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Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department Wins NCMPR National and Regional Awards

The National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) announced Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department as the winner of a Silver Paragon Award in the College Video Program category for the “Southwest Now”- February 2009 TV Show during its national awards ceremony on March 16 in Albuquerque, NM.

NCMPR Executive Director Becky Olson indicated this year more than 75 judges from across the country reviewed over 1,700 entries in this annual competition that recognizes excellence in communications exclusively among two-year colleges.

The Communications and Marketing Department also won silver and bronze in several categories at the 2009 NCMPR District 2 Medallion Awards last fall. The NCMPR District 2 Medallion Awards recognizes outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges and is the only regional competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.

Clarence Christian Receives the Carter G. Woodson Award

The Honors Academy awarded its coveted Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit to Clarence Christian, founder and former director of the Honors Academy, on February 16 in the theater on the Union Avenue Campus. Christian was recognized for the tremendous legacy he has made in founding the Southwest Honors Academy and his influence on students, as well as his life’s work as a civic scholar. The Honors Academy, founded through Christian’s efforts in 1996, was one of the first in the nation to be approved at a two-year college. The Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit Ceremony, also established by Christian in 1988, has been a signature event at Southwest for more than 20 years and has been a part of the college’s involvement in the national celebration of African-American History Month. Every year, the ceremony brings individuals of note to Southwest, and the students gain much from this “out-of-class” lyceum experience.
As we reflect on the past ten years, we do so with a great deal of pride regarding the College’s accomplishments. First and foremost, a new identity has been established around a set of institutional values. Student success and academic excellence have increasingly become the focus of our efforts during the past decade. The College has experienced notable enrollment growth based on a highly talented and nurturing faculty, a customer service oriented staff, and our focus on anticipating and responding to the educational needs of students, employers, and our communities in Shelby and Fayette Counties. Articulation agreements have been established with all local four-year institutions including a Partnership Enrollment Program with The University of Memphis where students are simultaneously admitted to both institutions upon entering Southwest. Articulation agreements have also been established with MTSU, UT Knoxville as well as other four-year institutions across the state.

Southwest has become the College of choice and a national model with a number of programs receiving national recognition. Our Nursing Program continues to excel with an average pass rate of 95.5% on the National Council Licensure Exam. In 2009, fifty-one of our Nursing students earned a 100% pass rate. The College’s Developmental Studies Program earned national accreditation and is only one of two nationally accredited programs among TBR institutions. Our Honors Program has received national acclaim and has served as host to the National Honors Society’s Conference held in Memphis. The College’s Culinary Arts and Marketing Programs have also received national recognition as well as Science Technology Programs. Service learning and civic engagement have become an integral component of the College’s curriculum. Southwest has been named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Selection to the Honor Roll represents recognition from the highest levels of the Federal Government for the College’s commitment to service and civic engagement. The Community College Week recognized Southwest nationally as 30th in the nation in awarding associate degrees to African Americans, 40th in the nation in awarding associate degrees in Technology and 40th in the nation for the top 50 fastest growing public two-year colleges of enrollment of 10,000 or higher. This recognition is significant considering that there are 1,287 community colleges across the nation.

With respect to the workforce, Southwest was the first community college in the state to establish a division of Workforce Development through which multiple partnerships have been established with organizations such as Federal Express, Memphis Light Gas and Water (MLG&W), Smith & Nephew, Cisco Systems, Cook Industries, Accredo, and Federal Bureau of Prisons among others. The focus of our efforts revolves around improving the quality of life and enhancing economic growth and development within the community and region. Over 90% of Southwest’s graduates of career degree and certificate programs have been employed in their field of study throughout the Memphis area workforce. Southwest’s major contribution to the Mid-South area has been highlighted in two recent economic impact studies. One study found that Southwest degree graduates gained more than $550,000 in lifetime earnings over the earnings of students who completed high school only. Additionally, families of those college graduates also gained better health, longer life expectancy, a longer earnings capacity, and improved quality of life. A second study in 2009 revealed that Southwest contributed $794 million directly and indirectly to the local economy and affected over 20,000 jobs throughout the community.

Mary Palmer Earns First “Early Learning Pioneer Award”

Mary Palmer, director of Child Care Centers for Southwest Tennessee Community College, received the Stand for Children and United Way of Tennessee’s Children’s Champion, Early Learning Pioneer Award in Nashville on February 16. Palmer is the first ever recipient of the award, which now will be presented annually. It was created as a way of honoring her life’s work with children, according to the Stand for Children office in Memphis, TN. Palmer, a doctoral candidate at the University of Memphis, has given more than 30 years service to the Campus Child Care Centers at Southwest, where she manages more than 60 staff members, including student workers and volunteer grandmothers, and has 200 children enrolled in the programs on two campuses. She is active in the local Association for the Education of Young Children and Stand for Children, and she consistently lends her voice to serve as an advocate for children.

Dr. Robert J. Walker, chair of the Department of Education at Southwest Tennessee Community College, received the President’s Volunteer Service award for outstanding work as a volunteer teacher-trainer of new college teachers at Debre Birhan University in Ethiopia, Africa. It is granted to individuals who volunteer at least 100 hours in a given year. Dr. Walker was nominated by the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help.

The award consists of a lapel pin, a personal certificate, a letter from Jean Case, chair of the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, and a letter from President Barack Obama. In her congratulatory letter, Case said, “This recognizes your dedication to service and signifies that you have served your community and your country with distinction. You demonstrate values that make our nation strong and build a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility in America.”

President Obama’s letter said, in part, “Congratulations, and thank you for helping address the most pressing needs … While government can open opportunities for us to serve … it is up to each of us to seize those opportunities. Thank you for your devotion to service and for doing all you can to shape a better tomorrow for our great Nation.”

In response, Dr. Walker remarked, “Like any who give of themselves and make personal sacrifices … to help others, you don’t do it for rewards, but to make a difference in the lives of others. But it is nice to know that someone recognizes your efforts. I am truly honored to receive this recognition and I sincerely hope that what I taught the teachers they are still using in their college courses … helping to better educate future generations in the country of Ethiopia.”

Mary Palmer, a doctor of nursing practice candidate at the University of Memphis, TN. Palmer, a doctoral candidate at the University of Memphis, has given more than 30 years service to the Campus Child Care Centers at Southwest, where she manages more than 60 staff members, including student workers and volunteer grandmothers, and has 200 children enrolled in the programs on two campuses. She is active in the local Association for the Education of Young Children and Stand for Children, and she consistently lends her voice to serve as an advocate for children.

Stand for Children is an innovative, grassroots child advocacy organization whose mission is to use the power of grassroots action to help all children get the excellent public education and strong support they need to thrive. The organizations believe that all children can learn and that communities must work to ensure that all children have access to high quality education and effective teaching from birth.
views. He also represents Southwest with the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for planning and evaluation activities.

Crediting “the many good people who work so hard here to help others,” Robbins said he is especially grateful to “the great team I work with on a daily basis – Gwen Aldridge in Assessment, and Don Myers, Judith Nyabando, and Shayla Hill in Institutional Research. And of course, Joanne Bassett as provost – all investing their energy and talents to make what we do effective and valuable to the College. They make all the time and effort worthwhile. To all who lead the college, teach the classes and serve the students so well, I thank you for this honor.”

Dr. Steve Ballard - Alumnus of the Year

An outstanding student, an outstanding athlete, and now our 2010 Alumnus of the Year, Dr. Steve Ballard is still doing what he has done for years: brought honor to himself, to his profession, and to his alma mater in living a life of service to his patients, his community and his country.

A former basketball player for the Saluqis and for legendarily coaches Vertees Sails and Larry Finch, Ballard complemented his on-court success with a rigorous academic course load. After earning an Associate of Arts degree in sociology from Shelby State Community College in 1987, he graduated with a doctorate degree in Dental Science in 1993 from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry.

Dr. Ballard has consistently been an active supporter of the college as an alumnus, as a representative in the community and as a supporter of the institution’s financial goals. He has always been generous in giving his time and personal attention to activities helpful to the students and the college.

As a U.S. Army reservist, he displayed his commitment to service by providing dental care as a member of the 380th Medical Company while stationed in Iraq in 2004. Upon his return, he opened the Ballard Family Dentistry with his wife, Brenda, in 2008. In 2010, Dr. Ballard and his wife established the Dr. and Mrs. Steve Ballard Endowed Scholarship to assist Southwest students with their tuition. He is currently a Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation Board member.

Mary H. McDaniel, FedEx Express vice president of Aircraft Materiel, recently received national recognition in Atlanta at the Annual Trumpet Awards, saluting persons who have achieved significant success in a variety of fields, including business, medicine, philanthropy, law, and the arts. Honorees are reportedly viewed not only for what they have individually achieved but also for the achievement they inspire in others. McDaniel was honored during a special segment of the national program called “High Heels in High Places,” which highlighted the accomplishments of African-American women in the business world. Other national honorees include Gloria Reed Austin, co-founder of the National Cowboys of Color Museum; Toni Judkins, senior vice president of TV One; Brooke Jackson Edmond, senior vice president of Jackmont Hospitality, Inc. (and daughter of the late Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson); and other exceptional women achievers. McDaniel’s career with FedEx spans 30 years and she now manages aircraft parts inventory and technical support for the FedEx global fleet. An alumnus of Southwest Tennessee Community College, she serves as vice chair of the Foundation Board for Southwest.

Significant progress has occurred with respect to physical facilities and aesthetics. Campus beautification and renovations have occurred on both main campuses in our continuing efforts to create a warm, safe, and appealing academic environment for students, faculty, and staff. The American School Search Safety Report assigned an “A” to Southwest indicating that the College experienced no significant crime problems. The report is based on the U.S. Department of Education public data for January 2009 for various categories of violent and non-violent crimes for the past three years. According to the analysis of the government’s data, Southwest is a safe place to study.

A state-of-the-art Library/Media Center and Academic Building have been recently constructed at the Macon Cove Campus. A new center has been established with a state-of-the-art facility in the southeastern corridor of the city which provides increased access for students in Germantown/Collierville and surrounding areas. The College has generated over 10 million dollars toward phase one construction of a state-of-the-art Nursing/Biotech Building at the Union Avenue Campus which will allow increasingly more students to enter the Nursing/Biotech Programs while allowing Southwest to meet a critical workforce shortage in Shelby County. Ten million dollars represents the highest amount ever raised by the institution. The College has also generated more than one million dollars in student scholarships which provides financial support for many deserving students.

Considerable strides have been made regarding technology with state-of-the-art classrooms, student labs, wireless technology applications, and administrative applications all of which are consistent with the College’s Technology plan. Our Athletic teams continue to excel with men and women’s Basketball regional championships as well as a regional Baseball championship. Our cheerleaders placed first in the Cheerleader of American Lone Star National competition. These are but a few of the many accomplishments achieved during the past ten years.

The future for Southwest is indeed very bright as we continue to focus our energy and resources on serving our communities. We sincerely appreciate the support of our incredible Foundation Board and the many corporations, agencies, and institutions that provide advice and financial support to the College. Our commitment is to become the College that belongs to the community—the community’s College. With your continued support, this commitment will be fully realized.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College
At the advent of the 21st century, a dream and an ideal long entertained became the reality that is Southwest Tennessee Community College. Southwest is a public educational institution in Memphis, Tennessee, a city of more than one million people, located on the banks of the Mississippi River. As a comprehensive, multi-cultural college, Southwest offers the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, the Associate of Applied Science degrees, and technical certificate programs. From its inception, Southwest has grown and thrived on its way to fulfilling its vision “to become the college of choice and a national model for technical, career, and transfer education by fostering student success, transforming lives, and strengthening the diverse community.”

The history of Southwest – like all history – is a growing, changing phenomenon, never static, though parts of it remain the same for long periods and change only slowly as life and history grow around it, through it and with it. Indeed, as we write our history, we are continually changing it, replacing the new with the newer, as ideas and technology create new possibilities.

In 2000, with vision and mission in place, two successful Memphis educational institutions with histories of their own set new goals and a new course, to blend Memphis educational institutions with histories of other colleges within the state. Both legacy colleges were accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). For Southwest to be accredited, a prospectus for a substantive change was submitted in April 2000, establishing criteria for accreditation, and approved by SACS. The next step was the SACS visit in February 2001 to determine how much had been accomplished in terms of what the prospectus promised. The visiting team reviewed documents, talked with key personnel, read reports, evaluated the institution, and then submitted a report with suggestions or recommendations for improvement. Accreditation is crucial to the success of Southwest. Without it, the college will have difficulty attracting students or competing with other colleges within the state.

December 2000: A position description for the presidency of the college was approved with a formal screening process to begin in March and an anticipated appointment by July 2001.

January 2001: Three applicants named as finalists, including Dr. Nathan L. Essex, interim president, on leave from a position as a dean at The University of Memphis.

June 2001: Dr. Nathan Essex was appointed permanent president of Southwest Tennessee Community College on June 7, 2001, by a unanimous vote of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Institutional Firsts
New organizations always have developments that could be considered as first-time accomplishments. Southwest was no exception. The college seal was developed and approved for official use; the new institutional logo was designed, approved, and used; the college’s web pages were developed, approved, and launched online; the college’s “World Wide Web” address was recorded and approved; the college’s 2001-2002 annual report was developed and approved for publication.

Priority; Accreditation, Leadership
Both legacy colleges were accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). For Southwest to be accredited, a prospectus for a substantive change was submitted in April 2000, establishing criteria for accreditation, and approved by SACS. The next step was the SACS visit in February 2001 to determine how much had been accomplished in terms of what the prospectus promised. The visiting team reviewed documents, talked with key personnel, read reports, evaluated the institution, and then submitted a report with suggestions or recommendations for improvement. Accreditation is crucial to the success of Southwest. Without it, the college will have difficulty attracting students or competing with other colleges within the state.
CREST All-Day Seminar Gives Criminal Justice Students an Overview of FBI Careers

About 100 Criminal Justice Studies majors participated all day on April 16 in the Farris Auditorium, according to Assistant Professor Elizabeth Lawrence of Social Behavioral Sciences in describing the FBI Memphis Division Community Relations Executive Seminar Training (CREST) hosted by the Criminal Justice Department at Southwest.

“The training lasted most of the day, and by the end of it, most of the students were about to decide their ultimate goal is to become a special agent for the FBI,” Lawrence said. The training, led by Regional FBI Director My Harrison, focused on law enforcement investigations conducted by each special agent in the office, presenting detailed descriptions of the work they do. The students responded with many pertinent questions as to what they need to do to ultimately fill such positions.

“Students got excellent answers and good career advice,” Lawrence noted. “It was an inspiring experience for our students,” she said. Harrison told some of her personal experiences in police work, from when she started in her hometown of as a “meter maid” – she was too young when she finished high school to qualify for other positions. Harrison personally presented all the students with their certificates of completion at the end of the day.

Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation was chartered and new bylaws and policies/procedures for operation were developed; and the college’s Blueprint for the Future was printed and distributed to all faculty and staff as well as legislators, foundation board members and various community leaders and groups. Southwest also launched several initiatives to expand internal and external communications; the Southwest SCOOP, a weekly electronic newsletter for faculty and staff was launched on the college’s intranet; the new Southwest Alumni Association prepared their first newsletter; and developed their constitution; and the Southwest Foundation sponsored “An Evening With the Redbirds” for faculty, staff, and their guests. The event was attended by almost 400 employees who took the opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. The newly developed Southwest Foundation achieved its first donations during the period from 2000-2002. The contributions by individuals and corporations assisted the college’s Institutional Advancement division in raising a total of $1,202,611 received in cash, securities, and in-kind donations.

Southwest acquired the Federal Express Training Center on Director’s Row off Airways Boulevard, as a replacement for the existing Whitehaven Center on Neely Road. This facility was “ideally designed to offer quality educational opportunities for our students,” according to President Nathan Essex.

The CREST training was previously offered in the fall by the Campus Police Services/Public Safety Department with Director James Bolden. It included an overview of the FBI’s jurisdiction, with a discussion of issues relating to the community. It covered such topics as criminal enterprise, violent crime investigation, white collar crime, civil rights, hate crime, human trafficking, public corruption, and terrorism investigation. Plans are being made to have the FBI return to provide education for new Criminal Justice majors in the fall semester.

Regional FBI Director My Harrison was the lead trainer for the CREST seminar.
The Liberal Studies and Education Division received the Greater Memphis Quality Level I Award. It was awarded to organizations that showed a commitment to Total Quality Management (TQM) principles and required an application evaluated by persons especially trained in TQM.

MaLinda Wade of Social Sciences was inducted into Indiana’s African-American History Hall of Fame for her contributions to the African-American community. She was recognized for her dedication to community service at large.

Patti Lechman, associate professor of Fine Arts, Languages and Literature, was honored with other artists whose work was chosen for the exhibition, “The Best of Tennessee Art.” Lechman’s piece was the second of her works in the collection.

Joe Thweatt, professor of Developmental Studies, received the Continued Excellence Award for Advisors at Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) at the honor society’s 2002 International Convention in Nashville. He was honored for increasing its membership by 10 percent.

Service and Outreach

More than 30 Southwest students have committed their time and talents to mentor and tutor seventh through ninth graders in several Memphis City Schools. GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) was a federal grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its vision required a commitment by all involved educators, parents, students and area businesses to ensure that every disadvantaged child is properly prepared for admission to and graduation from an undergraduate program. Southwest was pleased to adopt Alton Elementary School.

The Engineering Technologies Department, a member of six sites to pilot a national Youth Council Network Development for the country and a national model; one of six sites to pilot a national Youth Council Network Demonstration Project.

Dr. Steve Katz, professor of English and music, represented the United States in the 12th International Competition for Outstanding Piano Amateurs at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. Dr. Katz performed his own arrangement of George Gershwin’s “Porgy and Bess Suite.”

The newly named Bert Bornblum Library resembled a holiday wonderland as relatives, friends, elected officials, and Southwest supporters and scholars gathered to honor longtime Southwest supporter and entrepreneur Bert Bornblum at the naming ceremony on December 1, 2009 for the recently built library on the Macon Cove Campus.

