Congratulations to the Class of 2009

Nursing Graduate Helps Save Dean’s Life

New High-Tech Library Unveiled at Open House

Southwest’s 2007-2008 Annual Report

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The New Macon Cove Campus Library
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A Lasting Legacy – Norma and Jess Parrish

Gas was only 36 cents a gallon; the Dow Jones was hovering at 631 and the Beatles were on the verge of breaking up. The year was 1970 and in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Jess H. Parrish, who was then a vice president at Memphis State University, was named the founding president of Shelby State Community College. Two years later, on September 12, 1972, the college would open its doors to nearly 1000 mostly first-generation, first-year college students. The facility was located at the old Veteran’s Administration Hospital at Park and Getwell. Dr. Parrish would serve as president of Shelby State for 11 years while building the midtown campus and teaching classes in 31 other locations in Memphis.

“When I first became President, there were no alternatives for students who wanted to matriculate to a four year institution,” said Dr. Parrish. “Southwest was the kind of school we needed in the Memphis community. My wife and I are proud of each student who ever enrolled at the college. That’s why we established a scholarship. We wanted to help students receive a quality education.”

Dr. Parrish and his wife Norma wanted to ensure they left a lasting legacy for the education of the students in the community and included Southwest in their estate plans. “The best thing that ever happened to Norma and me was to establish a scholarship,” says Dr. Parrish. “As time passes, we are convinced one of the most important things for a young person is to have a proper educational background.”

Certainly, one of the single most important things to ever happen to Southwest was to have Dr. Jess Parrish serve as president. His legacy is an investment that will continue to grow.

Southwest Now Magazine

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Southwest and You: Invest in the Future

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Southwest Now Magazine

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) 333-4024.

Southwest Now Magazine is published semi-annually in the fall and spring.
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Southwest, as most other organizations, is facing unprecedented budget challenges that we have not experienced in our past. These challenges must be met in a manner that does not jeopardize the core mission of our College which is to anticipate and respond to the educational needs of students, employers, and communities in Shelby/Fayette counties and the surrounding Mid-South region. Our vision is to become the college of choice and a national model for technical, career, and transfer education by fostering student success, transforming lives, and strengthening the diverse community.

We have implemented a number of strategies, some of which will be painful, to ensure that the College’s mission/vision as well as its academic programs remain viable. Furthermore, we must ensure that the needs of our students, employers and communities are effectively met. In spite of budget demands, our spring enrollment has increased by 11.1% over last year’s spring enrollment. Additionally, the College has formed new partnerships with outstanding community organizations and agencies to address critical community needs. The Culinary Arts Program is expanding with renovated facilities which will allow it to not only maintain the standard of excellence it currently enjoys but also to become a regional service center. Property has been acquired for future construction of a parking facility at our Union Campus to alleviate significant parking challenges encountered by our students. The new Maxine A. Smith Center is scheduled for completion by July 1, 2009 at which time classes will be officially offered at this new site. Our new academic building will be completed by January 11, 2010 which will allow the College to expand existing programs and provide new programs as well. In fact, many new programs are currently being developed by several of our departments that will meet critical workforce, community and regional needs.

Our national Nursing certification scores have reached a phenomenal pass rate of 98.5% for this past spring semester—the highest of the Associate Degree programs in the TBR system which exceeds the national average by 11.5%. With respect to TBR’s International Program, significant numbers of our students are capitalizing on opportunities to study abroad in nine countries during summer 2009 which will broaden their perspectives and provide significant cultural enrichment experiences.

While the College is facing difficult times, we continue to offer high quality programs, provide essential services in our service area and contribute to the economic recovery within Memphis, Shelby/Fayette counties and the Mid-South region. We genuinely appreciate the commitment and support the College receives from our Board of Advisors, city/county government, our community, Alumni and many other loyal supporters. We are excited with the College’s progress and look forward to a bright and rewarding future.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College

The President’s Message
The Southwest Class of 2009 Poised for the Future

Southwest graduates proudly show off their hard earned diplomas.

Photo credit: Robert Jackson

Employee Donors

Contributions from employees send a message to the community at-large that the Southwest family believes in the College’s mission to provide a quality education for its students and enhance the community’s workforce. Southwest Tennessee Community College is proud of the overwhelming commitment shown by its employees to support the mission of the College by donating during the academic year 2007-2008.

“...the right thing to do–helping others; and to remember noblesse oblige: it is the responsibility of the more fortunate to assist the less fortunate.” Smith says. “I’m confident my donation helps our students understand that I care and I’m supportive of their efforts.”

Grand Marshall Kenneth Carpenter led the procession for the 1,306 members of the Southwest Class of 2009 on May 2 at the Desoto Civic Center in Southaven, MS. The ceremony held the usual air of pomp and circumstance as graduates excitedly entered the hall to receive their hard earned associate degrees and technical certificates. A huge crowd of family and friends gathered to witness and memorialize the once in a lifetime historical event. Following a brief welcome, Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Joanne Basset introduced music student Tanisha Ward, who sang the national anthem.

Southwest President Nathan L. Essex welcomed family members and friends and applauded the graduates’ outstanding efforts and accomplishments. Recognition was given to Marlo Dandridge, a single mother who became the first member of her family to receive a degree during the May 2 ceremony. Dandridge started college in 1993 and stopped and started several times in the face of family hardships. Willie Williams, a Navy veteran wounded while serving our country in Desert Storm, was also recognized as being a 75-year-old grandmother, Dorothy Taylor.

The president gave special recognition to participants of Southwest’s Dual Enrollment Program. Among the high school students simultaneously attending Southwest while earning a high school diploma was Roman Johnson, the first Middle College High School student to receive an associate degree and a certificate while earning his high school diploma. Johnson plans on pursuing a bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Morehouse College. Victoria Hopson, Jabril Ivery, and Chinata Jackson all participated in Southwest’s Dual Enrollment program receiving certificates in Industrial Computer Fundamentals and will receive high school diplomas in a separate ceremony.
Local Emmy Award-winning WMC-TV 5 news anchor, Joe Birch, addressed the Southwest Class of 2009. Birch has won numerous awards for his charitable and civic endeavors, including the 2008 Muscular Medal, Christian Brothers University’s highest award for service to the university or community. Birch, who also serves as host of the local PBS affiliate, WNKO-TV 10’s Smart Medicine, was one of four distinguished Memphians to be named “Humanitarian of the Year” in 2008 by Diversity Memphis.

Opening his address, Birch said that Southwest was a love connection because he met his wife while tutoring at the former Shelby State Community College 25 years ago. He joked about the economy, “CEOs are playing miniature golf, McDonalds is selling the quarter-outside burger and Motel 6 won’t leave the light on.” These are hard times, Birch said, but not the American way. “You are the people who will turn this economy around and the world around.” By enrolling in school, he said, the graduates improved themselves, their families and their country.

He offered the graduates their “Joe Birch Five Step Plan” for pursuing a career.

Step one – Ask God for help.
Step two – Look within your own heart.
Step three – Investigate your passion.
Step four – Talk to someone you know and respect about your dreams and listen to what they have to say.
Step five – Just do it. If it doesn’t work, said Birch, repeat step one.

Speaking directly to her fellow graduates, student speaker Jeni Chatham said, “I’m proud of myself today... proud of you too. We’ve travelled a long road, and... reached but one destination on this road of life.”

She detailed the road that brought her to the privilege of representing them: her lifelong love of learning, but initial failure in college; the ups and downs of marriage; the potential for success.

She finished with her “universal truths”: that “I can be a good student [or bad], but which, is my choice alone; the challenges life presents, while difficult, are not insurmountable;... most important... when we surround ourselves with people who are supportive and believe in us, we give ourselves permission to succeed. And we can know, as Walt Disney said, “All our dreams can come true... if we have the courage to pursue them.”

The recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award was Jo E. Chandler and the recipient of the William W. Farris Faculty Service Award was Kenneth Carpenter.

Interim department chair of business administration Brenda A. B. Smith understands one math formula very well: financial support + educational opportunity = improved quality of life for her students.

As co-chair of the Southwest Foundation Scholarship Committee, she sees firsthand how individual donations can make a student’s dream of higher education come true. A longtime donor herself, she understands that her financial gifts are an investment in the future = improved quality of life for her students.

“In my experience, financial support has been one of the areas that our students acknowledge as one of the reasons they are unable to continue with their educational pursuit,” Smith says, “I give so that others might give. It’s my way of paying it forward.”

While her lectures focus on the global changes in the workplace, her students are able to witness these changes firsthand. Smith notes that the learning process is enhanced by donations that give students opportunities to work in professional settings and get hands-on experience.
Giving to the Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation is simple. The Southwest Foundation accepts gifts of cash, checks or credit cards (MasterCard, VISA or Discover). Donors can also make a pledge and set up a payment schedule of the donor’s choosing. These Foundation accepts appreciated gifts in kind, many employers match contributions made by their employees, building a lasting connection between the donor and their employer to our mission. Call (901) 333-4577 to make your gift.

Honor Wall Donors
The following individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations have demonstrated their commitment to Southwest Tennessee Community College at a level to warrant long lasting recognition. Their names can be found on the donor recognition walls located at the Macon and Union Campuses.

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Dr. Elisa and Ramon Marus, Jr.
($500,000 - $999,999)
President’s Club
Bob Braswell
($1,000,000)

It took a lot of perseverance and little bit of luck for Charity Townsend Caldwell to complete her nursing degree.

“It was divine intervention for both of us,” she said.

“I couldn’t recognize him at first, but when he looked at me, I knew his brown eyes,” she said. “He hugged my neck, kissed me and said, ‘Thank you so much.’”

“When Southwest instituted a readmission policy in 2007 in response to the state’s nursing shortage, she gave up her full-time job as a clinical reimbursement specialist at Smith & Nephew and started over.

“My son, 12-year-old Cameron. ‘She’s had hard times. I didn’t get to see her very much when she was in school. I was always babysat, he said.

He said his mom taught him to follow his dreams, and now he plans to become a mineralogist one day.

As a single mother working full-time, Caldwell struggled for eight years to get her nursing degree. She began her son was in kindergarten, taking one class at a time. After failing two classes, she was dismissed from the program.

“I was crushed,” said Caldwell, who said she has always wanted to be a nurse.

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New Ultra Modern Library Unveiled at Southwest

“It’s beautiful,” remarked Damone Virgilio, staff development officer for Memphis Public Libraries, as he greeted Carolyn Head, executive director of library services at Southwest. “When you walk in, it doesn’t immediately look like a library, which I actually mean as a compliment.” Virgilio was among the many who attended the open house for Southwest’s new Macon Cove Campus Library.

Representatives from FedEx, the Greater Memphis Chamber, the Bartlett Area Chamber, Memphis Medical Center, LeMoyne-Owen College, the Memphis chapter of the NAACP, Congressman Steve L. Beshear’s office, and the office of Senator Lamar Alexander were also among the visitors and friends of Southwest who attended the open house event on May 29.

“We believe that this wonderful facility will enable us to achieve our mission of providing needed higher educational services to students, employers and citizens...”
It’s just bricks and mortar until you open the door and feel the anticipation. It’s just steel and glass reflecting on the downtown streets until you open the door and see the future. It’s just tile flooring and concrete steps until you open the door and hear the heartbeat of a community. It’s just a new building with that new building smell until you open the door and smell hope and taste the success of those who for the first time in their lives will find a better future.

When the new facility is built, it will house an expanded program, classrooms and laboratories to meet the area’s ever-growing need for nurses and biotechnological professionals. The following donors have contributed to the major gifts campaign since its inception through June 30, 2008 and invested in the future of not only Southwest Tennessee Community College’s new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility represents the future of our community. When the facility is complete, more than 400 nursing students will be able to graduate each year helping fill the tremendous nursing gap in Shelby County. And, the average starting wage for a nurse is $16 per hour, increasing the salaries of the graduates and the living wages of their families in only two years.

The two-story 69,300 square-foot facility, designed with open spaces, large windows, media gallery and cyber café/poets corner, is equipped with a state-of-the-art surround sound auditorium and multimedia conference rooms which are available for community use.

Grand tours were given to visitors of this futuristic facility, set off by a tree-lined lake with a fountain burst in the center. View the open house event and ribbon cutting: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s15OygN_5_s.

It’s just a building, but it’s actually ever so much more. Southwest Tennessee Community College’s new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility represents the future of our community. When the facility is complete, more than 400 nursing students will be able to graduate each year helping fill the tremendous nursing gap in Shelby County. And, the average starting wage for a nurse is $16 per hour, increasing the salaries of the graduates and the living wages of their families in only two years.

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A Second Look at Computers Leads to a Fulfilling Career for the Cisco Academy Director

By Pat O’Brien

After an unfulfilling attempt at a degree in business and offer to operate and repair computers, Dewey Sykes, associate professor of computer engineering and di-rector of the Cisco Networking Academy Program at Southwest, looked for another career path. Needing to replenish his education funds, he had committed to the Air Force as his next step.

As it turned out, the Air Force was the right choice. His first assignment was operating “computer-like devices,” intercepting Cold War-era secrets from the Eastern Bloc of Europe. “Computer-like was really like radio receiver-teletypewriters, but huge,” Sykes said. “It was interesting but offered me nothing in useable skills.”

