Fall Gets Underway with New Construction

Southern Arkansas University Tech is taking on a construction project unlike any the college has ever seen since the building of the Roy E. Ledbetter Tech Engineering Building two decades ago. The new building includes the renovation of the present gym, which will be connected by a short walkway to the new student center. The center will house student life, the campus bookstore and the college dining services. This building marks a long phase of planning by the college administration in answer to a need for more office space and additional meeting space for large events such as graduation. The estimated completion date is May 2014.
Southern Arkansas University Tech’s Career Academy students, Harlee Pennington and Emily Jackson, both from Sparkman High School, competed in the National Skills Competition that took place in Kansas City from June 24 -28. Both girls brought home silver medals placing second best in the nation in audio radio production. Thirty-four schools competed in the event with over 16,000 people in attendance at the event. The instructors for the program are Sam Abaza and Troy Alphin of the “Troy and Dave Show”. The program uses SAU Tech’s radio station, KC89, as a training platform for students.

Sean Kirkendall, SAU Tech Computer Information Systems student and PBL member, placed second in the nation in Computer Concepts and third in the nation in Networking Concepts during the PBL National Competition held in Anaheim, California. The competition included over 2,000 students from across the country with Arkansas PBL bringing home around 50 awards. This past spring Sean placed first in Networking Concepts and Second in Computer Concepts during the state PBL Leadership Conference in Little Rock. Sean, a resident of Smackover, Arkansas, graduated from the Arkansas School for the Blind in Little Rock in 2011. Students represented both two-year and four-year colleges at the state and national competitions.
Welding Academy Awards

The 2013 Outstanding Student Award Recipient for the Welding Academy is Zachery Crawford. Crawford is a graduate of Kirby High School and attended the college’s welding academy in Magnolia, Arkansas this past academic year. He obtained 13 separate certifications before graduating from the program. Crawford and other students were recognized during an awards ceremony held on April 30 at the academy. Crawford received a welding machine valued at approximately $3,500.

SAU Tech Faculty Named in the Top Five Finalist

SAU Tech Arts and Sciences faculty member, Sharon Scott, was named one of the top five finalists for the 2013 Outstanding State Employees. Sharon was honored by the Arkansas State Employees Association at an event held in Little Rock.

AETA Lab is Dedicated

During a lunch ceremony on Tuesday, August 6, Southern Arkansas University Tech Chancellor, Dr. Corbet Lamkin, Dr. David Rankin, SAU System President, AETA Advisory Board Members, and Randy Harper, AETA Director, all joined in with numerous state and local officials in cutting the ribbon to dedicate the AETA’s new lab facility.
Southern Arkansas University Tech’s Career Academy students participated in SkillsUSA’s annual competition in Hot Springs. Austin Nutt, from Harmony Grove High School placed 1st in pipe welding and won a full paid scholarship to the Tulsa Welding School. Tyler Reede from Hampton placed 3rd in pipe welding and received a partial scholarship to the Tulsa Welding School. The Career Academy welding instructor for the students is Stuart Dufrene.
SAU Tech Student Finishes in Ten Days

Southern Arkansas University Tech student, Chekeh Reynolds (CJ), recently completed his transitional math requirements in one summer session at the college. As part of a state-wide DOL funded grant project, SAU Tech restructured the transitional math courses that students must take when they do not score high enough on college entrance exams to go straight into college algebra. The college created a module based course which allows a student to work through the modules at their own pace in a computer lab setting. While the college has seen moderate success with the new method, Reynolds started the course in the summer I session and finished the entire 12 module system in ten days. Not only is this a first time for a student to do this, it reinforces the concept that sometimes it only takes a little refreshing for students to get ready for college courses and the new method is worth continuing. Reynolds graduated from Bearden High School in 2012 and is majoring in Engineering Technology at SAU Tech. He says that he plans to both teach and coach, or to do some kind of mechanical or civil engineering. CJ says that he really likes math and considers himself somewhat of a math whiz.

SAU Tech Bookstore is Outsourced & eBooks are Here

In an effort to lower the overall cost of higher education, Southern Arkansas University Tech is teaming up with Arkansas-based BBA Solutions, the fourth largest college textbook company in the United States, to manage the college’s bookstore. The BBA Solutions has renovated the current bookstore space and is stocking new merchandise for students and staff. The bookstore is scheduled to move to the new student center when it is completed. The bookstore staff can be contacted by email at sautechbookstore@bbasolutions.com or by phone at 870-574-4510.

SAU Tech began using eBooks for online courses (some are exempted) this fall instead of students purchasing hardcopy books. The system works by students paying a fee for their books when they pay for classes. The books are immediately accessible when students start their online classes, and the books can be downloaded to smart phones, computers and other electronic devices. The link below provides more information regarding eBooks. [http://www.sautech.edu/academics/sreb.aspx](http://www.sautech.edu/academics/sreb.aspx)
Building Gets Makeover

Above: The before picture of the upstairs of the Administration Building prior to renovations. Right: The after picture of the upstairs during the last stages of the renovation.

The work was completed in-house by SAU Tech’s Physical Plant Team and resulted in excellent high-quality workmanship.

SAU Tech Welcomes New Student Ambassadors

SAU Tech’s Student Life Ambassadors are recipients of an SAU Tech Scholarship which pays for tuition for 15 hours and a student work-study job for 15 hours a week. Duties include assisting with college events & student life activities.

Student Life Ambassadors 2013-2014
Back row: Tyler Youngblood & Stephen Blair
Front row: Kyla Woody & Lindsey Phillips
Around Campus

Kimberley Carpenter, SAU Tech Library Technician, was recently chosen to represent Region 8 for the Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals Association (ALPS). She will attend the ALPS board meetings as part of her tenure.

LRC Staff Member New Contact

Wayne Banks, SAU Tech Registrar, has been elected to the executive committee of the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (SACRAO). Banks will provide leadership in the position of Vice-President of Records & Registration for 2013 – 2015.