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MC student honored as 2009 Coca-Cola All-State Academic Team Gold Scholar

BY NANCY THORNE
Public Information Office

Rebekah Karth is going to need a bigger shelf. In the two years this Michigan native has been at Midland College, she has amassed so many awards that the special mantle which holds her honors is bound to be getting crowded. In addition to winning a national essay contest last year, placing in the Hilda Simmons Levitt Poetry contest and MC's annual Creative Writing Contest, Miss Karth was recently designated as a Gold Scholar for the 2009 Coca-Cola All-State Academic Team. As a winner in this national competition—sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the American Association of Community Colleges—Ms. Karth will receive a \$1,500 scholarship, a gold medallion and a certificate. She will also be honored at MC's commencement ceremony on the evening of May 8, 2009.

"Being an active student—in the classroom and the community—really does pay off!" said Rebekah. "Education is very important to me because I want to develop my skills further so I can make a positive impact on the lives of others. Midland College has provided me with an excellent environment to start my collegiate career—I've grown and learned so much from everyone here," she continued.

Midland College has been nominating students for this extremely rigorous competition since 1991. The nominating committee—comprised of MC faculty and staff members Aline Collins, Dr. Pamela Howell and Dale Westfall—works consistently with their nominee to help with their essays, application and interview process. "For Rebekah, we asked ourselves,

"How can we get her to write an essay which really sets her apart?" said Aline Collins. "We're really meticulous about this," added Dr. Howell. Along with her essay, Rebekah was required to submit two letters of recommendation by MC faculty, which were written by Dr. Terry Gilmour and Tomas Hernandez.

This year, nearly 1,500 technical and junior college nominees competed for the All-USA Academic Team. Ms. Karth is one of only fifty students nationwide to receive the "Gold Scholar" designation. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 GPA for the past three semesters, Ms. Karth has served as President of the Student Government Association, editor of *El Paisano*, and is a member of Students in Philanthropy and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Rebekah plans on transferring to the University of Texas at Arlington where she has already been offered a full \$20,000 scholarship to complete her bachelor's degree.



From left, MC President Dr. Steve Thomas, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and chair of the All USA nominating committee Aline Collins, Rebekah Karth, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and member of the nominating committee Dale Westfall, and nominating committee member Dr. Pamela Howell

Photo by Nancy Thorne

Math and science scholarships awarded

At a luncheon ceremony on April 28, the following students were awarded these math and science scholarships:

MATH

Math Excellence Scholarship

Hector Villareal
Chelsie Robbins

Math Mentoring Scholarship

Roberta Afrifa
Ricardo Teodoro

Math Department Scholarships

Rebekah Tower
Ivan Grimmert
Danielle Gagne
Amanda Woodward
Carly Sparkman
Karen Compton

Patricia Haines Scholarship

Glynnis Barnes

BIOLOGY

Wolfe Scholarship

Heather Cruz-Konen
Ashley Masters

GEOLOGY

Energas /Atmos Energy Scholarships

Heather Cruz-Konen
John Lyle

Bank of America Energy Scholarships

Chrissy Carrillo
Morgan Pierce
Joshua O'Neal

Lily Marie Carter Scholarship

Amy Buntin

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

Barbara Magruder Scholarship

Ashley Basler
Shannon McIntire

James A. "Buddy" Davidson Scholarship

Sarah Heredia
Callie Howell

Poetry contest honors 20 participants

The annual Hilda Simmons Levitt Poetry Awards ceremony was held on April 23 in which \$1,000 in prize money went to the following winning poets: First Place, W. Ross Feeler, for his poems, "Absolution," "Before I Fall Asleep," "I Am Thinking," "On a Sunday Afternoon," and "The Surgeon;" Second Place was awarded to Robert Merkett for his poems "Sunday Morning" and "My Mother's Bus;" Third Place went to Troy Farris for "Invisible;" and Angela Ellis won fourth place for "Unspoken."

The following participants won Honorable Mention awards:

Anna Antony, for "Dreaming" and "Carnival;" Diahn Berry for "Pink Chiffon;" Trudie Borgen for "Arachne the Argiope Aurantia;" Kaleigh Campbell for "Love is a Terrible Curse;" Scott Carlson for "Night Upon a Sandy Beach;" Christine Carrillo for "A Mother's Symphony;" Linda Ellis for "Today's Rain;" Genelle Felio for "To My Dad;" Rebekah Karth for "Statues of Time;" Amy Kelly for "I Wish;" Brittany Miles for "He's Inside of Me" and "Galilah's Tremble;" Susana Ortega for "Morphine Dreams;" Condoa M. Parrent for "A Prayer for Macie" and "Letting Go;" Cassandra Raffaelli for "My Love;" Elissa Russell for "Splendor;" and Andre' van Eeden for "Beautiful?"