That was the beginning of computers for Sykes, though. He was curious about what else they had. Computer innovations were burgeonning, as he soon found out, and technology was evolving. There were more keyboard-type devices becoming available where according to Sykes, “you could enter and immediately get output of a sort.” The more he saw, the more he realized this was something he could really be interested in. And he thought, too, it could translate into a future career.

Though most military computers were locked away for security, Sykes was able to enroll in a computer course on base and saw his first actual computer. “It was huge – almost a monstrosity of a device!” The class was an introdudction to computers, just the basics, and used mostly for business. “I didn’t really learn all that much; but enough to whet my appetite and know I had a real interest in computers.”

His final Air Force assignment, computer repair, started with comprehensive training, working on a wide variety of equipment. The

Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare:
We must support strong programs with a proven track record of success to ensure we have nurses for future generations. There is a predicted national shortage of almost one million nurses by the year 2020. It will take many strategies to increase the overall numbers of registered nurses available, and program expansions to the local community are critical.

What message do you hope your gift sends to other health care facilities and businesses?
Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:
I hope it shows our community that the need for health care workers affects everyone. Health care facilities are the most directly affected because we can’t do anything without health care workers, but other businesses should be concerned, as well. Their ability to recruit, retain and protect the health of their employees depends in large part on the success of hospitals in their communities. Effectively educating and training health care workers goes a long way toward ensuring hospitals can continue providing great care.

What was the biggest factor in your decision to make a gift toward this facility?
Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:
Actually, the decision was easy for us. Teaching is part of our mission at Baptist, so it’s important for us to support educational institutions. In addition to investing millions of dollars into our own college of health sciences, we help support colleges in many of the communities that touch our 15 hospitals.

Growing Our Investment

Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:
We understand that the nursing shortage is a long term industry concern, and we want to do our part to be sure that the Memphis community is positioned well as we move into future years when the national and even international shortage of Registered Nurses is at a peak.

What would you like to say to others who are considering making a gift to a nursing building? Why is it important?
Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:
I would encourage anyone who can to help support the new nursing building so Southwest can continue its excel-lent academic programs. The recession has convinced many people to consider careers in health care. We have a tremendous opportunity to recruit intelligent, motivated health care workers, but we can’t do that unless we have the facilities necessary to educate them. One of Memphis’ greatest assets is its health care community, and all of us can help make sure it continues to thrive.

Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare:
Giving to such an important program not only strengthens the medical community, but the quality of life for all of our citizens, as well as the viability and sustainability of our community as a whole.
We sat down with two of our top supporters for the nursing building—Baptist Memorial Health Care and Methodist Healthcare. Of course they are supporters, you might say. They have nurses; they should. But, they also have building campaigns of their own. Each works tirelessly to change the health of our community, and each faces mounting issues with rising costs. Yet, both organizations have deeply embedded within them a value for the community that goes beyond not just doing what is right, but doing the right thing for the right reason. That’s why Southwest Tennessee Community College is proud to call them our partners in Investing in the Future.

**Has the nursing shortage affected our community?**

**Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:**

Yes, but fortunately Memphians still have access to top-notch care. Organizations like HealthGrades, Leapfrog and other well-respected groups have recognized a number of local hospitals for the great care they deliver.

**Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare:**

Yes, over the last few years recruitment of registered nurses into area health systems has been challenging. Methodist LeBonheur has played an active role in bringing solutions to the issue by financially supporting colleges and universities with direct funding, on-site clinical space, faculty positions and working to provide staff nurses as clinical faculty.

**Why do you think it’s so important to stop the nursing shortage in its tracks?**

**Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:**

There are several reasons. Nurses play such an important role in any hospital, and they’re asked to do so much for their patients. As baby boomers age and need more health care, nurses will be asked to do even more. In addition, many nurses will be retiring within the next few years, so it’s vital to educate and train the next generation of caregivers. The bottom line is that all facilities need adequate numbers of qualified nurses to provide and coordinate care with all members of the healthcare team.

We need to continue to recruit into our nursing programs, support the students through graduation and then assist them to transition to their professional practice.

**Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare:**

Registered Nurses play a very important role in healthcare delivery because they keep patients safe, are key in avoiding complications after healthcare procedures, and at times, save lives. The nursing shortage is a global and long term challenge for the healthcare industry and programs that prepare registered nurses. There has been a re-search that demonstrates that with an adequate number of well-prepared registered nurses, patients are safer and the results of their care in hospitals are better than in hospitals where there are shortages.

**Why is it so important to support the Southwest Tennessee Community College Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility?**

**Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:**

It’s important because we need high-quality facilities like the new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility to train future health care workers. Southwest Tennessee Community College has an excellent record of

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minute he got into it, servicing and repairing, while un-
derstanding the technology of it, he knew that was his direction. “It was something that would maintain
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about hard work. He regrets that “time is so important [and limited], with the need to [quickly] focus on helping them get that education and [land] that job. But, as Sykes says, “that’s the reality. In their real world, their degree requirements are enough to deal with, if they can.”

Sykes daily proves not only his expertise as a teacher but his dedication to the best interests of his students, and in out of class. His patience is cited by both students and fellow faculty. “He is talented and dedicated, and tireless in his pursuit of technical and educational perfection through his numerous professional development activities,” according to one faculty member … "[he] leads training sessions for instructors, speaks at community outreach events, and ensures that our students are learning in a hands-on environment, equipped with components used in the real world.”

One former student commented, “Sykes was my instructor for a series of Cisco classes. He has in-depth technical knowledge and the patience of Job with students like me. He sets high standards for achievement, offers encouragement and guidance, and he’s patient and talented.”

Sykes has had many memorable students. “Some,” he says, “because they stayed so long! They come directly from high school, perhaps unmotivated, drop out, then turn up years later, ready to work and succeed. And others are so opposite.” He stated “I’ve had the truest satisfaction teaching students who’ve been diagnosed with a learning disability … and then the opportunity to witness them walking across the stage and getting a diploma. That gives you the very highest sense of satisfaction.”

Has he ever thought of teaching elsewhere? Not really. “Partly,” he said, “it’s an allegiance to this college, this place I consider, in some sense, my home.” As for doing something else, he’s considered industry but not to stay. He has thought, a little, about taking a sabbatical, working a while to get greater insights into what’s happening ‘out there,’ and coming back to Southwest. “We have a lot of association with industry, but it’s not the same as being there, to be sure that we are teaching what they need.” He says he has his favorite ideas, like most faculty, about things we “ought to do.” Among them, he sees incorporating workplace time into the professional development program, to keep up with industry as it really is.

However that plays out, he’s at Southwest to stay. “I feel I’ve had the opportunity to accomplish a lot with my students. I find them enjoyable, entertaining at times; even amusing, and a lot of fun, especially when their enthusiasm bubbles over. But, sometimes too, there’s a sadness in their struggles when despite our mutual efforts, a student and I can’t make success happen,” stated Sykes. Despite it all, Dewey Sykes enjoys what he’s doing and he plans to stay at Southwest.
Investment (n): the investing of money or capital for profitable returns

Investment in one’s community and those who live in it produces a more meaningful dividend:
A well educated and trained workforce that benefits local employers and means a better way of life for employees and their families. An investment in Southwest shows how passionate our donors are about our community. We enlist supporters who are enthusiastic about growing and nurturing the next generation of workforce leaders through their financial gifts.

This year Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation exceeded its $1 million goal nurturing the next generation of workforce leaders through their financial gifts.

Life is good these days for Southwest Alumnus Jacob McIntosh. He brings to mind the TV commercial in which a guy enthusiastically yells out, “I love my job!” And, indeed he should. During his last semester at Mississippi State University (MSU), McIntosh interviewed and landed the job of his dreams at the Bomgar Corporation as a software developer. Bomgar, located in Ridgeland, Mississippi, manufactures a device (the Bomgar Box) that allows businesses to virtualize their help desk and provide remote tech support, instead of technicians having to be physically on site.

“I like that I’m working as a programmer, the field of my choice, rather than just working at a random job because I have bills to pay. I used to work at Papa John’s while I was going to Southwest Tennessee Community College. That was a far cry from my current position. But, however, statistically increase the amount that I now tip people working at similar jobs.”

McIntosh graduated from Southwest in 2003 with a 4.0 GPA along with an Associate of Applied Science degree in software development.

“While at MSU, I participated in various programming competitions in which I won prizes such as small amounts of money, a Microsoft Zune MP3 player, and a PlayStation Portable. I very much enjoyed those competitions as a genuinely challenging task and a useful mental exercise,” he stated.

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McIntosh graduated from Southwest in 2003 with a 4.0 GPA along with an Associate of Applied Science degree in software development. Playing video games had an enormous impact on his career choice. “I played video games all the time as a child. I wanted to be able to make my own video games if I so chose. Later, I determined programming was the way to accomplish that goal.”

After graduating from Southwest, McIntosh transferred to MSU where he continued to fuel his passion by pursuing a degree in software engineering. “While at MSU, I participated in various programming competitions in which I won prizes such as small amounts of money, a Microsoft Zune MP3 player, and a PlayStation Portable. I very much enjoyed those competitions as a genuinely challenging task and a useful mental exercise,” he stated.

Dedication was a key component to building a successful career for McIntosh. He said a willingness to learn and a sense of independence were qualities that uniquely suited him for a career as a software developer.

From Passion to Paycheck: Young Alumnus Turns Love for Video Gaming into the Start of a Successful IT Career

By Brenda Rayner
British. “I go to work, come home, and play games with my wife and gamer friends I’ve made over the past several years while chatting in an online voice-chat.”

McIntosh derives a great sense of satisfaction from “bringing home the bacon.” He says that one of his greatest accomplishments during his year of employment with Bomgar was, “being able to support my wife. She’s been partially paralyzed ever since she was 10 years old as a result of a car wreck. She is considered an incomplete quadriplegic and essentially can’t move her left leg or the fingers on her left hand, and has muscle weaknesses throughout her body,” McIntosh explained. “Lots of expenses arise as a result of some of her individual needs, and it’s nice to be able to say, ‘Sure, we’ll get that for you,’ instead of, ‘Can we afford that?’ We’re not totally away from the ‘Can we afford that?’ question, but we’re getting there.”

Though he’s reaping the benefits of a regular paycheck, McIntosh still loves gaming on his computer with his wife. He finds that unlike console games, most computer games have highly configurable controls that make them better suited for the disabled. He describes himself as “a problem solver, an analytical thinker, a gamer, a software developer, and a loving husband.”

A typical day for him involves either implementing new features, fixing bugs, or working on internal tools that Bomgar’s Quality Assurance Department and others can utilize to perform their jobs more efficiently.

At the ripe old age of 22, McIntosh has the world at the “click of his mouse.” He chats with global acquaintances from places like Australia and Great Britain. “I go to work, come home, and play games and you’ll start looking up whatever you’re lacking.”

A Sense of Justice – Bert Bornblum

Justice and duty. It’s what drives a young immigrant to join the Army Air Corps even when he’s not an American citizen. It’s what drives that same individual to be the first store owner on Beale Street to hire African-American sales clerks and cashiers. And, it’s why Bert Bornblum established an endowed scholarship at Southwest Tennessee Community College, because it was the right thing to do. But to really understand Bert Bornblum, you have to travel back to pre-war Poland.

In 1938, at 18 with only a few dollars and a dictionary that was basically ineffective, Bert and his brother left Poland and arrived in Memphis. With little English at their command, they found it difficult at the beginning, but soon immersed themselves in the culture and began working in a men’s clothing store. In January 1942, Bert enlisted in the Signal Corps, transferred to the Regular Army Air Corps shortly thereafter and served honorably for four years. If you ask him why he joined, he simply says, “It was my duty.” While in the Army, Bert became a U.S. citizen and was offered a position as a warrant officer. He considered a career in the military, but those authors were still whispering in his ear. Bert returned to Memphis for a short time and then like many veterans took off out west.

Bert left Memphis for California with high hopes of getting into UCLA. He had dreams of being a lawyer, but the school had a waiting list of six months so Bert patiently went to work in a shoe store and worked his way up to manager while waiting for his slot to open. Then a fateful cable arrived from his brother David, still in Memphis. Bert had an offer for a partnership in a store in Memphis if only Bert would return. Bert declined; he wanted to pursue his education. David persisted and finally Bert agreed.

“It was only supposed to be a year or two and then I would return,” says Bert. “That’s not how it happened. Bert and David went into business together. Some forty plus years later Bert Bornblum’s legacy is clear. There wasn’t just one store. There were six, four in Memphis and two in Nashville. There was a beautiful loving wife whom Bert lost several years ago. There are grandchildren from children and those authors whispering in his ear; well, they never stopped talking. The man who never got a chance to formally complete his education estimates he has approximately 21 years of philosophy credits and a few courses in history and psychology.

