Hello, Alexa!

SCC is pleased to announce the newest addition to its staff, Alexa, an Amazon Echo.

Before joining the college, Alexa worked as a personal assistant on Echo Dot for anyone with a couple hundred of bucks to spare. She is capable of voice interaction, music playback, making to-do lists, setting alarms, streaming podcasts, playing audiobooks, and providing weather, traffic, and other real-time information, such as news. Alexa can also control several smart devices using itself as a home automation system.

“Hiring Alexa just makes financial sense,” said Charles Darnay, a well-paid spokesman for Amazon. “She’s good. She’s really good.”

SCC stands to save “a lot of money” by replacing human professors with the more cost-effective virtual instructor.

Dolores Umbridge, a silly old lady said, “Alexa does not require a yearly salary, so all that money goes right back into our budget.”

Alexa will instruct courses in areas of criminal justice, art, clinical nursing, English, physics, psychology, and mathematics.

She will begin teaching in the fall and will continue to support the college’s growth and focus on student learning and success.

SCC will release a list of 20 outgoing professors on April 2.

When fully integrated into the classroom this fall, Alexa will teach several subjects. Because the new “teacher” is not human, it will be much more cost-effective than the current living instructors.

By Ray Hunter

New athletic association gives students the chance to chase cheese

By McKenzie Mullins

The National Community College Athletic Association (NCCAA) is an association of intercollegiate athletics representing hundreds of community colleges.

There are 15 men’s and 13 women’s sports. There are national championships at the end of each season. SCC’s board of directors has voted to join the NCCAA this fall.

Students will have a chance to participate in six sports: toe wrestling, kickball, cheese chasing, unicycle hockey, and shin-kicking.

Milo Minderbinder is already thinking about tryouts. “I love kicking people in the shin,” he said, “so why not put my talent to good use?”

Jessica Stanley is excited for kickball: “I used to play kickball in elementary school, so it’ll be fun to embrace my inner child.”

Skut Farcus is anticipating the arrival of cheese chasing and asks, “Who wouldn’t want to watch people race down a hill after a nine-pound round of Double Gloucester cheese?”

3-way tie for SCC president - Page 19

Fight Club discovered in Laurel parking lot — PAGE 21 —

McCreary student marries squirrel — PAGE 30 —

Talking bird named to Dean’s List — PAGE 43 —

By McKenzie Mullins

‘Ray’s Rave Review’ of drive-thrus - Page 11.5

— INSIDE THIS ISSUE (NOT) —
Goal of blood drive is better nutrition for the undead

By Alyson Branscum

SCC has announced that the donations from the upcoming blood drive on Wednesday, April 32 will go to help a sometimes overlooked group of “people”—starving vampires.

“This is a great way to help our fanged friends,” said Edward Cullen, vampire advocate.

Recent studies have found that three out of four vampires are not getting the proper blood they need. This has prompted others to take action.

The scarcity of human blood has prompted many blood drives around America. Nutrition experts say inadequate blood intake has many detrimental effects on the vampire community.

“It is quite a crisis,” said Varney the Vampire.

The vampire community has asked people with particularly rare blood types to donate because they are often the tastiest.

“O Negative and B Positive make for an interesting combination,” Count Dracula said. “It really hits the spot.”

It is asked if you eat a garlic heavy diet, you do not donate, as vampires are sensitive to the garlic.

The hope of the blood drive is to provide nutrition to the fanged community that have a hard time nourishing themselves.

In true fashion, this blood drive will take place after dark.

Save a vampire and donate blood at SCC’s upcoming blood drive.

The vampire community has asked people with particularly rare blood types to donate because they are often the tastiest.

April Fool’s Day fun...

Everything on the front page and this page is fake news!

The regular issue of The Bridge begins on Page 3

...and there’s nothing fake about it.
By Alyson Branscum

SCC instructor Lisa Hart died from injuries sustained in a single-vehicle accident on March 4. Hart, 48, was on her way to Freedom Point Church on Highway 25 between London and Corbin when she apparently lost control of her vehicle. It left the roadway, overturned, and struck a tree.

Hart’s sudden passing left faculty, staff, and students at the Laurel Campus, where she taught practical nursing (PN) courses, stunned and saddened.

“I had the privilege to not only have Lisa as an instructor, but also got the chance to work alongside her at Manchester Memorial Hospital in the emergency department,” said LPN student Lori Rivera.

Hart had dedicated her life and career to nursing. She earned her Master’s degree in nursing from Grand Canyon University, and she began teaching at the Laurel Campus in October 2017.

“It took two search committees for her to find her way to me, but as soon as she was hired, I knew we would quickly become lifelong friends,” said Carol Price, the PN instructor who taught alongside Hart.

