RCCA Honors Garden City Community College as College Of The Year In Washington D.C.

Garden City Community College was proud to be honored as College of the Year 2014 by the Rural Community College Alliance at a ceremo-

ny in Washington D.C. on February 11, 2015 in the rotunda of the United States Agricultural Department building.

This award was given in order to honor GCCC for its initiative in launching the studies that the Education Policy Center (EPC) of the Univer-
sity of Alabama in Tuscaloosa conducted on Pell Grant accessibility to rural serving states, as well as being recognized by CNN Money Magazine’s top 24 community colleges in the nation, ranked 31st in the list of “50 Best Community Colleges”, Aspen Institute’s Top 10% of community colleges, recognized as a “Military Friendly” college for the past three years, and ranked as #13 in the 50 most affordable community colleges in America.

Dr. Herbert Swender, President of GCCC was presented the award by United States Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Tim Huelskamp. Both Senator Roberts and Representative Tim Huelskamp spoke about the pride they have in GCCC and the accomplishments of the school at the ceremony.

Butler & McConnell AFB Celebrate 40th Anniversary

Butler Community College celebrated a 40-year partnership with McConnell Air Force Base in February. An invitation-only reception was held on base at the Dole Center Feb. 19. Among those in attendance was Butler President Kim Krull, who commemorated the anniversary by presenting a plaque to Col. Albert G. Miller, Commander of the 22nd Air Refueling Wing. The spring 2015 semester alone has 532 military members and their families enrolled at Butler which first held class at McConnell on Jan. 27, 1975. The partnership began with four courses; today about 100 are offered. Over the last 15 years, Butler has awarded 552 Associates Degrees for military only and more than 16,000 military members and family members have accessed higher education through Butler as a result.
Allen Hosts Annual Extravaganza

In February, Allen Athletics hosted their annual Red Devil Extravaganza. This event is a way for their athletic programs to give back to the community and surrounding areas. The event offered area youth a variety of carnival and sports based activities. The evening filled the Allen gymnasium and activities building with 120 kids ranging in age from toddler to junior high for two solid hours of games, laughter, and smiles.

HCC Wins National Championship In Fort Worth

The Hutchinson Community College sophomore livestock judging team dominated a tough field to win a national championship at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, February 6.

This is the first National Champion Team Overall honor at the prestigious Fort Worth show for Hutchinson Community College. Students evaluated 12 different classes of livestock at the event, and presented eight sets of oral reasons arguments as to place decisions in those classes. The classes included beef cattle, swine, sheep and horses. Each student had to defend their placing to an official judge and describe how that placing complied with industry and breed judging standards.

The HCC team was also the top team in swine judging. Individually, Riley Lafrenz (Saskatchewan, Canada) finished second in the individual overall competition, and placed third in horses and 10th in reasons. Lane Mai (Russell) was fifth overall, with a fourth in cattle, sixth in reasons and earned a perfect 50 score on the mare judging class. Coffman Liggett (Mt. Solon, Va.) finished eighth overall, and was fifth in swine. Grace Hammer (Wallace) rounded out the individual placings with a 16th in the overall judging rankings.

Other team members that helped earn the national title included: Lauren Geis (Durham); Justin Looms (Council Grove); Ted Creech (Saskatchewan, Canada); Caleb Marshall (Galena, Ohio) and Madison Tew (Ozark, Ala.). The HCC agricultural teams are coached by instructor of agriculture and Livestock Judging coach Ben Williams.

Cowley AEC Team Wins Sectional Championship

The Cowley College Academic Excellence Challenge (AEC) team qualified for nationals by winning the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) Community College Sectional Championship Saturday, January 24 at Cloud County Community College in Concordia, KS.

By winning the Sectional Championship, the team had an opportunity to compete at the NAQT Community College Championship Tournament in Atlanta, GA on Feb. 27-28.

