Hanson named Vice President of Administrative Services/CFO

Terry Hanson has been named Vice President of Administrative Services/CFO, as approved by the Kilgore College Board of Trustees in February.

Hanson previously worked as the Assistant Director of Planning and Data Analytics for the city of Fort Worth.

“After an extensive nationwide search for the perfect candidate to meet the demands of being the Vice-President of Administrative Services/CFO at KC, we feel fortunate to have attracted the caliber of talents possessed by Terry Hanson,” said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president. “His acumen in business, auditing and leadership will be valuable resources to accelerate Kilgore College and its students to new levels of achievement and success.”

Hanson earned an MBA from Texas A&M Univ. and a bachelor’s in accounting from Bemidji State Univ.

“There are many items that excited me about Kilgore College. A few that stand out the most are the sense of pride everyone has as well as the sense of family that everyone has shown,” Hanson said. “In addition, the vision and the future of KC are bright. It is exciting to become part of the KC family, working together to make that vision and future a reality.”

AEP Foundation will present $190,000 grant to ETPA Friday

American Electric Power (AEP) Foundation will present KC with a $190,000 grant to support the East Texas Police Academy (ETPA). The presentation is set for 2 p.m. Friday, March 5, at the ETPA Spear Training Facility, located at 1810 CR 174E in Kilgore.

The AEP Foundation has pledged $190,000 to the ETPA as part of the two-year grant. The first $140,000 of the contribution has been received, with an additional $50,000 gift planned for 2022.

Funds from the grant will be used to remodel the ETPA classroom building to better accommodate the ever-growing number of female cadets/officers, expand the classroom facility and purchase new training vehicles. Also, the classroom and building at the Spear Training Facility will be named the “AEP/SWEPCO Emergency Response Training Facility.”

Students organize video game livestream as fundraiser for House of Hope

Computer and Information Technology (CIT) students will host a video game livestream fundraiser Saturday to benefit House of Hope in Longview.

The fundraiser, “Gamers Against Trafficking,” will feature members of the KC eSports team streaming live video games from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 6.

During the livestream, viewers can donate to the fundraiser for House of Hope which is an emergency shelter for women and children based in Longview. The event is organized by CIT students Amy Pounders of Lufkin; Jacob Frith of Longview; Hourpheng La of Longview; and Josel Victorino of Henderson.

Taught by Dr. Ginger Dennis, the students in the Project Management Software class were tasked to create “project teams” to successfully complete and manage real-life projects. The livestream can be viewed here beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday.

SAVE THE DATE! KC VIRTUAL DATA SUMMIT 2021

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

A New Pedestrian Bridge…

Yes, Really!

Every time we drive onto the Kilgore campus, we are reminded that we no longer have a pedestrian bridge spanning Hwy. 259 to enable our students to have a safe passage; however, despite what appears to be an utter lack of progress on that front, I am pleased to tel you that work is progressing behind the scenes!

Monday evening (2/22) at the board meeting, the KC Board of Trustees voted to accept a trucking company’s insurance carrier’s settlement agreement. The settlement agreement will provide the proceeds necessary to construct a new bridge!

Our bridge architect/engineering firm, Halff, concluded its PER or Preliminary Engineering Report in late fall after the last step of hearing feedback from our trustees at the September board meeting. Halff presented a PER to the bridge committee with three viable options with pros and cons. After deep consideration, the following direction crystallized:

- The new bridge will be constructed on the same footprint as the old bridge. This decision was based on the fact that most of our students will not walk down the block to cross the street. They will use the at-grade crossing unless we make the pedestrian bridge convenient for them to use.
- It is prudent to move forward with the demolition of the existing walkways during the design phase so bridge construction will not be delayed. Estimates for demolition are in-hand, and I expect that demolition to be underway and complete within the next three months.
- We do not want switch-back stairs in the final design. They are too steep and students will not use them. The stairs need to be more walkway-like and more student-friendly. We will also have elevators to accommodate individuals with disabilities.

So, you may be asking, how will the new pedestrian bridge look? Pictorial renderings of the final product were delivered to the college by Halff. A large poster board with renderings representing four different angles is currently displayed in the administration building lobby. If you are in the vicinity, stop in and check out the renderings and let me know what you think!

On an unrelated, but just as important, note. A big round of applause for all faculty and staff who worked so hard last week to take care of our students despite the horrific weather conditions. It appears as if 2020 has followed us into 2021! I’ve seen and heard reports of tremendous teamwork.

Faculty used creative ways to help students “come to” remote class despite power outages. KCPC officers stayed overnight to take care of student needs. Facilities personnel continuously walked the college buildings and property looking for evidence of broken pipes. Residential Life staff kept student spirits high despite a lack of water pressure/potable water. Procurement Services staff searched and located bottled drinking water and porta-potties when both were in short supply across the county... and the list goes on and on.

