

The PINE BURR

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December 2, 2016

Serving SMCC Since 1940

Volume 72, No. 3

Campus Events
Thursday, December 1
 Basketball Game
 Mississippi Delta
 5:30/7:15 Summit
Friday, December 2
 AUG 15: Classes end

Monday, December 5
 Day classes end
 Wesley Foundation
 Pancake Study
 Break 6:30pm
 Basketball Game
 East Central
 5:30/7:15 Summit

Tuesday, December 6
FINAL EXAMS
 8:00-10:00 1 MWF
 10:15-12:15 4 MWF
 1:00-3:00 B TR
 3:15-5:15 6 MW

Wednesday, December 7
FINAL EXAMS
 8:00-10:00 5 MWF
 10:15-12:15 C TR
 1:00-3:00 2 MWF
 3:15-5:15 E TR

Thursday, December 8
FINAL EXAMS
 8:00-10:00 A TR
 10:15-12:15 3 MWF
 1:00-3:00 D TR
 Residence Halls close
 for winter break
 5:00 pm

Friday, December 9
 OCT: Ends;
 NOV04: Ends
 Final grades due

Monday, December 12
 Graduation Practice
 10:00

Tuesday, December 13
 Graduation 3:00pm

Wednesday, December 14
 Winter term last day to
 drop

Thursday, December 15
 DEC03: Last day to
 register

Friday, December 16
 DEC03: Begins
 Christmas holidays-
 Administrative offices
 closed

Saturday, December 17
 Winter term courses end

Monday, December 19-January 2
 Christmas Holidays

Thursday, January 5
 Payment of fees due to
 secure on-campus
 schedules 3:00pm
 Residence Halls open

Friday, January 6
 DEC03: Ends
 Open Registration

Saturday, January 7
 Basketball Game BRCC
 2:00 @ Baton Rouge

Monday, January 9
 Day Classes Begin

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Board member T.W. Bearden, Vice-President for Career-Technical Education Jeremy Smith, State Representative Sam Mims V, Vice-President for Business Affairs Andrew Alford, Former Board of Trustees President Hollis Alford; President, Board of Trustees Reggie Jones, Annette Conerly (widow of the late Vice-president of the Board of Trustees Jerry Conerly), Vice-President for Academic Affairs Alicia Shows, Vice-President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Ashley, Board member Jimmy Lowery; Second row left to right: SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop, Board member Chris Hollis, Board member James Brumfield, Board member Dr. Henry Lewis; Vice-President, Board of Trustees Bobby Nelson, Vice-President for Physical Resources Dr. Bill Tucker, Vice-President for Admissions and Records Matt Calhoun
photo by Joyce Mabry

SMCC dedicates Alford-Conerly Hall at ceremony

by Cody Pol,
 editor

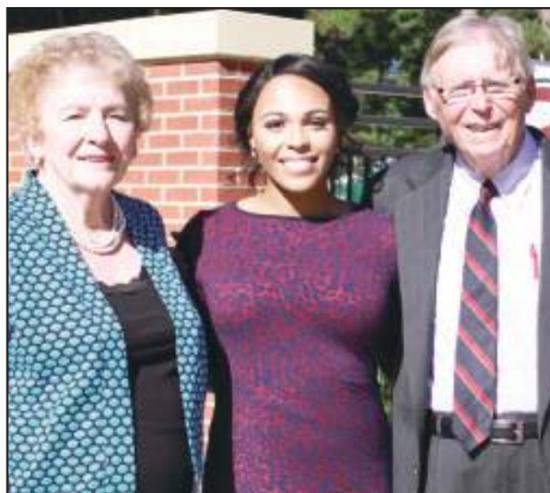
On the beautiful day of Saturday, October 29, 2016, Southwest Mississippi Community College dedicates the Alford-Conerly Hall. The new 31,592 square foot men's residence hall is named after long-time college trustees Hollis Alford and Jerry Conerly. Alford, from Pike County, and Conerly, of Walthall County, have served fifty-two and fifty-one years, respectively, on the community college board and have held positions of both chairman and vice-chairman for a majority of that time. Alford-Conerly is a two-story residence hall with the capacity to house 122 students in its 61 dormitory-style rooms.

The approximately \$6.5 million project located behind the Baptist Student Union opened for move-in this September, and its residents are more than happy with their new home. Southwest Mississippi Community College has equipped its new campus housing with state-of-the-art technology such as Wi-Fi that spans throughout the entire building, a security surveillance system, and an electronic card reader access point at the entrance. With amenities including an elevator, vending machines, keycard locks on each door, study rooms, cable, laundry rooms, and more, the men of SMCC are experiencing campus living like never before.

At the dedication ceremony for Alford-Conerly Hall, the crowd shows excitement for the new facilities. Dr. Steve Bishop welcomes everyone to the momentous event and tells of the dedication and commitment that Hollis Alford and Jerry Conerly to Southwest Mississippi Community College. Moving on in the program, Tate Allen says a prayer in gratitude for the great weather and the funds to erect the structure. Choir members provide special music for the ceremony under the direction of Joe Elliott. Following the beautiful vocals of the choir is Dr. Bill Ashley's speech on the significance of Alford-Conerly Hall. Reggie Jones expresses his fascination with the quality and craftsmanship of the structure and talks of his admiration for Hollis Alford and Jerry Conerly, and soon after Jones and Dr. Steve Bishop unveil the new Alford-Conerly plaque. Annette Conerly speaks on behalf of the Conerly family. Hollis Alford reflects on his many years as a member and president of the Board of Trustees and takes the audience on an amazing visual tour of all the buildings on campus. Concluding the ceremony is Dr. Bill Tucker. The ribbon cutting and pictures commence shortly after the speeches, and an open house and tour continue into the afternoon. All who attend the event show their utmost approval for the contemporary residence hall, and all residents will live in supreme comfort for years to come.



Dr. Steve Bishop and Reggie Jones unveil dedication plaque.
photo by Joyce Mabry



Annette Conerly and Hollis Alford pose with SGA President Haley Simmons.
photo by Joyce Mabry



Alford-Conerly Hall welcomes students.
photo by Joyce Mabry

Phi Theta Kappa: Honors in Action

By Cody Pol,
 editor

Omicron Delta, Southwest Mississippi Community College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, hosts a presentation entitled, "Longwood Plantation: A Study through the Lens of Beauty and Vulgarly." Longwood, an antebellum mansion located in Natchez, Mississippi, is the largest octagonal residence in the country, but it is incomplete.

An important part of maintaining five-star status is completing Phi Theta Kappa's *Honors in Action* research project, which consists of a research portion and a portion where the research must be put into action. This year's overall theme is *Global Perspectives*, which encourages students to think on a global scale. The specific subtopic Omicron Delta chooses is "Beauty and Vulgarly." "Beauty and Vulgarly" consists of an in-depth analysis of what is actually beautiful and what is actually vulgar based on society's standards and why and how those standards came to be. The officer team of Omicron Delta elects to analyze the beautiful and vulgar aspects of Longwood mansion at an Honors Institute held in Natchez over the summer.

Strolling along the grounds of Longwood inspires awe in the officer team. The Spanish moss hanging from the centuries-old oak trees and the picturesque rolling hills of the Natchez terrain set the stage for what is to come with the *Honors in Action* presentation. Entering the finished basement, the only part of Longwood that is complete, one is instantly taken aback by the sheer size of what is typically a dingy, claustrophobic space. Longwood, on the contrary, boasts a basement that most consider ornate and luxurious. More expansive than most large houses of today, the basement of Longwood has the potential to easily host multiple families. Moving upstairs to the unfinished portion of Longwood, the scene before everyone is one of simultaneous amazement and wonderment over what could have been. The tour guide explains the details of how the remaining three stories were to look had they been completed. Tile mosaics in the entryways and plastered arches never came into fruition as the outbreak of the Civil War forced the migrant craftsmen back to their respective home states.

Delving into topics of history, architecture, social conditions, and an analysis of the theme, Omicron Delta presents a well-researched and thought out program. Dr. Jennifer McLaughlin, PTK Advisor, and President Cody Pol give a warm welcome to those who attend the presentation. The first section, history, is presented by MeOshia Williams, Vice-President of Scholarship. She speaks on the history of the mansion, specifically mentioning the events that led up to the building of Longwood. Architecture facts are next presented by Cody Pol, president, and he lectures on the architectural significance of the mansion. A notable fact is that Longwood is a prime example of the then-popular Oriental Revival style. Mohammad Mohammad, recording secretary, gives an eloquent analysis of the social aspects of the time period, mentioning the polarized race relations and social injustices that were so prevalent in the Civil War era. Finally, Garrett Szopinski, historian, and Brittany McGuire, Vice-President of Fellowship, explain the importance of the theme, "Beauty and Vulgarly," and how we can all apply it to our daily lives.

