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Highly Anticipated Maxine A. Smith Center Opens

Portrait of the New Student

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Southwest and U of M Partner in a Unique Co-Admissions Program
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Southwest Now Magazine

Institutional Advancement Division
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Iraq Veteran Gets a Square Deal with the New Helping Heroes Grant

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Southwest Basketball Schedule

2009-2010

MONTH  DAY  EVENT/OPPONENT  LOCATION  WOMEN/MEN  TIME (P.M.)

OCTOBER  24  Spirit Express  Verties Sails Gymnasium  M  2
31  Alumni  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  6/8

NOVEMBER  6-7  Lady Bengal Classic  Eunice, LA  W  TBA
6-7  KKC Tip-Off Classic  Chicago, IL  M  TBA
13  *Chattanooga State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  6/8
14  *Cleveland State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  2/4
20  *Walters State  Morristown, TN  W/M  6/8 EST
21  *Roane State  Harriman, TN  W/M  2/4 EST
27-28  Georgia Perimeter  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  TBA

DECEMBER  2  Thanksgiving Classic  Atlanta, GA  W  TBA
5  *Dyersburg State  Dyersburg, TN  W/M  6/8
11  *Columbia State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  6/8
12  *Jackson State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  2/4
28-29  Lady Saluki Classic  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  4/6

JANUARY  7  MS Elite Christian Academy  Verties Sails Gymnasium  M  7
9  Kennedy-King  Verties Sails Gymnasium  M  7
15  *Volunteer State  Gallatin, TN  W/M  6/8
16  *Motlow State  Lynchburg, TN  W/M  2/4
19  Genesis One Prep  Verties Sails Gymnasium  M  7:30
22  *Walters State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  6/8
23  *Rome State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  2/4
26  Arkansas Baptist  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  6/8
30  Dyersburg State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  2/4

FEBRUARY  3  *Columbia State  Columbia, TN  W/M  6/8
6  *Jackson State  Jackson, TN  W/M  2/4
10  *Volunteer State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  6/8
13  *Motlow State  Verties Sails Gymnasium  W/M  2/4
19  *Chattanooga State  Chattanooga, TN  W/M  6/8 EST
20  *Cleveland State  Cleveland, TN  W/M  2/4 EST

MARCH  3-8  TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament  Columbia, TN  W/M  TBA
16-20  NJCAA National Tournament  Hutchinson, KS  M  TBA
16-20  NJCAA National Tournament  Salina, KS  W  TBA

* TCCAA/Region VII Games

We welcome your comments and/or suggestions for future articles.

Please forward inquiries to Robert G. Miller, publisher and editor: via e-mail to: rgmiller1@southwest.tn.edu...or call him in Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department at (901) 333-4024.
TWO SOUTHWEST SOFTBALL PLAYERS NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

By Keith Gentry

Southwest student-athletes Amber Hayes and Katy Ahrens have been named to the 2008-2009 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-American Team, becoming the sixth and seventh Lady Saluqi softball players to receive the honor. In addition, they were two of only ten student-athletes from colleges in the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA) named to this year’s Academic All-American Team. NJCAA Academic All-Americans must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 or better on a 4.0 scale for 45 semester hours.

Hayes, a graduate of Brighton High School, came to Southwest after attending the University of Tennessee at Martin her freshman year. She earned First Team All-TCCAA honors after batting .434 and setting Southwest single season records with 17 home runs, 6 triples, 65 runs batted in, 66 hits, 139 total bases, and a .914 slugging average. Hayes also pitched in 16 games, compiling a 9-5 record with a 3.23 earned run average and 56 strikeouts. In addition, she was named National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 Player of the Week, a first for a Southwest softball player. Hayes will continue her education and softball career at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.

Ahrens, a graduate of Collierville High School, transferred to Southwest from Chattanooga State Community College. Ahrens’ 3.70 grade point average was the highest of all Southwest student-athletes during the 2008-2009 academic year. As a freshman in 2009, she was one of the Lady Saluqis’ top hitters with a .379 average, 10 doubles, five home runs, and 39 runs batted in.
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Southwest Tennessee Community College remains a vibrant institution in spite of significant budget challenges. The new Maxine A. Smith Center opened in August 2009 with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that attracted Dr. Charles Manning, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, Shelby County and newly elected City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Collierville Mayor Sunn Joyner and Memphis Mayor Pro Tem Myron Lowery along with a host of public officials, community leaders and friends. Our new facility will provide a much needed service in the southeastern sector of our community and the mid-south region. Our new location will also be convenient to residents in Collierville, Germantown and Olive Branch. This technology corridor is one of the fastest growing areas in Shelby County. The new center will emphasize a high technology curriculum in addition to a general education program of study. The new center is a three-story, 67,300 square-foot facility which houses a library, eight computer classrooms, 21 classrooms—chemistry, biology and science laboratories, a student lounge and administrative offices.

The new Academic Building, located at the Macon Cove Campus, is scheduled for completion in January 2010 and will greatly enhance program expansion opportunities which will allow Southwest to meet growing educational needs within our service area. Our enrollment grew by fourteen percent for fall of 2009 reaching 13,010 students. The college has experienced enrollment growth for the past four semesters thus allowing us to meet the educational needs of an increasingly larger number of students. Additionally, all academic programs reviewed for accreditation received very favorable reviews and continuing accreditation.

The University of Memphis and Southwest Tennessee Community College have created a co-admissions program to create an easy transition from Southwest to the University of Memphis for Southwest students. An agreement was signed by officials representing both institutions during a brief ceremony on Wednesday, September 30 at Southwest’s Macon Cove Library. The Partnership Enrollment Program will guarantee Southwest students admission to the U of M while at Southwest. Southwest students are required to enroll in the program before completing 30 credit hours at Southwest. U of M staff members will advise enrolled Southwest students regarding classes that best fit degree programs at both institutions to ensure that courses taken by Southwest students will be applied toward their bachelor’s degrees. Southwest students will also be provided access to U of M parking, recreation facilities and student activities, if they wish to pay the required fees. The program requires students to enroll at the U of M within a year of graduation from Southwest. They will receive priority registration with an application fee waiver. This partnership program creates a seamless transition from the associate degree to the bachelor’s degree.

Additional partnerships have been established with LeMoyne-Owen College which will allow students to transfer two years of community college credit toward a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. A partnership with Mississippi State University will allow the college to expand the number of OSHA Environmental Health classes by a minimum of sixteen. A new partnership has also been established with Protrain which will allow Southwest to offer approximately twenty state-of-the-art Green Industry related online, continuing education and workforce development courses.

At the national level, President Obama announced a $12 billion community college initiative designed to boost graduation rates, improve facilities and develop new technology. Developments at both the local and national levels have created energy, enthusiasm and opportunities for Southwest to continue to raise educational levels, enrich the lives of our students and contribute to economic growth and development within our region. The future of the College is very bright as we continue to meet the educational needs of students, employers and our community.

Cordially,
Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College

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 more than 5,000 entries from throughout the United States and several foreign countries in the 2009 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.

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Southwest Executive Receives SBA’s Champion Award

The Women Business Owners Opportunities Conference (WBOOC) held last summer was also the occasion for David Doyle, executive director of Southwest’s Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), to receive the SBA’s National Small Business Week Resource Partner Champion Award for 2009. The award recognized Doyle’s achievements on behalf of small businesses, including minority, women and veteran-owned entities.

The WBOOC, held at the University of Tennessee Agricenter in Jackson, TN, was a day-long event for women-owned businesses in the West Tennessee region. The Department of Economic and Community Development’s Business Enterprise Resource Office, and the TSBDC at Southwest Tennessee Community College, presented the conference in cooperation with the Tennessee Economic Council on Women. The goal for the conference was to promote opportunities for the economic development and growth of women-owned businesses in West Tennessee. Among the topics presented were business planning, Internet marketing, customer service and business etiquette.

Saundra Jackson, senior area manager for the SBA, presents the Champion Award to David Doyle.
Southwest’s Chef Steven Leake, program coordinator of the hospitality management culinary arts program, has been awarded a unique lifetime achievement award by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Greater Memphis Chapter. “This award was created specifically to recognize individuals who have made significant, long-term contributions to local charities in the community, culinarians in Memphis, and to the local chapter of the ACF. And, in fact, it has been named the Steven Leake Lifetime Achievement Award,” said Jeremy Burnett, director for the center for faculty development and faculty advising.

“This honor was named for Chef Leake as a benchmark for the level of attainment that will be required for subsequent awards,” said Burnett. “It will likely not be an annual one; it is anticipated that it will not be given on a regular basis at all, due to the high level of performance expected with this recognition.”

At the same time (the occasion of the ACF Annual Chef’s Gala), two of Chef Leake’s students, Necia Usrey and Austin Sterling, were recognized as the Junior Culinarians of the Year for their work with the chapter this past year. Their awards included scholarships of $2,250. “Both of them,” said Chef Leake, “have dedicated a phenomenal amount of time, effort, and just a great spirit of giving and helping wherever they were needed. From being involved in all class activities, to outside events or fund raisers, they were there; helping wherever help was needed. They volunteered for any outside demonstrations or activities.”

Vicki Robertson Named SBEA’s 2009 Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year

Vicki Robertson, of Southwest Tennessee Community College, recently received the Southern Business Education Association (SBEA) 2009 Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year award. Robertson is the interim chair of the college’s department of Office Administration, Information Technology and Hospitality Management. As the recipient of the SBEA regional award, she is automatically a candidate for the 2010 National Business Education Association (NBEA) Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year award.

Robertson has taught at Southwest since 1988. Often an innovator in blending new technology into programs and developing online courses, she was among the earliest faculty members to become involved in distance education. She often assists faculty who are new to online instruction to hone their skills. Robertson is a Microsoft Certified Application Specialist in Word and Excel 2007, and MOUS certified in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2003.

A leader not only in and for the college, Robertson is also active in educational organizations throughout the state, regionally and nationally: the Tennessee Business Education Association (TBEA); her 12-state region, SBEA; and the NBEA, annually serving as session coordinator or assistant for national meetings. Robertson has served on the executive board for TBEA since 2001 and was named TBEA’s Post-Secondary Business Teacher of the Year in 2008. She annually presents at their conferences.

Southwest Tennessee Community College hosted on August 18 a ribbon cutting/open house ceremony for its newly constructed, highly anticipated Maxine A. Smith Center, located at 8800 East Shelby Drive in Memphis. This new center replaces the college’s Southeast Center, located on the corner of Winchester and Mendenhall. According to site research, the southeast Shelby County location gives access to higher education for more than several hundred thousand residents. It is also convenient to Collierville and Germantown in Tennessee and Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Named in honor of Dr. Maxine A. Smith, the center is a three-story, 67,300-square-foot brick education building containing a library; eight computer classrooms, 21 new classrooms and chemistry, biology, etc.
and science labs all with 21st century technology; an academic support space; a multipurpose classroom; a student lounge and gathering space; administrative offices; and other mechanical and support spaces.

Dr. Maxine A. Smith is a former college French instructor who served two terms as a member of the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and often championed community service, advocating for education at all levels in Memphis. Her lifelong devotion to education also included numerous contributions to both Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis, the forerunners of Southwest.

A host of dignitaries attended the event and delivered remarks, including Southwest President Dr. Nathan L. Essex, Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton, Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner, Memphis Mayor Pro Tem Myron Lowery, TBR Chancellor Dr. Charles W. Manning, State Senator Dolores Gresham, and of course, the honoree, Dr. Maxine A. Smith who was accompanied by her now late husband, Dr. Vasco Smith. Included also among the dignitaries were TBR regents Gregory Duckett and John Farris.

Dr. Robert J. Walker, recently hired to chair the Education Department for Southwest Tennessee Community College, was selected as the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH) Outstanding Educator of the Year for Ethiopia, Africa. IFESH was founded in 1981 as an initiative to eradicate poverty, disease and inequity through self-help partnership programs.

During the year prior to his coming to Southwest, Walker served as a trainer for college teachers at Debre Birhan University, located in the city of Debre Birhan, in central Ethiopia. Walker indicated he had always wanted to go to Africa and felt he could make a difference in the lives of less fortunate individuals. Walker was amazed to learn of his selection. “To be perfectly honest, I was really shocked and extremely honored,” he stated.

Walker brings to Southwest a wealth of postsecondary experience and academic credentials. He earned his doctorate in early childhood education/education administration, and a master of science in education administration and supervision from Jackson State University in Jackson, MS; a master of arts in business management from Webster University in St. Louis, MO; and a bachelor of arts in elementary education from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, MS.

Walker’s recent employment includes work as an IFESH Volunteer in Ethiopia, Africa; assistant professor in early childhood/elementary education in the College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Alabama State University; Title III B Activity I director/curriculum specialist for Trenholm State Technical College; assistant professor of instruction and curriculum leadership for the College of Education at the University of Memphis; and associate professor and coordinator of internship and research for the Department of Education at Oakwood College in Huntsville, AL.

As department chair, Walker is moving forward on several objectives to help forge the direction of the education department. “I have a wonderful faculty and staff ...we are looking for better ways to serve the community and we are seeking to do a better job of advising our students to ensure they are able to successfully complete all the degree and certificate programs under the department of education in a timely manner,” stated Walker.

