Election Watch Party set for Tuesday, Nov. 6, in Ballroom

It’s election time in America and the Kilgore College Government Department will once again host an Election Watch Party on Tuesday, Nov. 6, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Devall Student Center Ballroom.

The event is free and open to KC students, faculty and staff members.

Snacks and prizes will be offered while attendees watch the results of the election.

It will last until midnight, or whenever control of both houses of Congress has been determined.

“This election portends to be of historic importance and connecting what we do in the classroom to real-world events is important to the success of our students,” said Rick Moser, history and government instructor.

“Each time we have held this event, the number of student participants has grown from around 450 in 2012 to almost 1,000 students in attendance for the 2016 election.”

There will be free pizza, snacks, cookies, tea, lemonade and cakes provided for as long as they last.”

John Raulston (government instructor) and Moser provide sign-in/sign-out sheets for the event so instructors can keep track of students who attend. Sign-in sheets will be available to students for the first 30 minutes (maybe longer depending on the turnout) and then make sign-out sheets available once control of both Houses of Congress has been determined. Please let Moser or Raulston know by Nov. 2 which classes are being offered for class credit.

Gore named Dean of Enrollment Management, Student Success

Chris Gore was selected for the position of Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, effective Jan. 1, 2019.

Within this role, Gore will provide leadership to the student services areas of the college and will work closely with Dr. Mike Jenkins (executive vice president), marketing and the instructional divisions to increase enrollment and retention with an eye on process redesign/simplification with a thorough emphasis on radical hospitality.

Gore has served as KC’s Director of Admissions and Registrar since 2014 and previously served as Director of New Student Relations. He is a native of Buffalo and has worked at KC since January of 2013.

As Director of Admissions and Registrar, he served as the college’s registrar, director of admissions and led the new student relations and international student offices.

Gore earned a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Geography from Sam Houston State University. He also graduated with an Associate of Arts in Social Sciences from Navarro College.

Gore served as School Relations Officer and Adjunct Instructor at Navarro College from 1994-96.

From 2011-12, Gore was a graduate teaching assistant at Oklahoma State University. In 1997, he began work at Midwestern State University where he worked until 2011 as Associate Director of Admissions.

Cultural Awareness Day is Nov. 13

The International Student Association at KC will host its annual Cultural Awareness Day Tuesday, Nov. 13, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom.

The event, set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will feature cultural artifact exhibits, art displays, a fashion show and food provided by the international students at KC. There will also be music and dances performed by the students. For additional information, call Tina Luther, International Student Club sponsor/ESOL Instructor, at 903-988-7578.
It only takes a spark to get a fire going...

The title attached to my column today reflects the lyrics to one of my favorite fireside cumbia anthems. These lyrics are from the song entitled Pass It On and they include this phrase….“It only takes a spark to get a fire going and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.” I would guess that a few of you are singing along with me right now and also craving a s’more or two…..

I chose to open my column this month with those lyrics due to the fact that they describe what the KCEOPA (Kilgore College Employee Office Professional Association) has decided to do in support of student success at KC. I am so impressed with the generous spirit of these individuals and I am humbled by the group’s innovation that has indeed sparked an initiative that will have a profound impact on students and student retention.

The KCEOPA has made the tough decision to disband its association. The decision to disband is not a reflection of the leadership or membership of the organization, but rather a reflection of a cyclic trend experienced by many organizations. However, and quite notably, prior to disbanding the KCEOPA Leadership (Kathy Knighton, Karen Scibona, Emily Hammett and Barbara Prater) expressed the desire to ensure that the endowed scholarship that they had worked so hard to establish would far outlive their organization and continue to help as many KC students as possible. From that desire or spark to help as many students as possible, rose the new KC Student Emergency Fund!

The KCEOPA has a long history of successful fundraising and they have accumulated as of today $20,539.07 in a scholarship endowment! The KCEOPA scholarship endowment will now be renamed the KCEOPA Student Emergency Fund. Furthermore, the proceeds that roll off every year from this endowment will be held in an account to be distributed to those students who have encountered an emergency situation that, if not remedied, could force either a stop-out or drop-out from enrollment at KC. Dr. Jenkins and the Student Development Team will be responsible for administering the emergency fund and are currently working on guidelines for disbursement. Further information and instructions for student access to the funds will be available soon.

