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THE CORE ONLINE

Summer 2008

Middle Georgia College welcomes new president

A new era has begun at Middle Georgia College (MGC) with the arrival of Dr. W. Michael Stoy. MGC welcomed Stoy for his first official day as president on Friday, August 1, and Stoy has made getting to know the college’s campuses and the surrounding communities a top priority. He spent his first few days in office meeting college employees and community members and has a long list of people from both groups that he hopes to talk with in the coming days.

“The college is part of the community. This is a partnership,” Stoy said. “[MGC] wants to be able to respond to the educational needs of the community, and we’re looking for input.” Stoy pointed out that with its three campuses; MGC not only serves the Cochran area but also Dublin and Eastman. He explained, “We have a regional community to serve, and each one is going to need something different. So we’re going to be customizing.” Stoy also stressed the importance of expanding MGC’s new aviation programs and supporting the programs’ mission to provide Georgia students with the quality training they need to secure jobs in the state’s growing aviation industry. The new president said he plans to share more on his goals for the college’s future in the coming weeks.

Stoy stated that his first impressions of the college and the surrounding area have been extremely positive. His office will be located on the college’s main Cochran campus, and he explained that “[Cochran] is a wonderful community. Everybody has been very welcoming, and that goes for the campus also.” Stoy added, “It’s one of those places where you feel like you’ve been there all along.”

Stoy comes to MGC from Gainesville State College where he served as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty since 1999. From 1989 until 1999, he held various administrative and faculty positions at Darton Col-



Dr. Michael Stoy

lege in Albany, Ga., including associate professor of biology and chair of the science/mathematics division and professor of biology. From 1978 to 1989, Stoy was first an assistant and then associate professor of biology at Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D. Stoy holds a Ph.D. in entomology from North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D. (1984), a master of arts in zoology from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (1978), a bachelor’s degree in biology from Thomas More College, Covington, Ky. (1975), and an associate’s degree in biology and chemistry from Bismarck Junior College, Bismarck, N.D. (1973). He and his wife Maureen have three children, who currently live in Savannah and Atlanta, and two grandchildren.

In 2003, the University System of Georgia recognized Gainesville College with a Best Practices Award for identifying and promoting practices that help students pass the Regents Test with Stoy’s guidance. He is a charter member and executive-board member of both the Appalachian Studies Center and the Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education. On behalf of the latter organization, he developed and helped implement a scholarship program that has more than 15 post-secondary institutions providing more than \$20,000 in scholarship funds to students annually. When Gainesville State received the green light from

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Wilson-Young essay featured in “Best of the Web 2008”



MGC professor Joyce Wilson-Young’s essay “Pageant Queen” has been selected for inclusion in the newly released Dzanc Book’s publication “Best of the Web 2008.” The anthology features the best fiction, poetry and nonfiction that online literary journals have to offer, and Dzanc plans to make it an annual publication. Author Steve Almond guest edited this year’s edition of “Best of the Web” which went on sale July 10 and is available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon and many other stores.

“I’m extremely honored to be included in this multi-genre anthology along with such talented seasoned writers like George Saunders and David Bottoms and emerging writers whose voices are equally inspiring,” said Wilson-Young. “Writing nonfiction that is attention-grabbing and sustains an audience’s interest is always my foremost goal as a writer, and I’m happy that this piece was able to do this so well. I hope that people enjoy the essay and the entire book.”

Wilson-Young’s “Pageant Queen” was originally published online in the Apple Valley Review in the spring of 2007.

MGC’s humanities division chair Dr. Crystal O’Leary-Davidson described the essay, “Pageant Queen” begins in the mundane landscape of the southern suburban, and as the essay develops, [Wilson-Young] explores the subtleties of childhood, family dynamics, married life, women’s roles in society, and the continuing influence of the past on the present.”

Wilson-Young is a California native and graduate of The University of Mississippi’s master of fine arts program, where she edited “The Yalobusha Review” for two years. She currently lives with her husband in Bonaire, Ga. and is an assistant professor at MGC, teaching creative writing and composition. Wilson-Young has published fiction and memoir in several journals and was featured in Random House’s 2006 anthology “Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers.”

“[Her] essays are beautiful meditations on daily life; she makes the familiar seem new and the unfamiliar quite real. Middle Georgia College is fortunate to have such a talented professional as a writing teacher.”

“[Her] essays are beautiful meditations on daily life; she makes the familiar seem new and the unfamiliar quite real,” O’Leary-Davidson stated. “Middle Georgia College is fortunate to have such a talented professional as a writing teacher.”

