Sue Gurley joins MCC’s staff as new Health Care Programs Coordinator

Martin Community College (MCC) has hired Sue Gurley to coordinate its vast array of health occupation classes offered through its Division of Continuing Education. Gurley starts on March 1 and comes to MCC from Beaufort County Community College (BCCC) where she was the Healthcare Programs Coordinator.

Gurley will be responsible for supervising and coordinating all activities (student, faculty, and instructional) associated with the non-credit Health Occupations Programs offered throughout MCC’s service area in Martin and Bertie Counties. Programs currently being offered include; Health Care Orientation, Career Pathways in Health Care, Nurse Aide (NA) I and II, Phlebotomy Technician, Dialysis Technician, Medication Administration, Medication Aid, Medical Billing and Coding, Pharmacy Technician, EKG Technician and Activity Director in a Health Care facility.

The Health Occupations Coordinator is also responsible for program planning, development, management, continuous review, budget administration, general effectiveness of the program, and adherence to the State Board of Community College Code as well as regulating authorities for healthcare programs.

Gurley, a Registered Nurse (RN) since 1984, earned her AAS Nursing degree from BCCC and, while in school, was a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society and Vice-President of the Senior Class. Gurley is also certified by the NC Board of Nursing as a Medication Aide RN Instructor and has recently received specialized training in Infection Control in Long-Term Care Facilities. She is a member of the Carolinas Society for Healthcare Education and Training.

Upon graduating from BCCC, Gurley immediately launched her medical career at Beaufort County Hospital (now Vidant Beaufort Hospital) as a nurse. Within a year, she joined the nursing staff at Pitt County Memorial Hospital where she worked in a variety of specialty areas for more than fourteen years. These specialty areas included: cardio-pulmonary telemetry, hematology/oncology, general medical-surgical, adult psychiatry, and geriatrics. While at Pitt, she also worked for four years as a Quality Assurance Unit Representative, collecting, analyzing and reporting on data from hospital-wide nursing units. Gurley also worked as a nurse for Tar River Manor, Gentiva Home Health and the Craven Correctional Department and as a part time nurse aid instructor for BCCC.

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Pictured above from left to right are Brenda Moore (MCC’s HRD Program Coordinator), Sherrie Bazemore (WIOA Workforce Specialist), Krista Jernigan Wood (Manager for the Dept. of Commerce-Division of Workforce Solutions/NC Works Career Center in Williamston) and Crystal Pugh (MCC Counselor) as they plan the March 31 Job Fair and Career Expo to be held on the MCC Campus.

50 Employers Commit to MCC Job Fair and Career Expo on March 31

Martin Community College (MCC) has joined forces with the NC Works and Career Center in Williamston to host a Job Fair and Career Expo on the MCC campus on March 31. To date, Pugh has commitments from 50 employers, 5 universities and 13 advisors to set up booths at the fair. This event will be held from 10 am to 2 pm, in the lobby and room 14 of building 1.

The purpose for this event is to expose job seekers, current/prospective college students, individuals interested in a career change, and soon-to-be or recent graduates of Martin Community College to the various careers, industries, 4 year institutions, and employment opportunities in or near our service area. Attendees will have a chance to network with representatives from at least 50 regional businesses and industries.

Employers signed up thus far include: NC Highway Patrol, Lowes of Washington, US Navy, Rocky Mount Police Department, Grace College of Barbering, Convergys, Pitt County Schools, Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company, Vidant Hospital - Roanoke Chowan, Perdue Farms Inc., Mega Force Staffing, US Army, Fitness Unlimited, Holden Temporaries, MAO Transportation Services, Methodist Home for Children, Executive Personnel Group, Elizabeth City Police Department, Bertie County Schools, Goody’s, Autism Society of North Carolina, Professional Staffing Solutions, Bertie Martin Regional Jail, Martin County DSS, Nucor, Martin County Sheriff Office, Berry Plastics, NC Forestry Service - Martin County Location, Telamon Corporation - Ahoskie Site, Telamon Corporation - Tarboro Site,

Job Fair cont. on page 11...