Justice and duty. Bert Bornblum’s sense of those two words is embedded in this community. Scholarships, lecture series and even a school, and of course an endowed scholarship at Southwest that Bert says he supports because it provides a way for people to go to school who cannot afford or who are not prepared for the university. Bert also remembers, “It was hard for me to get into a high school, so I don’t want anyone to have a hard time getting an education.” Righting a wrong, doing it because it’s his duty, or just because it’s the right thing to do, Bert Bornblum understands the need in our society for justice and duty. Those who have been touched by his sense of that understanding are better for it.
Meet Kim. After she lost her job, she decided to take a chance and do what she had always dreamed of doing. But, it had been 18 years since she had been to school, and there was no money. But Kim didn’t give up. She applied for and received a scholarship, and today Kim is working toward her dream of being a special education teacher. “I’ve seen firsthand what a difference a teacher can make with a special needs child,” says Kim. “You can see the progress the child makes every day. Thanks to this scholarship, I feel that I’m eventually going to be able to make that kind of difference, too. I’m going to fulfill my dream.”

Christina is not your average college freshman. While most young people her age are thinking about how much money they’ll make when they graduate, Christina thinks about how she can change the world. Christina’s goal is to be a missionary in Central America teaching children to work with computers. As one of three children, two of whom were already in college, it was going to be difficult for Christina to begin her studies right away. But then, Christina received a scholarship and she knew her dream didn’t have to be put on hold. Christina understands what this scholarship means to her future when she says, “When you help further my education, you further others’ education ultimately around the world.”

Saving lives. That’s what John has dedicated his life to. For three years, he’s worked as an EMT in a local emergency room but with four small children and a wife to support, John knew he needed more. That’s when John decided to apply to Southwest Tennessee Community College Nursing School. Now, thanks to a scholarship, John is in his last semester ready to graduate and ready to take on more challenges. “There aren’t enough nurses in our community,” says John. “Southwest needs to build a nursing building and today Kim is working toward her dream of being a special education teacher. “I’ve seen firsthand what a difference a teacher can make with a special needs child,” says Kim. “You can see the progress the child makes every day. Thanks to this scholarship, I feel that I’m eventually going to be able to make that kind of difference, too. I’m going to fulfill my dream.”

Look into Austin’s piercing blue eyes and you’ll see a young man full of determination. He admits his grades in high school weren’t the best, but he has talent, and he only needed a chance. Now, this first generation college student has one, thanks to a scholarship. Working toward a degree in the automotive industry, Austin has high aspirations. He wants to one day own an automotive restoration business, but for now his full-time job as an ATV service technician and being a full-time college student keep him busy. Austin knows how important this scholarship is for him. “This scholarship has propelled me to work harder and do better. My family and friends are so proud of me.”

The International Education (IE) Department at Southwest has chosen 22 students to receive study-abroad scholarships in nine countries for the summer of 2009. Southwest is in its second year of membership with the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies (TnCIS), comprising colleges and universities devoted to making international education and cultural understanding a central goal of higher education throughout the state. This summer’s group of scholarship recipients is almost twice as large as the first group of 12 who studied in South Africa and Mexico during the summer of 2008. Interest in the IE program grew considerably in 2009 to 48 applicants.

Dr. Yvonne Jones, professor of English and director of the IE program, accompanied the students to an orientation at Middle Tennessee State University’s Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center on March 28. Dr. Milton Grimes, director of TnCIS, gave the welcome address to approximately 270 students from Tennessee Board of Regents institutions across the state. After the greeting from Dr. Grimes, participants had breakout sessions for their particular countries and programs. Southwest students were excited about attending the gathering and taking pictures for their international ID cards. They enjoyed meeting fellow students who were enrolled in their particular study-abroad program. During the sessions, students viewed visuals of their destinations and their accommodations.

Others attending the meeting were Dr. Steve Haley, professor of history, and the academic liaison in particular study-abroad program. During the sessions, students viewed visuals of their destinations and their accommodations.

The study-abroad students selected for the 2009 summer programs are:

- Sean Carter   London, England
- Ashlea Geeter   South Africa
- Samantha Collins   London, England
- Fatou Durant   France
- Jasmin V. Jackson   South Africa
- Wosengsdah Sahle   London, England
- Angela S. McCray   South Africa
- Dominique Watson   Mexico
- Courtney A. Schultz   Greece
- Sara Wilson   Ireland
- Shannon Cowan   London, England
- Jason Jordan   South Africa
- Jasmine N. Wilson   Greece
- Titus Robinson   Brazil
- Stuart Wine   Brazil
- Felicia Hankins   Greece
- Shenika R. Brown   South Africa
- Augusta Fleming   Spain
- Erica M. Richards   Scotland
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Southwest students study abroad this summer in nine countries.
President Essex and Staff Members Bid Russian Educators Farewell

Southwest President Nathan Essex, along with Dr. Joanne Bassett, provost and executive vice president, and Dr. Yvonne Jones, director for international education, had a brief farewell meeting with Russian educators at Southwest. The College hosted six educators from different parts of Russia from December 5-13, 2008. They visited primary-level schools in Memphis and government agencies of the city of Memphis and Shelby County as part of a program sponsored by the Open World Program and the Open World Leadership Center and Academy of Educational Development of Washington, D.C. Faculty and staff assisted by acting as chaperones for the group as they visited various sites, both cultural and educational.

Visiting Danish Students Continue the Tradition as Southwest Exchange Students

They’ve been coming for years, and the bright blue shirts with the International Students emblem on the front identify them to students, staff and faculty as the latest contingent visiting Southwest Tennessee Community College from Naestved Business College near Copenhagen, Denmark. The group of 29 students and two instructors arrived on March 18 and visited Southwest through March 28. “I couldn’t tell you just how long they’ve been coming, but it is at least 10 years, perhaps 15,” said Associate Professor Tamara McColgan, coordinator of International Education at Southwest.

Their activities were wide ranging, including attending some classes on campus – American Sports with Associate Professor of Education Neil Cordell and Sociology with Professor of History Steve Haley, and spending much of their time “learning Memphis.” According to Dr. McColgan, “they visited the Peabody Hotel and witnessed the world famous ducks on their morning march to the fountain.” The Danish students’ cultural schedule included a tour of the Gibson Guitar Factory, a Mississippi riverboat tour, shopping at the Wolfchase Galleria Mall, a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum, dinner on Beale Street, attending a Grizzlies basketball game at FedEx Fo-

Southwest Annual Report • 2007–2008

Walk the pathways of any of our campuses and you’ll see the future of our community. It’s written on the faces of our students regardless of their age, background or past. It’s not where they’re coming from; it’s where they’re going. They are headed directly into brighter futures. For many of our students, it’s the first time someone has offered them the opportunity to succeed. It will be the first time someone in their household graduated from college, held better than a minimum wage job or escaped poverty. Southwest will represent more than a college degree. It will be a life changing experience.

It is no secret that state revenues have and may continue to decline, but what you will find in these next few pages are stories of hope, and stories of people who have chosen to rise above their circumstances. You’ll also read about people who have chosen to make a difference. These are people who are committed to ensuring that despite state revenues, our community continues to grow in a positive direction and that when someone needs a helping hand, it will be there.

At Southwest Tennessee Community College, our greatest investment is in our people. Our students, our faculty, and our staff make us who we are. We are committed to making Southwest Tennessee Community College the best it can be, and to Growing Our Investment!

Growing Our Investment might appear to be a strange theme during these economic times, until you realize that for Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation, our investment is our community. Please take a few minutes and read the story of Kim, a struggling mother striving to get back to school, or John, a man with a passion for nursing but who with four small children couldn’t afford to return to school. Or, meet Christina, a young lady desperate to receive her education so she can become a missionary to Central America; or Austin, a young man who simply desires an opportunity to complete his passion of becoming an automotive technician. Four people you might one day meet; or you may never see again, but they may one day touch your life in some way. Southwest Tennessee Community College graduates every day touch you in ways you may not realize. They are nurses, EMTs, chefs, laboratory technicians, junior class students moving on to any of our local four year universities and more. Southwest Tennessee Community College graduates are our community.

An investment in Southwest is an investment in our community. When you invest in our students or our facilities, you change lives and the lives of so many more you may not even realize. You change families, generations and a community.

Join us! We need you even more today. You will make a difference as we continue Growing Our Investment!

Cato Johnson
President, Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation
Leading members of the Tennessee House of Representatives - House Speaker Kent Williams, Democratic Leader Gary Odom, House Democratic Caucus Leader Mike Turner, and Representative G. A. Hardaway of Memphis District 92 attended a breakfast forum at Southwest Tennessee Community College’s Union Avenue Campus on February 20 to answer questions from local college and university students. Students representing the UT Health Science Center, The University of Memphis, Southwest Tennessee Community College, LeMoyne-Owen College and the Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis asked the legislators questions regarding the 12-hour cap on full-time college enrollment status, the economic stimulus package, and healthcare, particularly affordable insurance for graduate students.

Lawrence Brown, a doctoral candidate from UT asked, considering that “Tennessee has been leading the nation in prescription drug utilization per capita,” what priority will state government place on healthcare.

Speaker Williams indicated that individuals should help shoulder the responsibility for their own healthcare by making healthy choices and through health education. “Healthcare, to me, is addressed just like the problems we have in our society with drug abuse and crime. We solve them with education. We solve it through educating our children and teaching them to eat healthier,” Williams said.

House Leader Odom responded to Brown’s questions in terms of public policy. After addressing the complexities of funding the Medicaid program and the difficulties associated with the TennCare program, Odom stated, “But I think there is one thing I concluded; we need a national healthcare strategy. Healthcare is not a local issue in my opinion. It is not a state issue. We need a healthcare strategy on the national level and I think we are going to have that under President Obama’s leadership.”

Southwest SGA President Tujuana Perkins asked if any of the money in the economic stimulus package would be used to fund higher education. Caucus Chair Mike Turner responded, “We know we are going to get a lot for K-12, higher education and healthcare. That’s going to be in the package. How it breaks down [at the time of the legislative breakfast forum at Southwest], we don’t really know.”

 Asked if he would do things differently now that he’s aware of what’s on the minds of these students, Speaker Williams said, “The questions we heard today are the questions I’ve heard for my two years in the legislature. We will just keep striving to answer those questions and to fill in those gaps that we are missing.”

He added, “The one thing that we have to be very careful with, and we didn’t talk about it today is the lottery funds. You hear a lot about excess lottery funds and people are questioning why we won’t spend the reserves. We got a little extra money and everybody wants to get their hands on it. That’s something that I will be keeping a close eye on.” Speaker Williams went on to explain that the reserves are used to fund existing programs and if the reserves were spent, no room would be left for growth. Meaning, no new students could obtain lottery scholarships until current recipients left the program.
International Bazaar Brings Out Homeland Pride

Southwest held an International Bazaar last fall in which international students set up displays featuring flags, food, costumes, and other articles that depict pride in their native countries. The interactive displays were educational and informative, giving Southwest’s international students an opportunity to expose other students to some of the customs of their homelands.

In a brief summary of the International Bazaar, Dr. Tamara McColgan, associate professor of mathematics and coordinator for international education, said, “These students come from many different countries and are setting up booths to inform our students, faculty and staff about their homelands – the products of their countries, what they are famous for, and just to show a display of international culture.”

Maria Saenz, from Mexico, had a beautiful display which included a very light, sweet, layered pastry that the attendees sampled. Saenz came to Memphis over the summer, where she was also an Apple network systems engineer. Dunn’s experience includes editorial writing published in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, and The New York Times. He earned his bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics from Northeastern Illinois University and his master’s in educational research from the University of Memphis.

Other starters for the Lady Saluqis’ softball team in 2009 were sophomore pitcher Maegan Wilson (Munford High School), sophomore infielders Whitney Grimes (Jacksonville, AR) and Whitney Witcher (Stuttgart, AR), sophomore outfielder Jackie Lloyd (Munford High School), and freshmen catchers Lauren Dreher (Little Rock, AR) and Brittany McKee (Brighton High School). Wilson led the pitching staff with a 2.32 earned run average and 116 strikeouts, and set a Southwest single season record with 17 wins. She was also named NJCAA Division I Pitcher of the Week and is the Lady Saluqis’ all-time winningest pitcher with 26 victories in her career.

Coach Bo Reynolds’ Southwest baseball team finished with a 25-27 overall record and reached the final eight of the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament. Two members of the Southwest Baseball Team were voted to the All-TCCAA Team.

“It was an interesting year,” said Reynolds. “One thing we discovered this year was the importance of the classroom. We were one or two pitchers away from being very successful. We have a good nucleus coming back in 2009-10 and I honestly believe we’ve signed the best group we’ve had in the past three years. I’m looking forward to getting started this fall!”

Sophomore Matt Dangar (Bartlett High School) was selected Third Team All-TCCAA as a third baseman after batting .317 and leading the Saluqis with 11 home runs and 44 runs batted in. In his two-year career at Southwest, Dangar hit 19 home runs, just one short of the College’s career record.

Matt Ince (Bolton High School), a sophomore left-handed pitcher, was also voted Third Team All-TCCAA. Ince led the team with six wins, four complete games, a 4.63 earned run average, 68 innings pitched and 72 strikeouts. Ince also started in the outfield when not pitching and was one of the team’s top hitters with a .396 average, 14 doubles, 2 home runs, and 25 runs batted in.