Mary McDaniel, vice president of Materiel and Corporate Sourcing for FedEx Express, also addressed the group stressing the importance of philanthropy, saying without philanthropy our country would be “a little less friendly, a little colder, and a little crueler place to be. … Everyday because of selfless acts, lives are impacted. And those selfless acts occur individually, on a corporate level and on a foundational level.” FedEx continues to contribute to its $2 million pledge toward the construction of a new Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology building for Southwest.

Also among those on the program was Regent John Farris of the Tennessee Board of Regents who outlined TBR policies regarding naming an institution in honor of someone. “The honor must be reserved for individuals of recognized accomplishments and character…. Tonight Bert Bornblum will join the ranks of esteemed individuals such as former college presidents and individuals such as Maxine Smith and others who have fought so passionately for education, and particularly higher education,” said Farris.

Southwest President Nathan Essex recognized Bornblum’s commitment to education and his selfless generosity in helping Southwest students achieve their educational pursuits. “Because of Bert’s generosity, our students are pursuing their hopes, their dreams and their aspirations for a brighter future,” said President Essex. He presented Bornblum with a marble plaque engraved with his image. In acceptance Bornblum said, “I am overwhelmed. … This is such a beautiful building, a beautiful place for education. I am sure; I am convinced that students, our students, are going to be very well educated.”
Heidelberg Offers a Lucrative Apprenticeship Program to Southwest Students

Graduating from college is one of life’s greatest milestones. Graduating from college and starting a paid apprenticeship that will lead to a lasting, lucrative career must become very near the top of life’s greatest accomplishments. Heidelberg, the largest printing manufacturer in the world, offers Southwest’s mechanical and electrical program graduates just that opportunity. Heidelberg has partnered with Southwest to recruit students with strong mechanical and electrical skill sets into its Apprenticeship Program.

Heidelberg started manufacturing printing equipment 150 years ago, says Paul Cavanaugh, apprentice development program manager for the company. “I like to tell everybody that we are the ‘Microsoft’ of printing equipment,” said Cavanaugh. Heidelberg presses worldwide produce high-quality print products such as business cards, brochures, posters, and folding cartons. Cavanaugh explained, “These machines can be up to 150 feet long, and weigh in the neighborhood of 160 tons. The machines’ school of the most sophisticated technology of any industry.”

The X105: Heidelberg’s flagship machine, Cavanaugh pointed out, prints a sheet of paper that’s 29.5” x 41.3” wide every two-tenths of a second with up to 16 colors, pointed out, prints a sheet of paper that’s 29.5” x 41.3” wide every two-tenths of a second with up to 16 colors, of roughly $33,000 plus benefits. Next, they return to their home region to work with experienced journeyman mentors for two to three years, progressing to $40,000 in salary. At the three-year mark, depending on their individual performances, Cavanaugh says they can go into the field with a base pay of $50,000 to $56,000.

Everywhere I am drag-racing in an area, I try to find technical colleges that are near the track, so that I can stop by the schools and do some recruiting,” said Cavanaugh who drag-raced at the Memphis Motorsports Park until its recent closing. He went to Southwest’s Web site and contacted Brenda Williams, director of career services, to discuss Heidelberg’s Apprenticeship Program. “My main focus is to meet with the faculty and people like Brenda in order to develop a relationship with them so they know the type of student I am looking for,” said Cavanaugh.

The ideal candidate for the apprenticeship is a student with a mechanical aptitude. That would be the child that took apart toys and other mechanisms to see how they worked and had enough interest to pursue an engineering major or go to a technical college to further their mechanical aptitude. Cavanaugh says there is no school to teach individuals how to repair these sophisticated printing machines, so he recruits students who have a natural affinity for mechanics and electronics and trains them to work on Heidelberg’s machines.

The apprenticeship begins with a two-month comprehensive introduction at Heidelberg’s U.S. headquarters in Kennesaw, GA. At that time, apprentices learn the basics, according to Cavanaugh, with a beginning salary of roughly $33,000 plus benefits. Next, they return to their home region to work with experienced journeyman mentors for two to three years, progressing to $40,000 in salary. At the three-year mark, depending on their individual performances, Cavanaugh says they can go into the field with a base pay of $50,000 to $56,000.

“The Heidelberg Apprenticeship Program is an excellent opportunity for our technical graduates to work for the world’s leading supplier of integrated solutions for the print media industry. We are delighted to have quality organizations such as Heidelberg interested in recruiting Southwest graduates,” said Brenda Williams of Southwest.

In addition, Southwest took great pride in hosting the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) quarterly meeting in June of 2002.

Headlines around the world preceding the millennium predicted technological chaos, warning, “Beware Y2K…worms and germs will destroy computers as the century dawns.” Y2K, after generating a bit of hysteria, was soon gone. Southwest, arriving with little fanfare, is still growing and flourishing. It’s a 21st century educational institution committed to providing educational excellence and preeminently destined to become the national model of educational success it has aspired to become from its beginning.

Unity and Expansion at Southwest: 2002 to 2004

By Justin McGregor

Two years after the consolidation that created Southwest, many of the ideas, systems, and traditions that have become part of everyday life at the college were still taking shape. Though the 2002-2003 school year started with a bit of a hiccup - the three-day furlough of 22,000 state employees - the college continued its pattern of growth and expansion into the community over the next two years. Over the course of those two years, much of the ground work which was started during the original consolidation discussions that formed Southwest came to fruition and the college truly came into its own, displaying the excellence in its faculty, staff and students for which the college has become known.

Honors and Accolades

Memphis Magazine, a vital source of information regarding local events, city news, and local businesses, named Southwest President, Dr. Nathan Essex, among its “Who’s Who: The Names - the Faces - Every Memphian Should Know.” In the magazine’s words, “For 19 years now, Memphis Magazine has measured influence by naming our annual ‘Who’s Who,’ a list of roughly 100 locals we like to describe as the Bluff City’s definitive movers, shakers, and major news-makers.” When interviewed about the honor, Dr. Essex took the opportunity to articulate his vision for the college.

“My vision for this college is to become the largest. We’re already the largest community college; I want us to become the largest higher education institute in this state. It’s not that I’m concerned with just being the largest, I’m concerned with why we should become the largest. In my view, if we are meeting the needs of the students, employers, and our community, then we’re going to grow,” said Essex. “I want the community to feel that this is their college. That’s my vision for this college. And we will do that by providing strong academic programs and strong support services to our students…Students are our customers, and we must create an enticing environment where students are pleased with the education they receive and feel they have been served well.”

Also during this time, a new symbol of the college was born to represent the new institution that became Southwest. The college designed a Southwest flag to be flown on the main staffs at both the Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses. During the first flag raising...
was named the 2002 recipient of the Officer of the Year Award for the Auxiliary Probation Service Division of the Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court. The Chief Auxiliary Probation Officer of the Year Award is given annually for exemplary service to the Auxiliary Probation Service Division. Leo Brown, director of Public Safety, and the volunteer director of Juvenile Court’s Auxiliary Probation Service, presented the award to Hale. “It is exceptional individuals like Rosie whose outstanding contributions help make our organization such a success,” Brown said.

Dr. Ada Shortwell, dean of Liberal Arts and Education, was appointed to the Editorial Committee of the quarterly American Technical Education Association (ATEA). Editorial members are responsible for reviewing, selecting, and editing the articles that appear in the organization’s official news publication, ATEA Journal, which publishes research, instructional manuscripts, and career placement information for college faculty and administrators.

Southwest’s Emergency Medical Technology program incorporated two new trainers into its curriculum. The trainers are the Laerdal SimMan manikins. These breathing, speaking “trainers” are full-body manikins and are as close to a real human patient as a simulator can be. SimMan actually breathes and speaks to the trainers. A small sampling includes Rosie Hale, associate professor of Business Technology-Accounting, who

ceremonies, President Essex spoke about the college and the symbolism of the new flag. The flag is a representation of the unity that the college family strives for daily. It features the college logo emblazoned in full color on a white background with a blue border on top and a red border on the bottom. The school’s colors of red and blue make it a perfect complement to the U.S. flag and Tennessee state flag which fly on adjacent masts.

Not long after Dr. Essex articulated his vision for the college, Southwest was ranked as one of the leading two-year colleges in the nation for awarding associate degrees by Community College Week, a national publication that focuses on community colleges. In 2002, Southwest topped the list in the Science and Technology category by sharing a number one ranking with Cleveland State. Southwest ranked number 10 in the nation for awarding associate degrees in all disciplines to African Americans, and 55 over-all in all disciplines for all minority students.

Southwest Tennessee Community College has been awarded a $250,000 donation from the Follett Higher Education Group. The contribution will go toward construction of the first phase of the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility scheduled to be built on the Union Avenue campus.

The donation was presented to Southwest President Nathan Essex, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert and Southwest Foundation Board Vice President Mary McDaniel at the Southwest Foundation quarterly board meeting.

“Follett is proud to be partners with Southwest and we look forward to our continued joint mission to deliver the best possible bookstore to our students,” Lucero said. “We hope that these funds will help continue the educational mission for the school.”

To date, approximately $10 million has been raised to support the College’s latest expansion efforts as part of the largest capital campaign in the College’s history. The Southwest Foundation is in the process of raising $16.75 million through individual, corporation, foundation, and organizational support to build a new 74,000-square-foot Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology facility.

“Taste of success from Follett is especially important as we strive to continue to impact our community and its residents,” said Southwest Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert. “We are pleased to call them our partners as we enable more of our residents to impact their community and families.”

Follett Corporation is a $2.7 billion, privately-held company that provides products, services and solutions to the educational marketplace. Follett Corporation was founded in 1873, and today is headquartered in River Grove, Illinois.

Southwest Receives $250,000 from Follett Higher Education Group for the Proposed Nursing Facility

Southwest Tennessee Community College and the American Society for Microbiology.

Focus on Microbiology Education - Dr. Indiren Pillay, associate professor in the Department of Natural Sciences, was appointed to the editorial committee of the quarterly American Technical Education Association (ATEA) Journal, which publishes research, instructional manuscripts, and career placement information for college faculty and administrators.
Southwest International Studies Participants Cross the Atlantic

The International Studies Department awarded scholar-ships to students for study-abroad in London and Belgium in conjunction with spring break, March 5 – 14. International Studies was established at Southwest to promote global experiences through various programs for students, faculty, and staff at the college. The department stresses that direct contacts and experiential learning in cultures other than one’s own are among the best ways to reach these goals.

“Southwest students were provided an opportunity for the first time this year to participate in courses with a 10-day study abroad component. During spring break, Finite Mathematics students went to Belgium, and Theatre Appreciation students went to London,” said Dr. Tamara McColgan, director of the International Studies Department at Southwest. “This is a reflection of the interest we’ve seen in study abroad in recent years.” Students studying in Belgium were Denia Benjamin, Leslie Garrison, Felicia Hankins, Anthea Isbell, Lindsey Rowland, Veronica Smith and Janice C. Taylor.

Accompanying faculty/staff were Dr. Tamara McColgan, Mathematics Department; John Griffin, Distance Education and Instructional Technology (DEIT) Department (videographer), and Judy Hattmaker, Natural Sciences Department.

Students studying in London were Katrina Bryant, Lorrie Byars, Maria Centeno, Candace Edwards Ly- née Freeman, Erikson Hall, Quiana Singleton, Liccio Williams, Chandra Wiseman and Frankie Worth. Faculty and staff accompanying them were Levi Frazier, Evelyn Little and Deborah Frazier – all from the Fine Arts, Languages and Literature Department; and Kendall Gloster, DEIT Department (videographer).

Dr. McColgan said two more groups will embark on study-abroad in May, with students studying social problems in Macedonia while other students studying diversity will go to Antigua.

Southwest’s 2009 Nursing Graduates Score 100 Percent Pass Rate on the National Council Licensure Exam

“Fifty-one 2009 Southwest nursing graduates scored 100 percent on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), and all 51 passed the first attempt, for a 100 percent pass rate. We are so proud of our students – of the nurses they have worked so hard to become,” reflected Mary Vines, department chair of nursing at Southwest Tennessee Community College.

Vines expressed pride in the graduates and in what they have accomplished. “These graduates and others that have gone before them are excellent representatives of Southwest and the nursing profession.” She explained that passing the licensing exam is required before a nursing graduate can practice as a registered nurse.

A nursing program that consistently graduates classes of students who pass the NCLEX at a high 80 to upper 90 percent rate is considered an excellent program, Vines continued. “That is a recent trend Southwest has achieved and will strive to maintain.”

“In addition to meeting the rigorous academic standards and competing with hundreds of other highly qualified students in order to be accepted into the program, students prepare for this moment after two years of study in the program,” said Vines. She added that “the most important element in the education of our nurses is our faculty and staff. The nursing faculty and staff are available to assist the students in their progress through the program.”

“The nursing faculty are professionals. They are active in the community and maintain expertise in their areas. Our students benefit from the role models of their instructors as well as from their class and clinical lessons,” added Vines.

Vines stressed “Our students – our new nurses – are looking forward to the career they’ve worked so hard to attain. The faculty and staff are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the newly admitted nursing students and welcoming the return of returning students. At the beginning of a new semester. And we are looking forward to the new facilities to be built in the future.”

Deborah Reed, assistant director for Minority Business Development in the Continuing Education and Community Partnerships Department, received the prestigious “Student of the Year” award from the University of Memphis. Presented by the Division of Public and Nonprofit Administration, the award recognizes outstanding achievement by a student in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree program. Award winners demonstrate outstanding academic ability in conjunction with a record of community service and demonstrated leadership skills.

Ron Gephart, associate professor of Speech and Theatre in the Department of Fine Arts, Languages and Literature, was awarded an Ostrander Award for Best Supporting Actor in a drama for his portrayal of “Thor” in the Theatre Memphis production of Morning’s at Seven. Morning’s at Seven received a total of nine nominations, the most for a Memphis drama production during the past season. It had 17 performances, many of them sold out or to full houses.

Brandon Jones, a Southwest information technology (IT) major, accepted the fourth Memphis Information Technology Exposition and Conference Scholarship of $1,000 at the Memphis Information Technology Exposition and Conference. Imark Communications, of the Portland, Oregon-based coordinating organization of ITEC, annually donates the scholarship to an outstanding information technology student. President Essex and Imark representatives made the award at the opening ceremony.

Expansion and Innovation

Enrollment at Southwest grew for the spring semester 2003 to more than 11,400 students, with the full-time student load up 15 percent over spring 2002. The number of first-time college students rose 18.6 percent, and the number of first-time freshmen was up 23.7 percent. The increase in spring enrollment was attributed largely to Southwest’s retention efforts.

Admissions, Records and Recruitment also implemented new tools to better serve students seeking to register or needing assistance. A new automated call distribution (ACD) system was introduced to better route student calls to the person best able to serve them.

Southwest added two new online degrees to its current degree list. The degrees were in Business and Management with concentrations in Business Administration. While the degrees were not new to the college, the fact that they being offered online was. The Distance Education department also offered its first Summer Academy for Infusing Technology into the Classroom (later renamed Summer Institute) with 30 faculty attendees and five faculty presenters.

Community Relations and Marketing (now Communications and Marketing) coordinated the installation of three new LED messaging centers on the two main campuses. They also oversaw the creation of an interactive video recruitment CD and a CD-ROM version of the 2004-05 catalog. The department produced the first edition of the Southwest Annual Report and the first Southwest Viewbook.

This period saw the launch of the college’s popular E-Print report printing system and also the colleges Magic Service Desk, which allowed faculty and staff to report service needs to Information Services and the Physical Plant. The Employee Self-Service system was also released. This system allows employees to view their personal and payroll information.

Continuing the college’s trend toward one-stop service integration, Information Services launched the college’s first student portal, My.Southwest, powered by SunGard’s Luminis. Initially, it was used to manage access to Student Self-Service, Faculty Self-Service, Employee Self-Service, WebCT, Magic, and eResearch Technology (ERES). Luminis also provided some other resources that included real-time personal and campus-wide announcements, e-mail for students (faculty and staff would still have Outlook), calendaring, and group and course collaboration tools.

Grants and Awards

The Tech Prep office awarded $60,000 in Tech Prep Grant funds to area school districts to implement tech prep strategies and components. This was the largest amount of Tech Prep grants awarded anywhere in the state. Houston High School’s marketing Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program was awarded a Tech Prep Local Education Agency (LEA) grant. Students developed a Tech Prep Marketing Kit for Shelby County Schools which won the state DECA Competition and competed nationally.

In April 2002, a feasibility study was conducted to determine if there was support within the community...
for a major gifts campaign for the College. The results were positive and indicated support for a campaign to fund a Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building. Preparations were initiated for the Foundation’s first major gifts campaign – Southwest & You—Investing in the Future. The initiatives included in the campaign were Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility; Technology Needs; Student Scholarship Endowment; and Faculty/Professional Staff Development Endowment.

The Assisi Foundation awarded a $100,000 grant to complete technical planning necessary to secure major investments for the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility. Key faculty and staff and architectural professionals participated in site visits to educational institutions across the United States who were recognized as having the most innovative facilities and programs. As a result, preliminary interior and exterior facility drawings and construction costs were developed and campaign materials were designed and printed for use in the campaign.

In the 2003-2004 fiscal year, Academic and Student Affairs received or was approved for several sizable grants including a $73,005 grant for Business, Career Studies and Technology for Tech Prep and Distance Education projects; a $133,668 grant for Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Health Sciences for a National Institutes of Health Regional Science (NIH) Bridge Program to assist disadvantaged nursing students; and a $302,000 grant for student services for their Child Care Centers and the Upward Bound program.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a five-year $950,000 grant to Southwest Tennessee Community College for a TRIO Educational Opportunity Center. The award became effective September 1, 2002 – August 31, 2007, in the amount of $190,000 per year. It also provided a first-year $10,000 technology supplement to be used to purchase computer hardware or software or provide staff training. TRIO programs are designed to identify promising high school or first-generation college students, prepare them to do college-level work, strengthen math and science performances and provide support services to students once they reach the college campus.

