Seven of MCC’s senior cosmetology students showcased their hair styling artistry at the college’s first Hair Affair on April 5. The event was organized by Cosmetology Instructor Jennifer Joyce. Several women, men and children volunteered to be models in the event and made their way down the runway in the multipurpose room or sat in the salon chairs on stage and had their hair styled by the students.

The students who participated were; Tammy Earley, Shameka Best, Destiny Goss, Lateah Rodgers, Hannah Silverthorne, Jasmine Howard and Princess Foster.

The Hair Affair was also a family affair in that many of the volunteers were MCC employees or family members of the students.

The high energy event was made extra special by lights and music provided by the musical duo Rowlett Green. James Rowlett made the lighting dance to the upbeat music selections of Tom Green.

Dr. Deryl Fulmer, MCC’s Dean of Academics stated, “I hope this will become an annual event - used as a portfolio presentation of our cosmetology students’ work. Eventually, I hope to see it expand to other areas of study, like our welding and equine programs. It’s a great way to show off the extraordinary talent of our students.”

A reception in the lobby of building one immediately followed the event. More than 60 participants enjoyed the refreshments.

See more pictures on page 3
On March 16, four Martin Community College (MCC) students were awarded a SECU Foundation Continuing Education Scholarship valued at $750 each. Pictured above are from left to right are MCC’s Dean of Continuing Education Nathan Mizell, scholarship recipients Zakiya Harvey and Brandon Martinez, MCC’s President Dr. Paul Hutchins and Dean of Academics Dr. Deryl Fulmer, scholarship recipients Joyce Cotten and Wanda Williams-Winston and Brent Glover, Sr. Vice President of SECU’s (State Employee Credit Union’s) District 42. Harvey and Martinez reside in Martin County. Williams-Winston is from Edenton and Cotten resides in Hobgood.

Through its member-funded SECU Foundation, State Employees’ Credit Union (SECU) members have awarded four students an SECU Foundation Continuing Education Scholarship valued at $750 each for study at Martin Community College (MCC). The recipients were Zakiya Harvey, Brandon Martinez, Joyce Cotten and Wanda Williams-Winston. Harvey, Cotton and Williams-Winston each completed the Nurse Aide I (NAI) program, while Martinez completed the BLT (Basic Law Enforcement) program offered through MCC.

Harvey, who resides in Martin County, plans to become a Pediatric Nurse and then work toward becoming a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner. Williams-Winston, of Edenton, wants to become a phlebotomist and a Registered Nurse. Cotten, a resident of Hobgood, hopes to gain employment at a nearby nursing home and work with at-home patients on the side. Martinez, also of Williamston, is currently seeking employment in law enforcement.

Launched in 2013, the scholarship program focuses on assisting the needs of North Carolina’s unemployed and underemployed citizens, military veterans, and members of the North Carolina National Guard seeking short-term job training for new careers or retraining to advance current job skills. Scholarship funding will be applied to tuition and other expenses associated with their eligible program of study through SECU cont. next page...
SECU cont. from page 2...
the Community College System’s Back-to-Work Program and continuing education courses.

State Employees’ Credit Union’s local Advisory Board member Judy Jennette comments, “The SECU Continuing Education Scholarship program provides an excellent opportunity to assist North Carolina’s unemployed and underemployed citizens with career training and marketable job skills needed for today’s workplace. We look forward to the long-term success of these scholarship recipients as they build a better economic future for themselves, their families, and our State.”

With this $435,000 commitment for Continuing Education Scholarships and SECU Foundation’s annual $580,000 “People Helping People” Community College Scholarships, funding for the NC Community College System now totals over $1 million.

About SECU and the SECU Foundation
A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, SECU has been providing employees of the State of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for nearly 79 years. The Credit Union also offers a diversified line of financial advisory services including retirement and education planning, tax preparation, insurance, trust and estate planning services, and investments through its partners and affiliated entities. SECU serves 2 million members through 255 branch offices, over 1,100 ATMs, 24/7 Member Services via phone and a website, www.ncsecu.org. The SECU Foundation, a 501c (3) charitable organization funded solely by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high impact projects in the areas of housing, education, healthcare and human services.

