MCC Alumna Carey Stewart joins Equine Technology Faculty

Carey Stewart recently joined the equine technology faculty at Martin Community College (MCC). She is returning to MCC three years after graduating at the top of her class in 2012. Stewart, originally from Brevard, NC, is happy to be returning to the eastern side of NC. Stewart states, “While I was attending MCC, I really fell in love with the green and open space of this region and had always hoped to come back. It was fortuitous that an opening at MCC became available at about the same time I graduated from West Texas A&M.”

Beyond college credits, Stewart is an experienced riding instructor. She is a Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) Equine Instructor of both English and Western riding styles. She also has experience in hosting shows and working show grounds, even for larger American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) horse shows. She has coached a high school Equine Judging team and still teaches 4-H equine clinics.

From 2007 through 2014, Stewart was an equine instructor at Rock Brook Camp in Brevard, where she taught girls aged 6 through 16, beginner through advanced lessons in walk, trot, canter, and jump - as well as the care of horses and their facility. According to Stewart, “These lessons served to not only teach her students how to ride, but to build self confidence in everyday life.”

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Fire Training Grant Awarded to MCC

Larry Johnson, MCC’s Coordinator of Fire and Rescue training, is pleased to announce that his program will be among five colleges to receive a Lead the Way Grant from the NC Community College Adult Educators Association in 2016. The grant funds will assist in purchasing materials to build training props necessary for Martin CC to offer the NC Firefighter Certificate Program over the next 18 months. Johnson is working with Martin and Bertie County Fire Departments to plan and design the props. The other departments will also contribute funds to the project.

The NC Community College Adult Educators Association (NCCCEA) announced that 32 community colleges submitted applications for the 2016 the Lead the Way Grants and that five community colleges (Caldwell, Martin, Pitt, Rockingham and Wake Tech) were selected by the review committee to receive a $1,250 grant.

According to Johnson, “I have already formed an advisory committee, made up of representatives from the many fire departments we serve, to determine what props should be constructed first. All of the props to be built will support the NC Fire and Rescue Certification program.”

“The addition of these props to our program,” states Johnson, “will go a long way toward providing the most current training techniques to our Fire Fighters and even more importantly, a long way toward keeping our Fire Fighters safe!”

Carey Stewart Continued from Page 1...

Stewart (pictured above) was also active in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4H. While in FFA, she served on judging teams and as an officer. As a 4-H’er from age five to eighteen, she especially loved the horse shows and clinics. While attending MCC, Stewart served as the president of the Equine Club and participated in several Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) competitions.

Currently, Stewart is an active member of the West Texas A&M University's chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success, a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction, based on academic accomplishment and leadership potential. She is a past recipient of the National Engaged Leader Award.

As the owner of a North American Spotted Draft Horse Stallion, Stewart started and still maintains a small breeding business. Stewart also enjoys travelling, both on horses and in vehicles.

According to Tami Thurston, MCC’s Director of Equine Technology, “It is exciting to have one of our most outstanding students return to teach. Her youth and understanding of the program will help her relate to our students. I am so pleased to have her back on our campus.”
In December, the MCC library hosted a day-long workshop on NC Live, sponsored by the State Library of North Carolina. Librarian Julie Humphrey, from Durham Community College, taught library staff from Martin CC, Beaufort CC, Craven CC, Nash CC, College of the Albemarle, Mid-Atlantic Christian University and the Martin Memorial Public Library the ins and outs of our state’s fabulous database collection.

Participants enthusiastically delved into such resources as Learning Express Library (which contains practice tests for the ASVAB, GED and other tests); Science in Context; and Films on Demand (a huge database of documentaries and training films free for all residents of North Carolina through their libraries).

The State Library sponsors workshops across the state to train library staff to better serve their patrons. The North Carolina State Library workshop coordinator, Kelly Brannock, said the instructor praised the warm welcome participants received at Martin. Way to go MCC Library staff!

The MCC Library is a tremendous resource for our students, employees and the community!

