

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

Help hang new 'Rette banners

KILGORE COLLEGE RANGERETTES

he Forevers are gratefully accepting donations to replace the old Rangerette banners in downtown Kilgore. The city puts up these banners for all Rangerette events. A \$100 donation purchases the colorful banner at right, and you will receive a thank-you certificate and recognition on Rangerette.com. We need to collect donations by Show-offs (Friday, Aug. 18) to be able to order all 50 banners in time for Homecoming. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. Donate online at Rangerette.com under the "Forevers" tab. Thank you!





ELECTION UPDATE The nominations are in. Next in our Kilgore College Rangerettes Forever election process, our president-elect and president's council, made up of former board presidents, will decide on recommendations for a new board from a list of nominees for open positions. The president will present those recommendations at Show-offs on Aug. 18, and Forevers in attendance will have a chance to approve the slate. The new board will take over after the vote, with its first meeting the following day.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two challenging, productive years

Greetings Forevers,

his is my final letter as the 2015–17 Rangerettes Forever president. On Aug. 19, Velma Yount will be taking over as the new president. She has been president-elect for the last two years and is ready to step into her most important role as a Forever. On Friday

night, Aug. 18, during Showoffs, I will ask the Forevers membership to approve the new board of directors as recommended by the president's council.

The role of president is a **BEVERLY** six-year commitment. You begin **ROCHIN** by holding the office of presi-**SWATZELL** 36TH LINE dent-elect for two years, followed by president for two years and then past president for two years. The role of past president is also a very important role, as it creates a seamless transition between the two presidents and allows the past president time to follow up on any initiatives that were started.

Two years ago, I made a commitment to my board to provide clarity and understanding of all parts of the Forever organization. We worked cohesively to create a framework of understanding so that decisions were made from the right

I am very proud of this board. They stepped up to all challenges that were placed before them and had fun doing it.

activities and make some tough decisions.

I also insisted on a budget that realistically reflected what we could do. The board worked tirelessly to understand all the financials and their implications. We asked a lot of questions, and the college worked with us side by side to help us create a clear budget.

I am very proud of this board. They stepped up to all challenges that were placed before them and had fun doing it. They are smart, positive and very generous of their time and talents. No one can be any more passionate about the Forevers, the Rangerette organization and Kilgore College than they are.

It has been an absolute honor to serve as the president of such an amazing alumni group and board of directors. There is nothing like the Rangerettes Forever!

Forever yours,

Beverly Rochin Swatzell, '75-'77, 36th Line Rangerettes Forever president

perspective. We were able to analyze Forever

RANGERETTES FOREVER **AND FRIENDS** OF RANGERETTES. Send address corrections to Leah Gorman Kilgore College 1100 Broadway Kilgore, TX 75662; 903-983-8182;

RANGERETTES

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FOR MEMBERS OF

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RANGERETTES FOREVER OFFICERS:

Beverly Rochin Swatzell

(777) president

Mazie Mathews Jamison

('69) vice president Erin Oian Boyd ('02)

secretary Velma Yount ('76) president-elect

Nancy Greer ('78) treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Megan DeHoyos ('07), past president Mindy Davis ('01) Lisa Fortenberry ('85) Pill Harmon Malm ('67) Mackenzie Oden McCall ('09) Lara Turner Miller ('96) Beverly Brunson Tallent ('65) Lisa McCutcheon Walker ('86) Regina Hodge Wyatt ('76)

RANGERETTES ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: www.facebook .com/KCRangerettes Twitter: @KCRangerettes Instagram:

@KCRangerettes Tumblr: www.kcrangerettes .tumblr.com

Snapchat: KCRangerettes Rangerettes Forever Facebook page:

> www.facebook.com/ Rangerettes-Forever-682825548571907

Engrave a commemorative bench in Mike Miller Plaza



Commemorative benches in Kilgore College's Mike Miller Plaza offer an opportunity to honor classes, officer lines and other Forevers. The 30 granite-and-iron benches can be personalized with an inscription limited to three lines of up to 60 characters. Bench customization requires a single or collective donation of \$2,500. Click here to read more about the benches. To purchase a bench or for details, contact 903-988-7521 or lgorman@kilgore.edu.

