

KANSAS KOLLATOR

*Official AKCCOP
Publication
Spring 2006*



A Message From the President

Happy Spring (almost)! Spring always makes me think of our annual conference. I also think about all the yard work I need to do, but we won't go there.

The Dodge City Office Plant Professionals have planned an informative and fun-filled time for us this year. I am always amazed at how much I learn at conference, not only from the wonderful speakers but also from my fellow office professionals. The Circle of Colleague sessions always provide a great opportunity for sharing what works and what doesn't as we do our jobs and help our local chapters support our colleges. Our conferences keep getting better and better.

Some of the business to be conducted at this year's annual meeting includes the election and installation of a vice-president, a secretary, and a member-at-large to fill vacancies on the executive board, and voting on by-law amendments. The proposed by-law changes address clarification of membership eligibility for grant awards, and the removal of the webmaster portion of the vice-president's duties by making the webmaster an appointed position. Spring grant awards will also be presented.

As always, please contact me or another executive board member with your questions, concerns and ideas.

So grab your bandanas and lets all "Get the Heck Into Dodge" April 5-7. See you there!

Sarah Smith

**ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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BOARD 2005-2007**

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We would like all colleges to submit any name changes in their current local chapter President and Reporter's to Sarah Smith as soon as possible. We know that everyone elects new officers at a different time, so we would like to stay current. Thank you.

BARTON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Linda Dueser, Reporter

Barton County Community College Office Professionals have carried the momentum of a busy and prosperous year into their spring 2006 semester.

The Birthday Cake Fund-raiser/Student Project has kept members very busy delivering celebratory cakes and balloons to students and others on campus. Parents and friends order the cakes for special occasions and pay a fee to BCCCOP for providing the cake and delivering it at the appropriate time. At the close of the project's sixth month, BCCCOP has made a net profit of \$482.28. Members plan to simplify coordination and delivery methods at the close of this semester, yet hope to continue the upbeat sharing of good will that this project has brought to the people on campus.

BCCCOP has provided a \$150 scholarship to an office technology student annually for several years. The group will consider options for offering an additional scholarship in the future.

Learning has been an objective of the organization this year with programs planned for most meetings. Members now have a better understanding of Barton's Upward Bound Program, which helps high school students on their way to first-generation college success. BCCCOP became more familiar with JumpStart, an intensive four-week summer program to help qualifying incoming freshmen in their transition from high school to college. In addition, members learned about new opportunities for physical fitness in the Thelma Faye Harms Wellness Center, tips for self-protection provided by Barton's criminal justice instructor, healthy eating habits from a dietitian's point of view, and automobile maintenance from an auto technology instructor.

The group also is taking time to have some fun this year. A Halloween party planned over a noon hour last October was so much fun that BCCCOP is planning a similar get-together with a St. Patrick's Day theme.

Several members are looking forward to attending the AKCCOP Conference coming up in April at Dodge City Community College.

BUTLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Laura Albert, Reporter

Pizza night for Adult Education/GED Center was held February 7 in cooperation with El Dorado's Pizza Hut West. Three staff members greeted customers to explain the fundraiser and answer questions about the Adult program. When any customer filled out a donation receipt and gave it to the cashier that evening, 20 percent of their purchase was donated to the Adult Education/GED Center. Dine-in and carry-out of any item was included in this fundraiser. According to Linda Sokolosky, GED examiner and secretary, the center made close to \$90.00 that evening and plans to do this again in March, April, and May. The fundraisers will help finance the adults programs to help buy paper, calculators, replacement books, etc.

Butler's Operational Staff had a Chili Feed Fundraiser on February 14. It was well received at both Butler of El Dorado and Butler of Andover sites. Op Staff's Recharge Committee is

planning for the annual "Op Staff Recharge" scheduled for June 16, 2006. The theme this year will be "Boot Camp." This is a day for Op Staff to be together to hear speakers, participate in team activities, and get to know co-workers from other sites.

On April 13, Butler faculty and staff will have the opportunity to hear from Margaret Wheatley, an internationally renowned speaker. She writes, teaches and speaks about radically new practices and ideas for organizing in chaotic times. To get ready for the day, Sonja Milbourn, Academic Achievement instructor, has added a group to Pipeline and posted different articles that Meg has written to it. This gives Butler employees a chance to read some of Meg's offerings and even make comments about them. We can also visit Meg's web site margaretwheatley.com to learn more about her and her work. Meg is the author of four books: *Finding Our Way: Leadership for an Uncertain Time*, *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*, *A Simpler Way*, and *Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World*. Sonja describes Meg as "a very personable speaker, she can talk to a group of 500 as if they were a group of five." Sonja goes on to say that she is very excited to have Meg present at Butler's Institutional Development Day. If others outside Butler would like more information, you may contact Sonja at smilbour@butlercc.edu or call her at 316-321-2222 ext. 3395.

