

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 many upper-level degrees offered by our seven University Center partners.

sign up for
eNews
www.midland.edu/enews

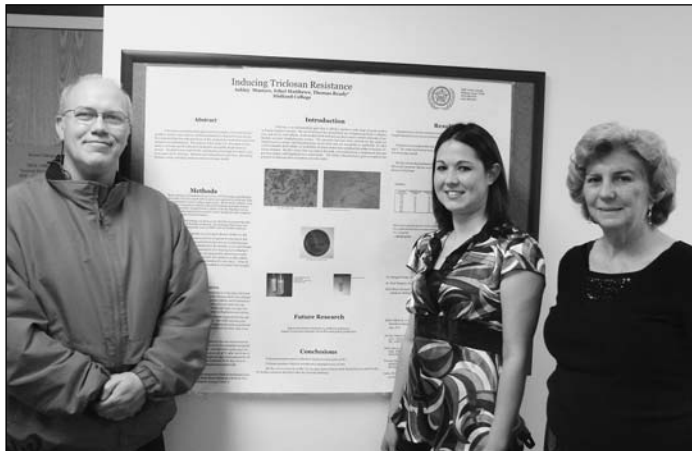
Chem-Tech student presents research at American Society for Microbiology conference

BY NANCY THORNE
Public Information Office

There is a "Staph Only" sign on the door of MC's Microbiology Lab showing any naysayers that scientists do have a sense of humor. A research project by MC student Ashley Masters, "Inducing Triclosan Resistance"—which she presented at a recent conference of the American Society for Microbiology in New Braunfels—concerns two strains of staphylococcus, but in a much weightier context. "Ashley is our very first presenter from Midland College at this particular conference," said MC Biology Instructor Ethel Matthews. "Scientists are concerned about bacteria developing resistance to triclosan and this is her particular area of research," Instructor Matthews continued.

Triclosan is an antimicrobial agent with hygienic uses in soap, toothpaste, even toilet seats. Studies are now showing that triclosan is present in estuaries and lakes, probably flowing there from waste water and treatment plants. This has become an area of discussion for scientists who are concerned about the release of antibiotics into the environment, as certain pathogens have developed resistance to said antibiotics. In real-world terms, this poses many questions, such as: which bugs are developing a resistance to antibiotics, which they are now exposed to—perhaps too often—in the environment? What are the future ramifications for treating such bugs?

Ashley's research answered the first question: Does exposure to triclosan induce resistance in environmental bacteria? As her abstract states: *The purpose of this study is to determine if resistance to triclosan can be induced in methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermidis, and Bacillus cereus that have had no previous exposure to triclosan.* To answer that ques-



From left, MC Professor of Chemistry Dr. Thomas Ready, Ashley Masters and MC Biology Instructor Ethel Matthews

tion, she exposed the three bacteria to triclosan for 30 days. Her research revealed: Staphylococcus aureus was very sensitive to triclosan; she was able to induce resistance to Staphylococcus epidermidis; and Bacillus cereus—a known food poisoning—already had strong resistance to triclosan.

Ashley was able to present her work at the conference through a grant from the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. "I feel so lucky that MC has this great program," Ashley said. This research represents part of Ashley's work towards getting her Associate of Applied Science in Chemistry Technology. She's also working towards her Bachelor's of Science in Biology from Sul Ross State University (SRSU), through the MC/SRSU Initiative, which she plans on finishing in 2010. From there, she hopes to continue her research in chemistry and microbiology, and pursue her Ph.D.

"This is just the first step in Ashley's research at Midland College; she will continue along several more lines concerning transfer of resistance from one bacteria to another," said MC Professor of Chemistry Dr. Thomas Ready. "Ashley's experience demonstrates that students can get a lot of bang for their buck with regards to their science education at Midland College," he added.

Photo by Nancy Thorne

Creative Writing Contest winners honored



Photo by Nancy Thorne

From left, MC Professor of English Dr. Mary Williams, David Wiseman, Melody Wiseman, Adriana Oviedo, Jessica James, Justin Perez and MC President Dr. Steve Thomas

"To be a good writer, you have to write," said MC President Dr. Steve Thomas in his opening remarks at the annual Creative Writing Contest on March 3. The contest was the inspiration of MC English Instructor Rebecca Watson, who had the vision 34 years ago, "for a contest celebrating creative writing."

Many MC students have undertaken the difficult task of writing and 24 of them submitted their work to this contest in the genres of **poetry, essays and short stories.** Awards went to the following students for their poems: Frances Gomez won first place for her poem, "The Loss of a Mother;" second place went to Justin Perez for "Black;" there was a tie for third place, with an award given to Melissa Cantu for "The Box" (reprinted below) and to Roxy Hernandez for "The Dance;" honorable mention was awarded to Jamie Whitt for "Coils of Love."

