

The PINE BURR

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Serving SMCC Since 1940

Volume 73, No. 1

Campus Events

- Monday, October 2
Homecoming Week
- Tuesday, October 3
Homecoming Week
SEP04: 60% date
- Thursday, October 5
Q: Classes end
Homecoming Pep Rally
- Friday, October 6
Mid-term grades due
QQ: Classes begin
SEP04: Last day to drop
Soccer @ 7:00 pm
Jones County JC Ellisville, MS
- Saturday, October 7
Homecoming
Football @ 5:00pm
Pearl River CC Summit, MS
- Sunday, October 8
Residence Hall closes
- Monday, October 9
Fall Break
Columbus Day
- Tuesday, October 10
Fall Break
Evening classes will not meet
Residence Hall opens
Soccer @ 7:00 pm
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC
Perkinston, MS
- Wednesday, October 11
AUG15: Mid-term grades due
Evening classes will not meet
QQ: Last day to register
BSU Noon Day
11:15 am – 12:30 pm
- Thursday, October 12
Evening 60% date
SEP04: Classes end
Football @ 7:00 pm
Mississippi Gulf Coast
Perkinston, MS
- Saturday, October 14
Soccer @ 3:00 pm
Pearl River CC Summit, MS
- Monday, October 16
AUG15: 60% date
OCT08: Classes begin and
last day to register
BSU Worship 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 17
60% date
Wesley Foundation
Bible Study 6:30
Parade of Beauties
Soccer @ 7:00 pm
Meridian CC Meridian, MS
- Wednesday, October 18
BSU Noon Day
11:15 am – 12:30 pm
- Thursday, October 19
Football @ 6:30 pm
Co-Lin CC Summit, MS
- Saturday, October 21
Soccer @ 3:00 pm
Alumni Summit, MS
- Monday, October 23
OCT08: No-shows due
BSU Worship 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 24
Wesley Foundation
Bible Study 6:30
- Wednesday, October 25
BSU Noon Day
11:15 am – 12:30 pm
- Thursday, October 26
Football @ 6:30 pm
East Central CC Decatur, MS
- Tuesday, October 31
Halloween
- November 1
8:30 Madness
- Friday, November 3
AUG:15 Last Day to Drop
Evening Last Day to Drop
Last Day to Drop



Tia Bussey, Freshman Maid; Anna Morgan Smith, Freshman Maid; Creshona Kenny, Freshman Maid; Danyelle Lewis, Homecoming Queen; Loryn Hollis, Student Body Maid; Jeranesia Haynes, Sophomore Maid; Liza Nettles, Sophomore Maid; and Brooke Smith, Sophomore Maid
photo by Joyce Mabry

HC Court says “Life is Sweet at Southwest”

By Kimi Jeanson, Editor,
and Olivia Saldana, Co-editor

This year, Southwest’s Homecoming theme is “Life is sweet at Southwest” and it will definitely be a treat. The week kicks off with “Running with the Bears,” and then followed by a movie night on Tuesday, and games and a cookout on Thursday.

On Monday, October 2nd, “Running with the Bears” kicks-off with a 5k walk/run followed by a 1-mile Fun Run trek through Candyland. The 5k walk/run starts at 5:30p.m. and when it concludes the Fun Run will begin. Tuesday’s event begins with a movie night at the John Hurst Stadium at 7:30 p.m. and then on Wednesday Pop Corn and Cotton Candy Day outside the Holmes Student Union from 11:15a.m. – 1:00p.m. The week ends on Thursday with the Homecoming cookout and tailgate games outside the Holmes Student Union at 5:30 p.m.

Southwest’s 2017 Homecoming Queen is Danyelle Lewis and Student Body Maid is Loryn Hollis. Homecoming queen, Danyelle Leigh Lewis, is the daughter of Danny and Jennifer Lewis of Florence, Mississippi. She is an active member of her Pearl Street AME Church community. Danyelle graduated from Florence High School with a 4.0 GPA, where she received the MHSAA Class 4A Academic Achievement Award, was inducted into the Florence High School Hall of Fame, and was selected as Rankin County’s District Tournament MVP for basketball. While in high school, Danyelle was a UCA All-American cheerleader, she was co-captain of her squad, and she helped guide her basketball team to victory in the state title game. At Southwest, Danyelle is a member of the Wesley Foundation and the Lady Bears women’s basketball team, where, as a freshman, she averaged twelve points and 4.4 rebounds per game. She enjoys volunteering with her team at the school’s daycare. Danyelle plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi to complete her major in kinesiology after graduation from Southwest.

Student body maid, Loryn Elizabeth Hollis, is the daughter of Chris and Jocelyn Hollis of Liberty, Mississippi. She graduated from Parklane Academy in McComb and attends the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She currently is an active student at Southwest Mississippi Community College as a Redline captain, a stage band vocalist and choir member, Phi Theta Kappa’s recording officer, and a Bear Tracker. During her 2016-2017 year at Southwest, she was on the Dean’s list, and she won the stage band’s vocalist award in 2017. Loryn intends to major in elementary education and continue her studies at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Sophomore Maids are Jeranesia Haynes, Laura Nettles, and Brook Smith. Sophomore Maid, Jeranesia Haynes, is the daughter of Jerry Haynes and Trinia Rankin of Hazlehurst. She is an honors graduate of Hazlehurst High School where she was a member of Student Council and a devoted cheerleader for four years. At Southwest, Jeranesia was selected by faculty to be Who’s Who at American Universities and Colleges and she is a member of the Wesley Foundation. She is majoring in Early Childhood Education. Her future plans include furthering her education at Alcorn State University and owning her own daycare. Jeranesia attends Greater Damascus Church of Christ where she is a spiritual dancer.

Sophomore maid, Laura Elizabeth Nettles, of McComb, Mississippi, is the daughter of Billy Joe Nettles and Amy Irby. She is a member of Friendship Baptist Church. “Liza” graduated from North Pike High School with honors and recognition as a Mississippi Scholar. While in attendance, she was involved in extracurricular activities including Interact, Young Republicans, Spanish Club, Jag 2 Jag, Diamond Dolls and Geek Squad. She was honored to be chosen Who’s Who Most Beautiful in her class and she won the title “Beauty” all four years in her high school pageant as well as Most Photogenic. Liza is now active in her Southwest community, where she participated in the Parade of Beauties in 2016 and ranked in the top five, and she takes photographs and works for the school newspaper, “The Pine Burr.” Liza plans to continue her education at Mississippi State University and obtain a degree in fashion merchandising and marketing.

Sophomore maid, Brooke Smith, is the daughter of Chris and Jennifer Smith of Summit, Mississippi. Brooke is an active member of First Baptist Church of Summit, where she has participated in mission trips to Vancouver, New York, and Haiti. Her senior year of high school at North Pike, Brooke was inducted into the North Pike Hall of Fame, elected Miss North Pike, and crowned the 2016 Azalea Court Queen. Outside of school, Brooke serves as a five-year counselor at Camp Sunshine. While at Southwest, she was a member of the Student Government Association her freshman year, and is now the Student Body Vice-President. Brooke is the editor of the “Whispering Pines” school yearbook and co-editor of the “Pine Burr” school newspaper



Danyelle Lewis, Queen, and Loryn Hollis, Student Body Maid, smile. *photo by Joyce Mabry*

and is a member of the BSU Leadership Team, Phi Theta Kappa, and Future Educators of America Association. She was selected among the top five campus beauties her freshman year. Brooke plans to major in elementary education.

The Freshman Maids are Tia Bussey, Creshona Kenny, and Anna Morgan Smith. Freshman Maid, Tia Bussey, is the daughter of Toney and Tiniki Bussey, and Andre and Rhonda Bussey Spiller of Brookhaven, Mississippi. Tia attended Brookhaven High School where she graduated with honors and was a member of the cheerleading squad and softball team. At her high school, she was chosen Homecoming Queen, Miss Brookhaven High School, and Prom Queen. Her academic achievements included being a Mississippi Scholar, and a member of the National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars. At Southwest, Tia plays on the Lady Bears Softball team. She is also a member of the honor organization Phi Theta Kappa. Her major is Pre-Veterinarian Medicine, and she wants to further her education at Auburn University.

Freshman maid, Creshona Kenny, is the daughter of Katie Irving and Chris Kenny of McComb, Mississippi. She attended McComb High School, where she graduated with a 3.7 GPA and many honors. In high school, she was a member of DECA, National Honor Society, color guard, the softball team, Pom Squad, the dance team, and the band. Creshona is in Redline at Southwest, where she enjoys dancing with those she loves. She is very active at Mount Olive Methodist Baptist Church; there she is the announcement clerk, a member of the choir, and a praise dancer. Creshona plans to continue her nursing education at Alcorn State University after completion at Southwest, with the goal of becoming a pediatric nurse. Creshona believes that without God by her side, nothing is possible, but with him and through him all things are possible. Her favorite scripture is Ecclesiastes 9:11 “The race is not given to the swift nor the strong but to the one who endures to the end.”

