

THE CORE ONLINE



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Middle Georgia College adds another four-year degree to list of program offerings

Middle Georgia College (MGC) received approval in November from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to offer a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education degree. Students will be able to obtain dual certification in early childhood (P-5) and special education with endorsements in reading and math and the option of an additional endorsement in science. MGC was asked to establish the program to meet the demand for teachers in the region, and the college hopes to begin offering the degree as early as fall 2009.

“Meeting the immediate educational needs of the communities we serve is one of Middle Georgia College’s key goals,” stated MGC President Dr. Michael Stoy. “This degree program is being implemented specifically for that reason, and we look forward to offering Middle Georgians yet another excellent educational opportunity.”

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Dillard Hall expansion project brings state-of-the-art learning environment to college

Ribbon cutting and ground breaking ceremonies are becoming a regular occurrence on the MGC campuses, and on November 20, the college celebrated yet another impressive addition. Joined by community members, students, employees and area officials, MGC held a ribbon cutting for the Dillard Hall expansion project followed by an open house with guided tours of the facility. The expansion will be a great asset to the MGC campus, enabling the college to better serve its students and the surrounding areas by offering increasingly outstanding educational opportunities.

With the completion of the project, MGC’s science facility will now be modernized with state-of-the art educational spaces and equipment. The new building features chemistry labs with high-tech educational equipment, including cam-

eras, projectors, speakers in the ceilings, Symposium, a de-ionized water system and vacuum lines. A chemistry prep room and a biology prep room complete with its own dishwasher were also added. New biology labs include a laminar flow hood for experiments with living cultures, a sterilizer for microbiology, a water distiller and cubicle stations for lab exams. Both labs have new equipment like microscopes, microbiology supplies, balances, a spectrophotometer and many models. Additional features of the new building include lighted display cases, featuring displays such as “The

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MGC President Mike Stoy welcomes attendees to the dedication ceremony.

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ENCORE players present Broadway's most popular musical "Chicago"



The ENCORE cast of "Chicago" featuring Casey Sams as Velma



Ashley Hall as Roxie Hart

MGC's ENCORE players and singers treated the campus to wild times in early twentieth century "Chicago" with their fall performance in November. "Chicago" is a satirical look at the concept of celebrity criminals set in 1920s Chicago where two women on trial for murder compete for the media limelight. The MGC production starred students Ashley Hall of Perry as Roxie, Casey Sams of Warner Robins as Velma and Cody Thomas of Alamo as attorney Billy Flynn. Music for "Chicago" was written by John Kander with lyrics by Fred Ebb. The book is by Ebb and Bob Fosse.

"Chicago" has been an awesome learning experience! It's amazing to see everyone's hard work coming together," said MGC student Alyssa Johns who had a part in the play.

According to Dr. Kathleen Downs, assistant professor of speech/drama at MGC, very few small schools are able to obtain the necessary authorization to perform the musical. She explained that "90 percent of the schools who applied were turned down."



Bottom Row (L to R): Carolyn Jones, Executive Director of GSPE; Betty Jean Jordan, VP Jordan Engineering; Professor Hardwick Butler, MGC; Dristen Courson, Stantec Consulting.
Top Row (L to R): Professor Roger Purcell, MGC; Pat Rhodes, Pace Geotechnical; Jason Cooper, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants; Claire Dent, Pi-Tech, Inc.; Professor Bryan Woosley, MGC

Prominent engineers visit campus to mentor MGC students

On November 5, 2008, members of the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers (GSPE) representing fields like geotechnical, structural, environmental and water/wastewater engineering visited MGC to speak to students and offer career guidance. The Middle Georgia Chapter of GSPE (which has several former MGC students) has been consistently active on the MGC campus, volunteering their time to speak to students about different types of engineering careers and academic tracts that prepare one to enter the profession.

The visiting GSPE members are among the top tier within their profession. Pat Rhodes, Jason Cooper and Kristen Courson were all selected as GSPE Engineers of the Year for 2008, and Betty Jean Jordan received the GSPE President's Award for exceptional service to the society.

Artists Anthony Faris and Jean Gray Drake show their “Historical Footnotes” exhibit in Peacock Gallery



Steinbeck Painting

Middle Georgia College’s (MGC) Peacock Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of “Historical Footnotes: A Glimpse into the American Character” a collaborative exhibition by artists Anthony Faris and Jean Gray Drake. An opening reception for the exhibit was held on Monday, November 17 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Peacock Gallery located in MGC’s Russell Hall. The event included a gallery talk and question-and-answer session with the artists starting at 6:30 p.m. The exhibit will remain in the gallery until January 16.

“Historical Footnotes: A Glimpse into the American Character” is an exhibition of poems, paintings and artifacts that support three fictional historical narratives. The poetry describes a fictional historical account, the paintings create a visual narrative representing the events or people of said account and the faux artifacts and documents lend credibility and expand on the overall story. The work explores storytelling, history and the impartiality of documentation.

The artists explained in their statement, “This collection of three narratives explores a fictional account of history through poetry, painting and faux documentation. After you have read the poetry, viewed the paintings and examined the documents, please share the stories in this exhibition with your friends and family.”

