Honors Program News

Mott Community College

Volume 11 Issue 3

Winter 2009

TEAM-BUILDING

The Annual Honors Winter Retreat, led by Corey Clothier of Sabre Leadership, was held Jan 30, 2009 at the Regional Tech Center.

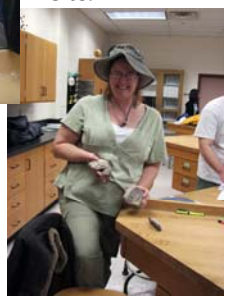
Twenty-two Honors Program students challenged themselves in a high ropes course and other activities that provided situations which developed self-confidence, trust, communication, and problem-solving.

One of the activities was designing a bridge from 3 logs attached by ropes to one of the beams. Team members had to shut off "silo" thinking and brainstorm, plan, execute and evaluate as a whole for the bridge to be successful. Then encouragement was needed to help all team members across. (Comments from students and more photos on page 3.)

Dinosaur Class Breaks New Ground

Professor Sheila Swyrtek offered a new honors course in Fall 2008: GEOL-111 "Geology of Dinosaurs" which was a big hit with students. This "hands-on" course had students digging up a simulated archeological site and connecting clues about surrounding vegetation and rocks that would explain where the dinosaur died as well as why and how it died.

Above: Brandy, Justin and Renzo explore their site.



Above: Cait & Vince carefully brush off specimens.
Right: "Indiana Kim" adds her own props.

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Want to download these or other photos?

All newsletters and photos available on "What's New" page of Honors website: **www.mcc.edu/honors**

IMPORTANT DATES

Mar 21 Flint Symphony

April 10
MCC Writing Contest
(Creative & Expository)
Due in CM1101
Humanities

Apr 24 LAND Essay Contest
Entries Due in CM 1101

Apr 25 Flint Symphony

April 30 College-wide
Honors Reception:
Sarvis Center

May 1
Honors Program
Grad Dinner & Medallion
Ceremony: Events Center

May 2
Commencement:
Perani Arena

Honors Students Earn Many Scholarships

An additional perk to being part of the Honors Program at MCC is the ability to apply for other scholarships which require Honors Program status in the criteria. **Bettina Barillas** received the Donald J. Holland Memorial Scholarship for $1,000; **Brandy Hardenburg** won the Donald L. Smith Memorial Scholarship for $1,000; **David Meeks** received the Albert Price Golden Memorial Scholarship for $1,000; and **Kimberley Mileski** earned the Julie Marie Patterson Memorial Scholarship for $1,000. Four Pemberton Honors Program Scholarships for $500 each went to **Veronica Dyer, Sandra Holt, Victoria Waites** and **Jessica Walton.** Congratulations! Applications for Fall 2009 will be available online in May, including the new Honors Program Alumni Scholarship for community service.

FSO ROCKS!

Whether you were seeking extra credit for a Music Appreciation class, or just enjoying a night out, five excellent Flint Symphony concerts were available to Honors students and their guests this season .

Thanks to the CLEF committee for making 20 discounted tickets available for every concert.

The last two concerts of the season are MARCH 21 and APRIL 25 at 8:00 PM featuring Enrique Diemecke, the FSO's wonderfully flamboyant conductor, with guest violinists and the Flint Festival Chorus.

A free lecture is available before each concert at 7:00 PM. Tickets available from Heather in CM-1006, from Chuck Iwanusa, or from Kim in CM-1000Vice-President's Office.

Honors students may purchase 2 tickets at $5 each. Cash or make checks payable to Mott Community College with Honors Program on memo line please.

Students Thank CLEF For FSO & "Kite Runner"

Brandy Hardenburg attended two symphony concerts with her grandmother and commented, "Because of [CLEF's] generosity, I was able to see the symphony for the first time. Ina Yoon was truly mesmerizing on the piano [in the October concert], and Peter Soave on the bandoneon was just as magical [in the November concert]. Although I have lived within 20 minutes of Flint my entire life, I had not been aware of the wonder of the Flint Symphony."

