Help fund student success at KC using Amazon Smile

Kilgore College is excited to announce two ways that you and your friends and family can support student success at the college.

**Amazon Smile Account**
First is the KC Foundation’s Amazon Smile account. If you are planning to purchase items from Amazon.com, be sure to sign into the URL https://smile.amazon.com, rather than the regular Amazon website. Then select “Kilgore College Foundation” as the charity of your choice. Through the Smile program, a portion of your total purchase price will be donated to the foundation for scholarships. Once you are logged into the Amazon Smile account, use the Amazon Wish List for the KC Food Pantry.

**KC Wish List on Amazon**
In Amazon Smile, click on the “Account & Lists” tab in the upper right hand corner (to the left of the shopping cart icon) and then search for Kilgore College. Once on the KC Wish List, you will see items requested much like a wedding registry. Simply purchase items that you would like to donate and these items will be shipped directly to KC. To find the wish list quicker, simply click here.

Please note that some of the items on the wish list have the “Prime” logo next to the price. Only Amazon Prime members will be able to purchase those items.

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**Kickball tournament, picnic May 5**

The Kilgore College Hospitality Committee will host a KC Employee Picnic Friday, May 5, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Ballpark at KC Commons area.

Food will be served including hamburgers, hotdogs and Charlie’s Sno-balls. Games at the event will include dominoes, washer toss, corn hole, horseshoes, volleyball, frisbee, a hula hoop contest and a life-sized Jenga.

There will also be a kickball game -- staff versus faculty.

Coach Brian Hoberecht will coach the Faculty Blue Team and Leah Gorman will coach the Staff Gray Team. Referee/umpire will be assistant football coach Willie Gooden. There will be 12 members on each team.

Employees are asked to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets since there will be limited seating.

Also, donations will be accepted for the KC Student Food Pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items to donate.

**Ranger softball team qualifies for conference tournament for first time**

The Kilgore College softball team has had a banner year, qualifying for the Region 14 Tournament for the first time in its five-year history.

The Rangers, under head coach Leslie Messina, finished the regular season 31-21 overall and 19-9 in conference play.

They will face Blinn College 10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, in the first game of the double elimination tournament at Angelina College in Lufkin.

KC is the third seed in the tournament behind Tyler Junior College (No. 1 seed) and Blinn College, the 2 seed.

Tickets to watch the tournament are $40 for an all-tournament pass and $15 for an all-day pass.

If you can’t make it to the tournament, KC games will be broadcast on the KC Sports Network with Manny Almanza on TSRN Sports.

For more tournament information, including a tournament bracket, click here.
During the AtD (Achieving the Dream) coaches’ visit in March, our visiting coaches frequently broached the topic of equity. They were eager to learn about the strides that KC has made toward embracing a “culture of equity.”

Equity has long been a pillar of the AtD movement. However, our coaches warned that the concept of equity is frequently thought to be synonymous with the concept of equality. They have recommended that as we move forward with our Guided Pathways work, that we have a firm understanding of both terms.

In reviewing the AtD website, the organization provides a synopsis of the Equity concept: Achieving the Dream believes that access to a high-quality education in an inclusive environment is the right of all individuals and imperative for the continued advancement of a strong democracy and workforce. Achieving the Dream also believes higher education institutions have an obligation to work toward equity for their students. Equity is grounded in the principle of fairness. In higher education, equity refers to ensuring that each student receives what they need to be successful through the intentional design of the college experience.

On first read, phrasing such as “inclusive environment,” “advancement of a strong democracy and workforce” and “principle of fairness” might mislead one to think that equity = equality. However, the last sentence in the synopsis points to the important difference between equity and equality… “ensuring that each student receives what they need to be successful.”

The two terms are in fact not synonymous. Equality means that I treat everyone the same. Equity requires that I find out what the needs of the individual are and address those specific needs. Many analogies exist that represent the difference between equity and equality, but my favorite happens to be a tennis shoe analogy. If we were to practice equality with our students, we would purchase each student a size 10 pair of tennis shoes and distribute them across the student population. We would be treating all students the same or equally.

