Where there is a will, there is a way
Lions Club octogenarians donate $10k to assist students

So says 85-year old Robert Vanderwiel, president of an organization that nine months ago was considered almost a thing of the past due to the aging membership. That is until Bob was “promoted” to assume the role of treasurer in his presidential duties. As he began combing the books of the Flint Downtown Host Lions Club, he discovered that Lowell Grant, a former Flint Central High School teacher who had long ago died, made mention of the Lions Club in his will, the final entry on a long list of friends and family to whom he apparently bequeathed his life savings. He asked an attorney about the find and three months later, the Lions Club is flush with money to assist the blind with educational opportunities and assistance.

Bob and his octogenarian posse of only two under 80, have breathed new life into four academic institutions in the Flint area, including a $10,000 gift to Mott Community College (Kettering University, Baker College and The University of Michigan-Flint also received $10,000 gifts).

The Lions Club, established in 1921, also provided a financial gift to other blind service organizations around the state, leading one to wonder just how deep are the pockets of the new beneficiary pants?

“There is plenty of money to keep the Lions Club healthy in the years to come,” he said, “even without our Salisbury Steak fundraising dinners at the Masonic Temple.”

Bob said the membership unanimously decided to give the money to education, noting that all of them wanted to make sure people knew that while they may be “older,” they have a youthful desire to make a positive difference in the world.

“This gift from the Flint Downtown Host Lions Club has been especially touching to me,” said Lennetta Coney, President of the Foundation. “Not only does it tell of the significance of planned giving, but it shows that one

Continued on Page 6
Alumni Association Update

Alumni Board member wins seat as MCC trustee

Sally Shaheen Joseph, a board member of the Alumni Association for MCC, has been elected to the Mott Community College Board of Trustees. She beat the incumbent by 142 votes to win a six-year term, serving a five-county area.

“People know my name and know that I stand up for what I believe in,” said Ms. Joseph, former Flint Township Supervisor and Clio City Administrator. “Without an organization like Mott, people like me would never have had the opportunity to do what I did.”

Ms. Joseph attended Mott as a student and believes the education laid the foundation for her personal and professional success. She enrolled at MCC after having four children and without completing her own high school education. She went on to earn a degree from the University of Michigan-Flint and a J.D. from Thomas Cooley Law School. Ms. Joseph has been an active leader in the civic and political life of the community, including serving as a Precinct Delegate, a County Executive Board member for the Democratic Party, and a member of the Michigan Women’s Commission.

An attorney, Ms. Joseph brings more than 25 years of experience in politics to MCC, serving as a Township Trustee, Supervisor, City Administrator, Personnel Director, Risk Manager and Purchasing Agent. She currently serves as an advisory board member of the Flint Area Salvation Army, board member of Planned Parenthood of East Central Michigan, Planned Parenthood of Michigan, Arab-American Institute Board, Executive Board and Arab-American Institute National Policy Council. A former president of The Michigan Public Risk Management Association, Ms. Joseph is a former board member of Genesee County YWCA, Easter Seals, Michigan Women’s Foundation, Flint Area Convention and Visitor’s Bureau and the Fair Winds Council of Girl Scouts of America. She also is the recipient of Mott Community College’s Carroll Clark Civic Service Award and has received Rotary International’s Paul Harris Award by the Genesee Valley Rotary, as well as the Salvation Army’s Hands of Mercy Award. She was chosen as the American-Arab Heritage Council’s “Woman of the Year” in 2000 and was appointed to the Michigan Women’s Commission in August 2003.

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Call 810.762.0425

Things that were hard to bear are sweet to remember.”
—Seneca

The Alumni Association shall not forget the outstanding leadership and vision of those that have gone on before us. May our dear friends rest in peace.
EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW
CONDUCTED BY
WILLIAM S. (BILL) BALLINGER, III
Late Evening of Thursday,
May 24, 2007      Flint, Michigan

