



News-worthy Notes

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SSS Book Loan Program:

- 70 students borrowed 152 textbooks fall semester
- Saved approximately \$6,000 in fees
- Provided equipment loans
- Served LCC students since 1990

New Addition to SSS Staff

Students stopping by the SSS office for help, with questions, or to schedule a midterm grade check have discovered a new **Academic Advisor** available to help them. If you haven't met the recent addition to our staff, please stop by and get acquainted with **Juliana Kepner**. As a former Student of the Month and 2003-04 Student of the Year, she appreciated "*the tools to overcome the fear and discovered the opportunities*" available to students in our **TRIO** grant program.

Juliana returned to college to get a degree in communication in 2002. She graduated from LCC in 2005 and Pitt State in 2008. Experiencing the challenges of returning to school as a non-traditional student with a family, Juliana can identify with student needs. Student success is her primary focus. Some of her accomplishments and interests are below.

Jeanine Getman of Oswego received a \$5,000 scholarship from Royal Neighbors of America.

Becky Shipley, Heather Hatfield, and Natasha Jones received a P.E.O. scholarship.



Photo by Juliana Kepner

- Produced two documentaries raising awareness for children with disabilities and serious health issues.
- Likes to document her children's milestones in photos.
- Freelances as photojournalist and started photography business.
- Lost her home to flood in 2007 and rebuilt it while working, taking classes, and caring for family.
- Favorite job is mother/cheerleader.
- Completed research and written report rating three southeast Kansas schools on inclusiveness for special needs students.
- Selected for and completed eight-month Partners in Policy Advocacy Course in Topeka.

SSS Student Recognition

Pete Reynolds placed 2nd in the Skills USA National Championships. *Jonathan Routh* named district officer for Skills USA.

Janna Baker, Natalie Marks, Laura Pryor and *Ashleigh Showalter* received a scholarship from Labette Health & LCC

Foundation.

Natasha Jones, Melissa Link, Karrie Stokes, Bobbi Wolgammott, and Pete Reynolds were selected to attend the 5th Annual MO-KAN-NE Adult Student Leadership Conference in Kansas City, MO October 10-11.

Student of the Month—September 2008

Mary French, a sophomore Accounting and Business Administration major and resident of Parsons, is our Student of the Month for September 2008. After graduation in May, she hopes to pursue a bachelor's degree with online classes or attend PSU.

Returning to school as a single parent with two children and working full-time was a challenge. She loves her job and her employer has supported her educational goals. Her philosophy has always been *"do your best, don't quit, and ask questions."* Now remarried with 5 stepchildren and one grandson, she has even more reasons to

complete her degree.

Mary encourages other students to take advantage of all the cultural and academic enriching activities available through SSS. She received tutoring and attended trips to Chicago, Washington, D.C., and an Adult Leadership Conference.

Mary enjoys working with numbers, finances, and people. She also taught herself to do taxes, and her ultimate goal is to become a CPA. She is also an avid reader, likes to learn new things, and thinks the public library is an awesome adventure.



Photo by Juliana Kepner

"Recent reauthorization of Higher Education Act will increase funding for Pell Grant programs."

Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Conference

Project Director Kelly Kirkpatrick attended the COE Conference in Washington, D.C. recently. The Council is the primary organizing, training, and lobbying group for **TRIO** programs like Student Support Services and Talent Search.

Newsman Chris Matthews, host of MSNBC's "Hardball", kicked

off the conference with an engaging speech to the attendees. Matthew's experience as a college student who relied on Pell Grants and scholarships to pay his way through gave him a special insight into the struggle many TRIO students face when it comes to paying for their schooling.

Kelly attended conference sessions to learn about the future of SSS, increasing student retention, and enhanced academic advisement. Several conference sessions focused on changes to the Higher Education Act of 1969. Congress recently reauthorized the Act which funds such programs as Pell Grants and TRIO programs.

Donna's Desk

Renaissance Festival in Kansas City **tickets** are still available for October 4&5th and October 11,12, & 13th. Beginning October 1st tickets are available for \$17.95 each to LCC students, staff, and faculty.

