

August 2005



As we begin a new and exciting year, our quartet of Student Ambassadors is gearing up to be a leading force on campus. The 05 - 06 Student Ambassadors are (From Left to Right) **Brad Gorz, Kaci Travis, Andrea Mooney and Dillon Darden**.

I CAN LEARN

On July 5, 2005, SouthArk Community College entered a new era in the classroom: Basic Studies Math courses became self-paced with computer-based training. For students trying to struggle through math, the change is a significant breakthrough.

Arkansas law requires students who do not make at least minimum scores in math on entrance examinations to take basic studies courses, courses that bring them up to a college level so they can take College Algebra, a requirement for most

college degrees in the state. Many times these refresher courses become insurmountable to students who have been out of school or those who have found math difficult in traditional classroom settings. Often, they cannot keep up with the pace set by the teacher, who must cover enough material each day to complete the class requirements.

Now students have relief from that pressure. They can repeat each lesson in the "I CAN Learn" classroom —in fact, they must repeat it until they can complete at least 80% of the quiz successfully. The teachers are always in the computer lab/classroom to answer questions and to explain complex ideas to those students who need more help. If students have to take the quiz more than twice, the computer notifies the teacher that they are having difficulty and won't let the students continue until the teacher intervenes. Students who need help on a specific problem can just raise their hands and the teacher comes to them. These students are not embarrassed by having to ask questions in front of the whole class, and they get the individual help they need.





Students who have mastered some skills but need help with others can pre-test out of a lesson, skipping it by answering all of the pre-test questions correctly. As a result, advanced students are not held back by less prepared students. In fact, hardworking students may be able to complete more than one course during the semester.

The "I CAN Learn" classroom combines the self-pacing and drill strengths of the computer with the immediate and personalized help from teachers, and students are responding favorably. Exit interview comments included "I am now responsible for my own progress" and "it was great to get one-on-one help from the teachers".

Taking basic studies math this way teaches students more than just math. It gives them the freedom to be responsible for their own success. It teaches basic note taking and organizational skills. It provides good practice lessons in how to do homework. The basic studies math success rate at SouthArk is predicted, even guaranteed, to climb.

A SouthArk student summed up the new "I CAN Learn" classroom this way: "I really like that the class is on the computer; I understand it better. I like how they break it down".

CARL AMASON



On his 40-acre property outside of Calion, Carl Amason lived alone, spurning human companionship while nurturing a relationship with Mother Nature. Surrounded by a majestic garden that was populated with leafy magnolias, vibrant daffodils and other exotic flora, Amason honed his green thumb and indulged his fascination with plants until he died Saturday, July 30, from congestive heart failure and lymphoma at age 81.

"He was married to his plants," said Thera Lou Adams, a Camden resident who developed a friendship with Amason after they retired. "He was what is called a 'plants' man."

Born on July 22, 1924, Amason developed a passion for gardening at an early age. With his mother, Versa Clara Murphy Amason, actively supporting his interest in plants, a young Carl learned the tricks of the trade

relatively quickly. "He was born with a love of plants," said his older brother, Alton Virgil. "He would come home at 5 years old with a handful of daisies that he picked up on the side of the road. He had a love of flowers."

Amason also had an affinity for his hometown. After serving in Italy during World War II and graduating from Ouachita Baptist College in 1947, Amason spent much of his life in Union County. He worked as a chemist for American Oil in El Dorado and moved to the company's plant outside Chicago for one year before deciding to return home and watch over his family's estate. In the process, he channeled his energy into maintaining a garden and going to the local Baptist Church, where he would supply the flowers for the congregation. Never married, Amason maintained a reclusive lifestyle dedicated to his garden.

"He probably is one of the most devoted people to his garden I have known," said Randle Tomlinson, a resident of Calion who used to have coffee with Amason every week. "He shared it with anyone who had an interest – from young people to older people."

Television networks took advantage of the opportunity to see his botanical accomplishments. The Home and Garden Television cable network traveled to Calion to feature Amason's plants on one of its shows. Eric Sundell took his University of Arkansas-Monticello botany students there as well.

As one of the founders of the Arkansas Native Plants Society and a charter member of the Arkansas Daffodil Society, Amason became widely known in the gardening community around the region.

"He is one of the most knowledgeable plant people in Arkansas and the South," said Janet Carson, a horticulture specialist for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. He was glad to share his knowledge with anyone."

