

THE SAINTS EXPRESS

The Employee Newsletter of Lurleen B. Wallace Community College

June 2019

'15 to Finish' campaign to begin in summer

In April, **Tori Norris, Tara Dumas, Latrece Hall, Kelley Nolen, and Natalie Ray** attended an Advising Summit in Mobile sponsored by the Mobile Area Education Foundation. This summit was a one-day event with workshops presented by NACADA and Complete College America.

The Alabama Community College System office signed on with the Complete College America plan, known as Complete College Alabama.

Many colleges in the system have implemented several of the initiatives, including "15 to Finish," which LBWCC will begin this summer during fall 2019 registration.

According to national data, students

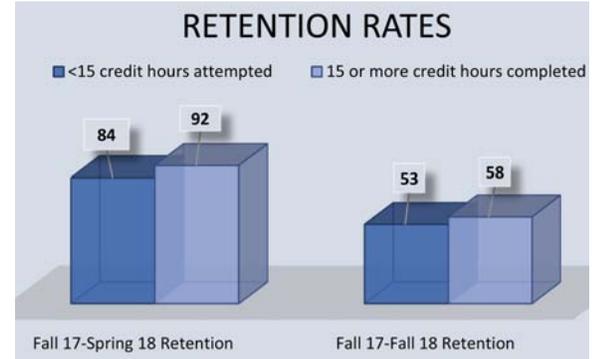
who register for 15 credit hours a semester are completing their degree. Fifty-eight percent of students who register for 15 or more credit hours are completing a two-year college degree, compared to 54 percent of those who register for less than 15 a semester.

Grade point averages are also higher for those who complete 30 credit hours in a year as compared to those who complete less than 30. Students who complete 30 credit hours at a two-year institution earn an average 2.8 GPA where those who complete less than 30 earn an average 2.47 GPA.

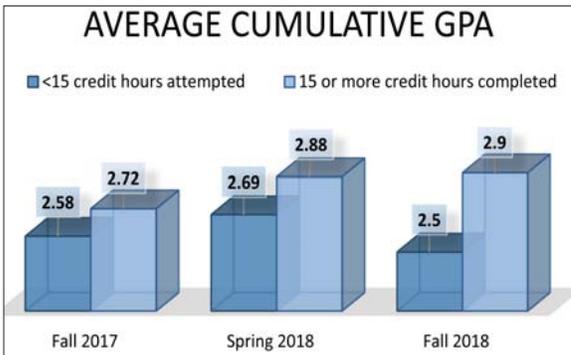
Dr. Shannon Levitzke and Tori Norris reviewed internal information over the past month and found that LBWCC students are just as successful.

The "15 to Finish" campaign will begin in the coming months and through the LBWCC Experience. Those who register students for classes are encouraged to consider this campaign and the data reflected in the graphs of first-time freshmen enrolled at LBWCC in either the A.A. or A.S. degree programs.

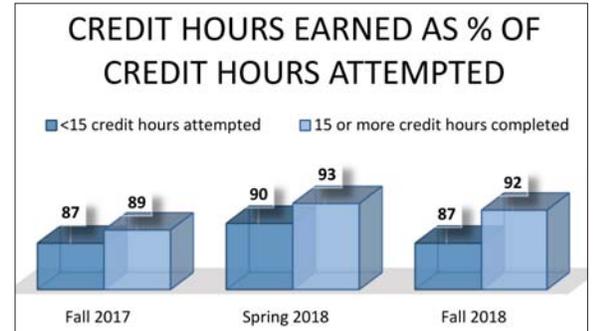
For questions concerning the "15 to Finish" campaign, contact Tori Norris at extension 2215.



Students in A.A. and A.S. degree programs who attempt 15 or more credit hours a semester are persisting at LBWCC.



Students in A.A. and A.S. degree programs who attempt 15 or more credit hours a semester are earning a higher GPA.



