Congratulations Class of 2014

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Bridges Out of Poverty Workshops Shed Light on the Hidden Rules of Class
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We welcome your comments and/or suggestions for future articles. Please forward inquiries to Robert G. Miller, publisher and editor, via e-mail to: rgmiller1@southwest.tn.edu...or call him in Southwest's Communications and Marketing Department at (901) 333-4368.

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The College continues its focus on student retention, graduation and workforce development through the implementation of a number of initiatives designed to increase student retention and graduation outcomes and workforce demands. Southwest has implemented the following initiatives:

**Project M.O.S.T (Men of Southwest Tennessee CC)**
Implemented in March, 2012, Project M.O.S.T. is designed to improve the recruitment and retention of African-American male students at Southwest. The program currently serves approximately 354 African American males (representing an increase of approximately 300%), and the fall-to-fall retention rate of M.O.S.T. participants is 74.5%.

**Southwest’s Learning Support**
Learning Support is designed for students who test below college level in reading, writing and mathematics. The program incorporates a diagnostic-prescriptive approach, which allows students to work only in the skill areas in which they are deficient, and upon demonstrating mastery, the student moves to the next set of skills in the modularized programs. The open-exit feature of the program allows students to exit the program early and move to the sequential college-level course. Beginning in 2015, learning support will be incorporated into regular classes whereby students are able to progress and receive academic credits.

**PROUD (Positioned to Receive an Outstanding Undergraduate Degree)**
PROUD, a newly launched retention initiative offers support services to currently enrolled HOPE Scholarship recipients. This program is designed for non-traditional students, recruits and other qualifying students who apply for the scholarship. Targeted toward adult students, PROUD also addresses the ongoing partnership with PeopleFirst to reclaim and graduate adult students with some college credit.

**LEAP (Learning Early Academic Program)**
Learning Early Academic Program (LEAP), is designed for students who require remediation at the pre-high school level (ACT scores under 13), before moving to Learning Support. Upon demonstration of mastery of the basic skills of reading, writing, and/or mathematics, students may enroll in the open-entry Learning Support program.

**Southwest Summer Bridge Program**
The Southwest Summer Bridge Program features a three-week intensive program, which serves as an introduction to college for high school graduates who plan to attend Southwest the following term. The program prepares selected incoming students whose ACT or COMPASS scores indicate a need for remediation in reading, writing, and/or math for academic success. The primary goal of the program is to provide an opportunity for students to acquire the skills needed to retest and improve placement.

**Structured Learning Communities**
At Southwest, structured learning communities (SLC) provide opportunities for students to attend classes together, study in groups, and work collaboratively on class projects. Participating in SLC, students become acquainted with their classmates, establish relationships with their professors, and receive enhanced advising and tutorial assistance. Students also participate in a number of activities outside of the classroom, which positively promote academic success. Structured learning experiences will be expanded during the 2014-15 academic year.
Cohort Groups
Established as one form of learning communities, Cohorts are groups of students enrolled in a common program of study and/or specialized program. Student Success is fostered through team meetings, pre-set classes, block scheduling, intrusive advising, peer group support, faculty collaboration, and in some programs, lock-step progression through program completion. The Cohort concept will be expanded during the 2014-15 academic year.

Academic Student Success
Academic Student Success provides an orientation to the college environment and acquaints students with study skills, prepares them to integrate traditional study skills with college content areas, and emphasizes the academic skills necessary for success in the college setting. Students develop knowledge of the college resources and services, acquire the ability to use technology as a student resource, and develop problem-solving and decision-making skills.

SMARTS (Southwest Mentors Advancing Retention, Teamwork, and Success)
The SMARTS program is designed to develop supportive relationships between faculty/staff and students to provide campus advocates, resource information, guidance and problem-solving methods in order to encourage students to advance toward completion of a certificate or degree and ultimately enter a career of choice.

Mandatory Advising
Professional advisors and faculty advisors serve as resources to students, guiding them in the selection of programs of study/careers, selection of courses each semester, and eventually, guiding them through the graduation process.

Academic Support/Tutoring
The Academic Support Center (ASC) provides services and resources for students to assist them to successfully reach their academic and career goals. These include tutoring, open computer labs, and auxiliary course materials (video tapes, DVDs, textbooks, etc.).

Academic Intervention Management (AIM)
The office of Academic Intervention Management provides support to students who have been placed on academic and financial aid probation and/or suspension. A case management approach is used to guide and counsel students, assisting them in getting on track to regain satisfactory academic progress. Additionally students are not permitted to drop classes without approval of the subject matter faculty member.

Early Alert/Early Intervention
The offices of Academic Intervention Management and Retention and Graduation support the Early Alert/Early Intervention program. Faculty members generate and submit reports to these offices when students incur problems related to attendance and/or academic performance. Both offices assist in referring students to the appropriate resources (i.e., tutoring, advising, social agencies), for academic and non-academic support to improve classroom performance.

Student Success Center
The Student Success Center provides intrusive counseling and intervention strategies to Southwest Tennessee Community College’s students who earn a semester grade point average below 2.0 and students who have received a financial aid warning. Students will meet routinely with their designated counselor to identify and resolve barriers to their academic success. Students will be required to actively participate in the development of personal and academic goals, utilize campus and community resources necessary to achieve and/or enhance academic success in the classroom. The goal is to ensure that 70% of the students earn a 2.5 semester grade point average. The SSC provides the following services as intervention strategies:
- Proactive advising/mentoring
- Life skills training
- College Success Seminars/workshops
- Information regarding college and community resources
- Coordination with faculty and departments for the success of students
- Assist students in formulating personal and educational goals
**International Studies Scholarships**

In a recent development, International Studies has initiated a program for students with a financial hardship to participate in study abroad programs. Students who have been accepted to a study abroad program and meet financial hardship criteria are provided the opportunity to work within the International Studies Department to fulfill their financial obligation. No student is turned away from participating in a study abroad experience due to financial hardship.

**Partnerships**

Southwest is pursuing a number of new partnerships designed to improve educational attainment as well as support for deserving students who are aspiring to earn a degree. The College is partnering with Workforce Investment Network (WIN) to offer a GED Program for citizens residing in Foote Homes and Claiborne Homes. The intent is to encourage these students to pursue a technical certificate or an associate’s degree upon completion of the GED.

Southwest plans to partner with Goodwill, Inc. to develop a charter school for adult learners to assist them in earning a high school diploma. The goal is to create a seamless path toward earning an associate’s degree or technical certificate at Southwest.

Southwest is partnering with SEEDCO to provide GED preparation, certificate and degree opportunities for adult students. Case managers, books, transportation and childcare will be provided to adults participating in this program. The College has entered into a partnership with the Chickasaw Council Boy Scouts of America to enhance its Learning for Life Educational Program. This program is a character education program designed to improve a school’s campus culture through the use of flexible, grade specific lessons and age appropriate activities for children in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

Southwest is working with Explorer Posts through fire departments in Germantown, Shelby County and Memphis to establish EMT Dual Enrollment Programs to prepare high school students for careers as Emergency Medical Technicians. Lastly, Southwest plans to partner with Memphis Union Mission to provide transitional housing for homeless male students as well as assistance with bus passes.

**Workforce Development – Industrial Readiness Program**

Southwest has become a leader in workforce development through its Industrial Readiness Program. The Industrial Readiness Training Program continues to be a beacon of hope for businesses and industry within the Greater Memphis Area. Since the inception of the IRT program in January 2012, thirty-five classes have been conducted and more than 778 residents have been trained from the Memphis area. Over 70% of the graduates completing IRT in 2012 and 2013 were presented with a livable wage job offer. The job offer or active interview rate for 2014 is over 80%. Successful graduates from the program have been employed by companies such as Blues City Brewery, Bryce Corporation, Cargill, ConAgra Foods, DuPont/Solae, Electrolux, Kruger Tissue Group, Mitsubishi Electric, Riviana Foods, Smith & Nephew, and Unilever. Southwest is working with several new companies seeking IRT graduates, such as McLane Distribution, Nike, Lifeworks Solar.

The documented success of the IRT Program has assisted Southwest in securing three federal grants and expanding our ability to serve students in advanced manufacturing, logistics and medical devices training. These programs will consist of stackable credentials that lead to an associate degree. The grants will also allow Southwest to prepare these students for high-paying, high demand, technical careers.

The IRT model initiated at Southwest has been shared with other two year colleges such as Mount Wachusett (Massachusetts), Bossier Parish (Louisiana), North Central State (Ohio), and several Tennessee colleges are now developing IRT programs. Along with these colleges, many chambers of commerce and businesses have expressed interest in having the training initiated in their communities.
Southwest expects to capitalize on the success of the training even further by developing a three credit hour IRT course with implementation slated for fall 2014.

Additionally, Southwest Tennessee Community College and West Memphis-based Mid-South Community College have formed a partnership to create the Mid-South Manufacturing/Distribution Training and Education Institute. The partnership will allow the schools to create programs that provide potential employees for existing and future employers in the region with advanced manufacturing training designed to fit their needs. By establishing regional common programs aligned with employer requirements, faculty, equipment and resources can be efficiently shared in responding effectively to the region's workforce needs.

Mid-South and Southwest will share facilities, equipment and faculty to provide the training for students, who will receive degrees or certifications upon completion of the courses. The two schools are currently working to determine a “road map” of how the institute will function. However, both schools are planning to submit a proposal for up to $25 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Labor for workforce development projects. The grant could involve other community and technical schools in the region, as well the University of Memphis.

The partnership also will involve the Greater Memphis Chamber’s Chairman’s Circle, a group of more than 100 business leaders whose mission includes improving skill levels of the workforce in advanced manufacturing.

