President’s Perspective
by Dr. Brenda Kays

Your Radical Hospitality
Makes a DIFFERENCE!

In lieu of my monthly newsletter article, I’d rather share comments by our students that reinforce the fact that several of our faculty and staff members are going above-and-beyond in Radical Hospitality. Comments on this page were collected anonymously from the “Spring 2019 Student Satisfaction & Graduating Surveys.” Kudos to those who exemplify Radical Hospitality on a daily basis. It truly makes a difference in the lives, the success and the caring nature we strive for when working with our best asset - our students.

“The Business Computer Office Management program at the Longview campus is excellent. Mrs. Traci Thompson and Mrs. Sheri Burlingame are amazing teachers and truly care about each student. I couldn’t have asked for a better experience.”

“John Raulston is the most genuine faculty member I’ve come to know in my two years at KC. As an English major, I was not looking forward to taking government classes. However, Mr. Raulston’s class was always interesting and fair. I was surprised to excel in a government course, and I was excited to take another one of his classes the following semester. I recommend Mr. Raulston to any student who needs to take government or elective credits.”

“I’m not sure what you’re paying Gus LaFosse but it’s not enough!!!!!! This is my second semester having Mr. LaFosse and his dedication to his students is absolutely second to none! His online course is just as convenient as his in class course. He is very organized and always responds quickly. One thing I admire is that no matter what you have done incorrectly, Mr. LaFosse always gives you positive reinforcement and a solution to your problem.”

“I have Professor Brandon Walker for online Math 1314, and I’ve had a great time during this course. I truly enjoy his contagious passion for learning. It is because of that easy-to-see passion that enables students like me to be able to WANT to do well and to strive for knowledge. Because of Professor Walker, I am able to enjoy a subject hardly anyone ever enjoys.”

“For most core classes I have had an exceptional experience at KC. Teachers are caring, often going above and beyond for their students. Classes I’ve been happy with are: Calculus I, Christopher Brandt; Calculus II, Brandon Walker; Physics, Joseph Kirchhoff; English Composition II, Lynda Brooks; Speech, Michele Daniels; Art History/ Drawing, Carolyn Fox-Hearne; U.S. History I & II Online, Donnie Seals; Federal Govt., Katie Owens; Texas Government Online, Jeff Stanglin; Psychology, Martha Deen; Programming I, Carol Bunch.”

“My statistics class has been overall the best class. Sarah Booker makes things fun and is always encouraging it really pushes me to keep coming to class. Along with my history class Mr. Rick Moser is fun to learn with he makes things very clear and is always open for discussion. These two teachers are excellent and great examples.”

“Coordinator for Student Life is definitely an asset to your institution. Mrs. Ashley Mason is a super-devoted employee and is super dedicated to every student that walks through the door. They don’t come any better than Mrs. Mason!!!!”

“Mrs. Gin Germany (math teacher) is one of the biggest reasons I will attend a University. She made me believe in myself and helped me a lot throughout my struggles with math. Math has always been my weakness.”

“Graduating would not have been possible without such great professors such as Richard Dugger. With the help of Professor Dugger, I was able to continue my education without missing a beat when I had my daughter mid-semester. His teaching style is simple and easily understandable. We all love Mr. Dugger!”

“While at Kilgore College, I learned how to manage my time more wisely and I also learned how to speak up for myself in what I believed in. I loved my time at KC as it opened doors and opportunities for me in my future. The faculty and staff has made me feel welcome enough to talk to them if I needed help with anything. Personally, I would like to recognize Alex Knox and Ashley Mason for helping me and guiding me into the right path during my time at KC. They have truly impacted my life and made my time at KC unforgettable.”

NOTE: The comments on this page are verbatim quotes entered into the “Spring 2019 Student Satisfaction & Graduating Surveys” by current Kilgore College students.
News & Events:

Gaming tournament awards $4,000 in student scholarships

Kilgore College student Ty Engledowl, of Tatum, took home first prize and a $1,500 KC Scholarship at the college's "Clash for College" gaming tournament April 27.

