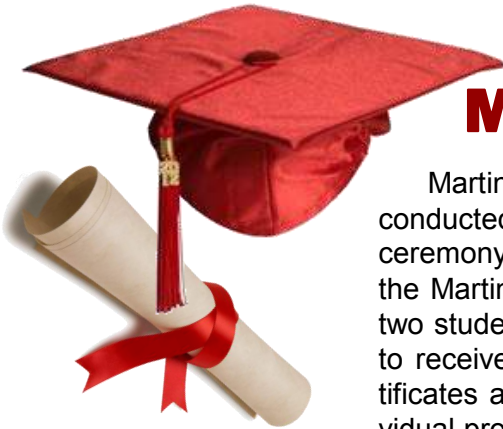


The Martin Messenger

A monthly newsletter for Martin Community College

June 2017



MCC's Class of 2017 Inspires!

Martin Community College (MCC) conducted its forty-ninth graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 10 in the Martin County auditorium. Ninety-two students walked across the stage to receive degrees, diplomas, or certificates at this year's ceremony. Individual program awards and the Distinguished Graduate award were also acknowledged at this event.

Reverend Gary Saffell, the Pastor of Colerain Baptist Church, gave the invocation and benediction. Dr. Kenneth A. Boham, MCC's Interim President, welcomed everyone and introduced the speaker, Jennifer Haygood.

Haygood began her remarks with heart felt congratulations to the students for making it to this important milestone in their life. She then went on to share three life lessons that have shaped her career and leadership style: Lesson 1: Be a Problem Solver; Lesson 2: Your Struggles Can Become Your Greatest Source of Strength; and Lesson 3: Don't Let Yourself Be Your Biggest Barrier.

In regard to being a problem solver, Haygood shared a childhood story of her father's refusal to help her assemble a vacuum cleaner and told her to figure it out herself. She noted that it was a lesson that never left her because it "taught me not to expect others to give me all the answers and to take the initiative to solve problems myself... Over time I've learned that you can't let your doubts paralyze you... Persistent inaction usually does more damage than even imperfect action. So if you want to distinguish yourself, don't just wait for someone



Pictured above is Quante Tatiana Bazemore of Windsor, receiving MCC's Distinguished Graduate award which was presented during the Class of 2017 graduation ceremony on May 10. Bazemore, who lost everything in her home, twice, due to flooding from a tropical storm and again during Hurricane Matthew, was moved to tears during the presentation. She is planning to attend ECU or ODU (Old Dominion University) and begin working toward a doctoral degree in psychology.

to tell you what to do and how to do it. Help figure out what needs to be done and how best to accomplish it."

As to making "Your Struggles Your Greatest Source of Strength," Haygood related her Teach for America experience in New Orleans during the late 90's. While there, she taught large clas

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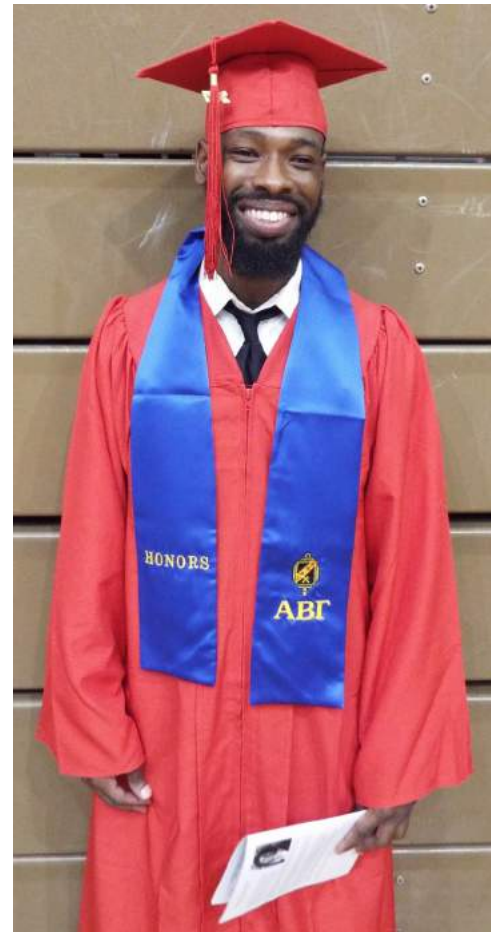
Continued from page 1... ses of third graders in a school with no air conditioning, in a classroom that had more students than textbooks, and equipment so old that she had to reproduce classroom handouts on an old ditto machine filled with toxic-smelling blue fluid and cranked by hand. She stated, "Even though I was the teacher, I'm pretty sure that I learned even more than my students... I learned I could survive really tough situations, and failure wasn't the end of the world if I learned from it... Remember: we can't always avoid hardship, but we can use the experience to strengthen our resilience to it."

And lastly, Haygood told the students not to be their own biggest barrier. She cited a psychological survey by Angela Lee Duckworth in which children and adults are placed in super challenging settings. She has studied performance in all types of settings, including West Point cadets, Spelling Bee contestants, rookie teachers, and salespeople. In all those very different contexts, one characteristic emerged as a significant predictor of success. It wasn't social intelligence, good looks, physical health, or IQ. It was grit. Duckworth describes, "grit is passion and perseverance for very long-term goals. Grit is having stamina. Grit is sticking with your future, day in, day out, not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years, and working really hard to make that future a reality. Grit is living life like it's a marathon, not a sprint."

Haygood is the Chief of Staff for the NC Community College

System office in Raleigh. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing the internal operations of the System Office and creating a fully integrated, highly performing System Office team that supports the System's mission. Prior to becoming Chief of Staff, Haygood served for eight years as the System's Chief Financial Officer, leading the division that is responsible for managing approximately \$1.5 billion in State, federal, and tuition funds that support the state's 58 community colleges and the System Office. Haygood earned a Masters of Public Policy degree from Duke University and received her undergraduate degree from Rice University. Prior to returning to graduate school, she was a Teach for America corps member and taught elementary school in inner-city New Orleans.

