

Important Dates

Soul Food Tasting
February 26
 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Montgomery Student Center

•
 "Poetic Expression"
February 26
 12:20 to 1:20 p.m.
 Shearer Hall

•
 Front Porch Reflections
February 28
 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
 Shearer Hall

•
 "How to Exhibit at Trade Shows"
March 2
 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
 CEC-10

•
 Electronics Day
 (Iredell County Recycling Day)

March 6
 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
 Iredell County Solid Waste/Recycling Facility

•
 Womanweb Conference
 March 6
 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Continuing Education Center Auditorium

•
 MCC Band Concert
March 8
 7:30 p.m.
 Shearer Hall

The Inspiring Corner: Inviting Learning

Community is the tie that binds students, teachers, and staff together in special ways, to something more significant than themselves: shared values and ideals. It lifts everyone involved to higher levels of self-understanding, commitment, and performance—beyond the reaches of the shortcomings and difficulties they face in their everyday lives. Community can help transform us from a collection of "I's" to a collective "we," thus providing us with a unique and enduring sense of identity, belonging, and place which is essential for effective learning. Adapted from Thomas J. Sergiovanni, *Building Community in Schools* (1994). —Submitted by Employee Development (02.24.04)

For an expanded version of
Mitchell Columns, including
 archived articles, please visit our
 Web page:
[http://www.mitchell.cc.nc.us/
 columns](http://www.mitchell.cc.nc.us/columns)

Mitchell Columns

The newsletter of Mitchell Community College

MCC Band Concert

The Mitchell Community College Band, directed by Jim Calabrese, will be in concert on Monday, March 8, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. in Shearer Hall. There is no charge for admission. Telephone 704.878.4321 for more information. —Submitted by Vicki Holland (02.24.04)

National Engineers Week

"Turning Ideas Into Reality" is the theme for this year's National Engineers Week, February 22 through 28. Amy Ray, Coordinator of Electronics Engineering Technology, will be visiting several Iredell/Statesville High Schools during this time to promote engineering and MCC two-year technical programs. —Submitted by Amy Ray (02.24.04)

Diversity Question of the Week

Q. What is seder?

A. Seder is a Jewish celebration held at Passover, which involves a meal with symbolic foods served that represent the exodus of the people of Israel out of Egypt. —Submitted by Mamie Houston (02.24.04)

NC Arts Council

The NC Arts Council is accepting applications for all its grant programs, which include funding for visiting artists, various artistic programs, arts in the public schools, and capacity building grants. Amounts vary. Deadline for applying for most programs is March 1, 2004. Visit its Web site at www.ncarts.org for more information. —Submitted by Douglas Eason (02.10.04)

NC State Wood Products Program Presentation Rescheduled

Lesley Grieco from NC State will give a presentation regarding the Wood Products Program at NC State on Tuesday, March 2nd,

in Science Building room 203. If you are looking for an exciting career with a high salary and excellent job placement, this just might be the program for you. Or just stop by to learn more about NC State and what they have to offer transfer students. —Submitted by Paul Klaene (02.24.04)

SGA Applications Available

Applications to run for Student Government Association are available. If you are interested in running for an elected office in SGA, please call Nikkole Davis-Amerson at 704.878.3288. Applications are due on Friday, February 27, by 4 p.m. and may be picked up from the front desk in the Main Building. Any student interested in running must be a full-time student and have at least a 2.5 GPA. —Submitted by Nikkole Davis-Amerson (02.24.04)

Computers Installed

In addition to learning electronics and computers, four computer upgrade and repair students were recently shown the importance of being involved in their community. The students, under the watchful eye of instructor Amy Ray, installed computers for a non-profit group home that has just opened in Statesville. Students taking advantage of the opportunity to give back to the community by volunteering their time were Kristi House, Andrew Sigmon, Recko Tucker and Colby Moore. —Submitted by Amy Ray (02.24.04)

"Poetic Expression" Rescheduled

The black poetry reading hour entitled "Poetic Expression" has been rescheduled for February 26 during community hour (12:20 to 1:20 p.m.) in Shearer Hall. So, after you have nourished your body with some soul food in

