

# Inside SAU Tech

Southern Arkansas University Tech

Fall 2015 Edition

## Career Training...It's What We Do!



### Southern Arkansas University Tech Career Technical Programs

- Automated & Robotic Engineering
- Aviation Maintenance
- Computer Information Technology
- Cosmetology
- Environmental Science
- Fire and Emergency Response
- Fire Science Management
- General Technology
- Mechanical Maintenance
- Nursing
- Office Management
- Simulation and Game Design
- Supply Chain Management
- Welding Academy
- Welding Process Specialist

Mechanical Maintenance students stand in front of the new location for the program in the building that once was used by the military on Highway 79 close to the Camden Airport. One of the college's most productive career training programs, it provides hands-on training and paid internships for students. Eddie Horton is the program instructor, and he says that the need for skill-sets combined with work ethic is getting program graduates into paid internships and subsequently jobs when they graduate. For more information on the Mechanical Maintenance program call 870.574.4500.

SAU Tech also offers degrees for specialized fields such as law and wildlife & fisheries enforcement. ***Learn about upcoming new programs inside.***

## Set to Lead

This fall the Southern Arkansas University System came under the new leadership of Dr. Trey Berry as long-time President, Dr. David Rankin, retired from the System. Leadership changes have taken place at SAU Tech as well. SAU Tech Chancellor, Dr. Corbet Lamkin, is spending more time fundraising and working with industry while the tasks of running the college's daily operations are being managed by Executive Vice Chancellor, Robert Gunnels. Mr. Gunnels is a long-time employee of the college and oversees academics as well as college operations. Dr. Berry is working closely with SAU Tech's leadership to move the college towards the plan he has for the SAU System which focuses on People, Planning, Programs and Philanthropy. Dr. Berry presented his plan to SAU Tech's staff and faculty during a fall in-service event. In the next issue of *Inside SAU Tech*, look for a special segment from Mr. Gunnels discussing the college and its future plans.

## Staff & Faculty Awards



**Dr. Terry Hutson–Faculty Award**  
Mathematics Instructor



**Beverly Ellis-Alumni Award**  
Advisor



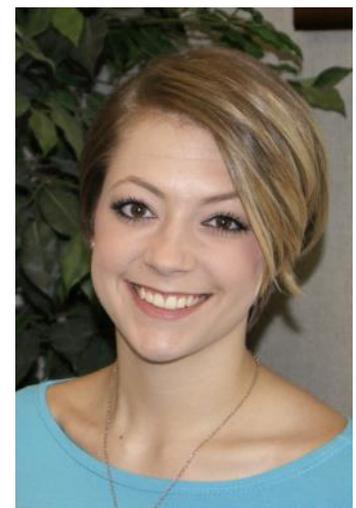
**Eloise Thomas- Staff Award**  
Enrollment Services

Each year SAU Tech recognizes the hard work of its staff, faculty and alumni who have represented the college well. The college awards the categories based on employee recommendations. The recipients will also be recognized during the Arkansas Community College Conference in October.

## Arkansas Community College Academic All-Star

Southern Arkansas University Tech has chosen Camden resident and Camden Fairview High School graduate, Blaise Scharbor, as the Arkansas Community College (ACC) 2015-2016 Academic All-Star recipient. Blaise is a General Studies major with plans to transfer to a four-year college after graduation in 2016. She says the following about her experience at the college, “While here at SAU Tech I have had the most incredible experiences. As a school ambassador and a member of the honors program, I have been exposed to all sorts of new things that I never would have found myself doing at any other college. I have gained confidence in myself and have learned the importance of giving back to the community I live in through fundraising and volunteer opportunities. SAU Tech has given me a very special experience. I have learned that I can be a leader and take action for great causes and not be scared. I am grateful for SAU Tech and all that it has brought into my life and all that it has brought out in me.”

