Congratulations Class of 2013

Southwest Earns a Place on the National Honor Roll for Community Service

Our College Holds a Ribbon Cutting for the New ILS Technology Lab
**The President’s Message**

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**Southwest Now Magazine**

**Institutional Advancement Division**
Karen F. Nippert, Vice President

**Publisher and Editor**
Communications and Marketing Department
Robert G. Miller, Executive Director

**Production**
Thomas Mitchell
Tim Adams

**Design**
Erin Roberts

**Cover Photography**
Robert Jackson

**Contributing Writers**
President Nathan L. Essex, Dr. Joan McGrory, Meghan Triplett, Keith Gentry and Brenda Rayner

**Southwest Tennessee Community College Senior Administration**
Nathan L. Essex, President
Joanne Bassett, Provost and Executive Vice President
Ron Parr, Vice President for Financial and Administrative Services
Karen F. Nippert, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Dwayne Scott, Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management
Paul Thomas, Executive Director for Human Resources and Affirmative Action
Sherman Greer, Executive Assistant to the President for Government Relations

We welcome your comments and/or suggestions for future articles.

Please forward inquiries to Robert G. Miller, publisher and editor, via e-mail to: rgmiller1@southwest.tn.edu...or call him in Southwest’s Communications and Marketing Department at (901) 333-4368.

Southwest Now Magazine is published semi-annually in the fall/winter and spring/summer.
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The President’s Message

Southwest Now
Southwest prides itself on responding to the needs of the community. Our desire is to be viewed as the community’s college, the college that belongs to the community through our capacity to anticipate and respond to community needs. We do not wish to be viewed as a place but rather as a service that permeates our community and the Mid-South region. Improving college enrollment, retention, graduation, and preparing a skilled workforce have emerged as critical needs in our community and state.

Adult Students
Southwest is making a concerted effort to encourage adult students who have earned college credit to return and complete their degree and/or certificate program. The College’s marketing initiatives have been expanded to focus more intently on working adults. Academic advisors are available to assist adult students as they re-enter college to ensure that programs are properly planned to facilitate timely degree completion. Early morning classes are offered to accommodate adult students who might wish to enroll in a class prior to the beginning of the workday. Weekend degree programs are planned to ensure that adult students may earn degrees/certificates exclusively through weekend enrollment. Online course options also are available including hybrid courses that allow students to utilize online work coupled with in-class involvement. Adult students may also earn academic credit through experiential learning or prior experience. Additionally, dedicated areas are provided for adult students to congregate and dialogue prior to classes and during breaks.

Since only 32% of adults have earned degrees in the state of Tennessee, it is imperative that Southwest contributes to improving degree completion among our adult residents.

Retention and Graduation
The College continues its focus on retention and graduation through our mentoring programs, cohort programs involving student groups and a team of faculty members, more interactive and engaging classroom experiences, free tutoring and greater student involvement in college life. Southwest has embraced the slogan “Engagement + Intervention = Student Success.” Faculty seminars have been held to allow faculty to share successful strategies and best practices they utilize within their classrooms to engage students. Student retention seminars have also been held that focus on various research-based and best practice strategies that result in student success and improved retention.

Industrial Readiness
The College’s Industrial Readiness Program is experiencing phenomenal success. Currently, 480 individuals have been trained for entry-level manufacturing positions involving ten companies, some of whom will be requiring their employees to earn college degrees or certificates. A Southwest Showcase was held this spring that was attended by approximately thirty corporations. Roughly sixty corporate executives and local and state leaders were introduced to a full range of workforce development initiatives provided to assist them in meeting regional employment and training needs while simultaneously allowing unemployed or underemployed individuals to improve their overall quality of life through effective skills training. The College’s focus centers on economic growth and development and improving the quality of life for our citizens. The College’s corporate training staff has been expanded to address the growing needs of businesses and corporations.
Facilities

Fund raising has begun for a new corporate training center at the Macon Cove Campus with almost half of the funding identified through private gifts. The College is also pursuing federal grants to support construction of the new facility. Construction has begun on the College’s Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility which is located at the downtown Union Avenue campus within the Memphis medical district. This new facility will allow the College to increase student enrollment by roughly 45% in an effort to respond to a nursing shortage within Memphis and Shelby County. Construction will begin on a new parking garage at the Union Avenue Campus as the Nursing Building project nears completion.

College and Program Achievements

Southwest’s Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program recently received the highest score in the state of Tennessee with a 100 percent licensure certification pass rate. Recent graduates also have achieved a 100 percent placement rate. Additionally, Southwest’s EMT program received notice of its reaccreditation on March 15. The program scored high marks having no citations or violations.

The College received notice from the Tennessee Board of Nursing during the spring that the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Southwest had achieved a 100% NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) pass rate. Our nursing graduates have averaged a 98% pass rate on the exam over the past eight years with a 100% pass rate for three of those eight years. They have also experienced a 99% placement rate over this same period.

Southwest Tennessee Community College was named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This designation represents the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

Southwest has a long history of service learning and believes strongly in preparing our graduates to be active leaders and participants in an ever-changing world. The College is honored to receive this prestigious award and owes much of it to the students themselves. They are the energy driving our commitment and are the ones responsible for earning this award.

The Southwest Hospitality Management Society (HMS), comprised of students in the Hotel Management, Food and Beverage Management and Culinary Arts programs, teamed up with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital’s Grizzlies House to provide dinner for families and patients recently. This partnership provided an amazing opportunity for students to utilize their classroom learning and an equally amazing opportunity to provide a service to the community.

The College has established and continues to collaborate with local companies through our cooperative education and internship programs. Currently, thirty-eight companies have employed Southwest students in paid internships, many of whom are offered full-time employment positions. The College’s current placement rate is 97% while our job-related placement rate is 86%—a significant accomplishment during an unstable economy.

We are pleased with the College’s progress and look forward to continuing our efforts to respond to the educational needs of students, employers and our communities in Memphis, Shelby and Fayette counties as well as the Mid-South region.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College
“Dreaming Big is Free,” Hardy Told Southwest’s Class of 2013

Community Colleges are being recognized nationally for playing a critical role in providing affordable education and job training to equip American citizens with essential tools and skills to pursue the “American Dream.” This year, Southwest Tennessee Community College bestowed credentials on 1,966 students in the Division of Arts and Sciences as well as Career Services during its 2013 Commencement Ceremony held on May 4 at the Landers Center in Southaven, MS. Commencement speaker Carolyn Hardy, president and CEO of Chism Hardy Enterprises, enumerated the struggles she endured before reaching the heights of the success she now enjoys. Hardy told Southwest’s Class of 2013 that she had lived in 13 different houses by the age of 12 and slept on the floor atop a mattress until reaching the age of 16. “I want you to understand that I was born and lived below the poverty line, but these circumstances did not define Carolyn Chism Hardy,” stated Hardy. She told the graduates that one of the few things her family could afford was the cost of a dream; because it was free. “I dreamed, I believed, I pursued, I persevered,” said the owner of the largest woman-owned intermodal company in the U.S.

Student speaker, Myckelle P. Williams, the first member of her family to earn a degree, also traveled a road riddled with challenges and struggles to become a business owner, motivational speaker and author of the upcoming book, Choosing the Road Less Traveled. After enumerating her struggles and expressing the importance of an education, she left her class with these challenging words:

“This should be the goal of each of us as we move forward in our journeys; to remember that, 2013 graduates, you were born for a purpose. The future is now in your hands, yours for the taking. As we crossed this bridge, toward our individual destinies, let us resolve to find that purpose, to positively change minds, leave our mark, and show the world that we were here.”

Southwest President Nathan Essex acknowledged graduates who exemplified unusual courage, talent, and persistence in their educational pursuits. Bridget Johnson and her daughter, LaPorsche Finney, were recognized for receiving their degrees concurrently. Johnson, while balancing a full-time job and a family, returned to school years later after enrolling in State Technical Institute at Memphis and Shelby State Community College. She encouraged her daughter, Finney, to join her pursuit and they both were awarded degrees.
Fatou Gaye came to the United States in 2006 from West Africa by way of London and overcame extreme challenges to graduate magna cum laude with an associate degree in early childhood education.

Rhena South graduated cum laude with an Associate of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, but she is also earning her high school diploma from Briarcrest High School. As well, Brandi Carmichael received a Technical Certificate in Electrical/Electronic Fundamentals and will also receive a diploma from Central High School, in Millington, TN.

The president recognized members of Southwest’s staff who earned degrees along with United States veterans.

The assembly paused during the opening ceremony to remember the late Dr. Maxine A. Smith, civil rights activist, educator, loyal supporter of Southwest, and a former member of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Southwest Solutions Showcase is a Big Hit

Southwest hosted a successful showcase of its Solutions group on April 5, which is a part of Workforce Development, Corporate Training and Continuing Education. Over 60 visitors representing over 30 area manufacturing companies attended, along with an assortment of economic development groups and community organizations.

They learned of the burgeoning programs Southwest offers, including its acclaimed Industrial Readiness Training (IRT) program and its Mechatronic program. The IRT program has trained over 450 potential employees for companies such as Electrolux and Solae in mechanical skills, personal skills, and workforce culture.

The Mechatronic program trains incumbent workers in advanced manufacturing maintenance and operations. Both programs are highly specialized to the customer companies, and all of the Solutions programming is being co-developed with Southwest faculty to allow participants to possibly earn Southwest academic credits.

