New plaza to be dedicated

William R. and Cacilia Howard Heritage Plaza at South Arkansas Community College will be dedicated at 11 a.m. on Nov. 6 on the West Campus. This green space was funded through private donations raised by the SouthArk Foundation, and commemorates the educational history of the campus, as it has been home to three different colleges, El Dorado High School, Rogers Junior High School and a number of other learning institutions.

The program will feature remarks from a number of those who contributed time and money to the project.

Holocaust survivor to speak as part of annual SouthArk Lecture Series

Holocaust survivor and human rights activist Inge Auerbacher, who spent three years imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II, will speak in a free engagement at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6 at the El Dorado Conference Center, part of the South Arkansas Community College Lecture Series.

Auerbacher and her parents were among the 1 percent who survived their ordeal in the camp in Czechoslovakia, where they were exiled after being sent from their native Germany. They were rescued by the Russian army on May 8, 1945. A year later they immigrated to New York; Auerbacher later became a U.S. citizen and ultimately, a chemist.

She has been awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Louis E. Yavner Citizen Award and a Long Island University honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, as well as two Medals of Merit and a Federal Cross of Merit from institutions in Germany.

Auerbacher also has penned six books about various aspects of her life and career, which have been translated into nine languages. This appearance will be followed by a question-and-answer session and a book signing.

Screening of new PMA World War II doc is set

“Hands That Formed a Nation,” a documentary with first-hand accounts of World War II from local veterans who experienced it, will premiere at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 11 in Murphy Hall III at the El Dorado Conference Center. The screening is free.

The college’s performance and media arts program produced the film with stories from more than a dozen war vets and others. It has been entered into several film festivals around the region.
Community college is made up of many pillars

What is the role of a community college? It often is described as to have major pillars like academic transfer preparation, workforce-career-technical training, continuing education, life-long learning, remedial education and community services.

The community college provides education and resources that are affordable and accessible to students of all ages, ethnicities, genders and backgrounds relevant to the region that it serves.

I am so proud that south Arkansas offers these pillars of higher education to citizens of our region. This newsletter highlights the various aspects of our role, scope and mission in action. We do not achieve our mission in isolation. It takes the support of our state legislators, local citizens, volunteers, donors and philanthropists, as well as hard working faculty and staff to provide access to quality educational opportunities that will enable individuals, our businesses and our community to grow and thrive.

We also invite you to celebrate with us as we dedicate the new Howard Heritage Plaza on Nov. 6, and remember to be with us on Veterans Day as we host a service and debut our performance and media arts program’s first documentary, “Hands That Formed a Nation.”

Each semester at SouthArk culminates with a graduation—a celebration of the achievement of academic goals and unleashed potential, but also a change in the quality of a life. Higher education provides an opportunity to prepare to transfer, obtain entry-level workforce skills, or gain skills for advancement in current positions. It is an honor and a thrill to watch our graduates march across the stage at commencement more positive and confident, and more prepared to face life’s challenges and opportunities.

We invite you to come join us by participating in our many educational, workforce and cultural opportunities on campus. SouthArk is YOUR community’s college!

Did you see?

SouthArk has been designated a 2015 Military-Friendly School by Victory Media.

Now in its sixth year, the designation indicates that SouthArk has met Victory Media’s criteria, based on the results of a survey of schools that are approved for Post-9-11 GI Bill funding. The survey captures more than 50 leading practices that support military students, as defined by an independent advisory board that works in conjunction with Victory Media.

Kendrix elected

SouthArk’s Tonya Kendrix, center, was elected to the Arkansas Community Colleges Board during the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges annual conference in Hot Springs. She is with SouthArk president Dr. Barbara Jones, left, and former ACC President Dr. Jennifer Parks. The ACC Board consists of three faculty, three staff and three administrative positions. Kendrix was elected to serve a three-year term as one of the three members of the faculty division.
SAU president to speak at commencement

Fall commencement at South Arkansas Community College will be at 7 p.m. on Dec. 18 at the El Dorado Conference Center. The guest speaker is Dr. David F. Rankin, the retiring president of Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia.

