CCC Drama Students Presents Holiday Musical

The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus” was presented December 5-6 by the Cloud County Community College Drama Department. The performances were held in Cook Theatre on the Concordia campus. In the play, Santa and his elves, make and deliver toys. The Awful Awgas steal toys, but “the children and adults” help save Christmas. Cast members included CCCC students as well as Concordia Elementary School students.

Allen Athletics Hosted Annual Adopt-a-Child Drive

Last night Allen Athletics hosted our annual Adopt-a-child drive. We are contributing to a group of children through the local Hope Unlimited organization. Each athletic team donates a specific dollar amount that they fundraised toward this event. We then take them to Wal-Mart and let them shop. This is such a wonderful opportunity for the student athletes to be a part of ‘giving back’ to our community who supports us in many ways. It also puts things into perspective that we have a lot to be thankful for at this time of year. The participation was wonderful and the end result is very meaningful. All 10 programs contributed. A total of over $1,300 fundraised dollars towards the effort.
Retired Senior Volunteer Program Volunteers, June Sutcliffe and Anita Fairchild, serve hot chocolate and cookies in the Chapman Learning Center after the Neosho County Community College Annual Tree Lighting Celebration on December 4.

**Butler Community College** International Advisor Randy Bush recently returned from sabbatical in Germany, where he 20 other participants from across the United States attended the Fulbright Experience International Education Administrators Seminar. The Fulbright Experience is the largest of 52 bilateral programs, with 700 German and American participants in 30 programs annually. “There’s no better way to learn,” Bush said on using the experience to learn about international schools.

Bush described the many differences between German higher education and American higher education. Probably the largest difference is the broader student life experience and student services that American students benefit from where German students receive more work experience in higher education. “They don’t get a chance to change their minds,” Bush said regarding German students’ career paths.

A survey done at Butler revealed the vast majority of international students attending Butler rated their interactions with faculty and staff as very positive. “We have a faculty and staff who are open and engaged with international students,” Bush said. “One of our strengths is being able to retain people for a very long time.”

Bush hopes in the future to have more scholarships available to international students to incentivize their coming to Butler and in doing so see an increase in international student enrollment and diversity in learning.

**DCCC Foundation Announces Naming Of Campus Drive**

**Dodge City Community College** Foundation announced the new name to the campus drive. It’s been named the Ed Herrin Drive.

“New at this year’s Alumni Booster Association/Foundation scholarship auction was a unique auction item,” stated Roger Proffitt, DCCC Foundation Director. “We auctioned, to the highest bidder, the main circle drive into the Dodge City Community College campus. An individual, family, or business could have their name on a street sign at the entrance to the DCCC campus, and remain there until the next scholarship auction when we will auction it again.”

“The winning bidder wants to remain anonymous, and has chosen the street to be named the Ed Herrin Drive. Ed Herrin was a professor in Sociology, head track coach, and assistant football coach for Dodge City Community College from 1970 to 1997. Ed was born in Brewster, Colorado in 1938 and died March 8, 2012 in Canon City, Co., he was 73.

“Ed was a very intelligent person” stated Eldon Becker, retired DCCC coach. “He cared about his students, and that’s why they started the Ed Herrin scholarship fund in his honor.”

Terry Williams, retired DCCC football coach said, “The players liked Ed because they knew he cared about them...it’s a very special tribute, and he would certainly get a kick out of seeing his name on the main drive to DCCC’s campus.”
Labette Community College's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Tau Theta Chapter, has had a busy fall semester making a difference in our community and beyond. Pictured is LCC PTK student Marshall Phelan, and other PTK members showing area middle school students healthy food alternatives can be fun too.

As a part of the chapter’s Honors in Action project, the members researched how convenience and affordability compete with healthy options when parents select food for their families. As a result of the research which showed families would like more affordable healthy options, the members developed a healthy eating workshop. The Guthridge School 4th graders, the Family and Consumer Science classes at Parsons Middle School, and the Parsons Middle School afterschool program participants learned how to make fruit kabobs and “ants on a log” from the Phi Theta Kappa members. In addition, the members developed some healthy eating handouts they sent home with the students. The members also provided healthy eating items at the Keep Children First activity in November. The results of this project have been shared at local community organizations.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for the two-year college. It is the largest post-secondary honor society and has over 1,250 chapters throughout all 50 states and nine countries.
The Board accepted the retirement of Dr. Edward E. Berger, President of Hutchinson Community College. Berger issued a statement announcing his retirement:

“It is my intention to retire as President of Hutchinson Community College, July 1, 2014. It has been my distinct pleasure to have been a part of Kansas Community Colleges since 1969, first at Seward County Community College until April 1981, and then Hutchinson Community College from 1981 to 1991, first as Dean of Continuing Education, and from 1991 to present as President of Hutchinson Community College.

