

Red Fox Flier



No. 56
April/May 2004



Mountain Empire Community College's student publication

Robinette to Speak at Graduation



Bruce K. Robinette

Scott County native Bruce K. Robinette will be MECC's commencement speaker on May 14th. He was instrumental in the establishment of MECC to expand higher education opportunities to residents of Lee, Scott, Wise, and Dickenson Counties and the City of Norton.

Born near Duffield, Robinette was raised on a dairy farm on Back Valley Road in nearby Powell Valley and is a graduate of the former East Stone Gap High School. He earned a B. S. Degree in Business Administration and Economics from Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN, and a master's degree from Virginia Tech.

Robinette retired after 42 years in public service; seven of those years as a public secondary school teacher and administrator.

He has spent 35 years engaged in community and economic development as Director of the LENOWISCO Planning District and as General Manager of the Duffield Development Authority.

Robinette and his wife, Patsy, are the parents of two children and are seasonal residents of Big Stone Gap and Rockledge, FL.

Graduation is May 14 at 6:00 pm

Project Graduation Soon to be Underway

By Elaine Murphy
emurphy0018@email.vccs.edu

Graduation will be here before we know it. This May, the Alpha Delta Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa will be holding its annual Project Graduation: Feed A Body, Feed A Mind. Project Graduation encourages students graduating from two-year colleges to collect books and non-perishable food products to aid in the fight against

illiteracy and hunger. The books and food are then distributed to various organizations that are in need. Illiteracy and hunger go almost unnoticed in this great nation. This should not happen.

As graduation approaches, be on the lookout for boxes on campus where you can donate to this seriously needed cause. Last year's donations included 203 cans and 32 books. Let's see if we can far exceed that amount this year. Now, let's get started.

Appreciating Diversity • Seeking Unity

MECC Explorations Arts Competition

Winners

Poetry

First Place - Barbara Dockery
 Second Place - Patrick Hunter-Kilmer
 Third Place - Barbara Dockery

Photography (Color)

First Place - Tonya Hale
 Second Place - Bonnie Aker
 Third Place - Shelley Perry
 Honorable Mention - Bonnie Aker
 Jody Cussins
 Neka Wilson
 Barbara Dockery

Photography (Black and White)

First Place - Bonnie Aker
 Second Place - Renee Roberts
 Third Place - Destiny Spears
 Honorable Mention - E. Exum Griffin

There were not enough entries in the Short Story, Essays, and Drawing categories to hold the competition.



WANTED

SGA Officers

The Student Government Association elections for the 2004-2005 school year for the offices of president, vice-president, and corresponding secretary will be filled this semester. The other open offices will be elected during the fall semester. All MECC students with a minimum GPA of 2.0 are eligible to seek office. Contact Peggy Gibson in the Student Services Office, 1st floor, Godwin Hall, to pick up a petition and job duties description. Have your completed petition returned to Student Services by 3:00 pm on April 7. Campaigning may begin on Monday, April 12, and continue through the elections on April 21 and 22. The polls will be open in the Library, 2nd floor, Robb Hall, from 8:30 am on April 21 until 6:30 pm on April 22.

Please be reminded that candidates and campaign managers must remain fifty feet away from the polling booths. The results of the election will be posted on Friday, April 23.

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Source: Trivia Today

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 or lkennedy@me.vccs.edu.

Student Writers for April/May Issue

Tara Curtis
 Judy Mitchell
 Elaine Murphy
Contributors
 Dr. Sharon Fisher
 Melissa Potter
 Lana Kennedy

Advisor/Editor

Dr. Sharon Fisher
Photographer
 Neka Wilson
Design/Layout
 Lana Kennedy

Campus Calendar

April and May

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

- April 4 Daylight Savings Time begins (don't forget to turn your clocks forward an hour).
- April 9 Last day to make up incomplete grades from fall semester.
- April 11 Easter.
- April 12-16 Spring Fling, 12:15-1:15 pm.
- 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.
- May 4 Last day of classes.
- May 7 Awards Ceremony.
- May 5-7, 10 Final Exams.
- May 9 Mother's Day.
- May 14 Graduation.