Freshman maid, Anna Morgan Smith, is the daughter of Jeremy and Angie Smith of Brookhaven, Mississippi. She is an active member of New Hope United Methodist Church in Brookhaven. During her high school years at Brookhaven Academy, Anna Morgan was a member of Mississippi Scholars and the National Honors Society. She was chosen homecoming maid, class favorite, and most beautiful by her classmates. At Southwest, she is a cheerleader and a Bear Tracker, and she is on the archery team. Anna Morgan plans to continue her pre-dental education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center after graduating from Southwest. The Honorees being celebrated this year at Homecoming are Stan McMorris, Alumnus of the Year; Chad Lindsey, Sports Hall of Fame; Terrance Turner, Sports Hall of Fame; and First Bank, Foundation Hall of Fame.

The much-anticipated events of Homecoming are sure to be phenomenal. Make sure to be there! You won’t want to miss out! True to the Homecoming theme, life at Southwest is definitely sweet.

Enrollment rises at Southwest Mississippi Community College for fall

Southwest Mississippi Community College’s 2017 Fall student enrollment has increased by 2.5%. Five of the state’s 15 community colleges rose in overall student enrollment. Southwest ranked fourth highest. Despite enrollment numbers dipping for the community college system as a whole this fall, Southwest continues to show an increase both in the college’s Spring 2017 enrollment and now, again, in the Fall 2017 school year. With the addition of its newest dormitory, Alford Conerly Hall, Southwest has also welcomed 100 more students to its campus. SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop responded to the increase in enrollment saying, “We are pleased that local students as well as students from around Mississippi are attracted to our college. I attribute the increase in enrollment to several reasons which includes our outstanding faculty/staff and quality programs.”

SMCC named “2017 Great College to Work For”

SMCC is a great college to work for, according to a new survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education, a top trade publication for colleges and universities. The results, released today in The Chronicle’s tenth annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of 232 colleges and universities. Only 79 of the institutions that applied for the program achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition.

Southwest Mississippi Community College won honors in three categories this year: **J o b S a t i s f a c t i o n**; **S u p e r v i s o r / D e p a r t m e n t C h a i r R e l a t i o n s h i p**; **W o r k / L i f e B a l a n c e**. “At Southwest, our faculty and staff share a commitment to work together toward the common goal of enhancing student experience and student success. Our employees exhibit a passion for serving our students and our community. Our employees can take advantage of the college-campus culture while supporting and encouraging student success in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. Each individual is important here. At Southwest it’s not just a job, it’s a way of life,” said Southwest Mississippi Community College President Dr. Steve Bishop. The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was the employee feedback.

“Those students who are engaged with their studies make it all worthwhile”—James O’Rourke; “It’s like working for one big happy family” – Rhonda Gibson; and “Southwest is an incredible place with wonderful people. I think SMCC is extra special because it is an environment that is welcoming to everyone” – Karinlee Brister.

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The Pine Burr

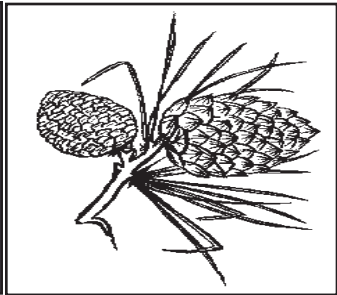
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pineburr@smcc.edu

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; 1156 College Dr., Summit, MS 39666.



Quote of the Month

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”
--Benjamin Franklin



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, 2017. An additional email will be sent to your email account at 9:00 AM this morning (September 26, 2017) with your login information. It's basically the same email that was sent on August 31, 2017. 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 for your login information unless you don't get a login information email.

Words from the SGA President

Dear Fellow Students,

On behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA), it is my honor and privilege to welcome you to Southwest Mississippi Community College. I, Alexcia Carr, am excited to be of service to you as your SGA president. You have made a life-changing decision by choosing Southwest as your institution of higher learning.

Southwest has many unique qualities, and one of the most important is the special bond between administration, faculty, staff, and students. We consider ourselves a family here, and as a family, we invite you to become active on our beautiful campus. Become involved – join an organization, team, or club. This involvement will enhance your experience as a Southwest Bear. While attending classes, listening to lectures, and taking exams are major components of college life, we must not forget that campus involvement within an organization can be fun, rewarding, and provide you with enriching experiences that you will remember for the rest of your life.

Your other SGA officers are Brooke Smith, vice president; Jaime Lowe, secretary; and Johnathan Scott, treasurer. As your SGA officers, we are here to serve as a liaison between our students and our staff. If ever you are in need of this intermediary, feel free to connect with me or any SGA officer, and we will be more than glad to help.

Again, welcome to Southwest Mississippi Community College; we are elated to have you here!

Proud to be a BEAR!

With gratitude,

Alexcia Carr, SGA President



Alexcia Carr

Editorial: Welcome to Southwest



Editorial By Kimi Jeanson, Editor

Kimi Jeanson

Welcome to Southwest! I hope you had a wonderful summer and plenty of rest. This year is going to be phenomenal. To those who have just joined our family, I

encourage you to get involved with some of the fun organizations and activities on campus. There are over a dozen organizations available including: Phi Theta Kappa, Student Governments Association, Bear Trackers, Campus Ministries, Tri Beta Biological Honor Society, Pine Burr, Collegiate DECA, Whispering Pines, Choir, Marching Band, Stage Band, Student Nurses Organization, Phi Beta Lambda, Future Educators of America, Health Information Management Student

Association, and Intramurals. For more information on each organization go to Southwest's website.

This is an easy way to find your group and make friends. Rachel Berry, from the TV show Glee, said it best. "Being a part of something special makes you special." Being a part of a group gives you a sense of belonging and makes you actually excited to go to college. If you are still hesitant to join, then also take in consideration the scholarship opportunities you might receive just by simply being a member of one of

the organizations. Looking towards the future, many of you will go on to four-year university or another two-year college or maybe even a job. Being a member of an organization, especially one in leadership, will give your applications the needed boost to separate you from the swarm of other applicants. Please, I implore you to take advantage of the opportunities around you. Your college life is in your hands. Make the most of it. I wish you the best and hope you have a great semester!

SMCC bucks trend in community colleges

By Lakeadra Coffey
 Enterprise-Journal

Southwest Mississippi Community College is one of five community colleges in the state that has seen an increase in its enrollment for the fall semester, despite an overall enrollment decrease statewide.

"We were pleased that our fall enrollment has increased. Southwest was in the top five," President Steve Bishop said.

Southwest officials say the

increase is partly due to the new men's dormitory on campus. The Associated Press reports that community college enrollment began dropping after hitting an all-time high of almost 89,000 in 2010. The AP goes on to state that this fall's enrollment, dipping below 73,000 students, is 18 percent lower than peak. But overall declines are moderating, by student numbers falling less than 1 percent for the second year in a row. However, Southwest has seen gradual growth and is up

compared to the state. "The state as a whole is down by 2 percent, but Southwest is up by 2.5 percent," Bishop said. He said the college also grew this past spring as well, with enrollments up by 0.8 percent "It's a nice trend that we're having here at Southwest," he said. Bishop said he attributes that rise in enrollment to the new Alford-Conerly enrollment Hall, which opened in the fall of 2016.

With the addition of the new dormitory, he said more students are choosing to stay on campus.

Bishop said Southwest officials are pleased that more students are choosing southwest to begin their college careers. "I attribute the increase in enrollment to several reasons, which includes our outstanding faculty and staff and quality programs," he said. Bishop said Southwest recruiters are doing a good job getting students to commit to attending the college. "Our job is keeping them here. Hopefully, we can maintain a gradual increase," Bishop said.

Southwest Mississippi Community College: Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

Southwest Mississippi Community College (SMCC) is required by federal regulations to establish minimum standards of satisfactory academic progress (SAP) to determine a student's eligibility to receive federal Title IV student aid for their chosen program of study. Federal Title IV student aid programs available at SMCC are the following:

- Federal Pell Grant*
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work-study Programs (FWS)

To maintain student financial aid eligibility, the student must progress satisfactorily toward completing a chosen academic or career-technical program.

Qualitative Requirement – GPA and % of Hours Passed
 SAP will be measured according to the following criteria:

- Cumulative Semester Hours Attempted *
- Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Percentage of Semester Hours Passed*
- 1 – 29; 1.5; 66.7%
- 30 – 59; 1.75; 66.7%
- 60 and above; 2.0; 66.7%

*All attempted classes will count in hours attempted, including classes from which the student withdrew – Grade "W". According to individual program standards, Associate Degree Nursing, License Practical Nursing and Cosmetology will require a 2.00 GPA for SAP.

