



SCC Foundation News

By: Brett Woods

- SCC Faculty and Staff set a record for their annual gifts in 2017 – gifts totaling over \$13,000 were gifted or committed to by SCC faculty and staff during last year's Faculty and Staff Campaign. This year's campaign will launch, like last year, at Welcome Back. **Thank you SCC!**
- The Foundation had the privilege of working with donors to create three new endowed funds over the past few months: The Brenda Oliver Holt Endowed Nursing Scholarship, the Connie M. Haire Endowed Scholarship and the Robert L. and Dorothy B. Lyday Scholarship for Excellence.
- In addition, several new annual scholarships were created: The Eva McCall Memorial Scholarship was propelled by Tyler Cook, Donor Representative, The Sandor Szabo and Dorothy Rymer Annual Scholarships funded by Alex Szabo, The Sylva Garden Club Scholarship and the Sibyl Reed Scholarship has been created by the Sylva-Webster High School Class of 1961.
- The date for the 2018 Gala has been set – mark your calendars for **Aug. 25**. Faculty and staff tickets will be heavily discounted again this year!

JCEC college liaison to raise money for Student Emergency Fund

By: Julia Hartbarger

Matt Kirby, college liaison for the Jackson County Early College, has competed in many races over the years, but the upcoming "Georgia Death Race" will have particular meaning to him.

Kirby will be raising money for Southwestern Community College's Student Emergency Fund through sponsorships he receives for the race, which will be held on March 31.

His goal is to raise more than \$5,000.

Matt is clearly going the extra mile for SCC and our students," said Brett Woods, SCC Foundation director. "Matt's willingness to dig down to the core of his perseverance to show our region just how much helping students means to him sends a loud message - a message I hope we all hear."

Last year, the Student Emergency Fund assisted 18 students with crisis type emergencies by awarding them over \$4,000.



"This assistance enabled them to meet critical needs and in many cases, remain enrolled and able to continue their education," Woods added. "We are grateful to Matt and hope our community will consider supporting this unique opportunity."

If you would like to donate to the SCC Student Emergency Fund through sponsoring Kirby, visit www.southwesterncc.edu/Foundation and follow the directions listed. For assistance, contact Kathy Posey, SCC Foundation associate, at k_posey@southwesterncc.edu or 828.339.4227.

Student Success Scholarship Profiles

Interviews by: Erin McCully



Joel Sandberg

Hometown:

I grew up in Quincy, Mass., but most of my life was spent in Florida. I've made Western North Carolina (Maggie Valley) home for the past 12+ years. Love the mountains!

Program of Study:

I have selected the Associate in Arts-College Transfer Program with plans to transfer to WCU to pursue a BS in either Psychology or Sociology.

What is your favorite thing about SCC?

What I like best about SCC, and why I prefer not to accelerate my time here rushing to WCU, is the size of the campus. It enables me to get to personally know many of the administrators, faculty and staff. Based on my first semester, I am very impressed by the various teaching-styles with the common thread being a genuine concern and interest the instructors exhibit in the students.

What impact has this scholarship had on you?

The Student Success Scholarship has enabled me to fully immerse myself into the college experience by removing the financial aspects of decision-making that otherwise would have applied. To date I am still shocked and honored that I was one of a small group selected to receive such a prestigious honor. Additionally, it is for this reason that I focus on earning grades commensurate with the very special opportunity I was provided.

Student Success Fund Exceeds \$1M!

After a multi-year campaign to raise \$1M, we reached our goal! The Student Success Fund stood at \$1,064,450.00 as of 12.30.17!

We are grateful to each and every member of the SCC family who played a part. **Thank you.** Reaching the goal does not mean you still cannot support the Student Success Fund, in fact, we receive new gifts to the Student Success Fund frequently and many continue to support the Student Success Fund via payroll deduction.

The larger the Fund grows; the more students we can potentially help with scholarships support.



Lilly Coleman

Hometown:

My family and I recently moved from my hometown of Trenton, Ga. to where we currently live here in Cullowhee.

Program of Study:

I am a freshman at SCC and I am enrolled in the Associate of Arts college transfer program.

What is your favorite thing about SCC?

My favorite things about SCC are the faculty and staff. All my professors and the staff members have been so wonderful. I love how friendly and helpful every one of the faculty and staff members have been. They truly want to see every student succeed.

As of today, what are your career goal(s)?

My ultimate career goal is to go on and earn a masters degree in communications and international studies.

What impact has this scholarship had on you?

Receiving the Student Success Scholarship has helped me immensely by not only enabling me to succeed financially, but also by giving me the opportunity to meet so many people and become involved at Southwestern. I am so grateful to be here at SCC and look forward to the semesters to come.

Faculty Perspective | Carolyn Porter receives Foundation Mini-Grant

Interview by: Savannah Wells

How did you use the awarded grant funds?

I became certified as a VoiceThread (VT) educator. The certification program is a 2-week online course with a real-world capstone project that I designed and implemented. For my Capstone project, students in my on-line Business Ethics course used VT to discuss Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Students researched a CSR initiative from a Fortune 500 company, posted an audio or video summary of the initiative and then responded to another student's posting.

"The SCC Foundation Mini-Grant gave me an opportunity to participate in training that has created a more engaging learning environment for students. I'm looking forward to sharing VoiceThread tools and design tips with my colleagues."

How does earning this certification benefit you and your students?

Completing the VT certification raised my use of this technology to another level. I learned best practices for designing and implementing VoiceThreads, which is more than just technical "how to" information. I was introduced to tools and techniques to create more engaging discussions.

How successful do you feel it was?

I regularly use VT in two of my classes now (Business Ethics and Social Media Marketing). Student responses to VT have been very positive. The VT format allows us to create better connections between the mem-



bers of our learning community and share information in a more engaging format. My training will benefit other instructors as well. I participated in an introduction to VT and other new teaching technologies with Erin McCully, E-Learning Specialist, at our most recent professional development day. I will assist Ms. McCully in a VT training workshop for faculty in March.

A Scholarship Fund created in memory of local author Eva McCall

By: Julia Hartbarger

The legacy of local author and Macon County native Eva McCall will live on through students at Southwestern Community College with the establishment of a scholarship fund in her memory.

Tyler Cook, SCC's financial aid counselor and great-nephew of McCall, wanted to do something to keep her legacy alive after her passing in November 2017.

Cook, along with his family, decided that the best way to honor her memory would be to create a scholarship fund in her honor so she could help aspiring authors to achieve their dreams of attending college.

McCall, a beautician by trade, took writing courses at Oakland University in Michigan and had her first novel, "Edge of Heaven," published in 1997.

McCall went on to write several more novels including "Children of the Mountain" and "Murder on Haint Branch," in which she used the mountains of Western North Carolina as inspiration.

In order to be considered for the scholarship, applicants must have a 3.0 GPA or higher, be pursuing an associate degree and provide a writing sample.

For more information or to donate to this or any other SCC scholarship fund, visit www.southwesterncc.edu/Foundation.



Eva McCall

Student Perspective | Ryan Smith, Student Ambassador

Interview by: Dr. Mark Ellison

What are your educational and career goals?

As of now my educational goals are to complete my Associate in Arts degree and then use that degree to enter the United States Army at a higher rank. I may look towards furthering my career within the United States Army after I enlist and serve.

How has SCC helped you?

SCC has helped me by providing an affordable and high quality education. SCC is high quality because there are so many different career-based classes to take that students can take advantage of. I am pleased when I see other students also benefiting from the many great opportunities that Southwestern provides.

How have scholarships helped you at SCC?

My first two semesters I received a combination of scholarships and grants. This allowed me to use my financial aid that I saved to keep my car in good condition so I could continue to go to my classes at the Macon and Jackson campuses. If it were not for scholarships and grants, I probably would have been unable to continue my classes at Southwestern. For that I am extremely grateful.

What have you learned as an SCC Student Ambassador?

Being a Student Ambassador has helped to broaden my perspective of SCC. I have learned that there is much more to the scholarship process than what meets the eye. Sitting in on one

of the board meetings, I was able to see some of the financial processes that the board must undergo for one year's worth of scholarships for our students. I also learned how much our students mean to the Foundation as well as to SCC's President Dr. Don Tomas.



Connie & Phil Haire endow SCC scholarship



During her 25 years of overseeing the Southwestern Community College Foundation, Dr. Connie M. Haire had the privilege of seeing just how significantly scholarship funding could impact a student's life.

Now retired, she and her husband – former N.C. Rep. Phil Haire – have ensured many more lives will be changed for the better.

The Haires, who reside in Sylva, recently set up the Connie M. Haire Endowed Scholarship fund. The first award of \$1,500 will be given to a deserving student in the fall of 2018.

"Phil and I wanted to provide for student support for many years to come, and we wanted to set up an endowment that would provide scholarships in perpetuity," Dr. Haire said. "Since retiring six years ago, I have seen the growth in programs and student success, and I want to be part of that going forward. This scholarship endowment allows me to continue to be a part of the SCC family."

Dr. Haire served in a variety of roles at SCC before retiring in 2011 as vice president of the Macon Campus and institutional development. She previously served as vice president for student and institutional development (1995-2005), dean for institutional development (1997-99) and director of resource development (1986-97).

"Very few people have spent more time than Dr. Haire has over the years working to help our students through the SCC Foundation," said Dr. Don Tomas,

president of SCC. "She knows as well as anyone how much an endowed scholarship can mean to current and future students. On behalf of our students, I am extremely grateful that the Haires have endowed this scholarship in her name."

For more information about endowed scholarships or other giving opportunities at SCC, visit www.southwesterncc.edu/foundation, call 828.339.4227 or write k_posey@southwesterncc.edu.

