FedEx $2 Million Pledge Is the Largest Gift in Southwest’s History

New State-of-the-Art Academic Building Breaks Ground

Highly Gifted 14-Year-Old Enrolls at Southwest

Visit our website at www.southwest.tn.edu

The new four-lane entrance to the Macon Cove Campus off Sycamore View Road is now open. Our new state-of-the-art library is shown in the background. It is scheduled to open in January 2009.
Southwest Tennessee Community College touches the Memphis area community in many ways.

Each year, about 24,000 people are impacted by the education and training provided by the College in multiple locations throughout the metropolitan area. It’s very likely most of you have met our graduates such as:

- The mechanical technician who runs the computer diagnostics on your car
- The nurse who cares for you in the hospital
- The chef who prepares your lunch at your favorite restaurant
- The laboratory technician who processes your blood work for your annual physical
- The junior class student continuing his or her work at any of the local four-year colleges and universities
- The emergency medical technician who answered your 911 call or
- The childcare professional who prepares your pre-schooler for success in the first grade.

Southwest is affordable. More than 90% of Southwest Associate of Applied Science degree and technical certificate graduates go on to work in the professions for which they are trained.

For more information about Southwest, call us at (901) 333-5000 or visit our website at: www.southwest.tn.edu.
### 2008-2009

#### SOUTHWEST BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENT/OPPONENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>WOMEN/MEN</th>
<th>TIME (P.M.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Spirit Express</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>KKC Tip-Off Classic/Highland</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Lady Bengal Classic/San Jacinto</td>
<td>Eunice, LA</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>KKC Tip-Off Classic/Kennedy-King</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lady Bengal Classic/LSU-Eunice</td>
<td>Eunice, LA</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Memphis Express</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>*Mottlow State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>*Chattanooga State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>*Wallace State</td>
<td>Morristown, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8 EST</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>*Rogue State</td>
<td>Harriman, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4 EST</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Georgia Perimeter Classic</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Georgia Perimeter Classic</td>
<td>/South Georgia Tech</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mineral Area</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hiwassee</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>*Cleveland State</td>
<td>Cleveland, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4 EST</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Lady Saluquis Classic</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4/6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lady Saluquis Classic</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mississippi Elite Christian Academy</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Shorter</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Arkansas Baptist</td>
<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>W/M</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Genesis One Prep</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Arkansas Baptist</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>*Dyersburg State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>*Jackson State (HOMECOMING)</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>*Volunteer State</td>
<td>Gallatin, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Shorter</td>
<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>3/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>*Columbia State</td>
<td>Columbia, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>*Dyersburg State</td>
<td>Dyersburg, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>*Volunteer State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>*Jackson State</td>
<td>Jackson, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>*Columbia State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>3-8</td>
<td>TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament</td>
<td>(at Cleveland, TN)</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>NICAA National Tournament</td>
<td>(at Hutchinson, KS)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>NICAA National Tournament</td>
<td>(at Salina, KS)</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*TCCAA/Region VII Games

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**In this issue...**

### Institutional Advancement

- **25** Institutional Development Expands
- **26** Southwest Foundation Board Members Hold Retreat
- **27** Board Member Spotlight: Sam Chafetz
- **28** From the Desk of the Alumni Affairs Director
- **29** Southwest Alumni: Where Are They Now?
- **31** Scholarships at a Glance
- **34** Alumni Spotlight: Gary Lynch
- **35** Invest in the Future: Nursing Building Campaign Update
- **36** Your Investment Dollars Make a Difference
- **37** Make Something Beautiful

### Kudos

- **38** Two Southwest Foundation Board Members Receive Impressive State Government Commission/Board Appointments
- **39** Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department Wins Prestigious Awards
- **40** International Creative Competition Nets Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department with Nine Awards

### Sports

- **40** 2008-09 Saluquis Basketball Schedule Released
The President’s Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Southwest is experiencing one of the most exciting times in its history. Fall enrollment has increased by 8.8% over last year’s enrollment. College restructuring has positioned the College to become more efficient and effective in service delivery to our students and community. The College has received unprecedented private funding for academic scholarships and the construction of a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility for our Union Campus. Plans to secure property for a new parking facility at our Union Campus are also evolving. Additionally, we are placing greater emphasis on customer service with a goal of ensuring that our focus consistently remains on students and their needs.

Perhaps the most exciting development regarding the College is the construction of a new state-of-the-art library at our Macon Campus with a new four-lane entry into the campus. The library will become the centerpiece of the campus and provide significant and improved academic support for our students.

Groundbreaking ceremonies have been held for a new state-of-the-art academic building at Macon and the new Maxine Smith Center in the Germantown-Collierville area which will enhance the College’s ability to expand existing programs and offer new academic programs based on community and regional needs.

A new state-of-the-art academic facility is planned for our Fayette County service area by officials within the county that will be managed by Southwest and involve a partnership which includes a private academy, a public school system, a technical center, a Tennessee Board of Regents university and a University of Tennessee System institution. This unique collaboration represents the only one of its kind in the nation and will provide unprecedented academic and workforce development opportunities for citizens of Fayette County.

The college is in the process of infusing service learning into the curriculum wherein students are provided unique opportunities to serve our communities as a component of their academic course requirements.

Southwest has also become one of the leaders in international education through significant participation of our students and faculty in summer academic programs abroad.

Most recently, Southwest has entered into new and expanded partnerships with private businesses and corporations designed to provide valuable real world experiences for our students while also meeting vital community needs.

Based on these exciting developments, Southwest is poised to become the college of choice and a national model for technical, career and transfer education. We are obviously excited with the College’s progress and look forward to continuing to respond to the educational needs of students, employers and communities in Memphis, Shelby and Fayette counties as well as the Mid-South region. We genuinely appreciate the commitment and support the College has received from our community and look forward to a dynamic year of progress and service.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College

International Creative Competition Nets Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department with Nine Awards

The MarCom Awards is an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals. It is administered and judged annually by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals headquartered in Arlington, Texas. Entries come from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, public relations firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers. The competition has grown to perhaps the largest of its kind in the world. There were over 5,000 entries from throughout the United States and several foreign countries in the 2008 MarCom Awards competition. The prestigious Platinum Award is presented to those entries judged to be among the most outstanding entries in the competition. The Gold Award represents exceeding the high standards of the industry norm. Honorable Mention Awards were granted to those entries that met the quality expectations of the judges. The listing of awards earned by Southwest is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE OF ENTRY</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>AWARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010 Catalog</td>
<td>Brochure/Catalog</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009 Student Planner</td>
<td>Brochure/Catalog</td>
<td>Honor Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Now Magazine-Spring 2008 Edition</td>
<td>Magazine/Educational Institution</td>
<td>Platinum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Now TV Program-June 2008 Edition</td>
<td>Video/Film/TV Program (Cable)</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Scoop-August 25, 2008</td>
<td>E-Newsletter</td>
<td>Honor Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Web Site</td>
<td>Web Site Overall</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Your Best Choice,” mass transit</td>
<td>Ads/Bench/Shelter/Mass Transit</td>
<td>Honor Mention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FedEx Supports Nursing Building Campaign with the Largest Gift in Southwest’s History

FedEx presented Southwest Tennessee Community College on July 28 with a check for $150,000 toward a $2 million pledge by the FedEx Corporation to support the college’s latest expansion efforts, including a new Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology Building. The gift is the largest in Southwest’s history.

Southwest President Nathan Essex enthusiastically accepted the historic gift from Mary McDaniel, vice president, Materiel and Corporate Sourcing, FedEx Express.

The new building is just one of the initiatives in the largest capital campaign in the college’s history. The campaign, “Southwest and You, Investing in the Future,” focuses on projects which will substantially expand opportunities for students in the College’s Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology programs and will help address critical workforce needs identified by the Memphis bioscience community. The College has already met its scholarship endowment goal of $1 million, and is now closer to meeting its $16 million goal of building a new state-of-the-art nursing and biotechnology facility. Upon its completion, the facility will accommodate almost double the number of nursing and biotechnology students, thereby increasing the number of available nurses in the community.

“Tied to the community, and more than 95 percent of our graduates remain in Memphis and the surrounding area. This new faculty will enable us to better serve our residents to impact their community and families.”

McDaniel, who also serves as the vice chair of the Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation, echoed the sentiment. "This gift sends a message to..."
the community about FedEx’s commitment to the health and well-being of this community,” McDaniel said.

For more information on Southwest Tennessee Community College’s major gift campaign or to make a donation, call 333-4577.

About FedEx

FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) provides customers and businesses worldwide with a broad portfolio of transportation, e-commerce and business services. With annual revenues of $38 billion, the company offers integrated business applications through operating companies competing collectively and managed collaboratively, under the respected FedEx brand. Consistently ranked among the world’s most admired and trusted employers, FedEx inspires its more than 290,000 employees and contractors to remain “absolutely, positively” focused on safety, the highest ethical and professional standards and the needs of their customers and communities. For more information, visit news.fedex.com.

Biotechnology Technicians to assist researchers in the rapidly expanding biomedical and bioscience research and production fields.

About the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility

The Southwest Foundation is in the process of raising $16.75 million through individual, corporation, foundation, and organizational support to build a new 74,000-square-foot Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology facility, to be located in the Central Medical District. The new facility will house an expanded nursing program, as well as new classrooms and laboratories for the Natural Sciences courses which form the foundation of the nursing curriculum. The facility will also be home to the state’s first Associate of Applied Science degree program, training Biotechnology Technicians to assist researchers in the rapidly expanding biomedical and bioscience research and production fields.

Participating in the gift presentation were (left to right) John Farris, Esq., Farris, Mathews, Branan, Bobango, Hellen & Dunlap, P.L.C./Member of TN Board of Regents; Stephanie Butler, Manager of Communication in Corporate Contributions of FedEx Services; Ed Lyons, V.P. Safety & Air Worthiness Air Operations/V.P Rep for FedEx Diversity Council; Mary McDaniel, Vice President, Material & Corporate Sourcing, FedEx Express; President, Nathan Essex, Southwest Tennessee Community College; Cheryl Orange, Manager of Marketing of Web Integration Solutions of FedEx Services; and Gregory Duckett, Sr., Vice President, Corporate Counsel-Baptist Memorial Healthcare/Member of TN Board of Regents.

Make Something Beautiful

By Kristie Goldsmith

I love Southwest!

That summarizes my thoughts as your new Executive Director of Grants. I will tell you more about me later, but for now, let’s talk about what the Grants Office does, and how you can help us to help you.

Why do I love Southwest so much? I’ve found that the staff and faculty here to be welcoming, encouraging and helpful. I can honestly say I enjoy my job, and I am glad I am here. Perhaps now is a good time for an explanation of what the Grants Office does and how we can help you serve our students and community.

Who We Are

The Grants Team consists of Derrice Snipes, Stella Martin and me. Stella maintains the office and flow of activity. Derrice handles all grant compliance deadlines and in addition to her other duties, Derrice will soon be heading into our community to help develop community partnerships needed for specific grants who in turn will help develop more opportunities for funding. Later this year, we will hire a grant writer responsible for grant research and submissions.

What We Are Not

We are not Financial Aid. During registration we make that statement numerous times. It makes us want to consider changing our name. But, we can’t do that, so we simply educate people as they call or come in. The good news is that we get to interact with our students and that helps us understand them and their needs, and ultimately we can be more helpful to faculty and staff.

What We Do

The primary goal for the Grants Office is to increase funding for Southwest. We process all federal, state and local government grants. In addition, we work closely with the Institutional Development Office to monitor and submit grants to private foundations Why? We need to increase funding for faculty programs, classes, student programs, new buildings, new offsite campuses and newly established initiatives by Dr. Essex. With all these goals in mind, we will be busy this year!

How We Do It

When a faculty or staff member submits a proposal to the Grants Office, we review it carefully. We must ask several questions during this process: Does this grant fit within the Southwest goals? Does this grant require additional resources? Does this grant need additional facilities? What is the return to Southwest? Granting agencies want the projects to which they give money to succeed. And we ask questions here to insure that your grant proposals are successful. In some ways, a grant proposal is a job interview candidate and the granting agency is a potential employer. When our request arrives at a funder’s door, it is given a “once over.” Is it neat, well-dressed and complete? What “job” does it want to do with the organization’s money? Our office helps prepare every grant to be successful once it gets to the funding agency. We prepare each grant proposal to “get hired” to represent the work of that funder.

KJ’s Phone Home

Now about me: I have a wonderful, caring, supportive husband and two great adult children who are the love of my life. One has graduated from college and is in nursing school and the other will be going to college fall 2009. And yes, even at age 51, I call my parents every day. My parents inspire me and encourage me. Every day of my professional work life, my father and mother tell me to “make something beautiful.” Dad discusses my day and encourages me to see the best in any situation, regardless what is said or done that day. He reminds me that every day I can choose “to see something beautiful or make something beautiful.” Every day when I come to work, I look around my office and see the pictures my father hung for me. Each is alive with color and has a road leading somewhere -- to him it symbolizes that life is moving forward and we have a choice to move forward in our lives and making something beautiful every day or stay where we are in our lives!

So my vision for the Grants Office is to move forward each and every day, making something beautiful for Southwest.
It seems like we’ve been on a roller coaster lately that doesn’t want to stop. The stock market swings back and forth. It’s up. It’s down. Gas prices are up. The housing market is down. The future seems so uncertain. Until you take just a minute and breathe, and realize all of this has happened before, and we’re still here. Our future depends on preparing our community to be the best it can be, and preparing our citizenry to work in whatever economic times we may face.

At Southwest Tennessee Community College, enrollment is up and so are expectations. Students here still believe in the future and in the power of a good education—so do we. We’ve seen first hand how change can happen when you invest in the future of someone’s education. Someone like Barbara, whose last name will be concealed from this article.

Barbara’s journey began in 2000 when she decided to fulfill her dream of getting a college degree. She took one class at a time because that was all she could afford. When she could no longer afford to attend classes, she prayed and made a conscious decision to keep going back until she got her degree. With support from students and family, including her academic advisor Vava Cook, Barbara kept going, and became a role model to students and family, including her academic advisor Vava Cook, who later became her academic advisor. By the time she graduated, Barbara had children; one who spends many days at LeBonheur for dialysis treatment; and one with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. Yet, in 2008 at the age of 62, Barbara was able to achieve her dreams because someone believed in her and gave her a chance. Whether you’re 62 or 26, education makes a difference in your life. And, your donation can make a difference in someone’s future.

We know times are tight, and we know you’re trying to decide where to invest your donated dollar. Perhaps you too have found success because of Southwest. Now, you can help make a Southwest student’s dream a reality by making a gift of $25, $50 or even $100. We need your support in providing educational opportunities to students living and working in the greater Mid-South region. We want to help as many students as possible to think and dream bigger dreams than they ever imagined.

“Southwest was right for me because it felt like a family,” says Barbara.

We are family here. We believe in our students. We believe in the future. Whether you donated for scholarships or books, for a new facility or a program, you did the right thing. Let gas prices go up. Let house prices go down. Let the stock market wobble. The dollar you donate here will always be wisely invested in the future of our community.

“I always knew I would be a teacher. The question was, teach what?” Music was the obvious answer, but where would he teach it? Dr. Steven A. Katz reminisced recently about the vicissitudes that brought him to the position of professor of music at Southwest, and how he, and others, created “Mak’n Music.”

As a child, he had siblings much older than himself, who had children not much younger than himself. “I dearly loved teaching even then, and I would teach ‘Stevie School,’ as my elders called it, when they came over on Friday nights,” said Katz. What he taught was whatever came to mind: “something I’d just learned or something they’d suddenly found an interest in.” So, at age five, he began a lifelong career.

Though music was his great love, Katz chose early to become an English teacher. He mentioned, “I loved English and the interpretation of literature. I always felt that learning to communicate, in both oral and written form, was very important.” He also recognized early that the world required more English teachers than music teachers. Opting for practicality, he chose to become an English professor. Meanwhile, from age five, he continually took music lessons and, by age 23, always taught piano on the side.

That decision, and State Technical Institute at Memphis (now Southwest), provided Katz the venue for what was to become his ideal life of teaching. “For me, it was the school of the future,” he thought, when he started as an adjunct in 1979, then full time in 1983. Though the school had no music program, “this was exactly how I had envisioned my life as a teacher: teaching English during the day; teaching music on the side.”

The school eventually directed him to develop and teach a music appreciation class. “That was wonderful and gave me a whole new enjoyment of teaching,” stated Katz. He was also, unknowingly, preparing himself for a giant step in his career. By then, he was a regular player on the Memphis entertainment scene and becoming recognized locally as both an entertainer and musician. He expanded his repertoire especially after realizing fully classical music wouldn’t cut it in his work. Rather than abandoning the classics, though,
he started entering competitions, and became recognized internationally as a winner in some classics competitions, which also would prove useful later.

