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In this Issue:

- ▶ Surgical-Technology Program reopens
- ▶ Dual Enrollment in Enterprise
- ▶ Enrollment increase
- ▶ President's Message
- ▶ New forestry faculty
- ▶ Thriving in welding
- ▶ Paramedic program continues accreditation
- ▶ Major Contributors
- ▶ Innovations Champ
- ▶ MAT Scholarship
- ▶ Sunset at Springdale

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



Surg-Tech program reopens

LBWCC's surgical technology program reopened this fall to help meet area needs.

"We reactivated the program to help meet the growing need for a trained workforce in this vital healthcare field," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

"We are hearing more and more about the need for this type of training throughout our region of the country, and we are pleased to once again provide this opportunity for students."

New faculty for the program is Dennis Davis, an Andalusia native who brings surgical technology experience in neurosurgery, orthopedic

surgery, general surgery, and OB-GYN surgery.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for trained surgical technologists is anticipated to grow 30 percent through 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations.

Response to the program was sizable with more than 40 applicants for fall semester. The field was cut to 16, with plans to grow the program to accommodate more students.

Davis said students who complete the program will possess the skills to work in the operating room, work in dental offices, veterinarian clinics, and in the central sterile processing

Dual enrollment now in Enterprise

Enterprise High School is now an off-campus instructional site of LBWCC as approved by the SACSCOC accrediting organization.

The expansion of technical dual enrollment courses to Enterprise High School was initiated by the school's leaders.

High school students can now earn 25 to 49 percent of credit hours required for a certificate or degree in welding and automotive mechanics.

Approximately 60 students benefited from the new programs for the

first semester this fall.

A \$90,000 workforce development grant helped purchase new equipment and is allowing students to gain college credit at no cost to them.

"We appreciate the invitation to explore this opportunity, and the hard work from personnel with Enterprise High School, Enterprise Board of Education, and LBWCC to bring it to reality," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

Enrollment up this fall

LBWCC is experiencing a growth in enrollment this fall of 8.32 percent and a 3.4 percent increase in the number of credit hours taken by students.

"We are very happy that increasing numbers of students are taking advantage of the educational and training opportunities provided at LBW," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

Community colleges across the nation experienced decreases in attendance over recent years, which is a direct reflection on the economy, said Renée LeMaire, public information officer and marketing director.

"Historically, enrollment tends to reflect the economy of the country. When the economy takes a downturn, we see higher enrollment as people who can't work decide to continue their education. Reversely, when the economy improves and more people go back to work, we experience a decrease in enrollment."

A slight improvement in enrollment over the summer and increases this fall is reflective of several initiatives by the College, as well as increased state funding for dual enrollment programs, said Riedel.

"The enrollment increase is directly attributable to the efforts of many dedicated College faculty and staff, including Dean of Instruction Peggy Linton and Associate Dean of Applied Technologies Tammye Merida, who worked hard to establish new instructional programs and grow existing programs."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have much to be thankful for this fall semester at LBW. Enrollment is up by 8.3 percent (unduplicated headcount) and credit hours are up 3.4 percent.

Two of our allied health programs (emergency medical services and diagnostic medical sonography) recently completed site visits with outstanding reports of “no recommendations.” Our newly reactivated surgical technology program is thriving and preparing for its accreditation visit.

Saints Hall, owned and operated by the LBWCC Foundation and located adjacent to the Andalusia campus, was fully rented with a waiting list of students.

Our Student Affairs division hosted the first fall Open House for prospective students and parents. And we are making great progress preparing for our upcoming reaffirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

All colleges and universities seeking to offer federal financial aid for students must be regionally accredited and face a very thorough review for reaffirmation every ten years. We see the SACSCOC reaffirmation process as an opportunity to reflect on all of our processes and ensure that they meet all required standards.

The College went through a comprehensive process to determine the topic for our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) — an essential component of reaffirmation of accreditation. Our QEP will focus on the First Year Experience. We feel that efforts spent enhancing orientation and advising of new students will pay great dividends for their success in



Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel
LBWCC President

College and in life.

We can also be thankful for experienced, competent leadership of the Alabama Community College System in Montgomery.

The Board of Trustees recently approved Chancellor Dr. Mark Heinrich's Legislative Agenda, which includes the request for a 10 percent cost of living increase for all employees.

If approved by the legislature, this would constitute the first increase in eight years and represents 1 percent for each of those years that salaries were frozen along with the 2 percent increase K-12 received two years ago that we did not.