Genelle Felio won first place for her short story, "The Faith of My Father;" Tracy Austin won second place for her story, "Seance;" Adriana Oviedo's story, "Meeting Under Moonlight," won third place; and David Wiseman won honorable mention for "Tree of Life."

Awards also went to the following students for their essays: Tim Krahel won first place for his essay, "Creative Thinking: The Path to Discoveries;" Jessica James won second place for "The Capacity for Creativity;" third place was given to Jamie Whitt for "Breasts;" and Melody Wiseman won honorable mention for her essay, "Ties."

Selected writings from the contest will be published in *Tableau*, an annual student publication produced cooperatively through the Departments of Journalism and English.

The Box

Gathering, packing, and labeling
So many things..... So little time
What will I do?
Load the truck
Unload, organize and arrange
Now I am home again with all that is familiar
Out of the box

— by Melissa Cantu

Aviation program to host Fly-In



Join us for the Aviation Department's fourth annual "Fly-In Breakfast" on Saturday, April 18, 2009, 7:00 - 11:00 a.m., Hangar H, at Midland Airpark, 901 Veterans Airpark Lane. This year's Fly-In is hosted by the Professional Pilot and Aviation Maintenance programs, which train pilots and aviation mechanics for the airline industry. Those interested in the

aviation industry, pilots and the public are invited to come out, enjoy free breakfast burritos, see our aircraft, and talk with faculty and staff for both programs. Discovery flights are available to the public for \$50. For more information, call Karen Harris at (432) 685-4799.



Cultural field trip to Dallas set for honors students



The MC Honors Program has scheduled a cultural field trip to Dallas from May 12 - 14. The trip will include visits to the King Tut exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art (this is a traveling exhibit that has not been in the United States for years), the Nasher Sculpture Gardens, and the Sixth Floor Museum (the book depository where President Kennedy's assassin was hiding). The Honors Program will provide transportation in a college van and pay entry fees to all the exhibits.

Students are responsible for paying their hotel bills and meals. Hotel rooms at the SpringHill Suites in Dallas' West End will cost \$160 per night, which includes breakfast. Two people may share a hotel room for \$80 each; three may share for \$55 each. Payments for the hotel are due by April 15.

Honors students will have priority for the trip but other students will also be welcome if space permits. Please contact Honors Program Director Donna Thompson for more information at dthompson@midland.edu or (432) 685-6827.



Bill Bryson comes to MC



The Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series presents best-selling author Bill Bryson, who will be at the Al G. Langford Chaparral Center on Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. His lecture, "Notes from All Over," will represent this writer's great wit and vast travel experience. Among his many bestselling books are *Lost Continent*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *I'm A Stranger Here Myself*, and *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. His latest book, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, was published in 2007.



The new Children's Center to host Open House

The public is invited to the Open House of the new Helen L. Greathouse Children's Center (HLGCC) on Wednesday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m. The HLGCC is relocating to a new, larger facility just west of the Physical Education building. The new facility will accommodate 125 children from four months through five years. It is designed with five, age-appropriate classrooms for infants, toddlers, twos, threes, and fours/fives. Please call (432) 685-4574 for details.

Understanding Electrical Plans begins April 14

Designed to take the confusion out of residential and commercial electrical plan reading, this course focuses on the basics of reading and interpreting blue line drawings, including scales, symbols, and service loads. Utility company coordination and site layout will also be covered. The course costs \$119 and meets 7:00 - 8:45 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 14 - May 7 at MC's Advanced Technology Center, 3200 W. Cuthbert. Online registration is available at

www.midland.edu/workforce or contact Sara Lyons at (432) 681-6326.

Last Chance for Adobe Flash CS2: Basic!

Don't miss this last chance to discover how you can use Adobe Flash to add some "oomph" to your web page! This course demonstrates how you can use Flash 8 Professional to draw and manipulate objects in Flash, apply colors, styles, and effects, create rollover buttons and simple animations, and apply basic ActionScript. The course costs \$139 and meets 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15 and Friday, April 17 at the ATC. Online registration is available at www.midland.edu/workforce or call (432) 681-6330.

Radiography program to host orientation

The Radiography program is hosting an orientation for students to learn more about the program, degree plans and financial aid. It will be held on Monday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the lecture hall of the Davidson Family Health Sciences Building. Please call (432) 685-4601 for details.

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 an enduring legacy to the Midland College Foundation

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

www.midlandcollegefoundation.org