Students in A.A. and A.S. degree program who attempt 15 or more credit hours a semester are earning a higher percentage of credit hours than their counterparts

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The Saints Express is produced quarterly to recognize the accomplishments of LBWCC employees. Submit information to Renée LeMaire, public information officer/director of marketing

Thigpen, Hains commencement mace-bearers

Maria Thigpen, geography, history, and political science faculty and chair of the Business, Information Technology and Social Sciences Division, and **Mark Hains**, forest technology program faculty, continued the tradition of leading this year's commencement processional and recessional with the LBWCC Mace as outstanding faculty in academics and technology, respectively.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Philanthropic support remains vitally important for Lurleen B. Wallace Community College and our students. Our two foundations, the Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Foundation and the Douglas MacArthur State Technical College Foundation are in the final stages of merging into one foundation.

Since 2004, we have been one College, but retained foundations for each of the consolidated institutions. It is time for our foundations to act with one voice and gain



Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel
LBWCC President

the greater efficiency possible as one unified 501(c)(3)

non-profit corporation.

The economy of our state is doing extremely well, with historically low unemployment. With state coffers reasonably well funded and all state reserves replenished, we expect adequate funding through state appropriations.

For several years, we have tried to get a state bond issue for the two-year college system that would allow for much needed facility upgrades.

I have been told that this is still possible for the current year, but it is likely to

occur by next year at the latest.

Our strategic planning process is nearing completion and I believe it will set the pace for further advances over the next five years. Many thanks to all who have worked hard on this important process.

If you are taking some well-deserved time off during the summer months, I wish you a restful break—and to everyone a safe, pleasant, and productive summer.

Aplin completes full Ensemble circle

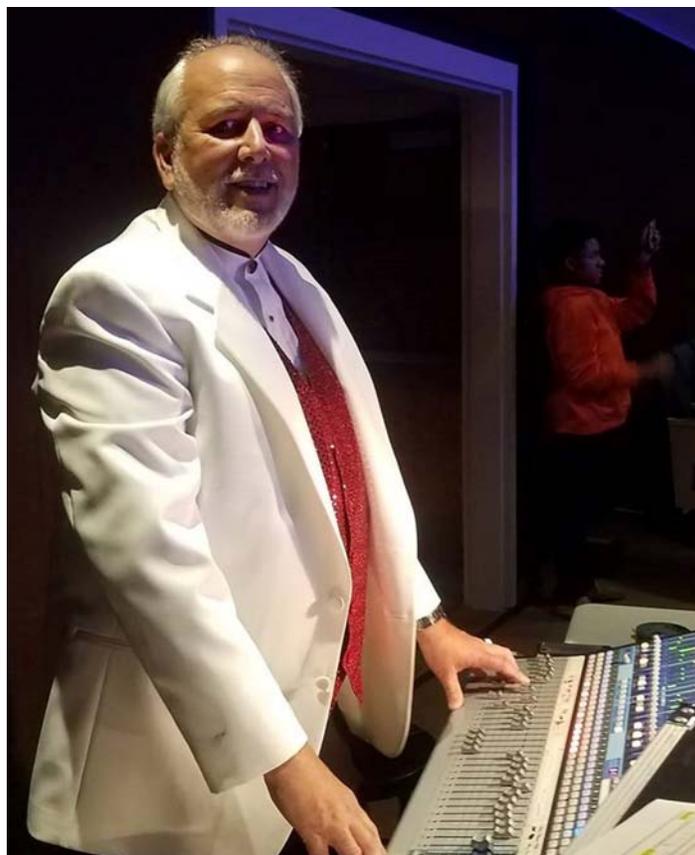
In late April's "Family and Friends Night," Greg Aplin completed a circle from performing in the LBWCC Ensemble as a student to closing out 20 years as a director of the group, fulfilling a promise made to Jerry Padgett just days before his death in 2002.

Padgett was Ensemble director during the time Aplin performed, and made a lasting impact on his life, music, and commitment to giving back to the community.

"It has been my honor and privilege to have had the great fortune to be a part of such excellence. As a director, I have always been passionate about teaching and working with our students to help develop and mold their talents through hard work, dedication, and practice. It is my belief, that our success and commitment to excellence over the years, has been achieved due to the desire of our directors to mentor and develop our students and then showcase the ensemble by mastering the musical level of detail in each production."

