College mourns loss of Van Cliburn

Cliburn: One of the Most Famous Classical Musicians of the 20th Century

Kilgore College is saddened to hear the news of the passing of Van Cliburn, who grew up in Kilgore and became one of the most famous classical musicians of the 20th century.

Cliburn, a resident of Fort Worth since 1986, died this morning at the age of 78.

According to Dr. Bill Holda, KC president, Cliburn is among the most distinguished alumni of Kilgore College. Cliburn attended summer classes at KC in 1951 and 1952.

“He was a once-in-a-lifetime musician who in many ways was bigger than life,” Holda said. “Whether on the musical stage or the international political stage, he was a signature individual.”

Harvey Lavan “Van” Cliburn Jr. was not only a talented musician, but was also a great benefactor to the college. Giving music scholarships or making donations, he was always interested in promoting music education not only at KC, but around the world.

Born in Shreveport, La., in 1934 to Harvey Lavan Cliburn and Rildia Bee O’Bryan Cliburn, his family moved to Kilgore when he was six years old.

When he was 12 years old he won his first piano competition. In 1948, he performed at New York City’s prestigious Carnegie Hall as the winner of the National Music Festival.

At age 17 he began studying at Julliard, and in 1958 at the age of 22 he broke into the international music scene as the winner of the first Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow.

After winning the competition, he was featured in media publications nationwide including the cover of Time Magazine with the title “The Texan Who Conquered Russia.”

Cliburn’s performance of Tchaikovsky’s First Piano Concerto sold more than three million copies and was the first classical recording to reach platinum recording status.

“He was so humble about it all,” said Annette Morgan, KC’s director of financial aid and close friend of Cliburn. “Mrs. Cliburn was so proud of her son and was so instrumental in his success,” Morgan said. “When Van was very young, his mother, who was an outstanding musician herself and a piano instructor, heard what she assumed was one of her students playing in the other room.”

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KC Service Learning Program on President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Patty Bell, Director of Career Services and Service Learning, is pleased to announce that KC has been named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The honor roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities.

KC’s selection to the honor roll is recognition from the highest levels of the federal government of the college’s commitment to service and civic engagement not only on the KC campus, but nationwide.

The 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll was officially announced March 4 at the American Council on Education annual conference in Washington, D.C.
Thoughts for Spring Break

The “real deal” is that once you head to spring break, the last thing on your mind is Kilgore College! Nonetheless, there are many things happening and which are worth sharing.

These are not in any particular order – just the random thoughts of a college president at midnight, once again in Austin, waiting to testify on behalf of our health benefits, retirement and funding.

- The men’s basketball team is the Region XIV conference champion and under the new rules, earns an automatic berth to the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan., from March 18-22. Congratulations to the team, head coach Brian Hoberecht and his assistants. (Mike Jenkins and Jim Rieves now need to locate travel money!)

- The board elections are under way: the north zone and south zone are uncontested. Congratulations to Joe Carrington and Bob Heath for earning new six-year terms! The central zone will be contested between Brian Nutt and Marion Turner. Good luck to both candidates for the May 11 election.

- The KC Welding program has received a validation from Eastman Chemical, which assures our graduates of better chances for employment and a higher starting wage.

- Kilgore College has been named to the President’s Honor Roll for service learning. Congratulations to Patty Bell and all those involved in service learning!

- The 2013 Rangerette Revels will be dedicated to Deana Bolton Covin on the occasion of her 90th birthday and her 20th year since retirement.

- The fine arts groups continue with their performances, excellent training and a full schedule of student activity.

- The publications group has once again “cleaned up” by winning most of the statewide competitions in every category! Congratulations!

- The Texas Shakespeare Festival has announced its 2013 season and the TSF Foundation has already begun an aggressive fundraising effort.

- We continue to examine the possibility of occupying the vacated space in Laird Memorial Hospital for future growth and expansion in our allied health programs.

- Ranger Softball is off and running; thanks to many of you for your support and attendance at the games!

- We continue to stay focused on student success and are seeing great progress in some specific areas. Progress is being made toward “Go Week” which should significantly assist our students.

- So much more that is good occurs every day at Kilgore College. These good things are attributable to you – our dedicated faculty and staff, and to you our board, for supporting these initiatives.

Have a great Spring Break! I hope you find respite, relaxation, and reenergizing to propel you to the end of the semester!

President Dr. Bill Holda

FACULTY & STAFF reports

Congratulations to Dr. Gerald Stanglin, VP of Instruction, who will be awarded the Distinguished College Administrator Award at the Phi Theta Kappa’s 95th Annual Convention. Stanglin and Michele Daniels, speech instructor and PTK sponsor, will attend the convention April 4-6 at the McEnery Convention Center in San Jose, Calif. Guest speaker for the conference is former NBA star Dr. Shaquille O’Neal. O’Neal received a doctorate in Human Resource Development from Barry University in 2012. The award will be presented before an audience of nearly 3,600 students, chapter advisors and college presidents on April 5. Only 25 college administrators nominated by their PTK chapter are selected for this international distinction based on outstanding support provided to PTK over the years.