Continued on pg. 2

Full-Time Employee Birthdays February 25 through March 2

Chuck Howell	25th
Lisa Taylor	28th
Mary McClish	March 1st



From the President's Desk

On Tuesday of this week (February 24) at the Community Hour, there were two sessions organized around the reading of two books by the entire College community. The idea for having students, faculty and staff read a common book emerged during the summer retreat of the Administrative Council last June. Even if you have not read either of the texts—A Lesson Before Dying and Hunger for Memory—I hope you attended one of these sessions and that you will then read one of these two books. It is my understanding that these books have been featured in a couple of our courses in the developmental program. Surely one of the skills that every college graduate should master is the ability to read and analyze a variety of texts of varying difficulty. The capacity to become a self-directed learner and a truly “free” citizen depends on the ability of the individual to read and to think. If one surveys great men and women of the past, one will find that they were—for the most part—great readers. Abraham Lincoln, as everyone knows, is one of the great examples of this. As the story goes, he was so poor that he had to borrow books and read them by candlelight in a log cabin. The value of reading can take on so many different forms. Personally, reading is perhaps my most valued personal mental refuge. If I am reading a book, whether it be a novel or a non-fiction work, I can become completely engrossed in it and lose contact—for the most part—with the real world around me. These mini-vacations are valuable retreats from the stress and challenges of the real world. I come back to my daily life refreshed and, quite often, with new ideas to bring to real-world problems. Have you read a good book lately? I hope so.

the Student Center, you can nourish your mind and soul with some black poetry featuring the interpretive readings of Glynis Autery, Matt Cashion, Elizabeth Dennis, and a host of talented students, including the soulful voice of Tanesha Watts, former Apollo Night winner. We hope to see you there! —Submitted by Annette Moore (02.17.04)

Front Porch Reflections

Saturday, February 28; 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Shearer Hall; MCC students—Free, MCC faculty/staff—\$5, all others—\$10. Written by Statesville native, T'Afo Feimster, this production chronicles the life of a rural, North Carolinian African-American family through the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. For Feimster, the front porch he knew as a child was a place of refuge, recreation and education, as well as a place for gossiping. Feimster chose the front porch as the setting for this play since this is where most of family life happened in rural America.

—Submitted by Kirby Moore (02.17.04)

Womanweb Conference

The 2004 Womanweb Conference will be held on Saturday, March 6, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon in the Continuing Education Center auditorium. The theme for the conference is “Finding Our Voices: Weaving Together Women's Empowerment through Stories and Storytelling.” Sessions include “Women Weaving Communities through

Faculty/Staff Profiles



Charles McGinnis (Tech Prep Coordinator)

I come to Mitchell from the Morganton area. I actually enjoy the commute in. It gives me an opportunity to get my thoughts and plans for the day in order in the morning and a chance to unwind in the evening. I am a graduate of Western Piedmont Community College and Lenoir-Rhyne College. I have a bachelor's degree in business administration. I have worked in the manufacturing industry, as well as in health care. I have served in a staff development and training capacity in both of those areas. I also have experience with the business side of vocational education which I believe will enable me to better serve in my current position. I am the proud father to my almost-3-year-old daughter Norah. Please feel free to come by my Cherry Street office and I will show you plenty of pictures of her. I appreciate the opportunity to work in the community college system and give back a little of what was given to me. Mitchell is a great place with a rich tradition and bright future. I look forward to being a major contributor to this. I also look forward to working with everyone and want to thank all of the people who have been so nice in my first few weeks here.

Stories” by Jaki Shelton Green, noted poet and winner of the 2003 NC Award for Literature; “Gathering Our Grandmothers' Wisdom” by Kathryn Lucci-Cooper, author, artist, and diversity award winner; “Trials by Fire: Working in a 'Man's' World” by Sharon Rouse, coordinator of the MCC Machining Technology program; and “Beneath a Balanced Rock: Hardscrabble Widows Search for Justice” by Rebecca Montoya Bragdon, a doctoral candidate at UNC Greensboro. Admission is free, and the public is invited. The conference is co-sponsored by the Statesville Branch of the American Association of University Women and is supported by a grant from the NC Humanities Council. For more information, or to register, contact Roxanne Newton at x4319. —Submitted by Roxanne Newton (02.24.04)

Faculty Advisory Board

The MIND Center would like to announce the creation of a Faculty Advisory Board. The purpose of this group is to communicate faculty perceptions concerning the learning enhancement needs of the student body, and the MIND Center's performance meeting these needs. The MIND Center consistently receives feedback from the student clients, in addition to that of the tutors. The advisory board will supply the missing link in the desirable 360-degree feedback process. Members of the Advisory Board include: Sandra Kaiser (Interim-Coordinator of the MIND Center), Annette Moore (Writing and Research), Kirby Moore (Counseling), Roxanne Newton (Humanities), Libby Reeves (Mathematics), and Yolanda Wilson (Developmental Reading and English). The Board held its inaugural meeting recently and discussed goals for the semester, including possible usages for the Learning Incentive Grant awarded to the MIND Center for reading enhancement

Continued on pg. 3

DID YOU KNOW?