More Hair Affair Stars!

The Hair Affair team included; Instructor Jennifer Joyce, Tammy Early, Shameka Best, Destiny Goss, Lateah Rodgers, Hannah Silverthorne, Jasmine Howard, Princess Foster and Instructor Curtis Hyler.

Male models for the Hair Affair included MCC staff members Walter Wheeler, Steve Taylor, Jerry Wilson and Wheeler’s son Thomas.

Model Tirlanna Wrighton

MCC Cosmetology student, Tammy Earley, works on her son, Thomas Butler, on stage.
MCC Trustees meet with Bertie County Schools’ Officials

The MCC Board of Trustees conducted their monthly meeting on March 20 at the College’s campus in Windsor. Prior to convening their regular monthly meeting, the Trustees enjoyed dinner with Dr. Catherine Edmonds, the new Bertie County School’s Superintendent. She was accompanied by Bertie Middle School Principal, William W. Peele III and Bertie Board of Education member, Mrs. Jo Johnson.

The business meeting got underway with a number of policy revisions ratified under the consent agenda.

Among the other topics of discussion were:

♦ President Paul Hutchins expressed his gratitude to the Trustees and the college’s faculty and staff, for being so welcoming and helpful during his first three weeks at MCC. He noted how impressed he is with the caliber and enthusiasm of the employees and that they are some of the greatest he has ever worked with. He and his wife Tina have been busy looking for a house.

♦ Dr. Hutchins reported that he had already met with Martin County Manager David Bone as well as Bertie County Manager Scott Sauer, attended a Bertie County Commissioners meeting with Mr. Norman Cherry, toured the Bertie Campus and walked through the equine facilities.

♦ Dr. Hutchins has submitted MCC’s budget request to the Martin County Commissioners. It is $33,000 less than last year’s request. He wants MCC’s budgeting process to be transparent and collaborative.

He is already working toward this goal.

♦ Dr. Hutchins thanked Dwayne Baker for obtaining support from First South Bank (aka Cres Com) for the Literary and Cultural Arts Club’s (LCAC) International Coffee Hour held at in the MCC Library that morning. (see more on page 6)

♦ SGA President Amanda Vick reported that the SGA would be selling candy bars in front of WalMart on March 24 and man a booth at the Jamesville Herring Festival on March 31. Spring Fling will be held on April 17.

♦ Rick Cowan, Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, reported that an awning for the exterior door to the Campus Café was being ordered and will be up soon.

Half of the horse barn stalls have been replaced and the other half will get underway soon. Work on the Public Safety Training Facility continues and he hopes to have a ground breaking this fall. The committee continues to pin down numbers for proposed Library improvements. Steve Taylor praised MCC’s Purchasing Agent, Jennifer Cherry, for being so diligent in replacing the horse stalls.

♦ Tammy Baily reported that MCC will revert $39,149 back to the state. She also noted that MCC had expended 68% of its state funding so far this year and 61% of its county funds.

♦ Elaine Spellman has been designated to represent MCC on the Choanoke Area Development Association board.
Thanks to a cooperative effort between MCC, the Martin County EDC (Economic Development Commission) and the Martin County Schools, twelve Martin County High School students got a crash course on how to be successful in the manufacturing industry. The students came from Riverside and South Creek High Schools.

The program was specifically designed to introduce local students to local manufacturing. It was developed by Martin County’s EDC Director, Jason Semple, in response to local industries seeking qualified employees. The EDC provided funding to hire the trainer. MCC made its facilities, equipment and industrial training administrator, Billy Barber, available to the program. Martin County Schools identified and transported qualifying students to the training.

