



President's Newsletter



Great Things Ahead for Southern

Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, President

The past month has been particularly busy for me in keeping up with activities and events at the Legislature. This year, more than any other that I can recall, presents some great opportunities for community and technical colleges. While nothing has yet been completely passed through both houses of the Legislature at the time of this writing, I believe we will ultimately have much to celebrate, considering that our surrounding states are asking higher education institutions to cut budgets as high as 12 percent.

Some of the bills being considered at this time include: increasing state employee annual increment pay from \$50 to \$60 for each year of service; a three-percent salary increase for state employees; bonds for community and

technical colleges; independent governance for administratively linked community and technical colleges; tuition flexibility for community and technical colleges whose tuition falls below the state average; one-time funds for increasing the number of students to allied health programs at community and technical colleges; 30 million dollars to create two technical centers; and additional money for the creation of new technical programs, specifically for community and technical colleges.

While it is highly unlikely that all of the bills will pass, I am very hopeful for the bonds which will be used to update our Williamson Campus facility as well as construct a new one. If you are interested in reviewing or reading any of the bills, you may do so by going to the

legislative web page at www.legis.state.wv.us.

As I am circulating about the campuses, I often hear all kinds of things. Just recently I heard that a rumor was circulating in regard to the College planning layoffs. If you have heard this, or if you are circulating the rumor, I want to assure you that this is a **rumor**. If administering layoffs were necessary, I would certainly be calling all of you to a college-wide meeting to discuss it. If rumors such as this are circulating around the campuses, the easiest way to find out if it is true is to ask me.

Our budget still remains tight, but I want to commend each of you, our department heads and unit heads, for monitoring budget funds this year. I know that it has

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Bluefield State College President Keynote Speaker at Wyoming Campus Harmony Event



Pictured L-r: Ron Lemon, Allyn Sue Barker, President Tomblin, Dr. Albert Walker, President, Bluefield State College, David Lord and Mike Baldwin

Message from the President

(Continued from page 1)

been difficult, but as we move through the next few years it will hopefully ease up, particularly if the legislature provides us with tuition flexibility. We will be meeting with each of the unit heads this month to review priorities for the upcoming year.

Our web page continues to be a work in progress and we are continually reviewing what we are doing to improve its effectiveness. The top ten community college admission web sites were listed in the February/March edition of the *Community College Journal*. If you are interested in looking at these sites, they are: Cowley County Community College, Kansas; Louisburg College, North Carolina; Middle Georgia College, Georgia; Briarwood College, Connecticut; Southern College, Florida; Jamestown Community College, New York; Kilgore College, Texas; Northwest College, Wyoming; Iowa Western Community College, Iowa; and Metropolitan Community College, Missouri. The research conducted by AACC indicated that innovative admissions' Web sites were very important to students in making their college selections.

In my last newsletter I informed everyone that our commencement and pinning ceremonies would take place at the Coalfield Jamboree Theater in downtown Logan. I am pleased to announce that former Marshall University head football coach, Mr. Bob Pruett, will be our featured commencement speaker on Saturday, May 10, 2008.

Pruett to Speak at Commencement



A native of Beckley, West Virginia, Bob Pruett is best known as the former head football coach at Marshall University. He recently came out of retirement to become the defensive coordinator for the Virginia Cavaliers' in Charlottesville, VA.

During his tenure at Marshall, Coach Pruett directed the Thundering Herd to a 94-23 record over nine seasons between 1996 to 2005. During this time, Marshall had one of the most successful football programs in the nation. Under Pruett's direction, the Thundering Herd also featured two undefeated seasons, won six conference championships, won five of seven bowl games, and captured the I-AA National Championship in 1996. Pruett coached three Heisman Trophy candidates and a host of NFL first round draft choices.

Since retiring from coaching in March of 2005, Mr. Pruett worked as an on-air commentator for ESPN and served as a spokesperson for Friends of Coal.

Coach Pruett has been honored by numerous organizations during his successful career. In 1996 he was

named the Frank Leahy and Chevrolet National Coach of the Year and was a finalist for the Bear Bryant Coach of the Year Award in 1999. He was the MAC Coach of the Year in 1998 and 1999. He was inducted in Marshall's Hall of Fame in 1999 and received the All-American Football Foundation's Johnny Vaught Lifetime Achievement Award that same year. At the 2003 Marshall commencement ceremonies Coach Pruett was honored by the College of Education and Human Services with its Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2006 Marshall opened the Bobby Pruett Training Complex that includes the Thundering Herd's new weight room. In June of 2007 a football stadium in his hometown was named in his honor.

Pruett earned his undergraduate degree in education from Marshall University in 1965. He lettered in football, wrestling and track while attending Marshall. Pruett received his Masters of Science in Organization and Administration from Virginia Tech in 1992. He and his wife, Elsie, have three sons.



Commencement
2008

Lord and Sturgill Nominated for *Chancellor's Leadership Institute*

The West Virginia Community and Technical College Systems' *Chancellor's Leadership Institute* was established this year to prepare faculty and staff to assume future leadership positions within their institution and to support the initiatives and ongoing development of West Virginia's community and technical college system.

Selections were made through an application process. We had a large number of applications, so the decision was difficult. Southern's first two nominees for the *Institute* are David Lord, Director of Campus Operations for the Wyoming/McDowell Campus, and Pauline Sturgill, Director of APPALREAD/Community Development for the Economic, Workforce and Community Development Unit. Our congratulations to both of these individuals.

The 2008-2009 *Chancellor's Leadership Institute* will be held October 8-10, 2008 at Oglebay Resort and March 25-27, 2009 at Stonewall

Jackson Resort. For those who applied and were not selected this year, will have an opportunity to apply again for this ongoing event. Community and technical college presidents may nominate two participants each year.



High School Visits



Chapmanville Regional High School student talking to Allyn Sue Barker and Carl Baisden

Our high school visiting team has completed several visits already this spring. Visits have been made thus far to Chapmanville Regional High School, Tug Valley High School, Logan High School, and Matewan High School. I invite anyone who is interested to join us for the visits.

I also want to thank Cindy Whitlock-Powers, her staff and our Stu-

dent Services personnel who have diligently been visiting our high schools and providing assistance in completing FASFA forms, as well as distributing information on financial aid and the College.

College Day at the Legislature



Pictured l-r: Ron Lemon, Mike Baldwin, Marcus Gibbs, President Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, and Cindy Crigger

Southern participated in the 2008 "College Day at the Legislature" held February 28, 2008. This is a day to promote higher education and the state's higher education institutions. Governor Joe Manchin presented a proclamation to the chancellors and presidents of West Virginia's public and private colleges in honor of their work.

2008 Harmony Week Celebration



Pictured l-r: Former Board of Governors member and current Burch High School Principal, Jada Hunter, President Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, Drum Café members, Alain Eagles and Glenn Weinstein, Cindy Crigger, Thobos Lubamba, Drum Café, and Pam Alderman.

Our Harmony Week activities and culmination luncheon were fantastic this year. Each year it seems to get bigger and better. The *Drum Café* performed for the third year in a row to the largest crowd to date. The Drum Café performance was delivered by a live simulcast on our web site.

I want to personally thank the following individuals for all of the effort they provided in making this year's event the best one ever: My hat is off to the Harmony Week Committee — Ron Lemon, Cindy Crigger, Marcus Gibbs, Mike Baldwin, Rita Roberson, J. P. Owens, Randy Skeens, David Lord, Patty Brooks, Beth Deaton, and Vinnie Kudva; *and* to Southern employees who are not committee members but assisted in various ways — Christine Browning, Pauline Sturgill, Angela Dotson, Eugene Maynard, Delbert Queen, Cindy McCoy, Gordon Hensley, Chris Lawson, Tim Ooten, Darrell Mitchem and Lee Stroud.



Mitzie Paynter, Trish Clay, Gordon Hensley, Vinnie Kudva and Fazal Masih participate in a drumming melody.

