



Luwenda Pollard, Mickey Park,
Alvin Pollard, and Dr. Fred Hills

2019 ALUMNI AND FRIENDS REUNION PICNIC AT DON CARLOS



Anita Dorris and guest at the 12th
Annual MCC Highlander Alumni
Reunion Picnic.



Highlander
ALUMNI and FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
McLennan Community College - Waco, Texas

The MCC Foundation's Highlander Alumni & Friends Association hosted its 12th Annual Alumni & Friends Association Reunion Picnic on June 26. Due to heavy rain and flooding in May, the RiverSounds concert series at the Bosque River Stage was moved to other areas of campus. The heavy rain also led to the move of the picnic, which was held at Don Carlos Mexican Restaurant. More than 100 guests at the picnic enjoyed the new location along with appetizers, drink specials, and door prizes. Alumni and friends who

attended also received free Highlander Alumni Association t-shirts. This annual event is free to members of the Highlander Alumni Association and is a wonderful opportunity to rekindle friendships and to reminisce about experiences as students at MCC.

Membership in the Highlander Alumni & Friends Association is free and open to all alumni and friends of McLennan Community College. Click [here](#) to learn more! If you have questions, contact alumni@mclennan.edu or (254) 299-8481.

In this Issue:

- ▶ Alumni & Friends Reunion Picnic
- ▶ MCC Faculty and Staff Honored at Service Awards Banquet
- ▶ MCC Foundation Scholarship Update
- ▶ Alumni Spotlight
- ▶ MCC Foundation Board Spotlight
- ▶ From the Executive Director
- ▶ Gifts to the MCC Foundation

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www.mclennan.edu/foundation

2019 Alumni and Friends Reunion Picnic at Don Carlos



Faculty and Staff Honored for Service to MCC

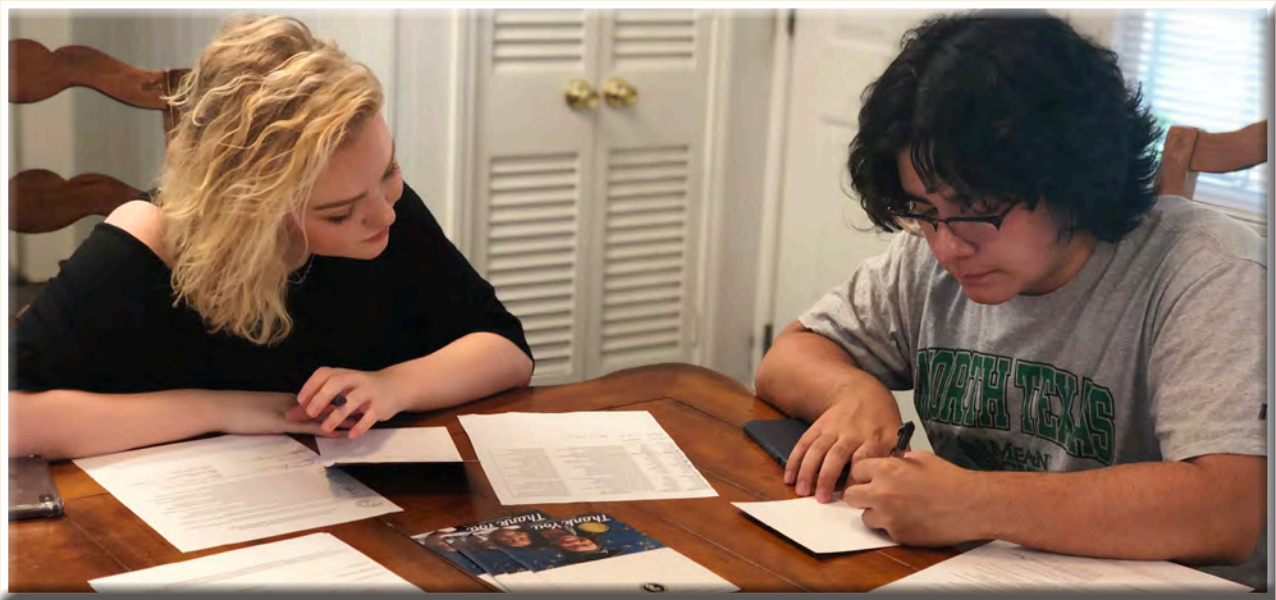


Highlander Extra Mile Award recipients Tamara Culver, Clayton Williams, Michelle Powell, Jacinda Estelle, Kim Patterson, Starlen Roddy, Bryan Mohan, Candice Pena, Sherry Campbell, Maria Hernandez, and Lesley Plemons.

Each year, McLennan Community College honors faculty and staff who have dedicated years of service to our beloved institution. This year's Service Awards and Highlander Extra Mile Awards banquet took place on Friday, April 26, at the Conference Center at MCC. This year, 111 employees were honored for their dedication to the College. Many of these colleagues donate to the MCC Foundation through employee monthly giving.

MCC Foundation Executive Director Kim Patterson was awarded the Highlander Extra Mile Award for going "above and beyond" in her work. Additionally, Foundation Executive Secretary Rose DeLeon was recognized for 25 years of service to MCC. Congratulations to all the honorees—we are grateful for your service!

MCC Foundation Scholarship Update



Scholarship recipients Kyndal Rinewalt and Nicholas Marquez sign acceptance letters and thank-you cards.

This spring, the MCC Foundation opened a second scholarship competition from May 1 – May 15. Due to the additional time to apply for scholarships and increased contributions to the Foundation by our wonderful donors, the Foundation is very excited to report that, as of August 6, **\$488,140** has been awarded to 486 students for the 2019-2020 academic year!

This year's Scholar, Donor, and Alumni Appreciation Luncheon will be held in September and will allow donors to meet and visit with the students they are helping. We are looking forward to another great event this year.

For more information about Foundation scholarships, contact Scholarships & Operations Coordinator Shelley Cotten at scotten@mclennan.edu or 254-299-8818. The application period for 2020-2021 academic year scholarships will open Oct. 1.



Liz Flynn with scholarship recipients Emily Del Real and Maria Romero.



Bill Goss with scholarship recipients Morgan Sneed and Caroline Willenborg.



Landon Hengst with scholarship recipient Johnathan Kiebler.

FROM TRAGEDY TO LEGACY

Texas Life Insurance co-workers ensure their friend lives on through MCC Scholarship

When Jonathan Drouillard died unexpectedly in 2016, his coworkers at Texas Life Insurance Company in Waco were understandably grief-stricken. How could this brilliant and kind man die so young, leaving behind a young daughter who would never know him?

Several months later, when the pain seemed unwilling to subside, Jonathan's friends and co-workers took action. Knowing that he had hoped to endow a scholarship someday, the healing began by setting up an endowed scholarship fund in Computer Science in Jonathan's name at the McLennan Community College Foundation. As a proud MCC alumna, Texas Life employee Mary Perez knew that MCC's unique brand of affordable, quality educational opportunity would be a fitting tribute to her friend who had struggled to put himself through college. Mary's friend and coworker Michelle Deivanayagam was her partner in keeping the scholarship dream alive.

The giving began slowly, with encouragement for Texas Life colleagues to give a portion of a company bonus or birthday tribute gift to the fund. Mary (a former MCC math major) logged the donations precisely, tracking exactly how much was needed to reach the \$20,000 endowment goal.

In May 2019, just over two years from the time the grass-roots fundraising effort began, an anonymous donor offered to match any remaining gifts up to \$2,500, thus putting the fund over the goal. Thanks to the efforts of the team at Texas Life, in the Fall of 2020 the fund's first scholarship recipient will enter a computer classroom at MCC knowing the name of Jonathan Drouillard.

In computing, a legacy product is one that is so popular that it is difficult to replace. In life, a legacy is something of value handed down by a predecessor. Through the permanent scholarship in his name, the hope is that Jonathan's daughter will someday know that her father's life, though short, met both of those definitions.

If you would like to contribute to Jonathan's fund, please visit www.mclennan.edu/foundation and click on "Make A Gift." Or, considering permanently honoring friends and loved ones with a named endowed scholarship at the MCC Foundation.



Jonathan Drouillard's favorite snack was given to supporters to celebrate full funding of the scholarship.

TEXASLIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY

*Proud supporter of
our community!*

Presidential Scholar program offers extraordinary experiences



When reading through the June issue of the *Wacoan* magazine, you may have noticed a feature regarding the Presidential Scholar program at MCC. Here's the feature:

Choosing a community college does not mean giving up on an extraordinary college experience. MCC's Presidential Scholars meet regularly with the college president and community leaders, experience study tours to New York and Washington, DC, serve as college ambassadors, and help host global figures like Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Churchill Biographer Andrew Roberts. This year's cohort is working toward a new scholars' study trip to the Czech Republic in 2020. Extraordinary experiences like these are bringing the world to our students, before they go out and change it.

Funding the Presidential Scholars program is just one of the ways the MCC Foundation is making a difference in local lives every day. Your support brings excellence within reach.

We need your help! A group of 2019-2020 Presidential and Honors College students will be studying in the Czech Republic in May, 2020. The MCC Foundation is helping these students with half the cost. If you can help make this once-in-a-lifetime study tour a reality for these students, please click [here](#) and click on "Make A Gift" or send your donation to the MCC Foundation, 1400 College Drive, Waco, TX 76708. Thank you!



[cake]matters.



Employees of the MCC Student Success Division organized a cake fundraiser to help raise funds for the [Dreams] Matter Scholarship at the MCC Foundation. A committee including Dr. Andrew Canham, Laci Gerik, Jennifer Norman, Paula Unger, Hannah Burgess, Gale Kissinger, Celina Brown, Kim Henderson, Selia Keim, Vicki Rodriguez, and Ester Ramirez coordinated the fundraiser. Six judges were given the task of determining the best decor, best flavor, most original, and best in cake among many entries. The funds gathered from the silent auction, along with generous donations from faculty and staff, helped raised over \$800 at this event!

If you would like to contribute to the [Dreams] Matter Scholarship fund for students who have high need, please click [here](#). Be sure to designate the Dreams Matter fund in the form.





M McLennan
Distinguished Lecture Series

Presents

KAREEM
ABDUL-JABBAR

"Finding Your Inner All-Star"

Oct. 15 @ 7 p.m.

**The Highlands gym
McLennan Community College**

Abdul-Jabbar is the NBA's all-time leading scorer, a six-time NBA champion, and the league's only six-time MVP.



Tickets available at
kareematmclennan.eventbrite.com starting Aug. 30
FREE ADMISSION WITH TICKET

McLennan
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



McLennan Student Travel

Brings learning to life

New York Study Tour

MCC student Elizabeth Garcia graduated in New York City on the Brooklyn bridge while on a New York City Study Tour. This tour took Business and Theatre students to the Big Apple for six days in May. The trip included visits to several museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History. Other cultural stops included Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Broadway plays. To find out about the next scheduled trip, contact Becky Parker at bparker@mclennan.edu



Marine Biology Course

Thanks to our incredible Biology faculty at McLennan Community College and Texas Tech University at Waco, students in the Marine Biology course were able to explore the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef in Roatan, Honduras. Students traveled to Honduras to conduct hands-on research that focuses on the health of the coral reef in Honduras, which has experienced numerous environmental changes since a massive warming event that caused worldwide reef die-offs in the 1990s. To attend an information session or get more information for next year's trip, contact Stephanie Randell at srandell@mclennan.edu.



Geology Field Course

The Geology Field Course combined traditional classroom instruction with an 18-day field trip that allowed students to experience geographical wonders in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. The students visited and studied the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Petrified Forest National Park, Antelope Canyon, Meteor Crater, Sedona, Bandera Volcano, Sunset Crater, Montezuma's Well, and Zion National Park. For information on the next trip, contact MCC Geology Professor Elaine Fagner at efagner@mclennan.edu.



Engineering International Tour

MCC Engineering students were given the opportunity to travel to the United Kingdom and to Italy. These students were given exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of numerous engineering wonders of the world. They also worked on case studies and learned from experts about the global aspects of engineering. And, they celebrated graduation while on tour! Contact Professor Paulina Sidwell at psidwell@mclennan.edu or Dr. April Andreas at aandreas@mclennan.edu for information regarding next year's travels.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KYLA EDISON



McLennan Community College Alumna Kyla Edison received an Associate of Arts degree in 2012 and an Associate of Science degree in 2013 from McLennan. Kyla attended MCC from Fall of 2010 to Spring of 2013, where she took Environmental Science, Physical Geology, Historical Geology, and Earth Science courses. MCC Environmental Science Professor Brad Turner says, “Kyla represents the perfect example of what a Highlander can do when she/he possesses curiosity, courage, and commitment. She has advanced far beyond her beginning at McLennan—and it humbles me to think I was fortunate enough to play a little part in her amazing journey.”

After graduating from MCC, Kyla moved back to Hawaii and attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology. She minored in Astronomy with a focus on Planetary Geology and Volcanology. In 2015-2016, she received the NASA Space Grant to research gully formation in Martian crater using satellite imagery of the Martian surface.

Kyla is currently a Geology and Material Science technician for a Hawaii state-funded aerospace company, “The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES).” PISCES is dedicated to bringing the aerospace industry to Hawaii for workforce development, applied

research in robotics and material science, economic development, and outreach and education. Her job is to mentor interns and to visit and speak to schools, libraries and community science events. Kyla also helps PISCES run a free weeklong summer camp for high school girls interested in STEM (STEM Aerospace Research Scholars, aka STARS). PISCES takes the girls on trips around the island to experience the telescopes, volcano, and the Martian habitat simulation and to network with successful female scientists. She discusses the challenges of being a woman of science and ways to deal with it. Kyla states “I teach these girls that they are strong, independent and brilliant. It is something I am extremely passionate about.”

In addition to outreach and educational events, Kyla is the head of material science projects at PISCES. Her research specializes in the idea that if humans were to settle on Mars, we would need construction materials. However, construction materials cannot be taken on a rocket, because there is limited space and more mass means more fuel. NASA has challenged the industry to come up with innovative ways to combat this issue. One solution is the use of resources already located on Mars, known as In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU). The available resource is basaltic rock (lava rock). The moon and Mars are chemi-

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KYLA EDISON

continued

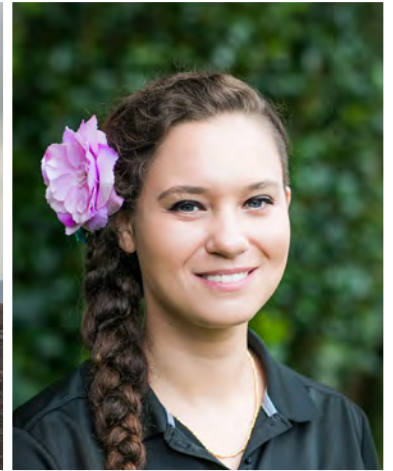
cally identical to the basalt of the Big Island of Hawaii. Therefore, Kyla uses the Big Island as an analog site where Martian and Lunar dust can be used to extract fuel propellant, water, oxygen, and building materials. Kyla's focus is creating building materials and determining the exact chemical and mineral amounts needed to create durable materials. This research is important when understanding what chemical and mineral elements are needed to create a sturdy material; it will also help determine where the landing site should be located for ease of mining.

"The best part of the project is that it is low energy, there are not additives included, just raw rock and heat, and it shows the state of Hawaii that we have a resource that is worthwhile, because my tiles and bricks can also be used here, not just on the moon or Mars," Kyla said. Her research will make a tremendous impact on the future and she is thankful to MCC for prompting her to follow her passion.

"My experience at MCC was the best thing that happened to me," Kyla says. "Before I enrolled at MCC, I had no direction, I was completely immature and terrified of school. I believed I was incapable and stupid. But there were three very important professors that not only encouraged and believed in me but pushed me to do more, to do better." The three professors that encouraged Kyla are **Elaine Fagner, Bradley Turner, and Russ Alexander**. These professors taught her the wonders Geology has to offer and all the professions that are available in the field.

"Were it not for their guidance and support, I would not be where I am," Kyla says today. "MCC helped me find my way and made me feel like I was worth something, and for that I am eternally thankful. I cannot fully express how thankful I am to MCC, but because of it I just want to do the best I can."

"Mahalo Nui Loa (Thank you very much) MCC and to my professors who believed in me."



Hearts *in the arts*

Dates to Remember

Please mark your calendars now for the following 2019-2020 arts events!

McLennan Theatre & Opera Season

October 3 - 5

The Servant of Two Masters

November 21 - 23

A Christmas Carol

February 27 - 29

Chicago

February 27

MCC Foundation Gala

April 2 - 4

Tinker of Tivoli

April 23 - 26

Silent Sky

Steinway Series Concerts

October 11

Anderson & Roe Piano Duo

To keep up with all MCC Foundation activities, follow the Act Locally Waco calendar!



100% Licensure Pass Rates for 2017-2018 Graduates!



The McLennan Community College Office of Institutional Research submitted the 2017-2018 pass rates of graduates who tested towards their licensure and certification exams to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Ten programs at McLennan Community College reported 100% pass rates! Congratulations to these wonderful programs!

The programs with a 100% pass rate include:

- Certified Medical Assistant
- Cosmetology
- Law Enforcement Academy
- Licensed Vocational Nursing
- Long-Term Care Administration
- Occupational Therapist Assistant
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Paramedicine
- Radiologic Technology
- Surgical Technology



McLennan Community College offers a variety of career-focused education programs that train students for jobs that are in demand in Central Texas. For more information visit our website at www.mclennan.edu or call 254.299.8622.



MCC Foundation Board Spotlight: Ellie Morrison

MCC Foundation Board Member, Ellie Morrison with Sharon Lavery and Mandy Morrison.

Ellie Morrison joined the McLennan Community College Foundation Board in 2015. During her time on the MCC Foundation board, she and her husband Eddie have been advocates for Hearts in the Arts, a program that provides financial support for Visual and Performing Arts students and programs. She also serves on the Foundation Nominating Committee, where her wisdom has proven vital to the long-term success of the Foundation.

Morrison's leadership also extended to the national level when in 2018 she became the first woman in history to serve in the role of national commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. "Stepping into the role of national commissioner is an honor and a humbling experience," Morrison says in a statement published on the BSA webpage. During her time as national commissioner, Ellie has helped recruit new members, developed leadership trainings, started new units, and has aided in the integration of girls into BSA, an initiative

that began in late January 2019. Of this change, Ellie says "I was thrilled to think that girls at younger ages than ever before would have those same opportunities for fun and adventure that boys have had for 100-plus years. Girls would get to do the things I only got to watch my brother do." Ellie's contributions to the BSA were also recognized by the naming of "Camp Morrison" at Philmont in New Mexico and by her receiving the Silver Buffalo Award, BSA's highest award given to a volunteer.

Closer to home, Ellie has served for more than 35 years as a volunteer coordinator for the Food for Families Drive, an annual project that collects non-perishable food and stocks the shelves of area food banks beyond the holiday season. Last year, the drive collected over a million pounds of food.

Thank you, Ellie, for your service to the MCC Foundation and to our community!





Honoring a Longtime Leader

by Kim Patterson, MS, APR, MCC Foundation Executive Director

In the summer of 1963, young Alvin Pollard had just completed his master's degree in psychology from Tennessee State University and was about to begin a teaching position at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. At the same time, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was planning the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Pollard had taken part in several nonviolent civil rights demonstrations while in college, and he planned to attend the march. However, the event was scheduled for the same day Pollard was set to start his new job. It was a tough decision, but Pollard took the advice of his father who said, "You'd better take the job after everything we have done getting you through college." While he regrets missing the historic march, Pollard says he never regretted making that choice.



Making tough choices and valuing education are two ideals that Pollard has upheld his entire life, ideals that grounded his successful 42-year career as a leader at McLennan Community College. Even though he officially retired in 2015, students, faculty, and staff still seek him out for guidance—especially young men of color. Discovering that the retention rate at MCC for this population was unacceptably low inspired Pollard to collaborate with Dr. Frank Graves and Dr. Ron Hochstatter to establish the Men of Color Success Initiative at MCC in 2014.

We are pleased to announce that Pollard's wisdom and leadership are now being recognized in two new and exciting ways at the MCC Foundation:

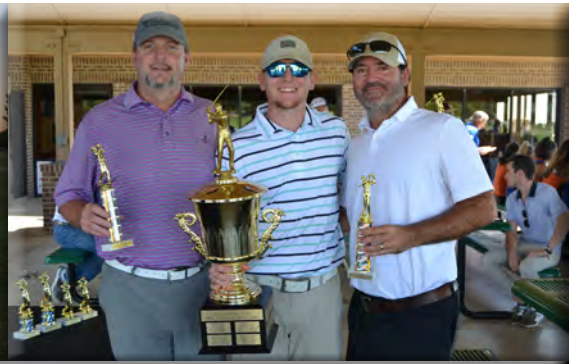
- In June, the MCC Foundation was awarded an \$84,895 grant from the Cooper Foundation to take the grass-roots Men of Color Success Initiative to the next level! The grant will enable the college to hire a dedicated Success Coach to run the program, provide universal Waco Transit passes to every MCC student to help with transportation needs, and host a lecture event to bring racial equity issues to the fore on campus and in the community. This grant marks the Men of Color program's transition from a small volunteer-led enterprise to a fully integrated student success program at McLennan. Our deepest thanks go out to the Cooper Foundation staff and board for believing in this innovative effort!
- The MCC Foundation also recently received a major gift to establish an endowed scholarship in honor of Al and his early leadership of the Men of Color program. Thanks to this donor, all gifts up to \$10,000 will be matched \$1- for -\$1 to establish a permanent endowment that will provide a scholarship to a Men of Color program participant each year, forever. The donor, who wishes to remain in the background, met Al just once, but was forever impressed by the influence he has had on our campus and students.

I have been blessed, both personally and professionally, by my friendship with Al Pollard, and little could bring me more joy than to see his legacy honored with a scholarship and a fully funded program to assist vulnerable students. If you would like to join me in honoring Al, and to have your gift dollars matched \$1- for -\$1, click [here](#) and select "Make a Gift." Be sure to specify the Alvin Pollard, Sr. Men of Color Success Initiative Scholarship in the notation.

With joy,



Make a gift



Save ^{the} Date

Friday, October 4, 2019
Cottonwood Creek Golf Course



Proceeds benefit athletic student scholarships at McLennan!

Contact the Foundation at 299-8604 or reservations@mclennan.edu.

Accepting sponsorships & team registration through Aug. 31, 2019



Gifts to the Foundation

April 1 - June 30, 2019

In Honor & In Memory

In Honor of Dr. Donald Balmos
Dr. Bronwen Forbay and Dr. Randy Umstead

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In Memory of Bissael Hernandez
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In Memory of David Hibbard
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April 1 - June 30, 2019

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