The MCC Policy Manual Policy #05-44: Personnel Files

Community College Law 115D-27. Personnel files not subject to inspection

Personnel files of employees of boards of trustees, former employees of boards of trustees, or applicants for employment with boards of trustees shall not be subject to inspection and inspection as authorized by G.S. 132-6. For purposes of the Article, a personnel file consists of any information gathered by the board of trustees which employs an individual, previously employed an individual, or considered an individual's application for employment, and which information relates to the individual's application, selection or nonselection, promotion, demotion, transfer leave, salary, suspension, performance evaluation, disciplinary action, or termination of employment wherever located or in whatever form. (1991,c 84,s3.)

All information contained in a personnel file, except as otherwise provided in this Article, is confidential and shall not be open for inspection and examination, except to the following persons.

1. The employee, applicant for employment, former employee or his properly authorized agent, who may examine his own personnel file at all reasonable times in its entirety except for letters of reference solicited prior to employment.
2. The President and /or his or her designee.
3. The Board of Trustees only when an action is pending for a resolution to an issue. Members of the board of trustees and or the boards attorney
4. Court order
5. An official of an agency of the federal government, state government or any political subdivision thereof. However, that such information shall not be divulged for purposes of assisting in a criminal prosecution, or for purposes of assisting in a tax investigation.
6. Human Resources Coordinator.

Information placed in a personnel file may not be removed without the President's approval. The President has the authority to remove information, if the item does not pertain to the information listed in the above Article. Any information that does not pertain to the above Article shall be reviewed by the President or his or her designee to determine if the information belongs in the employee's official personnel file. —Submitted by Jodee Fulton (02.24.04)

endeavors. The Board welcomes feedback from all members of our academic community. If you have suggestions which might help the MIND Center better serve our campus, please contact any Board member with your ideas! —Submitted by Sandra Kaiser (02.24.04)

How to Exhibit at Trade Shows

The Small Business Center will be sponsoring a seminar entitled "How to Exhibit at Trade Shows" on Tuesday, March 2, 2004. This seminar will meet from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. in Room 10 of the Continuing Education

DID YOU KNOW?

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEPARTMENT

Test Your Knowledge of Early Childhood Development

Answers

- 1) A parent can begin to impact a child's brain development and ability to learn prenatally or right from birth. While billions of brain cells are well formed at birth, the vital connections between brain cells are just getting organized and can be affected by different experiences and interactions with those who are caring for the infant.
- 2) Babies between the ages of one and two months can be affected by their parent's mood; so to take good care of their baby, new parents must take care of themselves.
- 3) Unlike older children, infants under 6-months old are too young to manipulate adults with their cries, and therefore, are too young to be spoiled. Responding to an infant's cries makes him more comfortable and teaches him that he can rely on his parent to take care of him.
- 4) By age two, children begin to gain a sense of their own self worth. A child's ability to learn is influenced by her emotional well-being.
- 5) The "talking" from TV does not offer a baby the same benefits as the sound of a voice in the same room, since the TV cannot respond to a baby's attempts to interact.
- 6) Physical punishment contributes to a lack of self-control and increases aggressiveness in children.
- 7) 15 months is too young for a child to share.
- 8) Parents should begin reading and telling stories to their babies from birth.
- 9) Good nutrition along with reading, talking, singing, playing (with puzzles and other simple toys, pretending, and playing on playground equipment) in a safe, healthy and secure environment are more effective than computers and flashcards for helping toddlers and preschoolers become better learners.