The opportunity to see students grow, change, improve and discover their potential has been incredibly rewarding. A Board of Trustees, faculty, administration, and staff that has a commitment to being student-centered makes it possible for student growth to be achieved.”
Determined Soldier From Barton Proves There Is Always Time For Education

Staff Sergeant Daniel Lewandowski has been in the US Army for 13 years. In addition to his duties as a soldier, he has a wife and two young children at home.

Despite his many responsibilities and time commitments, Lewandowski has been working diligently as a full-time student, and is set to graduate in December with an Associate Degree in General Studies from Barton Community College. His complex schedule has been manageable in large part thanks to BARTonline’s flexibility and the convenient class times at Barton’s Fort Riley campus.

“The BARTonline classes offer so much more flexibility. So if I have a family event or one of the kids gets sick or I have to work an all-nighter, I still have the time to keep up with my school work,” he said. “It helps keep everything running smoothly when I don’t have to make it to class every day and I can just log in when I have time, and get my work done.”

He said the main thing that worried him about going back to school, is that he had never taken it seriously before. He left high school with a 2.2 GPA.

"I was in delayed entry when I was a junior in high school, so I didn't care about GPA back then," he said. "Getting back into school was an unknown and was kind of nerve-racking. I was scared. But, it's easier to just jump into it and get it done. Otherwise I'd sit there and say, 'I wish I had...’"

He might have been less than sure of himself then, but Lewandowski is determined to take a different route with his college education. He isn't just coasting his way through this time; He has maintained a 3.75 GPA.

Lewandowski said it has been a rewarding experience, and that he has learned to enjoy his classes.

"I'm bettering myself, and Barton Community College is a great school," he said. "My instructors, all of them, whether online or face-to-face, have been excellent."

Daniel’s wife, Shannon, has helped and supported him every step of the way. "He’s kicking butt," she said with a big smile. "I'm very proud of him."

Daniel plans to pursue a bachelor's degree and eventually a master's degree, both in psychology. His hope is to serve as a therapist to soldiers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, anger management issues and other social or emotional problems.

"I've been there, and I think I can help," he said.

Hutchinson Groundbreaking For New Fire Science Building

Groundbreaking for the new Fire Science building was held December 12, at 4:30 p.m. at the Hutchinson Fire Training Grounds. The Grounds are located on 4th Street in Hutchinson, near the Hutchinson Fire Department Command and Training Center at 3201 E. Fourth Ave.

Members of the HCC administration, HCC Board of Trustees and HCC President Dr. Edward Berger were among the group which began the project at the ceremony. The project is scheduled for completion in late summer 2014.
JCCC Debate Team Wins Awards

The JCCC debate team won three team awards and two individual awards at a tournament in November hosted by the University of Central Oklahoma. Three of JCCC’s four top-seeded teams entered elimination rounds.

The team of Blaire Warren and Tabi Secor finished as the fourth seed with a 4-2 preliminary round record. In the preliminary rounds, they had victories over the University of Texas, the University of Texas-San Antonio, Wichita State University and Trinity University. They advanced to the quarterfinals where they were defeated on a 2-1 decision by a team from the University of Texas-Dallas.

The team of Brett Gillespie and Jacob Maichel advanced to the elimination rounds as the third seed with a 5-1 preliminary round record. In the early rounds, they had victories over the University of Minnesota, the University of Texas-San Antonio, Wichita State University and multiple teams from the University of Texas-Dallas. They defeated Wichita State University in the quarterfinals before being matched up with a higher-seeded JCCC team in the semifinals. They finished the tournament in third place.

The team of Brenden Brower-Freeman and Jesse Nation finished as the second seed with a 5-1 preliminary round record. In the preliminary rounds, they had victories over the University of Texas-Dallas, the University of Texas-San Antonio, the University of Minnesota, Trinity University and Wichita State University. Their preliminary-round record earned them a bye in the first elimination round. In the semifinals, they were able to advance over the JCCC team of Gillespie and Maichel. Brower-Freeman and Nation ended the tournament in second place after a loss in the final round.