MCC Library Hosts Regional Workshop

Pictured above are MCC Library Assistant Pam Perry and MCC Work Study Student Lashon Watford, both of whom attended the Library workshop on December 7. Perry noted that Watford, seemed more like an instructor than a student with the depth of his questions and participation in the group discussions!
The MCC Christmas Party Committee worked hard to provide a festive Christmas celebration for the Staff and faculty on December 10! The committee was comprised of Randy Stokes, Annie Faye Whitehurst, and Marsha Rogers (all pictured below from left to right) and Judy Jennette (pictured right with Santa). The group laughed a lot and had a marvelous time putting everything together. They are especially appreciative for the hard work put forth by MCC’s Maintenance department in setting up and breaking down room 14, and of course, for the financial support from the MCC Foundation! Santa was also very helpful in making the event successful! The Foundation paid for the meal and for the poinsettias. Dr. Britt provided a gift bag of peanuts for every attendee. The entire event was a group effort from start to finish! MCC is truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of employees who care so deeply for the welfare of the college and its students. What a great way to get ready for 2016!

Thanks to our MCC party planners!
MCC Talent made Martin merry on December 10!

MCC is blessed to have so many talented people in its employ. Among them are several gifted musicians like Elijah Freeman, Ryal Watkins, Crystal Pugh, Curtis Hyler and Candance Bryant-Whitehurst (pictured counterclockwise from bottom left). They all performed beautifully at the MCC Christmas Party on December 10. They performed many Christmas classics - both solo and in harmony - much to the delight of the audience. It was especially interesting when the performers moved about the room and handed the mike to members of the audience (like Trustee Dr. Shirley Fields below), inviting them to join in with a verse or two. Everyone agreed that the singing was a highlight of the event!

Debra Hardison (pictured above right) led the group in a variety of games, and the Campus Café staff - Pam Allen, Kevin Washington and Treva James (pictured from left to right below) prepared and served a delicious meal!
Photo Bomber Wrecks Havoc on MCC Christmas Party!

Normally, mild mannered Randy Stokes, in the MCC Registrar’s office, works quietly behind the scenes. However, he may have had too much punch at the MCC Christmas party on December 10! He managed to wander into nearly all of the departmental photos with Santa. “Oh what fun it is to ride, with a registrar at your side!”
MCC students were well represented in the Williamston Christmas parade on December 3! Equestrian students in the Cowboys and Angels Club had a large unit in the parade and not far behind was a great float created by the Physical Therapist Assistant students. As always, nobody tells the MCC story better than our own students!
NC Bond Referendum set for 3/15

Voters will have the opportunity to vote on the issuance of Connect NC public infrastructure bonds in the primary election on March 15, 2016. Connect NC is a $2 billion bond proposal for strategic investments in our state’s public infrastructure – higher education, state parks, agriculture, safety, and water and sewer infrastructure -- that will cultivate a stronger economy, improve quality of life, provide improved facilities for education and training, and enhance the safety of our food and our citizens. No new taxes are required now or in the future to finance the bonds as North Carolina will be finished paying some current bond debt before the cost of these bonds would be added.

Identified projects span from the mountains to the coast and include direct investments in 76 counties with benefits felt in rural communities, large urban cities and statewide. The North Carolina Community College System will receive $350 million for new construction or much-needed repairs and renovations at all 58 community colleges across the state. These improvements are needed to build, retrofit or repair a learning environment that meets the demands of a 21st century workforce.

But our colleges’ building and infrastructure needs are great so, someone might ask, “How much difference can $350 million make?”

$350 million can mean the difference in offering state-of-the-art learning experiences to our citizens or simply status quo.

$350 million can bring new facilities to life on campuses that have had the door shut to major capital efforts since the Great Recession.

$350 million can give a community college and the county or counties they serve the funds needed to pursue energy efficiencies that will keep paying dividends for years.

$350 million for new capital investments and for sorely needed repair and renovation projects can bring construction jobs into our communities.

