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Student-Life

New degree offered at MCC

Daniel Defoe
Staff Writer

MCC students interested in careers in criminal justice now have a chance to earn their bachelor's degree on the MCC campus.

According to a press release from the MCC Public Information Office, the University Center held an Information Fair on April 13 in order to inform students of a new bachelor's degree program in criminal justice offered by Tarleton State University.

"[The program] is a bachelor's of science degree in criminal justice. Tarleton has three options: a Bachelor's Degree in Corrections, a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement, or you can go another route and get a bachelor's degree called 'Generalist', for those who want to go to law school and become a lawyer," said Ralph Yates, program director and instructor for criminal justice at MCC.

"What they would do is they would come [to MCC], get an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice field of study. Once they finish that, they can transfer to Tarleton," Yates said. The University Center website said, in its description



Dr. Betsy Witt, a faculty and academic advisor of Tarleton, counsels student.
Digital Image by: Maria Villagomez

of the program: "Just a few of the career options for well-trained people in this field are police, sheriff departments, prison and correctional facilities, public safety, alcohol beverage control, parks and wildlife, crime bureaus, juvenile agencies, and investigative departments. On the federal level, criminal justice graduates must work in border patrol, customs, drug enforcement or immigration and

naturalization."

The Bachelor's Degree in Corrections and the Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement both require the completion of 47 semester credit hours from the MCC Core Curriculum, as well as nine semester credit hours of electives. It is also noted that criminal justice students must have an eighteen hours (six hours must be advanced) minor field of study.

The Bachelor's in Law Enforcement also requires the student complete the following courses in the MCC Criminal Justice Program, which total to 21 semester credit hours: CRJ 1301, 1307, 1306, 2328, 2314, 2323, 1310.

The Bachelor's in Corrections also requires the student complete 21 semester hours of courses in the MCC Criminal Justice Program. The required courses include: CRJ 1301, 1307, 1306, 2301, 2313, 2325, 1310.

The TSU Coursework required for both courses includes three credit hours of Sociology, SOC 3033-Race and Ethnic Relations, six credit hours of advanced criminal justice electives, twelve credit hours of advanced electives, and twelve credit hours for Minor courses (six hours must be advanced).

The TSU Criminal Justice courses required for the Bachelor's in Corrections degree include: CJ 3053, 3063, 3103, 3303, 4243, and 4283.

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Rovin' 'Round NASA

Kimberly Yezak
Staff Writer

Eight MCC students traveled to Johnson Space Center in Houston on March 31 to get a taste of what NASA has to offer.

The group participated in the Community College Aerospace Scholars (CAS) program that provided them with information about NASA's job opportunities and the benefits of space exploration.

The two and a half days spent in Houston were more about lectures by astronauts and tours.

Students from different colleges separated into fictional competing contracting companies that designed and built a Mars rover model from a robotics kit.

The groups had to stay within a strict budget of \$125 million, but had to be certain that the rover had specified components.

Each company then had to confidently pitch their vehicle for NASA's Mars mission and show it's abilities in a simulated Martian surface obstacle course by collecting and correctly identifying rock samples.

Two NASA engineers judged the competition and rewarded the contract to MCC sophomore Ian Brady's team, which came in \$56 million under budget.

"Winning was fun, but we came out learning mostly about teamwork. It was such a great experience," Brady said.

State-funded CAS exposes Texas college students to NASA and helps them become interested in working for the space program.

"I used to think the only way that I could get a job at NASA was to be a janitor, but this experience opened my eyes and showed me different," MCC sophomore Chris Bell said.

After MCC, Bell hopes to transfer to a four-year and major in Aerospace Engineering.

Mathematics and science interested community college students are invited to partake in this experience every spring.

"I found CAS very beneficial and advise any student of any major to participate," Brady said.

For more information about CAS contact Dr. Deborah Hewitt at dhewitt@mcclennan.edu.

Student Life

Friday, April 29, 2005

McLennan Community College

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Digital Image by: Blake Abbe

Attendees of the Highland games could drop by the Candle Creation station and indulge their creative spirit.

The Highland Games

Brent Losak
Feature Editor

Gladiator Joust, Frisbee Golf, Putting and Volleyball were among the activities at the annual Highland Games, which took place on Friday, April 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Student Activities Specialist Alesha Vardeman said this was an opportunity for students to relieve stress.