In college, Katz had realized he had some very good teachers. Determined to be one of the best, he adopted the unusual approach of taking notes on his teachers as well as classes. He then determined what would work best for him in teaching music. He graduated with a book full of notes about teaching; what to do and not do. The notebook provided a foundation for lifelong effectiveness in the classroom, and was exceptionally helpful when his “opportunity of a lifetime” came in 2000, putting his experience to work in the building of a music program at the Macon Cove Campus of the newly formed Southwest Tennessee Community College. Making use of courses he had enjoyed in college, he designed curricula for more classes in Music Appreciation and four levels of Music Theory. The opportunity to teach theory, especially, let him greatly expand offerings to students. As well as theory for assigned pieces, he now offered courses to enhance both general and specific musical knowledge, so students could work ahead on their own.

Now, his years in local musical entertainment proved their value. Along with private piano instruction, he created ensemble classes in which students blended their abilities and talents with other musical instruments, and voice, to originate a wide range of new and completely different musical productions. This included jazz, blues, rock, show tunes, and even classical.

Now too, his book of “musical notes” proved its value. He had filled it with the best practices of his best teachers. These were successful approaches to teaching, including how to break out lessons for the most efficient ways to reach different students on different levels, and even how to assess and grade students’ performance and progress. Delightedly realizing just how well prepared he had become to take on this new task, Katz now says, “One of the best things was my opportunity to learn more {varied} music and more about how to teach music.”

Katz credits many people with the success that grew so quickly. He cites, “the students, most of all, who were the greatest influence; the driving force in building the program. The opportunity to expand their repertoires, experiment with different types and styles of music [through performances in] Mak’n Music became very important to them. They were excited and we just seemed to grow.” According to Katz, “they started including ensemble play in all the concerts, in fact, recitals became variety music nights. Faithful audiences grew and [it attracted] music lovers from outside as well as within the College.”

In December 2002 came the most earth shattering change in his career, a heart attack, followed by open heart surgery. After completing the initial recovery phase, he began to realize...“I couldn’t play. I didn’t have the strength, even to sit at the bench. I didn’t know if I’d ever play again,” stated Katz. It was many weeks before he sat down to play the piano, and even longer before he, one day, played a complete song: the Claire de Lune. He played it all the way through and said, “I just started crying. I couldn’t stop. I was so happy.”

With that came a complete change in his life as a piano teacher. His choice of songs is different now but he constantly challenges himself to new ways of teaching and entertaining audiences. While Katz has changed his repertoire, he hasn’t toned everything down to Claire de Lune. His music is still vibrant but only occasionally does he let himself go, in a passage or two of “big sound.” On the other hand, he’s spending more time on interpretation of songs, more time learning music that is beautiful instead of astounding. “It’s different, but I can’t regret it, I’m still enjoying and loving my music,” remarked Katz. Best of all, “I think our music program is better than ever...we are still growing.”

In the aftermath of the heart attack, he learned a lot from his students and received a lot from them. They stayed with him and expected him to be there to teach them. It didn’t matter whether they hadn’t finished their planned courses. They would travel back, come and be a part of the music. Mak’n Music never stopped.

Katz credits making a difference. It’s different, but I can’t regret it, I’m still enjoying and loving my music,” remarked Katz. Best of all, “I think our music program is better than ever...we are still growing.”

The nursing crisis is real, and it’s happening now. Shelby County lacks an estimated 650 nurses, particularly highly qualified Registered Nurses (RNs). State nursing shortages are projected to increase to 40 percent in 2015 and 48.5 percent in 2020. Only six states have higher 2020 projected shortages. But, Southwest Tennessee Community College is on a mission to change those statistics. The College is in the middle of the largest capital campaign in its history with an ambitious $16.75 million goal to raise funds for a Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology building designed to meet critical workforce needs identified by the Memphis bioscience community.

With support from major corporations such as FedEx and Medtronic, and major foundations such as the Hyde Family Foundation, the Assisi Foundation, the Plough Foundation and the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation; and support from Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation and Methodist Health Care, the campaign is inching closer to its goal.

The fastest way to get a nurse on the floor working where you’ll need him or her is an associate degree and for underrepresented populations, the associate’s degree is the preferred gateway into the profession.

In 2007, Southwest nursing graduates achieved a 97.4 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), the highest rate for all the associate degree nursing programs in the state of Tennessee. Our nurses take the same test as other nurses, including those that {have} four and six-year degrees. Southwest already produces top-notch nurses. Our current facilities simply don’t allow us to produce enough nurses to meet the current demand.

What can you do to make sure a nurse is there when you need one? Make a donation to the campaign and help us produce even more top-notch nurses. Don’t take for granted that a nurse is going to be there when you need one. Make sure they are. Together, we can stop this one crisis. Call 901-333-4577 to find out how you can make a difference.

**Invest in the Future Campaign Update**

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Lynch is responsible for 140 employees in quality control. While many of his team members report to him from England, Germany and China, his hope for local employees is that they take advantage of training opportunities to improve in their field. “I’m interested in employees’ onsite training,” said Lynch. “Two years of education may not be a priority for some people, but everybody needs some training.”

Although Lynch has been successful, the journey wasn’t always easy. He had all three of his children during his time as a Southwest student. He credits professors Lou French and Harry Nichols for helping him to persevere.

“My wife went into labor on the night of the final exam. I called Professor Nichols to explain, but he had heard all of the excuses before,” said Lynch. “When we arrived home, the exam was in my mailbox with a note that said ‘Congratulations – get this back to me when you can.’ Things like that helped me to push through and get my degree. It would have been easy to just walk away.”

Lynch instilled the spirit of the community college setting in his sons as well. His boys attended Northwest Mississippi Community College. He and his family live in Hernando, MS. His job requires national and global travel, but horse-back riding has become his favorite pastime and source of relaxation.

Lynch studied biomedical technology and worked full time at Richards Company, a business that specialized in trauma and orthopedics. Richards was acquired by Smith & Nephew in 1986 and Lynch continued to climb the company ranks. Obtaining a bachelor’s degree was a low priority, but Lynch acted on instinct and illustrated how to chart a successful course on his own terms. “I took classes after I graduated, but I was already past where people with master’s degrees were,” said Lynch. “My family needed me. I was already in a good role [at Smith & Nephew] and a bachelor’s degree wasn’t going to help.”

Breaking the traditional mold is hard work. It takes sacrifice, spirit and a sense of the big picture. For Gary Lynch, it took some understanding and encouraging Southwest faculty members, a supportive family and the right combination of experience and intuition.

Fast-forward 28 years later and Lynch, group director of Quality Control for Smith & Nephew, has become one of the highest-ranking employees with an associate’s degree. Lynch, a 1980 alumnus from Southwest Tennessee Community College, worked 10-hour days to provide for a wife and three boys while attending class twice a week.

Alumni Spotlight

Gary Lynch

Gabriela (Gaby) Castillo Marquez longs for something that the average Southwest student takes for granted: U.S. citizenship. Marquez, a proud Latino, is a student ambassador, president of the Diversity Club, an honor student, a Spanish tutor, a volunteer for the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC), and a spokesperson for undocumented immigrants for this region. TIRRC is a statewide coalition that works to empower immigrants and refugees to participate fully in their new communities. Marquez is involved in the national effort to get legislation passed to provide some protection and support for the education of documented immigrants. She also produced a film recording the life of the undocumented and appeared in a public service announcement in support of that legislation.

Marquez was born in Mexico and moved to Memphis with her parents when she was six. She is the oldest of the four Marquez children, the rest of whom were born in the United States. Members of the same household, her siblings, can work, vote, join the military, leave and enter the country at will; and most of all attend the college of their choice. These are the privileges afforded to U.S. citizenship.

A champion for the rights of people who are treated unfairly, Marquez considers herself an activist against social injustice. She is an advocate of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act). She has gone to Washington, D.C. to lobby, has organized rallies in support of the act, and helped stage a rally for it in front of the National Civil Rights Museum. “The DREAM Act,” explained Marquez, “was created to help immigrant students who are not of legal status to enter college and join the military.” Marquez was able to attend elementary and high school in Memphis but feared she wouldn’t get the opportunity to go to college. Fortunately for her, during her senior year at Southaven High School in Southaven, Mississippi, a substitute teacher and retired Marine was impressed with Marquez and asked about her plans after completing high school. The teacher contacted Clarence Christian, director of the Honors Academy at Southwest. Because of Marquez’s high academic standing, Christian was able to offer her a scholarship.

“I am here in college and I really did not think I was going to be able to make it because of tuition. I cannot get any federal money,” said Marquez. “Luckily, I have my two scholarships. I am in the Honors Academy and I am an ambassador for the school. Everything else comes out of my pocket,” she said.
“Southwest has given me so many opportunities. I have been involved in almost everything in the Honors Academy,” Marquez said. She and two other Honors Academy students made a documentary for an honors’ project based on the theme The Art of Film. The documentary was about students who were non-citizens or non-residents, who wanted to go to college. Marquez and her friends captured on video the stories of these former high school band members, star athletes, honor students, valedictorians or students who were really involved in their schools, but who couldn’t go to college because they were undocumented. They presented the documentary as part of their honors’ contract and sociology class. It was so well reviewed that they presented it all over campus and at film festivals. “It just got so much attention. Everybody just sees things in a different way. When they come in the room [to see the documentary], they have a certain perspective. When they leave the room, it is totally different,” Marquez said.

In describing what’s in her heart regarding the plight of the undocumented, she responded, “Each is a person, whether it is a family, a head of household, a child, or a student. They have to go through so much that other people can’t see.” She added, “I really focus on the students because they want to go to school and move up in life, but they are stuck. When it comes to the students, the only mistake they made was following their parents.”

Marquez is a fighter. This is her last semester at Southwest. She will graduate with three majors: sociology, social work, and Spanish. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in either sociology or social work at the University of Memphis or Ole Miss.

One of the greatest challenges that the undocumented immigrant status presents for Marquez is college tuition. In describing what’s in her heart regarding the plight of the undocumented, she responded, “Each is a person, whether it is a family, a head of household, a child, or a student. They have to go through so much that other people can’t see.” She added, “I really focus on the students because they want to go to school and move up in life, but they are stuck. When it comes to the students, the only mistake they made was following their parents.”

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Becoming a citizen is a difficult process and Marquez and her family have been working at it for years. It has been especially hard, she said, because their initial efforts were spoiled when the lawyer handling their case ran off with their money, forcing them to start the process all over again. One of the greatest challenges that the undocumented immigrant status presents for Marquez is college tuition. According to Dr. George Malo, associate vice chancellor of Research and Assessment for the Office of Academic Affairs, Tennessee Board of Regents, maintenance fees and tuition for international and out-of-state students is slightly less than four times more than in-state students. This presents a financial hardship for Marquez. She feels that the passage of the DREAM Act would greatly assist with her struggle to pay tuition.

The DREAM Act is a piece of proposed federal legislation that would also provide undocumented immigrant high school students the opportunity to obtain permanent residency. The students must be planning to attend college or serve in the armed forces to become permanent residents. Congressmen have continually introduced several forms of this bill in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Congressmen in the House have not brought the bill to a floor vote as a stand-alone bill. Visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DREAM_Act.

Marquez participated in a lot of extracurricular activities at her high school and in her community. She was in the Key Club, the Spanish Club, played on the soccer team, and was on the yearbook staff. She loved helping people and felt the more she got involved, the more assistance she could provide. “I’ve always liked to help people and I think the best way to help people is through a variety of organizations. Not only in high school was I involved, but also in the community. I did a lot for both Latino Memphis and TIRRC,” Marquez beamed.

The Nathaniel Parker Jr. Scholarship was created in honor of the former Executive Director of Business and Administrative Services, who died December 20, 2007 after a brief illness. Harris said her idea to set up the scholarship began almost immediately in the weeks after Parker’s passing. To date, the scholarship has received more than $11,000 in cash and pledges so far, with donations from co-workers, church members and professional peers.

Harris added the outpouring of support for the scholarship is a testament to the respect Parker’s colleagues had for him. She stated, “He was the kind of person who showed people that he cared.” Parker’s family has also been very appreciative of the effort, according to Harris. “They were overwhelmed at Southwest’s thoughtfulness of doing this in his memory.”

Donations to the Nathaniel Parker Memorial Scholarship can be made to the Southwest Foundation. For further information, contact the Foundation office at 333-4394.

Fred Davis is always looking to make a change when one is needed. When he saw the need for scholarship opportunities for students in the Orange Mound community, he jumped at the chance to give back to the neighborhood that reared him.

Davis, a Southwest Foundation board member, took root in the Orange Mound community more than 40 years ago. While several opportunities were presented to him to relocate, he remained committed to the area.

His commitment has translated into an opportunity for a current Southwest student. He decided to invest in the education of the community and in the future of Southwest by establishing the Fred L. Davis Scholarship for a first-generation college student from the Orange Mound community. He has opened the gates of opportunity for students that were closed due to hardship and a lack of resources.

“I’ve given back to Memphis because Memphis has been so good to me,” said Davis. “I’ve tried to return the favor as much as possible.”
It all started a couple of years ago, when the mail went awry. Shawn Little received an invitation from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) congratulating him on his exceptional scholarship, and asking him to join the prestigious national honor society. Of course, it was a mistake.

Rather than the 3.5 grade point average PTK requires, his had just slipped again, and brought a notice from the College that he was suspended for the next semester. That was not a mistake.

But that errant letter delivered an important message to Little. It came at the right time and completely changed his life. He stated, “I read it and read it over again. I thought I want that and know I can get it; the prestige and self-respect… I can do it.”

So it all converged: a growing realization of dissatisfaction with himself and a hunger for a lot more than he was doing… and the letter.

Little convinced the dean that, “if you’ll waive the suspension, things will be different.” Then he talked to Clarence Christian, his former sociology professor and director of the Honors Academy. Christian pulled no punches. He told Little that to do what he wanted, he would have to start all over. This would involve retaking most of the classes he had taken over the past three years, wiping out the poor grades, and replacing them with a lot more respectable grades. “Mr. Christian became my mentor on my journey. I followed up on all his advice. After I reached a 3.25 grade point average, he admitted me into the Honors Academy. Now I’m at a 3.6. I brought my ambition and determination to his office that day, and he has guided me in the right direction ever since,” said Little.

9. With the poverty and apathy in our community today, many feel one person cannot make a difference. What would you say to those people? We cannot allow ourselves to think in this manner because the power is in the numbers. Whatever a student can give back can be pooled together with funds from others to have an impact that can help many students that may need help with books, or other miscellaneous items and cost.

10. Would you recommend other Southwest alumni fund an endowed scholarship? If so, why?

I recommended an endowed scholarship because it is an opportunity to create a gift that continues for years to come. The ease of payment option it affords you to participate is pretty painless.

A Tale of Two Graduates – Darrell Thomas

1. What degree did you pursue?
   Biomedical Engineering Technology

2. When did you graduate?
   1985

3. Why did you choose Southwest?
   Southwest had the field that I wanted to pursue.

4. Did you further your education after graduating from Southwest?
   Yes

5. Why did you decide to open your own business?
   It allows economic freedom and opens doors for the creation of jobs.

6. What inspired you to establish the Darrell and LaTina Thomas Scholarship?
   The inner desire to give back to my community that has given so much to me and my family.

7. How do you think this scholarship will impact a student?
   Hopefully it will free them from the worry of tuition and books. They will be free to study and focus only on school.

8. How important do you think Southwest scholarships are to our students?
   VERY! Some would not be able to attend were it not for these scholarships.

9. With the poverty and apathy in our community today, many feel one person cannot make a difference. What would you say to those people?
   Everyone can do something to impact society. Money is not the only way to contribute. Time is more valuable.

10. Would you recommend other Southwest alumni fund an endowed scholarship?
   If so, why?
   Most definitely…it is very fulfilling to know that you have assisted in allowing someone to fulfill their dream.
Things hadn’t changed much by the time he enrolled at Southwest a few years later. He had decided to become a firefighter. Southwest was an easy choice since it was the only college in the state offering fire science. It wasn’t long before he discovered a lot of other good reasons for being at Southwest. But, while he soon recognized there is an immense difference between Southwest and a large university, “there’s a lot of truth in that old cliché, ‘if you do what you’ve always done, you’ll get what you always got.’” And he kept on doing what he’s always done. Then, the letter came.

“At Southwest, my professors actually got to know me, and they cared a lot more than I did at first about me getting the most out of their classes,” stated Little. Many gave him their home phone numbers in case he needed extra help. Or, they’d go grab coffee together after class and go over assignments. He added, “It’s a very personal school, you know.” Little then began working seriously on his studies.

