Convocation kicks off new semester at KC

There's a lot happening at Kilgore College. From the installation of a new digital sign in Kilgore, to beautification efforts -- don't hold your breath because there's more to come.

With the kickoff of the new semester, several things should be top-of-mind with employees.

Signs are visible around campus announcing the upcoming Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) “Write Your Future” program and preparations are continuously underway for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) visit Oct. 1-4. Reaffirmation of accreditation will be voted on by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees at its June 2019 meeting.

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; and Faculty.

Fire academy honored nationally for top program

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in Fire Protection at Kilgore College recently ranked No. 4 on a list of the top-ten online fire protection associate degree programs in the United States.

The award was given by Online Associate’s Degrees, a web-based guide for two-year online degrees that ranks the best online degree programs in the United States.

It bases its rankings on accreditation, program affordability and degree customization options.
President’s Perspective by Dr. Brenda Kays

“Proper names are poetry in the raw.”
- W.H. Auden

The SACSCOC On-Site Committee is coming! The SACSCOC On-Site Committee is coming! Dr. Staci Martin wants YOU to wear your nametag.

In approximately one month, the SACSCOC On-Site Committee will be arriving at Kilgore College. Our visitors will be traveling to Texas from the following states: Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia. There is probably a very good likelihood that the eight individuals serving on our review team have never had the occasion to visit Kilgore/Longview. As hard as it is for us to fathom, this could be the first time that one or more of the team members have ever even heard about Kilgore College.

Over the next few weeks, the Committee will be learning more about the College through the written materials that they received courtesy of the Focused Report and Quality Enhancement Plan documents. While very well written and precise, these materials can never begin to illustrate the depths of who we really are or our passion for our students. Our true KC identity will only become evident once the team is on-site. Hence, it behooves us to make sure that they know who we are and what we do both literally (nametag) as well as figuratively.

As the team members descend on East Texas they will each be greeted by name and presented with a name badge identifying them as a SACSCOC visitor. They will wear that name badge during the visit and it will allow us to provide that extra special level of Ranger welcome and radical hospitality that we strive to deliver to all of our College visitors.

However, not only will we want to know the titles/names of our visitors, but they will also want to know our names and titles. If your current name badge has been through the wash so many times that it is no longer readable or if you have lost or never had a name badge… consider yourself to be on notice. Order one now. How you may ask? The KC purchasing department has the answer. Tammie and/or Jana have graciously agreed to answer your questions and provide specific ordering instructions. You too can be the proud owner of a shiny new identifier in a matter of days!

The SACSCOC On-Site Committee is coming!

Please wear your nametag.

Until next month,

FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER! @KCBrendaKays
Congratulations to Mary (Kates) Gage, Math Learning Center coordinator, for earning a Master of Science degree in Educational Human Resource Development from Texas A&M University on Aug. 10. She also recently married former KC fire academy instructor Dennis Gage in August.

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 $55). 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. To join, contact Dann McDonald for more information. Or join online at www.tccta.org.

Welcome New Employees!

Carol Hardee
Instructor
Associate Degree Nursing

Amber Kinsey
Assistant Director
East Texas Oil Museum

Dr. Shaunda Kwiatek
Instructor
Physical Therapy Assistant

Addie Lees
Head women’s basketball coach
Kinesiology Instructor

KaShawna Mack
Support Specialist
Health Sciences

Irais Barrera Manza
Professional Support Assistant
Financial Aid

Travis Moore
Instructor
Biology

Cameron Neal
Lab Manager

Kirk Norris
System Support Specialist
Informational Technology

Sonya Olvera
Professional Support Assistant
Financial Aid

Ada Ortiz
Instructor
Economics

Employment

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Sonya Olvera
Professional Support Assistant
Financial Aid

Ada Ortiz
Instructor
Economics

SEPTEMBER birthdays

9-03 Krystal Bridwell
9-03 Nancy Lamouroux
9-04 Hollyann Davis
9-04 Stephanie Laszik
9-05 Rick Moser
9-06 Beverly Davis
9-07 Jimmy Rieves
9-09 Richard Crutcher
9-09 Estonia Graves
9-09 Coy Lothrop
9-12 Melissa Dobbs
9-14 Trevis Croft
9-15 Joel Laws
9-15 Sonya Olvera
9-15 Matthew Simpson
9-18 Christopher Brandt
9-18 Richard Dugger
9-18 Starla Lumpkin
9-19 Tony Means
9-20 Jackie Hobbs
9-21 Melonie Bonner
9-23 Jessica Copeland
9-23 Grace Kennedy
9-24 Daniel Brasher
9-24 Falecia Halton
9-24 Meredith May
9-24 Sammy Wagner
9-24 Glenn Wells
9-25 Ebony Allison-Dennis
9-26 Reggie Bazzle
9-27 Chris Craddock

