MCC Celebrates 48th Graduation

Martin Community College (MCC) conducted its forty-eighth graduation ceremony on Tuesday, May 11 in the Martin County auditorium. Ninety-four students walked across the stage to receive degrees, diplomas, or certificates at this year’s ceremony. Program awards, Distinguished Graduate, and Academic Excellence awards were also acknowledged at this event.

Bishop Melvin Bunch, from Goddard Hill Church in Williamston, gave the invocation and benediction. Dr. Brian Busch, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services welcomed everyone to the ceremony. Dr. Ann Britt, MCC President, introduced the speaker, retired State Supreme Court Judge Henry E. Frye.

A man of many firsts, Judge Frye, was the first African American to enter the UNC Law School as a first-year student, the first African-American Assistant U.S. District Attorney (1963), the first African-American member of the NC General Assembly since 1899 (1968), the first African American appointed to the N.C. Supreme Court (1983) and the organizer and past president of the first African-American owned bank in Greensboro.

Frye, a native North Carolinian, graduated as valedictorian from Ellerbe Colored High School and then entered N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro where he graduated summa cum laude in 1953 with a bachelor of science in biology and a double minor in chemistry and air science. He then entered the United States Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant and served in Korea. After four years of military service, Captain Frye returned to NC, Frye and was accepted into the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Law School where he graduated with honors in 1959.

Judge Frye began his speech with a poem—a tribute to the entire event and those involved in planning it. Frye then went on to recognize not only the graduates for their hard work, but also the friends and family in the audience for their tremendous support of the graduates.

Frye encouraged the graduates to use this milestone in their education to be a better, more likable, more helpful and more positive person. Frye stated, “Instead of seeing the glass as half empty, see it as something to fill. Fill it with love. Fill it with hard work. Fill it with caring and positive action. Fill it with treating others the way you would like to be treated. It’s called the Golden Rule. Trust me, it works.”

Frye also reminded everyone in the audience to be a positive influence, “The world has enough negative...”
The University of Mount Olive and Martin Community College
Partner to Enhance College Transfer

According to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, 15 percent of community college students who transfer lose nearly all of their credits in the process, costing them precious time and money. Another third lose a significant proportion of their credits. In all, students who transfer from any kind of college or university to another lose an average of 13 credits when they do, and nearly 40 percent get no credit for the work they've already completed. That is exactly what a recent agreement between the University of Mount Olive (UMO) and Martin Community College (MCC) plans to guard against.

UMO and MCC have reached a partnership agreement that will enhance and expand options for community college students. Through the partnership agreement MCC students who have earned an associate of applied science degree can transfer seamlessly into an array of programs at UMO.

In the partnership, UMO and MCC will enhance and expand the University of Mount Olive’s participation as a signatory institution in the North Carolina Community College System Independent Colleges and Universities Universal General Education Transfer Component Agreement (UGETC). This agreement honors the transfer of associate of arts and associate of science graduates’ programs of study. It also allows MCC students to be eligible to apply for all state and federal financial aid.

To make it even easier, the University of Mount Olive will regularly have an admission representative on site at MCC for advising students interested in transferring. MCC will also encourage UMO to students by promoting the partnership in publications and on College website. MCC will also distribute UMO and UMO Bridge printed materials through MCC admissions, advising, and AAS degree program advisors.

UMO will provide current MCC students and recent graduates guaranteed admission and acceptance of appropriate transfer hours, up to 64 credits from specified AAS programs with a minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. MCC graduates will be eligible for consideration of the full range of academic programs at the University of Mount Olive locations.

The partnership between UMO and MCC is what Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter, president of the University of Mount Olive, says will create an excellent opportunity for community college students to continue their education and prepare them for the future.

Dr. Ann Britt, president of Martin Community College concurs. “This agreement opens one more door through which our students may attain their education goals. I am very happy to be a part of this growing trend in higher education.”

