For the Friends and Supporters of the MCC Foundation & MCC Alumni

McLennan Highlander Quarterly

In this issue: Campus News: A Conversation with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, MCC Foundation Scholar, Donor, and Alumni Appreciation Luncheon, First Generation Summer Trip, Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts, 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards, Establishing An Endowed Scholarship, Hearts in the Arts at MCC, Alumni Spotlight: Mark Bailey Capalbo, Gifts to the MCC Foundation

Please remember the MCC Foundation in your annual giving, estate planning, and memorials.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas Visits MCC, Leaves Lasting Impression

During a historical visit to Waco in September, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas spent two days with the faculty, staff, students, and community supporters of McLennan Community College. In the span of 48 hours, five major events were hosted in honor of Justice Thomas. During early stages of planning for this visit, six very special donors contacted the MCC Foundation wishing to host special events for Justice Thomas to connect with MCC donors and potential donors to discuss the importance of community college education in America.

Clifton and Betsy Robinson, along with Paul and Carol McClinton, hosted a private dinner on Sept. 6 at the Robinson residence. Approximately 106 friends of MCC attended a special cocktail reception and dinner. During dinner, Justice Thomas spoke about his background and upbringing, and related his experiences to those of the students who attend MCC. Before the night concluded, Justice Thomas met and posed for pictures with almost everyone in attendance!

"Betsy and I were blessed to host the reception and dinner at our home," said long-time MCC supporter Clifton Robinson. "This event with Justice Clarence Thomas was in our opinion, the most inspiring event, certainly ever in our home, perhaps even the entire city of Waco. What an honor to be with such a great man!"

Justice Thomas continued to spread his gracious nature and message the following day by participating in a "Q&A" with MCC students at the Ball Performing Arts Center on campus. Promoted through the Government and History classes on campus, students had the opportunity to attend prepared with questions for Justice Thomas.

That evening, David and Nancy Lacy hosted an intimate dinner for Justice Thomas, along with fellow donors Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul McClinton, Dr. Johnette McKown, and panel participants Ashley Cruseturner, Andi Ramon, and Judge Ken and Alice Starr prior to the community lecture.

Following a very impressive dinner at Northwood House on campus, Justice Thomas was transported to The Highlands (gymnasium) on campus for the community event – "A Conversation with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas". More than 2,000 attended the panel discussion, which comprised MCC history professor Ashley Cruseturner, MCC

government professor Andi Ramon, and Judge Ken Starr. A video of the community lecture can be accessed <a href="https://example.com/here.c

This event was a true collaboration, not only on campus between administration, faculty, and staff, but also between county, city, state, and national officials and offices. We want to thank the following entities for their support in our effort to bring Justice Clarence Thomas to Waco and MCC's campus. In addition to the folks below, the events would not have happened without the fabulous work of the MCC Physical Plant, Grounds/Maintenance staff, MCC police and security officers, and the MCC Presidential Scholars.

Donors & Event Organizers: David and Nancy Lacy, Paul and Carol McClinton, Clifton and Betsy Robinson, Judge Ken and Alice Starr, along with MCC President Johnette McKown and MCC Vice-Presidents Stephen Benson, Drew Canham, Fred Hills, and Phil Rhodes.

Justice Thomas Planning Committee Members: Jana Bland, Ashley Cruseturner, Dianne Feyerherm, Heather Lanford, Johnette McKown, Jennifer Norman, Kim Patterson, Larry Radke, Andi Ramon, Belinda Shelburne, Paula Unger, Lindsey Vanek, and Lisa Wilhelmi.

Government Officials and Local Offices:

City of Waco: Emergency Management Coordinator Frank Patterson, Waco Police Assistant Chief Mark Norcross, Waco Police Commander Scott Gibbs, a multitude of police officers (about 25 on react team and crowd control), Waco Fire Chief Bobby Tatum, and Waco Fire Battalion Chief Chris Ballew

McLennan County: Shawn Nixon, Michael Graham, and the entire McLennan County Bomb Squad

US Marshals Service: U.S. Marshal William Hicks and ATF Special Agent (K9) Andrea DeVilliers

Baylor University: Public Safety Director Mark Childers and Associate Director of Athletics Drew Pittman

Follow the MCC Foundation on Facebook to view and tag more pictures from these fabulous events!

