

MCLENNAN

Highlander Quarterly

Summer 2010

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Honorariums and Memorial Gifts

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

MCC, COMMUNITY MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

An historic fundraising initiative is underway at the MCC Foundation to raise money for 27 new Steinway pianos, making McLennan Community College one of only three colleges in Texas and one of only three community colleges in the country to bear the "All-Steinway School" designation.

With this designation, MCC joins such prestigious institutions as Julliard, the Yale School of Music and Carnegie Mellon, and demonstrates, yet again, MCC's continuing commitment to quality.

In late 2009, recognizing the dire need for new pianos for the Performing Arts programs at MCC, along with the limited funding available for large capital acquisitions, the board of the MCC Foundation approved the All-Steinway School fundraising campaign.



Honorary Campaign Chairs, Ambassador Lyndon and Kay Olson, left, with MCC president Dr. Johnette McKown and Foundation Executive Director Harry Harelik at a fundraising dinner at the home of Dr. Jim and Mrs. Katherine Pitts.

At the time, all of the college's pianos were between 26 and 40 years old and many were in unusable condition. Because the piano is at the heart of all musical, vocal and theatrical training, virtually all students and faculty members in the program were struggling. Rather than address this problem in a piecemeal fashion, and to take advantage of volume discounts and avoid annual price increases, the Foundation board voted to replace

See All-Steinway, p. 2

Alumni Spotlight



From the "College on the Hill" to Capitol Hill

As an MCC music student, Brian Scott enjoyed representing MCC by traveling to local high schools where he played his baritone in the MCC concert band. Today, that experience serves him well in his career as field representative for Congressman Chet Edwards.

While the road between the two experiences was long and winding (and included lots of cars!), Scott feels sure that his time spent at MCC shaped the person he is today.

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ALL-STEINWAY CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

all the pianos with new, long-lasting, highest commercial quality Steinway pianos at a cost of \$611,000. An additional \$300,000 will be raised for a maintenance fund to keep the instruments in top condition for decades to come.

The All-Steinway campaign is the largest fundraising effort undertaken at MCC since the initial capital campaign for the Foundation. Longtime MCC supporters Jim and Judy Haller signed on as chairmen of the campaign, and Ambassador Lyndon and Kay Olson are honorary chairmen.

The campaign began with a lead gift of \$118,000 from Elizabeth Uhl of Minerva, Ohio, mother of MCC voice instructor Lise Uhl. Several other generous individual contributions arrived early to get the campaign off to a strong start. And, this spring, the Cooper Foundation and Waco Foundation each committed to \$100,000 grants to support the initiative. Other foundation grant applications have been submitted to the Allergan Foundation and the Hillcrest Foundation in Dallas. As of July 1, half of the total campaign goal has been achieved.

To raise additional funds, a private fundraising dinner featuring the talents of 16-year-old piano prodigy Bryce Reed was held at the home of Dr. Jim and Mrs. Katherine Pitts in February. The Foundation announced the campaign to its most ardent

supporters at the annual Hearts in the Arts Gala in March. A second private fundraising dinner and concert will be held October 16 at the Waco home of venerable composer and performer Kurt Kaiser.

The largest community fundraising event for the campaign will be on August 28, when the Foundation will host a by-invitation-only *Dueling Grands* piano concert featuring performances by Dr. Donald Balmos and Gail Wade on the college's two Steinway concert grands. The concert will offer some of the finest compositions in the two-piano repertoire, featuring pieces by Mozart, Brahms and Poulenc. The event is in honor of former Waco Mayor Virginia DuPuy, who is a longtime supporter of music and the arts in Waco. Invitations have been mailed and a standing room only crowd is anticipated.

Putting excellent higher education opportunities within reach of area students has always been the mission of MCC, and the All-Steinway School initiative of the MCC Foundation is now taking that commitment to the next level. Installment pledges and naming opportunities are available.

If you would like more information about how you can support the All-Steinway campaign, contact Harry Harelik at 299-8606 or hharelik@mclennan.edu.

Mark your calendars!

September 14

Scholarship Recognition & Alumni Awards 8 p.m.

Conference Center

Foundation donors, almost 300 scholarship recipients and their families will gather to celebrate the awarding of MCC Foundation scholarships for 2010-2011. The event will also feature the announcement of the 2010 MCC Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Young Leader Awards and a special Steinway presentation. Reception to follow.

October 1

24th Annual MCC Foundation Golf Classic-Cottonwood Creek

Now in its 24th year, the MCC Foundation Golf Classic attracts more than 200 golfers for this tournament to support MCC student scholarships and capital needs. \$125 registration includes greens fee, cart, light breakfast, lunch, snacks, drinks and high-quality gifts. Call 299-8604 for reservations by Sept. 30. Sponsorships are still being accepted!

