



Girls Learning About Math and Science (GLAMS): This year's GLAMS conference was a huge success with our largest group yet with 186 students from 11 schools in 4 counties. The eighth grade girls were placed in teams consisting of 8 or 9 students from each of the schools, a teacher, and a team leader. They attended three breakout sessions in the morning with one of our 23 speakers (a veterinarian, engineers, a toxicologist, and many more). In the afternoon, they were all given a science challenge in which they used creativity and logic to solve their (sort of) "real world" problem such as protecting an "eggstronaut" as he/it descended to Earth or creating a device to retrieve their keys from a 15 foot crack in a glacier. By the close of the day, everyone was cheering on the "eggstronauts" as they were dropped from the 95' fire truck ladder and exchanging email addresses with their team mates and new friends. SouthArk had volunteers, including two of our breakout speakers, Genevieve White and Kelley Young. Kudos and thanks to all involved and especially to Dr. Stephanie Tully-Dartez for leading this beneficial endeavor once again!



Relay for Life: Thanks to SouthArk's Relay for Life team members who participated in the Relay event held on April 26-27. Over \$2,200 dollars were raised to benefit the American Cancer Society! The committee members are: Val Cantú, chair; Cynthia Reyna, co-chair; Becky Riggs, co-chair; Jim Roomsburg; Larry Powell; Tara Anglin; Joe Murray; Kathy Waldrop; Diana Hunt; Brenda Coleman; Brittany Vick. Many thanks to all the volunteers who donated of their funds and their time to work, walk, cook, or just provide good company for the team.



Classified Employees Merit increase: The State of Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) has authorized merit lump-sum payments for classified employees based on performance in this current 2012-13 fiscal year. The merit payments will be awarded as a lump-sum payment to all eligible classified employees. With properly completed and approved evaluations on file, merit payments are scheduled to be paid June 28, 2013. Professional staff and faculty received a 2% raise last July and will not receive this merit increase. We appreciate the understanding and patience of the classified employees while waiting for the notification from the Governor/DFA.

2013-2014 Budget Planning: The College has developed the Operating Budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year. It was approved at the Board of Trustees meeting on May 21st. The budget planning process began in February. Budget managers were asked to develop an accurate and appropriate budget to meet the needs of our students and initiatives in our strategic plan. They thoughtfully reviewed all areas of their budgets. They were asked to keep in mind:

1. Meeting the educational needs of the greatest number of students.
2. Maintaining current graduate/completer levels.
3. Continuation of viable programs.
4. Maintaining career ladder programs which offered entry/exit certifications.
5. Performance based funding benchmarks.

I am very appreciative of the time and thought put into this budget. Our leaders made many tough decisions. We have funds in contingency fund for cost of living adjustments (COLA) if our enrollment/SSCHs meet goals in the fall. We will continue to seek various sources of external funding to "fill the gap" of state appropriations, such that we may provide resources for our programs and students. Recent grants received are noted below.

Grants: Anonymous Foundation – received a grant for \$30,000 for the Performing and Media Arts (PMA) Program, to be designated as matching funds for the Murphy Foundation PMA grant (\$75,000).

W.F. and Estelle McWilliams House – a grant to the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council (ANCR) for \$200,000 was received for repair and restoration for the roof, eaves, and an architectural master plan. Application for this house to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places has been submitted through the Arkansas State Historic Preservation department.

Scott's Miracle Gro Grassroots – Jocelyn Holt, biology instructor, received a \$500 grant to plant a garden on college property located on Wesson St. A SouthArk Foundation Innovation Mini-grant of \$1,100 will supplement funding for this project.

U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant – coordinating the grant application process for South West Arkansas Community College Consortium.

Emergency Notification Plan: SouthArk hired a consultant to assess SouthArk's emergency mass notification system. He was on campus April 4 and 5. The consultant teaches emergency preparedness classes sponsored by Texas A & M Engineering and Extension Service and was a senior manager for corporate security with a major corporation for twenty five years. He was complimentary of the Blackboard Connect messaging that we utilize, but provided several recommendations to enhance SouthArk's emergency notification process. In particular, he recommended outdoor speaker notification systems and other multiple layers of notification. In the next few of months, we plan to implement as many of these recommendations as resources will allow.

Arkansas College Personnel Administrators (ArCPA) held a Drive-In conference at Harding University which was attended by a team from SouthArk – Dr. Hill, Robyn Jardine, Carl Blake and Ann Southall. The theme of the conference was titled "Securing Our Future: Preparing and Responding to Crisis". There were a full range of topics which included Campus Safety & Emergency Preparedness, Shots Fired, and Mental Health Response to a Crisis just to name a few. The opening panel discussion focused on best practices related to a Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment Teams. The group of panelist from UCA, ULAR and UA Fayetteville presented very sound information that would be useful for any institution. We left the conference with a wealth of information that would help us improve our current Emergency Operation Plan, and formalize a Behavioral Intervention Team.