TURN YOUR SHOPPING INTO A SCHOLARSHIP Give back to the Rangerettes when you shop on Amazon.com. To help, go to www.smile.amazon.com and pick the Kilgore College Foundation as your charity. The KC Foundation has agreed to give the first profits to the Forevers for a Rangerette scholarship, so the organization receives a percentage of your purchases.

Bits & Boots

T-shirt designs raise nearly \$800 for scholarships









CAITY SIMPSON RUTLEDGE,

62nd Line, won this year's Kilgore College Rangerettes camp T-shirt contest with her work featuring lace, the Texas silhouette and a K-Girl (above, left).

Rutledge's design was one of three on which Forevers and Rangerette supporters voted during Revels. Her design raised the largest percentage of the nearly \$800 total. Proceeds go toward Rangerette scholarships.

Rutledge lives in Longview, where she teaches graphic design and

animation courses at Pine Tree High School and is sponsor of the school's student council.

"The contest was an opportunity I saw to stay connected to the Rangerettes, an organization I love, as well as utilize my creativity I teach everyday to my students!" she said.

Another of Rutledge's designs (above, far right) was among the Top 3 finalists in the T-shirt contest.

ALYSSA FALCONE GOZA, 70th Line, contributed the final design (center).

SEE THE RANGERETTES IN ACTION

SHOW-OFFS: See the 78th Line perform for the first time and witness the final phase of officer tryouts at Show-offs beginning 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18, in Dodson Auditorium. Seating is first come, first served.

KILGORE COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES: The Kilgore College Rangers' season kicks off 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, versus Tyler Junior College at R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium. The Homecoming game begins 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21. Click here to view the rest of the KC football schedule.

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS: The Kilgore College

Rangerettes will help kick off the State Fair of Texas by performing in opening ceremonies Friday, Sept. 29, in Dallas. Learn more about the fair at www.BigTex.com.

GLADEWATER GALS: The Gladewater Museum is working on a display to honor Gladewater girls who were Kilgore College Rangerettes. Contact the museum at eosteen@yahoo.com to share your information, pictures and ideas.



KILGORE COLLEGE/JAMIE MALDONADO

BUYNOW Kilgore College

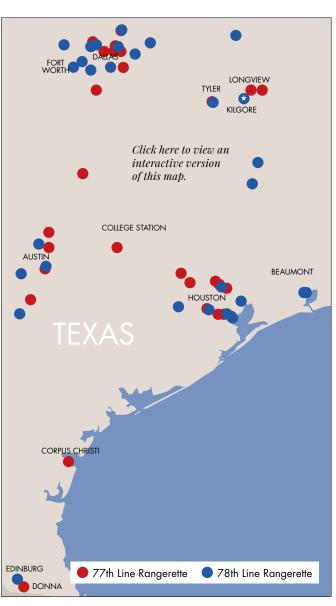
Keep our plates on the road

Purchase a Kilgore College Rangerettes license plate or extend the term of an existing one at MyPlates.com. MyPlates sometimes discontinues specialty plates if an organization does not meet the 200 registered plate minimum, according to the website. To order your plates, **click here** or call 888-769-7528.





Meet the next generation



On July 14, Hopefuls from across the Lone Star State became the 78th Line of the Kilgore College Rangerettes. Here's a closer look at the hometowns of this year's team.

FRESHMAN RANGERETTES

Abilene: Kelsey Little **Arlington**: Kyra Gaskill **Austin**: Lindy Foster and

Rachel Green

Caddo Mills: Kennadie Drews

Dallas: Lucille White **Deer Park**: Ashley Fuertes

and Alyssa Zertuche

Dripping Springs: Alyssa Rivera **Edinburg**: Kenedie Casares **Flower Mound**: Penelope Heth

and Nicole Vickers

Fort Worth: Lexie Kieschnick Houston: Alyssa Moreno Katy: Michelle Miller Kilgore: Ryan Wayne Kingwood: Courtney Knight

La Porte: Blaine Miller

Leander: Cierra Birmingham Lewisville: Sydney Mooty Lufkin: Haley Carlile McKinney: Lauren Casey Mount Belvieu: Sara Aquillard