During the years, Aplin helped lead the group in performances for 7,500 to 10,000 elementary, middle and high school students each year.

"God has blessed me richly allowing me the opportunity to



Greg Aplin pictured at the 2019 Ensemble Family & Friends performance.

work with so many wonderful students, to mentor them as a vocalist or instrumentalist, assist with their educational endeavors, and a chance to see lives changed and touched every day."

The friendships that I have

forged from the opportunity of working so closely with our ensemble students has created what is known today as "our family," he said.

"I would like to say thank you to the college's former presidents and especially to Dr.

Herbert Riedel. To my wonderful colleagues, past and present, for your generosity and support over the years. Also a special thank you to Jerry Wishum, Joey Peevy, Christy Hawkins, Nancy Wiggins, and Darlene Hogg for their help through the years."

Aplin has a special message for Johnny Brewer and Kathy Dowdy.

"I wish each of you all the success in the world as you continue to mentor our students and help them grow musically. I believe we have created a culture of excellence with the Ensemble and I pray that you will continue to work tirelessly to continue this excellence and that God will richly bless you for your commitment to the LBWCC Ensemble. Most importantly, thank you for the special recognition, the plaque, and the kind remarks."

As this part of his LBWCC journey ends, he said he appreciates the opportunity to work with wonderful students, talented colleagues, and be able to give back to the community.

"Because of this, a promise I made to Jerry Padgett two days before he passed has been fulfilled. Thank you God, for the blessings and the journey. God bless LBWCC!"

RETIREMENTS

McLaney retires Aug. 1

Judy McLaney became interested in the computer field because of the logical and methodical way computers worked, she said.

“When I graduated from college in May 1996, I was prepared to enter the workforce through business and industry. However, 17 days later, I found myself employed in the classroom,” she said. She started as a lab facilitator with four other employees in the department.

“This department has undergone many changes during the college merge and the computer science field changes every day, yet the one constant for me is that my students are successful in completing their degree and going on to use these skill sets on the job.”

She names computer size, power and capabilities as some of the biggest changes during the years.

“We all use a very powerful computer with something as small as a cell phone.”

Citing a recent statistic showing the pervasiveness of these types of phones, McLaney said even 72 percent of the homeless community have personal cell phones with computer capabilities.

“Another big change has been the move to deliver college classes using online modalities. I think the part of the job I have enjoyed as much as anything is being able to develop and put many of the CIS courses into our current Learning Management System. I have worked very hard to ensure that every course in the computer science curriculum is fully developed in Canvas so that all traditional, hybrid, and online classes are much easier to facilitate.”

Meeting new people and seeing students become successful are among her favorite aspects of teaching, she said.



Judy McLaney

“Every year working here has been a joy for me because I truly enjoy teaching, meeting new students every semester, and working with some of the finest people on earth. Some of my graduates from the past have become close friends.”

She said she always gives students the following advice: “If you will do what you are asked, when you are asked, and the way you are asked, you cannot help but be successful.”

As she winds down toward the first official day of retirement on Aug. 1, she said she agreed to teach as adjunct faculty for three courses in the fall.

“My plans are to do everything I want to do and nothing that I don’t. I look forward to doing some traveling, working in my church more, and spending time with family.

“Lurleen B. Wallace Community College has been very good to me and I am grateful to have had the experiences throughout the last 23 years with my peers and students alike. I anticipate with excitement the upcoming move into this new time of life and look forward to ‘what comes next.’”

Wiggins looks forward to retirement years

While Nancy Wiggins was pursuing a speech pathology degree and graduate counseling degree, she took several psychology courses and loved them, she said.

“I already knew I wanted to teach, so what could be better than to teach something you love,” she said. Now, nearly 20 years after she started at LBWCC, she retires as student advisor and instructor of psychology, health, and human development. She has a cumulative 27 years in the teaching field, with plans to continue teaching a few classes as an adjunct instructor.