Sherrie Foster enjoyed scenes from the award-winning novel "The Kite Runner" performed as a one-man show by Sorab Wadia at Whiting Auditorium on November 11th. "The actor captured the audience's attention immediately. . . The joy and pain caused by the characters' circumstances were felt deeply . . . The performance was able to break down the continental barriers and caused me to see the boys as my own children crying out for understanding, love and peace."

Nancy Hudson remarked, "The actor's ability to switch between roles and communicate the feeling of being in Afghanistan was magnificent. The themes explored touch on our common human experience."

2009-2010 Honors Course Schedule : New Courses!

		FALL 2009	Fall has been approved by Steering Committee.	
NEW	MUS.-180 (hum) Music Appreciation	Prof. Iwanusa	M & W 3 credits	2:00-3:25 PM
	ECON-221 (soc) Macro-Economics	Prof. Diana	T & R 4 credits	9:00-10:55 AM
	HREL-151 (mes, sac) Human Relations	Dr. Ivory	T & R 3 credits	12:30-1:55 PM
***	LDDV-195 (wac, sac, soc) Service Learning	Prof. Rozycki & Dr. McCain	Tues 3 credits (meets every other week)	5:00-7:55 PM
		WINTER 2010	Winter Schedule will be	finalized in April.
NEW	PHIL Course To Be Announced		M & W	TBA
	ENGL –102 (gen ed)	Prof. Sisto	M & W 3 credits	TBA
NEW	BIOL-120 & BIOL-121 Environmental Science	Dr. Wade (ntl)	T & R Lec (2cr/2contact) T & R Lab (2cr/4contact)	TBA
	ECON-129: (soc) Colloquium **Required**	"The Paradox of Affluence" Prof. Diana	T & R 3 credits	TBA

*** LDDV-195 Service Learning course is one way to meet the HONORS DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT of 45 community service hours. See Coordinator for other service options.

DON'T MISS
Essay Contest Opportunities

The **annual MCC Essay Contest** is sponsored by the Humanities Division. Categories include Research-Critical Essay, Narrative Essay, Creative Short Fiction and Poetry. Submissions are due in CM 1101 Humanities Division Office by 5 PM Monday, April 10, 2009.

Entries for the **annual LAND** (Liberal Arts Network for Development) essay contest for Michigan community college students are due by 5 PM Friday, April 24, 2009 in the Humanities Division Office CM 1101. Categories include Communication, Science, Psychology, History, Philosophy, Business, Social Science and others.

Former Honors Program students have won cash prizes at these contests and presented their papers at state and national conferences! Papers can be from honors or non-honors courses, Fall or Winter semester.

Pilot Peer Mentoring "Making Connections"

Twenty Honors Program students are serving as peer mentors to 20 students enrolled in developmental courses this semester. Mentors received training from MCC counselors Celia Perez-Booth, Angela Reeves, Anne Gupton and Brian Ivory in stress management, time management, testing & study strategies, and diversity sensitivity.

Coordinator Heather Sisto led sessions in leadership styles and sent students on a campus-wide scavenger hunt to learn about services available at MCC. Mentors were matched with mentees in a similar major or with complimentary interests or backgrounds.

The results of the pilot "Making Connections" program will be tallied in Prof. Sisto's sabbatical report at the end of the semester. Honors students will earn 45 hours of community/campus service credit.

Students involved in the program have remarked that being a role model forces you to improve your own study and time management habits as well.

Students Thank CLEF for Retreat Funding

Retreat participant Nancy Hudson thanked the College Life Enhancement Fund for providing funding for the Team-building Retreat. She observed, "Anyone can overcome their fears and complete a task, especially with the encouragement of those working with you."

Photo Top Left: Brianna and Rosalie master the climbing tower . **Right:** Sarah snaps Abbey's photo on the balance beam. "Look, Ma; no hands!"

