

Winter 2009



Clarion

3600 N. Garfield

Midland, Texas 79705

MIDLAND COLLEGE

(432) 685-4526 www.midlandcollegefoundation.org

FOUNDATION

ATC lecture hall dedicated in honor of Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship

The lecture hall at the Advanced Technology Center was filled to capacity with family, well-wishers, and MC supporters on October 26 as the MC Board of Trustees and the MC Foundation dedicated the room in honor of Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship.

The ceremony recognized the couple's generous contribution to the Midland College Foundation, MC students and constituents, and the community at large.

In his dedication of the room, MC Foundation Vice President Dr. Glenn Rogers said, "This hall is made possible by the Blankinships in their desire to have Midland College be one of the premier community colleges in the nation dedicated this October 2009, with our deepest and most wonderful thanks!" MC Foundation Executive Director Dr. Eileen Piwetz unveiled a framed portrait and dedication statement as a gift to the donors, and a plaque and portrait in their honor will hang permanently at the entrance to the room. "This lecture hall will forever be named the 'Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship Lecture Hall' so students for generations to come will make great use of this room and know that the Blankinships made it possible!" said MC President Dr. Steve Thomas.

The Blankinships have a long history of giving to MC and have enjoyed watching the enormous progress at the College, especially because they live just across the street from MC's Garfield entrance! They gave a large donation in 2006 to the Al G. Langford

Chaparral Center Renovation Fund, and continued to give to the College every year since.

They have generously supported MC Foundation fundraising efforts and are

Distinguished Donors and Friends of the Series, supporting financially, and loyally attending the events for the Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series and the Phyllis & Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series.

This past year they also established the Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship Endowed Scholarship in memory of their son Gary Don Blankinship, who passed away in 1966. "We really appreciate the Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship Scholarship that you established to help students at Midland College. Scholarships

"Dedicated this October 2009, with our deepest and most wonderful thanks!"

—MC Foundation Vice President Dr. Glenn Rogers



Elizabeth and Herb Blankinship with MC President Dr. Steve Thomas



The Blankinship Family

like yours have helped a lot of my friends further their educational goals," said MC Student Government President Poonam Patel as she thanked the Blankinships during the dedication ceremony.

Join us for MC's Holiday Evening! Thursday, December 3



Featuring:

- Frito pie supper!
- Visits with Santa!
- Harp music!
- Tower lighting!
- Fall Art Show!
- Cookies, cider and hot chocolate!
- Chap Singers!
- MC Jazz Band!
- details on page 8

MC graduates at Allison Cancer Center assist with critical healthcare needs in West Texas

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It's another busy day at one of West Texas' premier medical facilities, and another indicator of the important role Midland College graduates play in local healthcare.

Allison Cancer Center—located in the medical complex surrounding Midland Memorial Hospital—has served residents of West Texas and southeast New Mexico, in the treatment of cancer, since 1981. In 1996, the hospital established a relationship with Texas Oncology to enhance the scope of that treatment.

The center has also had a long and successful relationship with Midland College. Generations of men and women who have studied at MC found their place in medicine at Allison Cancer Center.

Current Allison staffers include Raquel Diaz, RN, who graduated with one of MC's earliest nursing classes, and now works in the physicians' wing of the center. Marisol Ramos, RN, began working as a licensed vocational nurse, and is now working on her nurse practitioner certification. Paula Smith, RN, works in the center's chemotherapy infusion department.

"When administering chemotherapy we make sure that it's done correctly, that it's done safely," said Smith. "We take a holistic approach, treating the whole patient. We need to assess the side effects and the patient's emotional level. We have a more nurturing atmosphere here."

It is one of many services the center provides, and one of many areas where staff are applying a diverse array of skills they learned while students at MC. Sara Morales, who is working as a medical assistant, has been accepted to the Associate Degree Nursing program for next year. Carolyn Natividad, RN, and Glen Duggan, Radiation Technologist (RT), work in the center's radiation department.

"I was one of MC's first class of

Radiology Technologists," said Duggan. "We got started in 1985, and I graduated in '87. There were only six of us to start with. Quinn Carroll was the director, and also Dr. Ward Terry, of Radiology Associates, helped us. He was very instrumental."

MC also helped Smith decide on her career. "It was a class that I took with Dr. Tindall, 'Interpersonal Communications,'" she recalled. "And he helped open my eyes to what I really am, and what I can be. And that led me to seek out nursing."