Other starters for the Southwest baseball team in 2009 were sophomore shortstop Yogi Vanaman (Cordova High School), who led the team with a .401 batting average and a .664 slugging average, sophomore outfielder Bobby Turner (Winchester KY), who batted .340 and led the team with 31 stolen bases, sophomore first baseman Jesse Brooks (Brighton High School), sophomore right fielder/designated hitter Chris Coleman (Germantown High School), sophomore outfielder Nick Ely (Riverside, IL), sophomore catcher Austin Moody (Millington Central High School), sophomore pitcher Nick Purcell (Bartlett High School), and freshman second baseman/pitcher Kyle Lewis (Millington Central High School). Two sophomores have signed with four-year colleges – Coleman with Missouri Baptist University and Purcell with Bethel College.
accomplished this season,” said Gentry. “For the "I'm very proud of the things our softball team highest finish ever. Top wins for the team this season with 40 wins and finished sixth in the TCCAA, their Gentry and Derrick Grimes, set a new school record The Lady Saluqis’ softball team, coached by Keith Rising sophomores Kiana James and Keturah Martin Martre has been invited to coach in the upcoming Top will be our team leadership both on and off the court.” was this past season, the key to our success next year some players who should complement them well. As it also emerged as a strong rebounder and grabbed at least ten rebounds in seven of the last fourteen games. “We had an up and down year,” said Martre. “When we played well, we received strong leadership from our sophomores. Looking ahead to next season, we return talented players at each position including two of our top three scorers and rebounders. We’ve also signed some players who should complement them well. As it was this past season, the key to our success next year will be our team leadership both on and off the court.” Martre has been invited to coach in the upcoming Top 120 JUCO Showcase in Tulsa, Oklahoma this summer. Rising sophomores Kiana James and Keturah Martin have also been recognized as two of the top returning players nationwide to participate in the event. The Lady Saluqis’ softball team, coached by Keith Gentry and Derrick Grimes, set a new school record with 40 wins and finished sixth in the TCCAA, their highest finish ever. Top wins for the team this season were conference sweeps of Cleveland State, Dyersburg State, Jackson State, Roane State, and 2009 region tournament champion Motlow State. “I’m very proud of the things our softball team accomplished this season,” said Gentry. “For the second straight year we set a new school record for wins and we also competed very well within our conference. This year’s team has definitely raised the bar as far as expectations with our softball program. Despite losing eight sophomore starters, we look to continue to improve next season with an outstanding recruiting class coming in this fall!” Four members of the team were named All-TCCAA. Sophomore shortstop/pitcher Amber Hayes (Brighton High School) earned first team honors after batting .434 and setting Southwest single season records with 17 home runs, 6 triples, 65 runs batted in, 66 hits, 139 total bases, and a .914 slugging average. Hayes also pitched in 16 games, compiling a 9-5 record with a 3.23 earned run average and 56 strikeouts. In addition, she was named National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 Player of the Week, a first for a Southwest softball player. 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Smith & Nephew and Southwest Hope to Rev Up New, Multi-Level Partnership

As the economy goes its uncertain way, and it probably will for a while, Smith & Nephew and Southwest have been discussing retooling their longtime partnership to move in new and ambitious directions. “I think all the elements of the program we’re proposing are headed for a more profitable future,” predicts Smith & Nephew Director of Quality Control Gary Lynch. “It could be a very important move to be ready to jump on that train.” Lynch projects steady employment opportunities at Smith & Nephew due to “a large demand in the future by baby boomers for hip/knee replacements. That’s good news ahead for graduates of Southwest programs and Smith & Nephew as well.”

Lynch met last fall at Smith & Nephew with Southwest key technology and career advisement personnel to discuss the partnership. “Our primary interest, to begin with, would be in the Mechanical Engineering Technology A.A.S. degree and the Quality Assurance technical certificate program,” said Lynch, who is working with partners such as Sharon Williams, assistant director of corporate and continuing education, and Cindy Fowinkle, assistant professor of mechanical engineering technology, to work together to coordinate the plans. Fowinkle is now the primary Southwest connection discussing the possibility of tailoring class setups to fit the time and place constraints of prospective students.

“For the traditional classes, we’re considering teaching some at Smith & Nephew and some at Southwest for the convenience of both Smith & Nephew employees and our students who are preparing to seek careers with the company,” said Fowinkle. “Possibly we will invite employees of other companies in the industry, for instance, Medtronic and Wright Medical Technology, Inc., to collaborate. We’re also looking at ‘split’ or ‘hybrid’ classes, which are taught part online and part in the classroom. For these also we would offer different locations for the classroom sessions; and perhaps also offer computer access for students to use for the online sessions, at Smith & Nephew, the College, and other locations.”

Lynch suggested that the program could eventually be designed as a progression from high school to college to Smith & Nephew, in order to substantially increase career opportunities for Southwest students in the industry. Through Southwest’s Dual Enrollment program, already established in city high schools, students could earn the Quality Assurance technical certificate by the time they graduate, and get good paying jobs while working on their Mechanical Engineering Technology degrees. Lynch also requested considering an eventual connection with the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering (MASE), Southwest, and Smith & Nephew. MASE is a charter preparatory school catering to technology-minded students grades 6 through 10.

Mike Stephens, interim dean of business, career studies and technologies at Southwest, is overseeing the general discussions for the potential partnership upgrade. Stephens and Brenda Williams, Southwest’s director of career services, have proposed the possibility of establishing an intern program to create a pipeline of qualified employees to better meet the needs of both Smith & Nephew and Southwest. Williams would be a contact with their human resources department for job listings, and the company would be invited to participate in future career fairs at Southwest. As negotiations continue, Lynch has proposed smaller, more individualized industrial advisory committee meetings, possibly held off-campus, for better convenience of industry participation.

“We have had mutually beneficial partnerships with Smith & Nephew in the past and look forward to establishing more as a result of this meeting,” said Stephens. “The potential certainly is there,” he concluded, “to create excellent results for Southwest, Smith & Nephew and the industry as a whole in Memphis.”

The Southwest athletic program enjoyed another successful season of competition in 2008-09 highlighted by the men’s basketball team winning the region title and advancing to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national tournament, and the softball team enjoying its best season ever.

Coach Verties Sails’ men’s basketball team compiled a 27-3 overall record including an undefeated 13-0 record in the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA). The Saluqis won the TCCAA’s regular season Western Division title, won the Region VII tournament championship, finished the regular season ranked fourth in the final NJCAA poll, and placed eighth in the NJCAA National Tournament.

“We had a great season!” said Sails, who was named TCCAA Coach of the Year for the 13th time in his 30 years at the college. “Anytime you go undefeated in the conference, which we’ve only done one other time, is amazing. The closest game we had among teams in Tennessee was 17 points and to win the region tournament by an average margin of 29-1/2 points is unheard of. This was one outstanding season!”

TCCAA Player of the Year and University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP) signee Myron Strong led an extremely talented sophomore class. Strong (Hamilton High School) was one of five players who scored in double figures with a 14.2 average and led the team with a .797 free throw percentage.

Southwest also received strong contributions from fellow sophomores Reginald Owens (Fairley High School), who averaged 12.7 points and 6.5 rebounds and made the All-TCCAA team; All-Western Division forward and UTEP signee Jeremy Williams (Hamilton High School), who led the team with a 15.1 scoring average; All-Western Division center and Ole Miss signee DeAngelo Riley (Kirby High School), who averaged 12.1 points and led the team with 8.0 rebounds and 2.9 blocked shots; All-Western Division guard James Justice (Craigmont High School), who averaged 9.6 points; Region VII Tournament Most Valuable Player Jeremy Rodgers (Fairley High School), who averaged 10.8 points and led the team with a .615 field goal percentage; and point guard Josh Watson (Moss Point, MS), who averaged 7.2 points and was among team leaders with 101 assists and 83 steals.

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Kim Rashada of the human resources department receives the Jim Willis Spirit Award from Dr. Nathan Essex at the culmination of the 2009 Faculty and Staff Awards Reception.

Kim Rashada

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2008-09 Saluqis Basketball Team

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Southwest men’s head basketball coach and athletic director Verties Sails Jr. showcases the trophy and plaque earned for his Saluqis winning the 2009 TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Conference Tournament.

Southwest also received strong contributions from fellow sophomores:

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Saluqis Finish Successful Season with a Region Title and National Ranking

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Professional Growth Award
Lila Collins
Lamp of Learning

AWARDS AND HONORS
Jim Willis Spirit Award
Kim Rashada
Farris Award
Kenneth Carpenter
Provost’s Award
Joanette Gunter

SUPPORT STAFF AWARDS
Professional Growth Award
Donna Daniels
Service to the College Award
Niki Free
Staff Employee of the Year Award
Gloria W. Riley
Ken Mathis Environmental Services Award
James Corie Smith

POLICE SERVICES/PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS
Officer Appreciation
Patrolman Albert Moses
Patrolman Orlandus Bronner
Patrolman Danny Dishmon
Officer of the Month
Patrolman Kristoffer Billington
Officer of the Year
Patrolman Russell Biatts

PROFESSIONAL STAFF AWARDS
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RECOGNITION, PROJECT
SCHOLARSHIP
STUDIES FACULTY
PARTICIPATION
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Marjorie Dernaika
Dr. Margarette Jackson-Jones
Rosie McCartney
Rose McNeil
Dr. Ellen Poetle
Miki Richardson
Susan Turner
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Dr. Raydine Varnburgh

STUDENT SERVICES
AND ENROLLMENT
MANAGEMENT
VICE PRESIDENT’S AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE
Brenda Williams

HUMAN RESOURCES
PERSONNEL RECOGNITION
OF PERSONAL
ACCOMPLISHMENT
Tracy Horton, completion of bachelor’s degree, public administration
Krahah SIU, completion of master’s degree, public health

FINANCIAL AND
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Carpenter initiated the partnership four years ago so his A&P II students could have hands-on laboratory experience. “We are not equipped in our facilities to do clinical laboratory procedures,” said Carpenter, “and I thought it would be a valuable addition to their experience.” He discussed the possibilities with Boswell and Dr. Darius Wilson, chair of the allied health department, and they scheduled Carpenter’s students for a session in the MLT lab.

Carpenter prepares his students for the session by explaining the procedure they will be doing, blood typing as performed in a blood bank. Then Boswell introduces them to the laboratory and its equipment and explains what they will be doing and the purposes of the procedure. She leads them step-by-step through the procedure and oversees each student so they actually perform it as they would in a blood bank laboratory setting. “During the session, I also have the opportunity,” says Boswell, “to give the students information about the phlebotomy certificate and MLT degree programs.”

“This has been an excellent partnership,” according to Dr. Wilson. “The students get to visit the Allied Health building and do an actual blood typing procedure in the clinical laboratory. This has become an excellent recruiting tool. At least two students each year have applied and been admitted into the MLT program. I think very definitely this opportunity has helped them to make a better informed decision in choosing the MLT program for a degree.”

Currently, Carpenter brings one or two A&P II classes each semester for the lab experience and says, “I think it’s very helpful to my students in making a degree choice, whether its MLT or another health sciences career direction. The more information they have, the better.”

This initiative is another successful endeavor in natural sciences involving A&P studies, the other being the natural sciences peer tutoring lab for A&P students preparing to enter the nursing program.

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Smith & Nephew and Southwest Hope to Rev Up New, Multi-Level Partnership

As the economy goes its uncertain way, and it probably will for a while, Smith & Nephew and Southwest have been discussing retooling their longtime partnership to move in new and ambitious directions. “I think all the elements of the program we’re proposing are headed for a more profitable future,” predicts Smith & Nephew Director of Quality Control Gary Lynch. “It could be a very important move to be ready to jump on that train.” Lynch projects steady employment opportunities at Smith & Nephew due to “a large demand in the future by baby boomers for hip/knee replacements. That’s good news ahead for graduates of Southwest programs and Smith & Nephew as well.”

Lynch met last fall at Smith & Nephew with Southwest key technology and career advisement personnel to discuss the partnership. “Our primary interest, to begin with, would be in the Mechanical Engineering Technology A.A.S. degree and the Quality Assurance technical certificate program,” said Lynch. Sharlene Williams, assistant director of corporate and continuing education, and Cindy Fowinkle, assistant professor of mechanical engineering technology, would work together to coordinate the plans. Fowinkle is now the primary Southwest connection discussing the possibility of tailoring class setups to fit the time and place constraints of prospective students.

“For the traditional classes, we’re considering teaching some at Smith & Nephew and some at Southwest for the convenience of both Smith & Nephew employees and our students who are preparing to seek careers with the company,” said Fowinkle. “Possibly we will invite employees of other companies in the industry, for instance, Medtronic and Wright Medical Technology, Inc., to collaborate. We’re also looking at ‘split’ or ‘hybrid’ classes, which are taught part online and part in the classroom. For these also we would offer different locations for the classroom sessions; and perhaps also offer computer access for students to use for the online sessions, at Smith & Nephew, the College, and other locations.”

Lynch suggested that the program could eventually be designed as a progression from high school to college to Smith & Nephew, in order to substantially increase career opportunities for Southwest students in the industry. Through Southwest’s Dual Enrollment program, already established in city high schools, students could earn the Quality Assurance technical certificate by the time they graduate, and get good paying jobs while working on their Mechanical Engineering Technology degrees. Lynch also requested considering an eventual connection with the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering (MASE), Southwest, and Smith & Nephew. MASE is a charter preparatory school catering to technology-minded students grades 6 through 10.