About the time he enrolled at Southwest, Little started working at FedEx and discovered he really loved business. He also knew he could go as far as FedEx as he wanted, if he was willing to work very hard. With his grades moving upward, he was permitted to add a second major, business administration. According to Little, “The parallels between the programs made them a perfect fit for a career in transportation – logistics, dangerous goods, and leadership fundamentals classes, among others.” But he was finally forced to work up to his capacity and he loved it.

“For me, though,” says Little, “acceptance into the Honors Academy made the big difference. It’s about a lot more than just grades. It helps us understand that we, as individuals, can make a real difference if we concern ourselves with matters involving the community, the betterment of our college – knowledge that goes well beyond the classroom. Many of us are taught in college what to know, but not how to think.”

In honors, he says, they learned the difference.

In addition to honors, Little joined Alpha Beta Gamma (business honor society), and has just received his second invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa – this time, no mistake! He is president of the Honors Academy this year and vice president of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. His activities include Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor, Meals on Wheels for MIFA, hosting food and clothing drives, participating in various charity walks and chairing fundraisers for the Honors Academy. He is also taking advantage of free classes FedEx offers.

Most important, Little has made significant changes in himself. He has set goals that he constantly reevaluates and redefines. “If I’m not pushing myself to become more knowledgeable about business … a better student, better employee, and better husband … constantly moving forward … I feel like I am falling behind,” said Little.

One major decision was to disassociate himself from friends he realized held him back. He contends, “If you are strong enough to do it, you remove an enormous weight that was dragging you down, away from your goals. I am blessed with five or six friends who are like brothers … of unquestionable integrity, loyalty, and character, as supportive of me as I am of them. And the Honors Academy helps me network with others like a family, helping each other perform at our upper capacity.”

Little proudly remarks, “and my wife Casey is my biggest fan!” Without his wife believing in him from the beginning, he says there’s no way he would be where he is today. Casey plans ultimately to become a doctor. She is completing a biology degree at University of Memphis, then plans to enter Southwest’s nursing program. “We both work so we can continue paying for her education without loans, and the nursing degree will be an excellent income source while she’s finishing her M.D.,” stated Little.

As for the future, Little says, “I hate to think where I’d be if I hadn’t found Southwest.” He believes if you’re willing to work, Southwest has “everything for everybody,” from the single parent plodding along to get there a class at a time, to the top achiever determined to make it to the top university.

Where is he going from here? To Vanderbilt (hopefully!) to major in business, then NYU or Syracuse for his MBA. Added Little, “No matter where I go from here, my degrees from Southwest will always have the proudest spot on my office wall. I am confident that I will be a lifelong learner. Even after my MBA, if I return to Memphis, I know I’ll come take some more classes here at Southwest.”

A Tale of Two Graduates – Sylvester Tate

1. What degree did you pursue? Electronic Technology
2. When did you graduate? 1985
3. Why did you choose Southwest? I chose Southwest because it was recommended as a great school, was economically feasible to attend, and had flexible hours that would meet my need as a full-time military person.

4. Did you further your education after graduating from Southwest? I attended the University of Memphis for one semester. I attended school while in the military at Tidewater Community College, the University of Florida, and a host of military aviation schools.

5. Why did you decide to open your own business? I started my business because it was always a burning desire of mine. When the opportunity presented itself, I took the dive and it was the best decision I could have made for my career. I did not want to be in a position where someone else had control of my destiny.

6. What inspired you to establish the Robert Earl Tate Endowed Memorial Scholarship? My brother was the first male child in my family to attend college. He received a football scholarship to the University of Tennessee at Martin. He succumbed to cancer during his first semester of college. I have always wanted to do something in remembrance of his life. [Establishing a scholarship] was the first thing that came to mind because it was something I could do, and it would be ongoing.

7. How do you think this scholarship will impact a student? I think in these economic times, any help a student can receive is very beneficial, with the cost of all aspects of higher education continuing to increase.

8. How important do you think Southwest scholarships are to our students? I think students look forward to these kinds of scholarships to help bear the cost associated with school. I am constantly asked if I know how one can receive a scholarship.
College campuses are joining the ranks of corporate and grass roots organizations in implementing peer mentoring programs to help people overcome challenges and reach their full potential. On a college campus, mentoring is generally practiced to increase the retention of students, not only to complete courses, but ultimately to graduate from college. Southwest Tennessee Community College is genuinely committed to utilizing peer mentoring as an intervention strategy for enhancing the performance of students enrolled in Developmental Studies reading and writing classes, the College’s most vulnerable students. Through funding from a Tennessee Board of Regents Access and Diversity grant of $50,000, a peer mentoring program was developed and specifically designed for this targeted group.

Project SUCCEED-Students United for Classmates: Commitment, Empowerment, Educational Development -was launched in spring 2008, following a fall semester of planning and recruiting student mentors, as well as faculty, to welcome mentors into their classrooms. Upon completion of an orientation for student mentors and faculty, Project SUCCEED mentors are prepared to discuss student transition-to-college strategies with Developmental...
Studies students during regular class meetings, by phone, e-mail, and in individual face-to-face sessions. Topics such as time management, goal setting, use of campus resources, college transfer, and communication with instructors and academic advisors are part of a calendar of activities for mentors to address. Mentors participate in focus groups to discuss their experiences following their class presentations, and invite mentees to attend a culminating focus group at the end of a semester. Findings from focus groups, in addition to surveys, are used as qualitative research methods to evaluate the program.

One mentee’s response at the end of the semester was, “I learned how to manage my time, take notes, and I have made a great friend!”

A mentor stated, “At first I was worried about how they would accept me, but I was encouraged not to give up. This program helped me to believe in myself.”

A faculty member commented, “I am so pleased to have (mentor name) as a mentor for my students. She has demonstrated exceptional motivation, character, and compassion. Just meeting her is a blessing. Thank you for this program.”

Since spring 2008, 17 peer mentors and seven Developmental Studies faculty have participated in Project SUCCEED. The seven faculty are Marjorie Dernaika, Debbie Hunt, Rose McNeil, Rosie McCray, Miki Richardson, Lois Washington and Susan Turner. More than 350 Developmental Studies students have shared in the mentoring process. Additionally, mentors have gained experience with leadership responsibilities and commitment to an assignment to completion. Some have also been privileged to attend professional meetings such as the International Mentoring Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada; the 4th International Conference on Research in Access and Developmental Education in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and the Mentoring for Student Success and College-Wide Engagement workshop at Southwest. This exposure to professionals from across the globe was memorable for the mentors and added value to their mentoring experiences.

Gordon Lintz joins Thompson Cancer Survival Center of Knoxville, TN as Chief Administrative Officer

Gordon Lintz has joined Thompson Cancer Survival Center, a subsidiary of the Covenant Healthcare System of East Tennessee, as Chief Administrative Officer. Lintz was formally employed with Baptist Memorial Health Care of Memphis, TN, where he led Baptist’s strategic planning efforts for its cancer services and supervised the hospital’s skilled nursing facility, clinical research and stem cell transplant program. Lintz received an Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing from Southwest in 2001.

Chris Triplett, PE, CPESC joins Barge Waggoner Summer & Cannon as Project Engineer

Chris Triplett has joined Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. (BWSC), as a project engineer in the firm’s Memphis office. He will direct and design civil and environmental engineering projects such as industrial, commercial, and residential site development. His responsibilities will also include projects involving public utilities, storm water and sediment controls, landfill closures and covers, and environmental remediation and restoration. Triplett received an associate degree in mechanical engineering technology from the State Technical Institute at Memphis in 1991.

Louise Blue-Walker Self-Publishes Her Second Book

Louise Blue-Walker has just self-published her second book, Blue Poetry: Life is a Teaching Session. Are You Paying Attention? Her writings focus on how families communicate using a Christian perspective. Blue Poetry can be found at Davis-Kidd Bookstore, Church of God in Christ Bookstore and the Tennessee Baptist Bookstore. Blue-Walker received an associate degree in family services from Shelby State Community College in 1985.
Southwest’s Educational Opportunity Center Has Generated Millions in Tuition and Fees for the College

By Vickie Reyes

That fact highlights that Southwest’s TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) Program, which began life as my graduate school project, has spread its branches to serve thousands of potential adult college students in the Memphis area. Funded by a U.S. Department of Education TRIO grant of $226,600 annually, the EOC serves more than 1,000 students every year and at least two-thirds of them are potential first generation adult college students from low-income homes. The EOC program has significantly exceeded its enrollment goals every year.

The Educational Opportunity Center is located at 5390 Mendenhall Square next door to the Southeast Center, and is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. EOC staff will see students other times by appointment, and they will go to community service agencies by appointment to work with groups all across the Memphis area.

The EOC Program provides many services, all free, to help potential adult college students enroll in higher education programs at the institution of their choice. Among the services the EOC provides are:

- Computer lab with internet
- Assistance with basic computer skills
- Career exploration and counseling
- Academic, personality and career assessments
- Educational planning
- Assistance in completing admissions and financial aid applications
- ACT, COMPASS and GED Test Prep
- Tutoring

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Maria Centeno is a good example of a nontraditional EOC adult student. She is a working mom in her mid-twenties and she takes care of her family and home in addition to attending Southwest. Ms. Centeno was recently accepted into Southwest’s Radiology Program and she is thrilled. Maria’s academic work is excellent and she serves as a role model for her family and friends. She will be the first person in her family to graduate from college. All of the EOC’s staff members salute Maria Centeno for her achievements and stand ready to help her in any way they can.

Some of the students served by the EOC in its first five years enrolled at the University of Memphis, UT Nursing School, Tennessee Technology Center and other schools. However, most EOC college-ready students chose Southwest Tennessee Community College as the place to begin their college careers. EOC student enrollment added more than $5 million in tuition and fees for Southwest during the program’s first five years.
More Help Is on the Way

Serving as a bridge to higher education for its program participants, the EOC recently was awarded $20,000 by the Women’s Foundation of Greater Memphis to provide tutoring services for EOC students enrolled in GED classes city-wide. The EOC is working on several projects at different levels of development that will serve to facilitate the program’s efforts to get more Memphis area adults into postsecondary education programs. We anticipate that this year’s EOC enrollment at Southwest will push the total tuition and fees generated by the program [since its inception] to more than $6 million.

Vickie Reyes is the director of the Educational Opportunity Center.

Southwest Puts Out Welcome Mat for Danish Students

The International Education Department at Southwest recently hosted 22 international exchange students who arrived October 3 for a week from Svenborg, Denmark. The program promotes global experiences for students, faculty, and staff at Southwest. The students attend Svenborg Business College and look forward to coming to Memphis each year in order to experience the educational and cultural diversity of our great city.

The Danish students arrive on the Macon Cove Campus following a delayed flight from New York.

Students applaud the warm welcome they received from President Nathan Essex.

The Danish students

One catered dinner was all it took for Sam Chafetz to realize he had made his best choice.

Chafetz, an attorney with the law offices of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, and Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation Board member, knew his involvement in making Southwest the school of choice for Mid-Southerners was important. He had no idea how significant his decision to become more involved would be until a coincidental meeting with our culinary alumni on a Saturday afternoon.

“Gradients of the culinary program were preparing and serving the food and they had the Southwest logo on their jackets,” said Chafetz. “I asked them why they were wearing the logo. They said, ‘we are proud of our accomplishments.’” That day validated Chafetz’s decision to join the Southwest Foundation Board in July 2005. He credits philanthropist and Southwest Foundation Board member Bert Bornblum with introducing him to Southwest and urging him to get involved.

“The long and short of it is, unless we have an employee base that is well-educated, we will never pull ourselves up by our bootstraps. That is where we are, right now. We are in a community-based business,” said Chafetz. “It is a distribution center, but unless we add value to the products we are distributing, we will continue to have low wages.”

And just as Chafetz is proud of his choice to serve on the board, he knows how proud our Southwest alumni are about their achievements.

“I believe that Southwest is the school where every graduate is proud of his or her accomplishments.”
Southwest Foundation Board Members Hold Retreat

Sports Theme Inspires Board Members to “Get in the Game”

The Southwest Foundation Board held a retreat in the downtown law offices of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, and Berkowitz to chart new fund-raising goals for the College and to foster a renewed sense of team spirit while enjoying some good-natured fun in the process. Members were even invited to wear the jerseys of their favorite sports team to get into the retreat’s theme, “Get in the Game.”

Facilitator Tammie Ritchey of the Med Foundation emphasized to participants that a great team always focuses on one common goal. She used the example of NFL players who come to their training camps with the ultimate goal of winning the Super Bowl.

In breakout sessions, board members and staff were divided and asked to brainstorm ideas on cultivation and strategy. Ideas included increased alumni participation, employee challenges, and improving overall relationships within the community’s private and public sectors. Board members were also encouraged to become more proactive and provide the names of at least five potential donors.

As a reward for their day’s work and to keep the motivation going, the development staff—with pom-poms in hand—cheered on board members during “player introductions.”

Dr. Joanne H. Bassett is the newly appointed Provost/Executive Vice President at Southwest Tennessee Community College. Dr. Bassett has served at the college in a variety of capacities since 1973. Her long career at the college has included stints as professor of reading, chair of developmental studies, and dean of distance education and instructional technology.

From the early days of the Apple II computers, Dr. Bassett foresaw the important role that technology would ultimately play in learning and teaching. In the 1970s, she wrote BASIC programs to teach vocabulary and reading skills; she was the first to train her department in the use of e-mail; and her department was the first at the college to use a computer, projector, and interactive presentation board in the classroom. “Those were Stone Age achievements. Southwest now uses video-conferencing equipment to teach courses across Fayette and Shelby counties, offers more than 150 online courses and nine online degrees, and uses podcasting and voice boards in its online and other distance education courses. Students have high expectations these days; no more yellow notes and chalk boards.”

Prior to accepting her new position, Dr. Bassett had been dean of distance education and instructional technology for many years. During her tenure, the number of 21st century multimedia classrooms increased dramatically and a first-class faculty development program was instituted. This training program includes cutting-edge training in technology so superior that it attracts participants across the state and region, and from as far away as Maine.

“We are exceedingly proud of the work we do with our faculty in technology and pedagogy for both online and traditional classes. And we are always trying to find ways to help our students achieve their goals while making their way through life. Our latest initiative is ‘split (hybrid) courses,’ which include time in the classroom with the professor and time out of class on the computer. With this format, we are able to enroll a working adult in up to 12 hours a semester in just two evenings a week, or on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. These split courses are very, very successful,” said Dr. Bassett.

Dr. Bassett recently attended her second Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England. Participation in the Oxford Round Table is by invitation only and includes participants from around the world. The topic of this session was “The Regulation of Cyberspace: Balancing the Interests.” In her role of executive vice president over information services, this is a topic she handles regularly. “At the college, we are constantly battling...
this global issue on a much smaller scale. How do you allow students and faculty freedom and access while preserving the integrity of your network and operating within the scope of the TEACH Act, CALEA and music piracy laws? These are difficult issues with no simple solution.”

Participation in an Oxford Round Table is exciting in and of itself, but traveling abroad and working with colleagues from around the world heightens one’s awareness of the global nature of life today, thanks to the internet, global trade and business, and the interdependence of nations. So little of what Americans use and consume comes from the USA.

Dr. Bassett recognizes the changing and shrinking world in her strong support of Southwest’s International Studies initiative. Last week, the first students returned from studying in South Africa for three weeks. “One of the most exciting facets of my position is celebrating a student’s success. When one of our students, the majority of whom are on financial aid, qualifies through our intense selection process to travel to a remote destination to study and immerse him or herself in a foreign culture, it is life-changing, as one of the recent student-travelers so aptly commented.”

Most Southwest students might never experience world travel and the cultural awareness that develops through such travel. Through participation in the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies, a statewide consortium, selected students can travel and study abroad for a $100 fee. How wonderful to be able to say, “I spent my career at a college that provides so many opportunities, so many life-changing experiences to Shelby and Fayette citizens.”

Dr. Bassett earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English at the University of Memphis and her doctorate in curriculum and instruction at the University of Memphis. She also attended the University of Maine in Orono and Portland, Maine (Junior Year Summer Residential); and Bates College, Lewiston Maine.

Gill Center 25th Anniversary: A Gala Event

Southwest Tennessee Community College recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Gill Center, located at 3833 Mountain Terrace in Memphis. The Gill Center, named in honor of Dr. Elbert T. Gill, Jr., began operation on September 3, 1983. Dr. Gill, a prominent businessman in the Frayser community and a member of the legislature, was instrumental in helping gain access to the campus for Southwest.