Through these collective efforts, Southwest will continue to make strides in achieving its mission of responding to the educational needs of students, employers, our community and the surrounding Mid-South region.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Former NBA Head Coach Lionel Hollins Urged Southwest Graduates to Persevere With “Grit and Grind”

With heads held high, 1,677 candidates marched triumphantly across the stage of the Landers Center in Desoto County, Mississippi, to receive hard earned Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Science in Teaching, Associate of Applied Science Degrees, and certificates during the Southwest Tennessee Community College 2014 Commencement Ceremony on May 3. Briefly recalling a childhood of tattered clothing and living on a street he called the “arm pit” of the glittering lights of Las Vegas, Southwest’s 2014 Commencement Speaker, former NBA Head Coach Lionel Hollins, never imagined the path his life would take. He told the graduates that you can’t change your past, but you can determine your future. “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world,” said Hollins, quoting Nelson Mandela. “But, I believe you can change yourself,” he stated. Following an uplifting message on hope, giving and volunteerism, Hollins told Southwest graduates if they’re to persevere, it will take a lot of “grit and grind.”

“We are champions,” Student Commencement Speaker Kurt Fritjofson proclaimed to his fellow classmates. “We will all enter the community as leaders. It is up to us to decide whether we shall improve on the community built by those who came before us. We dare not disappoint,” Fritjofson challenged the 2014 graduates.

Besides weathering the storms and challenges students face while earning their degrees, a special few overcame formidable odds to reach this landmark. “Marden, a 19th century motivationist wrote ‘Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds,’” said President Essex as he introduced the following:

- Shawanda Barbee, a resident of Tipton County (where there is no public transportation) paid enormous fees, and on numerous occasions, stayed overnight in order get to class on time the next day. Barbee earned an Associate of Science Degree in General Studies with a 3.17 GPA.

Lionel Hollins encourages graduates to give to others
• Mallory Windham, a single parent who worked two jobs, encountered numerous health challenges including spinal surgery. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Windham earned an Associate of Science Degree, in Business Administration with a 3.71 GPA.
• Russell Jones, who lost his eyesight in 2005 at the age of 48, returned to college in 2012 to graduate with an Associate of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with a GPA of 3.05.
• Dontae Saine persisted, despite setbacks from sickle cell disease, to earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Computer Technology.
• Brandon Carmichael, dually enrolled in Southwest and Millington Central High School, earned a Technical Certificate in Electrical/Electronic Fundamentals, in addition to a high school diploma from Millington Central.

President Essex recognized Jessica L. Banks, as she graduated posthumously with an Associate of Science Degree in General Studies following her recent death. Banks was a member of the Campus Activity Board, the Southwest Leadership Institute and the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature Team.

Recognition was given to members of Southwest staff who earned degrees; additionally, United States veterans were honored.

• 97 percent of 2012-2013 Southwest Tennessee Community College graduates are employed.
• Nursing students’ National Council Licensure Exam 100 percent pass rate for 2012, 2010 and 2009
• Southwest has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.
• Innovative Industrial Readiness Training (IRT) program has trained hundreds of unemployed and/or underemployed participants, and assisted them in acquiring employment with several major manufacturers. It has received national recognition and provides state-wide leadership in industrial training.
• State-of-the-art facilities with 21st century technologies
• Received re-accreditation of several programs: Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT); Phlebotomy (PLT); Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); and the Pharmacy Technician Program received the initial accreditation
• Awarded nearly $10 million in federal and state workforce-development grants in 2013
• Southwest recognized on the list of 80 EMT programs with high ROI/highest degree value in the nation
• Southwest named to the 2013-2014 list of The Best Online Early Childhood Education Degree Programs
• Received an “A” on the American School Search Safety Report, indicating the college experiences no significant crime problems
• Recipient of numerous international, national and regional competitive awards for communications and marketing excellence
• Many Southwest alumni are successful leaders—(Dr. Randy McPherson, National School Counselor of the Year; Linda Chism, Director of Training and Development at the MED; Gordon Lintz, President and CAO of Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System; Alfred Chung, VP of Operations Grace Medical; and Dorsey Hopson, Superintendent of Shelby County Schools).

Compiled in 2013-2014
The month of March was designated as Women’s History Month by Congress in 1987. In celebration, the Business and Legal Studies Department, Criminal Justice Program hosted the 2nd Annual Criminal Justice Professionals: A Woman’s Perspective breakfast on March 22 on the Union Avenue Campus, and March 26 on the Macon Cove Campus.

The Southwest Scoop interviewed Patricia Nunally, adjunct instructor, who spearheaded the event.

Scoop: What was the purpose of the seminar?
Nunally: The purpose was to expose students to the various career opportunities within criminal justice from a woman’s perspective, while celebrating Women’s History Month.

Scoop: Who were the panelists?
Nunally: The panelists were:
- Judge Earnestine Dorse, City Court Judge
- Muriel Malone, Assistant District Attorney General
- Cathy Anderson, Assistant Public Defender
- Phyllis Sheppard, Deputy Director General Session Court, Criminal Division
- Tausha Mitchell, Associate Warden, Mark Luttrell Correctional Center
- Karen Farmer, Administrative Lieutenant, Mark Luttrell Correctional Center
- Dorothea Edwards, District Victim Impact Coordinator
- Major Lezley Currin, Memphis Police Department and Southwest Police Department

Scoop: Why did you select the specific panelists?
Nunally: The panelists were randomly selected because they represented the three components (law enforcement, courts, and corrections) of criminal justice and were gracious enough to attend with short notice.

Scoop: What is your position on women in the legal profession; are they underrepresented?
Nunally: I think women are making great strides in the field, however, we are still lagging behind in representation. When I checked the latest U.S. Census Report, 2010 (Released March 27, 2014), women made up 50.8 percent of the overall population. However, we make up less than the national average in the various occupations. For example, in 2012, women comprised 33.1 percent of all lawyers; 27.2 percent of correctional officers and 13.4 percent of police patrol officers (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Scoop: What did you want the attendants to learn from this seminar?
Nunally: I wanted the female attendants to learn that there are various criminal justice positions available to them. ...So no matter where you start, you can move through the ranks as a female. .... I think the seminar gave the males an opportunity to think that ‘this could be my mom, wife, sister, and some day my daughter; therefore, I should support and encourage gender diversity in the workplace.’

Scoop: You seem to have a passion for education and training others; what motivates you?
Nunally: I have a genuine love for learning and I want to share that love with others. In addition, I think that the more you know, the more you should freely share information with others to help improve their lives, your community, and yourself.

Other organizers of the event were Joanitha Barnes and Aimee’ Burgdorf, also instructors of the Business and Legal Studies Department, Criminal Justice Program at Southwest.
Southwest’s Creative Writing Course Grows in Popularity

The Department of Languages and Literature has been making efforts to promote its Creative Writing course, and it appears these efforts have begun to pay off. Last fall, faculty members posted flyers and made announcements in English classes, and Stephen Dufrechou, who teaches the Creative Writing course at the Macon Cove Campus, advocated for the course at Southwest’s “Coffeehouse” open-mike night.

This semester, Dufrechou says his class is overflowing. “The course topped off, but another student wanted in with such enthusiasm that the department chair made an exception.” Dufrechou says he was happy to include the extra student. “The more people interested in this, the better.”

Additionally, advisors have begun to contact Dufrechou on behalf of their own students, requesting information about the course. This semester’s class includes a diverse array of students from all quarters of the community and many walks of life, including a former history teacher, an army veteran, and a musician. The age range runs the gamut from 19 to early 60s.

“Students in the Creative Writing course, ENGL 2118, study three genres of writing: fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry. There is an emphasis on understanding the “form” of a given work, or rather, understanding how a work is structured and how each aspect of a work serves to make the whole. The theory: if you know what goes into good writing, you’ll avoid cranking out the bad. Students also compose original manuscripts of their own. These manuscripts are peer-reviewed in a workshop environment.

Students who have taken the course report having positive experiences. Nadina Medlin is currently enrolled in the course. When asked if the class has benefited her, Medlin says, “It has given me more confidence in my writing. It also greatly increased my reading pleasure. I understand better how stories work, and that insight makes me better appreciate them.”

Susanna Brown, a student in the first creative writing class offered at the College, earned her Associate of Arts degree at Southwest (summa cum laude in 2009) and went on to earn a B.A. in English at University of Memphis. Susanna will complete her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, this June.

“I didn’t realize I could actually write for a career, and that there even were classes offered in creative writing until I took my first one at Southwest,” Susanna says. “And that creative writing class was probably the most important one I took as an undergrad student because it [covered] all genres and allowed me to write a short story about talking frogs. It was then I realized I wanted to write for children.”

Susanna says that without the encouragement she received in that initial creative writing course, she might never have gone on to pursue her M.F.A. in creative writing.
Powerful Spoken Word – Poetry Slam 2014

The culminating event of the 2014 Memphis Grizzlies Poetry Slam, sponsored by Southwest Tennessee Community College, was held in the theatre on the Union Avenue Campus on February 18. Southwest was the presenting sponsor of the Memphis Grizzlies Poetry Slam, where 10 students from across the Mid-South representing various schools presented their spoken word lyrics in front of a panel of five judges and an audience filled with supporters.

The contestants were welcomed by Vanessa Dowdy, director of Recruitment for Southwest, and the emcee for the event was Ekundayo Bandele, founder of Hattiloo Theatre. The contestants overcame individual competitions at their respective high schools to make it to the finals. The theme for the poetry slam was “Greater Memphis.”

Anita Norman, representing Arlington High School, was the winner. Norman was awarded a trip to New York from the Grizzlies, but most importantly, a full scholarship to Southwest with a $100 per semester book stipend provided by Southwest. Her poem, entitled “Mamma Memphis,” compared the city to a mother giving birth. The theme became apparent when each student began to speak about how Memphis has impacted their lives and how the city has the potential to be “Greater.”

The second place winner, J’Taime Heffner, representing White Station High School, received a laptop computer package. The third place winner, Khadijah Green, representing Wooddale High School, received an iPod Touch. Each participant was given a pouch containing assorted gifts, including a specially designed towel, headphones, and other Grizzlies gear.

Southwest’s Culinary Institute Brings the “Wow Factor” to the 2014 Madonna Learning Center Gala

Southwest’s celebrated Chef Steven Leake along with Southwest Culinary Institute students and members of the American Culinary Federations, prepared a magnificent banquet for the 2014 Madonna Learning Center Gala on February 22. The Madonna Learning Center provides services for children and young adults with disabilities. Jo Ann Harmeier Gilbert, the executive director of the center, sent the acknowledgment below:

What a wonderful evening! The tremendous display and delicious food by Chefs Steve Pairolero, Douglas Manson, Juan Urcia, Carolle Ratts, Tammy Hanson and your culinary staff was such a hit. Everyone was amazed at the beautiful display and delicious specialty items that you prepared.