Status Review and Notification
 A student's entire academic record will be evaluated to determine eligibility for financial aid, whether or not financial aid was received for all semesters or the student was granted an Academic

Restart. Students transferring from another school on financial aid suspension or probation will be placed on financial aid warning for the first semester at SMCC. Students will be notified by mail if placed on a Warning Semester.

Warning Semester

Any student who fails to meet the satisfactory academic progress standards will be placed on financial aid warning for one semester. Financial Aid Warning may be assigned without an appeal or other action by the student. During this warning semester, a student will continue to be eligible for Title IV funds.

Failure to meet Warning Semester Requirements
 If the minimum SAP standards are not achieved upon completion of the warning semester, all federal aid will be suspended.

Appeals Process

A student can appeal the suspension of their financial aid if one or more of the following situations occurred:

1. Death in the Family
2. Injury or Illness
3. Special Circumstances

When completing the appeals application the student must also disclose what has changed in their situation that will allow them to meet the SAP requirements at the end of the next evaluation. After completing the appeal, the director will determine if the student will be placed on Probation and/or Academic Plan. If approved for an Academic Plan, the terms of this plan will be mailed to the student. The student must acknowledge their Academic Plan by signing and returning the plan requirements letter to the Financial Aid Office.

During the Probation and/or Academic Plan semester, a student will continue to be eligible for Title IV funds. At the end of each payment period, while on Financial Aid Probation, the student must meet the terms of their Probation and/or Academic Plan to continue receiving Title IV Funds. Academic progress will be evaluated at the end of each semester. The results of this evaluation will be mailed to the student. Failure to meet Probation and/or Academic Plan Requirements If a student fails to meet the terms of their Probation and/or Academic Plan financial aid will be suspended.

Committee Appeals Process

If the student wants to appeal this decision, the student must submit a committee appeals application to the financial aid office. Once the committee makes their decision, the Financial Aid Director will contact the student in writing.

Quantitative Requirement – Time Frame (Length)

As required by federal regulations, a student must complete the program of study (major) within a time frame not to exceed 150% of the published length of the program. All courses including, but not limited to, withdrawals, repeats and accepted transfer hours from another college, will be counted in the time frame. Students who reach the 150% limit will no longer be eligible to receive federal financial aid. A student is ineligible when it becomes mathematically impossible for him to complete his program within the 150% of the length of the program. An appeal may be considered on a case by case base.

Other Required Considerations

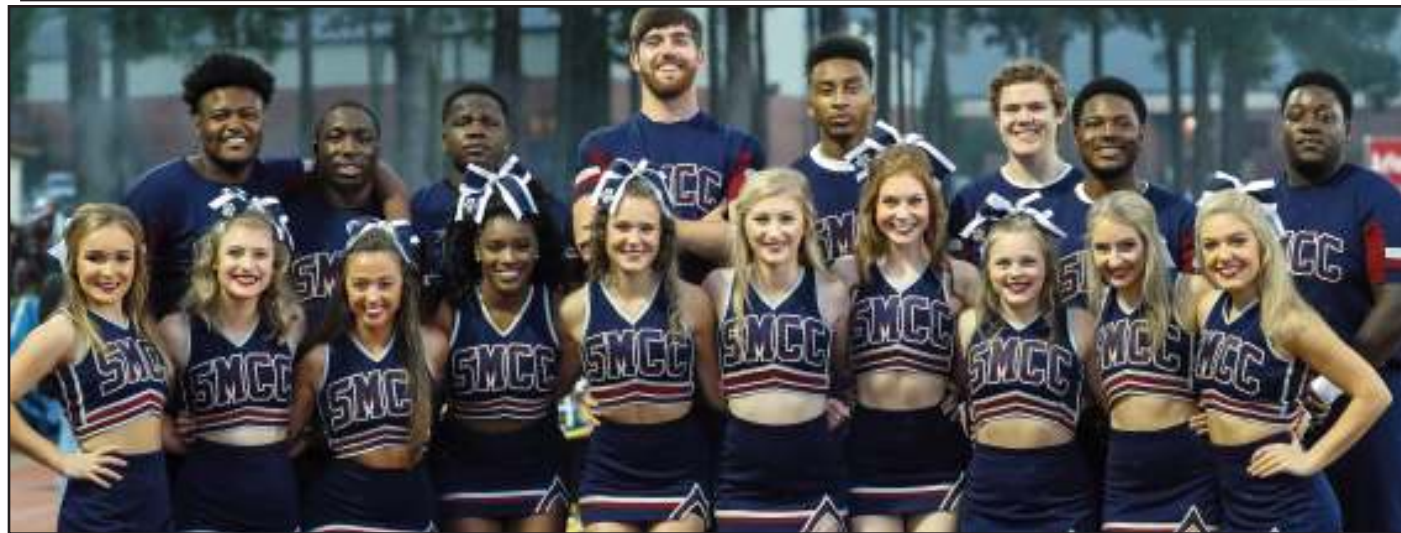
All coursework for students, including any semesters that students did not receive financial aid, will be included in the SAP review. Incompletes: A grade of "I" incomplete will count as an "F" in all financial aid calculations. Once the incomplete is removed, the actual earned grade will be used. The student will need to advise the financial aid office when the change is made.

Repeats: Students may repeat a passing course one time with a D or better and receive Title IV funds. Any additional repeats of the same course will not be Title IV eligible.

Add – Drops: Title IV financial aid will not be adjusted once late registration ends. However, all attempted classes, including dropped courses, will count toward your GPA and percent needed to continue eligibility.

Withdrawals: Students may withdraw from a class and receive no credit with a grade of "W." Classes from which students withdraw will count in the hours attempted. Developmental courses: These courses will be treated in the same manner as regular courses since students receive institutional credit and grades for these courses.

Transfer Credits: All credit hours from another institution, that are required courses for the student's program, will count in the hours attempted. Credits hours received at a non-accredited institution, where Title IV funds were not received by the student, will not be included in the financial aid calculation of attempted hours. Please contact Joni Wilkinson, Director of Financial Aid, 276- 3708; jwilkinson@smcc.edu for additional information.



Cheer Team 2017-2018: Leanne Fuqua, Summer Martin, Anna Morgan Smith, Katajah Mahaffey, Haven Johnson, Tiffany Prevost, Hannah Owen, Kelsey Hedgepeth, Emma Walls, Aleigh Flynn; second row: Mario Lindsey, La'Treall Smith, Edward Howard, Will Fauver, Keyvarrius Lucas, Jay Palen, Marcus Kees, and Alleen Thigpen photo by Chuck Barr

Bryan Bender: Men's Basketball Assistant Coach

By Michael Gunnell, Sports Information Director

Bryan Bender is in his first year as assistant coach for the Bears basketball program. He arrived in Summit after three seasons serving as the Director of Basketball Operations at Appalachian State University.

At Appalachian State University (2014-2017) Bender aided in a rebuilding process for a program transitioning into the Sun Belt Conference. Bender helped turn the program's Academic Progress Rating around while helping build a program built with high character student-athletes that are geared for future success.

At App State, Bender was responsible for all aspects of running a Division I program, including the budget, team travel, community service initiatives, youth basketball camps, and video/scouting. He also assisted in many other aspects including: compliance, equipment, scheduling, recruiting, practice planning and other day to day operations.

Prior to App State, Bender spent one season (2013-2014) as an assistant coach for the Missouri State University-West Plains Grizzlies. He helped the Grizzlies become a force in the NJCAA, with eleven players signing scholarships with NCAA Division I programs off of the roster, and helped coach three NJCAA All-Region honorees, including two listed among the Top 50 Junior College players in the country. In just one season he was a part of a staff that signed players from nine states as well as from Serbia, Poland and the United Kingdom.

On the court, Bender helped guide the Grizzlies to an 18-win season. Off the court, as the study hall coordinator, he helped the team set a school record for the highest team GPA (3.14) during his first semester with the team and saw seven/eight sophomores obtain an associate's degree.

Bender started his college coaching career in the Big Ten, where he spent eight seasons at the University of Minnesota in a variety of roles with the Golden Gophers. During his last three seasons, he served as Minnesota's video coordinator, overseeing film exchange, student managers and all video duties. He aided in numerous aspects of the program including practice planning, recruiting, academics and scheduling. Prior to being the video coordinator, he spent four seasons as a student manager with the program, including two as the head student manager and film coordinator and was a graduate assistant during the 2009-10 season.

During Bender's tenure at Minnesota the Gophers made six postseason appearances including three trips to the NCAA Tournament and three more to the NIT. During the 2012-2013 season, the Gophers spent 14 weeks ranked in the top 25, including three weeks in the top 10, and capped off the year with a win over UCLA in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Bender also gained valuable experience as part of the support staff for the 2008 USA Basketball U18 Junior National Team, where he worked for legendary Davidson head coach Bob McKillop, and also served as assistant director of the Tubby Smith Basketball Camps for six years.