Q: One thing I wanted to ask you was (about) Affirmative Action, how you look at
Affirmative Action. I guess my question is broader than that — it’s almost as though
the argument made in favor of Affirmative Action is being rephrased to favor
diversity. ‘People keep using this word ‘diversity.’ What does all that mean to you?
What about Affirmative Action? Do you think it’s outlived its purpose?
A: I think we’re asking Affirmative Action to become the solution to a host of ills that
Affirmative Action cannot possibly solve ...
(Yes), I think this country has to look at
what happened to black people and to
those who were ground under — who
don’t have equal opportunity and equal
chance — they must be given some platform
by which they can overcome that his-
torical adversity and begin to find a way in
which to be able to become part of a much
greater, level playing field. What makes Af-
firmative Action somewhat problematic are
the very issues on which Affirmative Action
is being challenged. Because it becomes
a race issue, it becomes preferential
treatment of one citizen over the
other — well, that
was never its in-
tent. The intent of
Affirmative Action
wasn’t to deny
some white kid a
chance to get an
education; it was
an attempt to try
to enhance black children
having more access, or
Latin children.
And the question
is, have our lawmakers and our legislators
been bright enough in framing some social
phenomena that can not only take care of
the great backwardness that people expe-
rience through the experience of poverty,
while at the same time not challenging the
rights of others to have access regardless
of their class, position, and their race? So
I think we’re asking Affirmative Action to
solve things that it cannot solve.

Q: Do you think (white) Americans
gave Caribbean blacks a pass because
they were not descendants of slaves?
Why?
A: No! No! They were just ‘different.’ As
a matter of fact, if you look at several early
laws — in Texas and other places — Ca-
ribbeans were not considered Africans,
they were not considered black... They
were considered foreigners... No, the
lowest thing for white Americans, under
the racist edict, was the fact that you were
black in America, African-American ...
Q: And that at one time you were either
a slave, or a descendant of slaves?
A: That’s right. If you were Caribbean,
you were just ‘different’ ...
Q: But wasn’t it maybe just the idea that
American blacks were probably descendants of the
slave institution? Do you think maybe
there was some element of guilt, of
resentment, that these (native black
American) people had somehow
escaped from under the yoke of slavery,
and so ‘We’re going to hate them,’
whereas the Caribbean blacks had no such experience
of theirs about their class, position, and their race? So
that Americans knew of? They’d come to
this country — they
were immigrants
like Irish and Polish
and everybody else.

Q: What about Affirmative Action, how you look at
this business of misogyggy, and putting
down women, and the terrible language
and all that (has got to stop), and they
really go off on that kick. What is your
feeling about that? I’m just curious ...
A: I agree with them, that there is a
certain amount of self-pity ... which is
self-serving, which is used consistently
to excuse initiative, to excuse a sense of
self-discipline, of self-worth. But let me put
something to you: if I put Bruce Springs-
teen in front of you, do you see him as a
rock star?
Q: Probably, yeah. He’s a rocker ...
A: By the same token, within the rock
culture, I don’t happen to like punk rock.
You paint your head red, you beat up the
microphone, you destroy (things) on the
stage. But do you make a significant de-
lineation between punk rock and negative
rock (on the one hand), and what it is that
the (other) rockers do? Well, with rappers,
it’s exactly the same thing — there is a
line between rappers who (talk) to the
positive end of the culture and those who
talk negatively ... It’s very interesting, (it
was) white folks who gave all these nega-
tive black rappers the platform ... (The)
record companies (started it) ...
Q: But who are the (rappers) that give
the most positive message? Were you
going to say that?
A: There are certain rappers — Afrika
Bambaataa, Common, a guy named
Wyclef Jean, a group called Public
Enemy. If you listen to the lyrics, there’s
no smut ... Public Enemy is an excep-
tion, because there is a split in that group ...
but some of these songs are very poetic.
I know there are people who just don’t
like jazz because they’ve always liked
classical music, and vice-versa, but the
music itself, when you listen to it, there
are delineations, and we’ve not taken time
to make those delineations ...
Memories, shout outs and where are they now?

Mary Qualman ('68 Bus Mgmt) lives in Flushing and is employed by McLaren Regional Medical Center.

Darcy Lewis ('72 Dental Hygiene/Special Educator) now has an MA in Learning Disabilities from Michigan State University. “But with all my education, the dental hygiene program at MCC was the most challenging. I am so thankful for the quality programs at MCC that create a future for kids coming out of high school with limited resources, (like myself, so many years ago)!”

Deanna Thorn ('82 PT Asst) remembers Mr. Kot for anatomy and physiology. “He had a great personality and attitude!”

Wilford Lynn ('75 - 95 Music; Physiotherapy) remains an MCC sports fan. “I played tennis at MCC in ‘95 and was in the final Tennis Challenge for the Class that year.”

Kim Mooney ('02 Nursing) is employed at McLaren Regional Medical Center.

Elaine Parks ('80 Nursing) remembers the blind math instructor, Mrs. Barnuski and Tom Malin.

Nanda Brown (Business) remembers Mr. Rausch of political science. “What a guy! He had lots of stories and opinions!”

Norman Foster ('03 Tech) says that after 20 years of part-time classes, his favorite instructor was Fosner in tech math in the 1980s. Norman remains an MCC sports fan, especially watching his nephew, Steve Zinn, playing baseball.

Marcia Fournier ('70, '80, '90 Business & Gerontology) said, “It's been awhile, but one standout was Betty Goodman, an excellent instructor who never settled for anything but the best from her students. I wish all my classes at MCC were always enjoyable, personable & worthwhile.”

Cecelia Williams ('95 Social Work) said her Japanese Class with Mr. Mishia was the best!

Beverly Dent ('85 ADN) remains an MCC sports fan.

Shirley Cooper ('04 Comm Tech) works at Delphi.

Diane Duby (Nrsng) remembers her English teacher. “He was interesting. He had a little pony tail.”

Debra Bassett ('87 - '94 Biology/Electronics) remains an MCC sports fan. “John Hayek was my first biology instructor and he always inspired me to learn more. I vowed that I would one day know as much as he does about my favorite subject. I'm now a biology teacher!”

My counselor took a lot of interest in me. Her name was Carla, I think.”

Sherry Stewart ('04 Science) works at Hurley Medical Center.

Rudy Ward ('91 Indus Tech) remains an MCC sports fan. His favorite instructor was Paul Bishop.

Carolyn Kilbury ('80 Liberal Arts). “I attended as an adult - the whole experience was wonderful. Dr. Chester Wilson was a unique person.

I still understand ‘IONIC BONDING’ from his class!!”

Peggy Sheffer ('02 Nursing) is employed at Genesys.

Nancy Mashburn ('75, '85, '95-2004 Paralegal/Nrsng) said, “Jim Drummond has to be, without a doubt, the greatest person to bring cohesiveness to a varied group of people in the shortest amount of time! For the benefit of all! Almost everyone has been wonderful!”

Rachel Johnson ('96 Nrsng) remains an MCC sports fan.

Ramondo Andrews ('02 Cr Justice) is employed at Whaley Childrens Center.

Veronica Bush ('02 Nursing) works at Hurley Medical Center.

Luanne Jaruzel (Nursing) works at Genesys as an RN.

Paula Stranahan ('00 Nrsng; Educ) remembers Wilma Romatz explaining how some English teachers ruin students. “She has been an influence on my own teaching career.”

Duane Wilcox ('88 Refrigeration) remains an MCC sports fan.

Clara Krueger ('94 Gen) said attending MCC “is the most important thing I ever did in my life and it makes me feel proud.”

Michele Shigley ('80 Nrsng) said her best memories are of fellow students in the nursing program, the tension and excitement of clinicals, the joy of watching as everyone completed the program. Overall, it was a very positive experience.”

Have something to say? We want to hear from you!

We love to hear from our graduates. Please email us at foundation@mcc.edu or fill our this form and send it to:
AlumNotes, The Foundation for Mott Community College, 1401 E. Court Street, Flint, MI 48503. We will share your information with other alumni in an upcoming AlumNet.

Name: ___________________________ Year of Graduation: ______
Degree: __________________________
Current Job: _______________________
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E-mail Address: ______________________
Comments: ____________________________

09.07
Prominent anti-racist writer/activist to keynote annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Dinner

Tim Wise, among the most prominent anti-racist writers and activists in the U.S., will keynote the 2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. Communitywide Tribute Dinner on Jan. 10 at 6 pm at the Sarvis Center. Tickets are $30 per person. All proceeds will go toward a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship for Genesee County students.