Along with Cowley, Cloud County and Johnson County had two teams apiece at the tournament. Other schools at the tournament were Garden City, Dodge City, and Allen Community College.

The Cowley “A” team finished in first place with a record of 9-0.

Mason Warren, Anthony Maldonado, Alex Geurin, and Amy Austin made up Cowley’s “A” team.

CCCC Alumni And Friends Show Support

Alumni and friends of Cloud County Community College displayed their support as they pledged over $25,000 to scholarships during this year’s Verizon Alumni Telefund. Volunteer callers representing 17 student organizations visited with over 7,000 alumni and friends about pledging gifts to the College’s general scholarship fund. For the pledges they generated, the students won scholarships.
In February the Independence Community College Speech and Debate team competed at the HCC tournament. The competition included such schools as: West Texas A & M, University of Nebraska-Kearney, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Kansas State University, Northwest Missouri State University, Oklahoma Christian University, Friends University, Tulsa Community College, Hutchinson Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, among others.

By the tournament’s end, the ICC team held the honor of Tournament Champions in the IPDA open debate. On speaking with Konye Ori, the Speech and Debate instructor, he said, “We have worked hard and have been committed to standing up against the bigger schools, but I did not quite anticipate we would be winning tournaments so soon. The students have exceeded my expectations in this regard. I am very proud of them all.”

The ICC team debaters includes: Jaante Perkins, Kevin Benton, Braidon Beard, Marrisa Mitchell, Ylham Jorayew, and Jenny High. And the ICC Speech and Debate squad includes Carlos Brown, Hunter Coohe, Diamond Haynes, Caleb Edward, Nakita Pairadee, Nurali Mamedov, and Cera Taylor.

“I am amazed at the feat accomplished by these student in such a short period of time. Next stop for us is the Kansas State Championship for individual speaking events.”

Coffeyville Community College Partners With Habitat For Humanity

Coffeyville Community College Technical students are gaining hands-on training experience while having a lasting impact for one local family in the Coffeyville community. CCC has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to provide the needed skills to construct the newest Habitat home.

The walls have already been raised on the new house. CCC Construction Technology students began work on the house the first week of February. The CCC Construction Technology students will be completing the framing, roof trusses, drywall, windows, doors, and all the exterior siding. The CCC Electrical Technology students should begin wiring the house by early March. Although CCC Construction program has worked on a Habitat project in the past, this will be the first whole house project for Habitat.

“This will be a great learning experience for my students,” said Clarence Ray, Construction Technology Instructor. “From working in the cold to setting the roof trusses, this project will be ran like a job site. They will be a part of everything from building it to the inspection process. They are already finding out how the little things like the weather or a change in the blueprints affect everything.”

Weather providing, the estimated completion date is set for May.
Coffeyville Community College sophomores Danika Burton and Dezirae Hamrick were among the Kansas community college students honored as members of the 2015 All-Kansas Academic Team at the Phi Theta Kappa Luncheon in Topeka on February 12.

Danika Burton is a biology major and has achieved a 4.0 G.P.A. At CCC, she is the Phi Theta Kappa Eta Gamma Chapter Vice President of Scholarship and previous Member of the Month. Danika is a member of the CCC women’s volleyball team and was named to the Jayhawk 2014 honorable mention All-Conference Team. She also volunteers for Operation Christmas Child, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, and the Little Lighthouse. Danika was also a competitive figure skater for ten years. Her future plan is to attend Emporia State University where she will be a member of the ESU volleyball team.

Dezirae Hamrick is a psychology major at Coffeyville Community College and has achieved a 3.9 G.P.A. Dezirae is the Phi Theta Kappa Eta Gamma Chapter President and Student Government Association student representative. She is also a visual arts department scholar student representative, Kakehashi Bridge for Tomorrow Project participant, and a Leader of Promise awardee from international headquarters. Dezirae volunteers for Operation Christmas Child, Salvation Army, Relay for Life, the Red Cross, the Little Lighthouse, and Brown Mansion. Her future plan is to transfer to Pittsburg State University.