We always look forward to your presentation and delicious food each year. It is the biggest highlight of our event! People attend just to experience your menu.

Thank you for doing so much work for our students. Our school cannot function without this event and you make it so special, that no one wants to miss it.

You bring such class and elegance to the event, which resonates to the community the respect that our students deserve and receive from your organization.

It was great working with you and I thank you again for allowing us to attend your award dinner and for your continued support for our special needs children.

We hope we can count on you for next year. We are scheduled to have our gala on February 21, 2015. I hope this will work into your schedule. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

God bless you for making it so special for our families and friends in the community.

Kindly,
Jo Gilbert
Widespread Changes in Business Courses Include Rubric, Number and Name Changes

By Dr. Joan McGrory
Assistant Professor of Business Studies

The Business Studies program is the leader in statewide changes designed to standardize course rubrics (title, heading, or direction), numbers, and names across the 13 community colleges in Tennessee. Since Tennessee Community Colleges currently use varied rubrics, numbers, and names for common courses, the new standardized course labels will support degree completion by facilitating smoother transfer among students who earn credits attending the different colleges.

A primary component of the change is the new rubric “BUSN” that has been created to replace the rubrics FINR, ISDS, MGMT, MKTG and select ECON courses. Courses relabeled under this new rubric may also be assigned new numbers and names. For example, students seeking to enroll in the popular transfer course, MGMT-1000: Introduction to Business, must instead choose BUSN-1305: Introduction to Business. Similarly, ISDS-2000 Business Statistics I will become BUSN-2310 Business Statistics.

More than 35 courses in the Business Studies program will undergo the change in rubric, number, and name. While a few courses are transfer courses, such as MGMT-1000 and ISDS-2000 (now BUSN-1305 and BUSN-2310 respectively), the change widely impacts students of Business Studies enrolled in the 11 Associates of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees and three (3) Technical Certificates. The change will take effect in the Fall 2014 semester and will appear in the 2014-2015 catalog.

Students who are following degree programs from a previous catalog will still meet the requirements for completion as they enroll in courses under the new rubric. To support students during the initial semester of change, Academic Administrative Services and Business Studies are working together to display an informative message to students who may attempt to enroll in the courses as formerly listed. The message will state that the course no longer exists and recommend the new course. Additionally, the Southwest Communications and Marketing Department, in conjunction with the Business Studies faculty, has launched a campaign to inform students of the change. The campaign includes a marquee image on the college home page, screen saver graphic for college computers, and images that will appear on Southwest flat panel digital monitors.

The change affects our students now. Advising opened on February 10 and early registration opened on April 7.

For more information, you may contact me, Joan McGrory, by calling (901) 333-4544 or via e-mail at jmegrory@southwest.tn.edu.

Attention Business Students!

Widespread changes for Course Categories, Numbers, and Names that will affect your registration for Fall 2014 classes!

Look for the new course category “BUSN” to replace

- Finance (FINR),
- some Economics (ECON),
- Information Science/Decision Science (ISDS),
- Management (MGMT), and
- Marketing (MKTG).

View the complete list of changes at:
http://www.southwest.tn.edu/
The 25th Annual Carter G. Woodson Award Ceremony honored two remarkable African-American women who achieved success in different eras of the time continuum: Lawyer and Educational Reformer Rita Sanders Geier and Author, Entrepreneur, and Youth Advocate Summer Owens.

This year’s award celebrated for the first time the legacy of its Southwest founder, Clarence C. Christian, retired associate professor and director of the Honors Academy, by presenting the Clarence C. Christian Humanitarian Award to Summer Owens. “Usually a person is assigned to the award, but this award, ... was created with this young lady in mind,” said MaLinda Wade, associate director of Southwest’s Honors Academy and the program’s organizer, as she welcomed guests and presented the occasion.

Owens, the founder and president of S.O. What! LLC and author of *Life After Birth: A Memoir of Survival and Success as a Teenage Mother*, became a mother at 15 as the result of a forced sexual encounter but refused to let circumstances thwart her dreams. She graduated with honors, was number eight of her high school class, graduated *magna cum laude*, and was crowned Miss University of Memphis. An active community speaker, Owens earned an MBA from Belhaven University, is a graduate of the Leadership Academy, was named to the Top 40 Under 40 by the *Memphis Business Journal*, received the Women of Achievement Heroism Award, the McDonald’s Community Hero Award, and the Tri-State Defender Women of Excellence award and was featured nationally on CNN Headline News.

“I showed other young mothers that they can be more than just the girl with the baby. I showed everyone that no circumstance, obstacle, or mistake should hold you back from pursuing the incredible life that you deserve. Southwest is made up of people just like me, people with challenges,” Owens remarked in her acceptance.

The 2014 Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit recipient, Rita Sanders Geier, was born in Memphis, graduated from Melrose High School, and earned her jurist doctorate degree at the Vanderbilt University School of Law in Nashville. She is the former associate to the Chancellor and senior fellow at the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee (2007-2011). Her extensive career in public service includes serving as the executive counselor to the commissioner of the Social Security Administration, the associate and deputy commissioner for Hearings and Appeals, and general counsel for the Appellation Regional Commission, among others. Geier received the Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award from President William Clinton. She is most noted for having led legislation that eradicated the vestiges of past legal segregation and the creation of a unitary system of higher education to provide greater access of equity for African-Americans throughout the state’s colleges and universities.

“This is the first honor that I’ve received from a community college in Tennessee. And I am so proud that it is Southwest Tennessee Community College,” Geier remarked in her acceptance. The word “persistence” resonated as she spoke of the challenges community college students face coupling work and family obligations while pursuing two-year degrees, many with university attainments in their scopes. “Yes, move forward to complete your degrees. But more importantly, become educated. Continue to pursue education; continue to pursue that enlightenment that will allow you to have a brighter employment future and to be even better parents,” said Geier. She was also presented the “Key to the City” by Memphis Mayor AC Wharton’s representative, Chief of Staff Bobby White.

Carolyn Head, executive director for Library Services, recited the poem, *The Empowered Woman*, by Sunny Carroll. The Southwest Singers sang several selections including the Negro national anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Other program participants were Akil Mensah, a Social and Behavioral Sciences instructor, who recited two original poems, *Written* and *The Ant*, and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Barbara Roseborough, who presented the Woodson Award. President Nathan Essex provided closing remarks.
Southwest Now Magazine

COLLEGE NEWS

Project M.O.S.T. Celebrates Student Success

Project M.O.S.T. (Men of Southwest Tennessee) held an awards program on February 7 to recognize the accomplishments, community service, and academic achievements of its participants. The theme of the program, “Men in Black,” the organizers noted, was not a play on the movie by the same name. Instead, it focused on some of the positive attributes symbolized in the color black. Some of the qualities emphasized were: innate intelligence, original nature, faith, a sense of potential and possibility, authority, strength, and humanity (in that black symbolizes the combination of all colors of the universe).

The program opened with greetings from Paul Robinson, a secretary for Project M.O.S.T., followed by the welcome from Southwest President Nathan Essex.

Kariem-Abdul Salaam, director of Project M.O.S.T., set the occasion by recapping some of the tenants of the program, highlighting achievements, and encouraging continued growth. “Engage in activities that support your dream,” he said to the men.

Aubry Odom, a Project M.O.S.T. participant, recited an original poem, Black Men, before keynote speaker Verties Sails Jr., retired head men’s basketball coach/athletic director for Southwest, took the podium. Coach Sails retired from Southwest in June 2012, ending a 33-year coaching career.

Coach Sails laid the foundation for his speech by briefly discussing his childhood, before delving into the inspiring and motivating chronicles of his career path. He ended with what he called seven slogans to live by, “(1) Two things are bad for the heart; running upstairs and running down people. (2) Men who gossip with you, will gossip about you. (3) If you really want to keep a secret, you don’t need any help. (4) You can do a little with faith, but you can do nothing without it. (5) Education is that which remains when you’ve forgotten everything you’ve learned in school. (6) Love your enemies; it will drive them crazy., and (7) The race is not given to the swift, nor to the strong, but to that person who holds out to the end.”

Project M.O.S.T. case managers Angelo Williams, Danesha L. Ward, and Verties Sails III presented the “Academic Excellence Awards” to participants whose GPAs were 3.0 and above. Also, because of their hard work and persistence, Aubry Odom, Harvey Burke, and Phillip Warren were presented the “Grit Award.” The “All-M.O.S.T. Award,” embodying what Project M.O.S.T. epitomizes, was presented to Vervie Moses.

The platform guests included Tennessee Board of Regents Board Member Greg Duckett, who greeted the assembly, along with Provost and Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Barbara Roseborough.

Project M.O.S.T. is currently serving approximately 350 participants, exceeding the funding agency’s requirement of 240 participants. Based on the two-annual cohorts, the average annual rate of retention is 73.8 percent.

- Fall 2012 to Fall 2013 - 75.6%
- Spring 2013 to Spring 2014 - 72%
- Fall 2013 to Spring 2014 - 75.8%

Salaam attributes the success of the program to:

- A strength-based approach that focuses on restoring intrinsic motivations (i.e., self-esteem, self-awareness, confidence, trust/cooperation, curiosity, and a yearning for learning).
- An intrusive advising/counseling model and continuous student engagement activities (meetings twice a month).
- Supportive services (i.e., monthly stipends, transportation assistance, scholarships, tutoring services, and mentoring).

Pictured are members of Project M.O.S.T. along with the platform party at the culmination of the “Men in Black” Awards program.
David Boyd, owner of “D’bo’s Wings n’ More,” celebrated for its award-winning chicken wings, spoke to aspiring entrepreneurs recently in the second of the “Spark the Dream” series, sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at Southwest. D’bo’s has grown from a concession trailer to four thriving brick and mortar storefronts.

Boyd, a product of the Memphis City School system, is credited for starting the hot wing craze in Memphis. Upon graduating from Hamilton High School, he attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated cum laude with a major in accounting, and a minor in business. He then went to work for Mobil Oil as a financial analyst.