Mount Pleasant: Madison Blalock Nacogdoches: Haley Hockenberry

Nederland: Kaitlyn Harvey New Braunfels: Franklyn Stamps North Richland Hills: McKenna Fairbanks and Kandace Tuttle Plano: Julia Kimberlin

Port Neches: Allison Klima and Bailee Scott Rhome: Abigail Lyon

Rockwall: Cameron Ballenger

Tyler: Ashlyn Fleet and Veronica Sundin

IN THE NEWS AND ADDITIONAL PHOTOS

Click **here** to read about tryouts in the Kilgore News Herald, **here** in the Longview News-Journal and **here** in the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

Click **here** to read about Sign Drop in the News Herald and **here** in the News-Journal.

Click here to view photos from Pre-training and **here** for Sign Drop on the Kilgore College Flickr page. **Click here** to view photos from 'Rette, White and Blue magazine and **here** to view photos by Marsha Eppley.

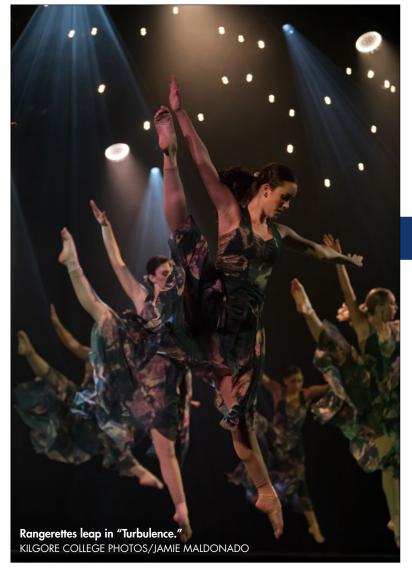


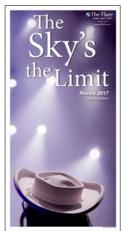












Click here to read the Revels edition of The Flare, Kilgore College's student newspaper.





Meghan Robertson Bowen, 69th Line, hosted Revels.

Revels 2017

Up in the air

he Kilgore College Rangerettes spent more time than usual living out of suitcases in the 2016–17 school year. The team traveled to New York City for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and to Hawaii for the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and a group of sophomores performed in the Texas Black Tie & Boots Presidential Inaugural Ball in January. To commemorate the on-the-go year, Revels 2017 embraced the travel theme with "The Sky's the Limit" April 5–8.

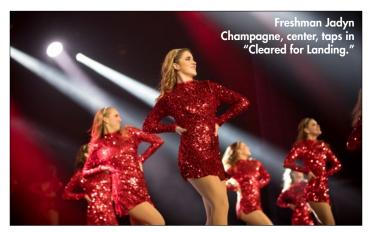
The title referred to air travel and the limitless possibilities of what Rangerettes can achieve with hard work and dedication, director Dana Blair said.

The show welcomed the audience aboard the 'Rette Jet 767, a nod to the 76th and 77th

Please see more Revels on page 7.









"New Dorp, New York" commemorated the Rangerettes' trip to the Big Apple for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Lines comprising the year's team. Numbers in the first half of the show played off flightattendant instructions and other air-travel staples. After intermission, the audience experienced the Rangerettes' trips to New York, Hawaii and Washington, D.C., via dance. The trip's final stop was in Kilgore for the traditional Rangerette Extravaganza high kick.

Meghan Robertson Bowen, 69th Line, hosted the show.

A dancer and choreographer, she recently returned from her first national tour in the cast of "Fame the Musical." She married Patrick Bowen in May and teaches Pilates in New York City. Read more about her at www.MeghanRob.com.

Revels honored Deana Bolton Covin, the Rangerettes' second director, who passed away in summer 2016.

Forevers, friends and family mingled at a reception in the Deana Bolton Covin Rangerette Gym between Saturday shows. ★



ADOPTION IS EASY

It's never too late to adopt a Rangerette. Send an email to RetteAdoption@ gmail.com with the name of the Rangerette you'd like to adopt or to request an assignment. The goal is for each Rangerette to have multiple Forevers, so adopting a Rangerette with a fellow alumna is an option. If you adopted a freshman Rangerette last year, you keep her as your adoptee her sophomore year. After adopting her, please contact your Rangerette at least three times a month - by email, phone, social media or a letter/card.



