER DENNIS
Business & Info Technology Department Chair

MICAH GOODDING
Theatre Instructor

SHAUNDA KWIAITEK
Physical Therapist Assistant Instructor

Make plans to attend Data Summit March 27

Please plan to attend the Spring 2020 Data Summit for faculty, instructional support staff, and student development personnel, sponsored by the Student Success Council.

Clements gifts $630,000 for 40 new scholarships

Noted local philanthropist and KC alumnuis Mike Clements has graciously gifted $630,000 to the KC Foundation to create 40 individual student scholarships. These new scholarships are available through the foundation, providing financial assistance to students in need. Clements, owner of Energy Weldfab, has a long and proud partnership with KC that began in 1974 when Mike met his late wife, Amy, while attending classes at KC.

“I’m blessed to be in a situation where I am able to give back to change students’ lives, one student at a time,” Clements said.

In the early 2000’s Mike and Amy collaborated with programs throughout KC to begin what has been a tremendous relationship with his family and the college.

FOCUS ON REDUCING COURSE WITHDRAWALS

Contact your department chair/supervisor if you are scheduled to teach during this time, or may not be able to attend due to some other reason.
**Going Out Like a Lion!**

The old adage says that “if March comes in like a lamb it will go out like a lion.” This adage refers, I believe, to the fluctuating temperatures and notorious March winds. This year, March 1 appeared to be a mixed bag of contradictory lamb/lion indicators. While the temperatures were balmy, the sun was noticeably absent and the winds were stronger than usual. Hence, I can’t truly ascertain if we had a lion or lamb start to the month and I won’t be losing much sleep over the conundrum.

However, what I can assert, with a higher than normal degree of confidence is that March will be going out like a lion! I am able to make this bold claim as it doesn’t have anything to do with the weather. Instead, March 27 will usher in KC’s fourth annual data summit. From all accounts, this summit may just be the best one yet. In fact, you might walk away commenting that it “roared” (every pun intended).

I have it on good authority (Jase Graves) that on March 27 Faculty and Student Development staff will gather in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts building. The day will start with a continental breakfast available at 8 a.m. in the Van Cliburn Foyer and continue at 9 a.m. with faculty/staff presentations and panel discussions held in the auditorium.

The theme for that morning will focus on student “safety nets.” Student Development personnel will share information about the resources and services available to students. Faculty panel members will share strategies to use in the classroom and during interactions that have proved helpful in mitigating withdrawals/drops and promoting student retention.

After the opening session, faculty will breakout by department for a deep dive into student retention data. Staff will convene with Dr. Jenkins for professional development activities surrounding “Radical Hospitality 2.0.”

I hope that you each have a wonderful spring break filled with myriad of opportunities for rest and relaxation….after all, we need to be ready to “roar” later this month!

Until next month...

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**FACULTY & STAFF reports**

**Brent Farmer**, director of bands, was selected to serve as a clinician for three area high school honor bands, working with approximately 300 students from East Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. In December, he was a clinician in Paris for the TMEA Region 4 Freshman Honor Band; was a clinician in Texarkana from Jan. 16-18 for the Four States Honor Band and was a clinician in White Oak for the ATSSB Region 4 Symphonic Band.

**Danny Darden**, instructor of Computer and Information Technology, was selected by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to participate in a course review workshop to create and modify WECM courses related to Cisco Academy. The workshop took place in Austin on Jan. 24.

**Merlyn Holmes**, executive director of the KC Foundation and community relations, and **Amber Kinsey**, scholarships and alumni relations specialist, attended the Texas Association of Community College Foundation (TACCF) Conference Feb. 12-14 in San Antonio for training. Presentation topics included prospect research, major gifts, alumni relations, stewardship-cultivation-donor cycle, planned giving, foundation grants, investment management strategies for assets, scholarship programs, annual fund programs, unique special events, ROI assessment and board development.

In July 2020 a new book of the Vietnam conflict will be released, “Rain In Our Hearts: Alpha Company in the Vietnam War.” The narrative author is **Mike Ford’s** (KC Print Services) brother, Gary D. Ford. Gary is a graduate of KC and The University of Texas. The book takes readers into the lives of Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment in 1969-70 and the soldiers’lives until the present.
Esports training room officially opens

Professional video gaming - or Esports - has become a multi-billion dollar industry, and Kilgore College is on the cutting-edge of training future gamers with the opening of the college’s Esports training room.

The practice facility officially opened March 2 in the Devall Student Center. This state-of-the-art facility features the best available gaming computer stations, powered by Dell, with 27-inch monitors and RTX 2080 Ti graphics cards.

“If students want to join the ranks of the professional gamers, they have to hit a very special type of gym,” said Andy Taylor, KC’s Esports coach. “We are extremely proud of our new ‘gym’ that gives our students a place to practice and prepare for competitions.”

The KC Esports program began in the spring of 2019 following the “Clash for College” tournament that awarded $4,000 in KC scholarships to the top finishers.

“Kilgore College is on the cutting-edge, not only by creating an Esports team, but also being the first community college in Northeast Texas to offer academic game design courses through our Computer and Information Technology (CIT) program right here at KC,” said Dr. Brenda Kays.

Kays said she was thankful for the leadership Richard Crutcher, CIT Dean; Dr. Ginger Dennis, CIT Department Chair; Dr. Mike Jenkins, Executive Vice President & Chief Student Affairs Officer; and KC’s Esports coach, Andy Taylor.

