

Mitchell Columns

The Newsletter of Mitchell Community College

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704.878.3200 • www.mitchellcc.edu/columns

Submit articles by every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to printgraph@mitchellcc.edu

Attention '08 PTK Graduates & Members

If you are currently a PTK member, please contact Annette Moore by email at amoore@mitchellcc.edu by April 3, so that the membership roster can be updated. Also, if you will be graduating this May, please indicate this so that your name can be submitted to the registrar and you can receive recognition on the day of graduation. —Submitted by Annette Moore (04.02.08)

Student Center Closed

On Monday, April 21, the Montgomery Student Center will be closed from 2 to 8 p.m. for the spring meeting of the Mitchell Community College Endowment for Excellence Board of Directors. Arrangements have been made to provide soft drinks at no cost to students while the Student Center is closed. The sodas will be located in the lobby area of the Main Building. The Bookstore will also be closed that evening—daytime hours that day will be 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. —Submitted by Vicki Holland (04.02.08)

Early Childhood Accreditation Extended

The Early Childhood department received notification that our NAEYC has been extended to May 2013. This accreditation goes for seven years, from May, 2006 through May, 2013. The department has worked hard since January, 2005 to achieve this national recognition. Mitchell's Early Childhood program was the first of five (three in NC) community college Early Childhood programs across the country to receive this NAEYC accreditation. —Submitted by Dede Dunst (04.02.08)

Memorials and Honor Gifts to the MCCEE

Memorials and honor gifts given to the MCC Endowment for Excellence by current and retired MCC employees, trustees, and the MCC Endowment directors during the month of March, 2008.

- Drs. Douglas and Laurel Eason—memorial for Mrs. Margaret Huckabee
- Dr. and Mrs. William Findt—memorial for William P. Redmond
- Ms. Dede Dunst—memorial for W. Ward Manning

Full-Time Employee Birthdays April 3 through 9

Betty Scipione.....	3rd
Donna Worrell.....	5th
Denise Benfield	6th
Katha Stewart	6th
Tonya Benge	7th
Jeff Holland	8th
Suzanne Wallace.....	8th

- Mr. Gary Johnson—memorial for Rubye Summers
- Mr. Gary Johnson—honor of Marcella James, Chad Lackey and Terry Braddock for their birthdays

—Submitted by Kendra Duncan (04.02.08)

Women's Month Program

To recognize March as Women's Month, the staff of the Mooresville Center and the Diversity Task Force teamed up recently to co-sponsor "The Professional Advantage: A Career Development Event for Women." In addition to two dynamic speakers, the program included workshops on starting your own business and the benefits of temporary employment, an alumnae panel, and practice interviews with professionals from the business, education, and healthcare industries. Prior to the event, students were offered the opportunity to participate in resume writing workshops so as to be prepared for the practice interviews. Despite the wind and rain, the event was a great success! Special thanks to those who led workshops and assisted in planning or funding the event: Brett Fansler, Dr. Findt, Vicki Holland, Phil Holleran, Bobby Johnson, Mary Marks, Michael Palmer, Libbie Reeves, Tony Ricciardelli, Hope Smith, Theresa Spencer, Elaine Thomas, Suzanne Wallace and Helen Watkins.

—Submitted by Wendy Tobin (04.02.08)

Human Services Technology Students Attend Regional Conference

Ten students, two instructors, and a director recently attended the Southern Organization of Human Services (SOHS) Conference in Charleston, SC. Mitchell Community College had an outstanding presence at the conference. General Education Director Manuel Dudley presented a workshop about transitioning from community college to a four-year university. Kevin Edwards, adjunct instructor, presented a workshop about working with HIV clients. Student Brian Long presented about gangs and gang involvement to a standing room only crowd. The Human Services Club presented a poster, designed by Nicole Sherrill, highlighting its activities and community involvement. Nicole, Jody Walcott, Lakisha Byers and Johanna Robinette gave an overview of the year's activities and accomplishments. Their poster and presentation won first place among colleges from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Florida. Other conference participants were Michelle Stevenson, Libby Ireland, Terri Samuels, Shirley Pittman, and advisor/instructor and Human Services Program Coordinator, Sally Dellinger. The

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Awards Convocation

April 10

11 a.m.