The University of Mount Olive is a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values. The University, sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, has locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Research Triangle Park, Washington, Jacksonville, and in Smithfield at Johnston Community College. For more information, visit www.umo.edu.
The MCC Foundation is sponsoring a day trip to see ...

Kinky Boots

Saturday, September 17, 2016
2 pm show, Orchestra Seating
Durham Performing Arts Center

The Martin Community College Foundation (MCCF) is offering a day trip on September 17 to see a matinee performance of the award winning Broadway hit, Kinky Boots, at the Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC). This is the first, of what is hoped to become, a regular series of day trips to the Triangle area and an ongoing “friend raiser” for the college.

Although some segments of the trip are still being finalized, the orchestra seat tickets have been purchased and a Bear Grass Tour bus has been reserved. Departure time on the 17th will be approximately 8 am. The itinerary will include a special activity in the Raleigh/Durham area, lunch at a nice restaurant and the matinee show (2 pm) at DPAC. The bus should return to the MCC campus around 7 p.m. The anticipated fee for this trip is $200 per person, which is all inclusive. Any proceeds realized from this trip will be used to enhance MCC and support its students.

KINKY BOOTS, affectionately dubbed, Broadway’s huge-hearted, high-heeled hit, is a joyous musical celebration about discovering unexpected friendships and believing that you can change the world when you change your mind. Inspired by true events, KINKY BOOTS takes you from a gentlemen’s shoe factory in Northampton to the glamorous catwalks of Milan.

The show is about Charlie Price, a man who is struggling to live up to his father’s expectations and continue the family business of Price & Son. With the factory’s future hanging in the balance, help arrives in the unlikely but spectacular form of Lola, a fabulous performer in need of some sturdy new stilettos.

With music by Grammy® and Tony® winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, direction and choreography by two-time Tony Award-winner Jerry Mitchell (Legally Blonde, Hairspray) and a book by Broadway legend and four-time Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein (La Cage Aux Folles), KINKY BOOTS is the winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Choreography.

Only 20 tickets have been purchased. To reserve a seat for this trip, please contact MCC’s Director of PR and Institutional Advancement, Judy Jennette, 252-789-0310 or via email at jjennette@martincc.edu.

Upcoming shows

If you are interested in any of these shows, please contact Jennette to be placed on the contact list.

An American in Paris
(January 7, 2017)

Something Rotten
(April 8, 2017)

The King and I
(June 10, 2017)
Continued from page 1…

people, don’t join them. If you’re a negative person, develop a new attitude.”

Frye closed his remarks by reciting the “Serenity Prayer” as well as a version of the Irish blessing, “As you travel on life’s journey, May the road rise to meet you, May the sun shine warm on your face, And the rain fall softly on your fields, And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

Dr. Brian Busch then presented the program awards and recognized the Academic Excellence recipient as well as the Distinguished Graduate. Those receiving program awards were nominated by their advisors based on their grades, demeanor and engagement in the classroom. The Program Award denotes a student’s excellence in a particular MCC program. The graduates receiving Program Awards were as follows: Associate in Arts – Richard Henry Evans, Jr., Accounting - Kristi Nicole Godley, Business Administration – Jasmine J. Keel, Commercial Refrigeration Technology – Leslie C. Norman, Computer Information Systems – Reuben John B. Unicruz, Cosmetology – Crestacia “Stacy” Fabrice Brown, Early Childhood Education - Jessica Holliday, Electrical Systems Technology – Amos Perkins, Jr., Equine Business Technology - Ariana Marie Blaylock, Equine Training Technology – Mary Elizabeth Spain, Industrial Systems Technology – Jed Michael Spain, Medical Assisting – Donna R. Mizelle, Medical Office Administration - Stephanie Kimball, Physical Therapist Assistant – Kaylyn Eastwood and School-Age Education - Tricia Lyn Wells.

The Academic Excellence award went to Elizabeth Hernandez of Robersonville who was nominated by MCC’s Business Administration Instructor, Dr. Deborah Wyman. The Academic Excellence Award – an honor recognized throughout the entire NC Community College system - is based primarily on scholarship.

