

THIS WEEK
www.midland.edu
 (432) 685-4500



Midland College offers 100+ degree and certificate programs, as well as a variety of Continuing Education programs. We also offer a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management and provide on-campus access to 15 upper-level degrees offered by our six University Center partners.

The Cosmetology Department provides perms, haircuts, manicures and facials at affordable prices! Call (432) 685-6721 for an appointment.

Local judge inspires Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counseling students

BY NANCY THORNE
 Public Information Department

They call him "cucuy," which is Spanish for boogeyman. The nickname is just fine with Judge David Cobos, who agrees that some people should be afraid of him. "My bite is worse than my bark," he said. As Justice of the Peace for Precinct Two, Judge Cobos is painfully familiar with the drug and alcohol problems within the juvenile population, members from which he daily sentences to incarceration or coerced treatment. He has a zero tolerance when dealing with offenders. "If people don't show for a court date," he said, "I'll put them in jail." For others, it's a GPS monitor attached to their ankle.

His expansion on what he calls a "hidden problem" was the topic of his talk with MC Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling (ADAC) students on October 28. The judge was invited by instructor John Infante, a probation officer by day and a concerned Midland College ADAC adjunct instructor by night. Instructor Infante wanted his students to get a chance to hear, firsthand, from a person at the judicial frontline of a situation that is, unfortunately, growing worse in West Texas.

"It's a family problem, not an individual problem," the judge said. And he feels it must be exposed in order to be treated. "I want the mother and the father there with their children. If one of the parents is not there, I will order them there for the hearing and subsequent counseling," he said.

The judge believes one answer for drug and alcohol addiction is "coerced treatment," which he explains with his own spin on the familiar adage, *You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink*. "I'm certainly going to shove his head down into that water ... at least to give him a taste." That's the only way, the judge believes, to expose an addict to the help he needs. Then it's up to the individual to continue treatment. Often they do.

He concluded his talk with the ADAC students in addressing the critical shortage of drug and alcohol abuse counselors in the Permian Basin: "We need you ... we need good people," he said.

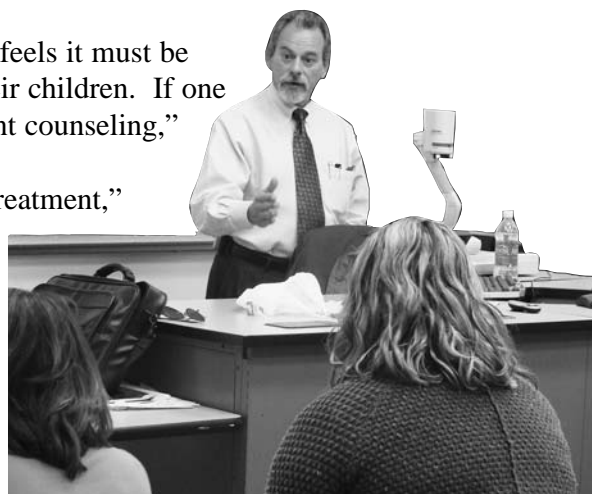
Fortunately, the ADAC program is growing. Last semester John Infante had seven students. This semester he has 16 in his Introduction to Alcohol and Other Drug Addictions class. When they finish the program, they will become Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDC).

The students' commitment to the program is often personal. Several in attendance at Judge Cobos' talk seem to have loved ones they have lost, or who are battling a drug or alcohol problem. They are grateful to have some guidance and eager to help those struggling with such afflictions. But, they know the psychological weight of what is before them, of how weary a counselor can become when dealing with recurrent problems associated with addiction. "I can help 80 percent of the kids, the rest I have to let go of," Cobos said, "but, if I help one person, then I have done my job."



Judge Cobos, second from left, visits John Infante's, at far left, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling class (Students in Ft. Stockton are also present via Distance Learning technology, as seen on monitor above group)

Photos by Nancy Thorne



"If I help one person, then I have done my job."