“When I was first hired at LBW, I taught psychology two days a week and managed the fitness center three days a week.”

It is hard to decide a fondest memory since there were so many, she said.

“I have so many wonderful memories from my tenure here, but my fondest would have to be watching my son flourish with excellent guidance and instruction from so many of my co-workers.”

Changing lives is what she enjoys most about teaching, she said.

“The most enjoying and fulfilling part of my career is knowing that I have helped future generations. To see how LBW changes the lives of so many of my students is just phenomenal!”

Although many changes occurred during a 20-year span, she said the biggest were the merger of two colleges into one and technological advances.

“The biggest change at LBW that I experienced was the merger of the MacArthur and Andalusia campuses,



Nancy Wiggins

which I think was a tremendous asset to our service area. But the change that impacted my job was the increase in distance education course offerings. Now I can reach so many more students and on a platform this generation thrives on.”

In addition to adjunct teaching, she said she hopes to have some time to garden. As she looks forward to the first official retirement date of Aug. 1, there are three things she lists in the order of priority: “1. Throw away my alarm clock. 2. Clean my house!”

As she prepares to leave the world of full-time work, her parting comments are quotes from a mentor and a favorite character.

“To my faculty co-workers, I will leave you a quote from my mentor Fran Davidson. ‘Always treat your students like you would want your own children treated.’ To my LBW family, ‘How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard,’ – Winnie the Pooh.”

RETIREMENTS

McCuistian plans to continue writing

Richard McCuistian grew up with tools in his hands, the smell of an automotive shop, and learning to repair engines.

“My father opened a foreign car garage in 1960 when he was 28 years old, and from the time I was probably four years old I have either watched him fix cars or I’ve done it myself,” he said. “A shop is where I’m most comfortable.”

As he grew up, he became known as the resident “wrench,” fixing anything called on to repair, he said.

“For example, after high school I joined a wheat harvest crew working out of North Central Texas and while I was on wheat harvest I had to rebuild two truck engines and put head gaskets on a car the boss’s wife drove.”

He also worked with his father in the shop and at four different dealers in Alabama, completing 25 years as a professional technician. He joined LBWCC more than 18 years ago for a total of 43 years in the industry.

“I have also been an active



Richard McCuistian

contributor to automotive trade magazines since May of 2000, when my first article was published in Motor Age magazine.”

In addition to being LBWCC’s automotive mechanics instructor, McCuistian also contributed to the campus by serving on the social committee, creating video produc-

tions, and taking photos. He also participated in professional development presentations.

“My fondest memories have been watching students walk across the stage to receive their certificates, hearing families cheer, and seeing their smiles and sometimes their tears. The one thing about teaching is that you get to know students pretty well, and you miss most of them when they graduate. It’s kind of bittersweet.”

He said he enjoyed being able to help students, instructors, and other qualified people with their vehicle problems.

“I also enjoy the classroom as well as the shop, and I love watching students learn and then go on to succeed in the field. I have also enjoyed my daily lunches at Doc’s Country Store with Alan Cobb, who has been my daily lunch partner since I first came to work at the college.”

The biggest challenge has been keeping up with the changing technology, he said. He at-

tended various training events around the country over the years in order to teach students how to repair modern vehicles, as well as older ones because there are still a lot of older cars being used, he added.

As he closes out his teaching career at LBW on June 1, he knows writing is in his future with automotive training publications already seeking his help in developing curricula.

“I have about a dozen books (novels) on Amazon already and I will probably be writing some more of those. Then there’s the things I haven’t had time to do that I needed to do. I look forward to not having to be in so much of a hurry with so many deadlines.”

As the time draws near and he wraps up his classroom and shop, he said he’s enjoyed his time at LBW.

“Working at LBW is one of the most rewarding jobs I’ve ever had, and I hope the college will continue to grow and prosper. Thanks for everything, everybody! It has been a wonderful 18 years!”

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Randi Bozeman, assistant director of financial aid on the MacArthur Campus, earned the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) Student Eligibility Credential in February.