Mike Stephens, interim dean of business, career studies and technologies at Southwest, is overseeing the general discussions for the potential partnership upgrade. Stephens and Brenda Williams, Southwest’s director of career services, have proposed the possibility of establishing an intern program to create a pipeline of qualified employees to better meet the needs of both Smith & Nephew and Southwest. Williams would be a contact with their human resources department for job listings, and the company would be invited to participate in future career fairs at Southwest. As negotiations continue, Lynch has proposed smaller, more individualized industrial advisory committee meetings, possibly held off-campus, for better convenience of industry participation.

“We have had mutually beneficial partnerships with Smith & Nephew in the past and look forward to establishing more as a result of this meeting,” said Stephens. “The potential certainly is there,” he concluded, “to create excellent results for Southwest, Smith & Nephew and the industry as a whole in Memphis.”

The Southwest athletic program enjoyed another successful season of competition in 2008-09 highlighted by the men’s basketball team winning the region title and advancing to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national tournament, and the softball team enjoying its best season ever.

Coach Verties Sails’ men’s basketball team compiled a 27-3 overall record including an undefeated 13-0 record in the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA). The Saluqis won the TCCAA’s regular season Western Division title, won the Region VII tournament championship, finished the regular season ranked fourth in the final NJCAA poll, and placed eighth in the NJCAA National Tournament.

Southwest also received strong contributions from fellow sophomores Reginald Owens (Fairley High School), who averaged 12.7 points and 6.5 rebounds and made the All-TCCAA team; All-Western Division forward and UTEP signee Jeremy Williams (Hamilton High School), who led the team with a 15.1 scoring average; All-Western Division center and Ole Miss signee DeAngelo Riley (Kirby High School), who averaged 12.1 points and led the team with 8.0 rebounds and 2.9 blocked shots; All-Western Division guard James Justice (Craigmont High School), who averaged 9.6 points; Region VII Tournament Most Valuable Player Jeremy Rodgers (Fairley High School), who averaged 10.8 points and led the team with a .615 field goal percentage; and point guard Josh Watson (Moss Point, MS), who averaged 7.2 points and was among team leaders with 101 assists and 83 steals.

The women’s basketball team, under the direction of 13-year Head Coach Andrea Martre, finished the 2008-09 season with...
accomplished this season,” said Gentry. “For the State, Jackson State, Roane State, and 2009 region highest finish ever. Top wins for the team this season with 40 wins and finished sixth in the TCCAA, their Gentry and Derrick Grimes, set a new school record The Lady Saluqis’ softball team, coached by Keith Martre has been invited to coach in the upcoming Top was this past season, the key to our success next year will be our team leadership both on and off the court.”

“We had an up and down year,” said Martre. “When we played well, we received strong leadership from our sophomores. Looking ahead to next season, we return talented players at each position including two of our top three scorers and rebounders. We’ve also signed some players who should complement them well. As it was this past season, the key to our success next year will be our team leadership both on and off the court.” Martre has been invited to coach in the upcoming Top 120 JUCO Showcase in Tulsa, Oklahoma this summer. Rising sophomores Kiana James and Keturah Martin have also been recognized as two of the top returning players nationwide to participate in the event.

The Lady Saluqis’ softball team, coached by Keith Gentry and Derrick Grimes, set a new school record with 40 wins and finished sixth in the TCCAA, their highest finish ever. Top wins for the team this season were conference sweeps of Cleveland State, Dyersburg State, Jackson State, Roane State, and 2009 region tournament champion Motlow State.

“I’m very proud of the things our softball team accomplished this season,” said Gentry. “For the second straight year we set a new school record for wins and we also competed very well within our conference. This year’s team has definitely raised the bar as far as expectations with our softball program. Despite losing eight sophomore starters, we look to continue to improve next season with an outstanding recruiting class coming in this fall!”

Four members of the team were named All-TCCAA. Sophomore shortstop/pitcher Amber Hayes (Brighton High School) earned first team honors after batting .434 and setting Southwest single season records with 17 home runs, 6 triples, 65 runs batted in, 66 hits, 139 total bases, and a .914 slugging average. Hayes also pitched in 16 games, compiling a 9-5 record with a 3.23 earned run average and 56 strikeouts. In addition, she was named National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 Player of the Week, a first for a Southwest softball player. Hayes and freshman Katy Ahrens (Collierville High School) garnered Academic All-American player. Hayes and freshman Katy Ahrens (Collierville High School) garnered Academic All-American status.

“On time and on budget” is a favorite phrase of builders everywhere and Southwest’s new replacement center for the Southeast Center dedicated to Dr. Maxine A. Smith, a longtime civil rights and education leader locally and in our state. The new center will replace Southwest’s Southeast Center that has occupied the corner of Winchester and Mendenhall. The Maxine A. Smith Center will provide a much needed service in the southeastern section of Memphis. Its location will also be convenient to Collierville, Germantown and Olive Branch as well. This area is one of the fastest growing areas of Shelby County and is a technology corridor. The academic emphasis of the new center, in addition to a general education niche, will include a high-tech focus.

The new center will be a three-story, 67,300 square-foot brick education building containing a library, eight computer classrooms, an academic support space, a multipurpose classroom, chemistry, biology and science labs, and student lounge. In addition, gathering space along with administrative offices, and mechanical and support spaces will be available. It is estimated the project, which started in April 2008, will cost about $19.5 million. For more information call (901) 333-6005/6049.

Freshman Kiana James (Jackson, MS) and sophomore Raquel Brigham (West Memphis, AR) were named to the TCCAA’s All-Western Division Team. James led the team and ranked among conference leaders with 15.9 points and 9.1 rebounds per game while Brigham averaged 10.4 points per game and led the team with 58 three-point field goals made.

Other key players on this year’s team were sophomores Shalonda George (Denham Springs, LA) and Porchia Allen (Cordova High School) and freshmen Keturah Martin (East High School), Mariame Sylla (Ivory Coast, Africa), Georgette McCullar (Hamilton High School), Courtney Gregory (West Memphis, AR), and Jermecce Johnson (Kirby High School).

Martin, one of the Lady Saluqis’ top all-around players, averaged 10.3 points per game and led the team in assists, steals, and free throw percentage. George, a two-year starter at forward, averaged 6.8 points per game as the second leading rebounder with an 8.7 average. Sylla also emerged as a strong rebounder and grabbed at least ten rebounds in seven of the last fourteen games.

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Front
Southwest’s course, Graphic Arts 2512 Publishing on the Internet, is now using the latest in textbooks, thanks to Associate Professor Kenneth Dunn in the Business, Career Studies and Technologies Division. Dunn’s new book, Publishing on the Internet, which he wrote, illustrated and published, offers graphic arts students and other readers a thorough introduction to designing, scripting, organizing, and illustrating Web pages. It covers Web site design, file management, Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML), scripting, Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), and preparation of graphics for display on the World Wide Web. The book also provides a brief introduction to JavaScript. It is available online at: http://www.lulu.com/content/5087229.

Dunn has taught at Southwest for 14 years. He specializes in interactive multimedia (Flash) and teaches courses in HTML, vector graphics (Adobe Illustrator), bit-mapped graphics (Adobe Photoshop) and 3d modeling. Before coming to Memphis, he was a computer trainer, first for the Chicago Tribune and later at Businessland, Inc., where he was also an Apple network systems engineer. Dunn’s experience includes editorial writing published in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, and The New York Times. He earned his bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics from Northeastern Illinois University and his master’s in educational research from the University of Memphis.

International Bazaar Brings Out Homeland Pride

Southwest held an International Bazaar last fall in which international students set up displays featuring flags, food, costumes, and other articles that depict pride in their native countries. The interactive displays were educational and informative, giving Southwest’s international students an opportunity to expose other students to some of the customs of their homelands.

In a brief summary of the International Bazaar, Dr. Tamara McColgan, associate professor of mathematics and coordinator for international education, said, “These students come from many different countries and are setting up booths to inform our students, faculty and staff about their homelands – the products of their countries, what they are famous for, and just to show a display of international culture.”

Maria Saenz, from Mexico, had a beautiful display which included a very light, sweet, layered pastry that the attendees sampled. Saenz came to Memphis over 12 years ago. She got her GED and has taken classes at Southwest to develop viable career options. Saenz has found her college experience to be very satisfying, “I like the school very much. I also like the teachers,” said Saenz.

International students come to Southwest every year with a 25-27 overall record and reached the final eight of the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament. Two members of the Southwest Baseball Team were voted to the All-TCCAA Team.

“It was an interesting year,” said Reynolds. “One thing we discovered this year was the importance of the classroom. We were one or two pitchers away from being very successful. We have a good nucleus coming back in 2009-2010 and I honestly believe we’ve signed the best group we’ve had in the past three years. I’m looking forward to getting started this fall!”

Sophomore Matt Dangar (Bartlett High School) was selected Third Team All-TCCAA as a third baseman after batting .317 and leading the Saluquis with 11 home runs and 44 runs batted in. In his two-year career at Southwest, Dangar hit 19 home runs, just one short of the College’s career record.

Matt Ince (Bolton High School), a sophomore left-handed pitcher, was also voted Third Team All-TCCAA. Ince led the team with six wins, four complete games, a 4.63 earned run average, 68 innings pitched and 72 strikeouts. Ince also started in the outfield when not pitching and was one of the team’s top hitters with a .396 average, 14 doubles, 2 home runs, and 25 runs batted in. Other starters for the Southwest baseball team in 2009 were sophomore shortstop Yogi Yanaman (Cordova High School), who led the team with a .401 batting average and a .664 slugging average, sophomore outfielder Bobby Turner (Winchester KY), who batted .340 and led the team with 31 stolen bases, sophomore first baseman Jesse Brooks (Brighton High School), sophomore right field/designated hitter Chris Coleman (Germantown High School), sophomore outfielder Nick Ely (Randallville, IL), sophomore catcher Austin Moody (Millington Central High School), sophomore pitcher Nick Purcell (Bartlett High School), and freshman second baseman/pitcher Kyle Lewis (Millington Central High School). Two sophomores have signed with four-year colleges – Coleman with Missouri Baptist University and Purcell with Bethel College.
Leading members of the Tennessee House of Representatives - House Speaker Kent Williams, Democratic Leader Gary Odom, House Democratic Caucus Leader Mike Turner, and Representative G. A. Hardaway of Memphis District 92 attended a breakfast forum at Southwest Tennessee Community College’s Union Avenue Campus on February 20 to answer questions from local college and university students. Students representing the UT Health Science Center, The University of Memphis, Southwest Tennessee Community College, LeMoyne-Owen College and the Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis asked the legislators questions regarding the 12-hour cap on full-time college enrollment status, the economic stimulus package, and healthcare, particularly affordable insurance for graduate students.

Lawrence Brown, a doctoral candidate from UT asked, considering that “Tennessee has been leading the nation in prescription drug utilization per capita,” what priority will state government place on healthcare. Speaker Williams indicated that individuals should help shoulder the responsibility for their own healthcare by making healthy choices and through health education.

“Healthcare, to me, is addressed just like the problems we have in our society with drug abuse and crime. We solve them with education. We solve it through educating our children and teaching them to eat healthier,” Williams said.

House Leader Odom responded to Brown’s questions on healthcare in terms of public policy. After addressing the complexities of funding the Medicaid program and the difficulties associated with the TennCare program, Odom stated, “But I think there is one thing I concluded; we need a national healthcare strategy. Healthcare is not a local issue in my opinion. It is not a state issue. We need a healthcare strategy on the national level and I think we are going to have that under President Obama’s leadership.”

Southwest SGA President Tujuana Perkins asked if any of the money in the economic stimulus package would be used to fund higher education. Caucus Chair Mike Turner responded, “We know we are going to get a lot for K-12, higher education and healthcare. That’s going to be in the package. How it breaks down [at the time of the legislative breakfast forum at Southwest], we don’t really know.”

Asked if he would do things differently now that he’s aware of what’s on the minds of these students, Speaker Williams said, “The questions we heard today are the questions I’ve heard for my two years in the legislature. We will just keep striving to answer those questions and to fill in those gaps that we are missing.”

He added, “The one thing that we have to be very careful with, and we didn’t talk about it today is the lottery funds. You hear a lot about excess lottery funds and people are questioning why we won’t spend the reserves. We got a little extra money and everybody wants to get their hands on it. That’s something that I will be keeping a close eye on.” Speaker Williams went on to explain that the reserves are used to fund existing programs and if the reserves were spent, no room would be left for growth. Meaning, no new students could obtain lottery scholarships until current recipients left the program.
President Essex and Staff Members Bid Russian Educators Farewell

Southwest President Nathan Essex, along with Dr. Joanne Bassett, provost and executive vice president, and Dr. Yvonne Jones, director for international education, had a brief farewell meeting with Russian educators at Southwest. The College hosted six educators from different parts of Russia from December 5-13, 2008. They visited primary-level schools in Memphis and government agencies of the city of Memphis and Shelby County as part of a program sponsored by the Open World Program and the Open World Leadership Center and Academy of Educational Development of Washington, D.C. Faculty and staff assisted by acting as chaperones for the group as they visited various sites, both cultural and educational.

Visiting Danish Students Continue the Tradition as Southwest Exchange Students

They’ve been coming for years, and the bright blue shirts with the International Students emblem on the front identify them to students, staff and faculty as chaperones for the group as they visited various sites, both cultural and educational.