The gaming tournament, hosted by the KC Gamers Guild, awarded $4,000 in KC scholarships as prizes for the top five winners of the tournament.

Open to KC students and high school juniors and seniors, it featured Overwatch for Xbox in a one-versus-one double-elimination format.

Brandon Fugler, a senior at Kilgore High School, earned second place and a $1,000 KC scholarship.

Receiving $500 KC scholarships were Emmanuel Gonzalez, third place (senior at KHS); John Galindo-Ingle (junior at White Oak High School); and Nolan Martin, KC student (from Kilgore).

Winners of the tournament are also eligible to join KC's new collegiate eSports team school next year.

"College eSports competitions are growing nationwide," said Dr. Ginger Dennis, Program Director for Computer and Information Technology (CIT).

"We are hoping to attract students who are serious about competitive gaming and who will help us form a winning, competitive eSports team."

Mark Stephens (CIT instructor) and Heather Fitch (English instructor) are sponsors of the Game Club at KC.

KC Board of Trustees election set for May 4

An election is set for May 4 for one seat for the Kilgore College Board of Trustees.

In the South Zone, incumbent Janice Bagley will run against Charles Robinson for Voting Unit 1, Place 7.

Voting Unit No. 1 consists of voters who live in the Overton, Leverett's Chapel and West Rusk County Consolidated independent school districts.

Incumbent Joe Carrington is unopposed in Place 8 (which represents the White Oak, Glidewater and Sabine independent school districts) and David Castles is running unopposed in Place 9, the Central Zone (Kilgore Independent School District).

The election will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at Kilgore City Hall, 819 North Kilgore St.

FACULTY & STAFF reports

Kristi Kleining (instructor, Physical Therapist Assistant) is pleased to announce that the first-ever Duck Race April 13 at Kilgore's city park raised $1,255 for the AMBUCS' AmTryke program. The event was run by KC's PTA Club. Members of the club will also help assemble and deliver the AmTrykes to children.

Congratulations to Bennie Brown (instructor, English) on her 50th anniversary of teaching at KC. A reception in honor of Brown will be held April 27 at First Presbyterian Church in Longview. Although Brown has requested no gifts, she encourages employees to make a tax-deductible donation to the "Bennie J. Brown Scholarship Fund" by contacting the KC Foundation at 903-983-8182.

Ashley Mason (coordinator of campus life) has been selected as the 2019 recipient of the national Sybil Bentley Dove Award from the Women's Missionary Union Foundation of the Southern Baptist Convention. This is a national recognition for Mason's successful participation in and completion of the Christian Women's Job Corps of Rusk County and accomplishments achieved since. She will be recognized in an awards ceremony May 2 at First Baptist Church of Henderson.

O. Rufus Lovett (instructor, photography) recently was the guest speaker and Photography juror at the Thin Line Film, Music and Photography Festival, an international fest held in Denton.

Kathy Stone (support specialist, ADN program) thanks all employees who donated the many plastic totes, personal hygiene supplies, school supplies, Gatorade, water and gift cards to the families who were affected by the storms last month in Alto. A BIG thank you to everyone who contributed!

Good News:

Austin Ferguson, son of Michael Ferguson (Criminal Justice instructor and Public Services department chair) was featured on the Rochester, Minn., news. Austin is the carillonneur of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. After the fires at Notre Dame Cathedral, Austin performed music April 16 in tribute to the tragedy at Notre Dame, including the French national anthem and two songs from Disney's "Hunchback of Notre Dame." Watch Video

Christopher Kennedy, son of Melissa Clayton (ETOM assistant), is a former student of KC who has survived two bone marrow transplants and a brain surgery from March to May of 2018 in Kansas city, Kan. They will celebrate Chris' one-year anniversary of God's miracle May 22. In 2015, KC classmates sponsored Chris with "You're Never Alone" T-shirts and also sponsored a bone marrow drive by "Be The Match" in the Devall Student Center in 2017.