The Pine Burr

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Advisor.....Joyce Mabry

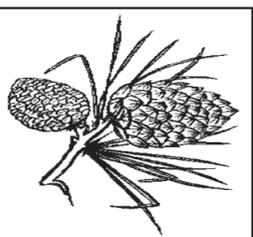


The *Pine Burr* is published monthly during regular academic sessions. Views expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the faculty and administration. Writers express themselves under their by-lines.

Offices are located in Kenna Hall, Room 29; the telephone number is 276-3843. The staff invites readers to submit opinion columns and letters to the editor. Pine Burr, Kenna Hall, Summit, MS 39666.

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Southwest Mississippi Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding the non-discrimination policies: Rhonda Gibson, Director of Disability Support Services, 601-276-3885; Dr. Bill Ashley, Vice President of Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator and Director of Athletics, 601-276-3717, 1156 College Dr., Summit, MS 39666.



Quote of the Month

“Peace begins with a smile.”
-Mother Teresa



BEAR AWARE

In order to effectively communicate emergency information to SMCC employees and students, SMCC has implemented a rapid alert and notification system developed by SchoolCast. BearAware is a service that allows employees and students of SMCC to receive alerts, news, or other emergency information via text, email, or by phone. Participation in Bear Aware is not mandatory but encouraged. At this time, the only information entered into the SchoolCast database is the student's "smcc.edu" email address.

Please read the following because our procedures for handling Bear Aware have changed. An email has been sent to all current students, faculty, and staff with their login information for Bear Aware. Students, faculty, and staff no longer need to request this information by emailing bearaware@smcc.edu.

Dear Students,

You should have received an email with your Bear Aware Login Information on August 31, 2016. An additional email will be sent to your email account at 9:00 AM this morning (September 26, 2016) with your login information. It's basically the same email that was sent on August 31, 2016. If you have already logged in and set up your account, no additional action is required on your part. We will be sending more of these login information emails on the 20th of each month this semester to encourage participation in the system.

Again, if you have already set up your account, no action is required on your part. We do recommend logging in to Bear Aware at least once a month and verifying the accuracy of your information.

Please read the login information email in its entirety. It will explain why your password may be represented by asterisks (*) and what to do if you cannot log in or if you forgot your password.

If you have any questions, send them to bearaware@smcc.edu from your SMCC email account. We cannot communicate about Bear Aware accounts from other personal or business email accounts you may have. You do not have to contact bearaware@smcc.edu for your login information unless you don't get a login information email.

Words from the SGA Treasurer

Dear Fellow Students,

Greetings! The Student Government Association has been busy these past few months working to make the Southwest campus even better. As many of you may have noticed, there has been a major influx in the number of bikers on campus. As Southwest has not typically had a large number of students riding their bikes, there are currently very few spots to safely secure them. The SGA is working to install bike racks around campus so that all bikers' property can be safely secured.

In other news, SGA members contributed items to the Operation Christmas Child toy drive. Operation Christmas Child is a program that sends shoeboxes full of toys and basic necessities to children who are in need. The program has served as a major blessing to many impoverished children over the years, and the Student Government Association was more than glad to help.

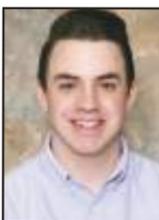
As always, the SGA encourages the student body to make suggestions as to how we can make the campus better. There are only so many of us, so student suggestions help us to have a more accurate understanding of what is working well and what needs to be changed on campus. Thank you all for your continued support, and we are glad to be of service in any way!

Cody Pol
SGA Student Body Treasurer



Cody Pol

Editorial: Finish strongly



Cody Pol

Editorial
By Cody Pol,
Editor

was full of food and relaxation, which was mostly triggered by my excessive intake of tryptophan. My Black Friday experience was much better than I could have anticipated, and I actually finished most of my Christmas shopping early.

Just as it seemed the semester was truly taking off, we are now approaching finals and Christmas break. As tired as we all are, myself especially, it is crucial that

we finish strongly so that our GPAs are as good as they can be. I encourage everyone to not procrastinate studying for finals; as tiresome and boring as studying may be, it is the only way to ensure good scores. Do not make the same mistake I have and procrastinate until the last minute. Procrastination is my most significant weakness, and it has caused me much grief over the years.

For all of you who are grad-

uating this month, I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors. I encourage you all to remember the opportunities and learning experiences that Southwest has offered you. On your way up the ladder and through the workforce, be sure to put your best foot forward always and do the best work you can.

Blind woman excels at seminary

By Hunter Johnson

Mytchiko McKenzie is the daughter of Richard and Rebecca of Pike County. She went to Southwest Mississippi Community College before getting a bachelor's degree in social work from University of Southern Mississippi. She is a member of Johnston Chapel United Methodist Church. She got her first service dog through the Lions Club leader dog program. The following article ran in the March 12 Dallas Morning News.

Mytchiko McKenzie understands that people might wonder how she is able to accomplish the things she does every day. But the first-year student at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology was never going to let her blindness stop her.

"What else would I do?" she asks.

McKenzie, 25, a Methodist, has already done so much that it's easy to forget that she's blind. Still wanting to do much more, and inspired by what she calls

"God moments," she's not about to let a disability hold her back.

For her, God moments can be huge, life-changing instances-but not always.

"They can be itty bitty (events) throughout the day," she said.

Whether it's finding a good parking spot or finding a permanent family to adopt her, McKenzie never fails to remember God's hand in her life.

When she was still a child in south Mississippi, McKenzie and her younger sister Deanna hopped from foster home to foster home. During that time, McKenzie suffered from retinitis pigmentosa, which severely hampered her vision and gave her almost no depth perception.

While up for adoption, the young sisters faces the possibility of a permanent split when someone became interested in adopting Deanna. Before that could happen, there was a God moment: At a picnic for foster children and potential parents, a couple noticed McKenzie trying to get the attention of the ducks.

"I remember my dad being like, 'Here, why don't you give

the ducks something to eat?'" she said with a smile, "and he gave me some animal crackers to feed the ducks."

This couple soon fell in love with the girls and adopted them both.

Despite her terrible vision, McKenzie was not an idle child. With her adoptive parents' encouragement, she played T-ball, Marched in the high school band, trained in aikido, and learned to ride a bike with her dad's help.

"I had no depth perception, so (my dad) pushing me absolutely terrified me," she said.

Whereas before she was able to make out shapes and colors and have a general idea of what things looked like, McKenzie woke up one morning able to distinguish only light and darkness. She failed her classes.

A serious conversation with God was in order, she said.

When she was younger, she didn't fully understand the role she believes God plays in her life.

"For me, I know God, but I didn't know who God was," she said.

As she grew older, McKenzie saw that God not only played a role in her life was also looking out for her.

"I realized that I survived stuff that I shouldn't have, or that things worked out somehow and they shouldn't have," she said.

Toward the end of her high school years, McKenzie attended an intense two-week divinity camp taught by professors from Duke University. While the rigorous courses frightened some into dropping out, McKenzie loved the exposure to complex theological issues and jumped into the material. After the camp, she felt called to work in the ministry. She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2015 with a degree in social work.

"My calling [...] has always been to the people who don't quite fit in," she said. "For me, it's not that you don't fit in; it's just that sometimes it takes someone taking a step and meeting you where you are. And, a lot of times, it just takes listening."

SMCC a gem for Pike County

Author, Ann Jackson
Enterprise Journal

As I have mentioned before, we have a glittering gem situated a few miles northeast of our little village of Summit.

Southwest Mississippi Community College continues to amaze me in its growth, its beautiful campus, curriculum, instructors, staff, students, and its Board of Trustees and president Dr. Steven Bishop.

WalletHub recently ranked Southwest as number 15 of 670 community colleges in America, while the state of Mississippi's community college system was ranked as the top college system of the entire nation's community college systems. It is refreshing and marvelous to hear great

things about our home state, especially our local college.

The four categories used to rank individual colleges are cost and financing, classroom experience, education outcomes, and career outcomes. Southwest ranked first in the nation in career outcomes. It was 74th in cost and financing, 138th in classroom experience, and 196th in education outcomes. Dr. Bishop says the ranking gives merit to the top-quality faculty, staff, and students they are able to attract.

Dr. Bishop also gives a great deal of credit to the Board of Trustees; I agree. This board is committed to and continues to make wise decisions concerning the college, its students, and faculty.

They are to be commended as

working closely with Dr. Bishop for the betterment of Southwest.

