

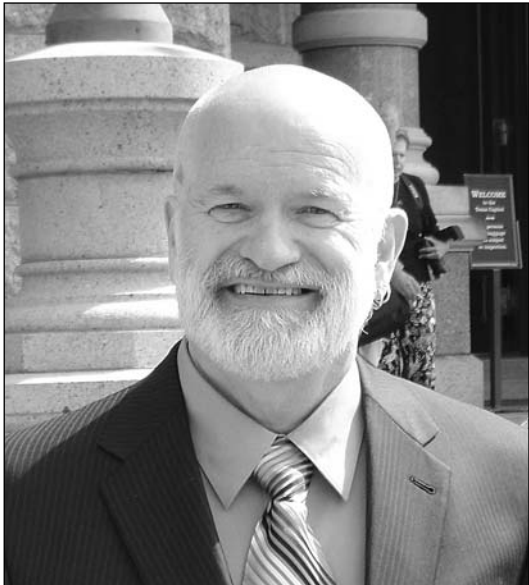
THIS WEEK
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MC to host poetry reading with Texas Poet Laureate Larry Thomas



Texas Poet Laureate Larry D. Thomas

The Midland College English Department and the Permian Basin Chapter of the Poetry Society will host a reading with **Texas Poet Laureate Larry D. Thomas at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 20, in the Roadrunner Room of the Scharbauer Student Center.**

Mr. Thomas' work has been pub-

lished in many literary journals, including the *Midwest Quarterly*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Poetry Depth Quarterly (California)*, *Fort Worth's Journal of Poetry and Fiction*, *Concho River Review*, *RE:AL: The Journal of Liberal Arts*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Sulphur River Literary Review*, *Southwestern American Literature* and *Windhover*. He has also published several collections of award-winning poetry, *The Lighthouse Keeper*, *Amazing Grace*, *The Woodlanders*, *Where Skull Speaks Wind*, *Stark Beauty* and his latest collection, *The Fraternity of Oblivion*.

Mr. Thomas was born and raised in West Texas and made Midland his home from 1950 until 1961. Many of his poems—which have been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes—are set in Midland. He has written and published poetry for more than 30 years. Until he retired in 1998 from his 31-year career in social service and adult criminal justice, he wrote only on weekends. Since 1998 he has been a full-time poet, writing in a small studio located behind his home in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Lisa.

Mr. Thomas was selected as the 2008 Texas Poet Laureate in April of 2007 by the Texas Commission on the Arts. This one-year appointment was awarded to Mr. Thomas for his years of excellence and dedication to the arts in Texas. "In Texas we never have a shortage of great artists to choose from and this diverse group represents the best of the best," said Texas Commission on the Arts Executive Director Rick Hernandez. "This honor rewards these talented Texans for their commitment to their passion."

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) was organized in 1965 by the Texas Legislature to develop a receptive climate for the arts in Texas. After 40 years of success, TCA continues to support the arts in Texas. TCA assists a diverse and innovative arts community in Texas, throughout the nation and internationally by providing resources to enhance economic development, arts education, cultural tourism and artist sustainability initiatives.

The community is invited to attend this free event with Mr. Thomas. Please call (432) 520-4679 for more information.

Driving Through West Texas

Locked for an hour on cruise control without meeting another vehicle, I'm hypnotized by yellow stripes, whizzing by like arrows.

Sixty miles back, I missed the sign posted by a Mobil Hopper would've liked, the last gas stop for the next hundred miles.

The wind howls through my cracked window. Though moonless, the night reminds me of the set of an old Frankenstein flick,

flaring with hundreds of torches. The Day-Glo reddish-orange needle of my gas gauge quivers, almost horizontal.

I swerve to miss a diamondback slithering across the macadam. For no clear reason, I say aloud the word diamondback.

It startles me, not so much the word itself but the intimacy with which I utter it, as if it were the name of a friend.

