All employees will be GO-To mentors for first-ever Go Week

With the goal of helping students who are facing developmental obstacles, all KC employees will serve as “GO-To” people for about 600 students who will participate in the college’s first-ever Go Week this month.

Employees will receive training during the General Faculty Meeting Aug. 16. Offered at both the Kilgore and Longview campuses, Go Week is required for all students who are first-time-in-college and are not Texas Success Initiative (TSI) complete.

“We are very excited about our new GO-To person program we’re implementing this fall,” said Kacey Nisbett, student success learning specialist. “We have tried to design the program to make it easy and understandable for everyone.”

Each employee will have two mentees assigned to them for the fall semester and will be asked to make contact with the students five times during the semester. Employees will meet their student mentees during the first session of Go Week.

“The purpose of this program is to provide each mentee with a person that can help with this important time of transition,” Nisbett said.

“By providing these students with a GO-To person, we hope to increase student persistence and ultimately, student success.”

-Kacey Nisbett
Student Support Specialist

What is Go Week?
Go Week is a new program at KC aimed at helping first-time college students become successful in the college environment. Its goal is a three-day series of classes offered at both the Kilgore and Longview campuses just before school starts in the fall of 2013. Classes will also be offered in money management, time management, life issues and library resources.

Who is required to attend Go Week?
It is required for first-time-in-college students who are not Texas Success Initiative (TSI) complete. TSI gauges whether a student will need developmental courses in reading, English or math.

What is the goal of Go Week?
The goal is to help first-time college students who are not TSI complete to improve their reading, English and/or math skills. The goal is that Go Week participants will be able to either place out of developmental classes by the end of the week or at least improve their skills in the developmental classes that are required for them.

When is Go Week?
Go Week 2013 is set for Aug. 20-22 at KC—Longview and Aug. 21-23 on the Kilgore campus.

More info and Go Week schedules:
www.kilgore.edu/goweek.asp

Employees, students encouraged to sign up for Rave text message emergency alerts

If you’re an employee and you haven’t signed up for the Rave Alert System, please do so. The new system is designed to send out automated text messages to mobile phones and e-mail messages in case of an emergency. Also, please encourage students to sign up for the service as well.

Employees can register their cell phones for emergency messages by logging into the MyKC campus portal, clicking on the “My Campus” button, then clicking on the “Rave Alert” button and following the instructions listed. Should you have any questions about the Rave Alert System, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Jenkins at 903-983-8188.

KC Board of Trustees swears in three board members

Three Kilgore College Board of Trustees members were sworn in May 15 after votes were canvassed from the May 11 election.

New to the board is Rev. Brian Nutt, pastor of Grace Fellowship of Kilgore. Rev. Nutt received 53.63 percent of the vote, defeating former KC Board member Marion Turner.

He will fill the Central Zone seat, representing Kilgore Independent School District, vacated by longtime board member R.E. “Sonny” Spradlin.

Two other board members were also sworn in May 15—Bob Heath and Joe Carrington, both of whom were unopposed.

Heath represents the South Zone which consists of the Overton and Leverett’s Chapel Independent School Districts and the West Rusk County

Carrington represents the North Zone, which consists of the Gladewater, White Oak and Sabine Independent School Districts.

KC Board members serve six year terms, with staggered elections. One member is elected from each of the three voting zones every two years.

New officers of the board are Charles Hale of Kilgore, president (Central Zone); James Walker of Gladewater, vice president (North Zone); and Will Roberson of West Rusk, secretary (South Zone).

Additional members are Scott Andrews of West Rusk (South Zone); C.B. “Scooter” Griffin of Kilgore (Central Zone); and Larry Woodfin of Gladewater (North Zone).

Photos by O. Rufus Lovett
Here We Go Again!

Even though there is another month left of summer, for all practical purposes we are in a new semester! The Board of Trustees will hold a budget workshop next week and then approve the new budget and salaries on August 12. We are scrambling to finish a few summer projects before the students arrive and only two orientation sessions remain.

There is always a sense of excitement and anticipation with the start of the new semester. As we begin, I want us to focus on the components of our Strategic Plan – Student Success, Campus Culture and Resource Development. With the advent of “Go Week,” the innovations in math pathways, the combination of various developmental subject areas and some modular courses, I believe we will see some significant results.

