Hutcheson in top five

Christy Hutcheson, English faculty in Greenville, was one of five graduate students nominated for Auburn University’s “Outstanding PhD Student Award” in the English Department.

As part of her doctoral program, she presented a paper entitled “A Liminal Destination: Djuna Barnes and the Urban Travel Narrative” at the Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities at the University of West Georgia in October.

Christy Hutcheson

Q•E•P update

BY SHANNON LIGHTSEY
QEP COMMITTEE CHAIR

“The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas.” - Linus Pauling

Great ideas have emerged as the QEP Committee has busily begun paving the way for an improved first-year experience. In just two meetings, the committee has already researched, consulted, discussed, and collaborated to confirm their focus: a revised advising process and an updated Orientation course, which may or may not include a traditional and/or hybrid format.

Throughout the spring semester, the committee members will continue researching successful approaches to the first-year experience and contacting fellow institutions who have already implemented similar ideas. Additionally, the committee will establish a preliminary plan for measureable QEP outcomes, activities, and implementation, which will involve detailing content of the updated Orientation course and effective advising practices.

During the planning stages, the QEP committee welcomes input from our colleagues. What content do you think would be valuable in a freshman orientation course? What are some specific strategies for making the advising process more effective while, in turn, helping students become more responsible for their own academic and career plans?

Please share your input with any QEP Committee members: Donna Bass, Danita Day, Michelle Goosby, Jennifer Hall, Latrece Hall, Wendy Johnson, Angela Kelley, Dr. Shannon Levitzke, Shannon Lightsey, Kelley Nolen, Heather Owen, Jan Riley, Eddie Spann, Shannan Spurlin, Kristy White, and Kelly Wilson.

Student expresses gratitude for service

While faculty and staff at LBWCC are known for their caring attitude toward students, two stood out in the mind of a student for their help recently. The student was so impressed with Donna Roberts, Administrative Assistant for Nursing Division, and Jan Riley, Director of Admissions and Records, that he wrote a letter to LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel expressing his gratitude.

January 16, 2016

Dear Mr. President,

My name is [Redacted] I work as a flight paramedic in Niceville, FL and have been working towards earning my nursing license. A friend put me in touch with LBW and I just wanted to say that the application and enrollment process has been a really positive experience. I am accustomed to unhelpful and under-motivated college administrations who are continually focused on what cannot be done rather than on what solutions they can find for a student. Two people in particular have really gone above and beyond to help me reach my goal, Jan Riley in Registration and Donna Roberts in Nursing. I just wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude and let you know that you have some really fine folks working for you.

Sincerely, thanks. [Redacted]
Our January 22 College-wide meeting addressed several very important topics. Dr. Levitzke gave us a brief update on the SACSCOC reaffirmation process. This will require a lot of our energy and resources for the entire year, as well as the participation of many individuals. If you serve on one of our committees or subcommittees, you are doing important work for the College and I appreciate your efforts.

Ms. Staci Wilson of South Central Mental Health gave us an overview of the Mental Health First Aid program. Thirty LBW employees (faculty, staff, and administrators) will participate in this valuable training during the month of March. Clearly, mental health and mental illness are important topics for us, especially as they relate to students. We want to be able to identify problems that could present a threat to the student or to others as early as possible and take appropriate steps to provide the assistance necessary.

Finally, Special Agent, Senior, Steve Johnson of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency gave a moving and informative presentation of protective measures to take in the case of an active shooter incident. While there is no way to prevent a determined attacker from causing harm, we can be as prepared as possible and ensure that casualties are minimized and our response is the best it can be.

The approach that is recommended by the experts is “Run, Hide, Fight.” This was described in detail in the brief video of the same name that was shown. If you had to miss this valuable presentation, I encourage you to contact Ms. Cindy Green by email to obtain the links to the two videos that were shown and to watch them.

This legislative session will be very important for our System and for LBW. It will be important to let our legislator and the public know the good work we do and the need for the financial means to accomplish our goals. This includes adequate compensation for our employees, who have not had a cost of living increase in nine years.

We will again have the opportunity to highlight our students and the College at Community College Day in Montgomery, scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are being asked to bring 100 students, faculty, and staff. More information will be forthcoming as we begin to plan for this important event. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Soon students and faculty will enjoy spring break — a much needed opportunity to not only rest, but to catch up on work and studies in preparation for the end of the semester. After the break, the month of April will go by very quickly and we will be getting ready for graduation on Friday, May 13 — the accomplishment of a dream for many of our students and their families.

Thank you for the good work that you do on behalf of our students!

Eric Lidh is working with drama students to prepare a children’s show for the road.

“This is the 28th children’s show I’ve done,” said Lidh.

