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THE CORE ONLINE

April 2008

Middle Georgia College Admissions Web Site ranked third in the nation

Middle Georgia College's (MGC) admissions Web site has been ranked third in the nation among community college admissions sites by the National Research Center for College & University Admissions (NRCCUA). The organization considered the design and functionality of over 3,000 college and university Web sites as part of its ninth annual Enrollment Power Index.

Jennifer Brannon, MGC's admissions director, said of the NRC-CUA announcement, "I am very excited about this ranking. We have been working hard to provide an admissions web site with items and information prospective students and their parents need. We are continuing to provide links and services to try and serve the students needs almost instantly."

Brannon praised Andy Stone, the college's Webmaster and director of PC support for his help with the site, stating, "[Stone] has been great with updating our site quickly with the new items we requested. The addition of our TV commercials on the web is fantastic." Brannon also thanked Robin Porter, MGC's director of Enterprise Application Systems for her help in implementing the site's application status check feature.

Along with their rankings, the NRCCUA also explained the features and trends they consider crucial to a successful user-friendly college admissions Web site. Information about the community where the college is located, online campus visit schedulers, and the ability to apply online and track the application status were all highlighted by the center as key elements a site should include. MGC's admissions Web site contains all of these features and many more.

"Today's technically savvy generation of students has extremely high expectations when it comes to the amount and type of admissions information they find on [college] Web sites," NRC-CUA president Don Munce told Community College Journal. "Meeting these expectations with quality up-to-date Web sites will help students better navigate the admissions process and ensure that colleges and universities are attracting students in the Internet generation." Some of the other community colleges included in the ranking were: #1 Cowley County Community College in Kansas, #4 Briarwood College in Connecticut and #6 Jamestown Community College in New York.

Outstanding students recognized at annual Honors and Awards Day



Amy Davidson

MGC celebrated the achievements of its students on March 27 with the college's 58th annual Honors and Awards Day. Students were recognized for academic achievement, as well as participation in college activities and community service. Dr. Mary Ellen Wilson, MGC's interim president, presided over the event.

Amy Davidson of Perry, Georgia earned the highest sophomore grade point average (GPA) and was selected to give the honors address. Davidson is a student of the Georgia Academy of Aviation, Mathematics, Engineering and Science (GAAMES) at MGC with joint enrollment at Perry High School. She is a pre-med major who has been accepted to the United States Air Force Academy. Davidson is the daughter of Angela Davidson and the late Henry Davidson.

MGC's chair of natural sciences, mathematics, engineering and GAAMES Dr. John Pasto presented awards to those students who made the dean's list five, four, three or two times. He also presented awards to the sophomore with the highest GPA, Davidson; the freshman with the highest GPA, Silas Harrington; and the part-time student with the highest GPA, Gayle Bice. Pasto then recognized those students who were nominated to Who's Who among Students in American Junior Colleges: Arwen Alexandria J. Behrends, Bre'Anna Brown, Erin Darsey, Tenecia Nychelle Harris, Nicholas Ryan Hering, Alton L. Jones, Eddie

Continued on Page 2

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| MGCF Benefit Gala | Page 2 |
| Shannon Hudson, MGC Star | Page 3 |
| Learning & Lecture Series | Page 4 |
| Muses Awards | Page 4 |
| Juried Student Art Exhibit | Page 5 |
| Snapshots | Page 6 |

MGC FOUNDATION BENEFIT GALA SET FOR MAY 3

Middle Georgia College's (MGC) 2008 Foundation Benefit Gala, set for May 3, is sure to be an evening of fun, delicious food and great entertainment. The event will feature a reception, silent auction, gourmet dinner and entertainment by jazz musicians Rick's Combo. Dinner music will be provided by the string duo of the Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra, and guests will also be treated to a special after-dinner performance by members of the orchestra.

The gala begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Georgia Hall Dining Room on MGC's Cochran campus. Formal attire is required, black-tie optional. All proceeds from the event benefit the MGC Foundation's scholarship program to assist worthy students pursuing an education at the college.