Amason stored in his memory a long catalogue of plant species but saved space for soaking up information on birds and geography – his other interests. His vast and detailed collection of tidbits and trivia on a variety of topics made him the subject of awe among his peers. "He is probably one of the most intelligent people I have ever known, although he wouldn't admit to it," Tomlinson said.

Adams summed it up better. "You didn't question Carl. He was always right," she said. "He was something else." Exerts from "Reclusive gardener devoted to flowers" by Rainer Sabin of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette; August 2, 2005.

COCA-COLA SCHOLARS FOUNDATION AWARDS SOUTHARK STUDENT \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Heather Smith, a student at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, AR, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

Through the Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program, the Foundation awards a total of 400 scholarships annually to students attending higher-education institutions granting two-year degrees. In April, one scholar from each state received a \$2,000 scholarship from Coca-Cola through the New Century Scholar Program of the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa, the two-year college scholastic honorary organization. On June 21, an additional 350 students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships. All recipients have demonstrated academic success and participated in community service within the past 12 months.

"The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program gives support and encouragement to an under-served population of college students," said J. Mark Davis, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. "This program is an extension of our long-standing commitment to college education throughout the United States. These fine students, who often juggle school, work and family, continue to give back to their communities through volunteer service."

The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program is made possible with funding from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation. The Whitehead Foundation provides grants in support of human services initiatives. The late Joseph B.

Whitehead was one of the original bottlers of Coca-Cola.



The Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program complements the Foundation's Coca-Cola Scholars Program, which awards more than \$1.8 million annually in college scholarships to 250 outstanding high school seniors. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is one of the most recognized and respected corporate-sponsored scholarships in America.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is supported by the financial commitment of the (Local Bottling Company) and The Coca-Cola Company. The Foundation was created in 1986 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Coca-Cola and to establish a legacy for the education of tomorrow's leaders. Now in its 6th year of funding the Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program, the Foundation

has provided nearly \$2.5 million in scholarship awards to students attending two-year degree granting institutions and more than \$26.8 million towards the Coca-Cola Scholars Program during the past 17 years.

LOCAL STUDENTS HONORED AT FBLA-PBL NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO

Students from South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, AR were honored at the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) National Leadership Conference (NLC), a professional association for students pursuing business careers. Students who competed and placed in PBL's NLC Competitive Events program are listed below:

Julie Smith- Second Place, Ethics and Etiquette and Sixth Place, Business Communications **Jason Horne**- Third Place, Telecommunications

South Arkansas Community College- Sixth Place, Community Service Project

Team Members: Monica Roberts, Kaci Travis, Brandi Dunn

Michael Roberts, Thomas Johnson, and Jerrod Jackson- Seventh Place, Network Design **Jerrod Jackson**- Ninth Place, Networking Concepts



college students.

The award was part of an event program sponsored annually by Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc. (FBLA-PBL) at its national conference.

Over 7,000 delegates to the National Leadership Conference participated in a structured, four-day meeting for each division that included business and leadership training workshops and seminars, corporate tours, and the election of national officers.

FBLA-PBL is the national business education association that prepares students for careers in business and business education. Each year its quarter million members and advisers join one of the more than 15,000 chartered chapters, including students from the United States, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Europe. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the high school division and Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is designed for post-secondary and

SOUTH ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE EMPLOYEE HONORED



Barbara Hogg, SouthArk's 2004 Outstanding Faculty Member, was one of seven finalists chosen out of 43 outstanding state employees honored at the Velda Rose Hotel on August 5, 2005. In addition to her work at SouthArk, Barbara also gives of her time to see the American Red Cross as a CPR instructor, an HIV-AIDS instructor, and a disaster health nurse. This is, of course, when she is not out of the country on medical missions in South America, Jamaica, or Guatemala. When she is back in the states, Barbara Hogg is likely to be found giving her time to serve as camp nurse for Boy Scouts, Camp Kurios, visiting with Parkinson's Disease patients, or volunteering during such disasters as tornados and ice storms. Her nominator, Patricia Bates, wrote the following: "Many lives are touched by her tireless efforts. She is very deserving to be recognized as an outstanding state employee. She is a great asset of South Arkansas Community College". Oliver Borden, Division Chair for Allied Health said, "An outstanding instructor, Barbara Hogg always puts forth maximum effort to communicate knowledge. When required, the individual student can count on Ms. Hogg to present the material in a learning style most conducive to their individual ability. This is Allied Health at South Ark's forte, building excellence in the individual student."