Over the 2002-2004 timeframe, the Institutional Advancement Division made progress in laying a foundation for the future of the college. The total amount of private giving reported during this period was $1,769,798. Southwest administration and faculty obtained 38 grant awards (20 renewals and 18 new awards) with a one-year total of $3,704,840, and more than $2 million was pledged in the Major Gifts Campaign. Community outreach was provided to parents of young children through numerous grant-funded programs, such as the Assisi Shape and Bake program, the Child Care Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program and the Early Childhood Education Pilot Program. The Community Relations and Marketing Department received eight National Admissions Advertising Awards (two gold, two bronze, and four merit awards), a Silver Certificate from the Memphis Advertising Federation (ADDDY) for the Continuing Education radio spot, a Gold VOX Award for Program Brochures from the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), and national awards for the fourth consecutive year for the College’s public website, intranet, student newspaper, athletics and Alpha Beta Gamma websites.

Bert and David Bornblum were named 2004 co-recipients of the Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Philanthropy at Southwest Tennessee Community College. The Bornblums have a distinguished record of active contributions and participation in the field of education in the Memphis area. The award was presented during the college’s commencement ceremony on May 8, 2004. A new library constructed on the Macon Cove Campus would later be named after Bert Bornblum in further recognition for his dedication to Southwest.

Southwest Tennessee Community College has been named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. On campuses across the country, thousands of students joined their faculty to develop innovative programs and projects to meet local needs using the skills gained in their classrooms. Business students served as consultants to budget-strapped nonprofits and businesses, law students volunteered at legal clinics, and dozens of others organized anti-hunger campaigns.

“Congratulations to Southwest Tennessee Community College and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities,” said Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. “Our nation’s students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service.”

The Honor Roll includes six colleges and universities that are recognized as Presidential Awarded, with an additional 115 named to the Distinction List and 621 schools named as Honor Roll members. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

“Service-Learning at Southwest Tennessee Community College is aimed at enhancing student outcomes. We offer a Service-Learning course of varying credit (1-3 hours), as well as infusing service-learning within the existing curriculum,” said Lisa E. Hadley, associate professor of business administration for Southwest. “With regard to the types of agencies targeted for community partnerships, our aim is to connect students with existing resources that they might not know about, have ignored, or may have taken for granted. We see exposure itself as a type of learning,” Hadley added.

College students make a significant contribution to the volunteer sector; in 2009, 3.16 million students performed more than 300 million hours of service, according to the Volunteering in America study released by the Corporation. Each year, the Corporation invests more than $150 million in fostering a culture of service on college campuses through grants awarded by its programs; the education awards that AmeriCorps members receive at the conclusion of their term of service to pay for college; and through support of training, research, recognition, and other initiatives to spur college service.

The Corporation oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.
Our College Earns an “A” on the American School Search Safety Report

The American School Search gave Southwest Tennessee Community College an “A” on its Safety Report, indicating the college experiences no significant crime problems. The American School Search Safety Report is based on the U.S. Department of Education public data for 2009 for various categories of violent and non-violent crimes committed both on-campus and off-campus over the last three years. According to their analysis of the government data, Southwest is a safe place to study.

Accordingly, the “Crime on Campus” Report most recently published by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) indicates the crime rate at Southwest decreased by 7.3 percent from the year 2007 to 2008.

James H. Bolden, director of Police Services/Public Safety for Southwest said, “The overall reduction in campus crime at Southwest is a glowing endorsement of our inclusive community-based policing efforts. While the Department of Police Services/Public Safety has employed numerous innovative strategies in combating campus crimes, we surely could not have achieved the level of success without the collaborative efforts of the administration, faculty, staff and students. Our Campus Watch Program has without a doubt produced the desired result.”

In recent years, the Police Services/Public Safety Department at Southwest implemented several initiatives to help provide a safer environment at the college; bike officers were added to the patrol division; blue light emergency phones and Rave Wireless, a cell phone and e-mail alert notification system were initiated as safety precautions; and the Campus Safety Technician (CST) program which employs federal work study students (criminal justice majors) through a 20-hour weekly work schedule was developed for the performance of the following tasks:

- Assist with monitoring the campus for safety
- Provide escort needs as warranted
- Submit reports of suspicious activities
- Assist staff and students during emergencies
- Become familiar with basic investigation techniques

Southwest Campus Safety Technicians are pictured with (centered, left to right) James Bolden, Southwest President Nathan Essex, Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services Ron Parr, and Executive Assistant to the President for Government Relations Sherman Green.


Each new year brings about change and the period, July 2004 to June 2006, was no exception. Southwest experienced growth and development among students, faculty, and facilities. Programs received national recognition for their accomplishments; faculty members received state, regional and local recognition; and for their academic accomplishments several students received recognition from Southwest, the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), and other national organizations. Southwest also established partnerships during this period with several businesses, the local school system, and a top flight regional university.

Southwest partnered with Georgia Tech to teach occupational safety training to Mid-South industries. Georgia Tech is sanctioned by the government’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to be the sole training facility for occupational safety in the southeastern region of the United States. The creation of this partnership increases the stature of Southwest’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to be the sole training facility for occupational safety in the southeastern region of the United States. The creation of this partnership increases the stature of Southwest’s workforce development efforts with its business and industrial partners. Southwest developed another partnership during this time with Cisco Systems, Inc., the worldwide leader in internetworking, creating the Cisco Networking Academy Program. This program teaches local high school students how to design, build and maintain computer networks, and develops the skills needed to compete in a technology-dependent workplace. In addition to the students, teachers also receive specialized Certified Internet Webmaster and CISCO training to prepare them to train their students to become certified computer networking professionals.

“Community” is not just part of the name of the college, but also a focus of its service. The mission of the college is to respond to the educational needs of the communities in Shelby and Fayette counties and the Mid-South region. While students are the central focus of the college’s educational mission, the community is also served by the college through numerous programs and courses, many tailored especially to meet the specific needs of businesses and corporations. In July 2004, Southwest began a partnership with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), previously housed at the University of Memphis. TSBDC offers free assistance to help business owners grow and develop successful, thriving businesses. This new opportunity gave the college name recognition and inroads into the local business community. Southwest
Southwest and Middle Tennessee State University Sign Memorandum of Understanding Streamlining Student Transfers

President Nathan L. Essex of Southeast Tennessee Community College (Southwest), the largest two-year college in the state of Tennessee, and President Sidney A. McPhee of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), the largest undergraduate university in Tennessee, met on May 5 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a formal agreement that will assist students in transferring from Southwest to MTSU.

In a statement during the signing, President McPhee emphasized that, in light of legislation passed in January, there is a greater emphasis and focus on transferring, articulation and access in providing opportunities for citizens to receive associate and undergraduate degrees.

This agreement will facilitate a seamless transfer for Southwest students wanting to attend MTSU. Courses currently considered in the agreement are those transferable to the Recording Industry, Business Administration, Education, and Aerospace programs at MTSU.

Regarding the significance for Southwest students, President Essex said, “The obvious advantage is that our students are going to have increased access. Our emphasis throughout the state right now is retention and graduation. To have this kind of partnership with a wonderful institution such as MTSU simply means that our students will have increased opportunities to get scholarship support, and be able to pursue advanced degrees beyond the community college level based on this partnership.”

MTSU President McPhee also stressed scholarship opportunities as well as the ease of the transfer process for Southwest students. “We are going to be looking at providing special scholarships for these students, connecting them to our Honors College, providing a better transition and taking the hassle out of the transfer process. And so we are really excited. We get great students out of Memphis and from Southwest. We only see this as strengthening our relationship and partnership,” said McPhee.
The May 7 Open House/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Southwest’s new Macon Cove Campus Academic Building culminated years of anticipation for the construction of a facility large enough and technically advanced enough to handle the challenges of providing educational services to a growing media-driven student population. “We believe that this facility will enable us to achieve our goal of improving access by providing needed and expanded higher education services for students in our service area. Additionally, it will enhance our teaching and learning environment by allowing us to expand existing programs and offer new ones as well,” said Southwest President, Nathan L. Essex.

Among the many Southwest faculty, students, staff, supporters and friends who came to witness the ceremony were elected officials, representation from the Tennessee Board of Regents, and community and business leaders, along with Southwest retirees.

U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen of Tennessee’s 9th Congressional District remarked in his greetings, “Community colleges are so important to the future of this state. Our whole future is tied up in the children. That’s the future. … We need to give them the basics that will give them a better life and a better education. We all know that through college you have a better opportunity for a better job and a better appreciation for life.”

The new academic building contains 28 classrooms, 16 computer labs, six science labs, three conference rooms, a presentation theatre, dean’s suite, faculty offices, three elevators and a vending area. The building also contains suites for the service-learning and honors programs, and will improve classroom learning for the graphic arts, paralegal, music, EMT and other programs. This 106,000-square-foot two-story building was a joint venture designed by Fisher & Arnold Inc. and Looney, Ricks, and Kiss Architects Inc.

Southwest received several grants to support and enhance existing programs and develop new ones. The college was one of only 70 community colleges in the nation to receive a Community Based Job Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2005 totaling over $1.8 million to establish and enhance training in biotechnology. Hewlett Packard (HP), a leader in information technology, awarded a $74,000 HP Technology for Teaching grant to the college to assist faculty members in improving student achievement and the use of wireless technology to enhance learning in engineering, math, science and business courses. Hospitality Management received a new scholarship from Delaware North Companies Travel Hospitality Services valued at $100,000 over a 10-year period. The scholarship, called the CA1 Hospitality Technical Scholars Scholarship, will allow hospitality students to enhance their education through a partnership with the University of Memphis. This partnership allowed Southwest to obtain a total of $2,064,293 in private giving during the 2005-2006 budget. The site of the new center would be located near Shelby Drive and Bill Morris Parkway in the southeastern corridor of the city, and would cost approximately $12 million. A new state-funded library and academic building are planned for the Macon Cove Campus. Also in the planning stage is a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building on the Union Avenue Campus. Since state funds will not be available for construction of this new facility, Southwest initiated a major gifts campaign – Southwest and You – Investing in The Future. This campaign will fund the facility and provide advancements in technology, faculty and staff development and student scholarships. Two major pledges were received in support of the Major Gifts Campaign during 2005-2006: a $1,000,000 pledge from the local office of Medtronic Sofamor-Danek, and a $500,000 pledge from a major local foundation, the Plough Foundation. Both pledges will support expansion of Southwest’s nursing, natural sciences and biotechnology programs to be housed in a new facility. In 2006, Southwest received more than $225,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for equipment to support the college’s new nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building.
2004-2006 academic years, to provide support for the academic programs of the college and provide scholarships for students.

The influx of new funds assisted in the development of new programs. A Homeland Security Risk Assessment Certificate was developed by the Division of Business, Career Studies and Technologies, brought to the forefront after 9-11, to train individuals to assist companies and the nation identify potential security hazards. Engineering Technologies launched its first-ever distance learning course in Fayette County. Southwest was also able to begin a new biotechnology degree program to promote the growth of future bioscience organizations in the Mid-South area. Several programs received recognition from national organizations, including the Landscape and Turfgrass Management program which received accreditation from the Professional Landcare Network; the recognition by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists of Southwest students achievement of a 97 percent pass rate on the National Certification Exam; and the accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children of the Early Childhood Education Center on the Union Avenue Campus.

The Community Relations and Marketing Department initiated new methods to reach potential students, including the production of the first interactive catalog CD for 2004-2005, and an interactive video recruitment viewbook CD. The marketing efforts garnered Southwest a total of 35 national and two local marketing awards.

During 2004-2006, Southwest continued to strive for excellence in all areas that impact the citizens of the Memphis and Mid-South area. Students and faculty members were also recognized for their outstanding achievements. Student recognition included the National Dean’s List, Who’s Who Among Students in Junior Colleges, and Collegiate All-American Scholars. Faculty members were recognized by the American Culinary Federation, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Tennessee Association of Colleges and Employers. The Southwest Singers won first place in a national competition and the college’s president, Dr. Nathan L. Essex, was named Educator of the Year by the University of Memphis Society.

Making graduation extra special was the commencement speaker, Gayle S. Rose, a dynamic leader, mover and shaker who has left her imprint on some of the most important advances of this city; the student speaker, Chad Everett, whose activities here bespeak a life destined for success as he continues his education; and the faculty whose efforts on behalf of their students brought them successfully to this day.

Not simply the largest community college in the TBR system, Southwest ranked nationally in the number of graduates produced in several categories. Community College Week ranked Southwest nationally as being 30th in granting associate degrees to African Americans, 40th overall in granting associate degrees in Science Technologies/Technicians, fourth nationally in science and technology degrees awarded, and featured Southwest in the Top 100 colleges in granting associate degrees across all minority groups. The nursing program continued to exceed and set the standard for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses pass rate, achieving a pass rate of 96.15 percent, surpassing the 88.11 percent national average. Other programs that passed licensure or certification tests at extremely high levels were Medical Laboratory Technician – 100 percent (national average 81.53 percent), Laboratory Technician – 100 percent (national average 81.53 percent), and a Technical Certificate in Industrial Computer Fundamentals.

2006–2008, the Years of Growth and Expansion

By Teresa Calloway

The two years starting July 2006 began a time in the life of the college when we were recognized for many accomplishments; not only for the size of our student body, but for the quality of instruction and the many successes of our faculty, staff and graduates. Southwest remained at the top of the Tennessee Board of Regents’ (TBR) community colleges in terms of sheer size, but also in the diversity of the courses and experiences offered to our students. We also implemented several new programs, both academic and administrative, offering more choices and better customer service to our many students.

Southwest was honored to host the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) quarterly meeting in March of 2007 on the Union Avenue Campus.

Celebrating Southwest’s 10th Commencement Ceremony, 1,401 students were presented degrees.

The years of growth and expansion

2010: A Very Special Commencement, Marking the 10th Year of Southwest Tennessee Community College

Every commencement ceremony is special: To those receiving a diploma or degree, to their families and friends, to the graduating institution – whether high school or college, awarding associate, bachelor’s or graduate degrees; for staff, faculty – every employee, many of whom have been here from the day Southwest was established. So the 2010 commencement, held on May 1 at the Desoto Civic Center, was special to Southwest, marking the college’s 10th year anniversary with 1,401 students receiving degrees.

Making graduation extra special was the commencement speaker, Gayle S. Rose, a dynamic leader, mover and shaker who has left her imprint on some of the most important advances of this city; the student speaker, Chad Everett, whose activities here bespeak a life destined for success as he continues his education; and the faculty whose efforts on behalf of their students brought them successfully to this day.

Student speaker Chad Everett, in an imaginative piece of advice, told fellow graduates to “turn it over” – your degree, your certificate – and “read” what’s behind that piece of paper. Remember the “sweat and sometimes tears that went into it,” and realize when tough times return, you need to call up the strength that helped you before. Everett received Associate of Applied Science degrees in Paralegal Studies and Computer Engineering Technology, and a Technical Certificate in Industrial Computer Fundamentals.

Business owner and CEO of Electronic Vaulting Services Corporation Gayle S. Rose delivered an address that infused the graduates with a sense of gratitude, worth, and commitment. “Don’t ever forget that you are surrounded by a community that needs you. They need your light, they need your passion and they need your commitment to serving those less fortunate,” said Rose.
A Career in a Year!

High-Demand Technical Certificates

- Accountancy
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- Computer Software Specialist
- Early Childhood Teaching
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Food Preparation, Safety and Service
- Mechanical/Manufacturing CAD
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomy
- Quality Assurance
- Substance Abuse Counseling
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Southwest offers classes at multiple locations throughout the Memphis area.

- Tuition is just over half the cost of your average state university.
- Financial options are available.

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78 percent), Physical Therapist Assistant – 661 (national average 642), and Radiologic Technology – 96 percent (national average 91 percent).

The Developmental Studies department received advanced certification for its program from the National Association for Developmental Education, which sets the standard for excellence in developmental education. The only other college in the state that holds the certification is Middle Tennessee State University. The certification involves collecting five years of data that show the success of the students in the program as they leave it and enter into regular college-level coursework. “The process is similar to accreditation where you have to meet national standards,” states Dr. Janice Van Dyke, professor of Developmental Studies. “We saw a trend that the students that go through our program do better in some instances than the students that do not have to go through developmental studies courses.”

Chef Steven Leake’s culinary arts students won the Grand Champion Trophy in 2007 for Best Dish and Booth design for the Oscars Night Gala at the Pink Palace Museum. Students are involved annually in a fund-raiser for The Madonna Center. Chef Leake’s students collaborated with the American Culinary Federation in preparing a five-course meal for the 600 guests at their annual fund-raiser benefiting the Child Advocacy Center.

Southwest’s Graphic Arts students continue to be winners as well. Two students won the Adobe Photoshop CS2 (Matt Gunnell, student), and InDesign CS2, Illustrator CS2 Revealed (John Henderson, student) textbook cover competition offered by the Thomson Learning Career and Professional Group. The annual poster contest sponsored by the Engineering Education Service Center announced the winners in the 2006 General Category and 2008 Green Category.

College Firsts

This period in the college’s growth saw the creation of a new academic program, the Associate of Applied Science degree in Biotechnology to support Memphis-area employers. The Biotechnology program has since expanded its collaboration with Memphis Bioworks. “The growing need for this kind of workforce was the major driving component for the program,” says assistant professor of Natural Sciences Amy Waddell, the biotechnology program’s adviser. “With the UT center and other biotech companies coming in, we thought it was a good idea, and we talked to the Memphis Bioworks Foundation to try to develop a program.”

Southwest initiated its first study abroad program in International Studies with 25 students and two faculty members traveling to Cape Town, South Africa, where the group studied African literature and culture. This program has continued to grow in the years since.

In an effort to increase public awareness regarding its role as the “community’s college,” the Macon Cove campus provided the site for the First Annual Southwest Community Expo. The Expo showcased Southwest’s programs, services and benefits for the Mid-South community with information about enrollment, financial aid, scholarships, clubs, sports, job placement, co-ops, online courses, childcare, and more. Throughout the day participants mixed and mingled with students, professors, coaches, admissions counselors, financial aid officers, alumni and other members of the Southwest family.
Enrollment services also established a “one-stop” enrollment environment on the Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses. Admissions and records, financial aid, advising and counseling, student disability services, veteran’s affairs, and career services have all located in adjacent areas. This new way of handling student enrollment has assisted students to more easily navigate the registration process.

Services of the new Faculty Development Center also expanded dramatically to support the professional development of the college faculty. In 2006-2007, more than 140 full-time and adjunct faculty members participated in more than 170 training events with many faculty members attending multiple events. 2007-2008 saw another 152 full-time and 32 adjunct members participating in training sessions.