Four CCCC Students Named to All—Kansas Academic Team

Four Cloud County Community College students were among 55 community college scholars named to the 2015 Kansas All-State Academic Team. CCCC, Geary County Campus students selected for this honor were Jeffrey Morton and Magdalena Pierce. Gustavo Arana and April Knipp were selected from the Concordia campus.

Jeffrey Morton is completing an Applied Science degree from Cloud County Community College. He is a Phi Theta Kappa member and is undecided where he will transfer to after Cloud.

Magdalena Pierce is a Pre-Law major and plans to continue her education at Baylor University. She is involved in Phi Theta Kappa, Student Senate, Multi-cultural Association, and the Student Veteran’s Association. She has been the Rotary Student of the Month, a student support services member and a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Food Pantry and Summer Tutoring program.

Gustavo Arana is a Physical Therapy major and is planning to transfer to Kansas State University after Cloud. His accomplishments include being a Phi Theta Kappa member and a Baseball and Soccer Athletic Trainer. He volunteers for Marysville City Park, Marysville High School and Santa House.

April Knipp is an English/Secondary Education major. She plans to transfer to the University of Nebraska-Omaha after Cloud. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.
GCCC Students To Present At National STEM Conference

Three Garden City Community College students were selected to present at the Emerging Research National (ERN) Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Washington D.C. February 19-22. Current GCCC Students Andreas Pacheco Olivas, Itze Moreno-Rodriguez and former GCCC student Binh Hua, now continuing in studies at K-State, were chosen by STEM to be eligible to present their abstracts and gave them the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have learned in the Research Immersion Program for Students (RIPS), a joint partnership program with Kansas State University and GCCC. The students received a travel award which covered all their expenses for the conference. Dr. Praveen Vadapally is the Faculty Coordinator and Advisor for the STEM program. He was instrumental in training the students in all aspects of the program.

KCKCC And Ottawa University Team Up—Offering Affordable Bachelor’s Degrees

Kansas City Kansas Community College has entered into a new articulation agreement with Ottawa University.

On Jan. 22, Dr. Kevin Eichner, President of Ottawa University; Dr. Terry Haines, Executive Vice President and Provost at Ottawa University and Lisa Johnson, Director of Governmental, Regulatory and Legal Affairs for the university, joined KCKCC President Dr. Doris Givens; Dr. Michael Vitale, Vice President of Academic and Student Services and Dr. Susan Lindahl, Chief Financial Officer, for the official signing of an articulation agreement between Ottawa University and KCKCC.

“Kansas City Kansas Community College is a well-respected institution in the greater Kansas City area,” Eichner said. “By forming this partnership, Ottawa University and KCKCC are able to collaboratively give adult learners access to the education that can change their lives at a very affordable cost. Not only is that a win for students, it’s a win for higher education.”

Ottawa University is celebrating its 150th-anniversary this year. The private university serves more than 5,000 students annually on several campuses including its main campus as well as its adult and professional studies campuses in Kansas City, Milwaukee, Phoenix and the Louisville/Jeffersonville areas. It also offers a growing online program and both undergraduate and graduate courses.

The articulation agreement will give KCKCC students the opportunity to attend Ottawa University and transfer up to 80 hours from KCKCC toward their bachelor’s degree. The remaining 44 credits needed at Ottawa can be completed in less than two years.

As graduates of KCKCC, these students will receive a scholarship from Ottawa that lowers the tuition to $275 per credit hour, which is a savings of $205 per credit hour off the published rate of $480 per credit hour.

Vitale said a four-year university offering a scholarship as part of an articulation agreement is unique. He said the option will make attending Ottawa even more attractive to KCKCC students.

