MCC to Hold Its First Jazz Festival

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Department of Music's First Annual Jazz Festival for Community Colleges, Small Colleges and High Schools, Saturday, Feb. 25 from 9 am to 9 pm in the Mott Memorial Building. The event is free and open to the public. The day-long event will feature performances by MCC Jazz Combos and college and high school jazz ensembles from across Michigan. Guest artists and clinician/adjudicators for the event will be internationally acclaimed trombonist/composer Dave McMurdo - leader of the most popular jazz ensemble in Canada and trumpeter/composer Mike Malone. Both McMurdo and Malone are on the music faculty at MCC's sister college, Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario and are both multiple Juno award winners (the Juno is the Canadian equivalent of the Grammy). The MCC Jazz Ensemble and Combo I will perform with the guest artists in a concert at 7 pm. All performances, clinics and the evening concert are free and open to the public. For more information, contact MCC Music Coordinator Chuck Iwanusa or MCC Director of Instrumental Music Tom Smith at 232-3491.

Presidential Conference Center to Be Named for Dr. Charles Pappas

Dr. Charles N. Pappas, who served as president of Mott Community College from 1970 to 1980, will be honored in a special ceremony at MCC on Feb. 13 when the Presidential Conference Center on the Flint campus is named in his honor. The ceremony is scheduled for 11:30 am-1 pm, Monday Feb. 13 at the Presidential Conference Center, which houses the Foundation for Mott Community College.

The C.S. Mott Foundation has accepted a proposal that will include a $100,000 joint gift from the Mott Foundation and the Pappas family to MCC's Endowment Growth Initiative. This generous monetary gift prompted the renaming of the Presidential Conference Center. "We are deeply honored and truly grateful to the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Pappas family for this generous contribution," said Lennetta Coney, Foundation for MCC President. "This gift represents a solid commitment toward sustaining the future of MCC and advancing our ongoing efforts toward providing excellence in education and exemplary service to our community."

Diesel Technology Program Rescheduled to Start Feb. 28

MCC is aiming to prepare future workers for a burgeoning industry in our area with its new two-year Diesel Technology Program, which begins Feb. 28. The diesel technology program, re-scheduled from an earlier announced start date of Jan. 24 to accommodate student enrollment plans, is being offered by MCC's Corporate Services Department. For more information, call 232-8674.
**Around Campus**

**Tom Crampton**, Regional Technology Initiatives Executive Dean, has great news to report from his area. Tom received confirmation just before the holidays that MCC will receive $2.5 million from the U.S. Dept. of Defense for two different projects:
1) Expanding efforts of the Workforce Development Institute for Simulation Technology (WDIST) to help disseminate emerging technology information and education services to the defense community, and
2) Launching a project that leverages MCC’s simulation expertise to support the development of a medical device used to treat lower leg injuries. Both projects are in cooperation with U.S. Army operations and the second leverages a partnership with Kettering, Michigan Tech, and the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio.

Foundation for MCC President

**Lennetta Coney** will speak on the topic "Liberation Through Education" from 11:30 am-1pm Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the Hurley Medical Center Merliss Brown Auditorium. The program is free and open to the public. Coney is the recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Award, among other numerous honors for her community service and leadership.

Business Prof. **Urundi Knox** is being honored by the Genesee District Library during its 2006 Black History Month Awards Brunch sponsored by Comcast at 10 am, Saturday, Feb.18 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre Drive. Tickets are $25 per person or $250 per table. For tickets or information, call 732-5570.

Art Prof. and Graphic Design Program Coordinator **Mara Jevera Fulmer**’s work: "Se(a) crossings: Time in the midst of the pressures of chaos," will be on exhibition at the Fine Arts Gallery of the Visual Arts and Design Center from Feb. 6-21. In addition, she will give a public presentation about her work at noon Wednesday, Feb.15 in room 129 of the VADC. These events are made possible in part by the Ballenger Trust. Mara describes her work for this exhibit as a multi-channel video and audio installation with at least eight large hanging panels on mylar and satin paper, large sandblasted acrylic dome, hung with monofilament from a metal grid and a large printed floor text. It is being modified from its' original installation at Kresge Art Museum, held in March, 2005. For information, call the Art and Design office at 762-0443.

From Social Science Division’s **Sherry Parish**: Nicole Edwards of Anderson Elementary School is trying to put together a cultural diversity fair for the students at Anderson. She is looking for MCC students or instructors who may be from another country to come and set up a table to display items of interest or information about their culture and their country. The event is scheduled March 8 from 6 - 8 pm. If you know of any students or instructors who may be interested in representing their country as well as MCC, please call her at 591-5860.

Human Resources Senior Generalist/Recruiter **Sharon Ewles** reminds us of the Chester D. Smith Outstanding Staff Awards. They will be presented at the Spring Reception on April 20. Seven of your fellow faculty and staff members will be recognized for their dedication and excellent performance. Beginning February, nomination forms will be available throughout the campus and on the MCC website. Additional details will be announced in future issues of The Connection. Also, The Office of Human Resources anticipates posting several full-time faculty positions within the next month. As the positions are posted, faculty and staff will be notified via the campus-wide email system. In addition, the official announcements will be posted on the Employment Opportunities webpage at www.mott.jobs.

Political Science Prof. **Paul Rozycki** has photos shown at Buckham Gallery through Feb. 3 that were part of a show called "Six Photographers take on the Photograph."