The training selected for these students is referred to as yellow belt Six Sigma. Six sigma improves the quality of process output by identifying and removing the causes of defects and minimizing variability in manufacturing and business processes. It uses time-tested management and statistical methods, and creates a special infrastructure of people within the organization who are experts in these methods. Each Six Sigma project carried out within an organization follows a defined sequence protocol and has specific value targets. For example: reduce process cycle time, reduce waste, reduce costs, increase customer satisfaction, and increase profits.

Since the origin of this process in 1987, Six Sigma has become a manufacturing standard in today’s business world. The job market for those trained in Six Sigma technique is essentially unlimited. New job applicants with Six Sigma certification have the advantage of preferential job placement.

According to Barber, “The students embraced the training. As a result of their successful course completion, they are now eligible for a job interview with a local manufacturer.”
SGA Update

Martin Community College’s (MCC) Student Government Association (SGA) voted in March to allow High School students to run for elected office on the SGA board. Thus, the SGA reopened the election in April to seek candidates for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Officer.

The SGA President and Vice President were elected in March and will be announced during the SGA’s Spring Fling on April 17. The SGA president also serves as an ex-officio (nonvoting) MCC Trustee.

Eligible SGA candidates must be enrolled in an MCC curriculum program, maintain a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA during service as an officer, maintain a minimum 6 credit hour schedule while in office, have been enrolled at MCC for at least one semester, committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of the office, willing to hold office for at least one academic year or two semesters and submit an appropriate headshot with the application.

The new SGA officers will begin planning and organizing this summer and start their official duties during the 2018 Fall Semester, which is the beginning of the 2018 - 2019 Academic year. The SGA budget is generated by student fees.

If you are interested in serving on the SGA’s governing board as a senator (a non-elected position), please contact the SGA Advisor, Kanon Nixon, in room 1-22 or online at kanon.nixon@marincc.edu.

LCAC Hosts French Event on 3/20

MCC’s Literary and Cultural Arts Club (LCAC) hosted a French International Coffee Hour in the Library on March 20. The well attended event was open to students, faculty and staff. It featured French poetry readings, a trip to Paris slideshow and French inspired refreshments. Dr. Jacques Robidoux a member of ECU’s Department of Pharmacology at the Brody School of Medicine graciously assisted the Club by reading four poems in French. The poems included “Windows” by Guillaume Apollinaire, “Confession” by Charles Baudelaire, “Prologue” by Arthur Rimbaud and “Little Soul” by Valerie-Catherine Ridchez. Each poem was also read in English by LCAC members Noah Ayers, Sydney Gainey, Kirsten Cooper and Aaniyah Robinson. NERSBA students Cara Ambrose, Amber Ellis and Joshua Mercer then provided a slideshow presentation about their 2017 trip to Paris. The audience was also treated to some delicious snacks and espresso provided by First South Bank (aka CresCom). Jonathan Williams and Jasmine Birdo, dressed as mimes, served the espresso. The club’s advisors, Dr. Rochelle Mabry, Marsha Rogers and Christina Measamer were extremely pleased with the students participation in this event and look forward to the club hosting more programs with an international theme.
Melissia Spivey joins Business Department

MCC alumna, Melissia Spivey (pictured above), became MCC’s Accounts Payable / Business Services Technician on March 19.

Spivey, a resident of Windsor, earned her Diploma in Business Computer Programming from MCC and her Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Shaw University.

Prior to joining the administrative team at MCC, Spivey was the Data Manager for Bertie County Schools for 11 years. She was also a Secretary / Bookkeeper for the Martin County Schools system for 3 years, a Data Entry Clerk for the Bertie County Family Resource Center and an Executive Assistant for the Bertie County Partnership for Children.

In her new position, Spivey reviews all billing to the College and matches it to requisitions. Once this is done, she issues a check for payment.

Welcome to MCC Melissia Spivey!

Pamela Riggs is new Transition Advisor

Pamela Riggs (above) joined the MCC team on March 26. With the addition of Riggs, the College now has a full complement of Transition Advisors. Riggs will be stationed at Bertie High School.