The featured speaker at the ceremony was Taylor University English Professor Thom Satterlee, who read from his award-winning poetry collection, *Burning Wyclif*. This poetry contest was established in honor of the late Hilda Simmons Levitt, who studied creative writing at Midland College. Her daughter, Washington D.C. resident Carol Schwartz, was at the ceremony to personally congratulate the winners in this contest which she continues to underwrite.



From left, Robert Merkett, Ross Feeler, Carol Schwartz, Angela Ellis and Thom Satterlee

Photo by Nancy Thorne

Journalism students garner 23 awards at Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention

Midland College students earned 23 awards at the annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention held April 9 - 11 in downtown Dallas.

Two students won awards in the live contests that were held during the three-day convention. *El Paisano* editor Rebekah Karth won second place in the public relations crisis management category. *El Paisano* page editor Bailee Hennis won an honorable mention in the live print advertising contest. Both MC students competed against students from Texas community colleges and four-year universities.

MC students garnered a total of 21 awards in the "canned" competition, which included works published January - December 2008.

"We normally earn 10 or more awards in the previously published contests. However, it is rare to win the live on-site contests against not only all the two-year colleges, but also the four-year institutions," said Allison Chair of Journalism Bob Templeton. "I am very excited about the awards won by Rebekah Karth and Bailee Hennis in addition to all the other awards earned this year. My appreciation especially goes to Lab Instructor Karen Lanier for the tremendous contributions she has made toward the journalism program's success," he

continued.

Hennis also brought home a first place in the canned competition for a newspaper story about the MC golf team winning its fourth national title. Second place newspaper awards went to former *El Paisano* editor Ethan Higginbotham for his column piece about hair color and to Andrew Eaton for his news photograph about recycling.

Several students won awards in the general magazine category for work that appeared in *Chaparral* 2008, MC's news/feature magazine. Krystle Cantu won a second place for her story on the Veterinary Technology operating room. Cantu also won two honorable mentions: one for her photograph "nurse shaves cat" and one for her picture/story on the Vet Tech program.

In the literary magazine canned competition, Chong Wei won second place for the short story "Scary Night." Rebekah Karth won second place in the essay competition for her piece "My brother and me."

The *Tableau* 2008 staff won third place for the cover design and the staff won second place in story package for the layout of "My brother and me." All of these items appeared in *Tableau* 2008, which was published during the fall of 2008.

briefly

KIDS' COLLEGE registration now underway

Midland's favorite summer enrichment program for 1st through 6th graders brings 12 new classes to the kids of Midland! The new courses include Bead It!, Broadway Lights, Selective Detective and Funky Forensics. Online registration is available at www.midland.edu/kidscollege. Session I is from June 1-11; Session II is from June 15-25; and a third session has been added from July 6-16. Please call (432) 685-4518.

QuickBooks Pro for Small Business Begins May 5!

QuickBooks is an easy to use accounting software geared towards small business owners who want to computerize their business bookkeeping. This course covers topics such as designing a chart of accounts, setting up and tracking accounts, creating invoices and credit memos, and receiving payments. Additional topics may be covered if time allows. The course costs \$179 and meets 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, May 5 - May 21 at the Midland College Advanced Technology Center (ATC), 3200 W. Cuthbert. Online registration is available at www.midland.edu/workforce or by calling (432) 681-6326.

Pinning ceremony to be held in honor of Nursing students on May 6

On Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00 p.m. MC will host a pinning ceremony for graduates of the Associate Degree and Vocational Nursing programs. The ceremony will be held at the Al G. Langford Chaparral Center.

MC's 36th Commencement to be held on May 8

On Friday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. MC will host its graduation ceremony for all students graduating from certificate, associate and bachelor degree programs. The ceremony will be held at the Al G. Langford Chaparral Center.

Two-day Basic Excel course meets May 11 and 13

This two-day afternoon course offers you the opportunity to develop basic Excel 2007 skills by studying spreadsheet terminology, exploring Excel's window components and Help system, and discovering how to navigate through worksheets and workbooks. This hands-on course also covers entering and editing text, values, formulas, and pictures; saving workbooks in various formats; basic formatting techniques; printing, creating and modifying charts; and managing large workbooks. The course costs \$139 and meets 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11 and Wednesday, May 13 at the ATC. Online registration is available at www.midland.edu/workforce or by calling (432) 681-6330.

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