Their education has continued to grow since they left Midland College, especially with the lessons they learn daily from their patients.

"One of the things about oncology patients, there's a lot of internal humor in them. You really get to know your patients in this field. You see people at the best and the worst moments in their lives," said Duggan. "I believe, the truly big moments in your life, you can count on one hand ... going through this treatment would have to be one of them."

"Every day I come to work, I am reminded that life is fragile, and not to take it so seriously," said Smith. "And the patients ... I have great respect for the patients. They are the bravest and the strongest people I have ever met, and I feel privileged that they have allowed me to be a part of their journey."



RN Paula Smith at Allison Cancer Center



Radiation Technologist Glen Duggan at Allison Cancer Center

Fundraising continues for Simulation center

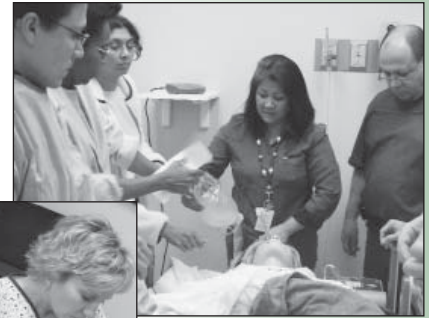
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Assistant Professor Paul Tullar, assisted by MC Associate Degree Nursing Instructor Cindy Madewell, was able to teach 14 OB/GYN and General Practice residents a module from his Advanced Life Support Obstetrics (ALSO) course at Midland College. Using the SIM mannequin, Noelle, and her SIM baby, Dr. Tullar was able to create a real-life scenario of post-partum hemorrhage and cardiovascular collapse, and the proper course of treatment in maternal resuscitation.

“With the SIM Center I can educate a large group of physicians in one room, and as learners they can get hands-on training without injury to the patient ... no one is in danger,” said Dr. Tullar. “As an educator I can bring more to my students than ever before in the SIM Center ... this place brings Noelle to life and it brings a group of doctors together as a team.”

During Dr. Tullar’s teaching module, Cindy Madewell was in the adjacent room, controlling Noelle from a computer monitor. Her expertise and skill with controlling the mannequin made the experience very realistic. “They’ve got to live it, to learn to do it,” she said. “The SIM Center allows this wonderful collaborative effort.”

While the current SIM resources at MC are proving valuable to healthcare for the entire Permian Basin, a \$6 million renovation to the Davidson Family Health Sciences Building is needed to create the planned for comprehensive healthcare simulation center, a project launched last year.

The facility will be a replica of a working hospital, equipped with an ER entrance, SIM mannequins, treatment rooms and healthcare equipment. The decision-making ability and skills of the healthcare providers will be greatly improved. The SIM Center will be used by MC healthcare students, Midland Memorial Hospital health professionals and TTUHSC medical students.



Area residents revive SIM mannequin Noelle while Cindy Madewell controls the mannequin from the next room

In Memory of ...

Alice Ann Collins Coombes passed away September 3, 2009. She was born January 4, 1926 in Farmer City, Illinois, to Frederick Adair Collins and Georgia Margaret Stickney Collins. After high school graduation, Alice worked as a model, and became a cover girl, appearing on the covers of *Family Circle* and *Women’s Digest*, among others.

She married George Coombes, Jr. in Las Vegas in 1945. They lived in California while George pursued a career with Union Oil Company, before moving to Midland in 1957.

Alice was an energetic homemaker and avid gardener. She was particularly proud to be featured in the PBS television series, “Proud Heritage Pioneers,” for her efforts on the home front during WWII, and to have her house and yard

Alice Coombes

featured by the Midland Parade of Homes and Keep Midland Beautiful.

Alice is survived by her husband of 64 years, George Coombes; a son, George W. “Bill” Coombes III and daughter-in-law, Elise of Midland; and daughter, Ann Adair Coombes Goodman of Bryan-College Station.

Her memorial service was held at the Dollye Neal Chapel on the Midland College campus, where a bench will be installed and a tree planted in her memory.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the **Dr. Gregory Bartha Health Sciences Scholarship** at Midland College.