The cast of 10 will perform The Prince Who Wouldn’t Talk for students in K-6 at 11 elementary schools and work with high school students in acting classes at two area high schools.

“This is a new group of students who have not performed in front of children, so it will be a learning experience for them.”

For seven consecutive Fridays, the group will be on the road, bringing the story to life for children throughout the service area.
**Employee Recognition**

**MacArthur Campus**

*David Worley*

was selected to fill the vacant position of Industrial Electronics instructor, a position he formerly held on a temporary basis.

Worley’s background includes more than five years of experience in the electronics field as an appliance technician and the year he served at LBWCC.

**Jennifer Hall**

accepted additional responsibilities and now serves as Adult Education Specialist/Continuing Education Coordinator.

**Andalusia Campus**

*Diaon Cook*, recently retired from teaching, was selected as LBWCC’s part-time Director of Student Activities and Cultural Diversity.

**Ensemble visiting schools**

LBWCC Ensemble co-directors *Johnny Brewer* and *Greg Aplin* are taking their students on the road for performances at area schools.

On the schedule are 17 elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as performances at all College 101 events and Family & Friends Night on April 29, 2016.

Also on the schedule are auditions for vocalists and instrumentalists in late March and early April.

*Johnny Brewer*, above, works with Ensemble members during rehearsals while *Greg Aplin*, right, works the sound board.

**The Big Event…**

There is a new community service project in April.

Look for news soon from Dean of Student Affairs *Jason Jessie*.

**Employees earn first-place in cook-off**

This year’s PTK-sponsored “Chili & Soup Cook-off” on the Andalusia campus brought participants from LBWCC employees and the community.

The fundraising event made it possible for participants to taste all entries and vote on their favorite for the “People’s Choice Award.”

In addition, a panel of three judges from the community tasted and scored the first-place awards for both the chili category and soup category.
Employees active as community volunteers

LBWCC’s 2014-2019 Strategic Plan encourages employees to be involved in their community.

**Goal 5.4** Foster individual relationships for sustainable community building, to include volunteerism, participation in local projects, and membership in service organizations.

Several LBWCC employees participate in volunteer activities, such as local community projects and membership in service organizations.

The following individuals submitted information about their volunteer work:

- **Donna Bass** - Alabama Veterans Administrators Association, Secretary; Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Public Information Chair; **Randi Bozeman** - Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Secretary; **Janette Carroll** - Rotary Club of Andalusia; **Diaon Cook** - Delta Kappa Gamma teacher organization; Andalusia Health Services Inc. Board of Directors; ACCS Developmental Education Task Force; **Dr. Arlene Davis** - Greenville Rotary Club, past-president; **Michelle Goosby** - Club Yesepoch Inc. of Enterprise, Community Wide Black History Banquet Publicity Chair; Relay for Life Coffee County through Friendship Missionary Baptist Church; **Jennifer Hall** - Andalusia Coterie Club, Vice President; Andalusia Civitan Club; **Beth Harold** - Coterie Club of Andalusia; **Dr. Steve Hubbard** - Lower Alabama Arts Coalition, Vice President; Andalusia Chamber Music Society, Planning Committee; **Jimmy Hutto** - Covington County Sheriff’s Possee, Treasurer; **LeAnn Judah** - Alabama Holocaust Commission; Camellia City Civitan Club; **Dr. Jim Krudop** - Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce, Immediate Past President; Rotary Club of Greenville, Past President; Andalusia High School Scholarship Foundation, President; Andalusia Health Services Foundation, Inc., Vice President; First Baptist Church of Andalusia, Board of Deacons Chair; Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc., Vice President; **Dr. Shannon Levitzke** - Andalusia Civitan Club, President; Andalusia Coterie Club, Treasurer; **Shannon Lightsey** - LBWCC’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), chair; **Peggy Linton** - Pilot Club of Andalusia; **Debra Moody** - Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Treasurer; **Kelley Nolen** - Civitan Club Board of Directors; Coterie Club, President; **Tori Norris** - Rotary Club of Greenville, Secretary; Distinguished Young Women of Butler County Board of Directors; **Kristy White** - Rice & Beans Food Ministry; Habitat for Humanity; Cotteon Arts Council Board of Directors; Andalusia Community Christmas Board of Directors; Andalusia Civitan Club project member; St. Mary’s Episcopal Church Youth Sunday School teacher; Cotteon Historical Society; **Tina Wicker** - Student Veterans and Military Association, Co-Sponsor; Cotteon Cowgirls Drill Team; Alabama High School Rodeo Association, Event Director.

**Full class for first ‘Mental Health First Aid’ session**

Each Friday in March, several employees will participate in a training course to learn skills to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an eight-hour course that introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health concerns, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments. The course uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect persons to professional, peer and social supports, as well as self-help resources.