Hernandez started at MCC as a dual enrollment student while she was attending South Creek High School. Years later, as a busy wife and mother of two young daughters, Hernandez wanted to return to school and earn a degree. Since MCC was only 12 minutes away from her home and offered both night classes and online courses, it was a good fit for her, and she decided to return and earn degrees in both Business and Office Administration. She will graduate in December of this year. Currently, Hernandez is the bookkeeper for Belvoir Elementary School in Pitt County.

In her nominative narrative, Hernandez wrote, “I can see a great amount of caring for the students in this community college, and for that I am thankful. If I were to choose again, I would choose Martin Community College, because I consider MCC the perfect place to achieve my educational goals.”

MCC’s Distinguished Graduate award, which is based on scholarship, civic engagement, and demeanor, was presented to Kristi Nicole Godley of Williamson. Godley earned two degrees, one in Accounting and one in Business Administration. She was also a work-study student throughout her time at MCC. Godley already has a full time job in a local accounting firm and is enrolled at UNCG for this fall.

In an email that Godley sent to Dr. Jennifer Burruss, her work study supervisor, she wrote, “I love my accounting job at the CPA firm, and I am all signed up to start my bachelor’s degree at UNC-Greensboro in the Fall!!!! I never thought I would go any further than MCC but each of you have helped me see that I am very capable of doing anything I set my mind to!”

Elaine White, the Superintendent of Bertie County Schools, acknowledged the Bertie Early College High School (BECHS) partnership with MCC. White noted that the Early College program started with only 13 students just a few short years ago but had grown strong and vibrant through its partnership with MCC and NCSU. She congratulated the students receiving degrees, diplomas, and/or certificates from MCC and wished them well as they start this new and exciting phase of their lives.

Hallet Davis, Jr., the principal of NERSBA (Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Science) in Jamesville, also remarked on his school’s partnership with MCC, “Our NERSBA scholastic community is most fortuate to have developed a partnership with Martin Community College and the opportunities and experiences our year has provided our scholastic community. Scholars at NERSBA have gained personally and professionally from their association with the faculty and administrative team at Martin Community College.”

Davis went on to say, “As a former student body president at Martin Community College, I am proud of the growth the school has experienced in offering ‘learning-by-doing’ and collegiate experiences to individuals throughout northeastern North Carolina and beyond. We look forward to continuing the development and fostering of our relationship as we prepare young adults for the emerging challenges
of a 21st century world-wide economy."

Dr. Jennifer Burtuss, MCC’s Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services then presented the candidates for graduation. As they crossed the stage, President Britt and Ms. Jackie Gillam, Chair of the MCC Trustees, presented each student with their degree, diploma or certificate.

Among those graduating, were La- shontavia “Lashon” Watford and Rueben Unicruz, both of Bertie County and both Computer Information Technology graduates. Watford and Unicruz were work study students while attending MCC and became highly valued members of the MCC team.

Watford, a resident of the Indian Woods community has been accepted into the computer program at ECU and will begin his university studies as a sophomore this fall. Watford’s father, a retired NC National Guard Sergeant, wanted his son to join the military instead of attend college, but when he died unexpectedly in 2013 of a stroke, his military benefits paved the way for Watford to become an MCC student.

Young Watford states, “I love the family environment at MCC. As a work study student, I have gotten to know so many kind and interesting people. My work study experience has given me a new level of self-confidence. I am ready for ECU.”

Unicruz, who also resides in Bertie County, has joined the Navy Reserves and will begin his basic training this summer. Unicruz’s training at MCC prepared him well for the military’s ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test. Unicruz plans to pursue a four year degree as well.

