



Laurie Moncrieff delivers keynote address April 30. See story below.



Filmmaker Spike Lee was greeted with a standing ovation at MCC on April 4. See story on page 8.



The Bruin Bear is causing quite a roar on campus. Find out where he is going to show up next on Page 3



The Alumni Association came to the aid of MCC's oldest graduate recently. Read how on Page 8.

# The AlumNet

Spring 05  
A growing network of alumni from Flint Junior College, Genesee Community College and CS Mott Community College.

## Internet pioneer hails MCC as foundation for success

by Sue Frownfelter

Not unlike many MCC students today, Scott Swedorski enrolled for his first classes unsure of what he wanted to do. What the 1989 Flushing grad *did know* is that MCC worked very closely with the military to satisfy the requirements of his GI Bill for tuition.

"I actually had plans to become a history teacher," the 34-year-old millionaire said from his Corpus Christie, Texas, home he shares with his wife and three daughters.

Instead, Scott Swedorski is *making* history, considered by Internet experts and authors to be a cyberspace pioneer. His achievement is ironic considering Scott failed his first computer class in high school and vowed he would never have anything to do with them again. He had no idea that computers would soon become a hobby and then turn into a very lucrative career.

The Internet was not even a word in his vocabulary.

As a 22-year-old student, Scott landed a job on campus in the MCC computer lab. A new initiative, the Flint Area

Library Cooperative Online Network, or FALCON, was just getting started. Scott happened to notice a job posting for the project and applied for it, despite not having the required associates degree.

"It wasn't until I started at FALCON that I even heard of the World Wide Web," he said. "The librarians were trying to learn what the Internet was and how to use it, so I created a simple how-to page with information and links to software. To help them decide which one was better than the other, I rated them. No one else was doing it, so I decided to do it."

Scott rated software on a five-point scale, using black



and white cows like stars used to rate movies. Since the World Wide Web was new, only a few sites existed. As the public grew more interested in the Internet, he expanded the service and created the first Internet site to provide software on a free, shareware basis and called it

Tucows - short for The

## Manufacturers' 'friend' keynotes graduation

Those who know her describe Laurie Moncrieff as a mover and a shaker, confronting issues in manufacturing with the likes of the Bush Administration and Sen. John Kerry. Kerry,

Ultimate Collection of Winsock Software. Today, Scott says, there are easily a thousand such software download sites.

Very few sites are as successful as Tucows, however. The Toronto-based company's stock is publicly traded (OTCBB symbol TCOW), and Tucows hosts more than 30,000 software titles in its worldwide network of partner sites. In addition, Tucows is a major provider of domain name registration services, with more than 5,000 active resellers in more than 100 countries.

Scott was a millionaire by the time he was 30. With the success came a lot of soul searching for Scott, who once operated the company from the basement

*Continued on Page 8*

in fact, cited Moncrieff in several campaign speeches, once in front of rolling cameras for CBS News. The issue that time was the lack of enforcement of labor and

*Continued on Page 2*



**MOTT COLLEGE**

The MCC Alumni Association operates in conjunction with the Foundation for Mott Community College. The mission is to strengthen friendships and associations formed during education at MCC, promote the purpose and programs of the college, maintain an informed and interested body of alumni that continues to be of service to the institution, and promote an interest in post-secondary education with special emphasis on the MCC experience. The Alumni Association invites all former students who attended MCC, Flint Junior College, Flint Community College or Genesee Community College for one or more credited courses to become an active member. The Annual Meeting of the Association is held on the first Tuesday in May. To join, please call 810.762.0425 or E-mail us at: [foundation@mcc.edu](mailto:foundation@mcc.edu).

# Alumni Association Update

## Alumni Association Board of Directors

Judge Paul Gadola,  
*President*

Kelly Banks  
Bobbie Bard

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*Special Projects*  
*Coordinator*

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*Development*

*Associate*

## Donors provide funds for upscale meeting room

A new upscale Alumni Room is available on campus allowing users to conduct business under the watchful eyes of MCC's most distinguished alumni. Phillip Braun, Citizens Bank and Peerless Furniture helped foot the bill for the meeting room located on the main floor of the Prah Center. The contemporary glassed room

contains a 20-foot table, 30 chairs and separate seating areas for individuals using the room.