The KCEOPA has definitely achieved its goal by putting an initiative in place to help as many students as possible. However, this is just the start….they are also challenging each of us to add “fuel” to their fire. Specifically, next April and every April thereafter, as we celebrate National Administrative Professionals Day they want to see each of us make a contribution to the endowment or directly to the emergency fund in honor of our favorite administrative professional. In fact, the KCEOPA leadership has advised me that they will be challenging each of their supervisors to give to KC students via this account in lieu of any personal gifts.

I ask that you please join me in a round of applause for these leaders and that you seriously consider accepting their challenge to build a roaring blaze in support of our students. It will be wonderful to have a safety net in place to help our many students who can easily be derailed by normal everyday situations such as a dead car battery.

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC President

FACULTY & STAFF

Aleesha O’Steen (department chair of Industrial Technologies) thanks Yokogawa for donating nine DP and pressure transmitters and two temperature transmitters to the KC Instrumentation & Electrical Technology Program. Several people helped make this possible, including Garland Underwood, Eastman Chemical; Jason Ballard, TechStar; Mohamed Jawad, Yokogawa; and Lee Hamlett, Yokogawa.

KC Resident Assistants represented KC Oct. 19-21 at the SWACUHO RA conference in Austin at the University of Texas. While on campus, they attended five sessions to develop their leadership skills. Topics included Coming Out (Proud), Emotional Support Animals and Microgressions. While in Austin, they also enjoyed a trip to the State Capitol Building. Students attending were Troy Ezell, Mia Perez, Jay’La Jackson, Jordan Scott and Zane Campbell. Chaperones were Ashley Mason (residential life coordinator), Heath Cariker (KCPD Chief) and Lesley Pacini (residential life support specialist).

Congratulations to Dr. Brenda Kays, KC President, who was honored as the Arthur F. Beyer Distinguished Alumna at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. The honor was part of the university’s annual Distinguished Alumni Awards. Dr. Kays was also recognized in 2006 as a Distinguished Alumna for MSU’s West College of Education.

Ginger Dennis (computer science instructor) was selected to serve on the state’s Computer Science Field of Study (FOS) Advisory Committee for the next three years. They met Oct. 8-9 in Austin and developed an updated list of courses for the FOS.

Karen Morris (Program Leader/instructor of Education) and Ginger Dennis (Computer Science Instructor) were selected by Dr. Mike Turpin and the deans to represent KC in the TCCTA’s Faculty Fellows program. To kick off this program, they attended the Faculty Leaders Conference in San Antonio Sept. 28–29. They will also attend the annual convention in February, and participate in web conferences with Faculty Fellows participants from other schools throughout the year.

Larry Kitchen, art instructor, is hosting an opening/unveiling at Gregg County Historical Museum on Thursday, Nov. 15. It is a 25-foot oil on board of the 1860s-1870s in East Texas. Some of Kitchen's other works include the history mural UT Health Center in Tyler, “Downtown Gladewater, 1932” at the Gladewater Banking Center Lobby in Gladewater and “Marshall Courthouse” at the Marshall Banking Center.

KC photography instructor O. Rufus Lovett’s photographic work is included in an invitational show, “The 25th Anniversary Exhibition,” at the Stephen L. Clark Photography Gallery, 1101 West Sixth Street in Austin. The exhibit will be held through Dec. 1.

Good News:

Congratulations to Dr. Mike Jenkins, Vice President of Student Development, for the birth of his first grandson, Beau Weiler Christopher, born on Oct. 28. He weighed 7 lbs, 11 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. Mike and wife, Kim, are proud first-time grandparents. Beau is the son of Chelsea and Steven Christopher of Dallas.

Welcome, New Employee!

The KC Business Office welcomes Stephanie Peters, Purchasing/Accounts Payable Support Specialist. She handles check runs, Office Depot, Walmart and gas card payables. Please send those receipts to her as well as any Office Depot packing slips you may receive. Peters is located in the Purchasing/Accounts Payable Office in the Whitten ATC Building, Suite 110. Her extension is 8112.

President’s Perspective by Dr. Brenda Kays

It only takes a spark to get a fire going...