Eighteen Butler Office Professionals are looking forward to the Annual AKCCOP conference in April in Dodge City. See "ya all" there.

CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Debbie Martin, Reporter

Cloud is proud to announce their new President as of December 1, 2005 is Dr. Richard Underbakke. A new Vice President, Kim Krull has also been hired since the last newsletter.

Cloud County's Support Staff Association will be donating a gift to the College wide auction which will be held in April. Support Staff continues to sell popcorn at all home games to raise funds for scholarship. .

Cloud's Head Track Coach, Harry Kitchner was named Coach of the Year by *the National Junior College Athletic Association*. Cloud's Men's and Women's Basketball teams are both doing GREAT this year!!!

COFFEYVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Janice Lair, Reporter

Greetings from Coffeyville Community College. Hope everyone had a great break in December and this semester things are going well for each of you and your college.

Deanna Riggs, CCC theatre alumna from 2002-2004 recently received an internship this semester to be a writer for the Late Night with Conan O'Brien show in New York City. She will be on his writing staff. If it works out Deanna has a chance to be hired full time as a writer for his show.

Three Red Ravens were named to the first team NJCAA All-American Team. Those selected were tight end Lance Claibourn, defensive end Walter Fisher and offensive lineman Brandon Walker.

Coffeyville Community College has agreed to host the NJCAA National Outdoor Track Meet in 2006 and 2007. There are around 600 athletes that normally participate in the event. Many of these athletes will become Olympians or have already been in the Olympics. In the last Olympic Games in 2004, approximately 20 of the track athletes had a trip to the NJCAA National Meet on their resume including Maurice Greene of Kansas City. The 2006 national meet will be the first hosted in Kansas in over 25 years.

The Agriculture Department will host a series of Interscholastic Agricultural Judging Contests in April. This year the contest agenda contest includes: public speaking, livestock judging, dairy products, entomology, nursery landscape, farm management and land judging.

The Red Ravens volleyball team finished 3rd at the district tourney and tied for 2nd in the KJCCC East with a 6-3 conference record. Salele Moeai was selected on the first team of the KJCCC Eastern Division All-Conference Team.

Fifteen students from the Technical Campus attended the Business Professionals of America State Competition in Wichita February 16-18th. 13 qualified for Nationals May 10-14th in Orlando, Florida. In ten areas they took first place and second in 9. Network Design Team, PC servicing and troubleshooting, Human Resource Management, CISCO Systems Administration, Computer Network Technology and Microsoft Network Administration were some of the areas in the first place category.

Eight choir students will have an opportunity to perform at the Southwest Division American Choral Association Convention in St. Louis, Missouri in March. Coffeyville Community College is one of only two community colleges performing with the collegiate choir. There will be approximately 300 students from six area states. The director will be Donald Neuen from California who appears weekly on the Hour of Power broadcast and established the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

Two students Danny Funk and Jacqueline Moseley were named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Kansas Academic Team. Danny is a pre-dentistry major who also received a \$1,000 Coca-Cola scholarship. Only two Coca-Cola scholarships were awarded in Kansas. He has had a 4.0 grade point average for three semesters.

Jacqueline is majoring in biology with the intended career goal of research biologist. She participated in the International Bioethics Forum recently.

Look forward to seeing everyone in Dodge City.

Dodge City Community College

Velda Thomas, Reporter

With the beginning of the spring semester, Old West, New Excitement is happening at Dodge City Community College. We have seen many changes on our campus as well as in our Office Plant Professionals (OPP) organization. We have had employees retire, staff changing positions, and new employees starting!

Vada Hermon, director of business services, retired in December after 26 years of service to DCCC. She was one of OPP's biggest supporters. We presented Vada with a retirement gift to express our appreciation of her support. Her successor, Doris Donovan will continue to support our organization. Carla Patee, our OPP treasurer, was promoted to assistant to the president of the College and Lynette Kessen was hired as her replacement as secretary to the business office. We also have a new human resources director, Carla Wilson and her assistant, Sheila Hessman.