The speakers included U.S. Congressman Steven Cohen and Larry Gibson, Unilever plant manager. Both spoke about the importance of workforce development regionally and for each business in the region. Look for more success coming out of the Southwest Solutions group soon!

Following the presentations, attendees viewed the Southwest Solutions Showcase training equipment displays in the Bornblum Library.
Mount Wachusett Community College Seeks to Replicate Southwest’s IRT Program Model

Manufacturing is making a big comeback nationally, but industry has found the labor force is insufficiently skilled to handle the new, more advanced technology now being employed. Southwest’s Industrial Readiness Training (IRT) Program is collaborating with local industries to help prepare workers for entry into this more robust job market. The program, under the leadership of Executive Director of Workforce Development, John Churchill, has garnered national media coverage and the attention of Mount Wachusett Community College located in Gardner, MA.

Mount Wachusett Community College Assistant Dean of the School of Business, Science, and Technology John Henshaw, along with Vice President of Lifelong Learning and Workforce Development Jacqueline Belrose, and North Central MA Workforce Investment Board Coordinator of Special Projects Rosemary Chandler came to Memphis recently to take a closer look at Southwest’s IRT program with the intention of replicating the process. “What I’m trying to do is save myself months of heartache, trying to tweak, and starting from scratch. But it looks like you have something that’s just phenomenal and dead-on with what we are trying to do – down to using the same training equipment,” said Belrose about their visit to Southwest.

“We specifically came down here because John (Henshaw) and I were looking at some equipment that’s produced by Scientific Management Techniques. We were really impressed with the equipment. It is just phenomenal. ... And I went on to your website and found a press release that talked about John Churchill and the program he put together that was a short-term training program – (it) involved WorkKeys, involved the Scientific Management equipment, and it looked exactly like what we were looking for,” Belrose stated.

She and Chandler were seeking grant funding for advance manufacturing training comparable to what the IRT program is providing. “And so I contacted John, who gave me all sort of information. I then wrote a training package that was based upon the one he was doing,” explained Belrose.

Chandler oversees WIN training in the North-Central Region of Massachusetts, where there are a lot of plastic manufacturers that require high skill-level employees. “Before, they used to make trash barrels, and now they’re making medical devices that have really intricate parts. The workforce needs to be able to understand math, use a computer, and have advanced thinking skills. We are finding that a lot of people who were either unemployed or losing jobs in manufacturing don’t have the skills that are needed in our local economy to fill those positions,” Chandler stated.

Mount Wachusett Community College is one of 15 Massachusetts Community Colleges. It offers a manufacturing degree program that is focused on plastics technology. “It’s been so wonderful coming down here to see the IRT program. It is a perfect fit for what we’re looking to do. We are looking to fill a gap,” said Henshaw.

“The whole model that you guys have employed here is something that we are trying to mimic; to take back up north with us because we see it as a great opportunity to provide the foundational skills (for our labor force) and to work together. …That’s something also very important to our funding agency. They want to see that we are not just working in a vacuum or in a silo,” he added.

(L to R) John Henshaw, Jacqueline Belrose, and Rosemary Chandler spent several days reviewing Southwest’s IRT program.
Southwest’s EMT Program Gets Top Score in the State

Southwest’s Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program recently received the highest score in the state of Tennessee with a 100 percent licensure certification pass rate. Having graduated 21 students recently, the program also has a 100 percent placement rate.

Associate Professor of Emergency Medical Technology Glenn Faught attributed the success of the program to a specially created task force and teamwork. “We created a task force to increase our pass rate and retention. This task force was composed of faculty, administration, our medical director, a behavioral specialist, the State of Tennessee EMS regulatory agency, and employers of our graduates. We all worked together for the common good of the program and the students,” said Faught.

Southwest’s EMT program received notice of its reaccreditation on March 15. The program scored high marks having no citations or violations.

The SACS Reaffirmation 2015 Kick-Off Sets College on Course

Southwest’s SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) Reaffirmation 2015 Kick-Off got off to a running start recently when pertinent members of the faculty and staff met on the Macon Cove Campus in Nabors Auditorium. Southwest Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Barbara Roseborough welcomed the group, reminding them that it was a work session. “We have embarked on a two-and-a-half-year journey with SACS, because we are a part of the class of 2015. But this process always starts about two-and-a-half to three years ahead of time,” said Roseborough. She explained that SACS is the accrediting agency for the college and that the ten-year reaffirmation is critical to Pell funding.

“Basically they [SACS’ accreditation team] come [here] to say, ‘Do you have a mission, is it in line with higher education, and do you have all of the services that you need to fulfill your mission?’ That generally means that we have goals to set and we have assessments to look at – whether we’ve reached those goals. We collect our results, and we talk about how we’re going to use our results,” Roseborough said.

Participants were prearranged in teams to work on reports with a due date of April 15 for the first draft. The final draft is due on September 10, the Compliance Report is due in March 2014, the QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) is due in August of 2014, and the onsite visit is scheduled for September 2014. The results will be revealed in June 2015. The college is using Campus Labs software that employs student experience data to provide information about institutional effectiveness.

After thanking the group for their support and commitment, SACS Coordinator Brenda A. B. Smith detailed the tasks at hand. Retired Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management Carol Tosh returned to the college to assist with the SACS reaffirmation.
Southwest convened a faculty workshop on February 13 in which the Retention and Graduation Committee, under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Calhoun, launched the college’s new Student Success Campaign, “Engagement + Intervention = Student Success.”

Southwest President Nathan Essex welcomed the faculty at the Bert Bornblum Library on the Macon Cove Campus. He stressed that they have a critical role to play in retention because students spend the bulk of their time in class with them. “We have to engage students in the learning process. Active, collaborative-learning and making the classroom exciting is critical to engaging our students. Students have to be connected academically and socially if we are going to enhance retention,” said President Essex.

To demonstrate how this can be accomplished, Assistant Professor of Business and Legal Studies Joan McGrory, Associate Professor of Natural Sciences Ken Carpenter, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Rosemarie Montgomery, and Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences Amanda Banker made presentations.

Dr. Joan McGrory – YouTube for Teaching and Learning

McGrory discussed how she organized her students in groups and assigned them flip cameras to videotape presentations to be shown in the classroom. Working in groups developed cohesiveness, team spirit, and support among the students. The video presentations helped to build the students’ confidence and reinforced learning. McGrory also videotaped various sessions of herself to connect with her online students – to help keep them on track, engaged, and to put a real face to the virtual instructor.

Ken Carpenter – Natural Sciences Tutorials and Department Initiatives

Carpenter shared how he developed an online tutorial that is available to the students 24 hours, convenient at all times. “Students are able to engage wherever they are. All they need is a textbook. It has some of the best interactive programs,” said Carpenter. Some of the other initiatives Carpenter discussed were: putting his voice-recorded lectures online – students never have to miss class; developing two lab manuals that are customized and affordable for students; and spearheading a collaborative effort between the Natural Sciences Department and the Academic Support Center to set up tutorial labs in the Natural Sciences Department that are more accessible to the students.

Rosemarie Montgomery – Module-Based Statistics and Progress

Montgomery talked about overseeing the redesign of all the college-level math courses, under the direction of Department of Mathematics Chair Tamara McColgan. “We are seeing students successfully complete these courses. We had one student complete two courses last semester – the developmental course and the college-level math class in one semester,” said Montgomery. She told the group that the outcome of the summer 2012 module-based pilot showed a 10 percent increase over the summer 2011 traditional lecture class, and a 19 percent increase in the fall 2012 module-based pilot over the 2008 traditional lecture class. The module-based courses are self-paced with individualized instruction. One of the nice features, she indicated, about the module-based classes is that students never have to repeat a module. In the past, if they did not finish a class, they would have to take the whole course over. Using this method, students pick up where they left off when they register for this format.

Amanda Banker – Natural Sciences PASS Meet and Greet

Banker outlined some of the initiatives of the PASS (Perkins Assisting with Student Success) Program including a secondary “quiet” group study room for anatomy and physiology (A&P) students, class visits to inform students about the program, and also about some of the resources at the student’s disposal – sponsored study breaks with snacks and study materials such as flash cards. The PASS program also sent out e-mails to A&P students regarding upcoming events, tutoring locations and schedules of the tutors, test dates and times along with other general information. It kept students engaged and interactive with the department. She also talked about the “Meet and Greet” events in which students had an opportunity to meet the tutors in the Natural Sciences Department and the Academic Support Center.

Director of Faculty Advising Jeremy Burnett facilitated roundtable discussions in which members of the panel discussed and answered questions from the faculty.

The Student Success Campaign was launched before an eager faculty.
Business Accelerator, Launch Your City, Presents to Southwest Business Students

In the MGMT 1000: Introduction to Business classes, students study entrepreneurship and the importance of business in the creation of jobs and a healthy economy for our community. Dr. Joan McGrory, an assistant professor who teaches this course as part of the business degree program, noticed that students were expressing a growing interest in starting a business but seemed to lack the connection to resources that could help them make the first step. “It seemed only natural to reach out to one of our local Memphis resources,” commented McGrory. She contacted a local organization called Launch Your City (previously known as Launch Memphis) and received an immediate response from the Chief Brand Officer Elizabeth Lemmonds, who personally agreed to speak to the students.

Launch Your City is a non-profit organization that provides resources and educational programming to early stage entrepreneurs. According to Lemmonds, Launch Your City is a business accelerator that helps entrepreneurs convert bold, innovative concepts into solid and sustainable business models and take the necessary actions to launch their companies.