GOOD NEWS

CCC Director Award

Colby Community College Director of Nursing Ruth Wolfram was recently awarded the 2013 Clinical Writing Award by the Kansas State Nurses Association Editorial Board as one of the authors of the “Western Kansas Clinical Collaborative: A New Clinical Model in Education.” Wolfram has been Director of Nursing at CCC for several years. Colby has day and evening nursing programs on the Colby campus, in Norton and WaKeeney.
Colby Community College Hall Of Fame Selects Five New Inductees

Five individuals were selected for induction into the Colby Community College Hall of Fame. Alumni Hall of Fame inductees were Dr. Larry and Joyce Washburn and Darvin Strutt. Sports Hall of Fame individuals were Joyce Hansen and Bruce Siemsen. The inductees were recognized at a special luncheon during homecoming activities the first week of November. Pictured are: Joyce Hansen, Bruce Siemsen, Darvin Strutt, Joyce and Dr. Larry Washburn.

Freshman Cross Country runner earns two All-American titles

Cloud County ended the 2013 Cross Country season with two, NJCAA All-American honors. Keter earned his first NJCAA first team All-American title with a fifth place finish in the NJCAA National Cross Country Championships. He turned in a time of 25:27.00 in the 8K race. His second NJCAA All-American honor came as a result of a third place finish at the NJCAA Half Marathon.

 Bernard Keter, a freshman from Eldoret, Kenya, representing Cloud Community

Cloud County Men’s Soccer wins Region VI tournament

For the second time in three years, Cloud County Community College’s men soccer team won the Region VI tournament and advanced to the NJCAA National Championship.

They came up short at the national tournament, losing in pool play to San Jacinto and Cincinnati State.

The players and coaches were recognized during the men’s basketball game on Nov. 22.

HCC Cunningham Receives KCWE Leadership Award

Jillene Cunningham, co-Chairperson of the Agriculture, Business, Computers and Technology Department at Hutchinson Community College, has received The KCWE Leadership Award-Inside the Field from the Kansas Council for Workforce Education.

The award recognizes any KCWE member who has developed model programs, provided leadership, conducted research, or been involved in any other activity that advances the status and visibility of career and technical education within Kansas and beyond.

Cunningham has been a department chairperson at HCC for seven years, and is an instructor in the computer support/computer science area of the college. She has been an active supporter and mentor for the HCC SkillsUSA team, and has assisted in coaching in the computer support areas of competition.
Colby Community College in Top 10

Colby Community College has been chosen as one of the top 10 community colleges in the country according to Bankrate, Inc.

Bankrate has over three decades’ experience in financial publishing. It is the Web’s leading aggregator of financial information. Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics, Bankrate ranked more than 900 public two-year institutions to determine the best and brightest schools.

The rankings were based on six criteria: graduation rate; student retention rate; the student/faculty ratio; the school’s in-state tuition and fees; the percentage of full-time first-time undergraduates receiving financial aid; and the average amount of grant aid they received from federal, state and private sources combined. (New CCC billboard pictured above.)

Former Pratt Community College Student Receives 2014 Outstanding Alumni Award

The American Association of Community Colleges recently selected former Pratt Community College student Joseph Searles III to receive the 2014 Outstanding Alumni Award. The award is given annually to former students from community colleges who are making outstanding contributions to their chosen career fields and to their communities. Searles and the other five Outstanding Alumni Award recipients will be recognized during an awards brunch at the AACC 2014 Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. next April.

Searles was nominated for the award by Dr. William Wojciechowski, President Emeritus of Pratt Community College, before he retired as President in August 2013.

“Searles is a prime example of how focus, determination and hard work can shape a young person’s future throughout his or her lifetime,” said Wojciechowski when Searles was named PCC’s 2012 Outstanding Alumnus. “He was a talented and devoted athlete, a good student and keenly focused on his life after and outside of athletics. In addition he was a pioneer who helped pave the road for success for minorities during those turbulent times when many others were ready to give up hope.”

After his graduation from PJC, Searles went on to Kansas State University and later attended George Washington University Law School where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree. His accomplishments include becoming the first African-American floor member and floor broker in the New York Stock Exchange in 1970 and playing professional football for the New York Giants.