MCC Foundation Scholar, Donor, and Alumni Appreciation Luncheon

After careful thought and input from MCC Foundation donors and other community college foundations, the MCC Foundation decided to reformat the annual Scholarship Appreciation Night into a luncheon, with a specific goal of pairing scholarship donors with their student recipients for a time of fellowship and sharing. Over 50 donors and more than 200 students attended the luncheon, which was held at the Conference Center at MCC.

The McLennan Community College Foundation honored scholarship donors, students, and 18 major givers at the Scholar, Donor, and Alumni Appreciation Luncheon Sept. 14. The MCC Foundation's Highlander Alumni & Friends Association also presented two prestigious awards, the Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Leader awards at the event (see page 4 for more information). The MCC Foundation recognized 18 major donors who contributed a total of \$691,000 to the MCC Foundation during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

"We have been humbled this year to have so many donors commit to new or to complete funding of Foundation scholarships. These scholarships and major gifts are the backbone of what we do at the Foundation, and that backbone is strong due to their generosity."

Luis Jauregui, award-winning architect and MCC alumnus, shared his success story of immigrating to the United States and beginning his higher education at McLennan Community College. Jauregui went on to attend Texas A&M University, where he earned a Bachelor of Environmental Design degree and Master of Architecture degree. Jauregui was recently inducted into the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows for achieving a standard of excellence in the architecture profession and contributing to the industry and society as a whole.

On behalf of the MCC Foundation board and staff, we thank each of our donors for contributing to student success at MCC. We look forward to hosting this event again next fall. Interested in establishing a scholarship fund for students at MCC? Read more inspirational stories on page 6, or contact MCC Foundation Executive Director Kim Patterson (kpatterson@mclennan.edu or 254-299-8606) to discuss your donation.

First Generation Summer Trip

On Thursday, July 20, the students in the Rapoport Foundation First Generation Program, along with their sponsors, went on the annual educational/cultural trip. The Dallas excursion included a decadent dinner at Lark on the Park in Klyde Warren Park, followed by a stellar performance of "Finding Neverland" at the Winspeare Opera House. The Cohort 11 students, along with a few Cohort 10 students, and the chaperones, enjoyed food, fun, laughter, and an excellent play. These trips have been an integral part of the program each year, serving not only as an educational opportunity, but also as a time that the new and previous students in the program can get to know one another.

"This program is designed to give a strong sense of community and give these scholars experiences they may not otherwise have," said First Generation Scholars Program Success Coach Monique Hoskins. "It is an honor and a joy to be a part of moments like these that may broaden their horizons and shape their futures." The bus ride also allows time for the students and sponsors to become more familiar with each other and, in itself, can provide a time for communication, growth, and learning.

MCC Foundation Scholarship Competition is Open

SPREAD THE WORD! The scholarship competition for academic year 2018-19 is underway. The deadline for application submission (including all required references and transcripts) is January 15, 2018. Our online system makes it very easy to apply, contact your references, and

confirm that all your materials have been submitted on time. Simply create a log-in based on your MCC ID (or use your existing log-in) and begin!

In 2016-17, the MCC Foundation awarded more than \$400,000 in scholarships! Click here to access the online application. Please contact Scholarships & Operations Coordinator Shelley Cotten (scotten@mclennan.edu or 254-299-8818) for additional information.

2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards

The McLennan Community College Foundation honored scholarship students, major donors, and alumni at the Scholar, Donor, and Alumni Appreciation Luncheon Sept. 14. The MCC Foundation's Highlander Alumni & Friends Association presented two prestigious awards, the Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Leader awards at the event.