The weather had been a concern leading up to the event, but did not interfere with the activities. Vardeman said, "Despite the dreary forecast, it turned out to be a beautiful day."

In addition to the more physical events, students could also visit different stations to receive an airbrush tattoo or to make their own candle.

The groups involved in putting on the Highland Games were the Student Government Association (SGA), the International Students Association, the Black Student Association (BSA), Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM).

Vardeman said that "all of the fundraising food booths raised money for their organizations, ranging from \$50 to almost \$200."

The International Students Association sold luncheon dinners, and entered each person who bought a plate into a drawing for gift certificates from the local restaurants Kitok's, Golden Corral and Summer Palace.

The Student Government Association's Public Relations Officer, Ariana Hernandez said that there was "great attendance" at the Games, where students had the "opportunity to see friends, eat good food from various clubs, and just have fun. I believe this year's Highland Games were a success."

Juggler and performance artist Michael Rayner provided entertainment, doing tricks like spinning cheeseburgers on an umbrella, juggling tennis rackets and balancing a wheelbarrow on his face.

Rayner has appeared on commercials for Ace Hardware, IBM and Novus.

After Rayner's performance there was a banana-split eating contest. Kyle Kimbro, the winner of the contest, explained his strategy, "I just inhaled."

He received ten dollars in gift certificates to the Hollywood Jewel Movie Theater.

Students Recognized

Brittney Mortensen and Michael Neglia
Supervising Editor and Sports Editor

The Annual Awards Assembly met on April 27 to recognize outstanding student achievements around campus.

Those recognized for the Who's Who among students in American Junior Colleges were Laurie D. Bowden, Candace Colette Currie, Tuan Mary Perez Gallery, Jannetta D. Lingle, Mallory Lei McQuary, Misty Ellen Mikes, Ping-Way Bian, Micah Matthew Rejeck, Courtney Nicole Restivo, Maria Del Carmen Samaniego and Terry Ann Seranton.

Nineteen presidential scholars were awarded at the assembly.

Among those were Russell Coker, Duke Denk, Jennifer Faulk, Melissa Garn, Edna Gibson, Stacy Harrison, Jennifer Johnson, Stacy Lawrence, Jamie Madera, Monica Martinez, Kathryn Messer, Candy Moreland, Philip Morgan, Jesus Olvera, Rachel Otto, Holli Schon, Naomi Tatum, Reshonda Thompson and James Wetterman.

The sixteen Tartan Scholars awarded were David Ach, Susanne Anderson, Terri Bukowski, Jonathan Canava, Todd Ehlers, Kristi Follis, Nancy Gonzales, Austin Griffin, Travis McWhorter, Sara Messer, Poline Muthaiga, Vianey Pena, Carol Pratt, Rochelle Ripley, Maria Villagomez and Brandy Williams.

Those recognized for outstanding scholarship in workforce education programs were James Bell for accounting, Maria Rodriguez for administrative asst.-AAS, Denise Hammer for business management, Kathy O'Brien for child development, Vicki Caplinger for computer information systems database specialist, Thomas Preston Williams for microcomputer applications, Chris Williams for multi-media management, Eric Vlam for network administration, Heather Forbis for programming, Julie Blanton for web technologies, Rachel Cole for cosmetology, Teresa Martin for desktop publishing tech, Lori Henderson for electroneurodiagnostics and polysomnography, Arie G. Henkelman for fire protection technology, David Paul Elkins for general business, Tess A. Kane for interpreter training, Sarah E. Becker for medical lab technician, Melissa A. Love for mental health, Jannetta Lingle for nursing-associate degree, Wendy Breeland and Kiley Kendrick for nursing vocational, Melanie Brown for office tech careers microcomputer application, Lisa Hutcherson for paralegal, Scott Burkouskie for physical therapy assistant, Reshonda Thompson for radiologic technology, Donald Sims for respiratory care tech and Kimberley Kocian for secretarial technology.

The six outstanding students recognized in athletics were Jejuan Plair in men's basketball, Valerie Suarez in women's basketball, Sarah Drolet in MCC dance company, Lance Avants in men's golf, Bekah Gregory in women's golf, Tim Jackson in men's baseball and Ashley McElroy in women's softball.

