Welcome New Students & Faculty!

New Publication helps students navigate college

Last year, MCC’s Student Services department developed a booklet of information to assist new curriculum students in navigating their way around campus and through the myriad policies and procedures associated with starting college.

The cover of the booklet, pictured right, features MCC staff and faculty. All but one of the photos was taken during the open House on March 11. From the top left corner of the publication cover, going clockwise are: Student Services Counselor Crystal Pugh, Dean of Student Services Dr. Jennifer Burruss, Academic Skills Coordinator Maureen Green, Automotive Instructor Al Dawes, Director of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Dean McCall, Library Director Mary Anne Caudle, and Associate Dean of Student Services Dr. Brian Busch.

Distribution of the booklets began on July 16 at the first New Student Orientation session here on campus. Additional booklets are available at the reception desk in building one.

Initial feedback about this publication has been very positive and several good suggestions, as well as a couple of corrections, have come in since its first printing. Initially 250 copies were printed, but more than half have been distributed. If you have an idea on how to improve the booklet, or have a correction to make, please contact Judy Jennette at 789-0310 or via email at jjennette@martincc.edu.

Getting to know us... Martin Community College!
This fall, Martin Community College (MCC) is partnering with Upswing, a college success platform that grants students free access to online tutors 24/7. Upswing will play a crucial role in MCC’s mission to help students achieve their personal and career goals in an affordable and accessible way.

The new partnership offers students at MCC an easy way to schedule tutoring sessions with a qualified coach. MCC students will be able to use the same login that used for the learning system, so integration is seamless. Students are able to schedule an online or in-person tutoring session with one of MCC’s academic coaches. At times when MCC tutors may not be available such as nights or weekends, students can connect with Upswing’s vast network of qualified coaches. Martin Community College students who are enrolled in alternative classes, including online courses, will also be able to receive tutoring from Upswing.

Students will now be able to get help with classes at times that work the best for their schedule. This is especially helpful for Martin CC, where students have longer commutes to campus. The Upswing Administrator Dashboard will help Ms. Maureen Green, Academic Skills Coordinator, track student progress and boost overall retention rates. Just like MCC’s mission to provide students with learning opportunities, Upswing is dedicated to increasing student understanding of classroom material.

Students will be given access to Upswing starting Fall 2015 at no cost to the students. Upswing will be working with MCC to ensure that when the Fall comes around, students will be able to log in to the platform and be able to access not only Upswing tutors, but also MCC tutors. Students can access their personalized Upswing portal at www.martincc.upswing.io in Fall 2015. To learn more about Upswing and MCC’s partnership, please contact Green at Green at mgreen@martincc.edu.

MCC is committed to providing quality educational experiences at a reasonable cost and at times convenient to students who work part-time or full-time. MCC helps individuals to achieve their personal and career goals. Whether the goal is to obtain the skills necessary to compete in today's workplace, become certified in a certain occupation, explore another career, or complete the first two years of a four-year degree, the faculty and staff want to assist students in meeting their particular goals.

Upswing was founded in 2012 in Durham, N.C. and is focused on helping colleges improve student retention through retention planning, a virtual learning center, and data analytics. By taking the traditional academic support method and enabling online flexibility and personalization, students can engage with and interact with academic tutors and coaches in ways never before possible. Upswing is on a mission to help end attrition. To learn more, you can visit Upswing at www.upswing.io or email speak@upswing.io.
New MCC Video!

During the summer, a promotional video for MCC was produced by videographer David Clark, owner of Day 1 Creative. Clark assembled numerous MCC students for inclusion in this piece. The theme of the 30 second video is “taking the first step on the path to success.” MCC graduates and current students are featured working on cars, working with horses, performing physical therapy and walking on to a university campus. Featured in the video are Regina Harmon, Lashon Watford and Christopher Privette, (college transfer program); Brandon Day and Larry Stokes, (automotive program); Kathleen Williams, Bridget Sumeracki, Mary Dalcourt, and Ariana Blaylock, (equine program); Paige O'Neil and Justin Britt (physical therapist assistant program). The video is now featured on the MCC website and used as a TV commercial. Feel free to post it on your Facebook page!
Electronic Signs soon to be Installed

Thanks to funding from MCC’s Completion by Design Grant, our campus will soon have an electronic sign at each main entrance. The CBD Team and the Trustee’s Property Committee have approved the concept. The project is currently in the formal bid process. The new signs will actually be lighted 5’x10’ panels mounted on either side of the existing signs as shown above. The screens are full color, 10 mm resolution, LED displays. MCC messages will be entered into each sign electronically. This will be a great venue for advertising events on our campus and keeping students and faculty informed about important issues - like registration, book buy back days, snow closings, and the like. The bid process should be complete by the end of August and installation should occur this fall. Stay tuned for further information about getting data on the signs.

MCC Trustees Update

On July 14 the MCC Trustees met for their regularly scheduled board meeting. During this meeting, Martin County Clerk of Court, Tonya Leggett, swore in returning Trustees Kay Pittman, Dempsey Bond and Willie Peele, pictured at the top. Tom Winslow, pictured above, was sworn in as a new Trustee. Winslow is one of four Trustees appointed by the Martin County Commissioners. Four others are appointed by the Martin County School Board and the remaining four are appointed by the office of the NC Governor. Pittman and Bond are also a County Commissioner appointees. Peele is a School Board appointee.
Welcome Gifts for New MCC Students

Pictured above is a note pad and to the right a lanyard with an 8GB flash drive attached to it. These items were purchased for new MCC students. The lanyard will also provide students with a clip hook for their name badge. These items were purchased with Completion By Design grant funds.

Frye Joins Martin Community Foundation Board

Harlan Frye, HR Director at Martin County Community College, has recently been appointed to the advisory board of the Martin County Community Foundation according to Susan D. Dunlow, board president. Other new appointees include; community volunteer Nancy Winslow, and lumber industry representative Danette Arrants. In addition to Dunlow, current board members are: Mary Katherine Saunders (treasurer), Lucia Peel (secretary), Simon Griffin and Greg Shepherd.

“We are very excited to have these community leaders join our board,” Dunlow said. “We look forward to working with them to benefit the community.”

The Martin County Community Foundation was established in 2004 to help donors create and build endowments to meet their philanthropic goals; make grants to local nonprofit organizations; and support community needs in Martin County. The Martin County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation.
Patients’ Choice Award winning nurse, Naomi Roberts (pictured at right corner of bed) started teaching her new class of Nurse Aide I (NA I) trainees at Martin Community College (MCC) on July 13. This fast track course will allow these students to finish up in 7 weeks (August 30). The students from left to right are; Cathy Napier, Quadirah Carpenter, Mariah Nunley, Khalear Boone, Tomar Bell, Kristy Rhines and Samone Rouson. The NA I course prepares graduates to provide personal care and perform basic nursing skills. It includes classroom, lab and clinical learning experiences. Upon successful course completion, graduates will be eligible to sit for the North Carolina NACES Certification Exam. MCC offers NA I and NA II courses year round and on the Bertie Campus. For more information about MCC’s NA classes, contact Callie Northern-Herring.

Bob Swisher (above), an automotive technology instructor at Martin Community College (MCC), demonstrates one of the new computerized diagnostic tool kits recently purchased for the shop. Several new Snap-on Master Metric tool chests, American standard tool kits, mobile work stations, computerized wheel alignment equipment, two additional double scissor lifts, two automated tire changers, torque kits, and multi-meter kits are among the new equipment being added to the department this summer. These enhancements are part of the MCC plan to become a National Coalition of Certification Center (NC3). NC3 is a network of education providers and corporations that supports, advances and validates new and emerging technology skills in the transportation, aviation and energy industry sectors. It develops, implements and sustains industry-recognized portable certifications built on national skills standards. NC3 seeks to develop a network of leading educational institutions and globally competitive industries that embody passion for innovative models that produce a sustainable highly skilled workforce. The shop will also undergo extensive renovation with the installation of a Clinker tile floor and a Snap-on Build-a-Bay tool storage area. Once these improvements are made, the MCC automotive department will be among the most technologically advanced in the region.
In late July, the NC Legislature voted in favor of Rep. Paul Tine’s legislation to take away MCC’s service area in Washington County and hand it over to BCCC. As of August 1, MCC will no longer be allowed to offer classes in Washington County. For more than 40 years, MCC has provided Basic Skills classes in Washington County.

The good news is, Highway 64 is a great thoroughfare from Plymouth, Roper and Creswell to the MCC campus and MCC still has programs and services the citizens of Washington County want and need. During the Spring 2015 Semester, roughly 12% of MCC’s curriculum students came from Washington County!

The primary MCC services affected by this legislation are Basic Skills. Jeri Griffin and her staff have done a phenomenal job of building the program in Washington County and they have many success stories in regard to the program. However, no elected officials bothered to connect with our staff or their students to learn about the history of the program. Thus, the facts had no influence on the proposed legislation.

While this was a disappointing outcome, MCC will rally to find new ways to serve the people of Martin and Bertie Counties and to make our students commuting from Washington County feel welcome!

Martin Community College (MCC), in partnership with the Martin County Chamber of Commerce and PNC Bank, is co-sponsoring a Lunch and Learn class about nationwide changes coming to Credit/Debit Card processing industry this October. The class will be conducted on Thursday, August 6, from 11:45 am until 1:30 pm, at the NC TeleCenter, located at 415 East Blvd in Williamston. This seminar is critical for any merchant accepting or planning to accept credit/debit cards.

The introduction of EMV technology into the US economy has prompted the need for this training. EMV is a technical standard for smart payment cards and for payment terminals and automated teller machines which can accept them. EMV stands for Europay, MasterCard, and Visa, the three companies which originally created the standard. The standard is now managed by EMVCo, a consortium with control split equally among Visa, Mastercard, JCB, American Express, China UnionPay, and Discover.

Merchants and anyone accepting credit or debit cards should be aware of this new technology and its implications for their businesses. Experts in the field will cover the following and other topics: EMV Definition, Global Reach, Chip/PIN advantages, Fraud Protection, Readiness Deadlines, and Equipment Needs.

The MCC SBC is a part of the North Carolina Community College Small Business Center Network (SBCN). The objective of the SBCN is to increase the success rate and the number of viable small businesses in North Carolina by providing high quality, readily accessible assistance to prospective and existing small business owners which will lead to job creation and retention.
Cosmetology Students Learn about Hair Care Innovation

RD Johnson (left) and Tonya Cabaniss (right) visited Martin Community College (MCC) cosmetology students on July 20 to share information about expanding a career in cosmetology well beyond the salon booth. Johnson, owner of RD Salon in Farmville for more than 30 years, recently designed and patented a product called the Hair Doozy – a receptacle for hot curling irons and blow dryers at home or while traveling. Johnson also formulated his own line of hair care products, all of which are sold through RDS Hair Products. Cabaniss described how she markets these products for Johnson and mentioned that they have been invited to feature the products on the QVC shopping network on July 21. Johnson noted, “We believe in the hairstylist and other industry professionals who have chosen a career which allows them not only to make a client look better but feel better also.” At the end of the presentation, Johnson held a drawing for one of his Hair Doozys which was won by Crestacia “Stacy” Brown.