Lemmonds described the importance of “doing your homework,” which she described as the process of researching your potential customers, competitors, price point, and changes occurring in your area of interest. Most importantly, Lemmonds advised the students, “Know the problem that you are trying to solve and be passionate about solving the problem.” She explained that successful products and services solve real problems. Moreover, she cautioned students to be open to refining the approach to solving the problem with market research to forge a good business solution.

To further encourage connection between business studies and practical business development, Southwest students were encouraged to sign-up, participate, or volunteer to serve in the rich schedule of educational and developmental activities for entrepreneurs offered by Launch Your City. For more information, students should review the online schedule of Launch Your City events: http://www.launchmemphis.com/schedule-of-events/.

This article was submitted by Dr. Joan McGrory

Elizabeth Lemmonds (center, facing front) explains the essentials of launching a successful business to Southwest business students.
Southwest student Robert Ervin was selected to represent the state of Tennessee during the final round of the Cisco Networking Academy NetRiders Competition. It is an interactive IT/Networking skills competition that takes place in multiple stages in the United States and Canada late in the fall and early winter. The competition creates a fun, educational challenge for students to compete with their peers in a real-time environment to showcase their IT/Networking skills. Organized by Cisco, these competitions are a great opportunity for Networking Academy students to learn valuable Networking/IT skills through a series of online exams and simulation activities. http://www.academynetriders.com/index.php.

The competition, Ervin said, pushed him beyond the knowledge and skills he acquired in the Cisco Networking Academy course to the greater challenges of real world application. “It was very hands on; a real world scenario, like, ‘What do you do in this situation,’” explained Ervin. “There was a lot of ‘inventing the solution.’”

Other benefits of the NetRiders competition include helping to identify top talent for potential employment opportunities and providing a great opportunity for instructors to lead students as well as showcase their teaching skills.

Southwest Associate Professor of Business and Legal Studies Dagny Wright teaches several Cisco networking classes in which all of her students competed. “I had four students to place in the second round. Robert made it to the finale,” said Wright.

Ervin works as an IT assistant at the Memphis Flyer, is majoring in Linux unit system administration, and hopes to earn a second associates degree in networking.

Southwest Police Services/ Public Safety and the Homeland Security Grant Program held two Public Safety and Homeland Security Awareness Days. These activities days were part of an ongoing effort to raise awareness of safety and emergency preparedness practices within the student population at Southwest. The first awareness day was held on January 16 at the Union Avenue Campus in the B-Building. A second day was held on January 17 at the Macon Cove Campus in the Farris Building. The activities involved distribution of emergency management information regarding individual response to an emergency or disaster. This included information concerning emergency shelter, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, a checklist of supplies needed in an emergency, and Quick Emergency Management Quick Reference Guides. Also, the students were asked to sign up for the RAVE Emergency Text Alert System in use at Southwest. The RAVE test system is a proactive safety measure utilized by Southwest’s Police Services/Public Safety Department to advise students of emergency situations that may occur at the college. In the past, it has also been used to notify students of college closings due to inclement weather. The RAVE System is part of a comprehensive safety plan at Southwest.

In conjunction with the theme, “Public Safety Awareness,” Southwest Police Services included the “Booze-It and Lose-It” Drunk Driving Awareness Campaign as part of the day’s activities. This statewide program is designed to raise awareness of the effects of alcohol on a student’s ability to drive. As part of the effort, students were asked to wear goggles that have been altered to reflect a driver’s vision capabilities when intoxicated. While wearing these goggles, the student is asked to perform simple field sobriety tests, such as walking in a straight line. The effects of the altered vision caused by the special goggles made a serious impression on the students about the effects of drinking and driving.
Southwest Holds Ribbon Cutting For New ILS Technology Lab

The Ribbon Cutting and Naming Ceremony on February 26 marked the grand opening for the Inventory Locator Service (ILS) Technology Lab located in the former Butler Building on Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus. Inventory Locator Service®, LLC (ILS), a subsidiary of The Boeing Company headquartered in Memphis, partnered with Southwest to open the new technology lab.

“Southwest prides itself on building and developing corporate and community partnerships, but none has been as strong, really, as the bond that we have established with ILS. What began in 1985 with a $1,000 scholarship has blossomed today into a lab that will allow both parties to grow innovative ideas and technologies. More importantly, the center and the donation made by ILS will allow a new generation of students to create ideas in a unique environment that caters to students, faculty, and technology professionals,” remarked Southwest President Nathan Essex.

This innovative lab will operate as a test facility for Southwest’s Information Technology Services (ITS) staff and faculty, as well as students enrolled in information technology classes. The lab allows for piloting new technology without impacting the production environment, thus giving ITS the capacity to see how technology will work prior to investing. It fosters a collaborative environment in which departments and industry can discover, innovate, conceptualize, and improve on best practices and future technologies. It also allows students to be involved with every aspect of technology development at Southwest.

ILS President Eric Anderson commented on potential employment opportunities at ILS for Southwest graduates. “ILS has been in Memphis since 1979. Our founder [Minnie Ash] is a graduate of the former State Technical Institute at Memphis (now Southwest Tennessee Community College). We have a number of employees who’ve been educated at Southwest. And so, our contribution to this is the right thing for our company to give to the community, and give a facility like this for learning to the students. And the best thing would be if some students that were trained here eventually may join our company, at some point. … People who are skilled and capable are always in good demand,” said Anderson.

The laboratory comprises six individual labs with various functions. “We have Windows 8 in one room, virtual desk tops in another, Macintosh computers in one, a video conferencing area, a room that we use to deploy, and a traditional classroom,” explained Executive Director of Information Technology Services Michael Boyd.

Regarding conducting tests at the new laboratory, Boyd said, “Any technology that we want to use at the college, we will test here at this facility. There will be a stand-alone network in this building, so we can test it out and see how it reacts with our current environment before putting it into our production environment.”

(L to R) Michael Boyd, Southwest Provost and Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett, Eric Anderson, Dr. Nathan Essex, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert cut the ribbon on Southwest’s new ILS Technology Lab.
Southwest’s Meeting with Automotive Dealers Yields Promising Benefits

The Southwest Automotive Technology Program faculty, college administrators, and other pertinent staff met with several local automotive dealers, along with Tennessee Representative Mark White on February 15 to discuss the college’s role in training qualified students to help meet the employment challenges of the ever technically-evolving automotive industry. Representatives from Landers Ford, Wolfchase Toyota, Landers Buick, Landers Nissan, and Landers Southaven were given an overview of the program by Dean of Career Studies Mike Stephens.

“The dealers were impressed with our campus and our facilities. They indicated that they wanted to get more involved in our program because they are having a hard time finding good employees,” said Interim Engineering Technologies Department Chair Lisa Jones.

The dealers expressed the same concerns that most employers have about the difficulty of finding skilled employees who want to come to work on time, are properly dressed, and possess the right attitude. In response, Executive Director of Workforce Development John Churchill suggested the college develop a non-credit program geared toward the automotive industry; Executive Director of Institutional Development Rose Landey suggested the dealers could contribute to scholarships for automotive students; and Director of Career Services Brenda Williams recommended that they participate in Southwest’s career fairs.

“Of course, we also discussed the possibility of the dealers contributing late-model cars and equipment that could be used in the classrooms,” Jones stated. She indicated the dealers all agreed to provide support for Southwest’s Automotive Industrial Advisory Board.

Just days after the meeting, a dealer contacted the college to express gratitude for having been invited to the college and to offer support for the Automotive Technology Program with the loan of late-model used cars for teaching purposes, hiring student apprentices/trainees, providing periodic dealership tours or brief orientations for Southwest students and instructors, and student sponsorships including ASE tests.

A major international motor company offered to provide a piece of equipment and some training aids for the program, and still another dealership contacted the college regarding employment and co-op opportunities for Southwest students and graduates.
Memphis’ First Elected African-American Female Baptist Minister Was Honored with the Woodson Award of Merit

“Today, because of that hope, coupled with the hard and painstaking labor of Americans sung and unsung, we live in a moment when the dream of equal opportunity is within reach for people of every color and creed.” – President Barack Obama, Presidential Proclamation: National African-American History Month, 2013

Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart – theologian, community activist, and educator – was honored with the Southwest Tennessee Community College Carter Godwin Woodson Award of Merit during the annual award ceremony held on February 14 in the Verties Sails Gymnasium located on the Union Avenue Campus.

Created in 1988, the award recognizes individuals, groups, or agencies who have contributed to, preserved, or promoted the African-American experience and who support Dr. Woodson’s legacy of “Historical Accuracy Through Inclusion.” Woodson was a linguist and historian and considered the “Father of Black History.”

Stewart, a native Memphian, took the helm of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in 1995. There, she was baptized, mentored for ministry, and in 1995 elected by a majority vote to serve as the pastor, becoming the first African-American female elected to serve an established African-American baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County.

She has received numerous honors and awards for outstanding service to the church and the community, such as Outstanding Citizen of the Year from the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority (2000), the Community Service Award from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (2000), the O’Landra Draper Humanitarian Award, the Pastor of the Year Award (medium size church) at the Gospel Bridge Awards (June 2004), among others. Her community activism includes – but not limited to – organizing AIDS prevention programs, community health fairs, youth scholarship programs, community garden programs, and community education programs.