A native of Cambridge, Wis., Bender holds two degrees from the University of Minnesota, earning his bachelor's degree in sports management in 2008 before earning his master's in applied kinesiology with an emphasis in sports management and coaching in 2010. He is married to the former Kristi Ericksen of Brainerd, Minn.

PTK officers lead by action



PTK Officers 2017-2018: Corey Dillon, Vice President of Fellowship; Alexcia Carr, President; Neshun Holmes, Public Relations Officer; Kimi Jeanson, Vice President of Scholarship; Haley Hargett, Vice President of Service; Loryn Hollis, Recording Officer; Myles Kendrick, Treasurer; and John Rutland, Vice President of Leadership photo by Joyce Mabry

By Alexcia Carr, PTK President

Phi Theta Kappa Omicron Delta Chapter at SMCC is off to great semester! This summer, our officer team had the opportunity to travel to conferences and seminars, where we gained leadership skills, valuable knowledge, and helpful insight that we have brought back to our campus. This year, our chapter's goals are to: maintain our status as a 5-star chapter, encourage students to become more involved in campus organizations, get more PTK members involved in our projects, and promote PTK on our campus. As part of our 5-star chapter plan, we must organize and execute a college project and an Honors-in-Action research project. Our chapter is hard at work on our College Project, the Get Involved Campaign, which has featured an event allowing students to meet organization sponsors and advisors. In addition, the PTK officers have recently visited with orientation classes to promote our

College Project campaign. We are actively and diligently working on our Honors-in-Action research project. We have several events coming up, which include our PTK Awareness Week, September 25-29; our new membership meeting on Tuesday, September 26th; and our participation in the annual high school Junior/Senior night at SMCC's home football game against Jones on September 28th. Phi Theta Kappa can allow you to grow as an individual, a student, and even a leader. Students have the opportunity to connect with other students, form relationships with faculty and staff, and build a legacy for themselves. PTK also has many scholarship opportunities available to members. Our future as a chapter is bright, and we want you to be a part of it. We encourage you to complete 15 hours of academic college course work and obtain a minimum 3.5 GPA, so that you can join our chapter and take advantage of everything PTK has to offer you.



Oil and Gas Technology Sophomore class: Ryan Smith, Veronica Coleman, Bron Owens, Barrett Bridges, Doug Jefcoat, instructor; back row: Josh Wicker, Corey Kelton, Luke Stewart, and Sonny Daigle photo by Joyce Mabry



Freshmen class: Jim McKinley, Department Chairman; Nelson Ott, Luke Snow, Mario Jones, Qvale Causey, Tristen Smith, Branton Wilkinson, Ed Zumbro, instructor; second row: Ethan Leal, Brady Johnson, Rodney Ratcliff, Paco Bello, Austin Grant, Brady Lea, Micah Smith photo by Joyce Mabry

The oil and gas production course offered at Southwest Mississippi Community College prepares students for a variety of positions immediately following graduation. Graduates can be placed in wood pellet mills, asphalt plants, industrial construction, and even more. Using hands-on learning, including labs offering real-life situations and computers with simulations, students are able to get a feel of what their chosen field will really offer upon completion.

Southwest holds an agreement with Nicholls State University stating that coursework completed at the community college will be transferable when enrolling at the university. This allows students who have completed their associate's degree to be able to further their education, gaining a bachelor's degree and a chance for a higher income and more job opportunities.



Harvey Relief: Ashley Gray, SGA advisor; Kimi Jeanson, Neshun Holmes, Brooke Smith, Decorio Wedig, Alexcia Carr, Jonathan Scott, Danyelle Lewis and Jennifer McLaughlin, PTK advisor photo by Joyce Mabry

Southwest Mississippi Community College's Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government Association and Tri Beta student organizations partnered to gather supplies to be sent to Temple, Texas, to aid in the Harvey Relief efforts. Ashley Gray, SMCC Student Government Association sponsor, Kimi Jeanson, Neshun Holmes, Brooke Smith,

Decorio Wedig, Alexcia Carr, Jonathan Scott, Danyelle Lewis and Jennifer McLaughlin, SMCC Phi Theta Kappa sponsor helped pack the items that were then distributed to Holmes Stationers where they will be taken to Temple, Texas, for distribution through a charitable organization.

Video game review: The Witcher III

By Reggie Martin, staff writer

The Witcher series recently celebrated its 10th year anniversary and there isn't a better time to review arguably the greatest title in the franchise: *The Witcher III: Wild Hunt*. The game's main "hero" is Geralt of Rivia who is a professional monster slayer known as a witcher. To find his lover and adopted daughter, he'll have to battle men, beast, spirits, and otherworldly forces, while getting involved in situations that affect the fate of nations. The game places the player in a massive open-world crammed with missions, contracts, quests, and treasure hunts that at first glance can feel a little overwhelming. Each event has its own small but well thought out story that can even affect the main storyline, which is rare to see in open-world games. The Witcher also does a great job of letting the player decide how the story unfolds by choosing different dialogue options that could save villages, characters, and change the ending of your story. This means that my ending could be completely different to another person who has beaten the game. With beautiful scenery, refreshing gameplay, and an engaging story, the Witcher III is a game that you must play before you die. I highly recommend purchasing this game. The Witcher III may be getting older, but it's aging like fine wine.

Local color: Something fun to do

By Olivia Saldana, co-editor

We have all used--probably overused--the phrase "broke college kid." How is a student with no extra funds supposed to go out and have a good time? Read on, my friend.

As an avid adventurer and strict budgeter, I am always looking for a cheap way to have fun. Road trips, festivals, and junking are my favorite things to do. Below is a list of things that are free or cheap, and super fun.

Let's start on our campus. There is always something happening on campus. Using your student ID, you can get into all sporting events...free of charge! All events hosted by the Student Government Association are free (unless stated otherwise), so join in on the fun.

The Porter, a pub in Hattiesburg, will host Oktoberfest September 26th-30th. During this event, there will be traditional German food, German and pub/party games and, to wrap up the celebration, a Run. Admission to the festival is free.

On October 6th and 7th, the city of Brookhaven is hosting its annual Ole Brook Fest, a display of local artisans spread alongside food carts, a car show, a 5K, and the Sam Mooney Band, who performs on the night of the 6th. Admission is free.

The next weekend, the 14th of October, the town of Summit will put on its annual fall festival as well, which allows crafters from all around to show and sell their work. There will also be food carts, and admission is free.

Hero's Haven in Brookhaven will host a weekly Magic: the Gathering tournament on Tuesdays starting in October. They call the tournament Magic Taco Tuesdays; admission into the tournament is free, and the winner receives a \$10 Taco Bell gift card. If none of these events pique your interest, try geocaching, a sort of scavenger hunt using an app on your phone that allows you to explore your city. You can also look on onlyinyourstate.com to find new and exciting things to do. Don't forget to carry your student ID with you wherever you go; restaurants (Subway, Burger King), movie theaters (Cinemark, AMC), and even stores (Toms, Apple) are always offering discounts for college students.



Bears football players making the grade

By Michael D. Gunnell, Sports Information

For all football players, the goal is to win on the field. But, over the past four years, Southwest football players under head coach Tucker Peavey have shown they can win in other ways as well.

Since Peavey took the helm of the program in 2013, the graduation rate for members of the Bears squad has increased to an exceptional 97 percent. In addition, over 50 players have continued their career at a four-year institution.

Peavey said the reasons for the high graduation rate "are twofold. I think it's the emphasis that we as a coaching staff put on academics, but I (also) think it's a testament to a lot of help on campus through the Student Success Center and through the teachers we work with on a regular basis. So, it's a team effort. There's no way that just one thing is the difference."

Why is such an emphasis placed on players graduating before moving on to the next level? Peavey said it is "certainly an objective when you enter an educational program of any kind. I tell (the players) all the time that I want them to get their four-year degree, but we want to get this one (Associate's degree) in the process. So, I think it's just fundamentally (that) you want to show that you've accomplished the goal or you've completed the task and graduation does that."

But, also, Peavey said, for a lot of the players "it's what makes them eligible for an NCAA school. So, I think the combination of those two things is the motivation that not only pushes the kids, but it is also the reason why we want to insure that in our program. We're doing it mostly in a year and a half (graduating the players) and the biggest thing about that is the four-year schools get the kids for an extra spring practice. That raises their stock a little bit when they are December graduates."