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

April 4
Daylight Savings Time Begins

May 4
Last Day of Classes

April 12-16
Spring Fling

May 7
Awards Ceremony

April 21-22
SGA Elections

May 5, 6, 7, and 10
Final Exams

April 22
Graduation Practice

May 14
Graduation

Around Campus

Tools for Schools

The MECC Student Diplomats are once again sponsoring their "Tools for School" drive to collect supplies for a deserving elementary school in our region. This year the supplies will go to Stickleyville Elementary. The drive will continue through Friday, April 2, and collection boxes have been placed in each building on campus.

The following is a list of suggested items:

- construction paper
- Clorox wipes
- crayons
- markers
- paper
- Kleenex
- hand sanitizer
- glue/glue sticks
- safety scissors
- erasers
- pencils
- story books

Donations of cash will be accepted, and used to purchase supplies. Cash donations can be left with Peggy Gibson, Godwin Hall, Room 140.

For more information, see any Diplomat or Sponsors Reg St. Clair, Carolyn Helms, or Bonny Copenhaver. Your help is sincerely appreciated!!

Interstate Career Fair

Interstate Career Fair 2004 is sponsored by 21 colleges, universities and community colleges from Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. The fair is designed to give students an opportunity to promote their talents and abilities to potential employers. Likewise, the potential employers have the opportunity to market their companies.

The fair will be held on Thursday, April 15, noon to 5 pm at the Holiday Inn in Bristol, VA.

A 10 passenger van has been reserved to take students from MECC. Seating is limited!! The van will be leaving MECC at 9:00 a.m. and be arriving back by 4:30 pm.

Among the many employers attending the fair are Girls Scouts of the Appalachian Council, Wellmont Health Systems, Wise County Schools, Old Dominion University, ETSU Undergraduate Admissions, Southwest Virginia Higher Ed. Center, Highlands Community Service, Frontier Health, WCYB-TV, Bristol Virginia Police Dept., Norton Community Hospital, and the Social Security Administration.

For more information or to reserve a seat on the van, contact Linda Childress at ext. 422.

Empl ID Security

Beginning with summer semester, students must present a photo ID (preferably the student ID) for various services (inquire or pay for tuition balances, pick up paychecks, charges in the bookstore, testing, etc.). The reason for this change is to improve security and confidentiality of the student's Empl ID number and minimize the risk of identify theft.

Students must also present some form of identification or documentation to prove their identity (preferably a driver's license) prior to obtaining a student ID card. In addition, students will be able to obtain term validation stickers for an existing student ID from multiple points, including the Business Office, Bookstore, Admissions and Financial Aid Offices.

More information will be made available prior to summer semester.

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, 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**

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 fiction author Silas House, and Colonel Keith E. Gibson, Executive Director of Museum Programs for the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. Everyone is invited.

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 or anyone wanting to just sit back and listen to the music.

Phi Theta Kappa Canned Food Drive

By Elaine Murphy
emurphy0018@email.vccs.edu

During the month of February, the Alpha Delta Psi chapter of MECC held a food drive on campus. With your help, we were able to collect 282 pounds of food! This food was donated to the Big Stone Gap food bank. Thanks go to all of those who participated. We could not have done it without your help. Let us all work together to end the hunger in our community. Holidays should not be the only time to collect food. Hunger is an ongoing crisis all over the world. Movablefeast.org states that one out of every eight children in the U.S. under the age of 12 goes to bed hungry every night. In a country as great as ours, this is an outrage. I ask of you that anytime you have a chance to take part in a food drive for the hungry, please do so. You will be making a big difference in the life of a hungry child.

Rho Nu Nursing Club Donation

The MECC Foundation is pleased to announce a \$1,000 gift to the Alice Stallings scholarship fund. This generous donation is made by the MECC Rho Nu Nursing Club. Stallings was a former nursing faculty member at MECC, and since the scholarship was created in 1983, twelve nursing students have received financial assistance.

