



## MECC graduate works with congressman

One former student is proving that with the right experience, preparation, and a few connections at MECC, finding a rewarding job in the area can be done. After finishing her Administrative Support Technology (AST) degree in December 2003, Marsha Craiger obtained a job at Congressman Rick Boucher's office in Big Stone Gap as a case work specialist.

Craiger found out about the job through Shirley Wells, Associate Professor of AST at MECC. "Someone at the office here had resigned, so they called Ms. Wells to see if she knew of anyone that was qualified," says Craiger. "She gave them my name and they called me for an interview."

The recent graduate went through two separate interviews before finding out she had been chosen for the position. "I took an internship class at MECC, where we practiced being interviewed by a group," she says. "That experience helped me when I interviewed for this job."

She has also benefited from the Business Communications class she took at MECC. "At the time, I didn't realize I would be using everything I learned in there for this job." She credits her Human Relations and Sociology classes in helping her to better understand people, a skill she has utilized in her new position. "I would have to say my favorite part of working here is doing things with the public."

Craiger deals a lot with the public since one of her main duties at Congressman Boucher's office is aiding constituents that call with inquiries when dealing with federal and state agencies. "I'm here to help with whatever anyone needs," she says.

February was exciting for her. She attended her first town meetings in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties. She also made her first trip to Washington, D.C. for a seminar.

"I love this job," she says. "I didn't know exactly what to expect when I first started, but I love it."

Craiger also likes her new employer. "Congressman Boucher is great to work for. On my first day, he came to the office and said, 'Welcome to the team.'"

In fact, she says she was welcomed by employees from the congressman's other headquarters, located in Washington, D.C., Abingdon, and Pulaski. "Our office has a lot of contact with Congressman Boucher, as well as employees from his office through phone calls and emails."

"I have learned a lot here already, but I know I still have a lot to learn," she says. "I'm just very grateful to Ms. Wells at MECC for recommending me. I couldn't ask for anything better."



**Former MECC student Marsha Craiger works at Congressman Boucher's Office in Big Stone Gap.**

## Update on soldiers

Just a note to update you on our family, friends, and students that are serving in the armed forces.

As you all know, the 1030th came home at the end of last year. The 1031st, who have been stationed at Ft. Lee for the past year, came home February 12th. Their stay may be brief if they are deployed to replace troops returning home from Iraq. The 1032nd, stationed in Iraq for the past year, are expected home in early April. The 189th out of Big Stone Gap was activated in early January and is currently at Ft. Dix in New Jersey. The word is that they will be sent to Iraq soon.

If you know of any students who were activated with this unit, please send their names to Lisa Woliver in Talent Search. She is trying to get a list together so that we may support them while they are gone.



Leslie Ingle, pictured surrounded by Iraqi children, is one of our students who has been living in Iraq for the past year.



MECC students Shannon Moscato, Jody Cussins, (both residents of Clintwood) and Ashley Stacy (Big Stone Gap) met with Delegate Bud Phillips during their visit to the Virginia General Assembly on February 4th. They were accompanied by MECC President Terrance Suarez, MECC Foundation Director Donna Stanley, and MECC Board member Teresa Adkins (Wise) to promote the importance of funding higher education.

*“Failure is an event,  
never a person.”*

**William D. Brown**

Source: Today's Almanac

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The Red Fox Flier is a regular MECC student publication. Contributions to this publication should be delivered to R207 or sent by email to [sfisher@me.vccs.edu](mailto:sfisher@me.vccs.edu) or [lkennedy@me.vccs.edu](mailto:lkennedy@me.vccs.edu).

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# Campus Calendar

## March and April

To be prepared for MECC's semester events, mark your calendars today!