KC mourns deaths of former employees

Dr. Peggy Coghlan died Aug. 23 after a brief illness. In 1951, she was named the first assistant director for Gussie Nell Davis and the Rangerettes. She taught government, psychology, sociology, speech and served as Vice President of Instruction and Chief Academic Officer from 1993-96.

Former dance instructor, Dottie Hunt, passed away Aug. 23. While teaching at KC, she choreographed many major musicals. Prior to working at KC, she was a Radio City Rockette.

Tommy McElroy, former KC employee, passed away Aug. 11. In his professional career, Tommy was an instructor at KC where he was Director of the Library. He had a variety of interests but chief among them was photography and tennis.

Joe Miller, former KC employee, passed away Aug. 3. He began his teaching career at KC as an instructor in Industrial Math, Drafting and Machine Shop. In 1979 he became chairman of the Vo-Tech Dept. He retired in 1994 after 27 years with KC.

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On-Campus Calendar

3, Labor Day holiday
4, KC Clubs Meet & Greet, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
5, Jarvis Christian College recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
6, Pep in the Plaza, Lee Mall/Mike Miller Plaza, 11:30 a.m.
8, ACT Testing, Old Main Building, 8 a.m.
   KC Softball Round Robin, The Ballpark at KC Commons, TBA
   Football vs. New Mexico Military, Kilgore, TX, 7 p.m.
10, PTK Meeting, TV Room, 5:15 p.m.
   KC Board meeting, McLaurin Admin. Building, 6:30 p.m.
13, TRI-C Burgers with Britt, Lee Mall/Mike Miller Plaza, 11 a.m.
20, QEP Cookie Day, Lee Mall/Mike Miller Plaza, 11 a.m.
   Pep in the Plaza, Lee Mall/Mike Miller Plaza, 11:30 a.m.
   KC Choir Day Luncheon, Devall Ballroom, Noon
21, Rural Opportunity Youth Forum, Devall Ballroom, 10 a.m.
22, KC Softball vs. Henderson State JV, Kilgore, TX, 1/3 p.m.
   KC Football vs. N.E. Oklahoma A&M, Kilgore, TX, 7 p.m.
23, KC Softball Round Robin, The Ballpark at KC Commons, TBA
24, PTK meeting, TV Room, 5:15 p.m.
25, Biz Connect Legislative Luncheon, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
26, Area Counselor Luncheon, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
   Jarvis Christian College recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
28, ADN Testing Development Seminar, Devall Ballroom, 9 a.m.
29, Game Club Tournament, Devall Ballroom, 10 a.m.

Good News:

Congratulations to Jamaria M. Thomas, granddaughter of Toni Perry (KC mail and receiving services) on being named to the National Society of High School Scholars. She is the daughter of Jeremy (Nataya) Thomas and Crystal Hutchings. She is a senior at Kilgore High School where she participates in varsity cheerleading, basketball, track and other organizations. Jamaria is undecided on which university she will attend, but she plans to major in Neonatal Nursing and play basketball. She is also a KC dual credit student and participates in the KC Upward Bound program.

Welcome New Employees!

Continued from Page 3

Jon Pearce
Instructor
Government

Carrie Poe
Instructor
Chemistry

Quinn Ponder
Instructor
Cosmetology

Evan Radulescu
Instructor
Welding

Kenya Ray
Instructor
Corrosion

Mark Stephens
Instructor
Computer & Information Technology

Danny Brasher
Interim Instructor
Psychology

Michael Ward
Faculty Development Specialist, eLearning

Jessica Copeland
Police Officer
KCPD

Justin Willoughby
Instructor, East Texas Police Academy

Kathryn Rader
Technician
eLearning

Nancy Wylie
Controller
Business Office

KC Kickoff: KC kickoff was held Aug. 29 in the Lee Mall/Mike Miller Plaza, giving KC students and employees a chance to "kick off" the new semester. Entertainment included the new KC Spirit Squad (pictured below).