Other new employees recently became OPP members: Kathleen Briggs, science/math secretary and Brook Trenkle, admissions secretary. Both are doing great jobs in their departments and are welcome additions to DCCC and OPP.

New excitement is happening on campus, also! The new Manufacturing Technology building is completed and an open house was held on November 6, 2005. It is in full operation with the spring 2006 semester. The official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Science building was held on February 3. Construction should begin soon!

Our sports teams are making DCCC proud. Conq football had a winning season and earned a bowl bid to the CHAMPS Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove, TX on December 3, 2005. We are proud of new head coach, Marcus Garstecki and his entire staff and team for a job well done! Men's basketball is currently ranked number one in the Jayhawk West conference! The women's basketball team has had their ups and downs this season, but is holding their own. Both head basketball coaches recently celebrated over 100 wins in their coaching careers at DCCC. Baseball, softball and track are getting underway and the rodeo team came home with NIRA placements under their belt during the fall season. Spring rodeo will get underway in March.



We had OPP officer elections in January for 2006 and installed the following officers: Terry Garcia, president; Richard Thomas, vice president; Ramona Strawn, secretary; and Carla Patee, treasurer. Velda Thomas is our new reporter and Brook Trenkle is our sunshine person.

We have been busy with planning and preparations for hosting the 39th annual AKCCOP conference in Dodge City on April 5-7. We have been doing fundraising by selling Subway coupon books and having bake sales, which have proven to be very successful. We also selected two deserving students for the holidays and gave them gift certificates and food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will also give them gift certificates for Easter. We ended the year with our annual OPP Christmas party – a chance to meet off campus for a social gathering and gift exchange. We always like catching up with our retired members there each year!

Other excitement for DCCC has been hosting the Hispanic Leadership Development class on campus. It began February 7 and concludes with their graduation on March 3. Many DCCC faculty and staff helped with the SPIAA League basketball tournament January 30 through February 3. DCCC and other organizations and local businesses will host the legislators with Dodge City Night in Topeka on February 13. President, Dr. Richard Burke, Phi Theta Kappa sponsors and DCCC honor students, Cody Howe and Kimberly Fredrick will attend the All USA PTK luncheon in Topeka on February 15. March will bring honor banquets, band and vocal concerts, the spring theatre production, Spring break, the employee recognition banquet. We are quickly approaching the end of the school year, with finals and graduation in early May.

This brings us up to date until the annual AKCCOP conference at Dodge City Community College for the Old West, New Excitement on April 5-7. Hope to see you all there!

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Pam Caldwell, Reporter

The 2006 Spring semester at GCCC is in full swing and shaping up for the summer months!

The "Front Door" addition to the Administration Building is moving along well ahead of schedule, and everything should be ready for the beginning of the Fall 2006 semester. Recent fun events at GCCC included Breakfast Bingo and a very special guest speaker for the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

GCCC is in the middle of College Planning for the 2006-07 academic year. Many staff and faculty members are involved in this important planning process. Student Satisfaction Surveys will be conducted in April 2006.

A large number of on-campus GCCC teams have performed exceptionally well at state and national competitions such as the Academic Challenge Team, Meats Judging Team, and Forensics Team. Administration at GCCC is considering hosting a showcase to honor these teams.

Everyone was saddened to learn of the passing of Coach Jim Carey, who served as the head GCCC men's basketball coach from 1982 – 1993. His teams won 602 games while he was a Junior College Basketball Coach, including a national championship in 1971. He played on two national championship teams while at Moberly Junior College, making him the only person in the NJCAA history to have played and coached on a national championship team. Some of his successful GCCC players included Keith Smart, NJCAA 1st Team All-American, Indiana University and was national champion; Mark Fox, currently Head Coach at University of Nevada, Reno; Horace Chaney, 1987 NJAA 1st Team All-American; George Ackles, UNLV and NJCAA All-American; Darrin Hancock, 1992 NJCAA Player of the Year.

The entire community of Garden City was recently impacted by the death of a young Garden City man who was serving in Iraq. Clint Upchurch was killed serving his country and many people gathered to honor him at the largest memorial service ever held in Garden City. Community members came together to not only pay their respect for his loyal service, but to shield family members from protesters who tried to disrupt the service.

The Vienna Boys Choir will be coming to Garden City March 1 and the annual GCCC Endowment Scholarship Auction will be held April 7 with over 1,000 people attending.