Dr. Brian Busch, MCC's Dean of Student Services and Interim Dean of Academics, then presented the program awards and recognized and the Distinguished Graduate. To be eligible to receive a Program Award, a student must be a candidate for graduation, have a minimum overall GPA of 3.00, possess outstanding qualities in cooperation and initiative, and must be nominated by a full-time faculty member (advisor). The "Program Award" denotes a student's excellence in a particular MCC program. The graduates receiving Program Awards were as follows: Associate in Arts – Quante Tatiana Bazemore, College Transfer – Shakira Shante Bond, Associate in General Education – Christy Jane Small, Accounting – Joseph Haywood Biggs, II, Cosmetology – Sherricka R. Brown, Early Childhood



Mr. Chazz Cobbs, pictured above, graduated with honors from MCC on May 10. Cobbs earned an AS degree, diploma and certificate in Electrical Systems Technology and is a member of the Alpha Beta Gamma Honors Society, which signifies excellence in business related studies. He was also active in the Man Up Success Leadership program.

Education – Heather Farmer, Electrical Systems Technology – Reco Pugh-Bey, Equine Training Technology – Ashley Bundy, General Occupational Technology – Reco Pugh-Bey, Industrial Systems Technology – David Ted Birdo, Information Technology Network Maintenance – Aisnick James Corey, Medical Office Administration – Tammy Lynn Gedrimas, Office

Administration – Ashley E. Muse, and Physical Therapist Assistant – Jackie Lea Beasley.

MCC's Distinguished Graduate award, which is based on scholarship, civic engagement, and demeanor, was presented to Quante Tatiana Bazemore of Windsor. Bazemore, who lost everything in her home – twice – due to flooding from a tropical storm in September of 2016 and again during Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016, was moved to tears during the presentation. Bazemore was also active in MCC's Literary and Cultural Arts Club, serving as president for two terms. She is planning to attend ECU or ODU (Old Dominion University), and work toward earning a doctoral degree in psychology.

Sandra Hardy, the Assistant Superintendent of Bertie County Schools, then joined Dr. Busch on the stage to congratulate the Bertie High School students who also earned college credentials. MCC partners with both BECHS and NERSBA (Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience) to provide an Early College High School program. Other High Schools in the area also work with MCC to offer the Career and College Promise program. Each of these programs makes it possible for their students to attend college without paying for books or tuition, while still in High School. Many of these students will transfer their MCC credits to universities and enter their course of study as sophomores or juniors.

In her closing remarks to the graduates, MCC Trustee and Board of Trustees President, Helen Davis thanked the gradu-

ates for choosing Martin Community College to be a part of their academic journey. "We the Trustees, the Staff and especially the faculty, are proud of you and are so very happy that we could be a part of your lives. No matter where you go after tonight, you will be carrying a piece of MCC with you, and I look forward to seeing how each of you invests that piece of MCC in your community, your family and yourself." Davis then directed the students to turn the tassels on their hats from left to right and declared them to be official graduates of Martin Community College.



MCC's Interim President, Dr. Kenneth A. Boham poses with commencement speaker Jennifer Haygood, as they wait to enter the Martin County Auditorium for the 49th annual MCC graduation ceremony on May 10. Haygood is the Chief of Staff for the NCCCS office in Raleigh.



Pictured above is Reco Pugh-Bey of Bertie County. He graduated with honors from both MCC's Electrical Systems Technology and General Occupational Technology programs on May 10. Pugh-Bey was also an active member in the Man Up Success Leadership program at MCC and was inducted into the MCC Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an academic honors society. Pugh-Bey plans to eventually open his own business in Bertie County.

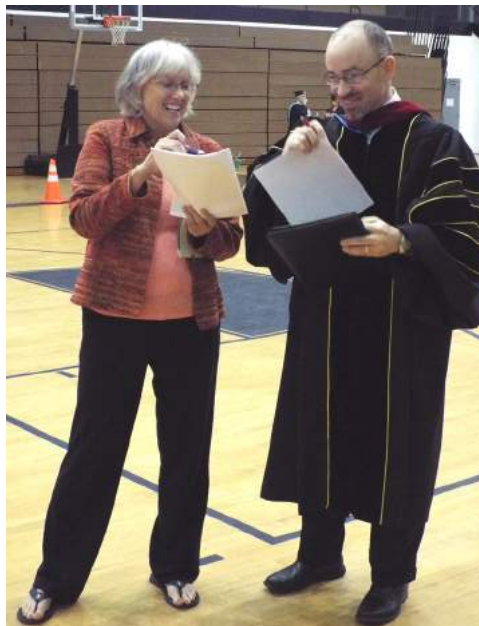


Dr. Brian Busch, Interim Dean of Academics, conferring degrees at the MCC Graduation on May 10. See more highlights on page 4.

More 2017 Graduation highlights...



Helen Davis, President of the MCC Board of Trustees, thanking MCC's Class of 2017 for choosing Martin Community College to be a part of their academic journey.



MCC's Registrar Eileen Jarmul and Dean of Student Services Dr. Brian Busch reviewing last minute details before the ceremony.

College Transfer Pathway Student Earns Prestigious Park Scholarship



One of MCC's College Transfer Pathway students from Riverside High School, Amy Tucker Ward, was selected to receive a prestigious Park Scholarship to attend NC State University this fall.

Ward, a soon-to-be graduate from Riverside High School, is treasurer of both the Student Government Association Executive Board and National Honor Society. She is also President of HO-SA (Health Occupations Students of America) Future Health Professionals at RHS.

She has worked as a veterinary assistant for the past two years, tutored middle school students, and received the Coach's Award for volleyball.

Ward plans to major in animal science and become a veterinarian. She is the daughter of James and Vinya Ward, in Williamston, NC. Congratulations Amy!



MCC's 2017 Cosmetology graduates from left to right are: Shareka Brown, Shaylia Rascoe, Ashley White, Angela Jernigan, Toshika Watson and Aisha Bradley. As indicated by their stoles and gold cords, each of the students graduated with honors.