Shearer Hall

• PTK Spring Ball

April 11

7 p.m.

CEC Cafeteria

• "What is Autism" Meeting

April 16

6 to 7 p.m.

Broad Street United Methodist Church

• Early Childhood Conference

April 19

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Barium Springs Home for Children

Catching the CTL Wave

On Thursday, March 20, in the Continuing Education Cafeteria, the second CTL workshop was held on the topic of assessing CTL activities through rubrics and other classroom assessment techniques. Dr. Charles Walker, noted assessment expert from St. Bonaventure University in New York, conducted the session for both Mitchell faculty and staff, as well as Iredell-Statesville high school participants. Special thanks to all who participated in this learning effort.

—Submitted by Yolanda Wilson (04.02.08)

The Inspiring Corner: Inviting Learning

SELF-MOTIVATION SERIES

Research has indicated that teachers and supervisors tend to treat low and high achievers differently, based on their optimistic or pessimistic views regarding the likelihood of success for these individuals. According to historical accounts, when Michelangelo went to audition for the job of painting the Sistine Chapel, he carried a note from his teacher. The note read, "This is to introduce Michelangelo the painter who has the ability to do wonderful things if treated with love and respect." Positive reinforcement generates positive self-talk and beliefs which in turn generates positive results.

—Submitted by Employee Development (04.02.08)

entire group was an excellent representation of the quality education at MCC. —Submitted by Sally Dellinger (04.02.08)

“Broadway on Broad Street” Production

Students from the MCC Music Department will perform “Broadway on Broad Street” on Tuesday, April 8, at 12:20 p.m. in Shearer Hall. The program will feature music, sets, costumes and choreography from “Phantom of the Opera” and other Broadway hits. The performance will include ensemble numbers, solos, and duets. The student performers are Angel Bolch, Aaron Cash, Cynthia Holland, Staci Jolley, Mary Grace Knotts, Rose Knotts, Zachary Leiner, Leslie Overcash, Scott Sineath, Abigail Stone and Lauren Voss. “Broadway on Broad Street” is directed by Dan Pardue and accompanied by Jane Pardue. Diane White Wilkins provided choreography assistance, and Rick Snider assisted with set design. An encore performance will be held on Thursday, April 17, at 8 p.m. Don’t miss this outstanding production! —Submitted by Roxanne Newton (04.02.08)

Barbara Presnell Reading at Mooresville Center

Award-winning poet Barbara Presnell will read from her work on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at the Mooresville Center. Presnell’s writing tells the story of a people, a region, and a way of life, portraying a complex South, rich with history and tradition. She has achieved acclaim with her portrayals of textile workers who deal with the challenges of job loss and retraining. The author of *Piece Work*, *Sherry’s Prayer*, *Los Hijos*, *Unravelings*, and *Snake Dreams*, Presnell has received the NC Arts Council Artist Fellowship in Writing Award, the NC Humanities Council Linda Flowers Prize, the NC Poetry Council Oscar Arnold Young Award, and the NC Poetry Society Zoe Kincaid Brockman Award. Join us for this wonderful Spring Writers Series event! —Submitted by Roxanne Newton (04.02.08)

Julian Mason Presentation on the NC Poets Laureate

Dr. Julian Mason, Professor Emeritus of English at UNC-Charlotte, will present “The Poets Laureate of North Carolina” on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. in Rotary Auditorium. Dr. Mason’s talk will feature the lives and writings of the three most recent laureates, Sam Ragan, Fred Chappell, and Kathryn Stripling Byer. Ms. Byer, the current poet laureate, will read from her work at MCC on Tuesday, April 8. A native of northeastern NC, Dr. Mason edited *The Poems of Phillis Wheatley*, the definitive publication of the slave poet’s collected works. A noted poet, he is active in literary scholarship in the fields of American and Southern literature. Dr. Mason also teaches poetry and literature classes at the Shepherd’s Center of Charlotte. This program is provided in conjunction with the Spring Writers Series. —Submitted by Roxanne Newton (04.02.08)