Rho Nu, lead by faculty advisor Deborah Wright, is an organization for registered nursing majors in the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program at MECC. The club members conduct a variety of fundraising projects to support the annual scholarship donation and other club expenses. Over the next several years, the club will be working to increase the size of the endowment to \$25,000.

MECC President Terrance E. Suarez met with the club officers to thank them for their donation. "I am very pleased to see students helping students. These club members worked diligently to raise the money for

this donation, and through their efforts, future nursing students will have the opportunity to attend MECC. I congratulate this club on what they have accomplished," Suarez said.



Pictured (l to r): Teresa Speak, Student Representative; Lewis Muse, club Treasurer; Dr. Suarez; Vera Mabe, club President; and Corinne Bryant, club Secretary.

Phi Theta Kappa Brings Home Five Awards

By Elaine Murphy
emurphy0018@email.vccs.edu

During the most recent trip that the Alpha Delta Psi chapter made to Richmond, VA on March 5th-7th for the Virginia Region of Phi Theta Kappa's 25th Annual Convention, the chapter received five awards. These five awards include a Host Plaque for hosting the 13th Annual Regional Honors Institute in Morgantown, WV last October; a Travel Award for being one of two chapters that traveled the farthest with the most members attending; a Pinnacle Scholarship Award for increasing the number of PTK members over the previous year; a 1 Star Award in the 5 Star Program (which recognizes the chapter's successful attainment of goals as presented in the Society's Development Program); and a Certificate of Participation in the canned food drive.

Phi Beta Lambda Winners

MECC was well represented at the Phi Beta Lambda State Competition in Richmond. Information Systems Technology Instructor Nick Edwards took three PBLers to Richmond and brought home three state winners, eligible to compete in the national competition in Denver, Colorado in July. The winners are:

Gwen Jessee and Joanne Pilkenton
1st place - Desktop Publishing

Joanne Pilkenton
2nd place - Business Law

Kellie Hayes
2nd place - Job Interview

Congratulations to our winners!

Transfer Day at MECC a Success

MECC hosted its annual Transfer Day on February 25. The event proved to be a success with 15 colleges and universities represented. Each year, the college conducts Transfer Day to give students a chance to meet with school representatives and gain information about those that they may be interested in transferring to for a bachelor's degree.

This year, the participating schools included Davis & Elkins College, Emory & Henry College, Ferrum College, King College, Liberty University, Lincoln Memorial University, Milligan College, Old Dominion University Telechnet, Pikeville College, Radford University, Union College, the University of Virginia, the University of Virginia's College at Wise, Virginia Intermont College, and Virginia Tech.

Some colleges and universities brought information about graduate programs for students interested in continuing their education after receiving a bachelor's degree. King College was one school that offered information about its undergraduate programs, as well as King's Center for Graduate & Professional Studies. Also, some colleges like Virginia Intermont promoted their adult studies programs. "You are never too old to learn," says Milligan College representative Milton Carter in reference to these types of programs.

MECC counselor and assistant professor Carolyn Helms organized Transfer Day. "We feel like this event is the best way to get transfer information for our students," she says. "It gives them a chance to find out what opportunities are out there in terms of financial aid and scholarships after they graduate from MECC."

Helms says the school representatives also find Transfer Day beneficial. "Many of the representatives told me they got a very positive response from our students," she says. "They saw many interested students here."



Phi Theta Kappa Invades Richmond!!

By Elaine Murphy
emurphy0018@email.vccs.edu

A three-day trip to Richmond on March 5-7 proved to be an event-filled weekend for the Alpha Delta Psi chapter of MECC. The Virginia Region of Phi Theta Kappa's 25th Annual Convention included 23 chapters, four college presidents, the Alumni Association, and the Virginia regional officers. Special guests in attendance were Garon Tate from Phi Theta Kappa headquarters, and Matt Derrick from *USA Today*.