The Gill Center, located in the heart of Frayser, plays an integral role in the community and collaborates with local organizations like the Frayser Exchange Club, the Frayser Community Association and the Ed Rice Community Center. Gill Center Director Patsy Anderson said, “I’d like to think that the Gill Center is the Frayser community’s college. It’s here for everyone no matter if it’s a youth group, or someone who is actually attending classes, an older adult who is coming back to either be retrained, or to just take some continuing education kinds of classes.”

The celebration was held at the Gill Center on September 26. State Senator Jim Kyle was the master of ceremonies for the event. Dignitaries from city and county government made proclamations before a full house of supporters at the celebration.

The Institutional Development department has expanded to include the newly established Donor Relations department headed by Cheryl A. Bingham. Ms. Bingham will be responsible for developing a stewardship program for Southwest’s donors. Her responsibilities will include planning and implementing all cultivation events with current and prospective donors and meeting regularly with the Development and Research committee to solicit ideas for enhancing the stewardship program. In addition, she will assure that the College’s donors receive appropriate and timely acknowledgements for their philanthropic deeds, and she will create and maintain a liaison program for high-end donors.

Already a standard model in most four-year universities, the donor relations office is a newer component in many two-year schools. Donors are the center of our work and as our first and foremost priority, they deserve the greatest recognition and highest level of quality. We are pleased to bring you this newest service, and we welcome your comments and feedback.

In addition to managing the Donor Relations Program, Ms. Bingham will continue her duties administering the Foundation Scholarship Program and Foundation Special Events.

For questions concerning donor relations, scholarships or Foundation special events, please contact Cheryl Bingham at 333-4504.
Southwest Recently Hosted Members of the Shelby County Legislative Delegation

Members of the State Legislature recently met with President Nathan Essex and other college officials during a luncheon on October 31, 2008. During the luncheon, the President briefed the delegation on the college’s recent successes as well as its priorities for the coming year. Attending the meeting were Senators Beverly Robison Marrero, Ophelia Ford, Mark Norris, and Regina Tait as well as Representatives Karen Camper, Jeanne D. Richardson, GA Hardaway and Speaker Pro Tem Lois DeBerry.

President Essex began by updating the delegation on the ongoing campaign to erect a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building—emphasizing the $2 million pledge by corporate giant FedEx; the largest gift in Southwest history. He also informed them that because of the college’s success raising private dollars, Southwest was able to move from number 16 to number two on the Tennessee Board of Regents’ (TBR) Capital Outlay Request. This was accomplished due to a pilot match program that TBR had implemented to provide incentives to colleges to raise more private dollars. Under the match program, if a college raised at least 15 percent of the total project costs, their project could be advanced on TBR’s Capital Outlay request from the state.

TBR Vice Chancellor David Gregory was in attendance and according to Sherman Greer, executive director of Government Relations at Southwest, “he informed the delegation that Southwest was the only college in the TBR system to achieve that match and he emphasized how significant that was for a community college.” Capital Outlay Projects include all projects for which the primary objective is expansion of buildings by adding new construction and renovations involving extensive changes in functional use.

Also discussed were Southwest’s efforts to acquire the land to construct the nursing school. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) are currently conducting an environmental assessment of the area to determine an estimate of the possible cleanup costs. Other related issues on the table were the extensive number of students on the waiting list for entry into Southwest’s nursing program and the shortage of workers in the fields of nursing and allied health sciences for the immediate area. The Nursing Institute of the Mid-South shows Shelby County with a current shortage of 720 plus nurses and over 800 lab technicians.

President Essex took the opportunity to highlight Southwest’s enrollment which is up 8.8 percent – 11,445 compared to 10,515 last year. He also discussed new buildings that are currently being constructed or sought that will aid in increasing enrollment and better serve the Mid-South: the Maxine A. Smith Center, the new library, as well as the new academic building on the Macon Cove Campus, and the progress toward building a new Fayette County Center.

TBR Vice Chancellor Gregory discussed several issues including enrollment increases for community colleges statewide, the 6 percent tuition increase for 2008-09, budget reductions/reversions, Tennessee Lottery revenues and possible revisions that would expand the lottery to include those individuals who are over 25 years of age that have an income of $36,000 or less. This would apply to working adults that have been out of college for two or more years.

Also attending the meeting were Cato Johnson, Southwest Foundation Board Chair, Memphis City Schools Associate General Counsel Van Turner, Southwest Provost/Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett and Southwest Vice President of Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new building was held June 25 on the Macon Cove Campus. Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning, President Nathan Essex, Representative Barbara Cooper, Foundation Board Member/Alumni Association President Sylvester Tate, Foundation Board Member Greg Pohlmann, and Provost/Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett.

The Strategic Plan Executive Summary, A Blueprint for the Future 2005-2010, indicates that one of the college’s major initiatives involves total infusion of information technology and its investment in electronic classrooms to make sure Southwest students are prepared to function in the 21st century workforce. The new academic building, phase two of the Macon Cove Campus Master Plan devised in 1990, will move the college closer to that initiative.

Southwest President Nathan Essex expressed the significance of the event in his welcome, “This is an exciting day for Southwest; one we have been anticipating for many years, almost 20 years. We are indeed proud of this momentous occasion…this state-of-the-art academic facility will provide increased opportunities for Southwest to address the future educational needs of a larger number of deserving students.”

Among the special guests were Regent Greg Duckett of the Tennessee Board of Regents; Mark Stansberry, assistant to the president of the University of Memphis; Fred Davis, a member of the Southwest Foundation Board; Sylvester Tate, Southwest Foundation board member/Alumni Association president; and representatives from Senator Corker’s, Congressman Cohen’s, and Mayor Wharton’s offices, to name a few.

Provost/Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett gave an overview of the features and amenities of the new building, “A $21.7 million building, 109,000 square feet, almost a 40 percent increase….It is going to be a wonderful, wonderful setting.”

A reception followed the “ceremonial dig” in the Farris Building; the turning of the first shovels of dirt to break ground for the new building.
Highly Gifted 14-Year-Old Enrolls in Fall Classes at Southwest

"First, I am 14 and this is college," was highly gifted young teen Graham Charles Elwood's response to the question... "How is starting school this year different for you than it was last year?" Graham Elwood will be the first 14-year-old to attend Southwest Tennessee Community College. Co-valedictorian of his Gateway Christian School senior class of 116, Elwood fast-paced to test out of five grades in six months to graduate at 13-years-old this past May. Gateway offers home extension classes. "When they saw his ACT scores and his IQ tests, they said let him go at his own pace," said Shelby Elwood-Raney, Graham's mother.

Though Elwood, who has an IQ of 170 and an ACT score of 27, was awarded a Southwest President's Scholarship, there will be no red carpet rolled out to welcome him to campus this fall. He, his parents and Southwest unanimously agreed to make his college experience as normal as possible. "My hope would be that Graham would have a normal experience as any other normal student would have," stated Southwest President Nathan Essex.

Southwest’s new student orientation was recently held and Elwood blended in with all the other first-time students in his black t-shirt with sunglasses clipped to the front. If that’s any indication, he’ll get his wish to be just another student at Southwest. "I hope that my classmates will accept me. I am just one of them as far as I’m concerned. I hope to just be another student," he said.

The officials at Southwest worked with Elwood’s parents in advance of his enrollment to make sure that he and Southwest were a good match. "As far as us changing our program, we really haven’t done that because that would not be giving him a true college experience; and that’s what he wanted," said Kathryn Johnson, executive director of enrollment services.

His classes will be lined up back-to-back on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – psychology, speech, Spanish, mathematics and the honors program. "I am looking to [test out of] math and English," he said. When it comes to extracurriculars, he has several interests. So far, he has talked to Coach Reynolds about trying out for baseball.

Elwood plans to major in law. His mother proudly said he has known since third grade that he wanted to study law. "He sat on the bed and told me what schools he wanted to attend and what he wanted to take," she glowed. If all goes well, he will graduate from Southwest in 2010 and transfer credits to Rhodes College or the University of Memphis to complete his undergraduate degree.

Thereafter, he plans to join the military. Elwood comes from a long line of military men and plans to keep the family tradition. "It’s fascinated me. My entire family has pretty much been military at one point or another and I really feel like I, at least, have a six or seven-year obligation to them." He hoped to be going to West Point for his bachelor’s degree, but his age precluded him from attending. "So we’ve had to tweak the career," said his mother.

Elwood is a young man with superior intelligence and huge career goals. "I want to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court," he announced. Graham Elwood is off to an incredible start.

Carolyn Head Returns as Executive Director of Library Services

Carolyn Head has been selected to serve a second tenure at Southwest, this time as Executive Director of Library Services. Her responsibilities include supervising a new $17 million plus library to open on the Macon Cove Campus in January 2009. She managed and oversaw the development and evaluation of library operation and personnel services for the former Shelby State Community College Libraries as library director from 1993-1997.

The thing I like about community college," Head said, "is that it is a melding of academia and the public. To me it is the best of both worlds. We serve more than just the faculty, staff and our students. We serve the community.

Head returns to the college with impressive credentials, including 30 years of leadership, management and supervisory experience within diverse organizational environments. Her 12 years of administrative experience include: assistant director for Public Services for the First Regional Library System in northwest Mississippi; regional manager for the Nashville Public Library; team leader for the Seattle Public Library System; and assistant managing librarian for Edmonds Branch Library, Sno-Isle Regional Library System. She graduated from Tennessee State University with a B. S. degree in sociology. She earned a Master of Library Science degree in urban librarianship from Case Western Reserve University and an M. S. in urban anthropology from Memphis State University.

The primary responsibilities of library services fit well within the parameters of Head’s personal mission of service and with the direction and vision in which the college is headed in terms of community service, especially for the new library at Macon Cove. "The vision I have for library services is to develop ways that we can better serve our community. I think, particularly with this new library, we have that opportunity," Head said. "I want the library to be more than just a repository for books and materials and interaction with the students. I see it as a destination place, a gathering place. This is the new trend for libraries now, to be a gathering place."

Veteran Law Enforcement Officer Appointed Director of Police Services/Public Safety

James Bolden has been promoted to Director of Police Services/Public Safety. He came to Southwest in June of this year as the associate director after having served 32 years in law enforcement. "I believe in service – serving the people, serving the public. Coming here to Southwest affords me the opportunity to continue my life’s work of being of service," said Bolden.

Bolden’s first professional law enforcement opportunity came as a patrolman with the Memphis Police Department in 1968. Eight years later, he was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the criminal investigation division. Bolden served as director of Homeland Security for District 11 and worked for Crichton College before coming to Southwest.

As chief of public safety at Southwest, Bolden feels that a unified ‘community concept’ will best strengthen the effectiveness of public safety for the college. "I see the Southwest community as almost like a city within itself. … I would like to see a community-based public safety initiative at the college in which the students, faculty and staff are able to interchange ideas and work together." Bolden is a Memphis State University graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice.

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choices to suit every interest: comprehensive programs with convenient locations and class schedules and an ever-growing roster of online courses. ‘Whatever works’ – those are the choices we offer our students.”

But, Hampton points out, society throws up roadblocks. “Right now, it’s the economy, the scarcity of the jobs our students need, and the sheer complexity of balancing family, school and work; while attaining a successful education. That’s where my job comes in, coordinating access to all the help available.”

Southwest has developed a myriad of ways, and a large team, to help students reach their goals. As Hampton says, “We make sure our students are able to take advantage of all the help we can give.” That help varies widely, beginning with dedicated teachers working to develop the best in our students and offering special help to those who need it. Financial help to fund college expenses, free tutoring, student mentoring programs, career centers, advisors to guide students to the right courses at the right time – plus many other supportive programs and activities – give students the wide range of help they need. At Southwest, everyone is charged with supporting student needs in every way possible.

Hampton received his bachelor’s in history at the University of Arkansas and his MBA from the University of Phoenix, Memphis.

Jim Avery Provides New Leadership for Information Systems

Jim Avery arrived at Southwest in June as Executive Director of Information Systems with a portfolio packed with information technology, business and financial management, and higher education administration experience. He is responsible for all information technology resources for students and administration; application services, networking and telecommunications infrastructure services; client services; and help desk services for the entire college.

Avery says it is his perspective on the role information technology plays in the organization’s structure that qualifies him to handle responsibilities of this magnitude. But, while a good working knowledge of what makes information technology important in any organization is necessary, it is people skills that bridge the role of information technology and the mission and vision of the organization. “My goal is to align the technology resources with the business of the college in order to enable it to do what it is here to do. And that ‘business’ is to educate students in this community,” said Avery.

Avery’s professional credentials include 10 years in higher education at Crichton College, as assistant professor of business; director of information systems; webmaster; chief financial officer; and marketing consultant to the president and administration. He also was formerly senior vice president of marketing for First South Credit Union in Millington, Tennessee, and administrator and business manager for Faith Heritage Baptist Church and Christian Academy, also in Millington.

In his new position at Southwest, Avery has several directional themes. The first is customer service: “We must first recognize who our customers are. And often, that means, not so much the students, as those who serve our students – faculty and administrators,” said Avery. The second theme is professional development. “I believe that, as an institution of higher learning, we need to set the example of being lifelong learners and develop to our fullest potential.”

Avery earned an MBA with a concentration in management information systems from the University of Memphis; a baccalaureate in marketing from U of M; and an A.A.S. in hotel and restaurant management from Southwest.

Dr. Elaine Adams presenting a Desire2Excel Community Award.

Memphis Plays Host for Desire2Learn International Conference

Desire2Learn Incorporated, a leading provider of mission-critical enterprise eLearning solutions, held its largest-ever users’ conference in July with 600 registered attendees, including global clients and partners. FUSION 2008: Connect & Inspire, the premier Desire2Learn (D2L) event of the year, was the fifth annual Desire2Learn Users’ Conference, held this year in Memphis, Tennessee at the Cook Convention Center.

Attendees, representing institutions and organizations worldwide, had countless opportunities to connect, learn and be inspired as they shared successes, best practices and innovative uses of the D2L suite of offerings.

“The proximity of location allowed 13 Southwest faculty and Distance Education staff to take advantage of the [overabundance] of quality sessions and workshops,” said Dr. Elaine Adams, director of the Center of Emphasis (COE) for Teaching and Technology at Southwest. With more than 140 sessions, five tracks and post-conference workshops, attendees participated in engaging discussions offered in various formats, from enriching networking events to forward thinking keynote speakers.

Southwest attendees included Dr. Adams, Kendall Gloster, Corey Griffin, Jeannette Gunter, Lisa Henriksen, Lydia Linebarger, Clark McKinney, Brad Montgomery, Kim Rittman, Gary Shockley, Brenda Smith, Lilliette Smith, and Vivian Stewart.

Dr. Adams, who served on the conference committee, the program committee, and the Desire2Excel Awards committee, said, “Reports from the attendees indicate that the sessions were helpful in solidifying concepts already utilized in the Southwest distance education courses as well as challenging faculty to use tools and features of D2L in innovative ways.”

“One of the unique features of FUSION was the participation of the D2L staff. The D2L staff members presented sessions on the software which allow participants to interact, offer suggestions for improvements, and understand the development process,” said Dr. Adams.

The conference proved beneficial not only for the attendees but, according to Jeremy Auger, chief operation officer for D2L, proved beneficial for his team as well. “FUSION was a prime occasion for our diverse
ly and rapidly growing client base, partners, collaborators within the eLearning community, and members of the Desire2Learn team to learn, expand outlooks and experiment with new tools and technologies. … This very successful annual event sparks innovation and the sharing of best practices throughout the D2L community on an ongoing basis,” Auger said.

Lydia Linebarger, associate professor of developmental studies, observed, “FUSION showed how far ahead of the crowd Southwest is with technology, training, and course design. The COE staff does an excellent job in keeping us up-to-date.” She added, “The conference was a great way to meet people from across the U.S. and Canada and hear how they have been using D2L at their institutions. I picked up several new ideas from the people I met and have already applied them to my fall course,” Linebarger served on the conference committee and on the program committee.

The conference was followed by a brainstorming session at Southwest to discuss the implementation of concepts and practices learned or refreshed from the users FUSION experience.

A global spectrum of attendees network during a midmorning break.

Jeremy Auger, chief operating officer for Desire2Learn Incorporated, paused for a photo.

Sherman Greer has been appointed Executive Director of Government Relations. This new office promotes day-to-day contact with city, county, state and federal legislative bodies, creating new opportunities to build and support programs mutually beneficial both to students and many sectors of the local economy.

Greer previously served as District Director for U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen and for many years as a senior aide to former Congressman Harold Ford Jr. “Initially, my focus is to build on relationships the college has with elected and appointed officials to enhance funding and grant opportunities. Given recent cuts in funding for higher education we must be more creative and seek additional ways to partner with key stakeholders in the community,” said Greer.