- March 3 Graduation applications due.
- March 9 ProArt presents **Paul Reisler and Diane Bardwell**, in *The Singer and the Song*, at 12:15 pm in the Goodloe Center.
- March 11 GAINing Excellence Seminar, **Violence Prevention**, 12:15-1:15 pm in G211. Presenter is SFC Andrew Bowman.
- March 15 Student Services Workshop, **Labor Market Trends**, 3:00 pm, G164.
- March 15-19 **SPRING BREAK - No day or evening classes.**
- March 16 GAINing Excellence Seminar, **Professional Appearance**, 12:15-1:15 pm in G220. Presenter is Connie Rhoton.
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- March 22 Last day to withdraw without penalty, change from credit to audit.
- March 23 ProArt presents **Patricia Johnson**, in *Sister Speak*, at 12:15 pm in the Goodloe Center.
- April 4 Daylight Savings Time begins (don't forget to turn your clocks forward an hour).
- April 7-8 Spring Fling, 12:15-1:15 pm.
- April 9 Last day to make up incomplete grades from fall semester.
- April 11 Easter.
- April 13 ProArt presents **Eugenie Russo**, in *Piano Concert*, at 12:15 pm in the Goodloe Center.
- April 15 GAINing Excellence Seminar, **Flag Presentation**, 12:15-1:15 pm in G211. Presenter is SFC Andrew Bowman.
- April 21-22 SGA Elections.
- April 21-May 4 Summer 04/fall 04 early enrollment.
- April 22 Graduation practice, D/C Auditorium.
- April 28 GAIN Luncheon.
- April 28 ProArt presents **Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band**, in *Home Town Saturday Night*, at 7:30 pm in the Goodloe Center.

WATCH FOR GAINing EXCELLENCE SEMINARS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. Feel free to bring your lunch.

**March 15-19**

**Spring Break - No day  
or evening classes**

**March 22**

**Last day to withdraw  
without penalty, change  
from credit to audit**

**April 7-8**

**Spring Fling -  
Food, fun, and more**

**April 22**

**Graduation Practice**

# Around Campus

## Phlebotomy Students

These students recently received notice that that had successfully passed their certification exams (practical and written) with The National Phlebotomy Association:

**Kimberley Anderson**

**Theta Bailey**

**Meggan Balthis**

**Mildred Balthis**

**Joy Butler**

**Heather Collins**

**Patricia Fleenor**

**Jessica Miles**

**Charlotte Sexton**

**Sherry Tomlinson**

## PTK Induction Ceremony

The spring induction ceremony for new members of Phi Theta Kappa will be held on Tuesday, March 23 at 12:15 p.m. in Fugate Auditorium in Dalton-Cantrell Hall.

The guest speaker will be Ms. Laura Lyons, a member of the staff of the Mountain Laurel Center. The Center provides resources for cancer patients in southwest Virginia and is affiliated with Mountain Empire Older Citizens. Ms. Lyons will talk about prevention and early detection of cancer and the services the Center provides to cancer patients and their families.

You are cordially invited to attend the ceremony, and the reception which follows, to help us recognize the achievement of the students who will be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year college students.

## Pro-Art Events

All Pro-Art events are free to MECC students. (Must show current MECC ID card for evening and off-campus events.)

**Tuesday, March 9**

**Paul Reisler and Diane Bardwell,**  
in *The Singer and the Song*,  
12:15 pm in the Goodloe Center

**Tuesday, March 23**

**Patricia Johnson,** in *Sister Speak*,  
12:15 pm in the Goodloe Center

**Tuesday, April 13**

**Eugenie Russo,** in *Piano Concert*,  
12:15 pm in the Goodloe Center

**Wednesday, April 28**

**Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band,**  
in *Home Town Saturday Night*,  
7:30 pm in the Goodloe Center

## Old Time Jam

3rd Saturday of each month, 1:00-4:00 pm,  
Slomp Commons Area, Goodloe Center

An informal gathering for anyone who sings or plays old time music and instruments. Also open to anyone wanting to just sit back and listen to the music.

## Elosser to be on PBS

Student Services Director Bonnie Elosser will be appearing on the Blue Ridge Public Television program *BlueRidge Live* to talk about Pro-Art.