Gurley cont. from page 1

In March of 2012, Gurley accepted the full time Healthcare Programs Coordinator/ Instructor position at BCCC, performing all of the duties she will now oversee at MCC. She was also extremely active on several BCCC committees; Vice-President and secretary of the Credit for Prior Learning Committee, the Distance Learning Committee, the Professional Development Committee and the BCCC Foundation’s Scholarship Selection and Emergency Grant Committees.

In 2007, Gurley decided to pursue her love of history by entering ECU’s history program. In 2008 she earned the Roy N. Lokken Honors Award for the outstanding history honors paper in her class and in December of 2013, she earned an MA degree in History. While in graduate school, Gurley was the Assistant to the University Historian and has a published book review in the professional journal, "Historical Archaeology" 2010, 44 (2):156-157, (Book: "The Early American Table, by Trudy Eden). Gurley was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society in Spring of 2008. She is also a member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and the Lambda Alpha Chapter of Anthropology Society.

Dr. Ann Britt, President of MCC stated, “I am thrilled to have Sue Gurley join our MCC family. Her vast experience in the Health Occupations Training arena will make her a great fit for one of our busiest programs.”

In her spare time, Gurley is a regular volunteer for Tryon Palace in New Bern. Although she generally assists the garden and grounds staff with spring and fall heirloom plant sales, her primary volunteer station is in the Tryon Palace Conservation lab. One of her most recent work assignments involved cleaning antique and reproduction garden statuary.
Opinions and ideas about the future of MCC are needed

Do you have strong opinions? Great ideas? MCC is still in the process of updating its Strategic Plan. We want your input about the direction we are going. We would like to hear from faculty, staff, students, alumni, the public. Please contact Maureen Green for a chance to voice your opinion. You can call 252-789-0297 or email mgreen@martincc.edu to set up an appointment.

Biggs Speaks to Early Childhood Class

Larry Biggs, MCC’s Small Business Center Director joined forces with Elaine Spellman, MCC’s Early Childhood Instructor, to provide special training for her students in regard to opening a day care center. Biggs discussed multiple aspects of starting a business - business plans, budgets, credit, taxes, and more. Biggs offers these types of classes throughout the MCC service area. Great teamwork!

NCCCS Seeks Student Designs

The 2016 North Carolina Community College System Conference will be held October 9-11, 2016, at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. The System solicits program cover design proposals from students enrolled at community colleges. One design will be chosen by the program planning committee to be used on the cover of the conference program book. Additionally, the winning student’s photo and bio will be featured on the inside front cover of the program book. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m., March 31, 2016

Please make your students aware of this opportunity by providing them with the following information:

All design submissions must contain the following text:
Pathways to Success
North Carolina Community College System Conference
October 9-11, 2016
Raleigh Convention Center; Raleigh, North Carolina

Contact Judy Jennette at jjennette@martincc.edu for more info.
MCC’s 2016 Open Horse Show is big Success!

The Equine Department at Martin Community College (MCC) hosted its annual Open Show fundraiser on February 6 in the Martin Community College Equine Indoor Facility, on the MCC campus. Tami Thurston, MCC’s Director of Equine Technology, stated, “It was the best level of participation the show has ever had.”

According to Thurston, “Although this event is a fun show, it is also a learning experience which allows our students to explore a career in show management. It’s also a great way to connect the public to MCC’s Equine Program and students. We love sharing our indoor facility with the community.”

Many of the show’s competitors come from riding schools and academies throughout the area. Among those schools is Big Apple Farms (BAF) Riding Academy. BAF supported the Open Show with 19 riders. This show was the first for the BAF students in 2016.

The Academy had a great showing at what is becoming one of the fastest growing shows in the area. BAF’s Riding Director Courtney Wexler, a 2012 MCC Equine graduate stated “This was a great show to start our season. It was well organized and the atmosphere was fun and exciting. Plus, it gave our academy the chance to support our local equine program at the college. It was a win-win for everyone.”

Riding Instructor Tiffany Rodgers added, “I really enjoy watching all the kids support each other and just having fun with what they’re doing. This show was the perfect environment to allow that to happen.”

Owner of the Academy Jerry Cornwell said “When we started our academy in 2013, it was our goal to create a program that was equal in purpose to The Bob Martin Cen
New GED scoring format may help former test takers in getting diploma!

Some students who took their GED test at Martin Community College (MCC) may now be eligible for a high school equivalency diploma since GED Testing Service has revised its test passing scores. The “cut” or passing score has been revised from 150 per test module to 145. North Carolina has joined 32 states in recognizing this change immediately.

According to Jeri Griffin, MCC’s Basic Skills Director, the revised test scores affect students who took the GED test after January 1, 2014. It may produce as many as 700 new high school equivalency diploma holders in NC.

GED Testing Service is contacting those affected by the changes via email; however, test takers with questions can log into their MyGED.com account or go to http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/tester-score-change-faqs for information.

“We are working with our GED state representative to ensure students and programs get the necessary information to implement this new change,” said Dr. Lisa Chapman, Senior Vice President for Programs in the NC Community College System.

For more information on high school equivalency testing opportunities, please visit http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/college-and-career-readiness/high-school-equivalency or contact Jeri Griffin at 252-789-0288 or via email at jgriffin@martincc.edu. Additional information on the GED Testing Service changes is available at www.GEDtestingservice.com/score-changes.

Open Continued from page 4

...ter and the MCC Program, both valuable Martin County assets, albeit hidden at times. By having a worthwhile and meaningful riding academy, it gives both these assets a support they have not had in Martin County before. We are excited to be a part of the great equine future here in our county.”

The proceeds from this event will used to enhance MCC’s Equine program. For more information about the program contact Tami Thurston at 789-0318 or tthurston@martincc.edu.

Open Show participants prepare for a Western Saddle event.
29th Annual Black History Celebration delivers powerful message

Pictured clockwise from the top left are: Keynote Speaker Ret. Judge and Pastor W. Rob Lewis, II; Dijon Perkins of ChurchBoi Mime Ministry; Dallas Wiggins, a student from Smiling Faces Child Care Center; Enyce Chance, a student from Smiling Faces Child Care Center; MCC’s HRD Program Coordinator Brenda G. Moore; Emcee and MCC Recruiter/Coordinator/Chief GED® Examiner Candance Bryant-Whitehurst; MCC Trustee Dr. Shirley Fields and MCC Counselor Crystal Pugh. Story on page 9
MCC provides three Rotary programs in February

MCC’s PR Director and Williamston Rotary member, Judy Jennette (pictured in top photo on left), was in charge of providing programs for the club in February. She used the opportunity to showcase three distinctly different aspects of Martin Community College’s (MCC) programs and services. On February 2, Billy Barber (pictured in top photo on right), MCC’s liaison to Business and Industry, spoke about the many ways in which he connects the college to the business community through customized training opportunities. He also spoke about the numerous improvements recently made to the MCC facilities with grant funds from the Golden Leaf Foundation. On February 9, Tami Thurston (pictured in center photos), MCC’s Equine Technology Director, spoke about the only Equine program offered in the state’s Community College system. Thurston emphasized that more than half of her students come from well outside of MCC’s service area, and many from out-of-state. Many of her students choose to move to Martin County after they graduate. The Rotarians were impressed by the size and scope of the program and asked Thurston several good questions. Two MCC students, Lashon Watford and Ruben Unicruz, were also on hand to provide vital tech support for Thurston’s presentation. On February 16, Larry Johnson (pictured right at bottom), MCC’s Fire and Rescue Training Coordinator, spoke enthusiastically about restarting this program at MCC and transforming it into a vital resource for the fire departments in both Martin and Bertie counties. All three did a great job!
When It’s Time to Go: Part II

When you’re ready to leave, how to get out safely and make sure he can’t find you

August 20, 2014, By domesticshelters.org

Think about four places you could go. These may include a domestic violence shelter that you can locate at domesticshelters.org, a trusted friend’s house that the abuser does not know or another safe location in a different city. The Domestic Violence Hotline suggests survivors may consider creating a false trail, if there’s time. To do this, you can call motels, real estate agencies and schools in a town that’s at least six hours away from where you’re planning to go. Ask questions that requires them to call you back at your house so that your abuser may believe this is where you’re going. [1]