A key responsibility of the Government Relations Office is to ensure that the president and the community of Southwest are kept up-to-date about government activities and proposals that may directly impact the college, its students, faculty and administrators. The office also works in cooperation with other offices of the college including academic grants, corporate and foundation relations, and public relations to maximize the college’s agenda. Another key aspect will be working with faculty to help identify opportunities for state and federal appropriations.

Greer makes it a point to maintain close contact with the Shelby County delegation. He is in Nashville approximately once a week when the legislature is in session. He also fosters relationships with legislators from middle and east Tennessee and works with representatives from other Tennessee Board of Regents schools across the state to collaborate and develop ideas. Greer added, “I am honored and excited about this opportunity. Southwest is making great strides to be known as the community’s college and I just hope that I am able to make a positive contribution to its continuing success.” He received his bachelor’s degree in political science and communications from the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Oyama Hampton III Named to New Customer Service Director Position

Oyama Hampton III is uniquely prepared to fill the newly created position of Director of Customer Service. At International Paper, during 10 years in positions including customer service, customer service management, and sales, he formed in just two years one of the top ranking sales teams in the division. That experience, plus longtime civic involvement, and many years dedicated to the needs of young people, give him special insight into the concerns of college students. He also coordinates customer service training for faculty and staff, and works with committees and departments to ensure exceptional service for internal and external customers.

According to Hampton, now is an excellent time to be in college, “to be choosing your educational path, your career. Choices are especially extensive at Southwest...
and rapidly growing client base, partners, collaborators within the eLearning community, and members of the Desire2Learn team to learn, expand outlooks and experiment with new tools and technologies. … This very successful annual event sparks innovation and the sharing of best practices throughout the D2L community on an ongoing basis,” Auger said.

Lydia Linebarger, associate professor of developmental studies, observed, “FUSION showed how far ahead of the crowd Southwest is with technology, training, and course design. The COE staff does an excellent job in keeping us up-to-date.” She added, “The conference was a great way to meet people from across the U.S. and Canada and hear how they have been using D2L at their institutions. I picked up several new ideas from the people I met and have already applied them to my fall course.” Linebarger served on the conference committee and on the program committee.

The conference was followed by a brainstorming session at Southwest to discuss the implementation of concepts and practices learned or refreshed from the users FUSION experience.

Jeremy Auger, chief operating officer for Desire2Learn Incorporated, paused for a photo.

Snapshots of New Administrative Faces at Southwest

Sherman Greer has been appointed Executive Director of Government Relations. This new office promotes day-to-day contact with city, county, state and federal legislative bodies, creating new opportunities to build and support programs mutually beneficial both to students and many sectors of the local economy.

Greer previously served as District Director for U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen and for many years was a senior aide to former Congressman Harold Ford Jr. “Initially, my focus is to build on relationships the college has with elected and appointed officials to enhance funding and grant opportunities. Given recent cuts in funding for higher education we must be more creative and seek additional ways to partner with key stakeholders in the community,” said Greer.

A key responsibility of the Government Relations Office is to ensure that the president and the community of Southwest are kept up-to-date about government activities and proposals that may directly impact the college, its students, faculty and administrators. The office also works in cooperation with other offices of the college including academic grants, corporate and foundation relations, and public relations to maximize the college’s agenda. Another key aspect will be working with faculty to help identify opportunities for state and federal appropriations.

Greer makes it a point to maintain close contact with the Shelby County delegation. He is in Nashville approximately once a week when the legislature is in session. He also fosters relationships with legislators from middle and east Tennessee and works with representatives from other Tennessee Board of Regents schools across the state to collaborate and develop ideas. Greer added, “I am honored and excited about this opportunity. Southwest is making great strides to be known as the community’s college and I just hope that I am able to make a positive contribution to its continuing success.” He received his bachelor’s degree in political science and communications from the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Oyama Hampton III Named to New Customer Service Director Position

Oyama Hampton III is uniquely prepared to fill the newly created position of Director of Customer Service. At International Paper, during 10 years in positions including customer service, customer service management, and sales, he formed in just two years one of the top ranking sales teams in the division. That experience, plus longtime civic involvement, and many years dedicated to the needs of young people, give him special insight into the concerns of college students. He also coordinates customer service training for faculty and staff, and works with committees and departments to ensure exceptional service for internal and external customers.

According to Hampton, now is an excellent time to be in college, “to be choosing your educational path, your career. Choices are especially extensive at Southwest...
choices to suit every interest: comprehensive programs with convenient locations and class schedules and an ever-growing roster of online courses. ‘Whatever works’ – those are the choices we offer our students.” But, Hampton points out, society throws up roadblocks. “Right now, it’s the economy, the scarcity of the jobs our students need, and the sheer complexity of balancing family, school and work; while attaining a successful education. That’s where my job comes in, coordinating access to all the help available.”

Southwest has developed a myriad of ways, and a large team, to help students reach their goals. As Hampton says, “We make sure our students are able to take advantage of all the help we can give.” That help varies widely, beginning with dedicated teachers working to develop the very best in our students and offering financial help to college expenses, free tutoring, student mentoring programs, career centers, advisors to guide students to the right courses at the right time – plus many other supportive programs and activities – give students the wide range of help they need. At Southwest, everyone is charged with supporting student needs in every way possible.

Hampton received his bachelor’s in history at the University of Arkansas and his MBA from the University of Phoenix, Memphis.

Jim Avery Provides New Leadership for Information Systems

Jim Avery arrived at Southwest in June as Executive Director of Information Systems with a portfolio packed with information technology, business and financial management, and higher education administration experience. He is responsible for all information technology resources for students and administration; application services, networking and telecommunications infrastructure services; client services; and help desk services for the entire college.

Avery says it is his perspective on the role information technology plays in the organization’s structure that qualifies him to handle responsibilities of this magnitude. But, while a good working knowledge of what makes information technology important in any organization is necessary, it is people skills that bridge the role of information technology and the mission and vision of the organization. “My goal is to align the technology resources with the business of the college in order to enable it to do what it is here to do. And that ‘business’ is to educate students in this community,” said Avery.

Avery’s professional credentials include 10 years in higher education at Crichton College, as assistant professor of business; director of information systems; webmaster; chief financial officer; and marketing consultant to the president and administration. He also was formerly senior vice president of marketing for First South Credit Union in Millington, Tennessee, and administrator and business manager for Faith Heritage Baptist Church and Christian Academy, also in Millington.

In his new position at Southwest, Avery has several directional themes. The first is customer service: “We must first recognize who our customers are. And often, that means, not so much the students, as those who serve our students – faculty and administrators,” said Avery. The second theme is professional development. “I believe that, as an institution of higher learning, we need to set the example of being lifelong learners and develop to our fullest potential.”

Avery earned an MBA with a concentration in management information systems from the University of Memphis; a baccalaureate in marketing from U of M; and an A.A.S. in hotel and restaurant management from Southwest.

Desire2Learn Incorporated, a leading provider of mission-critical enterprise eLearning solutions, held its largest-ever users’ conference in July with 600 registered attendees, including global clients and partners. FUSION 2008: Connect & Inspire, the premier Desire2Learn (D2L) event of the year, was the fifth annual Desire2Learn Users’ Conference, held this year in Memphis, Tennessee at the Cook Convention Center.

Attendees, representing institutions and organizations worldwide, had countless opportunities to connect, learn and be inspired as they shared successes, best practices and innovative uses of the D2L suite of offerings.

“...”
Highly Gifted 14-Year-Old Enrolls in Fall Classes at Southwest

“First, I am 14 and this is college,” was highly gifted young teen Graham Charles Elwood’s response to the question … “How is starting school this year different for you than it was last year?” Graham Elwood will be the first 14-year-old to attend Southwest Tennessee Community College, Co-valedictorian of his Gateway Christian School senior class of 116, Elwood fast-paced to test out of five grades in six months to graduate at 13-years-old this past May. Gateway offers home extension classes. “When they saw his ACT scores and his IQ tests, they said let him go at his own pace,” said Shelby Elwood-Raney, Graham’s mother.

Though Elwood, who has an IQ of 170 and an ACT score of 27, was awarded a Southwest President’s Scholarship, there will be no red carpet rolled out to welcome him to campus this fall. He, his parents and Southwest unanimously agreed to make his college experience as normal as possible. “My hope would be that Graham would have a normal experience as any other normal student would have,” stated Southwest President Nathan Essex.

Southwest’s new student orientation was recently held and Elwood blended in with all the other first-time students in his black t-shirt with sunglasses clipped to the front. If that’s any indication, he’ll get his wish to be just another student at Southwest. “I hope that my classmates will accept me. I am just one of them as far I as I’m concerned. I hope to just be another student,” he said.

The officials at Southwest worked with Elwood’s parents in advance of his enrollment to make sure that he and Southwest were a good match. “As far as us changing our program, we really haven’t done that because that would not be giving him a true college experience; and that’s what he wanted,” said Kathryn Johnson, executive director of enrollment services.

His classes will be lined up back-to-back on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – psychology, speech, Spanish, military science, and the honors program. “I am looking to [test out of] math and English,” he said. When it comes to extracurriculars, he has several interests. So far, he has talked to Coach Reynolds about trying out for baseball.

Elwood plans to major in law. His mother proudly said he has known since third grade that he wanted to study law. “He sat on the bed and told me what schools he wanted to attend and what he wanted to take,” she glowed. If all goes well, he will graduate from Southwest in 2010 and transfer credits to Rhodes College or the University of Memphis to complete his undergraduate degree.

Thereafter, he plans to join the military. Elwood comes from a long line of military men and plans to keep the family tradition. “It’s fascinating me. My entire family has pretty much been military at one point or another and I really feel like I, at least, have a six or seven-year obligation to them.” He hoped to be going to West Point for his bachelor’s degree, but his age precluded him from attending. “So we’ve had to tweak the career,” said his mother.

Elwood is a young man with superior intelligence and huge career goals. “I want to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court,” he announced. Graham Elwood is off to an incredible start.

Carolyn Head Returns as Executive Director of Library Services

Carolyn Head has been selected to serve a second tenure at Southwest, this time as Executive Director of Library Services. Her responsibilities include supervising a new $17 million plus library to open on the Macon Cove Campus in January 2009. She managed and oversaw the development and evaluation of library operation and personnel services for the former Shelby State Community College Library as library director from 1993-1997.

“The thing I like about community college,” Head said, “is that it is a melding of academia and the public. To me it is the best of both worlds. We serve more than just the faculty, staff and our students. We serve the community.”

Head returns to the college with impressive credentials, including 30 years of leadership, management and supervisory experience within diverse organizational environments. Her 12 years of administrative experience include: assistant director for Public Services for the First Regional Library System in northwest Mississippi; regional manager for the Nashville Public Library; branch team leader for the Seattle Public Library System; and assistant managing librarian for Edmonds Branch Library, Sno-Isle Regional Library System. She graduated from Tennessee State University with a B. S. degree in sociology. She earned a Master of Library Science degree in urban librarianship from Case Western Reserve University and an M. S. in urban anthropology from Memphis State University.

The primary responsibilities of library services fit well within the parameters of Head’s personal mission of service and with the direction and vision in which the college is headed in terms of community service, especially for the new library at Macon Cove. “The vision I have for library services is to develop ways that we can better serve our community. I think, particularly with this new library, we have that opportunity,” Head said. “I want the library to be more than just a repository for books and materials and interaction with the students. I see it as a destination place, a gathering place. This is the new trend for libraries now, to be a gathering place.”

Veteran Law Enforcement Officer Appointed Director of Police Services/Public Safety

James Bolden has been promoted to Director of Police Services/Public Safety. He came to Southwest in June of this year as the associate director after having served 32 years in law enforcement. “I believe in service – serving the people, serving the public. Coming here to Southwest affords me the opportunity to continue my life’s work of being of service,” said Bolden.

Bolden’s first professional law enforcement opportunity came as a patrolman with the Memphis Police Department in 1968. Eight years later, he was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the criminal investigation division. Bolden rose through the ranks as lieutenant, captain, commander, inspector, chief inspector and chief of the MPD Training Academy where he revolutionized training methods for all law enforcement personnel. He retired in 1997 then returned in 2000 as deputy director of police services and was later appointed as director of police services for the City of Memphis in 2003. Bolden served as director of Homeland Security for District 11 and worked for Crichton College before coming to Southwest.

As chief of public safety at Southwest, Bolden feels that a unified “community concept” will best strengthen the effectiveness of public safety for the college. “I see the Southwest community as almost like a city within itself. … I would like to see a community-based public safety initiative at the college in which the students, faculty and staff are able to interchange ideas and work together.” Bolden is a Memphis State University graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice.
Southwest Recently Hosted Members of the Shelby County Legislative Delegation

Members of the State Legislature recently met with President Nathan Essex and other college officials during a luncheon on October 31, 2008. During the luncheon, the President briefed the delegation on the college’s recent successes as well as its priorities for the coming year. Attending the meeting were Senators Beverly Robison Marrero, Ophelia Ford, Mark Norris, and Reginald Tate as well as Representatives Karen Camper, Jeanne D. Richardson, GA Hardaway and Speaker Pro Tem Lois DeBerry.

President Essex began by updating the delegation on the ongoing campaign to erect a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotecnology Building—emphasizing the $2 million pledge by corporate giant FedEx; the largest gift in Southwest history. He also informed them that because of the college’s success raising private dollars, Southwest was able to move from number 16 to number two on the Tennessee Board of Regents’ (TBR) Capital Outlay Request. This was accomplished due to a pilot match program that TBR had implemented to provide incentives to colleges to raise more private dollars. Under the match program, if a college raised at least 15 percent of the total project costs, their project could be advanced on TBR’s Capital Outlay request from the state.

TBR Vice Chancellor David Gregory was in attendance and according to Sherman Greer, executive director of Government Relations at Southwest, “he informed the delegation that Southwest was the only college in the TBR system to achieve that match and he emphasized how significant that was for a community college.”

Capital Outlay Projects include all projects for which the primary objective is expansion of buildings by adding new construction and renovations involving extensive changes in functional use. Also discussed were Southwest’s efforts to acquire the land to construct the nursing school. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) are currently conducting an environmental assessment of the area to determine an estimate of the possible cleanup costs. Other related issues on the table were the extensive number of students on the waiting list for entry into Southwest’s nursing program and the shortage of workers in the fields of nursing and allied health sciences for the immediate area. The Nursing Institute of the Mid-South shows Shelby County with a current shortage of 720 plus nurses and over 800 lab technicians.

President Essex took the opportunity to highlight Southwest’s enrollment which is up 8.8 percent – 11,445 compared to 10,515 last year. He also discussed new buildings that are currently being constructed or sought that will aid in increasing enrollment and better serve the Mid-South: the Maxine A. Smith Center, the new library, as well as the new academic building on the Macon Cove Campus, and the progress toward building a new Fayette County Center.

TBR Vice Chancellor Gregory discussed several issues including enrollment increases for community colleges statewide, the 6 percent tuition increase for 2008-09, budget reductions/reversions, Tennessee Lottery revenues and possible revisions that would expand the lottery to include those individuals who are over 25 years of age that have an income of $36,000 or less. This would apply to working adults that have been out of college for two or more years.

Also attending the meeting were Cato Johnson, Southwest Foundation Board Chair, Memphis City Schools Associate General Counsel Van Turner, Southwest Provost/Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett and Southwest Vice President of Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new building was held June 25 on the Macon Cove Campus. Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning, President Nathan Essex, Representative Barbara Cooper, Foundation Board Member/Alumni Association President Sylvester Tate, Foundation Board Member Greg Pohlmann, and Provost/Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett.

The Strategic Plan Executive Summary, A Blueprint for the Future 2005-2010, indicates that one of the college’s major initiatives involves total infusion of information technology and its investment in electronic classrooms to make sure Southwest students are prepared to function in the 21st century workforce. The new academic building, phase two of the Macon Cove Campus Master Plan devised in 1990, will move the college closer to that initiative.

The TBR Chancellor Joins the Ceremonial Dig for Our New Academic Building Groundbreaking

The Strategic Plan Executive Summary, A Blueprint for the Future 2005-2010, indicates that one of the college’s major initiatives involves total infusion of information technology and its investment in electronic classrooms to make sure Southwest students are prepared to function in the 21st century workforce. The new academic building, phase two of the Macon Cove Campus Master Plan devised in 1990, will move the college closer to that initiative.

Southwest President Nathan Essex expressed the significance of the event in his welcome, “This is an exciting day for Southwest; one we have been anticipating for many years, almost 20 years. We are indeed proud of this momentous occasion…this state-of-the-art academic facility will provide increased opportunities for Southwest to address the future educational needs of a larger number of deserving students.”