In her closing remarks to the graduates, MCC Trustee, Jackie Gillam thanked the graduates for choosing Martin Community College to be a part of their academic journey. Gillam stated, “We, the Trustees, the Staff, and especially the Faculty, are proud of you and so very happy that we could be a part of your lives. No matter where you go after tonight, you will be carrying a piece of MCC with you, and I look forward to seeing how each of you invests that piece of MCC in your community, your family and yourself.”

Pictured above are Lashontavia “Lashon” Watford (left) and Rueben Unicruz (right), both of Bertie County and both Computer Information Technology graduates. Watford and Unicruz were work study students while attending MCC and became highly valued members of the MCC team. Watford will start his studies at ECU this fall and Unicruz, who joined the Navy Reserves, will be in basic training this summer.

Pictured right is Elizabeth Hernandez of Robersonville. She is the 2016 recipient of MCC’s Academic Excellence award which was presented during the Class of 2016 graduation ceremony. Hernandez, who is working toward two degrees, Business and Office Administration, will graduate in December of this year.
MCC Conducts 40th GED® Graduation

Martin Community College (MCC) celebrated its fortieth GED® graduation on Tuesday, May 10, in a ceremony held in the MCC Auditorium. Family, friends, staff and faculty were on hand to cheer on the graduates and congratulate them on their achievement. MCC’s GED® program is administered through the Basic Skills department in the Division of Continuing Education.

The graduates who chose to participate in the ceremony were; Jamal Brown, Nicolette Byrum, Darrin Davenport, Davion Davenport, LeeAnn Ericksen, Esai Fiero, Alexis Lawrence, Lynzee Layne, Breanna McDonald, Katherine Miller, Marco Pittman, Celeste Quinn, Samantha Smithwick, Tabatha Spain, and Shireka Spruill. Not all of the 68 GED® graduates from MCC were able to attend the ceremony. Many of the graduates have obtained jobs or moved away since their successful completion of the program. Forty-three of the GED® graduates completed their coursework and test at Bertie Correctional Institution (BCI).

The commencement speaker Marshall Cherry, was introduced by MCC President, Dr. Ann Britt. Cherry is a native of Lewiston/Woodville, North Carolina. He is the Chief Operating Officer of Roanoke Electric Cooperative where he manages the company’s corporate strategy, assists in the day-to-day management of a $40 million operating budget, and directly guides some of the organization’s mission-critical functions. He is a graduate of Bertie High School in Windsor, NC and received a B.S. in Business Administration from Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC. Cherry is also a graduate of the NC Rural Economic Development Center’s Leadership Institute and has received other training in Economic Development at UNC-Chapel Hill’s Institute of Government.

Cherry, a former college athlete, used sports analogies to encourage the graduates to use their education for the betterment of themselves and society. He cited baseball’s “sacrifice pop fly” as an example of how you sometimes have to give up something to move ahead. He encouraged the students to give up zeroes and replace them with heroes. He then referenced football’s “timing play” where the quarterback advances the ball by passing to a receiver, and encouraged the graduates to be good receivers by getting into place on time and be ready to do the job. Lastly, Cherry touched on basketball’s “pick and roll” play, which encourages working together to reach the goal. In summation, Cherry told that graduates that success comes from sacrifice, preparedness and good relationships.

Charlotte Griffin, President of the MCC Foundation board, then announced the recipients of the Foundation scholarships for GED® graduates. Breanna McDonald earned the Ormond Family Scholarship and Samantha Smithwick, was selected for the Gene and Jean Rogers scholarship. These scholarships were awarded based on essays written by the candidates and will assist them with their tuition and books as they become college students this fall. The Foundation also provided the other graduates with free tuition for one curriculum class this fall.