“The reason this agreement is beneficial to KCKCC students is that it provides more than just another opportunity for our students to earn a baccalaureate degree,” Vitale said. “Scholarships are not always part of an articulation agreement. When scholarships are included, they are usually for a fixed amount. It is rare to have a scholarship structured to bring the per credit hour rate to a fixed amount. I believe Ottawa wanted to do this to make it attractive to our students, incentivize students to start at KCKCC and to help lower the cost of the baccalaureate degree.”


**Highland Students Join All-Kansas Academic Team**

Two Highland Community College students joined over 50 of their peers as members of the All-Kansas Academic Team during in Topeka during the Nineteenth Annual Phi Theta Kappa Honors Luncheon. Thaina Dos Santos Jensen (Topeka) and Krista Wilgers (Palmer) joined other Kansas community college students representing the state’s 19 community colleges and a private two-year college for the ceremony. The 2014-15 All-Kansas Academic Team is sponsored by the international headquarters of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, and the Kansas Council of Community College Presidents.

During the luncheon, those in attendance heard from Dr. Rod Risley, Executive Director Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, who shared with them to internalize the special recognition they were receiving and to use that recognition as the base to follow opportunities and achieve their goals.

Pictured: Highland President David Reist is joined by Highland’s two members of the All-Kansas Academic Team, Krista Wilgers (l) and Thaina Dos Santos Jensen.

**Four Butler Students Named 2014-2015 All-Kansas Academic Team Members**

Four area Butler Community College students were recognized in Topeka earlier this month as part of the 2014-15 All-Kansas Academic Team ceremony sponsored by sponsored by the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and the Kansas Council of Community College Presidents. Nikki Dixon and Kaitlyn Pracht of Wichita, Megan Schuster of Richmond, Kan., and Ocean Swartz of Derby are all members of the Alpha Phi Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. For the honor, each student was presented an educational scholarship of $300, an academic medallion, and a certificate signed by Kansas Governor Sam Brownback. In addition, a minimum $1,000 scholarship is should they transfer to a Kansas Board of Regents university, Washburn University, or a Kansas independent college. They are now nominees for the 2014-15 All-USA Academic Team, sponsored by USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Butler administration and PTK advisors were present to recognize the efforts of four Butler scholars named to the 2014-15 PTK All-Kansas Academic Team. Pictured: Dr. Karla Fisher, Christine Baker, Jim Buchorn, Kaitlyn Pracht, Ocean Swartz, Megan Schuster, Dr. Kimberly Krull, and Dr. Phil Speary. Not pictured honoree Nikki Dixon.

**Equestrian Team Complete Season**

The Cloud County Equestrian team completed its season competing in a meet hosted by The University of Nebraska in February. Katy DeWeese placed third and Nikita Schoepflin finished in fourth. DeWeese will return next season to compete for the Thunderbirds. It was the last equestrian meet as a Thunderbird for Schoepflin. Pictured: Katy DeWeese.

**GCCC President Participates In Exploratory Panel**

Dr. Herbert Swender, President of GCCC, was recently chosen as one of three college presidents to sit on a panel at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi to discuss “Free Community College Tuition and the Future of Access: A Public Policy Discussion.” “Obama’s College Promise Plan” springs from a piece of legislation known as the Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act which includes $2 billion over four years for community college and career training.
**JCCC Joins Forces In Logistics Training Center**

**Johnson County Community College** is one of several partners in the Logistics Training Center located at Logistics Park Kansas City working to meet the training needs of current companies and fulfill the employment needs of future companies located there.

Other partners are NorthPoint Development, the city of Edgerton, Workforce Partnership, BNSF Railway and the Southwest Johnson County Economic Development Corporation.

JCCC will provide direction, coordination and administrative support for the development and ongoing operations of the Logistics Training Center at the LPKC initiative,” said Jerry Cook, chair of the JCCC board of trustees. “This endeavor reflects JCCC’s agility within corporate and civic partnerships as we uphold our commitment to meet the community’s workforce education needs. The efficiencies gained through partnerships like this help our students be successful.”

**Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series At CCC Hosts Award-Winning Author**

The Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at **Colby Community College** hosted Julene Bair on March 8 in the Cultural Arts Center. She is an award-winning author who has taught at the University of Wyoming and the University of Iowa. In her book “The Ogallala Aquifer” her father has recently died, leaving her part owner of a large family farm operation that irrigates out of the Ogallala Aquifer, the vast groundwater reserves underlying the plains all the way from South Dakota to Texas. Bair wants to honor her father’s wish for the farm to stay in the family, but she hates wasting the water that she grew up thinking as precious. Government subsidies and ethanol policy encourage these crops, even though they are depleting the aquifer. Worried that irrigation is causing plains creeks and rivers, where Indians used to camp and pioneers first settled, to run dry, Bair travels home to explore the watershed. Bair struggles to reconcile her conflicted loyalties to her family on the one hand and the health of her family's land on the other.

**HCC Debate And Forensics Team Compete With Great Success**

The **Hutchinson Community College** Debate and Forensics Team competed with great success in two recent tournaments. The Blue Dragon team traveled to the University of Nebraska- Lincoln to compete at the Kansas in Nebraska Swing on January 24-25. On Saturday, the team earned three individual forensics awards as well as earning Top Community College team honors. On the second day of competition, the team earned four individual forensics awards, receiving gold medals as Top Community College. The team also competed in Border Wars Swing, hosted at Kansas Wesleyan University on January 31st-February 1st. On Saturday, the team earned three individual forensics awards, as well as finishing first as a team among Community Colleges. On Sunday, the Blue Dragons earned four individual forensics awards and were again the top Community College team. In the team sweepstakes for the KWU Border Wars Swing, HCC finished in first place for Community College Team Individual Events. Adding to the Blue Dragon success, they received first as Swing Team Sweepstakes in Swing Community College Team Individual Events.
NCCC Ottawa Hosts 4th Annual Science Fair

The Neosho County Community College Ottawa Campus was host to a Science Fair on February 21st. Participation doubled this year with students coming from the Ottawa, Lawrence and Kansas City areas. Students represented two groups; Intermediate 4th, 5th and 6th grades and Junior 7th and 8th grades.

Barton Natural Gas Student Rocks The Mic In Barton Theatre Spring Musical “Godspell”

Barton Natural Gas student rocks the mic in Barton Theatre spring musical “Godspell”

Barton Natural Gas Student, 29 year old James Mayes, is knee-deep in his coursework to become a member of the Natural Gas industry, but he has always had the desire to be on stage. He found a way to do both and is a cast-member for the upcoming Barton Theatre Spring Musical “Godspell.” Mayes performed in a “Christmas Carol” as Bob Cratchit this fall and had experience in theater in high school.

“I’ve always had a joy for performing and doing music,” Mayes said. “I used to be in a rock band back in the day as well, and I just love to perform.” The musical is based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew. A small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and hefty a dose of comic timing and Mayes said the production is very unique.

Mayes has been enjoying his time in the spotlight and is thankful he has been able to participate while also focusing on his education. His educational path has not been as linear as most, but that’s not stopping him. The non-traditional student has three kids and is on a mission to make life better for his family.

“After high-school, I’ve just always just been a laborer in construction, remodeling and the oil field – pretty much everything Kansas has to offer in manual labor,” he said. “I just decided to try and use my brain instead of my back for once in my life and earn a better living for my kids. To just really try to make a career instead of a job and find something I enjoy doing.”

FSCC Men’s Rodeo Ranked 3rd In Region

Fort Scott Community College is ranked 3rd in the Central Plains Region for its Men’s Team going into this weekend’s 34th Annual Fort Scott Community College NIRA Spring College Rodeo. The Women’s Team has just jumped to 12th in the regional rankings thanks to an excellent showing in barrel racing at Garden City.

Performances for the college rodeo will be March 6 at 7:30 p.m.; March 7 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and March 8 at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults; $5 for FSCC students; $3 for children between the ages of six and twelve; and free for children five and under.