Certified instructors with South Central Alabama Mental Health will conduct each session.

MHFA allows for early detection and intervention by teaching participants about the signs and symptoms of specific illnesses like anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, eating disorders, and addictions.

The program offers concrete tools and answers key questions like “What can I do?” and “Where can someone find help?”

Signed up for the first course are Bridges Anderson, Ashley Bass, Donna Bass, David Brawner, Nancy Burnett, Joy Butler, Dr. Jason Cain, John Carpenter, Debra Clark, Diaon Cook, Dr. Arlene Davis, Michelle Goosby, Leigh Grissom, Beth Harold, Dr. Steve Hubbard, Jason Jessie, Tim Jones, Cynthia Jones, Sonia Kilpatrick, Darbee Knowles, Peggy Linton, Judy McLaney, Tammye Merida, Kelley Nolen, Tori Norris, Dr. Pat Powell, Eddie Spann, Maria Thigpen, Kristy White, and Chancey Wyatt.

For those unable to attend the first training, plans are to schedule a second training session. Dates are yet to be determined.
HAPPENINGS

SkillsUSA fishing tournament in March

The annual LBW Community College SkillsUSA Fishing Tournament is set for March 24, 2016, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the campus pond in Opp.

Entry fee is $5 for students, $10 for all others. The award for biggest fish is $75, and smallest fish is $25. Register in advance or on site the day of the event.

The annual fishing tournament is the major fundraiser for LBWCC’s SkillsUSA program.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers and students in high school and college who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations. SkillsUSA provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development.

Proceeds from the fishing tournament are used to sponsor students in local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills.

Fishing tournament fees and signed releases are required for each person fishing. Minors under age 16 must fish with an adult. No boats are allowed in the pond, and there is a six-fish limit per person. Fish must be kept alive to be considered for prizes.

Concessions will be available during the tournament.

Download tournament rules and entry form from the website at www.lbwcc.edu or contact Denise Sauls at extension 5328.

– Tickets on sale March 1st –

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to Darlene Hogg, financial affairs assistant cashier, on the birth of her grandson, Jameson Blake Hogg born Dec. 7, 2015, weighing 6 pounds 2 ounces and measuring 19 3/4 inches long.

Congratulations to Tanner Jackson, English and speech faculty, on the birth of his son, James Redding Jackson born Dec. 11, 2015, weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces and measuring 19 1/2 inches long.

Congratulations to Candace Tucker, softball coach, on the birth of her daughter, Airlain Kennedy Tucker born Dec. 18, 2015, weighing 8 pounds 11 ounces and measuring 21 1/4 inches long.
The first meeting of the DMSTC (MacArthur) Foundation held in February brought five new members of the Board of Directors. Serving as officers are: President – Linda Hammer, Hammer LGC Inc.; Vice-President, Shawn Short, Opp Middle School; and Secretary/Treasurer, Sharon Spurlin, Opp Board of Education.

Newly-elected for a three-year term on the board are: Jay Jackson, J.M. Jackson Chevrolet Buick; Beth Legg, Shaw Industries; Mark Parker, Covington Electric Cooperative; Whitney Wright, Wright Brothers Construction; and Jana Wyatt, Mizell Memorial Hospital.

Returning board members include: John Adams, Southern Independent Bank; Dr. Walt Burgess, Burgess & Burgess DDS; Dr. Josh Driver, Covington Eye Care; Sheila Sasser, Sasser Enterprises; Michael Smithart, Opp Board of Education; Doris Wismer, H.D. Edgar Trucking; and Donna Youmans, Southern Style.

The LBWCC Foundation welcomed new officers and board members in January. Officers for 2016 are Tari McClung, CCB Community Bank, President; Debbie Marcum, PowerSouth, Vice-President; C.J. Agro, AGRO ENT, Secretary/Treasurer; and Sallee Sasser-Williams, Sasser Enterprises, Immediate Past President.

Other board members include Cary Baker, Andalusia; Ivan Bishop, TV Cable of Andalusia; Kim Carter, Covington Electric Cooperative; Angela Carpenter, Luverne, retired educator; Chrissie Duffy, Executive Director of Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce; Bridget Harper, Andalusia Elementary School; Shannon Jackson, Southeast Alabama Gas District, Andalusia; Deidra Laird, Designs by Deidra; Valarie McCalman, Andalusia Regional Hospital; Mark Murphy, Murphy & Murphy Attorneys at Law; Dr. Tera Simmons, Butler County Schools; Lauren Smith, Pioneer Electric, Greenville; Dr. Jean Thompson, Greeneville; Kristin Wiggins, Wiggins Farm, Andalusia; and Buddy Wilkes, Southern Independent Bank, Andalusia.

The LBWCC Foundation 2016 board, officers

Five new board members for DMSTCF