

Mitchell Columns

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)

The newsletter of Mitchell Community College

Important Dates

LUNCH & LEARN

"The Magical List for Guiding Children"

March 17

12:20 to 1:20 p.m.

SB-203



Concert by the Celtic Ensemble of the
US Air Force

March 17

7 p.m.

Shearer Hall



LUNCH & LEARN

"Your Path to Financial Freedom"

March 24

12:20 to 1:20 p.m.

SB-203



Spring Writers Series
JAKI SHELTON GREEN

March 24

7 p.m.

SB-203



Spring Break (NO CLASSES)

March 28 to April 1



Spring Week

April 11 through 15



5K Run/Walk for Excellence

May 7

9 a.m.

Main Campus



The Inspiring Corner: Inviting Learning

The first step when an apparent difficulty or problem occurs to define the **concern**. Does the concern really exist and is it solvable? Often what is done is done, i.e., *don't cry over spilt milk*, and some concerns cannot be resolved. Next, determine if the concern is sufficient to justify the time and effort needed to resolve it. If the concern is sufficiently troublesome and requires more than analysis don't wait too long to take action. Make certain, however, that the concern is not based on bias, prejudice, or a desire to express power, and that you are willing to accept responsibility for bringing attention to the concern. If you determine that the issue will not solve itself express the concern early and clearly, at the appropriate level, so that it does not escalate. Collect sufficient information and then move to the next step which is to *confer*. —Submitted by *Employee Development (03.16.05)*

Attention All Graduates

Graduation letters will be mailed on March 30. Please watch your mailboxes for this important information. If you do not receive a letter shortly after March 30, please drop by Student Services. —Submitted by *Greg Stanley (03.16.05)*

Thank You

To the MCC Faculty and Staff, Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated. Thank you so much for the beautiful plant. It and your kindness meant a lot to me and the rest of the family. —Submitted by *Sandra Cox (03.16.05)*

Ray Receives Degree

Amy Ray, Coordinator of Electronics Engineering Technology, received her Home Technology Integrator (HTI+) Instructor certification. This qualifies her to provide training for technicians servicing the automated home industry. —Submitted by *Amy Ray (03.16.05)*

Bible Study

The Christian season of Lent is a time of spiritual preparation leading up to Easter. You are invited to take part in a Bible study, "Sensing the Passion," which will be held on Thursdays through March 17, from 12:20 to 1:20 p.m. in MB-321. —Submitted by *Lynne Lepley (02.16.05)*

Eduardo Garcia Admitted to Candidacy

Eduardo Garcia, Spanish instructor, has been admitted as a candidate for the master of arts degree in Spanish at UNC-Charlotte. Upon completion of his degree requirements, including comprehensive examinations, Mr. Garcia will graduate in August, 2005. Congratulations to Mr. Garcia on achieving this milestone en route to the MA! —Submitted by *Roxanne Newton (03.16.05)*

Spring Writers Series

Jaki Shelton Green will present a poetry reading on March 24, at 7 p.m., in room 203 of the Science Building on the Mitchell Community College Main Campus. Her most recent publication is a collection of poems, *Conjure Blues*. This program is funded in part by the N.C. Arts Council's Grassroots Arts Program through the Iredell Arts Council. —Submitted by *Vicki Holland (03.16.05)*

MCC Bookstore Closed March 16 through April 1

The MCC Bookstore will be closed Wednesday, March 16, through Friday, April 1, 2005. In order to serve our customers better the Bookstore is updating its point-of-sale system and will close for installation and training. We are sorry for any inconvenience. If you need Bookstore assistance during this time, please telephone 704.878.3275. We will re-open Monday, April 4, 2005. Regular hours are 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. —Submitted by *Donna Arnett (03.09.05)*

MIND Center News

The MIND Center currently has placed 148 students with 22 tutors in various subjects for the spring semester. Staff members have recorded more than 1,000 student visits since January, which includes tutoring sessions, consultations, computer use, and borrowing materials. In addition, the MIND Center II opened at the Mooresville Center last week with tutoring available on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 4 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact a MIND Center staff member at ext. 4286. —Submitted by *Roxanne Newton (03.16.05)*

Mike Cox and Val Woldman Attend National Conference

Mike Cox, developmental English instructor, and Val Woldman, developmental reading instructor, attended the National Association for Developmental Education Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 9-12. They participated in workshops and concurrent sessions at the conference, which focused on effective learning strategies and innovative teaching methods to foster student success in developmental courses. —Submitted by *Roxanne Newton (03.16.05)*

Mitchell Mavericks

From March 18 to 19 the Mitchell Mavericks will be participating in the Rod Poole Memorial Basketball

Continued on pg. 2

Full-Time Employee Birthdays

March 17 through 23

Dale Bare	20th
Amy Ray	21st
Ann Saunders	21st
Eric Harrold	21st
Terry Braddock	22nd
Tammy Rackley	23rd