MGC's Director of Advancement Jennifer Barfield stated, "This year's gala promises to be an extraordinary event. With hors d'oeuvres and a dinner of surf and turf provided by Sodexo, a silent auction with unique and exquisite items for bidding, and the wonderful musical talents of Rick's Jazz Combo and members of the Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra, the quality of the affair far exceeds the modest ticket price. I would encourage everyone to get your tickets early. You can come and enjoy a wonderful evening of food, fun and entertainment while supporting the very worthwhile cause of providing scholarships for MGC students with financial need."

To be a part of this exciting event, please contact the MGC Office of Advancement at 478-934-6417. Tickets are \$50 per person or attendees may request a V.I.P. table, which seats 6, for \$500. Premium seating and a complimentary bottle of wine will be provided at each V.I.P. table. Please make checks payable to the MGC Foundation and mail to: Middle Georgia College, Office of Advancement, 1100 Second Street, SE, Cochran, GA 31014. Reservations can also be paid with a Discover, Visa or MasterCard by calling the office of advancement at the phone number provided above.

Honors Day Continued...

Lee Lovett, Jr., Holly Meeks, Timothy Rousseau, Helen Ashley Smith and Joseph A. Turner, Jr.

Cochran Student Government Association (SGA) chair Eddie Lee Lovett, Jr., Dublin SGA chair Shannon Hudson and Eastman SGA chair Phil Metzger presented the SGA special awards honoring outstanding MGC faculty and staff. Faculty members LaVette Burnette, assistant professor of speech; Stephen Svo navek, assistant professor of history; and John Hunt, air traffic management division chair were recognized by SGA for their exemplary service and support of MGC's students. The SGA also awarded a scholarship to student Candice Broome.



The Middle Georgia College Student Government Association Members



Cochran SGA Chair Lovett and Cochran Faculty of the Year Award-Winner Burnette

The MGC Association of Nursing Students was selected for the Outstanding Club Award, which was presented by Vice President for Student Development John McElveen. The MGC Ambassadors won 2nd place, and the Student Art League won 3rd place. McElveen also presented the Service and Leadership Award, the highest non-academic honor, to Eddie Lee Lovett, Jr.

Several other awards were given by MGC's individual academic departments to recognize exceptional students, and the college's clubs also honored many of their outstanding members. For more information about MGC's Honors Day, please contact Allison Manning at 478-934-5201.



MGC STARS featuring Shannon Hudson

By Belynda Enzor

Shannon Hudson is a political science major attending MGC at the Dublin Campus. She is not your average student, and in fact could best be described as “above average” because she carries a 4.0 average, a full credit load of classes, has a job, a husband and a three-year-old daughter.

Shannon wears many hats at MGC. She is the Dublin Student Government Association (SGA) Chair, a member of the National Scholars Honor Society, an active participant of Phi Theta Kappa and the Rotaract Service Club and a member of the Honors Day Committee. As SGA chair, Shannon was assigned to the Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents whose goal is to get legislation passed so a student regent can serve on the Board as a voice for the student body. With the assistance of the other SGA members, Shannon also organized the Dublin Campus Fall Festival and included a “Family Day” where parents of the community could bring their school-age children to the campus for a day of safe fun and enjoyment. She’s helped coordinate and present an SGA-sponsored concert on campus by local musicians. And during the past semester, Shannon and the SGA members held a fundraiser for a terminally ill child in the Dublin area. She is constantly working to bring MGC and the community together. This spring semester Shannon planned SGA’s activities to include the annual “Battle of the Bands,” a Scholarship Pageant and the Dublin Spring Fling.

As a student Shannon enjoys “Social Problems” class the most but values all of the classes she has taken at MGC. Shannon says that her favorite instructor is Stephen Svonavec. He is her advisor but she also calls him “an excellent instructor and part of my support system” here at MGC.

Although previously educated and working as a para-legal, she now works at home as a legal assistant for an



attorney based outside of Dublin working mostly with bankruptcy cases. “I am blessed to have the flexibility with my work and to be able to spend time at home with my daughter. Although, time for homework is usually late at night or early in the morning. It all works out. I am thankful for the support I have at home. My husband helps with our daughter and my flexible hours make it easy for me to



On behalf of the Dublin SGA, Hudson awarded Svonavec the Faculty Member of the Year Award at Honors Day.

schedule my time,” Shannon stated. “I love what I do.”