The Upsilon Delta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) had 382 candidates who had met the basic membership requirements, a 3.5 or better GPA on completion of 12 or more credit hours. Once accepted to membership, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.3. PTK is an honor society that recognizes and encourages scholarship among students at two-year colleges.

During this time Southwest produced its first Southwest Now television show. Produced in conjunction with the Media Services department and hosted by Brenda Raynet, Southwest Now is a 30-minute fast-paced, magazine style TV show featuring video cuts of interviews with subjects from Southwest on location. Several publications that have since become Southwest staples also debuted during this time in Southwest’s history, notably Southwest Now Magazine and the Hieroglyph.

Southwest Now Magazine is designed to inform Mid-Southerners of the educational and training opportunities available at Southwest. Since the initial publication was launched in fall 2007, the award-winning magazine has been published semi-annually in the fall and spring. The spring edition was also merged with Southwest’s Annual Report for one year only. Hieroglyph, Southwest’s new annual literary and artistic publication, was introduced in 2006. Hieroglyph publishes original poetry, short fiction, and photography from all quarters of the Southwest community, including students, staff, and alumni.

In the wake of the tragic events that occurred at Virginia Tech in spring 2007, many schools around the country (including Southwest) instituted new safety measures, adding new technologies to help warn students in case of emergencies. Southwest, in partnership with Rave Wireless, debuted the Southwest Emergency Messaging System. The voluntary service offers emergency e-mail and text-messaging service to students, faculty, and staff. It is used in the event of an on-campus emergency, an unscheduled college closure, or a delay or cancellation of classes due to severe weather. Additionally, outdoor campus warning systems were installed at the Gill Center, Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses.

In 2010, the Southwest cheerleaders traveled to Macon, Georgia, for the Georgia Peach Nationals and finished first in the Cheer Team Collegiate Non-Tumbling division. Karisma Williams won first place in the Collegiate Dance Soloist and Audrea Vaughn won first place in the Collegiate Individual Cheer.

In addition to cheering at the men’s and women’s basketball games and competing nationally, the Southwest cheerleaders also performed at the Memphis Christmas Parade, Memphis St. Patrick’s Day Parade and participated in the St. Jude Marathon for the past five years.

Hall of Fame
In 2003, Southwest formed the Saluqis Hall of Fame which honors former Saluqi players and coaches. Hall of Fame inductees were honored at a banquet which included the presentation of plaques and a guest speaker. Photographs of all members of the Saluqis Hall of Fame, along with their accomplishments, are housed in the trophy case at the Verties Sails Gymnasium.

Facilities
The Verties Sails Gymnasium, home of Southwest’s men’s and women’s basketball teams, underwent a renovation in 2005 that included: a new gym floor, concession stand, and hospitality room; floor-level chairback seats; ADA restrooms; and a President’s Suite with is used for entertaining special guests.

The Southwest baseball team called Tony Gagliano Memorial Field home from 2000-2007 before moving to its current home at First Tennessee Fields in Cordova. The Lady Saluqis’ softball team played its home games at Cordova High School from 2000-2002 before moving to Appling Park from 2003-2005, and to its current home at the Buckhead Creek Recreation Complex in 2006. There are plans for a new baseball/softball complex, and a new weight room is near completion.

The Future
Building on the foundation laid by the Saluqui athletes and teams of the past, Southwest has strived to improve the entire athletic program throughout its first ten years and no doubt has successfully done so. “The future for Southwest athletics is very bright,” said Sails. “Improved facilities, academic excellence, and maybe even expansion of the athletic program are on the drawing board. Southwest athletics are on the move and will continue the success of the past and improve on certain aspects in the future.”

Heading into its second decade, the Southwest athletic program is looking to the future with its sights set on even bigger and better things. This includes completion of a new weight room and a new baseball/softball complex. The Saluqis also expect to win many more championships as well as pursue a higher standard by which junior college athletics is judged (both on and off the field or court) not only in the state of Tennessee but the entire NJCAA.
In 2007, Bo Reynolds was hired as the new Southwest baseball coach and has led the team to a top eight finish in the Region VII tournament in two of the past three seasons. Over the past ten years, 16 Southwest baseball players were named to the All-TCCAA team. 59 went on to play at a four-year college or university and several have also played professionally.

Softball

After winning a total of only eight games in its first two seasons and not fielding a team in 2003, Southwest hired Keith Gentry as its new head softball coach to begin a rebuilding process. In Gentry’s first season as head coach in 2004, the Lady Saluquis’ softball team won a then-school record 11 games and continued to improve throughout the decade. The 2009 team set a new standard for the softball program with a South- west-record 40 victories including 10 wins in conference play which is also the most ever for the program. Four players on the 2009 squad were named to the All-TCCAA team including first team selection Amber Hayes, who set numerous school records including 17 home runs and 65 runs batted in. Hayes and pitcher Maegan Wilson became the first Southwest softball players to receive national recognition when they re-
ceived the NJCAA’s Division 1 Player and Pitcher of

the Week, respectively.

In the past 10 years, seven Southwest softball players were named NJCAA Academic All-American, 19 re-


cieved the TCCAA’s Academic Achievement Award, 11 were selected All-TCCAA and 12 went on to play at a four-year college or university. Southwest softball players who were named Academic All-American were Katie Cerrito (2005), Jessica Laubacker (2005), Erin


Cheerleading

The Southwest Cheerleaders have been recognized nationally under the direction of Sabrina Tiller, who has coached the squad since 2003. In 2006, the South-west Cheerleaders won National Championships in the All-Female Non-Tumbling and Collegiate Stunt Group divisions at the Lone Star Open Nationals in Dallas, Texas. The championship stunt group included Shardown Godboldo, Tanesha Jackson, Danielle Jeffries, Chaundra Street and Jamaica Todd. In addition, five Southwest cheerleaders placed in the Open Crowdleader individual division including first place winner Kamesha Smith. For their efforts, the squad was featured in the June 5, 2006 edi-
tion of Jet Magazine. The squad also competed in the Lone Star Open in 2007 and brought home a first place finish in the All-Female Non-Tumbling division. In addi-
tion, Latrina Ward placed first in the Individual Cheer Division.

New Facilities

Construction of the new Bert Bornblum library was started on May 7, 2007. The library was designed as a two-story 69,300 square-foot library with open spaces, large windows, media gallery and cyber café/poets cor-
ner, and equipped with state-of-the-art surround sound auditorium and multimedia conference rooms.

Welcoming visitors to the college is a new tree-lined main entrance to the Macon Cove Campus from Sycamore View, south of the Macon Road/Sycamore View traffic light. The lane captures a beautiful view of the new library.

The College broke ground for the new Maxine A. Smith Center on a stormy April day in 2008 near the Mike Rose Soccer complex in Southeast Memphis. The new center, opened in 2009, 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 administration offices that provide service to south-
est Memphis, Germantown, Collierville, and Olive

Branch, Mississippi.

The groundbreaking for the new academic building on the Macon Cove Campus was held June 25, 2008. The new two-story, 106,000 gross square foot building is designed exclusively with 21st century classrooms and labs. Plans call for the Liberal Studies and Education; Business, Career Studies and Technologies; Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Health Sciences divisions to be housed in the building when it is completed.

Funds, Gifts, and Partnerships

As Southwest continues a solid pattern of growth and expansion, the college has been the recipient of many grants and gifts from sources both new and existing. Additionally, in keeping with its role as the commu-
nity’s college, Southwest has formed many new part-
nerships with local and national organizations.

Southwest forged a new partnership with Cook Systems International’s CollegeCareerCorps. The pro-
gram integrates students into professional technology teams in entry-level positions to work on real informa-
tion technology projects. In addition, Cook Systems has continued to support Southwest with a substantial contribution to the college.

Southwest continued the tradition of welcoming Danish students from Svendborg College in Svendborg, Denmark, and German exchange students who are part of a program coordinated through the Congress-
Bundestag Youth Exchange Program for Young Professionals.

The planned Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility has received numerous contribu-
tions; including $250,000 pledged by the Hyde Family Foundations and $150,000 from the Briggs Foundation. Additionally, a Brownfield’s grant of $325,000 was se-
cured from the Environmental Protection Agency for the future nursing building site. Significant commit-
ments were received in the amount of $500,000 from major area hospitals for the Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology facility, and an anonymous gift of half a million dollars in 2006 also gave a tremendous boost to the campaign.
The Engineering Technologies department’s electrical, mechanical, and computer engineering technology programs were selected to receive the 2006 Hewlett-Packard Technology for Teaching Leadership grant, valued at more than $120,000. Also, a $165,000 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education grant was secured to promote and enhance career technical education programs for the college.

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Southwest was awarded two Tennessee Board of Regents Access and Diversity grants for the 2007-2008 school year, totaling $60,000. Institutional Advancement raised a reported $4,466,938 in private contributions including $1,144,981 for scholarship endowments exceeding the $1 million goal by 14 percent during the period of 2006-2008.

The Triumphant Close to an Extraordinary Decade: 2008-2010

Fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10 were extraordinary periods for the Southwest family, its corporate partners and the communities served by the college’s multiple campuses and centers in Shelby County, and a site in Fayette County. Southwest experienced unprecedented growth bringing to completion construction projects resulting in the grand opening and naming ceremony for the Maxine A. Smith Center, named in honor of an educator and local civil rights legend. The Maxine A. Smith Center, a replacement for the former Southeast Smith Center, a library for those who otherwise would not be able to earn a college degree.

In December 2009, the Mid-South also witnessed and enjoyed the naming ceremony for the Bert Bornblum Library, located on Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus. In May of 2009, an open house/ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new library. Years of planning and hard work culminated in the completion of the library, named in honor of a loyal Southwest supporter and foundation board member whose heart’s desire and passion are to make educational opportunities available for those who otherwise would not be able to earn a college degree.

Southwest strives constantly to enhance its technologically offerings to remain competitive and current with industry standards and demands. Hence, the college broke ground for the construction of a new academic building in June 2008. The two-story, 106,000 square-foot structure was designed exclusively with 21st century classrooms and labs. This visual, audio, and interactive technology employs the use of multimedia projectors, document cameras, interactive presentation boards and presentation desks, DVD/VCR combos, and Extron and AMX control systems to address the challenging learning styles of the media-saturated, new millennium student.

Coach Sails also received numerous honors in the past 10 years, including Region VII Coach of the Year six times, TCCAA Coach of the Year four times, and induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, and the National Junior College Athletic Association Basketball Hall of Fame. It is most definitely appropriate when Sails is announced as “legendary Hall of Famer Vertie Sails Jr.” during the Saluqis’ pre-game introductions at the gymnasium which is named after him.

Women’s Basketball

The Southwest women’s basketball team, coached by Andrea Martre, was also extremely successful. The Lady Saluqis won the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII tournament and advanced to the NJCAA National Tournament in 2001 and were ranked in the NJCAA Division I Final Poll in 2006-2007 (13th) and 2007-2008 (4th). During those two seasons, the Southwest women compiled a very impressive 51-3 record including 25 consecutive wins during the 2007-2008 season. Martre was voted TCCAA Coach of the Year in 2007 and Region VII Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2007.

In the past 10 years, the Southwest women produced four NJCAA All-Americans, one NJCAA Academic All-American, 15 players who made the All-TCCAA team, and 23 who went on to play at a four-year college or university. Lady Saluqi All-Americans include first team selections Amy Williams (2001), Ashley Shields (2007) and Candace Rucker (2008) and honorable mention choices Starkitsha Luellen (2008) and Kiiana James (2010). Shields and Luellen were also voted TCCAA Player of the Year. Torre Thomas was selected NJCAA Academic All-American in 2001.

In 2007, Shields became the first junior college player ever selected in the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) draft when she was chosen in the first round by the Houston Comets. While at Southwest, Shields broke a NJCAA single game record when she scored an amazing 65 points against Cleveland State in the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII tournament.

Baseball

The Saluqis’ baseball team also made strides during the decade including its first Region VII championship in 2004 under Coach Johnny Ray, who was named Tennesse Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in his first season as head coach after taking over for Doug Darnall. From 2001-2003, Darnall guided the Saluqis to at least 30 wins each season before retiring. Leading the record-breaking 2004 squad was catcher Nick Smith, who set numerous school records and became the Saluqis’ first baseball All-American. Top pitchers on the championship team were Region VII Most Valuable Player Daniel Adams and closer Drew Buford, who led the nation in saves. In addition to Smith, other Saluqi baseball players who were named First Team All-TCCAA and All-East Central District were Patrick Williams (2003) and Elvis Sosa (2006).
When Southwest Tennessee Community College was formed in July, 2000 due to the merger of Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis, Southwest adopted Shelby State’s Saluqui as the mascot and embraced its rich athletic history. In the 10 years since, Southwest has not only continued the Saluquis’ winning tradition but has taken the athletic program to even greater heights. Under the guidance of Athletic Director Verties Sails Jr., the Saluquis’ and Lady Saluquis’ teams have been very successful not only in the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA) but nationally as well. “The athletic program at Southwest has a rich heritage,” said Sails. “Our program has basically set the standards for excellence in the Tennessee community college system and has done well nationally.” From 2000-2010, Southwest teams won seven region championships, competed in six National Junior Colleges Athletic Association (NJCAA) national tournaments, and produced 10 NJCAA All-Americans, eight TCCAA Academic All-Americans, 61 All-TCCAA players, seven TCCAA Players of the Year, 50 players who received the TCCAA Academic Achievement Award and 123 who went on to continue their education and athletic careers at four-year colleges or universities.

Men’s Basketball

Sails, who just finished his 31st season as head coach of the men’s basketball team, led his teams to five national tournament appearances in the last ten years including eighth place finishes in 2007 and 2009, and ninth place in 2003. Five Saluqui men’s basketball players were named NJCAA All-American including first team selection Donald Boone in 2007. In addition to Boone, other Southwest All-Americans who were also voted TCCAA Player of the Year were Marlon Walls (2001), Brian Kizzie (2003), Dominique Johnson (2008) and Byron Strong (2009).

Altogether, 19 Southwest men’s basketball players were selected to the All-TCCAA teams and five were chosen Region VII Tournament Most Valuable Player (Devon Buckley, 2001; Brian Kizzie, 2003; Lester Hudson, 2006; Donald Boone, 2007; and Jeremy Rodgers, 2009). Hudson made an even bigger name for himself after leaving Southwest, leading the nation in scoring at the University of Tennessee-Martin before being drafted in the second round of the 2009 National Basketball Association draft by the Boston Celtics. Hudson played for the Celtics before being picked up mid-season by the hometown Memphis Grizzlies. He is In light of the astronomical growth in technology, Southwest has taken steps to keep pace with that growth. The college added new 21st century classrooms with extensive media and instructional technology in its varied locations during 2008; bringing the total to approximately 90 sophisticated classrooms by 2010, and an additional 48 at the opening of the new academic building. In a 21st century learning environment, students are able to learn via multimedia technology. Southwest employs project-based learning, allowing students to acquire 21st century skills in the context of real-world scenarios. The integration of video and other media to support instruction links students to outside resources, and enables instructors to address many learning styles simultaneously. Eighty-seven classrooms at Southwest were equipped with multimedia projectors.

Today’s information technology makes it possible for Southwest students to earn a college degree without ever setting foot on a campus, and complete course work at their personal convenience via online courses. No longer is it necessary for non-traditional students with after-hour childcare issues or busy work schedules to forgo earning a college degree. Online courses place post-secondary education within the grasp of the majority of people in the Mid-South. During 2008-2010, Southwest expanded online and split course (part online-part in the classroom) offerings in art, developmental mathematics, history, mathematics, music, oral communication, psychology, sociology and theater. Like most colleges and universities, Southwest now offers not only courses online, but full degree programs online.

As the cost of education continues to increase, there is also a greater demand for a highly skilled and educated workforce. Southwest has been awarded grants over the past decade to help supplement the cost of providing educational opportunities for Mid-Southerners. Most recently at the close of the decade during 2008-2010, Southwest secured $8,926,939 in funding from federal, state and local governments, and received grants from the following sources, among a few:

- **A Federal Correctional Grant for $689,586** (five-year grant) to provide advanced occupational educational programs to as many as 20 inmates per semester, which can lead to technical certificates
- **$470,000 grant from the City of Memphis** to provide training and employment for youth ages 19-21 and educational and employment training for youth ages 14-18
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The excellent educational offerings at Southwest cannot be supported solely by state or federal dollars. It takes private donations from individuals, corporations and foundations to provide the extra margin. In 2008 the Southwest Foundation was proud to announce the college’s largest individual donor – Mr. Bert Bornblum. Private contributions for years 2008-2010 totaled $2,454,570.

Southwest has earned the distinction of being the Mid-South’s community college, offering associate degrees and certificates to prepare students to either enter the workforce or to continue their education. It has established articulation agreements with several four-year institutions to assist and encourage students to continue educational pursuits. In academic year 2008-09, Southwest established a formal articulation agreement with LeMoyne-Owen College to allow students to transfer two years of community college credit from Southwest toward a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

Southwest, with the University of Memphis (U of M), co-sponsored the Partnership Enrollment Program (PEP), launched in September 2009, PEP allows Southwest students to seamlessly transition to the U of M upon earning their associate degree with a minimum overall combined 2.0 GPA (as computed by U of M). President Nathan L. Essex of Southwest Tennessee Community College, the largest two-year college in the state of Tennessee, and President Sidney A. McPhee of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), the largest undergraduate university in Tennessee, met at Southwest on May 5, 2010 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a formal agreement that will assist students in transferring from Southwest to MTSU. Also, an articulation agreement signing ceremony with UT Knoxville was held at Southwest on June 14, 2010.

By Keith Gentry

A Decade of Athletic Excellence - The Saluquis Winning Tradition Continues... 2000-2010
In 2008, the department conducted company training determining both short- and long-term training needs. Of the college to companies, organizations, and groups Education Department (CTCE) extended the resources Southwest's Corporate Training and Continuing education designed to raise educational levels, enhance an effective teaching and learning environ-

During the past two years, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at Southwest instituted a strong advocacy program. TSBDC partnered with the Millington Chamber of Commerce and library to open a satellite office in Millington, Tennessee; sponsored the Small Business Development Conference with Congressman Steve Cohen, which was held on the Southwest Macon Cove Campus; and co-hosted the Trade Associations and Government Forum with the Internal Revenue Service, among other activities. The center obtained over 39 loans totaling more than $1,143,000.