Peavey said the number of players continuing their careers "is a testament to what they've done on the field and in the classroom. We just want that number to grow so that 100 percent of the ones who want to keep playing are able to do so as a result of being here. So, you're always trying to keep improving, keep climbing and moving to bigger and better things." The graduation rate and number of players moving to the four-year level provides crucial help in the recruitment process. "It's huge," Peavey said, "and the thing that we tell the kids, and parents, is that if they want to do that (graduate and move on), we have the resources and the help here to achieve it."

Bergeron receives Mississippi Rural Physician Scholarship

Southwest Mississippi Community College graduate Brandon Bergeron of Tylertown is one of the recipients of this year's Mississippi Rural Physician Scholarship from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Bergeron, who graduated with the Spring 2017 graduating class, was a Pre-Biology major who was involved in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Tri Beta Biological Honor Society while at Southwest Mississippi Community College. The Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP) is a longitudinal program that identifies rural college students who aspire to return to their roots to practice medicine. Academic enrichment, faculty and physician mentoring plus solid medical school financial support through the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program enables capable young Mississippians to address the challenge of Mississippi's health care crisis.

Homecoming honorees honored



Stan McMorris
Alumnus of the Year

Stan McMorris is the son of the late R. H. McMorris of Summit and Martha McMorris currently of Brookhaven. He is a graduate of McComb High School class of 1972. He received his Associate of Arts from Southwest Mississippi Community College in 1974 and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1976.

Stan is married to the former Carol Ann Lowther of Jackson, MS and they have three children, Melissa McMorris Duncan (Greg) of McComb, Steven McMorris (Jennifer) of Brookhaven, and Meredith McMorris of Madison, Mississippi. They have four grandchildren: Patrick McMorris, Ann Elise Duncan, Bradley McMorris, and Elizabeth McMorris.

Stan retired from the Mississippi Department of Employment Security after working more than 38 years. He served in many positions before retiring in 2013 as the Deputy Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer for the agency. He currently serves as the Chief of the Summit Volunteer Fire Department.

He is a former member of the McComb Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. He is also a former member of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce and Pike County Economic Development Board. He was presented the Oliver Emmerich Award by the Pike County Chamber of Commerce in 2004 for a lifetime of service to Pike County.

He is currently a member for the Pike County Economic Development Foundation Board and is a member of the Summit Housing Authority Board and currently serves as the board's chairman. Since 2010 he has served as a member of the Pike County 911 Commission.

Stan is a member of First Baptist Church of Summit where he serves as a deacon, the church moderator, a Sunday school teacher, and a member of the choir.

Chad Lindsey is the son of Dennis and Jennifer Lindsey of Smithdale. He is a graduate of



Chad Lindsey
Sports Hall of Fame

Centreville Academy, class of 1993. He was the Enterprise Journal's player of the year in 1993. In the fall of 1993 he was a freshman at Southwest MS Community College and was a member of the football team. In the summer of 1994 the University of Southern Mississippi came calling and offered Chad a football scholarship. He played his next three years as a Golden Eagle. Chad was the special teams player of the week twice while at Southern Miss, once against Memphis in 1996 and again against LSU in 1994.

Chad is married to the former Betsy Wicker of Zachary, LA. They have three children: Ethan, 13; Ruth, 11; and Wicker, 9. He has been involved in coaching Dixie Youth Baseball and elementary football at Parklane Academy, where his children attend school.

Chad received a finance degree with a secondary emphasis in accounting at the University of Southern Mississippi. He has been a financial advisor for Raymond James Financial Services in McComb for twenty years. He has been on the Executive Council of Raymond James Financial for the last four years.

He is a Lifetime member of Southwest MS Community College Alumni Association where he is a past board member; he is also a lifetime member of the University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association. He is currently a member of the McComb Rotary Club, where he received the New Rotarian of the year award in 2008 and was the past president from 2015 to 2016.

Chad and his family live in the Thompson community in Amite County. He is a member of Thompson Baptist Church where he teaches Young Adult Sunday School and also helps with the RA's.

Terrance T. Turner is the son of Benetta Turner and Frank Hughes of McComb. Terrance is a 1986 graduate of McComb High School. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Southwest Community College in 1988. He is also a 1990 graduate



Terrance Turner
Sports Hall of Fame

of Millsaps College School of Business.

Terrance is married to Dr. Valerie Turner. They have four children: DeAngelo Marquise, Hannah Grace, Troy Terrance and Gia Grace.

Terrance is the owner of 3T Developers, Inc., Character Builders Vending Reward Systems, Head Turners Salon, Sweet Tooth Café by Peaches & Pearls, Inc., and Mississippi Dentistry for Children, Inc. He is also a motivational speaker.

He is a board member and presenter for the Lincoln County Mississippi Scholars Program and a board member for McComb Civil Service Commission. Mr. Turner is also the Transportation Operations Manager for Wal-Mart's Private Fleet in Brookhaven, MS. He served six years in the Army Intelligence Test and Evaluation Command where he was the Army's Project Director for the testing and evaluation of futuristic weapons systems at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

Terrance is a member of Rose Bower Baptist Church of Amite County. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Mu Pi Lambda Chapter of Brookhaven, MS. In addition, he is a selected member of the Mississippi Secretary of State's Election Council.

First Bank has strong roots in Southwest Mississippi dating back to 1895, and we serve our local communities with integrity and pride! We strongly believe that community banks are vitally important to the economic growth of a community. We support many events and organizations who are actively working to improve the quality of life for our citizens. Southwest Mississippi is our home!

One of the organizations with whom we have a long and valued relationship is Southwest Mississippi Community College. In 1932, when the school became a two-year junior college, our Bank was the only bank in Summit (then called The Progressive Bank) at that time. To the best of our former Progressive Bank employees' knowledge, the relationship between our Bank and the



Stella Dodd and Richard Dodd
Foundation Hall of Fame

College dates back to the 1930's. That relationship is important to our Bank and remains strong in 2017!

The Covington Family has been involved in Summit banking with J.T. Covington as one of the original stockholders in the Bank of Summit when it chartered in 1896. Gordon Covington became President of the Progressive Bank in 1962; his son Jim Covington is currently Chairman of the Board of First Bank, and his daughter Stella Dodd and grandson Richard Dodd are both Senior Vice Presidents.

In 1966, The Progressive Bank opened an office in East McComb. The name was later changed to Bank of McComb and a new large main office was renovated in Downtown McComb next to City Hall. In 1981, Bank of McComb and Southwest Mississippi Bank in Magnolia merged to become First Bank of Southwest Mississippi. Southwest Mississippi Bank was formed when Magnolia Bank (chartered in 1895) and Citizens Bank merged. In 1983, First Bank of Southwest Mississippi purchased South Central Bank with offices in Brookhaven, Monticello, Silver Creek and Prentiss. With offices outside of Southwest MS, the name was changed to First Bank.

Today, First Bank has fourteen offices located in McComb, Summit, Magnolia, Osyka, Liberty, Brookhaven, Monticello, Jackson and Hattiesburg.

Last year, Southwest Mississippi Community College developed a Banking & Finance Technology program for students to earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree. This program was in response to a need expressed by First Bank. One of First Bank's employees participates in the program, and we have already hired a new employee from the program. Thank you, Dr. Bishop and SMCC, for being so responsive to community needs!

We were happy to assist the SMCC Foundation last year with the purchase of the Championship rings for SMCC's State Championship players! Go Bears!

Dr. Bill Ashley named president of Shelton State Community College

Southwest Mississippi Community College Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Ashley was recently named President at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Dr. Ashley has served admirably as SMCC Vice-President for Student Affairs for the past six years and will continue to serve at Southwest, in his current capacity, through September 29. He will begin as President at Shelton State on October 2.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Dr. Ashley and his family, and I thank him for his dedication and outstanding work here at Southwest. It has been a great experience to work with him these past six years and I wish him all the best," said SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop.

Monroe former graduate of Southwest MS Community College receives Celia Moh Scholarship at MS State

A Mississippi State interior design major from Franklin County and graduate of Southwest MS Community College is one of only five U.S. undergraduates selected to receive the highly coveted Celia Moh Scholarship for the upcoming academic year.

Given by the Lexington, North Carolina-based Celia Moh Scholarship Foundation, the prestigious award will cover full tuition, room, board, books and fees for senior Hannah E. Monroe of Meadville during the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters.

Established in 2001 by furniture industry entrepreneur Laurence Moh in his wife's honor, the scholarship is considered among the most prestigious honors for U.S. undergraduates planning careers in the industry. For more, see www.mohscholarship.org.

Candidates for the honor must be enrolled full time in interior design, furniture products or other approved academic programs, and have completed an extensive questionnaire and personal essay. Faculty recommendations and demonstrated superior academic achievements also are criteria for evaluation.

Monroe is a member of MSU's Montgomery Leadership Program and the Judy and Bobby Shackouls Honors College, as well as Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

MSU's Franklin Furniture Institute manages the university's Celia Moh Scholarship awards program, including the application process. For complete information, contact institute director Bill Martin at 662-325-3348 or wmartin@cfr.msstate.edu.