Tehseen Irfan caught up in the electrifying atmosphere.

Merle and Sherry Dempsey drumming with June Glover of Williamson.

Ron Lemon speaks with Cora Hairston, member of the Harmony Week Committee

Board of Governor Meeting Update

Southern's Board of Governors held its first board meeting in the new Center for Allied Health and Technology on February 19, 2008. The Classified Staff Council's annual presentation to the Board was given by Mr. Chris Gray, Advisory Council of Classified Employees representative. The Board granted final approval of several institutional policies and also approved several additional policies for posting for a 30-day comment period. All of these policies are posted on our web site. I hope that employees will review these documents to stay abreast of any changes which may occur.

The Board also approved the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Strategic Goals. These goals will remain effective until June 30, 2010 or until a new Institutional

Compact is required. The four strategic goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Southern will expand its role in meeting the identified educational and training needs of the district by reviewing existing programs and services as well as developing new academic and entrepreneurial programs.

Goal 2: Southern will increase the amount of financial assistance available to eligible students from both public and private resources.

Goal 3: Southern will increase its visibility at the local, state, regional, national, and international level through effective marketing.

Goal 4: Southern will improve and maintain its physical facilities at all campus locations and instructional sites through implementation of a comprehensive capital improvement plan.

The completion of these strategic goals has enabled the College to have a fully completed Strategic Plan. This is extremely important in our accreditation process, but also gives us direction for what programs and services will be developed in the next three years.

Shell Family Scholarship Established



Shell Family Members Pictured l-r: Robert, Craig, Doris, and Bernard.

The Southern West Virginia Community College Foundation announced the establishment of *The Shell Family Scholarship*, by native Logan Countian and Huntington resident, Robert Shell, Jr., his wife Lena, mother Doris and


other Shell family members. This scholarship was established through a major contribution of bank stock valued at more than \$100,000. The family plans to provide additional contributions to the fund in future years. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to students attending Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Shell, a successful international businessman is well known for his philanthropy and support of young people and their education. He and his family realize the financial hardship students have in attaining a college education. *The Shell Family Scholarship* is an opportunity for the Shell family to provide continuing support to students attending Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College and serve as a stepping stone for those who wish to

pursue an advanced degree at Marshall University or other four-year colleges or universities.

Robert Shell is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. In 1999, he was elected to the *Marshall University Business Hall of Fame*. In 2007 he was elected to the *West Virginia University Business Hall of Fame* and honored by the Education Alliance at their annual dinner in Charleston.

Persons interested in applying for the **Shell Family Scholarship** may obtain an application by going to Southern's web site at www.southernwv.edu or by contacting Mr. Ron Lemon, Vice President for Development, at 304.896.7425 or Ronl@southern.wvnet.edu.



Southern
SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA
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*Questions about the **President's Newsletter** should be directed to Emma Baisden, Assistant to the President, at 304.896.7402, or by e-mail: Emmab@southern.wvnet.edu*

Upcoming Events for March 2008	
4	Possibilities Forum Steering Team, 1:00 p.m., Logan Campus
5	Classified Staff Council Quarterly Meeting with President Tomblin, 10:30 a.m., Room 227, District Office
11	Assessment Day – All Campuses
17-21	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES
21	Good Friday Holiday—College Closed
24	Deadline for Submission of Items for the Board of Governors April 15, 2008 Meeting Agenda
25	President's Open Community Forum, 5:00 p.m., Boone/Lincoln Campus, Room 112
27	President's Open Community Forum, 5:00 p.m., Center for Allied Health and Technology, Room 428



If you have specific questions regarding issues or events at the College, please e-mail or call my office by the 15th of each month.

Employee News

- It is with regret that I inform you that **Justin Endicott, Information Systems Specialist in Technology Services**, resigned his position at Southern effective March 4. Justin has accepted a new position with the Mingo County Board of Education which will bring him closer to his home in Gilbert. We wish him success with this new endeavor.



Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on March 9, 2008.