Each year Arkansas’s two-year colleges choose one student from each college to be represented at the ACC annual conference in October. The four-year colleges in the state provide the Academic All-Star recipients scholarships to continue their education at the school of their choice. The student is chosen based on academic performance, recommendations and student involvement while in college.



*Blaise Scharbor*

## One of Our Own is Talking Up the Town



If you live in the Camden area and haven't heard someone you know on the radio wishing you a Taylor-May'd day, then you are missing out! SAU Tech graduate, Taylor May, has made it his business to bring some humor and interest to the news broadcast on the Radioworks stations in Camden. May, formerly from Cabot, Arkansas, came to SAU Tech to complete a degree in Multimedia Graphic Design. While at the college, Taylor made friends with staff, faculty and other students and soon felt that Camden was the place he wanted to put down roots. Taylor's easy-going personality soon afforded him a job at the local radio station, and his personality began to shine as he learned the craft of doing radio news.

May had this to say about his new career, "I have been blessed to have interviews with Governor Asa Hutchinson, Lt. Governor Tim Griffin, State Treasures, Mayors, County Judges, Miss Arkansas, and Miss Arkansas Teen International, and Nolan Richardson. I've also been privileged to interview musical talent from Chris Tomlin, Tenth Avenue North, MikesChair, Unspoken, Rend Collective, Bo Byce, Cliff Preston and Tony Tillman. This job has also given me the opportunity to meet some amazing people that live in South Arkansas, and that really is (to me) the best part about what I do. To be able to help get the word out about organizations like the Women's Crisis Center, the HUB, EB Williams Youth Center, Plant a Seed Foundation, Team India, as well as countless others...to shine a light on things like that...that's what makes my job great. My whole thing was ...I don't know how long I'm going to be in Camden, but I want to leave my mark. I want the people to know that I gave 110% every single day, not just Monday thru Friday. I want them to know I'm working to the best of my ability to give them the best news I can deliver. Most of all I want people to know that if not for God, then I wouldn't be where I am, who I am or have the work ethic I have. It's only because of Him. He made me who I am."

Check out Taylor May on Radioworks and see why everyone is talking about our community news guy!

*If you attended SAU Tech in the past, we would like you to share your story with us. Tell us about your career and what you are doing and what attending SAU Tech meant to you. You can complete the form on the home page of our website, and we will use your story in our publications and online on our website. We want to hear from YOU! [www.sautech.edu/mystory](http://www.sautech.edu/mystory)*

## Work Experience is Worth College Credit

Prior Learning Credit (PLA) is not something new to SAU Tech but it is a process that is providing students who have work or military experience an opportunity to fast-track earning a college degree. The PLA process is simple and can be completed in just one semester. The first step is to apply to the college and enroll in the 1-hour PLA portfolio course which is offered online. During the semester the student will provide proof for certain skill sets, and based on that evidence, the college will award up to 30 college credit hours toward a degree. The college provides one-on-one personal service for this program to ensure the student is successful. Contact [jsanders@sautech.edu](mailto:jsanders@sautech.edu) for more information.



## Supporting the College



*Lockheed Martin Plant Manager, Colin Sterling, presents a check to SAU Tech Chancellor, Dr. Corbet Lamkin*

Lockheed Martin showed their support once again by providing \$10,000 in donations to the Southern Arkansas University Tech Foundation. Lockheed Martin is a long-time supporter of the college providing scholarship funds, technology funds and the donation of equipment to the college's programs.

For more information on how you can support SAU Tech and its students, go to <http://www.sautech.edu/foundation.aspx>.

