



Andalusia Campus



MacArthur Campus



Greenville Campus



Luverne Center

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*Alumni & Friends NEWS* is a semiannual publication of LBW Community College  
P.O. Drawer 1418  
Andalusia, AL 36420



Martha and Solon Dixon Center for the Performing Arts



## 'The Big Event' initiated at LBW

For the first time, *The Big Event* was held in Andalusia this spring.

The community service

event was founded by Texas A&M University in 1982 as an opportunity for students, faculty and staff

to serve their community as a way to say "thank you."

On a Saturday morning in April, LBWCC participated for the first time with more than 80 volunteers spending a morning performing a variety of jobs, including yard work, cleaning, pruning, picking up limbs and trash, painting, packing supplies for the Full Tummy Project, helping at the local humane society, and cleaning the LBW nature trail.

"As far as we've been able to research, LBW is the first community college in Alabama to undertake this type of event," said Dean of Student Affairs Jason Jessie.



## Enrollment growth continues

LBW Community College experienced a 17.9% increase in total number of students enrolled for spring semester compared to the same semester a year ago.

"That much increase is truly phenomenal," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel. "In many ways, small and large, everything we do is for student success and we are happy that increasing numbers of students are taking advantage of the education and training opportunities provided at LBW."

The continued enrollment increase during the last few semesters reflect several College initiatives, as well as increased state funding for dual enrollment programs, he said.

"In addition to improving student retention rates from fall to spring semester, we are seeing increased dual enrollment, especially in newly-established courses at Enterprise and Luverne high schools. Our faculty and staff continue efforts to grow existing programs and seek opportunities to establish new programs."

Additional initiatives undertaken to help meet the needs of students were the addition of night classes for some of the existing technical programs, expansion of dual enrollment opportunities in Crenshaw County, and an increase of credit hour opportunities in Luverne.



Emily Jones

## Three win medals at SkillsUSA Alabama

Three LBWCC students earned medals this year at the SkillsUSA state competition.

**Emily Jones** of Dothan won a gold medal in esthetics and will advance to national competition this summer.

Winning bronze medals in diesel equipment technology were **Joshua Sasser** of Luverne and **Killian Soule**, a dual enrollment student at Enterprise High School.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LBW had an incredible enrollment increase of 17.9% in the spring semester, compared to the same semester last year. This is due to a combination of new technical dual enrollment programs at Enterprise High School and in Luverne; highly successful recruitment efforts; and an improvement in our ability to retain students who begin in the fall.

Every public college or university whose students may receive federal financial aid is required to maintain accreditation through one of the six regional accreditation agencies. The one for our part of the country is the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, or SACSCOC for short. Reaffirmation of accreditation is required every ten years, with an interim review after five years. LBW is now in the process of preparing for our ten-year reaffirmation review. This is a major institutional effort, involving everyone at the College, especially those who agreed to serve as committee members. As part of this process, a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is required of every institution. LBW used a comprehensive process to select as our QEP topic "The First Year Experience." There are numerous activities and deadlines prior to the On-Site Review, which is scheduled for Oct. 3-5, 2017. Ultimately, this process is useful not only for holding us accountable, but also to help us in our process of continual improvement.

Several years ago, LBW began an initiative to introduce concepts and practices involving "lean" and "5S" (sort, shine, systematically arrange, standardize, and sustain). The latter is a method of workplace organization, which in turn cuts down on waste – a primary goal of the lean philosophy. There were 24 LBW volunteers to participate in Lean/5S training conducted



**Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel**  
LBWCC President

in September 2012 by ATN. I am very glad that Dr. Shannon Levitzke, LBW's Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality, has revitalized the Lean/5S committee as I know there will be much benefit for the College. Employers have asked that graduates come to them with some familiarity of Quality principles including 5S, and as an educational institution we strive to lead by demonstrating best practices. It can also make our own processes more efficient.

We mourn the passing of Dr. William McWhorter, the first president of Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College, in May. He was a great leader who inspired many and left a positive mark on this institution and the community. We were blessed to enjoy his presence last year at the 50th Anniversary Gala sponsored by the LBWCC Foundation.

The summer is a very busy time at LBWCC. With the exception of some faculty members who are able to take the summer off to renew their energy and prepare for the academic year, most of us work long hours to ensure students are registered and everything is ready for the fall. We also have an active summer class schedule.

My best wishes to all of our alumni and friends for a safe, restful, and productive summer.