Shannon plans to attend a four-year college after graduating from MGC next fall and continue her major in political science. “Government and the way different governments work interest me. A political science major gives me many options,” she explained. Shannon plans to attend training to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation after earning her bachelor’s degree. It is a 20-week training course in Virginia that will require her to be away from her family during the week. Shannon talks about her decision to pursue the FBI, “My husband and I talked about this at length before I decided to do it. He is amazing and very supportive and will help me accomplish this goal.”

Shannon says she was nervous to start college again but once she got into it, she thoroughly enjoyed it. She compliments the individuality that the MGC Dublin Campus allows and credits the exceptional support system at that campus for her success in returning to college. Shannon explained, “This campus is a very close knit environment and the administration and faculty are incredibly helpful.”

If you would like to nominate a student you know to be a MGC Star, just call the Public Relations Office at 478-934-5201.

Spring Learning & Lecture Series wraps with Emory University stem-cell researcher

Middle Georgia College's (MGC) Georgia Academy of Aviation, Mathematics, Engineering and Science (GAAMES) recently wrapped up the spring semester portion of its Dr. Richard Federinko Learning and Lecture Series, hosting Dr. Rodney Nash of Emory University at the Cochran campus's Dillard Auditorium on April 2. Nash is considered an expert in the field of stem-cell research, and a capacity crowd gathered to hear his lecture, "Human Embryonic Stem Cells: A Model for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome."

GAAMES Academic Advisor Dr. Bryan Woosley stated, "It is a great honor for MGC to have the opportunity to welcome someone like Dr. Nash to the Cochran campus and to enjoy a time of learning with someone who explains things in such an understandable way. It is the goal of the Learning and Lecture Series to provide opportunities for growth so that we all become better educated citizens and scholars, and hopefully someone will become challenged to work toward a solution to one of the many problems facing the world today as a result of becoming inspired at such an event."



Dr. Rodney Nash

Nash is a post-doctoral fellow at Emory University where he is actively doing stem-cell research to model fetal alcohol syndrome. He earned his doctorate from the University of Georgia. During his lecture at MGC, Nash discussed the value of human embryonic stem cells as a tool for understanding injury and preservation of the early developing human embryo. He explained that human embryonic stem cells are the best in vitro model for studying the toxicity of ethanol and that his studies will help to define the mechanisms of cell death caused by consuming alcohol. Nash's research will serve as a model to inspire other researchers to use human embryonic stem cells for studying the regulation of early embryo survival.

The Federinko Learning and Lecture Series was created in early 2008 so that all students at MGC, but GAAMES students in par-

ticular, could have an opportunity to learn about professional and academic topics that allow them to make better career and academic choices. The series was named for former MGC President Richard Federinko to honor the vision and dedication Federinko held for the college's GAAMES program. Organizers scheduled one speaker per month during the semester, hosting professional engineer Ray Crumbley in February and Maggie Bergmann, a middle school student from Athens who has conducted extensive research at the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, in March.

Plans are to continue the Learning and Lecture Series during MGC's fall semester. Woosley explained, "The goal of the series is to provide interesting discussion across all academic disciplinary lines, and anyone who would like to suggest a topic or speaker is encouraged to contact me so that we can make those arrangements." Woosley can be contacted at bwoosley@mgc.edu.

MGC literary magazine recognizes students for achievement in creative writing

MGC students were recognized for their creative writing achievements on April 7 at an awards ceremony sponsored by the college's literary magazine "Muses." Adam Young, assistant professor of English at MGC, presented the "Muses" Awards in Russell Hall's Peacock Gallery to the three students who were selected from among 15 entries. All "Muses" winners received recognition along with a monetary award.

Bre'Anna Brown of College Park, Ga. won the Fiction Award for her story "Drive Me Sane," which was initially an assignment in her creative writing class. Brown, a political science major, read the inventive story which included three very diverse main characters. Spectators found "Drive Me Sane" entertaining and anxiously awaited each surprising turn-of-events with a smile.



Jennifer Brown, Bre'Anna Brown, Bailey Tuck and Adam Young

"Muses" Awards Continued on Page 5

“Muses” Awards Continued...