October -- Date TBA

"The Sun King" Louis XIV Exhibit Learning Technology Center Gallery

The MCC Foundation, in conjunction with the MCC Library, History and Visual Arts departments, presents this unique exhibit of Louis XIV memorabilia donated to the college by Dr. and Mrs. Dan Valahu. The exhibit will open with a come-and-go reception.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Brian Scott

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"To be honest, MCC taught me collegiate life skills more than anything else. If you see my transcripts, you can tell that I may have not been as mature as I should have been when I started college. It took a full semester of mentoring before I took my college career more seriously. If I would have done this at a larger and more expensive school, I am not sure if I would have continued," he says today.

Scott is a West High School graduate who received a music scholarship to MCC. He studied business and music, and fondly remembers taking religion classes with Dale Hughes, also known as "The Matador" because of his love of bullfighting. Scott then transferred to Baylor and received a BBA in marketing in 1995. He joined the automotive industry right out of college and worked his way up to serve as general manager of an automobile dealership.

Even with his career success, Scott's lifelong dream was to work in government or politics. Last year, he began pursuing positions in the field, and he says he feels fortunate to have found a position right here in his home town. As field representative, he handles local policy issues for Congressman Edwards and is the principal liaison between the 17th District congressional office and local businesses, organizations and citizens.

Scott's family includes his wife Jennifer, son Caleb, 13, daughter Lauren, 6, and a son who is due to be born this month. He can be reached at brian.scott@mail.house.gov.

Editor's Note: *If you are an alumnus of McLennan Community College and would like to be featured in a future edition of "Alumni Spotlight," please contact the editor at kpatterson@mclennan.edu.*

President McKown named distinguished alumni by Texas A&M-Commerce



Dr. Johnette McKown, left, with Dr. Dan Jones, President of Texas A&M University-Commerce, and Dwight York, President of the TAMU-Commerce Alumni Association.

MCC President Dr. Johnette McKown was honored recently with a 2009 Distinguished Alumni award from her alma mater, Texas A&M University-Commerce.

McKown was one of only three alumni to receive the award at a recognition dinner on April 23 in Commerce, Texas. Started in 1969, the Distinguished Alumni Award is given to A&M-Commerce graduates for their outstanding career achievements.

"Receiving this award is a great honor to me," McKown said. "Texas A&M-Commerce cares about students in a supportive environment, and I am grateful for the opportunities the university provided."

McKown earned her master's degree in secondary and higher education in 1978 from A&M-Commerce, as well as a doctorate in curriculum and instruction in 1990. She joined MCC in 1989 and assumed the presidency in 2009.

Welcome to MCC!

FIRST GENERATION COHORT #4 HEADS TO CLASS

The fourth cohort of the First Generation College Student Initiative (FGCSI) met for orientation in May. The 14 students were selected based on merit and their status as the first person in their family to attend college. Through their participation in the FGCSI, they are beginning a two-year journey together as students at MCC, followed by a lifetime of friendship and shared experiences.

FGCSI participants attend special summer college preparatory classes covering study skills, time management, financial literacy, philanthropy and other topics. They receive help in navigating sometimes complex college admissions, registration, bookstore and classroom issues. Cohort members participate in events and enrichment activities on campus and in the community.

The FGCSI program began in 2006, funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation. Additional grants totaling more than \$200,000 from TG Public Benefits and more than \$300,000 from Rapoport ensured continuation and expansion of the program.

The First Generation program grew from an initial suggestion by former MCC President Dennis Michaelis that MCC needed to work harder to get underserved population students to college and *through* college successfully. Working with Maggie McCarthy and later Tom Stanton at the Rapoport Foundation, the MCC Foundation staff developed a scholarship with a support program for First Generation students. First Generation students are those students who come from families with no college experience. TG Public Benefits out of Round Rock joined in funding the



Members of the First Generation College Student Initiative Cohort 4 gather for orientation in May.

Front row, from left: Moises Castillo, Brisa Coronado, Ashley Sharp, Briana Vasquez, Margarita Tello, Chelsey Nava

Back Row, from left: Ronald Carey, Sergio Chapa, Shelby Laseter, David Martinez, Dulce Martinez, Milagros Morales.

Not Pictured: James Mosley, Dakota Dossey

marketing and support of the various facets of the program now known as the First Generation College Student Initiative.

Each of the FGCSI students is awarded \$5,000 for tuition, fees and books for two years of study, as well as the opportunity to receive financial assistance and a laptop for 3rd and 4th year studies at a University of Texas system school, Texas Tech or Tarleton State University.