The System is also asking for \$50 million in facilities renovations and improvements, including buildings and equipment. I am sure we will all be following the legislative session in the spring closely.

As we approach the festive Holiday Season, I express my sincere appreciation to all of our community supporters, donors, and friends, and wish you and your families a most joyful, peaceful, and spiritually edifying Holiday and beginning of the New Year.

Longleaf expert is new forestry program faculty

Previously on the verge of discontinuation, LBWCC's forest technology program is revitalized and offering students the only two-year Associate Degree forest technology program in the state of Alabama.

Mark Hains joined LBWCC as new faculty for the program and is sharing his fascination and respect for the forest and its environment with students.

For nearly two decades, Hains worked dual positions with Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and The Longleaf Alliance.

"I've worked the natural range of longleaf pine, from Virginia to Texas, teaching about restoring and managing the longleaf."

His vision for LBWCC's



Mark Hains

program is to produce graduates prepared to work in forestry and forestry-related fields.

He said students will learn about important issues in the field of forestry, such as identification of and controlling invasive plant species and prescribed fire to manage the forest.

Wyatt thrives in welding

For five years, Chancey Wyatt braved the winds and climbed higher than 300 feet to repair wind turbines throughout the United States and into Canada.

Now she is meeting a challenge in a career field that she finds fascinating — welding.

She enrolled at LBWCC in 2013 and soon realized she had underestimated the field.

"I thought it would be something that you could just drop your hood and just weld and not think," she said. "I was shocked at how many details are involved in it and the math it takes to know how to weld."

In 16 months, Wyatt completed a welding certificate. After graduation in May of 2014, she took her knowledge and experience into the field and was hired for an aluminum welding job at a local manufacturing company.

After two short months in



Chancey Wyatt

the field, she was excited to accept an adjunct instructor position in the very program she just completed.

As the welding program at LBWCC grew, Wyatt advanced to the full-time position of laboratory facilitator.

Wyatt grew from a student to a teacher in a field she's learned to enjoy and respect.

"Welding is a world of its own and the possibilities are limitless."

Paramedic program continues accreditation

LBWCC's paramedic program in Andalusia was recently awarded continuing accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

"Not only can students be assured of quality training as an emergency medical technician and/or paramedic, employers and future patients will ultimately benefit the most from their

training at the highest standards," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

LBWCC's program was peer reviewed by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions and CAAHEP's Board of Directors, which recognized "the program's substantial compliance with the nationally established accreditation standards."



For two consecutive years, LBWCC's paramedic program graduates passed the national certification exam on the first attempt.

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Thank you!

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122015

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- Douglas MacArthur State Technical College Foundation

Cut on the dotted line above and send this form with your gift to: LBWCC Foundation Specialist, P.O. Drawer 1418, Andalusia, AL 36420

Recognizing innovation

Shannon Lightsey, English and speech faculty, is LBWCC's 2015 Innovation Champion for the creation of "Savvy Saints" online student community.

This employee recognition program provides an opportunity to showcase innovations employees have successfully designed and implemented which positively impact the College.

"I saw a need for students to be kept abreast of important dates, deadlines, and events and to have an avenue of reciprocated communication for their miscellaneous questions," said Lightsey. "Each and every



Shannon Lightsey

student already had a Canvas (online) account, so I saw this as a free and simple way to reach a large majority of our student body."

By way of this recognition, Lightsey is also named the College's choice

for the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award established by the national League for Innovation.

She will attend the League's national conference in Chicago where she will participate in a recognition ceremony.

LBWCC grad among five national MAT Scholarships

Courtney Slaughter of Andalusia, recent LBWCC graduate, is among five transfer students nationwide to be named a recipient of the Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship for two-year college students and she is using it to pursue a mathematics education major.

She won the scholarship through a competitive application process.



Sunset at Springdale

Beautiful Springdale Estate in Andalusia was the setting for the annual donor appreciation event held this fall.

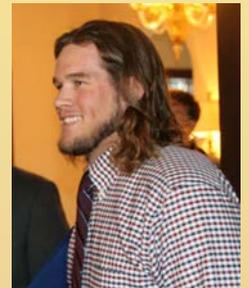
Guests included those who made significant donations to

either the LBWCC Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, or to the College.

The event was catered by Chef Casey Jones and the LBWCC Culinary Arts program students.



LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel welcomed guests and thanked them for their support.



Tanner Veasey, LBWCC student speaker.



Chef Casey Jones introduces LBWCC Culinary Arts students.