Among the special guests were Regent Greg Duckett of the Tennessee Board of Regents; Mark Stansberry, assistant to the president of the University of Memphis; Fred Davis, a member of the Southwest Foundation Board; Sylvester Tate, Southwest Foundation board member/Alumni Association president; and representatives from Senator Corker’s, Congressman Cohen’s, and Mayor Wharton’s offices, to name a few.

Provost/Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett gave an overview of the features and amenities of the new building, “A $21.7 million building, 109,000 square feet, almost 40 percent increase….It is going to be a wonderful, wonderful setting.”

A reception followed the “ceremonial dig” in the Farris Building; the turning of the first shovels of dirt to break ground for the new building.
Dr. Bassett recognizes the changing and shrinking world in her strong support of Southwest’s International Studies initiative. Last week, the first students returned from studying in South Africa for three weeks. “One of the most exciting facets of my position is celebrating a student’s success. When one of our students, the majority of whom are on financial aid, qualifies through our intense selection process to travel to a remote destination to study and immerse him or herself in a foreign culture, it is life-changing, as one of the recent student-travelers so aptly commented.”

Most Southwest students might never experience world travel and the cultural awareness that develops through such travel. Through participation in the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies, a statewide consortium, selected students can travel and study abroad for a $100 fee. How wonderful to be able to say, “I spent my career at a college that provides so many opportunities, so many life-changing experiences to Shelby and Fayette citizens.”

Dr. Bassett earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English at the University of Memphis and her doctorate in curriculum and instruction at the University of Memphis. She also attended the University of Maine in Orono and Portland, Maine (Junior Year Summer Residential); and Bates College, Lewiston Maine.

The celebration was held at the Gill Center on September 26. State Senator Jim Kyle was the master of ceremonies for the event. Dignitaries from city and county government made proclamations before a full house of supporters at the celebration.

Pictured (from left to right) are V.P. Karen Nippert; Grace Gill, wife of Dr. Elbert T. Gill; Debbie Gill Bueltemann, daughter of Dr. Gill; Councilwoman Barbara Swarengin Ware; City Clerk Jimmy Moore; Cent. Dir. Pat Anderson; Councilman Myron Lowery; General Sessions Court Clerk Otis Jackson Jr.; Provost/Exec. V.P. Joanne Bassett; Senator Jim Kyle; V.P. Carol Tosh; and V.P. Ron Parr.

The Institutional Development department has expanded to include the newly established Donor Relations department headed by Cheryl A. Bingham. Ms. Bingham will be responsible for developing a stewardship program for Southwest’s donors. Her responsibilities will include planning and implementing all cultivation events with current and prospective donors and meeting regularly with the Development and Research committee to solicit ideas for enhancing the stewardship program. In addition, she will assure that the College’s donors receive appropriate and timely acknowledgements for their philanthropic deeds, and she will create and maintain a liaison program for high-end donors.

Already a standard model in most four-year universities, the donor relations office is a newer component in many two-year schools. Donors are the center of our work and as our first and foremost priority, they deserve the greatest recognition and highest level of quality. We are pleased to bring you this newest service, and we welcome your comments and feedback.

Ms. Bingham will continue her duties administering the Foundation Scholarship Program and Foundation Special Events.

For questions concerning donor relations, scholarships or Foundation special events, please contact Cheryl Bingham at 333-4504.
Facilitator Tammie Ritchey of the Med Foundation emphasized to participants that a great team always focuses on one common goal. She used the example of NFL players who come to their training camps with the ultimate goal of winning the Super Bowl.

In breakout sessions, board members and staff were divided and asked to brainstorm ideas on cultivation and strategy. Ideas included increased alumni participation, employee challenges, and improving overall relationships within the community’s private and public sectors. Board members were also encouraged to become more proactive and provide the names of at least five potential donors.

As a reward for their day’s work and to keep the motivation going, the development staff—with pom-poms in hand—cheered on board members during “player introductions.”

Dr. Joanne H. Bassett is the newly appointed Provost/Executive Vice President at Southwest Tennessee Community College. Dr. Bassett has served at the college in a variety of capacities since 1973. Her long career at the college has included stints as professor of reading, chair of developmental studies, and dean of distance education and instructional technology.

From the early days of the Apple II computers, Dr. Bassett foresaw the important role that technology would ultimately play in learning and teaching. In the 1970s, she wrote BASIC programs to teach vocabulary and reading skills; she was the first to train her department in the use of e-mail; and her department was the first at the college to use a computer, projector, and interactive presentation board in the classroom. “Those were Stone Age achievements. Southwest now uses video-conferencing equipment to teach courses across Fayette and Shelby counties, offers more than 150 online courses and nine online degrees, and uses podcasting and voice boards in its online and other distance education courses. Students have high expectations these days; no more yellow notes and chalk boards.”

Prior to accepting her new position, Dr. Bassett had been dean of distance education and instructional technology for many years. During her tenure, the number of 21st century multimedia classrooms increased dramatically and a first-class faculty development program was instituted. This training program includes cutting-edge training in technology so superior that it attracts participants across the state and region, and from as far away as Maine.

“We are exceedingly proud of the work we do with our faculty in technology and pedagogy for both online and traditional classes. And we are always trying to find ways to help our students achieve their goals while making their way through life. Our latest initiative is ‘split (hybrid) courses,’ which include time in the classroom with the professor and time out of class on the computer. With this format, we are able to enroll a working adult in up to 12 hours a semester in just two evenings a week, or on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. These split courses are very, very successful,” said Dr. Bassett.

Dr. Bassett recently attended her second Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England. Participation in the Oxford Round Table is by invitation only and includes participants from around the world. The topic of this session was “The Regulation of Cyberspace: Balancing the Interests.” In her role of executive vice president over information services, this is a topic she handles regularly. “At the college, we are constantly battling
One of every four Memphians lacks a high school or GED diploma, and the EOC has assisted hundreds of potential postsecondary students to begin studying for their high school or equivalency diplomas prior to enrolling in college or vocational training. The EOC is addressing the problems of the severely educationally disadvantaged adults in our area by developing partnerships, actively participating in city-wide literacy coalitions and developing resources through grant funding. The staff of the EOC is working with numerous organizations and programs, including Mid-South Reads, the Memphis Literacy Council, Memphis City Schools Division of Adult Education, MCS Even Start Program, Buckman Laboratories, Hollywood Library, Hollywood Community Center, Rhodes College, Shelby County Correctional Center, and many others. They are helping to develop a more coordinated and efficient adult education service delivery system among existing service providers, with the EOC serving as a bridge from GED to higher education enrollment for EOC program participants.

More Help Is on the Way

Serving as a bridge to higher education for its program participants, the EOC recently was awarded $20,000 by the Women’s Foundation of Greater Memphis to provide tutoring services for EOC students enrolled in GED classes city-wide. The EOC is working on several projects at different levels of development that will serve to facilitate the program’s efforts to get more Memphis area adults into postsecondary education programs. We anticipate that this year’s EOC enrollment at Southwest will push the total tuition and fees generated by the program [since its inception] to more than $6 million.

Vickie Reyes is the director of the Educational Opportunity Center.

Southwest Puts Out Welcome Mat for Danish Students

The International Education Department at Southwest recently hosted 22 international exchange students who arrived October 3 for a week from Svenborg, Denmark. The program promotes global experiences for students, faculty, and staff at Southwest. The students attend Svenborg Business College and look forward to coming to Memphis each year in order to experience the educational and cultural diversity of our great city.

Students applaud the warm welcome they received from President Nathan Essex.

The Danish students arrive on the Macon Cove Campus following a delayed flight from New York.

One catered dinner was all it took for Sam Chafetz to realize he had made his best choice.

Chafetz, an attorney with the law offices of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, and Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation Board member, knew his involvement in making Southwest the school of choice for Mid-Southerners was important. He had no idea how significant his decision to become more involved would be until a coincidental meeting with our culinary alumni on a Saturday afternoon.

“Graduates of the culinary program were preparing and serving the food and they had the Southwest logo on their jackets,” said Chafetz. “I asked them why they were wearing the logo. They said, ‘we are proud of our accomplishments.’ That day validated Chafetz’s decision to join the Southwest Foundation Board in July 2005. He credits philanthropist and Southwest Foundation Board member Bert Bomblum with introducing him to Southwest and urging him to get involved.

“One became a professor in biology at Svenborg, another became a chef in Copenhagen, another became the head of the culinary program at our own Southwest, and two more became assistant chefs. They presented, ‘Taste of Denmark’, to faculty and staff in the student union who were blown away by the event. The staff and faculty loved the food and got to see Danish culture. To me, that’s a win on so many levels,” said Rey。“

A native of Memphis, Chafetz is a graduate of Christian Brothers High School. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and his law degree from Harvard Law School. Although he had never experienced a community college setting before Southwest, he understood its role in the Mid-South, and its importance to its students who are all striving for the American Dream.

“At the first board meeting, I met two students who presented their stories and it pulled at my heartstrings. It opened my mind to the possibilities that Southwest presented,” said Chafetz. “They wanted to be able to rise above the educational and income level of their parents and grandparents. They work three and four jobs in order to make ends meet for themselves and their families, buy books, and afford transportation to and from school—all so they can hopefully have, eventually, just one well-paying job, and have a normal life.” His role is to help students accomplish that dream. He is personally involved in acquiring funds for facilities and new faculty. His goal for this year’s board is to identify and display more successful alumni in Southwest’s marketing campaigns. While Chafetz’s fundraising responsibilities are essential for Southwest students to succeed, he sees the big picture and understands how important it is for Southwest to respond to the needs of the community.

“The long and short of it is, unless we have an employee base that is well-educated, we will never pull ourselves out of just being a distribution center,” said Chafetz. “It’s fine to be a distribution center, but unless we add value to the products we are distributing, we will continue to have low wages.” And just as Chafetz is proud of his choice to serve on the board, he knows how proud our Southwest alumni are about their achievements.

“Every student at Southwest – every graduate of Southwest is proud of his or her accomplishments.”

Sam Chafetz

Board Member Spotlight

To view a PDF of this issue, visit memphisd.org
Hello Southwest Alumni:

I write this, my first official communication to you, as a reminder that each of us plays a role in keeping Southwest the college of choice for all Mid-Southerners. Each year the arrival of our newest Southwest students provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what makes Southwest special. I believe it is our alumni that have the ability to take us from a good institution to a great one.

I look forward to opportunities to work with you as part of my own Southwest education. Recently we had an Alumni Association Family Outing at Ellendale Lodge in Bartlett. We had perfect fall weather and alums brought their families to enjoy the day and get to know other members of the Southwest family. I am inspired by your support of our alumni events and promise more occasions for fellowship.

Your commitment to the Alumni Scholarship has been phenomenal! We mailed letters to our alumni celebrating the success of one of our own, Barbara Hicks, who graduated at the age of 62. Because of your loyalty to this great school, many of you wrote checks to the scholarship fund to help current students reach their goals.

We take every opportunity to instill alumni spirit in our current students as well as our past graduates. If you want to strengthen your bond to Southwest, join the Alumni Association. For a membership fee of $15, the Alumni Association can help you stay involved in the life of the College and informed about Southwest’s achievements and challenges.

Now is the time to join us. We want to update you on Southwest, but we also want to hear about your successes as well. Please feel free to contact Alumni Affairs with your suggestions at 901-333-4344 or e-mail at: alumniaffairs@southwest.tn.edu.

With your continued support, I am confident we will build a better Southwest together.

With all best wishes,
Christopher A. Owens
Director of Alumni Affairs

Southwest’s Educational Opportunity Center Has Generated Millions in Tuition and Fees for the College

By Vickie Reyes

From Small Acorns Great Oaks Do Grow

That fact highlights that Southwest’s TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) Program, which began life as my graduate school project, has spread its branches to serve thousands of potential adult college students in the Memphis area. Funded by a U.S. Department of Education TRIO grant of $226,600 annually, the EOC serves more than 1,000 students every year and at least two-thirds of them are potential first generation adult college students from low-income homes. The EOC program has significantly exceeded its enrollment goals every year.

The Educational Opportunity Center is located at 5390 Mendenhall Square next door to the Southeast Center, and is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. EOC staff will see students other times by appointment, and they will go to community service agencies by appointment to work with groups all across the Memphis area.

The EOC Program provides many services, all free, to help potential adult college students enroll in higher education programs at the institution of their choice. Among the services the EOC provides are:

• Computer lab with internet
• Assistance with basic computer skills
• Career exploration and counseling
• Academic, personality and career assessments
• Educational planning
• Assistance in completing admissions and financial aid applications
• ACT, COMPASS and GED Test Prep
• Tutoring

María Centeno is a good example of a nontraditional EOC adult student. She is a working mom in her mid-twenties and she takes care of her family and home in addition to attending Southwest. Ms. Centeno was recently accepted into Southwest’s Radiology Program and she is thrilled. María’s academic work is excellent and she serves as a role model for her family and friends. She will be the first person in her family to graduate from college. All of the EOC’s staff members salute María Centeno for her achievements and stand ready to help her in any way they can.

Some of the students served by the EOC in its first five years enrolled at the University of Memphis, UT Nursing School, Tennessee Technology Center and other schools. However, most EOC college-ready students chose Southwest Tennessee Community College as the place to begin their college careers. EOC student enrollment added more than $5 million in tuition and fees for Southwest during the program’s first five years.
Studies students during regular class meetings, by phone, e-mail, and in individual face-to-face sessions. Topics such as time management, goal setting, use of campus resources, college transfer, and communication with instructors and academic advisors are part of a calendar of activities for mentors to address. Mentors participate in focus groups to discuss their experiences following their class presentations, and invite mentees to attend a culminating focus group at the end of a semester. Findings from focus groups, in addition to surveys, are used as qualitative research methods to evaluate the program.

One mentee’s response at the end of the semester was, “I learned how to manage my time, take notes, and I have made a great friend!”

A mentor stated, “At first I was worried about how they would accept me, but I was encouraged not to give up. This program helped me to believe in myself.”

A faculty member commented, “I am so pleased to have (mentor name) as a mentor for my students. She has demonstrated exceptional motivation, character, and compassion. Just meeting her is a blessing. Thank you for this program.”

Since spring 2008, 17 peer mentors and seven Developmental Studies faculty have participated in Project SUCCEED. The seven faculty are Marjorie Dernaika, Debbie Hunt, Rose McNeil, Rosie McCray, Miki Richardson, Lois Washington and Susan Turner. More than 350 Developmental Studies students have shared in the mentoring process. Additionally, mentors have gained experience with leadership responsibilities and commitment to an assignment to completion. Some have also been privileged to attend professional meetings such as the International Mentoring Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada; the 4th International Conference on Research in Access and Developmental Education in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and the Mentoring for Student Success and College-Wide Engagement workshop at Southwest. This exposure to professionals from across the globe was memorable for the mentors and added value to their mentoring experiences.

Chris Triplett has joined Barge Waggoner Summer & Cannon, Inc. (BWSC), as a project engineer in the firm’s Memphis office. He will direct and design civil and environmental engineering projects such as industrial, commercial, and residential site development. His responsibilities will also include projects involving public utilities, storm water and sediment controls, landfill closures and covers, and environmental remediation and restoration. Triplett received an associate degree in mechanical engineering technology from the State Technical Institute at Memphis in 1991.

Louise Blue-Walker has just self-published her second book, Blue Poetry: Life is a Teaching Session. Are You Paying Attention? Her writings focus on how families communicate using a Christian perspective. Blue Poetry can be found at Davis-Kidd Bookstore, Church of God in Christ Bookstore and the Tennessee Baptist Bookstore. Blue-Walker received an associate degree in family services from Shelby State Community College in 1985.

Gordon Lintz joined Thompson Cancer Survival Center of Knoxville, TN as Chief Administrative Officer

Gordon Lintz has joined Thompson Cancer Survival Center, a subsidiary of the Covenant Healthcare System of East Tennessee, as Chief Administrative Officer. Lintz was formally employed with Baptist Memorial Health Care of Memphis, TN, where he led Baptist’s strategic planning efforts for its cancer services and supervised the hospital’s skilled nursing facility, clinical research and stem cell transplant program. Lintz received an Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing from Southwest in 2001.
College campuses are joining the ranks of corporate and grass roots organizations in implementing peer mentoring programs to help people overcome challenges and reach their full potential. On a college campus, mentoring is generally practiced to increase the retention of students, not only to complete courses, but ultimately to graduate from college. Southwest Tennessee Community College is genuinely committed to utilizing peer mentoring as an intervention strategy for enhancing the performance of students enrolled in Developmental Studies reading and writing classes, the College’s most vulnerable students. Through funding from a Tennessee Board of Regents Access and Diversity grant of $50,000, a peer mentoring program was developed and specifically designed for this targeted group.