Radical Hospitality is alive and well at Kilgore College! Thank you from the bottom of my heart to each of you who helped our students and one another. It is such a privilege to work beside such dedicated and talented professionals!

Enjoy your Spring Break—get some much-needed rest and have some fun!

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

KC professional/embedded advisors attended the first-ever virtual TEXAAN annual conference, “Texas Strong,” Feb. 24-26. Members of TEXAAN (Texas Academic Advising Association) meet with Texas advisors and has the Texas Commissioner of Higher Education as a speaker. Those attending were Alex Knox, Rhonda Heinsohn, Melissa Dobbs, Hollyann Davis, Kyia Sather, Jennifer Quine, Laura Mulanax, Karla Mojica and Will Massey (elected as Vice President of Programming for 2021-22).

News & Events:

Rangerette Revels begins two-weekend run March 11

The Rangerettes will present Rangerette Revels in March, although the traditional schedule and ticket sales have changed this year due to COVID-19 protocols.

Shows this year will span two weekends – March 11-14, and March 18-20 – with shows Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and matinees set for 1 p.m. Sunday, March 14, and 1 p.m. Saturday, March 20. The show, “This Stage, Our Story,” will include a wide variety of dance genres, including the Rangerettes’ signature “high kick” production for the finale.

With COVID-19 protocols, tickets to the show are being sold in pods of four seats only, with guests required to purchase all four seats when ordering.

Seating capacity in Dodson Auditorium is limited to 615 spectators due to the pandemic, and social distancing and CDC guidelines will be enforced.

All seats are reserved and tickets are $25 each. With the Rangerette Box Office closed to the public, all tickets must be picked up with proper identification in the Rangerette Gym prior to the start of the show.

Tickets will be available for pickup two hours before the start of each show.

No tickets will be mailed this year. “We understand this is not an ideal situation; however, it is the best we can offer at this time,” said Shelley Wayne, Rangerette assistant director. “Our number one goal is to produce a show that is safe for our dancers, staff and patrons.”

To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit www.rangerette.com.

For tickets, click “Order Revels Tickets” and complete the webform. Once submitted, guests will be contacted (in the order received) to make a purchase.

PTK earns REACH designation

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) awarded Kilgore College’s Gamma Omicron Chapter with a prestigious REACH designation for the chapter’s outstanding efforts during the 2020 school year.

The annual REACH award program encourages membership by rewarding chapters who achieve or exceed 15 percent for their membership acceptance rate.

“We were thrilled to receive this recognition,” said Dr. Paul Buchanan, PTK sponsor at KC. “Our acceptance rate was quite a bit higher than the district or regional acceptance rate or the international acceptance rate.”
On-Campus Calendar:

March 1, Softball vs. Alvin College, 1&3 p.m.
   Basketball (M) vs. Jacksonville, 6 p.m.
March 4, “The Lane” Grand Opening (closed to employees)
March 5, Softball vs. Alvin College, Noon & 2 p.m.
   AEP donation ceremony, 2 p.m., ET Police Academy
March 6, Basketball (M) vs. Paris JC, 4 p.m.
March 11, Rangerette Revels, 7:30 p.m., Dodson Auditorium
March 12, Rangerette Revels, 7:30 p.m., Dodson Auditorium
March 13, Softball vs. LSU-Eunice, 1&3 p.m.
   Basketball (W) vs. Bossier Parish, CC, 2 p.m.
   Basketball (M) vs. Lamar State-PA, 4 p.m.
   Rangerette Revels, 7:30 p.m., Dodson Auditorium
March 14, Rangerette Revels, 1 p.m., Dodson Auditorium
March 17, Softball vs. Tyler Junior College, 1&3 p.m.
March 18, Rangerette Revels, 7:30 p.m., Dodson Auditorium
March 19, Rangerette Revels, 7:30 p.m., Dodson Auditorium
March 20, Rangerette Revels, 1 p.m., Dodson Auditorium
   Basketball (W) vs. Bossier Parish, CC, 2 p.m.
   Basketball (M) vs. Bossier Parish CC, 4 p.m.

Birthdays

3-1 Portia Scott
3-1 Donald Seals
3-3 Daniel Reigstad
3-4 Jessica Bickham
3-4 Jeff Williams
3-8 Kristi Simpson
3-13 Evan Radulescu
3-13 Kenya Ray
3-14 Joseph Cassin
3-14 Chris Jones
3-16 Clint Fultner
3-17 Brian Hoberecht
03-17 Matthew Wickes
3-19 Angela Aulds
3-20 Michael Ferguson
3-24 Elizabeth Buckner
3-25 Tony Johnson
3-25 Monica Smith
3-27 Ginger Dennis
3-28 Michele Daniels
3-28 Mary Gage
3-28 Melanie Magness
3-28 Samantha Spiro
3-30 Jacob Dubois
3-30 Merlyn Holmes

‘The Lane’ opening closed to public but tours given Friday to employees

Former Kilgore College Ranger and current Philadelphia Eagles football star Lane Johnson will be on campus Thursday, March 4, for an official ribbon-cutting to open “The Lane” Athletic Performance Center.