The Woodson awards ceremony opened with a re-enactment of the March on Washington by the Men of Southwest Tennessee (M.O.S.T). The stately procession commemorated the 50th anniversary of the march. The program also included the reading of President Barack Obama’s National African-American History Month 2013 Proclamation by the program’s organizer, Associate Director of the Honors Academy MaLinda F. Wade, who also presented the welcome and occasion. Other participants included: the Southwest Singers; Executive Director of Library Services Carolyn Head, poetry reading; Social and Behavioral Sciences Instructor Akil Mensah, original poetry; Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Barbara Roseborough, presentation of the award, and President Nathan Essex, remarks.

Sarah Times (L), congregant of Christ Missionary Baptist Church, accepted the Woodson Award of Merit as presented by Barbara Roseborough (R) on behalf of Dr. Gina Stewart who was unable to attend the event.
The Disney Approach to Quality Service

What time is the 3 o’clock parade? It seems like a silly question, but when you think about it, there are other questions that are really being asked. Will it start on time? Can I get there in time from here? Will it pass by me? Am I in the proper location? As employees at Southwest, there may be quite a few 3 o’clock questions from current and prospective students, visitors and even other employees.

The Disney Approach to Quality Service addressed this scenario during a one-day workshop at Southwest on January 18. Leaders and members of various organizations came together to determine how “The Happiest Place on Earth” does quality service. Howard Randolph, loss control analyst for the City of Memphis Risk Manage Department, applauded the seminar offering, “I think it’s a good idea to provide customer service and to satisfy customers...to try and understand what is customer service, courtesy and quality of service; that’s what we’re trying to provide for the citizens of Memphis.”

The workshop was sponsored by the Assissi Foundation and was held in the Nabors Building on the Macon Cove Campus. Disney Institute facilitators Kendall Jolly and Mike McLean explained, without giving out trade secrets, how Disney makes each and every guest feel special. “Hopefully participants will take whatever nuggets we can share with them back to their workplace and hopefully create a better experience for their clients.” said Jolly. The following day, a half-day workshop was presented to Southwest employees.

Disney has developed a Quality Service Model which helps the organization remain focused on the details that help deliver consistent high-quality experiences. The model has four main focal points: Guestology – the study of the people for whom services are provided; Quality Standards – the operating priorities that ensure a consistent experience; Delivery Systems – these include the setting, cast members, and processes; and Integration – the alignment of all components, ensuring a seamless experience.

Guestology helps an organization identify a customer’s needs, wants, stereotypes and emotions. Relative to Southwest, customers are in need of an education to further their life and career expectations. They want the process to be reliable, convenient, affordable, and, sometimes, fast. Some educational stereotypes that need to be discussed are the length of time and the cost. Emotionally, a customer can experience a range of feelings such as excitement, anxiety, frustration and satisfaction. Once an organization determines customer needs, it should be easier to determine what standards are important and how they are delivered.

The Disney Institute is a global organization McLean explained. “There are over 100 people in the organization with about 40 of us who deliver this kind of program, and we’re somewhere all the time. It actually started in 1985. ... More than 25 years later it has grown into this global organization called the Disney Institute that takes Disney’s ideals and training to other organizations all over the globe,” said McLean.

Mike McLean leads a discussion with Southwest employees.
Unable to find qualified applicants to fill openings for Java developers, Cook Systems International, Inc – a leading systems integrator and provider of information technologies, consulting services, and solutions – recently held a Java Boot Camp to screen for employees. “There were 10 people that attended this Boot Camp. Six graduated, and half were from Southwest – three of us attended Southwest,” said Justin Durbin, one of the three Boot Camp graduates from Southwest.

The Boot Camp, as stated in the job description, is a highly intensive, Java-centric computer systems development training program designed to provide the added and needed Java skills for a candidate to successfully enter the work force of today. After successful completion of the six week Boot Camp, graduates are hired as full-time Cook employees and placed on a work assignment with the company’s clients.

“What we’ve found, so far, is that Southwest has turned out our best people. You guys have done the best job yet of producing the people that we found are closest and ready to take the next step and go to work. So we are delighted to partner with you guys to go further,” said Senior Vice President of Technical Services Robert H. Fortenberry during a site visit on January 16 by Southwest Associate Professor of Information Technology Michael Wright, Information Technology Program Coordinator and Associate Professor J. Wayne Morris, along with Associate Director of Advertising and Media Relations Brenda Rayner.

“It is interesting that everything we learned in IT at Southwest from networking, Java, Oracle – just everything in class, we actually implement here,” said Southwest graduate Michael Boren, who Cook has placed on a project at Nationwide Insurance in Des Moines, Iowa.

Fortenberry indicated that Cook didn’t start out to create a boot camp. They were looking for a program to supplement the training provided by colleges and universities and found, “There wasn’t one. Academic institutions focus on the Java language and not the extended application; that’s what we want to help you change. That is what we designed the Boot Camp to do,” Fortenberry stated.

Fortenberry also said that teamwork is key to successfully completing the Java Boot Camp. Teamwork is an attribute that Wright cultivates in his classroom. “Through [Assoc. Prof.] Wright’s class, we developed teamwork and we brought that teamwork mindset with us to the Boot Camp,” said Boren. “I sincerely believe that those ideals of teamwork and cooperation helped everyone in the class. I am very appreciative of Southwest. Everyone that joined the Boot Camp finished and got employment immediately. I’m very happy with my education and very happy with what [Assoc. Prof.] Wright taught me. [Assoc. Prof.] Wright’s class, without a doubt, was the most crucial element of my education at Southwest that helped me pass this Boot Camp. His class is a true challenge. He really teaches you the nuts and bolts of the Java language,” added Boren.

Raymond Ortega is the other boot camp graduate from Southwest. He, too, feels that the camaraderie they developed during the classes at Southwest was instrumental in their success. “Because of the personal relationship we had by taking the same classes together, we understood each other’s weaknesses and strengths, so we were able to better support each other more than we were any other person,” Ortega said.

Southwest has had an ongoing relationship with Cook Systems International, Inc. for a number of years. The two are looking at ways to strengthen and improve their partnership, as well as the economy/job market in Memphis and ultimately, the nation.
Self-Service Kiosks Provide Convenience for Southwest Students

Two new self-service kiosks, adorned in Southwest red, were installed on the Union Avenue Campus as test sites in the summer of 2010. Because of the convenience and efficiency, two additional kiosks were installed on the Macon Cove Campus for the Spring 2013 semester.

These stand-alone kiosks are equipped with keyboards that allow students to log in using their Southwest username and password to have quick access to printing schedules, e-mail, class registration, access to FAFSA information, and any other services the My.Southwest Web portal offers. Students can print a document from their flash drive for their class if needed. Additionally, the kiosks have multi-language support for Southwest’s international students.

“Any function that [students] can do through the Southwest website, they’re able to do on the kiosk,” said Computer Laboratory Technician Brian Stuckey. “They’re able to go in and look at their My.Southwest account; they’re able to register, to look up their classes, and to print out schedules. It has USB ports so that they can print out documents if they need to. The purpose of the kiosks is to be a quick stop. Students can stop in, get the information they need, and then move on. Whereas, in the computer lab, they have to sit down and log on to the computer. If the lab is full, they’ll have to wait or try and find another lab. The kiosk presents a quick space for them to go on and get the information they need and keep going,” Stuckey continued.

The kiosks have several other functions. They are equipped with dual screens where students interface with the lower touchscreen while the top screen displays Southwest alerts, information, as well as pictures from various campus activities.

The idea of using the kiosk, Stuckey indicated, initially came from Provost and Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett. Because the Union Avenue Campus had the available space, the kiosks were initially installed there as test sites.

“I think the use of them was good. The students liked them because they were convenient,” said Director of Client Service Academics Joshua Conway. “Students and non-students can use them. And I think that’s the best part about them. It’s a convenience factor.”

Conway indicated that Executive Director of Retention and Graduation Cynthia Calhoun used the kiosk as part of her retention efforts. She launched a campaign to make sure that the students were aware of their availability. Student Welcome Center representatives directed students to the kiosks to print out schedules. “They’re able to print out schedules, look at their schedules on the fly, register for classes on the fly, pay tuition on the fly, fill out FAFSA forms; anything you can do without having to stand in line in financial aid or different areas to get information processed. Students can conveniently walk up to the kiosk and do all of the above,” said Conway.

The kiosks are located on the Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses. Conway said that if they prove to be useful and financially feasible, they will explore the possibilities of installing them at all locations.

Locations:

Union Avenue
F Building, 3rd floor near the Breezeway
E Building, Breezeway

Macon Cove
Academic Building, between MAB and MAC
Farris Building, across from Police Services
SEC Representatives Speak to Southwest Business Students

Dr. Joan McGrory’s MGMT 1000 Introduction to Business class sections welcomed guest speakers from the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on November 29, 2012 to discuss the role of the SEC in financial investing. Senior Enforcement Attorney Debbie T. Hampton, of the Atlanta Regional Office, and Staff Accountant David Elzinga, from the Atlanta District Office, made presentations.

“We regulate the stock market, so we are regulating any fraudulent activities that go on within the market. Our main mission is to protect the common, everyday investor,” said Hampton.

Further explaining her job responsibilities, Hampton continued, “So my job in particular; I am going out (to investigate) if there is any indication of inside trading, market manipulation, and accounting fraud; if the reporting documents that are filed with the commission are not correct – the 10Ks and 8Ks, or if we get a complaint that your grandmother’s entire savings have been depleted because of some unscrupulous stockbroker.”

Elzinga, who examines brokered dealers, investment advisors, transfer agents, and other SEC regulated activities stated, “Hopefully at the end of the day (the students) will have some more information about what our agency does and about investment frauds. So hopefully they’ll know what to avoid.”