Southwest Tennessee Community College was named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. In addition, all 51 of the 2009 Southwest nursing graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) on the first attempt, for a 100 percent pass rate.

The college received national coverage on CNN when heroic nursing graduate Charity Townsend Caldwell saved the life of Southwest’s Dean of Health Sciences, Glenn Swinny, who suffered a heart attack during the 2009 Commencement Ceremony. “He really wouldn’t have made it, we don’t think, without Charity,” said Provost Joanne Bassett. “It was just amazing to see a little angel working in front of us.”

In expanding Southwest’s visibility in metro Memphis, the Communications and Marketing Department extended its media campaign through fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10 featuring testimonials from Southwest alumni. The department won a gold award at the 25th Annual Educational Advertising Awards for its alumni testimonial newspaper single ad - It’s Your Best Choice in February 2010. Southwest also captured the following awards: Gold – Newspaper Insert - Southwest Is Coming to Your Neighborhood; Silver – Radio Series - Why I Chose Southwest; Bronze – Catalog 2008 - 2010; and Merit – Magazine Single Ad - It’s Your Best Choice.

A crucial key to enrollment is financial aid. Southwest’s Financial Aid Department held two Financial Aid Awareness seminars in 2009 to encourage students to complete financial aid applications early, yielding a 20 percent increase of Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs) compared to the previous year at the same time. Telephone personnel in financial aid and admissions and records collaborated to create one call center (the Admissions and Records/Financial Aid Call Center) resulting in an increased answer rate of 32 percent. To serve the working adult student popu-

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A major achievement for Southwest over the past two years was the $2 million pledge from the FedEx Corporation to support the college’s expansion effort to build a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building. Participating in the gift presenta-

The gift is the largest in Southwest’s history. Southwest’s first decade has been one of tremendous success. Now, the college is developing strategies to meet the challenges of the upcoming decade.
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Though promoting the college is the responsibility of all the employees at Southwest, attracting students to the College and into the classrooms is the primary function of the Student Services and Enrollment Management Division. Recruiters visit high schools, promoting the College at community-based functions, and conduct tours for high school students at the various Southwest locations as part of their many duties. Southwest’s enrollment increased in the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009 by 7.6 percent and 10.7 percent respectively. The joint efforts of recruiters, counsel-

ers and financial aid officers ensure that students are ready for their first day of class. The goal is to ensure that every student has a successful matriculation at Southwest regardless of race, sex, gender or disability. The Student Services and Enrollment Management Division initiated a Hispanic Outreach program, held information sessions for students in high schools, and an evening program in Spanish for parents. An infor-
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tion, the call center extended hours to 9-30 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays in February 2010. During the extended hours, current and prospective students who are unable to come in or call during the regular 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. operating hours find it easier to get general information about the college, and specific in-
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Extraordinary Decade: 2008-2010

By Brenda Rayner

Fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10 were extraordinary periods for the Southwest family, its corporate partners and the communities served by the college’s multiple campuses and centers in Shelby County, and a site in Fayette County. Southwest experienced unprecedented growth bringing to completion construction projects resulting in the grand opening and naming ceremony for the Maxine A. Smith Center, named in honor of an educator and local civil rights legend. The Maxine A. Smith Center, a replacement for the former Southeast Smith Center, was designed exclusively with 21st century classrooms and labs. This visual, audio, and interactive technology employs the use of multimedia projectors, document cameras, interactive presentation boards and presentation desks, DVD/VCR combos, and Extron and AMX control systems to address the challenging learning styles of the media-saturated, new millennium student.

In December 2009, the Mid-South also witnessed and enjoyed the naming ceremony for the Bert Bornlum Library, located on Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus. In May of 2009, an open house/ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new library, Years of planning and hard work culminated in the completion of the library, named in honor of a loyal Southwest supporter and foundation board member whose heart’s desire and passion are to make educational opportunities available for those who otherwise would not be able to earn a college degree.

Southwest strives constantly to enhance its technological offerings to remain competitive and current with industry standards and demands. Hence, the college broke ground for the construction of a new academic building in June 2008. The two-story, 106,000 square-foot structure was designed exclusively with 21st century classrooms and labs. This visual, audio, and interactive technology employs the use of multimedia projectors, document cameras, interactive presentation boards and presentation desks, DVD/VCR combos, and Extron and AMX control systems to address the challenging learning styles of the media-saturated, new millennium student.

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Women’s Basketball

The Southwest women’s basketball team, coached by Andrea Martre, was also extremely successful. The Lady Saluquis were named TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII tournament and advanced to the NJCAA National Tournament in 2001 and were ranked in the NJCAA Division I Final Poll in 2006-2007 (13th) and 2007-2008 (4th). During those two seasons, the Southwest women compiled a very impressive 51-2 record including 25 consecutive wins during the 2007-2008 season. Martre was voted TCCAA Coach of the Year in 2007 and Region VII Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2007.

In the past 10 years, the Southwest women produced four NJCAA All-Americans, one NJCAA Academic All-American, 15 players who made the All-TCCAA team, and 23 who went on to play at a four-year college or university. Lady Saluqui All-Americans include first team selections Amie Williams (2001), Ashley Shields (2007) and Candace Rucker (2008) and honorable mention choices Sturkitaha Luel- len (2008) and Kiana James (2010). Shields and Luel-len were also voted TCCAA Player of the Year. Torre Thomas was selected NJCAA Academic All-American in 2001.

In 2007, Shields became the first junior college player ever selected in the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) draft when she was chosen in the first round by the Houston Comets. While at Southwest, Shields broke a NJCAA single game record when she scored an amazing 65 points against Cleveland State in the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII tournament.

Baseball

The Saluquis’ baseball team also made strides during the decade including its first Region VII championship in 2004 under Coach Johnny Ray, who was named Tennesee Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in his first season as head coach after taking over for Doug Darnall. From 2001-2003, Darnall guided the Saluquis to at least 30 wins each season before retiring. Leading the record-breaking 2004 squad was catcher Nick Smith, who set numerous school records and became the Saluquis’ first baseball All-American. Top pitchers on the championship team were Region VII Most Valuable Player Daniel Adams and closer Drew Buford, who led the nation in saves. In addition to Smith, other Saluqi baseball players who were named First Team All-TCCAA and All-East Central District were Patrick Williams (2003) and Elvis Sosa (2006).
were named NJCAA Academic All-American. In the past 10 years, seven Southwest softball players received the NJCAA's Division 1 Player and Pitcher of the Week, respectively.

Maegan Wilson became the first Southwest softball home runs and 65 runs batted in. Hayes and pitcher Hayes, who set numerous school records including 17 west-record 40 victories including 10 wins in conference play which is also the most ever for the program. Four players on the 2009 squad were named to the All-TCCAA team including first team selection Amber Hayes, who set numerous school records including 17 home runs and 65 runs batted in. Hayes and pitcher Maegan Wilson became the first Southwest softball players to receive national recognition when they received the NJCAA's Division 1 Player and Pitcher of the Week, respectively.

In the past 10 years, seven Southwest softball players were named NICAA Academic All-American, 19 received the TCCAA's Academic Achievement Award, 11 were selected All-TCCAA and 12 went on to play at a four-year college or university. Southwest softball players who were named Academic All-American were Katie Cerrito (2005), Jessica Laubacker (2005), Erin Cook (2005), Erica Brich (2006), Staci Craig (2008), Katy Ahrens (2009) and Amber Hayes (2009). 2009 Lady Saluqis Softball Team

Softball
After winning a total of only eight games in its first two seasons and not fielding a team in 2003, Southwest hired Keith Gentry as its new head softball coach to begin a rebuilding process. In Gentry’s first season as head coach in 2004, the Lady Saluquis’ softball team won a then-school record 11 games and continued to improve throughout the decade. The 2009 team set a new standard for the softball program with a South- west-record 40 victories including 10 wins in conference play which is also the most ever for the program. Four players on the 2009 squad were named to the All-TCCAA team including first team selection Amber Hayes, who set numerous school records including 17 home runs and 65 runs batted in. Hayes and pitcher Maegan Wilson became the first Southwest softball players to receive national recognition when they received the NJCAA's Division 1 Player and Pitcher of the Week, respectively.

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Cheerleading
The Southwest Cheerleaders have been recognized nationally under the direction of Sabrina Tiller, who has coached the squad since 2003. In 2006, the South- west Cheerleaders won National Championships in the All-Female Non-Tumbling and Collegiate Stunt Group divisions at the Lone Star Open Nationals in Dallas, Texas. The championship stunt group included Shaday Godboldo, Tanesha Jackson, Danielle Jeffries, Chaundrea Street and Jamaica Todd. In addition, five Southwest cheerleaders placed in the Open Crowdleader individual division including first place winner Kamesha Smith. For their efforts, the squad was featured in the June 5, 2006 edition of Jet Magazine. The squad also competed in the Lone Star Open in 2007 and brought home a first place finish in the All-Female Non-Tumbling division. In addition, Latrina Ward placed first in the Individual Cheer Division.

New Facilities
Construction of the new Bert Bornblum library was started on May 7, 2007. The library was designed as a two-story 69,300 square-foot library with open spaces, large windows, media gallery and cyber café/poets cor- ner, and equipped with state-of-the-art surround sound auditorium and multimedia conference rooms.

Welcoming visitors to the college is a new tree-lined main entrance to the Macon Cove Campus from Sycamore View, south of the Macon Road/Sycamore View traffic light. The lane captures a beautiful view of the new library.

The College broke ground for the new Maxine A. Smith Center on a stormy April day in 2008 near the Mike Rose Soccer complex in Southeast Memphis. The new center, opened in 2009, 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 administration offices that provide service to southeast Memphis, Germantown, Collierville, and Olive Branch, Mississippi.

The groundbreaking for the new academic building on the Macon Cove Campus was held June 25, 2008. The new two-story, 106,000 gross square foot building is designed exclusively with 21st century classrooms and labs. Plans call for the Liberal Studies and Education; Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Health Sciences divisions to be housed in the building when it is completed.

2006 Southwest Cheerleaders

Funds, Gifts, and Partnerships
As Southwest continues a solid pattern of growth and expansion, the college has been the recipient of many grants and gifts from sources both new and existing. Additionally, in keeping with its role as the commu- nity’s college, Southwest has formed many new part- nerships with local and national organizations.

Southwest forged a new partnership with Cook Systems International’s CollegeCareerCorps. The pro- gram integrates students into professional technology teams in entry-level positions to work on real informa- tion technology projects. In addition, Cook Systems has continued to support Southwest with a substantial contribution to the college.

Southwest continued the tradition of welcoming Danish students from Svendborg College in Svendborg, Denmark, and German exchange students who are part of a program coordinated through the Congress- Bundestag Youth Exchange Program for Young Professionals.

In 2007, Bo Reynolds was hired as the new Southwest baseball coach and has led the team to a top eight finish in the Region VII tournament in two of the past three seasons. Over the past ten years, 16 Southwest baseball players were named to the All-TCCAA team, 59 went on to play at a four-year college or university and several have also played professionally.

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Enrollment services also established a “one-stop” enrollment environment on the Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses. Admissions and records, financial aid, advising and counseling, student disability services, veteran’s affairs, and career services have all located in adjacent areas. This new way of handling student enrollment has assisted students to more easily navigate the registration process.

Services of the new Faculty Development Center also expanded dramatically to support the professional development of the college faculty. In 2006-2007, more than 140 full-time and adjunct faculty members participated in more than 170 training events with many faculty members attending multiple events. 2007-2008 saw another 152 full-time and 32 adjunct members participating in training sessions.

The Upsilon Delta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is a 30-minute fast-paced, magazine style TV show featuring video cuts of interviews with subjects from Southwest on location. Several publications that have since become Southwest staples also debuted during this time in Southwest’s history, notably Southwest Now Magazine and the Hieroglyph. Southwest Now Magazine is designed to inform Mid-Southerners of the educational and training opportunities available at Southwest. Since the initial publication was launched in fall 2007, the award-winning magazine has been published semi-annually in the fall and spring. The spring edition was also merged with Southwest’s Annual Report for one year only. Hieroglyph, Southwest’s new annual literary and artistic publication, was introduced in 2006. Hieroglyph publishes original poetry, short fiction, and photography from all quarters of the Southwest community, including students, staff, and alumni.

In the wake of the tragic events that occurred at Virginia Tech in spring 2007, many schools around the country (including Southwest) instituted new safety measures, adding new technologies to help warn students in case of emergencies. Southwest, in partnership with Rave Wireless, debuted the Southwest Emergency Messaging System. The voluntary service offers emergency e-mail and text-messaging service to students, faculty and staff. It is used in the event of an on-campus emergency, an unscheduled college closure, or a delay or cancellation of classes due to severe weather. Additionally, outdoor campus warning systems were installed at the Gill Center, Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses.

In 2010, the Southwest cheerleaders traveled to Macon, Georgia, for the Georgia Peach Nationals and finished first in the Cheer Team Collegiate Non-Tumbling division. Karisma Williams won first place in the Collegiate Dance Soloist and Audrea Vaughn won first place in the Collegiate Individual Cheer.

In addition to cheering at the men’s and women’s basketball games and competing nationally, the Southwest cheerleaders also performed at the Memphis Christmas Parade, Memphis St. Patrick’s Day Parade and participated in the St. Jude Marathon for the past five years.

Hall of Fame
In 2003, Southwest formed the Saluqis Hall of Fame which honors former Saluqi players and coaches. Hall of Fame inductees were honored at a banquet which included the presentation of plaques and a guest speaker. Photographs of all members of the Saluqis Hall of Fame, along with their accomplishments, are housed in the trophy case at the Verties Sails Gymnasium.

Facilities
The Verties Sails Gymnasium, home of Southwest’s men’s and women’s basketball teams, underwent a renovation in 2005 that included: a new gym floor, concession stand, and hospitality room; floor-level chairback seats; ADA restrooms; and a President’s Suite with is used for entertaining special guests.

The Southwest baseball team called Tony Gagliano Memorial Field home from 2000-2007 before moving to its current home at First Tennessee Fields in Cordova. The Lady Saluqis’ softball team played its home games at Cordova High School from 2000-2002 before moving to Appling Park from 2003-2005, and to its current home at the Buckhead Creek Recreation Complex in 2006. There are plans for a new baseball/softball complex, and a new weight room is near completion.

The Future
Building on the foundation laid by the Saluqui athletes and teams of the past, Southwest has strived to improve the entire athletic program throughout its first ten years and no doubt has successfully done so. “The future for Southwest athletics is very bright,” said Sails. “Improved facilities, academic excellence, and maybe even expansion of the athletic program are on the drawing board. Southwest athletics are on the move and will continue the success of the past and improve on certain aspects in the future.”

Heading into its second decade, the Southwest athletic program is looking to the future with its sights set on even bigger and better things. This includes completion of a new weight room and a new baseball/softball complex. The Saluquis also expect to win many more championships as well as pursue a higher standard by which junior college athletics is judged (both on and off the field or court) not only in the state of Tennessee but the entire NJCAA.
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- Phlebotomy
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78 percent), Physical Therapist Assistant – 661 (national average 642), and Radiologic Technology – 96 percent (national average 91 percent).

The Developmental Studies department received advanced certification for its program from the National Association for Developmental Education, which sets the standard for excellence in developmental education. The only other college in the state that holds the certification is Middle Tennessee State University. The certification involves collecting five years of data that show the success of the students in the program as they leave it and enter into regular college-level coursework. “The process is similar to accreditation where you have to meet national standards,” states Dr. Janice Van Dyke, professor of Developmental Studies. “We saw a trend that the students that go through our program do better in some instances than the students that do not have to go through developmental studies courses.”

Chef Steven Leake’s culinary arts students won the Grand Champion Trophy in 2007 for Best Dish and Booth design for the Oscars Night Gala at the Pink Palace Museum. Students are involved annually in a fund-raiser for The Madonna Center. Chef Leake’s students collaborated with the American Culinary Federation in preparing a five-course meal for the 600 guests at their annual fund-raiser benefiting the Child Advocacy Center.

Southwest’s Graphic Arts students continue to be winners as well. Two students won the Adobe Photoshop CS2 (Matt Gunnell, student), and InDesign CS2, Illustrator CS2 Revealed (John Henderson, student) textbook cover competition offered by the Thomson Learning Career and Professional Group. The annual poster contest sponsored by the Engineering Education Service Center announced the winners in the 2006 General Category and 2008 Green Category.

Southwest hosted the TBR Quarterly Meeting in March of 2007 at the Union Avenue Campus.

College Firsts

This period in the college’s growth saw the creation of a new academic program, the Associate of Applied Science degree in Biotechnology to support Memphis-area employers. The Biotechnology program has since expanded its collaboration with Memphis Bioworks. “The growing need for this kind of workforce was the major driving component for the program,” says assistant professor of Natural Sciences Amy Waddell, the biotechnology program’s advisor. “With the UT center and other biotech companies coming in, we thought it was a good idea, and we talked to the Memphis Bioworks Foundation to try to develop a program.”

Southwest initiated its first study abroad program in International Studies with 25 students and two faculty members traveling to Cape Town, South Africa, where the group studied African literature and culture. This program has continued to grow in the years since.

In an effort to increase public awareness regarding its role as the “community’s college,” the Macon Cove campus provided the site for the First Annual Southwest Community Expo. The Expo showcased Southwest’s programs, services and benefits for the Mid-South community with information about enrollment, financial aid, scholarships, clubs, sports, job placement, co-ops, online courses, childcare, and more. Throughout the day participants mingled with students, professors, coaches, admissions counselors, financial aid officers, alumni and other members of the Southwest family.
2004-2006 academic years, to provide support for the academic programs of the college and provide scholarships for students.

The influx of new funds assisted in the development of new programs. A Homeland Security Risk Assessment Certificate was developed by the Division of Business, Career Studies and Technologies, brought to the forefront after 9-11, to train individuals to assist companies and the nation identify potential security hazards. Engineering Technologies launched its first-ever distance learning course in Fayette County. Southwest was also able to begin a new biotechnology degree program to promote the growth of future bioscience organizations in the Mid-South area. Several programs received recognition from national organizations, including the Landscape and Turfgrass Management program which received accreditation from the Professional Landcare Network; the recognition by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologies of Southwest students achievement of a 97 percent pass rate on the National Certification Exam; and the accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children of the Early Childhood Education Center on the Union Avenue Campus.