Defensive Driving Classes

Johnny Little (pictured above) teaches Defensive Driving classes for Martin Community College (MCC) which is one of 38 community colleges that are accredited by the National Safety Council to offer 4 and 8 hour Defensive Driving courses for traffic offenders. Qualified drivers in the 2nd Prosecutorial District (Martin, Beaufort, Washington, Hyde, and Terrell counties) may have the opportunity to receive a reduction on a traffic infraction by completing a National Safety Council’s Defensive Driving Course. Completion of the course at MCC may result in a reduced plea (e.g. improper equipment) which will allow drivers to avoid insurance and driver’s license points for the violation. However, costs of court and fines will still be assessed. Course completion is documented and maintained through a statewide database. These are both state and nationally recognized defensive driving courses. For more information about MCC’s Defensive Driving classes, contact Callie Northern-Herring.
During the summer, MCC got a face lift! Numerous rooms and buildings were refreshed with new ceiling tiles, light fixtures, flooring and paint. The areas that saw the most extensive renovation were; the Physical Therapist Assistants’ lab, the Science lab, the Nursing Assistants’ lab, the Physician’s Assistants’ lab, the Automotive lab and the lobby of building one. A new office space for the Student Government Association (SGA) has been set up in the student lounge. More renovations are planned for this fall. The tables and chairs will soon be replaced in the cafeteria. Please be patient as the work progresses!

**New Student Orientation Sessions Successful**

Several new MCC students took advantage of the orientation sessions offered through Student Services this summer.

**Summer Cookouts Enjoyed by All!**

MCC’s Cafeteria Manager, Kevin Washington, purchased a grill for the college and used it throughout the summer to prepare a variety of delicious lunches every other Thursday in June and July. Chicken, ribs, fish, steaks, and bring your own meat were the featured meals. Tickets were purchased in advance and the students, staff, faculty, and guests used their lunch break to socialize and visit with one another. It was a great way to build comradery and morale. Thanks to Kevin for organizing this special time for us!
Bystander Intervention - A Way to Reduce Violence Against Women

As noted in the last edition of the Martin Messenger, future editions will include an article about some aspect of VAWA (Violence Against Women Act). This month will focus on Bystander Intervention - an extremely powerful tool in combating all forms of violence. The following is information provided by Harvard University to its students.

Bystander Intervention is a social science model that predicts that most people are unlikely to help others in certain situations. A bystander is anyone who observes an emergency or a situation that looks like someone could use some help. They must then decide if they are comfortable stepping in and offering assistance.

Research has found that people tend to struggle with whether helping out is their responsibility and one of the major obstacles to intervention is something called diffusion of responsibility -- which means that if several people are present, an individual is much less likely to step up and help out because he/she believes someone else will. Other major reasons that bystanders fail to intervene are that the situation is too ambiguous, that the bystander is worried about misjudging the situation and thus will be embarrassed by intervening, or that the bystander believes the victim is in some way responsible for the situation and is thus, getting what they deserve.

Bystander Intervention programs teach people to overcome their resistance to checking in and helping out. These programs have been found to be very helpful on college campuses to thwart sexual assault, abusive alcohol consumption, dorm damage, and concerns about suicide, depression and eating disorders.

Have you ever stopped a friend from going home with someone when your friend was really drunk or high? Have you ever gotten a friend who is very drunk to Urgent Care or taken care of them for the night because you knew they were too drunk to be left alone? These are examples of your being a bystander using your power to stop violence and/or potential injury or death from alcohol poisoning.

What can Bystanders do to make a difference here at MCC?

- Be respectful of yourself and others - make sure any sexual act you engage in is OK with your partner and check in every time you initiate greater intimacy. Is your partner enthusiastically giving consent - if not, check in with them and make sure you are both comfortable with what is going on.
- Watch out for your friends and classmates -- if you come across someone who looks like they are in trouble, check in with them and make sure they are ok. If you see a friend doing something sketchy - say something.
- Speak up -- if someone says something offensive, derogatory, racist or abusive and let them know that this behavior is wrong and not acceptable. Don't laugh at racist, sexist or homophobic jokes.
- Get involved -- encourage any of the groups or organizations you belong to become educated about sexual assault prevention and bystander intervention techniques.

Bystander intervention can take a variety of forms and techniques are available to fit any personality style and comfort level:

**Distract:** Create a distraction or redirect the focus of either party to ensure he or she can get out of the situation. If it is appropriate, use humor or an excuse to divert the attention of the perpetrator, creating an opportunity to extricate the potential victim from the situation.