“In the multi-billion dollar gaming industry, jobs are available as animators and other artists, writers, video game testers, software developers, computer programmers, audio engineers, producers, marketing managers and sales representatives,” Kays said. “The list goes on and on. Kilgore College is truly preparing these students for the next step and giving them the best chance for their educational success in a booming career field.”

Esports at KC has a 26-member student team that competes across the state with other colleges and universities.

“Right now our team consists of 26 members but we have a total of 64 students involved in the program,” Taylor said. “That number will continue to grow as word spreads. Students competing on varsity teams must meet academic requirements and be enrolled full time.”

Anonymous $150,000 gift received to improve Rangerette residence tech infrastructure

The KC Foundation recently received an anonymous gift of $150,000 to upgrade the technology infrastructure at the Gussie Nell Davis Rangerette Residence.

The two-story structure opened in 2006, housing 80 residents.

It was funded, in most part, through a $3.5-million donation from the Zwick Foundation in 2005.

Kathryn Heller Zwick, a former Rangerette from Longview, attended KC from 1976-78.

“Once a Rangerette, always a Rangerette. With this gracious gift, the virtual connection for the entire organization – current and alumnas – is strengthened,” said Michael Hageloh, Chief Development Officer.

“My sincerest thanks, from KC and the KC Foundation, to our donor for this upgraded connectivity.”

Zonta Antique Show March 6-8 in Longview

The KC Golden Z Club will participate in the Zonta Club of Greater East Texas Antique Show March 6-8 at Maude Cobb Convention & Activity Center in Longview.

It will be open from 10 a.m. Friday, March 6; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 8.

Tickets are $10 for a weekend pass and all funds raised from the event will be donated to non-profit organizations in Longview that support the local needs of women and children. For more information, call Terry McJulton at (903) 399-5441.

The Golden Z Club at KC is sponsored by Rene’ Wiley.

KC mourns loss of two former employees

Dana Ransom

Dana Ransom, 85, of Kilgore, died Feb. 20. After working at Lamar University for 21 years, he was director of counseling, school relations, placement and testing at KC from 1986-98. Read obituary

Charlie Simmons

Charles “Charlie” Simmons, 88, of Nacogdoches, died Feb. 23. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1950-54 and was head football coach at KC from 1967-75. He was head football coach and Director of Athletics for men at SFA from 1976-81. Read obituary

Institutional Advancement: Did you know?

A new year for scholarships from the KC Foundation begins in April. If you have questions about any of the 300+ endowments the foundation manages, please contact Amber Kinsey.

Data provided by the KC Office of Institutional Advancement
Alumni art show runs through March 25 in Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Gallery

The KC Visual Arts Department presents the "KC Alumni Show" featuring artwork from KC graduates through March 25 in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Gallery on the Kilgore campus.

Artwork on display is by Sam Edwards, Lance Kitchen, Coy Lothrop and Denise Mata.

Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Larry Kitchen, gallery director, at 903-983-8166 or lkitchen@kilgore.edu.

On-Campus Calendar

2, Esports training room grand opening, Devall, 2 p.m.
3, KC Foundation Resource Dev. Mtg, Devall Room, Noon
5, KC Wind Symphony Concert, Dodson Auditorium, 7 p.m.
6, Campuses Close @ 2:45 p.m.
   Softball vs. Blinn College, The Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
7, Softball vs. San Jacinto College, The Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
9-13, Spring Break
11, Softball vs. Northeast Texas CC, The Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
14, Softball vs. Angelina College, The Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
17, Savannah College of Art Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
20, KCEPT Graduation, Dodson Auditorium, 4 p.m.
   ADN Advisory Board Meeting, Devall Ballroom, 8 a.m.
21, Kilgore Legacy Foundation Ball, Devall Ballroom, 7 p.m.
   Softball vs. Tyler Junior College, The Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
25, Advisor Update Sessions, McLaurin Building - 2nd Floor, 11:30 a.m.
26, Advisor Update Sessions, McLaurin Building - 2nd Floor, 1 & 2 p.m.
KC Choirs Concert, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
27, 2020 Data Summit, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 9 a.m.
   Advisor Update Sessions, McLaurin Building - 2nd Floor, 1:30 p.m.
   PTK Induction Ceremony, Devall Ballroom, 6:30 p.m.
31, TRIO Spring Banquet, Devall Ballroom, 6 p.m.

Institutional Planning: Did you know?

KC had 1,709 CE students enrolled in Quarter 1 of 2019. In Quarter 1 of 2018, KC had 1,184 CE students enrolled.

This is a 44% increase.

Data provided by the KC Office of Institutional Planning

Men’s, women’s teams play in regional tourney March 3-7

Both the KC men’s and women’s basketball teams will play in the Region XIV Tournament in Shreveport March 3-7. The tournament is single-elimination and video and audio of all games will be streamed live on the internet. In opening-round play, the men will play Lee College 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, and the women will play TJC at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 4.

View tournament website

Wind Symphony concert set for March 5

The KC Wind Symphony will perform a concert with the theme, "Lux et Sancti Grail," at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 5, in Dodson Auditorium.

The concert will feature the world premiere for wind band of "Joseph of Arimathea" by Bennette.

“This is the second opportunity the KC Wind Symphony has had to perform a world premiere and it’s opening other opportunities,” said Brent Farmer, director of bands. “We plan to do many more world premieres at future concerts.”

Other selections will include pieces by Whitacre, Holsinger, Van der Rost, Hazzard and Miller. The KC Wind Symphony is under the direction of Brent Farmer, director of bands. The concert is free and open to the public.