Boyd’s first stop when attending Morehouse homecomings was always the wings place that he and his wife, then girlfriend Leticia, used to frequent while in college. “We would say, ‘Man, we need to bring this concept back to Memphis.’ And we did,” Boyd stated.

They began playing around with the concept back in 1988, and in 1990, they opened for business. “For that year-and-a-half, we kind of played around, and played around, until we felt that it [the sauce] was right. We really felt in our hearts that we had a product that no one else could touch, even the folks in Atlanta. So we went forward with the concept,” Boyd explained.

The major challenge that Boyd faced with starting the business was start-up capital. “The first challenge we had was trying to secure financing. At the time, I was working at Federal Express as a manager – really decent salary, no debt, excellent credit, steady income. I went to the bank and told them what I wanted to do. They said, ‘Mr. Boyd, I’m sorry there’s no way we’re going to loan you money for a chicken operation. I just don’t see how you will make the money to pay us back.'”

Boyd believed in his dream and pushed forward. “As an entrepreneur, when obstacles present themselves, you either have to go over or around them, and not let them stop you. So I got a little aggressive. Having gotten eight credit cards, I charged $5,000 on each,” he said. Boyd purchased a $40,000 concession trailer: a kitchen-on-wheels, complete with everything, including sink and refrigerator. He ran his business from the concession trailer for two-and-half years.

Boyd says a key to his success was that he never used the credit cards again. He cut them up and paid them off. Now they’re mounted in his office as a memento of how he got started. “We never had to go back to the bank again,” said Boyd. “After the bank turned us down the first time, we started financing ourselves for the rest of the operations that we opened.” D’bo’s now has locations on Winchester and Riverdale, Germantown Parkway., Raleigh La Grange and Sycamore View, and on Elvis Presley Boulevard.

When chicken prices soared in 2012, the Boyds developed a burger concept, the “Checkered Cow,” located side-by-side within the chicken operations. “We offer 21 types of turkey burgers, 21 types of beef burgers, and up to 14 types of vegan burgers. It’s a brand-new concept that’s only a year old,” said Boyd.

Another unique thing they’re now marketing is the D’bo’s App, a no-line no-wait concept. “You’re able to go online, order your food, pay for it, and all you do is come in, get it and go,” said Boyd. D’bo’s App can be downloaded through Google Play for the android or smart phone.

The advice Boyd offered to the budding entrepreneurs was:
• Try to learn as much as you can about the industry you are trying to get into. “There’s nothing worse than trying to open up a restaurant and you don’t have any idea about what goes on in a restaurant. You’ve got to have at least worked in one. … So I tried to instill in them to get as much college knowledge, whatever it might be … knowledge, knowledge, knowledge.”
• Persevere. “You have to be persistent in order to persevere because you’re going to get into some tough times. You have to keep faith in what you’re doing. You have to believe in what you’re doing. Don’t let the naysayers get in your ear, because they will.”
In January 2014, the Upsilon Delta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society inducted 86 students of Southwest who earned this distinction in the fall 2013 semester. To be invited to join, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher after successfully completing 12 credit hours or more in college-level courses. The PTK honor society is known by several hallmarks of service: fellowship, leadership, and scholarship. Members demonstrate these hallmarks by participating in meetings and projects throughout the year. For example, Olubunmi Osinloye was recognized for her work in the project dubbed “Spot-A-Kappan” that requires members to network with all students of Southwest for the purpose of increasing awareness of the honor society, and so encouraged others to strive for academic excellence and college completion. Members compete to make the greatest number of connections with students of Southwest. Osinloye won the 2013 fall competition by networking and sharing information with the most students at Southwest. In total, 21 students were honored with the status of “enhanced” member for their participation in chapter activities such as volunteering for the Race for the Cure® marathon, participation in the St. Jude marathon volunteer initiative, donating to the canned food drive for Alton Elementary School, and serving during the University Transfer and Scholarship Night.

Rory Thomas, the executive director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), and one of the Memphis Business Journal’s “Top 40 Under 40” business leaders, addressed the inductees alongside their family and friends on the “Culture of Competition,” which is the Phi Theta Kappa honors theme for the academic year. As a lifelong honors student, Thomas outlined the importance of setting personal goals that surpass the benchmarks of those around us. He outlined the perils of defining success as reaching status quo and challenged the new inductees to define success at levels far above those around them. Thomas encouraged, challenged, and entertained the inductees with examples of how his career was propelled forward by his commitment to academic, professional, and personal excellence.

Fall 2013 inductees to Phi Theta Kappa
Southwest’s Industrial Readiness Training Program Holds First Graduation Ceremony

The word inspiring falls short of describing the 41 students participating in the first Industrial Readiness Training (IRT) program graduation ceremony held on December 18 at Southwest Tennessee Community College’s Macon Cove Campus. Persistence would seem to be a better description. In spite of car accidents, job obligations, and family commitments, all 41 students prevailed and were rewarded with jobs at Electrolux.

The IRT program prepares students for entry-level positions as line operators or line mechanics in industry and manufacturing. Training includes topics related to technical and interpersonal knowledge and skills which have been identified by local industry leaders as critical to long-term employee success.

Graduation speaker John Churchill, executive director of Workforce Development for Southwest, told the students that even though the program had received many accolades and has had local and national recognition it was they – the students – who made it work. Churchill reiterated the importance of acquiring both soft skills and hard skills and sharing them with others. “I can’t tell you how proud I am of this group. I will challenge this group to never stop learning. Never stop sharing. Persevere, no matter what obstacles, and you will win,” he said in summary.

Former IRT graduate Evelyn Jones, who now serves as a customer advocate for Electrolux, was the guest speaker. Jones gave a brief overview of her experience as a student in the IRT program and how the knowledge and skills she gained helped her get the job at Electrolux, as well as the promotion to the position she now serves in.

Several students were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. Ezekial Coleman-Isom was presented an award for accruing the most computer hours. Latisha Ford was recognized for her diligence and commitment to the program, having come to class after sustaining serious injuries in a horrific car accident. Cleanon Jones Jr. and Terry Boyce were recognized for having the most KeyTrain® hours for their respective classes.

Director of Workforce Development Kim Barnett (the event’s organizer) said, “Pat Myers, of WIN, said it best for me: ‘Last night’s event was a perfect way to recognize, reward and encourage those men and women who gave their time and efforts to improve their job skills. You could feel the self-esteem and pride rise in the room.’”

“I strongly feel the graduation ceremony should be a quarterly event for the program and look forward to repeating it in March,” remarked Barnett.
Academia from 21 states assembled at Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus recently for the 203rd Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium (2YC3) of the American Chemical Society Conference. This is the fourth time that the conference has been held in Tennessee – the first time in 1965 at the former Memphis State University, now University of Memphis, in 1975 and 1985 at the former Shelby State Community College, now Southwest Tennessee Community College.


The two-day conference was kicked off with welcoming remarks from Southwest President Nathan Essex. The keynote speaker, John Kenkel, author and recently retired instructor from Southeast Community College in Lincoln, NE, presented a session titled, My Professional Niche: Reflections on a Fulfilling Career at a Community College. “I communicated that 2YC3 is a very worthwhile organization because it opened a lot of doors for me. I’ve taken advantage of them and met a lot of people. My career was expanded for that reason,” said Kenkel.

Karrie Scott, from the University of Mississippi, presented a session titled, The Academic Consigliere [an adviser]. She discussed issues that two-year college students face when they transfer to four-year schools. “I presented some tips, tricks, and things that I have devised over my years of working with first and second year students at a university,” said Scott. She indicated national data has shown that transfer students sometimes are at risk of not completing their four-year degree. Associations such as the National Academic Advisors Association (NACADA) are working hard to improve transfer issues for students.

“Overall, the attendees had two days of encouragement, inspiration, challenges and entertainment. There were 24 different presentations on a variety of topics, all about how to more effectively teach chemistry in a two-year college,” said conference coordinator: Mathilda Doorley, associate professor of Natural Sciences at Southwest.

Post conference surveys included the following comments: “The organization was very well done, and from an exhibitor’s view, the placement of food, travel, and off-hours security was excellent. We made some new friends and met old ones, and were glad to have a chance to attend.” “I’m so glad the conference arrangements worked well for you. Exhibitors are just so important to 2YC3 conferences. … Hopefully we can use the Memphis conference exhibits arrangements as an example of what works well.” “Thanks again. I mentioned to Pam via e-mail (and maybe you in person) how well this meeting was run. Placing the vendors in a central location with the food and next to one of the presentation rooms made a real difference in how many people stopped by to talk. It was one of the better 2YC3 meetings I’ve been to and I sure appreciate all the work you did to make it happen.”
Jabil, a global manufacturer of high-tech electronic components, devices, and computer systems, with facilities located in Asia, Europe, South America, Canada, and the United States, would like to establish relationships with local colleges. To that end, Jabil extended an invitation to Southwest to tour its Memphis facility. The tour was taken on October 25.

Two Southwest faculty members, Lisa Jones, Technologies Department chair, and yours truly, Dewey Sykes, accompanied approximately 15 students representing the following academic programs on the tour:

- Electronic Technology
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Computer Engineering Technology
- University Parallel, Engineering

Felicia Stone, senior recruiter at Jabil, was our host for the tour.

Upon our arrival at the facility, Jabil’s Engineering Test manager gave a slide presentation on various aspects of Jabil’s operations at the Memphis facility. After the presentation, we were divided into groups of approximately five each and taken on guided tours of different areas of operation. Students were given the opportunity to see, first-hand, the job responsibilities of some of Jabil’s occupational specialties.

After the tour, the Engineering Test manager gave an overview of the positions with job descriptions that align with the training our students receive in their technology programs at Southwest. Stone also provided an overview of the hiring process at Jabil, and discussed some possible career progressions for specific job categories. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Stone also discussed the desire to establish internships, for which Jabil would consider hiring graduates of our Engineering Technologies programs. Upon completion of these internships, the individuals would have a very good opportunity to be permanently employed, with a clear path towards career advancement.