A resident of Winterville, Riggs earned both her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and her Master’s in Counselor Education from East Carolina University.

Riggs’ extensive work experience with students makes her a great fit for this position. She has adjunct instructor experience with the University of Mount Olive (UMO), Pitt Community College and MCC. She was also a full time Academic Advisor for non-traditional students at UMO and an Early College Liaison with Lenoir Community College. She worked for several years with the Administrative Office of the Courts as a Custody Mediator. Riggs also served as the Coordinator of Residence Education at ECU and as the Student Activities, SGA, Residence Hall Director at Chowan University.

Pamela Riggs is new Transition Advisor

Debra Armstrong (pictured above) has been promoted to serve as the new MCC/BCI liaison for Continuing Education and Curriculum programs with Bertie Correctional Institute (BCI). This is a 12-month, full-time position. Armstrong will coordinate, oversee, and participate in instructional programs at the BCI; coordinate assigned activities with other college programs divisions, departments, and outside agencies; input instructional program schedules; assist faculty with adjunct faculty contracts and handbooks; and assist with registration, advising, counseling, testing, and learner activities. Armstrong has delivered MCC’s Basic Skills program at BCI for 11 years. When asked about her promotion she states, “I am very excited and looking forward to the challenge of adding new classes.” Congratulations Deborah Armstrong!

Armstrong is MCC’s New Coordinator of Prison Education Programs
Ritzi, a 16 year old mare in the MCC herd, is expecting her first foal. She was artificially inseminated in April of 2017. This method of reproduction is common in managed herds of horses because it is safer for the females and at MCC, it offers the equine students an opportunity to learn how to do it.

Generally, horses have a gestation period of 11 to 12 months, although it is not unusual for it to go longer than a year. Cameras have been mounted in Ritzi’s stall so that her progress can be monitored at night and on weekends by MCC staff from home. Thus, Ritzi is due any day now and the Equine Department is looking for a baby name!

Once again this year, the MCC Student Government Association (SGA) is sponsoring a “Name the Baby” contest for the new foal’s barn name or registered name. The winner will receive a $25 gift certificate in the MCC Café.

Most horses have a barn name and a show name. The show name is typically a combination of the parents’ names which is used on their paperwork. The barn name is their day-to-day name. Frequently, barn names reference the registered name. Ritzi’s name reflects her registered name “Zips Ritz n Roll.” The sire’s barn name is Chubbs and his registered name is “Certainly a Vision.”

As a point of reference, Ritzi is registered with the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). The Quarter Horse, is an American breed that excels at sprinting short distances. Its name came from its ability to outdistance other horse breeds in races of a quarter mile or less; some have been clocked at speeds up to 55 mph (88.5 km/h). The American Quarter Horse is well known both as a race horse and for its performance in rodeos, horse shows and as a working ranch horse. Its compact body is well-suited to the intricate and speedy maneuvers required in reining, cutting, working cow horse, barrel racing, calf roping, and other western riding events, especially those involving live cattle. It is the most popular breed in the US.

Chubbs is dually registered with both the AQHA and the APHA (American Paint Horse Association). Typically, the American Paint Horse is a breed of horse developed from a base of spotted horses with Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred bloodlines. Chubbs is not spotted but the registry allows some non-spotted animals to be registered as “Solid Paint Bred.”

With this naming protocol and horse breed information in mind, let your creative juices flow and think of a name for the newest member of the MCC herd. To enter, stop by the MCC library, fill out an entry slip and drop it in the designated box. The contest will begin after Ritzi foals. A picture will be taken and distributed across campus.

Members of the Equine Club and Equine Technology Faculty will select the winner. The winner will be announced in the Martin Messenger. The contest is open to all MCC students, faculty and staff!
Happy First Birthday Cash!