### 2006–2008, the Years of Growth and Expansion

The Community Relations and Marketing Department initiated new methods to reach potential students, including the production of the first interactive catalog CD for 2004-2005, and an interactive video recruitment viewbook CD. The marketing efforts garnered Southwest a total of 35 national and two local marketing awards.

During 2004-2006, Southwest continued to strive for excellence in all areas that impact the citizens of the Memphis and Mid-South area. Students and faculty members were also recognized for their outstanding achievements. Student recognition included the National Dean’s List, Who’s Who Among Students in Junior Colleges, and Colleague All-American Scholars. Faculty members were recognized by the American Culinary Federation, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Tennessee Association of Colleges and Employers. The Southwest Singers won first place in a national competition and the college’s president, Dr. Nathan L. Essex, was named Educator of the Year by the University of Memphis Society.

Making graduation extra special was the commencement speaker, Gayle S. Rose, a dynamic leader, mover and shaker who has left her imprint on some of the most important advances of this city; the student speaker, Chad Everett, whose activities here bespeak a life destined for success as he continues his education; and the faculty whose efforts on behalf of their students brought them successfully to this day.

Every commencement ceremony is special: To those receiving a diploma or degree; to their families and friends; to the graduating institution – whether high school or college, awarding associate, bachelor’s or graduate degrees; for staff, faculty – every employee, many of whom have been here from the day Southwest was established. So the 2010 commencement, held on May 1 at the Desoto Civic Center, was special to Southwest, marking the college’s 10th year anniversary with 1,401 students receiving degrees.

The two years starting July 2006 began a time in the life of the college when we were recognized for many accomplishments; not only for the size of our student body, but for the quality of instruction and the many successes of our faculty, staff and graduates. Southwest remained at the top of the Tennessee Board of Regents’ (TBR) community colleges in terms of sheer size, but also in the diversity of the courses and experiences offered to our students. We also implemented several new programs, both academic and administrative, offering more choices and better customer service to our many students.

Southwest was honored to host the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) quarterly meeting in March of 2007 on the Union Avenue Campus.

Not simply the largest community college in the TBR system, Southwest ranked nationally in the number of graduates produced in several categories. Community College Week ranked Southwest nationally as being 30th in granting associate degrees to African Americans, 40th overall in granting associate degrees in Science Technologies/Technicians, fourth nationally in science and technology degrees awarded, and featured Southwest in the Top 100 colleges in granting associate degrees across all minority groups. The nursing program continued to exceed and set the standard for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses pass rate, achieving a pass rate of 96.15 percent, surpassing the 88.11 percent national average. Other programs that passed licensure or certification tests at extremely high levels were Medical Laboratory Technician – 100 percent (national average

### 2010: A Very Special Commencement, Marking the 10th Year of Southwest Tennessee Community College

Celebrating Southwest’s 10th Year Commencement Ceremony, 1,401 students were presented degrees.

Student speaker Chad Everett

Gayle S. Rose enthusiastically engages the Southwest 2010 graduating class.

Business owner and CEO of Electronic Vaulting Services Corporation Gayle S. Rose delivered an address that infused the graduates with a sense of gratitude, worth, and commitment. “Don’t ever forget that you are surrounded by a community that needs you. They need your light, they need your passion and they need your commitment to serving those less fortunate,” said Rose.

Student speaker Chad Everett, in an imaginative piece of advice, told fellow graduates to “turn it over” – your degree, your certificate – and “read” what’s behind that piece of paper. Remember the “sweat and sometimes tears that went into it,” and realize when tough times return, you need to call up the strength that helped you before. Everett received Associate of Applied Science degrees in Paralegal Studies and Computer Engineering Technology, and a Technical Certificate in Industrial Computer Fundamentals.
The new academic building contains 28 classrooms, 16 computer labs, six science labs, three conference rooms, a presentation theatre, dean’s suite, faculty offices, three elevators and a vending area. The building also contains suites for the service-learning and honors programs, and will improve classroom learning for the graphic arts, paralegal, music, EMT and other programs. This 106,000-square-foot two-story building was a joint venture designed by Fisher & Arnold Inc. and Looney, Ricks, and Kiss Architects Inc.

The state of Tennessee included funding for the development of a new center, a new library and planning for a new academic building for Southwest in the 2005-2006 budget. The site of the new center would be located near Shelby Drive and Bill Morris Parkway in the southeast corridor of the city, and would cost approximately $12 million. A new state-funded library and academic building are planned for the Macon Cove Campus. Also in the planning stage is a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building. In the planning stage is a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building on the Union Avenue Campus. Since state funds will not be available for construction of this new facility, Southwest initiated a major gifts campaign – Southwest and You – Investing in The Future. This campaign will fund the facility and provide advancements in technology, faculty and staff development and student scholarships. Two major pledges were received in support of the Major Gifts Campaign during 2005-2006: a $1,000,000 pledge from the local office of Medtronic Sofamor-Danek, and a $500,000 pledge from a major local foundation, the Plough Foundation. Both pledges will support expansion of Southwest’s nursing, natural sciences and biotechnology programs to be housed in a new facility. In 2006, Southwest received more than $225,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for equipment for the new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building.

Southwest received several grants to support and enhance existing programs and develop new ones. The college was one of only 70 community colleges in the nation to receive a Community Based Job Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2005 totaling over $1.8 million to establish and enhance training in biotechnology. Hewlett Packard (HP), a leader in information technology, awarded a $74,000 HP Technology for Teaching grant to the college to assist faculty members in improving student achievement and the use of wireless technology to enhance learning in engineering, math, science and business courses. Hospitality Management received a new scholarship from Delaware North Companies Travel Hospitality Services valued at $100,000 over a 10-year period. The scholarship, called the CAI Hospitality Technical Scholars Scholarship, will allow three Hospitality Management students to receive tuition, fees and books. The first $10,000 check was presented to the college on June 1, 2006. Mechanical Engineering received a $5,000 grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority for program upgrades. Other academic areas being awarded significant grants for improvement included Distance Education and Instructional Technology (DEIT), Developmental Studies, and the Division of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Health Sciences. Also, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to open a new center in Fayette County. Institutional Advancement raised a total of $2,064,293 in private giving during the
was chosen because it offers both a broader campus presence in the region and a wide range of courses in small business management and training.

Another impact on the community was the expansion of the Workforce Development and Training Center (WDTC). The WDTC expanded to the Gill Center to serve clients from the Frayser, Raleigh and Millington areas of Shelby County. The WDTC was under contract with the Tennessee Department of Human Services to provide core services to individuals currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) under the Families First Program. The program makes available a number of technical certificates to clients in the program to assist them with career opportunities. These certificates included Accounting, Computer Software Specialist, EMT Paramedic, and Pharmacy Technician, among others.

Southwest not only impacts the community in meeting student and business needs, it also provides services to citizens in the community. Students and faculty members at Southwest participate and volunteer to serve with several local area charities. A partnership with the United Way, “Success By 6,” taught parents how to love, nurture and better interact with their infants and children so that the children will be better prepared for kindergarten and beyond. The Macon Cove campus became a drop-box location for Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association’s Coats for Kids Drive which pared for kindergarten and beyond. The Macon Cove and children so that the children will be better pre-

The greatest outpouring of charity occurred when Hurricane Katrina devastated the U.S. Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. The forceful 125 mile per hour winds uprooted trees, damaged many homes and forced the evacuation of thousands of individuals. After seeing the devastation, students in the Student Government Association (SGA) at Southwest established a disaster relief center to work with victims staying in the Memphis area. Dr. Nathan L. Essex, president of Southwest, was one of the first to deliver supplies to aid in the relief effort. Students in gulf coast institutions of higher learning were allowed to enroll at Southwest so that their goal of obtaining a degree was not interrupted.

Faculty and staff members at Southwest work tirelessly to achieve the college’s mission of providing citizens with excellent academic programs in a well-designed learning environment. Southwest made strides during 2004-2006 to improve facilities and services to promote a positive environment. These improvements included renovations to the Verties Sails Gymnasium, E-Building, cafeteria and the Follett Bookstore on the Union Avenue Campus. The gymnasium improvements included a floor replacement and newly designed bleachers. Middle College High School, a partnership with Memphis City Schools, became the main occupant of the E-Building and the necessary renovations were made to bring the building up to code compliance for K-12 school-age children. The bookstore was renovated to create a new look similar to the Macon Cove location. The college also acquired a new parking lot consisting of 50 spaces for Union Avenue Campus students, and roof improvements were made on the Nabor and Farris buildings at the Macon Cove Campus.

Southwest and Middle Tennessee State University Sign Memorandum of Understanding Streamlining Student Transfers

President Nathan L. Essex of Southwest Tennessee Community College (Southwest), the largest two-year college in the state of Tennessee, and President Sidney A. McPhee of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), the largest undergraduate university in Tennessee, met on May 5 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a formal agreement that will assist students in transferring from Southwest to MTSU.

In a statement during the signing, President McPhee emphasized that, in light of legislation passed in January, there is a greater emphasis and focus on transferring, articulation and access in providing opportunities for citizens to receive associate and undergraduate degrees.

This agreement will facilitate a seamless transfer for Southwest students wanting to attend MTSU. Courses currently considered in the agreement are those transferable to the Recording Industry, Business Administration, Education, and Aerospace programs at MTSU.

Regarding the significance for Southwest students, President Essex said, “The obvious advantage is that our students are going to have increased access. Our emphasis throughout the state right now is retention and graduation. To have this kind of partnership with a wonderful institution such as MTSU simply means that our students will have increased opportunities to get scholarship support, and be able to pursue advanced degrees beyond the community college level based on this partnership.”

MTSU President McPhee also stressed scholarship opportunities as well as the ease of the transfer process for Southwest students. “We are going to be looking at providing special scholarships for these students, connecting them to our Honors College, providing a better transition and taking the hassle out of the transfer process. And so we are really excited. We get great students out of Memphis and from Southwest. We only see this as strengthening our relationship and partnership,” said McPhee.
Our College Earns an “A” on the American School Search Safety Report

The American School Search gave Southwest Tennessee Community College an “A” on its Safety Report, indicating the college experiences no significant crime problems. The American School Search Safety Report is based on the U.S. Department of Education public data for 2009 for various categories of violent and non-violent crimes committed both on-campus and off-campus over the last three years. According to their analysis of the government data, Southwest is a safe place to study.

Accordingly, the “Crime on Campus” Report most recently published by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) indicates the crime rate at Southwest decreased by 7.3 percent from the year 2007 to 2008.

James H. Bolden, director of Police Services/Public Safety for Southwest said, “The overall reduction in campus crime at Southwest is a glowing endorsement of our inclusive community-based policing efforts. While the Department of Police Services/Public Safety has employed numerous innovative strategies in combating campus crimes, we surely could not have achieved the level of success without the collaborative efforts of the administration, faculty, staff, and students. Our Campus Watch Program has without a doubt produced the desired result.”

In recent years, the Police Services/Public Safety Department at Southwest implemented several initiatives to help provide a safer environment at the college; bike officers were added to the patrol division; blue light emergency phones and Rave Wireless, a cell phone and e-mail alert notification system were initiated as safety precautions; and the Campus Safety Technician (CST) program which employs federal work study students (criminal justice majors) through a 20-hour weekly work schedule was developed for the performance of the following tasks:

- Assist with monitoring the campus for safety
- Provide escort needs as warranted
- Submit reports of suspicious activities
- Assist staff and students during emergencies
- Become familiar with basic investigation techniques.

Southwest Campus Safety Technicians are pictured with (centered, left to right) James Bolden, Southwest President Nathan Esses, Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services Ron Parr, and Executive Assistant to the President for Government Relations Sherman Greer.


Each new year brings about change and the period, July 2004 to June 2006, was no exception. Southwest experienced growth and development among students, faculty, and facilities. Programs received national recognition for their accomplishments; faculty members received state, regional and local recognition; and for their academic accomplishments several students received recognition from Southwest, the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), and other national organizations. Southwest also established partnerships during this period with several businesses, the local school system, and a top flight regional university.

Southwest partnered with Georgia Tech to teach occupational safety training to Mid-South industries. Georgia Tech is sanctioned by the government’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to be the sole training facility for occupational safety in the southeastern region of the United States. The creation of this partnership increases the stature of Southwest’s occupational safety training to Mid-South industries. Georgia Tech is also a leader in internetworking, creating the Cisco Networking Academy Program. This program teaches local high school students how to design, build and maintain computer networks, and develops the skills needed to compete in a technology-dependent workplace. In addition to the students, teachers also receive specialized Certified Internet Webmaster and Cisco training to prepare them to train their students to become certified computer networking professionals.

“Community” is not just part of the name of the college, but also a focus of its service. The mission of the college is to respond to the educational needs of the communities in Shelby and Fayette counties and the Mid-South region. While students are the central focus of the college’s educational mission, the business community is also served by the college through numerous programs and courses, many tailored especially to meet the specific needs of businesses and corporations. In July 2004, Southwest began a partnership with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), previously housed at the University of Memphis. TSBDC offers free assistance to help business owners grow and develop successful, thriving businesses. This new opportunity gave the college name recognition and inroads into the local business community.
for a major gifts campaign for the College. The results were positive and indicated support for a campaign to fund a Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building. Preparations were initiated for the Foundation’s first major gifts campaign – Southwest & You — Investing in the Future. The initiatives included in the campaign were Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility; Technology Needs; Student Scholarship Endowment; and Faculty/Professional Staff Development Endowment.

The Assisi Foundation awarded a $100,000 grant to complete technical planning necessary to secure major investments for the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility. Key faculty and staff and architectural professionals participated in site visits to educational institutions across the United States who were recognized as having the most innovative facilities and programs. As a result, preliminary interior and exterior facility drawings and construction costs were developed and campaign materials were designed and printed for use in the campaign.

In the 2003-2004 fiscal year, Academic and Student Affairs received or was approved for several sizable grants including a $73,005 grant for Business, Career Studies and Technology for Tech Prep and Distance Education projects; a $133,668 grant for Mathematics, Studies and Technology for Tech Prep and Distance grants including a $73,005 grant for Business, Career Affairs received or was approved for several sizable

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a five-year $950,000 grant to Southwest Tennessee Community College for a TRIO Educational Opportunity Center. The award became effective September 1, 2002 – August 31, 2007, in the amount of $190,000 per year. It also provided a first-year $10,000 technology supplement to be used to purchase computer hardware or software or provide staff training. TRIO programs are designed to identify promising high school or first-generation college students, prepare them to do college-level work, strengthen math and science performances and provide support services to students once they reach the college campus.

Over the 2002-2004 timeframe, the Institutional Advancement Division made progress in laying a foundation for the future of the college. The total amount of private giving reported during this period was $1,769,798. Southwest administration and faculty obtained 38 grant awards (20 renewals and 18 new awards) with a one-year total of $3,704,840, and more than $2 million was pledged in the Major Gifts Campaign. Community outreach was provided to parents of young children through numerous grant-funded programs, such as the Assisi Shape and Bake program, the Child Care Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program and the Early Childhood Education Pilot Program. The Community Relations and Marketing Department received eight National Admissions Advertising Awards (two gold, two bronze, and four merit awards), a Silver Certificate from the Memphis Advertising Federation (ADDDY) for the Continuing Education radio spot, a Gold VOX Award for Program Brochures from the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), and national awards for the fourth consecutive year for the College’s public website, intranet, student newspaper, athletics and Alpha Beta Gamma websites.

Bert and David Bornblum were named 2004 co-recipients of the Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Philanthropy at Southwest Tennessee Community College. The Bornblums have a distinguished record of active contributions and participation in the field of education in the Memphis area. The award was presented during the college’s commencement ceremony on May 8, 2004. A new library constructed on the Macon Cove Campus would later be named after Bert Bornblum in further recognition of his dedication to Southwest.

Southwest Tennessee Community College has been named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. On campuses across the country, thousands of students joined their faculty to develop innovative programs and projects to meet local needs using the skills gained in their classrooms. Business students served as consultants to budget-strapped nonprofits and businesses, law students volunteered at legal clinics, and dozens of others organized anti-hunger campaigns.

“Congratulations to Southwest Tennessee Community College and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities,” said Patrick Corvigkeit, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. “Our nation’s students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service.”

The Honor Roll includes six colleges and universities that are recognized as Presidential Award winners, with an additional 115 named to the Distinction List and 621 schools named as Honor Roll members. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

“Service-Learning at Southwest Tennessee Community College is aimed at enhancing student outcomes. We offer a Service-Learning course of varying credit (1 - 3 hours), as well as infusing service-learning within the existing curriculum,” said Lisa E. Hadley, associate professor of business administration for Southwest.

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The Corporation oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.
Southwest International Studies Participants Cross the Atlantic

The International Studies Department awarded scholarships to students for study-abroad in London and Belgium in conjunction with spring break, March 8–14. International Studies was established at Southwest to promote global experiences through various programs for students, faculty, and staff at the college. The department stresses that direct contacts and experiential learning in cultures other than one’s own are among the best ways to reach these goals.

“Southwest students were provided an opportunity for the first time this year to participate in courses with a 10-day study abroad component. During spring break, Finite Mathematics students went to Belgium, and Theatre Appreciation students went to London,” said Dr. Tamara McGolgan, director of the International Studies Department. “The students studying in Belgium were Dana Benjamin, Leslie Garrison, Felicia Hankins, Annette Isbell, Lindsey Rowland, Vernice Smith and Janice C. Taylor. The Students studying in London were Katrina Bryant, Lorrie Byars, Maria Centeno, Candace Edwards Lyner, Fredesma, Erickson Hall, Quianna Singleton, Lacie Williams, Chandra Wiseman and Frankie Worshy. Faculty and staff accompanying them were Levi Frazier, Evelyn Little and Deborah Frazier — all from the Fine Arts, Languages and Literature Department, and Kendall Gloster, DEIT Department (videographer).

Dr. McGolgan said two more groups will embark on study-abroad in May. Students studying social problems will participate in a service learning class in Macedonia, while other students studying diversity will go to Antigua.