Investment violation complaints come in to the Atlanta Regional Office. Once substantiated, a suit is filed against the culprit in Washington, D.C. When the Atlanta Regional Office gets the green light from D.C., they turn the case over to litigators. Based upon the amount of evidence captured, Hampton said, “In many cases, the defense attorney will settle.”

The SEC representatives informed the students that Tennessee is a part of the Atlanta Region and encouraged them to report any fraudulent activities they know of going on in the financial market to their office. They also discussed job opportunities with the SEC. “If you have an interest in the financial market, the SEC has internships and externships. The commission hires the best and the brightest attorneys and accountants,” said Hampton.

Also attending the presentations were students from other business program classes including Business and Legal Studies Instructor Mahnaz Ghaffarian’s Accounting class to discuss how financial documents and ratios prepared using accounting processes are used to meet SEC requirements and by investors to understand the financial health of a company.

Debbie Hampton explains the SEC procedures for investigating investment fraud.
Grizzlies Host Third Annual Poetry Slam Finale

By Meghan Triplett
Corporate Communications Intern, Memphis Grizzlies

The rapidity with which they were fired and the sincerity behind their utterance provoked the snapping of fingers, the nodding of heads and the rhythmic patting of feet. They were “The Words Spoken.” The Memphis Grizzlies held their Third Annual Poetry Slam Finale, presented by Southwest Tennessee Community College, on December 9, 2012 at Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus.

The final featured 18 winning students from individual poetry and art slams from Memphis area high schools. Under the theme “Be Great,” poets had two minutes to recite verses of original poetry with the only rules being to step up to the microphone and give your best performance while being judged on performance, interpretation, and content.

With a spoken word piece called “Fairy Dust,” Brayana Rodgers, a senior from Kirby High School, delivered in all of those categories to win the Third Annual Poetry Slam Final, receiving from the Grizzlies a two-year, full tuition scholarship to Southwest Tennessee Community College and an all-expense paid trip to New York City during her spring break.

“It was extremely exciting,” said Rodgers. “My nerves were a little shot at first, but the whole experience was tremendous.”

Rodgers, who defines being great as being able to break barriers, wrote in “Fairy Dust” the importance of being remembered not just today or tomorrow but as someone who is continuously remembered years and centuries from now.

“The meaning behind my poem is all about staying with the path and sticking to the path that you are given,” said Rodgers. “We are all completely blessed with so many gifts, so if we use our gifts and go in the path that God has blessed us with, then so many great things can come from us.”

J’Taime Weaver, a junior at White Station High School, came in second winning a laptop and Everett Spears, a junior at Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering, took third winning an iPod and iTunes gift card.

In addition to the poetry contest, students submitted original works of art for the final. Gali Du, a student at White Station, won first place, and also received from the Grizzlies a two-year, full tuition scholarship to Southwest and an all-expense paid trip to New York City during his spring break.

As a comprehensive, multicultural, public, open-access college, Southwest Tennessee Community College has now presented the Grizzlies Poetry Slam for two years and hopes to continue to sponsor the event years to come in order to give recognition to the literary arts and local poets.

“This is a great outlet for young people, because they don’t have a format where they are able to express themselves, and I think the Poetry Slam is a great outlet for them,” said Vanessa Dowdy, Director of Recruitment for Southwest. “When the Grizzlies came to us and asked if we would like to co-sponsor, we loved coming on board again. We look forward to this event because we want children to go to college. We are all about education.”

All contestants were recognized for their accomplishments at halftime of the Grizzlies game against the Chicago Bulls on December 17, 2012.
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Inducts 93 New Members

By Dr. Joan McGrory
Assistant Professor of Business and Legal Studies

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Southwest inducted 93 students last semester. To be invited to join, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher after successfully completing 12 or more credit hours in college-level courses.

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is known by its four hallmarks: service, fellowship, leadership, and scholarship. Members demonstrate these hallmarks by participating in meetings and projects throughout the year. During this semester, chapter activities included volunteering as part of the Southwest team for the Race-for-the-Cure Marathon, volunteering in the regional TENN-KAN team of the St. Jude Memphis Marathon, participating in the canned food drive for Alton Elementary School, seeking fellowship and teaching others about this honor society through Spot-a-Kappan Week, attending University Transfer and Scholarship Night, or submitting original work for competition in the International Writing Competition.

Members who successfully earn three project points and three meeting points earn “enhanced” status. In the Fall 2012 semester, 26 members earned enhanced status. Lynda Witherington was recognized as the member who participated in the most hallmark activities.

Inductees – alongside their family and friends were encouraged, challenged, and entertained last semester by honored guest speaker Paul Phillips, vice president of Operations at ACORN Research, LLC, a multifaceted cancer research organization. Phillips spoke on the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society topic, “The Culture of Competition,” by drawing upon his professional experience and his community service. For example, Paul Phillips founded The Networking Roundtable, a career networking group that works to help people in their job search by giving them the tools to build and expand their network and expand their career. This group currently meets on the campus of Southwest Tennessee Community College.
The Annual “Outnumbered Male Project” Program Returns to Southwest

Southwest’s Office of Recruitment hosted its annual “Outnumbered Male Project” program November 28, 2012, on the Macon Cove Campus. The program was a high-energy, power-packed event in which a group of minority male students from Memphis City Schools was not only addressed by dynamic motivational professional males, but they also had an opportunity to deliver their own insightful views on issues impacting minority males to the assembly.

Overton High School Counselor Ramla Osman summed it up this way: “It went above my expectations as far as the speakers and the fact that they were having the round table discussions. I’ve never really seen my kids – our students – actually wanting to discuss the future as openly as they have here today. So, I’m really hoping that this is something that continues, and I wish more schools did this.”

Southwest President Nathan Essex welcomed the group and provided an overview of the academic and athletic programs at Southwest, including the International Studies program that offers study-abroad opportunities. “There is a lot here to offer you and we hope you will consider Southwest and – if not us – consider someplace, because your future hinges on what you do when you leave high school,” President Essex said to the young men.

Verties Sails III provided a synopsis of the M.O.S.T. (Men of Southwest Tennessee) program. “We’ve received funding from the U.S. Department of Education to assist African-American males with graduation from college. Studies show that the percentage of the African-American male population getting a degree is significantly lower than any other demographic at Southwest,” said Sails.

Keynote speaker Eddie Dowdy II, an ordained preacher/credit and financial counselor, was energetic and passionate in his delivery. “We are a dream! Our ancestors dreamed about the reality of sitting in the seats that we are sitting in right now. We take for granted the idea that, for over 400 years, our great, great, great, great grandparents endured hardships and trials in order for you to have an opportunity to have an education,” said Dowdy.

When asked about the crux of his message, he responded, “I felt that it was important to stress to them that we have to live out the actual dream of our ancestors. The way to achieve that dream is through education at higher learning institutions such as Southwest.”

Former Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Memphis Keith McGee capsulized his message, “I always like to remind them of a couple of things: that is, focus, details, and closure. Focus on your dreams, take care of the details of your life, pursue closure in everything that you start, and then watch opportunities open for you.”

McGee said at 10-years old he was washing dishes, bussing tables, emptying garbage, and cutting grass; in 2009, when he left government, he was the chief administrative officer for the City of Memphis with a day-to-day responsibility for an average of $750 million and 2,000 people. He is now the founder, president and owner of the Keith McGee Group.

McGee facilitated roundtable discussions in which the students were paired with male professionals to discuss current issues. They were given a series of topics to choose from and to brainstorm for solutions. At the end of the discussion, spokespersons from each group gave an overview of their topics.

Other speakers included Recruitment Representative John Berger, Project M.O.S.T. Director Kariem Abdul Salaam, and Culinary and Hospitality Program Coordinator and Chef Instructor Steven Leake.

The program also entailed a campus tour and lunch prepared by Southwest culinary students.
Internships serve to transition students from the classroom or laboratory to a real-life working environment where they can apply their knowledge and skills while acquiring on-the-job training. Not only do internships look good on resumes, but in some situations also offer salaries to student interns. Southwest was chosen as an internship partner by Rolta International, a global leader in business transformation. “We have quite a bit of specialties. One of the key specialties that relates to the work being done with Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW) is our work in respect to Oracle technology, and particularly as it relates to the back office systems like finance and work management and material asset management. It is all those combinations that help companies run more efficiently. Rolta has a tremendous expertise in that area,” explained Rolta Executive Vice President Blane Schertz.

Rolta/MLGW conducted an orientation on November 14 in the Bert Bornblum Library Auditorium on Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus. Participating students will have the opportunity to put their skills and education to work at MLGW – the nation’s largest three-service municipal utility. “It is a paid position. We are looking to get started with 10 interns in January (2013). We are looking for skills in the program management discipline as well as the functional disciplines in finance and accounting, and also the technical disciplines,” said Schertz.

Rolta was recruiting for the following positions:
- Technical Consulting Intern - Information Technology or similar majors
- Functional Consulting Intern - Accounting or Finance majors
- Project Management Office Consulting Intern - Accounting, Math or Business-related majors

Career Services at Southwest indicated it will work with Rolta to award academic credit to interns for their work experience.

The program engagement with MLGW is for two years, providing long-term assignments for students with the right qualities and interest. Schertz says the skills that the students will bring to the table are extremely marketable and hold potential for full-time employment, not only with MLGW and Rolta but with other local industries that require similar skills.