Larry D. Thomas
from *Stark Beauty*

Ft. Stockton leaders tour MC, the Advanced Technology Center

On October 5, approximately 20 city and county leaders from Ft. Stockton came for a tour of MC to discover the direction of the college's growth, much of which impacts the students and citizens of Ft. Stockton. The event included tours of the Midland College campus and MC's Advanced Technology Center (ATC).

MC's Ft. Stockton campus, the Williams Regional Technical Training Center (WRTTC), is directed by Brenda Tipton, who coordinated the effort with her Education Coordinator, Jeri Sue Jackson, and MC's Admissions Advisor Jeremy Martinez and Director of Admissions & Recruitment Ryan Gibbs. The WRTTC (inset picture below) and the Midland College campuses are intricately connected. "We share the same students and the MC instructors teach our students in Ft. Stockton through the Distance Learning program. We want to allow our community leadership to come together to see the role that the MC campus plays in the Ft. Stockton campus ... we would not function without the MC campus," Ms. Tipton said.

The goal of the tour was to highlight specific programs and facilities of the MC campus and the ATC towards which the WRTTC would like to grow. Ms. Tipton is especially interested in creating something like the ATC in Ft. Stockton, which would serve numerous functions: the housing of technical and medical programs and a child-development center.



From left: Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster, MC President David Daniel, WRTTC Director Brenda Tipton and Ft. Stockton ISD Assistant Superintendent Bobby Waldrop



B R I E F L Y

Basic Excel course held on October 18
MC is offering a one-day intensive course in the most commonly used functions of Excel, including editing and formatting worksheets, creating and working with charts, and managing workbooks. The course costs \$127 and meets from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 18 at the Advanced Technology Center, 3200 W. Cuthbert. Please call (432) 681-6326 to register.

Session II of College Classics begins October 22
College Classics includes a series of courses designed for those who are 50 and older. Classes are offered through a semi-annual registration fee of just \$25 per semester. The second session begins October 22 and offers the following classes: Restorative Yoga, The American Indian, Pilates Reformer, Basics of Investing, Yoga, Critic's Guide to the Movies; Identity Theft and Fraud; Classic Greece; Astronomy and Computer Basics. Please call MC's Department of Continuing Education to register, (432) 685-4518.

Basic Access class offered
This course introduces the fundamentals of Access 2003. Topics include creating and working with a database; finding, filtering, and formatting data; working with tables and fields; and creating relational databases. Participants should have basic computer skills and significant experience with the Windows operating system. The course costs \$127 and meets 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23 at the Advanced Technology Center. Please call (432) 697-5863 to register.

COUNTRY & WESTERN dance class begins November 1
If you've always wanted to join others on the dance floor but were afraid, then this is the class for you. Basic Two-step for Beginners will take you from walking to dancing in six easy lessons. We teach the basic steps in Two-step, Waltz, Western Polka, Cotton-eyed Jo and Schottische. Partners are recommended. The class costs \$50 and will be held from 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings from November 1 - December 13. Please call (432) 685-4518 to register.

Cogdell to host 4th annual "Quinceañera-themed" Fall Fair

The 4th Annual Fall Fair, hosted by the Cogdell Learning Center, will be "extra special" this year! A Quinceañera theme will be used as they celebrate the 15th anniversary of the opening of Cogdell Learning Center. There will be mariachis, free burritos and birthday cake, a live remote from La Caliente 101.3, and many children's activities.

The mission of the Fall Fair is to inform residents of Midland of the many programs and services available through Midland College and the Cogdell Learning Center, which provides life-enhancing opportunities that address the unique needs of the economically and culturally diverse communities of South and East Midland.



Over 15 MC programs will be available to discuss their resources as well as provide interesting activities for participants. Other education-oriented agencies will also be at the Fall Fair: Casa de Amigos, Midland Need to Read, Midland Workforce Network, and the League of Women Voters. The Midland Hispanic Chamber will host their LatinoPalooza business mercado as well.

This event is free and open to the public! Please call (432) 684-4100 for more information.

Event: 4th Annual Cogdell Fall Fair
Date: Saturday, October 27, 2007
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: Outside next to the 200 block of W. Florida

Midland College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1886 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree, associate degrees and certificates.

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