Southwest’s 2009 Nursing Graduates Score 100 Percent Pass Rate on the National Council Licensure Exam

“Fifty-one 2009 Southwest nursing graduates successfully took the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), and all 51 passed on the first attempt, for a 100 percent pass rate. We are so proud of our students—of the nurses they have worked so hard to become,” reflected Mary Vines, department chair of nursing at Southwest Tennessee Community College.

Vines expressed pride in the graduates and in what they have accomplished. “These graduates and others that have gone before them are excellent representatives of Southwest and the nursing program.” She explained that passing the licensing exam is required before a nursing graduate can practice as a registered nurse.

A nursing program that consistently graduates classes of students who pass the NCLEX at a high 80 to upper 90 percent rate is considered an excellent program, Vines continued. “That is what we want Southwest has achieved and will strive to maintain.”

“Southwest’s 2009 Nursing Graduates Score 100 Percent Pass Rate on the National Council Licensure Exam”

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“In addition to meeting the rigorous certification standards and competing with hundreds of other highly qualified students in order to be accepted into the program, students prepare for this moment after two years of study in the program,” said Vines. She added that “the most important element in the education of our nurses is our faculty and staff. The nursing faculty and staff are available to assist the students in their progress through the program.”

“The nursing faculty are professionals. They are active in the community and maintain expertise in their areas. Our students benefit from the role models of their instructors as well as from their class and clinical lessons,” added Vines.

Vines stressed “Our students—our new nurses—are looking forward to the career they’ve worked so hard to attain. The faculty and staff are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the newly admitted nursing students and welcoming the returning seniors. This is an exciting time. And we are looking forward to the new facilities to be built in the future.”

Deborah Reed, assistant director for Minority Business Development in the Continuing Education and Community Partnerships Department, received the prestigious “Student of the Year” award from the University of Memphis. Presented by the Division of Public and Nonprofit Administration, the award recognizes outstanding achievement by a student in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree program. Award winners demonstrate outstanding academic ability in conjunction with a record of community service and demonstrated leadership skills.

Ron Gephart, associate professor of Speech and Theatre in the Department of Fine Arts, Languages and Literature, was awarded an Ostrander Award for Best Supporting Actor in a drama for his portrayal of “Thor” in the Theatre Memphis production of Morning’s at Seven. Morning’s at Seven received a total of nine nominations, the most for a Memphis drama production during the past season. It had 17 performances, many of them sold out or to full houses.

Brandon Jones, a Southwest information technology (IT) major, accepted the fourth Memphis Information Technology Exposition and Conference scholarship of $1,000 at the Memphis Information Technology Exposition and Conference. Imark Communications, the Portland, Oregon-based coordinating organization of ITEC, annually donates the scholarship to an outstanding information technology student. President Essex and Imark representatives made the award at the opening ceremony.

Expansion and Innovation

Enrollment at Southwest grew for the spring semester 2003 to more than 11,400 students, with the full-time student load up 15 percent over spring 2002. The number of first-time college students rose 18.6 percent, and the number of first-time freshmen was up 23.7 percent. The increase in spring enrollment was attributed largely to Southwest’s retention efforts.

Admissions, Records and Recruitment also implemented new tools to better serve students seeking to register or needing assistance. A new automated call distribution (ACD) system was introduced to better route student calls to the person best able to serve them. The increase in spring enrollment was attributed largely to Southwest’s retention efforts.

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The Tech Prep office awarded $60,000 in Tech Prep Grant funds to area school districts to implement tech prep strategies and components. This was the largest amount of Tech Prep grants awarded anywhere in the state. Houston High School’s marketing Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program was awarded a Tech Prep Local Education Agency (LEA) grant. Students developed a Tech Prep Marketing Kit for Shelby County Schools which won the state DECA Competition and competed nationally.

In April 2002, a feasibility study was conducted to determine if there was support within the community Office Administration. While the degrees were not new to the college, the fact that they are being offered online was. The Distance Education department also offered its first Summer Academy for Infusing Technology into the Classroom (later renamed Summer Institute) with 30 faculty attendees and five faculty presenters.

Community Relations and Marketing (now Communications and Marketing) coordinated the installation of three new LED messaging centers on the two main campuses. They also oversaw the creation of an interactive video recreation CD and a CD-ROM version of the 2004-05 catalog. The department produced the first edition of the Southwest Annual Report and the first Southwest Viewbook.

This period saw the launch of the college’s popular E-Print report printing system and also the colleges Magic Service Desk, which allowed faculty and staff to report service needs to Information Services and the Physical Plant. The Employee Self-Service system was also released. This system allows employees to view their personal and payroll information.

Continuing the college’s trend toward one-stop service integration, Information Services launched the college’s first student portal, My.Southwest, powered by SunGard’s Luminis. Initially, it was used to manage access to Student Self-Service, Faculty Self-Service, Employee Self-Service, WebCT, Magic, and eResearch Technology (ERES). Luminis also provided some other resources that included real-time personal and campus-wide announcements, e-mail for students (faculty and staff would still have Outlook), calendaring, and group and course collaboration tools.

Grants and Awards

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ceremonies, President Essex spoke about the college and the symbolism of the new flag. The flag is a representation of the unity that the college family strives for daily. It features the college logo emblazoned in full color on a white background with a blue border on top and a red border on the bottom. The school’s colors of red and blue make it a perfect complement to the U.S. flag and Tennessee state flag which fly on adjacent masts.

Not long after Dr. Essex articulated his vision for the college, Southwest was ranked as one of the leading two-year colleges in the nation for awarding associate degrees by Community College Week, a national publication that focuses on community colleges. In 2002, Southwest topped the list in the Science and Technology category by sharing a number one ranking with Cleveland State. Southwest ranked number 10 in the nation for awarding associate degrees in all disciplines to African Americans, and 55 overall in all disciplines for all minority students.

Southwest’s Emergency Medical Technology program incorporated two new trainers into its curriculum. The trainers are the Laerdal SimMan manikins. These breathing, speaking “trainers” are full-body manikins and are as close to a real human patient as a simulator can be. SimMan actually breathes and speaks to the ability to monitor Electrocardiogram (EKG), oxygen saturation, temperature, central venous pressures, arterial blood pressures, inspired and end tidal respiratory gases. Advancements include the ability to monitor Electrocardiogram (EKG), oxygen saturation, temperature, central venous pressures, arterial blood pressures, inspired and end tidal respiratory gases. SimMan has a unique patented airway that allows for intubations and multiple advanced life support skills. Advanced features include the ability to monitor Electrocardiogram (EKG), oxygen saturation, temperature, central venous pressures, arterial blood pressures, inspired and end tidal respiratory gases. The ability to monitor Electrocardiogram (EKG), oxygen saturation, temperature, central venous pressures, arterial blood pressures, inspired and end tidal respiratory gases. SimMan actually breathes and speaks to the ability to monitor Electrocardiogram (EKG), oxygen saturation, temperature, central venous pressures, arterial blood pressures, inspired and end tidal respiratory gases. SimMan has a unique patented airway that allows for intubations and multiple advanced life support skills.

Two other Southwest faculty members were appointed to editorial positions at educational publications. Arts and Sciences instructor Thad Cockrill was re-appointed editor of the Two-Year College English Association Southeast Journal, published by the Regional Executive Committee of the Two-Year College English Association-Southwest, published by the Regional Executive Committee of the Two-Year College English Association-Southwest. Dr. Indiren Pillay, associate professor in the Department of Natural Sciences, was appointed to the editorial committee of Focus on Microbiology Education - published by the American Society for Microbiology.

Nancy Daugherty, director of the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA), was recognized at a luncheon for eight years of dedicated service to the family child care community by the Memphis Family Child Care Association and Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton Jr. Mayor Wharton recognized her service by proclaiming May 17, 2003, Ms. Nancy Daugherty Day. Two other Southwest faculty members were appointed to editorial positions at educational publications. Arts and Sciences instructor Thad Cockrill was re-appointed editor of the Two-Year College English Association Southeast Journal, published by the Regional Executive Committee of the Two-Year College English Association-Southwest, published by the Regional Executive Committee of the Two-Year College English Association-Southwest. Dr. Indiren Pillay, associate professor in the Department of Natural Sciences, was appointed to the editorial committee of Focus on Microbiology Education - published by the American Society for Microbiology.

Southwest Tennessee Community College has been awarded a $250,000 donation from the Follett Higher Education Group. The contribution will go toward construction of the first phase of the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility scheduled to be built on the Union Avenue campus.

The donation was presented to Southwest President Nathan Essex, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert and Southwest Foundation Board Vice President Mary McDaniel at the Southwest Foundation quarterly board meeting. Beth Lucero, Regional Manager for Follett, is pleased to build upon the company’s 20-year history of contributing to the College. “Follett is proud to be partners with Southwest and we look forward to our continued joint mission to deliver the best possible bookstore to our students,” Lucero said. “We hope that these funds will help continue the educational mission for the school.”

The Southwest flag is raised.

Southwest Receives $250,000 from Follett Higher Education Group for the Proposed Nursing Facility

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The donation was presented to Southwest President Nathan Essex, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert and Southwest Foundation Board Vice President Mary McDaniel.

“The pledge of support from Follett is especially important as we strive to continue to impact our community and its residents,” said Southwest Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert. “We are pleased to call them our partners as we enable more of our residents to impact their community and families.”

Follett Corporation is a $2.7 billion, privately-held company that provides products, services and solutions to the educational marketplace. Follett Corporation was founded in 1873, and today is headquartered in River Grove, Illinois.

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Heidelberg Offers a Lucrative Apprenticeship Program to Southwest Students

Graduating from college is one of life’s greatest milestones. Graduating from college and starting a paid apprenticeship that will lead to a lasting, lucrative career must be very near the top of life’s greatest accomplishments. Heidelberg, the largest printing manufacturer in the world, offers Southwest’s mechanical and electrical program graduates just that opportunity. Heidelberg has partnered with Southwest to recruit students with strong mechanical and electrical skill sets into its Apprenticeship Program.

Heidelberg started manufacturing printing equipment 150 years ago, says Paul Cavanaugh, apprentice development program manager for the company. “I like to tell everybody that we are the ‘Microsoft’ of printing equipment,” said Cavanaugh. Heidelberg presses worldwide produce high-quality print products such as business cards, brochures, posters, and folding cartons. Cavanaugh explained, “These machines can be up to 150 feet long, and weigh in the neighborhood of 160 tons. The machines also represent some of the most sophisticated technology of any industry.”

The XL105, Heidelberg’s flagship machine, Cavanaugh pointed out, prints a sheet of paper that’s 29.5” x 41.3” wide every two-tenths of a second with up to 16 colors, in one pass, at speeds of 18,000 sheets per hour. “All of the colors have to match up with each other within a thousandth of an inch for every copy printed with no variance,” emphasized Cavanaugh. Heidelberg apprentices work on state-of-the-art, German-engineered printing equipment with some gear tolerances measured in microns – one millionth of a meter.

As a hobby, Cavanaugh drag-races motorcycles and finds it advantageous to seek out technical colleges to recruit students for Heidelberg’s Apprenticeship Program as he travels across the country participating in racing events. “Whenever I am drag-racing in an area, I try to find technical colleges that are near the track, so that I can stop by the schools and do some recruiting,” said Cavanaugh who drag-raced at the Memphis Motorsports Park until its recent closing. He went to Southwest’s Web site and contacted Brenda Williams, director of career services, to discuss Heidelberg’s Apprenticeship Program. “My main focus is to meet with the faculty and people like Brenda in order to develop a relationship with them so they know the type of student I am looking for,” said Cavanaugh.

The ideal candidate for the apprenticeship is a student with a mechanical aptitude. That would be the child that took apart toys and other mechanisms to see how they worked and had enough interest to pursue an engineering major or go to a technical college to further their mechanical aptitude. Cavanaugh says there is no school to teach individuals how to repair these sophisticated printing machines, so he recruits students who have a natural affinity for mechanics and electronics and trains them to work on Heidelberg’s machines.

The apprenticeship begins with a two-month comprehensive introduction at Heidelberg’s U.S. headquarters in Kennesaw, GA. At that time, apprentices learn the basics, according to Cavanaugh, with a beginning salary of roughly $33,000 plus benefits. Next, they return to their home region to work with experienced journeymen mentors for two to three years, progressing to $40,000 in salary. At the three-year mark, depending on their individual performances, Cavanaugh says they can go into the field with a base pay of $50,000 to $56,000.

“The Heidelberg Apprenticeship Program is an excellent opportunity for our technical graduates to work for the world’s leading supplier of integrated solutions for the print media industry. We are delighted to have quality organizations such as Heidelberg interested in recruiting Southwest graduates,” said Brenda Williams of Southwest.

In addition, Southwest took great pride in hosting the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) quarterly meeting in June of 2002.

Headlines around the world preceding the millennium predicted technological chaos, warning, “Beware Y2K...worms and germs will destroy computers as the century dawns.” Y2K, after generating a bit of hysteria, was soon gone. Southwest, arriving with little fanfare, is still growing and flourishing. It’s a 21st century educational institution committed to providing educational excellence and premiently destined to become the national model of educational success it has aspired to become from its beginning.

Unity and Expansion at Southwest: 2002 to 2004

By Justin McGregor

Two years after the consolidation that created Southwest, many of the ideas, systems, and traditions that have become part of everyday life at the college were still taking shape. Though the 2002-2003 school year started with a bit of a hiccup - the three-day furlough of 22,000 state employees - the college continued its pattern of growth and expansion into the community over the next two years. Over the course of those two years, much of the ground work which was started during the original consolidation discussions that formed Southwest came to fruition and the college truly came into its own, displaying the excellence in its faculty, staff and students for which the college has become known.

Honors and Accolades

Memphis Magazine, a vital source of information regarding local events, city news, and local businesses, named Southwest President, Dr. Nathan Essex, among its “Who’s Who: The Names - the Faces - Every Memphian Should Know.” In the magazine’s words, “For 19 years now, Memphis Magazine has measured influence by naming our annual ‘Who’s Who,’ a list of roughly 100 locals we like to describe as the Bluff City’s definitive movers, shakers, and major news-makers.” When interviewed about the honor, Dr. Essex took the opportunity to articulate his vision for the college.

“My vision for this college is to become the largest. We’re already the largest community college; I want us to become the largest higher education institute in this state. It’s not that I’m concerned with just being the largest. I’m concerned with why should we become the largest. In my view, if we are meeting the needs of the students, employers, and our community, then we’re going to grow,” said Essex. “I want the community to feel that this is their college. That’s my vision for this college. And we will do that by providing strong academic programs and strong support services to our students.”

Students waiting to be called to receive their degrees during Southwest’s Spring 2003 commencement.

Also during this time, a new symbol of the college was born to represent the new institution that became Southwest. The college designed a Southwest flag to be flown on the main staffs at both the Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses. During the first flag raising...
Instructors who utilized the pedagogy and reported on their presentations included Dr. Steve Katz, professor of English and Music; and Mary Ann Bodlaya, associate professor of History.

**Faculty, Staff, and Departmental Acclaudes**

The Liberal Studies and Education Division received the Greater Memphis Quality Level I Award. It was awarded to organizations that showed a commitment to Total Quality Management (TQM) principles and required an application evaluated by persons especially trained in TQM.

MaLinda Wade of Social Sciences was inducted into Indiana’s African-American History Hall of Fame for her contributions to the African-American community. She was recognized for her dedication to community service at large.

Patti Lechman, associate professor of Fine Arts, Languages and Literature, was honored with other artists whose work was chosen for the exhibition, “The Best of Tennessee Art.” Lechman’s piece was the second of her works in the collection.

Dr. Steve Katz, professor of English and music, represented the United States in the 12th International Competition for Outstanding Piano Amateurs at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. Dr. Katz performed his own suite.”

Joe Thweatt, professor of Developmental Studies, received the Continued Excellence Award for Advisors from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) at the honor society’s 2002 International Convention in Nashville. He was honored also for serving as an advisor for PTK for 20 years. He has also served many years as Tennessee’s regional coordinator. Southwest’s chapter was recognized at the Regional Conference with the Pinnacle Award for increasing its membership by 10 percent.

The U.S. Department of Labor honored Dr. Ralph Chumbley, executive director of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, for his leadership and work with Southwest Tennessee’s Local Workforce Investment Area #13 (LWIA #13). This recognized Southwest as a “best practice” in workforce development for the country and a national model; one of six sites to pilot a national Youth Council Network Demonstration Project.

**Service and Outreach**

More than 30 Southwest students have committed their time and talents to mentor and tutor seventh through ninth graders in several Memphis City Schools. GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) was a federal grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its vision required a commitment by all involved educators, parents, students, and area businesses to ensure that every disadvantaged child is properly prepared for admission to and graduation from an undergraduate program. Southwest was pleased to adopt Alton Elementary school.

Southwest’s campus child care program at the Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses received the Three Star Rating award from the State Department of Human Services Assessment Office, the highest possible rating. Mary Palmer, program director for both the campus child care programs, provided the leadership.

The Engineering Technologies Department, a member of the local Memphis Joint Engineers Council, participated in National Engineering Week-2001. The Macon Cove campus hosted a Student Engineering contest attracting more than 130 high school students. Professor Harry Nichols was recognized as “Featurer Engineer,” and Johnathan Williams, a student in the Chemical Engineering Technology program, was recognized as a “Featurer Engineering Technology Student.”

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**Southwest Holds Naming Ceremony for the Bert Bornblum Library**

The newly named Bert Bornblum Library resembled a holiday wonderland as relatives, friends, elected officials, and Southwest supporters and scholars gathered to honor longtime Southwest supporter and entrepreneur Bert Bornblum at the naming ceremony on December 1, 2009 for the recently built library on Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus. Vice President of Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert welcomed attendees emphasizing the value honorée Bert Bornblum places on wisdom and education.

Mary McDaniel, vice president of Materiel and Corporate Sourcing for FedEx Express, also addressed the group stressing the importance of philanthropy, saying without philanthropy our country would be “a little less friendly, a little colder, and a little crueler place to be. … Everyday because of selfless acts, lives are impacted. And those selfless acts occur individually, on a corporate level and on a foundation level.”

FedEx continues to contribute to its $2 million pledge toward the construction of a new Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology building for Southwest.