Attention: SSS Students planning to attend *"Unravel the Mysteries of Cooking Inexpensive Healthy Meals"* workshops

on Oct. 13 & 30th. **See SSS staff for location of this activity.**

Reminders:

- Don't forget to attend or make an appointment for your mid-term



grade check!

- Anytime you move or change your address and phone or e-mail address, please tell us. We need your current information to keep in touch.
- The SSS office will be closed Fri., Nov. 7.

Student of the Month—October 2008

Bobbi Wolgamott, a sophomore exploring the medical field and a resident of Parsons, is our Student of the Month for October.

Since Bobbi, a mother of five, works full-time, it is a challenge to schedule two online or evening classes each semester. As a paraprofessional in an elementary school and now working in the health care services area, she has been able to explore her interests and better determine her education path.

When Bobbi began pursuing her college education, she relied on her determination and family support. She didn't realize there

were several resources available to college students. She appreciated the opportunities for community concerts, a SGA Leadership Conference, and spring

break trip to Washington, D.C. Her children are participating in TRIO programs now with the hope of better preparing them for college.



Photo by Juliana Kepner

Bobbi and her husband were foster parents for 8 years to 4 children. They have also volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America for 4 years in addition to Pee Wee and junior high football programs. Bobbi is also active in the VFW Auxiliary, SSS Student Advisory Council, Relay for Life Team Leader, Stella Wells volunteer, and as a Sunday school teacher.

"Application deadline for fall, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 25, 2008."

College Completion Grant

Student Support Services offers a **College Completion Grant** fall and spring semesters to **qualified** students. (See application)

Once you have fulfilled all of the requirements stated on the application, please complete and return it to the SSS office.

Check your *Monthly Messenger* for program activities and points of each one. Plan which activities you want to attend. After attending the activity and turning in an evaluation, mark your grant application with the activity you have completed. Once you have earned **15 participation points**, attended your **midterm grade check**

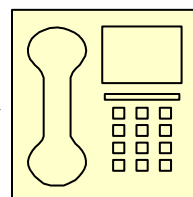
appointment with your advisor, and met other requirements stated on application, return the completed application to the SSS office by 4:30 p.m., November 25th.

If you have any questions regarding the grant, please contact Kelly at 820-1149 or by e-mail at kellyk@labette.edu.

Keep in Touch

Many low-income Kansans are eligible for a *discount* of up to \$17.50 a month on their local phone bills, but nearly nine out of 10 who qualify haven't applied. In addition, many people without service may not know they are eligible for *reduced connection fees*.

The help is available through the Lifeline program, a national fund created by telecommunications providers for low-income subscribers. Individuals with annual income of up to \$15,600 and couples with annual income up to



\$21,000 may be eligible. To find out more, call your local telephone company or go to

www.kcc.state.ks.us/pi/lifeline.htm



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (SSS)

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Donna Garwood

Missouri State University (MSU) Campus Visit

SSS Academic Advisor, *Rikke Mitchell*, took eleven students on a campus visit to MSU in Springfield, Missouri on September 5-6th.

Rikke explained: After arriving, we were given a wonderful tour of MSU and fed lunch. From there we went to the world famous Lambert's Café for a great dinner, filled with entertaining and literally, "thrown rolls" dining. After dinner we attended the "Greater Ozarks Blues Festival" where we enjoyed some

great "down home blues." The highlight act featured the Tommy Castro Band, and many of us were fortunate to take pictures with band members and get autographed CDs.



We were scheduled to attend the "Skinny Improv" comedy act, but due to poor navigational instincts by our driver

(*that's me, Rikke*) we arrived late to standing room only. We decided not to attend.

Lesson learned. Although, that was the low point of the trip, the consensus was the overall event was fun and educational.

Attending students were: *Christen Johnson, Edward Alley, Jason Burtnett, Jessica Ramirez, Karrie Stokes, Mary French, Natasha Jones, Nichole Gibbons, Rose Alley, Sarah Stevenson, Teresa Martinez*