## ExpressJet Goes to SAU Tech for New Hires

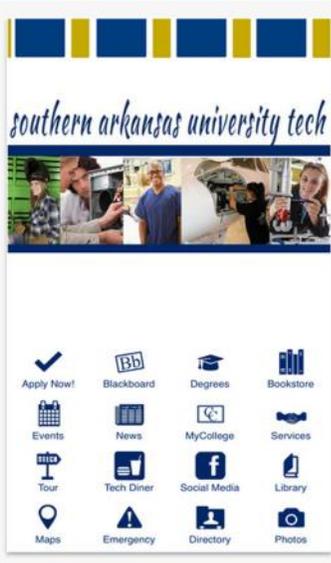
Two representatives of ExpressJet of Shreveport, Louisiana came to Southern Arkansas University Tech's Aviation Maintenance program seeking Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) technicians. Keith Broyles and Frank Granger explained to students the nature of the work the company performs and provided insight into the fringe benefits of working for ExpressJet. Benefits such as a 401K with a 5% matching plan, insurance plans, and free flight privileges in addition to great hourly pay, make ExpressJet a great place to work. Currently, technicians top out in pay after seven years at around \$28 an hour, with many opportunities for overtime and holiday pay. ExpressJet is doing well and is opening a sixth line for conducting C-Check Inspections on their fleet of Embraer 145 aircraft as well as many other Canadair Regional Jet models the company now services. The expansion is creating the need for another 70 to 80 technicians.

ExpressJet has a history of hiring SAU Tech's graduates. There have been at least seven hired in the last few years. ExpressJet is one of the few airlines with a mentoring program which brings new hires into an orientation program, followed by working with a mentor. The mentor watches over and advises new employees until it is felt they are ready to work on their own. Technicians are not restricted to one area of the aircraft but are trained and work on the entire aircraft. If you feel aircraft maintenance may be right for you, contact SAU Tech today by calling 870.574.1019 or by email at [barcher@sautech.edu](mailto:barcher@sautech.edu).

## Content Guides Helpful to Students and Parents

Content guides are a great way to share information about the processes that are involved with getting started in college. Easy to download from SAU Tech's website, the college's guide to *How to Enroll in College*, has seen numerous user downloads in the past few weeks. The guide takes the mystery out of the higher ed "ease" or language used by colleges that is so confusing to both prospective students and their parents. Information about financial aid and the application process are included in the *How to Enroll in College* guide. To download your copy go to [www.sautech.edu](http://www.sautech.edu). The college is currently developing guides that include information about paying for college, becoming a successful students, what it takes to do well in online programs and more.

## SAU Tech joins the App World



SAU Tech has released a new mobile app! The app was paid for by Perkins grant funds and targets non-traditional role careers in its design. The app provides information on events, news, degrees, the dining menu, social media links, emergency info and more. Download it to today to stay in touch with your college!



<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/southern-arkansas-university/>



[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app\\_sautech.layout](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app_sautech.layout)

## New Programs Planned for Fall 2016

In an effort to meet the employer and community demand, SAU Tech consistently reviews new program options the college might create for delivery. Currently the college is considering offering the following programs:

- HVAC-R Technician
- Electronics & Implementation
- Medical Records Technician
- Agricultural Business—Online program that will transfer to SAU for the student to complete a four-year degree
- ADN (Associate in Nursing Degree)

*These programs are pending approval by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.*

Please take a few moments and go to our website, and let us know what programs you would like to see us offer. We want to know what YOU want! <http://www.sautech.edu/academics/academics.aspx>

## Vice Chancellor Earns Doctorate



Valerie Wilson, SAU Tech Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, is now Dr. Valerie Wilson. Dr. Wilson earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Management from Capella University earlier this year with her doctoral thesis centered around SAU Tech's mentor training program the evaluation of one-on-one mentoring at community colleges. Dr. Wilson said the following about pursuing her doctorate degree, *"Capella's required action-research dissertation afforded me the opportunity to work with my colleagues at SAU Tech on our mentoring program. This resulted in the creation of our Mentor Training Program which was led by Patricia Sindle, Director of Enrollment Services and Jenny Sanders, Advisor/Personal Counselor. Our IR Director, Lee Sanders, provided the data that was used for the data analysis portion of my dissertation. It was a great experience but I am glad it's over!"* Dr. Wilson heads up the technology departments for the college's IT services and online learning. She also oversees the marketing and grants department. In July 2016, Dr. Wilson will assume the duties of planning and assessment for the college. Dr. Wilson is an active member of the Camden community and is the music director at her church, Shady Grove Baptist which is in Harmony Grove. Dr. Wilson completed her program of study with a 4.00 GPA and will walk in Capella's commencement ceremony on March 12, 2016 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## New Director of Business & Industry Training and Community Ed Hired