According to its publishers, “The Best of the Web’ anthology will be the first comprehensive print anthology to represent the vast array of contemporary online literature. Knowing that some will pick this title up out of curiosity, and discover the incredible writing being published online these days, helped us decide this series was necessary.”

MGC to offer beginning Hebrew course

MGC professor Yosi Balas will be reviving his beginning Hebrew course this fall at MGC after receiving numerous requests from the community and students for its return. Registration will be limited to twenty students, and the class will be held on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. beginning August 18. The registration fee is \$75, and all materials will be provided by the instructor. The course is open to the public.

“The intent of the course is to gain a basic understanding of the Hebrew language, enabling students to read the Old Testament of the Bible in its original form and carry on simple conversa-

tions in Hebrew. Students will also gain insight into Hebrew culture, history and holidays,” Balas explained.

Balas plans for interested students to take a guided tour of Israel next summer at a reduced cost. During the two-week tour, students will visit the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, parts of Galilee, Tiberius, Tel Aviv and many other sites with both historical and religious significance. Balas was born and raised in Israel, and he is sure to provide students with a wealth of information about the sites they visit. For more information or to register for the course, contact Ms. Jan Thomas at 478-934-3034.

Aviation campus holds spring scholarship awards ceremony



Award winners: Turner, Young, Floyd, Weathersbee, Strickland, Morgan, Cox and Kehayes

Middle Georgia College's aviation campus in Eastman held its spring semester scholarship awards ceremony on April 24 to recognize and reward exceptional students in their programs. The scholarships were presented by Johnny McMoy, director of the Eastman campus. During the ceremony, MGC faculty member Ed Weathersbee was given the Rotary Award for Aviation Teaching Excellence and faculty member Martin Kehayes received the Lion's Club Award for Aviation Teaching Excellence.

The following scholarships were awarded during the ceremony:

- Coty Floyd of Chester, Ga. was awarded the George T. Douglas Aircraft Structural Technology Scholarship, sponsored by the MGC Foundation. This scholarship award is given twice per year.
- Thomas Cox of Atlanta, Ga. received the Ed Ratigan Award.
- Mary Morgan of Bremen, Ga. was awarded the Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA) Aviation Scholarship, which is also given twice a year. This award is presented by the MGC Foundation on behalf of ASA. She was also given the Gannaway Memorial Scholarship by the MGC Foundation on behalf of Mrs. Jackie Gannaway Short. This scholarship was created in memory of Captain Ed Gannaway from Dublin who passed away in August 1995. The award is given once per semester.
- Wallace "Lamar" Young of Cochran, Ga. was presented with the Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) College Scholarship Award. This scholarship is presented by the MGC Foundation on behalf of the Ocmulgee EMC and is given to a Georgia Aviation Campus student whose home is serviced by Ocmulgee EMC.

- Jeremie Strickland of Savannah, Ga. received the Ed Allen Memorial Aviation Scholarship given by the MGC Foundation on behalf of Mr. Ed Allen's friends, family and fellow employees at Dassault Falcon Jet Corporation. This scholarship is given twice per year and was presented by Ms. Nylan Hinson, Ed Allen's sister. Ms. Hinson created this scholarship in memory of her brother Gene Edison "Ed" Allen of Eastman who passed away in April 2001.

Middle Georgia College hosts Coastal Carolina Soccer Camp 2008

This summer MGC played host to the Coastal Carolina Soccer Camp on the college's Cochran campus. MGC was selected from a pool of seven possible sites by the director and head coach of Coastal Carolina Soccer, Paul Banta, and his son and assistant director Joel Banta. Paul Banta recognized the need for a soccer camp like Coastal Carolina in the Middle Georgia area and also considered the fact that Bleckley County School System in Cochran is in the beginning stages of building a middle and high school soccer program.

"We chose [MGC] as the site for our summer camp because this is a fine campus, the dorms are nice and the food is good. The people here have been very helpful and kind to us, and we appreciate it," Banta explained. Players from age 12 and up who attend the three-week camp, stay in supervised MGC dorms and eat their meals in the MGC campus dining hall.



Banta, a former professional American Soccer League player, has been playing and coaching soccer for the past 32 years. He started the Coastal Carolina Soccer Camp 23 years ago with the goal of helping players improve their match related skills, the tactical and technical sides of the game. "We coach the tactical side of soccer because tactics wins matches," Banta stated. The camps staff includes a team of highly professional coaches from the United States and the United Kingdom.