Cash’s first birthday is April 19. Watching him grow into a strong and healthy colt has been an interesting journey. He weighed 70 pounds when he was born, and 770 pounds at the end of March.

Cash will now spend the next year in the field with the MCC herd. This too, is an important part of his training because he is learning how to be a horse. MCC’s Equine program director, Tammi Thurston reports, “The other horses will teach him not to bite or get too rough while he plays or interacts with them. He will be learning his place in the herd. Cash has a laid back personality. I think he will fit into the MCC herd very well.”

Although he has been saddled, he is still not old enough to be ridden. He will begin that training next spring when he is at least two years old.

The week prior to his birthday, Cash was castrated. According to MCC’s equine instructor, Carey Stewart, “He’s so big, it took two tries to get him properly anesthetized.”

The castration was done to better manage the MCC herd. Had Cash been a product of prestigious lineage, he may have been used as a breeding stallion but in a classroom environment, it is more important for him to be a calm and manageable horse. Breeding stallions can be quite aggressive and dangerous for all other horses.

MCC Open Show was big fun for little ones!

Pictured left is Carter Thurston, son of MCC’s Equine program director Tammi Thurston at the Open Show held on campus in March. Young Carter is sporting his first blue ribbon in equine competition! He won it for the Lead Line category with his pony Honey. Pictured right is Equine Instructor Carey Stewart’s daughter, Skylar Poole. She is riding Bart, one of the horses in MCC’s herd. The Open Show is held as a fundraiser for the equine students to attend the AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association) Congress in Ohio in the fall of this year.
On Sunday, February 4, MCC’s Fire Training Coordinator, Larry Johnson, worked with several local fire departments to conduct a controlled burn of a house in Williamston. The town contacted Johnson in 2017 to see if he could help get rid of the dilapidated building located on one of the main thoroughfares into town. After inspecting the site for asbestos and proximity to other inhabited buildings, Johnson informed the town that it could safely be done and that he would organize the event. Several Martin County Fire Departments participated in the exercise. Pictured above right are firemen directing the water stream into the back window of the burning structure. Pictured top left is a local fireman showing a young fireman-in-training how to properly handle a fire hose nozzle. Below left is Johnson with Chief James Peele of the Williamston Fire Department. Below right are the firefighters creating separate streams of water - one to control the house fire, and the other to protect a nearby vacant building from catching fire. The town quickly removed the charred remains after the exercise.
On Sunday, February 11, the Hamilton Fire Department hosted an MCC training event coordinated by Larry Johnson. Instructor Chris Cieszko worked with fire department personnel to practice extinguishing a propane gas fire. Pictured top left and right are firefighters approaching and containing the fire as the drill leader prepares to shut off the gas valve. Below left, seated on the cooler, is the controller of the gas line. Below right is the instructor Chris Cieszko and middle right is the propane truck that fueled the fires. This training was also conducted Griffins Fire Department in March.

and putting out the propane gas fire!
MCC has strong presence at Job Fair and Career Expo

MCC hosted multiple booths at the Job Fair and Career Expo on March 28 in the Bob Martin Ag Center. The event was jointly sponsored by MCC, NC Works of Martin County and Martin Enterprises. More than 50 representatives from business, industry and community resource organizations set up booths and more than 230 attended the event. Attendees saw MCC at its best. The IT Department set up a computer room where HRD representatives assisted people with developing and printing resumes. Thanks to all MCC employees who assisted and attended!

MCC now has a 3D printer!

MCC’s Industrial Systems Technology Instructor, Ryal Watkins, recently obtained a 3D printer for his program. As evidenced in the picture at the right, the new teaching tool is a popular exhibit at job fairs and recruiting events. Plastic filaments are fed through a heating element which melts the plastic into specific shapes, layer by layer, as instructed by a computer program. The machine was spewing out nuts, bolts, chains and small sharks during the job fair.
MCC Joins in Bertie HS Job Fair

Bertie Early College High School hosted a Job Fair on March 21. MCC had a strong presence at the event and shared lots of information with the students. Pictured above are Ashlie Lilley (TRIO Counselor), Deborah Wyman (Business Administration Instructor) and Dawn Parker (Physical Therapist Assistant Instructor) manning the MCC booth. Pictured left are Norman Cherry (Bertie Campus Director) and Jennifer Joyce (Cosmetology Instructor) in front of the MCC Cosmetology booth.

