For Friends and Supporters of the MCC Foundation & MCC Alumni

ighlander Quarterly

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OH, WHAT A NIGHT! HEARTS IN THE ARTS GALA

The MCC Foundation's Oh, What a Night! Gala, held Saturday, March 27, lived up to its name with a fantastic crowd, delicious food and memorable entertainment.

Guests began their evening with cocktails and dinner overlooking a stunning Lake Waco sunset at the spectacular home of Dave and Valerie Fallas. Then, it was off to the Ball Performing Arts Center for the night's performance, which took a decidedly more eclectic turn this year. Oh, What a Night! featured performances from all disciplines within the Visual and Performing Arts Division ... so guests were treated to modern dance, a piano concerto, jazz, a marimba duet, vocal ensembles, visual art and more.

Topping off the night was a grand ensemble tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons singing the classic title song. More than one patron in attendance declared the Gala "the best we've ever had!"

Adding an additional dimension to the Gala evening was the highly anticipated public announcement of the MCC Foundation's All-Steinway campaign, which will raise



MCC Foundation Executive Director Harry Harelik. left, with Oh, What a Night! Gala Hosts Valerie and Dave Fallas.

about \$900,000 to make MCC one of only three colleges in Texas to bear the prestigious "All-Steinway School" designation. For more information on the All-Steinway campaign, see p. 4. Thanks go out to the hosts, sponsors, patrons, Gala Committee, faculty and students who made the Oh, What a Night! Gala a night to

More Gala Pictures, p. 2



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

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





MCC Theatre Alumna **Heather Huggins recently** brought her international arts experience back to the MCC campus as she led McLennan Theatre students in a weekend intensive workshop in the Droznin System of physical actor training. The training helped prepare the actors for the physically demanding movement work in the April McLennan Theatre performance of Shipwrecked.

received her Master of Fine Arts in acting with highest honors from the Boris Shukin Theatre Institute, Vakhtangov Theatre, Moscow. As part of her graduate degree, she was

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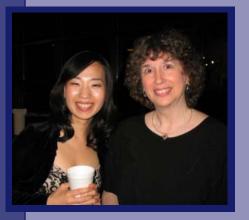
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OH, WHAT A NIGHT! GALA 2010











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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Heather Huggins

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mentored by the premiere stage movement director and professor in Russia, Andrei Borisovich Droznin.

"I am incredibly grateful to the faculty, especially director Jim Rambo, for inviting me to share my expertise with current students," Huggins said.

Huggins is in her 11th year of teaching acting, movement for actors



Heather Huggins leads Theatre students in physical actor training in March in preparation for "Shipwrecked."

and dance. In addition to leading numerous workshops and master classes throughout Texas, she has taught and developed curricula for Harvard University, Drama Centre of London, Baylor University, St. Edward's University, St. Stephens' Theatre Focus, Texas Arts Project, Waco Musical Theatre, Young Actors' Shakespeare Project, Footworks, Ballet Austin's Musical Theatre Training Program, and The Performers' Workshop. She is currently the co-director of the new Performing Arts Program at Huntington-Surrey School.

Two years ago, Huggins formed DA! Theatre Collective in Austin, Texas, a not-for-profit theatre company under the sponsorship of Hyde Park Theatre. From its inception, DA! has been an award-winning and critically acclaimed company. Huggins directed DA!'s debut production, *Direct Object*, which won "Best of Fest" honors at The Frontera Fest Short Fringe in 2008. Since then, she has gone on to produce seven successful performances as DA!'s Artistic Director. In 2009, DA! received a prestigious "Best Of Austin" award from *The Austin Chronicle* for "Best Non-Profit Upstart." Learn more at www.datheatrecollective.org.

"Time and time again, I have found myself appreciating my experiences as a theatre major at McLennan," Huggins said. "The recent opportunity to be on campus and lead an intensive was especially rewarding. The community continues to provide a challenging and nurturing environment for students to learn and grow as unique individuals and as part of a thriving ensemble."

Huggins may be reached at heather@datheatrecollective.org

Foundation Welcomes New Directors, Officers

The McLennan Community College Foundation is happy to welcome the following new board members for three-year terms beginning in 2010:

> Fay Gutierrez Annette Lindsey Barbara Patrick Nelwyn Reagan Enid Wade

In addition, the following officers were elected for 2010:

Chair: C. Ray Perry

Vice Chair: Dottie
Fornoff

Secretary: Dr. Johnette
McKown

Treasurer: Bill Goss

The members of the MCC Board of Trustees and MCC Foundation board are community volunteers who selflessly invest their time and talents to guide and support McLennan Community College.

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MCC Foundation announces

All-Steinway School initiative

The MCC Foundation is proud to announce the boldest fundraising effort in its history: the All-Steinway School initiative, which will replace most of the college's pianos with new, highest-quality Steinway pianos. This \$900,000 initiative will make McLennan Community College one of only three community colleges in the entire country and one of only three colleges (2- or 4-year) in Texas to be honored as an All-Steinway School. With this designation, MCC joins such prestigious institutions as Julliard, the Yale School of Music and Carnegie Mellon.

MCC boasts a national reputation for its outstanding theatre, music, dance and visual arts instruction. This reputation can be tied directly to the college's ongoing commitment to quality— offering quality facilities and resources and attracting the best faculty and students. However, the college's pianos, which are the foundation of all music and performing arts training, were all between 26 and 40 years old and many had reached unusable condition. After months of study, a committee determined that replacing the pianos with Steinways would be a wise investment for MCC students, the college and the region as a whole. The fundraising effort includes \$300,000 for ongoing maintenance of the pianos.

The lifelong value of a quality arts education has been well documented. But the All-Steinway initiative is not just about outstanding musical instruments for MCC students. It is also about the quality of instruction at MCC and its ability to attract top-level students and highly intellectual and effective professors. It also enhances the ability of MCC to continue to host many statewide music competitions that bring potential students and their parents and instructors to the Waco area.

There are many ways MCC supporters and music lovers can be involved in the All-Steinway initiative. Naming opportunities for many levels of giving are available. Securities may be transferred to this campaign, as well as cash, and a three- to five-year pledge payout period is available.



Seed money for the campaign came from a \$118,000 gift from the family of MCC voice instructor Lise Uhl, pictured here with her husband Tommy Edds and the concert grand piano purchased with the gift.

Many MCC supporters might be interested in the program's 88-Key Circle, where donors make monthly contributions toward a \$1,000 gift that represents one of the 88 keys on a Steinway. Only \$16 a month for 60 months can help make an tremendous difference in the quality of education available to MCC's performing arts students! MCC employees who are interested in participating in payroll deduction should contact the MCC Foundation office at 299-8604.

Putting excellent higher education opportunities within reach of area students has always been the mission of the MCC Foundation, and the All-Steinway program is taking that commitment to the next level. For more information about the All-Steinway School initiative at MCC, visit the All-Steinway web site at www.mclennan.edu/all-steinway or contact Harry Harelik at the MCC Foundation at 299-8606 or hharelik@mclennan.edu.

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Global Perspective Topic of April 5 Distinguished Lecture Event

One of the many initiatives funded through the MCC Foundation is the McLennan Distinguished Lecture Series, which was proud to bring internationally known journalist Lisa Ling to the MCC campus on April 5.

Ling who is a correspondent for the National Geographic Channel and *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and was previously a co-host on *The View*, spoke to students and community members about "The Importance of a Global Perspective." Ling brought her unique documentary style of reporting to life by sharing personal stories, video clips and a perspective shaped by 20 years of in-depth reporting in more than two dozen countries.

On her web site, Ling has a mission statement that explains her passion for international reporting: "I want to raise consciousness about issues and stories that don't always made the headlines. I believe that global awareness makes a person smarter and ultimately more human."

More than 600 guests viewed Ling's presentations, which included an afternoon session with students (below) and an evening lecture. Ling's



visit was funded by a generous anonymous donor and a grant from the Cooper Foundation.

The McLennan
Distinguished
Lecture Series is designed to enrich the cultural experience for

MCC students and the community at large by bringing nationally known speakers to Waco to discuss politics, science, literature and popular culture. The program began in 2004 with Afghan-American author Tamim Ansary. Dr. James Watson, Nobel Prize winner and the



Journalist Lisa Ling, left, with MCC supporter Nell Hawkins at a dinner before the Distinguished Lecture event.

co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, spoke in 2005, and Bill Nye, "The Science Guy," spoke in 2006. The lecturer in 2007 was former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich and in 2009 was Alice Schroeder, author of the biography of investor Warren Buffet. The Foundation welcomes designated gifts to further this outstanding MCC initiative.



This spring, MCC has on campus 39 international students representing 20 countries, including:

- Austria
- · Brazil
- · Burma/Myanmar
- · Canada
- · China
- · Czech Republic
- · Iceland
- · India
- · Japan
- Kenya

- · Korea
- · Kosovo/Serbia
 - Nepal
- · Nigeria
- · Russia
- · Rwanda
- · South Korea
- Sweden
- · Taiwan
- · Zambia

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Alumni Association Update

The Highlander Alumni Association has more than doubled in membership in the past year, with more than 1,440 current and former Highlanders and friends of the college

now proud
members! The
Association
continues to offer
member benefits
including a career
center, discounts to
campus events and
at area restaurants,
news from MCC and
awesome alumni
gear, like our new tshirts worn here by
Tartan Scholar Josh



Bissell and Presidential Scholar **LaTishia Watson**. If you are not yet a member (*membership is free*), visit http://alumni.mclennan.edu to sign up today!

Alumni Discounts to May 8 Wayne Watson Concert



The Bosque River Stage at McLennan Community College is pleased to announce that Christian artist Wayne Watson will perform at 8 p.m. on May 8. Opening for Watson is family-friendly musical comedian Paul Aldrich.

Winner of seven Dove Awards, Watson is best known

for his inspirational songs from the 1980s and '90s, including "Friend of a Wounded Heart,"

"Watercolour Popies" and "Home Free" Watern

was nominated for a Grammy and several Dove Awards. His hit song "For Such a Time as This" was used as the theme for the 1999 season of CBS's "Touched by an Angel" series.

Highlander Alumni Association members receive discounted tickets to the concert: only \$10 for stadium or lawn seating, a 33% discount off the regular ticket price! To get your tickets, contact the MCC Box Office at 299-8200 between 1-5 p.m. weekdays or e-mail boxoffice@mclennan.edu and identify yourself as an alumni association member. The Box Office staff will verify your membership before completing the discounted transaction. See you at the concert!

MCC Distinguished Alumni, Distinguished Young Leader Awards

The Highlander Alumni Association is accepting nominations for its 2010 Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Young Leader awards. Nomination forms for both awards are available at the Highlander Alumni Association web site at http://alumni.mclennan.edu. Deadline is July 15, 2010.

The MCC Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to an alumnus or alumna of MCC who has demonstrated a record of distinguished service and extraordinary achievement in a particular discipline, organization or cause that brings distinction to the college. To be eligible, nominees must have successfully completed a minimum of a one-year certificate or two-year associate degree program or have earned a minimum of 60 transferable hours (without a degree) from MCC.

The MCC Distinguished Young Leader Award is presented to a 2010 graduating or completing student of MCC who has demonstrated a record of distinguished service and extraordinary achievement in academic and extracurricular realms, shown remarkable leadership or provided service to a cause that brings distinction to the college.

Honorees will be recognized at the MCC Foundation's Scholarship Awards Ceremony in September and will be presented with an award and a brick paver in the Highlander Legacy Plaza. Questions? Call 254-299-8481 or alumni@mclennan.edu.

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Scholarship Update

The McLennan Community College scholarship committee is working in earnest to assess the scholarship applications submitted for the 2010-2011 school year. The committee is meeting regularly through the spring in order to award most available scholarships by May 1. The MCC Foundation typically awards more than 250 scholarships valued at \$300,000 each year.

The MCC Foundation continually works to secure new scholarship funds as well as acquire contributions to bolster values for existing scholarship funds. *Endowed scholarship* funds require a \$15,000 minimum (which can be added over a period of years) and \$25,000 minimum for Presidential Scholarships. Scholarships can be tailored to donors' interests as to what kind of student or area of study they would like to support. Endowed scholarships may be named as the donor requests.

The Foundation is also pleased to announce the continuation of the program funded by TG Benefits of Round Rock, Texas that offers scholarships to *part-time students*. Generally students must take at least 12 hours to be qualified as a full-time student for an MCC Foundation scholarship. However, many students attend MCC on a part-time basis because of family and work responsibilities. The Part-Time Student Book Scholarship offers up to \$500 per semester for books and supplies for students who are enrolled in 11 or fewer hours in a degree or certificate program at MCC (nine hours for nursing majors.) Applications for fall are available on the MCC Foundation website at www.mclennan.edu/ departments/foundation and are due in the Financial Aid Office by 6 p.m. on July 29, 2010.

If you are interested in helping fund a new or existing scholarship, please contact Foundation Executive Director Harry Harelik at 299-8606 or hharelik@mclennan.edu. He is happy to visit on all aspects of scholarship funds, including ways in which to contribute, types of assets to contribute (in place of or in addition to cash), estate and gift planning and income tax-wise planning.

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Save the Date: 2010 MCC Foundation Golf Tournament is Oct. 1! Mark your calendars now for the 2010 MCC

Foundation Golf Classic on Friday, Oct. 1 at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course. There are a limited number of \$10,000 Diamond and \$5,000 Platinum sponsorships available, as well as other levels ranging from \$200 to \$2,500. The Foundation is always seeking quality items for participant gifts, silent auction items, and raffle prizes! For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact

Harry Harelik at 299-8606 or hharelik@mclennan.edu.