Since its inception, 71 students have participated in the program at MCC, and this year, Santiago Salas and Denise Rodriguez from Cohort 1 are the first FGCSI participants to earn their bachelor's degrees, both from the University of Texas at Arlington.

First Generation Scholar: Four Years Later

"It Can Be Done!"

When Santiago Salas graduated in the top 10 percent of her class from University High School in 2006, she knew she was smart and had a lot of potential. What she didn't realize was that a new program was gearing up at McLennan Community College that would transform that potential into reality and change her future forever.

In late 2005, the McLennan Community College Foundation had received grant money from the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation to launch the groundbreaking First Generation College Student Initiative, designed to help students from families without any college experience successfully get *to* college and *through* college. The program not only offered scholarship money, but also mentoring, study skills and time and money management courses, all designed to ensure each student's long-term success.

Santiago was a perfect candidate for the program. Her parents, Gavino and Romana Sanchez, worked hard to raise and educate their three children, but for them, college was an elusive dream. Santiago wanted to stay close to home, so she applied to MCC. Her acceptance into the FGCSI program and the generous scholarship it offered were added bonuses.

"First Gen helped me make a smooth transition from high school to college," she says. "Everyone was willing to help and they made it seem like a family ... they were there for any of my questions, concerns, comments and crises."

The support system worked: she graduated from MCC in May 2009 and this spring, received her degree in Elementary Education with honors from the University of Texas at Arlington. Looking on proudly from the audience were her husband Carlos and their children: two-year-old



Santiago Salas with her husband Carlos and son Jose.

Jose and 8-month-old Javier.

Reflecting on her years at MCC, Santiago says she really appreciated the guidance of math instructor Alma Wlazlinski and child development center teacher Pam Briggs and instructor Emily Stottlemyre:

"They made classes fun and took time to talk and care about their students. They provided a great classroom environment."

That great environment is something Santiago hopes to soon recreate: next month, she will enter the classroom at Provident Heights Elementary as a first grade bilingual teacher for the Waco Independent School District.

"I think of MCC as my second home," Santiago says today. I will never forget what First Gen did for me and my family because I am officially the first to go to college and get an Associate's degree and a B.A. It can be done!"

Alumni Association Update

Alumni and Friends Reunion Picnic

The 3rd Annual Highlander Alumni Association Alumni and Friends Reunion Picnic was held June 10 at the Bosque River Stage, and the largest crowd yet—almost 100 people— attended the annual gathering. Great camaraderie, fantastic weather, music from Waco oldies favorite *The Morticians*, and a meal from popular Dubl R hamburgers all made for a very enjoyable evening!



Join the
Highlander Alumni
Association (it's free!):
alumni.mclennan.edu



MCC Distinguished Alumni, Distinguished Young Leader Awards

Nominations have closed for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Young Leader awards—thanks to all who submitted nominations! A committee will convene soon to select the winners, who will be notified by August 15 and will be recognized at the MCC Foundation's Annual Scholarship Recognition event on September 14.

News from Resource Development

MCC recently was awarded two grants that will benefit the college's science and respiratory therapy programs. Resource Development at MCC is directed by Nancy Neill.

Science Equipment for Environmental and Energy Engineering

A movement toward applying renewable energy technologies to sustain wastewater operations, decrease cost and conserve and recycle resources has resulted in MCC being awarded a grant for \$197,183 from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO.) MCC will use the funds to purchase science equipment and to offer a new program in Environmental and Energy Engineering. Resource Development Office Director Nancy Neill worked with Jess Collins, Division Director of Math, Sciences and HPE, on the grant application.

The grant funds will be used to train workers with a solid foundation in biology, chemistry and math to work primarily in municipal water utility plants. Specifically, municipal water utilities in Texas have realized the monetary significance of using anaerobic digestion processes to convert high organic waste into Class A bio-solids (pellets) for reuse as fertilizer. The latest digesters are also designed to capture methane gas (which is a natural by-product of anaerobic digestion) and use the gas to fuel the drying facilities and generators that produce electricity to operate the plants. MCC worked with industry professionals to identify skills and knowledge that are applicable to an array of science-based occupations projected to have high demand in the future. Graduates of the new Environmental and Energy Engineering program may also find employment in other industries that apply chemical and biologic principles to treat and recycle waste and wastewater.

Funding for the SECO grant program was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA.)

Respiratory Care JET Grant

MCC was notified in June that the college will receive \$147,762 for the Respiratory Care Technology (RCT) program. MCC is one of 22 community colleges across the state that received grant funds to help finance equipment purchases for technical education programs that support high-demand occupations.