Hart may have been with SCC for a short time, but she had an impact on her nursing students.

Student Brandon Meadors called Hart a “compassionate, caring person” who will be missed dearly.

Since Hart taught in a program with a select number of students, she interacted with her students closely.

“She cared about each of us personally and prayed for us every day, every test, and for each clinical day,” said student Hannah Hall.

Hart was married to Eric Hart, and they had three children together. She was also a “Mimi” to her three grandchildren.

“Lisa and I had so many heart-to-heart talks in our offices, and we shared many personal stories with each other,” Price said. “She was a true friend and one that will be greatly missed.”

26 candidates for SCC’s presidency being reviewed by screening committee

By Ray Hunter

Twenty-six educators from around the country have applied for the soon-to-be-open position of president and CEO of SCC.

The national search for qualified candidates began when the position was announced on presidential websites and professional journals on February 14, just over a month after current SCC president and CEO Dr. Jo Marshall announced her impending retirement.

The base salary for a new president/CEO in the KCTCS system is $160,000 per year. The outgoing president, Dr. Jo Marshall, earns just over $172,000 yearly, as listed on the KCTCS website.

Dr. Michael Goleman, Associate Professor of History and SCC Faculty Chair, said, “I don’t know what other perks [the new president] will get” in addition to his or her base salary.

Dr. Preston Pulliams, President of Gold Hill Associates, is an external search consultant who has been working closely with the screening committee to recruit outstanding candidates for the position. According to Gold Hill Associates website, “Recruiting is one of the most overlooked aspects of the search.”

The screening committee began reviewing resumes of the 26 candidates in March, with help Continued on Page 6
Autism Speaks: Are you listening?

April is Autism Awareness Month, and as a mother of a child on the spectrum, I want to remind people that it’s not all about blue bracelets and puzzle pieces. It is not enough to “Light it up blue” for one month.

You should already be aware of autism. More importantly, you should be practicing autism acceptance every single day of the year.

Acceptance is an action. It comes from purposefully identifying, understanding, and including people who are different from you.

There are countless ways to incorporate autism acceptance into everyday life. Do some research; read about autistic people and their different triumphs and setbacks. Don’t be afraid to ask honest and appropriate questions. Opening a dialogue is the best way to share and understand new information.

Chances are that you already know someone who is, or has children who are, on the autism spectrum. If you do, then you understand that living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) presents daily challenges and requires endless patience. If you don’t, you soon will.

About 1 in 68 children have been identified with ASD, according to estimates from CDC’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network.

That’s a lot of people.

My son, Cash, is one of them. He is incredibly intelligent, loving, and kind. He is beautiful.

Like many on the spectrum, Cash struggles with verbal communication and often repeats what is said to him, rather than responding to the person speaking.

For strangers, it can cause awkward exchanges.

Lady at Walmart: “Hi! What’s your name, buddy?”

Cash: “Buddy.”
Lady: “Oh, really! How old are you, Buddy?”
Cash: “Buddy.”
Lady looks to me for an explanation.
Me: “His name is Cash and he is eight. He is on the autism spectrum.”
Lady: “Oh, I’m so sorry.”
Part of me wants to say, “Sorry for what?” But I don’t.

This has happened so many times, I have lost count. Plus, I don’t want to look like a crazy lady, screaming in line at Walmart.

I wish I never had to justify or defend Cash’s behavior. I wish people would stop thinking autism is a disease or something to be embarrassed about. I am not embarrassed, and I hope that Cash never is either.

Besides, I have other legitimate fears to worry about.

The National Autism Association, the leader in autism safety information, reports that 48 percent of autistic children wander or run away from a safe environment. Accidental drowning accounts for 71 percent of lethal outcomes, followed by traffic injuries at 18 percent.

Someone is always home with Cash, and he has an aide at school who stays with him throughout the day. But those statistics still scare me.

If you happen to come across a person who seems lost or confused, please consider that he or she may be autistic and need help but might not be able to convey that easily.

Take a moment to look for an identification bracelet or information card and respond with compassion, rather than apprehension.

Like every good parent, I have serious concerns about my child. I worry about Cash getting bullied at school. I worry that he might regress. I worry that he doesn’t eat enough. I worry that he feels alone. But, most of all, I worry about his future.

According to ADDM, 65 percent of young adults with autism have not had a job or received postgraduate education after leaving high school. Additionally, adults living with ADS often have difficulty finding information about programs that would allow them to live independently.

Autistic people have unique talents and skills that would be valuable to many work environments, if employers were more accepting of them. As a society, it is crucial to provide them with the tools needed to succeed.