SOUTHARK LITERARY MAGAZINE SEEKS CREATIVE WRITERS

SouthArk is currently accepting manuscripts for the seventh volume of *Between the Lines*, a magazine for writers, ages eighteen and older, who live in the college's service area. Full-time students at SouthArk who are younger than 18 may also submit manuscripts. Writers from Union, Ashley, Bradford, and Chicot Counties and Union, Claiborne, and Webster parishes in Louisiana are invited to submit original poetry, short fiction, and essays through October 5, 2005. The editors seek high-quality material and invite creative writers – both published and unpublished – to treat the magazine as an outlet for their best poetry and prose.

Because the magazine targets a general audience in south Arkansas and north central Louisiana, the editors are looking for well-written, mainstream poetry or prose manuscripts that avoid extremes in subject matter and language. Personal essays that explore everyday subjects and issues, short fiction that vividly delivers a slice of life in a memorable style, and poems that evoke powerful images without sentimentalism or predictability are welcome.

Copies of the current volume are available at the college bookstore at 300 South West Avenue and at the Jefferson Street Bookstore in downtown El Dorado for \$5.00 each as well as by mail for an additional \$2.00 each for postage and handling. Mail order requests should be addressed to Phil Ballard. Checks may be written to South Arkansas Community College.

For more information regarding the guidelines for submitting work to this publication, please call Phil Ballard at 870.862.8131 or email him at pballard@southark.edu.

SOUTHARK PLANS FOR EIGHTH ANNUAL OUTDOOR EXPO



The South Arkansas Community College Foundation is proud to announce that the **Eighth Annual SouthArk Outdoor Expo** will take place on Saturday, September 10, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Vendors and exhibitors are invited to reserve their booth space early this year. Expo outdoor fun and festivities will take place on the SouthArk *East Campus* at 3696 E. Main St., El Dorado.

Expo is a community-wide event designed to encourage sports enthusiasts of all types to visit the SouthArk East campus and learn about the variety of recreational opportunities available in South Arkansas. Educating youth about the outdoor activities in our area is a major emphasis of the Outdoor Expo, so even more events will be targeted to children and the family.

The Outdoor Expo will have as its special guest Jimmy Houston, the popular host of ESPN II and Outdoor Channel fishing shows. Houston, an expert angler who is noted as "America's Favorite Fisherman," will be on-hand to present entertaining and educational seminars and demonstrations, answer questions about fishing and hunting, sign autographs, and meet and greet Expo visitors.

In addition to hunting and fishing exhibits, plans include demonstrations by experts from across the region. And, again this year, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will provide the most accurate and up-to-date information on

the outdoors and display their 1,000 gallon aquarium. Vendors will be selling hunting and fishing gear, wildlife art, gifts, books, outdoor apparel, boats, recreational vehicles, game calls and much more. Once again, musical entertainment will be provided throughout the day.

Contests this year include the Simmons First Bank Photo Contest, the Phil Herring/Holland Grill Rib Cook-off, and Bassmaster Casting for Kids Contest. Cash prizes and gifts will be awarded for these contests. Returning demonstrations include Master Bladesmith Tim Foster, Scott Winford Chainsaw Wood Carving, Fly fishing expert "Doc" Wells and much more.

Proceeds from the Outdoor Expo benefit educational opportunities for students and the general operations of the SouthArk Foundation.

Booth spaces are filling up quickly so vendors and exhibitors may reserve their space soon. Businesses or individuals wishing to provide sponsorships may also call the SouthArk Foundation office at 870-864-7106 or 800-955-2289.



JOIN THE FUN AT THE OUTDOOR EXPO - VOLUNTEER NOW! Every year, SouthArk students, faculty and staff volunteer their Saturday to donate their hard work and precious time in this flagship fundraiser. Last year, we netted \$20,000 in proceeds, which were used for scholarships and general operations of the Foundation. We need your help to make the Expo a success once again - more later on these volunteer opportunities!

Student Organization Sponsors - please let us know as soon as possible if your students would like to set up a booth and/or volunteer - they were all great last year! Call ext. 130 for more info!