Go to the **Mitchell Columns Did You Know?** Web page to view questions: http://www.mitchell.cc.nc.us/columns/Did_you_know_EarlyChi.htm —Submitted by Dede Dunst (02.24.04)

Center, 701 West Front Street, Statesville. Exhibiting at trade shows can help your business gain new customers, increase market share, and improve profits. Attend this seminar to learn cost-effective and successful ways to exhibit your products and services. Topics to be discussed include: tips for interacting with trade show attendees; exhibiting strategies that get people into your booth; advantages of exhibiting, and booth management before, during, and after a trade show. The presenter for this seminar is Dr. George Sappenfield. Dr. Sappenfield has an extensive background in public relations, promotions and advertising. He has worked for a number of agencies

Continued on pg. 4

as director of public relations and has twice been a guest on ABC's *Nightline*. Please call Mike Tucker at 704.878.3220 to pre-register or for additional information. —Submitted by Donna Worrell (02.24.04)

Electronics Day 2004—Iredell County Recycling Day

Saturday, March 6, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Iredell County Solid Waste/Recycling Facility, 354 Twin Oaks Road, Statesville. For more information call 704.878.5430 or 704.928.2023. Why should we recycle electronics? Recycling yields the following benefits: a cleaner environment, Giving computers and electronic equipment to schools, senior citizens and non-profit organizations and low-income families. Provides computer equipment training and is a tax benefit to donors. Electronic products are made of valuable resources. We do not need to waste our resources. There are precious metals, engineered plastics, glass and other materials that all take energy to manufacture. Many electronics also contain parts that could be profitably refurbished and reused with little effort. When we throw away old electronics we are throwing away resources and generating additional pollution associated with accessing virgin materials for manufacturing new products.

—Submitted by Vicki Holland (02.24.04)

Mock JETS and Robot Competition

On January 21, over 50 students came to the CEC auditorium for the first annual MCC "Mock" JETS (Junior Engineering Technology Society) and Robot competition. The students were from Statesville, West Iredell and North Iredell High Schools. The students spent the first half of the day working in teams solving engineering problems. After a lunch of pizza, they spent the remainder of the day competing with their LEGO Robots. Over forty students from the Statesville Charter middle School came to cheer on the competitors. West Iredell took home the first place trophy, after a fierce playoff between Statesville and West. North Iredell won third place trophies. This event was sponsored by an NSF grant, "Diversity in Engineering." The grant was awarded to MCC thanks to the efforts of Amy Ray, Electronic Engineering Technology Coordinator. Amy worked hard to prepare for the competition, arranging for prizes, lunch, volunteer participants and more. Steve Kuyuth, grant coordinator from UNCC, indicated that Amy had set the bar high for other grant participants to follow. Good job, Amy. —Submitted by Ron Davis (02.24.04)

Deadline for article submissions to ***Mitchell Columns*** is every Tuesday at 9 a.m.
Send articles to
Judy Phillips (jphillips@mitchell.cc.nc.us)

Did You Know? Financial Aid Office

- If you have not applied for financial aid for the 2003-2004 award year that began fall 2003, it is not too late to apply for summer 2004. To apply, you can either submit the yellow **2003-2004** paper FAFSA (Free Application For Student Aid) by mail or you can apply **online** with FAFSA on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. In addition, you will need to complete an MCC Institutional Financial Aid Application available in MCC Financial Aid Office. To guarantee the use of financial aid during early registration, April 22 through April 29, 2004, you will need to have a complete financial aid folder (all documentation as requested) on file in the financial aid office by April 30, 2004.
- If you are a current recipient of Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, and Scholarships for the 2003-2004 award year, you may be able to charge Summer tuition, fees, books, and supplies against any unused financial aid available for summer. In order to do this, recipients of financial aid **MUST** drop off their computerized registration schedule in the drop box located outside the financial aid office, April 22 through May 7, 2004.
- **Now is the time to apply for financial aid for the 2004-2005 award year, which will begin Fall Semester 2004.** To apply, it is advised that your 2003 Federal tax returns be completed prior to filling out the FAFSA. You may apply for Federal Student Aid with the 2004-2005 paper FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Another way to apply is with the renewal application that you may have received in the mail. This may be completed by paper or online by choosing the renewal option. Mitchell Community College also requires the pink **MCC** Institutional Application be turned into Financial Aid. These applications are available in the MCC Financial Aid Office. If you have questions concerning your application for Financial Aid, please call 704.878.3295. Students may also come by Financial Aid 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday (Main Building first floor) or in the afternoon by appointment.

Remember—To be considered full-time for summer session, student's receiving financial aid must be enrolled in 12 credit hours for summer, not 9 credit hours. Financial aid may be prorated for less than twelve credit hours. —Submitted by Candace Cooper (02.24.04)