And that is all I want for Cash: to be a happy, healthy, productive member of his community. I want him to be proud of himself and his accomplishments. I want the world to see past the label and truly embrace the person that he is.

April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day, when advocacy group Autism Speaks celebrates its international Light It Up Blue Campaign. Their mission is to spread awareness and acceptance for people across the entire spectrum.

That’s a good start. But we can all do more.

Get involved with local autism support groups like Early Autism Project. Teach your kids not to judge the quiet kid at school but to try to make a new friend, and to not be offended if it doesn’t work the first time.

Get out of your comfort zone! Autism is not something to fear and one of the best things you could ever do is to reach out to a person who feels isolated.

ASD is the fastest growing developmental disorder, and MIT scientist Stephanie Seneff predicts half of children born in 2025 will be autistic. If that is true, then all of us will have to come together in love and acceptance.

Let’s light it up blue all year long.

Quote of the Month... by McKenzie Mullins

“I don’t think my father, the inventor of toaster strudel, would be too pleased to hear about this.”

-Gretchen Wieners

This month’s quote submitted by SCC student Samantha Dick. It is from the movie, “Mean Girls.”
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lindsey Wilson College holds appreciation lunch

Dear Editor,

Lindsey Wilson College appreci - ates our relationship with Somer - set Community College and working with students here who wish to transfer.

To show our thanks, LWC hosted an appreciation luncheon for SCC employees on Tuesday, March 20 in the Hal Rogers Community Room. We served vegetable soup, chicken salad, sub sandwiches and desserts.

The door prize—a Lindsey Wilson travel mug and Starbucks gift card—was won by Melinda Brinson. She is a Student Affairs Assistant II with SCC’s Center for Advising, Retention & Engagement (CARE).

We were happy to share information packets with advisors and instructors that included new online programs at LWC and some fabulous new tuition rates for some of our programs.

Anyone who was not able to attend may contact me in the Transfer Center or at rizenbergs@lindsey.edu, or by calling (606) 305-1227, and I will be glad to get a packet of information to you.

Thanks,
Penny Rizenbergs, M.Ed., LPCA Coordinator of Educational Outreach & Online Programs
Lindsey Wilson College
School of Professional Counseling

Student Ambassador applications ready

Dear Editor,

Twenty SCC students are chosen each year through a selective process to serve in a public relations capacity and represent the college at campus and community events.

Students Ambassadors work at over 100 events per academic year. Some of those include International Festival, Earth Day, MLK events, and Science Olympiad, just to mention a few.

They also assist with recruiting efforts, conduct campus tours, and provide information about SCC to prospective students, school groups, and the public. They will be provided with training in professional etiquette, leadership, customer service, tour training, and communication skills.

Each student ambassador will work 40 hours per semester and as compensation will receive a scholarship equivalent to 6 credit hours. Based on current tuition rates, that is a $972 value. Ambassadors work 40 hours per semester, which averages out to $24.00+ per hour.

Additionally, student ambassadors have great networking opportunities. Holding this position is a great résumé builder.

The successful candidate(s) will meet the following criteria:

• Have the time to fully participate in the program
• Must commit to both fall 2018 and spring 2019 semesters
• Must be a student who will project a positive, professional image of the college
• Excellent communication skills
• Positive attitude
• Dependable

Application deadline is April 15 and may be completed online. Two letters of recommendation from any SCC full-time permanent faculty or staff member will complete the application process.

Melissa Winstead
SCC Academic Advisor

―

Thank You! Dr. Jo Marshall for your support of the Great Discussions Lecture Series

THURSDAY, MARCH 29 — JASON SMITH

The Season 13 Food Network Star Winner will speak on “The Importance of Culinary Education & Local Sustainability”

All “Great Discussion” events will be held on SCC’s Somerset Campus

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1 p.m. - KY Proud Expo: Hal Rogers Student Commons - Cafeteria. Local KY Proud vendors will be set up to offer samples and showcase their products.

3 p.m. - VIP Demo Session: Stoner Building - Little Stoner Theater. Free admission, limited seating.

4 p.m. - Reception: Hal Rogers Student Commons - Barnes & Noble Bookstore will serve as host. Jason Smith will be available for autographs and photos.

5:30 p.m. - Main Event - Open to the Public: Hal Rogers Student Commons - CNB Community Room Great Discussions Lecture Series with Smith as speaker.

JASON SMITH
Food Network Star Winner
Theatre Arts program providing opportunities on stage and screen

By McKenzie Mullins
Lights, camera, action!

Looking at its small auditorium, seating 150 people, you would not think the SCC Theatre Arts program has much going on. But if you look behind-the-scenes, you may be surprised to learn that it has a lot to offer students.

The theatre department allows students to pursue an Associate of Arts degree with an emphasis in Theatre Arts.