Accredited by The Council for Interior Design Accreditation and National Association of Schools of Art and Design, MSU's interior design program provides students with a broad background in interior elements, materials, sources and practical experience in the business of interior design.

Learn more about the College of Architecture, Art and Design and its interior design program at www.caad.msstate.edu.

MSU is Mississippi's leading university, available online at www.msstate.edu.



Pictured are the following: Josh Troxler, SMCC Automotive Technology instructor, Allen Pope, owner of McComb and Tylertown NAPA Auto and Truck Parts, Jeremy Smith, SMCC Vice-President for Career and Technical Education, and Clark Terry, owner of Meridian NAPA Auto and Truck Parts.

Allen Pope, SMCC Alumni and Owner of the McComb and Tylertown NAPA Auto and Truck Parts recently donated many oils and chemicals, along with a \$200 tool and equipment voucher to the SMCC Automotive Technology Program. These fluids consist of antifreeze, engine oil, brake fluid, and windshield washer fluid that averaged in costs between \$14-15 per gallon. Some of the fluids labeled "fleet" will also be donated to the Diesel Mechanic Program. Pope stated, "This is just the beginning of a long partnership with Southwest, my alma mater, as NAPA works to strengthen community relations."

Cosmetology program ranked #12



2017 SMCC Cosmetology program: Madonna Jones, Cosmetology instructor; Trisha Cuevas, Tiffany Hughes-Smith, Jada Brown, Shayla McGuffee, Becca Wilson, Hannah Karabel, Elizabeth Smith, Tiara McDaniel, Kristen Darr, Taren Terrell; second row: Kayla McDowell, Dazha O'Bryant, Tiffany Carter, Chonace Covington, Mattie Stewart, Nina Forbentherry, Thomas Baniel, Destyn Dand, Malea Harvey, Porsha Smith

Southwest Mississippi Community College is proud to announce that it has been ranked #12 on TheBestColleges.org list of the Top 50 Beauty and Cosmetology Schools. The team at TheBestColleges.org strives to connect prospective students with the best degree programs available. To determine the best beauty and cosmetology schools, TheBestColleges.org looked at the most important factors to prospective students, mainly common predictors of future success and a school's commitment to online programs. Data points are taken from admissions rate, student loan default rate, retention rate, and graduation rate. After reviewing all accredited beauty and cosmetology schools in the US, TheBestColleges.org selected 50 that provide students with the best learning experience, and Southwest was ranked #12.

Starve a vampire: donate blood

By Spencer Bonds, staff writer

Heroes come in all types and sizes! Join the extraordinary league by rolling up your sleeve. Fewer than one in ten will actually donate. Forty thousand pints of blood are used each day. One out of every seven people entering the hospital needs blood. One donation has the potential to save as many as three lives. SMCC will host its bi-annual blood drive October 3rd, 4th, and 5th. United Blood Services will be on campus collecting donations in the Workforce Training Center from 10AM until 3PM each day. All new and repeat donors are encouraged to attend. The need is constant. The gratification is instant.

Here's what happens to donated blood. The donor registers, and his health history and mini physical are completed. A pint of blood and a couple test tubes are collected from the donor. The pint, the tubes, and the donor record are labeled to keep track of the donation. The donation is stored in iced coolers until it is transported to a Red Cross center. Donated blood is scanned into a computer database. Most blood is spun in centrifuges to separate the red cells, platelets, and plasma. The plasma can be further manufactured into usable components. Red cells and platelets are bacterially tested. Test tubes are sent for testing. The test tubes are received in one of three Red Cross National Testing Laboratories. A dozen tests are performed on each unit of donated blood to establish the blood type and test for infectious diseases. Test results are transferred electronically to the manufacturing facility within 24 hours. If a test result is positive, the unit is discarded. When test results are received, units suitable for transfusion are labeled and stored. Red Cells are stored for up to 42 days. Platelets are stored for up to five days. Plasma is stored in freezers for up to one year. Blood is available to be shipped to hospitals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Tips for a successful donation: Maintain a healthy iron level in your diet. Hydrate! Drink an extra 16 oz of liquid before and after your donation. Have a healthy meal before your donation. Avoid foods high in fat just prior to donation. Remember to bring your ID!

Beginning September 25th 2017, all questions and concerns may be directed to Ms. Alicia Shows. Make a difference...help save lives today!

Vacation time

By Scott Johnston, staff writer

Have you ever woken up and said, "I need a vacation?" Sometimes, people just need to get away from life and admire nature and all the wonders that go with it. Summer time is supposed to be fun and adventurous before you go back to college. From fishing to swimming to just taking a car ride somewhere like Yellowstone National Park, summer is about experiencing new things and taking a break to relax your mind. Yellowstone Park, for example, is all that and more. There is an experience in interacting with the animals. Some of the animals are native locally such as buffalo, antelopes, and, of course, grizzly bears. Watching their behavior with each other as well as humans is amazing to watch. Seeing snow covered mountain tops when the first light of dawn hits them is soul moving. A week or two isn't enough time to fully experience everything there. Research your area and explore the fascinating things around you; and take time to travel and see new places.



Whispering Pines' Yearbook wins first place overall in the MCJCPA yearbook competition:

Pictured above are Kimi Jeanson, co-editor; Brooke Smith, editor; Cody Pol, co-editor, and Joyce Mabry, journalism instructor and yearbook advisor.

The Southwest's *Whispering Pines* yearbook took First Place Overall in the 2017 Mississippi Community and Junior College Press Association yearbook competition. Southwest's yearbook 2017 *Whispering Pines* "Unstoppable" won First place in Cover Division,

First place in Theme Division, First place in Typography Division, First place in Photography Division, First place in Structure Division and First place in Design Division. The Editor of the 2017 yearbook was Brooke Smith; co-editors were Kimi Jeanson and Cody Pol.



Angela McDaniel, instructor; Carley McDaniel, Zoharet Chambers, Reece Reeves, Fiona Brown, Stone Troxler, Beverly Moak, instructor; second row: Parker Weathers-Hodges, Kylar Myles Houston, Stone Boyd, Keller Porter; third row: Paisley Freeman, Hannah Harriel, Instructor Kim Burkett

By Olivia Robinson and Sarah Polk, staff writers

The Bookshelf Boogie is a project created by the Junior Auxiliary of McComb during the month of September in 2017. The project, which began at Southwest Mississippi Community College's Childcare

Center, asks for children's book donations. The books that are collected will be donated to Excel by 5 of McComb, an organization which aids in ensuring the children of our community are prepared to begin school by the age of six. The bookshelf will continue to "boogie" at a different Pike County business each month.



Annual Collegiate Transfer Fair:

Nikki Panonos and Siera Glass-Louisiana State University, Lauren Porter-Mississippi State University, Daisey Martinez-The University of Mississippi, Liz Thurmond-Blue Mountain College, Kelsey Holland-Mississippi University for Women, Deanna Graves-William Carey University, and Sonya Coker-Alcorn State University; second row: Aaron Buckley and Anna Aucoin-SMCC Bear Trackers, Deanna Robertson-Southeastern Louisiana University, Mark Jimerson-Mississippi State University Distance Learning, Marquita Davis-Jackson State University, Wendy Stevenson-Delta State University, Brandon Cerverka- Mississippi College, Aleigh Flynn-SMCC Bear Tracker; third row: Myles Kendrick and Andrew Garner- SMCC Bear Trackers, Paul Scott-Jackson State University, Erron Flowers-University of Southern Mississippi, John Maury-Delta State University, Jake McDonald-Belhaven University, Robert Brown, Edward Howard, and Ryan Ivey-SMCC Bear Trackers, and Karinele Brister-SMCC Recruiter and Transfer College Fair Coordinator SMCC held their annual Transfer College Fair hosted by the SMCC Office of Academic Counseling and Recruitment on Thursday, September 14, 2017 in the Horace C. Holmes Student Union lobby. Seventeen transfer college admissions counselors representing fourteen 4-year colleges and universities were in attendance to discuss transfer information with students. Representatives answered questions about scholarships, financial aid, and academic and student life. Many of those questions focused on transfer scholarships most of which require a student to have at least 48 transferable hours.



Pictured above are Natalie McMahon, advisor, Alexcia Carr, Kimi Jeanson, Myles Kendrick, Neshun Holmes, Dr. Jennifer McLaughlin, advisor

PTK in Action: PTK officers and advisors visited Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, this summer. They received a personal tour of the facility and was able to visit each department. In addition, the officers received training on how to develop a great College Project and Honors-in-Action Project, how to increase membership, and how to get current members involved in the chapter. They capped off their tour with a one-on-one question and answer session with Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President of PTK, and a visit to the PTK store.