After arriving at the Sheraton Park South on Midlothian Turnpike, registration and tours were conducted at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden visitor's center. The Botanical Garden boasts 16 gardens among which include a healing garden, an Asian valley, and even a future site for a new children's garden. To get better acquainted with the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, you can visit their website at www.lewisginter.org and see the beauty this spectacular garden has to offer.

A light supper followed registration with the first general session in the Robins Tea House of the Botanical Garden. Among the numerous items on the agenda for the evening were a fellowship activity which included meeting Phi Theta Kappa members from other chapters to complete a worksheet about the healing garden, a state of the region report, and skits which were performed by 14 chapters on the Honors Study Topic, Dimensions and Directions of Health: Choices in the Maze. The skits performed were in relation to types of alternative medicine and were a joy to watch and even take part in as some chapters asked for group participation. The evening ended with fellowship in the Club Lounge at the Sheraton.

On Saturday, March 6, the second general session was called to order in the Chesapeake Room at the Sheraton. The agenda included items such as committee reports, the special project with *USA Today*, presentations by various senior colleges and universities, and also a chance to speak to the community colleges' presidents about the goals of the Virginia Community College System. One of the many committees included a credentials committee which MECC took part in with three other colleges. Members from Alpha Delta Psi which took part in that committee were Jason

Ingles as voting delegate along with Becky Egan and Jennifer Lane who would later help present awards.

Lunch and touring of the Richmond area was on our own so the Alpha Delta Psi chapter split into two groups to cover more territory. PTK advisor Nick Edwards took along with him Bridgett Dockery, Jessica Fields, Emily Lawson, Deneen Meade, and Becky Egan. This group was able to take in lunch at The Tobacco Company and later on went to visit the capitol. PTK advisor Linda Childress, Elaine Murphy, Jason Ingles, and Jennifer Lane were driven to The Science Museum by two Police Science students, Nick Barnette and J from the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University, along with their friend Kristie Miles. Our group chose to eat at Hawks BBQ which is within walking distance from The Science Museum.

The evening consisted of an awards banquet and dance back at the Sheraton in the Ballroom. The Alpha Delta Psi chapter brought home five awards. Awards include a Host Plaque for hosting the 13th Annual Regional Honors Institute in Morgantown, WV last October; a Travel Award for being one of two chapters that traveled the farthest with the most members attending; a Pinnacle Scholarship Award for increasing the number of PTK members over the previous year; a 1 Star Award in the 5 Star Program; and a Certificate of Participation in the canned food drive for which MECC collected 282 pounds of canned food products. In addition to the five awards already mentioned, two Alpha Delta Psi members, Emily Lawson and Elaine Murphy, were presented with the Virginia Region Hall of Honor. This award recognizes distinguished achievements in chapter and regional programs. Rounding out the evening was an invitation to be inducted into the Alumni Association. Alpha Delta Psi's very own Emily Lawson was inducted into that organization and is excited about her new position in Phi Theta Kappa. Congratulations go out to Emily and her continued dedication to Phi Theta Kappa.

While we all had a great time in Richmond, we also learned a lot and will be able to share what we learned with other members of PTK who were unable to attend the conference. Phi Theta Kappa, let us all keep up the hard work.

SGA Adopting a Highway

By Tara Curtis
tara465@yahoo.com

The Student Government Association is dedicated to taking time to give back to the community, and this time we are adopting a stretch of highway in Norton. It's a three-mile stretch on Route 23 from the Wal-Mart exit in Norton all the way to the first traffic light going into Wise. This means that we agree to clean and pick up litter on the roadside at least four times a year. The Virginia Department of Transportation will provide all necessary supplies and put up a special blue sign on the highway that states that the highway is adopted by MECC's Student Government Association.

To get volunteers to help clean the roadside, everyone who helps will get a free meal at the Mexican restaurant in Wise afterward, courtesy of SGA. It is going to be a fun get-together.