Abusers are intent on controlling survivor’s lives, warns DomesticViolence.org. When abusers feel a loss of control, such as when a victim leaves, the abuse can increase. This is why it’s especially important to take extreme cautions after leaving. [2] Make sure you acquire a new cell phone so you cannot be traced. Be careful to whom you give your new address and phone number to. If you haven’t already, secure a personal protection order. Consider changing your children’s schools and, if you can, change your work hours. If you’re staying in the same city, use different stores and frequent different social spots, advises The National Domestic Violence Hotline. Find emotional support by calling the Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. Finally, don’t hesitate to call 911 if you feel you are in danger at any point during or after you leave.

MCC’s 29th Annual Black History Celebration

Continued from page 6

MCC’s 29th Annual Black History Month Celebration held on February 18 in the Martin Community College Auditorium was a big success. The keynote speaker was Retired Chief Judge and Pastor W. Rob Lewis, II - a native of Bertie County and a resident of Hertford County. Lewis delivered an inspirational speech, encouraging everyone to reflect on our nation’s African American history every day – not just one month a year. He spoke to the need for hard work and resilience as well as resistance to the many distractions of modern society. His rousing message drew a standing ovation from the audience.

Brenda G. Moore welcomed everyone to the event. Church Boi MIME Ministry was also on hand to provide expressive interpretations of gospel music as well as several children from Smiling Faces Child Care Center in Williamston. Each child went to the stage and recited one or more quotes from famous black people. Upon the direction of the event’s emcee, Candance Bryant-Whitehurst, numerous members of the audience stood and announced their “first” as a local black leader, including a clerk of court, athletic director, a health department director, two mayors, just to name a few from the impressive list of accomplishments.

Closing remarks were given by MCC Trustee, Dr. Shirley Fields. The event closed as the audience stood and sang “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by James Weldon Johnson.
Martin Community College (MCC) can boast about her academic scholars who are eligible to join the internationally recognized business honor society of Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG). Established in 1970, ABG has over 65,000 registered students worldwide and continues to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students in business and business related curricula. ABG continues that tradition by providing leadership opportunities, forums for the exchange of ideas, and the stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence (ABG, 2016).

Currently, MCC has 13 full members and an additional 47 students who are eligible to join ABG from a variety of disciplines including: Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Information Technology, Cosmetology, Electrical Systems Technology, Medical Assisting, Medical Office Assistant, and Office Administration. Considering that MCC has 789 active students, these 58 students are an elite group, who have met or exceeded the requirements for joining ABG. In addition to being a student in one of the above-listed disciplines, they have earned and maintained GPAs of 3.0 or higher and have completed at least 12 credit hours of study.

ABG members have the opportunity to demonstrate and use leadership and management skills; to raise awareness and the profile of ABG, MCC, and the community at large; to apply for scholarships through ABG; and to attend ABG events. In addition to these opportunities, being a member is an impressive item to list on a resume; it tells prospective employers that one is an accomplished and serious student who commits to what one starts and will see it through to the end with the best of one’s abilities. And best of all, by maintaining at least a GPA of 3.0, students are recognized at graduation by wearing a commemorative ABG stole throughout the ceremony, which they may keep as a memento and a reminder of their time at MCC.

Please join me in congratulating our 13 ABG members:

Sheila Early, 
Medical Assisting
Kristi Godley, 
Accounting and Business Administration
Barbara Hudson, 
Cosmetology
Holly Johnson, 
Business Administration
Jasmine Keel, 
Business Administration
Daniel LaGant, 

Megan LaGant, 
Medical Office Administration
Vicky McKeithan, 
Medical Assisting
Janson Price, 
Medical Office Assisting
KayInn Slade, 
Cosmetology
Janson Price, 
Medical Office Assisting
Amanda Vick, 
Accounting
Cheryl Whitaker, 
Medical Assisting
Ashley White, 
Cosmetology
Ms. Cale, Ms. Murphy, and Dr. Wyman hope to see all of the ABG members and students who are eligible for membership at the monthly meetings. The spring 2016 meetings are always held in Building 4, Room 19, and are scheduled for:

2:00 pm, March 23
2:00 pm; April 18

Dr. Deborah Wyman is the Business Administration Instructor at MCC and an advisor for Alpha Beta Gamma.
Job Fair Continued form page 2


Some job seekers may discover they need a class or two – or even a degree - to make them more employable. Thus, MCC, Elizabeth City State University, North Carolina A&T State University, NC Wesleyan College, Chowan University, and Devry Education Group/Devry University will be on hand to assist job seekers with potential education needs.

MCC will also have representatives from the following programs and services at the event: Continuing Ed/GED/Basic Skills, Automotive Technology, Early Childhood Education, Equine Technology, Physical Therapy, College Transfer, Medical Office Administration, College Transfer, General Education, Business Administration, Industrial Systems, Computer Info Technology, Medical Assisting and the Academic Skills Lab. With specialized training and short courses of study, MCC is able to create a win - win situation for both the employer and the job seeker.

Local representatives from the Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) office will also be on hand to offer assistance. WIOA is the largest federal funding source for workforce development ac-

vities in all 50 states and reauthorizes the outdated Workforce Investment Act (WIA), a nearly $3 billion-a-year program that funds critical job training programs for displaced adults and youth. The Martin County VA assists 3,000+ veterans and their dependents in preparing claims for a wide variety of services and benefits – including Educational and Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits to which the applicant is entitled under federal or state law.

With 50 employers on hand, job seekers and students will be able to see what the job market in Eastern NC is like and make face to face contact with important business representatives. Job seekers are encouraged to dress appropriately and to bring copies of their resumes with them – preferably in a businesslike portfolio or brief case. Serious job seekers should not bring small children with them and should arrive early enough to have adequate time to converse with the employer representatives.

Businesses interested in participating may contact Crystal Pugh at (252) 789-0268 or cpugh@martincc.edu.

Please encourage your students, especially your “soon-to-be” graduates to attend this event. This is a great opportunity for our students! If you would like more information or to sign up for a booth or be an advisor, please contact Pugh at 252-789-0268 or via email at cpugh@martincc.edu.
VOTE on March 15!

Passage of the Connect NC Bond would provide MCC with $6,566,722. These funds may be used for new construction, renovations, and repairs. The top three projects identified in MCC’s Facilities Master Plan, which was developed in 2008 and updated in 2012, calls for the construction of a 15,938 square foot (sf) building as well as extensive renovations and repairs to the MCC campus entrance and buildings 1, 2, 3 and 4. However, the MCC Trustees will ultimately determine which projects outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) get top priority.

The referendum will appear as follows on the ballot:

[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

The issuance of two billion dollars ($2,000,000,000) State of North Carolina Public Improvement Bonds constituting general obligation bonds of the State secured by a pledge of the faith and credit and taxing power of the State for the purpose of providing funds, with any other available funds, to fund capital improvements and new facilities for the State, including, without limitation, the construction and furnishing of new facilities and the renovation and rehabilitation of existing facilities for, without limitation, the University of North Carolina System, the North Carolina Community College System, water and sewer systems, the State’s National Guard, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, attractions and parks, and the Department of Public Safety.”

Early voting schedules for Martin and Bertie Counties can be found on page 9. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this issue and be prepared to vote on 3/15/16. If you would like more information on the Connect NC bond proposal, please visit the website at http://www.connect.nc.gov/ or contact Judy Jennette at 252-789-0310. Jennette has yard signs and brochures in her office (15B, Building 1).

Martin Memos

March 1 - Last day to apply for graduation
March 8 - Fayettville Technical Community College Rep. at MCC from 10:30-12:30
March 15 - Vote on the NC Connect Bond Referendum
March 23 - Alpha Beta Gamma meeting, 2 pm, room 19, building 4
March 24 - Deadline to submit items for the Martin Messenger
March 25 and 28 - Easter Holiday (MCC will be closed)
March 29 thru 31 - Spring Break for MCC students and faculty
March 31 - Job Fair and Career Expo from 10 to 2pm, Building 1, MCC campus

MCC is an equal opportunity employment institution.