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MC graduate makes "passion for kids" a vocation



Photo by Nancy Thorne

Former MC student Myrna Russell

"I was 49 when I started school," said Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor Myrna Russell. While working in Big Spring with elementary school children as a Title I Reading Specialist, she noticed that some of her students just could not focus on their work. They were struggling in homes afflicted with drug and alcohol addictions and, more than the reading, they needed someone to talk to. Myrna offered a shoulder to these kids, helping them process their pain. "It was God's way of telling me I had to do something," she said.

She began researching online and discovered that there was an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling (ADAC) program just down the road in Midland. After she made the decision to go back to school, "the doors just started opening," she added.

The doors at Midland College opened for Myrna in 2005 when she met ADAC Program Director Chesly Herd. "I absolutely love that program," Myrna said. "Chesly will help you do anything you need," she added. Myrna came to the ADAC program at a great time because the new MC Behavioral Health Center had just opened and served as an on-campus site for the ADAC students to get their clinical training. Professional counselors

were available to assist and observe the students. "I felt so lucky to come in on the ground floor of such a wonderful project at the college ... at the clinic we got immediate feedback on our counseling techniques and skills. It really built my confidence!" she said.

Myrna graduated from MC in 2007 with her Associate of Applied Science Degree, but that was just the beginning of her professional training. To become a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) she had to complete another 4,000 hours of supervised clinical work. During that time, she was hired as the HOPE Program Coordinator at Palmer Drug Abuse Program (PDAP), helping parents with drug and alcohol problems develop coping skills. In 2008, she was promoted to Student Outreach Recovery Coordinator at PDAP, teaching life skills to children at risk in area high schools.

In March of this year, she became the Outreach and Referral Specialist for the Permian Basin Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Myrna makes assessments and referrals to those in need of assistance with drug and alcohol problems. The person that comes into her office may be a teenage boy with an alcoholic parent, or a mother with a drug problem. "I pray that God gives me something to help each person that walks through that door," she said.

Meanwhile Myrna has maintained a very strong, tightly-knit family with Alvin, her husband of 35 years, her two children, Tevayan, 34 and Alvin, 23. "My husband has been very supportive of everything I've done and, together, we have been very involved parents," Myrna said. She also makes regular visits to Pecos where her mother and two younger siblings live.

Myrna's dream is to open her own counseling center for adolescents who are in homes afflicted with addictions. "These children are angry and they don't know why," she said. "I want to help them work past their anger. I want to show them that they do not have to follow in their parents' footsteps ... that they can make a choice to do something different," she added.

MC retirees honored!

At a May 11 luncheon, MC retirees were honored for their years of service to the college.

Also, at the April 30 Service Awards Ceremony, the following individuals were honored as they retired from Midland College:

Byron Baulch – Institutional Research & Effectiveness Director - 8 years; Quinn Carroll – Radiography Program Director - 24 years; Bill Clarkson – Information Technology Faculty - 27 years;



Photo by Nancy Thorne

From left, Bob Phillips, former Vice President of Administrative Services, Wanda Phillips, former Founder/Director of the Career Center, Dr. Celia Harris, former Co-Founder and Director of the A.D.N. program, Doris Muehlbrad, former Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board, who served under all three past presidents!

Charles Gunn – Police Chief - 11 years; Dr. Diego Jones – Modern Language Faculty - 30 years; Dr. Katherine Hodge – Math Faculty - 21 years; Carlota Kellogg – Media Specialist - 28 years; Joseph Nye – Computer Graphics Faculty - 27 years; Jan Reed – Student Activities Director - 20 years; David Truitt – Math Faculty - 30 years; Richard Yanez – Mailroom Clerk - 23 years and Wayne Young – Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Technology Faculty - 28 years.



"Dragonfly House" by Kitt Blair Beck

Print exhibit on display through July 9

An exhibition of prints will be on display through July 9 at the McCormick Gallery in the Allison Fine Arts Building. Print processes represented include both Monotype and Polymer Etching. The work was created in the spring Monotype workshop and the Midland College Student Printmaking Trade. For more information, please call Susan Randle at (432) 685-4653.

Congratulations, MC class of 2009!!