As one who was once a student at our local college, I continue to admire the growth and beauty of the campus. I often ride through the winding road of the college savoring the beauty of the landscaping, checking out the construction of the new men's dormitory, and being amazed at the number of students and cars.

On one of my recent trips, I passed by the wooden gazebo, which is located by the baseball field, and it's enjoyed often by Bears fans and families as a place to gather, cook out, and support the players. The gazebo was designed and built by the Bear Backers, who along with Southwest Alumni Association and the Southwest Foundation,

needs membership, contributions, and support.

Plan on having lunch at the college. Southwest boasts a fantastic cafeteria that offers delicious food and is ready and willing to serve you and your friends. They are open every day for lunch, except during school holidays. Join them for a great and extremely affordable meal. You will be glad you did.

We are extremely fortunate to have this amazing learning institution located here in our own backyard. Let's show our support and appreciation by attending sporting events, band concerts, and any other activities open to the public.



Frank joins SMCC's baseball staff

By Michael Gunnell, Director of Sports Information

Chazwell Storm Frank, better known as Chaz, has joined the Southwest baseball team in the role of volunteer assistant coach. While he may be young (26), he brings with him a wealth of experience as he takes on the task of working with the Bears' hitters.

A native of Lexington, NC, Frank has been making a name for himself in baseball circles since his days at Central Davidson High School. While playing for the Spartans, Frank was a two-time Louisville Slugger All-American, a two-time All-State and three-time All-Conference and All-County selection. In looking back at his days playing for Coach Jonathan Brown, Frank said, "I was very fortunate to have played for a good coach who'd been coaching for several years. He really took me under his wing as a freshman (and) gave me the opportunity to play four years of varsity. He's all about doing things the right way, whether it was taking care of the field or being a good teammate. He really taught me some of the finer things about baseball." After high school, Frank went on to a stellar career at the University of North Carolina, playing for head coach Mike Fox. That, he said, "was a dream come true." Frank said at the age of 12, he and a friend discussed where they wanted to play college baseball. When the friend said North Carolina, Frank said he would go there, too. "The crazy thing is," Frank said, "we both did it." Frank batted .288 during his four years with the Tar Heels. He ranks in the team's Top 10 All-Time in at bats, triples and walks. His 15 triples rank 2nd All-Time in team history. At the end of his sophomore season, he received the Walter Rabb Award for being the Most Improved Player.

Frank said it "was a great experience" playing for the Tar Heels. "They're first-class people and a first-class program. Coach Fox is a great mentor to me. He turned me from a boy into a young man and I learned a lot of things there. I'm very grateful for the opportunities and experiences I had there." While playing for the Tar Heels, Frank helped lead the team to two appearances in the NCAA College World Series (2011, 2013) in Omaha, NE. "It was very exhilarating," he said of the experience. The team played the first game in the then-new TD Ameritrade ballpark and, Frank said, "(former) President George W. Bush threw out the first pitch. All of it was so surreal." Frank has the distinction of hitting the first triple, off current Oakland A's pitcher Sonny Gray, in the ballpark in a game against Vanderbilt. "Of course," he said, "I was nervous. (But) playing in front of 35 thousand people was a pretty cool experience. You just feel like a big-leaguer for a week. I had a lot of fun and got to do a lot of things that were very cool."

In 2013, Frank was taken in the Major League draft by the Toronto Blue Jays. He went on to spend two years in their minor-league organization. "The day that (I was drafted), was an incredible experience," he said. "We (the Tar Heels) won to go on to Omaha and then 30 minutes later I found out I'd been drafted. It was one of the best days of my life." "Getting to play every day (in the minors), I got to be in front of people like (former major leaguers) Carlos Delgado and Fred McGriff, people that I looked up to and now they're my coaches, my mentors and (are) helping me grow in the sport. It was a great experience and I was very blessed to do that because it's very hard to make it at that level. I enjoyed every day of it." Frank began his coaching career when, after his time with the Blue Jays, he returned to North Carolina to finish his degree (he received a Bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sports Science and Sports Administration earlier in 2016). "Coach Fox asked if I would help out by being an undergraduate assistant," Frank said, "and, of course, I said yes. I'd had a great experience there as a player and I knew what he expected of me."



Veterans' Day Program: Dr. Bill Ashley, Vice-President for Student Affairs; Lt. Colonel William Martin Fox, Commander of the 1st Battalion 155th Infantry Regiment and Speaker; Dr. Steve Bishop, President Southwest Mississippi Community College; second row: Left to Right: Alexica Carr, SGA Freshman Class President; Cody Pol, SGA Treasurer; Meoshia Williams, SGA Secretary; Haley Simmons, SGA President; Rebecca Davis, SGA Sophomore Class Secretary; Jenna VanDan, SGA Sophomore Class President; Kendyl Adam, SGA Vice-President; Brooke Smith, SGA Freshman Class Secretary; Clare Clare, SGA Springfest Chair; third row: Left to Right; Robert Brown, SGA Faculty Appreciation Day Chair; Brooke Wells, SGA Freshman Class Vice-President; Trenton Johnson, SGA Sophomore Class Treasurer; Dallas Smith, SGA Sophomore Class Vice-President; Boyd Dunnam, SGA Marketing Chair *photo by Joyce Mabry*



SMCC's Practical Nursing Class #62: Lonnie Ann Moore, Jerica Norrells, Jon'Asia Daggins, Jessica Vanderford, Breyonna Goode, Rheagan Welch, Olivia Weeks; second row: Brittney Howell, Arswanakee Magee, Crystal O'Bryant, Sarah Phelps, Ember Patterson, Karina Smith, Pepper Whitehead; third row: Kelly Hall, Rene' Talbert, Cassandra Clark, Alisha Adams, Stacy Culver, Tomeka Anderson, Ke'Erica Mikell, Ashley Wheeler; fourth row: Maleah Fortenberry, Shaniqua Hughes, Bessica Clark, Raven Aldridge, Ronniccia Clark, Maya Toney, Khai Wilson, Gregniqua Byrd *photo by Joyce Mabry*



Practical Nursing Graduates #61: Ambreieya Wilbourn, P'Laura King, Alisha May, Rareshia Hines, Melissa Taylor, Briana Tobias; second row: Jarred Fouche, Breonna Robinson, Dabresha Magee, Na'Tisha Yarborough, Krystal Robertson, Shanna Magee, Emily Smith, Brady Duncan, Kamrie Baggett *photo by Joyce Mabry*



BSU Leadership Team: Joey Elliott, President; Daniel Herndon, Director; Kendyl Adam, Jessi Barnes, Vice President; Brandon Bergeron, Laken Brock, Lauren Burch, Mariha Beadle, and Anna Fraiser. *photo by Joyce Mabry*

Men's soccer team makes history

By Michael Gunnell, Director of Sports Information

Coming seemingly out of nowhere, the Southwest Bears soccer team, under the direction of first-year head coach Zach Mills, became a force to be reckoned with in the MACJC this season.

In making their first-ever appearance in the MACJC state playoffs (and advancing to the semi-final round), the Bears broke seven program records (most wins-13; most goals scored-50; average goals per game-2.63; most shots on goal-182; most shots on goal, average-9.58; consecutive games won and consecutive games without a loss-5) and tied two others (shutouts-5; and, most wins in the South Division-5).

Mills said he was "very proud of the guys for what they've accomplished. I'm excited that they made a name for themselves. They gained everyone's respect and they deserved it. Their hard work paid off in the end and we did break (and tie) those records. (But) I'm upset because, honestly, I think we could have done a lot more with the guys we have."

"We're going to hold our heads high," Mills said, "even though it's hard to see the season end without moving on (past the state tournament). But, making it to the semi-finals was huge for us and just seeing that talent out there and showing everyone what we could do was awesome."

What was the season highlight for Mills? The fact that we made it so far was fantastic, but I would have to say beating my predecessor Drew Gallant (who served as head coach for the Bears before moving to Pearl River after last season). When they came here, we took it home and beat them 1-0. That was huge (and) felt great."

The Bears' success was caused, in large part, by the play of freshman forward Jaime Delor, freshman goalkeeper Kade Jenkins and sophomore midfielder Francisco "Pancho" Alisiardi.

Delor, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, set team season and career records in goals scored (31) and points (69). He is currently on top of the NJCAA in both categories, as well as shots on goal, and was a state and national Offensive Player of the Week in October. A graduate of nearby North Pike High School, Jenkins recorded the most minutes in goal for a Southwest keeper and tied a record with five shutouts (set last season by Bryant Boyington). Alisiardi (Buenos Aires, Argentina) broke the team's season and career records with 14 assists.