Bonnie will speak about the history, etc. of Pro-Art, the programs at the College, and the role the College plays in the process.

The program is a live broadcast where folks can call in during the broadcast. Tune in March 10 at 5:30 pm.

# Black History Month

MECC celebrated Black History Month in a variety of ways. The library made a display of books and articles by or about African Americans, and students made poster displays of historical events and people, and placed them across campus. In addition, Student Services sponsored a memorable cultural arts event. Paul Anderson performed his one-man, one-act musical drama, "Expectations of Triumph." Below are the reactions and thoughts of a few MECC students.

## Reflections

**By Jennifer L. Lane and Tony K. Mullins**

The month of February is set aside for the acknowledgement of important individuals in black history and their contributions to our daily life. To celebrate, various students compiled poster boards that were representative of different aspects of society and the improvements made by ordinary African-American citizens.

The coup de gras was the performance by Paul Anderson in the Goodloe Center on February 19. Those who were in attendance witnessed a spectacular performance. His compelling one-man drama/musical moved the audience to tears. The material, mostly original, was both informative and motivational. It cited great individuals of history including Kujumu, Frederick Douglass, Paul Robeson, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

He also included some improvisational speaking inside the performance that gave the program a distinct personal touch. The narrator, Constant, spoke motivating words of wisdom directed at the maturing generations of society. It is important for



**Paul Anderson**

everyone to become aware of the everyday struggles of individuals who had to face difficulties and hardships completely foreign to some people in today's world. But the motivational advice they had to offer transcends the gen-

erations and is as applicable today as it was in the times of the characters portrayed by Mr. Anderson. His vocal performance was spiritually touching as he gave renditions of songs thought to be outdated by many. The messages within those old spirituals are forever relevant in our daily struggles as members of the human race.

**By David Gray**

I was proud to attend this rendition of the achievements accomplished by the African American heroes of our nation. If it were not for what they stood for, where would America be today? If it were not for Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on that bus, if it were not for the March on Washington, if it were not for the "I Have A Dream" speech, if it were not for the Civil Rights Movement itself, where would America be today?

Black History Month provides the younger generation the ability to look back at what was done for people of African American descent to enjoy the rights and freedoms that all Americans enjoy thanks to the United States Constitution. This time of reflection shows the younger generation the mistakes that our nation made in the past and also teaches them not to make the same mistakes twice.



**Students look at books and articles on display in the library.**

## Local Student Art on Display

Currently on display in the Slempp Gallery is the Annual High School Exhibition. The Slempp Gallery is located in the Wampler Library in Robb Hall.

Each year the area high schools are encouraged to submit artwork from their students. This year students from Appalachia, Powell Valley, J.I. Burton, J.J. Kelly, Pound, Lee, Gate City, Thomas Walker and Twin Springs high schools have submitted work for exhibition.

Everyone is invited to visit the Slempp Gallery and view the fine work their students have done.

The exhibition continues through March 26, 2004. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 7:30 pm. The hours on Friday are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. You may also visit the exhibition on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

In addition, you may view some of the student work on the MECC Home Page.



## Faculty Spotlight

### Alice Harrington, Associate Professor of Art

Alice Harrington, Associate Professor of Art, has been selected to receive the highly competitive 2004-2006 Chancellor's Commonwealth Professorship.



**Alice Harrington**

Among other incentives, the award will provide Alice with \$7,500 for expenses related to her teaching/learning project.

Alice is the first MECC faculty member to receive this award. Her project will involve the investigation into industrial type dry film technology as applied to the non-toxic processes for use in printmaking, drawing, painting and graphic design classes and studios.

## Staff Spotlight

### Joe Young, Information Technology Specialist

Joe Young, Information Technology Specialist in the Center for Computing Technology, has recently received several honors for his magic.

His Rubik Cube Act was included in the official International Brotherhood of Magician (IBM) Linking Ring Magazine for the January 2004 issue. The article included a photo and tells about Joe's performance at a magic conference in Corbin, KY at Cumberland Falls. Joe's act is also featured in a new MECC ad showing on WKPT-TV.