MGC Assistant Professor of Art and Peacock Gallery Director Charlie Agnew stated, “Historical Footnotes’ has an interesting premise behind it because it explores how history is created by those who document and write about it. The public often likes to think that history is totally impartial and fact based. However, one must remember what Winston Churchill once said, ‘History is written by the victors.’” Agnew added, “Thus, it is important to see that all history comes from a certain point of view. Faris

and Drake have come together to create an artistic statement that should not only challenge the viewer to consider what they are presenting, but to also judge the validity of all information presented to one on a daily basis.”

Artists Drake and Faris are co-founding members of Stillmore-eroots, an art advocacy group based in Stillmore, Ga. Drake received her BFA in painting and a master’s of arts and teaching from Georgia Southern University. She is currently an elementary school art teacher in Raleigh, N.C. Faris received his BFA in photography from Savannah College of Art and Design. He is currently the director of downtown development for Swainsboro, Ga. and a consultant for Gallery RFD.

The Peacock Gallery is located in Russell Hall on the Cochran MGC campus and hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday. The gallery is open to the public. For more information about the exhibit or the Peacock Gallery, please contact Charlie Agnew at 478-934-3043.



Ohopee Painting

Dillard Hall expansion continued...

Evolution of the Computer” and large wide screen televisions at the end of the halls to show science-related films.

“This facility is really adding to our institution,” said MGC President Mike Stoy during the dedication ceremony. “We’re just beginning here, and as the college continues to grow, we will need additional facilities. There is a whole range of things that are out there right now that we’re working on and pursuing.”



Dillard Hall expansion ribbon cutting

As part of the ceremony, MGC recognized Speaker Emeritus and Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Terry Coleman who helped secure funding for the project when he was in the Georgia House of Representatives. The Dillard Hall expansion features a plaque honoring Coleman’s contribution that reads, “In honor of Representative Terry Coleman, Speaker of the House, who provided the vision, leadership and support necessary to make the Dillard Hall expansion a reality.” Coleman attended the ceremony and toured the facility afterwards.

“In order for rural Georgia to compete, we have to have



Coleman and Stoy

high-quality education. Not only basic K-12 education, but also the excellent advanced education offered by facilities such as this,” Coleman said during his remarks. “With the addition of this building, you have an opportunity to greatly accelerate the growth of this college. There is no reason why this school can’t compete with any other state college or university in the state of Georgia.”

Representatives from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, International City Builders and Hecht Burdeshaw Architects, Inc. all took part in the dedication ceremony along with MGC’s chair of the Natural Science, Mathematics and Engineering Division Dr. John Pasto.

State Bank of Cochran gifts college with \$5,000 donation to MGC Foundation



Ernie Tripp, President of State Bank of Cochran, presents a check for \$5,000 to Dr. Michael Stoy, President of Middle Georgia College. This is the third gift the bank has given to the MGC Foundation. Bank of Cochran has been a strong supporter of Middle Georgia College dating back to 1921 and is extremely proud of the expansion and progress that has been made at the college.

MGC to offer new four-year degree continued...

The first class of the new education program will consist of 25 students who will stay together as a group, taking courses and completing extensive field-based experiences for five semesters. After the initial class, enrollment will be increased to 50 students in the second year and 75 in the third year of the program. For more information about the new degree program, please contact the MGC Division of Social Science and Education at 478-934-3063.

Snapshots



Coram signs a copy of his book for student William Troutman.

Renowned Georgia author Robert Coram visited the Eastman campus of Middle Georgia College on November 10 to discuss two of his books with students, MGC employees and members of the community. Coram focused on his non-fiction works, military biographies entitled, “John Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War,” and “American Patriot: The Life and Wars of Colonel Bud Day.” While telling the stories of Boyd and Day to the students, he stressed the drive, dedication and courage that each man exhibited. Coram also encouraged the students to continue to read books and learn throughout their lives, stating that “Reading can take you to places you might never go otherwise.”

The Eastman MGC campus hopes to host a series of authors in the coming months to promote the importance of reading.

Alumni Crossroads Event a First for Middle Georgia College

The MGC Alumni Association held its first MGC Crossroads event at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins on November 13. Designed to reach out to alumni outside of the college’s home area, the event was described by MGC Director of Institutional Advancement Jennifer Barfield as “MGC’s roadshow.” Performances by the college’s jazz band, percussion ensemble and the Warrior Indoor Drum Line were highlights of the evening. Featured speakers included MGC President Mike Stoy, Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services John McElveen and Director of Admissions Jennifer Brannon.

Event sponsors were ComSouth, Alan Curtis, Robby Harless, Laura Meadows, John Phillips, Leo Phillips, Barney and Harriet Hendricks, Casey and Jenny Paulk and Paulk Landscaping and Butch and Patricia Hall and Hall Plumbing. Barfield hopes to host similar events in Atlanta and Savannah in the spring. For more information, contact the MGC Office of Advancement at 478-934-6417.



MGC student Alissa Castro and the MGC percussion ensemble perform at the Crossroads event.