Walker is a published author of the following books: Let My People Go! The Miracle of the Montgomery Bus Boycott; The Plan of Salvation; and most recently, in 2008, 12 Characteristics of an Effective Teacher.

• The Hobson-Goodlow Education Foundation and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity sponsored their 15th annual African American Male Image Awards Banquet on October 31 at the Memphis Marriott East Hotel. Southwest President Nathan L. Essex received the Education award for their 2009 Scholarship program.
Mary Tate-Smith does not like to waste time.

As Vice President of Sales for the West Regional Office of CIGNA Healthcare, every minute counts when providing excellent customer service for her clients. But Tate-Smith carves out moments to build relationships in the Mid-South and serve as a leader and role model through service.

A relative newcomer to Memphis, Tate-Smith has championed the cause for education by joining the board of trustees of the Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation. She also served on the 2009 planning committee for the Henry “Hank” Aaron Golf Classic, benefitting LeMoyne-Owen College and the United Negro College Fund.

While many organizations benefit from her time, Tate-Smith decided to use her resources to assist as many students as possible. She was instrumental in CIGNA Healthcare’s $10,000 donation to Southwest’s major gift campaign. She was also a member of the 2010 Leadership Memphis Executive Program Class.

Her extensive background in the healthcare industry has taken her around the country, previously residing in California and New Jersey before calling Memphis home. A native of Detroit, Tate-Smith is passionate about the Memphis area and wants to do her part to give back to the community.

“My parents taught me all of my values. They taught me the importance of giving back to the community and working hard. I can’t think of anyone I would rather name a scholarship in honor of than my parents. They are my inspiration every day.”

Power-Packed Lessons In and Out of the Classroom

By Brenda Rayner

She is a force behind the students. She is always driving them, always motivating them. With short legs and quick steps, she zips across the campus; small in stature but colossal in impact. Asked to describe herself she said, “People say that I have lots of energy. They say I am loud, and that I really work hard with the students,” said Lisa Jones, who seemed a little uncomfortable talking about herself.

Jones, a native Memphian, is an associate professor and the program coordinator of electrical engineering technology for Southwest’s Engineering Technologies Department. She earned her master’s in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech after completing her bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from The University of Memphis (U of M).

Surprisingly, Jones also holds a black belt in karate, and answers to the title sensei (pronounced sen-say). She started karate training while enrolled in graduate school at Georgia Tech, located in downtown Atlanta. At the time, Jones indicated, the lighting was poor and maneuvering across the campus during evening hours, as was at times necessary, wasn’t particularly safe for women. So she enrolled in a karate class being taught by a friend on campus. Jones kept pretty quiet about her black belt degree. The manager of her first, real full-time job was from “the old school” she said. That being the case, she didn’t feel the level of comfort to let it be known that she held a black belt. “I was still trying to make my way as an engineer,” Jones said. “But now, this is who I am and I don’t worry a whole lot about what other people think.”

Upon graduating from U of M, formerly Memphis State, she landed a job with Bell Labs, formerly known as AT&T Bell Laboratories and Bell Telephone Laboratories, whose criterion for employment was that their candidates seek postgraduate training. “I got a job with AT&T. They were actually Bell Lab then,” Jones explained. “They said, ‘If you take a job with us, you’ll have to get a master’s.’” Bell Lab provided a list of schools from which to choose. Jones chose Georgia Tech because it was in the South, “and I prefer the South. Really, it was a good deal. Bell Labs paid half my salary, my full tuition and bought my books.”

Jones always had an affinity for math and science; no surprise that she became an engineer. There was no real line of demarcation between men and women during her early years. Even in high school, the male-female playing field was pretty level. But as Jones pursued higher education, the female presence became sparser in the field. She pointed out that her classes comprised only 15 percent female, a percentage that has remained to this day.

Before making the firm career choice of engineering, Jones considered a career in medicine. Volunteer work at
a hospital quickly cooled that interest. For her, engineering as a career option was a practical one. It was a good match for math and science, which she loved; she’d had a summer job in engineering that was satisfying; it was a growing field with great job opportunities; and you could earn a decent living.

Even though the field was traditionally male dominated, as Jones continued to gravitate toward a career in engineering, her family and friends encouraged and supported her decision. “They always said, ‘You can do it. Whatever you want to do, you can do it,’” Jones remarked of her family and friends. She entered the job market during a time when there were federal mandates to hire women and minorities. She wouldn’t say whether her credentials, having graduated with the highest GPA (3.97) for the school of engineering in her senior class at U of M, or whether affirmative action had the greatest impact on her being hired at Bell Labs. “When Bell Labs was looking for people, they were looking for people with a high GPA,” she maintained.

Jones brought to Bell Labs her experience from a summer program with Hewlett Packard, work with Kellogg’s in Battle Creek, Michigan, the chairmanship of the Student Institute of Electrical Electronic Engineers, as well as membership in the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Society, and when all was said and done, Jones was a top candidate for the job. Her professional experience has taken her all over the world. She worked for Thompson Consumer Electronics as the senior member of the technical staff on HDTV and HD projection projects jointly with Hitachi in Yokohama, Japan, as a digital designer for AT&T/Bell Labs. She also served as manager of hardware engineering/project manager for Tr evision, Inc.

Jones came to Southwest in 2002 as the only female engineering/project manager for Truevision, Inc. in Yokohama, Japan, as a digital designer for AT&T/Bell Labs. She also served as manager of hardware engineering/project manager for Truevision, Inc.

Jones helped write a proposal to Hewlett Packard in 2005 that was awarded a grant to fund tablet personal computer engineers to teach engineering to underrepresented students in the Memphis urban area. That’s when she began to also work with the former middle college high school students at Southwest. In addition, Jones states the department also has a Tennessee Valley Authority grant that pays for tuition and buys books for high school students in the dual enrollment classes. Math and science are foundational for technical programs. She says many students are apprehensive when it comes to math and science. “We try to show the students that there are other reasons to take math than just to make an A in algebra. ‘Here’s the application of the math and this is what you can do, and by the way, these are job skills that can help in your career,’” she advises her students.

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Jones came to Southwest in 2002 as the only female engineer in her department. She remained so for four years. Her athleticism, competitiveness, and academic achievements gave her the confidence to go into the work environment knowing that she could perform well without regard to her gender. She felt that her male colleagues have always valued her as a fellow professional.

Jones is motivated by the desire to do a good job. There are tasks out there to be done so she steps in and does as much as she can. Her personal creed is “Always do the best that you can.” The primary persons who shaped her perspective during the early years were her family and teachers. But, more recently, her students have influenced her outlook in a very positive way. She basically has no regrets. The one thing she would change about herself is to have more patience. Asked if she had a different message for young women than she does for young men, she replied, “Not really. Most people can do it if they are willing to work for it.”

Jones seems to be driven by the little things. She says she feels a sense of accomplishment when she has helped someone overcome an obstacle that stands between them and their ability to be self-sufficient and accountable.
Rico Lasean Donald: The Image of Leadership

By Robert Jackson

Are leaders made or born? It is a question people frequently ponder. Many books have been written about how to become a leader. Individuals have the option of studying leadership from one-day seminars to higher education degrees. Leaders should be able to influence others and work together to achieve objectives.

Rico Lasean Donald is a new face of leadership at Southwest as the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) for 2009-2010. For some, the leadership role is developed during their school experiences; perhaps through school clubs and organizations; others through social organizations, church or community activities. This was not so for Donald. In fact, he lacked the experiences that other leaders acquire while participating in organizations. When individuals are not exposed to positive influences, they have no visual imagery to refer to. We have all heard motivational phrases like, “If you see it, you can achieve it.” But what happens when the imagery is skewed?

Based on images seen by many young inner-city African-American males in their homes, neighborhoods and schools, the future may not look bright. At home, the image may be a single parent, typically female, struggling to raise one if not several children. Neighborhood imagery may include dilapidated or abandoned buildings that used to house thriving businesses. School should provide a better image, but depending on the location or student attitudes, it may not.

This was the imagery of Donald’s world. Raised in the Lauderdale section of South Memphis by his grandmother, Alice Donald, whom he calls the love of his life; he is the product of a bi-racial union. He has never seen his Caucasian mother; she chose the street life. His African-American father was at old when his grandmother took him into her home.

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This was the imagery of Donald’s world. Raised in the Lauderdale section of South Memphis by his grandmother, Alice Donald, whom he calls the love of his life; he is the product of a bi-racial union. He has never seen his Caucasian mother; she chose the street life. His African-American father was at old when his grandmother took him into her home.

The Lauderdale section epitomizes the negative imagery of many African-American communities, and it is where Donald lived until his junior year at Hamilton High School. The
neighborhood imagery almost became his reality. Lacking motivation and positive influences, he did not participate in his education. “My grades fluctuated trying to play the part of an inner-city youth. I thought the other side of life was the cool thing to do,” says Donald. He never got into any real trouble, but in his words, “I just hung with the wrong crowd.” But at Hamilton, he met a teacher who would change his life, Mrs. Lovell Cartwright.

She took an interest in Donald and introduced him to positive imagery with a Christian foundation. His grandmother provided a church foundation, but Donald admits as he grew up, he missed a few sermons. Before the relationship with Mrs. Cartwright, Donald says, “I never really had role models.” His new imagery included positive male figures such as doctors, lawyers and businessmen, who took time to sit down and talk with him about the responsibilities and opportunities of life. “It revitalized my brain,” Donald says. “That’s when maturity kicked in. I had to start doing successful things.”

His first step toward success required him to change his friendships. Donald says Mrs. Cartwright’s son, James L. Cartwright, IV, was his first intellectual friend. James Cartwright introduced him to organizations like Memphis Challenge, an organization that coaches talented, high achieving students of color through leadership and professional development, preparing them to become future Memphis leaders. Even though Donald did not meet these standards, the organization allowed him to participate.

Donald realized that without excellent grades, it would be difficult to qualify for scholarship funds. So, the Tennessee Army National Guard became an avenue for college funding, especially with its signing bonus. During his early stages of leadership, he has become a better listener, less of a procrastinator, and has learned to use others’ strengths to support his weaknesses. Improving the image of today’s youth is also important to him. He hopes to lead by example, being educated, articulate, well-dressed, and maintaining a spiritual foundation.

While attending Westwood, he participated in a “College Day” event and met former Southwest recruiter, Al Hudson, who garnered Donald’s attention. After sharing recruitment materials, asking questions, and doing a personal assessment, Hudson determined Donald was not fully prepared for a four-year institution, but would receive more personalized attention and academic preparation at Southwest. Donald mentioned “Southwest was my best choice. I could not see myself going anywhere else.”

Upon enrolling at Southwest, Donald focused on achieving success and looked for venues to facilitate him. Hudson introduced him to the Student Ambassadors in fall 2008, becoming the first school organization he joined. Donald built a rapport with the recruiters, faculty, and other leaders within the college. Early in spring 2009, the Union Avenue Campus was looking for an interim SGA representative. He submitted his name, was interviewed by the seated representatives, and appointed to the position. Regular SGA elections were held in April where he was elected by the student body to serve a full term as the Union Avenue Campus representative for 2009-2010. During a student leadership retreat at Natchez Trace State Park, Donald was selected by his peers to serve as 2009-2010 president of SGA. Donald says his goal is to make students more aware of and appreciate the different activities and organizations that Southwest offers. Until now, SGA has been activities oriented. He would now like to focus more on student issues.

Donald is currently pursuing an associate degree in criminal justice and/or sociology. He hopes to someday find gainful employment in law enforcement. During his early stages of leadership, he has become a better listener, less of a procrastinator, and has learned to use others’ strengths to support his weaknesses. Improving the image of today’s youth is also important to him. He hopes to lead by example, being educated, articulate, well-dressed, and maintaining a spiritual foundation.

For Dr. Ralph Knowles, establishing a scholarship at Southwest was a great way to honor his son who excelled in the Hospitality Management Program. However, he had no idea that he himself would learn a lesson in patience and determination.

Dr. and Mrs. Knowles knew how much their son Randall loved the culinary arts concentration of his hospitality management program. Randall went on to achieve great success in the field, eventually moving to New Orleans to work in well-known Bourbon Street restaurants. Dr. Knowles and his wife moved to Pensacola, FL to be closer to him, but Randall passed away in 1997.

“My wife and I wanted to do something to memorialize him, but we couldn’t find State Technical Institute on the internet,” said Dr. Knowles. “We asked our friends to find out what happened to the college but no one seemed to know.”
Southwest Professor Honors Mother by Establishing Scholarship

Carl Swoboda knows the value of a mother’s love. While serving as a major inspiration in his life, Elsie Mae Swoboda has been the driving force behind all of his educational endeavors. In his 32 years as an instructor and associate professor, Swoboda established the computer concentration of the accounting program at Southwest and the accountancy technical certificate concentration. To pay tribute to his mother, Swoboda established the Elsie Mae Swoboda A.A.S. Accounting Computer Concentration Scholarship.

“After my mother passed away in February 2009, I thought this was the best way to honor her for what she did for me,” Swoboda said.

The $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a second-year accounting major with a computer concentration. In the near future, Swoboda hopes to establish a second scholarship for the accountancy technical certificate program in honor of his father.

Southwest Tennessee Community College has been awarded a $20,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The grant will fund an adult education collaborative that will strengthen the adult General Education Diploma (GED) program.

The grant will support up to 120 families through career and educational counseling and planning, basic literacy, and pre-GED classes, which include instructional materials such as workbooks, videos and online curriculum.

“Because of this grant, more economically disadvantaged adults will be able to get their GED,” said Vickie Reyes, Southwest grant administrator. “Then, they will be able to enroll in a college or training program.”

Through this grant, and in collaboration with the Memphis Literacy Council and the Women’s Foundation for Greater Memphis, Southwest is enriching the lives of community residents by making services available to them in their neighborhoods. To date, nine adults have received their GED through the Southwest program.

“For many adults, getting their GED is the first step toward realizing their dreams. It has the ability to increase their employability, earnings potential, and engagement in their children’s education, as well as help them achieve their college aspirations,” said Denine Torr, Dollar General’s director of community initiatives. “We are proud to support Southwest Tennessee Community College and help change lives.”

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awards grants to organizations that provide literacy, GED preparation or English proficiency services.

Southwest and U of M Create Unique Academic Partnership

Beginning this fall, students at Southwest Tennessee Community College can choose, while still enrolled at Southwest, to be admitted to the University of Memphis, for an easier transition from the two-year school to the four-year one.

The Partnership Enrollment Program (PEP) is open to Southwest students who have taken fewer than 30 credit hours toward their associate degree. Immediately upon earning their two-year degree, with a minimum overall combined GPA of 2.0 (as computed by the University; individual departmental requirements may be higher), they will be eligible to begin classes at the University of Memphis. No further application with the U of M will be necessary.

The program will benefit students in several ways. It will enable them to enjoy improved and collaborative academic advising, and to make an easier transition to a four-year university. Further, PEP participants will not be charged an additional application fee when they transition to the U of M after graduation from Southwest.

Operation of the program will be shared between the two schools. They will jointly oversee such responsibilities as academic advising, decisions regarding class content, and coordinating participants’ transfer process.

More information is available from Southwest Tennessee Community College at 901-333-5924 or from the University of Memphis at 901-678-2111, or online at www.southwest.tn.edu/pep.

The presidents and delegates of both institutions participated in a co-admissions agreement signing ceremony on September 30 in the Macon Cove Campus Library at Southwest.

DOLLAR GENERAL

Southwest receives $20,000 grant from Dollar General for Adult Literacy Program

Southwest and U of M Create Unique Academic Partnership

Southwest and U of M Create Unique Academic Partnership
Danes Visit Southwest Again to Absorb Memphis Culture

In October, our annual “flight of the Danish students” landed at the Macon Cove Campus, their Memphis headquarters, to absorb as much Southern culture as possible in an unbelievably activity-packed week. The 21 students and two faculty members from Svenborg Business College near Copenhagen flew into Memphis International Airport on October 2. They met with their host families for a reception at The Vue (Bellevue Baptist Church’s College Ministry), then spent the weekend getting acquainted with their “Memphis families.”

Dr. Tamara McCollgan, director of international studies, estimates this is the 20th year the Danish students have visited Memphis. “It’s become a tradition that both Southwest and the Danish students enjoy. Many friendships have grown between students and host families over the years.”

On October 5, the students headed for the Macon Cove Campus before officially starting their Memphis travels with a tour of the National Civil Rights Museum. Standing out in their International Student T-shirts, they were immediately recognizable as our regular October international student guests, said McCollgan, as they settled in for the first of several cross-cultural communication classes to get acquainted with their new locale. Other classes for the week included American sports, Memphis music, education, and sociology.

Among highlights of the week were the traditional Memphis must-see attractions. In addition to the National Civil Rights Museum, there was Graceland, the Peabody Hotel (with its Marching Ducks), and a professional basketball game between the Memphis Grizzlies and the Oklahoma City Thunder. A first for this year on the schedule was a visit to Methodist Hospital, including a tour and discussion luncheon to learn about United States health care operations.

Also on the agenda were the Lifetime Fitness Center, which included lunch in the Café; the Gill Center Fourth Annual Carnival and Community Fair Day; a Sun Studio Tour; First Works for dinner one evening; and an entire afternoon of shopping.

The week’s visit wound up with a farewell potluck dinner at the The Vue on October 8 and an evening at the Cordova Skating Center where the Danish students were guests of the International Student Club. The Danes returned to Copenhagen on October 9.

Visiting Danish students

Blast from the Past Featuring Smith & Nephew Alumni

Approximately 30 Southwest Tennessee Community College Alumni gathered last winter at Smith & Nephew for food, fellowship and an opportunity to hear from college President Nathan L. Essex. The alumni, whose graduation dates ranged from 1976 to 2008, listened intently as Dr. Essex shared updates concerning the school and its upcoming plans for the future.

The Alumni Affairs Office wants to share in your personal and professional accomplishments! To be featured in the Southwest Now’s Blast from the Past section, please go to www.southwest.tn.edu/alumni/form.htm and complete the online form. For more information on the Southwest Alumni Association meetings or events, contact Chris Owens at (901) 333-4344.

1980s
- John Lee Grice, II received his mechanical engineering degree from Southwest in 1987.
- Darryl Keith Bonner received his mechanical engineering degree in 1989.
- Cassandra Lynn Arnold received her mechanical engineering degree in 1989.
- Steve E. Goldman graduated in 1982 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

1990s
- Melanie A. Travis received her industrial engineering degree in 1991.
- Reginald K. Thomas graduated in 1991 with a degree in mechanical and industrial engineering.
- Jerrlyn C. Kersh-Rushing graduated from Southwest in 1991 with a degree in architectural engineering technology.
- Denise S. Woodfork received her degree in mid-management technology in 1998.

2000s
- Teresa L. Chenault majored in middle management technology and graduated in 2003.
- Jared P. Jobbins received his general technology degree in 2005 and electrical engineering technology degree in 2009.
- Marion M. Mercado graduated with a degree in graphic arts in 2006.
- Justin A. Wingo graduated with his mechanical engineering degree in 2008.

Smith & Nephew employee Justin Wingo with fellow alumni
Greetings Southwest Alumni:

I’m proud to say the Southwest experience has always been about choices.

Many of you came to Southwest with a particular major or career in mind, only to find out you were destined for other directions. You might have been aiming to be a nurse or chef, but accounting class determined that a business concentration would be a better fit. Or maybe an elective writing class inspired you to pursue a career as a paralegal.

Southwest offered you the choice to be anything you could dream of.

Whatever your career path, Southwest will remain committed to providing options for students and alumni to make choices. To accomplish this, the Alumni Association provides numerous opportunities, whether it’s returning to the Vertees Sails Gymnasium for a basketball game, participating in an alumni networking event or broadening your horizons with a continuing education class. We have a variety of alumni programs designed to meet the diverse needs of Saluquis everywhere.

We hope that you choose to join the Alumni Association. Our mission is to help alumni stay connected to Southwest on your terms. Participating in an alumni networking event or broadening your horizons with a continuing education class. We have a variety of alumni programs designed to meet the diverse needs of Saluquis everywhere.

With your continued support, I know we will remain the college of choice for many students.

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

Southwest Hosts the National Scholarship Service Fair

Southwest hosted the National Scholarship Service (NSS) College Fair Memphis tour on October 5 and 6 at the Macon Cove Campus. Hundreds of high school seniors from Memphis City Schools converged on our campus in the Nabors Auditorium over the two-day period.

The NSS Program was established in 1946 to assist students in gaining access to and graduating from America’s postsecondary institutions. The Student College Interview Sessions (SCIS), a.k.a. College Fairs, were conceived in 1963 to facilitate an exchange of information between students and college representatives, and also to assist colleges in recruiting the country’s brightest and best students. The sessions are open to high school juniors and seniors at no cost, regardless of age, cultural background, ethnic origin, financial status or gender. Representatives at the SCIS include admissions personnel, financial aid officers, and/or alumni.

Cities on tour include Jacksonville and Orlando, Fla.; Denver, Colo.; St. Louis, Mo.; Charlotte, N.C.; Richmond, Va.; Baltimore, Md.; Memphis, Tenn.; Houston, Texas; Montgomery and Birmingham, Ala.; Atlanta, Ga.; Cleveland, Ohio; Auburn Hills, Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich.; White Plains, N.Y.; Newark, N.J.; and Philadelphia, Pa. The fairs are extensively promoted in each of the cities with the full cooperation of the local school systems.

Nominations for the Outstanding Alumni for 2010

The Southwest Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 2010 Alumnus of the Year award. This award is given to an outstanding alumnus who has established him/herself as an important part of their community. The candidate must hold an earned degree from Southwest Tennessee Community College. He/She must be accomplished in their business, profession, life work or other worthy endeavors.

Nominations can be made by anyone. The selection committee, headed by the Alumni Association President, will review the nominations and determine the recipient in March 2010. The recipient will be notified in April 2010 and the award will be presented at the Commencement ceremony in May 2010.

Nomination Form Information

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<td>Home Phone</td>
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Deadline for nomination submissions is Friday, January 29, 2010. For more information or to nominate someone, please contact Christopher Owens, Director of Alumni Affairs at 901-333-4344 or at caowens1@southwest.tn.edu.

Outstanding Alumni Sought for 2010

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Patented Invention Helps Southwest Employee Land a Spot on “America’s Got Talent”

Charlie Phan, a laboratory technician for natural sciences at Southwest, enjoyed a brief moment of fame when his Panda-quin, a sensor-model action system invention, landed him in the spotlight on the NBC network television program, “America’s Got Talent.”

Panda-quin (pronounced panda-kin) is a human and animal (panda bear) model. The movement of Panda-quin is directed by a patented magnetic-switch synchronized action controller that Phan, its inventor, says may be operated from a short distance or thousands of miles away.

The sensor-model synchronized action system is suitable for action-models, or robots, for comedy shows, parades, sports, and many other entertainment venues. “I have hundreds of different kinds of models on a main frame,” said Phan.

Phan created Panda-quin for his “America’s Got Talent” comedy act. “I did comedian, ventriloquist, and active mannequin in auditions in Houston and Las Vegas. My appearances on the “America’s Got Talent” television show are just the first step for me from the lovely city of Memphis to bring joy to everyone. I hope I’ll have more time and means to complete my goal of bringing good things to humanity. That’s my dream,” said Phan.
A Life-Changing Trip to South Africa

The International Education Department awarded scholarships to 22 students for study-abroad in nine countries this summer including South Africa, France, Spain, Ireland, Brazil, Greece, Mexico, Scotland and England. A trip to Cape Town, South Africa reflects the travel experiences of one of our study-abroad students.

I am Ashlea Geeter and I had the pleasure of visiting Cape Town, South Africa this past summer. The subject that I studied was cultural anthropology. Photographing the scenery in South Africa has broadened my horizons as an art major. In so many ways, this voyage has changed my life, especially my involvement as a student, allowing my light to shine, developing persistence, and stepping into womanhood.

One thing that has changed about me is my ability to be more involved as a student. I was a very quiet student; so much so that one would forget that I was even present in the classroom. I did my work, even engaged in extracurricular activities, but I knew that there was something missing: It was that my personality was not engaged. I did not realize that my personality should be involved in everything that I do. It took South Africa to open me up like a Calla Lily. Now my personality has unfolded, allowing everything that I do. It took a break, I turned around to see that the clouds in the sky were pierced by this majestic light that I hadn’t seen before. I began to realize that I had come a long way, and it just took me to stop, and look, and understand the reason for climbing Cape Point. In addition, I started to think that my efforts would be useless if I did not finish; did not see the slender beacon of Cape Point. Looking back, and realizing this, I was beginning to develop persistence. And persistence allowed me to begin to truly step into my womanhood.

This voyage has helped me, step by step, to become a tall, strong woman. There was a time when I did not know how to let my light shine. There was a time when I would forcibly dim my light. That did more damage than good. Nevertheless, now I shine my light like a lighthouse. The lighthouse represents how I am becoming strong and tall. But, it took time and persistence for me to begin to reveal these new traits that I have now acquired.

Just like the lighthouse on Robben Island, I had to learn how to let my light shine. There was a time when I would forcibly dim my light. That did more damage than good. Nevertheless, now I shine my light like a lighthouse. The lighthouse represents how I am becoming strong and tall. But, it took time and persistence for me to begin to reveal these new traits that I have now acquired.

When I was climbing up the steep steps of Cape Point, where the Atlantic and Indian oceans meet, I would see the people passing me by, and beating me to the top of Cape Point. Amanda Downs, who attends Pellissippi State Community College, would encourage me to finish the climb. At one point, I truly forgot why I was going up Cape Point. I thought to myself that it was useless to go there. I was tired, out of breath, and aggravated. I stopped, and as I took a break, I turned around to see that the clouds in the sky were pierced by this majestic light that I hadn’t seen before. I began to realize that I had come a long way, and it just took me to stop, and look, and understand the reason for climbing Cape Point. In addition, I started to think that my efforts would be useless if I did not finish; did not see the slender beacon of Cape Point. Looking back, and realizing this, I was beginning to develop persistence. And persistence allowed me to begin to truly step into my womanhood.

As president, I want to get more alumni involved in what’s happening here at Southwest,” Perkins said. “I want an active alumni association that gives back to the college that has given them so much already.”

Perkins remains active on campus as a member of the Dean’s List and Honor Society. She is the mother of three adult daughters and has two grandchildren. She enjoys event planning, interior decorating, volunteering in the community and reading in her spare time.

“Tujuana has all the qualities that make an exceptional leader for our alumni association – persistence, motivation and innovation,” said Christopher Owens, director of Alumni Affairs. “She sets the bar high and believes in teamwork to get the job done.”

For more information on Alumni Affairs or the Alumni Association, please contact Alumni President Tujuana Perkins at tperkins1@students.southwest.tn.edu or Alumni Affairs Director Chris Owens at caowens1@southwest.tn.edu.
Iraq Veteran Gets a Square Deal with the New Helping Heroes Grant

Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are often referred to as the new generation of veterans. This new generation of veterans and servicemen faces tremendous barriers as they return from the battlefield to a supposed life of “normalcy.” According to the Ad Council, in a previous collaborative multimedia public service campaign with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, problems the veterans encounter include high rates of unemployment, suicide, homelessness, substance abuse, divorce, and child abuse. The availability of local resources like jobs, health care, counseling and education is vital to their transition and readjustment.

“A man who is good enough to shed his blood is good enough to be given a square deal afterward,” President Theodore Roosevelt once said. The Helping Heroes Grant is a square deal that provides postsecondary educational financial assistance on a first-come first-served basis to Tennessee veterans, who are former members of the armed forces, reserves or a Tennessee National Guard unit called into active military service of the United States. These veterans must have been awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal; or the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, on/or after September 11, 2001.

William Armstrong was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal. He planned to complete his training at Southwest this past summer and transfer his course credits to UT, Knoxville. He admitted money is a big issue for vets who were accustomed to food and lodging provisions while in the military along with a regular semi-monthly pay check. “You didn’t have to worry about rent and food because all of that was taken care of for you,” said Armstrong. The grant has meant a lot to him because, along with his GI Bill, it allowed him to go to school full time, which means he’ll finish his education sooner and then can enter the job market.

Across the desk sat William Armstrong, an average looking all-American male college student. You wouldn’t have known he was an Iraq veteran were it not for the tattoo on his arm that reads USMC; nothing fancy, just the letters U-S-M-C. Armstrong is one of 1.7 million plus servicemen who’ve served in the United States military since 9-11. Upon his return from the military, he enrolled at Southwest Tennessee Community College where he was one of four veterans who were awarded the Helping Heroes Grant. This new grant program, approved during the 2008-09 academic year, assists Tennessee veterans in completing their college education.

The Corporate Training & Continuing Education Department (CTCE) has partnered with ProTrain, LLC, an international educational service company, to provide Green programs online throughout Southwest. The Green programs focus on renewable energy and energy-efficient products and services. They include Green building—installation of environmentally-friendly building products; energy conservation techniques—weatherization and energy audits; clean air—indoor air quality; renewable energy—solar and wind; sustainability—Green purchasing, reduced carbon footprint, manufacturing environmentally-friendly products; and clean energy.

Ayana Alshams-Brooks, coordinator of online training for CTCE, indicates the Green program is particularly attractive to entry-level job seekers and individuals looking for a career change, as well as career professionals like architects and engineers who can easily combine Green methods and values with their current skills. Alshams-Brooks said there aren’t a lot of options out there at the moment for Green courses, online or otherwise. “When we first unveiled these at the beginning of July, we were the only training organization to offer such an extensive list in this area (West Tennessee, East Arkansas, and North Mississippi). Since our unveiling, and as people understand what is available in the way of funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (stimulus package), others are scrambling to get something out there,” Alshams-Brooks stated.

According to Green Technology, a non-profit initiative designed to provide information about the government’s efforts toward sustainability, the 21st century has been called the “century of the environment.” The initiative specifies that the field of Green technology encompasses a continuously evolving group of methods and materials, from techniques for generating energy to non-toxic cleaning products. Accordingly, the present expectation is that this field will bring innovation and changes in daily life of similar magnitude to the information technology explosion over the last two decades.

Alshams-Brooks indicated the incentives for going Green are twofold: The first is the opportunity for displaced workers to move into an entirely new and rapidly growing area of expertise that will expand their career choices. Additionally, career professionals are able to enhance their skills, making them much more valuable in this new and growing sector of the job market. “Right now we see few limitations on the future growth of the industry,” said Alshams-Brooks.

Secondly, she pointed out, the application of stimulus funds for training opportunities will speed up the entry of displaced workers into sustainable jobs, which in turn helps our economy on both a local and national level. “This is bound to have a positive effect on the personal finances of individuals here in Memphis and improve the region’s economy,” stated Alshams-Brooks. Most of the Green programs are open enrollment, giving students the flexibility to start at their convenience. The programs can last anywhere from a few weeks to a few months.
Prospective Students are Eager to Apply for EMT/Paramedic Programs

The knock on your door comes in the middle of the night; the one you’ve been waiting for, heart in your throat, in response to your 9-1-1 call. Very possibly, the person you open the door to is a graduate of the Paramedic Program at Southwest Tennessee Community College. No way are you going to relax yet, but later on, you will realize, this was the turning point when your fright began to diminish, just a little, for the person you are so worried about. The paramedics quietly identify themselves and set about stabilizing the patient before starting for the hospital where they work with the emergency room personnel until the transfer of the patient to them is complete.

In the Memphis area, thousands of such calls are answered annually, more often than not by emergency personnel who received their training at Southwest. “We have seen tremendous growth in this field in the past five years,” said Glenn Faught, who heads up the emergency medical technology programs at Southwest. “We have companies that are hiring Southwest Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and paramedic graduates in ambulance services, fire department rescue squads, hospitals, physician clinics, and industries. Interest in our paramedic program has grown to the point that we’ve instituted both fall and spring start-up classes. We are the largest program in the State of Tennessee and the Mid-South, as well as one of the largest in the country.”

The largest class in the history of the department began training on August 29. Applicants field a rigorous battery of tests for EMT knowledge, and completion of the anatomy and physiology course. Those who qualified for the oral interview. We will calculate the results and accept the 74 highest scoring students for fall. Those who do not get accepted annually, more often than not by emergency personnel who received their training at Southwest. “We have seen tremendous growth in this field in the past five years,” said Glenn Faught, who heads up the emergency medical technology programs at Southwest. “We have companies that are hiring Southwest Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and paramedic graduates in ambulance services, fire department rescue squads, hospitals, physician clinics, and industries. Interest in our paramedic program has grown to the point that we’ve instituted both fall and spring start-up classes. We are the largest program in the State of Tennessee and the Mid-South, as well as one of the largest in the country.”

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When registration got seriously underway in early August, 135 applicants, a record number, presented their credentials, according to Faught. Of these, 85, another record, qualified for the oral interview. They crowded into the halls of the Allied Health Building at the Union Avenue Campus on August 5 to meet with the committee of 30 medical professionals. “Actually,” said Faught, “our success in recruiting such a large number of qualified applicants could have been a problem that day. But our admissions liaison, Tim Davis, worked with each candidate, made sure they had everything together, and kept the lines flowing in easy order through the committee room.”

Dr. Loren A. Crown, medical director for the program, heads the committee, and has the most personal understanding of the need for competent first care responders. Both he and his wife have been recipients of care that required the knowledge and training of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Those who provided it were graduates of the Southwest EMT Program. An emergency room physician, Dr. Crown is the former chief of the emergency medical department at Baptist Covingston and was one of the founders of the Memphis Paramedic Pre-Hospital Program. He has been with the Southwest program over 30 years and is actively involved in lecturing, counseling, and testing the paramedic students on a periodic basis.

The driving force for the emergency medical services (EMS) person must be the desire to help others, according to Faught. “We take care of them in a situation where they cannot take care of themselves. We see them at their worst time when they need someone to help them through their crisis.” The EMS provider operates in the pre-hospital arena. “So we want to know how much out-of-hospital emergency practice experience the prospective paramedic student has achieved. We look also for integrity, honesty, and team leadership capability,” added Faught. Other requirements include a current basic EMT Tennessee license, a battery of tests for EMT knowledge, and completion of the anatomy and physiology course.

“One this is completed, they proceed to the oral interview. We will calculate the results and accept the 74 highest scoring students for fall. Those who do not get in will be automatically considered for the spring class,” said Faught.

Cook Systems International Continues to Support Southwest through the CollegeCareerCorps® Program

Cook Systems International has donated $9,250 to Southwest Tennessee Community College. The donation grew by more than 300 percent from last year due to Cook Systems International’s growing CollegeCareerCorps® (collegecareercorps.com) efforts in the Memphis area.

The donation continues Cook Systems International’s strong financial support to the Information Technology (IT) program at Southwest. Now in its third year partnering with Southwest, Cook Systems International is partnered with over 30 colleges and universities nationwide through CollegeCareerCorps® efforts.

“Southwest is pleased to partner with Cook Systems International in ways that are beneficial to our students and to their corporation. Our students receive real life experiences that allow them to make critical connections between classroom experiences and the workplace,” per Dr. Nathan Essex, President of Southwest Tennessee Community College. “It is a wonderful partnership that we look forward to continuing. We are grateful that Cook Systems International extended training and make solid contributions in their particular skill areas.”

Corporate and government partners benefit from the CollegeCareerCorps® by receiving Cook Systems International’s unique expertise with the model, leading edge research services from colleges and universities, and the ability to partner with students and faculty to address critical business challenges. Services are delivered at globally competitive rates while developing a future workforce.

The CollegeCareerCorps® is a program that integrates students into professional technology teams in entry-level positions. The students join a team that includes experienced information technology professionals working on actual IT projects on a long-term basis, unlike traditional internships. Cook Systems International has developed technical and certified management professionals using CollegeCareerCorps® project methodologies and procedures to ensure achieving the highest quality project results. Students typically work 20 hours per week and continue with the same client partner for up to two years.
PTA Licensing Examination Workshop Significantly Increases Passing Rate

Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) are in the top ten fastest growing careers in the health care industry. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009, the physical therapist assistant occupation is expected to increase by 32 percent between now and 2016. The PTA Program at Southwest is one of four allied health concentrations offered for an Associate of Applied Science degree. Though the occupation is a high-demand career, passing the National Physical Therapy Licensing Examination (NPTE) is necessary for students to become licensed and practice in this profession.

The exam is challenging. To ensure success, Southwest began offering a pre-exam workshop in 2004 which has resulted in a cumulative passing rate increase of more than 30 percent since being offered. The success of the exam workshop was so significant that Southwest opened it up to regional institutions. Now in its sixth year, the workshop (offered near the end of the spring semester) has grown to include students from Arkansas State University, Jackson State Community College, Volunteer State Community College, and Itawamba Community College.

Scorebuilders, a company that assists health care professionals with their preparation for licensure examinations, provides practice examination tools and instruction for health care professionals with their preparation for licensure examinations. Attendees received a PTA Exam On-Campus Review course book that included a study prompt outline and a full-length sample test that was administered in a managed-timed increments throughout the two-day workshop. “Houd broke down each sample question while reviewing the best answers, making what was being asked seem less complex,” said Zeno. Instruction was also given in how to formulate a home study plan for final preparation to succeed in passing the licensing exam.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual income for a PTA is $41,360, with the highest earnings in home health care services and nursing care facilities. The exam workshop is free to current students in the PTA program at Southwest and $80 for students from other PTA programs, or past Southwest graduates, through the Corporate Training & Continuing Education office.

For more information about the PTA program at Southwest, contact instructor Eddie Zeno at ezeno@southwest.tn.edu or Darius Wilson, department chair for allied health, at dwilson@southwest.tn.edu.

Southwest Launches New Phlebotomy Pilot Program

Dr. Darius Wilson, department head and allied health chair for Southwest, recently announced that the college has launched a phlebotomy pilot training program this fall. The pilot program, to be offered for one semester, targets those students who have successfully completed developmental courses, some college-level courses, or score a minimum of 16 on the ACT. Because this is a pilot, Dr. Wilson indicated students will enroll in all of the courses currently required for the 20-hour Laboratory Phlebotomy Technical Certificate: MLT 1110, MLT 1500, MLT 1550, MLT 1570.

This accelerated, fast-paced course is ideal for those who want to fast track into the work place or are looking for a career change. The program has both classroom and clinical components. The classes, taught at the Union Avenue Campus Allied Health Building, began on August 31 and ended on October 22. The clinical rotation ran from October 30 to December 18. The class size for the phlebotomy pilot training program is smaller than the standard class. The first 10 applicants who met the course entry requirements were accepted. Students had to register for all 20 hours required for the phlebotomy certificate. Those passing MLT 1500-Phlebotomy and MLT 1110-Orientation to Medical Laboratory progressed to the clinical assignment.

The program is for currently enrolled Southwest students only. Students, who have withdrawn, failed or completed MLT 1110 and/or MLT 1500 are not eligible. The one semester phlebotomy program will also be offered this spring. For more information, contact Dr. Darius Wilson at 333-5407.

Student Services and Enrollment Management Administrators Present at NASPA Seminar

Dr. Carol A. Tosh, vice president for student services and enrollment management, and Kathryn Johnson, executive director of enrollment services at Southwest, delivered a presentation on the ADVANCE Program during the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region III Summer Symposium, “Sharing the Experience” was the theme for the symposium, held in Charleston, SC, on June 9-11.

The ADVANCE Program hires graduate students from local colleges in Memphis to provide expanded enrollment services to first-time college students at Southwest Tennessee Community College. Graduate students experience all facets of enrollment services which will ultimately advance their career prospects while prospective students receive greater assistance and encouragement.

NASPA is the foremost professional association for student affairs administrators, faculty, and graduate and undergraduate students. NASPA’s 11,000 members (at 1,400 campuses and representing 29 countries) are committed to serving college students by embracing the core values of diversity, learning, integrity, collaboration, access, service, fellowship, and the spirit of inquiry.

Region III encompasses Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the international countries of Bermuda, Bulgaria, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.
Southwest Promotes iTunes University, Learning on the Go

Most students keep up with the latest technology and already have MP3 players such as iPods or iPhones. They are used to downloading information from the Web, getting e-mails, using GPS (Global Positioning System) and other networking technology, and of course, watching YouTube. Apple took this interactive technology to another level with the establishment of iTunes University (iTunes U), mobile or learning on the go. Southwest Tennessee Community College is now a contributing iTunes U educational institution.

Apple says iTunes U audio and video podcasts let students study at their own pace, wherever and whenever they want – at home, on the bus, or at the mall. iTunes U, part of the iTunes Store, features free lectures and more than 100,000 educational audio and video files from top universities, museums and public media organizations from around the world that can be downloaded to iPods, iPhones, and computers.

Corey Griffin, media specialist for distance education and instructional technology, is an administrator for iTunes U at Southwest. Griffin pointed out that an advantage of iTunes U is that the interface is easy to navigate and syncs with mobile devices. Users can search publicly accessible content across all participating institutions through the iTunes Store.

Griffin explained that anyone with Southwest credentials can access the content that the college offers with their Southwest username and password. http://distance.southwest.tn.edu/iTunesU and using their Southwest username and password.

What has the response rate been for Southwest? According to Griffin, students have relayed that they enjoy being able to listen to class lectures to help them study, or repeat portions of a lecture to reiterate what they learned in class. Research conducted by State University of New York in Fredonia (February 2009) suggests that university students who download a podcast lecture achieve substantially higher exam results than those who attend the lecture in person.

Griffin thinks that future implications for Southwest are limitless. He says the goal of this project is to increase awareness and use of these resources to provide a truly global education for Southwest students. Students can access Southwest’s offerings by visiting http://distance.southwest.tn.edu/iTunesU and using their Southwest username and password.

Southwest Biotechnology Tech Students Embark on a New Research Project

Students in Southwest's Biotechnology Technician A.A.S. degree program are engaging in a new research project to assist Dr. Roger Baldwin at the University of California Kearney Agricultural Center. The students will provide genetic identification for several species of pocket gophers collected from multiple localities throughout California. The new research project is one of the initiatives of Dr. Juliann Waits, assistant professor of natural sciences at Southwest, who has research contacts across the United States that may enrich the biotechnology technician program at Southwest.

Baldwin has sent approximately 250 samples of Thomomys bottae, Thomomys mazama, Thomomys talpoides, and Thomomys Townsendi (pocket gophers) for genetic analysis by Southwest biotechnology students. They will isolate DNA from each gopher and check species status of the samples based on mitochondrial DNA gene analysis using polymerase chain reaction and restriction fragment length polymorphism techniques. Finally, the students will evaluate genetic diversity at individual and population levels.

With support from Program Director Dr. Amy Waddell and Natural Sciences Department Chair Betty Rosenblatt, Waits believes it would be good exposure for the students and the program to present the project at either the regional Tennessee Academy of Science meeting or the Southwestern Association of Naturalists meeting in April 2010.

Waits indicated that the students will get valuable research experience, while they learn to evaluate pertinent literature, work with the latest technology, attend a scientific meeting, and receive credit on any publications that may arise from the research. The project can be broken into several parts and could be done over multiple years.

With the new Partnership Enrollment Program (PEP) agreement between Southwest and University of Memphis for transfer students, Waits believes the biotechnology technician program may attract more students interested in applied scientific research, who will transition to complete a B.S. degree program in the sciences.

A Faculty Member Successfully Completes a Noted Training Academy

Professor Garry Spencer, department chair of engineering technologies, recently graduated from the Regents Academic Leadership Institute (RALI) after successfully completing the program requirements. RALI is a yearlong program developed by the Tennessee Board of Regents in cooperation with the Academy for Leadership and Development (The Chair Academy), a division of the Maricopa Community College District, in Mesa, Arizona, for the purpose of advancing organizational leadership, and for providing succession planning for leaders in postsecondary institutions.

RALI participants are selected and nominated by their individual colleges to attend. The program includes an initial week of on-site training, a practicum experience involving implementation of an individualized professional development plan focusing on the application of skills learned during training; a mentor and coaching program; and a final week of on-site training consisting of additional leadership issues. Topics covered include various phases and aspects of leadership training that may be implemented by the leadership graduate, and also may be included in the college’s faculty development program.
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Corey Griffin, an administrator for iTunes U at Southwest, uses an iPhone, one of the mediums on which iTunes U can be downloaded. Corey Griffin, media specialist for distance education and instructional technology, is an administrator for iTunes U at Southwest. Griffin pointed out that an advantage of iTunes U is that the interface is easy to navigate and syncs with mobile devices. Users can search publicly accessible content across all participating institutions through the iTunes Store.

Griffin explained that anyone with Southwest credentials can access the content that the college offers within iTunes U. “We are in the early stages of our iTunes U implementation and faculty are regularly creating and adding content. Of course, we have the ability to limit course content to students enrolled in a specific course, but currently we allow access to all content,” said Griffin.

Podcasts are available at Southwest in intermediate algebra, theater appreciation, sociology, psychology, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and allied health. Griffin said any instructor who wants to create an audio or video recording for their course can use iTunes U. They should contact the Center of Emphasis for Teaching and Technology for assistance.

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A Southwest student checks DNA samples.
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Scorebuilders, a company that assists health care professionals with their preparation for licensure examinations, provides practice examination tools and instructions for students to become prepared for the NPTE. The one semester phlebotomy program will also be offered this spring. For more information, contact Dr. Darius Wilson at dwilson@southwest.tn.edu.

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This accelerated, fast-paced course is ideal for those who want to fast track into the work place or are looking for a career change. The program has both classroom and clinical components. The classes, taught at the Union Avenue Campus Allied Health Building, began on August 31 and ended on October 22. The clinical rotation ran from October 30 to December 18. The class size for the phlebotomy pilot training program is smaller than the standard class. The first 10 applicants who met the course entry requirements were accepted. Students had to register for all 20 hours required for the phlebotomy certificate. Those passing MLT 1500-Phlebotomy and MLT 1110-Orientation to Medical Laboratory progressed to the clinical assignment.

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Prospective Students are Eager to Apply for EMT/Paramedic Programs

The knock on your door comes in the middle of the night; the one you’ve been waiting for, heart in your throat, in response to your 9-1-1 call. Very possibly, the person you open the door to is a graduate of the Paramedic Program at Southwest Tennessee Community College. No way are you going to relax yet, but later on, you will realize, this was the turning point when your fright began to diminish, just a little, for the person you are so worried about. The paramedics quietly identify themselves and set about stabilizing the patient before starting for the hospital where they work with the emergency room personnel until the transfer of the patient to them is complete.

In the Memphis area, thousands of such calls are answered annually, more often than not by emergency personnel who received their training at Southwest. “We have seen tremendous growth in this field in the past five years,” said Glenn Faught, who heads up the emergency medical technology programs at Southwest. “We have companies that are hiring Southwest Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and paramedic graduates in ambulance services, fire department rescue squads, hospitals, physician clinics, and industries. Interest in our paramedic program has grown to the point that we’ve instituted both fall and spring start-up classes. We are the largest program in the State of Tennessee and the Mid-South, as well as one of the largest in the country.”

The largest class in the history of the department began training on August 29. Applicants filed vigorous questions and demands for supporting prior experience and qualifications before they even face the student selection committee interviewers. This includes a psychological profile, which is analyzed by program psychologist Dr. Vaughn E. Stimbert. Integral to the success of the program, he is available as needed for consultation.

When registration got seriously underway in early August, 135 applicants, a record number, presented their credentials, according to Faught. Of these, 85, another record, qualified for the oral interview. They crowded into the halls of the Allied Health Building at the Union Avenue Campus on August 5 to meet with the committee of 30 medical professionals. “Actually,” said Faught, “our success in recruiting such a large number of qualified applicants could have been a problem that day. But our admissions liaison, Tim Davis, worked with each candidate, made sure they had everything together, and kept the lines flowing in easy order through the committee room.”

Dr. Loren A. Crown, medical director for the program, heads the committee, and has the most personal understanding of the need for competent first care responders. Both he and his wife have been recipients of care that required the knowledge and training of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Those who provided it were graduates of the Southwest EMT Program. An emergency room physician, Dr. Crown is the former chief of the emergency medical department at Baptist Covington and was one of the founders of the Memphis Paramedic Pre-Hospital Program. He has been with the Southwest program over 30 years and is actively involved in lecturing, counseling, and testing the paramedic students on a periodic basis.

The driving force for the emergency medical services (EMS) person must be the desire to help others, according to Faught. “We take care of them in a situation where they cannot care for themselves. We see them at their worst time when they need someone to help them through their crisis.” The EMS provider operates in the pre-hospital arena. “So we want to know how much out-of-hospital emergency practice experience the prospective paramedic student has achieved. We look also for integrity, honesty, and team leadership capability,” added Faught. Other requirements include a current basic EMT Tennessee license, a battery of tests for EMT knowledge, and completion of the anatomy and physiology course.

“Once this is completed, they proceed to the oral interview. We will calculate the results and accept the 74 highest scoring students for fall. Those who do not get in will be automatically considered for the spring class,” said Faught.

Cook Systems International Continues to Support Southwest through the CollegeCareerCorps® Program

Cook Systems International has donated $9,250 to Southwest Tennessee Community College. The donation grew by more than 300 percent from last year due to Cook Systems International’s growing CollegeCareerCorps® (collegecareercorps.com) efforts in the Memphis area.

The donation continues Cook Systems International’s strong financial support to the Information Technology (IT) program at Southwest. Now in its third year partnering with Southwest, Cook Systems International is partnered with over 30 colleges and universities nationwide through CollegeCareerCorps® efforts.

“Southwest is pleased to partner with Cook Systems International in ways that are beneficial to our students and to their corporation. Our students receive real life experiences that allow them to make critical connections between classroom experiences and the work place,” per Dr. Nathan Essex, President of Southwest Tennessee Community College. “It is a wonderful partnership that we look forward to continuing. We are grateful that Cook Systems International extended opportunities for our students to receive outstanding training and make solid contributions in their particular skill areas.”

Corporate and government partners benefit from the CollegeCareerCorps® by receiving Cook Systems International’s unique expertise with the model, leading edge research services from colleges and universities, and the ability to partner with students and faculty to address critical business challenges. Services are delivered at globally competitive rates while developing a future workforce.

The CollegeCareerCorps® is a program that integrates students into professional technology teams in entry-level positions. The students join a team that includes experienced information technology professionals working on actual IT projects on a long-term basis, unlike traditional internships. Cook Systems International has developed technical and certified management professionals using CollegeCareerCorps® project methodologies and procedures to ensure achieving the highest quality project results. Students typically work 20 hours per week and continue with the same client partner for up to two years.
Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are often referred to as the new generation of veterans. This new generation of veterans and servicemen faces tremendous barriers as they return from the battlefield to a supposed life of “normalcy.” According to the Ad Council, in a previous collaborative multimedia public service campaign with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, problems the veterans encounter include high rates of unemployment, suicide, homelessness, substance abuse, divorce, and child abuse. The availability of local resources like jobs, health care, counseling and education is vital to their transition and readjustment.

“A man who is good enough to shed his blood is good enough to be given a square deal after-ward,” President Theodore Roosevelt once said. The Helping Heroes Grant is a square deal that provides postsecondary educational financial assistance on a first-come first-served basis to Tennessee veterans, who are former members of the armed forces, reserves or a Tennessee National Guard unit called into active military service of the United States. These veterans must have been awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal; the Afghan-istan Campaign Medal; or the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, on or after September 11, 2001. William Armstrong was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal. He planned to complete his training at Southwest this past summer and transfer his course credits to UT, Knoxville. He admitted money is a big issue for vets who were accustomed to food and lodging provisions while in the military along with a regular semi-monthly pay check. “You didn’t have to worry about rent and food because all of that was taken care of for you,” said Armstrong. The grant has meant a lot to him because, along with his GI Bill, it allowed him to go to school full time, which means he’ll finish his education sooner and then can enter the job market.

