College recognizes most outstanding employees

Kilgore College honored its Most Outstanding Employees at opening day ceremonies this year. Each year, KC employees vote for peers who they think are “most outstanding” at what they do. Categories include Executive/Management/Supervisory; Professional/Technical/Support; Administrative/Office Support; Physical Plant; and Faculty.

- Rosemary Owens, Administrative/Office Support
- Dr. Mike Turpin, Executive/Management/Supervisory
- Russell Turner, Physical Plant
- Jon Vashey, Professional/Technical/Support
- Becky Johnson, Faculty

SEPTEMBER 2014

Annual KC Kickoff set for Thursday, Sept. 4

Each year, Kilgore College celebrates the start of school with KC Kickoff which is an event for all KC students and employees.

This year’s kickoff is set for 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, in the parking lot adjacent to the old tennis courts.

There will be free food and music at the event.

Joe White retiring after serving as ETOM director for 37 years

One of Kilgore College’s treasures, The East Texas Oil Museum, will bid farewell this month to a man who has been with the museum since its inception 37 years ago and who has devoted half of his life to the preservation and public education of the East Texas Oil Field.

Joe White, the only director the museum has ever had, was recently named Director Emeritus by the KC Board of Trustees.

White plans to retire, but he won’t be a stranger to the museum. He said he’ll return to the museum next week to work half-time to write a history of the museum and to continue work on fund-raising. Merlyn Holmes, of Kilgore, will take over as director of the museum effective Sept. 15, per board approval.
Re-imagining Kilgore College

I am in my office, watching the students come across the bridge and walk by my window. As I look at them, I am reminded that each student carries with her or him the hopes, dreams, aspirations of a future enhanced by their education. I know that we need to keep our focus on them and their success.

At the same time, I am trying to consider the different ways we can serve our students and actually be more effective and efficient. I don’t really know what that looks like; however, I have to ask the question to see if there are ways to deliver instruction we have not yet considered. Are there schedules and offerings that would be more attractive and available to our students?

What are the limits of technology? Do we require every student to have a tablet or digital device and do we push more digital material to our students, replacing traditional books? Can we move to competency-based outcomes to earn credit, rather than simply measuring seat time? Are there some badges and certifications that would be more valuable than an associate degree to some students?

I look at some models, such as Western Governor’s University, where a student can pay $6,000 a year and take as many credits as they can earn or for which they show competency. Would such a model ever work for KC?

I also look out at our community and see many under-employed, under-trained individuals who are capable of so much more. What are the obstacles that prevent them from accessing training and instruction that would move them to the next level? How could we help remove those obstacles?

We do live in very interesting times! It is easy for me to ask the questions; the challenge is to find the answers. My hope is that together we can creatively re-imagine Kilgore College in ways that create excitement, innovation, and improved student access and success.

Bill Holda
President Dr. Bill Holda

Employees encouraged to join TCCTA
All KC faculty are encouraged to join the Texas Community College Teachers Association. Dues are $45 with $15 back from KC (If you want the liability insurance, it’s an additional $50). Comprised of educators from every teaching discipline, as well as counselors, librarians and administrators, TCCTA members come from all public and independent two-year colleges in Texas. TCCTA is the largest organization of postsecondary educators in Texas. It helps lobby the Texas Legislature on your behalf. This year’s TCCTA convention is set for Feb. 19-21, 2015, in downtown Dallas. To join, contact Nina Verheyden for more information. Or join online at www.tccta.org.

FACULTY & STAFF reports
O. Rufus Lovett’s photograph, “Demitria’s Shoes, Weeping Mary,” has been published in a new book, “Looking at Images,” by Brooks Jensen. The book is a 259-page text that takes a deep look at the reflections about the creative process. Lovett is the photography instructor for KC.

Thanks to Jeanne Johnson, Melanie Sullivan, Renee’ Golden and all those who helped make the fifth annual Music Machine Sacred Music Camp at KC a success. This year’s camp increased to 36 boys and girls from K-6th grades. Children participated each day from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The activities ended with the children performing a musical, “AmeriKids,” a sacred but patriotic children’s musical. Children portrayed Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and even Robert E. Lee.

Good News!
Congratulations to Marissa Rene Huskey, daughter of Robin Huskey, Director of Research and Institutional Effectiveness, who graduated magna cum laude with a Master of Science Degree in Counseling from the University of North Texas Aug. 8.

News & Reminders
Mulanax takes over as new Health Science Advisor
Laura Mulanax will assume the duties of KC’s Health Science Advisor Sept. 5. She has worked since 2007 as Records Specialist in the Registrar’s Office. She holds a Bachelor of English from Ashford University. She will be located in DSC 251 and can be reached at (903) 983-8184.

Utilize digital signage to deliver info to students
There are five digital signage boards in the Devall Student Center and the Student Support Building that rotate information for KC students as well as advertise upcoming events, activities and opportunities. Employees are encouraged to utilize these signs to advertise information to students. For more information on submitting information for the signs, contact Dr. Mike Jenkins at mjenkins@kilgore.edu.

DeRouen takes over facility reservations at KC
Judy DeRouen has taken over facility reservations for the college. She should also be your first contact when you are needing tables and chairs for an event. You can send her a request via e-mail (jderouen@kilgore.edu) and she will coordinate with Terry Huckaby to make deliveries. Reservation forms are also available online: www.kilgore.edu/facilityrental.