Dr. Brenda Kays

FACULTY & STAFF

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KC hosting Veterans Day program Nov. 12
KC will host its annual Veterans Day Celebration 1-3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom. It will honor all veterans, those who sacrificed their lives and the military personnel who currently serve in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The program will feature the KC Chorale and three guest speakers. There will also be door prizes and light refreshments. Veterans Day artwork will also be displayed from the art contest which was open to area students. Winners of the art contest will also be announced at the ceremony. For more information call Angie Rice, VA Certifying Officer, at 903-988-7528.

Dyer named as KC Assessment Coordinator
Kilgore College welcomes Ursula Dyer as KC’s assessment coordinator. In addition to her work as director of the Radiologic Science program, Dyer has extensive assessment experience with her discipline’s national organization, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. In her part-time role as assessment coordinator, she will work with instructional departments on numerous projects and processes that involve assessment.

PTA Club hosting raffle for multiple prizes
The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is hosting its annual raffle for a Yeti cooler prize package (valued at $1,000) including a Yeti cooler, two Yeti 30 oz. tumblers, a Yeti rambler gallon jug, two Magellan chairs, a Magellan double hammock and a Mr. Heater Buddy. There is also a smaller second prize of a basket of assorted gift cards. The tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20. To purchase tickets, email Kristi Kleinig, PTA Program Director/Instructor, at kkleinig@kilogore.edu or call 903-983-8154.

KC Theatre: ‘The Glass Menagerie’ set for Nov. 15-18
KC Theatre will present Tennessee Williams’ ‘The Glass Menagerie,’ Nov. 15-18, in Van Cliburn Auditorium. Performances are set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 15-17, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18. General admission tickets are $10 for adults, $7 for students and $5 for KC students with a student ID. Discounted ticket-pricing is available for groups of 10 or more. Full-time KC employees can receive one free ticket by emailing boxoffice@kilogore.edu or call 903-983-8154.

KC choirs presenting ‘The Great War’ Nov. 11
‘The Great War: A Concert for Veterans Day,’ will feature KC’s Chorale and KC Connection as well as East Texas Men in Harmony. Through music and spoken word, this event will commemorate veterans from WWI to the present. The concert is set for 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at First United Methodist Church of Longview.

DATA: Did you know?
Dual credit students now make up 28% of KC’s total student headcount.

Employees win prizes for costumes
The KC Hospitality Committee held a Halloween costume contest for employees Oct. 31. KC faculty and staff voted online for favorite costumes and selected the top three winners.

- **First Place:** Chris Reed (instructor/coordinator of Occupational Safety and Health Technology), dressed as Beetlejuice
- **Second Place:** Michelle Sullivan (adjunct English instructor), dressed as “Velma looking for non-attending students”
- **Third Place:** Leslie Pacini (professional support assistant, residential life), dressed as “Day of the Dead”

First place won a $100 gift certificate from the KC Bookstore, second place won a $50 gift certificate from the KC Bookstore and third place won a $20 gift certificate donated by the KC Bookstore.

November On-Campus Calendar:

1. Children’s Opera, “Pied Piper of Hamelin,” 1 p.m., Dodson Auditorium
2. 2017 Blue and Gold Basketball Games, Devall Room, 11:30 a.m.
3. 2017 Blue and Gold Basketball Games, Devall Room, 5:30 p.m.
4. 2017 Blue and Gold Basketball Games, Devall Room, 6 p.m.
5. 2017 Blue and Gold Basketball Games, Devall Room, 7:30 p.m.
6. 2017 Blue and Gold Basketball Games, Devall Room, 8 p.m.
7. FAFSA Help Session, KC-Longview, 9 a.m.
8. PTK induction Ceremony, Devall Ballroom
9. Vicki Bowden Mobbs Twirling Classic, Devall Gym, 11 a.m.
10. Basketball (W) vs. Texas A&M-Commerce, Masters Gym, 6 p.m.
11. Veterans Day Choir Concert, FUMC Longview, 3 p.m.
12. FAFSA Help Session, KC-Longview, 9 a.m.
13. Cultural Awareness Expo, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
14. First Generation Celebration, Devall Student Center, 11:30 a.m.
15. Cultural Awareness Expo, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
16. Basketball (W) vs. Texas A&M-Commerce, Masters Gym, 6 p.m.
17. Cultural Awareness Expo, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
18. Cultural Awareness Expo, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
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26. Cultural Awareness Expo, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
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