Ophelia Lindsey, former SAU Tech Career Coach for Camden Fairview School District, has been promoted to Director of Workforce and Community Education. She will head up the college's Business and Industry Training, Community Education and Secondary Education services. Lindsey is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University and she holds a Master's in Education and is a certified Global Career Development Facilitator. She has been employed by SAU Tech for 10 years.

In a former position with the college, her duties were to coordinate the Concurrent Enrollment Program, set-up training classes for business and industry and special interest classes for the community. Lindsey's other experience outside of SAU Tech includes Spectra Technologies and South Arkansas Community College.

Lindsey shared the following about her new position, *"I am excited about this new endeavor. The shift in economic development with the emergence the of new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, training opportunities for surrounding business and industry, and Governor Hutchinson's initiative for every high school student to graduate with some type of certificate presents great training opportunities for SAU Tech."*



## Long-Time employee of SAU Tech Retires

After 41 years of service to SAU Tech, Robert White is calling it a day. White came to SAU Tech in 1974, when the college was called Southwest Technical Institute. He started as an instructor in the Food Service Management program that the college once operated. Over the years, White has worked in the areas of recruiting, business and industry training, secondary education services, and more. He also served as a state representative while he was employed by the college. White was honored in an event held at the college on September 24 to remember his service to the college and community. Several colleagues and community members, as well as family members, spoke on his behalf during the two-hour event. White had this to say about his retirement, *"I have enjoyed my long tenure with SAU Tech. It has provided me with many opportunities to help students in their pursuit of their educational careers. It has given me the opportunity to work with other colleagues and created many lifetime friends. It allowed me to grow professionally and provide services throughout our community and state at large."* White met and married his wife, Ora, while working at SAU Tech. He and Ora have two sons and a daughter.



## Adult Education Student Proves Determination is the Key



Katrina Clark moved to Camden, Arkansas from Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2010 to make a better life for herself and her children. Katrina worked in her sister's daycare after moving to Camden, but soon realized that she did not want that as a career. She decided at that point to obtain her GED®. Katrina enrolled at Southern Arkansas University Tech's Adult Education Center with determination in her heart. Her attendance was good, but she felt at times like giving up. Katrina would always think about how her children would feel if she gave up. She knew that it would take self-motivation due to her past history of self-destruction to accomplish her goal of graduating with an Arkansas High School Diploma. After working hard in the classroom, she took the Official GED® Exam. To her dismay, she was a few points short of passing the math. Katrina did not have time to wallow in self-pity, because she had to retake the math exam as soon as possible. She retook the math test and passed the test to receive an Arkansas High School Diploma. As she celebrated about receiving her diploma, Katrina had an epiphany that she could

accomplish anything with motivation and determination. After receiving an Arkansas High School Diploma, she tried to enroll in college but was turned away due to a loan balance. She did get discouraged at first, but found the means of paying the debt balance off so that she could enroll in college. In August 2014, Katrina enrolled in SAU Tech to pursue an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. Her life challenges made her want to give up at times, but she sought refuge in those difficult times and turned them into something positive. She is looking forward to walking across the stage and receiving her degree.

Southern Arkansas University Tech's Adult Education Centers provide all the assistance and help needed for you to obtain your GED and upgrade computer and workforce readiness skills. The Adult Education program serves Columbia, Cleveland, Calhoun, Dallas and Ouachita Counties. Call us today! 870.574.4001