Johnson, who played quarterback at KC in 2008, donated $500,000 to KC in 2019 for the construction of the facility.

If you’d like a tour of the new facility after the grand opening, call Blake McCravy at (903) 983-8637. Tours will be given Friday morning (March 5) by appointment.

DATA: Did you know?

63% of Fall 2019 first-time, full-time students returned for Fall 2020, up from 61% for the Fall 2018 cohort.

In Memoriam: KC former employee

Mary Smyser

Mary Smyser passed away Feb. 21 at the age of 74. She began her employment with Kilgore College in 1995, working at KC for 25 years until her retirement in 2019. She also was a KC graduate, earning an associate's degree in English, where she was awarded the “Who's Who” honor.

Read full obituary

Support KC Student-Athletes

Schedules available at: www.kilgore.edu/athletics
In a monthly feature, KC Marketing Interns will feature an employee’s office, telling stories behind the decorations and memorabilia in offices on campus. This month features the office of Katie Owens, instructor of government (Old Main, 216).

Interview and photo by: Adriana Cisneros Emerson

What’s your favorite object in your office?

"Either my family photos, because—in my completely unbiased opinion—my daughter is super cute, or my collector’s George Washington Barbie. It was a gift from parents when I was around 10; I collected Barbies and they knew how much I love history, especially the Founding.”

Are you a Rolling Stones fan? What’s your favorite album and song by them?

"I am a Rolling Stones fan. My favorite songs are "Beast of Burden" and "Sympathy for the Devil,” and my favorite album is "Exile on Main Street." I saw the Stones in 2015 at Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta. It was an awesome show.”

What’s your favorite book in your office?

"My Own Words” by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It’s a collection of her speeches, opinions, and other writings.”

How do you drink your coffee? Do you have a favorite brand?

"I drink good, strong, dark roast coffee with cream. At home we have an espresso machine and my favorite coffees are from Jittery Joe’s in Athens, GA; I have a subscription for a coffee delivery from them each month. Also, Cuvee Coffee from Austin, or Stumptown Coffee from Portland, OR. We went to Puerto Rico a few years ago on vacation and their coffee was phenomenal.”

Why did you attend University of Georgia?

"I went to UGA to study at the School of Public and International Affairs. I received a master’s degree in American Politics, with a concentration in Law & Courts.”

What’s a book that you think every one of your students should read and why?

"It’s not really a book, but the US Constitution is required reading in my opinion. If anyone needs or wants a copy, they should stop by my office.”

How long has it taken you to collect the coffee cans on your bookshelf? What about the books?

"I have been collecting those coffee cans for several years now. They are all from Jittery Joe’s. Some of them are their regular releases—the wake and bake is my favorite blend—but some are special releases. They often partner with bands like Widespread Panic and Drive By Truckers to create special blends, and the proceeds go to benefit Nuci’s Space in Athens, which helps underprivileged kids learn to play music. So I always buy them—plus they have cool art. The books are a mix of books I have picked up over the years, and ones I had to read for classes in undergrad and grad school (it’s just a small sample—I have a lot more at home).”

Is there a fun fact regarding an object in your office you’d like to share?

"The Declaration of Independence came from a student I taught in my first year at KC. I am not Nicolas Cage and I did not steal it from the Library of Congress.”

Where did you get the Declaration of Independence you have on your wall?

"The Declaration of Independence came from student I taught in my first year at KC. I am not Nicolas Cage and I did not steal it from the Library of Congress.”

Is there a fun fact regarding an object in your office you’d like to share?

"I have a small collection of Atlanta Braves bobbleheads in my office that I received from Jittery Joe’s in Athens, which helps underprivileged kids learn to play music. So I always buy them—plus they have cool art. The books are a mix of books I have picked up over the years, and ones I had to read for classes in undergrad and grad school (it’s just a small sample—I have a lot more at home).”

Do you have a dog? What’s it called?

"I have two dogs right now. Baxter is a miniature schnauzer and he is almost 9. I’ve had him since 2012. Boone is a golden retriever and he is almost 6. My husband and I got him in 2016.”

Do you have a favorite sports team to watch and teams?

"My favorite sports are football and baseball. I grew up on the 90’s-era Atlanta Braves and they are still my favorite team. For football, I love the Georgia Bulldogs and in the NFL I cheer for the Dallas Cowboys and of course Patrick Mahomes.”

Special to you?

"The photos on my bookshelf are of two of my dogs—Baxter—and my first dog, Kira. She actually passed away last year and it was devastating. We won a dog show together. She won the ‘Heinz 57’ category because she was such a mix of different things, including wolf. I called her my dire wolf. The other photos in my office are of my family: my husband, Mark, and my daughter, Mallory.”

Email Rachel Stallard to let her know!