By Olivia Robinson, staff writer



Constitution Day: Merrielyn Ginn, Social Sciences Chair, explains the Constitution to social science student, Michael Quin, Jr.

Merrielyn Ginn, Social Sciences Chair, hosted a lecture on Constitution Day. In the lecture, Ms. Ginn spoke on the historical and present-day significance of the Constitution and why we should all understand the information the document sets forth. Approximately eighty students attended.

On September 17, 1787, the Constitution came to be during the Philadelphia Convention, known as the Constitutional Convention in today's time. The "Father of the Constitution", James Madison, contributed many ideas that made their way into the Constitution and was the driving force behind the convention. Despite this, it took many months of deliberation amongst the delegates in order to get the document to come into fruition.

The Constitution did not go into effect until it was approved by the people through an act known as the ratification process. Article VII of the Constitution thoroughly establishes the process of ratification by stating, "The ratification of the conventions of nine states, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the States." On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify, which led to the Confederation Congress to establish the Constitution to be in effect on March 4, 1789. Now regarded as the "living document," the Constitution, is of deep importance because it is both rigid and malleable to an extent that does not devoid it of its original meaning. Several years after its creation, the Constitution was ratified in 1791 with the creation of the Bill of Rights. Today, the Constitution has only been amended 27 times. Without the Constitution, we would not be able to stand on our own two feet and become the United States of America that we know of today.

Summer work

By Jonathan Scott, co-editor

Summer is a great opportunity for students to take a break from school, go on vacation, or be productive. Many students use the extra time they have over the summer to get jobs. This summer, I had the chance to do all of these things. I took time off from school, went to a camp, visited Chicago, and had a summer job through the Mississippi Press Association—an internship at Pike County's premier newspaper, the *Enterprise Journal*.

Previously, I'd primarily done weekly cartoons for newspapers, and published a cartoon monthly in my college paper. Though I had written articles for the college paper periodically, I had more time and flexibility with it being a monthly publication rather than a daily one. With the *Enterprise Journal*, I was no longer merely testing the waters, but I was diving deep into stories and deadlines.

As an employed intern under the Mississippi Press Association and *Enterprise Journal*, I really gained insight into the fast-paced world of journalism. Rather than running errands or getting coffee for employees, I was able to understand many different facets of working at a newspaper. I did several interviews, wrote articles, edited, and I was even able to draw editorial cartoons for the paper. As someone on the college publications staff and someone who is pursuing a career as a writer, this job helped me grow as a writer and journalist and gave me a better understanding of what those jobs encompass. Like any job, this one came with a level of responsibility. I had to be sure I had a decent productivity rate, while meeting deadlines.

A great part of the internship—and journalism in general—was being able to tell other people's stories. When doing interviews, I met numerous people in the community from different walks of life. When tasked to interview these people, I would hear their points of view on certain matters. I also learned information about their jobs, and the people themselves. This level of connectivity with people is something very beneficial that I think is valuable, though often overlooked.

Overall, the job was a good learning process, and it provided a fresh view of the inner workings of a newspaper. I am thankful to the *Enterprise Journal* and the Mississippi Press Association for this experience.

Why Southwest?

By DeCorio Wedig, staff writer

I'm twenty-four years old, and this will be my second time in college. My family and I recently moved from Durham, North Carolina, to Kentwood, Louisiana. I was searching around Louisiana for potential schools or programs to attend. I looked into Southeastern Louisiana University and Northshore Technical Community College because they're both in-state schools. Then, I began to search nearby, out-of-state schools and the first college that appeared was Southwest Mississippi Community College. So, I decided to check out Southwest in-person. As I approached the school, there was an instant connection between myself and this specific area. It was almost as if I traveled back to the 16th century where the Choctaw Indian Reservation consisted of 35,000 acres of scattered land. I love the fact that this land is mostly untouched. There are so many beautiful trees with amazing history buried in the roots. The lake and the trail paths parallel to the library are intriguing to the human eye. This land has a warm and welcoming feeling. The contour of the land is perfectly imperfect and filled with so much history and love. These are some of the reasons why I chose to attend Southwest Community College.



Intramurals: Football roars

Bill Wallace, Director of Athletics and Director of Intramurals



Kori Evans throws to the end zone. photo by Kimi Jeanson



Stacy Brown rushes for yards. photo by Kimi Jeanson



William Kelly runs with determination. photo by Kimi Jeanson

Poet's Posts By Sarah Polk

Because Now I'm Flying

I'm standing on the edge of a cliff;
 I can feel the warmth from the sun;
 It shines on my wings like shimmering flakes of gold;
 A million questions enter my mind;
 "What if my wings aren't strong enough?"
 "What if I fall?"
 "Be positive," I whisper to myself;
 "Okay, I'm positive the view will be nice on the way down;"
 Before I talk myself out it, my feet move as if they have a mind of their own;
 It was like I had no control of them anymore;
 I looked down only to see nothing;
 There was not a grain of sand beneath my feet;
 Back on the ground I was limited, like a wolf on a chain;
 Here in the sky I can go anywhere and be the person I couldn't be back there;
 All my troubles, worries, and burdens were on the ground;
 They can't reach me here;
 Because now I'm flying.

The Moon in His Pocket

There are moments we will never forget,
 Where stories are made and time is the only threat.
 Head held high, I said, "Daddy, get me the moon;"
 I saw the surprise written on your face.
 What happened next is something only you could do,
 Even time seemed to stop and stay in its place.
 You raised your hand to the sky, "Okay, I got it."
 I was frantic for you to not let it go.
 Joy flooded me; I shouted, "Put it in your pocket!"
 We were both oblivious to our little show.
 Then came the day of my first broken heart,
 You looked into my tear-filled eyes and said,
 "Do not cry over a boy who could not give you the stars."
 Even a man with the stars will have no room,
 For I gave my heart to the man with the moon.

Cartoons....



Ads.....

SMCC SGA Parade of Beauties

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
6:30 p.m.
Hurst Auditorium: Fine Arts Building
 "Most Beautiful" and 5 "Campus Beauties" will be selected.

Student Tickets with SMCC ID	Faculty Tickets with SMCC ID
\$1.00	\$1.00

General Admission Tickets
\$6.00

- Applications are available in Student Services.
- Applications & \$25.00 entry fee are due Thursday, October 12th and should be turned in by 12:00 noon in Student Services.
- Contestants will draw numbers on Thursday, October 12th at 12:00 noon in Student Services located in Kenna Hall.
- Contestants will be judged only in evening gown.
- Who's Who will be presented at the pageant.

Life is Sweet at SMCC

HOME COMING OCT 7

Southwest Mississippi Community College WE WANT... YOU!

MAKE A DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION.

Join the SMCC Foundation!

Individual Membership - \$100 annually	Corporate Membership - \$500 annually
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ATTENTION: SOUTHWEST BEARS
 Join the SMCC Alumni Association Today!
 Annual Membership - \$25
 Lifetime Membership - \$100

Please Mail to: SMCC Foundation, 1156 College Drive, Summit, MS 39666 or 601-276-4813

For More Information, Contact the Foundation at 601-276-4813

City and state: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____

Running with the Bears

Monday, October 2, 2017
5:30 p.m. - 5K Walk/Run (1 Mile Fun Run)
Immediately following 5K

SMCC HOME COMING 2017

EARLY REGISTRATION FEES - (All participants must register before September 25, 2017)
 Students (K-College) - \$20.00 per person General Public - \$25.00 per person (\$15.00 each for a family of 3 or more)
 RACE DAY - (All participants must register by 5:00 p.m. the day of the race) - Sign in at south entrance of Football Field
 All - \$30.00 each (\$20.00 each for a family of 3 or more)
 *Instead of t-shirts, SMCC water bottles will be included in the registration packet

EXCITING NEWS!!!!
 Race will again be timed by Southern Race Timing

Return the bottom portion with your payment to Wendy Smith ~ 1146 Horace Holmes Dr. ~ Summit, MS 39666 or call (601) 276-3889 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Or register online at <https://www.raceentry.com/races/running-with-the-bears/2017/register>

NAME _____ AGE (as of October 2, 2017) _____ GENDER _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PLEASE PLACE A CHECKMARK BY THE EVENT(S) YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN

1 Mile Fun Run _____ 5K Walk _____ 5K Run _____

Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each age group for walkers and runners.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Payable to the SMCC Alumni Association

WAIVER: In consideration of this entry acceptance, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against parties associated with these fun runs.