According to Steve Cleberg, the Theatre Arts Director, the program provides opportunities for the whole community to become involved in live theatre and video projects.

“I think my favorite thing about the theatre program is that it’s community based,” Cleberg said. “It’s educational, but it’s not just for students.”

The theatre department performs a big production each fall.

Last year the program performed The Dining Room, by A.R. Gurney, Jr.

“I just learned today that a feature film that we shot last summer is going to have a ‘student rush line,’ which releases unclaimed seats to students for $2 if they give their instructor’s name.”

During the Spring, the theatre department focuses on film production.

“I just learned today that a feature film that we shot last summer is going to have a ‘student rush line,’ which releases unclaimed seats to students for $2 if they give their instructor’s name.”

The program recently produced a short film called It All Turns on Love, based on a play written by Betty Peterson, an English professor at SCC.

“We saw the opportunity to change it into a film, so we’ve done sort of a stage version and now we’re doing a film version,” Cleberg said.

The short film will be shown at the Arnow Conference this year, April 6 and 7. The Arnow Conference is a writer’s conference in honor of Harriette Simpson Arnow, a novelist who lived in Kentucky.

Every year, the conference has seminars on poetry, fiction, screenwriting, and songwriting, Cleberg said.

Starting this year, the theatre program will have a film festival at the Arnow Conference that focuses on Appalachian filmmakers.

“We’re going to show an evening of Appalachian short films, and then at the end of that we’re going to show the film that we just got finished shooting,” Cleberg said.

(For more information on the upcoming Arnow Conference, see page 12).

The department has a web series on YouTube called Summerfalls, which places on the fictional campus of Summerfalls Community College.

Each episode shows an event that happens on campus.

“It’s very much like Somerset Community College,” Cleberg said.

The SCC Theatre Collaborative also takes place during the spring.

People interested in theatre come together to work on plays written by local playwrights, focusing on a different job in theatre each year.

“Last January we focused on directing and the year before we focused on playwriting,” Cleberg said.

For about eighteen years, the theatre program has hosted the Teen Theatre Festival.

Teenagers from the region are invited to SCC to learn about, and meet people interested in, theatre.

If students have a scene, or monologue, they want to perform for the festival audience, they have an opportunity to do that.

“This year we’re going to have a stage combat workshop and we’re going to have a musical theatre workshop,” Cleberg said.

The theatre department isn’t just for students who want to perform, it is for anybody who likes creativity.

Theatre involves behind-the-scenes jobs like carpentry, visual arts, and lighting.

“If you’re interested in taking part in theatre on-stage, backstage, or just helping with rehearsals, just come and see me because I really want to get as much student involvement as I possibly can,” Cleberg said.

SCC sells – then leases – the Clinton Center

By McKenzie Mullins

The rumors are true, SCC no longer owns the Clinton Center.

Due to a continuing decline in enrollment, the Center was sold to the Clinton County Board of Education in December of 2017.

“Through discussions with Clinton County, a plan was developed to effectively utilize the space and better serve the local community’s educational needs,” said Dr. Clint Hayes, Interim Provost.

Despite the fact that SCC has sold the facility, it is not vacating the premises altogether. According to Hayes, SCC has a “no cost” lease agreement with the Clinton County Board of Education, so the college can take advantage of any space at the Center that they may need or want.

In fact, classes are still available to students at the Clinton Center. Currently, the cosmetology program is still in place.

This fall, general education courses, including English, communications, and mathematics, will be offered at the Center, Hayes said.

Students can still take advantage of the resources offered at the Center, like the computers and support staff.

“The Center still has a director, assistant to the director, advisors, and work-study students,” said Hunter Stevens, Administrative Assistant at Clinton.

As long as enough students attend classes, SCC will remain at the Center, Hayes said.

“SCC will continue to offer classes at the Clinton Center as long as there is sufficient enrollment,” he said.

SCC honors the late Professor Joanne Story with student emergency fund

By Alyson Branscum

March 17th marked the one-year anniversary of the death of psychology professor and advisor Joanne Story. SCC suffered a huge loss in Story’s passing, as she was a tireless advocate for students.

While Story is gone, she is certainly not forgotten. A student emergency fund has been set up in her memory.

The emergency fund allows for students in financial need to receive help. It continues the practice of Story herself, as she personally helped many students during times of financial hardship.

Chief Institutional Advancement Officer Cindy Clouse said three students benefited from the Joanne Story emergency fund last semester. Two students required tuition assistance, and one other student needed help with the cost of books.

The current balance of the fund is $6,161.85.

If you are interested in donating to the Joanne Story Memorial Student Emergency Fund, contact Cindy Clouse. SCC does notify Story’s husband, RC, of all donations made in her memory.