McCann Marches for Science

MCC’s Chemistry instructor, Dr. Michael McCann, participated in the March for Science in Raleigh, NC on April 14. NC cities, Greensboro and Raleigh, joined in what organizers say is a global expression in support of science.

Vick accepted to ECSU!

MCC’s Student Government President, Amanda Vick, was excited to receive a letter from Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) notifying her that she has been accepted for transfer admission into the fall semester of 2018. Vick will be transferring her credits from MCC to ECSU which will most likely enable her to start as sophomore or junior. Vick will also be taking advantage of the North Carolina Promise Tuition Plan. This plan, recently passed by the NC legislature, allows undergraduates enrolling at ECSU, UNC Pembroke or Western Carolina University to pay only $500 for in-state per semester. The remaining cost of education will be covered through NC Promise. This is a fabulous opportunity for all students seeking a four year degree! Vick will be majoring in accounting. Congratulations Amanda!
**REAL Crisis Intervention**

REAL Crisis Intervention, Inc. is a non-profit agency offering free 24/7 counseling and an extensive referral service. REAL provides: Counseling, Information & Referral, Sexual Assault Services, Advocacy, Suicide Intervention/Prevention, Pitt Resource Connection, Dial-A-Teen, Community Resource Connection and Outreach/Education. They are located at 1011 Anderson Street, in Greenville NC. You may contact REAL in the following ways; by phone at 252-758-4357, by email at realcrisis@embarqmail.com or on the web at www.realcrisis.org

**MCC Ag Rescue Training**

At the request of the Windsor Fire Department, MCC sponsored specialty rescue training in Machinery and Agriculture, January through March. The course covered a variety of agricultural related emergencies and how to mitigate their responses. The training included all four required courses of the Technical Rescuer - Machinery and Agriculture certification program: Rescue Operations Machinery/Ag, Stabilize/Extricate, Large Machine/Ag Equipment and Victim Management.

**Apply now for MCC Foundation Scholarships**

The MCC Foundation has recently announced that students may now apply for a number of scholarships that will be available during the 2018-19 academic year. The endowed scholarships and their applicant criteria are available as follows:

**Leman Barnhill** - established for a second year MCC student who resides in Martin County and maintains a 3.0 GPA

**Jerry Bembridge** - designed for a second year, economically disadvantaged MCC student who resides in Martin or Bertie County, maintains a 2.5 GPA and or is handicapped and enrolled in the PTA program

**AB Ayers** - endowed for a first year student who has earned a High School Equivalency/GED at MCC and has applied for a vocational education program

**MCC Equine** - annual Rodeo proceeds fund a scholarship for a second year MCC equine student, who maintains a 2.5 GPA

**HVAC/Commercial Refrigeration** - provided for a second year MCC HVAC or Commercial Refrigeration student who maintains a 2.5 GPA

The application form for any of these scholarships is available on the MCC website or in building 1, office 1. The application requires a 300 to 500 essay. The deadline to apply is June 30.

