Easter Rogerson Mizell Genealogy Collection Donated to MCC Library

When you’re named after a holiday associated with resurrection, it seems logical that Easter Rogerson Mizell, would take up genealogy - the study of family history – as a hobby. Thanks to her, the memories and lives of hundreds of people will live on in perpetuity. And thanks to her children Vivian, Donald, and Marla, her extensive collection of family histories, which include Rogerson, Harrison, Biggs, Green, Smithwick, Peal, Lanier, Mobley, Ayers, Bateman, Everett, Mizell, Taylor, Ward, Whitaker, Gurganus, Coburn and Grimes, is now accessible to everyone at the Martin Community College (MCC) library. The entire collection is housed in a room set aside specifically for local history collections – currently referred to as the Francis Manning History room. Manning was the editor of the Williamston Enterprise and loved archiving local history. His collection serves as the core of Martin County’s historic records housed in this room. The Martin County Historical Society turned the collection over to the MCC Foundation in the early 80’s so that it could be safely housed and shared with the entire community.

According to Vivian Mizell Roberson, “My mother had a passion for family history and wanted to share her work. I’m certain she would be happy to know that it is now accessible to anyone who is interested in it.”

Easter Rogerson was born April 9, 1928 in Martin County, the youngest of the late Louis and Mamie Biggs Rogerson’s 15 children. She worked as a hairdresser for 50 years and was a long standing member of West End Baptist Church. She was married to the late Dallas Gray Mizell for 63 years. She passed away on November 13, 2014 at the age of 86.

In her hand-written notes, Easter Mizell states, “When my children were in high school, one of my daughters came home from school and asked, ‘Mama, where did our family come from?’ I answered, I really don’t know, but I will try to find out.” Little did she know that this simple question would lead her on a decades long quest to find that answer.  

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Colleen Dillon has joined the Martin Community College (MCC) faculty as a Dental Assisting instructor. She started on February 29 and is a welcome addition to the popular program. The Dental Assisting program at MCC prepares students to assist in the delivery of treatments, laboratory procedures, and to function as integral members of a dental office team.

Dillon began her dental education at Hudson Valley Community College (SUNY) in Troy, NY where she earned a Certificate in Dental Assisting in 1984. She went on to earn her B.S. Degree in Dental Auxiliary Teacher Education from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1987 and her M.S. Degree in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from the University at Albany (SUNY) in 2008.

Dillon comes to MCC via Selkirk, New York where she taught Internship Classes, Career Readiness Seminars and Medical Assisting for Bryant and Stratton College in Albany, NY. Founded in 1854 as a business institute, Bryant and Stratton College now offers two-year programs at all of its 18 campuses in four states. Medical Terminology, Anatomy I and II, Pharmacology, Clinical Procedures, Medical Law and Ethics, and Medical Office Systems are among the many classes Dillon conducted at the college.

Prior to her teaching and administrative career at Bryant and Stratton College, Dillon was a Supervisor and Instructor for the Dental Assisting Program at Hudson Valley Community College (SUNY) in Troy, NY and an Assistant Professor of Dental Auxiliary Programs at New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord, NH. She has also has a good deal of “real world” experience, having worked for several dentists in a variety of capacities.

Dr. Jennifer Burruss, MCC’s Dean of Academics and Student Services states, “I am so pleased to have Colleen Dillon join our faculty. While teaching in New York, she was very active in recruiting, assisting her students in prepping for state exams, mentoring new instructors and helping to organize special events on campus. She will certainly be a great addition to our team.”

Dillon is now living in New Bern and is happy to be in the South. She states, “I am enjoying the Southern weather. Nice and warm. I like that I am greeted every morning by different horses at the entranc-es to MCC. Where I grew up and lived in NY, near Saratoga Springs, is one of the oldest horse racing tracks in the country. The horses at that track were just beautiful animals. Driving onto the MCC campus is like seeing a little piece of home.”

She adds, “Shelby Brothers (MCC’s Dental Assisting Director) and the Dental Assisting students are great to work with. Although I teach the students, they too, are teaching me. That’s the wonderful thing about teaching.”

Since Dillon is a hard core Tarheels fan, it seems natural that she would choose to move to NC. Aside from watching the UNC Tarheels play, she also enjoys watching the Buffalo Bills, Boston Red Sox, and Union College Hockey teams compete. She also enjoys walking, movies, theater, music, reading and dancing. Cross stitching and latch hooking are her favorite creative activities. Dillon also enjoys race walking and has competed in two 5K races during the New York State Empire Games.

When asked for a quote to summarize her feelings about moving to North Carolina, Dillon stated, “GO TAR-HEELS!!!!!”
**Mizell cont. from page 1…**

For Mizell, it was an opportune time to start her quest. Her mother, Mamie Biggs Rogerson, was still alive to provide her with the initial information she sought. Soon she was talking to two elderly aunts as well as an uncle to fill in more details. Then she started visiting family cemeteries. As she stated, “It was so interesting, I wanted to know more.”

When her uncle passed away, a family Bible was discovered. In it, Mizell found her great grandfather Eli Rogerson’s family births recorded. According to her daughter Vivian, “The genealogical fire in my mother was lit and there was no turning back after that.”

Mizell decided to hone her skills by taking some genealogy classes at Martin Community College. She joined the Martin County Historical Society and became active in the Theodore Hassell Chapter 437 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She took computer classes. She made friends with other genealogists, especially Sylvia Green and Hilda Lee. As evidenced by the scores of notebooks and reference materials in her collection, Mizell became very adept at finding, documenting and cataloging her families’ histories.

According to Mizell’s daughter Vivian and her daughter-in-law Betty Jo, “Momma’s hobby took her to a lot of places and adventures. She found cemeteries that had long been lost. She visited courthouses all over eastern North Carolina. She transcribed hand written church records for numerous churches in Martin County. She travelled regularly to the N.C. Archives in Raleigh and even tracked down some Green (now Greeney) cousins in Texas.”

Perhaps the most profound statement Mizell made in her notes was, “I have come to the conclusion that genealogy is like a big, big puzzle. Some pieces fit, some don’t, some are missing, and some are never found. I have to be glad that some fit, accept the fact that some will never fit and that most puzzles never get finished.”

When asked why they chose the MCC Library to house the collection, Roberson and her brother Donald Mizelle both felt strongly that it should be accessible and well cared for. “The MCC Library offered the best environment to achieve this,” stated Mizell’s daughter. “They had the temperature controlled space for it, access to Library staff, a copy machine and scanner available to the public 60 hours per week. It just made sense to house it there. It’s a perfect fit.”

As stated in the agreement between the Mizells and the College, “Our primary objective is that this genealogical research be stored securely and that it be made readily available for use by the citizens of Martin County and others who may find this material of interest as they research their ancestry… In this spirit, we entrust her research to the Martin Community College Library.”

Mary Anne Caudle, the MCC Library Director states, “It is truly an honor to have such a significant part of our community’s history in our care. I know that it will be a real draw for both serious historians and amateur genealogists. We take this responsibility seriously. Easter Mizell’s hard work will be well cared for.”

Since January of 2015, fifty-one people have signed into the history room to search the archives. Sixteen of them were from out-of-state and fourteen were from outside of Martin County. To make arrangements to view the collection call the library at 252-789-0238.
10 New welding Bays Installed in Bertie County

Martin Community College (MCC) sponsored welding classes are well under way in Bertie County thanks to the team work between MCC, the Bertie County Schools and the Bertie County Commissioners. With new equipment and an instructor provided by MCC and the space and electrical work provided by the Bertie County Schools and the Bertie County Commissioners, ten new welding bays are now available to both high school and adult students. The installation of the new equipment was completed on March 2. It is housed in the old Bertie High School on Highway 13, near Windsor.

During the daytime, MCC instructor Jarvis Parker teaches curriculum classes to Bertie County High School students from all three high schools – BHS, the Bertie Early College High School and the Bertie STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) School. At night, he teaches continuing education classes to adult learners. Currently, he is training ten adult students who started the class on January 27. The next evening class will begin in June.

For more information about the High School welding classes, contact Stephanie Cottle, CTE Director for the Bertie County Schools, at 252-794-6000. For more information about the night classes, contact Mr. Norman Cherry, Director of the MCC campus in Bertie County, at 252-794-4861 or via email at ncherry@martincc.edu.

Cherry is also in the process of establishing HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) classes in Bertie County. To assist him in gauging the interest level in this training, please contact Cherry as noted above.
Vicky McKeithan Awarded First Nicholson Scholarship

Vanceboro resident, and soon-to-be MCC graduate, Vicky McKeithan, has been selected to be the first MCC student to receive the Dr. Thomas Nicholson Memorial Scholarship. McKeithan is a second year student in the Medical Assisting program and will be walking across the graduation stage in May. When asked how she felt to be selected for the Nicholson scholarship, McKeithan replied, “I felt blessed and happy.”

McKeithan was nominated by MCC faculty members and her nomination application contained the following statement, “This student is energetic, motivated, and dedicated to achieving her career goal to become a medical assistant. She has a wonderful rapport with patients and physicians.”

When asked why she chose to enter the MCC Medical Assisting program, McKeithan replied, “I like the “hands on” aspect of the work and enjoy helping people.” McKeithan is currently getting her hands on experience through her clinical studies at Orthopedics East and Sports Medicine in Greenville.

As the mother of two daughters, ages 5 and 10, McKeithan admits that entering and remaining in the program has been challenging. Trying to maintain a balance between her daughters’ activities and her own studies has not been easy. But as McKeithan states, “I did this for them. I wanted to provide a better life for my girls.”

Continued on Page 6

The MCC Literary and Creative Arts Club will sponsor a Poetry Slam on Monday, April 11, from 11 am to 1 pm, in the Student Lounge of Building 1 on the MCC campus. The event is not a contest, as in the traditional sense of a poetry slam, however, students are invited to share their own poems and favorite works by other poets. Those interested in participating need to contact one of the club’s advisors by 11 am on Monday, April 4. There is a short application to complete, detailing the works to be read. The advisors; Dr. Mabry, Ms. Twitchell and Ms. Rogers will review the applications and notify the applicant of their status in the program.

According to Rochelle Mabry, Ph.D., one of the club’s advisors, “The great thing about the Poetry Slam is that it demonstrates how poetry isn’t just some dry, stuffy subject to be studied in English class or something only certain people ‘get.’ It's accessible, it's alive, and it’s fun. I think that seeing their peers perform their own original works will encourage other students to find their own voices through writing.”

Last year’s Poetry slam featured Crestacia Brown, Angela Knox, Jasmine Simpson, Mary Anne Caudle and Rhonda Breed reading original work. Works from Joyce Kilmer, Psalm 121, Emily Dickinson, Maya Angelou, Edgar Allen Poe, William Carlos Williams, Ruth Forman, and Billy Collins were also read. An exceptional recitation of Langston Hughes’ poem The Big Timer was presented by Elijah Freeman, who works in the MCC IT Department. Please plan to attend this fun event.
The Martin Community College (MCC) Foundation will host its 25th Annual Golf Classic at the Roanoke Golf and Country Club on Thursday, May 19 this year. Pictured left are Freddy Jackson and Kip Sales (putting) who played in last year’s tournament. This popular event is a fundraiser for scholarships and various campus projects. Last year, more than 100 players joined in the fun event to raise money for the College. Robert Bonner, MCC’s Director of Institutional Analysis and College Resource Development, is organizing the event. Sponsors and players are encouraged to contact Bonner at 252-789-0295 or via email at rbonner@martincc.edu.

**MCC Foundation Golf Tournament is set for May 19**

Robert Bonner, MCC’s Director of Institutional Analysis and College Resource Development, has announced that the 25th Annual MCC Foundation Golf Tournament date has been set for Thursday, May 19 and that the planning process is well under way. This event is one of the main fundraisers for the MCC Foundation.

This flighted, super-ball format tournament will be held at the Roanoke Golf and Country Club in Williamston. Check-in will be conducted between 11:30 am and 12:45 pm. Lunch is available to registered players between 12 noon and 12:45 pm. The shotgun start is at 1 pm. There will be a social for the players and their guests after the tournament.

The $50 per player entry fee includes a round of golf with a cart, lunch, gift bag, light refreshments during the round, team photo for each player and a social after the game. Players may invite guests to the social for an additional $7.50 per guest. Prizes are awarded to the winners in each flight as well as to the closest to the pin on holes 2 and 17 and on hole 13 for ladies only. Door prizes donated by generous sponsors will also be awarded. Mulligans (one per player) may be purchased for $5 each in advance or at the check in desk.

Both, tournament registration and sponsorship forms, are available through Robert Bonner at 252-789-0295 or via email at rbonner@martincc.edu. This tournament fills up fast. Players are encouraged to register early.

**Scholarship, from page 5...**

The Medical Assisting program curriculum at MCC prepares multi-skilled health care professionals to perform administrative, clinical, and laboratory procedures. Course work includes instruction in scheduling appointments, coding and processing insurance accounts, billing, collections, medical transcription, computer operations, assisting with examinations and treatments, and performing routine laboratory procedures.

The award was made possible by proceeds from the “Art of Dressing Fashion Show” which was organized and sponsored by Nicholson’s oldest son, Westray Nicholson, owner of Bella Magazine, based in Greenville, NC. The remaining proceeds have been set aside to build an endowment in Dr. Nicholson’s memory. Once fully funded, the endowment will provide scholarships to MCC students in perpetuity.

“I wanted to do this for many reasons,” states Nicholson. “My dad was a great believer in education and was an incredibly committed doctor. He loved his patients and he loved the medical profession. This scholarship will be a great way to support what my dad believed in and to assist an MCC student in serving their community through health care.”

As per Nicholson’s wishes, and in keeping with his father’s profession, the scholarship is to be awarded to a student currently enrolled in one of MCC’s medically related fields of study; Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapist Assistant, or Medical Office Technology. Preference is given to students demonstrating need, maintaining a GPA of 2.5 or better, and a commitment to finishing the program.

For more information about MCC’s Medical Assisting program contact Marty Flynn at 252-789-0292 or via email at mflynn@martincc.edu. For more information about establishing an endowment at MCC, contact Robert Bonner at 252-789-0295 or via email at rbonner@martincc.edu.
State Employees’ Credit Union

Scholarship Opportunity!

State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Scholarship Applications are now available for Continuing Education students. The deadline to submit applications, along with ALL applicable paperwork, is Friday, May 06. Applications are available from Callie Northern Herring in building 2, room 37 or via email at cnorthern-herring@martincc.edu. These $750 scholarships are a great help to MCC students!
Congratulations to Alma Phelps from Creswell (top) and Ginger Jennette from Stokes (bottom). They recently earned certification from the PTCB (Pharmacy Technician Certification Board), an organization established in 1995 to advocate for a single national standard for pharmacy technician certification that is recognized and supported by the profession. Phelps and Jennette are both completers of MCC’s Pharmacy Technician training Division of Continuing Education. This course provides instruction in the technical procedures for preparing and dispensing drugs in both hospital and retail settings under supervision of a registered pharmacist.

MCC Planning Meetings Yield Great Community Input

Pictured above from left to right are Bertie County Planner - Traci White, Windsor’s Town Manager - Allen Castelloe and Windsor’s Mayor - Jim Hoggard. They were among the group of 10 who attended MCC’s planning session in Bertie County on March 24. Another session was held on the MCC campus in Williamston on March 21. Maureen Green, MCC’s Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, planned and facilitated these meetings. Green also interviewed a large number of MCC’s staff and faculty. She is in the process of consolidating all of the comments into a long range plan for the college. An updated plan is required by SACS COC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Commission on Colleges), for accreditation of universities and colleges every ten years. MCC is preparing for the 2018 re-accreditation process which is already well under way in its preliminary stages.

MCC’s Automotive Instructor, Al Dawes (pictured here) demonstrates some of the new high tech diagnostic equipment in his shop at the Job Fair and Expo held on March 31. See more on page 10.
North Carolina voters approved the March 15th, $2 billion bond referendum with nearly two-thirds supporting the infrastructure projects, including $350 million designated for North Carolina’s 58 community colleges. The vote marks the initial step in the first major infusion of capital funds for the community colleges since 2000.

“Our voters understood the need to train our state’s citizens in the same high-tech, high-quality facilities that they will encounter in the workplace,” said Jim Rose, a member of the State Board of Community Colleges and co-chair of the Connect NC Committee. “They demonstrated statewide support for the work of our colleges, and for that, we are grateful.”

The amount of funding designated for each college was established by the General Assembly using a formula that looked at the age of the college’s facilities as well as the economic distress of each college’s service area. New construction projects will require a local match, based on a sliding scale linked to a county’s economic distress, while repair or renovation projects will not require a local funding match.

Dr. Bob Shackleford, President of Randolph Community College and of the NC Association of Community College Presidents, thinks that, while new construction projects are likely, many community colleges will work to fill the pent-up need for repair, updates and renovations to help modernize and maintain colleges’ infrastructure.

“Many of our colleges are using facilities that were built in the 1950s and 1960s, and budget constraints have kept them from tackling many of the capital improvement challenges they face,” Shackleford said. “The passage of this bond breathes new life into our System’s core infrastructure. We are thrilled with the statewide support from our voters.”

Community colleges will now begin the process of turning the bond possibilities into realities. Every college has a set of identified capital needs. Now, they will move forward with the approval process, which includes, at a minimum, votes by both their local boards of trustees and the State Board of Community Colleges.

Community college students, faculty and staff across the state mounted strong efforts locally to educate voters about the impact the bonds would have on higher education, state parks, the National Guard, water and sewer projects and agricultural initiatives. Additionally, many colleges supported the Connect NC Committee through contributions from non-taxpayer resources, including a $40,000 contribution from the state-level NC Community Colleges Foundation.

“March 15 proved to be an incredible great day for our colleges and for North Carolina,” said Scott Shook, Chair of the State Board of Community Colleges. “I appreciate all of our folks who worked to help get the vote out and to make sure those voters were informed. We will be benefitting from the impact of this vote for years to come.”

Dr. Ann Britt, President of Martin County Community College, states, “MCC is slated to receive just over $6.5 million of the bond funds. We are certainly thrilled to have such a substantial infusion of capital funding for our 40+ year old campus.”

Britt adds, “At present, the top three projects identified in our Facilities Master Plan are the construction of a new building as well as extensive renovations and repairs to the MCC campus entrance and its four buildings. However, the MCC Trustees will ultimately determine which projects outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan get top priority.”
Job Fair and Career Expo Hits a Home Run!

An estimated 400 people attended the “Get the Life You Love” Job Fair and Career Expo held on March 31 at MCC. The event, cosponsored with the NCWorks Center in Martin County featured numerous employers and career service providers. Several large employers, like Ann’s House of Nuts, Nucor, Penco, Vidant, and Perdue sent representatives to discuss job opportunities and accept applications. Among the most popular booths was Hard Hat Workforce Solutions (pictured top right). Hard Hat, provides skilled craftsmen and solar energy employees to a broad range of contractors. Martin County’s largest industry, Ann’s House of Nuts, a 430,000 square foot facility in Robersonville, sent its HR Director, Shannon Reising (pictured top left), to screen potential employees. Vidant Hospital Roanoke Chowan (pictured middle left), drew a lot attention in the Health Care arena. In the lobby, ATS (Associated Training Services), a heavy equipment, crane operator and truck driving school (pictured bottom left), featured a colorful display of the equipment they train people to operate. Military and law enforcement recruiters were well represented in the BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) room. The unique quality of this Job Fair was the mingling of education booths among employers, thus permitting industry and education to partner in employee development. MCC Counselor, Crystal Pugh, chaired the Job Fair/Expo committee. BoJangles of Williamston fed the vendors lunch. Everyone seemed pleased with the final outcome of the event.
Mr. Don Golden, MCC’s Director of the HVAC/Commercial Refrigeration programs, visited Riverside HS on March 22 to talk with students about the training and career potential in his field. Many MCC instructors have been visiting high schools this spring. They are among our best recruiters! Great job Don!

Drinking and drugs can impede your college success!
Get the facts!

DID YOU KNOW?
159,000 of today’s college freshmen will drop out of school due to alcohol or drug use

25% of college students admit that drinking has negatively impacted their academic progress

1 in 3 college students have missed class due to substance abuse

21% of college students have fallen behind on school work due to alcohol use

Martin Memos

April 2 - Martin Co. KidFest, 10 am - 2 pm, Bob Martin Center
April 5 - MCC Open House, 6-8 pm
April 11 - Registration Monday for returning students only
April 11 - LCAC Poetry Slam, 11 am - 1 pm, MCC café
April 18 - Registration Mondays begin and run until August 15
April 19 - MCC Open House for High School students
April - Alpha Beta Gamma meeting, 2 pm, room 19, building 4
April 22 - Deadline to submit items for the Martin Messenger
May 19 - MCC Foundation Golf Tournament

MCC is an equal opportunity employment institution.