McDonald noted in her essay, "I have big dreams. I know it will take time, hard work, focus, and concentration to get things done. I plan to complete my first two years at MCC and then transfer to a university to get my Bachelor’s Degree in Archaeology. I love history and would like to get my Master’s as well."
Over time the GED® has undergone major changes. In 1988, the test added essay writing and placed more emphasis on socially relevant topics and problem-solving skills. In 2002, the test was reformatted to comply with more recent standards for high-school education. Most recently, in January of 2014, the GED® was moved to Pearson VUE, a proprietary computer-based testing platform. The current GED® test covers the following areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

According to Jeri Griffin, the Basic Skills Director at MCC, “The recent changes to the GED® have made it unattainable for many students. The GED® testing fee has increased from $35.00 to $80.00 ($20 per discipline), plus there is now an additional $24.00 practice test fee ($6 per each discipline) which was previously free. Today, it costs $104 to take the entire battery of tests. Most of our students do not have the money to take the test. Thank goodness for generous donors like the Retired Fireman’s Association. They gave us a large donation last year to cover test fees. However, these funds are nearly gone. I hope that another angel steps forward soon to help our students.”

GED® credentials are very important. People with a high school credential earn roughly $568,000 more during their lifetime than those without. For more information on the GED® program at MCC, call 252-789-0288 or email Jeri Griffin at jgriffin@martincc.edu. To make a tax deductible donation for scholarships, please contact Jeri Griffin at 252-789-0288.

Smithwick’s essay stated, “To be successful you have to give 110% and work hard. I wanted to get my High School Equivalency for myself, for my dad who passed away, and for my grandparents who have done so much for me. I will be studying at MCC in the PTA Assistant program. I want to be as successful as I can be!”

The GED® was born of the US Military in 1942, when they asked the American Council on Education to develop a battery of tests to measure high school-level academic skills. These tests gave military personnel and veterans who had enrolled in the military before completing high school a way to demonstrate their knowledge. Passing these tests gave returning soldiers and sailors the academic credentials they needed to get civilian jobs and gain access to post-secondary education or training.
You can learn a lot from a High School student!

Mr. Bruce Boller, the science teacher at Bertie Early College High School (BECHS) in Windsor, organized a symposium on May 11 to highlight the impressive research and work of his students. In 2015, with grant funding from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Boller joined forces with Dr. Matt Koci, of NC State University’s (NCSU) College of Agriculture and Life Science’s Prestage Department of Poultry Science to work with the students to produce research-quality recombinant proteins – proteins made from a foreign gene and introduced into bacteria using biotechnology – to support active agricultural research projects at NC State and other North Carolina universities. In essence, the work of these students is supporting enhanced methods of turkey production.

Each student’s work and knowledge culminated in their presentation at the symposium, where they displayed a summarization of their work and described to those in attendance what role they had played in developing and producing research-quality recombinant (genetically modified) proteins.

The program also helped Boller’s students gain a fuller appreciation for how science and biotechnology are related to the jobs in their own community - poultry, wood products, environmental management and waste management. During the course of the 2015-16 academic year, students also interacted with various members of the NC biotechnology industry who helped them develop resumes, interview skills, networking skills and leadership skills. In addition, students attended national level scientific meetings to broaden their exposure to science and explore research being done across the country.

The event attracted representatives from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the regional field representative, Mr. Reginald Speight, from Congressman G.K. Butterfield’s office.
Martin Messenger

MCC’s Small Business Center helps Oak City Entrepreneurs start JB Car Sales

Oak City residents, Robert Booth (above left) and Corey Jones (above right) had a dream to open a used car dealership. Both of their fathers were mechanics, so they each had a passion for repairing cars and wanted to create a business to sell them.

Initially, they contacted New Generation Ventures, a program offered through the Rural Center. Working in partnership with New Generation Ventures and the Small Business Center (SBC) at Martin Community College, Booth and Jones were trained in business planning, website development and bookkeeping. With business plan in hand, the Rural Center made two loans to JB Car Sales, so they could buy a truck and a trailer. The loans have assisted Robert in establishing credit for the first time.

Not long after opening in Oak City, Booth and Jones moved their business to 2201 May Street in Greenville, NC where the two young entrepreneurs are doing well.

MCC’s SBC Director, Larry Biggs, stated, “I recently bumped into Robert, and it was great to hear about their successful venture and their enthusiasm for being businessmen.”

New Generation Ventures, helps launch young adults on a path toward business ownership in rural North Carolina. The program combines business coaching, training, networking and other opportunities. Coaching and training are delivered by phone, email and online. In addition, classroom training and face-to-face business counseling are available through a network of partnering organizations, including the N.C. Small Business Center Network.

NC’s SBC Network offers a wide range of programs and services for existing and prospective business owners. SBCN was designed to help budding entrepreneurs become business owners and current business owners become more successful.

For more information visit the Rural Center website at http://www.ncruralcenter.org or contact MCC’s Small Business Center at 252-789-0201. MCC offers SBC classes every month. Check out the schedule at https://www.ncsbc.net.

MCC Summer Semester is well under way!

MCC’s 2016 Summer Semester enrollment has increased by 65 students over last year! This year’s 216 students represent a 43% increase in attendance and a 6% increase in FTE (Full Time Equivalency). Thanks to our summer students for choosing MCC!

Fond farewell to beloved MCC Faculty members

Four MCC instructors celebrated their careers at the College with their coworkers and friends at the Hitching Post on May 6. Pictured from left to right are; Biology and Chemistry Instructor Barbara Daly, Cosmetology Instructor Annie Faye Whitehurst, Electronics Instructor Dennis Turner and English Instructor Debra Twitchell. Daly, Whitehurst and Turner retired after many years of service to MCC and Twitchell is moving to the Midwest. Daly is moving to Ohio, Whitehurst is opening her own beauty salon, and Turner is “gone fishing.” Congratulations to each of these valued Instructors! We will surely miss you!
Wayland Mitchell, Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) director at Martin Community College (MCC) has announced that the program will begin again on July 12, 2016. This course of study is mandated by the state for all certified law enforcement officers.

The BLET Curriculum is designed to prepare entry-level individuals with the cognitive and physical skills needed to become certified law enforcement officers in North Carolina. The course covers 620 hours of study within 36 total blocks of instruction including; Physical Fitness, Firearms, Law Enforcement Driving Training, Laws of Arrest, Search and Seizure, Motor Vehicle Law, Techniques of Traffic Enforcement, Patrol Techniques, Sheriff’s Responsibilities, Rapid Deployment, etc. All of these classes are conducted on the MCC campus with the exception of driver training.

Students who are accepted into this program will cover the most current law enforcement information available, take part in practical exercises and cover an extensive ethics section that is woven throughout the training experience. It takes approximately 16 weeks to complete and concludes with a comprehensive written exam and skills testing.

Upon successful completion of the BLET State Comprehensive Written Examination to be duly appointed and sworn as a law enforcement officer in North Carolina. However, most agencies include an additional period of field training.

In order to accommodate people who work during the day, this BLET course will be offered at night, Monday through Friday, and every other weekend during the day time. According to Mitchell, “These hours make the profession of law enforcement more accessible to those who are seeking a new and fulfilling career.”

“Law enforcement is an honorable and important profession,” stated Mitchell. “There is high demand for well trained, knowledgeable, and ethical law enforcement officers. Our community deserves the best trained officers MCC can provide – that is my primary goal as the coordinator of this program.”

Those interested in applying for the BLET program at MCC must complete a packet of information and forms no later than July 8, 2016. The packets may be downloaded from the MCC website or obtained in person or by mail from Wayland Mitchell. To obtain a packet or for more information about the BLET program at MCC, contact Mitchell at wmitchell@martincc.edu or 252-789-0267.

Although the tuition for BLET is generally covered through a sponsoring law enforcement agency, there are costs for books and uniforms for this program. Thanks to a generous gift from the State Employees Credit Union (SECU), scholarships to cover these expenses may be available to qualified students. Mitchell can assist students in accessing the scholarship applications. Applicants are encouraged to register early in order to complete all of the paperwork and apply for scholarships.
MCC increases # of night classes this fall!