Dr. Gregory Bartha Health Sciences Scholarship

In Memory of Alice Coombes

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence L. Fuller
Sue & Eddie Gorence
Maxine Hannifin
Dr. Pamela Howell
Patti & Watson LaForce
Donna & Bob Landreth
Anne Mewhorter
Eleanor & Ken Terrell
Kathy & Tom Wurster

Friends of the Series 2009

In Memory of Alice Coombes

Rebecca Bell
Leann & Hal Brenner
Shawna & Dan Buckley
Dr. Terry & Bruce Gilmour
Dr. Deana Savage & Glenn Brown

Court of Honor

In Memory of Alice Coombes

Katherine Allen
Sylvia & Darrell Brown
George W. Coombes
Mary Lopez
Cynthia & Art Morales
Dr. Eileen & Jim Piwetz
Ema Rivera
Vicki & Dr. Steve Thomas
Dale Westfall

In addition to the Dr. Gregory Bartha Health Sciences Scholarship, Midland College has over 30 scholarships available to students pursuing health science degrees! Below are just a few of many available to students in Associate Degree Nursing (A.D.N.),

Respiratory Care, Radiography, Vocational Nursing and general Health Sciences.

Abell-Hanger Foundation A.D.N./Vocational Nursing Scholarship
Maxine & Robert Hannifin Scholarship
Midland Medical Alliance Health Science Scholarship (Doctor’s Day)
Dara Perry Bush RN B.S.N. Nursing Scholarship

Linnie Hall Davidson RN Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Silva Dillard Nursing Scholarship
Celia Harris Nursing Scholarship
Ray Myers Radiological Technologist Scholarship



Steven Pinker

Author and One of the World's Leading Cognitive Scientists

Speaking on: "The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature"

7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 22, 2010

Al G. Langford Chaparral Center

Steven Pinker asks audacious questions about the human mind -- then boldly sets out to answer them. Recently named one of *TIME* magazine's "100 Most Influential People in The World," he is enormously popular in the media and highly respected in scientific circles. Known for his verve, wit and profound ideas—many explained by referencing pop culture—Pinker is a brilliant speaker who helps non-specialists understand the science behind human thought and action.

One of the world's leading cognitive scientists, his books in-

clude the best-sellers *The Blank Slate* and *How The Mind Works*, both finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. His acclaimed "language" series includes *The Language Instinct* and his most recent, *The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature*.

Pinker is the Johnstone Professor of Psychology at Harvard and has also taught at Stanford and, for 21 years, at MIT. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has won a number of teaching prizes, and was named among *Newsweek* magazine's "100 Americans for the Next Century."

This past fall ... mind-expanding lectures!



Reception sponsor Kevin Blonkvist and his mother Pat Blonkvist with Dr. E.O. Wilson, center

**Eminent scientist and naturalist
E.O. Wilson comes to Midland College!**

Edward O. Wilson brought his 60-plus years of research, study and experience to Midland College on September 17, and made an appeal to the audience of 1,200 people for the union of science and religion. In his estimation, the decline of earth's biodiversity, and ultimately the destruction of the planet, is at stake. Dr. Wilson believes that the 21st Century will be known as the "Century of the Environment" in which the human race "will evolve a better world order."

**Energy expert Michael Economides
speaks at Chap Center**

In his fascinating lecture on the global geopolitical energy situation, Dr. Michael Economides made Russia under Vladimir Putin—which is the subject of his latest book, *From Soviet to Putin and Back: The Dominance of Energy in Today's Russia*—the focus of his talk on October 8. He also discussed energy production and consumption in the United States, Venezuela, China, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Dr. Economides travels to approximately 70 countries every year and believes that energy will be China's choke point—mainly because their demand far outweighs their supply—and this will drive the price of oil up to \$100 per barrel before year's end. Economides also discussed the power of media in driving the price of oil, especially print and television headlines. "Nothing has driven more ideologically the price of oil than headlines," he said. "A headline can get the price of oil up to \$200 per barrel!"



From left, Hoxie Smith, Duncan Kennedy, Kirk Edwards, Michael Economides, Ernest Angelo, Arlen Edgar and Taylor Mayne

PHYLLIS & BOB COWAN

performing arts series

Returning in Spring 2010 for the Tenth anniversary of the Phyllis & Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series ...

Marvin Hamlisch

Pianist and Academy Award-Winning Composer

Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Al G. Langford Chaparral Center

Marvin Hamlisch made the inaugural performance in the Phyllis & Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series in September of 2000. Now, in honor of the ten-year anniversary of this outstanding series, Mr. Hamlisch returns in Spring of 2010!