Computer Software Specialist Darren Sharp, a former graduate from Southwest, formerly State Technical Institute at Memphis, who got his first job at FedEx, said, “It is a great springboard for job opportunities and a great opportunity for Southwest students to gain some good experience with Rolta.”

**Rolta/MLGW Partnership Brings Paid Internships to Southwest**

Rolta Vice President Amit H. Patel conducts an orientation with Southwest internship applicants.
Southwest Tennessee Community College was named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This designation is the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

“Southwest has a long history of service-learning and believes strongly in preparing our graduates to be active leaders and participants in an ever changing world,” said Southwest President Nathan Essex. “We’re honored to receive this prestigious award – and owe much of it to the students themselves. They’re the energy driving our commitment and they’re the ones who make it all happen.”

For the second year, Southwest sent students to provide service and support for the Pink Palace Museum Arts and Crafts Fair, an event attended by an estimated 20,000 people. This year, twenty-two Southwest students volunteered for a total of 66 service hours. Their volunteerism included parking and directing traffic, children’s crafts, cooking demonstrations, and artist support. Southwest also provides volunteer services for Grow Memphis, Junior Achievement, Common Ground, Peer Power Foundation, Empowering Scholars Unlimited, the Veterans Administration, and many others.

“Congratulations to Southwest Tennessee Community College, its faculty and students for its commitment to service, both in and out of the classroom,” said Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS. “Through its work, institutions of higher education are helping improve their local communities and create a new generation of leaders by challenging students to go beyond the traditional college experience and solve local challenges.”

Inspired by the thousands of college students who traveled across the country to support relief efforts along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, CNCS has administered the award since 2006 and manages the program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education and Campus Compact.

More information about Southwest’s service efforts can be found at http://www.southwest.tn.edu/service/. More information on eligibility, and the full list of Honor Roll awardees, can be found at nationalservice.gov.

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll honors the nation’s leading higher education institutions and their students, faculty and staff for their commitment to bettering their communities through service. These are institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, the Social Innovation Fund and other programs, and leads President Obama’s national call to service initiative, United We Serve.
The Module-Based Format Takes the Anxiety Out of Math

Melissa Anderson was 35-years-old with a teenage daughter when she decided to go to college. Over 15 years and a-lot-of-life had transpired since she graduated from high school. The looming concern that she and most adult (non-traditional) students have is college algebra. It is not uncommon that many first-year community college students demonstrate a deficiency in math. Their diagnostic tests often indicate a need for developmental math courses; DSPM 0800 (elementary algebra) and DSPM 0850 (intermediate algebra) prior to taking their college-level math (statistics).

Anderson, a business administration major, also has to take calculus.

Anderson, as the old adage says, “Was in the right place at the right time.” The state of Tennessee had issued a mandate to redesign developmental math. The idea, according to Southwest Math Department Chair Tamara McColgan, was to streamline developmental math so that students could move into their college-level math class sooner. “The majority of community college students do not need, and are not required to have as much math as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) students. They need, and are looking for, general education courses,” said Dr. McColgan.

The state put together a taskforce that designed a curriculum for general education students with specifications for developmental math. Guidelines were given to individual colleges to design their own developmental math program. Southwest chose the Emporium math model – basically eliminating lecture and using interactive computer software combined with personalized, on-demand assistance, according to Change Magazine. A 20-seat capacity lab was built on the Macon Cove Campus as a prototype during the summer of 2012. Two sections were put in the lab with two instructors. “The idea is, you don’t know, really, ‘who’ is in ‘what’ class. The two teachers and their instructional assistants walk around and help whatever student raises their hand. We call it individualized instruction,” said McColgan.

Southwest’s math faculty got together and built a module-based format comprising five modules. Students work as fast or as slow as they like. Once they are finished, they’re ready to go into the college-level course. “The idea is, it’s mastery-based material. So once they’ve mastered a module of material, they never have to go back and redo that work again. If they fail the class and have to take it again the second semester, they pick up right where they left off,” McColgan explained.

“I returned to school after being gone over 15 years, and had no clue about algebra,” said Anderson. “I tried the intermediate class twice. At first, I had to drop it because it was just too fast. The second time I went to the chairman of the math department [Dr. McColgan] to switch instructors. She said, ‘I really can’t do that but I have this other thing that I really think might be exactly what you need.’ It was the module-based elementary and intermediate courses. Each was five modules, and he [the instructor] worked you right through each module, and then you took an exam at the end. Once you achieved a certain score, you went to the next module,” she continued.

The module-based format was so successful, McColgan thought “What if.” What if they could incorporate that same concept into the college-level statistics course? And they did. Southwest’s math department took a new and innovative step toward seamless education by building a module-based statistics format. Math instructor Rosemarie Montgomery designed the module-based format which allows students who complete their developmental math early to start work immediately on statistics, their general math requirement. “We wanted to give our students the opportunity to move ahead,” said McColgan.

Montgomery described her experience with building the module-based statistics course. “Dr. McColgan asked me if I would build the statistics course. … It would also be self-paced, individualized instruction. It would also be set up in
a module format so that if students pass the module, they don’t have to repeat that module even if they don’t pass the course,” Montgomery stated.

“She asked me to build it over the summer,” said Montgomery. First, the book for use had to be researched. This would be supplemented with MyMathLab, a software program that allows instructors to select problems from textbooks enriched with built-in tutorials that take students step-by-step through the process of problem solving.

After selecting a book, Montgomery then had to figure out how to map the topics from the textbook to match the curriculum. “Next, I carefully selected problems from the topics and created homework sets, and then quizzes, and then tests. I noticed as I was building (the module-based statistics course) that some of the (segments) were lacking calculator tutorials. So I went ahead and built my own videos on how to use a calculator to solve the problem,” said Montgomery. She built 12 videos and posted them on YouTube so that students could easily view them. “So anything that the software wasn’t doing a good enough job of explaining, or if I felt there was a better way to explain it, I went ahead and built those into the course,” Montgomery stated.

She spent a month building the statistics course, during what should have been her summer vacation, and piloted the course during 2012 summer session II. But, it was well worth her efforts. The module-based statistics format had remarkable reviews. “It was great! The students loved the fact that they had all these built-in tutorials, plus they had a teacher. They had the best of both worlds,” said Montgomery.

The pilot was again offered to students during the fall of 2012 with varying results. “The caliber of students (generally University of Memphis Students) that come to us in the summer are more equipped. So I had a higher success rate in the summer. I think I had about a 98 percent success rate,” she added.

Of the 18 students who elected to jumpstart their statistics class in the fall, 12 finished before the end of the semester. “We had a 67 percent success rate,” McColgan stated. “They knocked out both their developmental and college-level math classes in one semester. These students (‘The better students,’ said McColgan.) finished in one semester what would have normally taken three semesters to complete.

Southwest’s math department is very pleased with the outcomes of these pilots. McColgan says the coursework is just as rigorous as a lecture-based course. The module-based format is great for the self-motivated and for students who want to move ahead. It allows them to work on the areas they really need to work on and to test through, very quickly, the pieces that they understand.

“We have nine full-time faculty members who have taken on, with no extra pay, an extra assignment. They’re taking the rest and all of our math courses and are building labs for them,” said McColgan. “So that no matter what student; whether they’re a STEM major or regular math major, we can offer them immediate access to the next course.”

Another major advantage of the format-based course is that it keeps the department from having to cancel classes. For example, during the spring a LEAP (Learning Early Academic Program) class, DSPM 0800, DSPM 0850, and statistics classes were all offered in the same classroom, at
**New Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building Is Under Construction**

Construction is now underway at our new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building on the Union Avenue Campus, targeted for completion in the summer of 2014.

**Southwest Named to StateUniversity.com 2012 Safest College “Top Ten State List”**

StateUniversity.com announced its 2nd Annual List of the Safest Colleges in the U.S. on December 19, 2012, ranking Southwest number three in Tennessee for campus safety. The Safest Schools findings are based on incidents of campus crime as reported by campus safety officials.

As part of the Safest Schools ranking, StateUniversity.com analyzed crime statistics for 450 colleges and universities and assigned a safety rating to each school. Safety ratings are determined based on the number of occurrences of aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, theft/larceny, motor vehicle theft, forcible rape, and murder on campus, and then are weighed based on the probability of each incident happening to each student (since naturally larger campuses would be expected to have a higher number of total incidents.) Violent crime is given more weight in the ranking system and has a greater effect on the safety rating than non-violent crime such as theft.

The 2012 rankings by state are available online at [http://www.stateuniversity.com/rank_by_state/safety_score_rank/TN.html](http://www.stateuniversity.com/rank_by_state/safety_score_rank/TN.html).
Three Mid-South Executives Join Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation Board

The Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation has welcomed Stanley Blue, Derrick Pratt and Margaret Williams to its Board of Trustees.

With 16 years experience in the industry, Stanley Blue is a financial services representative for MetLife licensed to provide insurance and investment products in nine states. Dedicated to service and his community, Stanley is a member of the Pro Duffers South and a Board member of Bountiful Blessings. He also participates in the Assistbyknight Foundation and the Memphis City School Mentoring Program. He is an alumnus of Southwest, having played basketball under Coach Verties Sails, Jr.