Photos of MCC's Distinguished Alumni are featured on the wall, prominently displayed for years to come.

The Alumni Room represents just one of the many areas around the

campus available to donors for a naming opportunity. MCC currently is inviting members of the community to help create a legacy on the campus by naming various rooms, streets or chairs after loved ones who might be associated with MCC.

For more information, please call 810.762.0425.

## Manufacturers' 'friend' keynotes MCC graduation

*Continued from front page*  
environment standards in NAFTA. She has testified federally on many issues affecting manufacturing and participated in the Governor's Manufacturing Matters Summit with other key state industry leaders. She has devoted time and energy to raising the awareness of the importance of small and medium manufacturers to

state and national legislators. Her efforts have led to changes and/or additions to State and Federal legislation.

Moncrieff provided the keynote address to Mott Community College graduates April 30. Nearly 800 students graduated, with up to 200 participating in the ceremony. An alumni reception was held for the graduates immediately

following the commencement ceremony.

Moncrieff, owner of Schmal Tool & Die Inc. in Burton, is the co-founder of the Coalition for the Advancement of Michigan Tooling Industries. She started the coalition when the once flourishing 1,800 Michigan tool-and-die shops dropped to 1,100.

## The MCC Alumni Association presents Cruising the Greek Isles



### Sailing on the Costa Victoria October 3-10

Ocean views range from \$2588.39 to \$3,858.39 per person based on double occupancy and Balcony (verandah) cabins. Included: Roundtrip airfare from Detroit to Venice, transportation from the airport to the pier, 7 night cruise, port charges, taxes, and government fees. Suites are on a request basis.

**Please call 810.762.0425 for more information.**

# Proposed Bruin Bear embodies MCC spirit, offerings

Roughly \$18,000 will draw the MCC's mascot, a Bruin Bear, from his den in the art department to his new home guarding the Ballenger Field House on the Flint campus. Fine Art students and faculty have sculpted the life-size bear standing high on his rear legs as a testament to the quality of the programs at Mott as well as to the continuing support of the Ballenger family in the Flint community. What remains are the final costs for casting the lively statue with a rich bronze patina.

The Bruin Bear statue grew from an alum's desire for a visual reminder of MCC's rich legacy of alumni. Once complete, the statue will not only enhance and beautify the campus, but also engender school spirit amongst students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community at large. The Bruin Bear will give visible credence to the quality of education that is taking place at MCC. The statue is

expected to become a rallying point for students and, as a work of art, draw visitors to the campus.

The project is providing a tremendous educational

opportunity to MCC students and a wonderful chance for artists to utilize skills and talents in the community. MCC's Fine Arts Department is recognized as one of the

best in the state and is renowned for its outstanding faculty and students. They are certain to produce a tasteful and inspiring work of art for the campus and community, at a much-reduced cost compared to outside artists and agencies.

The Bruin Bear motif was chosen based upon MCC's superior athletic program that has been a constant at MCC for more than 60 years.

The total budget for producing the Bruin Bear Statue is \$35,000. The Ruth Mott Fund has provided a matching grant to cover half of those costs, which includes all phases of the construction, bronzing and erection of the statue. No faculty or student fees will be incurred. Cost of beautification around the statue and maintenance of the bronzed artwork will be incurred by Mott Community College as part of Facilities' budget.



## Renovations continue to improve campus, facilities

by MaryLou Sullivan

MCC is committed to making everyone, especially our students, feel safe and comfortable while attending classes. Safety projects that have taken place on the **Main Campus in Flint** include:

- Repairing/replacing all cracked sidewalks/curbs that connect the Faculty/Staff and Student ramps with the Curtice-Mott Breezeway.
- Resurfacing, repairing and painting stairwells in all ramps.

- New larger windows have been installed in all doors on the ramps.

- Installation of a new **Police Mini-Station** on the third level of Lot G, the "Old Student Ramp." Surveillance cameras will be strategically installed throughout the ramp and will be monitored from inside the mini-station. Police Officers will maintain the station from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be available to assist students with questions or concerns.