Wayne Godwin, BS, RN, NRP, LBWCC’s EMS program director and allied health chair, completed a course and passed the exam to become a Board Certified Emergency Nurse through the Emergency Nurse Association.

Michelle Goosby, mathematics faculty, received a medallion from the National Technical Honor Society in honor of serving

10 years as advisor for the chapter at the MacArthur Campus. NTHS is an honor society for outstanding career and technical students of workforce vocational programs.

To help in the aftermath of tornado destruction to her hometown, **Kelly Wilson**, mathematics faculty, led an internal effort for the Beauregard Community Tornado Relief fund. Employees donated more than \$1,000 in cash, gift cards, and supplies. She and husband, Carter, and two high school students delivered the donated items, traveling in two vehicles full of tools and supplies, and spent the day removing debris from the devastated area.



Michelle Goosby with a 10-year medallion from the National Technical Honor Society.



NEW EMPLOYEE

MACARTHUR CAMPUS

Elena Nicholson was selected to fill the position of English instructor for the MacArthur Campus.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Master of Education Degree in English Language Arts Education from Auburn University.

She has both adjunct and full-time teaching experience in the subject of English through previous and current employment with LBWCC.



Elena Nicholson

BABY FACE

Congratulations to **Kelly Weeks**, esthetics instructor, and husband, Garrett, on the birth of their son, Gage Warner Weeks, born April 5, 2019, weighing 8 pounds 4 ounces and measuring 21 1/4 inches. Gage is the grandson of **Debra Hudson**, administrative assistant for instruction and dual enrollment.



FOUNDATION



Golf tournament set for Sept. 11

The LBWCC Foundation presents the 14th annual LBWCC/Camellia City Classic golf tournament at Cambrian Ridge in Greenville on Sept. 11, 2019.

All proceeds from the tournament through the LBWCC Foundation will benefit scholarships, dual enrollment, student activities, and special projects of LBW Community College.

Individual entry fee is \$150, which includes cart, green fees, and dinner.

Four-person scramble shotgun start at 1 p.m., with driving range opening at 11 a.m. Prizes are awarded for the top three teams, closest to the pin, longest drive, and hole-in-one.

For more information or to register, contact Dr. Arlene Davis at ext. 2390.

‘Saints Circle’ to recognize legacy gifts

“Saints Circle” is a new way to recognize individuals for their planned giving through a bequest in their will or trust.

“We are grateful to individuals for thinking ahead and planning for a future beyond their lifetime,” said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel. “Their gifts are extremely important to the mission of the College.”

One example of such generosity is that of James Winston (Jim) Beasley, Sr., 1928-2017, who not only established a scholarship in memory of his wife, Mary Joyce Taylor Beasley, for nursing students, he also made arrangements through a bequest to donate a portion of his estate.

“Mr. Beasley took special interest in the success of each student selected for the scholarship he created. A few years before his death, he met with college officials to make sure we knew his intentions of how he wanted to continue to help through a portion of his estate.”

Another example is the generous bequest of Colonel Miriam Evers Donaldson, M.D. (USAF retired), 1933-2008, who also made provisions to help the College through a bequest.

“Col. Donaldson was an advocate for education. She lived

an amazing life and left a generous bequest that will have a lasting impact for students.”

Donaldson, a 1950 graduate of Opp High School, returned to her hometown after a career in medicine, including 10 years as a physician in the military. When she retired, she had 89 hours as a flight surgeon. “Through such planned gifts, LBWCC can continue to grow, enrich programs of study, and educate generations to come.”

A bequest to LBWCC can be made for a specific amount, for a percentage of an estate, or for all or a portion of what is left after bequests are made to family. To make a gift from your estate, you must sign a new will or trust instrument, add a codicil to your present will, or make an amendment to your present trust instrument.

Alternatively, you can designate LBWCC as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. To do so, contact the retirement administrator or life insurance company and complete the appropriate beneficiary designation form.

Call Dr. Arlene Davis in the office of institutional advancement at ext. 2390 for more information.