In addition, I discussed with Stone a possible role in their hiring plans for individuals who complete our Technical Certificate programs. Stone replied that Jabil currently has entry-level technology positions that are filled by individuals that have no prior technical training.

According to Stone, individuals possessing the technical certificate would possibly be given special consideration over those who do not.

Stone also advised us that she would like for their Engineering Test manager to visit the college and speak with individual classes to familiarize students with Jabil and some of its employment opportunities.

The tour was very enlightening for both the students and the faculty members, as students had the opportunity to see for themselves the kinds of job opportunities that might be available for them upon completion of their associate degrees, and what could possibly be available should they pursue educational attainment beyond the associate degree level. The faculty members had the opportunity to establish a relationship with a prospective industry partner.
Mid-South Executive Is Honored at Prestigious
Global Quality Award Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE

Executive Director/CEO of the Mid-South Quality/Productivity Center Donald C. Fisher, Ph.D., represented the Malcolm Baldrige National Award for Performance Excellence, recently, at the Global Quality Award Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) – the seat for the UAE government and the home of the country’s president. Hosted by the Abu Dhabi Chamber for the Middle East, the conference had representation from the Kingdom of Jordan; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Dubai, UAE; Abu Dhabi, UAE; Russia; New Zealand; Singapore; Brussels; India; and the United States.

“This was a great honor to be invited to this most prestigious Global Quality Award Conference and to be invited to attend the award ceremony, where the Crown Prince of the UAE resides, to give out award trophies to winning organizations, at their National Quality Awards Ceremony, during the evening of the last day of the conference,” Dr. Fisher commented.

As a board member for the Alliance for Performance Excellence, which oversees 37 state, regional, and local Baldrige-based awards, located throughout the United States, Fisher represented national efforts to promote the Baldrige Enterprise World Wide. “I was able to share information on how the Baldrige Quality principles would help to make the Middle Eastern region of the world a more sustainable business partner that would help support the overall world economy,” said Fisher.

Over the course of the two-day conference, business excellence award winners from the Middle East region were invited to share their best global practices. In addition, Quality Award administrators of national awards from Europe, the United States, Singapore, and India stated how their frameworks are shaping the world.

MSQPC is a partnership of the Greater Memphis Chamber and Southwest Tennessee Community College.

TOBACCO-FREE COLLEGE

Effective July 1, 2014, the use of tobacco products (including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes and any other tobacco products) by anyone including students, faculty, staff, visitors, contractors and their employees is prohibited on all Southwest Tennessee Community College campuses and centers.

The purpose is to create a healthy and sustainable environment for the entire College community by becoming 100 percent tobacco free. There is considerable evidence that concentrations of smoke are harmful to non-smokers as well as smokers. Findings of the Surgeon General indicate that tobacco use in any form, active and passive, is a significant health hazard. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.
Southwest Architectural Students Visit the New Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology Building Construction Site

By Robert Tom
Associate Professor of Technologies

The Southwest Chapter of the American Institute of Architectural Students (AIAS) met at the Union Avenue Campus on September 27 to reinforce classroom studies and acquire first-hand building construction knowledge by touring the construction site for the new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility.

Open to all associate and technical certificate-level architectural declared majors, the AIAS club is an independent, nonprofit, student-run organization dedicated to providing unmatched programs, information, and resources on issues critical to architectural education. The mission of AIAS is to promote excellence in architectural education, training, and practice; to foster an appreciation of architecture and related disciplines; to enrich communities in a spirit of collaboration; and to organize students and combine their efforts to advance the art and science of architecture.

Program Coordinator Robert Tom and Adjunct Faculty Member Don Myers, both from Southwest’s Architectural Engineering Technology program, and Sherman Greer, executive assistant to the president for Government Relations, along with Southwest students, were joined by architectural students and faculty from the University of Memphis to tour the construction site. The tour was coordinated by Project Architect Tamara Redburn, of Fleming Associates/Architects, and the Yates Construction management team, consisting of Project Managers Ben Tarver and Tim McCullough, and Project Superintendent Odie Collins.

The tour began, first, with visitors donning hard hats and yellow safety-vests or bright colored tee-shirts, followed by a construction site safety briefing. Since this visit was conducted during a regular workday and with a heavy-lift crane onsite, the briefing was very detailed and the rules for the visit were very extensive. The students experienced first-hand the importance of safety, which, when coupled with the descriptions and instruction from the Yates Construction team, provided a great learning environment.

Collins began the tour by describing the erection of the underlying steel structure. The discussion then continued with descriptions of the mechanical and plumbing equipment. The students were able to watch key components being added to the interior. Collins then described the overall building progress and the progression of the project. For example, he stated that the main building structure was supported on pier cap pilings that were excavated 55 feet into the ground to meet seismic or earthquake building code requirements.

McCullough demonstrated the technology that is currently used in the construction industry, i.e., Building Information Modeling (BIM) practices using Revit and Autodesk 360 software with an application on his iPad. Revit and Autodesk 360 show architectural plans in three dimensions that contain detailed drill-down information that can be used while at the construction site.

All the students were engaged throughout the tour, asking very detailed questions and requesting additional site visits as the building progresses toward completion. This site tour was a successful venture enjoyed by all – representing a real-life learning activity for the students, providing a learning engagement that linked classroom studies to a real-work environment, and allowing for personal interaction with working professionals.
Interested in becoming a Pharmacy Technician, a career on the rise with excellent job opportunities?

Southwest Tennessee Community College has a two-semester program beginning each fall and spring.

A pharmacy technician works under the supervision of a pharmacist to assist with filling and dispensing medications, maintaining patient records, medication labeling and other job-related duties. The U.S. Department of Labor projects a 20 percent increase in jobs for pharmacy technicians from 2012 to 2022.

This program has an application deadline of July 1 for fall enrollment and for spring classes November 1.

SOUTHWEST
TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For more information, visit our website at www.southwest.tn.edu/allied_health/ or call 901-333-5400.
While evaluating the ways in which he could immediately help Southwest Tennessee Community College, Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management Dwayne Scott saw a need that wasn’t being properly filled. In previous semesters, many students had complained that they felt on their own, or there were not enough places to get help when it was desperately needed. “Dr. Scott is something else; he really cares about the students. The Student Success Center (SSC) is very much his brainchild,” said SSC staffer Mike Boldreghini.

“We try to identify students that are trying but are also in danger of falling through the cracks,” says Boldreghini. If a student falls below a 2.0 GPA, their advisors connect them with the SSC. During the semester, they provide a caring and collaborative bridge towards the student’s overall success. They begin by identifying challenges to the student’s success. Many of these challenges aren’t always the typical ones. These challenges sometimes consist of things such as a lack of encouragement from family and/or friends. Some students lack resources at home like an Internet connection, and generally any academic or social problem that may be preventing them from being able to give their education their best shot.

Students are then given information on and are connected with the necessary resources to ensure the best chances for student success. Removal of these barriers is important because the philosophy of the Student Success Center is to allow the student to be as successful as they want to be. All areas within the college have been very supportive of the efforts the SSC makes. In particular, Nikita Ashford-Ashworth, director of Student Activities, has been a strong supporter of the Student Success Center. “We have already seen that the Student Success Center is an asset to improving student retention, which is one of our most prominent missions,” says Ashford-Ashworth.

The Student Success Center is a pilot project that has just completed its first semester, and by all accounts, it has been very successful. Nikita Ashford-Ashworth has seen the success first hand. “Our staff is composed of all part-time workers who really care about the students. At the end of the Spring 2014 semester, we are going to try and keep the center open. But it will completely rely on whether or not the funding will be there.”

Students have given the Student Success Center staff a lot of testimonials to the substance at work in the center. “It {SSC} has taught me to stay focused in class and I didn’t think it was going to keep my attention, but it did,” said one student. “This program showed me that others also care about my education and success,” said another student who had considered dropping out before coming into contact with the center. Another student offered the reality that she would have dropped out or have been “slow poking around,” but the center had “motivated me to join a club and do better, because I can tell that they care.”

Lee Teague, Mike Boldreghini, and Kay Wilson are the staffers at the Macon Cove Campus. On the Union Avenue
Campus, the Student Success Center is headed up by Tyechia Barnes and Evelyn Moore. All are former educators who have put in many years of hard work and determination in area schools. Discussing the philosophy of the Student Success Center, Lee Teague says, “We are a connection for students that may have no connections.” Kay Wilson added, “We are confidential with the information that students trust us with. In the triangle that is education here at Southwest, we are a third, the instructor is a third, and the student is the final third of the whole that connects a successful education together.” Tyechia Barnes expressed her exuberance for student success by explaining the mutual benefits that she and the students receive. “I love helping my students and see them walk out of the office with a smile on their face. College can be overwhelming and having support structures like ours is crucial to the student’s success,” stated Barnes.

In just the first semester of its inception, the Student Success Center has already hosted success workshops on a number of important topics such as; Study Skills, Time Management, Communication, and Dressing for Success in the Professional World. Kay Wilson made it clear, “We have an open door policy for students. All are welcome. We identify strategies for struggling students but our workshops are open to everyone. All who complete the workshops receive a certificate acknowledging it.”

The Student Success Center will be evaluated after the Spring 2014 semester to see if funding can be continued to future semesters. Nikita Ashford-Ashworth is optimistic. “We know that we have made a difference in the short time it has been open. The feedback from our students and faculty has been immensely positive.”

The Student Success Center officially opened January 2, 2014 under the coordination and leadership of Nikita L. Ashford-Ashworth. For the student’s convenience, there are two locations: Macon Cove Campus, Farris Building, room 2135 and the Union Avenue Campus, Building M, room 110.