"First of all," Mills said of Delor, "everyone saw those ridiculous numbers put up by Jaime and we're proud of him. But, I love his attitude. Anytime we talk about how well he's doing, he says 'there's nothing else I could do but score because of the beautiful balls (passed to me). All I have to do is push it in.'"

Jenkins came to Southwest on the heels of PCL surgery. This, Mills said, made "pre-season a little scary. Then, all of a sudden, the day before the first game, he said 'I'm here' and he's been showing out ever since. He had a crazy amount of saves (139; at one time, Jenkins led the NJCAA in that category). He did so well this season. I'm really excited that a local kid could come here and make so much noise."

Mills said not a lot of people believed in Jenkins "outside of Southwest. I knew he would come in and do well and work hard. Like Jaime, Kade gives all the credit to all his teammates. He's talked about how easy the saves were because of his defense and how (the defense) kept him from having to do a lot of hard work."

SMCC's Bears say, "Merry Christmas."



Soft skills: adaptability unites

By Cody Pol
editor

Soft skills are defined as, "personal attributes that enable someone to interact effectively and harmoniously with other people." A major soft skill that is important to success in the workforce is adaptability. Those who are set in their ways are often a speed bump on the way to success in a team setting. As everyone has a different way of completing tasks, adaptability can serve as a uniting factor, and working together as a cohesive team encourages speedy completion of tasks. Adaptability in more experienced workers is a highly sought-after attribute because they are stereotypically known for being inflexible. Organizations change over time, and change has become exponentially faster with the advent and growing popularity of the internet and e-commerce. The way business is conducted has changed since even a decade ago, so adaptability is a needed skill for those who intend to remain productive and competitive.

Christmas: season of traditions

by Chelsey Bowers,
staff writer

Logan Larousse says there is nothing more important than spending time with family for Christmas. It's "the most wonderful time of the year" in the Larousse home. The family puts up Christmas lights, and everyone helps with the Christmas tree. Logan's grandmother, whom he calls "Nana," always cooks a feast for the family. "It's a meal that everyone waits on year-round," says Larousse. All the family comes together for such a special occasion to spend quality time together. Most of the Larousse family lives Louisiana, so it can be difficult to get everyone together throughout the year, but that's what Christmas is for. They exchange gifts and see what everyone else received. "The best part [of the occasion] is seeing the little ones open their presents," says Larousse. "Their faces just light up when they see their new truck or doll." After exchanging gifts, they all finally get to eat the delicious meal that "Nana" has prepared for the family. "We fill our plates until there is no more room," says Larousse. "After everyone eats, the kids play with new toys, and the adults take a much-needed nap." Larousse says it's not about all the presents you get, but it's the time spent with great family that is the best part of Christmas.

Remember the fallen

by Michael Wilson,
staff writer

On the 11th day of November, Student Government Association hosted a Veteran's Day assembly in the Hurst Auditorium. Haley Simmons, SGA President, welcomed the students and faculty to the assembly. Brooke Wells, SGA Freshman Vice-President, led a thoughtful prayer, praying for the fallen members of our nation's military. Dallas Smith, SGA Sophomore Vice-President, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a duet of the Star-Spangled Banner by Southwest Mississippi Community College cheerleaders Erica Alford and Emma Walls. MeOshia Williams, Cody Pol, and Kendyl Adam narrated the history of Veteran's Day. Alexcia Carr, SGA Freshman President, introduced the honored guest Lt. Colonel William Martin Fox. Lt. Fox gave a heartfelt speech on what Veteran's Day meant to him. He told stories about his experience in the armed forces and mentioned how much he enjoyed serving his country and the people who live in it. Lt. Fox encouraged everyone to help with anything. "The people of the state of Mississippi always answer our nation's call, starting in 1798 until now in the younger generations," said Lt. Fox.



TriBeta members participate in the Science Fall Fun Day at Otken Elementary School: Alana Gabler, advisor; Michael Wilson, Brandon Bergeron, Mohammad Mohammad, MeOshia Williams, Simarjit Kaur, Cody Pol, Mattie Pigott, Drake Pace, Alexcia Carr, J.C. Gardner, Ariel McDaniel, Ashley Parun, Robin Kuntz, advisor
photo by Joyce Mabry

Dr. Stephens presents lecture



Southwest Mississippi Community College's Physics Instructor Dr. James Stephens was a featured speaker for the Mississippi Humanities Council's lecture series. Dr. Stephens presented "Science As Part of the Humanities and the Humanities As Essential for the Science, Engineering and Technical Major" Thursday evening in the Student Union Auditorium. Pictured includes: SMCC Vice-President for Academic Affairs Alicia Shows, SMCC Mathematics and Sciences Division Chairperson Pete Ferguson, Humanities Presenter Dr. James Stephens, SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop.

Movie Review: Finding Dory

by Kimi Jeanson, co-editor

Finding Dory is a successful sequel to *Finding Nemo*. Pixar perfectly blends the stories together as if we were right where we left off in the first movie; it reaches into the child inside all of us. We grew up watching movies like *The Incredibles*, *Finding Nemo*, *Toy Story*, and *Monsters, Inc.*, and we were all anxiously awaiting the sequel no matter how old we got.

After being questioned about where she came from, Dory receives sudden insight about her previous life. Her memory loss creates a huge obstacle throughout her journey; however, with the help of Marlin, Nemo, and some familiar ocean friends, she embarks on a quest across the depths of the sea to find her parents. This playful but heartwarming tale of self-discovery and belonging will bring you to tears. From narrow escapes to terrifying beasts, every twist in the plot is sure to give

you whiplash. You never know what will happen next.

As traditional Pixar movies go, their supporting characters give just as much life to the story as the main characters. In *Finding Dory*, we are introduced to Destiny and Bailey. Destiny is the sweet but legally blind whale shark who lives in an aquarium. Bailey, Destiny's next-tank-neighbor, is the emotionally-charged Beluga whale. Together, they contribute a dynamic of comedy and pure heart.

Despite being in college, these simple, yet iconic movies will forever be with us. We will be old and gray by the time *The Incredibles 2* comes out, but I doubt I will be the only senior citizen buying my ticket in advance. In the meantime, *Finding Dory* joins the list of must-sees as far as children's movies are concerned. Pixar consistently nails the human aspect of every character no matter what shape or form our brazen hero comes in. Even though Dory forgets everyone, we will never forget her.

Campus police ready to roll



Davis Haygood, Chief of Campus Police, and Jay Bain, campus policeman, pose with the newly acquired patrol vehicle

History of Christmas trees

By Lakin Brown
staff writer

Evergreen firs are traditionally known as Christmas trees, and in the past they have been used to celebrate many different holidays. Pagans used branches of the tree to decorate their homes during the winter; it made them think of the spring to come. The Romans used the tree to decorate their temples at the festival of Saturnalia. Christians use it as a sign of everlasting life with God; it was about 100 years ago in northern Europe that the first evergreen fir was used as a Christmas tree.

Hanging lights on a Christmas tree has not always been a commonplace tradition. In 1805, candles were used to illuminate the trees. Ralph Morris invented the first electric Christmas tree lights because a hospital in Chicago burned down as a result of the lit candles on the tree. In 1908, insurance companies tried to ban candles because of all the fires they were causing. Ralph Morris played an extremely important role in making Christmas safe!

Candy canes are traditionally hung on Christmas trees, and they are popularly handed out everywhere during the Christmas holiday season. The Christmas candy cane originated in Germany about 250 years ago. In an old wives' tale from about 1670, a choirmaster was worried about the children sitting quietly through the long Christmas Nativity service, so he gave them something to eat in order to keep them quiet. He wanted to remind them of the meaning of Christmas, so he shaped the white sugar sticks into a "J" like a shepherd's crook. Two centuries later, confectioners added the red stripes and flavored them with peppermint. Another meaning for the candy cane is that the white represents the purity of Christ, and the red represents the blood He shed when He died on the cross.

Bikes: a new mode of travel

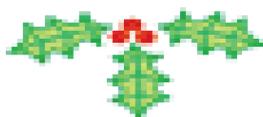
by Jonathan Scott,
staff writer

As the first semester comes to a close, students are pretty well adjusted to Southwest's campus. When navigating their way from place to place, students choose different means of transportation. Most walk or drive; others, however, choose to ride bicycles. There is a fairly large number of these students, generally with specific reasons for riding bikes across campus rather than walking or driving.