Project SUCCEED-Students United for Classmates: Commitment, Empowerment, Educational Development - was launched in spring 2008, following a fall semester of planning and recruiting student mentors, as well as faculty, to welcome mentors into their classrooms. Upon completion of an orientation for student mentors and faculty, Project SUCCEED mentors are prepared to discuss student transition-to-college strategies with Developmental
A Tale of Two Graduates – Sylvester Tate

1. What degree did you pursue?
   Electronic Technology

2. When did you graduate?
   1985

3. Why did you choose Southwest?
   I chose Southwest because it was recommended as a great school, was economically feasible to attend, and had flexible hours that would meet my need as a full-time military person.

Sylvester Tate and Darrell Thomas are two sides of the same coin. Both are 1985 graduates of Southwest who studied technology and started businesses in the same field. Thomas and Tate are also members of the Southwest Foundation Board of Trustees, and each has established an endowed scholarship for Southwest students. However, these two alums have different motivations for endowing their scholarships. We asked them about their Southwest experience and why they chose to give back to Southwest. Here are their responses.

4. Did you further your education after graduating from Southwest?
   I attended the University of Memphis for one semester. I attended school while in the military at Tidewater Community College, the University of Florida, and a host of military aviation schools.

5. Why did you decide to open your own business?
   I started my business because it was always a burning desire of mine. When the opportunity presented itself, I took the dive and it was the best decision I could have made for my career. I did not want to be in a position where someone else had control of my destiny.

6. What inspired you to establish the Robert Earl Tate Endowed Memorial Scholarship?
   My brother was the first male child in my family to attend college. He received a football scholarship to the University of Tennessee at Martin. He succumbed to cancer during his first semester of college. I have always wanted to do something in remembrance of his life. [Establishing a scholarship] was the first thing that came to mind because it was something I could do, and it would be ongoing.

7. How do you think this scholarship will impact Southwest students?
   I think students look forward to these kinds of scholarships are to our students?

8. How important do you think Southwest scholarships are to our students?
   I think students look forward to these kinds of scholarships to help bear the cost associated with school. I am constantly asked if I know how one can receive a scholarship.
It all started a couple of years ago, when the mail went awry. Shawn Little received an invitation from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) congratulating him on his exceptional scholarship, and asking him to join the prestigious national honor society. Of course, it was a mistake.

Rather than the 3.5 grade point average PTK requires, his had just slipped again, and brought a notice from the College that he was suspended for the next semester. That was not a mistake.

But that errant letter delivered an important message to Little. It came at the right time and completely changed his life. He stated, "I read it and read it over again. I thought I want that and know I can get it; the prestige and self-respect…I can do it."

So it all converged: a growing realization of dissatisfaction with himself and a hunger for a lot more than he was doing… and the letter.

Little convinced the dean that, "if you’ll waive the suspension, things will be different." Then he talked to Clarence Christian, his former sociology professor and director of the Honors Academy. Christian pulled no punches. He told Little that to do what he wanted, he would have to start all over. This would involve retaking most of the classes he had taken over the past three years, wiping out the poor grades, and replacing them with a lot more respectable grades. "Mr. Christian became my mentor on my journey, I followed up on all his advice. After I reached a 3.25 grade point average, he admitted me into the Honors Academy. Now I’m at a 3.6. I brought my ambition and determination to his office that day, and he has guided me in the right direction ever since, “ said Little.

So simply told, Shawn Little’s success sounds simple. But, he says “there was a lot more here than a redeemed grade point average.” Little’s high school background had been similar to his earlier performance at Southwest. Right after that, he’d stumbled into the University of Memphis with no advice or guidance, and little belief in his ability as a student. He soon dropped out.
“Southwest has given me so many opportunities. I have been involved in almost everything in the Honors Academy,” Marquez said. She and two other Honors Academy students made a documentary for an honors’ project based on the theme The Art of Film. The documentary was about students who were non-citizens or non-residents, who wanted to go to college. Marquez and her friends captured on video the stories of these former high school band members, star athletes, honor students, valedictorians or students who were really involved in their schools, but who couldn’t go to college because they were undocumented. They presented the documentary as part of their honors’ contract and sociology class. It was so well reviewed that they presented it all over campus and at film festivals. “It just got so much attention. Everybody just sees things in a different way. When they come in the room [to see the documentary], they have a certain perspective. When they leave the room, it is totally different,” Marquez said.

Becoming a citizen is a difficult process and Marquez and her family have been working at it for years. It has been especially hard, she said, because their initial efforts were spoiled when the lawyer handling their case ran off with their money, forcing them to start the process all over again. One of the greatest challenges that the undocumented immigrant status presents for Marquez is college tuition. According to Dr. George Malo, associate vice chancellor of Research and Assessment for the Office of Academic Affairs, Tennessee Board of Regents, maintenance fees and tuition for international and out-of-state students is slightly less than four times more than in-state students. This presents a financial hardship for Marquez. She feels that the passage of the DREAM Act would greatly assist with her struggle to pay tuition.

The DREAM Act is a piece of proposed federal legislation that would also provide undocumented immigrant high school students the opportunity to obtain permanent residency. The students must be planning to attend college or serve in the armed forces to become permanent residents. Congressmen have continually introduced several forms of this bill in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Congressmen in the House have not brought the bill to a floor vote as a stand-alone bill. Visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DREAM_Act.

Marquez participated in a lot of extracurricular activities at her high school and in her community. She was in the Key Club, the Spanish Club, played on the soccer team, and was on the yearbook staff. She loved helping people and felt the more she got involved, the more assistance she could provide. “I’ve always liked to help people and I think the best way to help people is through a variety of organizations. Not only in high school was I involved, but also in the community. I did a lot for both Latino Memphis and TIRRC,” Marquez beamed.

In describing what’s in her heart regarding the plight of the undocumented, she responded, “Each is a person, whether it is a family, a head of household, a child, or a student. They have to go through so much that other people can’t see.” She added, “I really focus on the students because they want to go to school and move up in life, but they are stuck. When it comes to the students, the only mistake they made was following their parents.”

Marquez is a fighter. This is her last semester at Southwest. She will graduate with three majors: sociology, social work, and Spanish. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in either sociology or social work at the University of Memphis or Ole Miss.

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Lana Harris of Purchasing and Auxiliary Services has united many of her fellow Southwest employees to create a lasting legacy for a friend and colleague.

The Nathaniel Parker, Jr. Scholarship was created in honor of the former Executive Director of Business and Administrative Services, who died December 20, 2007 after a brief illness. Harris said her idea to set up the scholarship began almost immediately in the weeks after Parker’s passing. To date, the scholarship has received more than $11,000 in cash and pledges so far, with donations from co-workers, church members and professional peers.

Harris added the outpouring of support for the scholarship is a testament to the respect Parker’s colleagues had for him. She stated, “He was the kind of person who showed people that he cared.” Parker’s family has also been very appreciative of the effort, according to Harris. “They were overwhelmed at Southwest’s thoughtfulness of doing this in his memory.”

Donations to the Nathaniel Parker Memorial Scholarship can be made to the Southwest Foundation. For further information, contact the Foundation office at 333-4394.

Fred Davis is always looking to make a change when one is needed. When he saw the need for scholarship opportunities for students in the Orange Mound community, he jumped at the chance to give back to the neighborhood that reared him.

Davis, a Southwest Foundation board member, took root in the Orange Mound community more than 40 years ago. While several opportunities were presented to him to relocate, he remained committed to the area.

His commitment has translated into an opportunity for a current Southwest student. He decided to invest in the education of the community and in the future of Southwest by establishing the Fred L. Davis Scholarship for a first-generation college student from the Orange Mound community. He has opened the gates of opportunity for students that were closed due to hardship and a lack of resources.

“I’ve given back to Memphis because Memphis has been so good to me,” said Davis. “I’ve tried to return the favor as much as possible.”

“Marquez is a fighter. This is her last semester at Southwest. She will graduate with three majors: sociology, social work, and Spanish. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in either sociology or social work at the University of Memphis or Ole Miss.”
Lynch is responsible for 140 employees in quality control. While many of his team members report to him from England, Germany and China, his hope for local employees is that they take advantage of training opportunities to improve in their field. “I’m interested in employees’ onsite training,” said Lynch. “Two years of education may not be a priority for some people, but everybody needs some training.”

Although Lynch has been successful, the journey wasn’t always easy. He had all three of his children during his time as a Southwest student. He credits professors Lou French and Harry Nichols for helping him to persevere.

“My wife went into labor on the night of the final exam. I called Professor Nichols to explain, but he had heard all of the excuses before,” said Lynch. “When we arrived home, the exam was in my mailbox with a note that said ‘Congratulations – get this back to me when you can.’ Things like that helped me to push through and get my degree. It would have been easy to just walk away.”

Lynch instilled the spirit of the community college setting in his sons as well. His boys attended Northwest Mississippi Community College. He and his family live in Hernando, MS. His job requires national and global travel, but horse-back riding has become his favorite pastime and source of relaxation.

Despite an untraditional path up the ladder of success, Lynch knows the value of education and understands how special his story is.

“I’m the last of the breed.”

Gabriela (Gaby) Castillo Marquez longs for something that the average Southwest student takes for granted: U.S. citizenship. Marquez, a proud Latino, is a student ambassador, president of the Diversity Club, an honor student, a Spanish tutor, a volunteer for the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC), and a spokesperson for undocumented immigrants for this region. TIRRC is a statewide coalition that works to empower immigrants and refugees to participate fully in their new communities. Marquez is involved in the national effort to get legislation passed to provide some protection and support for the education of documented immigrants. She also produced a film recording the life of the undocumented and appeared in a public service announcement in support of that legislation.

Marquez was born in Mexico and moved to Memphis with her parents when she was six. She is the oldest of the four Marquez children, the rest of whom were born in the United States. Members of the same household, her siblings, can work, vote, join the military, leave and enter the country at will; and most of all attend the college of their choice. These are the privileges afforded to U.S. citizenship.

A champion for the rights of people who are treated unfairly, Marquez considers herself an activist against social injustice. She is an advocate of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act). She has gone to Washington, D.C., to lobby, has organized rallies in support of the act, and helped stage a rally for it in front of the National Civil Rights Museum. “The DREAM Act,” explained Marquez, “was created to help immigrant students who are not of legal status to enter college and join the military.”

Marquez was able to attend elementary and high school in Memphis but feared she wouldn’t get the opportunity to go to college. Fortunately for her, during her senior year at Southaven High School in Southaven, Mississippi, a substitute teacher and retired Marine was impressed with Marquez and asked about her plans after completing high school. The teacher contacted Clarence Christian, director of the Honors Academy at Southwest. Because of Marquez’s high academic standing, Christian was able to offer her a scholarship.

“I am here in college and I really did not think I was going to be able to make it because of tuition. I cannot get any federal money,” said Marquez. “Luckily, I have my two scholarships. I am in the Honors Academy and I am an ambassador for the school. Everything else comes out of my pocket,” she said.
In college, Katz had realized he had some very good teachers. Determined to be one of the best, he adopted the unusual approach of taking notes on his teachers as well as classes. He then determined what would work best for him in teaching music. He graduated with a book full of notes about teaching; what to do and not do. The notebook provided a foundation for lifelong effectiveness in the classroom, and was exceptionally helpful when his “opportunity of a lifetime” came in 2000, putting his experience to work in the building of a music program at the Macon Cove Campus of the newly formed Southwest Tennessee Community College. Making use of courses he had enjoyed in college, he designed curricula for more classes in Music Appreciation and four levels of Music Theory. The opportunity to teach theory, especially, let him greatly expand offerings to students. As well as theory for assigned pieces, he now offered courses to enhance both general and specific musical knowledge, so students could work ahead on their own.

Now, his years in local musical entertainment proved their value. Along with private piano instruction, he created ensemble classes in which students blended their abilities and talents with other musical instruments, and voice, to originate a wide range of new and completely different musical productions. This included jazz, blues, rock, show tunes, and even classical.

Now too, his book of “musical notes” proved its value. He had filled it with the best practices of his best teachers. These were successful approaches to teaching, including how to break out lessons for the most efficient ways to reach different students on different levels, and even how to assess and grade students’ performance and progress. Delightedly realizing just how well prepared he had become to take on this new task, Katz now says, “One of the best things was my opportunity to learn more [varied] music and more about how to teach music.”

Katz credits many people with the success that grew so quickly. He cites, “the students, most of all, who were the greatest influence; the driving force in building the program. The opportunity to expand their repertoires, experiment with different types and styles of music [through performances in] Mak’n Music became very important to them. They were excited and we just seemed to grow.” According to Katz, “they started including ensemble play in all the concerts, in fact, recitals became variety music nights. Faithful audiences grew and [it attracted] music lovers from outside as well as within the College.”

In December 2002 came the most earth shattering change in his career, a heart attack, followed by open heart surgery. After completing the initial recovery phase, he began to realize… “I couldn’t play. I didn’t have the dexterity, even to sit at the bench. I didn’t know if I’d ever play again,” stated Katz. It was many weeks before he sat down to play the piano, and even longer before he, one day, played a complete song: the Claire de Lune. He played it all the way through and said, “I just started crying. I couldn’t stop. I was so happy.”

With that came a complete change in his life as a piano teacher. His choice of songs is different now but he constantly challenges himself to new ways of teaching and entertaining audiences. While Katz has changed his repertoire, he hasn’t tuned everything down to Claire de Lune. His music is still vibrant but only occasionally does he let himself go, in a passage or two of “big sound.” On the other hand, he’s spending more time on interpretation of songs, more time learning music that is beautiful instead of astounding. “It’s different, but I can’t regret it, I’m still enjoying and loving my music,” remarked Katz. Best of all, “I think our music program is better than ever… we are still growing.”

In the aftermath of the heart attack, he learned a lot from his students and received a lot from them. They stayed with him and expected him to be there to teach them. It didn’t matter whether they hadn’t finished their planned courses. They would travel back, come and be a part of the music. Mak’n Music never stopped.

The fastest way to get a nurse on the floor working where you’ll need him or her is an associate’s degree and for underrepresented populations, the associate’s degree is the preferred gateway into the profession.

In 2007, Southwest nursing graduates achieved a 97.4 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), the highest rate for all the associate degree nursing programs in the state of Tennessee. Our nurses take the same test as other nurses, including those that [have] four and six-year degrees. Southwest already produces top-notch nurses. Our current facilities simply don’t allow us to produce enough nurses to meet the current demand.

What can you do to make sure a nurse is there when you need one? Make a donation to the campaign and help us produce even more top-notch nurses. Don’t take for granted that a nurse is going to be there when you need one. Make sure they are. Together, we can stop this one crisis. Call 901-333-4577 to find out how you can make a difference.

**Invest in the Future Campaign Update**

Will you need a nurse today? Will one be there?

The nursing crisis is real, and it’s happening now. Shelby County lacks an estimated 650 nurses, particularly highly qualified Registered Nurses (RNs). State nursing shortages are projected to increase to 40 percent in 2015 and 48.5 percent in 2020. Only six states have higher 2020 projected shortages. But, Southwest Tennessee Community College is on a mission to change those statistics. The College is in the middle of the largest capital campaign in its history with an ambitious $16.75 million goal to raise funds for a Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology building designed to meet critical workforce needs identified by the Memphis bioscience community.

Support from major corporations such as FedEx and Medtronic, and major foundations such as the Hyde Family Foundation, the Assisi Foundation, the Plough Foundation and the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation; and support from Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation and Methodist Health Care, the campaign is inching closer to its goal.

**Southwest Tennessee Community College Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology Facility**

**Fast Facts**

- 97.4% student pass rate on the NCLEX-RN Exam
- Number one in the state for NCLEX-RN pass rate
- National pass rate is 78.6%
- An average of 250 students apply each semester
- Currently we only have space for 250 each year
- New facility will accommodate 400 per year
- Current facility has 12,328 square feet
- New facility will have 74,000 square feet
- New facility will increase class size for biotechnology technicians from 20 to 40

- Highest nursing vacancy in the state is in Shelby County
- Tennessee nursing vacancy rate may be as high as 48.5 percent by 2020
- Offer the first Biotechnology Technician Associate Degree Program
- Need approximately 750 lab techs and assistants each year
- Associate degree preferred gateway into nursing by under-represented populations
- Average student at Southwest is 27 and in need of financial aid
- Average starting wage for nurses is more than $16 per hour
It seems like we’ve been on a roller coaster lately that doesn’t want to stop. The stock market swings back and forth. It’s up. It’s down. Gas prices are up. The housing market is down. The future seems so uncertain. Until you take just a minute and breathe, and realize all of this has happened before, and we’re still here. Our future depends on preparing our community to be the best it can be, and preparing our citizenry to work in whatever economic times we may face.