**Need help?**

Center for Family Violence Prevention
24 Hour Crisis Line
(252)752-3811
TOLL FREE (800)537-2238
Greenville, NC
MCC’s Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program welcomed a number of Allied Health students from Riverside and South Creek High Schools in March. This annual event allowed the High School seniors to meet MCC’s first year PTA students and learn a variety of skills from them in a lab setting. Among the skills covered in this class were: independent and dependent transfers, gait training, and manual passive and resistive range of motion. MCC’s students got to reinforce what they have learned. *The students pictured in uniforms are the high school students.*

MCC’s Industrial Systems Technology (IST) Instructor, Ryal Watkins, arranged for his students to tour the Metcore Industry Solutions plant in Williamston in March. Metcore manufactures high precision metal components and assemblies in multiple industries including agricultural, air filtration, pharmaceutical, construction, and power/industrial. The company utilizes some of the latest technology in CNC manufacturing equipment and 3D design software and offers contract manufacturing services to other companies across eastern NC. Met Core’s General Manager, Jaret Warren, invited the class to visit the plant and led the tour. This was a great opportunity for MCC’s IST students!
Much of the information in this story was extracted from an article titled *Horse Trainer Turned Movie Star - Beth Gouthro* in the July 17, 2015 online edition of the Equine Chronicle. The article was written by Brittany Bevis.

Thanks to the many equine connections of Tammi Thurston, MCC’s Equine Technology Program Director and Instructor, Beth Gouthro was on campus April 9, to lead a discussion about starring in the movie “Texas Rein.”

Gouthro graciously offered to stay an extra day after competing in the Martinganza American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Show at the Bob Martin Center, and discuss her horse training – turned acting career – with MCC’s students.

The movie, Texas Rein, is a story about a prodigal daughter who returns to her father’s ranch and finds redemption. The students watched the hour and a half movie which was followed with comments by Gouthro. She also answered questions. Gouthro focused much of her discussion on horse handling and training on a movie set.

So how does a horse trainer with no acting experience land the starring female role in a feature film?

As Gouthro explained, it was a chance encounter while she was at the feed store. She states, “One day in November 2014, I got a phone call from a movie producer named Rebecca Nelson. Nelson explained that she and her husband were producing a feature film that involved Reining horses and that she had come across our website. She couldn’t get over how much I resembled the main character in the movie and wanted to talk with me about doing some work as a double rider for the main character.”

Nelson jokingly asked Gouthro if she had any acting experience, to which she answered, “no” without hesitation.

Nonetheless, after reading the script, Gouthro felt drawn to the character of Cassie. She stated, “There were so many things about her and her struggles to which I could relate.”

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Nonetheless, after reading the script, Gouthro felt drawn to the character of Cassie. She stated, “There were so many things about her and her struggles to which I could relate.”

Although the producers originally planned on using Gouthro solely as a body double for riding scenes in the movie, they met with the author, Becky Boyette and decided to consider her for the role of Cassie.

Boyette and Nelson traveled to Gouthro’s farm to discuss the idea of starring in the movie.

As Gouthro recalls, “They walked into the barn and we chatted for a while, and they both teared up. They said they thought they may have found their Cassie. After working with both ladies for a couple of months on acting exercises, they officially offered me the role!”

Gouthro landed the role of Cassie in Texas Rein, a movie based on the book of the same name by author and Texan native Becky Boyette. The story is about an ex-rodeo queen turned single mom who returns to her roots when she’s called home due to her father’s illness.

“It’s about the prodigal daughter returning home where she finds healing in her relationships with her father, her spirituality, and herself by way of getting back into the show pen and finding a little bit of romance along the way,” Gouthro says.

According to writer Bethany Bevis, “Gouthro and her husband Matt own and operate BMG Show Horses, located in Staunton, Virginia, where they train and compete on the AQHA circuit. Their farm was one of the locations used in the movie.”

Gouthro states, “I learned so much about the filming process through this movie. There is so much that goes into it. We were on set about 28 days. We filmed at various locations in Virginia including The Virginia Horse Center and our very own farm. About two and a half weeks were filmed at our place.”

“I cannot tell you how positive and wonderful the entire cast, crew, and production of Texas Rein were to work with. I was so
blessed to be able to work with so many talented and accomplished people who helped raise me up and made me feel confident and supported! Naturally, I was able to widely use my equestrian skills in this role. I even did my own stunt work!"