“Our, at Southwest, are especially thankful to the generous host families who did so much to make the students’ visit fun and memorable,” said Dr. McColgan. “Over the years,” she said, “many Memphis families have made long and lasting friendships with their (visiting international) students.”

Walking the pathways of any of our campuses and you’ll see the future of our community. It’s written on the faces of our students regardless of their age, background or past. It’s not where they’re coming from; it’s where they’re going. They are headed directly into brighter futures. For many of our students, it’s the first time someone has offered them the opportunity to succeed. It will be the first time someone in their household graduated from college, held better than a minimum wage job or escaped poverty. Southwest will represent more than a college degree. It will be a life changing experience.

It is no secret that state revenues have and may continue to decline, but what you will find in these next few pages are stories of hope, and stories of people who have chosen to rise above their circumstances. You’ll also read about people who have chosen to make a difference. These are people who are committed to ensuring that despite state revenues, our community continues to grow in a positive direction and that when someone needs a helping hand, it will be there.

President Dr. Joanne Bassett.
Southwest and You: Invest in the Future

Meet Kim. After she lost her job, she decided to take a chance and do what she had always dreamed of doing. But, it had been 18 years since she had been to school, and there was no money. But Kim didn’t give up. She applied for and received a scholarship, and today Kim is working toward her dream of being a special education teacher. “I’ve seen firsthand what a difference a teacher can make with a special needs child,” says Kim. “You can see the progress the child makes every day. Thanks to this scholarship, I feel that I’m eventually going to be able to make that kind of difference, too. I’m going to fulfill my dream.”

Christina is not your average college freshman. While most young people her age are thinking about how much money they’ll make when they graduate, Christina thinks about how she can change the world. Christina’s goal is to be a missionary in Central America teaching children to work with computers. As one of three children, two of whom were already in college, it was going to be difficult for Christina to begin her studies right away. But then, Christina received a scholarship and she knew her dream didn’t have to be put on hold. “When you help further my education, you further others’ education ultimately around the world.”

Saving lives. That’s what John has dedicated his life to. For three years, he’s worked as an EMT in a local emergency room but with four small children and a wife to support, John knew he needed more. That’s when John decided to apply to Southwest Tennessee Community College Nursing School. Now, thanks to a scholarship, John is in his last semester ready to graduate and ready to take on more challenges. “There aren’t enough nurses in our community,” says John. “Southwest needs to build a nursing building semester ready to graduate and ready to take on more challenges. There aren’t enough nurses in our community.”

Look into Austin’s piercing blue eyes and you’ll see a young man full of determination. He admits his grades in high school weren’t the best, but he has talent, and he only needed a chance. Now, this first generation college student has one, thanks to a scholarship. Working toward a degree in the automotive industry, Austin has high aspirations. He wants to one day own an automotive restoration business, but for now his full-time job as an ATV service technician and being a full-time college student keep him busy. Austin knows how important this scholarship is for him. “This scholarship has propelled me to work harder and do better. My family and friends are so proud of me.”

Southwest Students Study Abroad
This Summer in Nine Countries

The International Education (IE) Department at Southwest has chosen 22 students to receive study-abroad scholarships in nine countries for the summer of 2009. Southwest is in its second year of membership with the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies (TnCIS), comprising colleges and universities devoted to making international education and cultural understanding a central goal of higher education throughout the state. This summer’s group of scholarship recipients is almost twice as large as the first group of 12 who studied in South Africa and Mexico during the summer of 2008. Interest in the IE program grew considerably in 2009 to 48 applicants.

Dr. Yvonne Jones, professor of English and director of the IE program, accompanied the students to an orientation at Middle Tennessee State University’s Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center on March 28. Dr. Milton Grimes, director of TnCIS, gave the welcome address to approximately 270 students from Tennessee Board of Regents institutions across the state. After the greeting from Dr. Grimes, participants had breakout sessions for their particular countries and programs. Southwest students were excited about attending the gathering and taking pictures for their international ID cards. They enjoyed meeting fellow students who were enrolled in their particular study-abroad program. During the sessions, students viewed visuals of their destinations and their accommodations.

Others attending the meeting were Dr. Steve Haley, professor of history, and the academic liaison in particular study-abroad program. During the sessions, students viewed visuals of their destinations and their accommodations.

The study-abroad students selected for the 2009 summer programs are:

- Sean Carter   London, England
- Alecia Geeter   South Africa
- Samantha Collins   London, England
- Fatou Durant   France
- Jasmin V. Jackson   South Africa
- Wosengsd Sahle   France
- Angela S. McCray   Mexico
- Dominique Watson   Greece
- Courtney A. Schultz   Ireland
- Sara Wilson   Shannon Cowan   Greece
- Jason Jordan   South Africa
- Jasmine N. Wilson   Brazil
- Titus Robinson   Brazil
- Stuart Wine   Greece
- Felicia Hankins   South Africa
- Shenika R. Brown   Spain
- Augusta Fleming   Scotland
- Erica M. Richards   Mexico
- Shermall Clark   France
- Austin Howell   Ireland
- Gloria Dunn

Four people—two ready to make a change in their lives; two ready to step out in the world for the first time. All determined to succeed despite the odds. All received the chance because someone cared. Four people who represent the students at Southwest Tennessee Community College. We invite you to get to know them.
stressed, “Being an engineer is not about learning everything there is to learn and then just using it. It’s about being exposed to key concepts that you can build off of on the fly. You will not very frequently be asked to do something and you immediately know every single line of code you’re going to write.” He added, “You’ll simply have a high-level idea of what you need to do, you’ll know what is available to you, and you’ll start looking up whatever you’re lacking.”

McIntosh has worked at the Bomgar Corporation for a year and doesn’t anticipate going anywhere else anytime soon. “I’m quite happy where I’m at. Unless I got a different job title while working the same job, I wouldn’t want to go anywhere. After working here for a certain number of years, I’ll become a ‘senior’ software developer, though, which I look forward to becoming.”

A typical day for him involves either implementing new features, fixing bugs, or working on internal tools that Bomgar’s Quality Assurance Department and others can utilize to perform their jobs more efficiently.

At the ripe old age of 22, McIntosh has the world at the “click of his mouse.” He chats with global acquaintances from places like Australia and Great Britain. “I go to work, come home, and play games with my wife and gamer friends I’ve made over the past several years while chatting in an online voice-chat.”

McIntosh derives a great sense of satisfaction from “bringing home the bacon.” He says that one of his greatest accomplishments during his year of employment with Bomgar was, “being able to support my wife. She’s been partially paralyzed ever since she was 10 years old as a result of a car wreck. She is considered an incomplete quadriplegic and essentially can’t move her left leg or the fingers on her left hand, and has muscle weaknesses throughout her body,” McIntosh explained. “Lots of expenses arise as a result of some of her individual needs, and it’s nice to be able to say, ‘Sure, we’ll get that for you,’” instead of, “Can we afford that?” We’re not totally away from the ‘Can we afford that?’ question, but we’re getting there.”

Though he’s reaping the benefits of a regular paycheck, McIntosh still loves gaming on his computer with his wife. He finds that unlike console games, most computer games have highly configurable controls that make them better suited for the disabled. He describes himself as “a problem solver, an analytical thinker, a gamer, a software developer, and a loving husband.”

A Sense of Justice – Bert Bornblum

Justice and duty. It's what drives a young immigrant to join the Army Air Corps even when he’s not an American citizen. It’s what drives that same individual to be the first store owner on Beale Street to hire African-American sales clerks and cashiers. And, it’s why Bert Bornblum established an endowed scholarship at Southwest Tennessee Community College, because it was the right thing to do. But to really understand Bert Bornblum, you have to travel back to pre-war Poland.

As a young man, Bert had two loves in his life—girls and books; and the two were intertwined. “A group of us would get together and go to the library to discuss books.” Bert wanted to meet girls but maybe even more, Bert wanted to get the books. Spend just five minutes with Bert and he talks about authors like best friends. Dostoevsky, Sinclair Lewis, Tolstoy, Upton Sinclair, Mark Twain. But to Bert, those authors offered even more than philosophy and literature. They offered an education that was denied him by a system that increasingly discriminated against Jews.

In 1938, at 18 with only a few dollars and a dictionary that was basically ineffective, Bert and his brother left Poland and arrived in Memphis. With little English at their command, they found it difficult at the beginning, but soon immersed themselves in the culture and began working in a men’s clothing store. In January 1942, Bert enlisted in the Signal Corps, transferred to the Regular Army Air Corps shortly thereafter and served honorably for four years. If you ask him why he joined, he simply says, “It was my duty.” While in the Army, Bert became a U.S. citizen and was offered a position as a warrant officer. He considered a career in the military, but those authors were still whispering in his ear. Bert returned to Memphis for a short time and then like many veterans took off west.

Bert left Memphis for California with high hopes of getting into UCLA. He had dreams of being a lawyer, but the school had a waiting list of six months so Bert patiently went to work in a shoe store and worked his way up to manager while waiting for his slot to open. Then a fateful cable arrived from his brother David, still in Memphis. Bert had an offer for a partnership in a store in Memphis if only Bert would return. Bert declined; he wanted to pursue his education. David persisted and finally Bert agreed.

“It was only supposed to be a year or two and then I would return,” says Bert. That’s not how it happened. Bert and David went into business together. Some forty plus years later Bert Bornblum’s legacy is clear. There wasn’t just one store. There were six, four in Memphis and two in Nashville. There was a beautiful loving wife whom Bert lost several years ago. There are grandchildren from children and those authors whispering in his ear; well, they never stopped talking. The man who never got a chance to formally complete his education estimates he has approximately 21 years of philosophy credits and a few courses in history and psychology.

Justice and duty. Bert Bornblum’s sense of those two words is embedded in this community. Scholarships, lecture series and even a school, and of course an endowed scholarship at Southwest that Bert says he supports because it provides a way for people to go to school who cannot afford or who are not prepared for the university. Bert also remembers, “It was hard for me to get into a high school, so I don’t want anyone to have a hard time getting an education.” Righting a wrong, doing it because it’s his duty, or just because it’s the right thing to do, Bert Bornblum understands the need in our society for justice and duty. Those who have been touched by his sense of that understanding are better for it.
Southwest’s scholars believe that a good investment means more than capital gains in one’s portfolio. Investment in one’s community and those who live in it produces a more meaningful dividend: A well-educated and trained workforce that benefits local employers and means a better way of life for employees and their families. An investment in Southwest shows how passionate our donors are about our community. We enlist supporters who are enthusiastic about growing and nurturing the next generation of workforce leaders through their financial gifts.

This year Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation exceeded its $1 million goal for endowed scholarships, thanks to the generosity of the following individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations who supported this campaign from its inception through June 30, 2008 and who understood the importance of investing in their community and watching that investment grow.

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| From Passion to Paycheck: 
Young Alumns Turn Love for Video Gaming into the Start of a Successful IT Career

Life is good these days for Southwest Alumnus Jacob McIntosh. He brings to mind the TV commercial in which a guy enthusiastically yells out, “I love my job!” And, indeed he should. During his last semester at Mississippi State University (MSU), McIntosh interviewed and landed the job of his dreams with the Bomgar Corporation as a software developer. Bomgar, located in Ridgeland, Mississippi, manufactures a device (the Bomgar Box) that allows businesses to virtualize their help desk and provide remote tech support, instead of technicians having to be physically on site.

“I like that I’m working as a programmer, a field of my choice, rather than just working at a random job because I have bills to pay. I used to work at Papa John’s while I was going to Southwest Tennessee Community College. That was a far cry from my job of my dreams, but I soon realized that the Bomgar Box allowed companies to provide remote tech support, instead of technicians having to be physically on site.”

After graduating from Southwest, McIntosh transferred to MSU where he continued to fuel his passion by pursuing a degree in software engineering. “While at MSU, I participated in various programming competitions in which I won prizes such as small amounts of money, a Microsoft Zone MP3 player, and a PlayStation Portable. I very much enjoyed those competitions as a genuinely challenging task and a useful mental exercise,” he stated.

Dedication was a key component to building a successful career for McIntosh. He said a willingness to learn and a sense of independence were qualities uniquely suited him for a career as a software developer.