Red, white, blue and maroon, too

Aggie Forevers' connection remains strong

BY ASHLEY AUSTIN JONES

he bond between an adopted active Rangerette and her Forever is one that can continue long after the final curtain call of a Saturday-night Revels performance. Many Forevers go on to support their adoptees well into the rest of their college career and beyond. This is the case for Susan Reed (1977–79) and Emily Wendt (2013–15).

Both from the Central Texas area and now both Texas A&M graduates, these women share a bond that began when Reed was assigned Wendt as her active Rangerette adoptee through the Rangerettes Forever adoption program. Reed and Wendt shared how they have successfully built a relationship and have maintained a friendship now that Wendt is also a Forever.

What did you do for/with Emily as her Forever?

Reed: I tried to do little things often, such as texting or mailing cards to let her know she was being thought of and (that I) understood the challenges of being a freshman and the responsibilities of being a sophomore. I would bring her little gifts when I went to Kilgore for Show-offs, Homecoming and Revels, and when she was at home in Round Rock, we would try and get together for dinner or lunch and catch up face-toface. A couple of the big gifts I gave her was an officer bear I made her and a scrapbook of her sophomore year. I also sent flowers on special occasions.

How is Susan involved in your life as an adult outside Rangerettes?

Wendt: Susan and I are just as close now as we were when I was a Rangerette. We try to get together every time I'm in Round Rock, and we text quite a bit as well to stay in touch. Recently, Susan and I got to share in another unique tradition when she presented me with my Aggie ring. It meant the world to me to have a fellow Forever, former Aggie and one of my dearest friends be a part of such a special day!

What advice do you have for Forevers who may not be so involved with their adoptees?

Reed: It doesn't take much to be involved with social media offering so many opportunities to communicate — whether responding to a "Just letting the active know you are thinking of them when they are getting ready to try out for a line spot, preparing for a performance or offering a comforting word when they don't make a performance goes a long way."

SUSAN REED 38TH LINE

post on their Facebook page, to acknowledging Instagram or Snapchat posts, and texting is always a great option. Just letting the active know you are thinking of them when they are getting ready to try out for a line spot, preparing for a performance or offering a comforting word when they don't make a performance goes a long way. We can relate to what they are going through - no matter what the age difference — and that they are not alone in their feelings, whether happy or sad.

I would like to add that when a Forever adopts an active that she honors the commitment or lets an Adopta-'Rette organizer know if they are not able to fulfill their responsibility. Some actives may only have one Forever assigned to them, and if they do not have that interaction, they are missing out on an opportunity as well as feeling left out when they see their classmates and the relationship they have with their Forever.

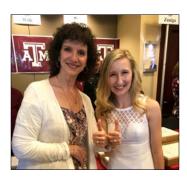
What one thing is important for all Forevers to do for/with their adoptee?

Wendt: The best thing that all of my Forevers did for me was just support me. I loved hearing from all of them during different times during the year and getting to share my Rangerette experience with them. One of the most special parts of Rangerettes is how so little has changed over the years, and sharing stories and memories with my Forevers proved that point time and time again.

What advice do you have for other Forevers who may not have adopted yet (or recently)?

Reed: I was hesitant to adopt because of living in the Austin area. It is a long drive to Kilgore and not possible to do too many times a year, but it is not only about being physically present. While that is great, it is so easy to communicate nowadays other than snail mail, and it is not about sending or giving gifts every event. Words of encouragement and sending happy thoughts are always appreciated, and there are so many ways to communicate quickly and often.