$350 million can mean that our state’s community college system – nationally renowned and internationally copied – keeps the edge it needs to provide our citizens the all-important first steps to college and career goals.

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."

In February’s edition of the Martin Messenger, more details about the local impact of this bond will be provided. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this issue and be prepared to vote on 3/15/16.
MCC Equestrian Team shows well at St. Andrews

Pictured above are members of Martin Community College’s (MCC’s) IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Show Association) equestrian team after competing for the first time at St. Andrews College in Laurinburg, NC in October. While there, they won ribbons in several categories, collectively bringing home 5 first places, 3 second places, 3 third places and 2 fourth places. Pictured from left to right are Cameron VanSickle, Kathleen Orphanus, Kristen Malenfant, Allison Tripp, MCC Instructor Casey Stewart, Shailey Bodenhamer, Nichole Briquette, Michaela Mitchell, Luke Wilson and the team’s mascot “Chubby” the dog.

So many books, so little time! Several new books of popular fiction have arrived in the MCC Library. The library staff encourages you, to both literally and figuratively, check them out!
Fire Chief 101 Class has broad appeal

More than 50 Martin County Fire Fighters and Fire Safety Administrators attended MCC’s two-night, Fire Chief 101 course, conducted on December 7 and 8 on the Williamston campus of Martin Community College (MCC). Men and women representing the Williamston, Jamesville, Bear Grass, Robersonville, Hamilton, Griffins Township and Oak City Fire Departments as well as the Martin County Department of Emergency Management were on hand to learn about the administrative end of firefighting.

This program was designed in conjunction with the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, the North Carolina State Firemen’s Association, and the North Carolina Society of Fire and Rescue Instructors. It satisfies the “9s” inspection criteria as required by the North Carolina Administrative Code. The primary objective of the course is to inform current and future chief officers of the various aspects and complexities surrounding the operations and organization of North Carolina fire departments. Emphasis was placed on ratings and inspections, NFIRS reporting, prevention and grant programs, basic line-of-duty death information, financial considerations, and an overview of the various expectations facing a chief officer.

The state issued “9s” rating is necessary for each department’s personnel to participate in the Fireman’s Pension Fund and the Firemen’s Death Benefit Act as well as the fire department’s participation in the Firemen’s Relief Fund.

The instructor was Scott Rogers. He works for the Nash County Office of Emergency Management and is a N.C. Fire & Rescue Certified Instructor. He holds the distinguished Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation which, recognizes fire officers who have demonstrated excellence and outstanding achievement throughout their career. The highly competitive CFO designation assures departments that their leaders have the educational and technical competencies necessary to meet the demands of today’s society.

According to Larry Johnson, MCC’s Fire and Rescue Training Coordinator, “We were very fortunate to engage an instructor of Scott Rogers’ caliber. The students were very impressed with his knowledge and especially his ability to share that knowledge.”

Pictured above is the MCC Fire Chief 101 class and in the inset is the instructor, Scott Rogers.
MCC PTA students attend state conference!

Pictured above are MCC’s Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students who attended the NC Physical Therapy Association Fall Conference in October in Asheville, NC. Students in attendance included Katie Jackson, Beth McCombs, Lynn Satchell, Alex Hinger, Sarah McCoy, Tina Jernigan, Chad Holderness, Jenna White, Paige O’Neal, Johcel Hughes, Justin Britt, Jenna Jones, Kaylyn Eastwood, Jennifer Sylvester, Corey Everette, and Jena Eder. Instructors Dawn Parker, Dean McCall and Jamie VanEssendelft (kneeling L to R in front row) play an instrumental role in involving MCC students in activities that help them develop as professionals! Way to go Dawn, Dean and Jamie!

Martin Memos

Jan. 4 - Welcome back! Return to work from holiday break
Jan. 4 - Student Success Audit
Jan. 6 - Spring 2016 semester begins
Jan. 8 - Last day to register
Jan. 18 - Martin Luther King Holiday