Picnic moved to Carpeted Gym

Due to the forecast for inclement weather, the KC Employee Picnic has been moved to the Carpeted Gym in the Parks Fitness Center May 3. The picnic will begin at noon and last until about 3 p.m. Lunch will be served and Charlie's Sno-Balls will be serving cold treats. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the KC Student Food Pantry.
Dance concert set for May 3

Dance students will display their broad range of dance skills at the annual spring dance concert set for 7 p.m. Friday, May 3, in Van Cliburn Auditorium. The concert, “Continuum,” will offer a variety of dance styles and techniques taught by the KC Dance Department.

“It will give dance students the opportunity to display their talent and show what they have accomplished in the ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and modern dance classes taught at KC,” said Angela Aulds, KC dance instructor.

The choreography is a collaboration of the students and instructors: Aulds for ballet and modern dance and Shelley Wayne for tap and jazz. Additional choreographers this year are Maribel Sauceda and Claire Hodges. Tickets are $10, $5 for students with KC identification. Tickets can be purchased using cash or check beginning at 6:15 p.m. the night of the performance at the auditorium’s box office. The auditorium will open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 903-983-8633.

New campus phone system installation coming soon

KC has a new phone system on the way. The target date for the completion of installation is the end of May. The entire Cisco phone system is being retired. Cynergy personnel have been busy installing and configuring server and connection equipment for the new Mitel telephone system. The new phones will have 10 times the throughput of most of the existing Cisco phones, eliminating some of our network bottlenecks. Network Communications/Conterra, KC’s phone provider, is currently configuring trunk connections. Once they are connected to the new equipment and testing is completed, IT will be ready to start passing out phones. Cynergy personnel will offer training on how to use the features of the new phone system.

PEACE, HOPE, AND... PIRATES!

Choirs of KC will present concert May 2

The choirs of KC will present their spring concert, “Peace, Hope and... Pirates!” at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2, at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Kilgore.

The KC Chorale, Camerata Singers and KC Connection will present a program of sacred and secular pieces around the theme of hope and peace. Included in the program are excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Pirates of Penzance.”

Soloists in the concert will include Fred Bassett and Troy Ezell of Kilgore, Alexis Chandler and Hannah Palmer of Longview, Richard Goodwin and Travis Phillips of Hallsville, and Nicholas Sullivan of Gilmer.

KC Connection will reprise its custom arrangement of “Suddenly I See” which the group recently performed at Rangerette Revels.

Members of KC Connection are Chandler, Ezell, Julia Fulgham and Georgia Shelton of Kilgore, and Emma Rolland of White Oak.

For more information, contact Dr. Zach Marshall at 903-983-8122 or zmarshall@kilgore.edu.

KC mourns losses of two former employees

Dr. Richard Harrison
Retired KC professor and administrator, Dr. Richard Winn “Doc” Harrison, passed away peacefully at his home on April 26, after a brief valiant fight with cancer. Dr. Harrison taught English and speech at KC for 39 years, served as the Communications and Speech Department Chair and finally as the Liberal and Fine Arts Dean before his 2014 retirement.

A memorial service for Dr. Harrison is set for 10 a.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Cross Roads United Methodist Church. Visitation will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 10, at Kilgore’s Rader Funeral Home. View full obituary.

Dr. Hong-Kyu “H.K.” Park
Dr. Hong-Kyu “H.K.” Park, 81, a retired college professor and a longtime Tyler resident, passed away on April 9. A native of South Korea, he came to the United States in 1957 to attend college. Park taught U.S. history and government for 50 years at Wiley College, Jarvis Christian College, TJC and KC. He retired in 2015 after teaching 22 years at KC. Services for Park were held April 13 at Highland Presbyterian Church in Tyler. View full obituary.