Coastal Carolina Soccer Camp Continued on Page 5

MGC holds reception to thank Interim President Mary Ellen Wilson for her service and leadership



Middle Georgia College (MGC) honored and thanked Dr. Mary Ellen Wilson for her service and leadership as MGC's interim president with a reception at the college's Alderman Hall on Monday, July 28. Community members and MGC employees attended the event during which Wilson was gifted with a Franklinia Altamaha tree. Wilson was appointed MGC's interim president

by the Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Georgia in November 2007 and served in the position from January 1 to July 31, 2008, following the resignation of MGC president Dr. Richard Federinko. While serving as interim president, Wilson continued her duties as MGC's vice president for academic affairs and will remain in that position.

"I was honored by the appreciation reception given by my MGC colleagues. I am thankful for all of the warmth, generosity, and support demonstrated by the MGC family during the seven months of my interim presidency," Wilson stated. "I look forward to continuing in my position as vice president for academic affairs as we strive to prepare our students to meet life's challenges wherever they are encountered."

When announcing Wilson's appointment as MGC's interim president, Rob Watts, the BOR chief operating officer, stated, "We are extremely fortunate to be able to call on Dr. Wilson's strong leadership skills at this time. I am confident that Middle Georgia College will be in very good hands under her guidance."

During her time as interim president, Wilson took up the task

of seeing MGC through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' (SACS) Commission on Colleges (COC) substantive change accreditation visits to the campus. This SACS evaluation was made necessary by MGC's July 2007 merger with Georgia Aviation and Technical College. Wilson described MGC's completion of the SACS substantive change approval process as her number one priority as interim president, a goal which was accomplished in June 2008 when COC/SACS announced their decision to approve the consolidation of the two schools. Wilson said, "We got through [the SACS visits] successfully, and I'm really proud of that."

John McElveen, MGC's vice president for student development, explained, "Our merger and bachelor degree additions were fully approved with no further follow-up required by SACS. While Dr. Wilson will be the first to tell you that this success involved the hard work and talent of many people, I hope that we will not overlook that it is highly doubtful that this would have been as successful without her efforts and leadership, and I cannot overemphasize her contributions enough." McElveen added, "More than any one person, she made this happen. Additionally, her calm leadership during this time of tremendous challenges had a positive effect upon those with whom she worked."

Asked what her greatest challenge was as interim president, Wilson responded, "Finding the time to do everything a president needs to do and everything a vice president for academic affairs needs to do as well." Wilson explained that her favorite thing about the experience was getting to work more often with a broader range of college employees.

She said, "I've always had a lot of interaction with John McElveen's staff and Lynn Hobbs' (vice president for fiscal affairs) staff, but there was more of that. And working with the president's staff was really good too."

Looking to the future of the college, Wilson stated, "Dr. Federinko left [MGC] in really good shape all around." She stressed the importance of continuing the programs and growth begun under Federinko's administration. "We need to continue on with our facilities plan, building the new dorms here and in Eastman, and we need to continue to build on our aviation programs." Wilson explained that the college

"Her calm leadership during this time of tremendous challenges had a positive effect upon those with whom she worked."

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Aviation maintenance student Joey Turner earns bronze medal in national competition

MGC aviation maintenance technology (AMT) student Joey Turner of Augusta earned a bronze medal at the annual SkillsUSA Championships during the organization's National Leadership and Skills Conference. SkillsUSA is the national organization for students in trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education. The group sponsors the SkillsUSA Championships annually to recognize the achievements of career and technical education students and to encourage them to strive for excellence and pride in their chosen occupations.

Turner, who won the gold medal in the state SkillsUSA AMT competition, placed third in the national AMT competition for the college/post secondary category. During the competition, contestants performed 12 tasks that represent the types of maintenance they will handle in the aircraft industry. In order to qualify for the national competition, the students competed in local and state contests. The state gold medal winners advanced to the national championship. The contest scope is consistent with the airframe and power plant mechanics certification guide published by the Federal Aviation Administration. Aviation maintenance is the only maintenance profession certified by the federal government.



Joey Turner

Over 5,000 contestants competed in 91 competitions over the course of the Skills USA championships which were held on June 25 and 26, 2008 in Kansas City, Missouri. The contests are planned by technical committees made up of representatives of labor and management and are designed to test the skills needed for a successful entry-level performance in given occupational fields. Safety practices and procedures - an area of great concern to labor and management alike - are judged and graded and constitute a portion of a contestant's score. Over 500 industry judges participated this year.

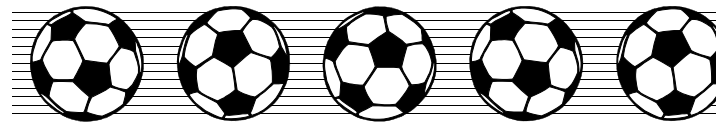
All winners receive medallions and frequently receive tools of their trade and/or scholarships to further their careers and education. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA.