As a composer, Hamlisch has won virtually every major award that exists: three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony and three Golden Globe awards. His groundbreaking show, *A Chorus Line*, received the Pulitzer Prize.

He is the composer of more than 40 motion picture scores including his Oscar-winning score and song for *The Way We Were* and his adaptation of Scott Joplin's music for *The Sting*, for which he received a third Oscar. His prolific output of scores for films include original composi-

tions and/or musical adaptations for *Sophie's Choice*, *Ordinary People*, *The Swimmer*, *Three Men and a Baby*, *Ice Castles*, *Take the Money and Run*, *Bananas* and *Save the Tiger*.

His latest effort is *The Informant*, starring Matt Damon, directed by Steven Soderbergh, released this past September, 2009.

Marvin Hamlisch holds the position of principal pops conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony and San Diego Symphony.



This past fall ... a folk music resurrection!

The Kingston Trio plays for packed house

The crowd at Midland College loved seeing these legends of folk music LIVE in West Texas!! They sang along, they clapped, they swayed, and, at times, they laughed out loud because the energy that the Trio brought to Chaparral Center was just too much fun!! A prominent judge knew every word to every song! His delight in their performance was palpable. Some younger attendees, more influenced by the British Invasion, still loved the Kingston Trio, especially classic hits like "Tom Dooley" and "Where Have all the Flowers Gone?" Overall, it was a night of great music and great joy, as over 3,000 people were united by this talented trio's resurrection of America's rich folk music heritage.



Reception sponsors Corky and Linda Bosworth, second from left and center, with Bill Zorn, George Grove and Rick Dougherty of the Kingston Trio

All events in the Lecture Series and the Performing Arts Series are FREE and open to the public. For more information, please call (432) 685-4526, or see us online at www.midlandcollegefoundation.org

Friends of the Series was established to supplement the Phyllis & Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series and the Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series. *Friends of the Series* still needs your support and a gift of \$1,000 for 2010 will include you in this membership, which comes with terrific fringe benefits. As a *Friend*, you will enjoy preferred parking and seating at events, a listing in the programs and an invitation to event receptions. At each reception, you will have an opportunity to meet the artists and lecturers who have come from around the world to grace our Midland stage!

Become a
Friend of the Series!

Renowned pianist William Westney performs at MC for Grand Piano Fundraising Event



Dr. William Westney, seated, with MC Music Instructor Dr. Nicholas Elderkin

The Grand Piano Fund, a new fundraising initiative led by Dr. Nicholas Elderkin in MC's music program, was recently established. In that effort, a piano recital with renowned pianist Dr. William Westney, was held at Wagner & Brown Auditorium on October 25. The Guest Artist Recital delighted concert-goers as Dr. Westney performed pieces from Haydn, Liszt and Gershwin.

Over the past year Midland College's music program has experienced much new and exciting growth: enrollment in piano studies has tripled; a new music library has been built; the digital piano lab has been used each semester to introduce first-time pianists to the joy of music making; a new music degree curriculum has been launched; the MC Jazz band has received rave reviews from concert-goers; and most MC music graduates are continuing their music studies at four-year institutions.



Dr. William Westney performing at the Grand Piano Fundraiser

Dr. Eldkerkin's vision is for MC to become the Permian Basin's premier School of Music. To accomplish this goal and to accommodate MC's burgeoning enrollment in music, the College is in need of new pianos—digital pianos, uprights, grands, as well as a concert stage piano—in order to continue to

inspire and touch the lives of music students for years to come. The fundraising goal is to raise \$250,000 for the purchase of these state-of-the-art performance pianos.

To give students the chance to perform on the finest pianos the world has to offer, all proceeds from the Guest Artist Recital went to support the Grand Piano Fund.

Donor Level Contribution

- Pianissimo \$5 - \$99
- Piano \$100 - \$249
- Mezzo Piano \$250 - \$499
- Mezzo Forte \$500 - \$999
- Forte \$1000 - \$2499
- Fortissimo \$2500 - \$5000
- Fortississimo \$10,000 plus

Donations can be made through Midland College's Foundation homepage:

<https://www.midland.edu/foundation/how/gift/>

If you would prefer, you can mail your donation to:

Midland College Foundation
Grand Piano Fund
c/o Dr. Eileen Piwetz
3600 N. Garfield, PAD 141A
Midland, TX 79707

The names of donors at the Forte level and above will be included on a special Grand Piano fundraising plaque that will be displayed in Midland College's Department of Music.