Expect the change in culture and environment to begin in a rather dramatically symbolic way early in this new year – the removal of the Liberal Arts Building! Really!! Expect a refresh of our facilities master plan and significant efforts to improve both our physical environment and our cultural environment and messaging.

And finally, I am going to dedicate myself to actively increasing our resource development by bringing in alternate sources of revenue which help fund the first two elements in our Strategic Plan. We can do greater things and need to generate the resources to fuel this activity.

I ask you to do your part. Eagerly embrace the opportunity to mentor some students this year, participate in “Go Week,” dedicate yourself to improving student success. Help keep your work area looking fresh and professional; take a look with “new eyes” at your surroundings and the impression they create. Also, take a look at the messages, the body language, the sense of caring and professionalism we convey, either intentionally or unintentionally.

And finally, I encourage you to participate this year in the Annual Campaign for Excellence and contribute whatever amount you can afford as a visible symbol of your full, active and conscious participation in our efforts to fund a brighter future for Kilgore College. I look forward to seeing you in a very few short weeks on August 16th so we can celebrate together the beginning of our 79th year of service to our community.

Blessings on you and enjoy the last few days of summer!

Welcome new employees!

Kristen Breaux - assistant women's softball coach
Martin Cobb - bookstore manager
Adrienne Jackson - switchboard/communications specialist, KC–Longview
Courtney Jenkins - head athletic trainer & instructor
Tanner Antonick - college recruiter
Ramon Coven - police officer

NOTE: Employees who are approved for employment at the August board meeting will be listed in the September newsletter.

FACULTY & STAFF reports

Congratulations to fire instructor Eddie Bernaldez who was recently named as one of the top fire instructors in the nation by the website FireScience.org. Bernaldez began working at KC in 1996 and has served as the Emergency Medical Technology program director and instructor at KC—Longview since 2000. Firescience.org recently set out to find educators in fire science, fire responder care, and forestry who had been recognized for excellence in the classroom, on campus and in the community. Bernaldez was selected partly because he has hundreds of successful former students who are now employed as EMTs and firefighters—mostly with Champion EMS and the Longview Fire Department—a testament to his dedication to comprehensive first responder training.

Good News!

Congratulations to Angela Hearne-Oliver, daughter of Carolyn Fox-Hearne (art instructor) and husband Nick. Angela received her Masters of Art in Educational Technology from San Diego State University in May.

Congratulations to Jamaria Thomas, granddaughter of Toni Perry (mail technician). Jamaria, a sixth-grader at Maude Laird Middle School, received a certificate for Academic Excellence during the school's Academic Awards Ceremony May 22. She was also awarded the highest average in Ms. Fries’ sixth period math class and highest average in seventh period English.

Congratulations to Brandon Conner, son of Virgel Conner (SBDC) and wife Gail. Brandon married Christina Tran June 22 at Ashelynn Manor in Magnolia.

Also, Brittany Conner, daughter of Virgel and Gail Conner, traveled to Mombasa, Kenya, with the Imani Missions group May 28 through June 11. She raised $4200 in donations to take the mission trip. The group worked with kids spreading the Gospel to as many people as possible.

Chloe Nisbett, daughter of Kasey Nisbett (student success learning specialist), graduated from Kilgore High School ranked fifth in her class. She will attend KC in the fall.

News & Reminders

Aramark dining services offering 10 meals for $50

To provide healthy options and convenience for KC employees, Aramark dining services is selling five meals in the Ranger Café for $25 or 10 meals for $50. Purchasers will receive a punch card or the meals can be stored at an employee’s ID card if it is the new version. To purchase meals, visit the cafeteria during operational hours or call Patrick Alexander at 903-988-3753.

Let Career Services know about open on-campus jobs

If you are offering an on-campus job for students or know of one, please let Career Services know. Career Services can possibly send students your way who are looking for on-campus jobs. To contact them, call Candace Heezen at 903-983-8678 or e-mail: cheezen@kilgore.edu.