*Continued on page 7*

## Standard & Poor's upgrades bond rating saving local taxpayers nearly \$1-million

by Michael Kelly

Area taxpayers will be the beneficiaries of a move by the Standard & Poor's rating service to boost MCC's financial rating. MCC's Board of Trustees have authorized the college to refinance up to \$33.5-million in existing debt to take advantage of lower interest rates.

"Bond ratings are important," said Kelli Sproule, MCC's Chief Financial Officer, "They portray to investors an objective opinion of the college's creditworthiness, which makes our bonds more marketable and our cost of issuing bonds lower."

"The fact that our bond rating has been raised means our interest rates can be even lower than they would have been otherwise," stated Sproule. "The lower interest rates available today could save area taxpayers close to \$1 million over the next 10 years. The higher the bond rating, the lower the taxes."

According to a report by the service, "Standard & Poor's underlying rating (SPUR) on Charles Stewart Mott Community College's GO bonds has been raised to 'A+' from 'A.'"

# AlumNotes *Memories, shout outs and where are they now?*

**Patricia Gebhardt**, '69 Den Hyg, lives in Davison and remembers the college dances in the union.

**Judith D. Curtiss**, '76 CSD, lives in Flint and is a MCC sports fan. She is a guidance counselor at Bentley Schools

*Cynthia Deyo, '88 - '90 Educ, lives in Flint. "I made some very good friends - some I'm still very close to. I always enjoyed the visit/study time in the student center. I also enjoyed the literature classes taught by F Hayes-Scott."*

**P** after working at MCC for a  
**a** time. "It (MCC) was a  
**g** wonderful school to attend  
**e** especially after returning from  
**4** a disappointing university experience. I went on to complete my MA degree."

**Philanthy Garcia**, '67 Educ, lives in Kingwood, Texas. "MCC enabled me, one of nine children, to pursue and complete an AA, which led me to UM-Flint to complete my BA. Financially, my parents couldn't afford to educate nine kids. MCC allowed all of us to attend and most of us to become professionals."

*Richard Rodabaugh, '75 Ind Tech - Elec, lives in Davison and is an MCC sports fan. His favorite memories include: Mr. Labiner's logic class; Mr Bommarito's impressions of Groucho Marx in Eng 102 and Comp Lit; and events in the Prah Center.*

**Ingrid Halling**, '64 Associate of Arts, lives in Flint and is FALCON System Director, President of The Resource Center, President/ Board of Directors of Central Park Neighborhood Association, and a Board Member of Court Street Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

**Richard Langtry**, '51 Science, lives in Flushing. "Two of my favorite instructors were C Donnelly and Mrs. Caraway - both wonderful people."

**Richard Sparkes**, '93 General, lives in Flint and is an MCC sports fan. He remembers

"watching a heating, air conditioning and refrigeration filmstrip in early '88 when a fellow in a robe and PJs joined the class. He had wandered out of the St. Joseph Psych Ward."

**Marjorie Wood**, '67, lives in Flushing and taught Associate Degree Nursing at MCC from '72 to '89 when she retired. She now enjoys traveling with three senior centers and doing needle-craft projects.

**Anna Cook**, '88 Bus, lives in Flint. She remembers meeting many wonderful people at MCC. "Great

people; all of them! Scott Jenkins was the best."

**Garth Brown**, '90 AAS, lives in Millington and is an MCC sports

fan. He also is a Paralegal Tech. He remembers hanging out in canteen in Prah, serving on the Student-Faculty Judicial Committee, Human Sexuality Class with Jim Cherry, Poli Sci class with Rausch, and singing in the college choir and chorale with Willard Fast.

**Barbara Brown**, '91 Appl Sc /Soc Wk, lives in Flint and is an MCC sports fan. "My memories of MCC are memories of joy. After a hard day in class, you know you could look forward to a good time down in the Prah Center. I remember the french fries "Oh so good," and the sororities - NA-O-MAJA /Delta's."

**Ramona Kenworthy**, '91 Child Dev, lives in Flint and works Hurley Health and Fitness.

**Doug Richardson**, '83 Electronics Robotics, lives in Millington. He began working for MCC after graduating from John Ortiz's Robotics curriculum. He assisted in the development of a robotics class and began teaching it for MCC at Paro in Kearsley - "memories!," he said.