The FSCC Rodeo Team has competed in six Central Plains Region rodeos this year, including two rodeos this spring. This weekend will be the seventh regional rodeo and will feature athletes from twenty-five two- and four-year colleges.
Colby Baseball Team Receives $2500 Grant

The Colby Community College baseball team is the recipient of a $2,500 America’s Farmers Grow Communities grant sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. Grow Communities recognizes the important contributions farmers make to rural America and partners with farmers to help them grow their communities by supporting local organizations that are important to them. More than 89,040 farmers across the country participated in Grow Communities this year. Under the program, eligible farmers in 1,324 counties across 40 states may enter to win a $2,500 donation for a local non-profit of their choice. This year Thomas County farmer Lyle Saddler was selected as the winner of the competition. He chose the Colby Community College baseball team as the recipient of the grant.

LCC PBL Earns Top Awards At State

The Labette Community College Phi Beta Lambda students attended the Kansas State Conference, February 13-14 in Hays, KS. They earned spots as top finishers, securing a trip to compete at the National Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL in June. Phi Beta Lambda is a business organization for two and four year colleges.

The students competed against approximately 90 students from ten other 2 and 4-year schools. Students were also able to engage in leadership techniques during breakout sessions which they learned about from speakers during the conference. Ty Ellis, Orren Taylor and Shawna Yockey placed 1st in Integrated Marketing Campaign and 2nd place in Marketing Analysis & Decision Making. Ellis earned 1st place in Sales Presentation while Ellis and Kortney Kirkland earned 2nd in Business Presentation. Cathy Kibler, Instructor of Accounting and Business and PBL advisor said, “These students represented LCC very well and I am so proud of their accomplishments.”

Local Businesses Lean On PCC Students

After attending Pratt Community College and starting their careers while they were in college, David McComb and Jake Lewis of Pratt Livestock find it important to hire college students at the sale barn.

Pratt Livestock employs about five college students each year, crediting PCC students with their work ethic and dependability. Many of the fulltime employees have degrees from PCC and have been with the company for more than 15 years. “I grew up on the farm feeding and taking care of the animals,” said Tyler Beat, a new employee and PCC freshman majoring in farm and ranch management. “At the sale barn I see the market prices and what they are going for, and that gives me valuable business experience.”

“Tyler handles the job well and is mature and responsible for his age,” said McComb, the yard foreman. “It is good for college students to have jobs. A lot of them don’t and when they get out of college they don’t know how to work.”

New Hire Title IX Training at Dodge

Dodge City Community College Title IX Coordinators, Bev Tamaat and Dave Wetmore, conducted the first quarterly Title IX Training for new employees on Wednesday February 25th. All employees are required to attend Title IX Training annually. Four new employees attended the 1 hour class. Title IX topics include Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Harassment and Retaliation. New regulations related to the recently approved Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) were also reviewed. Tamaat commented “DC3 is dedicated to providing a safe learning environment for all of our students.” Tamaat and Wetmore are certified Title IX Coordinators and Investigators through the ATIXA Organization. Title IX Training will be provided quarterly for DC3 employees.
Gabriel Tuxhorn, a former **Dodge City Community College** Art Student, is being featured at the Phoenix Gallery in Lawrence, KS. A native of Dodge City, Tuxhorn was awarded a full art scholarship to Dodge City Community College. He took advantage of every class available at the college. His goal was to experience as much as he could in all media of art.

“I’ve always drawn and painted things like animals, people, faces and imaginary creatures that are part human and maybe part animal or insect” said Tuxhorn. He continued, “I like to focus in on the little things, people and things that otherwise normally go unnoticed. I mix a bit of the macabre with cute – not so much to shock or put off people, but to suggest contradictions in what is normal or acceptable”.