MCC provides EMS Training for MCS Employees

Over the past several months, Steve Anderson, MCC's EMS Coordinator, has been organizing CPR training for the Martin County School (MCS) System. Pictured below is Alex Moore, an intermediate EMS provider in Bertie County, teaching MCS personnel in 2016. Pictured right is Jennifer O'Neal, a paramedic in Washington County, conducting a class on May 15, for MCS food service employees. Both Moore and O'Neal regularly teach EMS classes for MCC's Division of Continuing Education. Regularly scheduled CPR training is required for many public service employees.

Jennifer O'Neal



Alex Moore



Need help?

**Center for Family
Violence Prevention**

**24 Hour Crisis Line
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Greenville, NC



REAL Crisis Intervention, Inc. is a non-profit agency offering free 24/7 counseling and an extensive referral service. REAL provides: Counseling, Information & Referral, Sexual Assault Services, Advocacy, Suicide Intervention/Prevention, Pitt Resource Connection, Dial-A-Teen, Community Resource Connection and Outreach/Education. They are located at 1011 Anderson Street, in Greenville NC. You may contact REAL in the following ways; by phone at 252-758-4357, by email at realcrisis@embarqmail.com or on the web at www.realcrisis.org



Pictured above are the twelve students who participated in MCC's annual GED® (High School Equivalency) graduation ceremony on May 9 in the MCC auditorium. Receiving their GED® diploma from right to left on the back row are Brandon Martinez, Anthony Ford, Joseph Chavez, Jonathan Williamson, Charles McEachern and Jamal Brown and from left to right on the front row are Kelli Williams, Rhonisha Best, Jordan Haislip, Jessica Hoggard, Emiline Baker and Tabitha Cardinal. They were among 53 GED® graduates receiving their credential from MCC during the current academic year. Brown, Chavez, Martinez, McEachern, Williams and Williamson are from Williamston. Best and Haislip are from Oak City. Baker resides in Hamilton and Cardinal from Jamesville. Bertie County residents include Ford from Windsor and Hoggard from Colerain.

GED® Graduates Testify to Perseverance

Martin Community College (MCC) celebrated its forty first GED® graduation on May 9, in a ceremony held for a nearly full audience in the MCC Auditorium. Family, friends, staff and faculty were on hand to cheer on the graduates and congratulate them on their achievement. MCC's GED® program is administered through the Basic Skills department in the Division of Con-

tinuing Education.

The graduates who chose to participate in the ceremony were; Emiline Baker, Rhonisha Best, Jamal Brown, Tabitha Cardinal, Joseph Chavez, Anthony Ford, Jordan Haislip, Jessica Hoggard, Brandon Martinez, Charles McEachern, Kelli Williams and Jonathan Williamson.

Not all of the 53 GED® gradu-

ates from MCC were able to attend the ceremony. Many of the graduates have obtained jobs or moved away since their successful completion of the program. Twenty-eight of the GED® graduates completed their course work and tests at the Bertie Correctional Institution (BCI) in Windsor.

This year, the ceremony was different. Rather than listening to

the comments of a traditional commencement speaker, the audience was treated to testimonials from six of the actual students and a past graduate of the program. Jordan Haislip, Anthony Ford, Jamal Brown, Brandon Martinez, Charles McEachern and Emiline Baker were the students who spoke. They thanked family members for their love and support as well as the staff and faculty of MCC. Baker, summed up the student comments by saying, "It took me a long time to find my self-worth, but I did it. The word 'can't' isn't in my vocabulary anymore!"

The final testimonial was given by Clinton Jackson, who graduated from the program ten years ago. He noted that after he earned his GED®, he returned to MCC, earned a Medical Assisting degree and went to work in a doctor's office and later, in a nursing home. This fall, Jackson is preparing to start the surgery assistant program in Edgecombe County. He stated, "MCC is a great school. I never thought that I would be working in a doctor's office while I was in the GED® program."

Charlotte Griffin, President of the MCC Foundation board, then announced the recipients of the Foundation scholarships for GED® graduates. Jamal Brown, Jordan Haislip and Jessica Hoggard were each awarded a \$500 scholarship. These scholarships were awarded based on essays written by the candidates and will assist them with their tuition and books as they become college students this fall. The Foundation also provided each of the other graduates with free tuition for two curriculum classes in the upcoming academic year.

Brown, a lifelong resident of

Williamston noted in his essay, "I give Mr. Joe (Phipps) most of the credit (for this accomplishment). He really pushed me and told me many times that I was too smart to waste my intelligence....He pushed me every day and reminded me to never lose hope or give up. Now, I want to return to MCC because I feel like Martin is a great school with awesome teachers who make it their goal to see their students succeed." Brown is planning to enter the Automotive Systems Technology (AST) program this fall and someday, open his own repair shop.

Oak City resident Haislip, stated, "I want my daughter Madisyn (now 2 months old) to see that no matter what life throws at you, as long as you believe in yourself and perform to your full potential, nothing is impossible. I want to inspire her to do great things and not go through the struggles and hardships in life that I have encountered." Haislip plans to enter MCC's Dental Assisting Program this fall and eventually becoming a pediatric dentist.

Hoggard, who lives in Colerain, wrote, "Now that I have finished this wonderful, amazing program, I want to begin college. I want to make something of myself, for my son and my boyfriend so that we can build a life together and be a family. I plan to stay at Martin because the staff is wonderful and very helpful and the programs are outstanding." Hoggard will take general education classes at MCC this fall and eventually enter the Business Administration program so that she will have the skills to manage her boyfriend's automotive shop, which he plans to open after graduating from MCC's AST program.

The GED® was born of the US Military in 1942, when they asked the American Council on Education to develop a battery of tests to

measure high school-level academic skills. These tests gave military personnel and veterans who had enrolled in the military before completing high school a way to demonstrate their knowledge. Passing these tests gave returning soldiers and sailors the academic credentials they needed to get civilian jobs and gain access to post-secondary education or training.