John McClain was named the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus. McClain, a 1973 graduate of McLennan Community College, went on to major in journalism at Baylor University. After working for local papers like MCC's Highlander Herald and the Waco Tribune-Herald, McClain joined the staff of the Houston Chronicle in 1976. McClain succeeded in becoming a reporter for the National Football League. In 2006, McClain reached the pinnacle in sports journalism when he received the Dick McCann Memorial Award for his long and distinguished reporting on the NFL. McClain is a former president of the Pro Football Writers of America and is a longtime member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Selection Committee and the Texas Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee. McClain was unable to accept his award in person as he was on assignment in Cincinnati covering the Houston Texans, but longtime MCC baseball coach Rick Butler accepted on his behalf. "I was overwhelmed when I was selected as MCC's Distinguished Alumnus," said McClain, "I wouldn't be where I am without the foundation in journalism I received from The Highland Herald and my years at MCC." Click here to see a video of Mr. McClain's full acceptance message!

Hannah Burgess of Moody was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Leader Award. Burgess came to McLennan Community College as a Bernard and Audre Rapoport First Generation Scholar in 2014. She also served in several leadership roles on campus, including being a Student Ambassador and Connections (student orientation) leader. Upon graduating from MCC, Burgess accepted a position at MCC as a Highlander Central Specialist helping students navigate the complexities of higher education. "Hannah's hard work and dedication as a student, and now as a professional, continues to lead her to success," said MCC Coordinator of Outreach and Student Recruitment Dustie Hamilton. "I look forward to watching her grow and continue to bring positive influence to our institution." Burgess is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University through the University Center at MCC and hopes to obtain her MBA.

Three Staff Honored with Named Endowed Scholarship Funds By Kim Patterson, MS, APR MCC Foundation Executive Director

Three new endowed scholarships have recently been established for longtime MCC staff members who retired in recent years. Collectively, Henry Apperson, Donnie Balmos, and Paul Holder boast 134 years of service to the college!

Henry Apperson. Henry Apperson began teaching history and geography at MCC in 1968 and retired in August 2017 with 49 years of service. Henry refers to MCC as a pinnacle of light and has dedicated his life's work to its students. Throughout his tenure, Henry took a personal interest in improving student lives and future opportunities; numerous students single him out as their favorite professor and keep in touch with him to this day. A native of Beaumont, Henry received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor University. Once it reaches full funding, the Henry Apperson Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to a student based on merit and need. The scholarship was established in Henry's honor by History Department colleagues.

Dr. Donald Balmos. Donnie Balmos retired in August 2017 with 40 years of service. During his tenure at MCC, Donnie served as director of the MCC Chorale, the Waco Civic Chorus, conducted many opera and musical productions, and taught many music courses. Prior to his appointment as Vice President of Instruction, he served as Dean of Arts and Sciences and Director of Visual and Performing Arts. He holds two degrees in Music Theory from Baylor University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from The University of Texas at Austin. Once it reaches full funding, the Donald Balmos Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in voice or music competitions. The scholarship was established in Donnie's honor by his family.

Paul Holder. Paul Holder inspired more than 27,000 students during his 45 years of teaching federal and state government and political science before retiring in 2014. In addition to chairing the MCC Government Department for 10 years, he also sponsored MCC Student Government for 25 years and co-managed the Student Affairs Office. Paul is part of a select group in Texas to work on restructuring the Texas Constitution, currently being reviewed by the State Affairs Committee of the Texas House of Representatives. Paul received his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Baylor University. Once it is fully funded, the Robert Paul Holder Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to a student based on merit and need. The scholarship was established in Paul's honor by History Department colleagues.

The Foundation is proud to provide a tangible way to honor these men though the lives of future MCC students who will receive these scholarship awards. If you would like to make a contribution to these scholarship funds, please visit www.mclennan.edu/foundation and click on "Make A Gift." Be sure to designate the fund name for your contribution.