Photo by Nancy Thorne

Associate of Arts graduates, from left, Trina Gillette, Brooke Hernandez, Greg Hill and Taylor Howard

Midland College's 36th annual Graduation ceremony was held on May 8 in honor of the 600 Midland College students who completed the requirements to receive diplomas for the Bachelor of Applied Technology, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Applied Science degrees, or certificates of completion for MC's technical and business programs.

Scholarships awarded to graduating students

Photos by J. Don Wallace



Recipients of the Abell-Hanger Foundation Education Continuance Scholarship, from left, Amanda Tinney, Melissa Galusky, Rebekah Karth, Roberta Afrifa, Yvonne Gabaldon, Abell-Hanger Foundation Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer Herb Cartwright, MC President Dr. Steve Thomas, Bryan Garza and Andrew Eaton; not pictured: Rachel Tranum



Recipients of the Bill Pace Cogdell Scholarship (BPCS), from left, Hector Villarreal, Erika Rodriguez, Antonio Garcia IV, Maria Carmen Barrera, Sylvia Athayde, BPCS Co-Trustee Carol Subia, BPCS Co-Trustee Dennis Sever and MC President Dr. Steve Thomas

At a May 7 reception, graduating sophomores—who received scholarships for their future studies at four-year universities—were honored.

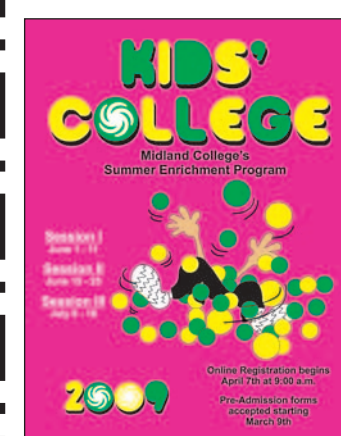
The Abell-Hanger Foundation Education Continuance Scholarship was awarded to the students pictured at left. The Abell-Hanger Foundation Graduating Sophomore Scholarship was awarded to Yvonne Gabaldon, James Lynch and Toby Littlefield. The Leonardo B. and Eva Carrasco Commitment to Education Scholarship was awarded to Lindsey Stamper and Roberta Afrifa. Five students (pictured below) were awarded the Bill Pace Cogdell Scholarship. The Fasken Foundation Scholarship was given to Amanda Tinney and Yvonne

Gabaldon. The Math Department Math Excellence Scholarships were given to Hector Villarreal and Chelsie Robbins. Roberta Afrifa and Ricardo Teodoro were given Math Mentoring Scholarships.

These scholarships are granted on a yearly basis and represent the support of many area foundations to help MC students continue their education.

KIDS' COLLEGE

begins June 1



This favorite summer enrichment program for 1st through 6th graders brings a selection of 44 classes—12 of which are new—to the kids of the Permian Basin! Some of the new courses include: **Broadway Lights** and **Sleuths on the Scene!** Classic favorites such as **Hip Hop & Jazz**, **Fun with Paper Mache**, **Ooey Goopy Science** and **Wild and Crazy Kids!** will also be available. 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.

2009 semester. The application deadline is June 25, 2009. Please call the Health Sciences Division office at (432) 685-4600.

Discover what's new in Office 2007!

Through hands-on instruction, this course helps students become familiar with features that are new to the Office system, including galleries, Live Preview, the Dialog Box Launcher and the Mini toolbar. The course also offers dedicated units that introduce the new features of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Access. The course costs \$139 and meets 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on May 26 and 28 at the ATC. Online registration is available at www.midland.edu/workforce or call (432) 681-6330.

Briefly

Registration is underway for Summer I and Summer II Sessions

In person or online registration is underway for Summer I and Summer II terms. Summer I is from May 28 - July 7 and Summer II is from July 8 - August 13. To register online, go to www.midland.edu. Please note that Registration and other Student Services have moved to the Allison Fine Arts Building! For more information, please call (432) 685-4501.

Vocational Nursing to Associate Degree Nursing transition class begins this fall

The Midland College Associate Degree Nursing program will be admitting Vocational Nursing students to the Associate Degree Nursing program transition class in the Fall

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.

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