Red Alert system helps ID students having problems

Please remember to use the Red Alert System to help identify students that are having problems so that the Student Success department can contact them. By addressing issues early, hopefully the student will realize the importance of dealing with them. Also, please remind students to check their KC e-mail regularly in order to receive all college communications. Remind students also that The Zone is available with free tutoring.

Red Alert access information:

- Visit www.kilgore.edu and go to My KC Web Portal
- Choose FAS then sign in at Campus Connect
- Under Available Options, choose Faculty Menu

MORE NEWS & REMINDERS ON NEXT PAGE
AUGUST

1. Ranger Ambassador Training, Woodfin Center, 1 p.m.
   Student Development Divisional Meeting, BSM, 11:30 a.m.
8. LVN Pinning Ceremony, Ballroom, 10 a.m.
   Summer Graduation, Dodson Auditorium, 7 p.m.
9. New Student Orientation, Ballroom, 8 a.m.
12-17. Music Machine summer camp
13. New Student Orientation, Ballroom, 8 a.m.
14. Fall registration payment deadline
15. New employee orientation, Ballroom
   Drop unpaid classes (no registration, schedule changes or payment accepted)
16. General faculty meeting, Ballroom, 7:45 a.m.
19. Fall Late Registration (all students, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
19-23. Rangerette training & work week
20. Fall Late Registration (current & returning students only) 9 a.m. to noon
20-23. Go-Week activities
21. Drop unpaid classes (no registration, schedule changes or payment accepted)
23. Residential halls open, 9 a.m.
   Cafeteria opens, noon
   Rangerette Show-Offs, Dodson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
24. Rangerette parent meeting, Rangerette Gym, 10:30 a.m.
26. Nursing orientation, Ballroom, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
26-Oct. 18. QUEST I courses begin (eight weeks)
27. Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
28. Money Tree Game Show (residential life), Ballroom, 7 p.m.
30. GSMC health screening & blood draw, Fitness Center, 7-9:30 a.m.
31. Football vs. Dodge City Community College, in Dodge City, Kan., 1 p.m.

New children’s chorus for 5th-8th graders begins Aug. 29

If you know of a student in 5th-8th grade who likes to sing, KC is beginning a new initiative in the arts this fall with the creation of a community children’s chorus. The chorus will give students an opportunity to express themselves musically in a fun, enthusiastic setting.

The KC Children’s Chorus is open to boys and girls in the fifth through eighth grade (boys’ voices unchanged).

Auditions for the choir will be held in the choir room in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Center by appointment only. Boys and girls trying out must be able to “carry a tune” but do not need to be able to read music or have any musical experience.

Rehearsals for the chorus will be Thursdays from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. each week, beginning Aug. 29, at Longview’s Trinity Episcopal Church at 906 Padon St.

Cost to participate in the chorus is $125 per semester.

“The mission of the chorus is to enable children of East Texas to fall in love with music through enthusiastic and artistically expressive performances of choral music.” Taylor said.

A limited number of partial tuition scholarships are available thanks to the generosity of area businesses and individuals for families that demonstrate financial needs.

The choir will be directed by Dr. Jim Taylor, KC choir director.

For more information, or to schedule an audition, contact Taylor at 903-983-8122 or e-mail: jtaylor@kilgore.edu.

birthdays

AUGUST

8/1 - Leslie Gourarzi
8/1 - Randy Humble
8/2 - Mary Smyser
8/2 - Lori Truman
8/4 - Althea Richardson
8/4 - Summorrow Robertson
8/5 - Nancy Law
8/5 - Adrienne Jackson
8/7 - Julie Fowler
8/10 - Judy DeRouen
8/10 - Cody Edwards
8/10 - Jerri Saenz
8/10 - Josh Bernethy
8/11 - Martha Woodruff
8/14 - Lemetra Barnes
8/15 - Tanner Antonick
8/16 - Bindy Tice
8/16 - Mike Jenkins
8/17 - Nancy King
8/18 - Amy Smith
8/19 - Barbara Prater
8/20 - Melissa Knight
8/25 - Jeanne Johnson
8/25 - Jon Vashey
8/27 - Tashauna Morris
8/29 - Paul Wills
8/30 - David Wills
8/31 - Raymond Caldwell
8/31 - Debbie Williams
8/31 - Gus Lafosse