When the word went out at Highland Community College for employees to develop projects they had a passion about, chemistry instructor Steve Wuerz remembered the joy he had at a previous college in helping assist with food baskets during the holidays. He was able to form a committee of employees of the College, that provided the organizational framework to work units throughout the campus. The goal of each work unit, to provide a hamper of food for Thanksgiving. The result was 28 and a half hampers which will feed 138 people in Doniphan County, who otherwise would not have had food for the holiday.
Multiculturalism abounds at SCCC/ATS with students from 27 different countries attending classes this year at Seward County Community College main campus and at the Colvin Adult Learning Center. The College recently recognized its current international students. Students are honored as their country’s flag hangs prominently on display in the student union. The exhibit is a representation of past and current students. Countries represented by our students this year include Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, Sudan, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

New State-Of-The-Art Technology Purchased At SCCC

The Medical Laboratory Technician Program at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is now using a Capture Blood Bank workstation that the program purchased through Carl Perkins grant funding. This state-of-the-art technology is used to determine the presence of blood group antibodies and to perform compatibility testing allowing students to learn this procedure on campus. Pictured are Suzanne Campbell, MLT program coordinator, and Jamie Titus, MLT instructor setting up the equipment for student use.

On-The-Job Training A Win-Win at Seward

What better way to learn an industrial profession than to have on-the-job training. It is a “win-win” situation for SCCC/ATS and the students in the SCCC/ATS Corrosion Technology Program. The students are removing the corrosion from the tubing in the filtration room of the college’s indoor swimming pool before applying Super Core (a product developed by Jacam Industries and used throughout the energy industry to protect steel piping) to the tubing. Jacam, a strong supporter of the Corrosion Technology program, assisted with the process and donated the Super Core for this application.

ORIGINAL WORKS BY LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS PRESENTED AS STAGED READINGS

Works by students from Cherryvale High School and Independence Community College participating in the playwriting classes, Fall 2013 Inge House Playwrights-in-Residence, were presented November 13, 2013. As part of their residency, playwrights Burgess Clark and Stephen Gregg taught classes at both Cherryvale High School and ICC. It is one of the few educational programs in the nation to teach playwriting to rural high school students. "This is a rare opportunity to work with professional playwrights; to learn about theatre, and to improve their writing and storytelling skills." "Plays are meant to be performed, not just read. Inge Center Artistic Director Peter Ellenstein states, “It lets them know whether what they have written is having the effect they intended, allows them to hear the rhythm of their language, find out where they need add or remove humor to better tell their story, and most importantly hear their words in the mouths of actors.
Fort Scott Community College’s (FSCC) Livestock Judging Team returned from Louisville, Ky. Thursday, Nov. 21st from the North American International Livestock Exchange with not just bragging rights to a win, but the highest score ever recorded at Louisville. There were 26 teams who competed and 123 individuals. “This group of students did a great job representing FSCC and their names will forever be in the NAILE record books,” said Livestock Judging Coach Ryan Page. “It is a wonderful accomplishment that they will remember the rest of their lives. It just so happens that this year the reunion team that won 25 years ago had the father of Rachel Dotson on it. Rachel is a FSCC student and one of our competitors,” said coach Page. “Dotson’s father had the opportunity to watch his daughter win the contest on the same day that he was getting recognized for it himself. Team members were as follows: Blaine French: 2nd overall, Riley McKenney: 4th overall, Zech Moore, Rachel Dotson, Jacie Sweeney, Naomi Parsons, Kirstin Winchester, Randee Corns, Kollin Bush, R.J. Ellis.”

Mid-America Education Hall Of Fame Honors Excellence in Education

The Kansas City community turned out in spectacular fashion, to honor six individuals and businesses at the 18th annual Mid-America Education Hall of Fame dinner.

More than 250 people attended the dinner Nov. 2, at the Jewell Center on the Kansas City Kansas Community College campus. The KCKCC Jazz Combo provided the entertainment and Lindsay Shively, weekend anchor for KSHB-TV, served as this year’s emcee.

“The 18th annual Mid-America Hall of Fame dinner was a tremendous success,” said Patrick McCartney, executive director of the KCKCC Endowment Association. “All of our inductee’s passion for education was evident in their acceptance speeches and was a great example of the impact they and all our previous inductees have had on students and their education.

