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ATC lecture hall dedicated in honor of MC donors Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship

The lecture hall at the Advanced Technology Center was filled to capacity with family, well-wishers, and MC supporters on October 26 as the MC Board of Trustees and the MC Foundation dedicated the room in honor of Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship. The ceremony recognized the couple's generous contribution to the Midland College Foundation, MC students and constituents, and the community at large. In his dedication of the room, MC Foundation Vice President Glenn Rogers said, "This hall is made possible by the Blankinships in their desire to have Midland College be one of the premier community colleges in the nation ... dedicated this October 2009, with our deepest and most wonderful thanks!" MC Foundation Executive Director Dr. Eileen Piwetz unveiled a framed portrait and dedication statement as a gift to the donors, and a plaque and portrait in their honor will hang permanently at the entrance to the room. "This lecture hall will forever be named the Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship Lecture Hall so students for generations to come will make great use of this room and know that the Blankinships made it possible!" said MC President, Dr. Steve Thomas.

The Blankinships have a long history of giving to Midland College and have enjoyed watching the enormous progress at the College, especially because they live just across the street from MC's Garfield entrance! They gave a large donation in 2006 to the Al G. Langford Chaparral Center Renovation Fund, and continued to give to the College every year since. They have generously supported MC Foundation fundraising efforts and are Distinguished Donors and *Friends of the Series*, supporting financially, and loyally attending the events including the Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series and the Phyllis & Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series.

This past year they also established the Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship Endowed Scholarship in memory of their son, Gary Don Blankinship, who passed away in 1966. The Scholarship pays for tuition, fees and books for MC students committed to the educational process with a demonstrated financial need. "We really appreciate the Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship Scholarship that you established to help students at Midland College. Scholarships like yours have helped a lot of my friends further their educational goals," said MC Student Government President Poonam Patel as she thanked the Blankinships during the dedication ceremony.



Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship with MC President Dr. Steve Thomas



The Blankinship family

Cogdell Learning Center Hosts 6th Annual Fall Fair!

It was the largest to date, with 800 visitors turning out for the 6th Annual Cogdell Fall Fair this past Saturday. Many MC departments—Automotive Technology, Aviation Maintenance Technology, Business & Economic Development Center, Business Systems, Computer Graphics, Cosmetology, Energy Technology, English, Financial Aid, Fire Protection Technology, Health Sciences, Professional Pilot Program, Student Support Services, Technical Studies and TRiO—had booths to discuss their programs with prospective students.

The Midland College Mobile GO Center was on the premises, with information on MC programs and educational resources. Also, for the first time this year, a series of information sessions was held throughout the day, including: "Hot Careers in Texas," "College Jeopardy 101" "Get Excited About Going to College!" and "Why Midland College?"

Live entertainment was provided by the MC Jazz Band, Los Matadors and Ballet Folklorico. This year, the first STEP competition was held with members of Upward Bound competing with teams from Lee High School and Milam Elementary.

A big THANK YOU to all the 6th Annual Cogdell Fall Fair sponsors: Community National Bank, Permian Basin Tech Prep, Midland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Comunidad in Action, Wells Fargo, HEB, Stewart Title Company, Sierra Water, Wal-Mart (South Side) and City of Midland.



Fairgoers enjoy the Cogdell Fall Fair festivities

MAA/MC Fall Juried Art Exhibit hosts 32nd Annual competition

By Tyler Wade

For the first time in its 32-year history, Best of Show for the Midland Arts Association/Midland College Fall Juried Art Exhibition was a tie. Midlander James VanStavern and Odessan Anthony Mitchell shared the spotlight with two "very different pieces," according to show committee member Karen Lanier.

VanStavern's multi-media 3D piece titled *Yo Mona* and Mitchell's oil painting titled *Jaded Warrior* were chosen by Craig Varjabedian, juror and fine art photographer from New Mexico. Each artist received an award check for \$425.

"When I am looking at visual art, I am hoping for an experience that lingers on the retina long after I have the work in front of me. And while my own work as a photographer follows perhaps more traditional ways, I am not necessarily making judgment on art through the lens I use to evaluate my own creations. The art selected for this exhibition met several of the criteria I am looking for and the pieces that were chosen as Best of Show, in my humble opinion, stand as fine expressions of the people who made them," Varjabedian said in his juror's statement.

The show, consisting of 145 pieces, hangs through Nov. 13 in McCormick Gallery, Allison Fine Arts building. The hours are 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday; and 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Friday. Admission is free.



Anthony Mitchell in front of *Jaded Warrior*, his painting which won Best in Show

Students in Philanthropy host 8th Annual Commissioning Ceremony

In her keynote speech to the Students in Philanthropy (SIP) at their October 22 Commissioning Ceremony, Helen Greathouse Charitable Trustee, Vicki Jay, said to these dedicated, well-intentioned students, "You are on the precipice of your future ... please listen to the call of your heart." The purpose of the ceremony is for newly inducted SIP members to formalize their commitment to their sponsoring organizations, the Abell-Hanger Foundation and the Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust, and to each other. It was



The new inductees to Students in Philanthropy for 2009-2010

also an expression of their appreciation to these foundations, a demonstration of how seriously they take their stewardship and the commitment to the "call of their heart."

The evening included a candle-lighting and recitation of the SIP Commissioning Ceremony Pledge. Over the course of the coming year the SIP members will conduct several fundraising events. In the spring they will award numerous grants to nonprofits in Midland from monies they raised, which will be matched by the Abell-Hanger Foundation.

briefly

WFCE Explores Twitter and Facebook as Marketing Tools

The face of marketing has changed, so don't be left behind! The course costs \$69 and meets 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13, at the ATC, 3200 W. Cuthbert. Online registration is available at www.midland.edu/workforce or call Sara Lyons at (432) 681-6326.

WFCE Two-Day Basic Excel Course begins November 10

Would you like to create spreadsheets that actually tell you what you need to know? The course costs \$139 and meets 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 10, and Thursday, November 12, at the ATC, 3200 W. Cuthbert. Online registration is available at www.midland.edu/workforce or contact Tammy Parish at (432) 681-6330.

