Employee Newsletter

April 26, 2010

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New this week

Mark your calendars

Retirement receptions are being planned

Receptions are being planned for the employees retiring at the end of the Spring 2010 semester. At this time, a reception for Cyndy Clapp has been scheduled for 1:30 to 3 p.m. Monday, May 10 in the lower level of the College Center. There will be a brief ceremony at 2:30 p.m., followed by a trip to the staff grove. Please mark your calendars at this time and plan to join this collegewide celebration on May 10.

Planning is underway for retirement parties for Mike Mahoney, Nancy Shelley and Nick Watson. More details will be shared as soon as dates and times for other retirement events are confirmed. Cyndy, Mike, Nancy and Nick all will retire effective May 31.

Legislative news affects pension plans

Submitted by KCC SUAA Chapter Vice President/Membership Chair Linda Guinn

Think the latest Springfield legislation doesn't affect you? Think again!

Illinois Senate Bill 1946 was the first step of a multi-step plan to drastically reduce Illinois state pensions (see note at the end regarding this bill).
The next targets are current employees and retirees. According to the State University Annuities Association mini-briefing of April 15, 2010, "The Civic Committee of the Commercial Club and the Civic Federation of Chicago has spent upwards of a million dollars to convince legislators and the general public to change the pension systems." Proposals include making SB 1946 retroactive to current employees, reducing the 2.2 formula for future years of current employees, and reducing the 3 percent cost of living adjustment in retirement, etc.

Obviously, we can’t spend $1 million to protect our pensions. However, we must make sure that our legislators know the facts and that we are, indeed, outraged at the proposed changes. Illinois pensions are average when compared to 85 other public pension systems. State Universities Retirement System members pay 78 percent of the cost of their own pensions. The average pension is just $26,000 a year.

On the other hand, Chairman W. James Farrell, of the above-mentioned Civic Committees’ Commercial Club of Chicago, receives an estimated annual retirement benefit more than $1.4 million. Most Civic Committee members receive annual estimated retirement benefits of at least six figures.

SUAA needs to fend off this targeted attack on our pensions. SUAA is the only political advocacy organization for current and retired SURS members.

To join in our fight, contact Mary Posing, ext. 8202 or mposing@kcc.edu; or me, Linda Guinn, at 815-939-4721 or lguinn@kcc.edu.

For more information, go to http://www.suaa.org and click on mini-briefings under latest news.

Note: SB 1946 sets minimum retirement age for new employees at 67, with a 6 percent penalty for each year under age 67, figured on average of highest eight of last 10 years; with a maximum of 60 percent of maximum pensionable salary of $106,800.

WKCC adds 3 programs

Submitted by Mike Savage, director and general manager of WKCC

Beginning in May, WKCC Public Radio 91.1 FM and www.wkccradio.org will add three programs to its weekend lineup.

First, "The Tavis Smiley Show," to air Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. beginning May 1, is a high-energy exchange of views, information, and insight hosted by Tavis Smiley. The show's hallmark is an insightful exploration of issues, shared from fresh, diverse points of view.

Smiley's show offers a blend of news in substantive and
provocative discussions, feature reports, and regular commentators. Each weekend, Smiley engages commentators and guests in topics including politics, health, finance, sports, technology and pop culture.

Second, "Echoes" will be heard on WKCC Sunday nights from 8 to 10 p.m. beginning May 2.

"Echoes" is a music soundscape with host John Diliberto, a writer for Billboard, Pulse and other magazines. It brings together a wide array of styles, including acoustic, electronic, jazz, space music, avant-garde and rock. The show offers sounds which are cross-cultural and trans-millennial, merging cultures and forms, technology and tradition, the ancient past and the possible future.

Third, "Hearts of Space" will be broadcast on WKCC Sunday nights at 10 p.m. beginning May 2.

The success of Hearts of Space has come from its consistently high production quality and sensitive, knowledgeable music programming. The program offers a mix of ambient, electronic, world, new age, classical and experimental music. Artists and record companies around the world recognize Hearts of Space as the original, most widely heard showcase for contemplative music, broadly defined.

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3 students earn awards for academic excellence

The American Society for Clinical Pathology has honored three KCC students for their academic excellence and commitment to community service and leadership activities.

The National Student Honor Award to recognize excellent students in the laboratory professions will be given to Diane Soderborg of Mokena, Jonathan Sucic of Charleston and Jagruti Patel of Mattoon. Soderborg, Sucic and Patel will graduate May 15 with Associate in Applied Science degrees in Medical Laboratory Technology. Students throughout Illinois enroll in the program because it offers 14 clinical sites and many courses are web-based.

To receive the award, each student must have membership in American Society for Clinical Pathology, senior standing in a Medical Laboratory Technology program, a minimum GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, and community service/leadership activities.

KCC's Medical Laboratory Technology Program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. For more information about KCC's Medical Laboratory Technology programs, contact Glenda Forneris, program director, at gforneris@kcc.edu or ext. 8835.

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TRiO honors excellence with S.T.A.R. awards
Twenty-seven TRiO students and 28 KCC employees were recipients of STAR Awards at a reception in their honor on April 13 in the Iroquois Room.

The Spectacular TRiO Award of Recognition (S.T.A.R.) for achieving a grade point average between 3.25 and 3.99 was given to Shirleyann Arndt, Stephanie Bard, Jessica Baron, Rosaura Calderon, Donald Davis, Emily Deany, Sarah Dobin, Sarah Franc, Jalesa Franks, Latrina Green, Dana Hersha, Logan Hines, Dormiletha Howard, Kristina Kirchner, Cherish Klossing, Chas Lewis, Stephan Menigoz, Katelyn Moore, Rosemary Nowicki, Lisa Pacitti, Blanca Pena, Jason Reiniche, Haley Spangler, Kayla Thomas, Nathan Ulrich, Sebrina Willimas, and Alexandria Woolum.

The students who received S.T.A.R. awards nominated staff members for being positive influences in their success. The S.T.A.R. staff nominees were: Rick Ascroft, Bridget Bertrand, Molly Bilderback, Bernadette Bosley, Kris Condon, Trisha Dandurand, Deisy Davila, Mary Decker, Jessica Fehland, Frank Fischer, Kim Harpin, Frances Hebert, Susan LaMore, Mark Lanting, Hyrum LaTurner, Delithia Love, Steve Makepeace, Virginia Makepeace, Sharon Miller, Kevin O'Neill, Richard Painter, Tina Pitkin, Deborah Renville, Sudipta Roy, Chelise Slowik, Mary Steichen, Penelope Stickney and Helen Streicher.

Congratulations to all S.T.A.R. recipients!

Invitation to submit Who's Who info

Faculty members who have been nominated for a Who's Who award are invited to submit that information for publication in Update. Those who share the information will be included in a forthcoming article to be published at the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester. The "Who's Who" article will be included in Update one time per year.

The deadline to submit "Who's Who" information for Fall 2010 is Aug. 26.

Information can be submitted to Ellen Skelly in marketing and public information. You can contact Ellen at ext. 8279 or e-mail eskelly@kcc.edu.

Thanks for help with pond cleanup

Plan for more pond milestones

Submitted by Dave Meredith, Physical Plant Department, and Scott Stewart, Horticulture and Agriculture programs coordinator

Many thanks to all the individuals and groups who contributed their time and energy to the pond clean-up effort on Tuesday, April 20. The project has moved one step closer to completion. Your hard
work yielded four dump truck loads of rock, which were hauled away from the site. While the pond restoration remains a work-in-progress, the KCC community should be proud of the tremendous advancement which has been made in a very short period of time.

The pond area is being converted from a rainwater detention basin to a functional and aesthetic wetland habitat. It is a campus project with only minimal assistance from outside contractors. Much of the success of this large, campus-lead project will rely on the volunteer spirit of students, faculty, staff, and administration. As it moves forward, we will again call on the campus for volunteers.

Many of you have asked about next steps for the pond restoration. Below is a timeline for future milestones. It is approximate, since each task is weather dependant.

As you watch the transformation of the pond site, please keep in mind that a restoration project of this nature can take up to three years to become established.

**Upcoming pond restoration milestones**

- **Early May** -- seed areas north and east of the pond site with buffalo grass to replace turfgrass.
- **Early to mid-May** -- seed the pond slopes with native wetland and tallgrass prairie seed mixes and install biodegradable erosion control blankets.
- **September** -- weed control by hand pulling.

Again, thank you to all those who volunteered their time to removing so many rocks from the pond site.

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**Events this week**

**Rebuilding together--new date: 5/1**

KCC employees and students are invited to be part of Rebuilding Together, an initiative to assist with renovations at homes in the Kankakee area on Saturday, May 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
To volunteer, sign up at the first floor reception desk. Volunteers should wear appropriate clothes for working on home improvement projects. No sandals are allowed. There will be breakfast and lunch for the volunteers.

To learn more about Rebuilding Together, contact Sarah Zirkle at ext. 8628, e-mail smcintosh-zirkle@kcc.edu or visit http://www.rebuildingtogether.org/section/about/

Note: Rebuilding Together was originally scheduled for April 24, but was postponed due to weather.

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**Upcoming events**

**Training for KCC employees is continuing**

The office of Corporate and Continuing Education has created a training schedule for KCC employees which runs through early August.

View the schedule by visiting the faculty and staff page on KCC's Web site, and choosing the employee training icon. Or, go straight to the list at http://www.kcc.edu/coned/Pages/kccemployeetraining.aspx on the Corporate and Continuing Education site.