Good News!

Congratulations to Chris Carroll, Systems Administrator. He ran in the Freeze Your Fanny 10K race in Longview Feb. 2, finishing seventh with a time of 47:58. The race is an annual fund-raiser for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

News & Reminders

Piper Professor nominee deadline is March 29

The college has another opportunity to nominate a faculty member for the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award. The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation will honor 15 professors in the state of Texas during the 2013-14 academic year for their dedication to the teaching profession and for their outstanding academic, scientific and scholarly achievement. If you are a full-time faculty member, you can nominate an instructor by submitting their name and a paragraph stating your reasons for naming him or her (preferably by e-mail) to Dr. Gerald Stanglin by March 29. The person nominated needs to have completed five years at KC by this May.

Health Occupations Job Fair for students is March 5

Career Services will host a Health Occupations Job Fair March 5 in the Devall Student Center Ballroom from 1-3 p.m. The fair is open to all KC students who are interested in job openings in the medical field. For questions, contact Career Services at 903-983-8678 or careerservices@kilgore.edu.

Donate to the Fire/Police Academy food drive

The fire and police academies are sponsoring a food drive to supply the Hi-Way 80 Rescue Mission in Longview. Donations can be left at either academy in the Bert E. Woodruff Adult Education Building.

TSF looking for donations for garage sale March 8-9

Do you want to get a jump on your Spring Cleaning? The Texas Shakespeare Festival Foundation is sponsoring a garage sale fund-raiser for the Texas Shakespeare Festival. Shakespeare’s Attic Garage sale is set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 8-9 at the Festival Center (815 Houston Street). TSF personnel will be happy to assist you in cleaning out your home of unwanted items such as furniture, toys, books, dishes, cookware, tools, small appliances, home accessories and children’s clothes. Please consider donating to help raise funds for the upcoming season.

Drop-off locations:

- TSF Festival Center - 815 Houston Street in Kilgore (call 903-983-8119 to schedule a drop-off)
- 1104 Yates Drive in Longview (call Mary Bob Smith at 903-758-8513 to schedule a drop off)
- 1115 Yates Drive in Longview (e-mail Lynn Wells, lwells310@yahoo.com to schedule a drop off)

Physical Therapy will raffle off 42” television

The Physical Therapy Club is hosting its annual raffle—this year, raffling off a RCA 42” HD plasma television. The TV was donated to the club by AMBUCS of East Texas. To purchase a ticket, e-mail Carla Gleaton at cgleaton@kilgore.edu and a student will contact you to deliver tickets. Drawing will be held March 23. Must be 18 years old to participate.
MARCH

Calendar

5, Health Occupations Job Fair, Ballroom, 1-3 p.m.
   Ranger Band Concert, Dodson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
7, Texas Wesleyan University Recruiter, DSC, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
8, Kilgore Community Concert, Dodson, Ricky Nelson Remembered, 7 p.m.
10, Pool Party, Parks Fitness Center, 3-5 p.m.
11-15, Spring Break - Campus Closed
18-May 10, QUEST II Courses
20, KCEOPA Meeting, Ballroom, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
   KC Chorale sings in the Mall Area, 1 p.m.
21, Chemistry Department Blood Drive, Ballroom, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
   Tarleton State University Recruiter, DSC, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
23, Ranger Cheerleader Tryout Clinic, Parks Fitness Center, 9-11 a.m.
24, Ranger Cheerleader Clinic, Parks Fitness Center, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
   KC Twirler Clinic, Masters/Carpeted/Rangerette Gym, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
26, Spring Student Job Fair, Ballroom, 9-11 a.m.
   Sigma Kappa Delta Induction, Ballroom, 6-8 p.m.
   KC Chamber Ensemble Concert, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
28, Foundation Board Meeting, Ballroom, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
29, Good Friday Holiday (campus closed)

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But she was surprised to see that it was her three-year old son playing beautiful music on the piano.

At that point, Morgan said Cliburn's mother told him that if he wanted to pursue playing the piano that he must learn the proper way to play.

“She was such an encouragement to him,” Morgan said. “She was so proud of the generous man that he became, and also how humble he was despite his success.”

Holda said Kilgore College will always cherish the long and warm relationship the college has enjoyed with Cliburn through the years.

“He’s legacy and his music will continue to endure for many years henceforth,” Holda said. “We extend our love and sympathy to the many individuals who have not only been affected by his life, but also with his death.”

(Right) Students at the Early Childhood Education Center celebrated Chinese New Year Feb. 8. Special decorations and treats were provided by the family of Emily Yuan, a 3 year old in Mrs. Muklewicz’s Preschooler Class. Her mother, Wenjuan Yao, shared information about China and the New Year’s celebration with the children in Emily’s class. Emily’s grandfather, Mr. Yao, also attended the celebration.

The children were able to eat dumplings and try chopsticks. Emily’s father, Wei Yuan, made several paper-cutting decorations. To commemorate the year of the Snake and conclude the celebration, the children helped create a giant paper snake and had a parade on the ECC playground.