The Endowment Association was recently blessed with a \$500,000 gift from a local estate. The money will be used for capital improvements to enhance the nursing program currently located in the Penka Building. This is the largest ever one-time gift received by the Endowment Association. \$250,000 was additionally placed with the local Western Kansas Community Foundation for scholarships at GCCC through Endowment. Only interest generated each year will be used for scholarships in the approximately amount of \$10,000 per year, funding five \$2,000 scholarships (three for nursing majors, one for agriculture majors, and one for education majors).

Our GCCCESP group recently held a bake sale for Valentine's Day and it was a great success. Everyone worked hard to make yummy items to sell, and the proceeds will help fund our next project.

GCCCESP will continue with fund raising efforts for its annual academic scholarship fund as needed, working on civic projects, holding informational meetings and trainings, and is looking forward to the AKCCOP conference! Enjoy your Spring semester!!!!

HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Tammy Neal, Reporter

Will March come in like a lion or lamb? Well, the groundhog did see his shadow, so with that prediction, we will have six more weeks of winter. You really couldn't prove it by the nice weather we have been having. We really could use some rain or snow, either would help out a lot.



Things are looking good here at Hutchinson Community College, and the spring semester is going well. Before the holidays we were given a tour of our new dorm, and it was amazing how nice it was. The rooms are like suites, and each floor has a lounge area too. We can now house around 390 students. The picture to the left shows one of the lounges.

Construction on our Gowans stadium is coming right along. The track and football field is complete, but now we are working on the stadium seating. In November parts of the old stadium were demolished, and construction was started on the project. When the project is finished we will have all new seating, restroom facilities, snack area and radio/announcing area. We are very proud of what has been accomplished so far and can't wait to share the finished product with all of you. If you would like to see some photographs of what is happening with this project, you can click on this link

<http://www.hutchcc.edu/PhotoBank/GowansPhasell/gowan2.htm>.

HCC will have several of our faculty/staff retire this year. Some of them have been with us from twenty to thirty-five years so it will be sad to see them go. Hopefully they come back and see us from time to time.

Our Office Professionals have been rather busy this year. Our big project was the cookie and soup jars that we sold around Christmas time. We made over \$250.00 on this project. We had three different cookie recipes and three soup recipes that we used. They seem to be a big hit.

Our group toured our Newton facility in January. This was an opportunity to see where some of our co-workers work and what they do. In March we will be touring our McPherson facility. We also have planned to go visit our South Campus facility in April. Ag Diesel, Farm & Ranch Management, Fire Science and Paramedic programs are housed at our south campus. We also have a greenhouse at south campus that is maintained by the Farm & Ranch program. Every year they grow different kinds of flowers; in the spring they bring them to main campus and have a sale with the proceeds going back to help the Farm & Ranch program students with trips, scholarships and etc. It is really nice to see the achievements of our students.

We are excited about the conference being held this year at Dodge City Community College. It is only a month away and we look forward to seeing all of you there!

Happy Trails from Hutchinson Community College,



Johnson County Community College

Janele Sumner, Reporter

Since our last Kollator, members of the Johnson County Community College Office Professionals League have been very busy.

The 16th Annual Silent Auction held November 17th was a huge success. The total number of auction items for this year's auction was 298. Of this total there were 120 gift baskets, 63 gift certificates, 31 baked goods and 84 handcrafted or other items. Profits from this auction were given to student scholarship.



Winter Luncheon

The Office Professional League held the Annual Winter Luncheon on Wednesday, December 14, 2005, in COM 319. In lieu of the traditional gift exchange, each person brought non-

perishable food products which were donated to Harvesters. The room was decorated by the



Program Committee and it looked magical.

Berni Freeman designed the snowflake invitations, which became the theme of the decorations. The center table was flanked by tiered, lighted Christmas trees. Each tree was decorated with small frames as gifts for each guest to take at the end of the luncheon. The menu consisted of chicken breast with cream cheese wine sauce, rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, freshly baked rolls, coffee, tea and a luscious desert of cheesecake with berry coulis. There were a total of 52 attendees, and a fun time was had by all.

Office Professional. of the Year

The Office Professional of the Year Award Committee is pleased to announce the 2006 Office Professional of the Year is Lori Vogelsberg, Administrative Assistant, Dean of Student's Office. Other nominees included Betty DiConstanzo, Berni Freeman, Ginger Henderson, Janele Sumner, and Betty Uko. Each woman submitted a portfolio to the Award Committee.