Professional Development/Tech Programs Coordinator **Sherry Bradish** provides a comprehensive report on recent and upcoming professional development activities. A total of 28 workshops were offered by faculty and staff during Welcome Back Week, Jan. 11-13 with 102 participants attending "Too Much Teaching, Not Enough Learning and Too Little FUN" with Dr. Stephen DiCarlo of Wayne State University Medical School following the breakfast on Jan. 12. The CETL Winter conference is scheduled Feb. 17 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center. It is entitled "Using Critical Thinking in the Classroom: Opening Doors, Opening Minds." A team of faculty from Ferris State University will facilitate the workshop. Registration is at CETLConference@mcc.edu. Careers Conference: (VPAA 6.1, VPAA 9.1). The 2006 Conference on Career Education will be held Feb. 5-7 in Grand Rapids. High school and college instructors and staff will participate and bring back best practice information to share. **Sherry Bradish** along with **Gary Tower** (GJSD), kim farthing (Grand Blanc HS), Deb Cuskack (Byron HS) and Brian Pyles(SRESAD) will present "Entrepreneurship: Ten Easy Lessons - Ready for Integration" in a breakout session on Feb. 6.

**Brenda R. Williams**, MCC’s 3P Campaign Coordinator, is seeking students who are interested in becoming Campus Peer Advocates to assist in ongoing efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence. The 3P Campaign is a program designed to Prevent, Protect & Prosecute Violence Against Women and is part of a national initiative led by the Department of Justice under the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. For additional information, contact Brenda Williams at 232-8216 or brenda.williams@mcc.edu.

Flint City Theatre continues to hum with activity -- thanks to the efforts of MCC Theatre Prof. **Dan Gerics**, FCT director. FCT presented The Short Play Festival, featuring new works by playwrights from around the country Jan 26- 28 at The Good Beans Café. Dan also served as festival director. FCT’s upcoming presentation, **Bent** by Martin Sherman, focuses on the struggle of gays in Nazi Germany. For **Bent**. Dan is also working as the fight director (the person who choreographs fight scenes). **Bent** is scheduled Feb 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 at Red Ink Studios. Tickets are $5. For tickets or more information, call 341-6912 or visit the website www.flinttheatre.com.

Congratulations to the following new MCC employees: **Carol Van Buren**, Secretary II in technology, start date: Dec. 23; Anthropology Instructor **Jennifer Fillion** in Social Sciences, start date Jan. 11; and **Deborah K.R. Kuhl**, Science Education support specialist in the Science and Math Division, start date Jan, 23.

Early Childhood Education instructor **Becky Garske** brings us news about The Great Start Professional Development Initiative: a research study looking at the role of early childhood professional development in preparing young students for school entry. A coaching retreat was held in Lansing Jan. 20. In attendance were representatives from all Initiative partners: U of M Ann Arbor, Lansing, Schoolcraft, Grand Rapids and MCC. Representing MCC were GSI coaches **Susan Lechota**, **Nkela Collins**, **Sherry Parish** and Rita Vater-Darton, along with Early Childhood Education Coordinator **Dan Hodgings** and **Becky Garske**.

Administrative Assistant **Crystal Croffe** tells us about a boost for the Business Division. A very nice picture and article about Ellen's Closet entitled "Closet offerings give women a boost" was featured in the Friday, Jan. 20 issue of the The Flint Journal's "Making A Difference" section. Ellen's Closet provides free professional attire to MCC’s female students. **Toni Williams** and **Marisa Rodriguez**, MCC students who assist in Ellen's Closet were interviewed along with their supervisor, Prof. **Barbara Schulz**.
The newly-renovated Mott Library reopened its main entrance on Jan. 9. The new, open floor plan is more inviting and visually appealing, making the Library "a more welcoming place for students, faculty, and staff," said Executive Director Denise Hooks.

**Big Band Dance Returns To Campus**

It's time to pull out the old, dancing shoes again. The Bruin Club of Genesee County's second annual Big Band Dance, "Serenade in Blue," will be 6:30-10:30 pm Saturday, Feb.18 in the Prahl Center Ballroom. The event is a fundraiser for the MCC Athletic Scholarship Fund. Last year the dance sold out. Tickets are now on sale at $15 a person and $30 per couple. Seating is limited. Refreshments will be served. The Tuxedo Junction Dance Band, under the direction of David Heiple, will be joined again this year by Detroit vocalist Judy Cochill. Additional entertainment planned for the evening will be special dance demonstrations performed by various dancers from the area. For tickets or more information, call 234-6377.

**Correction**

The article appearing in the January 2006 issue of The Connection, "Counseling and Student Development Division Helps MCC Graduates," incorrectly identified Dan Blaha as a member of the MCC Counseling faculty. Blaha works as veterans representative with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. We regret any inconvenience this error may have caused.
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<td>Mara Fulmer Art Exhibit 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. VADC Feb. 6-21</td>
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<td>Wild Ones Meeting 7-9 p.m. Genesee Room</td>
<td>Fridays at Applewood 9:30-11:30 a.m. Applewood Café</td>
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<td>Soul Food Celebration: Tribute to Black Educators Noon-1:30 p.m. PCC Student Life</td>
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<td>Michigan Community College Jazz Festival MMB Auditorium 9 a.m.-9 p.m.</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees Meeting • 7:30-10 p.m. Prahl Ballroom Jan. 23</td>
<td>Understand &amp; Rejoice: Black trivia &amp; games Noon-1:30 p.m. PCC Student Life</td>
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