The Student Success Center provides the following services as intervention strategies:

- Proactive advising/mentoring
- Life skills training
- College Success Seminars/workshops
- Information about college and community resources
- Work with faculty and departments for the success of students
- Assistance to students in setting personal and educational goals

**KEY REASONS FOR COMPLETING COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

1. You will earn more money over a lifetime!
2. You will be better prepared for the workforce!
3. You will have less likelihood of unemployment!
4. You will be ready to begin a path to a university!
5. You will increase your chances for a scholarship for transfer students!
6. You will feel good about reaching your goal and having a degree to show for it!
7. Your children (or future children) will be more likely to graduate from college!
8. You and your family will obtain a healthier lifestyle!
9. You will be a better citizen!
10. You will be more mindful of environmental concerns!
Statistics have shown that the number of women attending college in the United States has surpassed men. Forbes’ February 16, 2012 online publication indicated that the male-female ratio in higher education has been steadily moving in the direction of female ascendancy since the 1970s. To level the field, Southwest annually sponsors the “Outnumbered Male Project” to inspire high school male-seniors to attend college. “We don’t have as many men in higher education, especially African-American men. …We are working, and have been for the last four years, to try and change that statistic,” said Southwest President Nathan Essex to the students attending the assembly.

Young men from Overton, Bolton, Kingsbury, and Frayser high schools filed into the Farris Auditorium on November 21 for this year’s event. The Outnumbered Male Project benefits both the participants and Southwest. Cortney Ward, recruiter/counselor, and the project’s creator stated, “The significance of this project is to expose minority-male students to successful, professional minority-males. This project was also developed to attract more minority-male students to Southwest.”

Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management Dwayne Scott greeted the assembly and left them with three D’s – determination, dedication and desire. Leading the list of dynamic presenters was U.S. Attorney General Edward L. Stanton III. A graduate of Central High School here in Memphis, Stanton was nominated by President Barack Obama for the position of U.S. Attorney General for the Western District of Tennessee and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2010. Stanton engaged the students by talking about his background, sharing that he grew up in south Memphis and was the first male in his family to graduate from college. He began his post-secondary education at Southwest, formerly Shelby State Community College. Stanton left the young men with four Cs – character, company, courage, and compassion (to give back).

To help the young men develop an identity that’s individually unique, Ordained Preacher/Credit and Financial Counselor Eddie Dowdy facilitated a breakout session on “Branding.” Summarizing his message, Dowdy said, “I challenged them to create their own brands and to be unique to themselves; to have integrity while they’re doing it, something that the whole community can respect.”

“Dress for Success/Sagging Pants” was another topic facilitated by Keith Magee, president/CEO of the Keith Magee Group. “I wanted to get the young men to think about the fact that your dress speaks to people well in advance of anything you will say. … What they wear and how they communicate in the professional world will determine the opportunities that may be presented to them,” said Magee.

Following lunch, the students toured Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus and met with Project M.O.S.T (Men of Southwest Tennessee) Grant Manager Verties Sails III. This project is designed to assist first-year African-American male-students in adjusting to the college environment, as well as aid in their retention and graduation. Representatives from the Office of Financial Aid spoke to the young men, along with John Berger and Cortney Ward from Southwest’s Recruitment Department.
The “Bridges Out of Poverty” Workshops Shed Light on the Hidden Rules of Class

The Assisi Foundation partnered with Southwest to sponsor the “Bridges Out of Poverty” seminar for Southwest employees. Facilitator Jodi Pfarr delivered four sessions, twice daily, November 7 and 8, on both the Union Avenue and Macon Cove campuses.

Upon her introduction, Pfarr, wasting no time, dove right into the meat of the seminar, asking participants to create mental models using specific words. “The first word is individual. Draw a line behind it. The second word is institution, draw a line behind it, and the third word is community,” Pfarr instructed. Policy, the fourth word, she asked to be placed on top.

The Bridges Out of Poverty workshops define poverty as the extent to which an individual, institution, or community does without resources.

Pfarr indicated that “individuals” believe that poverty can be eradicated if those affected by it would “work harder, drink less, and budget harder.”

She stressed that it is not just an ineffective institution [that impacts poverty]. “At the fall of the year, you always hear this, ‘Jodi, if our school system was stronger, we’d have higher graduation rates. If community schools were stronger – community colleges, we’d have higher graduation rates and people could earn a livable wage,’” Pfarr stated. She indicated the problem is not just a lack of resources; it’s not just policy. Insufficiencies in all four of these areas contribute to poverty.

A key principle of the workshop was that individuals bring with them the hidden rules of the class in which they were raised. The more they understand how class affects them, and are open to hear how it affects others, the more effective they can be.

Power, for example, is perceived differently by the economic classes (poverty, middle-class, wealthy):

- Poverty (1) Power linked to personal respect (2) Ability to fight, and (3) Can’t stop bad things from happening
- Middle-class (1) Power/respect separated (2) Response to position (3) Power in information and institution
- Wealth (1) Power in expertise, connections (2) Power in stability (3) Influences policy and direction

The challenge Pfarr issued at the end of the day was, “Go back to your departments and re-look at your customer lifecycle. Understand where the students are coming from. Re-look at your theory of change. Are we making it meaningful to where they [the students] are at? What resources are students rich in? What are they low in? And how is it that community colleges start to collaborate and address that, so that we can make the largest impact possible?”
Add another piece to the realigned demographic puzzle of those on college campuses these days.

The college students who are already older than the immediate post-high school years include students who are coming as part of training in their full-time jobs. Their goal isn’t a four-year degree and they aren’t taking the courses that go toward such degrees.

Their companies are sending them to college campuses like Southwest Tennessee Community College for job training over a matter of weeks the company itself has had a hand in designing.

Community colleges are the first into the breach on what is expected to be a large number of manufacturing jobs coming to the Memphis economic sector in the next four to five years.

But the colleges and universities we identify now with four-year degrees and graduate programs are also seeking out a share of what is a basic route to a training certificate or associate degree that means an immediate promotion or step up in the workplace or a job as a direct result of that training. The route is as direct as it is swift. It does not include the required courses that have historically been considered necessary to make for a well-rounded student no matter what course of study they choose to major in.

Questions about the more direct route to associate degrees and other short term job training certification are certain to add fuel to the debate about how “well rounded” the path to a four-year degree should be and the relevance of courses with no direct connection to a major.

We believe higher education in Tennessee must be big enough to add the workforce training that the technology in our resurgent manufacturing sector now requires but also keep the elements that help students decide for themselves the places that a broader education can take them.

Many of the students attending Southwest Tennessee and other community colleges are there in pursuit of courses they can take for less or at times not available on other campuses as they work toward a bachelor’s degree.

Similarly, students at the University of Memphis are part of what is likely to become the largest software testing organization in the country with direct ties to the businesses seeking advances in the software crucial to what they do.

As students learn through a mix of online, digital and classroom experiences, there is one element that will remain – the uncertainty of career plans and majors that can change positively with exposure to a world beyond a path set before the walk across the stage for a high school diploma.

Making that uncertainty a positive thing doesn’t mean there isn’t room for those who want a direct and rapid path to technical knowledge. It should mean elements beyond that path are available to all should their quest move to something else that catches their eye and their soul.
The SAILS Program Gives High School Students a Head Start

Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support (SAILS) is a high school/community college collaboration that introduces the college developmental math curriculum in the high school senior year. By embedding the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) Learning Support Math program in the high school Bridge Math course, students can get a head start on their college career. Students who successfully complete the program are ready to take a college-level math course, saving them time and money while accelerating their path to graduation.

The SAILS model utilizes a hybrid format of blended learning. Software is used to provide continuous assessment and instant feedback, allowing teachers to focus on individual assistance. By incorporating a diagnostic assessment into the program, students receive an individualized program of study which allows them to concentrate on improving their deficiencies needed for college readiness. Students are fully engaged, working online while receiving help from their teachers when they encounter difficulty.

In a SAILS classroom, students who have struggled in math can become successful. The program blends online instruction with individual assistance to give students the help they need. Students in SAILS save both time and money, gaining up to three semesters and saving $1,500 in college tuition. Students completing the program in the fall are eligible to take a college-level math class in spring and may qualify for Dual Enrollment Grant funds.

For more information, contact Angela K. Ventura-Wooten, executive director of Special Academic Programs, by email at akventurawo@southwest.tn.edu or call 901-333-5358 or 901-333-4592.

Honors Academy Sponsors Brown Bag Lunch Series

“Color! American Photography Transformed,” in conjunction with a current exhibition, was presented by Julie Pierotti, associate curator at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, during the Brown Bag Lunch series sponsored by Southwest’s Honors Academy on February 13 in the Fulton Auditorium on the Macon Cove Campus.

Pierotti is a native Memphian. She received a bachelor’s degree in art history from the University of Mississippi and a master’s degree in art history from Vanderbilt University. Since joining the staff of the Dixon in November 2007, she has helped organize a number of exhibitions for the museum, including Regional Dialect: American Scene Paintings from the John and Susan Horsemn Collection, which opened in April of 2009, and its May 2012 follow-up, Modern Dialect: American Paintings from the John and Susan Horseman Collection, in addition to Anything but Clear: the Studio Glass Movement, 1979-2009, which opened in April of 2010.

Pierotti also curates the Dixon’s Mallory and Wurtzburger Galleries, which are dedicated to showing the work of contemporary artists in the Memphis area. She has spoken on a number of art historical subjects from eighteenth-century porcelain to Impressionism to Art Deco.
Pierian and the Languages and Literature Department Present Visiting Writer Louis Bourgeois

Writer Louis Bourgeois, executive director of VOX PRESS, a non-profit arts organization based in Oxford, MS, presented a public reading followed by a creative non-fiction workshop on February 28 at Southwest’s Union Avenue Campus.

Bourgeois was the first graduate of the University of Mississippi’s prestigious Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing. He has published hundreds of stories, poems, translations, and interviews throughout the world. His memoir, *The Gar Diaries*, was nominated for the National Book Award in 2008. His *Collected Works* is due out next year by Xenos Press. Also an educator, Bourgeois is the founder and head instructor for the *Prison Writes Initiative*, a program designed to bring writing and the arts to Mississippi prisons.

Southwest Associate Professor Gives Google Workshop “Thumbs Up”

Angela Payne, associate professor of Office Technology, attended the “Google: Memphis Get Your Business Online” workshop on February 14 at the Maxine A. Smith Center. The presenter and trainer was Rory Thomas, executive director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at Southwest.

This initiative encourages business owners to get a three-page website for their business for free, for one-year, sponsored by Google.

“This is an excellent opportunity for businesses (including start-up businesses) to market themselves online to the masses. Some businesses have seen a 25 to 40 percent increase in business by having a website. The website design software has tons of templates, clip art, and a web page editor that is similar to using Microsoft Word,” said Payne.