The Mid-America Education Hall of Fame was started in 1996 by the KCKCC Endowment Association as a way to recognize individuals, organizations and corporate supporters in the community who have made notable contributions to education. This year’s list of honorees include Dr. Bob Van Maren, long-time superintendent of the Bonner Springs School District; Harry McDonald, a 30-year teaching veteran in the Blue Valley School District; Dr. Howard Shaw, a physician and hospital administrator who was named the Outstanding Community College Student in Kansas during his time at KCKCC in the 1980s; Greg Graves, chairman and CEO of Kansas City-based Burns & McDonnell; AT&T, a company that has made a five-year commitment worth $250 million to address high school success as well as college and career readiness for students deemed at-risk and the 2nd Chance Scholarship Foundation, an organization founded by Matt and Jessica Brandmeyer that provides scholarships to high school graduates who have experienced adversity.

Hall of Fame inductees are selected based on a demonstrated commitment to education, their effort to improve the quality of life in the community through a commitment to education, increasing educational opportunities for others and supporting significant changes that have improved the quality of education.

For information on KCKCC Endowment Assoc. or on the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame, call 913-288-7675 or email fangohr@kckcc.edu
The Kansas City Kansas Community College Jazz Band has been invited to perform at the 2014 Havana International Jazz Festival in Havana, Cuba. Participants not only have the opportunity to perform and hear great jazz music, but also get an overview of Cuban history and culture.

Jim Mair, professor of music and director of instrumental studies at KCKCC, said the band was invited based on its long reputation as one of the premiere community college jazz ensembles in the nation.

“This will truly be a life-changing experience,” Mair said. “Some of the students are very excited. Others have not yet absorbed what this means. This is a very exciting opportunity.”

A 19-piece jazz band will travel to Cuba. In addition to attending the festival, the jazz band will have the opportunity to take a guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Havana Historical Centre; tour Cuba’s National Museum of Fine Arts; visit the Institute Superior de Arte, the country’s top art academy and explore Finca Vigia, where Ernest Hemingway lived for more than 20 years, among other things. Mair said...this is a once in a lifetime opportunity...

Congratulations to three Seward County Lady Saints Volleyball players who were named All-Jayhawk West and All-Region VI as announced by the league. Carolina Gasparini, from Porto Ferreira, SP, Brazil, led the trio on the All-Conference lists as she was selected to the 1st Team, as well as being named the Jayhawk West Freshman of the year. Sophomore outside hitter Annelise Sanchez, from Brighton, Colorado, was named All-Jayhawk West 2nd Team this season. Lastly, Morgan Riley, a sophomore from Levelland, Texas was one of just three players named to the Honorable Mention All-Conference team.

Twice as Nice! Cowley Volleyball Wins 2nd National Title

The Cowley Community College volleyball team enjoys playing in Ohio. For the second time in three years the top-seeded Lady Tiger volleyball team captured the NJCAA Division II National Championship played in Perrysburg, OH. This time, Cowley knocked off second-seeded Parkland (IL) 25-21, 23-25, 25-16, 21-25, 16-25 in the national championship match.

Trailing 9-3 in the fifth and final set, the Lady Tigers rallied to win the championship with a come from behind 16-14 win. Cowley handed Parkland (52-3) two of its three losses on the season as the Lady Tigers finish the year with 13 wins in a row and a record of 35-4. Sophomores B.J. Specht and Jessica McDougald were named to the All-Tournament Team, with Specht being named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player.

Cowley head coach Jenifer Bahner was named the NJCAA Division II National Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons. A celebration to honor the national champion Lady Tigers was held inside W.S. Scott Auditorium.
JCCC administrative photographer Susan McSpadden won “best of show” in the monthly image competition for October sponsored by the University Photographers Association of America. She received the prize for “Hammer Thrower on Fire,” a photograph of JCCC’s record-breaking hammer thrower Caniglia Raynor. Points are tallied for images that win and place, and members receive a ranking based on those points. Currently, after two months of competition, Susan is ranked 23rd in the nation of college photographers.

JCCC Lady Cavaliers Head to NJCAA Division II Nat’l Tournament

JCCC downed cross-town rival Kansas City Kansas 3-1 in the finals. JCCC won the first two games with a score of 25-15, lost 17-25 in the third, then secured the title with a 25-19 win in game four. The Lady Cavaliers advanced to the championship match with a three-set sweep over Allen Community College, 25-13, 25-12, 25-15.

Sophomore Preecy Seever hit an impressive .407 in the championship match against KCKCC, and led the team with 13 kills. Sophomore Lori Angello followed with 12 kills and freshman Briana Pontious added 11. Sophomore Bethany Farres led the offense with 40 assists, and freshman Alexis Hartzog tallied a team-high 29 digs.