SCC president
Continued from Page 3

from Dr. Jay Box, KCTCS President, Dr. Pulliams, and other college officials.

On March 29, the selection committee was to have narrowed the field of candidates to as few as eight but no more than ten.

These candidates will submit a video presentation by April 4 responding to questions provided by KCTCS. From this group three finalists will be selected. Finalists will be announced to the community on April 12 and the three will be invited to visit SCC on April 23-24.

During this visit, there will be an inclusive interview process that allows all constituents of the college – faculty, staff, administrators, students and community – to meet the candidates and to provide feedback to the college board.

On April 24, the board and Dr. Box meet to select the new president from the three candidates.
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SCC hosted Flashback Theater Company’s performance of the musical “Little Shop of Horrors” from March 1 through March 10. Directed by Ron Kidd, with music direction by Amanda Balltrip, the play had several sold out shows. Featured in photographs: Joey Nortman and Kyle Kadel.

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Academic advisors address fears, concerns and myths about transferring from SCC

By Madison Marlow

Transferring from a community college to a four-year institution can be stressful for students. Many fear the process because of “horror” stories they have heard. But SCC advisors say that many of these concerns are simply myths.

Shawn Anderson and Louie Childers, advisors at SCC, agreed to address some of the fears and concerns from actual students who plan to transfer.

Macy Sumner, a student at the McCreary Center, is concerned about transferring. “Will my credits transfer?” she asked.

Degrees, such as an Associate in Arts or Associates in Science, are made to transfer to a four-year college as a “block,” Childers said.

“If you get an AA or AS, your Gen Ed credits will definitely transfer,” Anderson explained. “Completing an AA or AS will make you ‘Gen Ed Certified.’”

There was, once upon a time, an issue with classes that were part of an Associate’s degree not transferring. But that is not so anymore, Childers said.

“All state schools are required to accept the block transfer credits from KCTCS,” he said. So Sumner and other degree-seeking students can relax on that point.

“How do I go about transferring? Is it too late to transfer if I am a second-year student?” asked Zach Starrett, who is going into his sophomore year at SCC.

“Do I have to complete a program for my credits to transfer?” asked Shelby Roark. She plans on transferring to Eastern Kentucky University soon.

“No, you do not have to complete a program for the credits to transfer,” Anderson said. Credits from an AA or AS will transfer.

“For students only staying a semester or two, it is best if they complete the block transfer,” Childers said, “That way when you get [to your new school] you do not have to run all over campus to Gen Ed classes.”

Knowing what you want to major in, what your career-path is, and what school you want to go to are three important elements of a smooth transfer.

“Knowing what you want to major in, what your career-path is, and what school you want to go to are three important elements of a smooth transfer,” Anderson said.

“Travelin’ Solider” by the Dixie Chicks. She plays it at every show. Two of her music idols are Carrie Underwood and Loretta Lynn.

“If my life was a song, it would be called ‘Small Town Girl’ because that’s exactly what I am,” Reed said. “I love being outside and riding four-wheelers. I’m just a simple small town girl.”

After playing shows and writing her own music for years, Reed made the decision to take the leap of faith and audition for American Idol, a show she always loved to watch. Reed traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana.

“The American Idol” experience was not a destination but merely part of her journey.

“I hope to always see myself still singing somewhere either on big stages or small shows,” Reed said. “Music has always been a part of my life and always will.”

For Reed, her American Idol experience was not a destination but merely part of her journey.

“I hope to always see myself still singing somewhere either on big stages or small shows,” Reed said. “Music has always been a part of my life and always will [be].”

Michaela Reed, shown above, displays her accomplishment of having been a contestant on the hit show, ‘American Idol.’ She traveled to New Orleans for the competition.

On the right, Michaela totes her guitar case in pursuit of her musical career.
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SCC Spotlight

What’s on the mind of...

Jamiee King
Joel Shelton
Peyton Gregory

What super power would you want?
Invisibility.
The power to control time.
Invisibility.

What is your favorite form of social media?
Facebook.
Facebook.
Instagram.

What is your favorite beverage?
Dr. Pepper.
Ski.
Sweet tea.

Speaking of newspapers...

Alyson Branscum, managing editor of SCC’s student newspaper, The Bridge, was the featured speaker at the March meeting of the Kiwanis Club. Branscum told the group of her duties at the paper and how she works with the student staff to prepare each issue.

ABOVE—Branscum speaks to the group at their March meeting at Mellow Mushroom.
RIGHT—Club member and SCC Associate Professor Zhiming Xia introduced the speaker.