It’s not too late for employees to join KCEOPA
Kilgore College Educational Office Personnel Association (KCEOPA) promotes professional development while providing its members with a spirit of unity, a fun social environment and a sense of accomplishment. It is open to all KC employees. The association’s goals are to: (1) Raise funds for annual KC scholarships (2) Deliver the highest quality of service to KC and the community and (3) Increase efficiency, grow professionally and communicate effectively. If you are not interested in becoming a member, you have the option to make a one-time scholarship donation. Annual dues are $10. For more information, contact Ronda Callaway at rocallaway@kilgore.edu.
1, Labor Day Holiday
2, Health Science Orientation, Ballroom, 12:30-Noon
   Upward Bound Fall Orientation, Ballroom
4, KC Kickoff, Lee Mall Area, 11 a.m.
6, Football at Georgia Military, Milledgeville, Ga., 1 p.m.
10, 12th Class Day, official reporting day
   Fire Academy #92 Graduation, Woodruff AEC, 6:30 p.m.
11, Service Fair, Ballroom, 9-11 a.m.
   Camerata Singers 9/11 Concert, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Kilgore
13, Football vs. Texas A&T, R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium, 7 p.m.
16, 25 percent refund period begins
20, Football at Trinity Valley, Athens, 7 p.m.
22, 20th Class Day, last day for refunds on any and all drops
22-Dec. 12, Excellerate 12-Week Courses
24, Fall Refund Day, student loan refunds available for returning students
25, Football vs. Navarro, R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium, 7 p.m.

KC plays first game Saturday in Little Rock, Ark.

The Rangers will open up the 2014 season on the road in Little Rock, Ark., to face Arkansas Baptist College.

KC will play four home games this season with the first home game set for 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, versus Texas A&T (formerly called Southeast Prep Academy).

All employees are allowed free admission to home games with identification, but can also purchase reserved seats by calling Athletic Director Jimmy Rieves at (903) 988-7536.

This year’s homecoming game is set for 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, versus NEO.”

For more information on reserved tickets, visit www.kilgore.edu/footballtickets.

New Video Scoreboard: Dion Burns, left, and Charlie McGinnis of Texas Scoreboard Services, Conroe, install the new scoreboard at R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium in Kilgore. The scoreboard contains a 13 foot x 22 foot LED video display. The state-of-the-art video board includes a much-needed new sound system and will have three cameras to record action on the field with video replay capabilities. The new scoreboard was mostly funded by advertising sold by Kilgore Independent School District and KC. The Kilgore High School student media department will run the video board control center that is located below the home side stands. Photo by O. Rufus Lovett
Welcome to new KC employees!

Jody Bush, Industrial Maintenance Technology Instructor – Jody has been an Adjunct Instructor for KC for four years and was employed by Energy Weld Fab as their Maintenance Supervisor.

Joseph Cassin, Police Academy Instructor – Joseph comes to KC from the Gregg County Sheriff’s Office where he was a Deputy Sheriff.

Wade Cates, Admissions Counselor – Wade comes to KC after teaching math at Pine Tree ISD.

Charles Childers, Diesel Technology Instructor – Charles comes to KC from Christian Bros. Auto where he was the Service Manager.

Nick Dobler, Assistant Football Coach – Nick has been a Part-Time Instructor/Coach for KC for four years.

Angela Falcone, Dance Instructor – Angela has been a Graduate Teaching Assistant and Teacher at Texas Woman's University.

Brenda Galindo, Police Officer – Brenda comes to KC from the Palestine Police Department.

Micah Goodding, Theatre Instructor – Micah was Interim Theatre Instructor this past spring for KC and has also worked as the Director of ArtsView Children's Theatre in Longview.

December Hill, Support Specialist, Purchasing/Accounts Payable – December received her Associate of Applied Science from Kilgore College. While she was a student at KC, December was a tutor for accounting students.

Kristi Kleinig, Physical Therapist Assistant – Prior to coming to KC, she was employed by Longview ISD as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

Alex Knox, Admissions Counselor – Alex was a Customer Service Associate with Men's Warehouse prior to coming to KC.

Rukmani Kuppuswami-Earhart, Chemistry Instructor – Rukmani has worked for KC as an Adjunct Instructor and has worked as an Adjunct Instructor for Laredo Community College.

Julie Lewis, Math Instructor – Prior to coming to KC, Julie was a Mathematics Instructor at Blinn College and was employed at KC as a Math Instructor from 2005-2013.

William Massey, Professional Support Assistant, Financial Aid – William was a substitute teacher for Pine Tree ISD and Spring Hill ISD prior to coming to KC.

Rachel Stallard, Interim Communications Instructor/Flare & Ranger Advisor – Rachel comes to KC from Trinity School of Texas in Longview where she was a Journalism Instructor.

Jonnie Stice, Grants Accountant – Jonnie comes to KC from Sabine ISD where she was a business & technology teacher.

Kathy Stone, Support Specialist, Associate Degree Nursing – Kathy has worked at SET Environmental, Inc. as the LTL coordinator and account manager.

Adam Wiggins, Assistant Manager, Parks Fitness Center – Adam worked at XTC Fitness & Sports in Tyler as a personal trainer and as a personal trainer at KC.