Gouthro vividly recalls shooting a horseback riding scene in which, to capture all the action, a truck loaded down with a camera crew raced alongside Gouthro and her horse. “At times, there were only a few feet between my horse and the truck with bouncing men and cameras!”

Many of the horses used in the film were from Gouthro’s own training barn and several of her clients appeared as extra background riders. “A horse owned by Dana Lanning, named Very Well Could Be, was used in a lot of the scenes as Splash,” she says.

“This is a gelding that we raised by our co-owned stallion, Natural Resources, and out of one of our mares. ‘Tuck,’ as we call him, is shown by Matt and Dana in Ranch Riding at AQHA shows in real life.”

She noted to MCC’s students that even the horses had to wear makeup in several scenes.

Gouthro feels blessed to have been able to work with fellow trainer, Mike McEntire, who provided the Reining horses that were used for competitive scenes in the movie. One of the horses that helped portray the main equine character, Splash, was the real-life AQHA Reining stallion, Oreo Cookie Whiz.

To learn more about Gouthro and the movie, please visit the following web sites: http://www.equinechronicle.com/horse-trainer-turned-movie-star-beth-gouthro/ or visit the official movie website: http://texasreinmovie.com/

A DVD of the movie is available in the MCC library!
QEP Logo Choices

Part of the campus-wide project involved in the SACS COC reaffirmation process is the QEP which stands for Quality Enhancement Plan. This cycle’s QEP is called MOXIE (Martin Online eXcellence In Education). It is going to be focused on improving retention and success in online classes. The committee will soon be sponsoring a campus-wide survey to select the best logo for MOXIE. The choices are seen below. Be on the lookout for the survey!

Let’s Talk about SACS!

Submitted by Maureen Green

SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) is an accrediting body which accredits colleges across the south and in some foreign countries. Every ten years colleges are offered the opportunity to reaffirm their accreditation. It is time for Martin’s reaffirmation.

Martin submitted narratives and evidence addressing SACSCOC standards in February to complete the first part of the process. The information that was submitted is currently being reviewed by an off-site committee. The off-site committee will send a report with judgement on compliance for each standard. Martin will have an opportunity to compile a focused report for the standards on which there was noncompliance. This focused report will go to another committee. This is the committee that will be coming to Martin in October.

When the on-site committee arrives in October, in addition to evaluating the standards, they will also be offering suggestions on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP is a project that the college undertakes to improve education or the environment at the college. Martin has chosen MOXIE as the QEP. MOXIE stands for Martin Online eXcellence In Education. Support will be offered to students who would like to take an online course, but who need some help. Please help choose the logo for this project by voting through the survey you will receive via email.
The new switches purchased with Cannon Foundation grant funds arrived last month (pictured top right with Gary Copeland and Jerry Coltrain). The main switch (pictured middle right) was installed first. The remaining switches will be installed in areas like the one pictured below right. MCC’s IT Director, Elijah Freeman stated that the wires will be sorted and bundled for easier access and recognition as the change out progresses. Freeman adds, “This Cannon Grant has been a God send for our college. I was holding my breath everyday, praying that the old equipment would just keep going. We were hanging on by our fingernails.”

A new canopy (rendering pictured bottom left) for the Campus Café has been ordered and should be installed soon. This will draw attention to the café and make it easier for visitors to our campus to find it.

Work on the electronic signs (pictured below left) has accelerated. Scaffolding has been erected and bricks have been hauled in. The contractor still predicts that they will be completed in May.
April 9 - Registration for Summer and Fall Semesters gets underway
April 16 thru 20 - SGA elections
April 19 - New Student Orientation, 6:30 pm, MCC Auditorium
May 3 - GED Graduation at 7 pm in the MCC Auditorium
May 4 - Deadline to vote for MOXIE logo (online)
May 4 - MCC Commencement Ceremony, Riverside HS auditorium
May 5 - Millennials Entrepreneurship Summit (see above)
May 7 - Summer schedule begins for MCC employees (closed on Fridays)
May 16 - Summer Semester begins