**Mark Folts**, '71 Science, lives in Flint. His favorite memories are: "the tree, the old union, Mr. William Knott, and Alice Wallace."

**Ralph Ruddy**, '91 Science, lives in Swartz Creek. His favorite instructors were Katherine Weissmann and Chester H Wilson, PhD.

**C. Renee Richardson**, '81 - '91 Lib Arts, lives in Flint. "The entire experience was great!"

**Marjorie Mueller**, '62 Ed; Nrsg '90, is employed at the VA Memorial Center in Ann Arbor.

**Rosie McFadden**, '89 Computer / Elec, lives in Flint. "I was one of the few women who worked the Electronics crib and I never let the students get supplies they couldn't name."

**Charolette Hudson**, '99 AAS, lives in Flint. She went on to graduate from The University of Michigan-Flint

*Anne Hier, '82 Art, lives in Atlanta, MI. "I think community colleges are the best educational investment in the state. MCC was a very positive experience for me and gave me confidence in my abilities. I have since earned a BFA and MFA at MSU and will complete a JD at Cooley Law School in 9/04."*

with a BBA Degree and was hired with GM post grad.

**David Yates**, '85 Bus Mgmt, lives in Flint and is an MCC sports fan. His favorite memories include representing MCC in the National Golf Tournament both years and as a Golf Coach for seven years.

"Joyce McKinnon is a great person and helped me my two years because of my hearing impairment."

# Student programs receive improved offerings

Every administrator in Academic Affairs prepares a set of strategic objectives annually, and all work toward supporting innovations and improving systems. There is, therefore, a consistent and well-defined process for strategic planning and enhancing the academic offerings and success of our students being carried on all the time, throughout the year.

by Jim Drummond

Many vocational and other programs have undergone significant revision, and some new programs have been added. Criminal Justice, one of MCC's most successful programs, revised its curricula to ensure that the education we offer is as up-to-date as possible. For instance, a Geographic Information Technology

sufficient training and work experience to allow completers to take the State of Michigan exams and immediately enter a career. The Cosmetology area has also begun offering **programs for part-time students** who may be employed or otherwise unable to attend full-time, something not available before, as previously all

**new, modularized Auto Tech Curriculum.** About a dozen experts from the auto repair field donated their time and expertise over a period of

Fall, 2005.

**The Photographic Technology Program** is becoming more digital in its applications. It was moved from the Science and Math Division to the Information Technology Division, and all the course work has been modularized in the Worldwide Instructional Design



Mott Community College is always conscious of its Mission and Objectives, and clearly, helping students learn and providing expanded opportunities and choices not only assist students, but also responds to the region's needs. The following represents some of the changes and additions that have occurred this academic year.

course on **crime mapping** has been added. Many Information Technology Programs were revised to improve offerings and keep them current. These programs include Computer Information Systems, Computer Networking Technology, Computer Network Administration, Computer Network Engineering, and Computer Occupations Technology.

The Cosmetology faculty are offering a new certificate program with three separate tracts: **Esthetics, Massage Therapy, and Electrology.** This program will provide

Cosmetology students needed to attend full-time.

The community was deeply involved in assisting the College with the revisions of the **Automotive Technology Program.** A DACUM (Developing a Curriculum process) was held with representatives from the auto repair field serving on a

panel to help guide the creation of the new curriculum. Then an Automotive Professionals Task Force (APTF) was created to help guide and approve the creation of a

several months. A new course was added and others changed, and importantly, the entire program is now modularized and will be moving into the East Wing

of the Kildee-White Regional Technology Center in the

System's platform. The program has been moved to the Kildee-White RTC. A DACUM on Photographic Technology was also carried out in the Fall, 2004, by the Curriculum Office, and nine photographers spent two full days sharing their expertise

*Continued on page 6*

## High tech language lab opens

Students taking foreign language courses at Mott Community College are enjoying all the benefits of the newly renovated Foreign Language Laboratory, now equipped with cutting-edge learning tools and innovative features. The Lab is located in the Curtice-Mott Complex, Room CM 2106.