Also among those on the program was Regent John Farris of the Tennessee Board of Regents who outlined TBR policies regarding naming an institution in honor of someone. “The honor must be reserved for individuals of recognized accomplishments and character. … Tonight Bert Bornblum will join the ranks of esteemed individuals such as former college presidents and individuals such as Maxine Smith and others who have fought so passionately for education, and particularly higher education,” said Farris.

Southwest President Nathan Essex recognized Bornblum’s commitment to education and his selfless generosity in helping Southwest students achieve their educational pursuits. “Because of Bert’s generosity, our students are pursuing their hopes, their dreams and their aspirations for a brighter future,” said President Essex. He presented Bornblum with a marble plaque engraved with his image. In acceptance Bornblum said, “I am overwhelmed. … This is such a beautiful building, a beautiful place for education. I am sure; I am convinced that students, our students, are going to be very well educated.”

(left to right) Victor Feisal, Southwest Foundation board member; Mary McDaniel, Southwest Foundation Vice-President; Bert Bornblum, Southwest Foundation board member; Nathan L. Essex, Southwest President; John Farris, Esq., member Tennessee Board of Regents; Karen Nippert, Southwest Vice-President for Institutional Advancement; Brandon Leake, Autozone Scholar recipient
CREST All-Day Seminar Gives Criminal Justice Students an Overview of FBI Careers

About 100 Criminal Justice Studies majors participated all day on April 16 in the Farris Auditorium, according to Assistant Professor Elizabeth Lawrence of Social Behavioral Sciences in describing the FBI Memphis Division Community Relations Executive Seminar Training (CREST) hosted by the Criminal Justice Department at Southwest.

“The training lasted most of the day, and by the end of it, most of the students were about to decide their ultimate goal is to become a special agent for the FBI,” Lawrence said. The training, led by Regional FBI Director My Harrison, focused on law enforcement investigations conducted by each special agent in the office, presenting detailed descriptions of the work they do. The students responded with many pertinent questions as to what they need to do to ultimately fill such positions.

“Students got excellent answers and good career advice,” Lawrence noted. “It was an inspiring experience for our students,” she said. Harrison told some of her personal experiences in police work, from when she started in her hometown as a “meter maid” – she was too young when she finished high school to qualify for other positions. Harrison personally presented all the students with their certificates of completion at the end of the day.

The CREST training was previously offered in the fall by the Campus Police Services/Public Safety Department with Director James Bolden. It included an overview of the FBI’s jurisdiction, with a discussion of issues relating to the community. It covered such topics as criminal enterprise, violent crime investigation, white collar crime, civil rights, hate crime, human trafficking, public corruption, and terrorism investigation. Plans are being made to have the FBI return to provide education for new Criminal Justice majors in the fall semester.

Students learned about career opportunities with the FBI. Criminal Justice Students attending the CREST seminar.

Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation was chartered and new bylaws and policies/procedures for operation were developed; and the college’s Blueprint for the Future was printed and distributed to all faculty and staff as well as legislators, foundation board members and various community leaders and groups. Southwest also launched several initiatives to expand internal and external communications; the Southwest SCOOP, a weekly electronic newsletter for faculty and staff was launched on the college’s intranet; the new Southwest Alumni Association prepared their first newsletter and developed their constitution; and the Southwest Foundation sponsored “An Evening With the Redbirds” for faculty, staff and their guests. The event was attended by almost 400 employees who took the opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. The newly developed Southwest Foundation achieved its first donations during the period from 2000-2002. The contributions by individuals and corporations assisted the college’s Institutional Advancement division in raising a total of $1,202,611 received in cash, securities, and in-kind donations.

Greater Facilities, Growing Programs

Upgrades were needed throughout the college. A Five-Year Plan was developed and implemented including the development of a campus signage system. In addition, landscaping and sidewalk replacements were implemented on our Macon Cove and Union Avenue Campuses, plus irrigation system improvements were installed on the Macon Cove Campus.

The City as Text, adaptable students to “mine” their own environments – course listings – for study topics. The City as Text, adaptable to all themes and topics and offering virtually endless listings – for study topics. The City as Text, adaptable to all themes and topics and offering virtually endless technology to complete their degrees. Three Regents Online Degrees are presently offered: the Associate of Applied Science in Professional Studies, Concentration in Information Technology; and the Associate of Arts or the Associate of Science in General Studies.

Faculty members met to determine how to employ City as Text® pedagogy in their classes for Honors studies. Developed by the National Collegiate Honors Council (of which Southwest is a member), it encourages students to “mine” their own environments – course listings – for study topics. The City as Text, adaptable to all themes and topics and offering virtually endless Honors-level learning experiences, can be expected to become a permanent and important pedagogy in the Honors program. After visiting several Memphis historic and cultural sites, they gathered with Clarene Christian, director of the Honors Academy, to explore ways to implement the pedagogy in their classes.

Southwest acquired the Federal Express Training Center on Director’s Row off Airways Boulevard, as a replacement for the existing Whitehaven Center on Neely Road. This facility was “ideally designed to offer quality educational opportunities for our students,” according to President Nathan Essex.

Southwest greatly expanded the scope of its Distance Education program by offering the Tennessee Board of Regents Online Degree Program (RODP) beginning in Fall 2001. Designed as the program of choice for students who cannot attend classes on campus, RODP allows students to take advantage of technology to complete their degrees. The three Regents Online Degrees are presently offered: the Associate of Applied Science in Professional Studies, Concentration in Information Technology; and the Associate of Arts or the Associate of Science in General Studies.

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Southwest Tennessee Community College  
– A New Institution for the 21st Century  
2000-2002

By Pat O’Brien

At the advent of the 21st century, a dream and an ideal long entertained became the reality that is Southwest Tennessee Community College. Southwest is a public educational institution in Memphis, Tennessee, a city of more than one million people, located on the banks of the Mississippi River. As a comprehensive, multi-cultural college, Southwest offers the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, the Associate of Applied Science degrees, and technical certificate programs. From its inception, Southwest has grown and thrived on its way to fulfilling its vision “to become the college of choice and a national model for technical, career, and transfer education by fostering student success, transforming lives, and strengthening the diverse community.”

The history of Southwest – like all history – is a growing, changing phenomenon, never static, though parts of it remain the same for long periods and change only slowly as life and history grow around it, through it and with it. Indeed, as we write our history, we are continually changing it, replacing the new with the newer, as ideas and technology create new possibilities.

In 2000, with vision and mission in place, two successful Memphis educational institutions with histories of their own set new goals and a new course, to blend the facilities, staff, programs and goals of Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis to become “the Community’s College… now Your Best Choice.” What you are reading here, excerpted from archives including newsletters and other informational pieces, are activities and events that were seen and documented. What is here mostly by implication is the involvement of people who began Southwest in 2000 and some are still here today, still building. With their dedication and that of others who have joined us and have contributed, Southwest’s history continues.

Priority: Accreditation, Leadership
Both legacy colleges were accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). For Southwest to be accredited, a prospectus for a substantive change was submitted in April 2000, establishing criteria for accreditation, and approved by SACS. The next step was the SACS visit in February 2001 to determine how much had been accomplished in terms of what the prospectus promised. The visiting team reviewed documents, talked with key personnel, read reports, evaluated the institution, and then submitted a report with suggestions or recommendations for improvement. Accreditation is crucial to the success of Southwest. Without it, the college will have difficulty attracting students or competing with other colleges within the state.

December 2000: A position description for the presidency of the college was approved with a formal screening process to begin in March and an anticipated appointment by July 2001.

January 2001: Three applicants named as finalists, including Dr. Nathan L. Essex, interim president, on leave from a position as a dean at The University of Memphis.

June 2001: Dr. Nathan Essex was appointed permanent president of Southwest Tennessee Community College on June 7, 2001, by a unanimous vote of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Institutional Firsts
New organizations always have developments that could be considered as first-time accomplishments. Southwest was no exception. The college seal was developed and approved for official use; the new

Kudos

Three Acclaimed for Their Accomplishments and Service to the College

Lisa Jones - Farris Award
A dynamo with a twinkle in the eyes and a relaxed – but determined – approach to students – timid or brash dual-enrolled teens, apprehensive, older-than-ordinary returnees, and anyone in between: Meet Lisa Jones, associate professor and program director of Electrical Engineering in Southwest’s Engineering Technologies Department, and recipient of the 2010 Farris Faculty Service Award.

An impressive working background in engineering backs up her academic credentials – two degrees in electrical engineering: a bachelor’s from the University of Memphis and a master’s from Georgia Tech – the master’s fully financed by Bell Labs (now AT&T), because they required it for her employment. Her professional experience took her all over the world: Thompson Consumer Electronics, and HDTV and HD projection projects jointly with Hitachi in Yokohama, Japan.

Among successful initiatives since her arrival at Southwest in 2002, Jones spearheads the dual-enrollment program for high school students. Her efforts brought a grant from Hewlett Packard to fund tablet personal computers to teach engineering, and she uses a Tennessee Valley Authority grant to pay for tuition and books for dually-enrolled high school students.

Probably her most valuable contribution, to younger students especially – many of whom become their families’ first generation of college graduates – is encouragement. The words that echo from students over and over again, “I hadn’t really considered college; now I see that I can do it!” are music to her ears. Jones is teaching them a lot more than skills in electronics; she is teaching them that they can, by their own efforts, change their entire lives for the better.

Dr. Nevin Robbins - Spirit Award

“It is an amazing honor to me to have received the Jim Willis Spirit Award. I suppose I had seen it more as recognizing those wonderful individuals who represent the college so well in the public eye, and take so gracefully the heat of the spotlight.”

Dr. Nevin Robbins, executive director of Planning and Analysis, tends to see himself differently; more a “behind the scenes” administrator, helping the departments of the college work successfully. “I’m very task-oriented,” he remarked. “I identify closely with a business I once saw: the ‘Git-R-Done Shop.’ That’s my job.”

Robbins has been with the college since 1982, always working in such strategic areas as institutional research, planning, institutional effectiveness, accreditation, performance funding, and academic program re-
Mary H. McDaniel, FedEx Express vice president of Aircraft Materiel, recently received national recognition in Atlanta at the Annual Trumpet Awards, saluting persons who have achieved significant success in a variety of fields, including business, medicine, philanthropy, law, and the arts. Honorees are reportedly viewed not only for what they have individually achieved but also for the achievement they inspire in others. McDaniel was honored during a special segment of the national program called “High Heels in High Places,” which highlighted the accomplishments of African-American women in the business world. Other national honorees include Gloria Reed Austin, co-founder of the National Cowboys of Color Museum; Toni Judkins, senior vice president of TV One; Brooke Jackson Edmond, senior vice president of Jackmont Hospitality, Inc. (and daughter of the late Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson); and other exceptional women achievers. McDaniel’s career with FedEx spans 30 years and she now manages aircraft parts inventory and technical support for the FedEx global fleet. An alumna of Southwest Tennessee Community College, she serves as vice chair of the Foundation Board for Southwest.

Dr. Steve Ballard - Alumnus of the Year

Dr. Steve Ballard has consistently been an active supporter of the college as an alumnus, as a representative in the community and as a supporter of the institution’s financial goals. He has always been generous in giving his time and personal attention to activities helpful to the students and the college.

As a U.S. Army reservist, he displayed his commitment to service by providing dental care as a member of the 380th Medical Company while stationed in Iraq in 2004. Upon his return, he opened the Ballard Family Dentistry with his wife, Brenda, in 2008. In 2010, Dr. Ballard and his wife established the Dr. and Mrs. Steve Ballard Endowed Scholarship to assist Southwest students with their tuition. He is currently a Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation Board member.

Dr. Ballard has recently been appointed as an associate professor of medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.”

Dr. Steve Ballard - Alumnus of the Year

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Trumpet Awards Tap Mary McDaniell

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As we reflect on the past ten years, we do so with a great deal of pride regarding the College’s accomplishments. First and foremost, a new identity has been established around a set of institutional values. Student success and academic excellence have increasingly become the focus of our efforts during the past decade. The College has experienced notable enrollment growth based on a highly talented and nurturing faculty, a customer service oriented staff, and our focus on anticipating and responding to the educational needs of students, employers, and our communities in Shelby and Fayette Counties. Articulation agreements have been established with all local four-year institutions including a Partnership Enrollment Program with The University of Memphis where students are simultaneously admitted to both institutions upon entering Southwest. Articulation agreements have also been established with MTSU, UT Knoxville as well as other four-year institutions across the state.

Southwest has become the College of choice and a national model with a number of programs receiving national recognition. Our Nursing Program continues to excel with an average pass rate of 95.5% on the National Council Licensure Exam. In 2009, fifty-one of our Nursing students earned a 100% pass rate. The College’s Developmental Studies Program earned national accreditation and is only one of two nationally accredited programs among TBR institutions. Our Honors Program has received national acclaim and has served as host to the National Honors Society’s Conference held in Memphis. The College’s Culinary Arts and Marketing Programs have also received national recognition as well as Science Technology Programs. Service learning and civic engagement have become an integral component of the College’s curriculum. Southwest has been named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Selection to the Honor Roll recognizes the highest levels of the Federal Government for the College’s commitment to service and civic engagement. The Community College Week recognized Southwest nationally as 30th in the nation in awarding associate degrees to African Americans; 40th in the nation in awarding associate degrees in Technology and 40th in the nation for the top 50 fastest growing public two-year colleges of enrollment of 10,000 or higher. This recognition is significant considering that there are 1,287 community colleges across the nation.

With respect to the workforce, Southwest was the first community college in the state to establish a division of Workforce Development through which multiple partnerships have been established with organizations such as Federal Express, Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW), Smith & Nephew, Cisco Systems, Cook Industries, Accredo, and Federal Bureau of Prisons among others. The focus of our efforts revolves around improving the quality of life and enhancing economic growth and development within the community and region.

Over 90% of Southwest’s graduates of career degree and certificate programs have been employed in their field of study throughout the Memphis area workforce. Southwest’s major contribution to the Mid-South area has been highlighted in two recent economic impact studies. One study found that Southwest degree graduates gained more than $550,000 in lifetime earnings over the earnings of students who completed high school only. Additionally, families of those college graduates also gained better health, longer life expectancy, a longer earnings capacity, and improved quality of life. A second study in 2009 revealed that Southwest contributed $794 million directly and indirectly to the local economy and affected over 20,000 jobs throughout the community.

Dr. Robert J. Walker, chair of the Department of Education at Southwest Tennessee Community College, received the President’s Volunteer Service award for outstanding work as a volunteer teacher-trainer of new college teachers at Debre Birhan University in Ethiopia, Africa. It is granted to individuals who volunteer at least 100 hours in a given year. Dr. Walker was nominated by the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help.

The award consists of a lapel pin, a personal certificate, a letter from Jean Case, chair of the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, and a letter from President Barack Obama. In her congratulatory letter, Case said, “This … recognizes your dedication to your student service and signifies that you have served your community and your country with distinction. … You demonstrate values that make our nation strong and build a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility in America.”

Mary Palmer, director of Child Care Centers for Southwest Tennessee Community College, received the Stand for Children and United Way of Tennessee’s Children’s Champion, Early Learning Pioneer Award in Nashville on February 16. Palmer is the first ever recipient of the award, which now will be presented annually. It was created as a way of honoring her life’s work with children, according to the Stand for Children office in Memphis, TN. Palmer, a doctoral candidate at the University of Memphis, has given more than 30 years service to the Campus Child Care Centers at Southwest, where she manages more than 60 staff members, including student workers and volunteer grandmothers, and has 200 children enrolled in the programs on two campuses. She is active in the local Association for the Education of Young Children and Stand for Children, and she consistently lends her voice to serve as an advocate for children. Stand for Children is an innovative, grassroots child advocacy organization whose mission is to use the power of grassroots action to help all children get the excellent public education and strong support they need to thrive. The organizers believe that all children can learn and that communities must work to ensure that all children have access to high quality education and effective teaching from birth.

Mary Palmer ([center]) graciously receives the Early Learning Pioneer, Children’s Champion Award, during a ceremony in Nashville.
Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department Wins NCMPR National and Regional Awards

The National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) announced Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department as the winner of a Silver Paragon Award in the College Video Program category for the “Southwest Now”- February 2009 TV Show during its national awards ceremony on March 16 in Albuquerque, NM.

NCMPR Executive Director Becky Olson indicated this year more than 75 judges from across the country reviewed over 1,700 entries in this annual competition that recognizes excellence in communications exclusively among two-year colleges.

The Communications and Marketing Department also won silver and bronze in several categories at the 2009 NCMPR District 2 Medallion Awards last fall. The NCMPR District 2 Medallion Awards recognizes outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges and is the only regional competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.

Clarence Christian Receives the Carter G. Woodson Award

The Honors Academy awarded its coveted Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit to Clarence Christian, founder and former director of the Honors Academy, on February 16 in the theater on the Union Avenue Campus. Christian was recognized for the tremendous legacy he has made in founding the Southwest Honors Academy and his influence on students, as well as his life’s work as a civic scholar. The Honors Academy, founded through Christian’s efforts in 1996, was one of the first in the nation to be approved at a two-year college. The Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit Ceremony, also established by Christian in 1988, has been a signature event at Southwest for more than 20 years and has been a part of the college’s involvement in the national celebration of African-American History Month. Every year, the ceremony brings individuals of note to Southwest, and the students gain much from this “out-of-class” lyceum experience.

Clarence Christian

In this issue...
You’ll receive one-on-one advising, career counseling, and financial aid assistance.

- Over 100 associate degrees, certificates, programs and continuing education opportunities are available.
- Southwest is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- Affordable tuition – just over half the cost of your average state university.
- Financial options are available.
- Multiple locations conveniently located throughout the Memphis area.
- Experienced faculty in a nurturing environment with personalized attention.
- Smaller campus classes.
- Split (hybrid) courses…work 50% in class/50% online.
- Flexible class schedules to fit your needs.
- Transferable classes to a four-year university.
- On-campus child care is available.
- High-demand technical certificates for only a year of study.
New State-of-the-Art Academic Building Opens

Congratulations to the Class of 2010

Visit our website at www.southwest.tn.edu
Your Best Choice!

New Academic Building Open House, Macon Cove Campus

Congratualtions to the Class of 2010
New State-of-the-Art Academic Building Opens