The Office Professional of the Year award recognizes and rewards outstanding office professionals who have contributed to OPL and the JCCC community, demonstrated excellence in job performance and exhibited personal and professional growth through participation in college and community activities.

Social Committee

At the November OPL Social Event, "Stepping Through the Threshold," members of OPL were enveloped in Old World European décor and charm at a night out at Renee Kelly's at Caenen Castle. The stately hand-carved European antique fireplaces anchored the dining area, beckoning guests to linger longer on wintry evenings. One can dine at old English trestle tables or you can enjoy a feast in the barrel-ceiled wine cellar.

Ann Renee Neighbors, a graduate of the Art Institute of Houston with a culinary arts degree, is the owner, founder, chef and creator of this magnificent establishment. She is supported by an entourage of very knowledgeable staff with their own individual set of expertise that make the place work. Renee Kelly's at Caenen Castle, is located on Johnson Drive in Shawnee, KS. This OPL social outing was a great success.

The February Office Professionals meeting focused on heart disease. The speaker, Sherri Rambo, a survivor of heart disease, told of her struggles with misdiagnosis. She discussed statistics for women's heart disease and then shared five simple ways to love our heart:

- Celebrate with a checkup

- Get up off the couch
- Quit smoking (if you smoke)
- Drop a pound or two
- Become a salt detective

The Ways and Means Committee is working on the Campus Wide auction, which will take place on April 28, 2006. We hope to raise funds for student scholarship with the sale of chances to win a gift certificate to the local Mall.

Eleven Johnson County Community College Office Professionals will be heading for Dodge City Community College on April 5th. See you there!!!

NEOSHO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Terri Dale, Reporter

We've been busy here at Neosho since our last newsletter. Our office professionals continue our secret sister group, monthly lunch get-togethers, and scholarship fundraising. This semester we awarded three scholarships and have expanded our birthday fundraising project to include special occasions for student packages. The response has been good, and even some of our employees have begun ordering our birthday cakes for each other.

NCCC Employee Appointed to KAN-ED User Advisor Council

Hal Gardner, Executive Director for KAN-ED, recently announced the appointment of Ben Smith to the KAN-ED User Advisor Council. Mr. Smith, Dean of Planning and Operations for Neosho County Community College, is the first and only community college representative on the twelve-member council.

KAN-ED is a program created by the Kansas Legislature and administered through the Kansas Board of Regents. The purpose of the program is to expand the collaboration capabilities of Kansas' public institutions, specifically K12 schools, higher education, libraries and hospitals through a state-wide, high speed network.

Created by the Kansas Board of Regents with respect to KAN-ED governance, the User Advisory Council (UAC) meets monthly and makes recommendations to the KAN-ED staff and the Kansas Board of Regents regarding, but not limited to, development, implementation, and administration of the KAN-ED network. The UAC also serves as the Executive Committee for the KAN-ED Delegate Assembly, providing guidance and leadership to that body. Finally, the UAC acts as the primary line of communication to and from the KAN-ED Delegate Assembly and the KAN-ED constituent groups.

In addition to his role on the KAN-ED UAC, Mr. Smith also serves as one of only two community college representatives on the seven-member Higher Education Strategic Connectivity Taskforce (HESCT). The HESCT was created by the Kansas Board of Regents in July, 2005, to provide strategic direction for statewide higher education networks. Mr. Smith is in his twenty-first year of service at Neosho County Community College.

Panther Preview Day

25 high school seniors and several parents recently participated in Panther Preview Day at Neosho County Community College. Designed to give students an overview of the opportunities at NCCC, Panther Preview Day highlighted NCCC's academic programs, student organizations, and financial aid. During the visit, students were given campus tours, learned about campus housing, participated in student and parent discussion panels, and gained a sense of what student life is like at NCCC.

Neosho County Community College Foundation receives \$50,000 from the Sunderland Foundation

The Neosho County Community College Foundation recently accepted a \$50,000 grant from The Sunderland Foundation. The funds were given to the College and used to replace a large section of the bleachers in the Panther gymnasium. Becky Smith, Past President of the NCCC Foundation and Dave Peter, Chairman of the NCCC Board of Trustees presented Kent Sunderland, President of The Sunderland Foundation and Vice President and Secretary of the Ash Grove Board of Directors with a plaque of appreciation during half-time of the Panther women's basketball game on January 11th.