BANCORP SOUTH BESTOWS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP TO SOUTHARK



FOUNDATION

Bancorp South has endowed a scholarship to the South Arkansas Community College Foundation in memory of Michael F. Mahony. This \$25,000 gift was generously bestowed for the purpose of supporting scholarships for SouthArk students. These funds have been used to establish the Michael F. Mahony Endowed Scholarship Fund. Scholarships will benefit graduates of El Dorado High School who best reflect the high educational ideals that Mr. Mahony espoused. Recipients will be first-time entering college students who are enrolled in at least twelve hours each semester and who have earned a 2.5 grade point average in prior coursework.

"Through Bancorp South's generous gift, we honor the life of Mr. Mahony. His dedication to excellence in education will survive in the

work and dreams of scholarship recipients," said John Dews, SouthArk Foundation Board President.

SIMMONS FIRST BANK BESTOWS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP TO



SOUTHARK FOUNDATION

Simmons First Bank has endowed a scholarship to the South Arkansas Community College Foundation. This \$15,000 gift was generously bestowed for the purpose of supporting scholarships for SouthArk students. The Simmons First Bank Endowed Scholarship will benefit qualified graduates from Union County high schools who are seeking a business or computer degree and who have earned a minimum 3.0 grade-point-average. Students must be enrolled in at least twelve hours each semester. This scholarship pays for tuition, mandatory fees, and textbooks.

John Dews, Chairman and CEO of Simmons First Bank, said "Simmons First is committed to education and the difference it can make in the future of our community and its citizens. We are proud of our partnership with SouthArk and its commitment to bringing affordable and convenient educational opportunities to our community."

"SouthArk Trustees and Foundation Directors acknowledge Simmons First Bank's generous support of education in south Arkansas over many years. In addition to providing scholarship opportunities for students, Simmons First has sponsored numerous student fine arts exhibits and concerts, including the Madrigal Feaste, which SouthArk has presented to the public," says Dr. Alan Rasco, South Arkansas Community College president. "And once again this year, Simmons First Bank is the sponsor for the Outdoor Expo Photo Contest. We are proud to have Simmons First as a collaborative partner in providing educational support and other valuable learning opportunities to the citizens of south Arkansas."

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Debra Moring	08-01
Berry Burgie	08-08
Judy Murphy	08-09
Gerald Stevenson	08-09
Vicki Badgley	08-15
Karsten Tidwell	08-15
Judy Smith Ward	08-17
Tom Posey	
Heather Rowe	08-19
Karen Boykin (Seacbec)	08-22
Natasha Ramey	

WELCOME SOUTHARK'S NEW EMPLOYEES

Jennifer Baine, English Instructor

Gerald Stevenson, Truck Driving Instructor

SOUTHARK NEWS

CHANGES AT SOUTHARK

Arrow Construction has arrived on the West Campus to begin work on the 1905 Junior College Building. The orange fencing will be in place for the duration of the exterior work. Please use caution as you approach the building. Masonry, windows and roofing will be addressed during this phase. Every effort will be made to minimize your inconvenience. Your patience will be appreciated. Thanks, *Tom Posey*

Allied Health

- Veronica Collins has resigned to accept a commission in the United States Army. We wish her the best as she supports freedom for all of us.
- Keitha Davidson is working on an ADHE proposal for Surgical Assistant. If you know anyone who might be interested, please contact her at ext. 228.

Trade and Industry

- P.V. Griffin has retired effective 7.29.05. We will have his retirement ceremony in the Billy McGehee building on Thursday, August 18, 11:30 1:00, with the presentation of his retirement gifts at 12:15. Light refreshments will be served.
- August 16, Louis Rabalais will leave maintenance and join faculty ranks as the Building Trades instructor.
- The Billy McGehee Building has a new roof being installed with a schedule completion date of August 23.

Arts and Sciences

- Carolyn Hart is now a full time instructor.
- Jennifer Bain has come aboard as our new English instructor.
- Jessie Wrenn is now a full time English instructor.
- Casey Martin has assumed the duties of the director of The Learning Center duties and math classroom technical coordinator.
- Phil Ballard is now editor of Between the Lines.
- Bettie Ann Mahony and Lura Brown are starting work on the HLC self-study.