MCC will offer an increased number of curriculum night classes this fall. MCC President, Dr. Ann Britt and the MCC Board of Trustees felt that more night classes are essential to serving the community. Many of MCC’s traditional students are part-time students because they work or have no access to childcare while their spouse is at work. Night classes can take some of these barriers out of the way. The classes available this fall will be as follows; Success and Study Skills, Principals of Financial Accounting, Anatomy and Physiology I, Introduction to computers, Software for technicians, Writing and Inquiry, Oral Communication, Math Measurement and Literacy, Principles of Science, Introduction to Sociology and Basic Welding Processes. MCC’s Dean of Academics and Student Services, Dr. Jennifer Burruss, stated, “I am pleased to be adding more curriculum night classes at MCC. We are truly fulfilling the mission of NC’s Community College System by making higher education more accessible to the community.”

District 2 Guardian ad Litem Program seeks volunteers

A representative from the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program in North Carolina’s Second Judicial District has recently reached out to MCC in search of volunteer advocates. A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) advocate is a trained community volunteer who is appointed, along with a Guardian ad Litem attorney, by a district court judge to investigate and determine the needs of abused and neglected children petitioned into the court system by the Department of Social Services. Their role is mandated by North Carolina General Statute 7B-601.

Throughout North Carolina, the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program seeks to serve the best interests of thousands of children who find themselves the subjects of court cases by assigning them Guardian ad Litem volunteers. The program exists in every county throughout the state, and serves more than 15,000 children a year.

GAL volunteers’ responsibilities include; digging for details in the case, collaborating with other participants in the case, recommending what’s best for child by writing court reports, empowering the child’s voice, staying vigilant by constantly monitoring the case, and keeping all information confidential. The main qualification for becoming a GAL is to have a sincere concern for the well-being of children. There are no education or experience requirements.

GAL advocates commit to spending at least 8 hours per month on a case, and cases usually take at least a year to be resolved. In order to apply, you need to complete an application, a screening interview, and a criminal record check. The GAL program also requires 30 hours of training before being sworn in by a judge and appointed to a case. Our volunteers are supervised by program staff, and can attend continuing education trainings on advocacy issues.

For specific volunteer duties, please view the GAL volunteer job description at www.volunteerforgal.org or contact the main office for District 2 in Greenville, at 252-695-7325 or via email at GAL.District02&03A@nccourts.org
Scholarship Opportunity

Golden Leaf Foundation Scholarship applications for the 2016 Summer Semester are now available in the MCC Financial Aid Office (Building 1, Room 20).

 Eligible curriculum and continuing education students may apply. Up to $750 per semester, including summer term, is available for curriculum students and up to $250 per semester is available for students enrolling in occupational programs. Awards may be applied toward tuition, books, supplies in the MCC bookstore, transportation, child care expenses related to attending classes, and mid-skills testing upon course completion.

Curriculum applicants MUST have an up-to-date, completed FAFSA form on file to be eligible. Applicants must reside in an eligible county; a full-list of eligible counties is available in the Financial Aid Office. Selection criteria includes financial need, academic performance, campus activities, and community service.

Applications must be submitted to the MCC Financial Aid Office by Monday, June 6, 2016. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. For more information, contact Terri Leggett at 252-789-0204 or via email at tleggett@martincc.edu.

Martin Memos

May 31 - Deadline for submitting MCC’s NATEF Certification application
June 6 - Deadline for submitting Golden Leaf Scholarship applications
June 7, 14, 21, & 28 - Registration Mondays
June through July 8 - BLET Registration is underway (Class starts July 12)
June 16 - Minges/Pepsi Scholarship application deadline (turn into room 1-22D)
June 24 - Deadline to submit items for the Martin Messenger
July 4 - MCC closed for 4th of July holiday
July 12 - BLET Classes begin
July 21 - SECU Scholarship application deadline (turn into room 1-22D)

MCC is an equal opportunity employment institution.