Freshman Matthew Ashmore discussed why he preferred riding bikes. "It's faster, easier for me, and better for me instead of walking," he said. Emmanuel "Trell" Thompson discussed his feelings as well. "It gets me to my class faster," he said. He also expressed that he finds it easier and better than walking. Sophomore Nick Rivera also stated that riding a bike was easier and that he'd ridden a bike in his freshman year. All three students typically believe that it is easier and more efficient than going on foot. Another factor that comes with bike riding is parking. At places where there aren't traditional bike racks, students hook their bicycles to nearby trees by using locks.

These students are just a few of the bicyclers around campus. Even though they may all have a variety of reasons for riding a bike, there are practical benefits as well. Much like walking, riding a bike can serve as a form of exercise. It is faster than walking and doesn't require the gas like that of driving. Since dorm students are discouraged from driving around campus to get to their classes, bike riding is definitely a great alternative.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Bears go to the goal for points



By Michael D. Gunnell
Southwest Sports Information Director

November 2, 2016

Under the direction of fifth-year head coach Brent Harris, and looking to better last season's 17-8 record, the Lady Bears open the 2016-17 basketball campaign on November 5 in New Orleans as they face Delgado Community College.

When play begins, Harris said, under the on-court leadership of guard Alissa Adam (5' 8"), the Lady Bears should look very similar to their past style of play. Adam, a graduate of Hancock High School, was fifth in the NJCAA last season with 6.6 assists per game.

The five sophomores on last year's squad all found a home to continue their playing careers (Gabriella Cortez signed with Louisiana-Monroe; Ke'Asia Gray and Tatyana Turner signed with Belhaven University; Teshia Jones signed with William Carey University; and, Lillie Snowden signed with LSU-Alexandria).

However, Harris said, "I think we've added some good pieces (and) I think we'll have enough shooters from the three-point line. Peyton Papenburg (5' 8"-guard-Brandon High School) and Danyelle Lewis (5' 7"-guard-Florence High School) are two freshmen who are going to step into that role and, I think, do a good job. Another key freshman will be Keturah Bingham (6'-forward-Monroe, LA)."

Cortez and Jones topped the Lady Bears scoring last season with 16.9 and 14.3 points per game, respectively. But, Harris feels Papenburg and Lewis "can step into those roles and help make some threes like Teshia did last year and Keturah can play similar to how Gabby played and she's a little bit bigger. For our team, we're going to have a little more size at the four and five than we have had in the past. We've just got to be consistent."

Looking at his team further, Harris said "Alissa will run the show at the point. She's extremely exceptional at that and the ball will be in her hands a great deal."

"We have some good wings," Harris continued. "Chelsea James (5' 8"-guard-Loranger, LA) is a good leader. She made some key plays in some big games for us (last season). She'll be counted on to play some great defense."

The Lady Bears have three players back in the post position in Shelby Taylor (5' 11"-Canton High School), A'Keyia McDyess (6' 1"-Quitman High School) and Terica Barnes (6'2"-Taylorsville High School). Harris said all three "are similar (to each other), but have some differences and this allows us to be a bigger team if we can play some of them (at the same time). That's a question mark right now."

Harris said North Pike product Rachel Thompson (5' 9"-forward) "has been extremely exciting and she's going to have the ball in her hands some and she'll play the four spot for us. She's had a good pre-season (and) plays with a lot of energy."

Harris repeated that the team will "be the same (as last season), but we are going to be different in that we can be a bigger team on some nights."

How does Harris see the MACJC's South Division shaping up? "Jones County had a really good recruiting class, Co-Lin's always at the top and, of course, East Central's the defending state champions." Along with the Lady Bears, those teams were the top four in the Division last season.

Harris added that "Hinds is going to be very, very good. They've added a lot of nice players (and) Pearl River had a pretty good recruiting class."

Harris said that despite the fact that only four teams from the Division will advance to the playoffs, "I think there's going to be a little more in the running for those spots than last year. It's going to be a very competitive South Division." Back for her fourth season as Harris' assistant is Britta Stephens.

After their season-opener at Delgado, the Lady Bears travel to Mississippi Delta on November 7 before making their home debut on November 10 against Baton Rouge Community College.

The 2016-17 basketball season

is upon us and the Bears, led by third-year head coach Thomas Gray, are coming off a 17-8 season and have a new title-defending state champions.

Asked what the Bears do as a follow up to last season's success, "Gray said "I think we left a lot of unfinished business out there (by) not getting to the regional tournament. Getting there is something we haven't done here in a while. We want to make a run in the tournament and win a couple of games and have a chance to go to the national tournament."

Gray said he felt that, for the players back from last year, "that's (a trip to the national tournament) where their focus is. They still feel that hunger. Yes, we're excited about winning the state championship, and it was a really big deal, but, we've moved on from last year and are looking forward to trying to take care of that unfinished business we left out there."

This season, Gray says he hopes fans will see in his team "a group that plays hard and plays together. I think that one thing we've got to do, night in and night out, is play harder than our opponents. We've got to want to win more than our opponents want to win. That's one thing I pray that we see in this group is that they're going to compete and compete at a high level."

"Secondary to playing hard," Gray said, "we've got to play for each other. We can't let any kind of selfish ambition get in the way of what we're trying to do. Anytime we're trying to accomplish something like competing for a regional championship, you have to buy into the team (and) buy into the process. So, hopefully, above anything else (I hope fans see) a group of guys that plays hard every time they hit the floor and that play for each other and for this team."

One of the toughest tasks Gray has going into the season is trying to find a way to replace his two leading scorers from last season. Terrell Miller (15.7 points per game) signed with Murray State while Lafayette Rutledge (13.8 points per game) signed with Nicholls State.

Replacing Miller and Rutledge "starts with the returners," Gray said. "We've got nine guys coming back from last year's team and somebody's got to step up and be that leader, somebody's got to step up and be that go-to guy at crunch time when we need a basket or that go-to defender that's going to spark the defense with an energy play whether it's taking a charge or getting a steal or just being vocal. That's where it begins, with the guys who know the league, who've played in this league."

"Secondary to the returners," Gray said, "we're fortunate enough to bring in some guys who we expect to make an impact on this team and this league. We've got a big-time transfer in Mike Parks, Jr. (6' 9"), 270-center-transfer from Missouri State-West Plains CC) and we've got some freshmen I feel like can play with anybody. I think they can really help us fill that void (caused by Miller's and Rutledge's departure). It's a significant void, but it's something that I think this team can do."

This year's edition of the Bears, Gray said, is "a very experienced group, for the most part, but an unproven group. We've got to prove that we can take the load that Terrell and Lafayette carried for this team to be successful."

"It's experienced in that we have nine guys coming back," Gray commented, "and we do have Parks who played at a high level last year and our freshmen have played on very good teams in high school that competed at a really high level. The majority of them have competed for a state championship or at least competed for their district championship so they're coming from winning programs."

"So," Gray concluded, his team is made up of "guys who expect to be successful. I think that's one thing, when you're talking about a team, is guys who know how to win. I think our team knows how to win. Now, we've just got to do our part (by) going out there and doing the job. I think that the character these guys have and their love for each other is what's going to separate this team from others."

Looking at the MACJC South Division, Gray said he feels "From top to bottom, it's not going to be quite as talented (as last year), but it's going to be

more competitive." Gray said an average of two players from each team in the league as a whole is now playing at an NCAA Division program. "You're not going to see many teams get beat by more than 20 points. No matter who we play, it's going to be a five-point game every night. I think when you look at (the South Division), there's not one game on the schedule that's going to be easy."

"It's really anybody's ball game," Gray said. "Any of the eight teams can win the Division, I really believe that. I don't know if we've ever been able to say that until this year. So, it's going to be a shootout from December, when Division plays starts, all the way through February and it's going to be interesting to see how it all plays out. I pray that the Bears are in the mix (at the end of the season)."

Gray is joined on the bench for the third year by assistant coach Andy Farrell. Joining the two is first-year volunteer assistant James Johns.

The Bears open the season on November 5 when they face Delgado Community College in New Orleans. They then play at Mississippi Delta on November 7 before making their home debut against Baton Rouge Community College on November 14 in the Coca-Cola Classic.

November 6, 2016
The Bears made their 2016-17 debut a success Saturday evening in New Orleans as they defeated the home standing Delgado Dolphins 66-51.

Rodrick Sikes' trey with 19:47 left in the half gave the Bears a 3-0 lead, an advantage they would not surrender. They later increased their lead to 25-9 on James Hawthorne's bucket with 5:42 left in the half.

A 12-2 run by the Dolphins brought them back to within six points, 27-21, with 2:00 left in the half. The teams traded baskets the remaining time and the Bears took a 32-25 lead at intermission.

Mike Parks, Jr., hit a free throw to help the Bears outscore their hosts 10-5 to open the second half and go up 42-30 with 15:38 still to play.