NC Poet Laureate to Read at MCC

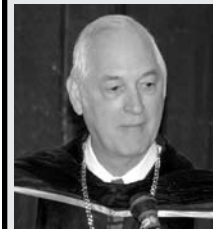
Kathryn Stripling Byer, NC Poet Laureate and poet-in-residence at Western Carolina University will read from her work on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. in Shearer Hall. She is the author of poetry collections, *Catching Light*, *Black Shawl*, *Wildwood Flower* and *The Girl in the Midst of the Harvest*, which was published in the Associated Writing Programs award series. Byer’s poems and essays have appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies. In addition to being the NC Poet Laureate, one of the highest honors that the state confers, she has received writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the NC Arts Council. This program is made possible by a grant from the NC Arts Council. —Submitted by Roxanne Newton (04.02.08)

Jason Koo Reading at MCC

The penultimate event of the Spring Writers Series features celebrated poet Jason Koo, visiting professor of creative writing at Davidson College. Koo will read from his work on Wednesday, April 9, at 7 p.m. in Rotary Auditorium. He taught at the University of Houston, University of Missouri-Columbia and worked as the Senior Writer for the Writers-in-the-Schools program in Houston, where he taught creative writing to elementary and middle school students. His poems, reviews, and essays have appeared in a number of scholarly and literary journals. He served as poetry editor for *The Missouri Review* from 2006-2007 and currently is the poetry editor for the new literary journal, *Low Rent*. Don’t miss this innovative and insightful poet! —Submitted by Roxanne Newton (04.02.08)

Open Mic Night Coming to MCC!

During Spring Week, student and local writers are invited to share their creative works at the Open Mic Night on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. in Rotary Auditorium. Presenters may read from poetry, short fiction, and nonfiction. Students in the MCC Creative Writing class and student writers published in the MCC literary magazine *Dimensions* will also read from their work at this event. A \$50 prize will be awarded to the best work performed during the event. Tony Ricciardelli, MIND Center coordinator/English instructor, and Douglas Anne McHargue, a local poet, will serve as judges for the event. For more information, contact Roxanne Newton at 704.878.4319 or rnewton@mitchellcc.edu. Open Mic Night will be the final event of the Spring Writers Series, so please join us and share in the creative expression of our presenters! —Submitted by Roxanne Newton (04.02.08)



From the President’s Desk

A topic that I haven’t said much about lately is the use of the campus email system. How did we ever survive without email? It certainly facilitates instant communication on key topics and generally encourages succinct answers rather than long-drawn out commentaries. In addition, email has the advantage of providing a written record of a communication for future reference. All of these features of email enhance the value of the tool in the work environment. On the other hand, the positive features of email can quickly become negatives when it is misused or inappropriately used. There are a few points that should be made very clear to every user of email. First, there is no such thing as privacy when you use email. There have been several high-profile cases recently where inappropriate behavior has come to light or has been proven based on emails. It is interesting to note that Governor Easley has appointed a task force to look at the use of email within state government. The group is studying whether emails can be deleted or not, even if they do not pertain to the operations of the state government. Second, emails are electronic messages and, with few exceptions, can generally be retrieved. There is forensic technology now that can find and decipher electronic messages that have been deleted or even written over. Assuming that a deleted email is “gone forever” is a bad assumption. Third, emails are good for short, factual messages but often do not provide many of the subtitles of normal face-to-face communication. In fact, it is easy for the reader to get the impression that something is far more negative or positive than the writer intends. Don’t let convenience trump effective communication; take the time to walk to someone’s office to discuss an issue when that is appropriate. Fourth, good grammar, spell check (which cannot always be relied on), “please,” “thank you”, and a few other niceties can make your email far more effective than the telegraphic style the form encourages. We have a new book in the Huskins Library entitled **SEND** by David Shipley and Will Schwalbe [HD/30.37/.S5/2007] which provides many positive ideas for using email. And finally, remember that the Mitchell email system is for conducting college business. Personal messages and other uses of the Mitchell system should—for the most part—be allocated to one’s home computer. Keep in mind that as a business tool, email is a real time saver; as a communications tool, it has many limitations.