Grand Piano Fund

Fortissimo

Marthann Nobles

Forte

Vangie Lindsey

Mezzo Forte

Nancy Hull

Carole Warren

Mezzo Piano

Dr. Nick Elderkin

Piano

Julie Z. Edwards

Patricia & Gaylon Howard

Linda Runkles

Piannissimo

Lori & William Feeler

Dr. Terry & Bruce Gilmour

Sarah & David Grimes

Jesus Name United

Pentecostal Church

Karen & Bobby Lanier

Linda & Mike Love

Christine Newman

Susan & R. Peyton Thorn

Nancy Thorne

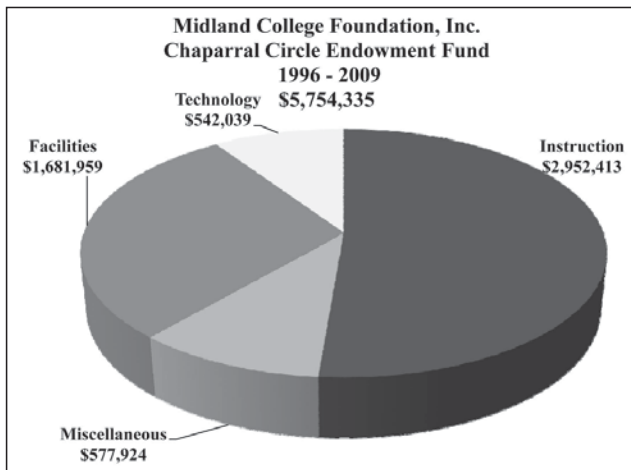
Mary Wallace

Dr. Charlotte Whitaker

Chaparral Circle Endowment Fund gives close to \$6 million since 1996 to serve MC programs!

On October 29 the Midland College Foundation awarded \$85,437 in grants from the Chaparral Circle Endowment Fund to MC's Administrative Services, Institutional Effectiveness, Instructional Services and Student Services. This totals close to \$6 million awarded to MC programs since 1996!

This year \$33,108 was also awarded to the Developmental Education Department for the new Professional Development Center, a project led by MC Assistant Coordinator of Developmental Studies James Fuller. The new center, which will be housed on the second floor of the Murray Fasken Learning Resource Center, will be a centralized site for MC faculty and staff to attend seminars and webinars and also



conduct guided self-study. The goal is for MC faculty to hone their teaching skills by acquiring the most current information relative to best practices in their respective disciplines.

“Getting this grant was a big boost because it allows us to realize an objective, create a resource that is needed, so that our colleagues will have additional opportunities to keep up with what is going on in higher education,” said Mr. Fuller.

The center—planned for completion late next Spring—will be available for group/committee gatherings, as well as individuals, and outfitted with the latest in technology, including 12 new computers and two LCD projectors.

In Memory of ...

Tommy Lee Tuck, 54, died in Midland on October 7. Born in Lubbock, Texas, on Jan. 18, 1955, to Henry Alfred Tuck, Jr. and Virginia Corcoran. Tuck arrived in Midland when he was 13. Following three years in the U. S. Army's First Armored Division, he attended Midland College, where he served one term as Student Senate President. He learned the oil business as a roughneck, then became a mud logger, establishing his own company, Double T Consultants, which

Tommy Lee Tuck



he operated until 2008.

Tuck loved the outdoors, particularly lakes, where he excelled as a water skier and delighted in his ability to teach the sport to others. He also enjoyed golf, snow skiing, and riding motorcycles. For several years, he coached Little League baseball teams. Survivors include his two daughters, Tasha and Tonya; one son, Todd, and his father, H. A. Tuck, all of Midland.

Court of Honor

In memory of Tommy Lee Tuck

- Rebecca Bell
- Terry Clemmer
- Rita Nell & David Diffie
- Bahola & Tim Edwards

- Dr. Pamela Howell
- Jan Johnston
- Vicki & Harris Kerr
- Mary Lopez
- Cynthia & Art Morales
- Dr. Eileen & Jim Piwetz

- Jan Reed
- Lisa & Mike Stevens
- Vicki & Dr. Steve Thomas
- H.A. Tuck
- Dale Westfall

Take the Next Step ...



log onto our Website at
www.midlandcollegefoundation.org
to discover how your support of our mission can change lives.
Click on “Ways of Giving” in the left-hand column for the many ways you can give to MC!
You will also have the convenience of making gifts electronically with a credit card!