Homecoming: "Life is Sweet at Southwest"

Monday, October 2nd

5:00 pm- Running with the Bears 5K Run/Walk and one mile fun run

Saturday, October 7th

3:00 pm- Induction Ceremony-Holmes Student Union Auditorium

4:00 pm- Homecoming Reception-Homes Student Union Lobby

5:00 pm- Kickoff against Pearl River Community College

Half-Time- Coronation Ceremony, Introduction of Honorees, Band Performance

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	8:15am- 5:30pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:15am- 6:30pm Tuesday
Math Tutoring:	Tuesday-Thursday Lunch Break from	9:00am-4:00pm 11:00am-12:00pm
Chemistry Tutoring:	Mondays Thursdays	10:00am-12:00pm 12:00pm- 3:00pm
English Tutor	Mondays Thursdays	1:00pm-4:00pm 1:00pm-3:00pm

English, Study Skills and General Academic Coaching available:
 Monday-Thursday 8:30am- 5:30pm
 Lunch Break from 1:45pm-2:45pm

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, 1156 College Dr., Summit, MS 39666

Find the hero in you.™

Give blood 3 times a year!


High school donors like Brian are strong supporters of the community blood program.

SMCC Blood Drive

Tuesday, October 3
 Wednesday, October 4
 Thursday, October 5
 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 @ Workforce Training Center-Auditorium

Free T-shirt to all donors (while supplies last).

To make an appointment, go to www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: SWMCC) or contact Alicia Shows at 601-276-3706. Some weight & height restrictions apply for donors younger than 23. See chart at www.unitedbloodservices.org for eligibility.



United Blood Services
88216C (1/11)

Please bring photo ID and donor card.
Free cholesterol testing with every donation!

SAVE TIME! Come see your **FAST TRACK** Health History the day you donate at www.UnitedBloodServices.org



Women's Basketball Fun Scavenger Hunt: top left: Rachel Thompson gets arrested by Jay Bain for 10 extra points on the scavenger hunt; top right: Jamaya Galloway takes a photo with a SMCC Hall of Famer, Robert "T" Felder; above: Bre Harness takes photo with an SMCC Alumni, Natalie McMahon; above right: Tamarah Bingham takes a photo with a SMCC Alumni, Coach Ken Jackson. **Community Service:** above: Tamarah Carter, women's basketball player, serves children snacks for community service project.

Solar Eclipse, August 21, 2017: above: Allyson McDonald admires the eclipse through the telescope; above right: LaHenry Nelson and Neshun Holmes wait to view the Solar Eclipse at Southwest's Observatory. Approximately a thousand people visited the Observatory to see the eclipse - students, faculty, staff, and community school children. *photos by Kimi Jeanson*

New Pine Burr members excited to report news

Jenny Alexandra Burkett is the daughter of Jerry and Maria Burkett from Bogue Chitto. Originally, she's from Bogota, Columbia in South America. She is a freshman at Southwest Mississippi Community College and is majoring in Communications. Public Relations with a minor in Spanish. While attending Bogue Chitto, she was active in many areas such as cross country, tennis, archery and class representation. Jenny has been active in community affairs and community service. She is a past winner of a national service award and scholarship. Jenny is also a former Miss Mississippi Teen Latina and has won several other pageants. Jenny is active in her church St. Alphonsus along with First Baptist of Summit. Her goal is to graduate Southwest and attend USM or LSU. Jenny enjoys working with the yearbook, meeting and forming new friends.

Elizabeth Foster is the child of Heather Hughes and Dwayne Foster. She is nineteen years old and is a sophomore at Southwest; her major is general studies. After Southwest, she would like to attend Southeastern Louisiana University where she will further her education in radiology. Elizabeth Foster is from Denham Springs, Louisiana, and she graduated from Live Oak High School in 2016. While attending Live Oak High School, she played basketball and softball, and was in various clubs. She joined the newspaper staff because she enjoys being involved with things that are going on around campus and interacting with her peers.

Scott Johnson is a freshman at Southwest Mississippi Community College. He is the son of Gary and Kaye Johnson of McComb, Mississippi, where he was reared, surrounded by a loving family and friends. He graduated from the workforce-training center and immediately started college. His major is nursing, and he wants to continue his education after SMCC at USM. He loves to hike, fish, write, and travel.

Reginald Eli Martin was born



Scott Johnson, Olivia Saldana, Sarah Polk, Liza Nettles, Elizabeth Foster, and Kimi Jeanson; Second row: Nick Mueller, Reggie Martin, Decorio Wedig, and Jonathan Scott Not pictured are the following: Spencer Bond, Robert Brown, Garrett Graves, Olivia Robinson, Brooke Smith and Michael Wilson. photo by Joyce Mabry

in Charlotte, North Carolina, but was raised in Magnolia, Mississippi, by his mom, Sara Martin. He is 19 years old and a sophomore here at Southwest Mississippi Community College. He is on the Pine Burr newspaper and Whispering Pines yearbook staff. After he graduates, Reginald plans to attend a four year university and major in graphic design.

Kaitlyn McCarlie is the eighteen-year-old daughter of Doug and Kathy McCarlie. She was born and raised in Summit alongside her older brother, Matthew. Kaitlyn graduated with honors from North Pike High School last fall. She had memberships in the Inter. She had memberships in the Inter. She had memberships in the Inter. She had memberships in the Inter. She had memberships in the Inter.

Kaitlyn was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and Junior Auxiliary's Crown Club, and was chosen for the McComb Garden Club's Azalea Court. She also volunteers with the special needs community by being a coach for the Scarlet's Upward cheer team, helping with Special Olympics, being a buddy for Miracle League baseball, and being a third-year counselor at Camp Sunshine. At Southwest, she is on the Whispering Pines yearbook staff and is a Bear Tracker. She is currently majoring in Kinesiology and plans on pursuing a career of an Occupational Therapist specializing in helping handicapped children.

Nicholas Angelo Mueller was born to Mary Temple and Kurt Mueller from Brookhaven, Mississippi. He attended Brookhaven High School and was a member of the band. His passion is in video games and computer programs. At Southwest, he is a sophomore and his major is in Computer Science. Also, he is an

active participant in the band where he enjoys playing bass drum.

Laura Elizabeth Nettles is the nineteen-year-old daughter of Billy Joe Nettles and Amy Irby. She is originally from McComb, Mississippi, and graduated from North Pike High School in 2016. She is currently a sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College, where she was recently voted sophomore maid and placed top 5 last year in the Southwest Parade of Beauties. After Southwest, she plans to further her education at Mississippi State University by majoring in Fashion Merchandising and Marketing. In the future, she would love to work with a formalwear fashion designer and travel the world. The fashion world is a major part of her life. She loves taking photographs, modeling, participating in pageants, and traveling in her spare time. She loves participating in social events and cannot wait for the many opportunities that are

ahead while participating with the Pine Burr.

Sarah Polk is a freshman at Southwest Mississippi College, where she majors in early child education. She is the eighteen-year-old daughter of Charles Polk Jr and Lonnie Moore. She enjoys to pass the time by reading or writing. However, that was not always the case. When she was eight years old, she was diagnosed with dyslexia and social anxiety. That was a constant battle for her. Later in life, she decided she would not let her fears stop her. She is now on the newspaper staff and the yearbook committee. Her major at Southwest is Early Childhood Development. After, she plans to transfer and graduate from Southern University, to be a school teacher.

Olivia Saldana is a nineteen-year-old sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She is the second daughter of Angie and Frank Saldana of McComb. Her siblings are Alexa and Evan. Olivia graduated from

North Pike High School in 2016 with high honors, where she was a very involved student. In the spring, Olivia plans to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi and major in English. She wants to certify in Teaching English as a Second Language so she can travel the world. Olivia enjoys reading long romantic novels and writing action-packed short stories. She loves sketching and taking pictures of her pets. Her favorite thing to do is to roll the windows down in her car on an old country road, turn the music all the way up, and sing at the top of her lungs. Olivia loves travelling and exploring new places. She particularly enjoys participating in festivals, scoping out ghost towns, and going water-fall hunting. Olivia is excited to turn this next page in her life story and to see the result of all her hard work.

Decorio Wedig was born in the fall on September 7, 1992, at Duke University Hospital located in Durham, North Carolina. He lived most of his childhood life in 'project' communities with his birth mom and siblings. When he was 17 years old, he decided to move in and live with his aunt for about a year to attend a specific high school. Shortly after living with his aunt, Decorio soon reconnected with his seventh grade reading teacher, Elisabeth Wedig. Mrs. Wedig was interested in his academic progress. He was two years behind in school and desperately trying to keep his head above water. So, they devised a plan for him to apply to Job Corp, which is an education and trade program. He graduated with honors from Schenck Job Corp in 2011. Shortly after finishing high school, he moved in with Mrs. Wedig. He was very grateful that she brought him under her wing and encouraged him to continue pursuing academic excellence. Decurio wanted to show his appreciation to her for helping him with school and helping him with life by allowing her to legally adopt him. A couple years went by, and he wanted Mrs. Wedig to be his mom. They talked it over and both decided to legally add on her last name to his name.