Jennifer Robinson of Dexter, Ga. earned the Poetry Award for her poem “Queen of Carthage.” Robinson read her winning poem to the gathered crowd along with another of her works.

The Non-Fiction Award went to Bailey Tuck, a Bleckley County High School student enrolled in MGC’s Dr. Crystal O’Leary’s creative writing class, for her essay entitled “Grief.” Tuck read the essay describing the passing of her great-grandmother and her perceptions of the event as a young child. Tuck’s reading deeply touched the audience and brought many of them to tears.

Young praised the students stating that “Each of these students read with verve and grace. Bre’Anna’s story’s humorous subversion of conventional stereotypical characters had the crowd laughing at and empathizing with the narrator. Jennifer’s poems demonstrated an awareness of, and affinity for, the classical literary tradition with a contemplative reading that echoed her well-read and well-wrought poetic voice. Bailey Tuck presented her essay with an emotional honesty and authenticity that matched the maturity of her essay’s meditation on the human determination to live and love despite the inevitability of loss and grief.” Young further stated, “The accomplishments of these three fine writers made the reading a moving celebration of humanity and the words of which we’re made.”

Young thanked Charlie Agnew, assistant professor of art, for providing the Peacock Gallery for the awards ceremony and Agnew’s wife Jackie for providing refreshments.

MGC holds 2008 Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition

Middle Georgia College’s (MGC) art students were honored on April 7 with an awards ceremony and opening reception for the college’s 2008 Juried Student Art Exhibition. “Lake in Maine” by Sarah Johnson took top honors with the Best of Show Award, and Johnson was also awarded the Three Cities Group Scholarship. Joseph Calvo won the Best of 2-Dimensional Art Award for his “Light up My Thoughts,” and Candace McGalliard won the Best of 3-Dimensional Art Award for “Whimsey.” The Student Choice Award went to Andrzej Skiba for “The Ranch.” Jenni Brown, Jessica Nobles, Andrzej Skiba, Casey Eaton, Krystle Stotler and Raymond Sapp, III all received Honorable Mentions for the works they entered in the show. The student art exhibit will remain in the Cochran campus’s Peacock Gallery, located in Russell Hall, until May 2.

Friends, family and MGC faculty and staff joined the students in celebrating their achievements at the opening reception, and MGC Assistant Professor of Art Charlie Agnew encourages community members to come out and see the exhibit. “The Annual Juried Student Exhibition showcases some of our art students’



Front Row left to right: Candace McGalliard (Macon); Casey Eaton (Eastman) Middle Row: Krystle Stotler (Perry); Sarah Johnson (Eastman); Jenni Brown (Eastman); Jessica Nobles (Eastman) and Joseph Calvo (Fayetteville) Back Row: Assistant Professor Charlie Agnew; Andrzej Skiba (Poland); Raymond Sapp, III (Cochran) and judge Michael Marks

best work from throughout the 2007-2008 school year,” stated Agnew. “The exhibition is a culmination experience for the students who have worked hard all year long, honing their skills to become better artists.”

Michael Marks, one of the founding members of the Three Cities Group Artist Collective, judged this year’s exhibition. Marks explained his views on the relevance of art stating, “Art is the result of some contemplation or view of the world. It may be sent out into the world it describes, and it may interact with people who agree, disagree or investigate it. It is against this backdrop that we make art, that we share our experiences and communicate with ourselves, with others, and with the world around us.”

Honorable Mention recipient Stotler, a sophomore at MGC, stated, “The Student Art Exhibition shows the true qualities of young rising artists from MGC. Their artwork brings forth ideas, imagination and thoughts. I’m sad that this will be my final show here, but I look forward to returning and seeing the artwork of future MGC art students in the years to come.”

The Peacock Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Admission to the exhibit is free. For more information about the exhibit or the Peacock Gallery, please contact Agnew at 478-934-3043.



Sarah Johnson and “Lake in Maine”

Snapshots



ENCORE'S

**Disco Soul
Celebration
April 9-12, 2008**

Under the direction of Dr. Robert McTyre, the ENCORE singers put on a creative and energetic spring production entitled "Disco Soul Celebration." The show featured a series of popular songs from the 1970s including "Dancing Queen," "Let it Be" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered."



2008 MGC International Festival

April 1, 2008