Across the desk sat William Armstrong, an average looking all-American male college student. You wouldn’t have known he was an Iraqi veteran were it not for the tattoo on his arm that reads USMC; nothing fancy, just the letters U-S-M-C. Armstrong is one of 1.7 million plus servicemen who’ve served in the United States military since 9-11. Upon his return from the military, he enrolled at Southwest Tennessee Community College where he was one of four veterans who were awarded the Helping Heroes Grant. This new grant program, approved during the 2008-09 academic year, assists Tennessee veterans in completing their college education.
I am Ashlea Geeter and I had the pleasure of visiting Cape Town, South Africa this past summer. The subject that I studied was cultural anthropology. Photographing the scenery in South Africa has broadened my horizons as an art major. In so many ways, this voyage has changed my life, especially my involvement as a student, allowing my light to shine.

One thing that has changed about me is my ability to be more involved as a student. I was a very quiet student; so much so that one would forget that I was even present in the classroom. I did my work, even engaged in extra-curricular activities, but I knew that there was something missing. It was that my personality was not engaged. I did not realize that my personality should be involved in everything that I do. I took South Africa to open me up like a Calla Lily. Now my personality has unfolded, allowing everything that I do. It took time and persistence for me to begin to reveal these new traits that I have now acquired.

This voyage has helped me, step by step, to become a tall, strong woman. There was a time when I did not know how to let my light shine. There was a time when I would forcibly dim my light. That did more damage than good. Nevertheless, now I shine my light like a lighthouse. The lighthouse represents how I am becoming strong and tall. But, it took time and persistence for me to begin to reveal these new traits that I have now acquired.

When I was climbing up the steep steps of Cape Point, where the Atlantic and Indian oceans meet, I would see the people passing me by, and beating me to the top of Cape Point. Amanda Downs, who attends Pellissippi State Community College, would encourage me to finish the climb. At one point, I truly forgot why I was going up Cape Point. I thought to myself that it was useless to go there. I was tired, out of breath, and aggrevated. I stopped, and as I took a break, I turned around to see that the clouds in the sky were pierced by this majestic light that I hadn’t seen before. I began to realize that I had come a long way, and it just took me to stop, and look, and understand the reason for climbing Cape Point. In addition, I started to think that my efforts would be useless if I did not finish; did not see the slender beacon of Cape Point. Looking back, and realizing this, I was beginning to develop persistence. And persistence allowed me to begin to truly step into my womanhood.

This voyage has helped me, step by step, to become a tall, strong woman. I will no longer dim my light, and hold back. Developing the persistence which led me into becoming a tall, strong woman. There was a time when I did not know how to let my light shine. There was a time when I would forcibly dim my light. That did more damage than good. Nevertheless, now I shine my light like a lighthouse. The lighthouse represents how I am becoming strong and tall.

One thing that has changed about me is my ability to be more involved as a student. I was a very quiet student; so much so that one would forget that I was even present in the classroom. I did my work, even engaged in extra-curricular activities, but I knew that there was something missing. It was that my personality was not engaged. I did not realize that my personality should be involved in everything that I do. I took South Africa to open me up like a Calla Lily. Now my personality has unfolded, allowing my light to shine.

I photographed the Robben Lighthouse, the highest point of Robben Island in Cape Town. Lighthouses are tall and strong. They give a light that you can see from miles away.
Greetings Southwest Alumni:

I’m proud to say the Southwest experience has always been about choices.

Many of you came to Southwest with a particular major or career in mind, only to find out you were destined for other directions. You might have been aiming to be a nurse or chef, but accounting class determined that a business concentration would be a better fit. Or maybe an elective writing class inspired you to pursue a career as a paralegal.

Southwest offered you the choice to be anything you could dream of.

Whatever your career path, Southwest will remain committed to providing options for students and alumni to make choices. To accomplish this, the Alumni Association provides numerous opportunities, whether it’s returning to the Vertees Sails Gymnasium for a basketball game, participating in an alumni networking event or broadening your horizons with a continuing education class. We have a variety of alumni programs designed to meet the diverse needs of Saluquis everywhere.

We hope that you choose to join the Alumni Association. Our mission is to help alumni stay connected to Southwest and their classmates. We want you to stay connected to Southwest on your terms.

With your continued support, I know we will remain the college of choice for many students.

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

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**Outstanding Alumni Sought for 2010**

The Southwest Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 2010 Alumnus of the Year award. This award is given to an outstanding alumnus who has established him/herself as an important part of their community. The candidate must hold an earned degree from Southwest Tennessee Community College. He/she must be accomplished in their business, profession, life work or other worthy endeavors.

Nominations can be made by anyone. The selection committee, headed by the Alumni Association President, will review the nominations and determine the recipient in March 2010. The recipient will be notified in April 2010 and the award will be presented at the Commencement ceremony in May 2010.

**Nomination Form Information**

- **Name**
  - First, Middle Initial or Maiden, Last
- **Home Address**
- **City/State/Zip**
- **Home Phone**
- **E-mail address**
- **Degree Received**
- **Graduation Year**
- **Occupation/Title**
- **Employer**
- **Community Involvement**
- **Major Accomplishments**
- **Nominated By**

Deadline for nomination submissions is Friday, January 29, 2010. For more information or to nominate someone, please contact Christopher Owens, Director of Alumni Affairs at (901) 333-4344 or at caowens1@southwest.tn.edu.

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**Southwest Hosts the National Scholarship Service Fair**

Southwest hosted the National Scholarship Service (NSS) College Fair Memphis tour on October 5 and 6 at the Macon Cove Campus. Hundreds of high school seniors from Memphis City Schools converged on our campus in the Nabors Auditorium over the two-day period.

The NSS Program was established in 1946 to assist students in gaining access to and graduating from America’s postsecondary institutions. The Student College Interview Sessions (SCIS), a.k.a. College Fairs, were conceived in 1963 to facilitate an exchange of information between students and college representatives, and also to assist colleges in recruiting the country’s brightest and best students. The sessions are open to high school juniors and seniors at no cost, regardless of age, cultural background, ethnic origin, financial status or gender. Representatives at the SCIS include admissions personnel, financial aid officers, and/or alumni.

Cities on tour include Jacksonville and Orlando, Fla.; Denver, Colo.; St. Louis, Mo.; Charlotte, N.C.; Richmond, Va.; Baltimore, Md.; Memphis, Tenn.; Houston, Texas; Montgomery and Birmingham, Ala.; Atlanta, Ga.; Cleveland, Ohio; Auburn Hills, Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich.; White Plains, N.Y.; Newark, N.J.; and Philadelphia, Pa. The fairs are extensively promoted in each of the cities with the full cooperation of the local school systems.

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**Patented Invention Helps Southwest Employee Land a Spot on “America’s Got Talent”**

Charlie Phan, a laboratory technician for natural sciences at Southwest, enjoyed a brief moment of fame when his Panda-quin, a sensor-model action system invention, landed him in the spotlight on the NBC network television program, “America’s Got Talent.”

Panda-quin (pronounced panda-kin) is a human and animal panda bear model. The movement of Panda-quin is directed by a patented magnetic-switch synchronized action controller that Phan, its inventor, says may be operated from a short distance or thousands of miles away.

The sensor-model synchronized action system is suitable for action-models, or robots, for comedy shows, parades, sports, and many other entertainment venues. “I have hundreds of different kinds of models on a main frame,” said Phan.

Phan created Panda-quin for his “America’s Got Talent” comedy act. “I did comedian, ventriloquist, and active mannequin in auditions in Houston and Las Vegas. My appearances on the “America’s Got Talent” television show are just the first step for me from the lovely city of Memphis to bring joy to everyone. I hope I’ll have more time and means to complete my goal of bringing good things to humanity. That’s my dream,” said Phan.

Charlie Phan performs with Panda-quin.

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Danes Visit Southwest Again to Absorb Memphis Culture

In October, our annual “flight of the Danish students” landed at the Macon Cove Campus, their Memphis headquarters, to absorb as much Southern culture as possible in an unbelievably activity-packed week. The 21 students and two faculty members from Svenborg Business College near Copenhagen flew into Memphis International Airport on October 2. They met with their host families for a reception at The Vue (Bellevue Baptist Church’s College Ministry), then spent the weekend getting acquainted with their “Memphis families.”

Dr. Tamara McColgan, director of international studies, estimates this is the 20th year the Danish students have visited Memphis. “It’s become a tradition that both Southwest and the Danish students enjoy. Many friendships have grown between students and host families over the years.”

On October 5, the students headed for the Macon Cove Campus before officially starting their Memphis travels with a tour of the National Civil Rights Museum. Standing out in their International Student T-shirts, they were immediately recognizable as our regular October international student guests, said McColgan, as they settled in for the first of several cross-cultural communication classes to get acquainted with their new locale. Other classes for the week included American sports, Memphis music, education, and sociology.

Among highlights of the week were the traditional Memphis must-see attractions. In addition to the National Civil Right Museum, there was Graceland, the Peabody Hotel (with its Marching Ducks), and a professional basketball game between the Memphis Grizzlies and the Oklahoma City Thunder. A first for this year on the schedule was a visit to Methodist Hospital, including a tour and discussion luncheon to learn about United States health care operations.

Also on the agenda were the Lifetime Fitness Center, which included lunch in the Café; the Gill Center Fourth Annual Carnival and Community Fair Day; a Sun Studio Tour; First Works for dinner one evening; and an entire afternoon of shopping.

The week’s visit wound up with a farewell potluck dinner at the The Vue on October 8 and an evening at the Cordova Skating Center where the Danish students were guests of the International Student Club. The Danes returned to Copenhagen on October 9.

Blast from the Past Featuring Smith & Nephew Alumni

Approximately 30 Southwest Tennessee Community College Alumni gathered last winter at Smith & Nephew for food, fellowship and an opportunity to hear from college President Nathan L. Essex. The alumni, whose graduation dates ranged from 1976 to 2008, listened intently as Dr. Essex shared updates concerning the school and its upcoming plans for the future.

The Alumni Affairs Office wants to share in your personal and professional accomplishments! To be featured in the Southwest Now’s Blast from the Past section, please go to www.southwest.tn.edu/alumni/form.htm and complete the online form. For more information on the Southwest Alumni Association meetings or events, contact Chris Owens at (901) 333-4344.

1980s
John Lee Grice, II received his mechanical engineering degree from Southwest in 1987.
Darryl Keith Bonner received his mechanical engineering degree in 1989.
Cassandra Lynn Arnold received her mechanical engineering degree in 1989.
Steve E. Goldman graduated in 1982 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

1990s
Melanie A. Travis received her industrial engineering degree in 1991.
Reginald K. Thomas graduated in 1991 with a degree in mechanical and industrial engineering.
Jerrlyn C. Kersh-Rushing graduated from Southwest in 1991 with a degree in architectural engineering technology.
Denise S. Woodfork received her degree in mid-management technology in 1998.

2000s
Teresa L. Chenault majored in middle management technology and graduated in 2003.
Jared P. Jobbins received his general technology degree in 2005 and electrical engineering technology degree in 2009.
Marion M. Mercado graduated with a degree in graphic arts in 2006.
Justin A. Wingo graduated with his mechanical engineering degree in 2008.
Southwest Tennessee Community College has been awarded a $20,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The grant will fund an adult education collaborative that will strengthen the adult General Education Diploma (GED) program.

The grant will support up to 120 families through career and educational counseling and planning, basic literacy, and pre-GED classes, which include instructional materials such as workbooks, videos and online curriculum.

“Because of this grant, more economically disadvantaged adults will be able to get their GED,” said Vickie Reyes, Southwest grant administrator. “Then, they will be able to enroll in a college or training program.”

Through this grant, and in collaboration with the Memphis Literacy Council and the Women’s Foundation for Greater Memphis, Southwest is enriching the lives of community residents by making services available to them in their neighborhoods. To date, nine adults have received their GED through the Southwest program.

“For many adults, getting their GED is the first step toward realizing their dreams. It has the ability to increase their employability, earnings potential, and engagement in their children’s education, as well as help them achieve their college aspirations,” said Denine Torr, Dollar General’s director of community initiatives. “We are proud to support Southwest Tennessee Community College and help change lives.”

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awards grants to organizations that provide literacy, GED preparation or English proficiency services.

Southwest and U of M Create Unique Academic Partnership

Southwest and the University of Memphis have created a Partnership Enrollment Program (PEP) that enables students at Southwest to easily transition to the University of Memphis after completion of their associate degree.

The Partnership Enrollment Program (PEP) is open to Southwest students who have taken fewer than 30 credit hours toward their associate degree. Immediately upon earning their two-year degree, with a minimum overall combined GPA of 2.0 (as computed by the University; individual departmental requirements may be higher), they will be eligible to begin classes at the University of Memphis. No further application with the U of M will be necessary.

The program will benefit students in several ways. It will enable them to enjoy improved and collaborative academic advising, and to make an easier transition to a four-year university. Further, PEP participants will not be charged an additional application fee when they transition to the U of M after graduation from Southwest.

Operation of the program will be shared between the two schools. They will jointly oversee such responsibilities as academic advising, decisions regarding class content, and coordinating participants’ transfer process.