From the President's Desk

Clearly the issue of reforming the public high school education program in the United States is on the front burner. The North Carolina State Department of Instruction recently indicated that a little over 20,000 students, or just under five percent of all high school students in North Carolina, left school for good last year. While the drop-out rate had been declining, this number represents an increase over previous years. Obviously, something has to be done; we just can't afford that large a number of uneducated young people whose opportunities for jobs and for a living wage are so drastically

reduced. Perhaps equally important is the fact that democracy can't work without an educated electorate. If the United States does not want to drift into a second-place economy, drastic measures to correct the situation are in order. In the evaluation of world education levels of achievement, high school students in the United States consistently rank lower in almost every basic subject than students in many of the countries in Asia (e.g., South Korea, Japan, Singapore, etc.) and in the European Union (e.g., Germany, France, Switzerland, etc.). In searching for answers to this dilemma, the concept of students completing high school requirements while also working towards an associate degree has emerged in the form of the "Early College" concept. Fortunately, Mitchell Community College, along with the other North Carolina community colleges, has been offering dual enrollment and Huskins classes for over ten years. These opportunities for high school students in the Iredell-Statesville and the Mooresville systems allow students in their junior and senior years to complete college courses along with their final high school courses. With the power and the money of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation behind the "Early College" movement, it is likely that something profound and far-reaching is actually going to be done to reform the public high school program. One of the major problems is that the drop out rate is highest at the junior high level and at the freshman and sophomore levels. The "Early College" concept addresses this by starting students in their freshman year of high school on a track to an associates degree. Can more students be retained in the educational process to completion of the high school diploma and, hopefully, through the associates degree? The question is yet to be answered, but the objective is not just another fad: it is a critical issue for the American economy and for the survival of our democracy!

Tournament in Taylorsville, NC. On Friday, the Lady Mavericks will be competing and on Saturday, the Mavericks will compete. Games begin at 6 p.m. each night. For more information, go to www.rodpoole.com. Go Mavericks! —Submitted by *Nikkole Davis-Amerson* (03.16.05)

Concert by the Celtic Ensemble of the United States Air Force

The Celtic Ensemble of the United States Air Force will perform at Mitchell Community College on Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in Shearer Hall. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the music of the Scotch-Irish. The Celtic Ensemble presents a performance with modern and traditional instruments including Irish flute, tin whistle, Scottish and small pipes. The concert is sponsored by the N.C. Arts Council's Grassroots Arts Program, the *Statesville Record & Landmark* and Mitchell Community College. —Submitted by *Vicki Holland* (03.09.05)

Office Systems Technology Student Receives Scholarship

Lori Lail, an Office Systems Technology major, was awarded the McGraw-Hill Scholarship at the annual Spring Conference of the North Carolina Computer Instructors Association (NCCIA), held at Caldwell Community College this past week. The scholarship is awarded to a community college student working toward a degree in one of the computer technologies or office technologies curriculums who maintains an academic average of 3.5 or higher and is nominated by an instructor. The

Faculty/Staff Profile



Matt Cashion (English Instructor)

I might not be teaching English at a community college now if I hadn't had the good fortune to have met some good teachers while I was a community college student at Wilkes Community College some nameless number of years ago. I transferred to UNC-Charlotte (like many of our students) for a B.A. in English, then got some real-life writing experience by working for 2 years as a reporter for a daily newspaper in Brunswick, Georgia, the town where I grew up. I then went west—to the University of Oregon—to complete a master of fine arts degree in creative writing, & used some of what I learned there to complete my first novel, published last October by Livingston Press (thousands of copies still available). In addition to composition, I teach literature, film studies & creative writing. In my spare time I enjoy listening to Rex Buelin pick his banjo while Todd Martin accompanies on guitar. When they play real slow songs in the key of C, I sometimes try to join in with my harmonica to create a bluesy bluegrass alternative punk-gospel sort of sound. Our goal is to get good enough to go on the road one day with Karen Krider, a fully-certified professional on the upright bass.

scholarship may be used to further studies at Mitchell Community College or to enable the student to go beyond the A.A.S. degree. Congratulations Lori Lail! —Submitted by *MaryBeth Powden* (03.16.05)

Womanweb Teach-in a Success!

Thirty-three students, faculty, staff, and community members participated in the Womanweb Teach-in, "Never Done: Women's Work in a Global Economy," on Saturday, March 5. In small groups, participants learned about the working conditions of women in various countries, developed creative presentations, and taught the entire group what they had learned. Thanks to small group facilitators, Pat Abell, Sally Dellinger, Wendy Eudy, Sybil Levan, Viola McLelland, Rita Taggart, and Brandice Whiten. Thanks also to Diane Pritchard, Phyllis Meredith, Jerry Goble, Danny McHargue, Sharon McCall, and Judy Phillips for their assistance with facilities, security, AV support, printing, and publicity. Special thanks to Sally Dellinger, Women's History Month chair, and the Diversity Task Force, for providing refreshments and support. —Submitted by *Roxanne Newton* (03.16.05)

We Brought It Home!

The Mitchell SGA brought home the Spirit Stick, a top award from its annual N4CSGA Spring Conference! From March 4 through 6 the SGA Officers attended the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association Conference in Durham, NC, where they attended several business meetings to discuss the issues affecting community colleges across the state. In addition the SGA participated in several competitions which included scrapbook, table top, T-shirt and spirit stick. The theme of the conference was T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More). All of the competitions had to utilize the theme of the conference. To win the spirit stick, the SGA did a five-minute step/dance routine and exhibited the most school spirit during the entire conference. Other colleges were very impressed by Mitchell and the spirit and hard work that was demonstrated. In addition to winning the Spirit Stick, the SGA received an Honorable Mention in the T-shirt competition. The Spirit Stick is a huge pole with a flag on top that says most school spirit. Hanging on it are banners of all the schools that have won the competition. Mitchell will soon have a banner placed on top of the last school that won the Spirit Stick. The Spirit Stick will remain at Mitchell until next Spring Conference and will be displayed in the SGA Office and at SGA activities. The SGA prepared several weeks for the spring conference and are proud that they could bring recognition to the students and staff at the state level. —Submitted by *Rich Nguyen* (03.16.05)

Deadline for article submissions to *Mitchell Columns* is every Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Send articles to [Judy Phillips \(jphillips@mitchell.cc.nc.us\)](mailto:jphillips@mitchell.cc.nc.us)