**Direct:** Confront the harmful behavior directly, so the potential victim is empowered to leave the situation or the perpetrator can make the choice to stop. This can include stepping in to separate the individuals and using assertive language.

**Delegate:** Ask others to get involved to help take charge of the situation (e.g. a friend, supervisor, bouncer, police officer). Familiarize yourself with the full range of resources available to you in an emergency and during business hours.

For more information or resources, contact Dr. Brian Busch, Associate Dean of Student Services.
The following information is from Princeton University:

The students, faculty, and staff of Princeton University have traveled from all fifty states in the nation and from nations around the world to be a part of our community. Because state laws vary greatly, terms can mean a lot of different things to different people, we have provided the following definitions to ensure we can speak a common language around issues of interpersonal violence and abuse.

**Interpersonal violence and abuse:** The intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, that can result in physical or psychological harm. Interpersonal violence and abuse includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking. (Adapted from the World Health Organization’s definition.)

**Consent:** is the voluntary, informed, uncoerced agreement through words and actions freely given, which a reasonable person would interpret as a willingness to participate in mutually agreed-upon sex acts. Consent cannot be given when an individual is 1) incapacitated due to alcohol and/or drugs (lacking cognitive ability to make or act on conscious decisions); 2) unconscious; 3) mentally or physically incapacitated; or 4) underage.

**Sexual Harassment:** When a person making unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature and/or based on one’s sexual orientation or gender identity 1) threatens or rewards academics, employment or participation in any University activity or benefit based on willingness to submit to such conduct; 2) gives grades or makes personnel decisions based on willingness to submit to such conduct; 3) interferes with a person’s educational experience or living/working conditions, due to the severe and/or pervasive nature of the conduct, by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

**Sexual Assault:** This is an umbrella term that encompasses any form of unwanted or involuntary touching or penetration of intimate body parts, by a person of the same or opposite sex. This includes being forced to touch someone else. "Unwanted or involuntary" sexual contact is without consent; including the use of threats, intimidation, coercion, or physical force; or with those who are unable to give consent; either because of their age or because they are physically helpless, mentally incapacitated, or intoxicated.

**Dating/Domestic Violence (also called intimate partner violence):** The actual or threatened physical, sexual, emotional, or financial abuse of an individual by someone with whom they have a current/prior intimate relationship or shared residence. These relationships may include: partner/spouse, family member, caretaker, someone with whom a child is shared, household member or roommate.

**Stalking:** Purposefully or knowingly engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for her/his safety, the safety of a third person, or suffer other emotional distress. “Course of conduct” is two or more acts of maintaining a visual or physical proximity to a person, either directly or indirectly by any action, method, device, or means.

*Confidential Resource:* A resource that is not obligated to report information that is given to them. This allows the client to explore his or her options in a non-pressure environment in order to make informed decisions. The only exceptions to this rule are in cases that involve imminent risk of serious harm, emergent hospitalization, or a court order. While specific information may be kept confidential, these incidents may be counted for statistical purposes, as per the Clery Act.

*Non-Confidential Resource:* A resource that is required by law to report incidents/violations and take legal, disciplinary or other action accordingly.
MCC PTA Students Exceed National Licensure Exam Pass Rate

Dr. Jennifer Burrus, Dean of Academic and Student Services reports that out of the 19 Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) 2015 graduates who took the Physical Therapist Assistant Licensure Exam in early July, 18 passed! That means this year's class, so far, has a 94.7% pass rate. The national average for this exam is in the mid 80% range. HOW AWESOME IS THAT!? Kudos to our graduates and to Dawn Parker, Jamie Vanessendelft and Dean McCall for all their hard work!!

Martin Memos

Aug. 6, 13 - Monday registration for new students continues
Aug. 10 - Summer work schedule ends
Aug. 13 - Welcome Back Faculty!
Aug. 14 - Convocation
Aug. 17 - Fall Semester classes begin
Aug. 21 - Deadline for submitting news for the Martin Messenger

MCC is an equal opportunity employment institution.