President Bloomberg Speaks at Convocation

On Monday, January 8, 2018, Spring Convocation was held for staff and faculty at Southeast Arkansas College’s Welcome Center. This year’s meeting was supercharged as SEARK’s new president, Mr. Steven Bloomberg, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Spring Semester and the coming year ahead. Subsequent presentations were delivered by Vice President of Fiscal Affairs, Debbie Wallace, Vice President of Student Affairs, Scott Kuttenkuler and Dean of General Studies, Dr. Mark Shanley. Updates were given in each department, followed by policy and procedural changes.

In President Bloomberg’s State-of-the-College Address, he focused on a number of SEARK’s current needs and many possible future opportunities which are on the horizon. Some of the future possibilities included: grant funding for some college programs, new cutting edge programs to fill today’s manufacturing and specialty positions, partnering with local business and industrial corporations for graduate employment opportunities, the renovation of the college website, an improved delivery system for classes and students, and much more.

President Bloomberg also spoke on creating a “President’s Leadership Class” to impart the importance of soft skills, leadership skills and presentation skills for the young professional.

In addition, the creation of a student resource center which will offer students the ability to receive non-perishable food items and a selection of clothing for employment interviews and those who require assistance in these areas.

In closing, President Bloomberg stated, “Join with me: 2018 is going to be a great year here at SEARK College.”
**Ugly Sweater Party**

As a fun way to wrap up the semester and kick off the holiday season, the Retention and Advisement Center staff hosted an Ugly Sweater Party on December 5th. Cookies, popcorn, and hot chocolate were served for students, faculty and staff. Over 100 stopped by to enjoy the fun and relieve some stress before semester final exams began the next day. Picture props were provided for everyone to take selfies in front of the decorated backdrop. A bag of Christmas potpourri and a “Baby It’s Cold Outside” coffee mug were the door prizes given to two lucky students who attended. Vice President, Scott Kuttenkuler stated “It’s always a great idea to keep students’ spirits high going into finals week and this event did the trick.” Pictured is the Retention and Advising staff.

**A Day at Stuttgart High**

SEARK Recruitment Department visits Stuttgart High. John Proctor, Recruitment Coordinator, attended Stuttgart High School College Information Fair. Mr. Proctor was able to have one-on-one contact with interested seniors from the high school. Mr. Proctor spoke with individuals about the advantages of attending Southeast Arkansas College. Mr. Proctor recognized the recent awards our students received in Respiratory Care with D. Bradford, a future SEARK hopeful. She is seen completing an online application in the above picture. Also, W. Vose was photographed completing an information card with hopes of receiving more information about the Technology programs we have here at SEARK college.
New Student Orientation was held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 in Founder’s Hall Lyceum. The morning session was well attended and featured SEARK’s new President, Mr. Steven Bloomberg, Vice President, Scott Kuttenkuler, Recruitment Director, Barbara Dunn, Barnes & Noble Bookstore’s Assist. Manager, Reginald Morris, Director of Shark Attack Food Court, Cindy McAninch. However, prior to Mr. Kuttenkuler’s presentation, SEARK’s largest selfie was taken of all event attendees (right).

Following the presentations, students exited into breakout sessions which included WebAdvisor, email accounts, E-2Campus, financial aid, business services, library, distance learning, Moodle, tutoring services, testing and support services.

Each attendee received a SEARK bag with valuable information regarding campus services and give-a-ways were presented to various attendees. All SEARK program departments were represented at the event.

Lunch & Learn

SEARK’s own President, Mr. Steven Bloomberg, will be speaking at this month’s Lunch & Learn on February 20, 2018, from 12:15 - 12:45.

President Bloomberg will be introducing himself to the student body of Southeast Arkansas College and will share some of the extraordinary concepts and plans he has to enhance and expand program choices and learning experiences at SEARK College.

President Bloomberg’s desire is to bring the information and technology of tomorrow to SEARK and the current students of today.

Lunch will be free and will be served at 12:00 noon to all attendees.

A Visit Well Made

John Proctor attended business classes at Pine Bluff High School to talk with the students about decision making and how to select a college that best fits their needs. Mr. Proctor connected with the students and talked with them about choosing a major that suits them and not enrolling into a college because friends that plan to attend. Taking the steps to go to college is not an easy task for most, so Mr. Proctor allowed students the opportunity to ask questions of their choice. Mr. Proctor spoke with them about completing their financial aid early.
The Seark College Criminal Justice Association (SCCJA) adopted a boy and a girl from the Salvation Army Angel Tree for the SCCJA's Fall 2017 community service project. SCCJA members opened their hearts and fulfilled the children's wish list supplying clothes, shoes, games and toys. Pictured from left to right are Salvation Army Lt. Kyle Madison, SCCJA members Ashley Spears and Sharrica Scales, SCCJA advisor Greg Shapiro and Salvation Army Lt. Sarah Madison.

SEARK Student Ambassadors Attended Leadership Academy

Student Ambassadors, LaSonya Thompson and Jason Givens (left) attended ACC’s 4th Annual Student Leadership Academy on November 2-3, 2017 at C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Little Rock. The Ambassadors participated in group assignments and presentations, team-building activities, and networking with students from other community colleges in Arkansas. Congratulations to LaSonya and Jason for representing SEARK College. Also, congrats to LaSonya for winning a $100 Book Scholarship.