I used to be in my school's Earth Club when I was in high school and planned trips like this. They are always great, getting everyone together, getting exercise, and being outdoors. We aren't going to be strict either, you can help as much as you want and quit when you want; I just want everyone to have a good time. You get a good feeling when doing some service for the community. We want to keep Norton beautiful for our neighbors and for the tourists passing through.

We haven't set a date yet for our first clean-up yet, but we all need to meet first and carpool to keep the roadside cars to a minimum. If you want to come along and help out, plus get a free meal at the restaurant with us, you can email me, the SGA vice president, at tara465@yahoo.com and tell me what days work best for you and what dates you aren't available, or tell someone else in SGA.

Bridges Program

By Judy Mitchell

Hey all you students! Do you have trouble comprehending math or have trouble reading and comprehending what you have read? If you do I have the answer to your problem. The Bridges Program has a class you can take (STD 108) which will help you.

I am a 45 year old housewife and I had a lot of trouble with comprehending math. I completed this class and my math grades really improved; I would highly recommend this to all ages. I want to thank Linda Childress for all of her effort. She is really a godsend and a wonderful instructor. So I say thanks to the Bridges Program, which uses a combination of methods to assist students. Students sign up. If you have any questions regarding this please call me at (276)386-2495.

Just For Fun

1. These words belong to the same family:

Transubstantiation

Crystallographical

Straightforwardly

Philanthropically

Particularization

Maladministration

Which of these four words does too?

Disproportionable

Incommunicability

Marsipobranchiate

Demonstrativeness

2. A criminal is sentenced to death. Before his execution, he is allowed to make a statement. If his statement is false, he will be hanged, and if his statement is true, he will be drowned. What should he say to confuse the jury and thus save his life.

3. Which of these words is the odd-one-out?

Benefit

Flotsam

Hijack

Rosebud

Suited

Trumpeter

Answers on Page 10

MECC's Respiratory Therapy Program

MECC's Respiratory Therapy students use state-of-the-art technology to complete their training. This past year, Professor Mike Cook received a pulse oximeter from Nellcor, a business unit of Tyco Healthcare. MECC's program was also granted access to the expertise of Nellcor's field-based team of hospital clinical consultants.

Nellcor partnered with the non-profit American Respiratory Care Foundation (ARCF) to donate the Nellcor N-395 Pulse Oximeters and educational resources to 126 accredited respiratory therapy programs throughout the nation. The pulse oximeter is a noninvasive method of measuring a patient's pulse rate and oxygen saturation of the blood.

In addition to on-site clinicals at local hospitals, Cook and Associate Professor Roger Thompson train MECC students in the campus lab using a variety of other professional equipment, including mechanical ventilators, pulmonary function testing equipment, blood gas analyzers, and resuscitation equipment.

What is the MECC Respiratory Therapy Program and How To Apply

The Associate in Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy is designed to prepare selected students as competent Registered Respiratory Therapists and to serve as members of the health care team. The MECC Respiratory Therapy Program is approved and fully accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Health Education Programs.

If you are interested in Respiratory Therapy, you should have a strong desire to work in a medical setting. You are expected to work with all ages including newborns through the elderly in several different areas of clinical expertise.

Respiratory Therapy classes begin in the summer semester each year and applicants with official documentation of all admission prerequisites will be admitted into the program on a first come, first serve basis until all 30 positions are filled. To apply for the Respiratory Therapy Program, complete the Health Sciences Program Application.

As a graduate, you are eligible to take the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) entry level examination, Written Registry Examination, and Clinical Simulation Examination to be credentialed as a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

For more information, speak to Mary Phillips, ext. 324 (mphillips@me.vccs.edu) or Carolyn Helms, ext. 316 (chelms@me.vccs.edu) in Student Services, or Program Director, Mike Cook, ext. 277 (mcook@me.vccs.edu) or Clinical Director, Roger Thompson, ext. 302 (rthompson@me.vccs.edu).



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CARILION
Health System

EEO/AA

PTK Induction

On March 30, the Alpha Delta Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held its spring induction ceremony. The guest speaker for the ceremony was 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 MEOC. Ms. Lyons spoke about prevention and early detection of cancer and the services the center provides to cancer patients and their families.