Derrick Pratt is the General Manager responsible for overall profit and loss (P&L) for recycling plants in the eastern United States. Derrick develops teams of plant general managers and recycle sales representatives who sell recycling services while executing safety, environmental and operational assets, and financial performance. His prior experience includes leading profit and loss results for Imaging Papers a $150 million copy paper business. He was responsible for direct sales, marketing, and product development, focused on Xerox copy paper and roll products sold throughout the United States, Canada, and Central America. Additionally, he worked in consumer packaging and held other positions in supply chain, finance, and information technology. He is also deeply committed to community service through leadership roles in civic organizations. Derrick’s past contributions include Board of Advisors at Mississippi State Business School, a mentor in the Memphis NEXUS Leadership Program, and Board of Directors at Project Management Institute. Derrick graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Industrial Engineering from Mississippi State University and later earned a Master’s of Science in Business Administration.

Margaret Williams joined Baptist Memorial Health Care in 1997. She began her career with Baptist as an assistant controller, supporting corporate budgeting and productivity. In 2001, Margaret was named controller at Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women and was appointed as the hospital’s chief financial officer in November 2005. In her role as CFO, she is responsible for the hospital’s revenue cycle and managing the hospital’s budget. The community-minded Williams also serves as treasurer for HealthNet Federal Credit Union. She earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin in May 1984 and graduated with a Master’s degree in health care administration from Central Michigan University in December 2001.

Southwest Tennessee Community College offers Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees for transfer to four-year colleges and universities; Associate of Applied Science degrees for immediate career entry into technical, business, service, education and allied health fields; and technical certificates to prepare individuals for entry-level positions in the marketplace.

The Southwest Foundation is a non-profit, charitable corporation established to enhance the mission of Southwest Tennessee Community College through the financial support of programs and facilities that provide broader educational opportunities for the college’s students, faculty, and staff.
The Alumni Association is proud to announce it is now on LinkedIn, the professional networking site. Join us and network with other Southwest Tennessee Community College graduates. This is a great place to find out what other graduates are up to and build your own professional networks. The Association is also building another social media site just for Alums to connect.

If you haven’t updated us on what you’re doing now, why not take a moment right now and go to www.southwest.tn.edu/alumni and click on “We Want to Hear from You.” Fill out the form and tell us about your promotion, your new baby or just what you’ve been up to since graduation. We know our Alumni are doing great things. Let’s spread the word!

Why not take another moment and join the Alumni Association? For only $12 a year, $1 a month, you can help make a difference in the life of a student who was just like yourself.

We offer
• The opportunity to give back through scholarships to needy students
• Networking opportunities
• Social and business contacts
• Opportunities to hear about college events prior to the rest of the public
• The use of college facilities
• The opportunity to be showcased in the college’s Southwest Now magazine and the Foundation’s on-line magazine, The Cornerstone.
• Plus, on the alumni website you’ll find a link to Career Services showing job listings, resume services and more!

Plus, you join a special group who make a difference in the life of the college. Please return your check in the enclosed envelope or go on-line to http://www.southwest.tn.edu/alumni and click on Pay Your Dues On-Line.

Join us and change how your college makes a difference!

For more information about Alumni Association, contact the Alumni Office at 901-333-4997.

2013 Alumnus of the Year

Darrell K. Thomas, 1986 graduate and owner of Thomas Consultants, Inc., was recently chosen as 2013 Alumnus of the Year. A self-starter and a born entrepreneur, Thomas earned his biomedical engineering technology degree from Southwest (formerly State Technical Institute of Memphis) in 1986 and immediately formed Thomas Consultants, Inc. all the while pursuing his bachelor’s degree from Christian Brothers University. While Thomas Consultants, Inc. initially provided turnkey systems for medical and dental offices, they branched into the government and corporate sector and are now seen as a leading national provider of information technology and communication solutions. For his efforts, Thomas Consultants, Inc. was chosen as the 2009 Minority Business of the Year.

Thomas is exceptionally community minded serving on numerous boards including the Baron Heights Community Development Corporation, where he was a founding director, the South Central Conference of Seventh Day Adventist, the MemphisFirst Community Bank, where he was a founding director, and the Regional Medical Center. He is also a member of the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Rotary Club, and has served a Juvenile Court Volunteer Probation Officer for more than 12 years. This Breath of Life Church Board Elder and Treasurer also is a Leadership Memphis graduate and is a member of the Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation Board where he has established an endowed scholarship to aid students with their tuition.
Blast From the Past

**Grace Bond** – Graduated in 1993 with an AAS in Paralegal Studies, employed as the lead paralegal with the Shelby County Attorney’s Office

**Nancy Matthews** – Graduated in 1997 in Office Systems Technology, employed with the University of Memphis

**Seth M. Rolfe** – Graduated in 2002 in Hospitality Management, employed as General Manager of the Hilton Little Rock

**Michael R. Carpenter** – Graduated in 2004 with an A.A.S. in Paralegal Studies, currently working in Texas as a regional sales manager at the IT firm Avnet, Inc and was recently elected Mayor of Schertz, Texas

**Jonathan Howse** – Graduated in 2006 in Electrical Engineering Technology, employed as a Project Manager for GE Healthcare

**Rochelle Crawford-Hurt** – Graduated in 2007 in Microcomputer Management, currently at Christian Brothers University

**Danielle Taylor** – Graduated in 2007 in Emergency Medical Technician, CEO of So Fyh Enterprises has written a book “A Heart of Reign” under the pen name Ornitha Danielle

**Michelle Waddell** – Graduated in 2007 in Graphic Design and Layout, employed with a marketing and advertising firm

**Nekia Slater** – Graduated in 2012 in Business Administration, employed as a Material Handler for FedEx Express

We want to hear from you! Let us know how and what you are doing!

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Major: _____________________________ Graduation Year: __________________________

Tell us about yourself (marriages, achievements, promotions, births, other topics of interest):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Contact Information

Home Address: __________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________ State: __________ Zip: _______________________

Home Phone: _____________________ Alternate Phone: _______________________

E-mail Address: ____________________________

Employment Information

Occupation/Title: _______________________________________________________

Company Name: _______________________________________________________

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For more information about our graduation rates, placement rates, program costs and other important information, please visit our website at http://www.southwest.tn.edu/gainfulEmployment
Irina Alekseyeva-Logsdon: Mother of two sons lost 10 pounds during four weeks of the Southwest Employee Fitness Program.

This is the second installment of the four-part Southwest Employee Wellness Program Holiday Fitness Challenge series featuring a profile on first-place winner, Irina Alekseyeva-Logsdon.

The Southwest Employee Fitness Program gave me great motivation to reach my goal of losing those extra pounds that I gained after I gave birth to my second son, John, who is almost five-years old now. I have been trying to lose “baby weight” and inches off my waist for about four years. Actually, I have been fluctuating (five pounds) back and forth by dieting and exercising. But the key things to success are dieting and exercising on a regular basis; a lifestyle change to better health.

For four weeks our Southwest team of participating employees and especially our energetic fitness instructor, Cheryl Green, helped me to jump-start my motivation and shed stubborn pounds and inches. During those four weeks, I exercised at least 30 minutes almost every day, remained committed to my diet and tried not to eat after 6 p.m. at all— a style of life I wish I can keep up daily.

Thanksgiving was a big challenge. I focused on my goal, tried to stay away from food, and did not gain any weight during the Thanksgiving holiday. It motivated me to continue and, I think, gave me a chance to win. It was easier after Thanksgiving, because our instructor, Cheryl, offered fitness classes every day, sent reminders by email, and encouraged us with her enthusiasm and energy teaching classes. I appreciate her dedication to fitness, her vigor to help others to be healthier. Her enthusiasm stimulated me to succeed. It feels good when your workout pants become unusually loose and your husband looks at you a little bit differently!

Now that the program is over, I am trying to maintain my new weight. It’s hard, and the only thing I know for sure is that Southwest’s bookstore lost me as a “chips” customer.

Words from Employee Wellness Coordinator Cheryl Green—

“Irina’s success should encourage every mother with young children under 5 years old that you can have adorable children AND NO BABY WEIGHT! The photo of Irina sitting on one of the machines shows off her flat abs. I recently saw a copy of a Vogue Magazine with the popular and beautiful singer, Gwen Stefani, on the cover. The side bar stated something like: ‘Husband, Career, Baby, and Six-Pack Abs!’ This cover story reminds me of Irina’s success, and is a shining example that you can be a busy working wife with young children, and still take great care of yourself!’
TSBDC 2012 Rising Star Award

Gregg Overman, owner of River City Soap Company, has been awarded the 2012 Memphis Rising Star Award from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), at Southwest. The Rising Star award is given annually by the TSBDC to the company that best exemplifies not only business success, but an outstanding working relationship with the TSBDC and uses the services it provides.

In giving the award, the local TSBDC is also recognizing the entrepreneurship spirit and the company’s contribution to the local business and economic environment.

Overman states, “I’ve had the entrepreneurial spirit all my life.” Having worked for other soap and chemical companies, and after convincing his wife it was a good idea, he opened his own company on January 1, 2006, financing its start-up mostly with credit card debt. Starting with two employees, Gregg never looked back. Utilizing TSBDC’s Contractor Development Program’s training and one-on-one counseling services, he grew his company to reach revenues of over $1 million and five employees in 2012.

River City Soap Company manufactures many types of auto cleaning products, floor waxes, industrial detergents for sale primarily business-to-business. TSBDC introduced Overman to David Spann, from the Department of Commerce; now, Overman – in consultation with Spann, is in the process of developing a line of products to be exported overseas.

“Gregg Overman is very deserving of this award, and we here at TSBDC are very proud of his accomplishments,” says David Doyle, executive director of TSBDC Memphs located at Southwest.