This artist’s portfolio contains a variety of subjects, from an exhausted Santa Claus to a green three-horned alien to a giggling pigtailed girl holding her supersized cat—all entertaining and equally diverse. Tuxhorn’s sense of humor is easily detected through his menagerie of doodled characters.

It’s a lot harder to be an artist than I expected – hard to create new work and be noticed,” Tuxhorn says, “And some of my work is about feeling isolated and choosing a direction that allows me to keep doing art instead of just paying the bills.” Tuxhorn works at **Hallmark** when not designing and creating his newest piece of artwork.

A spare bedroom has been transformed into Tuxhorn’s chamber of chimera. He continually adds to his collection of ideas, doodles, sketches and quick works that will eventually morph into a painstaking gratifying creation bringing a deep felt joy to Tuxhorn and hopefully an admiring art enthusiast wanting to buy.

To see some of Gabriel Tuxhorn’s work you should go to the Phoenix Gallery at 825 Massachusetts St. in Lawrence, KS or at County Club Plaza, 4740 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, Mo. You can also see a sample of Tuxhorn’s work online at [http://websta.me/n/freshh_brew](http://websta.me/n/freshh_brew).

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**Pancake Day Brings Volunteers, International Visitors to SCCC**

Students at **SCCC/ATS** don’t attend classes on Shrove Tuesday, known as Fat Tuesday in other parts of the world. In Liberal, the day is when local residents celebrate International Pancake Day, along with sister city Olney, England. The holiday has been going strong in Liberal for 66 years — just a blip on the history map compared to Olney’s 600-year-plus tradition. Rivalry between the two cities is friendly and strong, and this year, Liberal welcomed a British camp to the festivities. Devon Byrne of Olney, England, came across the Atlantic for Pancake Day, and they toured our campus, stopping to make the acquaintance of Seward President Dr. Duane Dunn, center, and deans Dennis Thatcher, left, Cynthia Rapp, and Celeste Donovan. Devon Byrne, 21, pictured far right, currently holds the International Race title, having won the race the last three years in a row. She set a new record time last year of 55.6 seconds, breaking her 2013 record time of 56 seconds. She participated as an honorary racer in the Liberal race and worked out in the college Wellness Center. Devon’s mother, Lesley, won the Olney race in 1988, 1989, and 1993. According to the official race rules of both cities, after winning three races, a racer must retire, so the Byrnes have decided to pay Liberal a visit since neither is eligible to race any more. Campus organizations also got in on the action. The college’s club Saints Participating in Education Careers sponsored a prize-winning float. The Industrial Technology division brought the college’s semi-truck trailer with wrap to the lineup as well. Saints baseball players Alex White and Thomas Coburn volunteered at the Hall of Fame. They ran items back and forth at the finish line and handed out participation medals to the younger racers.
Cowley Students Honored At Phi Theta Kappa Luncheon

Kayla Crane and Madison McDowell from Cowley College’s Arkansas City campus and Kathryn McIntosh and Nhat Nguyen from Cowley’s Mulvane Center were among the students honored in Topeka February 12 during the 20th Annual Phi Theta Kappa Honors Luncheon.

Representing the state’s 19 community colleges and a private two-year college, these scholars were named to the 2014-15 All-Kansas Academic Team, sponsored by the international headquarters of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, and the Kansas Council of Community College Presidents.

Other Cowley dignitaries at the luncheon were: Cowley College interim president Tony Crouch; Board of Trustees member Ron Godsey; vice president of academic affairs Slade Griffiths; executive director of enrollment management Josh Cobble; executive director of student affairs Jason O’Toole; Arkansas City PTK advisor Scott Layton, and Mulvane PTK advisor Melinda Neal. “It was great to be there to honor our academic scholars from Cowley College,” Griffiths said. “We are very proud of them.”

Dr. Rod Risley, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, served as the keynote speaker. Each student received a certificate signed by Governor Sam Brownback, an educational scholarship of $300, and an academic medallion. The Kansas Board of Regents universities, Washburn University and Kansas Independent Colleges have provided a minimum of a $1000 scholarship for the All-Kansas Team recipients who transfer to their institutions.