The MECC students inducted were:

Violet L. Bishop	Priscilla Jeanette Hall	Callie Jo McCoy
Christine Rebecca Boggs	Keith Everette Hamilton	Anita Joann Parsons
Cora Evelyn H. Bobrosky	Olga Cecilia Hayes	Ashley Nicole Parsons
Ashley Danielle Brooks	Cynthia Diane Herron	Kenneth E. Percy
Judy Lynn Calton	Bailie Michelle Howard	Joanne Pilkenton
Larry Joe Carter	Patricia Lynn Imel	Wayne Douglas Powers, Jr.
Pamela Deniece Chafin	Donna Marie Jackson	Ed Scott Redman
Joan T. Davis	Sarah Renea Jennings	Tamara Carol Ring
Roy Lee Davis	Gwendolyn Pearl Jessee	Virginia Irene Robinson
Donna Kay Eldridge	Mary Elizabeth Johnson	Miranda Rose Tester
Linda Darlene Gibson	Joshua Michael Kilgore	Donna Renee Townsend
Emily Elaine Glenn	Mary S. Kirby	Skye Aubrey Waddle
David Lee Gray	Charlotte Lady Livesay	

Payment Plan for Tuition

Beginning with the summer 2004 semester, MECC will offer students the option of participating in a payment plan. The payment plan will be administered by FACTS Tuition Management and will allow the student to make a down payment with at least two more scheduled payments. The plan is interest free but there is an enrollment fee of \$30-\$45 dollars depending upon when the student enrolls in the plan. Details of the payment plan are being finalized. A brochure that will provide more information will be available in the MECC Business Office by April 18.

Just For Fun Answers

From Page 8

1. Incommunicability. Because none of these long words contains an E.

2. His statement must be "I will be hanged." If they want to hang him, the sentence is true, and therefore, they will not be able to hang him. For the same reason, he cannot be drowned because his statement would be false and they could not drown him if his statement is false. (Based on Don Quixote, by Cervantes.)

3. Benefit. It starts with a boys name (Ben) and all the others end with one.

Source: The Daily Tease

Library Evaluation

The library will be putting a student library evaluation form on their website this spring. The library's web site can be found by going to the MECC web site (www.me.vccs.edu) and clicking on the library box located on the left side.

No Smoking

Beginning May 17, smoking will be prohibited around entrances to college buildings.

Taking Physical Geology For Fun

By **Tara Curtis**
tara465@yahoo.com

Physical Geology was offered for the first time this spring and I take it every Tuesday and Thursday night. It's my favorite class this semester. I'm going to tell you about it because it will be offered again this fall and I recommend it to everyone. Professor Leslie N. Bright teaches the class well, trying his best to make every concept understandable and interesting. Bright is a geologist for the Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation, which is up the hill above the college. He got his Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Tennessee Technologi-

cal University and a Master of Science in Environmental and Engineering Geosciences from Radford University. He also studied Appalachian tectonics at UT Knoxville.

There is much camaraderie in our class; sometimes we get off the subject and often we joke and laugh but we get back to learning and you feel comfortable enough to ask any question. We've learned about rocks and minerals, and how to take an actual rock or mineral sample and identify it by its properties in the lab portion. We've also talked about volcanoes, earthquakes, the rock cycle, all different kinds of rocks, the formation of earth, environments,

soil, erosion, fossils, the Grand Canyon, the water cycle, earth's interior, the ocean, plate tectonics, mountain formation, reading topographic maps, and the formation of coal to name some topics we explore on an introductory level.

Mr. Bright makes sure everyone understands a complicated lesson before he moves on and he has many stories. The course, GOL 105, satisfies the requirement of a college transferable laboratory science, which is required for many of the degrees here at Mountain Empire. So far we haven't had any reports assigned, and there is some homework but mostly I can focus on all the reading and studying for quizzes and tests. You can take a semester of geology instead of biology or chemistry, and in my opinion, it's easier, although some people disagree and find it difficult. However, I recommend it to anyone, whether you need a science or not because it is interesting and useful knowledge to take away from your college experience. Also, it will look better on your transcript or resume to have taken a science for your elective credit instead of something too easy.