The grant money from the Jobs and Education for Texas (JET) Job Building Fund will help Central Texas students get training on the latest equipment for a career as a respiratory therapist.

According to an article in the April 15, 2010 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, "few jobs have the kind of growth projections as the respiratory therapist occupation." Respiratory therapists help care for patients with lung or heart disorders, and most often, they work in hospitals.

Grant funds will purchase eight ventilators (two different types), eight Intermittent Positive Pressure Breathing (IPPB) machines (two different types), and eight pulse oximeters (two different types) that are used by local employers in this industry. In addition, RCT faculty will be able to use three new notebook computers as they travel to sites across Central Texas where students are located during required clinical rotations. At any time, 65 students are enrolled in the two-year program, and approximately 25 students graduate each year.

RCT Program Chair Doug Gibson credits Providence Healthcare Network, Hillcrest Health System, and Scott & White Hospital for their assistance in securing the grant.

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

Honorariums

In Honor of Patty Boyer and Blake Moore's Marriage

Donation Given by: Kurt and Patricia Kaiser
Charlie and Kris Olson

In Honor of Barbara Boone Carter

Donation Given by: Mr. and Mrs. G. Cleveland Witt, Jr.

In Honor of Vince Clark's NJCAA Coach of the Year

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Honor of Betty Marable's Birthday

Donation Given by: Linda M. Murdock

In Honor of Paul Marable, Jr. for Father's Day

Donation Given by: Linda M. Murdock

In Honor of Paul and Betty Marable's 64th Wedding Anniversary

Donation Given by: Paul and Betty Marable

In Honor of Harry L. Mitchell's Birthday

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Honor of Dr. Ruth Pitts

Donation Given by: James and Cindy SoRelle

In Honor of Holly Surginer

Donation Given by: McLennan Community College Office Personnel Association

In Honor of Lisa Uhl

Donation Given by: James and Cindy SoRelle

In Honor of Gary Willis' Retirement

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 2010

Memorials

In Memory of Caryn Corbell

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik
Jerry and Pam Niles
David, Annette, Lindsey, and
Kelsey Scott
Don and Linda Stanford

In Memory of Louise Duncan

Donation Given by: Robert D. Ford
Harry I. Harelik
Mark and Lorraine Stansel

In Memory of Doyce Edwards

Donation Given by: Larry and Sandra Bell
Larry M. and W. A. Bell
Wanda Bryant
Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Bunn, Jr.
William and Thelma Cooper
Sandy and Bob Corwin
Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Gibney
John Giles
Harry I. Harelik
Priscilla S. Heard
Don and Martha Howe
Jill Jones
Roger and Mary Keyes
Carol Lane
Eddie and Ellie Morrison
Ray and Linda Mura
Mary Lee Phipps
Jim and Teresa Rambo
Craig and Sue Sengstock
Tom and Carole Sloane

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HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

In Memory of Doyce Edwards, continued

Darrell and Donna Slette
Don and Patricia Taylor
John and Nancy Weems

In Memory of Shag Garrett

Donation Given by: Debra Drake
Brenda Hand
Marylea Henderson
Patsy Jones
Terry Mozee
Carla Peters
Sharon Roberts
Johnnie M. Talton

In Memory of Gus G. Giotes

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Thomey Gray

Donation Given by: Robert D. Ford

In Memory of Henry Griffin

Donation Given by: Scott and Sharon Moran
and Family

In Memory of Gary Rex Hankhouse

Donation Given by: David, Annette, Lindsey,
and Kelsey Scott

In Memory of Mayme Weir Jaynes

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Sarah Brooks Levine

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Helen Meadows

Donation Given by: Bronson and Kathleen
Eden

In Memory of Beverly Michaelis

Donation Given by: Eugene and Alison Fung
James and Linda Hardwick
Ann Roznovsky

APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 2010

James and Cindy SoRelle
Thrivent Financial for
Lutherans

In Memory of William Murray

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Jerry Niles, Sr.

Donation Given by: Mary Feltman
Donnie and Cathy Hagan
Don and Linda Stanford

In Memory of Nell Elizabeth Pattillo

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Robert Lynn Reid

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Lucille T. Saunders

Donation Given by: Mr. and Mrs. David Dewitt
Bronson and Kathleen Eden
Joe, Donna, Wynn, and Scott
Fitzpatrick
Harry I. Harelik
Virginia Lee Stratton
Robert and Sarah Thomsen
William and Joelle Thomsen

In Memory of Viola Stanford

Donation Given by: Clarence and Charlotte
Carpenter
Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of Robert Deryl Stuth

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

In Memory of James Edward Wren

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik