



Honors Program News

Mott Community College

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Fall 2010

State Conference Leads to Campus Service



Ramone Williams, Kwesi Reynolds, Marvin Riley, Jasmin Clark, John Carman, Joel Clifton, Josh Thompson, Heather Sisto, Taheedah Rashed, Judith Malone & William Morse (not shown)

Ten MCC Honors students attended the Michigan Honors Assoc statewide conference Oct. 2-3 in Roscommon. The theme was "Looking at Nature." Philosophy Professor J. Swedene from Lake Superior State presented concepts of legacy (personal and environmental); Humanities Professor H. Sisto from MCC led a photography/art and creative writing workshop that reflected on nature; service advocate Ryan Fewins led a literary link to our role in nature and facilitated campus action plans.

The honors representatives from Mott decided their campus action plan would be to team with the Environmental Club to advertise and facilitate a plastic bottle recycling program. Marvin and Joel are heading the project and invite all MCC Honors students to get involved.

Cultural anthropologist Pineice Johnson's "Speaking Mountains" presentation contrasted the "Antropo-centric" view of domination over nature and unilateral consumption of global resources with a more "Bio-centric" view of indigenous societies that promote interdependent connectedness, reciprocity and sustainability. Evening activities included a night hike, camp songs and S'mores around the campfire by Higgins Lake. Mott students were also able to learn about other honors programs at 2 and 4-year colleges in Michigan.

Fall Retreat Features Ameri-corps VISTA

The annual Fall Honors Retreat was held at the Presidential Conference Center on Sept. 17, 2010. Ice-breaker activities were followed by honors faculty discussing their courses. Keynote speaker **Simone Mishler** explained the service opportunities available both on campus and after graduation through **Ameri-corps VISTA**, a national service program that focuses on fighting poverty. Members commit to one year at a nonprofit organization or local government agency. Scholarships or basic pay are options. Simone is available as a consultant on our campus this year and her office is right next to the Honors Program office. Drop in!



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Important Dates:

- Right now: Apply for MCC STARS Online scholarships for Winter semester, including Honors Alumni Scholarship if involved in service.
- Nov/Dec: Apply to transfer university.
- Dec/Jan: Apply to the College or School within the university that houses your major: ex. Education/Engineering/Business
- Jan-Mar: Apply for transfer college's internal scholarships for transfer students. Each college has its own deadlines. Check early!
- Apply for UM-Flint's Jr-Sr Honors Scholars program. Be sure to notify Heather of your interest to be eligible for MCC-UM-F Honors articulation agreement.
- Education Majors: Take Mich Basic Skills test no later than Jan 10th

Honors Program Welcomes Creative Minds & Social Activists



Meet **Kwesi Reynolds**, a man with boundless energy and drive.

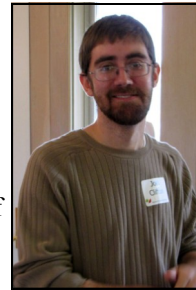
A former Navy SEAL who served in New Orleans during Katrina and also in Iraq, Kwesi is dedicating his life to being a positive force for change. Between working and attending classes, Kwesi is producing a documentary "To: You, From: Flint." To facilitate the project, he has created a non-profit "The Re-Project." The motto of the company is "Remind, Re-define and Re-design." Reynolds says his film is the "tragic love story. . . of General Motors and the city of Flint." The film will capture the good times when GM and Flint were models of greatness; it will also show when GM left and "took everything with them." He hopes his film will show the world "a different side of Flint, a side they have never seen before." Good luck, Kwesi!



Judith Malone is returning to school after 30 years. She epitomizes the drive of Flint residents who need a new career path. Mary is majoring in Early Childhood. She also shared her fascinating work in the 1970-80s with the local NAACP. Kwesi interviewed her for his film.

It may surprise you that mild-mannered honors student **Bethani Prittie** is writing a vampire novel! She has enjoyed creative writing since childhood. She's also interested in "parkour" a new movement craze originally from France that entails mastering an obstacle course created from everyday objects. Sounds like the potential for a new club at Mott. Go, Bethani!

Another force for positive change in Genesee County is Honors Program student **Joel Clifton**. Joel plans to major in agronomy (a blend of soil science and sustainable agriculture) at MSU. While at Mott, he's serving as President of the Environmental Club and Gardening Club. His farm background served him well this summer as he led a community garden project, and Joel already has contacts with a company which plans to set up a hydroponics plant in Flint (growing crops in water). We see great things in the future for Joel and the environment!



Charlene Fortner, dubbed the "resident sweetheart" of the service learning class, charmed all the nursing home residents the first week and now is busy at Pierce Elementary helping foster a love of reading while raising test scores of first graders. The teacher loves her so much, she wants her back Winter semester.

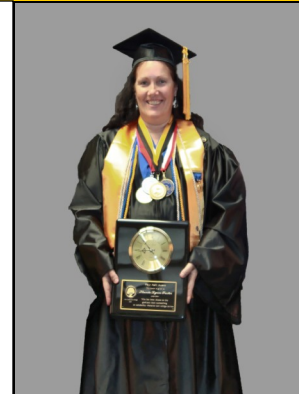
Over the summer, current honors student **Brandon Verkennes** participated in the Michigan Community College Student **Fellowship Program Research Symposium at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor**. Brandon analyzed the "Making Democracy Safe" project with his research mentor, Political Science professor Megan Reif. "By looking at the specific incidents and spatial mapping [of electoral corruption and violence]. . . data can be used to encourage changes in electoral law and publicize bad behavior, contributing to democratic reform in Pakistan." The Democracy project is working in collaboration with Pakistani Free and Fair Election Network. Brandon plans to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and eventually an MBA. Perhaps he'll add Political Science to his studies as well. This experience will be a fantastic resume builder, Brandon!



Honors Program Students Earn Top Awards



The prestigious **Phil Braun Award** is awarded to the MCC graduate with the highest academic record. The 2010 recipient was Honors Program student **Bobbi Coates**, a Criminal Justice major. The coveted **Paul Karr Award** was presented to Social Work major **Sherrie Foster** for scholarship and service commitment to the college & community. Both are attending UM-Flint.
CONGRATULATIONS!



Out of the Loop? Not clear about Honors Program events or courses?

*Check the website: www.mcc.edu/honors
(Download Photos too!)*

Be sure to update your home & email address for group mailings.

***FYI:** Information on February Team-Building High-Ropes Retreat will be coming in January.*

Know someone who has Honors Program potential?

Word-of-mouth is the best way to hear about the Honors Program, so please direct classmates in your non-honors classes to Honors Office and/or to our website www.mcc.edu/honors. They can apply based on Fall Mid-semester grades, with final approval pending Final grades. Online applications available or pick up in CM-1006.

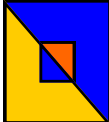
New Director to Take the Helm

After thirteen years as Honors Coordinator, **Heather Sisto** will be passing the baton to **Dr. Brian Ivory** in January. When Heather was given the position in Jan 1998, the first graduating class had only one person!

Since then, 180 students have received the Honors Program Diploma and many more the Honors Certificate of Achievement. "It's very gratifying to hear from alumni and know that the honors program had a positive impact on their lives." Dr. Ivory has been with the program since 1999. As well as serving as coordinator, he's designing a new Colloquium for Fall 2011. Details soon!

Fun Facts

- \$16,500 was awarded in Honors partial-tuition scholarships for Fall 2010 and \$9,750 awarded for Winter so far.
- 52 new honors program students joined in Fall 2010; up from 32 in Fall 2009.
- 88 honors program students returned; up from 63 last Fall (140 total enrollment).
- 22 Honors Diploma or Certificate recipients were honored at the Graduation Medallion Ceremony on May 1, 2010.
- 10 MCC Honors Program students attended the Michigan Honors Association Conference, the largest group ever!



Congratulations 2010 Graduates!



Honors Program Medallion recipients have completed an Associates Degree with 4 or more honors courses, 45 hours of service and maintained a 3.5 or better GPA.

Lt to Rt: Courtney Mosier, Harmony Whelan, Nancy Hudson, Tammara Fellows, Allyscia Smith, Daniel Bone, Bobbi Coates, Paul Maceri, Jennifer Betts, Christina Smith, Sherrie Foster.

Not pictured: Renzo Berghusen, Ian Enos, Cynde Schmude, Joshua Searles.

An impressive achievement . . . Bravo!

Honors Program Certificate of Achievement recipients have completed at least 55 credits with 3 or more honors courses and maintained a 3.25 or better GPA. Way to go!

Lt to Rt: Leah Gatica, Adrian Wright, Donald Pease, Erica Pease, David Brace, Stephanie Hackney

Not shown: Amanda Woodall



Alumni News

MCC honors student **Gabe Yanch**o transferred to MSU in 2007 after landing an internship in Gov. Granholm's office. This led to a full-time position as an Energy Analyst and Grant Manager at the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth. Gabe explained, "In my capacity as an Energy Analyst, I revised the state-wide energy emergency plans to be taken in the event of a petroleum-based fuels shortage, and in my role as a Grant Manager I supervised over \$6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act spending on renewable and clean energy projects."

Gabe credits his honors Service and English classes with learning to "enjoy the challenge of higher education." Yanch is now pursuing a **Masters of Science in Policy Studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland!** He states, "I can't even begin to express how excited I am about the opportunity to study at such an institution, and the opportunity to live abroad." We are so proud of Gabe and hope other alums let us know what they are doing after they leave Mott.

OTHER ALUMNI NEWS: We recently heard from **Kyle Puro**, Honors Program grad in 2003 who is living in Seal Beach, CA and practicing as a family law attorney in Los Angeles. Kyle reports, "So far I am really enjoying the work and experience. I passed the bar exam on my first attempt last July. [2009]"

Renzo Berghusen came to MCC from Brazil and graduated with an Honors Diploma in 2010. He now resides in Montreal and is studying French.

Rick Stigleman, Honors Diploma recipient in 2004, completed his Bachelor's Degree at UM-Flint. Rick has been working on the Volt project in the Program Mileage Dynamometers Division at the GM Proving Grounds in Milford. What an exciting option for the environment! Rick also chairs the Honors Alumni Scholarship fund and has organized our fundraisers. Thanks, Rick!