Features of the new Foreign Language Laboratory include a 62-inch TV with channels in all the different languages taught at MCC, giving students an opportunity to

listen and view news and other programs from the country in the language they are studying, additional computers where students can log in and do their assignments and individual viewing stations for watching a film or an educational video.

"The lab has been remodeled completely," said Carol

*Continued on page 6*

# Alumni help replace stolen vehicle of oldest grad

When 87-year-old Helen Ham had her car stolen the first time in November, she was disappointed. But when it was retrieved, repaired and stolen again the very next day, Mrs. Ham was devastated, not because she was especially attached to the 1988 Park Avenue, but because she no longer had transportation to attend her

classes at The University of Michigan-Flint where she is studying to become a teacher.

The plight of Mrs. Ham, who last year was MCC's oldest graduate, came to the attention of MCC's Alumni Association shortly after the incident occurred. Judge Thomas Yeotis and Twyla

Hyde were among the board members who quickly volunteered finances and time to collect the necessary funds to purchase a new 1989 Buick LeSabre for Mrs. Ham. Individuals at Cummings School, where Mrs. Ham helps tutor children, also contributed to the vehicle fund, quickly adding up to a new set of

wheels for Mrs. Ham.

"I couldn't believe it when it was stolen a second time," said Mrs. Ham. "I couldn't go to my classes, to my job. I couldn't go anywhere and I didn't have the money for a new one. I am very grateful for their support. It truly was a blessing."

# Student programs receive improved, updated offerings

*Continued from page 5*

and helping the College identify the duties and tasks that are required of someone going into photography. The nine people included representatives from photojournalism, police, fire department, large manufacturing, and studio photographers.

**P** In an effort to recognize and appreciate the training that students often bring with them to Mott Community College, a process for **assessing prior learning (APL)** has been approved. Under this new system, vocational programs may elect to grant college credit to students based on their evidence of prior learning, which could come from performance testing, examination, or portfolio evaluation, depending on which is appropriate. The APL will help students get a jump-start toward fulfilling a degree or certificate's requirements. The college also approved the granting of credit in Information Technology based on certifications from MicroSoft Corporation.

Distance learning opportunities and offerings are continually being increased through the college's effort to make education available in varying modalities to serve the needs of our working students and others with their schedules. New courses include Educational Paraprofessionals courses

EDPP-101 and 102, Education 240, Computer Courses COMS-172, Early Childhood courses ECED-100, 102, 109, Anthropology 211, and several others are currently being created. Distance Learning is also carrying out a year-long study to determine ways to help the DL students improve their success.

Additionally, the Honors Program has been revised and the changes approved by the College. The Honors Program provides special learning opportunities through Honors Courses and other activities for those students doing very well academically and who choose to be in the program.

Numerous **new courses** have been added to the curricula of the College. Among them are courses being offered as "**seminars**," experimental courses before final approval is requested. These include Computer Aided Drafting and Design 171, two English courses, Native American Literature and Peer Tutoring in English Writing for College and Business, a new Fire Science course, Electronics 150, and Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration 146. Other new courses include, but are not limited to, A+ Core Hardware Components, A+ Operating System Technology, English 220, English Grammar, and, of course, all the new courses that were created for the program revisions and

new programs.

Strong, ongoing efforts continue to assess the level of student learning, especially of their fulfilling the Five Objectives outlined in the General Education Requirements. A report is being completed by the Curriculum Office analyzing the success the College has had with improving student learning in General Education since the new requirements were implemented in the Fall, 2002.

**Several new or revised articulation agreements have been created**, including an excellent 2 + 2 agreement in Business with **The University of Michigan-Flint**. MCC is creating dBs of all articulation agreements and is in process of updating all the agreements the college has with four-year institutions and with K-12 systems. MCC is also fully implementing its

partnership with **Ferris State University** to prepare elementary school teachers who can complete their degrees right on Mott's campus. The partnership with **Kettering University** is also being revisited and strengthened. It offers students the opportunity to have and pursue a personal transfer plan that ensures that all MCC credits will transfer right into the students' field of choice at Kettering.

Every administrator in Academic Affairs prepares a set of strategic objectives annually, and all work toward supporting innovations and improving systems. There is, therefore, a consistent and well-defined process for strategic planning and enhancing the academic offerings and success of our students being carried on all the time, throughout the year.