Sarah Elizabeth Godwin, Chelsea Powell

## All-Alabama Academic Team 2016

**Sarah Elizabeth Godwin** of Greenville and **Chelsea Powell** of Andalusia are members of this year's All-Alabama Academic Team with the Alabama Community College System.

"These students represent the highest achievers of our college," said Dr. Herb Riedel, LBWCC president.

"We are extremely proud of what they have accom-

plished both in and out of the classroom and this is well-deserved recognition for them both."

These two students are also 2016 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholars. This program recognizes 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze Scholars each year. **Johnathn Phillips** of Highland Home was selected as a Bronze Scholar this year.

## VP gets prestigious PTK award



Dr. Jim Krudop, LBWCC vice president, was one of five nationwide to receive the prestigious *Michael Bennet Lifetime Achievement Award* for exceptional dedication to the mission and programs of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society and efforts to support student success over an extended period of time.

## Riedel selected to visit Japan

LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel will travel to Japan this summer as part of the TeamUp 2016 program, an initiative of the United States-Japan Bridging Foundation.

He was selected, along with other senior-level higher education professionals from

across the U.S., to be part of a weeklong familiarization tour of Japan to explore strategic educational partnerships with Japanese colleges and universities.

Participants will visit Tokyo, Fukuoka, and Okinawa.



LBWCC's 2016 commencement ceremony celebrated the completion of 73 Associate in Science degrees, 24 Associate in Arts degrees, 80 Associate in Applied Science degrees, 52 long certificates, and 88 short certificates.

# MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

*Thank you!*

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## Thigpen is Outstanding Alumnus

Ward Thigpen of Greenville, a 1988 graduate, is LBWCC's 2016 Outstanding Alumnus.

"We are pleased to recognize this graduate for his accomplishments, both during his time at LBW and all he has achieved after graduation," said President Dr. Herb Riedel.

"I am indebted and blessed for the opportunities LBW gave me which continue to positively affect my life," said Thigpen, who achieved an Associate in Arts Degree at LBW.

Thigpen played a key role as pitcher in a winning LBW Saints baseball team, which won the state championship in 1988 with then-baseball coach Mark Hogan.

He transferred on a baseball scholarship to Troy University, where his pitching helped lead the Trojan team to 50 wins in 1990, the most team victories in the program's history.



Ward Thigpen.

In 1991, he completed a Bachelor's degree in marketing and business at Troy, then returned years later to achieve a Master of Science Degree in elementary education in 1999.

He is a member of Troy University's Baseball Hall of Fame, and was inducted last year in the Trojan's Sports Hall of Fame.

His career spans more than a decade in the education field, including serving as teacher at Greenville Elementary School, assistant principal at Greenville High School, principal at Georgiana High School, and is now employed with the Alabama Department of Education in the driver and traffic safety division.

Thigpen said the educational foundation he gained at LBW allowed him to achieve academic success through the years.

"I owe everything to LBW for the foundation it gave me academically and athletically. There is nothing that could have prepared me more for the four-year college than LBW. I will always steer students in the community college path because it provides opportunities they may not otherwise have."

## NSF grant to address energy efficiency

The National Science Foundation recently awarded LBW Community College a three-year "Educating Technicians in Energy Efficiency" grant of \$199,899 to better prepare future technicians.

The primary goal of the project is to meet emerging needs for increased energy efficiency

by improving the quality of technician education in industrial electronics and diesel and heavy equipment mechanics.

Siemens Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs), widely used in industry due to their efficiency and scalability, will be purchased for student training in industrial electronics.

Students in the diesel

mechanics program will gain knowledge and experience on natural gas engines, which will serve employers not only on offshore rigs, but also in the transportation industry with fleet vehicles and local and regional carriers.

The grant begins July 1, 2016, and runs through June 30, 2019.

## Remembering LBW's first president

Dr. William H. McWhorter, 88, LBW's first president, died May 14, 2016, in Gainesville, Fla.



He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Kathleen McWhorter, his children, Tim McWhorter of Camilla, Ga., Lil Rogers and Susy Colvin of Gainesville, Fla., seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

His career included work in Alabama, Florida, Ecuador and Venezuela, where he and his wife started three successful American schools after retirement.

He served as LBW's president for 22 years and retired in 1990.

The family asks that memorials be made to the William H. McWhorter Scholarship, with checks made payable to the LBWCC Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 1311, Andalusia, AL 36420. *(All donations are tax deductible.)*