SEARK Snow Days extended Five Days

Friday, January 12, 2018 marked the first snow day of this year. Due to the wide-spread snow and ice, staff, faculty and students were not able to make it in to the campus. Although the grounds were clear of ice by end of the day Saturday, Monday evening brought another round of snow and ice. The campus was transformed into a blanket of white and the campus was closed until January 18th. Campus alerts are sent out over the E-2Campus program as needed. Due to the new opt-out program for E-2Campus, most everyone received notification of all closures and important alerts as they were needed.
In the hopes of reducing employee injuries and illnesses, the Southeast Arkansas Human Resources and Safety Committee sponsors an annual seminar. The committee, formed in 2004, is comprised of human resource managers, safety managers, and individuals committed to improving workplace safety. The 2017 SEARK Hosts Workers’ Safety Conference was held in McGeorge Hall, Seark College. There were 25 companies represented and 117 workers in attendance. The seminar is presented by the Arkansas Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor. The Arkansas Department of Labor’s OSHA Consultation Division hosted the annual planning meeting in December 2017 to plan the upcoming 2018 safety conferences across the state. Two initial members of the local safety committee were presented with letters from Governor Asa Hutchinson: Larry Livingston, H. R. Generalist, Evergreen Packaging and Wanda Lindsey, Director, Southeast Arkansas College Workforce Development Center. Governor Hutchinson was appreciative of the hard work and dedication to the safety community, and further expressed that without the leadership, the Arkansas Department of Labor worker safety conferences would not be possible.

Governor Hutchinson’s letter also recognized and thanked Southeast Arkansas College for their willingness to partner each year and for their support in ensuring the conferences are successful.

SEARK in the Family - Jason and James Givens

Jason was born and raised in Southern Louisiana. He comes from a large family of 21 siblings, him included. He quit school at 16 and left home and travelled the country doing odd jobs. He was married twice during his younger years. He married his second wife in 1995 and that is when James Smith came into his life as his step-son. He acquired James when he was only a year old. He struggled to be a father and James struggled to have one. Jason has 2 other children by James’ mother, Tyler 16 and Savannah 14. He became divorced when his children were young and acquired custody of them all. Over the years, as he raised his kids, he struggled with drug addiction which he has since overcome. In 2011, Jason finally received his high school diploma. Some time later, he suffered severe injuries to his body due to an accident and endured a life saving liver transplant. By the grace of God, Jason enrolled in SEARK in January of 2015. He was tempted to quit school within the first semester due to fear of failure, but his kids insisted he move forward. He worked hard and was accepted in Phi Theta Kappa and Student Ambassadors. He was determined to achieve good grades and has been on the President’s List as well as the Dean’s List. He won the Arkansas Academic All-Star Scholarship and is the first in his family to break the cycle and graduate from college. This has influenced his children to strive to do their best in education. Jason’s son, James, followed in his footsteps and chose to attend SEARK as well for a technical certificate in the EMT program. James has struggled with ADHD all of his life so it was a monumental for him. In December of 2017, Jason and his son and he walked the stage, graduating from SEARK together. James is currently moving on to pursue his new found career as an EMT. Jason is currently finishing this semester at SEARK and has been accepted to the University of Arkansas as Fort Smith, where he will go on to pursue a double major in psychology and social work. His future plans include moving forward to complete his Master’s degree in psychology.

With fulfillment in his heart, Jason offered this statement, “If I could offer advice to anyone in need, it would be: never give up on your dreams, never give up on yourself, always fight hard, you can make it……… I am living proof,” “I am SEARK!”
Mandela
Journey to Ubuntu

The Clinton Presidential Library is hosting Mandela: The Journey to Ubuntu, which chronicles the life of Nelson Mandela on Friday, February 9, 2018, from 9:30am until 2:30pm.

Experiences and moments that played an integral role in President Mandela’s life and presidency.

Visitors will also be able to tour the Clinton Presidential Library and see artifacts from the Clinton administration collection.

The trip is free and sponsored by Southeast Arkansas College and TRIO. Although tickets are free, they are limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis. All those who are interested, please sign up in the TRIO office in College Hall, Rm 100. Transportation, tickets and lunch will be provided for SEARK students.

Build - A - Bear for Valentines Day

The Annual Valentine’s Day Build - A - Bear event will be held in the McGeorge Seminar Room, Wednesday, February 14th from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Build a Bear will be hosted by the Southeast Arkansas College Crafting Club as well as other volunteers offering activities, Goodies and refreshments during the festivities.

This event is free to SEARK’s students, faculty and staff so, come, mingle and build a cute cuddly little friend for that someone special in your life.
**WINTER Word Search**

**Find The Words!**

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**Boots**

- CHRISTMAS
- DECEMBER
- FEBRUARY
- GLOVES
- JANUARY
- SKIING
- SNOWBALLS
- WINTER

**Cold**

- FROST
- ICE
- JANUARY
- SKIING

**Freezing**

- SNOWANGEL
- SNOWMAN

**Sledging**

- SNOWFLAKE
SEARK’s Newest Employees

Tasha Woods
Practical Nursing Instructor

Laurell Hall
Practical Nursing Instructor

Contact Us
For more information about our services and events.

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Upcoming December Events:

- 02/05 Mon Last day to drop with 100% refund
- 02/09 Fri Nelson Mandela Exhibit & The Clinton Presidential Library, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Sign up in TRIO office
- 02/10 Sat ACT Test, @ McGeorge Hall Seminar 7:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
- 02/12 Mon Transfer Day - McGeorge Hall Seminar 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 02/14 Wed Valentine’s Day Build A Bear @ McGeorge Hall Seminar, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 02/20 Tues Lunch & Learn, McGeorge Seminar Room 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Speaker: President Steve Bloomberg
- 02/26 Mon Student Ambassador's Fundraiser: Krispy Kreme Doughnuts @ McGeorge, Tech & Library 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.