However, if we practice equity with our students, we would first ask each student what size of tennis shoe that he/she wears and then purchase each student a pair of shoes that would fit his/her feet. Our emphasis would be on meeting individual student needs or treating them equitably.

This will not be the last time that you hear about equity. During August convocation, Martha Ellis, one of our Achieving the Dream coaches, will be speaking to us about equity as well as other concepts integral to student success and Guided Pathways.

Have a wonderful summer!

Until August,

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Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

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Carla Gleaton, physical therapy instructor, reports that the PT Club had a successful Duck Race fundraiser April 8, netting more than $1,300. The top four winners were: 1st: Stephanie Carter (spa package); 2nd: Jeanene Jalomo (Six Flags package); 3rd: Perry Jones (Red Dirt Music festival package) and 4th: Whitney Gretzinger – (Dakotas restaurant gift certificates). Thanks to KC employees for your support of the PTA program and PT Club.

At the state TRIO Conference (TASSSP) in February, Kilgore was well represented in various activities. Bindy Tice, TRIO director, co-presented a workshop with Kraig Curry, TRIO director at Navarro College, on “Creating a Formidable Program Using Forms to Develop and Sustain an Efficient and Effective TRIO Program.”

Heidi Everett, TRIO learning specialist, received a 10-year TRIO service award and former KC graduate Sophilia Thompson received a State of Texas TRIO Achiever award for her professional and academic accomplishments.

Congratulations to Hagan Wood, son of Paige Wood, mathematics instructor. Hagan, a senior at Texas A&M University-Commerce, won the Lone Star Conference golf tournament April 25. Hagan, 22, is a graduate of Spring Hill High School and is a senior at TAMU-Commerce.

**Dance concert set for May 5**

The KC Wind Symphony will perform 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 4, in Dodson Auditorium, featuring a variety of light music including movie soundtracks and some pop selections. “May 4 is also national Star Wars Day so we will perform the new soundtrack arrangement of Rogue One,” said Glenn Wells, director of bands. “The concert will also feature a percussion arrangement and the KC Jazz Band will play a few numbers.”
Baker retiring after 38 years teaching at KC

Kilgore College mathematics instructor Mariann Baker will retire this semester after teaching at the college 38 years. Please mark your calendars for 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, May 4, for a retirement reception in the Devall Room in the Devall Student Center. The reception is come-and-go and cake and punch will be served.

‘Caffeine & Conversations’ meetings set

Dr. Kays has scheduled two more “Caffeine & Conversations” meetings to share updated budget news, field any questions that employees might have and ultimately take advantage of being in the same place at the same time to just have an informal conversation over a Coke or cup of coffee.

Dr. Kays hopes that you will be able to join her for one of these sessions:

- **Kilgore Campus Caffeine & Conversations:** 2-3 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, on the 2nd floor of the McLaurin Administration Building
- **Longview Campus Caffeine & Conversations:** 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, in the Special Events Room

Order classroom items from library before summer

If you’re an instructor, please take a moment to send the library any materials that you would like for the library to order for your classes next fall. While you are cooling off at the pool or lake, take advantage of the online books it has through OverDrive. You can download either print or audio. If you have a request or favorite author, the library can place an order for you. Library instruction classes and databases are also available. The library will be closed to the public the first week after finals. For more information, call the circulation desk at 903-983-8237 or email Kathy Fair.

Fiscal year ends June 15; purchase items before then

The end of the fiscal year is fast approaching. Please note the deadline to purchase goods and services for the current fiscal year is June 15. All requisitions must be approved and all related paperwork must be in the Business Office by this date. Remember to make arrangements for your summer classes, programs, trips and events by this date as well. KC encourages employees to use good care and constraint when contemplating any purchase requests to determine the wise use of funds and true need. All purchase requests will be reviewed by deans and budget heads prior to approval. As a reminder, the Business Office not only has to receive the merchandise but also has to receive the invoice in order for the expense to come from the current fiscal year.