Arts Notes

Each summer at MCC, the Division of Visual and Performing Arts buzzes with excitement as the performance selections for the upcoming season are selected. Faculty and staff spend

significant time exploring the student talent within the department and selecting pieces that will both feature and challenge MCC students. Once all of the shows are chosen, the Division of Visual and Performing Arts works to assemble a brilliant marketing piece – the McLennan Theatre brochure – to promote the shows to the community.

All during this time, the MCC Foundation convenes a special group of donors – the members of the Hearts in the Arts committee – to discuss how philanthropists within the community can band together to support the arts at MCC. Founded in 1997, Hearts in the Arts is an affinity group that provides scholarships and other funds to our MCC visual and performing arts faculty and students. The Hearts in the Arts members met for their annual dinner on July 11 at the Northwood House on campus. During this meeting, MCC Foundation Executive Director Kim Patterson and Division Chair of Visual and Performing Arts Lise Uhl presented reports from the 2016-17 academic year and plans for the upcoming season. This included an approval of \$13,000 from the Hearts in the Arts fund to support student scholarships, emergency grants to students, and stipends for guest artists to speak to the students.

The Hearts in the Arts members also worked together to revise the MCC Foundation's Hearts in the Arts giving levels, ranging from \$100 "Friends of the Arts" to \$5,000 "Executive Producer" support levels. Before adjourning their annual meeting, the Hearts in the Arts members elected Ms. Glenda Strum to serve as the chair for the 2017-18 season. As of press time, Hearts in the Arts memberships for 2017-18 have almost tripled over previous years!

Join us! Becoming a member of Hearts in the Arts is so easy – click <u>here</u> to view a message from this year's Hearts in the Arts Chair and give online today!

Alumni Spotlight: Mark Bailey Capalbo

Students receive a unique visit from Emmy and Tony award winning artist and McLennan alumnus By Andrew Brown

MCC Foundation Marketing Intern and current MCC student

Mark Bailey Capalbo attended MCC from 2004 to 2006. While here, he performed, sang, danced, and designed costumes, hair, and wigs. A memorable performance was as Charlie Brown in You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (for which he also did costumes). "I knew when I attended my first "Spotlight" show helmed by Dr. Karen Albrecht that McLennan was where I wanted to start my college career. Every show they produced was an example of the type of artist I always dreamed of being."

Before graduating from college in 2008, Mark was cast as a performer in the Broadway touring company of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He completed several Broadway tours as well as the regional premieres of both *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 as a dancer before transitioning into theatrical hairstyling full time.

Mr. Capalbo began his hairstyling career with *Elf: The Musical* and continued with the acclaimed National Theatre (UK) production of *Warhorse at Lincoln Center* before making his Broadway

styling debut in *Phantom of The Opera*. He specializes in lace-front wigs and period hairstyling for performers. Additional Broadway credits include *Heart and Lights* with the Radio City Rockettes, *Motown The Musical*, *On The Town*, the most recent *Color Purple* revival as well as *Bandstand: A New American Musical*.

His most recent TV/Film credits include Key Hairstylist for Bryan Cranston's new show "The Dangerous Book for Boys," and Season 5 of FX's hit period drama "The Americans" starring Kerri Russell and Matthew Rhys. Other TV/Film credits include CBS's "Billions" as well as "Bull," Netflix's "Wormwood" and "The Get Down", Woody Allen's "Wonder Wheel" starring Kate Winslet and Justin Timberlake, NBC's "Mysteries of Laura," and HBO's "Vinyl."

In late September, MCC Cosmetology students were given the opportunity to speak with Mr. Capalbo about his unique experiences working in Broadway and television productions. "Returning to McLennan after more than 10 years to speak to the students was not only thrilling but also a nostalgic walk through one of the most challenging and character-building times in my life. I wouldn't be the artist I am today without the invaluable training and discipline I learned there."

We are thankful to Mr. Capalbo for inspiring our students with his story of building success through education and hard work and we hope they carry that inspiration with them into their future careers.

<u>Gifts to the MCC Foundation (July 1 – September 30, 2017)</u> In Honor of Dr. Donald Balmos' 40-Years of Service to MCC by: Harry and Beverly Harelik

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