The Students in Philanthropy
2009-2010 inductees

Students in Philanthropy host 8th Annual Commissioning Ceremony

In her keynote speech to the Students in Philanthropy (SIP) at their October 22 commissioning ceremony, Helen Greathouse Charitable Trustee Vicki Jay said to these dedicated, well-intentioned students, "You are on the precipice of your future ... please listen to the call of your heart." The purpose of the ceremony is for newly inducted SIP members to formalize their commitment to their sponsoring organizations, the Abell-Hanger Foundation and the Helen Greathouse Charitable Trust, and to each other. It was also an expression of their



appreciation to these foundations, a demonstration of how seriously they take their stewardship and the commitment to the "call of their heart."

The evening included a candle-lighting and recitation of the SIP Commissioning Ceremony Pledge. Over the course of the coming year the SIP members will conduct several fundraising events and in the spring they will award numerous grants to nonprofits in Midland from monies they raised which will be matched by the Abell-Hanger Foundation.

Lions Club continues tradition of giving to MC!



From left, MNLC Youth Chairman Mark Singh, MC President Dr. Steve Thomas, MNLC President Don Eckerty, MNLC President; and John Wojtkun, MNLC Scholarship Chairman


In a recent check-presentation ceremony, the Midland Northside Lions Club (MNLC) continued their long-time and generous support of academics at Midland College. The check for \$3,000 will go into the fund for the

Midland Northside Lions Club Scholarship, which provides tuition, fees and books for its recipients.

There's still time for the ...

IRA Charitable Rollover

For 2009, individuals who are age 70½ and older can transfer up to \$100,000 from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to the Midland College Foundation—without incurring federal income taxes today, or state and income taxes in the future. The IRA gift amount is treated the same as a cash distribution for purposes of satisfying required minimum distribution (RMD). Each spouse can transfer up to \$100,000. Consult your financial advisor for details.



Midland College's Holiday Evening

Thursday, December 3, 2009

5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
Frito Pie Chili Supper
Students in Philanthropy Fundraiser - \$4.00 a bowl
F. Marie Hall Academic Building - Amistad Atrium

Visits with Santa!!

Christmas at the Dollye Neal Chapel
Enjoy music by harpist, Megan Metheny, in a candle-lit setting filled with holiday cheer. Top it off with hot chocolate as you walk to the Hodge Carillon Tower Lighting.

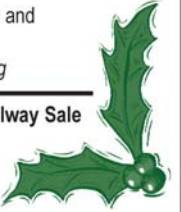
Also, plan on seeing the special holiday decorations at Hall's Way.

6:45 p.m.
Lighting of the Hodge Carillon Tower and Carolling by MC Chap Singers

7:00 p.m.
Opening Reception for the Fall Student Art Show
McCormick Gallery — Allison Fine Arts Building (AFA)

7:20 - 8:45 p.m.
"Sounds of Christmas"
Presented by the Midland College Jazz Band and
the Midland College Chap Singers
Wagner & Brown Auditorium in AFA Building

The 15th Annual Midland College Student Art Hallway Sale
Art Wing — AFA Building
7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4



Midland College community honors state legislators



From left, Honorable Kel Seliger, Poonam Patel, Honorable Tom Craddick, and Dr. Steve Thomas

It was an impressive gathering of leading community figures that filled the Amistad Atrium on September 22. But it was also a gathering of friends ... longtime friends of one another, and dedicated friends of education. The occasion for the gathering was Midland College's 81st Legislative Session Appreciation Reception honoring the area's representatives in the state legislature - the Honorable Tom Craddick of the Texas House of Representatives, and the Honorable Kel Seliger of the Texas Senate.

In making introductions, MC President Dr. Steve Thomas noted that it had been a good year for education in the Texas legislature, and recognized the part Craddick and Seliger had played in the year's developments. He also expressed his appreciation for how the legislators and their staff have always made themselves available to their constituents. MC Student Government President Poonam

Patel also thanked the legislators for their hard work, and reminded them of challenges that remain before them.