Prior to receiving the gift, members of the NCCC Foundation and the College submitted a proposal to the Sunderland Foundation requesting funding for major campus renovations needed at the College. While several of the renovation projects were completed using other funding, the gymnasium bleachers remained on the list of renovations left to do.

The Sunderland Foundation was founded in 1945 by Lester Sunderland, who served as president of Ash Grove Cement for three decades. The Sunderland Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides grants to higher education, churches, youth serving agencies, health facilities, community buildings, museums, civic projects, and low maintenance, energy efficient housing projects sponsored by qualified tax exempt organizations. The grants can be used for capital and special projects, building construction, renovation, repairs and restoration of facilities.

"The College is so thankful for the donation from the Sunderland Foundation. The funds allowed us to continue making needed repairs and renovations to the campus," said NCCC President Vicky Smith.

Honors Conference

Neosho County Community College will be hosted the 2006 Honors Conference Thursday, February 26th. This year's conference theme was "Popular Culture." The conference featured 2 keynote speakers and roundtable discussion sessions.

The keynote speaker for the morning session was University of Tulsa professor of communication Joli Jensen whose interactive presentation was entitled, "Popular Culture: Art, Trash or Does It Matter?" The second morning presentation was "Comics as Literature" by illustrator Stephen Gilpin of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The afternoon roundtable discussions highlighted various "Popular Culture" sub topics presented by representatives from Chanute High School, Coffeyville Community College, Butler County Community College and Neosho County Community College.

Rock Shot

“Rock Shot” winner, Jeb Griebat received a \$500 check from NCCC’s Athletic Director and Soccer Coach, Mike Kiefer. “Rock Shot,” sponsored by the NCCC Panther Club, puts \$100 into a “pot” for each home game. Panther fans are given a ticket at the door and if their number is called at half-time of the women’s game, they have the chance to shoot a basket from half-court. If the person misses the shot the money is added to the “pot” for the next home game. Griebat, who won the “Rock Shot” February 8th, was the first out of five people to shoot and make it winning \$500.

Student’s Give Time and Gifts to Area Children and Children Hospitalized at Marillac

The Honors Leadership Academy at Neosho County Community College completed one of its fall service projects. Students wrapped presents for children hospitalized at Marillac Hospital in Overland Park. Marillac is a Level VI and Observation/Stabilization provider, and private educational facility. Students traveled to Overland Park to deliver the packages. During the visit, the students will provide a learning activity and have a party for the patients. Honors Leadership Academy members also packaged gifts to be delivered to students at Chanute’s ANW Coop Preschool.

NCCC Volleyball Team Named NJCAA Academic Team of the Year

Neosho County Community College Head Volleyball coach Lindsay Sowder and the Panther Volleyball team recently earned the National Junior College Athletic Association Academic Team of the Year Award. The award is given for the top grade point average for each sport out of all the NJCAA institutions. The Volleyball team completed the fall semester with a team grade point average of 3.69.

The NCCC Men’s Cross Country team, coached by Darin Schmitz finished as runner up for the NJCAA Men’s Cross Country Academic Team of the Year.

That is our Neosho news. We’re packing our bags. See you at Dodge.

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Diane Thompson, Reporter

Survival Bags are a Successful Fundraiser Once Again!

ESP traditionally sells Survival Bags for the students during finals week in both the fall and spring semesters. These goodie bags, filled with a variety of snacks, are purchased by parents and employees and compiled by ESP. This December, ESP sold 110 finals survival bags for a profit of \$774.35.

Helping a Student in Need

Recently, ESP members volunteered to work the concession stands during PCC basketball games and donate their earnings towards an ESP service project. A total of \$100 was earned or personally donated by ESP members to help make the holidays a little easier for a student in

need. ESP chose to give Wal-mart gift cards to a PCC student who was displaced during the recent hurricanes.

ESP Service Traditions Continue

Boss's Day was recognized by the ESP group once again. This year we distributed goodie bags to all supervisors that included a drink coupon to the Beaver Bytes Café and various snack foods. It was appreciated by all; ESP received numerous thank you notes.

ESP assisted in the PCC Festival of Trees this holiday season by setting up and decorating the PCC Family Christmas Tree. Decorations include hand-made ornaments from various departments throughout the college.

Goody Day - another PCC tradition! The first day of Fall finals, ESP hosted an all-employee snack day (pot-luck style) in the Beaver Bytes Café. Faculty, staff, and administration brought tons of food for all (including students) to enjoy throughout the day.