I highly recommend adopting, and if you have any questions, ask another Forever or the Adopt-a-'Rette program organizers. It has been a wonderful experience for me, and it has been so rewarding getting to know the actives and share in their adventures of being a Rangerette. ★









Top: Reed and Wendt at the Aggie ring ceremony. Second from top: Reed and Wendt after Show-offs 2014. Third from top: Reed with the officer bear she made for Wendt. Bottom: Reed and Wendt after Revels 2015.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUSAN REED AND EMILY WENDT

Tales from the continued adventures of Forevers and supporters



Seven Forevers who also were San Antonio Spurs Silver Dancers performed in the Silver Dancers 25th anniversary halftime. They are, from left: ROSIE TORRES, 55th Line; RAQUEL TORRES GARCIA, 54th Line; MINDY MORTON WINCHESTER, 52nd Line; FARRAH DAILEY OLSON, 56th Line; ALICE KEOUGHAN CONNOR, 56th Line; BECKY GROGAN DAILEY, 61st Line; and TINA ZAMORA ALANIS, 63rd Line. Click here to watch their performance. Olson also made the Dallas-based M.O.M. Crew. M.O.M., which stands for Mind Over Matter, "was created to encourage moms and women everywhere to chase their dreams regardless of what obstacles they may face," according to its website. View a list of upcoming performances and learn more at MOMCrewDFW.com.



The **36TH LINE** held a reunion in conjunction with Revels in April. The event included the **35TH** and **37TH LINES** and drew close to 80 people to Lazy S Ranch Party Barn. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINA HAAKE JEFFERIS



Did you see **CASEY POTTER**'s marriage proposal? Houston Rockets fans at the April 7 game witnessed Airman First Class Travis Ross get down on one knee in front of a blindfolded Potter, 68th Line, who thought she was participating in a half-time dunking stunt with the team's mascot. When she opened her eyes, Ross popped the question. She said yes. **Click here** to watch the video.



JAMIE SHIVES WALLACE, 59th Line, registered her animal-rescue ranch as a nonprofit. Safe in Austin's goal is "to rescue animals from abuse and neglect, to rehabilitate and rehome the ones that are able, and to provide a loving environment for those that have been through enough already," according to its mission statement.

Learn more at www.Facebook.com/SafeinAustin.

Please see more Kicks & Cadence on page 11.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10



SHANA STEWART WETZEL, 49th Line, is a new counselor at Skipcha Elementary in Killeen ISD.



SHELBY WHITE, 74th Line, will teach 11th-grade math at Cumberland Academy High School in Tyler.



LIBBY POWER, 73rd Line, will teach geometry at Waxahachie High School, her alma mater, and direct the Howard Junior High Chey-Annes drill team in Waxahachie.



LAUREN CHAPMAN, 71st Line, is a secondyear Houston Texans Cheerleader.



ASHLEY CUPPLES, 71st Line, is an Arizona Cardinals Cheerleader for her second season.



JEN GRAY MORROW, 60th Line, is the new Lovejoy High School Majestics director. She takes the reins from Fela McQuagge Mathy, 50th Line, who originated the team in 2006.



ERIN OIAN BOYD, 61st Line, is La Porte High School Rookie Teacher of the Year. She is assistant director of the school's Chato dance team and teaches dance.



SKYLAR MORGAN, \pm 76th Line, joined the teaching staff of Revels Performing Arts Center in Deer Park.



JENNIE MCGRAW
TIDWELL, 58th Line,
accepted a position to
teach seventh-grade
language arts at Pearson Ranch Middle
School in Round Rock
Independent School
District. She also will
be the language arts
department chair.



After 12 years at Anderson High School in Austin ISD (nine years as Trojan Belles director and three years as an assistant principal), ERIN WINTER CAMPBELL, 61st Line, is returning to her alma mater, Westwood High School in Round Rock ISD, as an assistant principal.



LINDSAY MADDEN
SALTER and SARA
ORMSBY NASH, both
of the 64th Line, started
Left Right Productions,
which offers summer
dance intensives for high
school dance/drill-team
students. Learn more at
www.leftrightpro.com.

Share your successes and milestones! We want to hear about your exciting new jobs, promotions and achievements. Tell us about weddings and new family members, too. Email your news to RetteForeverNews@gmail.com. Include a high-resolution, color photo and caption information.