Both men were presented with plaques honoring their service to education, and to Midland College. Taking their turns at the podium in remarks following the presentations, both Craddick and Seliger offered their praise for the work their counterpart is doing in the other chamber of the legislature, for the accomplishments of institutions such as MC, and for the friendship and ongoing commitment shown by those at the reception.

Awards ceremony honors Midland Asset Builders



MC's Vice President of Institutional Advancement Dr. Eileen Piwetz, President of Midland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Rachel Stone and City Councilman Jerry Morales

The young woman who stepped up to the microphone faced a large and attentive gathering of people, most of whom had more than a little insight into her story.

"I am Sandra Torres," she told them, "and I am one of your success stories."

The Asset-Building Awards Luncheon was the perfect setting for a success story. The awards—presented by Midland College's Business & Economic Development Center (BEDC)—honor those performing asset-building activities in Midland. Asset-building can be defined as any initiative that encourages individuals to save, reduce expenses, or build productive assets. A productive asset, attendees at the luncheon were reminded, increases in value over time or generates income. "Making people stakeholders in their neighborhood, it gives them a sense of ownership, a sense of pride," said Midland entrepreneur Jose Cuevas.

John West, President of Community National Bank, noted, "as a bank, our success

is predicated on the economic well-being of the people." For example, people like Torres, who described a life of financial straits, living paycheck-to-paycheck, relying on 'payday loans.' That life changed dramatically through services that helped them achieve economic stability, finance their first home, and open a business.

"Thank you for the opportunity, for me and my family," Torres concluded. "I would rather cut-off my fingers than go back to the life we had!"

"You look at this year's nominees," said MC President Dr. Steve Thomas, "and I can't imagine as fine a group of people, individuals and organizations, that do so much for the community." The awards were presented by Dr. Eileen Piwetz, MC's Vice President of Institutional Advancement, and Midland City Councilman Jerry

Morales. The following were awarded in these categories: Non-Profit Award: the Midland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for their Incubator Program; For-Profit Award: Four Seasons Insulation of Big Spring for their work with West Texas Opportunity Center; Individual Award: Don Hellinghausen for his work with Habitat for Humanity and the Midland County Housing Authority; Partnership Award: ConocoPhillips and Habitat for Humanity for their joint homebuilding efforts.



Midland College Foundation Donors

August 26 - November 10, 2009

Advanced Technology Center
Abell-Hanger Foundation, Inc.
The Bosworth Company Ltd.

*Court of Honor/Honoraria/
Memorial*
Jennifer & Patrick Holeva

In Memory of Kay Chandler
Dr. Terry & Bruce Gilmour
Dr. Pamela Howell
Emma & Percy King
Mary Lopez

Chaparral Center Renovation
Peggy & Bob Cowan

In Memory of:
Kay Chandler
Tommy Lee Tuck
Julie & Eric Vickery

In Honor of:
Charles Brock Garrett
Elizabeth Mae "Emi" Inskeep
Giovanni Olivera-Madsen
Nannette & Dennis Sever

In Memory of Jose Costilla
Rebecca Bell
Dr. Eileen & Jim Piwetz
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*Chaparral Circle
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In Honor of:
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In Memory of Drusilla Couch
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Bond Construction Update

Scharbauer Student Center Expansion

and Remodel: Close-in of additions is nearly complete, and masonry is going up. Student Center interior painting is nearly complete, and ceiling tile is being installed. The millwork is also being installed. Student Services staff have been relocated to the Allison Fine Arts Building and the Testing Center has relocated to the Science Faculty Building.

Physical Education Building Expansion:

The decorative exterior wall block is nearly complete! The interior remodel is proceeding on schedule. This expansion will provide an additional gymnasium and a fitness center, including cardio equipment and free weights, and an exercise room with proper acoustics for classes.

Softball Facility: This project was re-bid on September 29. A new proposal has been

Thank you, Midland!

presented to the Board Trustees.

Fox II Science Building: The interior is nearing completion. Remodeling of the Chemistry Lab and Distance Learning classrooms is underway, and they should be ready for Spring 2010 semester classes. Faculty have moved into offices, and upstairs classrooms and biology labs are in use. Landscaping is complete. Two new chemistry labs have completed the drawing and design phase, and have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

F. Marie Hall Academic Building:

Construction is complete on this facility, and it is fully utilized. New safety handrails at the drainage crossings have been installed. Landscaping around the building has, literally, taken root! A coffee bar, recently named Cafe Pepe, in the second-floor lounge/patio is now open.