DATA: Did you know?

Spring 2019: 27% of students are taking at least one online class.

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

Dr. Richard Harrison

Dr. Hong-Kyu “H.K.” Park
Torrence kicks off Cruise for Success

PHOTO ABOVE: Steve Torrence, KC graduate and NHRA drag racer, speaks April 2 at the Cruise for Success press conference on the Kilgore campus. Photo by Jamie Maldonado/KC

After KC announced its plan to roll out eight-week classes in the fall, the college added even more of an incentive for students to attain a higher education and garner success with a chance to win a brand new car. KC graduate and NHRA top fuel dragster Steve Torrence was on campus April 2 to help announce “Cruise for Success,” a program that will allow qualifying KC students to earn points throughout the school year with a chance to win a brand new Chevy Cruze, sponsored by Patterson Chevrolet Kilgore.

“None of this would have been possible without our partnership with Patterson Chevrolet in Kilgore – a true community partner dedicated to the success of our students,” Kays said. Details about the contest, eligibility requirements and instructions on how students can earn points are located at www.kilgore.edu/cruiseforsuccess.

Did you know?

The KC Foundation is governed by a 25-member volunteer board consisting of community leaders, business people and friends of the college. KC Institutional Advancement provides the staff resources for the day-to-day operations of the KC Foundation and works closely with the board.

Information provided by the KC Office of Institutional Advancement

MAY birthdays

5-2 Michael Ward
5-4 Olivia Moore
5-4 Dorothy Puckett
5-10 Amy Collins
5-11 Charlotte Poe
5-14 Tracy Kaan
5-15 Sandra Carroll
5-17 Tina Rushing
5-17 Ingo Stoehr
5-18 Leslie Messina
5-20 Karen Dilday
5-20 David Whitfield
5-22 Mary Martin
5-23 Dana Blair
5-24 Doris Johnson
5-24 Delinda Spencer
5-28 Ursula Dyer
5-29 Travis Moore
5-30 Kathy Fair

JUNE birthdays

6-1 Ronda Howe
6-4 Lynda Brooks
6-4 Danny Darden
6-5 Joseph Kirchhoff
6-5 Joseph Lewis
6-6 Dennis Cilborn
6-6 Schulte Hall
6-7 John Dodd
6-7 Kathy Stone
6-9 Jennifer Hudnall
6-10 Ethan Herring
6-10 Kristi Kleining
6-11 Julie Blundell
6-12 Kristina Hamilton
6-12 Connie Johnson
6-15 Jeff Stangelin
6-15 Carolyn Fox-Hearne
6-16 Pamela Johnson
6-16 Brad Keiser
6-16 Tanton Johnson
6-17 Dann McDonald
6-19 Quinn Ponder
6-22 Kory Kimble
6-22 Larry Kitchen
6-22 Julia Schneider
6-26 Alex Knox
6-27 Tristan Caudle

JULY birthdays

7-01 Shaunda Kwiatek
7-04 Elizabeth Lemmon
7-05 Dayna Davidson
7-05 Julie Dickson
7-07 Jeanette Miller
7-10 Taylor Fleet
7-10 Toni Perry
7-10 Angela Starling
7-13 Deborah Metcalf
7-14 Christina Luther
7-15 Shannon Charvis
7-17 Yvonne Bethune
7-17 Ernest Shaw
7-17 Susan Yellott
7-18 Kevin Hawthorne
7-19 Rhonda Ainsworth-Ellington
7-19 Janis Carrington
7-20 Micah Ruddell
7-22 Lesley Pacini
7-22 Mike Simmons
7-24 Jana Campbell
7-24 Will Massey
7-25 Kristi Powers
7-25 Jerome Skinner
7-26 Tony Addie
7-27 Fred Peters
7-30 John Colville
7-30 Ronda Lee
7-30 Christian Patterson

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