

In this issue: Alumni Association Launches • Member Spotlight
Alumni Contest Winners • New Scholarships • News and Events
'08-'09 Theatre Season • Honorariums and Memorial Gifts • Nine Ways to Give

MCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES

After years of waiting in the wings, the idea of an MCC alumni association came to life this spring to an overwhelmingly positive response.

The Highlander Alumni Association, built around a Facebook-style online social network, is a free service offered through the MCC Foundation. It is designed to help former students, MCC staff and employees and community friends stay connected. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in MCC.

“The potential is unlimited for this type of online interaction among MCC’s huge network of alumni and friends,” alumni outreach coordinator Kim Patterson said. “We hope that once people see how much the association offers, it will become a valuable tool for socializing, business networking and renewing contact with MCC.”

While there has been talk of forming an association in the past and many departments have kept up with graduates, there has never before been a coordinated alumni outreach effort at MCC, Patterson said. However, after a year spent celebrating the college’s 40th anniversary in 2006-2007, MCC President Dennis Michaelis recognized how rich was the college’s history and how many people have been touched by it.

“The president saw that we really needed to get these
... see Alumni p.3



Visit the Alumni Network at <http://alumni.mclennan.edu>

Remember the MCC Foundation in your annual giving and estate planning.

Member Spotlight

Defying the Odds



Editor’s Note: Against seemingly insurmountable odds, MCC student Brad Wetzel is a picture of maturity and success. He recently shared his remarkable story with us.

By the time Brad Wetzel was 10 years old, smoking marijuana was as easy for him as riding a bike. After all, that’s what he saw his parents doing. He didn’t know what it was like to stay in one school for more than a year as he, his sister and mother moved around to avoid trouble.

... see Defies p. 2



The MCC Foundation • 1400 College Drive • Waco, TX 76708
Phone: 254.299.8604 • Fax: 254.299.8484
Harry I. Hareluk, Executive Director • hhareluk@mclennan.edu
Office Location: 1728 Powell Drive (by The Highlands Gym)

MCC STUDENT DEFIES THE ODDS, Continued

By the time he was 13, Brad's life didn't improve: his mother and stepfather were convicted of felonies and sent to prison. He moved in with his grandparents, only to endure more domestic strife. It was a turning point in his life that most adolescents would use as an excuse to venture further down the same self-destructive path.

Clearly, Brad Wetzel was not like most young people. A few years after his parents went to prison, the 17-year-old moved from Waco to Axtell and, as he puts it, "got around better people." Carolyn and Robert Walters accepted Brad into their home when he began dating their daughter Cecilia. Brad went to school, got involved in football and track, found a job, and studied hard. By the time he graduated-- 7th in his class -- Brad had a plan for his life. It was a plan that would break the cycle of substance abuse, lawlessness, and neglect that seemed genetically programmed to rule his future. He was going to college.

When Brad started classes at MCC in 2006, he planned on earning degrees in

Real Estate and Business Management. Today, he has interned in a real estate office and only lacks the licensing exam to earn his Realtor's license. He is now just one semester away from finishing his business degree at MCC (with a 3.6 gpa) and transferring to Texas A&M to study Agricultural Business, Economics, or Accounting. For his entire two years at MCC, Brad has participated in the rigorous Tartan Scholars program, which provided full tuition and books and made his college journey possible. This spring, he took 19 hours and worked full time--the night shift--at Davis Steel Services (a division of Davis Iron Works), where he was recently promoted to the lead position over shipping and receiving.

Brad and his fiancé will be married on June 21. He plans to take the summer off from school, switch to the day shift at work, and prepare for his final semester at MCC this fall. His long-term goal is to be a motivational speaker and to use his remarkable life story to inspire young people who might be at risk. Brad can be reached at bradwetzel@gmail.com.

Alumni Winners



The Highlander Alumni Association is pleased to announce the winners of our iPod drawing that was open to all members who joined the association through May 31:

—80 MB Video iPod won by **Elizabeth Carlile (Class of 2008)** (pictured above)

—2 GB Flash Drive won by **Akevia Oaties (Student Government)**

—2 GB Flash Drive won by **Nancy Neill (Faculty and Staff)**

—2 GB Flash Drive won by **Shanta Williams (Class of 2008)**

—2 GB Flash Drive won by **Susie Forge (Class of 2008)**

Congratulations to our winners!

NEW MCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

CEFCO Endows Presidential Scholarship

The CEFCO convenience store organization ended its annual golf tournament on May 5 in Salado with the announcement of a new \$25,000 presidential scholarship at McLennan Community College.

The new scholarship, the *C.E. Fikes CEFCO Endowed Presidential Scholarship*, will be available to business majors beginning in 2009. The CEFCO organization, headquartered in Temple, has made scholarship funds available at local colleges in recent years. The MCC Foundation welcomes the Fikes family to our family of supporters!



Pictured: Raymond Smith, COO, Fikes Wholesale Inc.; Kristen Schmitt, golf tournament director, CEFCO Convenience Stores; James Fikes, president, Fikes Wholesale Inc.; Kim Fikes, CAO, Fikes Wholesale Inc.; Harry Harelik, executive director, MCC Foundation; and Dennis Kelley, vice president of marketing, CEFCO Convenience Stores.

Sigma Phi Sigma Establishes Criminal Justice Scholarship

Just as MCC and the City of Waco were breaking ground for a new, state-of-the-art emergency services education center, a new scholarship fund for criminal justice students became reality. On May 8, the MCC Foundation accepted the initial check for a new Criminal Justice Scholarship fund created by Sigma Phi Sigma, the MCC criminal justice student association. President Michael Raecher and vice president Frank Walker presented the check to Foundation executive director Harry Harelik at the May 8 groundbreaking. Faculty advisor Ken Culver was instrumental in assisting the students in their efforts to raise funds and organize the establishment of the scholarship.

Alumni, continued from p. 1

people together for everyone's benefit," Patterson said.

The site can be accessed at <http://alumni.mclennan.edu> or from the college's main Web site at www.mclennan.edu by clicking on the "Alumni" link. Registrants must choose a member type (alumni, current student, faculty/staff, friend) and then create a personal profile. They may then join any number of interest groups related to their program, clubs and organizations, or class year. Members may freely post photos, detail job interests, post resumes, blog, send instant messages, and let others know of their happenings and whereabouts.

Aside from linking up former classmates and colleagues, the site also gives information on upcoming school events and campus news. A "Career Center" link allows members to post their resumes and request information on job openings. MCC alumni shirts and accessories are expected to be offered at the Online Store in the fall, Patterson said.

For more information, e-mail alumni@mclennan.edu or visit the web site at <http://alumni.mclennan.edu>

MCC FOUNDATION NEWS AND EVENTS

MCC Foundation's First Generation Program Highlights

The first cohort of First Generation students who began the program in 2006 are approaching their final studies, with Salvador Medina and Denise Rodriguez earning 4.0 GPAs! Denise recently graduated with highest honors at Spring Commencement and is continuing her studies at UTA. These two students, along with Santiaga Salas, have been awarded the new Rapoport transfer scholarship to a four-year college. The Rapoport scholarship includes up to \$2,900 per semester for four semesters and a new laptop computer!

The third cohort of First Generation program students will soon begin the program, and we look forward to expanding opportunities for students from families without college experience.

Welcome new MCC Foundation Board Members

The MCC Foundation would like to thank longtime board members Jill Jones and Linda Hillard, who left the board this year when they reached their two-term limit of service. Incoming board members Diane Castello of First Community Bank of Central Texas and Randy Cox of Qti Apparel and Promotions joined the board at the first 2008 meeting at The Northwood House.

Mark Your Calendars:

Guitar Legend **Tommy Emmanuel**, Thursday, Oct. 2 at the Bosque River Stage
(Alumni Association members receive a 40% discount! Tickets on sale in Sept.)

Foundation **Scholarship Reception**, Sept. 16 at the MCC Conference Center

MCC Foundation **Golf Tournament**, Oct. 3 at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course

4th Annual **Tax and Financial Planning Institute**, Nov. 11 at the MCC Conference Center



Campus News

2008-2009 THEATRE SEASON ANNOUNCED



The nationally recognized McLennan Theatre program recently announced its upcoming season:

- **New Voices, New Beats: A Festival of the Now** (four one-act plays)
Oct. 3-4 and 10-11
- **Romeo and Juliet**
Nov. 20-22
- **Cabaret**
Feb. 19-21 and 26-28*
- **A Streetcar Named Desire**
April 23-25

* The MCC Foundation Gala performance is at 8 p.m., Feb. 28. Tickets for this performance are not included in regular season ticket packages.

Special! Highlander Alumni Association Members receive a 20% discount on season tickets--only \$40 for all four shows! Call 254-299-8677 to receive a season brochure.

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

In Honor of the 62nd Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marable

Donation Given by: Mr. Harry I. Harelik



In Memory of Fred Albrecht

Donation Given by: Dr. Charlotte Laughlin

In Memory of Betty Barker

Donation Given by: Mrs. Phyllis J. Blackwood
Mrs. Karen Conine
Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Hagan
Mrs. Diane C. Hampel
Mrs. Michelle L. Johnson
Dr. Charlotte Laughlin
Dr. Ruth Landes Pitts
Mrs. Linda Stanford

In Memory of Juventino Chavez

Donation Given by: Mr. and Mrs. James Hardwick

In Memory of Esther Coleman

Donation Given by: Mr. Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Russell Cummings

Donation Given by: Mr. David J. Burgett
Ms. Bonnie Chism
Mrs. Dorothy Cummings
Ms. Elizabeth Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Davis
Mr. Donnie H. Hagan
Mr. Harry I. Harelik
Mr. Rush Hathi
Ms. Marilyn L. Hensley
Mr. Fred W. Hills

MARCH 13, 2008 - JUNE 12, 2008

Mr./Mrs. Richard J. Killian
Mr./Mrs. Alvin R. Luedecke, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lundberg
MCC CIS Faculty Member Team
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Pietzsch
Pottsville Extension Education Club
Mr. and Mrs. James Rambo
Mrs. Linda D. Stanford
Mr. Charles Terry
Mr. Henry A. Thomason
Mr. and Mrs. Clymer L. Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus L. Yancey, Jr.

In Memory of Harry Geron

Donation Given by: Mrs. Karen Conine

In Memory of Dr. Tom Hathorn

Donation Given by: Dr. Jacquelin A. Torell

In Memory of Carole Johnson

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

In Memory of Dr. Walter King

Donation Given by: Mr. Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Adam Martinez, Jr.

Donation Given by: Mr. Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Rhonda Dean Massey

Donation Given by: Mrs. Linda D. Stanford

In Memory of David Paniagua

Donation Given by: Mr. Harry I. Harelik

continued on p. 6

MEMORIALS TO THE FOUNDATION MARCH 13, 2008 - JUNE 12, 2008

In Memory of James Plemons

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

In Memory of Butch Pruett

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

In Memory of Mary Pruett

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

In Memory of Lloyd Pruett

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

In Memory of Anita Reyna

Donation Given by: Mrs. Linda Stanford

In Memory of Brenda B. (DeLeon) Sanchez

Donation Given by: Mr. Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Earnestine Silbert

Donation Given by: Mr. and Mrs. James Hardwick

In Memory of James B. Snider, Jr.

Donation Given by: Mr. Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Robert Culifer Thompson

Donation Given by: Dr. Charlotte Laughlin

In Memory of Dr. Patsy White

Donation Given by: MCC Retirees Association
Dr. Ruth Landes Pitts

Nine great ways to give to MCC:

- In honor of a birthday or anniversary
- In memory of someone at their passing or on the anniversary of their passing
- With annual gifts just before year end (for potential income tax savings)
- With appreciated securities ... donors can avoid capital gains taxes and can take a charitable deduction for the full value of the investment on the date of the gift
- By donating paid-up life insurance or by naming the Foundation as one of the beneficiaries of a life insurance policy
- Join the McLennan President's Circle by funding a named endowed scholarship (\$15,000 for a standard scholarship or \$25,000 for a presidential scholarship.) The fund need not be funded all at one time and, once funded, it will award scholarships annually ... *forever*. An endowed scholarship is a wonderful way to have the name of a loved one, teacher, friend or business live on into the future.
- By naming the MCC Foundation as a favored charity in the obituary of a loved one, or making sure your loved ones know to name the MCC Foundation as a favored charity if you, the donor, should pass away
- Join the Highlander Legacy Society through deferred giving, which is naming the MCC Foundation as a beneficiary in your will. A defined amount or a percentage of the estate may be given.
- By naming the MCC Foundation as a beneficiary of an IRA or retirement plan

To learn more, contact Harry Harelik at 254-299-8606 or hharelik@mclennan.edu.