A 15-4 run by the Dolphins (0-2) narrowed the Bears' lead to 46-45 with 9:03 left in the game. But, from there it was all Bears. A jumper from Sikes and Guy Johnson's old-fashioned three-point play (with 0:45 remaining) helped the Bears close out the game with a 21-4 run and allow them to pick up the 15-point victory.

Going 7-9 from the field (with one three-pointer) and 2-2 from the free throw line, Antonio Cowart, Jr., scored 17 points to lead the Bears and all scorers. Sikes and Johnson were also in double figures with 15 and 11 points, respectively. Cowart and Parks, Jr., both had seven rebounds. The Bears were good on 20 of 30 free throws.

November 8, 2016
The Lady Bears moved to 2-0 on young season Monday night with a 72-46 road win over the Mississippi Delta Lady Trojans in Moorhead.

The Lady Trojans took a 2-0 lead on Cora Cooley's bucket just 0:26 into the game. But, the Lady Bears quickly got on the board on an A'Keyia McDyess bucket and took a 4-2 lead on an Alissa Adam jumper with 8:38 on the clock.

A layup from Rachel Thompson, with 0:01 on the clock, put the Lady Bears on top 20-12 after the initial period. Adam nailed a jumper with 3:48 left in the second quarter to give the Lady Bears a 32-17 lead, their biggest advantage of the first half. The hosts then closed out the half on an 8-1 run to leave the Lady Bears with a 33-25 lead going into intermission.

Adam's bucket with 5:39 left in the third quarter made the score 43-30. After O'Nesha Hunt scored to bring the Lady Trojans (0-2) to within seven, 44-37, with 3:13 on the clock, the Lady Bears went on an 11-1 run to close the quarter. Peyton Papenburg's late jumper left the Lady Bears with a 55-38 lead with one quarter remaining.

The Lady Bears outscored the Lady Trojans 17-8 in the fourth quarter. Keturah Bingham made the score 65-44 with 2:31 left in the game. Ariel McDaniel's layup with 0:09 left gave the Lady Bears their final 26-point margin of victory.

Adam led the Lady Bears, and all scorers, with 17 points, while adding six assists. Danyelle Lewis totaled 16 points while

Bingham recorded a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds. The Lady Bears hit 20 of 26 free throws.

Alexis Augustus topped the Lady Trojans with 13 points. She and her teammates combined to hit 10 of 17 free throws.

Missing a three-pointer with 0:07 left to play, the Bears suffered a tough 75-72 loss to the home standing Mississippi Delta Trojans Monday night in Moorhead.

With the loss, the Bears dropped to 1-1 on the young campaign. The Trojans moved to 1-1.

The Bears took a 3-0 lead on Guy Johnson's trey with 18:48 left in the first half. They later went up by five before the Trojans came back to take a 13-11 lead with 13:35 on the clock.

Going on a 7-0 run, capped by Rodrick Sikes' free throw, the Bears regained the lead at 18-13 with 12:07 before the break.

With the Bears trailing 22-21 and 6:21 on showing, Sikes nailed a three-pointer to key an 11-2 run to close out the half. Mike Parks, Jr., hit a free throw with 0:12 on the clock that allowed the Bears to hold a 32-24 advantage at intermission.

Parks, Jr., nailed a jumper with 0:05 off the second-half clock to give the Bears a 34-24 lead. The Trojans then outscored the Bears 24-14 over the next 8:40 to tie the force a 48-48 tie with 11:15 still to play.

With 9:34 to go, the Bears held a 57-52 lead only to see the Trojans regain the lead, 59-58, with 6:30 to play.

With the game tied 69-69, the Trojans scored six straight points to go up 75-69 with 1:55 to go. Sean Smith hit a three-pointer with 0:57 remaining to make the score 75-72. The missed three-pointer then allowed the Trojans to escape with the narrow win.

Johnson topped the Bears' offense with 21 points. Sikes and Parks, Jr., were also in double figures with 16 and 13 points, respectively. The Bears made good on 15 of 22 free throws.

November 10, 2016
With both teams turning in less than stellar performances from the field, the Lady Bears outlasted visiting Baton Rouge Community College 47-40 to move to 3-0 on the season.

The Lady Bears shot 15-51 (29.4%) from the field while BRCC hit only 17 of 63 shots (27%).

The game started off slowly with 2:21 gone from the clock before BRCC took a 2-0 lead on E'layzha Bates' jumper.

An Alissa Adam three-pointer then started the Lady Bears on an 11-0 run, capped by Danyelle Lewis' trey, that put them on top 11-2. They went on to lead 12-8 after the initial quarter.

The Lady Bears took a 25-19 lead on Rachel Thompson's layup late in the second quarter. BRCC then scored the next six points to send the teams into the locker room at the half locked in a 25-25 tie.

In the third quarter, Keturah Bingham's bucket put the Lady Bears on top 27-25 with 8:32 on the clock. An old-fashioned three-point play from Peyton Papenburg later increased the home team's lead to 35-27 and they held a 35-31 advantage with one quarter remaining.

With 4:57 left in the game, the Lady Bears matched their biggest lead of nine points, 44-35, on a pair of Adam free throws and they went on to pick up the seven-point victory.

Shalisa Hawthorne topped the Lady Bears' offense, and all scorers, with 17 points. Adam led the team on the boards with nine rebounds while also recording five assists and four steals. The Lady Bears made good on 10 of 16 free throws.

November 15, 2016
The Lady Bears increased their season-opening win streak to four games Monday night with a 55-48 win over the Louisiana College Lady Wildcats JV squad on the opening night of the Southwest/Coca-Cola Classic.

A pair of Alissa Adam free throws on the front end and Keturah Bingham's jumper on the back end helped the Lady Bears (4-0) take an 11-0 lead with 6:38 left in the first quarter.

After the Lady Wildcats (0-1) got on the board on Lakedra Franklin's layup, the Lady Bears scored 10 of the next 15 points and increased their lead to 21-7 on two free throws by Danyelle Lewis with 1:12 on the clock. The Lady Bears took that 14-point advantage into the second quarter.

A free throw from NeKeyah Williams and Megan Brook's jumper brought the Lady Wildcats to within 10 points, 21-11, with 8:46 to play in the second quarter. But, Lewis' bucket started a 10-2 run for the Lady Bears that left them on top 31-13 with 4:58 before the half.

The Lady Wildcats then outscored the Lady Bears 9-6 to close out the half and left them with a 37-22 deficit with the second half still to come.

The Lady Bears maintained a comfortable lead in the third quarter, going up 39-22 on Bingham's jumper with 9:10 showing. A 12-5 run by the Lady Wildcats then narrowed the home team's lead to 44-34 going into the final quarter.

Leading by 12 midway through the fourth quarter, the Lady Bears saw the Lady Wildcats go on a 9-2 run and pull to within five, 53-48, on Ja'Kasia Newton's trey with 3:06 left in the game.

That would be as close as the Lady Wildcats would get, however, as the Lady Bears held on for the seven-point victory.

"Louisiana College was ready to play tonight," said fifth-year Lady Bears head coach Brent Harris. "They put us in some really tough situations. This was a team win; we called on everyone tonight and I believe everyone made some positive contributions."

Lewis topped the Lady Bears' offense, and all scorers, with 16 points. Bingham was also in double figures, and recorded her double-double of the season, with 10 points and 14 rebounds. The Lady Bears were nearly perfect from the free throw line, making 13 of 15.

Visiting Baton Rouge Community College led from start to finish Monday night as they defeated the Bears 92-62 in the final game of the opening day of the Southwest/Coca-Cola Classic.

The Bears fell behind 6-0 early. Baskets from Mike Parks, Jr., and Antonio Cowart, Jr., then brought them back to within a point, 8-7, with 17:08 left in the first half. A 19-3 run then increased BRCC's lead to 27-10 with 9:38 on the clock.

The Bears pulled to within 13 points, 27-14, on two Jeremy Harrell free throws before BRCC pulled back out to a 37-16 lead with 6:44 before the half.

With the Bears (1-2) trailing 47-26 late in the half, two three-pointers and two free throws from Rodrick Sikes left them with a 47-34 deficit at the break.

Unfortunately for the Bears, the second half was all BRCC. The visitors went up by as many as 36 points, 88-52, with 5:11 to play before leaving the court with the 30-point win.

Sikes led the Bears, and all scorers, with 20 points. Harrell and Cowart, Jr., were also in double figures with 12 and 10 points, respectively. The Bears made good on 17 of 26 free throws.

November 16, 2016
Overcoming a tough Southern-Shreveport Lady Jaguars squad, the Lady Bears extended their winning streak to five games Tuesday night as they closed out the Southwest/Coca-Cola Classic with a 66-54 victory.