At Southwest Tennessee Community College, enrollment is up and so are expectations. Students here still believe in the future and in the power of a good education—so do we. We’ve seen first hand how change can happen when you invest in the future of someone’s education. Someone like Barbara, whose last name will be concealed from this article.

It seemed everything was working against Barbara. Downsized from her job, she is a single mother of an adult son with cerebral palsy, and two school-aged children; one who spends many days at LeBonheur for dialysis treatment; and one with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. Yet, in 2008 at the age of 62, Barbara graduated.

Barbara’s journey began in 2000 when she decided to fulfill her dream of getting a college degree. She took one class at a time because that was all she could afford. When she could no longer afford to attend classes, she prayed and made a conscious decision to keep going back until she got her degree. With support from students and family, including her academic advisor Vava Cook, Barbara kept going, and became a role model to many. The younger students even viewed Barbara as a mother figure.

With the pressures of school and concern for her children weighing on her health, Barbara was hospitalized. Her doctors advised her to postpone her education if it became too stressful. Instead, she not only decided to continue with her classes, but also share her story with others to show the importance of commitment and accomplishing goals.

“I feel so good. I met one of my goals on this journey. I feel great and want to go further,” says Barbara. She plans to attend either LeMoyne-Owen College or Union University to study childhood disabilities. “I want to create a program of my own so I can help others just like me and my family.” Barbara was able to achieve her dreams because someone believed in her and gave her a chance. Whether you’re 62 or 26, education makes a difference in your life. And, your donation can make a difference in someone’s future.

We know times are tight, and we know you’re trying to decide where to invest your donated dollar. Perhaps you too have found success because of Southwest. Now, you can help make a Southwest student’s dream a reality by making a gift of $25, $50 or even $100. We need your support in providing educational opportunities to students living and working in the greater Mid-South region. We want to help as many students as possible to think and dream bigger dreams than they ever imagined.

“Southwest was right for me because it felt like a family,” says Barbara. We are family here. We believe in our students. We believe in the future. Whether you donated for scholarships or books, for a new facility or a program, you did the right thing. Let gas prices go up. Let house prices go down. Let the stock market wobble. The dollar you donate here will always be wisely invested in the future of our community.

“I always knew I would be a teacher. The question was, teach what?” Music was the obvious answer, but where would he teach it? Dr. Steven A. Katz reminisced recently about the vicissitudes that brought him to the position of professor of music at Southwest, and how he, and others, created “Mak’n Music.”

As a child, he had siblings much older than himself, who had children not much younger than himself. “I dearly loved teaching even then, and I would teach ‘Stevie School,’ as my elders called it, when they came over on Friday nights,” said Katz. What he taught was whatever came to mind: “something I’d just learned or something they’d suddenly found an interest in.” So, at age five, he began a lifelong career.

Though music was his great love, Katz chose early to become an English teacher. He mentioned, “I loved English and the interpretation of literature. I always felt that learning to communicate, in both oral and written form, was very important.” He also recognized early that the world required more English teachers than music teachers. Opting for practicality, he chose to become an English professor. Meanwhile, from age five, he continually took music lessons and, by age 23, always taught piano on the side.

That decision, and State Technical Institute at Memphis (now Southwest), provided Katz the venue for what was to become his ideal life of teaching. “For me, it was the school of the future,” he thought, when he started as an adjunct in 1979, then full time in 1983. Though the school had no music program, “this was exactly how I had envisioned my life as a teacher: teaching English during the day; teaching music on the side.”

The school eventually directed him to develop and teach a music appreciation class. “That was wonderful and gave me a whole new enjoyment of teaching,” stated Katz. He was also, unknowingly, preparing himself for a giant step in his career. By then, he was a regular player on the Memphis entertainment scene and becoming recognized locally as both an entertainer and musician. He expanded his repertoire especially after realizing fully classical music wouldn’t cut it in his work. Rather than abandoning the classics, though,
Make Something Beautiful

By Kristie Goldsmith

I love Southwest!

That summarizes my thoughts as your new Executive Director of Grants. I will tell you more about me later, but for now, let’s talk about what the Grants Office does, and how you can help us to help you.

Why do I love Southwest so much? I’ve found that the staff and faculty here to be welcoming, encouraging and helpful. I can honestly say I enjoy my job, and I am glad I am here. Perhaps now is a good time for an explanation of what the Grants Office does and how we can help you serve our students and community.

Who We Are

The Grants Team consists of Derrice Snipes, Stella Martin and me. Stella maintains the office and flow of activity. Derrice handles all grant compliance deadlines and in addition to her other duties, Derrice will soon be heading into our community to help develop community partnerships needed for specific grants who in turn will help develop more opportunities for funding. Later this year, we will hire a grant writer responsible for grant research and submissions.

What We Are Not

We are not Financial Aid. During registration we make that statement numerous times. It makes us want to consider changing our name. But, we can’t do that, so we simply educate people as they call or come in. The good news is that we get to interact with our students and that helps us understand them and their needs, and ultimately we can be more helpful to faculty and staff.

What We Do

The primary goal for the Grants Office is to increase funding for Southwest. We process all federal, state and local government proposals. In addition, we work closely with the Institutional Development Office to monitor and submit grants to private foundations. Why? We need to increase funding for faculty programs, classes, student programs, new buildings, new office campuses and newly established initiatives by Dr. Essex. With all these goals in mind, we will be busy this year!

How We Do It

When a faculty or staff member submits a proposal to the Grants Office, we review it carefully. We must ask several questions during this process: Does this grant fit within the Southwest goals? Does this grant require additional resources? Does this grant need additional facilities? What is the return to Southwest? Granting agencies want the projects to which they give money to succeed. And we ask questions here to insure that your grant proposals are successful. In some ways, a grant proposal is a job interview candidate and the granting agency is a potential employer. When our request arrives at a funder’s door, it is given a “once over.” Is it neat, well-dressed and complete? What “job” does it want to do with the organization’s money? Our office helps prepare every grant to be successful once it gets to the funding agency. We prepare each grant proposal to “get hired” to represent the work of that funder.

KG Phone Home

New about me: I have a wonderful, caring, supportive husband and two great adult children who are the love of my life. One has graduated from college and is in nursing school and the other will be going to college fall 2009. And yes, even at age 51, I call my parents every day. My parents inspire me and encourage me. Every day of my professional work life, my father and mother tell me to “make something beautiful.” Dad discusses my day and encourages me to see the best in any situation, regardless what is said or done that day. He reminds me that every day I can choose “to see something beautiful or make something beautiful.” Every day when I come to work, I look around my office and see the pictures my father hung for me. Each is alive with color and has a road leading somewhere -- to him it symbolizes that life is moving forward and we have a choice to move forward in our lives and make something beautiful every day or stay where we are in our lives!

So my vision for the Grants Office is to move forward each and every day, making something beautiful for Southwest.

the community about FedEx’s commitment to the health and well-being of this community,” McDaniel said.

For more information on Southwest Tennessee Community College’s major gift campaign or to make a donation, call 333-4577.

About FedEx

FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) provides customers and businesses worldwide with a broad portfolio of transportation, e-commerce and business services. With annual revenues of $38 billion, the company offers integrated business applications through operating companies competing collectively and managed collaboratively, under the respected FedEx brand. Consistently ranked among the world’s most admired and trusted employers, FedEx inspires its more than 290,000 employees and contractors to remain “absolutely, positively” focused on safety, the highest ethical and professional standards and the needs of their customers and communities. For more information, visit news.fedex.com.

About the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility

The Southwest Foundation is in the process of raising $16.75 million through individual, corporate, foundation, and organizational support to build a new 74,000-square-foot Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology facility, to be located in the Central Medical District. The new facility will house an expanded nursing program, as well as new classrooms and laboratories for the Natural Sciences courses which form the foundation of the nursing curriculum. The facility will also be home to the state’s first Associate of Applied Science degree program, training Biotechnology Technicians to assist researchers in the rapidly expanding biomedical and bioscience research and production fields.

Facilities

The facility will also be home to the state’s first Associate of Applied Science degree program, training Biotechnology Technicians to assist researchers in the rapidly expanding biomedical and bioscience research and production fields.
FedEx presented Southwest Tennessee Community College on July 28 with a check for $150,000 toward a $2 million pledge by the FedEx Corporation to support the college’s latest expansion efforts, including a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building. The gift is the largest in Southwest’s history.

Southwest President Nathan Essex enthusiastically accepted the historic gift from Mary McDaniel, vice president, Materiel and Corporate Sourcing, FedEx Express.

The new building is just one of the initiatives in the largest capital campaign in the college’s history. The campaign, “Southwest and You, Investing in the Future,” focuses on projects which will substantially expand opportunities for students in the College’s Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology programs and will help address critical workforce needs identified by the Memphis bioscience community. The College has already met its scholarship endowment goal of $1 million, and is now closer to meeting its $16 million goal of building a new state-of-the-art nursing and biotechnology facility. Upon its completion, the facility will accommodate almost double the number of nursing and biotechnology students, thereby increasing the number of available nurses in the community.

“This pledge of support from FedEx is especially important as we strive to continue to impact our community and its residents,” said college president Dr. Nathan L. Essex. “More than 95 percent of our graduates remain in Memphis and the surrounding area. This new facility will enable more of our residents to impact their community and families.”

McDaniel, who also serves as the vice chair of the Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation, echoed the sentiment. “This gift sends a message to the community that FedEx is committed to the future of Southwest and the Tennessee bioscience community.”

Kudos

Southwest Foundation Board Members
Received Government Appointments

We are pleased to congratulate two of our Southwest Foundation Board Members who have been recently appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to a state board or commission.

Southwest Foundation Board President and Advisory Chair Cato Johnson has been appointed to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Former Southwest Foundation Board President and current board member John M. Farris has been appointed to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

A hearty congratulations to them both!

Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department Wins Prestigious Awards

The 2008 National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District 2 Medallion Awards were presented on October 20 in a conference ceremony in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The awards recognize excellence in community, technical and junior college marketing and public relations activities. Many higher education institutions from 11 states, the Bahamas and Bermuda submitted entries to the competition. Those states represented were Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Southwest Tennessee Community College captured two silver and three bronze awards. Those awards are listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE OF ENTRY</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Now, June 2008 TV show</td>
<td>College Video Program</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest, Your Best Choice ad campaign-alumni testimonials</td>
<td>Radio Advertisement/PSA, Series</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saluqis Softball 2008 Media Guide</td>
<td>Sports Brochure</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008 Student Planner</td>
<td>Student Handbook</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Public Web Site</td>
<td>Web Site</td>
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FedEx Supports Nursing Building Campaign with the Largest Gift in Southwest’s History

Mary McDaniel, vice president, Materiel and Corporate Sourcing, FedEx Express presents President Nathan Essex with a check for $150,000 toward a $2 million pledge to support Southwest’s expansion efforts.
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Southwest is experiencing one of the most exciting times in its history. Fall enrollment has increased by 8.8% over last year’s enrollment. College restructuring has positioned the College to become more efficient and effective in service delivery to our students and community. The College has received unprecedented private funding for academic scholarships and the construction of a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility for our Union Campus. Plans to secure property for a new parking facility at our Union Campus are also evolving. Additionally, we are placing greater emphasis on customer service with a goal of ensuring that our focus consistently remains on students and their needs.

Perhaps the most exciting development regarding the College is the construction of a new state-of-the-art library at Macon and the new Maxine Smith Center in the Germantown-Collierville area which will enhance the College’s ability to expand existing programs and offer new academic programs based on community and regional needs.

Groundbreaking ceremonies have been held for a new state-of-the-art academic building at Macon and the new Maxine Smith Center in the Germantown-Collierville area which will enhance the College’s ability to expand existing programs and offer new academic programs based on community and regional needs.

A new state-of-the-art academic facility is planned for our Fayette County service area by officials within the county that will be managed by Southwest and involve a partnership which includes a private academy, a public school system, a technical center, a Tennessee Board of Regents university and a University of Tennessee System institution. This unique collaboration represents the only one of its kind in the nation and will provide unprecedented academic and workforce development opportunities for citizens of Fayette County.

The college is in the process of infusing service learning into the curriculum wherein students are provided unique opportunities to serve our communities as a component of their academic course requirements.

Southwest has also become one of the leaders in international education through significant participation of our students and faculty in summer academic programs abroad.

Most recently, Southwest has entered into new and expanded partnerships with private businesses and corporations designed to provide valuable real world experiences for our students while also meeting vital community needs.

Based on these exciting developments, Southwest is poised to become the college of choice and a national model for technical, career and transfer education. We are obviously excited with the College’s progress and look forward to continuing to respond to the educational needs of students, employers and communities in Memphis, Shelby and Fayette counties as well as the Mid-South region. We genuinely appreciate the commitment and support the College has received from our community and look forward to a dynamic year of progress and service.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College

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International Creative Competition Nets Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department with Nine Awards

The MarCom Awards is an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals. It is administered and judged annually by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals headquartered in Arlington, Texas. Entries come from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, public relations firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers. The competition has grown to perhaps the largest of its kind in the world. There were over 5,000 entries from throughout the United States and several foreign countries in the 2008 MarCom Awards competition. The prestigious Platinum Award is presented to those entries judged to be among the most outstanding entries in the competition. The Gold Award represents exceeding the high standards of the industry norm. Honorable Mention Awards were granted to those entries that met the quality expectations of the judges. The listing of awards earned by Southwest is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE OF ENTRY</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>AWARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010 Catalog</td>
<td>Brochure/Catalog</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009 Student Planner</td>
<td>Brochure/Catalog</td>
<td>Platinum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Now Magazine-Spring 2008 Edition</td>
<td>Magazine/Educational Institution</td>
<td>Platinum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Now TV Program-June 2008 Edition</td>
<td>Video/Film/TV Program (Cable)</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Scoop-August 25, 2008</td>
<td>E-Newsletter</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Web Site</td>
<td>Web Site Overall</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Your Best Choice,” mass transit Bus King advertisement</td>
<td>Ads/Bench/Shelter/Mass Transit</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2008-2009 Southwestern Basketball Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENT/OPPONENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>WOMEN/MEN</th>
<th>TIME (P.M.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Spirit Express</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>KKC Tip-Off Classic/Highland</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Lady Bengal Classic/San Jacinto</td>
<td>Eunice, LA</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>KKC Tip-Off Classic/Kennedy-King</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lady Bengal Classic/LSU-Eunice</td>
<td>Eunice, LA</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Memphis Express</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>*Motlow State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>*Chattanooga State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>*Walters State</td>
<td>Morristown, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8 EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>*Rogue State</td>
<td>Harriman, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4 EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Georgia Perimeter Classic</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Georgia Perimeter Classic</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mineral Area</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hiwassee</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>*Cleveland State</td>
<td>Cleveland, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4 EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Lady Saluqis Classic</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lady Saluqis Classic</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kennedy-King</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mississippi Elite Christian Academy</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Shorter</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Arkansas Baptist</td>
<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>5:30/7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Genesis One Prep</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Arkansas Baptist</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>*Dyersburg State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>*Jackson State (HOMECOMING)</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>*Volunteer State</td>
<td>Gallatin, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Shorter</td>
<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>3/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>*Columbia State</td>
<td>Columbia, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>*Dyersburg State</td>
<td>Dyersburg, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>*Volunteer State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>*Jackson State</td>
<td>Jackson, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>*Columbia State</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>3-8</td>
<td>TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament</td>
<td>(at Cleveland, TN)</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>NICAA National Tournament</td>
<td>(at Hutchinson, KS)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>NICAA National Tournament</td>
<td>(at Salina, KS)</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
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*TCCAA/Region VII Games
Southwest Tennessee Community College touches the Memphis area community in many ways.

Each year, about 24,000 people are impacted by the education and training provided by the College in multiple locations throughout the metropolitan area. It’s very likely most of you have met our graduates such as...

- The mechanical technician who runs the computer diagnostics on your car
- The nurse who cares for you in the hospital
- The chef who prepares your lunch at your favorite restaurant
- The laboratory technician who processes your blood work for your annual physical
- The junior class student continuing his or her work at any of the local four-year colleges and universities
- The emergency medical technician who answered your 911 call or
- The childcare professional who prepares your pre-schooler for success in the first grade.

Southwest is affordable. More than 90% of Southwest Associate of Applied Science degree and technical certificate graduates go on to work in the professions for which they are trained.

For more information about Southwest, call us at (901) 333-5000 or visit our website at: www.southwest.tn.edu.
FedEx $2 Million Pledge Is the Largest Gift in Southwest’s History

New State-of-the-Art Academic Building Breaks Ground

Highly Gifted 14-Year-Old Enrolls at Southwest

The new four-lane entrance to the Macon Cove Campus off Sycamore View Road is now open. Our new state-of-the-art library is shown in the background. It is scheduled to open in January 2009.