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Southwest and You: Invest in the Future

The Endowed Scholarship Campaign

Investment (n): the investing of money or capital for profitable returns

Webster’s Dictionary

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Leila M. Limburger
Ms. Gladys M. Linton
Evelyn Hall Little
Lisa R. Lodden
Ms. Carolyn M. Marek
Mr. Edwin Marks
Elisa and Ramon Manua, Jr.
Regina Massery
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Elizabeth G. Owens
Linda D. Patterson
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Mr. James B. Pendleton
The Honorable Curtis S. Penny
Cly M. Picken
Mr. Nathan Popp
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Mili L. Smith
Sharon S. Smith
Ruth F. Smoak
Sparks Companies, Inc.
Dewey Sykes
Derek E. Tamhiri
Harry L. Taylor
Treehouse Solutions
Telecommunications Associates
Marilyn L. Thornton
Joseph W. Trussell
Isom D. Tribbs
Alecia J. Tuivina
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Stephanie B. Wearne, Jr.
Melonie Tuggle
Ms. Susan S. Turner
Janice Van Dyke
Mr. Robert D. Van Dyke
Brenda S. Vance
Barbara Jean Vernon
Marilyn F. Wald
Ms. Kim J. Wagner
Patricia A. Ward
Lois M. Washington
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Ms. Kim J. Wagner
Mandy C. Powell endowed Memorial Scholarship
Jess H. and Norma Parrish endowed Scholarship
Nathaniel Parker Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Nursing alumni Scholarship
The Med Foundation/Kirk Franklin Scholarship
Paul Mason Scholarship
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Kelly Wilson Memorial Scholarship
Frank Wooten Scholarship
Wright Medical Technology, Inc. Scholarship

Sykes has had many memorable students. “Some,” he says, “because they stayed so long! They come directly from high school, perhaps unmotivated, drop out, then turn up years later, ready to work and succeed. And others are so opposite.” He stated “I’ve had the truest satisfaction teaching students who’ve been diagnosed with a learning disability … and then the opportunity to witness them walking across the stage and getting a diploma. That gives you the very highest sense of satisfaction.”

Has he ever thought of teaching elsewhere? Not really. “Partly,” he said, “it’s an allegiance to this college, this place I consider, in some sense, my home.” As for doing something else, he’s considered industry but not to place I consider, in some sense, my home.” As for doing something else, he’s considered industry but not to

However that plays out, he’s at Southwest to stay. “I feel I’ve had the opportunity to accomplish a lot with my students. I find them enjoyable, entertaining at times; even amusing, and a lot of fun, especially when their enthusiasm bubbles over. But, sometimes too, there’s a sadness in their struggles when despite our mutual efforts, a student and I can’t make success happen,” stated Sykes. Despite it all, Dewey Sykes enjoys what he’s doing and he plans to stay at Southwest.

Is it a challenge to keep students learning in a hands-on environment, equipped with components used in the real world? Sykes daily proves not only his expertise as a teacher but his dedication to the best interests of his students, in and out of class. His patience is cited by both students and fellow faculty. “He is talented and dedicated, in and out of class. His patience is cited by both students and fellow faculty. “He is talented and dedicated, in and out of class. His patience is cited by both

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Facility to train future health care workers. Southwest Tennessee Community College has an excellent record of it. It’s important because we need high-quality facilities like the new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility.

Why is it so important to support the Southwest Tennessee Community College Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility?

Registered Nurses play a very important role in healthcare delivery because they keep patients safe, are key in avoiding complications after healthcare procedures, and at times, save lives. The nursing shortage is a global and long term challenge for the healthcare industry and programs that prepare registered nurses. There has been a shortage of nurses; they should. But, they also have building campaigns of their own. Each works tirelessly to change the health of our community, and each faces mounting issues with rising costs. Yet, both organizations have deeply embedded within them a value for the community that goes beyond not just doing what is right, but doing the right thing for the right reason. That’s why Southwest Tennessee Community College is proud to call them our partners in Investing in the Future.

Has the nursing shortage affected our community?

Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care: Yes, but fortunately Memphians still have access to top-notch care. Organizations like Methodist LeBonheur, Baptist and other well-respected groups have recognized a number of a local hospitals for the great care they deliver.

Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare: Yes, over the last few years recruitment of registered nurses into area health systems has been challenging. Methodist LeBonheur has played an active role in bringing solutions to the issue by financially supporting colleges and universities with direct funding, on-site clinical space, faculty positions and working to provide staff nurses as clinical faculty.

Why do you think it’s so important to stop the nursing shortage in its tracks?

Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care: There are several reasons. Nurses play such an important role in any hospital, and they’re asked to do so much for their patients. As baby boomers age and need more health care, nurses will be asked to do even more. In addition, many nurses will be retiring within the next few years, so it’s vital to educate and train the next generation of caregivers. The bottom line is that all facilities need adequate numbers of qualified nurses to provide and coordinate care with all members of the health care team. We need to continue to recruit into our nursing programs, support the students through graduation and then assist them to transition to their professional practice.

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A Second Look at Computers Leads to a Fulfilling Career for the Cisco Academy Director

By Pat O’Brien

After an unfulfilling attempt at a degree in business and offer to operate and repair computers, Dewey Sykes, associate professor of computer engineering and director of the Cisco Networking Academy Program at Southwest, looked for another career path. Needing to replenish his education funds, he had committed to the Air Force as his next step.

As it turned out, the Air Force was the right choice. His first assignment was operating “computer-like devices,” intercepting Cold War-era secrets from the Eastern Bloc of Europe. “Computer-like was really like radio receiver-teletypewriters, but huge,” Sykes said. “It was interesting but offered me nothing in useable skills.”

That was the beginning of computers for Sykes, though. He was curious about what else they had. Computer innovations were burgeoning, as he soon found out, and technology was evolving. There were more keyboard-type devices becoming available where according to Sykes, “you could enter and immediately get output of a sort.” The more he saw, the more he realized this was something he could really be interested in. And he thought, too, it could translate into a future career.

Though most military computers were locked away for security, Sykes was able to enroll in a computer course on base and saw his first actual computer. “It was huge – almost a monstrosity of a device!” The class was an introduction to computers, just the basics, and used mostly for business. “I didn’t really learn all that much; but enough to whet my appetite and know I had a real interest in computers.”

His final Air Force assignment, computer repair, started with comprehensive training, working on a wide variety of equipment. The

Growing Our Investment

preparing students for health care careers, and it’s important that we do all we can to help ensure Southwest can continue to do that.

Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare:

We must support strong programs with a proven track record of success to ensure we have nurses for future generations. There is a predicted national shortage of almost one million nurses by the year 2020. It will take many strategies to increase the overall numbers of registered nurses available; and program expansions to the local community are critical.

What message do you hope your gift sends to other health care facilities and businesses?

Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:

I hope it shows our community that the need for health care workers affects everyone. Health care facilities are the most directly affected because we can’t do anything without health care workers, but other businesses should be concerned, as well. Their ability to recruit, retain and protect the health of their employees depends in large part on the success of hospitals in their communities. Effectively educating and training health care workers goes a long way toward ensuring hospitals can continue providing great care.

Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare:

Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare is serious about our commitment to quality patient care, and we understand that to carry through with that commitment takes Registered Nurses who are at the forefront of care delivery. Investing in our community and partners like Southwest Tennessee Community College is just good business sense as that investment provides an additional source for educating entry nurses into the healthcare delivery system.

What was the biggest factor in your decision to make a gift toward this facility?

Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare:

We understand that the nursing shortage is a long term industry concern, and we want to do our part to be sure that the Memphis community is positioned well as we move into future years when the national and even international shortage of Registered Nurses is at a peak.

What would you like to say to others who are considering making a gift to a nursing building? Why is it important?

Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care:

I would encourage anyone who can to help support the new nursing building so Southwest can continue its excellent academic programs. The recession has convinced many people to consider careers in health care. We have a tremendous opportunity to recruit intelligent, motivated health care workers, but we can’t do that unless we have the facilities necessary to educate them. One of Memphis’ greatest assets is its health care community, and all of us can help make sure it continues to thrive.

Gary Shorb, President & CEO, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare:

Giving to such an important program not only strengthens the medical community, but the quality of life for all of our citizens, as well as the viability and sustainability of our community as a whole.
It’s just bricks and mortar until you open the door and feel the anticipation. It’s just steel and glass reflecting on the downtown streets until you open the door and see the future. It’s just tile flooring and concrete steps until you open the door and hear the heartbeat of a community. It’s just a new building with that new building smell until you open the door and smell hope and taste the success of those who for the first time in their lives will find a better future.

When the new facility is built, it will house an expanded nursing program, classrooms and laboratories to meet the area’s ever-growing need for nurses and biotechnological professionals. The following donors have contributed to the major gifts campaign since its inception through June 30, 2008 and invested in the future of not only Southwest Tennessee Community College’s new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Facility represents the future of our community. When the facility is complete, more than 400 nursing students will be able to graduate each year helping fill the tremendous nursing gap in Shelby County. And, the average starting wage for a nurse is $16 per hour, increasing the salaries of the graduates and the living wages of their families in only two years.

Within our service area. Additionally it will also mean significant gains in research and education for our students and faculty,” said President Nathan Essex as he addressed the gathering.

Greeting remarks were also given by Dr. Charles Manning, chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents; and Dr. Joanne Bassett, provost and executive vice president of Southwest.

The two-story 69,300 square-foot facility, designed with open spaces, large windows, media gallery and cyber café/poets corner, is equipped with a state-of-the-art surrounded sound auditorium and multimedia conference rooms which are available for community use.
New Ultra Modern Library Unveiled at Southwest

"It’s beautiful," remarked Damone Virgilio, staff development officer for Memphis Public Libraries, as he greeted Carolyn Head, executive director of library services at Southwest. “When you walk in, it doesn’t immediately look like a library, which I actually mean as a compliment.” Virgilio was among the many who attended the open house for Southwest’s new Macon Cove Campus Library.

Representatives from FedEx, the Greater Memphis Chamber, the Bartlett Area Chamber, Memphis Medical Center, LeMoyne-Owen College, the Memphis chapter of the NAACP, Congressman Steve Cohen’s office, and the office of Senator Lamar Alexander were also among the visitors and friends of Southwest who attended the open house event on May 29.

“We believe that this wonderful facility will enable us to achieve our mission of providing needed higher educational services to students, employers and citizens of Memphis and Shelby County,” said Mrs. Ronald M. Wells, vice president for academic affairs. “We believe that this wonderful facility will enable us to achieve our mission of providing needed higher educational services to students, employers and citizens of Memphis and Shelby County,” said Mrs. Ronald M. Wells, vice president for academic affairs.

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Nursing School Grad Saves Dean’s Life at Commencement

By Sara Patterson, Memphis Commercial Appeal

Charity Townsend Caldwell wasn’t even going to go to her own graduation that day, but a friend talked her into it at the last minute.

As the new nursing graduate hustled out of the rain into the DeSoto Civic Center on May 2 and saw a crowd gathered around a man, her instincts kicked in.

“I’m a nurse,” she called as she pushed through people, got down on the floor in her heels and her half-zipped graduation gown and checked for a pulse. The man’s breathing was shallow. Then his pulse stopped.

“All I was thinking is, ‘I only have three minutes to get the blood flowing to his brain,’” she said.

Caldwell, 35, began chest compressions, an act she had only performed once before and for an act she was later told saved the life of Southwest Tennessee Community College’s Dean of Health Sciences, Glenn Swinny.

Swinny opened his eyes, took two quick breaths, and the paramedics arrived to take him to the hospital.

“His heart wouldn’t have made it, we don’t think, without Charity,” said Provost Joanne Bassett. “It was just amazing to see a little angel working in front of us.”

Swinny was taken to Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto. He had suffered a heart attack and his arteries were 90 percent blocked. He had double-bypass surgery two days later.

Caldwell had never met Swinny, but she visited him in the hospital the day after his surgery.

“I couldn’t recognize him at first, but when he looked at me, I knew his brown eyes,” she said. “He hugged my neck, kissed me and said, ‘Thank you so much.’

School officials called Caldwell a heroine, but she views it differently.

“It was divine intervention for both of us,” she said. “He let me know that I could do it.”

“I’m real proud,” said her son, 12-year-old Cameron. “She’s had hard times. I didn’t get to see her very much when she was in school. I was always babysitied.”

He said his mom taught him to follow his dreams, and he plans to become a mineralogist one day.

In a letter to the school’s president after graduation, Caldwell wrote: “I have no doubt that the second chance I was given to pursue my dream resulted in a second chance for Dean Swinny. To all of my instructors, classmates, friends and family, thank you for believing in me.”

Practice dummies helped recent nursing school graduate Charity Townsend Caldwell learn the technique she used on her graduation day to save the life of a Southwest Tennessee Community College dean. The dean, who had a heart attack, had surgery and is doing fine.

As a single mother working full-time, Caldwell struggled for eight years to get her nursing degree. She began when her son was in kindergarten, taking one class at a time. After failing two classes, she was dismissed from the program.

“She’s had hard times. I didn’t get to see her very much when she was in school. I was always babysitied.”

“I was crushed,” said Caldwell, who said she has always wanted to be a nurse.

When Southwest instituted a re-admission policy in 2007 in response to the state’s nursing shortage, she gave up her full-time job as a clinical reimbursement specialist at Smith & Nephew and started over.

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Local Emmy Award-winning WMC-TV 5 news anchor, Joe Birch, addressed the Southwest Class of 2009. Birch has won numerous awards for his charitable and civic endeavors, including the 2008 Maurelian Medal, Christian Brothers University’s highest award for service to the university or community. Birch, who also serves as host of the local PBS affiliate, WKNO-TV’s Smart Medicine, was one of four distinguished Memphians to be named “Humanitarian of the Year” in 2008 by Diversity Memphis.

Opening his address, Birch said that Southwest was a love connection because he met his wife while tutoring at the former Shelby State Community College 25 years ago. He joked about the economy, “CEOs are playing miniature golf, McDonalds is selling the quarter-ounce burger and Motel 6 won’t leave the light on.” These are hard times, Birch said, but not the American way. “You are the people who will turn this economy around and the world around.” By enrolling in school, he said, the graduates improved themselves, their families and their country.