ARNEC: One of our ARNEC (Arkansas Rural Education Consortium) instructors, *Judy Carlyle*, has been nominated by our students to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing for the *Educator of the Year award for 2013*. She will be recognized on June 8, 2013 at the ARSBN 100th celebration event. Noteworthy, is that Judy's nomination was from the eight partner school ARNEC students!!

Holiday Schedule for 13-14 - The Holiday Schedule for fiscal year 2013-14 is reflective of the official state holidays authorized for classified employees. Employees who do not wish to use annual or comp leave during the Christmas break may make up the time by working extra hours during the early part of December. More specific information will be provided to employees and departments. The authorized holiday leave shall be adjusted to the SouthArk work schedules.

PROJECTS: Heating and Cooling System – The College's computerized controls for the heating and cooling systems continue to cause problems. The College is working with Harrison Energy Partners of Little Rock to repair the problems. Graham Peterson, our physical plant director, is dedicated to ensuring the system is in good working order and keeping us cool. Parts are being ordered!

Heritage Plaza: The SouthArk Foundation campaign for our Heritage Plaza project continues. Gifts from the community continue to be received and we have just topped \$509,000 contributed! We hope to break ground sometime in the fall.

Parking lot: The plans and bid specifications for the parking lot at Block and Summit are being finalized. We plan to begin work on this project this summer.

Concealed Weapons – Resolution Pursuant to Act 226 of 2013: This year the Arkansas General Assembly approved legislation that became Act 226 of 2013. This act modifies the state's concealed weapons law to allow full-time faculty and staff of a college/university with a concealed carry permit to carry a handgun in the buildings and on the grounds of the campus. However, a provision in Act 226 allows the governing body of a college/university to "opt out" of the provision. The governing body may adopt a resolution that disallows the carrying of a concealed handgun by faculty/staff in the buildings and on the grounds of the university/college, and such institution must post notices as required by Arkansas law. The law also provides that the resolution shall be effective for a period of one year. The SouthArk Board of Trustees passed the following resolution at their meeting on May 21st: "BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees (1) hereby ratifies and affirms the provisions of the following policy which will be included in the Administrative Procedures Manual under 2.05 Weapons. The possession, carrying, storage or use of any handgun or firearm of any type is prohibited (a) on the College campus, (b) in any building owned or controlled by the College, and (c) at any College event. The administration shall develop and publish notices advising all persons of the prohibition. The administration shall also publish such notices on the College's website and in the Administration Procedures Manual, and shall develop and publish sanctions for violations of this policy consistent with Arkansas law and other College regulations. These provisions shall not apply to any certified law enforcement officer employed by the College Public Safety Department or any other certified law enforcement officer; (2) pursuant to the provision of ACT 226 of 2013 and commencing on the effective date of Act 226, hereby disallows the carrying of a concealed handgun by faculty/staff in the buildings or on the grounds South Arkansas Community College for a period of one year from such effective date of Act 226; and (3) directs and authorizes the administration to take any and all steps necessary to ensure the compliance with such "opt out" of the provision of Act 226, including, but not limited to, the posting of any and all signs required or necessary to comply with the foregoing act."

Summer plans: I hope that each of you take the opportunity to take a vacation sometime this summer. We all need time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. If you travel, I hope that your travels are safe and enjoyable. If you stay at home, I hope that you are able to take time to slow down and enjoy some quiet moments. A quote from John Lubbock: *“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.”*

Thank you all for your hard work, positive spirit, and dedication to our mission or serving students.



Upcoming of Events:

May 27	Memorial Day (College Closed)
May 28	First Day of Classes for First Summer and Long Summer
May 29	Last Day to Add Classes for First Summer and Long Summer
May 30	Graduation Applications Due
June 18	Board of Trustees Meeting
June 25	Last Day of Classes for First Summer
June 26	Final Exams for First Summer
June 26-27	On-Campus Registration for Second Summer
July 1	First Day of Classes for Second Summer
July 2	Last Day to Add Classes for Second Summer
July 4	Independence Day (College Closed)
July 24	Foundation Board Meeting
July 30	Last Day of Classes for Second Summer and Long Summer
July 31	Final Exams for Second Summer and Long Summer
August 2	Commencement
August 13	New Student Orientation, Advising and Registration
Sept. 14	Outdoor Expo