Something new this year, ESP provided little valentine candy bags to the students living in the dorm. It was a last minute idea, and Cathy Blasi graciously volunteered to spend her Saturday night stuffing, tying and labeling the bags. Thank you Cathy!

PCC Educational Support Professionals Endowed Scholarship

At the November meeting, ESP invited Financial Aid Director Deb Boley to assist the group in setting the award guidelines for its recently endowed scholarship. The scholarship guidelines were set as follows:

1. awarded to a non-traditional student
2. needs to maintain a 2.5 GPA
3. Need-based

Each October, the Financial Aid Office will compile the eligible applications and allow ESP to choose the scholarship recipient.

The 2005-2006 scholarship award was given to a first-year nursing student who thanked ESP in a note that detailed how the scholarship had impacted her ability to continue her education as a single-mother.

2007 AKCCOP Conference

Pratt Community College/ESP will be hosting the 2007 AKCCOP conference. A theme has been selected, committees have been formed and planning has begun. We look forward to the short trip to Dodge City this April for the 2006 conference.

Membership News

This year ESP decided to change the dues from a flat \$5. Members who do not choose to be a member of AKCCOP will pay \$2 to help supplement ESP's miscellaneous expenses. Dues of \$7 will be paid by those wishing to also be a member of AKCCOP and be eligible for its benefits.

An "open house" meeting was held in September and all employees eligible for membership were invited to find out more about ESP. Several new people attended and joined. New members are Financial Aid Counselor Carol McKenna, Payroll Accountant Darlene Hemphill, CASE/SEE Interpreter Kim Buche, Custodian Georgia Perry and Secretary to Ass't Dean of Instruction & the Director of Advising Janet Horton. And joining us this spring was new employee Yolanda Mendoza, Office Assistant for Student Services & Administrative Assistant for the Vice President of Student Services. ESP is pleased to have 14 members in all.

ESP officers are President Lora Lobmeyer, Vice President Diane Thompson, Secretary Cathy Blasi, and Treasurer Darlene Hemphill.

Secret Pals

This December, the members of ESP gathered at the home of Lora Lobmeyer for a Christmas party and gift exchange. At this time, we drew names for "Secret Pals". We will keep these pals for the rest of the school year, and draw new ones at the October meeting each year. If we find it is successful, we may open participation to the rest of the school, but at this time are limiting involvement to ESP members.

TGIF Lunches

ESP is making a conscious effort to increase opportunities for members to have fun and fellowship outside of working hours. One of our recent endeavors is to have lunch the fourth Friday every month. The first lunch was held on campus in October (and the President treated), we didn't meet in November and December due to the holidays, and our second lunch was held at a local restaurant in January. Nine members were able to attend, and fun was had by all.

Always Something Going On at PCC

October - PCC organizations raised over \$2,240 to help aid hurricane victims. Pratt Community College and the Pratt Lions Club raised over \$1,600 to aid Hurricane Katrina victims by holding a garage sale on campus. PCC organizations that helped with this effort included Roteract, Student Senate, Block & Bridle, Phi Theta Kappa, Beaver Baseball, resident assistants and many other individual students across campus. In addition to the garage sale, PCC's Organization of Student Nurses collected donations of more than \$300, and the Blue Diamond Dance Team held a date auction and raised over \$340.

November - Pratt Community College entered into a partnership with Barton Community College to offer a paramedic program in the Pratt service area. Pratt Community College will offer all of the associated general education courses while Barton County will be offering the associated technical education courses.

December - Wrestling program was approved to begin Fall 2006. The addition of this program will bring in students from the south central and southwest Kansas area. The goal is to bring in 40 new students with at least 35 being from Kansas. With the addition of this program, the Sports Medicine program will be expanding as well by 12 students and will be providing athletic training interns to high school athletic programs in the Pratt Community College service area. The athletic training lab will be remodeled and size increased to accommodate the additional students.

January – PCC Automotive faculty, students and community members have built a 2004 Supergas Mustang racecar from the ground up (over the past three years). It appeared in a featured display at the Darryl Starbird Custom Car Show in Wichita, KS and will be appearing at the Big Boys Toy Show in Hutchinson in February.

SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Terri Barnes, Reporter

The Seward County Community College Office Professional (SCCCOP) members have been busy during the Christmas season and the beginning of this semester raising scholarship funds. SCCCOP presented \$3000 to the SCCC Development Foundation to establish a SCCCOP scholarship. The money will be matched by funds through the Title III grant. The foundation scholarship will not be available for a couple of years, so SCCCOP members have been working to replenish scholarship funds to continue providing scholarships for the next several semesters. Members decided to sell RADA products, and raised approximately \$950 in profits. We would recommend RADA for anyone needing a fund raiser. <http://www.radamfg.com>

One item on the SCCCOP agenda is to set up guidelines for the foundation scholarship. A committee has been formed and will meet soon to start the process.

In December SCCCOP delivered SCCC cookbooks and bags of HO HO Popcorn to the employees of Great Western as a special thank you for their help and service. They were a great help with the Bosses' Day Lunch.

SCCCOP held a Christmas party on campus with Great Western Dining catering the event. It was a special evening of fellowship and great food.

During monthly SCCCOP meetings, the professional development committee has been trying to have speakers and informational handouts. In January, Patsy Fisher, our Title III Teaching/Learning Specialist, provided a great Anti-Stress presentation giving us several ideas to help relieve stress. Patti Beard, director of Student Support Services, will give us information concerning the Student Support Services grant during this month's meeting.

SCCC received notification in December from the Higher Learning commission of North Central Association that our application for participation in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) had been accepted. Our Employee Development Committee organized a great in-service on January 5 for our AQIP Conversation Day. The involvement and input from all of the staff was tremendous and will be very important to the success of our next Accreditation cycle.

A Moonlight Finals Breakfast, which is held both the fall and spring semesters, has become a biannual event for the students and administration and continues to be a huge success. During finals week, the president and deans of SCCC cook and serve a complimentary breakfast to all students one evening from 9:30 to 11:00 p.m.

The SCCC Development Foundation held a Donor Appreciation Dinner this past fall for donors and students who were the recipients of the respective scholarships. It allowed the donors the opportunity to meet some of the students whose lives they have touched through the restricted scholarships established by the donors.

The SCCC Black Collegiate Union student organization prepared a *Free for All* remembrance celebration for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. There was a brisk recognition walk from Wal-Mart to campus and then a program with food, music, and presentations in the Student Union Activities Center.

Rhonda Kinser has joined the SCCC Student Support Services program as the Academic/Career Counselor. Rhonda was an adjunct instructor for the Humanities & Social Sciences Division for several years. Besides academic advising, Rhonda will also run student oriented workshops to help students deal with the many aspects of college life.

Coach Dave Brown recently became the all-time wins leader at SCCC. On February 1, 2006, Dave Brown won his 225th game since becoming SCCC men's basketball head coach in 1996-1997. With this win, Dave broke the record of head coach Dale Reed who had 224 wins when he left coaching. Dave was named Jayhawk West Coach of the Year in 1998, 2002 and 2005. In 1998 he was named Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Congratulations Coach Brown.

Assistant tennis coach and instructor Greg Scruggs won the Kansas Bare Bow Archery state championship in Olathe, Kansas, January 29. This was the first time he had entered the two-day competition. Greg will be traveling to Murphysboro, Illinois, for the 37th National Archery Association Indoor Championship, March 4-5. Good luck Greg!

SCCC is hosting its first Extreme Challenge. Area high school students are invited to sign up for challenges in Accounting and Finance, Administrative Professionals, Agriculture, Computer Information Systems, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Journalism, and/or Marketing and Management areas. The grand prize is a laptop computer and a \$300 scholarship; second place receives a video iPod and a \$300 scholarship; and third place receives a portable DVD player. First place winners of each individual event will win Apple iPod Shuffles. Vendors will be present to demonstrate new products for faculty advisors.

SCCC has a display of all our international students' home flags hanging in our Student Union. A flag dedication ceremony was held in honor of our International students. The ceremony also allowed us to our appreciation to the local D.A.R. organization for the the American flag included in the display; it is one that was our nation's capitol.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the conference in Dodge City.

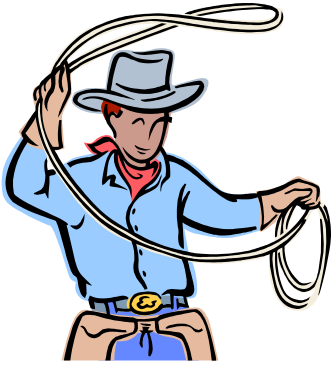
Picture courtesy of Andy Yoxall



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AKCCOP

Be sure to check out the AKCCOP web site at: akccop.org



LASSO YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE APRIL 5-7, 2006 FOR THIS YEAR'S AKCCOP CONFERENCE AT DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE.