

SCC

NEWS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO FACULTY AND STAFF

PLANNING RETREAT SETS SCC GOALS

New Planning Initiatives Introduced

During our annual Planning Retreat in early February, the SCC Leadership Team, our department heads and division chairs learned that SACS will be using a new criteria during the reaffirmation process.

Our faithful SACS guru, Barbara Jones, told us the new process is Quality Enhancement, which is different from our Annual Plan.

Those at the retreat set up ten Planning Initiatives.

The Planning team set a goal for an **Equitable Workload Policy**. This initiative calls for eighty percent of the SCC faculty to agree that the college has implemented an equitable workload policy by June, 2004.

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Just returned from SACS visit

I have recently returned from my first full fledged SACS visit. I have been on short SACS visits. this one was at Richmond Community College in Hamlet, North Carolina.

Yes, I learned some things, but I learned how fortunate I am to have the people I have here. I came to appreciate your good attitude.

Buford will be going on a SACS visit to Sampson CC.



SCC New Horizon's Winners

Betty Nelson, representing the staff, and Bruce Gover, representing the faculty, were chosen as the Somerset Community College nominees for the New Horizon's Award. The nominees from each college were awarded a trip to the NISOD Conference to be held in Austin, TX., from May 25-28. Winners will also attend the KCTCS New Horizon's Conference in Lexington from May 10-12.

Nelson and Gover are SCC nominees to New Horizon's

Betty Nelson, who works in the Admissions Office on the SCC North Campus, and Bruce Gover, who is an IT instructor on the SCC South Campus, were Somerset Community College's nominees for the New Horizon's Awards.

I think our Professional Development Team selected two very worthy nominees for the New Horizon's Award.

Each college or district will nominate one faculty member and one

staff member for the awards. The overall system winners will receive a \$1,000 stipend from KCTCS.

At SCC the Professional Development Team selected the winners from a number of applicants who were nominated by their peers.

Nelson and Gover will represent SCC at the New Horizon's Conference, May 10-12, in Lexington. Because they are our

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nominees, they are both eligible to attend the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Conference in Austin, TX, May 25-28.

Betty will be celebrating her 30th year at SCC in July, 2003. She is the widow of Wallace Nelson of Somerset.

Betty served in the United States Marine Corps from 1957 - 58. She was listed in Who's Who Among American Junior College Students and also the Who's Who for college students. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Betty has two grown children: Romaine and Reed. She also has three grandchildren.

Bruce has been employed at the College since 1999. He began working for Somerset Technical College prior to consolidation. Bruce was selected as the 2002 Teacher of the Year by the Pulaski County/Somerset Chamber of Commerce.

Bruce volunteers with the American Heart Association and Merit Badge Tech.

Bruce has his Master Instructor Certification in Information Technology and a number of certifications in the components of Microsoft Word.

Bruce is married to the former Jennifer Nelson. The couple attends Beacon Hill Baptist Church.

Congratulations to Betty and Bruce!

Tidbits

At this point, the some of the operational money for our new Student Services building at Somerset North and the expansion at our McCreary Center are included in the budget. Let's keep our fingers crossed as the House/Senate Conference Committee hammers out the final budget.

The new Laurel County Public Library has scheduled an Open House for Saturday, May 3. As you know, we will be providing a College staff person to help staff the library. We expect that this partnership will be of benefit to our students attending our Laurel North and South Campuses.

Harriette Arnow Conference: *A dream coming true at Somerset Community College*

Somerset Community College will hold its Second Annual Harriette Simpson Arnow Writers' Workshop and Scholarly Conference on Thursday and Friday, April 10 and 11.

I am very excited about the Arnow Conference. This conference is something the College has dreamed of doing for several years and now it's going to happen.

Five years ago, a team of community members, College faculty and College staff held a series of meetings to envision what the College could do to reach out to the communities it serves. This Vision-To-Action process was funded by the Ford Foundation and was called the Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI). The resulting project also became an objective of the National Center of Excellence (NCE) at Somerset Community College. The United States Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Development funds the NCE.

Our RCCI team came up with the idea for creating a demonstration project that would focus on the rich cultural heritage of our region of Kentucky. The team believed that there were two particularly talented artists from our area: Harriette Simpson Arnow, a very talented, internationally acclaimed novelist, and Todd Duncan, a wonderful vocalist who went on to star on Broadway. The RCCI team understood that one of the challenges facing our region was to extend and expand our tourist season. The team saw the fame of Arnow and Duncan, as a potential drawing card for new tourists, as a way to instill pride in our children concerning their heritage, and as a possible engine for community development.

Both Arnow and Duncan were remarkable teachers in addition to their other talents, which was another drawing card and interest builder for me.

In 2002, the College kicked off the Arnow Project with a one-day writers' workshop. More than 50 budding writers attended the first workshop conducted by noted novelist Silas House.

This year we've expanded it to a two-day event. We have some great Kentucky writers and the top experts on Arnow's work coming to Somerset. The theme of this year's conference is *A Celebration of Harriette Arnow: Her Work and Place in American Letters*.

On Thursday, April 10, Silas House, the author of *Clays Quilt* and *A Parchment of Leaves*, will be back to do a "Novel Workshop." James Baker Hall, Kentucky's Poet Laureate, will conduct a "Poetry Workshop." Hall's wife and a published author in her own right, Mary Ann Taylor Hall, will host a "Short Story Workshop."

At 8 p.m. on April 10, conference attendees and the public will have the opportunity to see the new play, *The Dollmaker*, an adaptation of Arnow's most famous novel written by SCC's own Betty Peterson. Tickets to *The Dollmaker* are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets may be purchased in the Writing Center located in the Strunk Learning Center on the SCC Somerset North Campus. *The Dollmaker* will be performed on April 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 in the Stoner Theater on the SCC Somerset North Campus.

On Friday, April 11, the Arnow experts take over the conference for a scholarly symposium. Dr. Sandra Ballard, an English professor from Appalachian State University who is writing a biography of Arnow, will deliver the Opening Address for the Arnow Conference. Appalshop filmmaker Herb Smith, will present rarely shown

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Duncan Tribute Set For Center on March 21

Some of Somerset and Pulaski County's finest voices will join together at the Center for Rural Development on Friday, March 21, to pay tribute to one of the areas most famous and talented native sons. The community will honor Todd Duncan with a special performance.

Duncan was an early Civil Rights pioneer, a talented Broadway and opera vocalist and a beloved college professor and teacher. He was born in Danville and grew up in Somerset where his maternal grandfather, Owsley Cooper, lived.

John Perkins, a member of SCC's board of directors, told me he thought the best way to honor Todd Duncan would be to sing some of the music that made him world famous. John is Somerset's Postmaster and the chairman of the Todd Duncan Centennial Celebration Committee.

During his lifetime Duncan was acclaimed for his achievements throughout the world. He received eight honorary doctorates, won the famous Broadway Tony Award, received a New York Critics' Award, the prestigious Peabody Award and many other honors.

With the assistance of Lonnie Lawson, the executive director of the Center for Rural Development and our College, the committee put together the March 21 program.

Tickets to the Todd Duncan Tribute can be purchased at the Center box office.

Tickets are \$2. The donations will go to the Dunbar High School Scholarship Fund, which provides college scholarships for local black students.

Tickets will be available beginning Monday, Feb. 24, at the Center.

I hope we will have an excellent turnout from our students, faculty and staff.



Open House At Laurel North Set

We plan to hold an Open House at the new technical building on our Laurel Campus North. The event is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 27. Dr. McCall is expected to come and join us. This will also be the London/Laurel County Chamber of Commerce's monthly Business After Hours meeting. You are invited. Please come!

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out-takes of his interviews with Harriette Arnow. Dr. Haeja K. Chung, an English professor and Arnow scholar at Michigan State University, will be the Luncheon Speaker for the Conference. The University of Michigan is where Arnow's papers are archived.

Sherry Robinson of Eastern Kentucky University will host a session entitled "Perchance to Dream: Arnow's Between the Flowers." Charity Ikerd-Smith and Vicki May, also of ECU, will present "Mother/Daughter Relationships in Arnow's The Dollmaker." James B. Goode, an English professor at Lexington Community College, will host "The Novel as Sculpture: Analysis of Harriette Arnow's Comment on Fiction in The Dollmaker." Brenda K. White of Somerset will host a session on "Us and Them: The Outsider in Harriette Simpson Arnow's Kentucky Trilogy."

We are hoping to have a large crowd of English and Humanities teachers from high schools and colleges all over Kentucky and elsewhere visiting Somerset, many of them for the first time.

Conference registration forms can be found at the Somerset Community College website, www.somcc.kctcs.edu <<http://www.somcc.kctcs.edu>>.

The Arnow Conference is sponsored in part through a grant from the Kentucky Arts Council.



SCC Lions Club's raises funds for eye exams with Valentines Day event– The Somerset Community College Lions Club raised \$480 with a Valentines Day give-a-way. The money will be used to provide eye examinations and eye glasses to students in financial need. Shown here from the left are: Dana Todd, Lions Club vice-president, Roger Hollars, club president; Jerry Warren, SCC student government president; Libby Mattingly, the winner of the Valentines Day basket; Melissa Morrison, event co-chair with Pam Bridgman; and Dorothy Phillips, Lions Club member.



Health Occupations Club at SCC donates to God's Helping Hands – Members of the Somerset Community College Somerset South Campus's Health Occupations Students of America chapter donated a variety of household items to God's Helping Hands, a non-profit organization in Pulaski County. The items included shampoo, towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, blankets, razors and other items. Shown here from the left are: (Front Row) Amanda Cooper and Donna Barnes. (Back Row) Evelyn Dalton, Dewayne Corder, Maze Bobbitt (the founder and coordinator of God's Helping Hands), Janet Brown, Jennifer Wilson (HOSA faculty advisor), Donna Sowders, Jessica Kelsey and Karen Mofield.

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Next, the team called for a **Quality Assessment Plan**. This plan calls for one hundred percent of all educational programs to implement a Quality Assessment Plan by June, 2004.

The team's next initiative calls for **Improving the Campus Climate**. This initiative calls for 80 percent of SCC employees to agree they are satisfied with faculty and staff morale. Documentation will be the Spring 2004 Campus Climate Survey.

Enrollment Growth was the fourth initiative set by the team. The goal is to increase enrollment by two percent for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Next, **Flexible Scheduling** was chosen as an initiative. This one says that SCC will increase the number of credit and non-credit course offerings through flexible scheduling by five percent during the 2003-2004 academic year.

Retention was next on the minds of the team. This initiative calls for SCC to increase one-year retention by ten percent based upon the Student Success Plan by July, 2004.

An initiative to **Increase Scholarships** was established. SCC will strive to increase scholarship funding by ten percent for the 2003-2004 academic year.

The **Student Success Rate** was the next initiative. Credential seeking students will graduate or complete their programs at a rate five percent higher than for the previous academic year.

Improving Campus Communications was next. This initiative will require eighty percent of the faculty and staff to agree that they are satisfied with internal communications efforts.

The final initiative was **Survey Participation**. This sets fifty percent as the participation goal for all college wide surveys.

I think these are achievable initiatives, if we all work together to make them happen.