Choices include 45-minute courses, called "What's it All About?" on a variety of topics; eight-hour computer courses in Word 2007, Excel 2007 and Access 2007, offering half of one continuing education unit upon completion; and two- and four-hour topical Workshop Format courses.

To enroll, contact Juli Gereg at ext. 8206. Approval may be needed, so please check with your supervisor prior to enrolling.

The training sessions are a result of the needs assessment that Corporate and Continuing Education conducted earlier this year.

**Final Office 2007 features session has openings**

The final session of a one-day workshop to learn new features in Office 2007 will be May 12.

These workshops will be 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with time for lunch and breaks, in Room D122.

Pre-registration is required.

Please call Juli Gereg at ext. 8206 or e-mail her at jgereg@kcc.edu to reserve a space.

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**News and information**

**Changes to summer grade submission dates and refund/withdrawal dates**
Grade submission dates

Due to the changes to the summer calendar, faculty members who teach on Thursdays during the summer term have until noon the following Monday to submit grades.

All other faculty members’ grades will be due by noon on Thursday as directed by the new calendar dates.

Refund and withdrawal dates

Since KCC will be closed on Fridays during summer term, students whose registration statement showed a refund date or withdrawal date on a Friday will be notified that the revised date will now be the following Monday.

Travel and reimbursement reminders from the Business Office

The Business Office would like to remind everyone of a few points pertaining to travel forms and staff reimbursements.

Please remember the following:
-- If there is an item on a receipt that you would like to point out, please circle it instead of highlighting it. The forms are imaged, and in the process, highlights disappear and/or black out the item.
-- If a staff member purchases an item from a vendor who accepts KCC purchase orders, tax will not be reimbursed to the employee.
-- Please turn in original receipts with reimbursement requests and travel expense reports.
-- An out-of-district travel request should be turned in before traveling and should include some form of documentation on the purpose (i.e. brochure, registration form, agenda) of the trip.
-- Meals from restaurants in the KCC district are not reimbursable for out-of-district travel.
-- Travel expense reports should be returned in a timely manner. The recommended timeframe is within a week of travel. It should not exceed 30 days after travel was completed.
-- Even when no reimbursement is requested, a travel form should still be turned in for out-of-district travel.
-- Meals for day trips may be taxable. This means that if you turn in the receipt for reimbursement, you may be taxed on the whole bill, not just your portion.
-- In order to be reimbursed for meal expenses on travel forms, an itemized receipt must be provided. Turning in only a credit card receipt is not acceptable.

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Kunce at ext. 8122.
Get in on graduation issue

On May 10, Update will print a "Congratulations" section for employees and immediate family members graduating this spring.

If someone in your family is graduating this spring--from kindergarten, grade school, high school, KCC, another two-year college or a four-year school--let us know and we'll print it.

Please provide:
The graduate's name
The KCC employee's name
Relationship to KCC employee (son, daughter, mom, dad, spouse, etc.)
School he/she is graduating from
Degree being conferred (if applicable)
Example: Mari Linkin will graduate from East Springfield High School. She plans to attend KCC and study history. Mari is the great-great grandmother of Nate Hale, specialist in the Office of Corporate and Continuing Education.

Please send in graduate information by May 4 to eskelly@kcc.edu or through campus mail to Ellen Skelly in the marketing and public information office. Thank you.

Raffle deadline extended

A raffle with several prizes to benefit the Rebuilding Together effort is underway.

Raffle prizes are: gift card to Aurelio's Pizza for one free small pizza (two will be awarded); round of golf for two, with a cart and bucket of range balls at the Manteno Golf Club (two will be awarded); round of golf at Shamrock Golf Club in Kankakee (two will be awarded); and a 10 inch holiday candle.

Tickets are $1 each and are available through May 7 at the First Floor Receptionist Desk.

All money raised will go toward the 2010 Rebuilding Together project.

The drawing will be on Friday, May 7 and the winner will be notified by phone.

Green flash sustainability message

Submitted by Rich Schultz, coordinator of Sustainability Center, sustainability & planning

Here's a follow-up to the March 1 "Green Flash" message with information on where to take various
recyclable materials. A guide provided by River Valley Recycling, LLC, can help clarify the types of plastics which are typically recycled and what the numbers on many items mean. The chart is at [http://www.kcc.edu/Community/sustainability/resources/Documents/Plastic%20Recycling2.pdf](http://www.kcc.edu/Community/sustainability/resources/Documents/Plastic%20Recycling2.pdf).

Questions? Comments? Contact me at ext. 8243 or Bert Jacobson, dean of Sustainability and Planning, at ext. 8242.

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**Update deadline**

The deadline to get articles in *Update* is noon Thursday for the following Monday's issue.

In addition to submitting articles and article ideas in person or on paper, you also can submit them via e-mail to eskelly@kcc.edu.

Articles should be submitted to Ellen Skelly in marketing and public information. You can contact Ellen at ext. 8279.