More information is available from Southwest Tennessee Community College at 901-333-5924 or from the University of Memphis at 901-678-2111, or online at www.southwest.tn.edu/pep.

The presidents and delegates of both institutions participated in a co-admissions agreement signing ceremony on September 30 in the Macon Cove Campus Library at Southwest.
neighborhood imagery almost became his reality. Lacking motivation and positive influences, he did not participate in his education. “My grades fluctuated trying to play the part of an inner-city youth. I thought the other side of life was the cool thing to do,” says Donald. He never got into any real trouble, but in his words, “I just hung with the wrong crowd.” But at Hamilton, he met a teacher who would change his life, Mrs. Lovell Cartwright.

She took an interest in Donald and introduced him to positive imagery with a Christian foundation. His grandmother provided a church foundation, but Donald admits as he grew up, he missed a few sermons. Before the relationship with Mrs. Cartwright, Donald says, “I never really had role models.” His new imagery included positive male figures such as doctors, lawyers and businessmen, who took time to sit down and talk with him about the responsibilities and opportunities of life. “It revitalized my brain,” Donald says. “That’s when maturity kicked in. I had to start doing successful things.”

His first step toward success required him to change his friendships. Donald says Mrs. Cartwright’s son, James L. Cartwright, IV, was his first intellectual friend. James Cartwright introduced him to organizations like Memphis Challenge, an organization that coaches talented, high achieving students of color through leadership and professional development, preparing them to become future Memphis leaders. Even though Donald did not meet these standards, the organization allowed him to participate.

Donald realized that without excellent grades, it would be difficult to qualify for scholarship funds. So, the Tennessee Army National Guard became an avenue for college funding, especially with its signing bonus. He took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam, which required a minimum score of 30 to be accepted, and he scored 51. That score accessed additional educational benefits and better job training opportunities. Donald accepted the Guards offer and a $10,000 signing bonus in January 2006. After completing his junior year of high school, he went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for two months of training. He then returned to Memphis and finished high school at Westwood in 2007.

While attending Westwood, he participated in a “College Day” event and met former Southwest recruiter, Al Hudson, who garnered Donald’s attention. After sharing recruitment materials, asking questions, and doing a personal assessment, Hudson determined Donald was not fully prepared for a four-year institution, but would receive more personalized attention and academic preparation at Southwest. Donald mentioned “Southwest was my best choice. I could not see myself going anywhere else.”

Upon enrolling at Southwest, Donald focused on achieving success and looked for venues to facilitate him. Hudson introduced him to the Student Ambassadors in fall 2008, becoming the first school organization he joined. Donald built a rapport with the recruiters, faculty, and other leaders within the college. Early in spring 2009, the Union Avenue Campus was looking for an interim SGA representative. He submitted his name, was interviewed by the seated representatives, and appointed to the position. Regular SGA elections were held in April where he was elected by the student body to serve a full term as the Union Avenue Campus representative for 2009-2010. During a student leadership retreat at Natchez Trace State Park, Donald was selected by his peers to serve as 2009-2010 president of SGA. Donald says his goal is to make students more aware of and appreciate the different activities and organizations that Southwest offers. Until now, SGA has been activities oriented. He would now like to focus more on student issues.

Donald is currently pursuing an associate degree in criminal justice and/or sociology. He hopes to someday find gainful employment in law enforcement. During his early stages of leadership, he has become a better listener, less of a procrastinator, and has learned to use others’ strengths to support his weaknesses. Improving the image of today’s youth is also important to him. He hopes to lead by example, being educated, articulate, well-dressed, and maintaining a spiritual foundation.

For Dr. Ralph Knowles, establishing a scholarship at Southwest was a great way to honor his son who excelled in the Hospitality Management Program. However, he had no idea that he himself would learn a lesson in patience and determination.

Dr. and Mrs. Knowles knew how much their son Randall loved the culinary arts concentration of his hospitality management program. Randall went on to achieve great success in the field, eventually moving to New Orleans to work in well-known Bourbon Street restaurants. Dr. Knowles and his wife moved to Pensacola, FL to be closer to him, but Randall passed away in 1997.

“My wife and I wanted to do something to memorialize him, but we couldn’t find State Technical Institute on the internet,” said Dr. Knowles. “We asked our friends to find out what happened to the college but no one seemed to know.”

After several years, hope for finding State Tech was running out. Out of the blue, Dr. Knowles stumbled upon the Southwest website. He was elated when he discovered that Southwest was the product of a merger of State Technical Institute at Memphis and Shelby State Community College.

He contacted Foundation scholarship director Cheryl Bingham to inquire about establishing an endowed scholarship in his son’s name. Bingham introduced Knowles to Steven Leake, director of the Hospitality Management program. Dr. Knowles was so impressed that he established a $100,000 endowed scholarship in honor of Randall so that other students can receive exceptional training in culinary arts just as Randall had.
2008-2009 Grants
(Received During July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009)

- Academy for Educational Development ($8,200)
- City of Memphis Division of Housing & Community Development for the Tennessee Small Business Development Center ($100,000)
- City of Memphis Workforce Investment Network Child Care Services (based on the number of referrals/estimated at $36,000)
- City of Memphis Workforce Investment Network Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) ($178,973)
- City of Memphis Workforce Investment Network for Out-of-School Youth ($418,099)
- Memphis City Schools/Tennessee Department of Education GEAR-UP ($108,004)
- Memphis City Schools/Tennessee Department of Education Voluntary Pre-K ($79,178.26)
- Shelby County Government Paralegal Internship ($26,000)
- TBR Middle Tennessee State University/Tennessee Small Business Development Center ($181,683)
- TBR Perkins IV Base Grant ($129,822)
- TBR Perkins IV Reserve Grant ($21,780)
- TBR Perkins IV Reserve Grant (second round) Healthcare Education Summit Program ($16,100)
- Tennessee Department of Education Voluntary Pre-K ($168,639.98)
- Tennessee Department of Health and Human Services/TSU Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECCTA) ($556,681)
- Tennessee Department of Health and Human Services/Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) ($75,000)
- Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration/DMRS Home Manager’s Technical Certificate Program ($76,820)
- Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration/Division of Mental and Retardation Services ($76,820)
- Tennessee Department of Transportation GHSO Campus Safety High Visibility Grant ($3,250)
- Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Trade Act ($7,490.76)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Match for Tennessee Small Business Development Center ($15,000)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Match for Technologies and Sciences ($5,000)
- U.S. Department of Education/TEACH Child Care Access Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS) ($149,236)
- U.S. Department of Education/TRIO Educational Opportunity Center ($226,600)
- U.S. Department of Education/TRIO Upward Bound ($347,832)
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services/HRSA Appropriations ($303,484)
- U.S. Department of Justice/Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institute of Memphis ($128,837)
- Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis Match for Educational Opportunity Center ($20,000)

Rico Lasean Donald: The Image of Leadership
By Robert Jackson

Are leaders made or born? It is a question people frequently ponder. Many books have been written about how to become a leader. Individuals have the option of studying leadership from one-day seminars to higher education degrees. Leaders should be able to influence others and work together to achieve objectives.

Rico Lasean Donald is a new face of leadership at Southwest as the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) for 2009-2010. For some, the leadership role is developed during their school experiences; perhaps through school clubs and organizations; others through social organizations, church or community activities. This was not so for Donald. In fact, he lacked the experiences that other leaders acquire while participating in organizations. When individuals are not exposed to positive influences, they have no visual imagery to refer to. We have all heard motivational phrases like, “If you see it, you can achieve it.” But what happens when the imagery is skewed?

Based on images seen by many young inner-city African-American males in their homes, neighborhoods and schools, the future may not look bright. At home, the image may be a single parent, typically female, struggling to raise one if not several children. Neighborhood imagery may include dilapidated or abandoned buildings that used to house thriving businesses. School should provide a better image, but depending on the location or student attitudes, it may not.

This was the imagery of Donald’s world. Raised in the Lauderdale section of South Memphis by his grandmother, Alice Donald, whom he calls the love of his life; he is the product of a bi-racial union. He has never seen his Caucasian mother; she chose the street life. His African-American father was at times incarcerated. Donald was three months old when his grandmother took him into her home.

The Lauderdale section epitomizes the negative imagery of many African-American communities, and it is where Donald lived until his junior year at Hamilton High School. The
a hospital quickly cooled that interest. For her, engineering as a career option was a practical one. It was a good match for math and science, which she loved; she’d had a summer job in engineering that was satisfying; it was a growing field with great job opportunities; and you could earn a decent living.

Even though the field was traditionally male dominated, as Jones continued to gravitate toward a career in engineering, her family and friends encouraged and supported her decision. “They always said, ‘You can do it. Whatever you want to do, you can do it,’” Jones remarked of her being hired at Bell Labs. “When Bell Labs was looking for people, they were looking for people with a high GPA,” she maintained.

Jones brought to Bell Labs her experience from a summer program with Hewlett Packard, work with Kellogg’s in Battle Creek, Michigan, the chairmanship of the Student Institute of Electrical Electronic Engineers, as well as membership in the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Society. When all was said and done, Jones was a top candidate for the job. Her professional experience has taken her all over the world. She worked for Thompson Consumer Electronics as the senior member of the technical staff on HDTV and HD projection projects jointly with Hitachi in Yokohama, Japan, as a digital designer for AT&T/Bell HDTV and HD projection projects jointly with Hitachi Electronics as the senior member of the technical staff on HDTV and HD projection projects jointly with Hitachi. Her professional experience has taken her all over the world. 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Southwest offers an Electrical Electronic Fundamentals Technical Certificate to dually-enrolled students. One of the benefits of the technical certificate for dual enrollment, Jones feels, is that it shows the students that college is an option for them. “They actually see the teachers,” she expressed. The rewards return to Jones from gratified students, such as one she taught during a summer session who said to her, “You know, I never considered college before now. Now, I see that I can do it.” A lot of the students Jones teaches in the dual enrollment classes are first generation college students. She works patiently with the students giving them that extra confidence that puts college within their grasp.

Jones is motivated by the desire to do a good job. There are tasks out there to be done so she steps in and does as much as she can. Her personal creed is “Always do the best that you can.” The primary persons who shaped her perspective during the early years were her family and teachers. But, more recently, her students have influenced her outlook in a very positive way. She basically has no regrets. The one thing she would change about herself is to have more patience. Asked if she had a different message for young women than she does for young men, she replied, “Not really. Most people can do it if they are willing to work for it.”

Jones sees to be driven by the little things. She says she feels a sense of accomplishment when she has helped someone overcome an obstacle that stands between them and their ability to be self-sufficient and accountable.
Mary Tate-Smith does not like to waste time.

As Vice President of Sales for the West Regional Office of CIGNA Healthcare, every minute counts when providing excellent customer service for her clients. But Tate-Smith carves out moments to build relationships in the Mid-South and serve as a leader and role model through service.

A relative newcomer to Memphis, Tate-Smith has championed the cause for education by joining the board of trustees of the Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation. She also served on the 2009 planning committee for the Henry “Hank” Aaron Golf Classic, benefitting LeMoyne-Owen College and the United Negro College Fund.

While many organizations benefit from her time, Tate-Smith decided to use her resources to assist as many students as possible. She was instrumental in CIGNA Healthcare’s $10,000 donation to Southwest’s major gift campaign. Tate-Smith’s parents were not formally educated, but believed in the value of education. Hard-working people, they strove to make sure their values were passed on, and with Tate-Smith, they succeeded.

“My parents taught me all of my values. They taught me the importance of giving back to the community and working hard. I can’t think of anyone I would rather name a scholarship in honor of than my parents. They are my inspiration every day.”

Her extensive background in the healthcare industry has taken her around the country, previously residing in California and New Jersey before calling Memphis home. A native of Detroit, Tate-Smith is passionate about the Memphis area and wants to do her part to give back to the community. Currently, she is a member of the 2010 Leadership Memphis Executive Program Class.

Power-Packed Lessons In and Out of the Classroom

By Brenda Rayner

She is a force behind the students. She is always driving them, always motivating them. With short legs and quick steps, she zips across the campus; small in stature but colossal in impact. Asked to describe herself she said, “People say that I have lots of energy. They say I am loud, and that I really work hard with the students,” said Lisa Jones, who seemed a little uncomfortable talking about herself.

Jones, a native Memphian, is an associate professor and the program coordinator of electrical engineering technology for Southwest’s Engineering Technologies Department. She earned her master’s in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech after completing her bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from The University of Memphis (U of M).

Surprisingly, Jones also holds a black belt in karate, and answers to the title sensei (pronounced sen-say). She started karate training while enrolled in graduate school at Georgia Tech, located in downtown Atlanta. At the time, Jones indicated, the lighting was poor and maneuvering across the campus during evening hours, as was at times necessary, wasn’t particularly safe for women. So she enrolled in a karate class being taught by a friend on campus. Jones kept pretty quiet about her black belt degree. The manager of her first, real full-time job was from “the old school” she said. That being the case, she didn’t feel the level of comfort to let it be known that she held a black belt. “I was still trying to make my way as an engineer,” Jones said. “But now, this is who I am and I don’t worry a whole lot about what other people think.”