*Coastal Carolina
Soccer Camp
continued....*

Camp players spent their day learning skills and specifics of their position, soaking up lectures from former professional players and coaches and scrimmaging. There were special camps for goal keepers and striker/attacker players. A player's day began at 8:45 a.m. and, with the exception of meals, ended at 8:30 p.m.

Banta intends to continue holding the summer camp at MGC and hopes to attract 20 teams per week for the three week period. The Middle Georgia area promises to grow rapidly in the sport of soccer and will soon be known as the place to be for summer soccer camp. For more information about Coastal Carolina Soccer, the coaches and scheduling go to www.CoastalCarolinaSoccerCamp.com.



Eastman Aviation Campus works with Dodge County EMS, police and fire departments to handle aircraft in-flight emergency

At 12:50 p.m. on May 19, the control tower at Heart of Georgia Regional Airport and Middle Georgia College's Aviation Campus was contacted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with a report of an in-flight emergency on a passing aircraft not affiliated with the college. The pilot reported smoke in the cockpit.

The tower immediately contacted Dodge County Emergency Management Services, Police and Fire Departments. EMS was on site within two minutes of the aircraft rolling up. No one on board the twin-engine business aircraft suffered any injuries.

MGC's Interim President Mary Ellen Wilson stated, "I would like to thank all of our faculty and staff at the Eastman Aviation Campus for their expertise and quick response to this situation. I especially would like to thank all of the first responders in Dodge County for their quick reaction to the situation. We are all grateful that the outcome today was positive, thanks to the teamwork of the organizations involved."

Wilson Continued...

would soon be offering a bachelor of science degree for helicopter flight and is working to start up an avionics program on the Eastman campus.

Wilson has been vice president for academic affairs at MGC since 2000 and, in this capacity; she played a key role in MGC's merger with the Georgia Aviation and Technical College. Prior to becoming vice president for academic affairs, Wilson was a history professor at MGC. She also previously taught at Tift College in Forsyth, Ga., Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla., and at Chester Elementary School in Chester, Ga. She holds a Ph.D. and a master's degree, both in history, from Florida State University, earned in 1983 and 1975 respectively. Her undergraduate history degrees include a bachelor's degree from Mercer University in 1974 and an associate degree from MGC in 1972. She also is a graduate of Dodge County High School.

Wilson has published a number of articles on Georgia's longleaf pine lumber industry and has presented several papers on the state's environmental history at academic conferences. Her interest in environmental conservation is what inspired her MGC co-workers to give her the Franklinia Altamaha tree, a rare tree named for Benjamin Franklin. The last confirmed sighting of a Franklinia Altamaha in the wild was in 1803. The tree will be planted on MGC's campus near Dillard Hall.

Middle Georgia College Foundation elects new board of trustees members

The Middle Georgia College Foundation (MGCF) elected five new members to its Board of Trustees at a recent Foundation meeting. The newly elected trustees are: Nancy Cobb of Dublin, Executive Director of the OneGeorgia Authority; Anthony Jenkins of Cochran, Bleckley County Middle School Principal; Brad Franklin of Trent Woods, NC with Novartis Pharmaceuticals; Dan McCranie of Eastman, Chairman of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners; and Laura Meadows of Atlanta, Associate Vice President of Economic Development for the University of Georgia.

Dr. Mary Ellen Wilson, MGC's interim president stated, "Our college is pleased to add these distinguished MGC alumni to our Foundation Board. We are fortunate that they have agreed to serve in this capacity."

The MGC Foundation and its board of trustees serve the interests of the college by providing support and consultation; leadership and assistance with college development and fund-raising; and sound management and investment of foundation assets benefiting the college's long-term success. As a result of generous donations to the foundation made by college alumni and friends, the MGCF awards numerous scholarships to MGC students each year, ensuring that Middle Georgia's best and brightest have access to a quality college education.

For information on how to get involved, please contact MGC's Office of Advancement at 478-934-6417.

Snapshots



In May, MGC nursing students took part in a staged emergency drill on the Cochran campus to test their skills under pressure.

MGC welcomes new president continued...

the Board of Regents in 2005 to begin offering selected four-year degrees, Stoy led the team that determined the institution's academic niche and plotted its future in serving the needs of Northeast Georgia.

"Dr. Stoy has the depth of academic and administrative experience we were looking for," said Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia member W. Mansfield Jennings, who served as chair of the Special Regents' Committee for the presidential search at Middle Georgia College. "Like the Board of Regents, he is committed to providing Georgians with access to higher education, but he knows that, once admitted, students also need strong support from their institution if they are to succeed academically."

Stoy was named president of MGC in July following an extensive national search that began in February 2008.