He offered the graduates the “Joe Birch Five Step Plan” for pursuing a career.

Step one –  Ask God for help.

Step two – Look within your own heart.

Step three – Investigate your passion.

Step four – Talk to someone you know and respect about your dreams and listen to what they have to say.

Step five – Just do it.

If it doesn’t work, said Birch, repeat step one.

Speaking directly to her fellow graduates, student speaker Jeni Chatham said, “I’m proud of myself today… proud of you too. We’ve travelled a long road, and … reached but one destination on this road of life.”

She detailed the road that brought her to this privilege of representing them: her lifelong love of learning, but initial failure in college; the ups and downs of marriage; the people who cared enough to help her realize she had the potential for success.

She finished with her “universal truths”: that “I can be a good student [or bad], but which, is my choice alone; the challenges life presents, while difﬁcult, are not in surmountable; … most important … when we surround ourselves with people who are supportive and believe in us, we give ourselves permission to succeed. And we can know, as Walt Disney said, ‘All our dreams can come true… if we have the courage to pursue them.’”

The recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award was Jo E. Chandler and the recipient of the William W. Farris Faculty Service Award was Kenneth Carpenter.

Cy M. Plikin
William T. Ross
Verna Sales, Jr.
Karen Abdul Sallam
Vivian W. Stewart
Dorothy J. Wilson
Bull Club
($250 - $499)
Ms. Phoebe F. Anderson
Mr. Daniel F. Case
Ralphie Chumbley
Tracy R. Freeman
John D. Finley
Clay A. Hancock
Anthony Harris
Ms. Pamela L. Jordan
Ms. Elizabeth Lawrence
Linda L. Lipinski
Mrs. Frances C. Long
Bertha L. Roos
Timothy M. Lucas
Charlottte Mccommon
Dr. and Mrs. Clarke E. McKinney
Patricia R. Meeks
Mrs. Karen Michelle Newman
Vincent G. Oies
Linda L. Pope
Mark F. Rall
Vickie Rayes
Lee C. Searl
Southwest Student Democratic Association
Deesey Sykes
Barbara I. Veils
Mr. William G. Winborne
Ms. Margaret B. Williams
Susan C. Wilson
Blue Club
($100 - $249)
Ms. Deborah W. Bailey
Wanda Y. Blair
Debra Y. Black
Carol R. Brown
Shelby S. Brown
Osborne D. Burks Jr.
Jennifer C. Carpenter
Kenneith Carpenter
Joseph Cavus

Southwest President Nathan L. Essex (right) with Commencement Speaker Joe Birch and Student Speaker Jeni Chatham.

Wiley D. Clark Jr.
Rickie L. Cornell
Rose H. Cummings
Dr. Maria Dee
Gloria Dixon
Patty R. Rarcher
Glenn A. Roight
James Patrick Foley
Maxson F. Ford
Jeannette Grandberry
Victoria I. Gray
Mr. Conrad P. Guenther
Mr. Morris Harris
Mrs. Lalu J. Harris
Dorothy Hayswood
Hess Environmental Services, Inc.
Mary Nell and Jim Huchitons
Mr. Robert R. Jackson
Mary Lee Liebenowitz
Brenda L. Johnson
Yvonne R. Jones
Mr. Frank C. Kennedy
Dr. Raymond L. Lagrose
Sharron D. Delius
Jean MacORIZIO
Mr. James Martin
and Mrs. Kjalynly G. Martin
Shelby L. Maniag
Ms. Charlotte C. Middle
Nita B. McGinnis
Mrs. Patricia A. Moore
Mr. Danny Morrow
William D. Newsom
James M. Northrup
James D. Novello
Mr. John H. Pritchard, Jr.
Wyona R. Rambo
Jerry D. Redmond, Jr.
Raymond F. Rod
Edward C. Riggs
Mrs. Eileen E. Ross
Allie E. Scardino
Amy D. Sheal
Elsa Springer
Carol E. Swoboda
Mary Yunes
Dr. and Mrs. Dan Weiss
Ruby I. Willham
Johnny W. Wortham

Friends Club
(see to 99)
Elaine Adams
Mr. Michael R. Alain
Joanne R. Alldred
Auburn Alkman-Brooks
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J.
Argiangles
Dick Armstrong
Mr. James B. Arrey
Ms. Mary C. Bailey
Ms. Carol L. Ball
Clay Barry
Cheryl A. Bingman
Stephen Black
Charles H. Blaylock
Wendy M. Boyd
Douglas Bunch
Patricia L. Brewer
Nancy R. Brown
Margaret J. Bauman
Carol R. Barr
Larry Bass
Dejaun Callies
Ms. Mary J. Christensen
R. F. Caddell
Mr. Charles R. Cooper
Bianca J. Colby
Munnif Cuffe
Loriotta T. Dade
Mrs. Donna D. Daniel
William O. Danison
Dr. Riswita Daran
Margaret M. Daurka
Julie D. Dockery
Malvina D. Dolesly
Shelby H. Dozier
Ms. Ma Scisnow Durand
Mr. Vincent L. Eason
Carole J. Ems
Chasteaux P. Farr
Patricia A. Fells
Mr. Gail Fogelman
Anne Garber
Mrs. Beth F. Grouse
Jeannette E. Gurrey

Stephen W. Haley
Jada C. Harding
Franklin F. Harris
Ms. Barbara A. Holmes
Eleanor M. Hughes
Inara B. Joy
Ms. Lillie M. Jackson
Ruthanne R. Jenkins
Mrs. Audrey Jaffe
Brandon D. Johnson
Matthew L. Johnston
Lisa G. Jones
Mr. Michael A. Jordan
Mrs. Melvin H. Katz
J. D. Kelley
Gena M. Kitty
Cheryl A. Keenan
Mareela Killibresse
Joy Kinard
Kimberly K. Kincer
Jeannette and Eugene Knehn
Benjamin R. Koontz
Danny L. Kutcher
William D. Lein
Regina Massie
Ms. Kathleen C. Maund
Penny S. Marx
Justin W. McGaughey
Ms. Alene McGuire
Mr. Arthur J. McManus
Linda A. McNally
Lindsey W. Menden
Dr. Robert E. Michael
Mrs. Susan Miller
Mr. Johnetta Moore
Louis Mayes
Shelley A. Mosley
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Roberts
Ms. Karen J. Zissoff
Ms. Karen J. Zissoff

Interim department chair of business administration Brenda A. B. Smith understands one math formula very well: financial support + educational opportunity = improved quality of life for her students.

As co-chair of the Southwest Foundation Scholarship Committee, she sees firsthand how individual donations can make a student’s dream of higher education come true. A longtime donor herself, she understands that her financial gifts are an investment in Southwest and in the city of Memphis.

“As my experience, financial support has been one of the areas that our students acknowledge as one of the reasons why they are unable to continue with their educational pursuit,” Smith says. “I give so that others might give. It’s my way of paying it forward.”

While her lectures focus on the global changes in the workplace, her students are able to witness these changes firsthand. Smith notes that the learning process is enhanced by donations that give students opportunities to work in professional settings and gain hands-on experience.
The ultimate impact flows right into our community to their families, our neighborhoods and ultimately into the workplace.

Employee Donors

Contributions from employees send a message to the community at-large that the Southwest family believes in the College’s mission to provide a quality education for its students and enhance the community’s workforce. Southwest Tennessee Community College is proud of the overwhelming commitment shown by its employees to support the mission of the College by donating during the academic year 2007-2008.

Southwest graduates proudly show off their hard earned diplomas.

Grand Marshall Kenneth Carpenter led the procession for the 1,306 members of the Southwest Class of 2009 on May 2 at the Desoto Civic Center in Southaven, MS. The ceremony held the usual air of pomp and circumstance as graduates excitedly entered the hall to receive their hard earned associate degrees and technical certificates. A huge crowd of family and friends gathered to witness and memorialize the once in a lifetime historical event. Following a brief welcome, Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Joanne Bassett introduced music student Tanisha Ward, who sang the national anthem.

Southwest President Nathan L. Essex welcomed family members and friends and applauded the graduates’ outstanding efforts and accomplishments. Recognition was given to Marlo Dandridge, a single mother who became the first member of her family to receive a degree during the May 2 ceremony. Dandridge started college in 1993 and stopped and started several times in the face of family hardships. Willie Williams, a Navy veteran wounded while serving our country in Desert Storm, was also recognized as being a 75-year-old grandmother, Dorothy Taylor.

The president gave special recognition to participants of Southwest’s Dual Enrollment Program. Among the high school students simultaneously attending Southwest while earning a high school diploma was Roman Johnson, the first Middle College High School student to receive an associate degree and a certificate while earning his high school diploma. Johnson plans on pursing a bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Morehouse College. Victoria Hopson, Jabril Ivory, and Chitara Jackson all participated in Southwest’s Dual Enrollment program receiving certificates in Industrial Computer Fundamentals and will receive high school diplomas in a separate ceremony.
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Southwest, as most other organizations, is facing unprecedented budget challenges that we have not experienced in our past. These challenges must be met in a manner that does not jeopardize the core mission of our College which is to anticipate and respond to the educational needs of students, employers, and communities in Shelby/Fayette counties and the surrounding Mid-South region. Our vision is to become the college of choice and a national model for technical, career, and transfer education by fostering student success, transforming lives, and strengthening the diverse community.

We have implemented a number of strategies, some of which will be painful, to ensure that the College’s mission/vision as well as its academic programs remain viable. Furthermore, we must ensure that the needs of our students, employers and communities are effectively met. In spite of budget demands, our spring enrollment has increased by 11.1% over last year’s spring enrollment. Additionally, the College has formed new partnerships with outstanding community organizations and agencies to address critical community needs. The Culinary Arts Program is expanding with renovated facilities which will allow it to not only maintain the standard of excellence it currently enjoys but also to become a regional service center. Property has been acquired for future construction of a parking facility at our Union Campus to alleviate significant parking challenges encountered by our students. The new Maxine A. Smith Center is scheduled for completion by July 1, 2009 at which time classes will be offered.

Did you know that Southwest Tennessee Community College has 913 faculty (245 full-time and 668 part-time) from diverse backgrounds with rich educational histories?

While the College is facing difficult times, we continue to offer high quality programs, provide essential services in our service area and contribute to the economic recovery within Memphis, Shelby/Fayette counties and the Mid-South region. We genuinely appreciate the commitment and support the College receives from our Board of Advisors, city/county government, our community, Alumni and many other loyal supporters. We are excited with the College’s progress and look forward to a bright and rewarding future.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College

20 DigiT Nail Salon
American Library Association
Betsy L. Anderson
Anonymous
Dawna Armstrong
Jennifer Ballard
Carol L. Bell
Veronica S. Boone
Douglas E. Branch
Evanice Brooks
Margaret J. Burgess
Chick Fil-A
Clarence Christian
Ralph Chamberly
CNN’s Plaza
Computer Resource Center
Mary P. Cook
Eddard Dimmyer
Hannah Engrat
Tamura Garrett
General Motors Corporation
Mary Guindino
Pamela Henderson
Clarice T. Hight
Lucius Johnson
Joy Kinard
Elizabeth Lawrence
Lenny’s Sub Shop
Lisa L. Lumpkin
Meko Theaters

Did You Know?

Did you know that Southwest Tennessee Community College is the largest community college in the state with 11,247 college credit students?

Did you know that more than half of the students, 6,129, who attend Southwest Tennessee Community College do so part-time?

Did you know that the average student at Southwest Tennessee Community College is 27?

Did you know that there are 12 academic departments waiting to serve your needs?

Did you know that Southwest Tennessee Community College has 613 faculty (245 full-time and 368 part-time) from diverse backgrounds with rich educational histories?

The following individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations demonstrated their generosity in the academic year 2007-2008 by supporting Southwest with donated goods or services.

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A Lasting Legacy – Norma and Jess Parrish

Gas was only 36 cents a gallon; the Dow Jones was hovering at 631 and the Beatles were on the verge of breaking up. The year was 1970 and in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Jess H. Parrish, who was then a vice president at Memphis State University, was named the founding president of Shelby State Community College. Two years later, on September 12, 1972, the college would open its doors to nearly 1000 mostly first-generation, first-year college students. The facility was located at the old Veteran’s Administration Hospital at Park and Getwell. Dr. Parrish would serve as president of Shelby State for 11 years while building the midtown campus and teaching classes in 31 other locations in Memphis.

“When I first became President, there were no alternatives for students who wanted to matriculate to a four-year institution,” said Dr. Parrish. “Southwest was the kind of school we needed in the Memphis community. My wife and I are proud of each student who ever enrolled at the college. That’s why we established a scholarship. We wanted to help students receive a quality education.”

Dr. Parrish and his wife Norma wanted to ensure they left a lasting legacy for the education of the students in the community and included Southwest in their estate plans. “The best thing that ever happened to Norma and me was to establish a scholarship,” says Dr. Parrish. “As time passes, we are convinced one of the most important things for a young person is to have a proper educational background.”

Certainly, one of the single most important things to ever happen to Southwest was to have Dr. Jess Parrish serve as president. His legacy is an investment that will continue to grow.
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New High-Tech Library Unveiled at Open House

Southwest’s 2007-2008 Annual Report

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