Upon graduating from U of M, formerly Memphis State, she landed a job with Bell Labs, formerly known as AT&T Bell Laboratories and Bell Telephone Laboratories, whose criterion for employment was that their candidates seek postgraduate training. “I got a job with AT&T. They were actually Bell Lab then,” Jones explained. “They said, ‘If you take a job with us, you’ll have to get a master’s.’ Bell Lab provided a list of schools from which to choose. Jones chose Georgia Tech because it was in the South, “and I prefer the South. Really, it was a good deal. Bell Labs paid half my salary, my full tuition and bought my books.”

Jones always had an affinity for math and science; no surprise that she became an engineer. There was no real line of demarcation between men and women during her early years. Even in high school, the male-female playing field was pretty level. But as Jones pursued higher education, the female presence became sparser in the field. She pointed out that her classes comprised only 15 percent female, a percentage that has remained to this day.

Before making the firm career choice of engineering, Jones considered a career in medicine. Volunteer work at

Jones demonstrates the use of a pole as a weapon in a karate fighting sequence.
and science labs all with 21st century technology; an academic support space; a multipurpose classroom; a student lounge and gathering space; administrative offices; and other mechanical and support spaces.

Dr. Maxine A. Smith is a former college French instructor who served two terms as a member of the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and often championed community service, advocating for education at all levels in Memphis. Her lifelong devotion to education also included numerous contributions to both Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis, the forerunners of Southwest.

A host of dignitaries attended the event and delivered remarks, including Southwest President Dr. Nathan L. Essex, Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton, Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner, Memphis Mayor Pro Tem Myron Lowery, TBR Chancellor Dr. Charles W. Manning, State Senator Dolores Gresham, and of course, the honoree, Dr. Maxine A. Smith who was accompanied by her now late husband, Dr. Vasco Smith. Included also among the dignitaries were TBR regents Gregory Duckett and John Farris.

Southwest’s New Education Chair Named “Educator of the Year” in Ethiopia

Dr. Robert J. Walker, recently hired to chair the Education Department for “Southwest Tennessee Community College, was selected as the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH) Outstanding Educator of the Year for Ethiopia, Africa. IFESH was founded in 1981 as an initiative to eradicate poverty, disease and inequity through self-help partnership programs.

During the year prior to his coming to Southwest, Walker served as a trainer for college teachers at Debre Birhan University, located in the city of Debre Birhan, in central Ethiopia. Walker indicated he had always wanted to go to Africa and felt he could make a difference in the lives of less fortunate individuals. Walker was amazed to learn of his selection. “To be perfectly honest, I was really shocked and extremely honored,” he stated.

Walker brings to Southwest a wealth of postsecondary experience and academic credentials. He earned his doctorate in early childhood education/education administration, and a master of science in education administration and supervision from Jackson State University in Jackson, MS; a master of arts in business management from Webster University in St. Louis, MO; and a bachelor of arts in elementary education from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, MS.

Walker’s recent employment includes work as an IFESH Volunteer in Ethiopia, Africa; assistant professor in early childhood/elementary education in the College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Alabama State University; Title IIB Activity I director/curriculum specialist for Trenholm State Technical College; assistant professor of instruction and curriculum leadership for the College of Education at the University of Memphis; and associate professor and coordinator of internship and research for the Department of Education at Oakwood College in Huntsville, AL.

As department chair, Walker is moving forward on several objectives to help forge the direction of the education department. “I have a wonderful faculty and staff ... we are looking for better ways to serve the community and we are seeking to do a better job of advising our students to ensure they are able to successfully complete all the degree and certificate programs under the department of education in a timely manner,” stated Walker.

Walker is a published author of the following books: Let My People Go! The Miracle of the Montgomery Bus Boycott; The Plan of Salvation; and most recently, in 2008, 12 Characteristics of an Effective Teacher.
Southwest’s Chef Steven Leake, program coordinator of the hospitality management culinary arts program, has been awarded a unique lifetime achievement award by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Greater Memphis Chapter. “This award was created specifically to recognize individuals who have made significant, long-term contributions to local charities in the community, culinarians in Memphis, and to the local chapter of the ACF. And, in fact, it has been named the Steven Leake Lifetime Achievement Award,” said Jeremy Burnett, director for the center for faculty development and faculty advising.

“This honor was named for Chef Leake as a benchmark for the level of attainment that will be required for subsequent awards,” said Burnett. “It will likely not be an annual one; it is anticipated that it will not be given on a regular basis at all, due to the high level of performance expected with this recognition.”

At the same time (the occasion of the ACF Annual Chef’s Gala), two of Chef Leake’s students, Necia Usrey and Austin Sterling, were recognized as the Junior Culinarians of the Year for their work with the chapter this past year. Their awards included scholarships of $250. “Both of them,” said Chef Leake, “have dedicated a phenomenal amount of time, effort, and just a great spirit of giving and helping wherever they were needed. From being involved in all class activities, to outside events or fund raisers, they were there; helping wherever help was needed. They volunteered for any outside demonstrations or activities.”

Vicki Robertson Named SBEA’s 2009 Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year

Vicki Robertson, of Southwest Tennessee Community College, recently received the Southern Business Education Association (SBEA) 2009 Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year award. Robertson is the interim chair of the college’s department of Office Administration, Information Technology and Hospitality Management. As the recipient of the SBEA regional award, she is automatically a candidate for the 2010 National Business Education Association (NBEA) Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year award.

Robertson has taught at Southwest since 1988. Often an innovator in blending new technology into programs and developing online courses, she was among the earliest faculty members to become involved in distance education. She often assists faculty who are new to online instruction to hone their skills. Robertson is a Microsoft Certified Application Specialist in Word and Excel 2007, and MOUS certified in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2003. A leader not only in and for the college, Robertson is also active in educational organizations throughout the state, regionally and nationally: the Tennessee Business Education Association (TBEA); her 12-state region, SBEA; and the NBEA, annually serving as session coordinator or assistant for national meetings. Robertson has served on the executive board for TBEA since 2001 and was named TBEA’s Post-Secondary Business Teacher of the Year in 2008. She annually presents at their conferences.

Vicki Robertson Named SBEA’s 2009 Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year

Vicki Robertson, of Southwest Tennessee Community College, recently received the Southern Business Education Association (SBEA) 2009 Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year award. Robertson is the interim chair of the college’s department of Office Administration, Information Technology and Hospitality Management. As the recipient of the SBEA regional award, she is automatically a candidate for the 2010 National Business Education Association (NBEA) Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year award.

Robertson has taught at Southwest since 1988. Often an innovator in blending new technology into programs and developing online courses, she was among the earliest faculty members to become involved in distance education. She often assists faculty who are new to online instruction to hone their skills. Robertson is a Microsoft Certified Application Specialist in Word and Excel 2007, and MOUS certified in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2003. A leader not only in and for the college, Robertson is also active in educational organizations throughout the state, regionally and nationally: the Tennessee Business Education Association (TBEA); her 12-state region, SBEA; and the NBEA, annually serving as session coordinator or assistant for national meetings. Robertson has served on the executive board for TBEA since 2001 and was named TBEA’s Post-Secondary Business Teacher of the Year in 2008. She annually presents at their conferences.

Ribbon Cutting Marks Opening of Highly Anticipated Maxine A. Smith Center

Southwest Tennessee Community College hosted on August 18 a ribbon cutting/open house ceremony for its newly constructed, highly anticipated Maxine A. Smith Center, located at 8800 East Shelby Drive in Memphis. This new center replaces the college’s Southeast Center, located on the corner of Winchester and Mendenhall. According to site research, the southeast Shelby County location gives access to higher education for more than several hundred thousand residents. It is also convenient to Collierville and Germantown in Tennessee and Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Named in honor of Dr. Maxine A. Smith, the center is a three-story, 67,300-square-foot brick education building containing a library; eight computer classrooms, 21 new classrooms and chemistry, biology, and computer science laboratories; a business skills lab; an culinary arts lab; and an administrative office space.

Pictured, front row left to right, are Tennessee State Senator Dolores Gresham; Memphis Mayor Pro Tem Myron Lowery; Dr. Vasco Smith; Dr. Maxine A. Smith; Southwest President Nathan L. Essex; Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner; and Tennessee State Representative Karen Camper. On the back row are TBR Regent Gregory Dackett and TBR Chancellor Charles W. Manning.

Vicki Robertson
**Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department Wins Numerous Awards in International and National Creative Competition**

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 more than 5,000 entries from throughout the United States and several foreign countries in the 2009 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.

### TITLE OF ENTRY
- 2007-2008 Annual Report
- 2009-2010 Student Planner
- Allied Health, Biotechnology, Nursing
- Corporate Training & Continuing Education
- Southwest Now Magazine Spring 2009
- Southwest Now TV Show February 2009
- Your Best Choice-Recruitment Ad for Magazines
- Your Best Choice-Recruitment Ad for Newspapers

### CATEGORY
- E-Annual Report
- Brochure/Handbook
- Brochure/Educational
- Ads/Newspaper Insert
- Magazine/Educational Institution
- Video/Film/TV Program (Cable)
- Ads/Magazine
- Ads/Magazine

### AWARD
- Platinum
- Platinum
- Platinum
- Gold
- Gold
- Honorable Mention
- Honorable Mention

### Additional Partnerships

- The University of Memphis and Southwest Tennessee Community College have created a co-admissions program to create an easy transition from Southwest to the University of Memphis for Southwest students. An agreement was signed by officials representing both institutions during a brief ceremony on Wednesday, September 30 at Southwest’s Macon Cove Library. The Partnership Enrollment Program will guarantee Southwest students admission to the U of M while at Southwest. Southwest students are required to enroll in the program before completing 30 credit hours at Southwest. U of M staff members will advise enrolled Southwest students regarding classes that best fit degree programs at both institutions to ensure that courses taken by Southwest students will be applied toward their bachelor’s degrees. Southwest students will also be provided access to U of M parking, recreation facilities and student activities, if they wish to pay the required fees. The program requires students to enroll at the U of M within a year of graduation from Southwest. They will receive priority registration with an application fee waiver. This partnership program creates a seamless transition from the associate degree to the bachelor’s degree.

- Additional partnerships have been established with LeMoyne-Owen College which will allow students to transfer two years of community college credit toward a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. A partnership with Mississippi State University will allow the college to expand the number of OSHA Environmental Health classes by a minimum of sixteen. A new partnership has also been established with Protrain which will allow Southwest to offer approximately twenty state-of-the-art Green Industry related online, continuing education and workforce development courses.

- At the national level, President Obama announced a $12 billion community college initiative designed to boost graduation rates, improve facilities and develop new technology. Developments at both the local and national levels have created energy, enthusiasm and opportunities for Southwest to continue to raise educational levels, enrich the lives of our students and contribute to economic growth and development within our region. The future of the College is very bright as we continue to meet the educational needs of students, employers and our community.

Cordially,
Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Two Southwest Softball Players Named Academic All-American

By Keith Gentry

Southwest student-athletes Amber Hayes and Katy Ahrens have been named to the 2008-2009 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-American Team, becoming the sixth and seventh Lady Saluqi softball players to receive the honor. In addition, they were two of only ten student-athletes from colleges in the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA) named to this year’s Academic All-American Team. NJCAA Academic All-Americans must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 or better on a 4.0 scale for 45 semester hours.

Hayes, a graduate of Brighton High School, came to Southwest after attending the University of Tennessee at Martin her freshman year. She earned First Team All-TCCAA honors after batting .434 and setting Southwest single season records with 17 home runs, 6 triples, 65 runs batted in, 66 hits, 139 total bases, and a .914 slugging average. Hayes also pitched in 16 games, compiling a 9-5 record with a 3.23 earned run average and 56 strikeouts. In addition, she was named National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 Player of the Week, a first for a Southwest softball player. Hayes will continue her education and softball career at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.

Ahrens, a graduate of Collierville High School, transferred to Southwest from Chattanooga State Community College. Ahrens’ 3.70 grade point average was the highest of all Southwest student-athletes during the 2008-2009 academic year. As a freshman in 2009, she was one of the Lady Saluquis’ top hitters with a .379 average, 10 doubles, five home runs, and 39 runs batted in.
## 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Spirit Express</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Alumni</td>
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<td>6/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Lady Bengal Classic</td>
<td>Eunice, LA</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>6-7</td>
<td>KKC Tip-Off Classic</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>6/8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Morristown, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>6/8 EST</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>*Roane State</td>
<td>Harriman, TN</td>
<td>W/M</td>
<td>2/4 EST</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia Perimeter</td>
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<td>DECEMBER</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Classic</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>W</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>W/M</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>6/8</td>
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<td>W/M</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
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<td>Lady Saluki Classic</td>
<td>Verties Sails Gymnasium</td>
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<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>MS Elite Christian Academy</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>3-8</td>
<td>TCCAA/Region VII Tournaent</td>
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<td>NJCAA National Tournament</td>
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<td>NJCAA National Tournament</td>
<td>Salina, KS</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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*Note: TBA stands for “To Be Announced.”*
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SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE
FALL 2009

Danish Business Students Visit Southwest
Highly Anticipated Maxine A. Smith Center Opens
Portrait of the New Student Government Association President
Southwest and U of M Partner in a Unique Co-Admissions Program