Mr. Wise lectures across the country about the need to combat institutional racism, gender bias, and the growing gap between rich and poor in the U.S. He is the Director of the newly-formed Association for White Anti-Racist Education (AWARE) in Nashville, Tennessee.

“The MLK, Jr. Tribute Committee is pleased to be able to bring Mr. Wise to the Flint community,” said Lenetta Coney, President of the Foundation for Mott Community College. “We can think of no other individual who can speak directly from the front lines of the racial combat in this country. We know he will bring much needed awareness to a topic too frequently represented by African Americans alone.”

Mr. Wise believes that racism in the United States is no longer an overt entity and must be challenged on a psychological level. He argues that most white Americans inadvertently support a racist system of oppression. (However, he adds that when the majority of these white Americans are made aware of their unfair privilege and the resulting unfair proletarianization of their fellow non-white Americans, they are horrified and willing to change.)

He is the author of White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son, from Soft Skull Press, and Affirmative Action: Racial Preference in Black and White, from Routledge publishing.

Mr. Wise has been called one of the most brilliant, articulate and courageous critics of white privilege in the nation by best-selling author and professor Michael Eric Dyson, of the University of Pennsylvania. He has spoken in 48 states, and on more than 400 college campuses, including Harvard, Stanford, and the Law Schools at Yale and Columbia. He has provided anti-racism training to teachers nationwide, and has conducted trainings with physicians and medical industry professionals on how to combat racial inequities in health care. He also has trained corporate, government, military and law enforcement officials on methods for dismantling racism in their institutions.

Mr. Wise is a featured columnist with the ZNet Commentary program: a web service that disseminates essays by prominent progressive educators. His writings are taught at hundreds of colleges and have appeared in dozens of popular, professional and scholarly journals. He has been a featured guest on hundreds of radio and television programs, worldwide, arguing the case for Affirmative Action and slavery reparations for African-Americans, as well as a revised education system and an end to systemic white privilege.

Mr. Wise has a B.A. in Political Science from Tulane University, where his anti-apartheid work received global attention and the thanks of Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He received training in methods for dismantling racism from the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, in New Orleans.

From the President’s Pen:

New challenges for a new academic year

(Continued from page 1)

Remaining affordable in these challenging economic times takes prudent financial management. Again this year, the college has successfully kept tuition low. This fall the tuition increase was the same as inflation: 3.2 percent. Though funding from the State of Michigan remains uncertain, it was clear that students needed the certainty of knowing how much tuition at MCC would be when they returned or began their studies in the fall.

MCC is more accessible than ever. In addition to the main campus in Flint, the college has sites in Clio, Fenton, Lapeer, and Livingston. In the last five years, enrollment has gone up 28 percent. Many students work either full-time or part-time and have access to course offerings close to home that save them time and money. Courses are also offered via distance learning and can be completed from almost anywhere with only limited trips to campus. With all these options, learners can easily find the best fit for their busy lives.

As a blueprint to meet student and community needs, the Board of Trustees approved the college’s new five-year strategic plan for 2007-2012. This five-year plan began with the board’s desire for a learning-centered college. After garnering extensive feedback from numerous college stakeholders, overarching goals began to take shape. These goals were verified by input from a variety of individuals before a draft plan was presented to the Board of Trustees. The final plan is available at http://www.mcc.edu/2_about/about_stratplan.shtml.

The start of a new academic year is upon us. It’s going to be a great year, full of outstanding learning opportunities. There are always interesting events on campus and I encourage you to check the events calendar at http://www.mcc.edu/calendar/calendar.php. Please feel free to join us for an event or to visit the campus.

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff at MCC, I welcome everyone to a new academic year and invite our alumni to stay connected to MCC.

Sincerely,

Dick Shaink, Ph.D.
President
WIE graduates two more fellows; one heading for Tulane

The Women in Education Committee (WIE) has graduated two more fellows, with one heading to Tulane University to complete her studies.

Heidi Toler and Angela Langley told members that they appreciated the Fellowship program, including the financial stipend presented at the May meeting. Ms. Toler, who will be attending Tulane University in the fall, suggested the mentoring aspect of the Fellowship be strengthened with monthly meetings to enhance individual mentoring efforts associated with the Fellowship. “The WIE Fellowship has been a great help to me,” she said. “Without the help of WIE, I would have quit or at least not achieved high honors.”

Ms. Langley, one of the first scholarship recipients, told the Committee that the Fellowship experience helped her become more motivated and inspired her to want to achieve more in life. She graduated in May and is considering other options in marketing. She hopes to pursue a bachelor’s degree and promised to keep in touch.

WIE Member Clara Blakely urged committee members to consider regularly scheduled monthly meetings with the students. She thinks such meetings are “absolutely essential to move them along. Regular meetings will help the WIE mentoring process and help provide the students with strategies to get through.”

Dean of Student Services Delores Deen, also a WIE member, said she is very pleased with how both Fellows developed. She noted it was like a night and day difference from how the students came to WIE and how they are leaving.

“The WIE is to be complimented as they see now the third person walk away better than when they came to us,” she added.

Latisha Berry was the first Fellowship Recipient. She graduated from the program last year.

Applications for the WIE Fellowship will be available in the fall.

The Women in Education Fellowship provides financially-challenged MCC students with an outstanding opportunity to receive individual academic and professional support from experienced women in their designated fields of study. The Fellowship is designed to develop leaders for success in the 21st century through mentoring, networking, nurturing intellectual growth, and inspiring personal transformation. Applicants should be serious about their studies and career path, determined to take advantage of the resources provided by the Fellowship. Those students selected are asked to participate in individual and group interviews, attend at least two major WIE fundraising initiatives, participate in special events, attend advisory meetings with WIE members/mentors, participate in quarterly workshops and serve as Ambassadors for the Fellowship. The Fellowship stipend of $4,000 shall be given to freshmen students; $2,000 for sophomore students; $1,000 for junior students.

Giving Wall to honor donors

A Giving Wall is being created as a perpetual tribute to the outstanding generosity and commitment to Mott Community College. Cumulative giving of a designated amount will determine the eligibility for a plaque on the giving wall, to be located in the MCC library. The cumulative giving wall represents ALL giving to the School, including Annual Fund, major gifts, the Endowment Growth Initiative and individual scholarships. According to Lennetta Coney, the Wall will serve as an inspiration to others who share their dedication.

Where there is a will, there’s a way

(Continued from page 1)

small gift can multiply with time to not only assist visually impaired students in a big way, but also resuscitate an organization whose only mission is to fill an important need in our society.”

The gifts will be used for scholarships for legally blind or visually impaired students at the schools. The awards are available to entering or continuing students. Students are selected based upon financial need and an essay about their educational and professional goals. Scholarship monies will be awarded for tuition, course fees, books, software and other materials as specified in the course outline.

Lions Club International was formed in 1917. Today, Lions Club International has a presence in 93 countries around the world with 1,350,000 members. Their motto is “We Serve,” and they emphasize services for the blind and visually impaired.
WIE to host area cancer survivor celebration

International speaker, pioneer in therapeutic humor movement to honor employees

The 20-member Women in Education Committee (WIE) is celebrating come Oct. 11 - rejoicing over family, friends and colleagues who can say, “I'M STILL HERE” after battling cancer. Christine Clifford Beckwith, author and pioneer in the therapeutic humor movement, will keynote the luncheon event by honoring survivors like herself with a poignant presentation, “From Road Warrior to Glorious Survivor.” The luncheon will be held Thursday, October 11, 2007 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Sarvis Center located on the Flint Cultural Center campus. The event is expected to draw 250 cancer survivors, their families, friends and employers. Proceeds will help WIE and cancer-related education at MCC. Tickets are $25 per person and reservations are required by calling 810.762.0425.

Ms. Beckwith is the author of five award-winning books including Not Now...I’m Having A No Hair Day!, Our Family Has Cancer, Too! (written especially for children), Inspiring Breakthrough Secrets to Live Your Dreams, Cancer Has Its Privileges: Stories of Hope & Laughter and Your Guardian Angel’s Gift.

This presentation will not only have an inspirational message for cancer survivors, but also provides an opportunity for employers to honor employees who have battled the illness while working to support their families if not maintain their careers and the objectives of the work place. According to Lennetta Coney, President of the Foundation for Mott Community College, several sponsorship levels are available.

“This is a very personal event for WIE,” Coney said. “Most of the members of the Committee know someone whose life changed dramatically with a diagnosis of cancer. Some have battled the disease personally or have provided support to a family member, friend or colleague. We want to celebrate with our loved ones who have survived.”

Before her bout with breast cancer, Ms. Beckwith had definitely cracked the “glass ceiling.” At the age of 40, she was Senior Executive Vice President for SPAR Marketing Services, an international information and merchandising services firm in Minneapolis, MN. Once the top salesperson in the billion dollar service industry, she was responsible for accounts with Kmart, Toys 'R' Us, Walmart, AT&T, Mattel Toys, and Revlon, among others.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in December of '94, she went on to write a humorous portrayal of her story in a book entitled Not Now...I’m Having A No Hair Day!

She also is founder of The Cancer Club, the world’s largest producer of humorous and helpful products for people with cancer.

Ms. Beckwith appeared on CNN Live in 1998 as “one of the world’s leading authorities on the use of therapeutic humor.”

She has raised over $1,000,000 for breast cancer research and has received the Council of Excellence Award for income development from the American Cancer Society.

Testimonials of her impact include the following:

“Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! I'm still getting positive feedback about your high energy, multimedia presentation. Your message was truly inspiring, refreshing, and profound, which made many reflect, think, laugh, and laugh... just what Christine ordered!”

-- Linda D. Craig, Chair, Lecture Series, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Columbus

For more information, please call 810.762.0425.

Institute for Diversity needed?

Multicultural collaborative to survey businesses for enhanced partnerships to meet diversity needs

The Mott Community College Multicultural Minority Affairs Advisory Committee (MCMAC) has been meeting with leaders from Genesee County academic institutions, businesses, hospitals, and government to discuss a collaborative approach to addressing the community’s diversity needs.

MCMAC is considering spearheading the effort with targeted collaboration from business, political and civic leaders from the community. The representatives could be charged with assembling current programs in operation, as well as strategic planning and overall direction for the collaborative efforts. Discussion has included the creation of an umbrella organization such as Lake Michigan College’s Institute for Diversity and Leadership. The Institute promotes organizational effectiveness through audits and training in managing and leveraging diversity. It provides companies with the tools they need to create and sustain a successful corporate culture. Additionally, the Institute serves internal College diversity initiatives to assist in creating an inclusive and innovative workforce that has the skills to succeed in meeting the challenges of a diverse market place.

MCMAC and its partners are already committed and passionate about providing programs and services that are the segue to an inclusive and diverse society.

A brief survey is being mailed to businesses to help MCMAC assess interest in the proposed collaborative approach. The results will help us determine the direction the effort will take in the weeks and months to come.

Current partners include: City of Flint Affirmative Action, City of Flint Human Relations Commission, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Disability Network, The Flint Journal, Genesee County Affirmative Action, Genesee County Board of Commissioners, Genesee Intermediate School District, Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce, Genesys Regional Medical Center, Hispanic Technology Center, Hurley Medical Center, Mott Community College, and The University of Michigan-Flint.
have been submitted as candidates for the college’s Outstanding Retiree. Only four alumni and one retiree will be selected to receive the awards, to be announced at the Awards Presentation Oct. 17 at the Applewood Cafe. Tickets are $30 per person with proceeds going to MCC’s Alumni Association. The 16 nominees are: Peggy Brown, Dan Cady, Mark Dyball DO, Coyla (Dodge) Holt, Darrel M. Jones, Nick Pappadakis, Edna Green-Perry, RN, Wanda Piper, Richard Place, Art Reyes II, Doris Rich, Dr. Richard Shick, George Spaulding, Sue Woletz, and Woodrow Stanley. Nominees for Outstanding Retiree are: Mary McMinn, Jim Smith, Joe Sullivan, Ruth Thrash, Katherine Weissmann, Paul John (Jack) Carlsen, and Leonard Meizlish.

For more information, please call 810.762.0425.

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An Affirmative Action Organization