Over time the GED® has undergone major changes. In 1988, the test added essay writing and placed more emphasis on socially relevant topics and problem-solving skills. In 2002, the test was re-formatted to comply with more recent standards for high-school education. Most recently, in January of 2014, the GED® was moved to Pearson VUE, a proprietary computer-based testing platform. The current GED® test covers the following areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

Continued on page 8...



Clinton Jackson earned his GED® from MCC in 2007. He then entered MCC's Medical Assisting program and is now working toward a degree in Surgical Technology. Jackson was a featured speaker during MCC's 2017 GED® graduation.

New MCC Name Badges



Since MCC's name badge making machine had to be replaced, it was a good time to re-design the MCC ID badges. After numerous iterations, the sample above is the final version of what the new badges will look like. For optimal contrast, the background will be white for all of the badges. There will be no background color differentiations. The name will be at the top, the job title or program of study will be in the middle and the designation of Student, Faculty or Staff will be at the bottom. Both campus addresses will be on the back as well as an identification bar code. Eventually, the bar code will be replaced with a magnetic strip which will be used for unlocking doors - like hotel key cards. There will be a hole punched through the top of the card through which, a lanyard or clip may be attached. The name badge equipment will be set up in the bookstore on the Williamston campus and in the administrative offices of the Windsor campus. It should be fully operational in June.



Continued from page 7...

According to Jeri Griffin, the Basic Skills Director at MCC, "The recent changes to the GED® have made it unattainable for many students. The GED® testing fee has increased from \$35.00 to \$80.00 (\$20 per discipline), plus there is now an additional \$24.00 practice test fee (\$6 per each discipline) which was previously free. Today, it costs \$104 to take the entire battery of tests. Most of our students do not have the money to take the test. Thank goodness for occasional donors, and the College sanctioned Yard Sale we held last October. The yard sale raised enough money to cover this year's student test fees. However, these funds are depleting fast. I hope that more angels step forward to help our students. As witnessed at our graduation ceremony here tonight, a gift as small as \$100 can change a life."

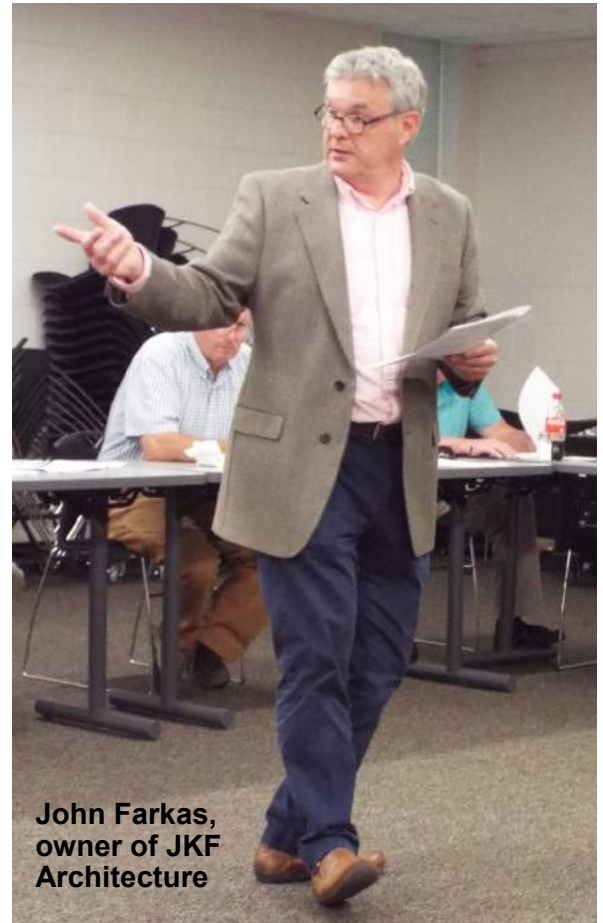
GED® credentials are very important. People with a high school credential earn roughly \$568,000 more during their lifetime than those without. MCC offers GED® classes in Williamston, Windsor and Robersonville. For more information on the GED® program at MCC, call 252-789-0288 or email Jeri Griffin at jeri.griffin@martincc.edu. To make a tax deductible donation for scholarships or GED® test fees, contact, Robert Bonner at 252-789-0295 or robert.bonner@martincc.edu.

Pictured from top to bottom are the MCC GED® graduates who spoke during the recognition ceremony on May 9. They are; Jordan Haislip, Charles McEachern, Jamal Brown, Brandon Martinez, Anthony Ford, and Emeline Baker.

Congratulations! You did it!

MCC Trustees Make Plans for the Future!

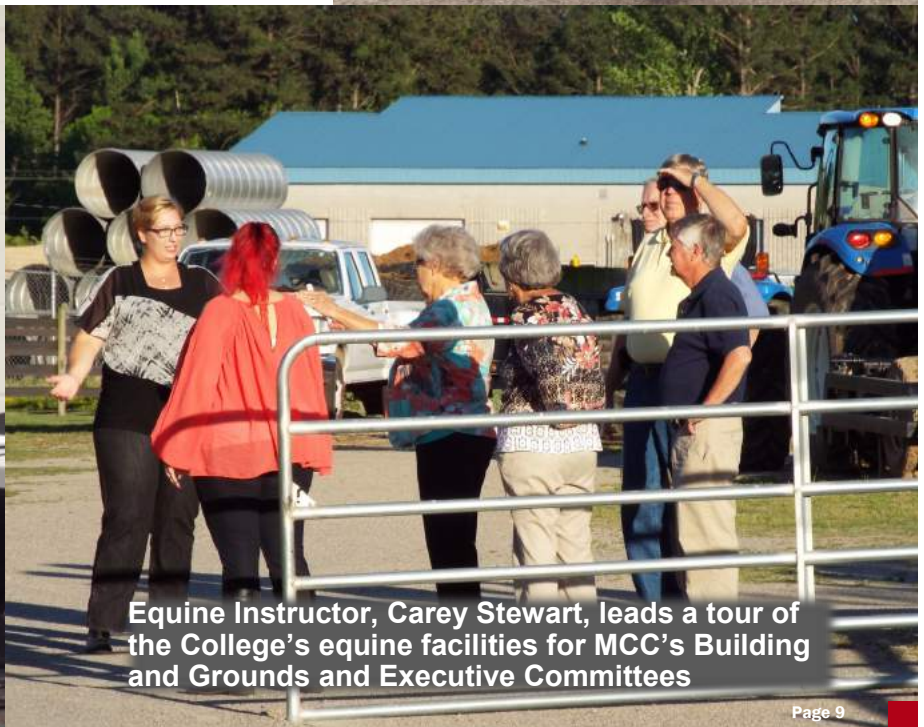
Members of MCC’s Executive Board and Building and Grounds Committee met jointly on May 2 to discuss various potential projects funded with MCC’s \$6.5 million portion of the Connect NC bond funds. Architect John Farkas (pictured right), met with the group to discuss a planning and prioritization process that will assist them in developing a new master plan for the college. The last plan was done in 2008. Some of the projects discussed were: improvements to the equine facilities, construction of a “burn building” for the fire training program, the addition of a small outdoor staging area for outside activities, construction of electronic signs and enhancements to the existing buildings on both campuses. Committee Chairman, Rick Cowan (pictured below left), led the meeting. Prior to the presentation by Farkas, the group took a tour of the equine facilities (pictured below right). Although many improvements are already underway in the barns and arena, there are still a number of items that need attention. All agreed that a master plan is essential to prioritizing the projects and spending the funds wisely. The process of developing the plan is already underway and should be completed by July 30. In addition to Cowan, members of the Building and Grounds Committee include; Dempsey Bond, Clint Saunders, Jean Stevens, Tom Winslow, Amanda Vick and Helen Davis.



John Farkas, owner of JKF Architecture



Rick Cowan, Chairman of MCC’s Building and Grounds Committee



Equine Instructor, Carey Stewart, leads a tour of the College’s equine facilities for MCC’s Building and Grounds and Executive Committees

Cash is Growing at MCC!



Cash, MCC's newest addition to its horse herd, is growing fast and can be seen frolicking under his mother's watchful eye near the horse barns. Tammie Thurston, the Director of MCC's Equine program is pleased to report that another mare, Ritzi, has successfully been inseminated and is being carefully monitored to see if she will carry to term. If all goes well, this will be Ritzi's first foal and an addition to the herd next May!

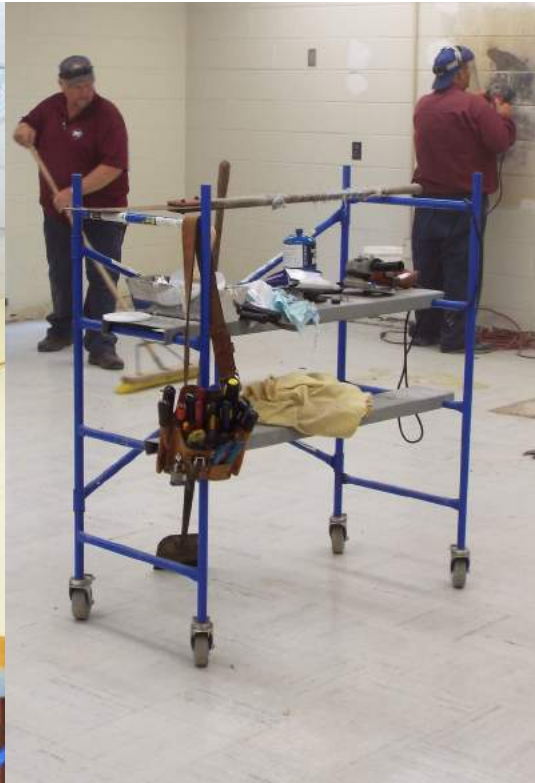


Red Cross Blood Drive Returns to MCC Campus

Maureen Green, MCC's Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research (pictured above), was a cheerful donor during the Campus Blood Drive on May 22. Although 18 potential donors came forward that day, only 12 were able to actually donate. Despite a smaller collection than usual, the Blood Drive was considered a success by the Red Cross staff. The next two campus blood drives in 2017 are scheduled for August 23 and November 27. Both drives will run from 10 am to 2 pm in room 14 of building 1. Please mark your calendar now and encourage others to participate.



Campus Improvements are Underway



MCC's Maintenance Department is in high gear making improvements to classroom spaces and facilities across campus. Pictured above left is Jerry Wilson replacing light fixtures in building 4. Pictured above right are Jeff Lewis and Alan Wiggins preparing one of the cosmetology labs in building 1 for much needed modernization. Steve Taylor, MCC's



Dean of Administration (pictured below left in horse barn A), reports that there will be systematic repairs and improvements made across the entire campus throughout the summer. Also under way are improvements to both of the horse barns. As seen left, concrete flooring in barn A has already been poured and the stalls will have flooring inserts installed as well. This will greatly improve the walking safety for both horses and people in these barns. The horse arena has also received some much needed paint and pressure washing. The electrical classroom at the east end of building 1 will soon be converted into the new BLET training area. The old BLET room will provide additional space for industrial systems training.



BLET

Basic Law Enforcement Training

**Classes start
at MCC
July 18, 2017**

**Contact Wayland
Mitchell
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wmitchell@martincc.edu**

***SECU Scholarships may
be available for students
who qualify.***

Byron Horton is new SGA Vice President



Byron Horton has accepted the Vice President position on MCC's Student Government Association (SGA) for the 2017-18 Academic Year. Horton will be stepping in for Amanda Saunders, who could not continue to serve in the position.

Horton is an Automotive Services Technology (AST) student. Although he walked across the stage during May's commencement ceremony and received his Basic Automotive Certificate (BAC), Horton is retuning this fall to earn an AS degree in AST.



Horton came to MCC from Indianapolis, Indiana where he was working as a Kindergarten teacher. His mother was having health issues, so he moved here to assist in caring for her. Since she did not require round-the-clock care, Horton decided to do something productive with his extra time and take automotive classes. He also became extremely active in MCC's Man Up program, leading a canned food drive in November of 2016, for the victims of Hurricane Matthew.

When asked what he wants to focus on while serving on the SGA board, Horton states, "I want to improve the College experience for our students, both on and off campus, and see them interact more with the community. I also want to see our students become leaders. I have started a Future Global Leaders movement on FaceBook, and I am hoping that the SGA, and Man Up program will help MCC produce more community leaders."

Horton is pictured left, making remarks during the MCC Man Up Recognition ceremony on April 26.



Golden Leaf Scholarship Applications now being accepted

Golden Leaf Foundation Scholarship applications for both 2017 summer and Fall Semesters are now available in the MCC Financial Aid Office (Building 1, Room 20).

Eligible curriculum and continuing education students may apply. Up to \$750 per semester, including summer term, is available for curriculum students and up to \$250 per semester is available for students enrolling in occupational programs. Awards may be applied toward tuition, books, supplies in the MCC bookstore, transportation, child care expenses related to attending classes, and mid-skills testing upon course completion.

Curriculum applicants **MUST** have an up-to-date, completed FAFSA form on file to be eligible. Applicants must reside in an eligible county; a full-list of eligible counties is available in the Financial Aid Office. Selection criteria includes financial need, academic performance, campus activities, and community service.

Applications must be submitted to the MCC Financial Aid Office by **Monday, June 19, 2017. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** For more information, contact Terri Leggett at 252-789-0204 or via email at tleggett@martincc.edu.

Golden LEAF FOUNDATION 

MCC's SGA Wraps up 2016-17 Academic Year



MCC's SGA wrapped up the 2016-17 Academic Year on May 2. During this meeting, the group reviewed their numerous 2016-17 SGA activities and discussed plans for the upcoming 2017-18 Academic Year. Among the many projects led or supported by SGA during the past few months are: Spring Fling, a Name the Foal Contest, campus wide Christmas tree decorating, a Black History Month contest, Relay for Life sponsorship, an Earth Day observance activity, games and recreational equipment available for check out in the MCC Bookstore, physical improvements to the student lounges and successful advocacy for a new basketball court on campus. Several SGA members also participated in statewide conferences and meetings. SGA president, Amanda Vick, also served on the MCC Board of Trustees and will continue to do so throughout the upcoming Academic Year. Pictured above on the back row are; SGA President Amanda Vick, Vice President Amanda Saunders, Kayla Wilder and SGA senator Mary Angeles. Pictured on the front row are the 2016-17 SGA Advisors Dr. Janay Dennis and Christina Measamer. Following a very long hiatus, MCC's SGA has certainly revived itself over the past year and become a true voice for MCC's students. All MCC students are encouraged to participate in the SGA. It is a great way to develop leadership skills and learn how to participate effectively in a democratic society. For more information on how to become active in SGA, contact Dr. Brian Busch or stop by MCC's Student Services office in building 1.

MCC's SGA Observed Earth Day on May 2



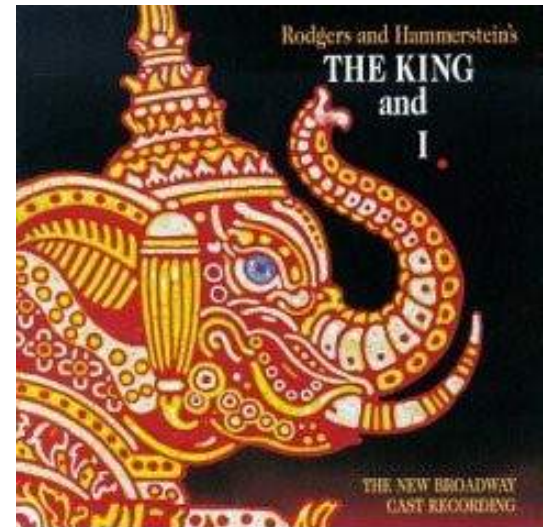
MCC's SGA observed Earth Day on May 2 by organizing a campus beautification project. A small group of dedicated students cleaned the space between buildings 1 and 2.

Welcome Back Robert West!



After four months of recovering from a broken leg, MCC maintenance man, Robert West, has returned to work. West was hit by a car while visiting family in NYC in December. He is pictured left, painting the seating area in the MCC horse arena. West is now working an evening shift, coming in at 1 pm and closing up the campus at 9:30 pm. Although he is missed by his former coworkers in building 1, it is comforting to know that the College is in such secure hands at the end of the day!

Next Foundation Trip "The King and I"



The MCC Foundation Board has approved another day trip to the Durham Performing Arts Center. The Foundation has committed to ten orchestra seats for the Saturday, June 10, matinee performance of *The King and I*. One of Rodgers & Hammerstein's finest works, *THE KING AND I* boasts a score which features such beloved classics as "Getting To Know You," "I Whistle a Happy Tune," "Hello Young Lovers," "Shall We Dance" and "Something Wonderful." Set in 1860's Bangkok, the musical tells the story of the unconventional and tempestuous relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British schoolteacher whom the modernist King, in an imperialistic world, brings to Siam to teach his many wives and children. This trip will cost \$170 which will include the theater ticket and transportation. The group will enjoy a Dutch brunch at The Counting House and view the art exhibit in 21c Museum before attending the show. Please contact Judy Jennette at 252-789-0310 or via email at judy.jennette@martincc.edu if you would like to reserve a seat.

MCC Foundation Golf Tournament - Another Success

The 26th Annual MCC Foundation "Golf Classic" was held on May 18th at the Roanoke Golf and Country Club in Williamston. The tournament fielded nineteen teams with a first, second, and third flight.

According to Robert Bonner, the event organizer, "The weather was great and the golfers enjoyed the 'fun'draiser."

The golfers were welcomed by MCC's Interim President, Dr. Kenneth A. Boham and Foundation President, Charlotte Griffin.

The First Place team in the First Flight: was C & G Used Cars, represented by Brian Whitehurst, Tyler Futrell, Chip Wall and Chad Woolard (pictured at the bottom).

Second place in the first flight was a tie between the Ready Mix Concrete team with Quinn Vaughan, Michael Bryant, Danny Gaston and Chip Johnson and the Scotch Hall team consisting of Chad Beach, TJ Quate, Brian Jerigan and Michael Owens.

In the Second Flight, first place went to Charles Rogerson's team, which included, Charles Rogers, Bob Lee, Roy Lee and Jerry Lee.

Second Place in the Second Flight went to the Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation team of Dale Riggs, Winston Howell, Gary Hicks and Eric Askew.

The First Place winning team in the Third Flight was sponsored by Country Mart and included: Kenneth Smith, Greg Smith, Myer Chandler and Ken Jordan

Suddenlink Communications took Second Place in the Third Flight with a team consisting of;

John Autry, Ron Sweatman, Cameron Stanley and Aaron Penny.

Closest to the Pin awards were presented to C & G Used Cars' player, Brian Whitehurst on hole # 2; Bob Lee on Charles Rogerson's team on hole # 10; Judy Jennette on the MCC team for hole # 13 and Tyler Futrell,

also on the C & G Used Cars' team at hole # 17.

The Longest Drive was made on hole # 9 Hole by Richard Fly, playing for Mast Pharmacy.

The Foundation also wants to thank the MCC volunteers who helped with the tournament: Annette Murray for registration, taking team pictures and assisting with the putting contest; Maureen Green for helping with the registration and driving the beverage cart; and Kismet Matthews for helping at the registration desk.

Pictured in the middle left is Winston Howell, CEO of Edgecombe-Martin EMC, presenting Charlotte Griffin with a check for \$2,000 at the 2017 Golf Classic. Edgecombe-Martin is an Event Sponsor of the "Golf Classic" and a Corporate Sponsor for the 2017 "Stampede in the Park" rodeo.

Bonner adds, "The MCC Foundation sincerely appreciates the current support and the years of past support. We simply could not do it without all of our generous sponsors."



Charlotte Griffin, Dr. Kenneth A. Boham and Robert Bonner welcome the golfers to the tournament.



CEO of Edgecombe-Martin EMC presents sponsorship check to Foundation President, Charlotte Griffin.



First Place team in the First Flight - C & G Used Cars



Crystal R. Waters,



The Counselor's Corner

Music has power. Just one hint of a note to a song can trigger an emotional response. Music can calm a raging storm, move a people to act, help a country mourn and remind us all to laugh. Music is a transporter as it is the backdrop to many significant moments in our lives. Play a particular song and we instantly think of our first kiss, the day we received our degree, the birth of a child, or some other significant happening. Music is a timeline describing how life is lived and loss in our decades. A vital part of our Nation's proud heritage, African-American music exemplifies the creative spirit at the heart of American identity and is among the most innovative and powerful art the world has ever known. It accompanies us in our daily lives, and it has rung out at turning points in our history and demonstrated how our achievements as a culture go hand-in-hand with our progress as a Nation. During African-American Music Appreciation Month, we honor the artists who, through this music, bring us together, show us a true reflection of ourselves, and inspire us to reach for the harmony that lies beyond our toughest struggles.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter designated June as Black Music Month to turn the spotlight on the rich history and enduring legacy of African American musicians, singers and composers. Black Music Month became

the stage to celebrate the huge imprint of African Americans on music across the country and the world. Since 1979 other milestones further ingrained Black Music Month into the fabric of this country. In 2000, US-Representative Chaka Fattah sponsored House Resolution 509, which formally recognized the importance of Black music on culture and the economy during President Bill Clinton's administration. And in 2009, President Barack Obama further defined June as African American Music Appreciation Month. Songs by African-American musicians span the breadth of the human experience and resonate in every corner of our Nation animating our bodies, stimulating our imaginations, and nourishing our souls. In the ways they transform real stories about real people into art, these artists speak to universal human emotion and the restlessness that stirs within us all. African-American music helps us imagine a better world, and it offers hope that we will get there together. This month, we celebrate the music that reminds us that our growth as a Nation and as people is reflected in our capacity to create great works of art. Let us recognize the performers behind this incredible music, which has compelled us to stand up to dance, to express our faith through song, to march against injustice, and to defend our country's enduring promise of freedom and opportunity for all. **Cont. on pg. 17...**

Continued from page 16...

June is African American Music Appreciation Month is a time to reflect and celebrate the musical contributions of the African American community throughout U.S. history. But there is still one question yet to answer, why is such a month still needed. The answer is simple, the undiscovered artist. Listen to music today and one might think we are all rich and fabulous or living the hard knock thug life. We need African American Music Appreciation Month so future artists will never forget the history behind the music and will always cherish and appreciate it. So when things get hard for them, they can look back to see hoe hard things were, and in turn pushed themselves to reach

their goals. Young artists need to continue to use music for what it is for to educate, engage, enlightened, and entertain. One could look at President Obama's proclamation not just gives a reason as to why the month even exists but why the art is even appreciated to the extent that it is. Understanding that means to understand the power that is within the art form. The power comes from where the beat started. In Africa, music was just stories set to beats. Once people were chained and bound, music became people's voice when others tried to take it away through oppression. That is when music really got its meaning. Music became a tool of survival. One had to listen to know the path to take

for the Underground Railroad to gain freedom and listen to words to know when trouble was coming. As time progress, African American music became a way of voicing our concerns on issues and the backdrop to protests. Today Black music still does all of those things while it entertains. This is why it is appreciated, why it is so relevant.

It is "the music that reminds us that our growth as a Nation and as people is reflected in our capacity to create great works of art." The official proclamation from President Barak Obama continues on to state that music "demonstrated how our achievements as a culture go hand-in-hand with our progress as a Nation."

MCC Inducts 37 Students into ABG and PTK Honor Societies

On April 6, two MCC chapters of national honor societies once again joined forces to induct 22 high achieving MCC students into their ranks. Dr. Deborah Wyman, MCC's Business Administration Instructor and Advisor to Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG) served as the event's emcee and conducted the ABG installation. Maureen Green, MCC's Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness led the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) installation. MCC's Interim President, Dr. Kenneth A. Boham, was the guest speaker. Fourteen MCC students joined PTK and eight were inducted into ABG. Three students were inducted into both organizations. PTK and AGB are both international honor society for two year colleges. The PTK inductees were; Dinijazane Bazemore, Ashley Bell, Denia Cruz-Torres, Amber Ellis, Heather Farmer Tammy Gedrimas, Elisabeth Heath, Ryan Hoggard, Megan Keel, Takia Outlaw, Nathaniel Pearson, Reco Pugh-Bey, Shaylia Rascoe and Abigail Spencer. ABG inductees included;

Jasmine Birdo, Juandal Blake, Chazz Cobbs, Kathy Cruz, Denia Cruz-Torres, Amber Ellis, Tammy Gedrimas and Brittony Townsend.



BIO 110 Students Create Museum Displays for Final Grade



Dr. Janay Dennis' BIO 110 students were given a special assignment to finish up the Spring 2017 Semester. They were assigned a Phylogenetic Diversity Project. The students divided into teams and went in search of specimens of living organisms in eastern NC. The highest grades went to students who gathered 12 or more specimens representing at least 12 phyla (classifications), correctly identified and categorized each specimen in an attractive and well organized display, maintained collection data, and coherently presented their findings to observers. The interesting twist to this assignment came into play, when Dr. Dennis invited MCC's faculty and staff to stop by the classroom and evaluate each of the projects. Those who visited the display room were given a survey comment card and asked to give their comments and "grade" to each of the projects.

The original date for presentations had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, but on May 8, the students were ready to go. The first group in the morning and the second in the afternoon. Evaluators entered the room

steadily and moved from station to station hearing each team's presentation. All visitors were impressed with the students' grasp of the assignment and their ability to communicate what they learned. Way to go MCC BIO 110 Students and Dr. Dennis!



Pictured above are Raymond Price and Kameron Waters behind their handcrafted display cabinet. Pictured below left are Deja Vines, Sueanna Schneider and Chandler Williams after presenting their findings. Pictured below right is Dr. Janay Dennis, the class instructor. Nearly all of these students come to MCC through NERSBA.

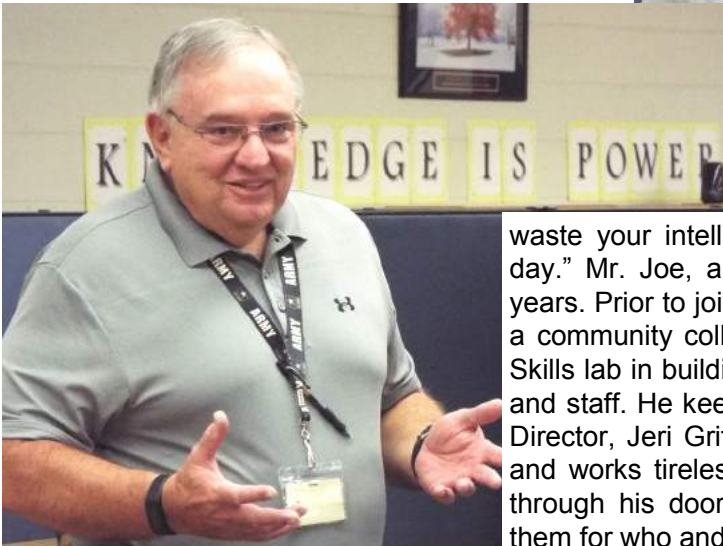
PTA Class of 2017 Holds Pinning Ceremony on May 10



On May 10, MCC's Physical Therapist Assistant Class of 2017 held their pinning ceremony in the auditorium of building 2. Several friends and family members were in the audience to acknowledge and celebrate their accomplishment. Those speaking (pictured in the above insets) included instructors Dawn Parker, Dr. Hugh McColl and Jamie Van Essendelft. Student speakers included Jackie Beasley, Megan Hixon and Patrice Clark. Four of the graduates have already received job offers. The initial class of 24 students was selected from among 121 applicants. The remaining 14 students pictured at the top, completed the rigorous course of study and are now eligible to take the state board examination on July 6. In the picture on the back row, from left to right, are: Megan Hixson, Jackie Beasley, Brooke Buffaloe, Celeste Caudill, Justin Chandler, Collin Close and Samantha Yates. On the front row, from left to right, are: Jessica Winstead, Patrice Clarke, Hollyanne Rogers, Towanda Jenkins, Stephanie Moore, Kazuo Goodwin and Tosha Young. Congratulations PTA Class of 2017!

Mr. Joe Inspires Students

During the GED recognition ceremony on May 9, one name was repeatedly mentioned during the seven student testimonials - Mr. Joe. Every GED recipient from Williamston gave credit to Mr. Joe Phipps, MCC's senior Basic Skills Instructor, for keeping them motivated and focused. He told them over and over, "you can do it," "never lose hope," and "you're too smart to



waste your intelligence." As one student said, "He pushed me every day." Mr. Joe, also a GED earner, has been with MCC for nearly 20 years. Prior to joining the Basic Skills team, he was an instructor for both a community college and the Army. Anyone who visits Mr. Joe's Basic Skills lab in building 2, can quickly tell he has a rapport with his students and staff. He keeps his space attractive and inviting. MCC's Basic Skills Director, Jeri Griffin states, "Joe truly believes that knowledge is power and works tirelessly to share that power with every student who walks through his door. He connects with the students because he accepts them for who and where they are." Way to go Mr. Joe!

Martin Memos

June 1 - SBC Sales and Use Tax Workshop, 6-8 pm, Room 14, Bldg. 1, free

June 1 - BLET registration is underway for the class starting July 18 (page 11)

June 8 - Faculty/Staff summer lunch gathering in room 14 (\$6 per lunch)

June 19 - Last day to apply for Golden Leaf Scholarships (page 12)

July 4 - MCC closed for National Holiday

July 5 - Last day to apply for graduation

July 6 - Last day to withdraw from Summer semester without receiving an "F"

July 17 - BLET Graduation, 6 pm, MCC Auditorium

July 18 - Next BLET class starts