The first quarter more or less belonged to the Lady Jaguars. Taking an early 2-0 lead, they later increased their advantage to 12-5 with 4:22 on the clock. They went on to a 16-14 lead at the end of the quarter.

The Lady Bears (5-0) took their first lead of the night, 19-18, on an Alissa Adam three-pointer with 8:07 before the half. But, the Lady Jaguars quickly responded to regain the lead, 27-22, with 4:41 on the clock.

Tying the game at 27-27 on a Rachel Thompson basket, the Lady Bears then went up 31-29 on another Adam score with 1:14 to play. The Lady Jaguars then scored four of the final five points of the half to take a 33-32 lead into the locker room.

Adam's layup with 6:27 to play in the third quarter gave the Lady Bears a 36-35 lead, one they would not relinquish the rest of the game.

On top 42-39, the Lady Bears went on a 12-2 run to close out the quarter and held a 54-41 lead with one quarter still to play.

The Lady Jaguars (6-4) pulled to within four points, 58-54, with 4:42 left in the game. But, a 6-0 run, capped by a Peyton Papenburg two-pointer, put the home-team lead in double digits, 64-54, and they went on to the 12-point win.

"I was very proud of our effort tonight," said Lady Bears head coach Brent Harris. "Southern-Shreveport is a tough matchup."

"All our posts did a great job on post defense," Harris continued. "Peyton and Rachel brought a ton of energy offensively. Alissa and Danyelle Lewis were great on both ends of the floor."

Closing out his post-game remarks, Harris wished a "Happy Thanksgiving to the Bear faithful and thank you for your continued support."

Adam led all scorers in the game with 23 points. Thompson had a double-double, with 16 points and 11 rebounds, while Papenburg was also in double figures with 12 points. The Lady Bears made 14 of 23 free throws.

Bouncing back from a tough loss on Monday night, the Bears closed out the Southwest/Coca-Cola Classic Tuesday night with a 75-68 win over the Jaguars of Southern-Shreveport.

The Bears took a quick 2-0 lead on a Mike Parks, Jr., jumper from inside the paint and soon increased the lead to 7-1 on Rodrick Sikes' basket with 16:52 left in the half.

With 13:14 on the clock, Antonio Cowart, Jr., nailed a long-range jumper to put the Bears (2-2) on top by 11, 16-5. Less than 3:00 later, the lead ballooned to 24-8 on another Sikes bucket.

Seven straight points by the Jaguars narrowed their deficit to nine points, 24-15, but eight straight scored by the Bears again put them ahead by 16, 31-15, with 8:08 before the half.

A 16-7 run by the Jaguars (4-4) then left the Bears on top 38-31 at the end of the first half.

After James Hawthorne put the Bears up 42-32 early in the second half, the Jaguars began firing on all cylinders, going on a 14-2 run to take a 46-44 lead with 14:50 remaining. Jump started by a Cowart, Jr., three-pointer, the Bears then went on a run of their own, outscoring the visitors 15-4 to move out to a 59-50 lead with 7:18 to go.

Leading 69-60, the Bears saw the Jaguars close to within three points, 71-68, with 0:54 showing. However, they would come no closer as Sikes went 4-4 from the free throw line in the final seconds to seal the deal for the Bears.

"I'm so proud of the way our guys responded tonight after such a tough night on Monday," said Bears' head man Thomas Gray. "It started with sophomore leadership."

"We talked about James 1:2 this morning," Gray went on "and how this (game) was a huge test. Our guys know tough times come over the course of a season. Tonight shows me that I am blessed to be a part of a team like this. Not many teams could have responded this way."

"Tonight wasn't about a specific individual playing particularly well," Gray concluded. "Tonight was all about our team-all 15 players, three coaches and three student assistants-and I couldn't be more proud to be one of the coaches of this team."

Sikes topped everyone in the game with 20 points and nine rebounds. Cowart recorded 13 points while Hawthorne added 13 and Parks, Jr., had 10. The Bears made 12 of 16 free throws.



Being a hero

By Michael Wilson, staff writer

Tutoring is a process through which someone, a tutor, gives additional special or remedial instruction.

Southwest Mississippi Community College students tutor elementary students from North Pike, McComb, and South Pike. They instruct them in many subjects, including math, science, English, reading, and spelling. The tutors enjoy their jobs teaching the students how to do their homework; they even show them the correct method to solve problems.

Tutoring children is not just about instructing the student, it is about providing advice and support. The tutors give advice when students tell them a story about what happened at school that day. That advice will help the student throughout the school year to give him or her a better future. The tutors also help pave the way for the young students, always willing to help steer them in the right direction to a successful career.

The tutors love being able to teach the students something new every day. "It is helping the community by helping our children do better," says Victoria Johnson. Each and every day, the tutors are making an impact on the students.

Football honors for Dantzler, Eashmond, McLaurin, Pierce, and Ware

By Michael Gunnell, Director of Sports Information

Southwest football players Duke Dantzler, Anthony Eashmond, Neil McLaurin, Ravian Pierce and Michael Ware have received post-season honors from the MACJC and NJCAA.

Pierce (6' 4", 230) a tight end from Plantation, FL, was named to the NJCAA All-Region 23 team and 1st Team MACJC All-South. He topped the Bears receiving corps with 50 catches for 426 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensive lineman Dantzler (6' 2", 310-Purvis High School) and defensive back Ware (5' 11", 177-Warren Central High School) were both named 1st Team All-South. Dantzler was second on the Bears with 72 tackles. He had two tackles for loss, one sack and one fumble recovery. Ware led the Bears with 82 tackles. He had one tackle for loss, two pass break ups and a force fumble.

Quarterback McLaurin (6' 3" 200-West Jones High School) was selected 2nd Team All-South. He completed 85 of 161 passes for 964 yards and eight touchdowns. He was the MACJC Offensive Player of the Week for the sixth week of the season.

Eashmond (5' 10", 310-Hattiesburg High School), an offensive lineman for the Bears, was named 2nd Team All-South.



Dr. Andrew Dale travels to India

This month Southwest Mississippi Community College Instructor and Director of Digital Public Affairs, Dr. Andrew Dale traveled to Bangalore and Delhi, India, as a senior fellow in the Global Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPPF). Dr. Dale was afforded this opportunity by the Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University. Led by the US Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C., the 18 educators who made this trip included superintendents, principals, consultants, leaders of non-profits, lobbyists (whose job translated as "Educational Evangelists" in Hindi), and higher education faculty and administrators, all from across the US. The Global EPPF program includes monthly webinars that began last summer and will continue into the new-year. The 10-day field study trip, supports first hand observations and engagement with education leaders and policymakers who are shaping India's education reform efforts. In addition to the EPPF, Dale is also a fellow at the University of Alabama's Education Policy Center.

The India trip combined cultural and social experiences with formal presentations on India's education policy and context. The Fellows visited historic shrines and religious temples, including the Sri Radha Krishna Temple whose Akshaya Patra initiative distributes mid-day meals to 1.5 million children in rural schools. As part of celebrating the festival of Diwali, an extended family of Sikhs invited the group into their home for a feast. The group discussed STEM education while visiting the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, and initiatives to improve rural teacher quality at the Azim Premji Foundation.

At the University of Delhi, the



Indian High School Students discuss their school day activities with Dr. Dale at a High School in Bangalore, India.

Fellows heard presentations on teacher education from faculty at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, and met with Dr. Poonam Batra, an influential member of a judicial commission that recently issued the Vision of Teacher Education in India; Quality and Regulatory Perspective report. The final day included visiting Agra and the Taj Mahal, which provided some relief from the record-shattering air pollution in Delhi. The choking air inevitably engaged the educators in environmental questions as well as education concerns, as schools were closing to reduce student exposure outside.

As excited as Dale was to experience India, the trip certainly complicated his thinking about its schools. India is famously a land of contrasts. He found a government-run high school that had no windows and a computer lab wired to a series of car batteries. The principal can be quoted as 'not wanting anything for the school except excited teachers.' It's worth noting that all of the teachers who taught there sent their children to private school (not unlike some situations in the US). In many interviews, the group learned that the teaching profession is not highly regarded

among the population where there is a glut of doctors, lawyers and engineers. The group also attended a private school just outside Dehli, the school only taught in English and looked like most American colleges, both with facilities and the scope of curriculum offered.

Of course the US also has enormous disparities in wealth and educational opportunity. But because India has a vast population under the age of 14 (115 million – compared to about 35 million in the US), Indian education policy starts with enrollment: finding and accounting for children. The Indian government has taken note and now as a result, more than 97% of Indian children have access to a school within one kilometer of their homes, no matter how isolated. The second challenge is retention, so that going to school daily is valued. (Absenteeism is an issue that schools in low-performing areas in Mississippi still struggle with.)