Please see more Kicks & Cadence on page 12.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Members of the 63RD LINE reunited in May for a trip to Fredericksburg. PHOTO COURTESY OF CARIS DUNN





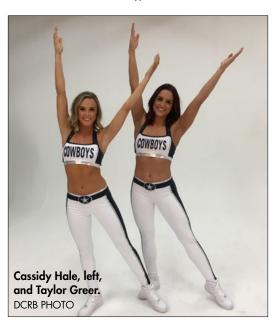
"Mimi's Misadventure," starring ASHLEY (MARTIN) ATWOOD, 61st Line, will make its Texas premiere at Women Texas Film Festival Friday, Aug. 18, in Dallas. Watch a trailer at www.Mimismisadventure.com. Read more about the festival at www.Womentxff.org.



JENNA HELDUSER, 73rd Line, is the new assistant director of the Langham Creek Bailadoras in Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District.



Extreme Performing Arts Center in Conroe hired three Forevers: **KIERSTIN DORNAK**, 75th Line, who was a student at the studio for 13 years; **JORDAN BAIRD**, 74th Line; and **BRIANNA GEORGIE**, 74th Line.



TAYLOR GREER, 70th Line, and **CASSIDY HALE**, 74th Line, are Dallas Cowboys Rhythm & Blue dancers. Greer is a rookie, and it is Hale's second year on the team.



STEPHANIE AUMILLER SNYDER-ZUASNABAR, 72nd Line, is the new assistant director of the Friendswood High School Wranglerettes. ALYSSA FALCONE GOZA, 70th Line, is director of the team at her alma mater.



MADISON CASHION, 76th Line, is the new assistant director of the College Station Strutters at her alma mater. Strutters director is ANNA MATTINGLY MCBRIDE, 66th Line.

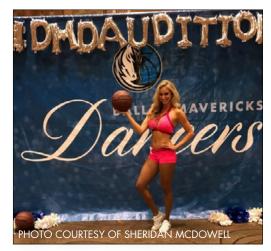
ClassPass profiled MARIANNE LIDIAK
BAKER, 38th Line, for Women's History Month.
She is CEO and owner of Dallas-based Beyond
Studios. Click here to read the piece.

Voyage Houston profiled **HEATHER FERGUSON NICHOLAS**, 58th Line, founder of 8 National Talent Competition. **Click here** to read the piece.

Please see more Kicks & Cadence on page 13.

12 ★ RANGERETTES FOREVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



SHERIDAN MCDOWELL, 72nd Line, earned a spot on the Dallas Mavericks Dancers.



JACKIE GARZA, 71st Line, is a rookie Houston Rockets Power Dancer.



TAYLOR MACKINTOSH, 73rd Line, will teach fourth grade at James Bowie Elementary School in Richardson.

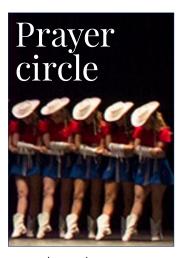


MONIKA FREEMAN, 60th Line, was part of a delegation of businesspeople and artists that traveled to Sudan in May. The group met with Sudanese counterparts to discuss investment in agriculture, mining, oil, arts, tourism and culture. Freeman is founder/content creator of MonikaFreeman.com, creative director and designer of 5twonine, a wardrobe stylist, and director of operations for Prasperity Group.

KALI BOYD, 65th Line, is the new coach of the University of Texas dance team. She also is an instructor/choreographer at The Dance Works in Round Rock; choreographer for Coast2Coast Productions; choreographer for the Citrus Bowl Halftime Show in Orlando, Fla.; and on the staff of MA Dance.

Texas Dance members hold their new coach, Kali Boyd.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KALI BOYD



Our thoughts are with these Forevers and their loved ones

JIM GRAY, a manager from 1978 to 1980, died in June. Click here to read his obituary.

LYNDA JO HOPKINS SAWYER, 28th Line, passed away in May. Click here to read her obituary.

DEEDY ADAMS, 28th Line, passed away in April. **Click here** to read her obituary.

WILDA IRENE RODRIGUEZ ANDREWS,

4th Line, passed away in April. **Click here** to read her obituary.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS ALWAYS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You can give to any Kilgore College Rangerettes scholarship in two ways:

- Send checks (made payable to the Kilgore College. In the memo line, reference the scholarship to which you wish to contribute) to Kilgore College, c/o Leah Gorman, 1100 Broadway, Kilgore, TX 75662.
- Pay online via the KC Foundation website at https://www.kilgore.edu/node/4893.