Nash Black awards to be presented Sunday, April 15

‘Shades of Green’ is Earth Day photo contest theme

Participants in SCC’s Earth Day photography contest will only have to enjoy the beauty of spring to find inspiration for their images.

The theme, “Shades of Green,” will have entrants’ focus on the primary color of the season as a major ingredient in their photos. The images may also include animals and/or people and should be taken in south-central Kentucky.

The grand prize for the “Nash Black Photography Awards” is $100. Cash awards of $50, $25 and $15 will also be presented. Deadline to enter the contest is Sunday, April 8.

Applications being accepted for newspaper editor

Applications are being accepted in for managing editor of SCC’s student newspaper, The Bridge. The person selected for the position would serve a one-academic-year term—Fall 2018 semester and the Spring 2019 semester.

The student selected by the Student Publication Committee will receive a 12-hour scholarship to SCC. The scholarship will be good for two semesters.

Qualifications/requirements include:
• Rank of sophomore;
• A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher;
• Appropriate management skills;
• Current enrollment at SCC with a course load of no less than 9 credit hours;
• The submission of an official application, including resume and samples of writing; and
• Signing a formal agreement with the SCC Board of Student Publications.

For an application or more information, e-mail sccthebridge@yahoo.com or stop by the Print Shop in Building 2, Room 225 on SCC’s Somerset Campus south.

The deadline to submit an application for this position is Thursday, April 26.
SCC to host Arnow Conference and Film Festival on April 6 - 7

Authors, poets, musicians, and filmmakers from around the region will have their talents on display at the 16th annual Arnow Conference on Appalachian Literature & Culture at Somerset Community College on Friday, April 6, and Saturday, April 7.

The 2018 conference, named for renowned author and Wayne County native Harriette Simpson Arnow, will feature as its centerpiece the debut of the Appalachian Film Festival on Friday evening. Sessions will include a filmmakers’ forum and screenings of nine short films from Appalachia-based filmmakers.

The two-day conference will also feature readings and workshops by accomplished writers and poets, including Amy D. Clark, Pearlie Jenkins, Wanda Fries, and Vicki Blair; and a songwriters workshop led by celebrated duo Joe LaMay and Sherri Reese.

Conference registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. on April 6 in the Harold Rogers Student Commons on the Somerset Campus North at 808 Monticello Street in Somerset.

The registration cost for the Arnow Conference is $15 for either Friday or Saturday and $25 for both days. Students, faculty and staff can attend the conference at no cost if they pre-register by April 1.

The film screenings will take place on Stoner Little Theatre’s ‘big screen’ on the afternoon and evening of Friday, April 6.

Steve Cleberg, coordinator of the Appalachian Film Festival, hopes the event provides “a vital platform for Appalachian filmmakers as well as for our local cinema artists.”

Cleberg is the director of the Theatre & Film Department at SCC and has been hosting various film festivals at the college for over ten years, including the Autumn Shorts Film Festival, which boasts over 300 submissions from over 20 countries annually. This year, at the urging of conference organizers, he decided to put his film festival experience to work for the Arnow Conference.

“SCC’s annual Arnow Conference is an important outreach to writers in the region,” Cleberg said. “A couple of years ago, the organizers asked me to contribute with workshops in playwriting and filmmaking. Hosting a festival for filmmakers in the region seemed like a logical next step.”

Cleberg is an accomplished filmmaker himself, having produced more than a dozen short and feature-length films, including “It All Turns on Love,” which will make its world premiere during the Appalachian Film Festival. The screenplay was written by SCC Professor of English Betty Peterson, an accomplished playwright.

Complete registration information for the 2018 Arnow Conference on Appalachian Literature & Culture can be found by visiting the Somerset Community College website or by contacting Sommer Schoch at sommer.schoch@kctcs.edu or (606) 451-6766.

Contact/Registration information (including Early Registration for students): sommer.schoch@kctcs.edu

Vicki Blair
Vicki Blair is the author of The McWhorter Trilogy, comprised of the novels Gravy, Grits, and Graves; Halos, Hollers, and Hell; and the forthcoming Bankers, Brothers, and Blood.

Pearlie Jenkins
Pearlie Jenkins is a singer, songwriter, author, and resident of Somerset. His debut novel, Poor Man’s Summer, has received positive reviews from critics and readers alike.

Amy Clark
Amy D. Clark is the founding director of the Appalachian Writing Project and the editor/author of two books and several articles and essays.

Joe LaMay and Sherrie Reese
Joe LaMay and Sherrie Reese are Pulaski County-based folk singers who have been performing original and traditional folk songs as a duo since the late 1990s.

Wanda Fries
Wanda Fries is a professor of English at SCC and has published several poems and short stories. She has also written two novels and a book of poetry.

Arnow Conference on Appalachian Literature and Culture • Schedule of Events

Friday, April 6
3:30 p.m. .......................... Registration
4:15 p.m. .......................... Filmmaker’s Reception
5:00 p.m. .......................... Filmmaker’s Forum
6:00 p.m. .......................... Appalachian Film Festival Session 1
7:00 p.m. .......................... Appalachian Film Festival Session 2
8:00 p.m. .......................... Appalachian Film Festival Session 3

Saturday, April 7
8:30 a.m. .......................... Registration/Breakfast
9:10 a.m. .......................... Workshop Session A
9:30 a.m. .......................... Workshop Session B
11:45 a.m. .......................... Closing Remarks

Conference Location:
Somerset Community College
Somerset Campus
808 Monticello Street
Harold Rogers Student Commons
Somerset, Kentucky 42501
somerettes.kctcs.edu/arnowconference

Harriette Simpson Arnow was born July 7, 1908 in Bronston, Ky., and died March 22, 1986 in Ann Arbor, Mich. She was a novelist, social historian, short-story writer, and essayist.
Educator has worn many hats at the college

Laurel Campus Director Roger Angevine calling it a career after 27 years at SCC

By Alyson Branscum

Roger Angevine wears many hats at SCC. He is the Dean of Applied Technology, Director of the Laurel Campus, and Carl Perkins Coordinator. But Angevine will soon be removing those hats. He is retiring at the end of the academic year after 27 years at SCC.

Angevine’s career has taken him all over the country. He began his career in higher education at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois. Then he taught at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, followed by Houston Baptist University in Texas.

“At SCC, Angevine said. “We plan to continue that.”

Angevine has grown by 7.5 percent this spring. While the Somerset campus and the centers continue to experience declining enrollment, the Laurel campus has grown by 7.5 percent this spring.

Angevine will miss the faculty and staff he works with each day and especially his assistant, Deane Allen. “Without Deane Allen here as my right-hand lady, I don’t know what I’d do,” Angevine said. “She has been a jewel to work with.”

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As Angevine looks over his time here at SCC, he is proud of many things. He was able to be a part of the presidential search that secured Dr. Jo Marshall in 2000.

In addition, Angevine has overseen several grants that the college has seen, and he led the committee for reaccreditation in 2000.

As the Director of the Laurel Campus, Angevine is pleased to have seen a recent boost in enrollment. While the Somerset campus and the centers continue to experience declining enrollment, the Laurel campus has grown by 7.5 percent this spring.

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Retirement will take Angevine some getting used to. “I’m 71 now, almost 72, and I have been in school since I was 6, so it will be quite a change,” he said.

Angevine’s wife, Sue, is a former foreign language teacher, and they have traveled the world together.

“We have spent a lot of time in Europe and Central America, and we have been to all fifty states,” Angevine said. “We plan to continue that.”

When he is not at the college, Angevine can be found with his binoculars and camera while bird watching or hiking.

With recent and upcoming changes in leadership at SCC, Angevine advises the college’s new administrators to evaluate the college and see what is already taking place.

“Bring your good ideas, but you should see what is going on at SCC,” Angevine said.

Angevine recommends that new administrators get a feel for the faculty and staff, and learn as much as they can about the culture of the college.

“As the old saying goes, ‘If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it,’” Angevine said.

Angevine never wants student to be content with their level of education because there is always something new to learn.

“You need to stay on top of things,” Angevine said. “That is one thing we have to convince faculty of because what you learned in graduate school twenty-years ago may not be the best thing today.”

SCC sees a lot of first generation college students, and they see college as something that cannot succeed if they are intimidated.

“Yes, it is a challenge, but you don’t need to be intimidated,” Angevine said. “You just have to get in there and swing for the fences.”

SCC Earth Day Celebration to be held Sunday, April 15

SCC will be holding its annual Earth Day Celebration for the thirteenth year in a row. The goal of the event is to recognize the Earth and all the resources it provides.

The Earth Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, April 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on SCC’s Somerset Campus north.

There will be live music, food vendors, face painting, reptiles, raptors, and many other animals. There will be Rain Barrel Giveaways throughout the afternoon.

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As part of Great Discussion Lecture Series

Food Network’s Baking Champ Jason Smith at SCC on March 29 to promote culinary education

SCC will have Jason Smith as the second SCC Barnes & Noble Great Discussion Lecture Series guest. Smith is a school cafeteria manager and caterer from Grayson, Kentucky, and he is the recent winner of Food Network’s Holiday Baking Championship.

The event will be free and open to the public. Smith will talk about the importance of culinary education and local sustainability.

The Great Discussion Lecture will take place Thursday, March 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Citizens National Bank Community Room in the Harold Rogers Student Commons Building.

Petitions now being accepted for next year’s SGA positions; elections will be held in April

Petitions are now being accepted for SCC Student Government Association positions for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Positions available are:
- SGA President
- Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Laurel Campus Delegate
- Somerset Campus Delegate

The SGA president receives a 12-hour tuition scholarship for each semester. The vice president, secretary/treasurer, and all delegates receive a six-hour tuition scholarship for each semester.

Completed petitions for all positions should be returned to Brickley at the same web address. The deadline for completed office applications is Friday, April 6. The deadline for completed delegate applications is April 13.

Officer elections will be held on April 12 and delegate elections will be held on April 19.

Ray’s Rave

Review

And the Oscar (wrongly) went to...

If you read my last review, and I hope you did, then you know that I don’t always agree with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ (AMPAS) interpretation of “best.” The Academy just tends to make some shocking verdicts when it comes to movie merit.

Arguably one of the most agreed upon and glaring examples of the Academy’s incompetence occurred at the 2006 Oscars. Fans and critics alike predicted a landslide victory for Ang Lee’s controversial love story Brokeback Mountain, which had eight nominations, the most of any film that year.

But when the envelope was opened, even presenter and movie legend Jack Nicholson was dumb-founded by the result. Somehow, Crash had won Best Picture.

Written and directed by Paul Haggis, Crash is a massive ensemble piece, featuring America’s Sweethearts Matt Dillon, Brendan Fraser, and Sandra Bullock. It is a broad and intertwining tale of several individuals living in Los Angeles, who, through contrived coincidences, collide into each other’s lives.

Every one of the fifteen main characters experiences or exhibits some sort of racism – just like we all do in real life. However, this movie suggests that bigotry and prejudice can be absolved through a single act of bravery. And that stereotypes are a valid reason to commit murder. The characters are one-dimensional, and their arcs are painfully obvious.

The problem with Crash is that it attempts to provide insight into complex race relations through “real-life” encounters, but it ultimately comes off as artificial as an after-school special. Not even the director of Crash believed that it should have won the Oscar. When HitFix, an entertainment news website, asked his opinion on the matter, Haggis said, “Was it the best film of the year? I don’t think so.”

Brokeback Mountain, the clear frontrunner and critical favorite, was slighted because of its authenticity. Incorrectly labeled as a gay cowboy movie, it is really a tale of star-crossed lovers who just happen to be men. It depicts the true depths of the human heart and examines the dynamics of forbidden love.

Lee, who won Best Director for this film, presents an inspiring and passionate Western that instantly gained its spot in the realm of Great American Movies. It was a cultural phenomenon and a turning point for mainstream cinema. No longer were love stories to be relegated strictly between a man and a woman.

Heath Ledger breathes life into Ennis Del Mar, a tough but emotionally paralyzed ranch hand who was orphaned at a very young age. He is a man of few words and even fewer feelings. Ennis takes a job herding sheep in the summer of 1963 and teams up with the outspoken and charismatic Jack Twist, played by Jake Gyllenhaal.

The two young men go about their business on the Wyoming mountainside, one of them securing the sheep against predators and the other tending to their camp and preparing meals. The isolation and monotony of their routine allows Ennis and Jack to develop a rapport that neither have ever experienced before.

One night, after a bit of heavy drinking, their friendship turns into something more. Jack invites Ennis to sleep in the tent with him to keep warm. In one of the most controversial scenes of all time, Jack reaches for Ennis, who briefly resists, but then draws Jack into a passionate kiss and the two have quick, rough sex.

The next day, they have an awkward conversation, each affirming their own heterosexuality. Ennis proclaims that their illicit affair is a “one shot thing,” even though they both know it isn’t. They continue on with their tryst, each finding solace and acceptance in the other, until they are “caught” by their employer and dismissed of their duties.

Ennis has a harder time than Jack does when they eventually have to say goodbye. In a particularly moving scene, Ennis literally becomes sick as Jack drives his beat-up truck away. Ennis hides in an alley and retches, crumbling to the ground in agony.

They both move on with their lives and assume the roles that are expected of them. To the outside world, they appear to be content. But, there is a secret longing in both of their hearts, an absence that keeps them from being complete.

Lee focuses on the lives of these two lonely men and their problems. The result is pure. Everyone relates to the story even though it is very specific throughout, unlike some movies which start off as specific and then try to seem broader. Brokeback Mountain has a universal effect, exactly because it is specific.

The 2006 Oscar for Best Picture should have gone to Brokeback Mountain because it is a human story, one that deals with the complexities of love and intimacy. It exposes the masks we often wear in the most painfully honest way; an honesty Crash was completely devoid of.
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