Through the Global Policy Fellowship, the group is studying the educational implications of India's efforts to become Digital India, and the extent to which this initiative by Prime Minister Modi could propel the Indian education system into the 21st century. The

plan is to bring access and equity via internet connectedness to 1 billion people.

The British colonial period ended about 60 years ago and that is the point at which the most educational growth began. India's current education reform rhetoric is critical of teacher quality because of poor student performance on national examinations (not unlike in the US). And like in the US, India is worried that its schools are not sufficiently providing aspirational opportunities for children. The challenge is to assure fundamental needs are met so that students can acquire the knowledge and skills needed for 21st century jobs. It is possible that building a digital infrastructure across India is the answer, but it is less clear that the education system will change to take advantage of the new connectivity. Both the US and Indian education policy should promote schools as places where digital connectivity brings innovative learning opportunities for all students.

Dr. Dale hopes to parlay his experiences, perspective changes and educational policy analysis to help benefit students at Southwest Mississippi Community College and in Mississippi. "I believe, like some of my Indian counter-parts, that we must have teachers that are excited about their students and creative in the classroom. I have enjoyed learning about education across the globe and believe that it is important that all teachers, 'educational evangelists,' and administrators have a perspective bigger than the institution and community they serve. Ultimately, it is the success of the students, not the institution that is important. Sometimes, however, we focus on the bureaucracy and institutions and that causes us to lose focus on the true goal, we fail to see the students and ultimately fail to serve them."

The gift of Christmas

by Kimi Jeanson, co-editor

Every Christmas morning, we wake up filled with joy and the fun of opening presents. There is something special about giving and receiving gifts that makes Christmas time so enthralling; this is why Operation Christmas Child is such a powerful program. It brings the same spirit of giving to places where Christmas is unheard of. Volunteers across the nation pack hundreds of thousands of boxes and ship them off to various third-world countries.

OCC volunteers go above and beyond to ensure that every shoe box is perfect; they love seeing large buses pull into the parking lot because they see how many children will be blessed. "The whole reason I pack shoe boxes is to share the gospel and make disciples of the children," says Lola Holifield, Area Team Coordinator for the OCC collection center in Mississippi. She established the official OCC center sixteen years ago and worked out of her own home. Operation Christmas Child has grown from twenty-five boxes in the beginning to twenty-one thousand boxes last year. They utilize the Workforce Training Center here at Southwest to contain the number of boxes that flood in each year.

In each box, there are basic essentials such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and washcloths; also, there are fun toys, coloring books, crayons, and candy. Accompanying the boxes are small devotionals called, "The Greatest Gift." They contain the story of the birth of Jesus and why he died on the cross. After the OCC teams deliver the boxes to as many children as possible, they continue to send a follow-up devotional, which brings thousands of children to Jesus. Lola Holifield and Debbie Watkins had the opportunity to travel with the team to Zambia and Paraguay this year. They saw the impact of the boxes firsthand.

The many testimonies we receive are a testament to how influential the simplest of things are. For example, a size seventeen shoe was packed into a shoe box and given to OCC. The volunteers who saw it were astonished to see such a specific item in the box; nevertheless, when the mission group went to deliver the shipment, they witnessed the shoe box being placed into the hands of the tallest boy in the back who actually wore size seventeen shoes. They did not have to switch or exchange the box at all; the shoebox went right to the boy. It was nothing short of God's grace to place the perfect gift in the hands of the right person.

Shoe boxes are the simplest of items that have the power to change a young child's life forever, but the change does not end there. That child will tell his or her friends and spread the gospel throughout their town. As a result, there is always a need for more shoe boxes. When you pack a box, you will not only make a child happy, but you will also feel happy knowing that you have made an impact on someone across the sea. I can say from personal experience how much I have been influenced by packing boxes every year. I have been volunteering with Operation Christmas Child ever since I can remember, and the experience has definitely made an impact on my life and how I view the world. Like the size seventeen shoebox story, every box goes to the right child and contains the perfect items for that child, all because of the work of selfless volunteers and God's endless blessings.



PTK presents Honors in Action



Omicron Delta officers beam after the conclusion of their Honors in Action presentation. Pictured from left to right are MeOshia Williams, Vice-President of Scholarship; Neil Chadala, Treasurer; Haley Simmons, Vice-President of Leadership; Brittany McGuire, Vice-President of Fellowship; Cody Pol, President; Jenna Van Dan, Vice-President of Service; Mohammad Mohammad, Recording Secretary; Garrett Szopinski, Historian; Madison Martin, Public Relations; Dr. Jennifer McLaughlin, Advisor

Basketball teams prepare to play



Jacob Smith, Joseph Coleman, Antonio Cowart, Jr., Rodrick Sikes, Guy Johnson, Mario Doyle, Zachary Barnes, Bryce Baker, Parker Prater, Matthew Weaver; second row: Donnie Thibodeaux, Asst. Coach Andy Farrell, Howard Smith, Jeremy Harrell, James Hawthorne, Mike Parks, Jr., Sean Smith, Emanuel Thompson, Asst. Coach James Johns, Head Coach Thomas Gray



Kala Gaston, Danyelle Lewis, Chelsea James, Teyton Papenburg, Ariel McDaniel, Alissa Adam, Shalisa Hawthorne, Rachel Thompson; second row: Head coach Brent Harris, Kristyn Jones, John Rutland, Tachiana Ledet, Keturah Bingham, A'Keyia McDyess, Terica Barnes, Shelby Taylor, Colby Lewis, Jazmine Moore, Brittney Bergeron, Assistant coach Britta Stephens

Intramurals: dodgeball creates fun for all

Bill Wallace, Director of Intramurals



Gerrod Anderson and Shane Barnes throw balls at their opponents.

photo by Kimi Jeanson



Matt Lewis catches the ball with one hand.

photo by Kimi Jeanson



Kobe Roberts slams the ball.

photo by Kimi Jeanson



Trey Fleming watches as Ravian Pierce nails a player.

photo by Kimi Jeanson

Cartoons.....



Ads.....

SMCC Student Success Center...



We are located in the William C. and Lula B. Ford Library, Room 109

We are here to help you succeed. We offer tutoring and other services. Let us know how we can further help you.

Office Hours	8:30am - 5:30pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30am - 6:30pm Tuesday
Math Tutoring:	Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 11:00am - 5:30pm	Mondays & Wednesdays 1:30pm - 4:00pm
Chemistry Tutoring:	Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00am - 12:00pm	Thursdays 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Nursing Tutor	Tuesdays	12:30pm - 5:30pm
English, Study Skills and General Academic Coaching available:	Monday - Thursday	8:30am - 5:30pm

For more information please contact Cindy Henderson at (601) 276-4813

Southwest Mississippi Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding the non-discrimination policies: Rhonda Gibson, Director of Disability Support Services, 601-276-3885; Dr. Bill Ashley, Vice President of Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator, 601-276-3717, 1150 College Dr., Summit, MS 39066

Southwest Mississippi Community College presents

Christmas Stage Band Show

Dec. 1, 2, 3 at 7:00 p.m. and Dec. 4 at 2:00 p.m.
Hurst Auditorium in the Fine Arts Building on the SMCC Campus Summit, Mississippi

For more information call 601-276-2000 or visit www.smcc.edu.







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2017 Who's Who: Guy Johnson, Sophomore Favorite; Madison Martin, Campus Favorite; Anna Fraiser, Sophomore Favorite; Ariel McDaniel, Sophomore Favorite; Haley Simmons, Miss SMCC; Kelsi Goudeau, Freshman Favorite; and Hunter Ford, Freshman Favorite; second row: Zach Barnes, Beau; Andrew Garner, Freshman Favorite; Joe Elliott, Mr. SMCC; Shalisa Hawthorne, Sophomore Favorite; Brooke Wells, Freshman Favorite; Angel Holmes, Freshman Favorite; and Jake Spears, Beau; third row: Trell Thompson, Sophomore Favorite; Will Fauver, Beau; Evan Busbin, Beau; Blake Dunaway, Most Handsome; and Casey Haygood, Campus Favorite

Alford-Conerly Hall Dedication Ceremony



Dr. Steve Bishop



Hollis Alford



Annette Conerly



Andrew Alford, Hollis Alford, Reggie Jones, Dr. Steve Bishop, Annette Conerly



Group cuts ribbon.



Dr. Bill Ashley



Reggie Jones



Dr. Bill Tucker



Jerry Conerly family



Hollis Alford family