The Gill Center Continues Its Annual Celebration of the Ancient Tradition of Valentine’s Day

Southwest prides itself on portraying how much it cares for students by presenting various activities. “This was the case, as we celebrated Valentine’s Day at the Elbert T. Gill Center,” said Center Coordinator Ronald Claxton.

Valentine’s Day was first associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as “valentines”). Valentine’s Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine’s Day).

Regarding the Gill Center celebration, Claxton went on to say, “The event was a time for students to bond with fellow classmates, other students, and faculty and staff. It was also a time to nourish the soul with reflections on love and happiness.” This event is held annually.
The Reverse Transfer Program Holds Promise for Southwest’s Completion Rate

The Reverse Transfer program is designed to award students associate degrees from their two-year college after transferring to a four-year institution. Inside Higher Ed’s January 8, 2014 edition reported about 2,300 of the students who transfer from Tennessee’s community colleges to four-year institutions are within 15 credit hours of the required 60 for an associate degree.

The Lumina Foundation has funded a $400,000 grant to identify and track these students online. The new online system will centralize transfer students’ academic histories, while mapping out an optional completion path toward obtaining the associate degree, according to Inside Higher Ed.

The Commercial Appeal asked Dr. Dwayne J. Scott, Southwest Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management, to comment on the impact of the reverse transfer program for Southwest.

“Statistically, we will be able to count those students in our graduation rates,” said Dwayne Scott. “But all institutions in the city could potentially receive a benefit because they are getting a stronger student, obviously. The biggest gain will be the students that will earn an extra credential.”

Southwest Hosts Its First Career and Community Connections Luncheon

Southwest pulled together businesses and organizations from the Memphis community last fall semester to attend the college’s first Career and Community Connections Luncheon. “The purpose of the event was to make local companies and organizations aware of the programs and training Southwest has to offer,” said Recruitment Counselor Shawn Carter, one of the event’s organizers.

As many as 18 companies were in attendance, including local giants like International Paper, Regions Bank, Baptist Memorial Health Care, Federal Express, Jabil, and St. Jude, to name a few.

Following a welcome from Southwest President Nathan Essex; Executive Director of Workforce Development John Churchill, Dean of Career Studies Mike Stephens, Executive Director of Extended Programs Harry Taylor, and Director of Career Services Brenda Williams, respectively, provided information regarding programs under their purview. Director of Recruitment Vanessa Dowdy and Carter gave closing remarks.

“The guests loved the interaction with Southwest’s staff and said that the session was very informative. … A couple of companies reached out to Career Services to inform the department of openings within their organizations. Southwest’s staff also discussed current and future partnerships with companies within the community,” Carter said, recapping the event.

Southwest Community College
The 2014 Alumnus of the Year is Chef Steven G. Leake. Before he received his Associate of Science degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management in 1988, Chef Leake, the 10th of 11 children, had already spent numerous years training in his profession when he began his first job in a local seafood restaurant at the tender age of 15. He worked his way up there from kitchen supervisor to line cook at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza. Soon thereafter, he was promoted to sous chef and began honing his ice carving skills at the Omni Hotel. Upon graduation, he worked at the Fogelman and Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church as the executive chef before coming to Southwest Tennessee Community College as the full-time culinary instructor and program coordinator. He also owns and operates Premier Ice Sculptures, LLC.

Leake has won numerous awards for his culinary skills and dedication to volunteer and community service including Chef of the Year by the Greater Memphis Chapter of the American Culinary Federation, the Presidential Medallion for outstanding dedication and participation in the “Great Chef’s Tasting,” and he placed 1st in the ACF Memphis’ Seafood Mystery Basket Competition in March of 2004. He has served as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and currently serves as assistant to the secretary and chapter historian for the Memphis Chapter of the American Culinary Federation. He also has volunteered as culinary consultant for the Boys and Girls Club of Memphis. He also appeared on all of the major local news stations and the “Jubilee Cooking Show,” a local cable program performing cooking demonstrations and discussing current food trends. Chef Leake and his hospitality students currently volunteer at numerous charity events including the Memphis Child Advocacy Center, The Madonna Learning Center and Porter Leath. They also provide delicious heartwarming meals to patients and their families at the St. Jude Grizzlies House. In 2012, he was awarded the associate award of excellence by the Memphis Metropolitan Hotel Lodging Association because of his commitment and dedication toward his students’ educational path and career success.

Attention Alumni

If you haven’t updated us on what you’re doing now, why not take a moment right now and go to www.southwest.tn.edu/alumni and click on “We Want to Hear from You.” Fill out the form and tell us about your promotion, your new baby or just what you’ve been up to since graduation. We know our alumni are doing great things. Help us spread the word!
1. Why did you choose Southwest? I chose Southwest because it fit in my schedule; I had to work full time while I was attending school. Southwest offered convenient times for the classes I needed to take.

2. What was your major and when did you graduate? My major was Business; I graduated in May of 2002.

3. Where has your education taken you so far? I am happy to report that my education has helped me be able to enter the business world with the confidence and knowledge I needed as an entrepreneur.

4. What are you currently doing and what do you hope to be doing five years from now? I am currently the owner of All About Bikes, LLC, an independent bicycle shop located at 621 S. Mendenhall.

5. What do you think is the best thing you received from your time at Southwest? The best thing I’ve received from my time at Southwest is the structure and focus I’ve learned from being in school.

6. If you could share anything with today’s students, what would it be? Stay focused and always ask yourself, why can’t it be me?...fill in the blanks.
Open up a business!
Run for office!
Become the manager or executive!

Remember that someone will do all these “why can’t it be you?”

7. What’s your favorite thing about our Community? The small feel, it reminds me of my business, the family-owned small guy against the big box.

8. What’s the one thing you would change about our Community? Better sports.

9. Who was your Favorite instructor at Southwest and do you have a message for him/her? I don’t remember who it was that taught me history, but he taught me with such great respect. I thought that was really understanding of him.

10. What are you proud of? I am most proud of my twin daughters who were six months-old on May 5.

Victor Ghosheh graduated in 2002 with a degree in General Technology. A born entrepreneur, Ghosheh began his first business “All About Pets” with a focus on natural pet food shortly after graduation in June 2003. He expanded to three locations before selling the business in October 2011 to Hollywood Feed. He is now the owner and operator of “All About Bikes, LLC” located on 621 S. Mendenhall in Memphis.

We asked Victor 10 questions about his experience at Southwest.
Wayne Dixon graduated in 1974 with a degree in Architectural Engineering Technologies deep in the middle of one of the worst recessions in the country. He sent out 150 resumes and when he finally got offered a position, it paid less than the company he was already working for. But Dixon doesn’t regret his degree, far from it. He credits Southwest with helping him discover how to learn. Dixon currently works for UTi, a non-asset based air freight company, where he spends a great deal of time traveling to all parts of the globe including Germany, Australia and Brazil. Dixon is an avid golfer.

We asked Wayne 10 questions about his experience at Southwest.

1. **Why did you choose Southwest?** I was putting myself through school while working full time. I had chosen Architectural Engineering as my major, and in looking at my options, Memphis State University and Southwest (formerly State Technical Institute at Memphis) both offered Associate’s Degree programs. MSU was a four-year program and State Tech was a two-year program. I did the math; State Tech won.

2. **What was your major and when did you graduate?** Architectural Engineering and I graduated in the fall quarter, 1974

3. **Where has your education taken you so far?** While I have not actually worked in an industry related to my degree, the fact that I “learned how to learn” has been a major asset, and has helped me to be successful in my career.

4. **What are you currently doing and what do you hope to be doing five years from now?** My current position with UTi Worldwide is Quality Process Manager, Global Operating Processes. My company is divided into four geographic regions. My team of six people is responsible for the desk-level operating processes used in nine countries in North and South America, and to participate with our counterparts in the other three regions of the world. In five years, my plan is to transition into a new role on our operations/quality team within the next two to three years. The new role will be part of a regional or divisional operations/quality and audit unit. I plan to retire within the next 10 years.

5. **What do you think is the best thing you received from your time at Southwest?** I grew up in Memphis with a segregated secondary school system, so my time at State Tech was my first real opportunity to interact, not only with people of other ethnicities, but also through the school’s military education program (ADCOP) and, in my last term, with trustees from the adjacent prison facility. So, in addition to my education in my degree program, I also got an education about life.

6. **If you could share anything with today’s students, what would it be?** Two things. 1) Do not stop in your search for knowledge. The day that you stop learning new things is the day that you stop growing as a person. 2) Give something back to your community. It does not matter if it is your time, your knowledge or your financial support. Leave your community a better place than you found it.

7. **What’s your favorite thing about our community?** Memphis has a wonderful cultural heritage, whether it is music, the city’s history or its food.

8. **What’s the one thing you would change about our community?** To somehow take away the racial divide. With both our city and county government, almost every action is divided based on a racial perspective. We will never reach our true potential as a society until we think and act as Memphians.

9. **Who was your favorite instructor at Southwest and do you have a message for him/her?** Prof. John Bacon, my instructor for a course in American history, who was the person who taught me to look beyond the course materials and investigate things from different perspectives.

10. **What are you most proud of?** I am proud of my family. I am proud to say that I’m from Memphis. I am a 14 gallon donor at Life Blood/Memphis. From a 40 plus year career, I am proud that I can say that while I didn’t always do things right, I have always tried to do the right thing. Finally, I’m proud that I’ve had a positive influence in helping others to reach their career goals.
Playing the recurring role of a reporter on “Nashville” is a natural for Memphian Sabrina Tiller.

“I wanted to be a reporter and a news anchor,” Tiller said. “I was addicted to the news and still am. I flip through channels and watch the news. People hate to watch TV with me.”

A Chicago native, Tiller grew up in the Robert Taylor Homes public housing. “Our school was always in the spotlight. We were in this horrible area. We always had news cameras there. I was this junior reporter for Channel 5 news in Chicago. I got to meet Lester Holt (NBC News anchor). I did a story: ‘a day in the life of a student living in the projects and wanting to be a reporter.’ Then I was bitten by the bug. I had to be about 10 years old.”