For more information about the River City Soap Company, call (901) 487-6927, or visit www.rivercitysoap.com. For more information on TSBDC, visit www.tsbdc.org, or call Rory Thomas at 901-333-5085.

A Southwest Administrator Delivers a Presentation at MTSU’s Retention Summit

Dr. Cynthia Calhoun, executive director of Student Retention and Graduation, presented a model for launching a College-wide student retention initiative with a focus on retaining black males at the Retention Summit hosted by Middle Tennessee State University on February 25.

“It was an honor to participate in the retention summit, and I was excited about the opportunity,” remarked Dr. Calhoun.

The Summit also featured a special presentation by Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, the iconic president of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, nationally known for his enduring success at UMBC and his advocacy for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs.

In addition, Dr. Karen Eley Sanders, the associate vice president for Academic Support Services at Virginia Tech University, offered practical and proven approaches to retaining students of color during the summit. The summit was aimed at assisting retention efforts statewide.

Dr. Cynthia Calhoun
Southwest Hosts Its Annual Faculty and Staff Awards Reception

The 2013 Faculty and Staff Awards Reception was held on April 19 in the Verties Sails Gymnasium. The following awards were presented:

**SUPPORT STAFF AWARDS**
- Service Award - Patrick Washington
- Professional Growth - Frances Bullock
- Dr. Kenneth W. Mathis Environmental Service Award - Joyce Ann Stallion
- Employee of the Year - Brian Stuckey

**POLICE SERVICES/PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS**
- Officer Appreciation of the Year Award - Patrick Steinberg
- Distinguished Service Award - Eric Thomas
- Director of Public Safety Achievement Award - Mathew Windless

**PASO (Professional and Administrative Staff Organization) AWARDS**
- Kariem-Abdul Salaam
- Nikita Ashford-Ashworth
- Matthew Johnston
- Loretta McBride, Ph.D.
- Melissa Terry
- Vivian Stewart
- Darya Maksimova

**FACULTY AWARDS**
- Instruction and Curriculum Award - Cynthia Sing Abadie
- Community Service Award - Jonitha Barnes
- Professional Growth and Development - Yen-kuang Chou
- Leadership Activities Award - Amanda Banker
- Outstanding Service to the College - Cynthia Sing Abadie

**FARRIS AWARD**
- Imogene Younger

**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CAMPUS GLOBALIZATION**
- Linda Patterson

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES VICE PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**
- Tamara Lambdin

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS PROVOST’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**
- Marguerite Jackson-Jones, Ed.D.
- Tamara McColgan, Ph.D.
- MaLinda Wade
- Lois Washington

**STUDENT SERVICES AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT VICE PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**
- Support - Phyllis Mackey
- Professional - Phoenix Worthy

**FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES VICE PRESIDENT’S AWARD**
- Margaret Hillman

**INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT VICE PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**
- Teresa Calloway

**HUMAN RESOURCES AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**
- Nancy Chandler
- Wilma Jackson
- Hattie Ray

**JIM WILLIS SPIRIT AWARD**
- Lana Harris

*President Essex and Jim Willis Spirit Award winner Lana Harris*
The annual Student Honors and Awards Convocation, a time for Southwest to celebrate students’ achievements, was held on April 9 in Nabors Auditorium on the Macon Cove Campus. Some of the highlights of this year’s convocation included recognition of 99 Phi Theta Kappa 2012-2013 Inductees, 83 Departmental Academic Awardees and 80 International Studies 2013 Scholarship Recipients who traveled to 14 countries including Antigua, Austria, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Eastern Europe, Ecuador, Italy, Greece, Paris France, Peru, Scotland, and South America.

"Administratively, the teacher has four different rosters. But, in the classroom, he’s simply going around and helping the students with what they need. This way, we did not have to cancel any of those classes. They all ran together under one instructor and an assistant. In this way the students can move ahead. This was the time that they needed the classes. I see it as a vision of the future for keeping classes from being canceled," said McColgan. "This is the vision that I have in general for the department. We saw a little bit of this in the semester. We call them potluck classes," she added.

There are plans to have seven labs completed by the summer of 2014. Three large labs will be located on the Union Avenue Campus; four large labs on the Macon Cove Campus; and smaller labs in the centers.

As for Melissa Anderson, she plans to pursue accounting at the University of Memphis. She is in the Honors Academy, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her matriculation. “I am really proud of what I’ve done. I am 35 and I have a 15-year-old daughter who started ninth grade this year. My goal is to graduate before she does or at the same time. I am the going to U of M to continue with my bachelors and get my Masters,” said Anderson.

Those math labs pay great dividends.
2012-13 was a transition year in Southwest athletics. With the retirement of longtime Head Men’s Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Verties Sails Jr. last summer, then interim Athletic Director Sherman Greer oversaw the operations of the department this season, and has recently been named Athletic Director.

Kevin Whitted, a former University of Tennessee and professional player, served as the interim men’s basketball coach and guided the Saluqis to a 12-11 overall record including 9-9 in conference play. Their conference victories came both at home and away against Chattanooga State, Columbia State, Dyersburg State and Walters State and a win at home against Roane State. The Saluqis entered the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament as the sixth-seeded team and lost to third-seed Cleveland State 75-59 in the quarterfinal round. Leading scorers on the team were sophomore guard/forward Marshun Newell, who averaged 18 points per game and was named first-team All-TCCAA, and sophomore forward Justin Street, who also averaged 18 points per game and made the All-TCCAA second team. Southwest has recently hired former Motlow State Community College Coach and Athletic Director, Jerry Nichols, as its new head men’s basketball coach.

The Lady Saluqis’ basketball team, under Head Coach Andrea Martre, finished with a 14-13 overall record and 11-7 in the TCCAA. They swept the two conference home and away games against Columbia State, Dyersburg State, Jackson State, Motlow State and defeated Chattanooga State, Cleveland State and Roane State at home for their eleven victories. The Lady Saluqis finished the regular season as the conference’s third-place team before losing to Dyersburg State 60-56 in the quarterfinal round of the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament. Sophomore Teneisha Lurry was voted first team All-TCCAA and led the team in scoring with a 15.2 average. Sophomore forward Tenisha Hobson and sophomore point guard Brandi James, who led the conference and was one of the national leaders in assists, were selected second team All-TCCAA.

The Southwest softball team finished the season with a 26-33 overall record including 11-23 in the conference. Top wins for yours truly, Coach Keith Gentry’s squad were a four-game conference sweep of Jackson State, winning three of four games against Roane State in another conference series, and the first ever win over Chattanooga State, the defending NJCAA national champion. The Lady Saluqis were led by first-team All-TCCAA player Haylee Power, a sophomore who set Southwest career records for most home runs (20)
and most pitching victories (34), second-team All-TCCAA sophomore catcher Ali Hare and second team All-TCCAA freshman infielder Taylor Moore. Hare led the team with a .424 batting average and 14 doubles while Moore batted .354 and led the team with 39 runs scored.

Coach George Sykes guided the Southwest baseball team to a 25-30 overall record and 12-14 in the conference. Top victories for the Saluqis this season were winning two out of three games in conference series against Motlow State, Roane State and Columbia State, and a two-game sweep of Chattanooga State in the season’s final games. Sophomore outfielder Ty Michelotti, who made the All-TCCAA team for the second straight season, led the team in hitting with a .321 batting average, four home runs and 25 runs batted in. Top pitchers were sophomore Miguel Coronel, who led the pitching staff with six wins and 53 strikeouts, and freshman Justin Skinner, who led with a 3.11 earned run average and 81 innings pitched.
Southwest Players Newell and Lurry Named All-TCCAA

Five Southwest men’s and women’s basketball players were voted all-conference by coaches in the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association including first team selections Marshun Newell and Teneisha Lurry.

Newell, a 6’3” sophomore swingman from Middle College High School in Memphis, averaged 18 points per game this season and led the Saluquis with 4.2 assists and 2.3 steals per game. He scored double figures in all but one of the games he played this season, with as many as 20 points on eight occasions, and a career-high of 28 points against Motlow State. Also one of the team’s top rebounders, Newell recorded four double-doubles and grabbed a career high of 13 boards against Dyersburg State. In addition, he had a near-triple-double against Mid-South Community College with 15 points, nine rebounds, and nine assists.

Justin Street, a 6’5” sophomore forward from Sheffield High School in Memphis, was selected second team All-TCCAA. Street led the Saluquis in scoring (18.3), rebounding (9.7) and blocked shots (2.1) per game.

Teneisha Lurry, a 5’7” guard from Melrose High School in Memphis, led the Lady Saluquis with averages of 15.2 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. She also led the team with 60 three-point field goals and ranked second with 2.1 assists and 2.7 steals per game. Lurry scored in double figures 20 times this season, including a career-high of 40 points against Wallace State-Hanceville. She also made double-doubles with 14 points and 11 rebounds against Arkansas Baptist, as well as 17 points and 11 rebounds against Cleveland State.

Tenisha Hobson, a 5’11” sophomore forward from Forrest Hill High School in Jackson, Mississippi, and Brandi James, a 5’4” sophomore guard from Fairley High School in Memphis, were named second team All-TCCAA. Hobson was the Lady Saluquis’ second-leading scorer with an 8.2 average, and she was also one of the top rebounders with a 4.2 average. James averaged 7.5 points per game and led the conference in assists with a 6.9 average, which also ranked seventh nationally. She dished out at least 10 assists on five occasions this season including a career-high of 15 against Mid-South.
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