Pictured is Cowley interim president Tony Crouch and Kayla Crane.

SCCC/ATS Employee, Alum Opens Country Music Concert

JJ Widener serves as systems administrator at SCCC/ATS. He’s also an alum. And, as he demonstrated in February, he’s also a talented vocalist. Widener auditioned for the Showdown event, a local concert featuring country artist Granger Smith. As one of the top five finalists, he earned a spot as opener for the concert, which raised funds for the Liberal High School athletics booster club. Widener isn’t stingy with his musical talents. He regularly sings at his local church, and he’ll play a leading role in the upcoming SCCC/ATS production of “Return to the Forbidden Planet.” The musical blends Shakespeare with good old American rock-n-roll, and it’s set to open on April 23 — Shakespeare’s birthday.

Highland Director Receives Dissertation Award

Dr. Erin Shaw, Highland Community College Perry Center Director, received the 2015 Barbara K. Townsend Dissertation Award last week at the 13th Annual Conference of the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) in Atlanta, Georgia. Shaw’s dissertation was a transcendental phenomenology titled Sense Making for Community College Transfers Entering a Public, Liberal Arts University. Her study focused on the experiences of mid-year community college transfer students as they entered and made sense of a public, liberal arts university.
PCC Hosts Annual Academic Olympics & Car Show

On Feb 23, 650 students attended Pratt Community College’s annual Academic Olympics. The students came from high schools around the state and competed in various scholastic, technical and artistic categories. The top three students in each category were awarded with certificates recognizing their achievement. Guests to campus during the morning also visited the annual car show presented by the automotive department. Eighteen cars of all makes and models were on display on loan from employees and community members with ties to the department.

KCKCC Graduate To Perform With Ariana Grande

Tim Bailey, the Kansas City, Kan. native is back in Kansas City for one night performing on Ariana Grande’s World Tour. “I have definitely gotten to play at some big venues all over the world, but it is something really special coming back home and playing for the people who supported you.” Bailey studied music theory, music performance and music engineering at KCKCC, where he also performed with the KCKCC Jazz Band. In 2005, he graduated from the Los Angeles Music Academy. Since then, he has performed with artists such as Natalie Cole, Natasha Bedingfield, Tyrese Gibson, El DeBarge, Chris Brown and Lalah Hathaway. Bailey plays the electronic bass and the key bass, which emulates the low, deep sound of an upright bass or bass guitar on a keyboard.

Bailey said looking back on his time at KCKCC, he believes the music theory classes he took have been a big benefit as he has moved forward in his career. “Those classes have really helped me out in everything I have done musically,” he said. “all of the mechanics on how music works, I learned at KCKCC. I also developed a greater appreciation of jazz music as well as performing.”

CCC Women’s Indoor Track Team Wins Region VI Championship

The Coffeyville Red Raven Women’s Track team won the Region VI Indoor Track and Field Championship and the Raven Men’s team placed second overall in the region. Both the men’s and women’s team finished first in the Jayhawk East standings and were crowned Jayhawk East Conference champions. Over 40 members of CCC Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track team will be competing at the NJCAA National Indoor Track and Field Championship.

Allen Athletes Shine

With the Fall 2014 semester in the books, Allen Community College student-athletes have not only shined on the playing fields and court but also, more importantly, in the classroom. The Red Devils had 36 athletes receive All Academic recognition. The Red Devil Women’s Soccer Team had 15 All-Academics with their average GPA set at 3.45 for the semester. Volleyball finished the semester and season with an overall average GPA of 3.41 and 7 athletes honored, and Men’s Cross Country finished with a 3.25 GPA and 5 athletes honored. Other teams with All Academic athletes included Men’s Soccer with 6 athletes honored, Women’s Cross Country, and Men’s Half Marathon.