# High tech language lab opens world for students

*Continued from page 5*

Bueno-O'Donnell, Coordinator for Foreign Languages and Spanish Professor. "We actually have a brand new lab with new technology. It is beautiful."

Students can work on their own, practicing pronunciation and listening comprehension exercises and a technician is always available to assist them. In addition, free tutoring is offered Monday through Thursday.

Languages taught at MCC include Arabic, French, Japanese, German, Russian and Spanish. MCC also offers ESL (English as a Second Language). Foreign languages are offered through the Humanities Division at MCC. For more information, call the Humanities office at (810) 762-0471.

# Help MCC Bear more fruit

## What is MCC's EGI?

The Endowment Growth Initiative (EGI) is a comprehensive partnership campaign to generate endowments and provide a fiscally-responsible private-sector resource development on behalf of MCC.

Such partnerships are not new to MCC. Throughout the years, individuals like CS Mott and William Ballenger stepped forward time and time again to support the low cost, exceptional educational opportunities for Genesee County students.

The EGI, with a goal of \$3-million over the next three years, provides the necessary financial means to sustain the future of MCC. Since MCC can no longer rely upon millions of dollars in state aid to keep it viable, the campaign is the most fiscally responsible path MCC can take at this time. Tuition and tax revenue simply do not offset the expenses necessary to provide an advanced education to 10,200 students. Endowments will provide the necessary long-term support for MCC, regardless of the economic conditions in the months and years to come.

## Q. What is the initiative's primary area focus?

A. The campaign provides support for **student financial assistance, professional development for faculty and staff, and quality academic programming.**

## Q. How will my contribution be used?

A. **Unrestricted contributions** to the Major Gifts Campaign support the MCC's mission to provide high quality, accessible and affordable educational opportunities and services that promote individual development and improve the overall quality of life in our community. **A contribution may be targeted** as a gift for a specific purpose, such as scholarships, or funding for a special project or program.

## Q. Is a contribution to the campaign tax deductible?

A. Yes. **The Foundation for MCC maintains a 501C-3 status.** A gift to the campaign is considered a charitable income tax deduction under current U.S. tax laws.

The charitable arm of the 80-year-old academic institution supports more than 80 scholarships and nearly 30 endowment funds.

If you have any questions, please call or write:

**Lennetta Coney**  
**President, The Foundation for MCC**  
**1401 E. Court Street**  
**Flint, MI 48503-2089**  
**810.762.0425**  
**email: [lconey@mcc.edu](mailto:lconey@mcc.edu)**

# Renovations continue campus improvements

*Continued from page 3*

- A **new sidewalk and stairway** was installed between the RTC and the Visual Arts & Design Center.
- **ADA Compliance Audits** of all of our MCC buildings and ramps found a minimal number of citations. A corrective action plan is being developed to assure that all cited items are fixed in a timely manner.
- With the recent passing of the Bond Renewal, an **Energy and Operational Conservation Program** is in place and is currently working on:
  - Lighting Retrofits
  - Ceiling, Doors and Window Replacements
  - Water Conservation Items; and
  - Asbestos Abatement in the Mott Memorial Building and Library.

## Renovation of the Gorman Science Center will include:

- Math and Science program consolidation and renovation, upgrades to instructional labs
- Biology renovation and relocation
- Photography Program relocation to the RTC

New signage has been placed on all door entrances throughout campus identifying the building being entered.

The front door to the College has a new look. The **Admissions Office** received new furniture to streamline their operation.

The **Enrollment Management Plan** is being implemented. Student Services and Academic Affairs have worked with a pilot group of faculty to implement **Online Grading**. Students will receive

information on how to access grades on **Web Advisor**.

A **Call Center** also has been created, permitting centralized delivery of quality information and services to all MCC locations using a multi-channel electronic system. Students, faculty and staff can get a variety of information concerning student services and administrative topics. All basic student services will be covered and specific personal assistance with financial aid, enrollment status, and registration questions will be available.

The MCC Catalog will be available on CD in the College Bookstore and at extension sites at a cost of \$3. The most up-to-date information of the catalog is available on MCC's website at [www.mcc.edu](http://www.mcc.edu).

The **College Bookstore** has received a major face-lift.

## Southern Lakes Branch Campus:

- Removal of three deteriorating carports in the north parking lot.
- New lighting in progress for north side parking area of campus.
- New lighting being installed at the west parking lot and in front of the building.
- Heating and cooling concerns - new gas fired heating units and gas fired boilers installed in Building C.
- All interior lighting will be retrofit to provide energy efficiency while at the same time providing better quality light.
- Occupancy sensors will be installed to automatically control the light fixtures in classrooms, conference rooms, offices, hallways and restrooms.

# Spike Lee relaunches Ballenger Eminent Persons Lecture Series on campus

by Sharon D. Campbell

Filmmaker Spike Lee was greeted with a standing ovation from a capacity crowd of more than 1,500 people gathered for the 2005 Mott Community College Ballenger Eminent Persons Lecture Series April 4.

Lee spoke to a diverse audience comprised of students, faculty, staff and members of the community in a rousing address that stressed the value of education and the importance of choosing happiness over money. Lee also discussed the lack of African-American representation and negative images in the media.

Encouraging college students in the audience to use their college years to discover what it is they would really enjoy doing, he advised: "Use this time to plot where you want to go – once you decide what you want to do."

He urged young people to look for career satisfaction over money, warning them against becoming one of the millions of people who get up and go to a job everyday that they



Filmmaker Spike Lee met with several MCC students prior to his presentation for the 2005 Mott Community College Ballenger "Eminent Persons" Lecture Series April 4. Above, Lee talks with Keith Hawkins.

hate. "Your time in school should be about finding what it is that you love and not 'what's going to make me the most money!'"

In pointed references, he noted his displeasure with the overabundance of negative images being perpetuated in the media.

Lee suggested that the African-American community has become complacent. "We let too many things slide," he said. "We have to be more accountable."

He was especially critical of the rap music industry and music videos, lashing out at specific performers.

## Internet pioneer hails MCC as foundation for success

*Continued from front page*

of his home in Flushing. He decided to resign from the company almost two years ago to launch a new initiative, Promaxum.com, just to keep busy.

"Tucows had just changed so much," he said. "All the original people had left and it was now a public company. The content (software side) of the business was no longer a priority and the domain side was where all resources were going. It was painful to leave but it just wasn't fun anymore. It was hard leaving something that you created from scratch and took to a new level."

Not surprising, Promaxum is doing quite well, according

to Scott. It has helped 125 software companies, ranging from video gaming to creators of a pop-up blocker. Several packages from \$99 up are available to software developers. Services include evaluating and testing software, submitting developers' Web sites to more than 3,000 search engines and directories, sending news releases, advertising consulting and getting software listed on Internet download sites.

Scott is also Vice President of Internet Distribution of CoffeeCup Software, which was founded in 1996. CoffeeCup has more than 20 Windows applications, including CoffeeCup HTML Editor, and

has \$5 million in annual revenues.

"Everything I have learned about computers and my career I owe directly to MCC," said Scott, who earned two associate degrees from MCC; an associates in applied science, and an associate in computer information systems. "Some of my best memories of MCC are working in the computer lab. It was just a lot of fun. I worked full-time during the day and then went full-time to school at night. I felt like I practically lived there. It became part of my life."

Though it has been eight years since Scott walked the halls of MCC, he recalls with fondness his favorite

instructor, Tom Forsythe, also his advisor. A philosophy of logic class was his favorite course. He added that he also "really enjoyed my class with Wiess; his political science class was amazing."

MCC could not prepare him, however, for such unprecedented success. "I still think I am pretty humble with the whole experience," he added. "It was great turning a hobby into a career and now a public company with over 200 employees."

"I would love to say I planned my success, but some of it was luck and other parts were planning. I guess you need a bit of both in life."

### FOUNDATION STAFF

Lennetta Coney, President and Executive Director  
Sue Frownfelter, Alumni/Special Events Coordinator  
Vera Jenkins, Administrative Assistant  
Lynn Smith, Special Projects Consultant  
Ernelle Taylor, Special Projects Coordinator  
Mary Yarbrough, Development Associate

### THE FOUNDATION FOR MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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