Adjunct additions: Eve Bradford, Mark Givens, Charlotte Burgess, Becky Hay, Heather Rowe and Dr. Robert Haynes

CHANGING SPACES: Helen Griffith, Math Faculty, moved to CT105 Rudy Buckman, Psychology Faculty, moved to CB236 Carolyn Hart, English Faculty, moved to AB205B Matt Cox, Math Faculty, moved to CT124 Genevieve Fouse, Adjunct Math Faculty, moved to CT134

WORKFORCE/COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 1. Camp Lotsafun ended the last week in July with classes in Keyboarding for Kids; Dynamic Digital Photography; Basic Drawing and Shading; and Outdoor Games. Each week the children received a memento card like the one below with pictures from that week and a message from the staff on the back.
- 2. AmerCable is continuing with their Lean Manufacturing and 5S training. This training will continue through August. Tom Mann and Jim Lilley are the instructors.
- 3. Nordan Smith and Lion Oil employees attended a Defensive Driving on July 14. Jim Hackney was the instructor.
- 4. Employees from Teris, Milbank, El Dorado Chemical, Lockheed Martin, Potlatch, and Saint Gobain Glass participated in Control Logix training August 1 5.
- 5. SouthArk's Louis Rabalais presented a most interesting Noon Symposium, *A Little History and Mystery of the Organ,* on July 20.
- 6. Albert Hanna has volunteered to teach *Spanish for Law Enforcement* to help law enforcement officers learn Spanish for free, since tight budgets often don't allow for this type of training. State troopers, Union County sheriff's deputies, and police from Junction City and Camden are participating in this class.













WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNITY SERVICE CALENDAR

(Remember...SouthArk employees can use tuition waivers for these classes)

August 17: Noon Symposium: Adding Life to Your Years

August 23: Computer Aided Drafting September 1: Shall We Dance

September 5: Boiler Operator Pre-Licensing Prep Course

September 6: National Safety Council 4-Hour Defensive Driving Course

September 6: Fundamentals of Supervisory Management and Communication

September 6: Basic Drawing I

September 12: Microsoft Word 2002 (Nivel 1) Para Hispanos

September 12: Conversational Spanish I

September 13: Excel 2002 (Level 1) September 14: New to Computers

September 14: American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR Course

September 15: Electrical Repair for the Homeowner

September 20: Spanish for Requesting Personal Information and Data

September 20: PowerPoint 2000 (Intro)

September 20: Photo Workshop

September 21: Noon Symposium, Stop Medicare Fraud

September 26: Clase De Ciudadania Para Hispanos (Citizenship class)

FOUNDATION

The Foundation Board of Directors is proud to have distributed the first Annual Report to faculty, staff and the community. If you have not received yours, please call the Foundation office at ext. 130.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE KICK-OFF - Last year faculty and staff donated more than \$13,000 to the Annual Fund Drive. If you would like to be a team leader for this year's fund drive, please call Cynthia at ext. 130.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Miss Margaret Meyer has made her grand entrance into this world. She was born Thursday, June 2nd, and weighed 7lbs. 3oz. Mom *Cindy*, dad Bill, and big sister Sophia are also doing well.

At the EDUCAUSE CIO Conference in Pebble Beach, California on July 26th - 28th, *Ken Woods*, Director, Computer Services, delivered a keynote address to the approximately 1600 CIO's, CTO's, and Directors of Computer/IT Services who were in attendance at the Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, California. The title of the presentation was "Leadership in Information Technology". The focus of the presentation was on the changing world that information technology is playing in higher education and the changing role of the leaders in IT.

Mary Pat Cook will lead the cast of the South Arkansas Arts Center's upcoming production of "Always...Patsy Cline." The play features Mary Pat Cook as the legendary country singer, Patsy Cline. The play will run from September 15 through September 21.

THANKS!

Thank you for the beautiful plant, it is really nice to work with such great folks.

Debby Edney

Dear SouthArk Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Hibiscus plant. I really appreciate your kind words and deeds during my recent accident and subsequent surgery. The doctor says I should recover and have use of my hand (hopefully) in about six weeks. I am so lucky to work with such a great group of folks! Thanks again!

Becky Riggs

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 15-19	Pre-Service
August 15	New Student Orientation, 1-4 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m., WPA Gym
August 16-17	Late Registration
August 18	P.V. Griffin Retirement party, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Billy McGehee Bldg.
August 22	First Day of Classes
August 24	Noon Symposium - Terry Clark presents "Adding Life to Your Years", 11:30 a.m 1:00 p.m.,
	SouthArk WFD
September 5	Labor Day – School closed
September 10	SouthArk Outdoor Expo, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., SouthArk East Campus
October 5	Between the Lines Deadline

I hope you enjoyed SouthArk's Employee Newsletter.

If you have comments or suggestions, please email me at accoley@southark.edu.

Submit your stories by the 25th of each month to acooley@southark.edu.