Bookstore will begin accepting financial aid May 8

The KC Bookstore will begin accepting financial aid for the May Mini and summer courses on May 8. The last day it will accept financial aid as payment will be July 12. Please contact Corrie Thibodeaux, bookstore manager, or another bookstore employee if you have further questions. For more information, email Corrie Thibodeaux or call 903-988-7517.

Items needed for student food pantry

Word of the Food Pantry is spreading rapidly. More and more students who access it (24 students, 78 visits), which of course means supplies dwindle very quickly. The pantry is in need of everything except Ramen Noodles, green beans and corn.

To drop off items on the Kilgore campus, bring them by Dr. Mike Jenkins’ office in the Devall Student Center (across the hall from the bookstore). On the Longview campus, drop them off to Will Massey in the Hendrix Building. For more information, call Mike Jenkins at 903-983-8189 or email him.

Annual ET Energy Symposium set for May 2

The 8th Annual East Texas Energy Symposium will be held May 2 on the Kilgore campus and KC instructors who teach energy-related courses will have informational booths set up at the meeting to display what KC offers. This year’s keynote speaker for the luncheon will be Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian. Companies from all over the Ark-La-Tex attend this annual event. Other guest speakers for the symposium will be Andy Cordova, GE Oil & Gas; Helmhuth “Buster” Heneman, President and Owner of NRG Systems, Inc.; and Peter Hennings of the Bureau of Economic Geology. For more information, or to set up an informational booth at the seminar, contact Merlyn Holmes, director of the East Texas Oil Museum.
MAY birthdays
05-04 Dorothy Puckett
05-09 Claudia Miracle
05-17 Tina Rushing
05-17 Ingo Stoehr
05-18 Leslie Messina
05-20 Karen Dilday
05-20 David Whitfield
05-22 Elizabeth Johnson
05-22 Mary Martin
05-23 Dana Blair
05-24 Doris Johnson
05-28 Ursula Dyer
05-30 Kathy Fair
05-30 Nelda Ferguson

JUNE birthdays
06-01 Ronda Howe
06-04 Lynda Brooks
06-05 Joseph Kirchhoff
06-05 Preston Lewis
06-06 Dennis Cliborn
06-06 Schlundt Hall
06-07 John Dodd
06-07 Kathy Stone
06-08 Kristie Seward
06-09 Jennifer Hudnall
06-10 Ethan Herring
06-10 Kristi Kleing
06-11 Julie Blundell
06-12 Jane Johnson
06-14 Jonathan Belew
06-14 Leah Gorman
06-14 Jeff Stanglin
06-15 Carolyn Fox-Heanne
06-16 Bradley Keiser
06-17 Denni McDonald
06-19 Joyce Sperlich
06-19 Charleen Worsham
06-22 Rory Kimble
06-22 Larry Kitchin
06-22 Julia Schneider
06-26 Alex Knox
06-29 Vicki Sexton

JULY birthdays
07-05 Dayna Davidson
07-06 Michael Brown
07-06 Russell Turner
07-07 Jeanette Miller
07-10 Taylor Fleet
07-10 Tony Perry
07-10 Angela Stirling
07-13 Deborah Metcalf
07-14 Tina Luther
07-17 Yvonnes Bethune
07-17 DWayne Shaw
07-17 Susan Yellott
07-18 Kay Hawthorne
07-18 Rob Williams
07-19 Rhonda Ainsworth-Ellington
07-20 Mariann Baker
07-20 Katherine Manrrquez
07-20 Micah Ruddell
07-22 Trey Hattaway
07-24 William Massey
07-25 Kristi Powers
07-25 Wade Skinner
07-26 Tony Addie
07-27 Carol Bunch
07-27 Fred Peters
07-28 Ronnie Gothard
07-30 John Colville
07-30 Ronda Lee
07-31 Chris Carroll

DATA: Did you know?

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Data provided by the KC Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness.

NOTE: The next KC Employee Newsletter will be published Aug. 1. Enjoy your summer!