Physical Geology, a 4-credit lab science, will be offered in the fall on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6 to 8:45pm, starting August 24. If you have any questions about the class, you can ask Mr. Bright by emailing him at leslie.bright@dmme.virginia.gov.

Old Dominion University Extends Admission Deadline

Old Dominion University's distance education program, TELETECHNET, has extended summer and fall admission deadlines. Applications for 2004 summer admission will be accepted until April 1, 2004. Applications for 2004 fall admission will be accepted until June 1, 2004.

Old Dominion University, in partnership with MECC, offers bachelor and master's degrees on the campus of MECC. This program, called TELETECHNET, is a partnership which allows students to earn the bachelor's degree from ODU by taking courses by satellite on the nearby campus of their community college. MECC offers courses for the general education and lower division requirements while TELETECHNET offers course for upper division requirements and general education.

For more information contact Elaine Ward, Site Director at 276-523-8294 or ext. 336 or Gina Chisenhall, Assistant Site Director at ext. 386. The ODU office is located in room 160 of Godwin Hall.

2004 Spring Semester Exam Schedule

1ST EXAM DAY – Wednesday, May 5

	If your class meets:	Your exam will be:
Mon/Wed/Fri	8:00-8:50 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.
Tues/Thur	10:50-12:05 p.m.	10:45-1:15 p.m.
Mon/Wed/Fri	12:00-12:50 p.m.	1:30-4:00 p.m.
Tues/Thur	2:50-4:05 p.m.	4:15-6:45 p.m.

2ND EXAM DAY – Thursday, May 6

	If your class meets:	Your exam will be:
Tues/Thur	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.
Mon/Wed/Fri	10:00-10:50 a.m.	10:45-1:15 p.m.
Tues/Thur	9:25-10:40 a.m.	1:30-4:00 p.m.
Mon/Wed/Fri	2:00-2:50 p.m.	4:15-6:45p.m.

3RD EXAM DAY – Friday, May 7

	If your class meets:	Your exam will be:
Mon/Wed/Fri	9:00-9:50 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.
Tues/Thur	1:25-2:40 p.m.	10:45-1:15 p.m.
Mon/Wed/Fri	11:00-11:50 p.m.	1:30-4:00 p.m.
Mon/Wed/Fri	1:00-1:50 p.m.	4:15-6:45 p.m.

4TH EXAM DAY –Monday, May 10

	If your class meets:	Your exam will be:
Mon/Wed/Fri	3:00-3:50 p.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.
Mon/Wed/Fri	4:00-4:50 p.m.	10:45-1:15 p.m.
Tues/Thur	4:15-5:30 p.m.	1:30-4:00 p.m.

GAIN Exam Week Survival Skills

Information packets on test-taking, test anxiety, stress management, and more will be set up on the 2nd floor of Godwin Hall.

Graduate Exit Assessment

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires that all colleges assess the general education knowledge of their graduates (MECC Catalog and Student Handbooks 2003-2004, p. 111).

Graduates must plan to complete the exit assessment at the time and location listed below which is most convenient for them. The exit assessment should take approximately one hour to complete.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Begin Assessment Anytime Between</u>
April 5-16 Monday-Friday	Testing Center Godwin 140	8 am and 9:30 pm or Noon and 1:30 pm
	Wampler Library Robb 117	4 pm and 7 pm
April 10 and 17 Saturday	Wampler Library Robb 117	Arrive at 9 am

Prizes, Prizes, Prizes

Drawings will be held for students taking the exit assessment. The following prizes will be given away:

(one) 15gb iPod

(Four) \$25.00 MECC
Bookstore gift certificates

(Ten) MECC sweatshirts

Don't forget to take the test and get your name in the drawing.