She also acted in the drama club in grade school. “We did a lot of black heritage plays. People said I had a really distinctive voice. I acted in a lot of them, but I always loved the role of the narrator. I loved the speaking, the voice and diction.”

She got a communications degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she majored in communications and broadcast journalism. “I started changing my interest in journalism toward my senior year. Someone told me that reporters didn’t make a lot of money.”

She also was told she’d have to begin her career in a small town. “I said, ‘I don’t want to do that. I don’t want to end up in some little city or town reporting the news on goats and birds and horses.”

Tiller moved to Nashville, where she became a Tennessee Titans cheerleader; she had also been a cheerleader in high school. Through an audition, Tiller interviewed celebrities, including Chelsea Handler and Scott Stapp from Creed, on a local CBS station in Miami at a red carpet event given by actor/comedian Jim Carrey.

In 2000, Tiller became a Grizz Girl for the Memphis Grizzlies, but she continued to go on acting auditions. “Most of the roles I’ve auditioned for are for reporters.”

Through her agent, Lisa Lax, Tiller auditioned for the reporter role, but got the part of “Nurse Nancy” in “N-Secure,” which was filmed in Memphis. In the movie, “Nurse Nancy” takes a bribe and botches a DNA test for a young couple played by Cordell Moore and Essence Atkins.

She played a dance coach in the MTV reality series, “Made,” before landing the role of the “nosy reporter” on the “Nashville” series. “Every question I ask someone gets really smart with me.”

On one “Nashville” episode, Tiller was seen “asking tough questions on the red carpet. The weird thing is this is what I wanted to do in college.”

When she’s not doing commercials or acting on TV, Tiller is a territory manager for University Vascular Care. She also coaches cheerleaders at Southwest Tennessee Community College. But the desire to be a real reporter has not gone away: “I’d still love to do that.”
Levi Frazier, Southwest Associate Professor, of Communications, Graphics and Fine Arts, was numbered among the esteemed recipients of the Germantown Arts Alliance’s Literary Award last November during the association’s Arts and Humanities Gala. He joins the ranks of past recipients such as John Grisham, Shelby Foote and Eudora Welty. Frazier was honored for his significant impact in the literary field. His work demonstrates quality, originality and professional execution.

According to Alliance officials, the association has recognized individuals who have made significant contributions in the arts since 1993. Recipients are presented bronze medals, specially designed by Knox Everson.

Medalists are selected from nominations made by alliance board members, advisory board members, former medalists, and citizens of good standing in the Arts and Humanities field. Nominations are accompanied by supportive evidence. The final selection is made by the board of directors from a slate submitted by the Medals Committee.

The 2013 Arts and Humanities Gala also awarded medals to the following: Pat Smith - Patron of the Arts; Tom Fox - Visual Arts; and The Bar Kays - Performing Arts.

Levi Frazier Receives Bronze Medal from the Germantown Arts Alliance

Levi Frazier

Southwest Kappans Tanya Malone and Kurt Fritjofson were among 26 of the state’s highest achieving college students celebrating spring semester at a special ceremony in Nashville. Representing Tennessee’s thirteen Community Colleges, the outstanding students were named to the 2014 All-Tennessee Academic Team. Each student, many accompanied by their local state senators and representatives, was recognized and presented with a medallion during the luncheon at the Doubletree Downtown Hotel in Nashville.

Special guests in attendance included Southwest President Nathan Essex. Angela Payne, associate professor of Career Studies, accompanied Southwest students to the All-USA Luncheon.

The All-Tennessee Academic Team is comprised of students nominated by their colleges to be considered for the All-USA Academic Team, sponsored by USA Today and the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society. Each of the state’s Thirteen community colleges selects two outstanding students to recognize for their academic achievement, leadership and service to the community.

“Each year, it’s a privilege to recognize the hard work, dedication and commitment these students have exhibited at their colleges,” John Morgan, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, said. “They’ve not only achieved a high degree of success in the classroom, but they’ve made significant contributions to their communities through their volunteer efforts and leadership skills.”

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education, with more than two-million members and 1,200 chapters in the U.S. and beyond. Students must have a 3.5 grade point average to qualify for membership.

Southwest’s nominating committee included Phi Theta Kappa faculty advisors Dr. Joan McGrory, Payne, and Dr. Twyla Waters.

2014 All-Tennessee Academic Team honored at 18th Annual Celebration

Tanya Malone (L) and Kurt Fritjofson

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Each fall, the Germantown Arts Alliance sponsors the Arts and Humanities Gala, the major fundraiser for the organization. The program honors persons born in or dedicated to the Mid-South. All those recognized have achieved distinguished careers in the Arts and Humanities through vision, dedication and devotion to the highest standards of excellence (http://www.germantownartsalliance.org/gala.html).
The 2013-14 year in athletics at Southwest provided many exciting moments on the court and playing field. Included in the successes this year were one team ranked nationally among the elite, another winning a national championship, several student athletes signing with four year colleges or universities and many Saluqis and Lady Saluqis being honored by the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association, not only for their playing ability but also their work in the classroom.

The Southwest men’s basketball team, under the direction of first-year Head Coach Jerry Nichols, had an outstanding season with a 23-4 overall record and a number 13 ranking in the final NJCAA Division I Poll. The Saluqis won 15 of 18 conference games, including a win over third-ranked Columbia State, and two-game sweeps of Chattanooga State, Dyersburg State, Jackson State, Roane State, Volunteer State and Walters State. The Saluqis defeated Roane State in the Region VII tournament quarterfinals before losing in the semifinals to eventual tournament champion Walters State. Sophomore forward Chris Hawkins, a University of Memphis signee, led the team in scoring with a 15.2 average but played just nine games due to injuries. Sophomore guards DeVante Jones and Perrin Buford, a pair of Middle Tennessee State University signees, each averaged 14.0 points per game and were voted first team All-TCCAA by the conference’s coaches. Guard Rasheed Brooks, one of the top-rated freshmen in the country, and sophomore forward Andre Brown, a University of Arkansas-Little Rock signee, were second team All-TCCAA selections. Brooks averaged 12.5 points per game while Brown averaged 7.6 points and 6.2 rebounds. Also signing with Division I schools were sophomores Jerron Washington (University of Arkansas-Little Rock) and Charles Waters (Arkansas State University).

It was very much an up-and-down season for the Southwest women’s basketball team and Head Coach Andrea Martre. After getting off to a slow start, the Lady Saluqis won eight of the next eleven games before finishing the season losing four of five, including a loss to Roane State in the Region VII Tournament semifinals. Sophomore forward Tatiana Allen, a Shorter University signee, was the team’s top scorer (14.1 average) and rebounder (7.5 average). Allen was voted second team All-TCCAA by the conference’s coaches. Sophomore guard Ajee Smith was the only other player with a double-figure scoring average at 12.0 points per game and was also second on team with 3.5 assists per game. Other top players this season were sophomore guard Matoria Henley (9.2 points and 3.9 rebounds per game), sophomore guard Dominique Malone (7.5 points per game and led the team with 44 three-point field goals), sophomore guard Kadajae Blayde (led team with 4.3 assists per game), and sophomore forward Monique Howard (4.7 points and 6.8 rebounds per game). Top wins this season were two-game sweeps over both Columbia State and Motlow State, and a Region VII Tournament quarterfinal victory over Cleveland State.

Head Coach George Sykes’s Southwest baseball team fell one win short of advancing in the Region VII Tournament, losing in the third game of a first-round best of three series against Walters State. Sophomore infielder Sam Seaton was the team’s top hitter, leading the Saluqis with a .359 batting average, 11 doubles,
five home runs, 26 runs batted in, 81 total bases and a .570 slugging average. Other players who had outstanding seasons at the plate were freshman shortstop Michael Halley (.354 batting average, two home runs and 20 runs batted in), freshman first baseman Vince Hoyt (.353 batting average, one home run and 19 runs batted in), sophomore centerfielder and Jackson State University signee Anthony Stricklin (.339 batting average, three home runs and 25 runs batted in), sophomore catcher Josh Cedeno (.336 batting average and 18 runs batted in) and freshman outfielder Michael Ince (.297 batting average, three home runs and 24 runs batted in). Leading the pitching staff were sophomore Corbin Carter (led team with five wins and 62 innings), sophomore Justin Kemp (led team with 55 strikeouts and two saves) and sophomore Zack Buzzard (led team with a 4.22 earned run average for pitchers with at least 20 innings). Top wins for the Saluqis were a three-game conference sweep of Roane State, winning two of three conference games over Motlow State, and a 21-3 win over Walters State in game two of the best of three Region VII Tournament first-round series. 

After a disappointing start to the season, the Southwest softball team finished strong winning five of their final nine conference games before losing to regular season conference champion Chattanooga State in the Region VII Tournament opening round best of three series. Freshman centerfielder Alex Turner, who was voted to the all-conference team, was the Lady Saluqis’ top hitter with a .411 batting average, 15 home runs, 138 total bases, a .758 slugging average and a .481 on-base average, ranking her among the conference’s leaders in all categories. Sophomore Kayla Wright emerged as the top pitcher for Head Coach Keith Gentry, winning eight games including her last five conference games. She also led the Lady Saluqis’ pitching staff with a 3.86 earned run average, four shutouts, 154 innings and 64 strikeouts. Other top hitters for the Lady Saluqis this season were freshman Marissa Davis (.329 batting average and conference leading 21 stolen bases), sophomore shortstop Kelsey Knight (.307 batting average, four home runs and 34 runs batted in), freshman utility player Tara Comer (.307 batting average, three home runs and 31 runs batted in) and freshman first baseman Dallas Chipman (.283 batting average, six home runs and a team-high 36 runs batted in). Top victories this season for the Lady Saluqis were two conference wins over both Columbia State and Cleveland State.

The Southwest cheerleading squad traveled to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to compete in the Eastern Cheer Association National Cheerleading Competition and came back with a National Championship. They competed against squads and individuals from Ohio, South Carolina, Marymount and Resolute Spirit of Atlanta Magic. In addition to the team championship, sophomore Jemetria Bush placed first in the individual cheer division and freshman LaQuisha Hurt placed second in the individual cheer competition.
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