**Joe Young**

Joe's Rubik Cube Act also won the Gold Medal at the Magi-Fest 2004, and 1st place in the South Carolina Association of Magicians (SCAM) 2004 contest.

## John Fox, Jr. Festival

The twenty-eighth annual John Fox, Jr. Festival will be held on Thursday, April 15, in the Fugate Auditorium of Dalton-Cantrell Hall. The guest speakers will be Silas House, a fiction author from Lily, KY, and Colonel Keith E. Gibson, Executive Director of Museum Programs for the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA.

Silas House, who until recently was a rural mail carrier for the U. S. Postal Service, is the author of three books, *Clays Quilt*, *A Parchment of Leaves*, and the soon to be released, *The Cool Tattoo*. House was chosen as one of the South's "Ten Emerging Writers" by the Millennial Gathering of Writers at Vanderbilt University in 2000. He has received national exposure as a contributor to NPR's "All Things Considered." He recently taught creative

writing at Lincoln Memorial University as a visiting professor.

Colonel Keith Gibson will discuss the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition as examples of adventure and travel literature. He will discuss how the journals were kept, how they survived the trip, how they languished several years without getting published, and what became of the originals. Colonel Gibson is responsible for the operation and development of the VMI Museum in Lexington, and the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park in New Market, VA. He has written numerous book reviews and articles on the Civil War era and VMI and has worked as a consultant on several historical documentary films on the Civil War.



**Silas House**



**Keith Gibson**

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### Did You Know?

How is the date for Easter determined each year? There are two different formulas for Easter, since there are two Easters, in most years. The basic formula is: the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 20, the first day of spring). This year, the holiday falls on April

20. (It can occur any time between March 22 and April 25.) But there is another formula. In the Eastern Orthodox religion, the formula is: the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox after Jewish Passover. That is why the two Easters rarely coincide. *Source: Trivia Today*

# 17th Annual Lonesome Pine Short Story Contest

Stories are now being accepted for the 17th Annual Lonesome Pine Short Story Contest. Authors are encouraged to submit an original story with a maximum story length of 1,500 words; the entry deadline is March 19, 2004.

The sponsor of the short story contest is Lonesome Pine Arts & Crafts, Inc. of Big Stone Gap. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded in three categories: adult, high school student, and middle school student.

## Contest Rules

Stories will be accepted in three categories:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Adult                           | 1st Place - \$100<br>2nd Place - \$50<br>3rd Place - \$25 |
| 2. High School<br>(Grades 9 – 12)  | 1st Place - \$25<br>2nd Place - \$15<br>3rd Place – \$10  |
| 3. Middle School<br>(Grades 5 – 8) | 1st Place - \$25<br>2nd Place - \$15<br>3rd Place – \$10  |

Only one (1) submission per author is allowed.

Maximum length: 1,500 words. Typed copy preferred (no binders).

Deadline for submission: 4:30 p.m. March 19, 2004

Winners will be invited to accept their awards at the John Fox, Jr. Festival on Thursday, April 15, 2004, at 10 a.m. in the Fugate Auditorium located in Dalton-Cantrell Hall on the MECC campus.

A cover page must accompany the story. It should include:

1. Name (Your name should appear only on the cover page)
2. Address
3. Daytime telephone number(s)
4. Title of the story (Should also appear on the first page of the story)
5. Number of words in the story, and
6. Category (adult, high school, or middle school)

If you would like a copy of the winning stories, or would like your story returned, please include a large self-addressed stamped manila envelope. The printed stories are usually six pages, so please include adequate postage.

Mail to: Lonesome Pine Short Story Contest, Mountain Empire Community College Foundation, 3441 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219.

Contact Person: Ms. Barbara Orndorff – 523-7466; Email - borndorff@me.vccs.edu

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**See Page 7 for more information about this year's John Fox, Jr. Festival**