Rankin has held his position since being appointed in 2002. His career at SAU began in 1968 as an assistant professor of finance, after having been a business instructor at Middle Tennessee State University in 1966-'67.

In 1977-'80, he was the dean of the School of Business Administration while also being a professor of economics and finance. He was a Puterbaugh professor and chair of the Department of Economics and Finance in 1991-'92.

In 1992-'93 he was a visiting professor of business and economics and a consultant for the School of Business at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.

Rankin served again was a Puterbaugh professor and chair of the department of economics and finance at SAU, as well as dean of the School of Business Administration, in 1994-2001.

Rankin is a 1964 graduate of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a bachelor’s degree in management, a 1966 graduate of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana, with a master’s degree in finance and a 1970 graduate of the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi, with a doctor’s degree in finance. He received a chartered financial analyst designation in 1979.

He is the economic advisor to Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe and chairman of the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors. The economic advisor to the governor is responsible for chairing the Governor’s Council and reviewing the Arkansas state revenue forecast. In addition, the advisor has responsibilities for the promotion of coordinated economic development activities within the state.

Rankin also is chair of the Golden Triangle Economic Development Council and is on the boards of the Arkansas Council of Economic Education, the Arkansas Association of Public Universities and the Arkansas Public School Resource Center Policy Board.

He and his wife Toni Rankin have two sons, Curtice Rankin and John Rankin, and a daughter, Beth Anne Rankin.

The next generation of manufacturers

Children in seventh and eighth grades get training, education from industry insiders

SouthArk’s first Young Manufacturers Academy was held Aug. 4-8 at the Center for Workforce Development. Area seventh- and eighth-grade students learned about manufacturing while engaging in hands-on activities such as engineering sea planes and manufacturing custom ice-cream sticks.

Participants met and learned from several different industry partners throughout the week, including representatives from Martin Resource Management, Anthony Forest Products, Cross Oil, Therma-Flite, Lion Oil and Nexans AmerCable. They were introduced to a range of manufacturing careers including safety, management, human resources, welding, automotive technology, process operations and engineering.

The academy featured a showcase on the final day where industry partners and students’ family members viewed student presentations and demonstrations. Each student was awarded a certificate of completion.
GED Pride Day

The Adult Education Department celebrates GED Pride Day in September by releasing about 100 balloons with tags stating “Soar With Your GED” and the department’s telephone number.

Tankers are donated for use in industry training programs

Industry partners Great Lakes Solutions and Martin Transport recently donated tankers to be used on the East Campus as part of SouthArk’s manufacturing programs and non-credit corporate training.

The tankers will be utilized for training industry personnel how to load and unload trucks in a safe and environmentally-friendly way.

PTK honor society president is named Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar

Phi Theta Kappa President Kimberly Tucker has been selected as a 2014 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar. This scholarship is designed to provide new Phi Theta Kappa members with financial resources to help defray educational expenses while enrolled in a two-year college.

This year’s recipients were selected by a panel of independent judges from more than 900 applicants, selected based on academic achievement and leadership. They receive $1,000 scholarships.

Tucker, a teacher education major who has a 4.0 grade-point average, also was selected as this year’s Academic All-Star at SouthArk.

College to host recruiting event aimed at hispanics

SouthArk will reach out specifically to the Hispanic community through the college recruiting event Vaya, Crezca, Logrará (Go, Grow, Graduate) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 17 at the El Dorado Conference Center.

The event will function as a promotion for the college and will include bilingual speakers on hand to translate when needed.

The college has orchestrated other events to reach the Hispanic population, but this is the first time that the event has been set up specifically as a SouthArk recruitment night.

Food donation

The South Arkansas Community College Foundation Board of Directors donates more than 1,000 pounds of food to Helping Hands Food Pantry, collected in conjunction with the SouthArk Outdoor Expo in September.