Center: Vincent encourages Brandy to cross the bridge.

Please send your CLEF letters to Heather if you participated, so we can continue to receive funding.

Sarah Ball realized, "In a group you need to listen to all the opinions of the groups. This goes for being a leader or being a group member. . . Then come to consensus about the solution." This became evident in the bridge-building project at left.

Sarah Mitchell observed that "Limiting oneself could hamper not only an individual's efforts, but a group's efforts as well." The bridge project really tested group problem-solving.

Photo Right: Sam displays his high-wire ability and courage.

For More Team-building and Dinosaur Class Photos, go to www.mcc.edu/honors Then link to "What's New" page. You can download and print photos.

Tips for Honors Program Graduates & Early Transfers

Bettina Barillas
Erika Bockelman
David Brace
Jazmine Clark
Bobbi Coates
Catherine Croft
Veronica Dyer
Victoria Dykes
Sherrie Foster
Leah Gatica
Aaron Geri
Vincent Gordon
Brandy Hardenburg
Sandra Holt
Hyon Larsen
Sicily Losinski
Autumn Lundy
Paul Marceri
Debbie Manning
David Meeks
Brittney Miller
Sarah Mitchell
Marilyn Morgan
Elizabeth Mowery
Samuel Porter
Keisha Powell
Chris Reynolds
Abigail Sak
Hannah Smith
Nicole Snyder
Destiny Sohlden
Sarah Throop
Dalissa Williams
Caitlin Yancho

Honors Program students planning to graduate in May 2009 must contact Heather ASAP as graduation events require a great deal of preparation. **The 34 students in box to the left have identified themselves as MCC grads or transfers. Our largest class ever!!**

1. **If you are not on the list and SHOULD be, or you are on the list and SHOULD NOT be, contact the Honors Coordinator immediately.**

2. **March 1:** Application for Graduation DUE in Registrar's Office, College Center. You may walk in Commencement even if you will finish in Spring or Summer Semester.

3. Sign "Release of Approximate Final Grades." Forms will be mailed to list at left.

4. **Caps and gowns** will be sold the last 2 weeks of Winter Semester in Student Life, College Center. PTK members must purchase their own regalia. Honors Program Medallions are supplied at the Honors Program graduation dinner.

5. **Apr 30: Thursday. Honors Reception for entire college**. Any student who received 3.5 GPA or higher is invited. 7-9 PM Sarvis Center, across from Whiting Auditorium Awards for 4.0 GPA and other college-wide recognitions are made. Free, but tickets are required; obtain from VP office.

6. **May 1: Friday. Honors Program Graduation Dinner and Medallion Ceremony.** Honors Program graduates, fellow students, families and friends are invited to the annual Honors Graduation Dinner and Medallion ceremony . NEW LOCATION: the Events Center attached to the MCC Library. Honors Program grads are admitted FREE and addi tional tickets for the dinner may be purchased from the Honors Coordinator for $15. The Honors student's ticket price includes dinner, 1 professional photo, and medallion.

7. Didn't finish all your Honors requirements? Check Honors Handbook requirements for a Certificate of Achievement or Certificate of Recognition presented at Graduation Dinner.

8. **May 2: Saturday. Commencement at Perani Arena.** Honors Program and PTK are invited to sit in the FRONT ROWS . Your actual Honors Diploma and Associates Degree are mailed when all requirements are met.

Regalia at Commencement:
White cords: 3.0 "Graduation with honors"
Silver cords: 3.5 "Graduation with high honors"
Gold cords: 4.0 "Graduation with highest honors"
Honors Program Diploma: Medallion
PTK member: gold stole/officers wear medallion

9. Schedule an appointment with Heather if you'd like information on UM-Flint Jr/Sr Honors Scholar Program or any other college's Honors Programs or scholarship opportunities. Transfer $$$ available!

10. Notify Heather of desired spelling of name for program, your transfer plans and scholarships earned. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO MET THE HONORS CHALLENGE!!!