—Judge David Cobos

Chap Center parking lot to serve as Texas Recycles Day drop-off site

Midland College's recycling effort, led by MC's Faculty Senate, is in full force! Faculty, staff and students participate in campus wide "dump days," the first and third Thursdays of the month. Together, everyone takes their paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminum to the large containers in the Al G. Langford Chaparral Center parking lot, which will also serve as the site for the upcoming Texas Recycles Day on Saturday, November 15.

Keep Midland Beautiful (KMB) hosts this effort, which will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This will be an excellent opportunity to recycle computers, copiers and other computer-related electronics! NO TVs OR STEREOS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Computers will be donated for recycling as is. Other items to be collected and recycled that day are cell phones, paper, cardboard, newspapers, phone books, aluminum, tires, magazines, all plastics with a neck smaller than the base, and plastic bags.

The Salvation Army will collect items for reuse at the site. Those items are clothes, toys, knickknacks, furniture in GOOD CONDITION ONLY, appliances in WORKING CONDITION ONLY, and mattresses with no stains.

The Texas Recycles Day program focuses on the three Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Practicing the three Rs not only decreases the amount of garbage thrown away each year, but it also conserves natural resources, saves energy, and reduces the amount of landfill space used each year. For more information, please call (432) 687-7400.

Holiday Evening!

Thursday, December 4, 2008

5:15 - 6:45 p.m.

Frito Pie Chili Supper

Students in Philanthropy Fundraiser - \$4.00 a bowl

F. Marie Hall Academic Building - Amistad Atrium

Christmas at the Dollye Neal Chapel

Enjoy music by harpist, Megan Metheny, in a candle-lit setting filled with holiday cheer. Top it off with hot chocolate as you walk to the Hodge Carillon Tower Lighting.

Also, plan on seeing the special holiday decorations at Hall's Way.

6:45 p.m.

Lighting of the Hodge Carillon Tower and Carolling by MC Chap Singers

7:00 p.m.

Opening Reception for the Fall Student Art Show

with a special performance by the Midland College Chamber Orchestra

McCormick Gallery — Allison Fine Arts Building (AFA)

7:20 - 8:45 p.m.

"Sounds of Christmas"

Presented by the Midland College Jazz Band and the MC Chap Singers

Wagner & Brown Auditorium in the AFA Building

The 14th Annual Midland College Student Art Hallway Sale

Art Wing — AFA Building

7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6

Briefly

Basics of Business Etiquette Workshop meets November 20

In this half-day workshop, you will find help with issues such as cubicle and office etiquette, handling personal matters in the workplace, making business introductions, and telephone courtesy. The workshop costs \$84 and meets 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20 at MC's Advanced Technology Center (ATC) 3200 W. Cuthbert. Please visit us online at www.midland.edu/workforce or call (432) 681-6326.

LAST CHANCE! Intermediate PowerPoint course scheduled for November 18 and 20

The course offers instruction in creating and modifying templates, building a custom slide master, inserting multimedia elements, and integrating PowerPoint with other Office programs. The course costs \$139 and meets 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18 and Thursday, November 20 at the ATC. Please visit us online at www.midland.edu/workforce or call (432) 681-6330.

Al G. Langford Chaparral Center Remodel: Mid-Tex of Midland has been selected as Construction Manager At-risk for this project. The elevator has been installed and is in use! Phase 2, which includes restroom and plumbing upgrades, is in progress.

Fox Science Building - Phase II: The connectors and punch list will be completed sometime in mid-November. At this time, building use during the Spring may not be advisable due to the addition of the Chemistry Lab project. The panels for the connector shade screen have arrived.

Murray Fasken Learning Resource Center (LRC): The first-floor carpeting is complete. Books have been re-shelved, and stabilization modifications are being made to the shelves. The LRC is virtually complete, except for a few minor items and the punch list, and is now open.

Midland College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award certificates and associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Midland College.

Midland College is an equal opportunity employer/educator.

This page is produced by Midland College.

LEAVE A LEGACY
 Make a Difference in the Lives that Follow



Leave an enduring legacy to the Midland College Foundation

Please contact:
 Eileen Piwetz, Executive Director
 (432) 685-4526
epiwetz@midland.edu

www.midland.edu/foundation