Fifteen awards for outstanding student leaders were given to Kristi Follis for Baptist student ministries, Ira Rauls for black student association, Brittney Mortensen for highland herald staff, Billy J. Knox for hotlan/dpma, Ping-Way Bian for international students club, Jennifer Fritz for m.e.n.e., Stephanie Hinton for m.t.n.a., Tuan Mary Gallery for mu alpha theta, phi theta kappa and sigma kappa delta, Marsha Diane Link for non-traditional students association, Katherine Simmon for student paralegal association and student government association, Lauren Davis for outstanding officer and Ariana Hernandez for distinguished service.

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Massage Therapists in the making

Micah Patzke
News Editor

In as little as 6 months, students at MCC's Massage Therapy School can receive the training needed to become Registered Massage Therapists (RMT's) and begin their careers in this growing field.

"The advantage of massage therapy is that with a short investment of time, which is 300 hours, you get your license. [Then] you can supplement your income, work your way through school ... start your own business ... its got a tremendous amount of flexibility," said Instructor Sandra Turpin.

Turpin, who joined MCC's faculty this year, said she enjoys teaching Massage Therapy.

"It balances me out. I work at Scott & White with chronic pain patients, it balances out the physical demands of the job but it also balances me out, because you get to a certain point where you've accumulated enough knowledge that you want to give it back," said Turpin.

Also new to the teaching staff this year is Asst. Instructor Margaret Kramer, who is currently working on her certification as a Massage Therapy Instructor.

"I'm a graduate of the MCC Massage Program, I know what a good program it is, I graduated from the first class that MCC had for Massage Therapy," said Kramer.

Upon graduating, Kramer wasted no time starting her own practice.

"I immediately started my own practice," said Kramer, "I love doing it, it's my passion, I never knew what a passion was until I started doing this."

The class meets every Tuesday and Thursday evening and every other Saturday during the day.

The schedule gives many students the opportunity to work full-time during the course.

"I work full-time," said Jonathan Olvera, "It's pretty good, except for the whole studying bit."

Olvera's keeping his options open after graduation.

"I might do the cruise ship, might start my own business, who knows? I'll just go where the wind takes me," said Olvera.

Olvera said the idea of helping people feel better attracted him to Massage Therapy.

Over the course of 6 months students of the Massage Therapy School learn Anatomy and Physiology, Health and Hygiene, Hydrotherapy, Business, Technique and then begin a 50 hour internship.

The class begins with the study of the anatomy and physiology of the human body.

"We've learned so much. We learned the muscles of the body, the bones, the systems, we learned a lot," said Olvera.

Later in the course students are instructed on the business end of Massage Therapy.

"They're required to do a business plan, all students are, because it make them think about the reality of being out there," said Turpin, "If they start their own business they have to look at the overhead, the start up costs and all that, we go through that in the business portion of the class."

Besides giving graduates of the school hands on experience, the on-campus internship gives students and faculty at MCC the opportunity to receive discounted massages.

"At the end of the program people here at McLennan Community College come in and get hour-long massages," said Turpin, "It's 25 dollars per hour, which is pretty reasonable."

Some students plan to use Massage Therapy hand in hand with other healthcare professions.

"I've always wanted to do massage therapy, ever since high school, it's one of the things I wanted to do besides physical therapy," said Kyeshia Smith, "I wanted to have those devices so I could put them together and work with both of them."

Dolana Hutchison, another of the school's students, said she plans to work with



Massage Therapy Instructor Sandra Turpin reviews anatomy with the help of student Kyeshia Smith as student Jonathan Olvera observes.

phone (254) 299-8888 or e-mail jsims@mcclennan.edu.

SGA elected state treasurer

Brent Losak
Feature Editor

The MCC Student Government Association was elected as State Treasurer School on Sunday, April 17 at the annual Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSCGA) convention in Austin.

All TJCSCGA member schools who were present at the convention participated in the vote.

The convention was held at the Capitol Building in Austin. "On Sunday morning we were given the opportunity to have our closing meeting on the House of Representative's Floor. That was, for me, the most memorable part—and of course when they announced we had won," said SGA President Stacey Jones, who will represent MCC in the State Treasurer position.

"The SGA campaigned to garner support by giving away pens, stickers that said "In MCC You Can Trust" and dollar-bill-themed sponges that expand when dipped in water.

Jones said, "We spent many weeks before state preparing our campaign materials, speech and developing flyers to send out before state."

They were running against Western Texas College (WTC), who has occupied the State Vice President position since last year. When asked if WTC had stopped up to block MCC, SGA Advisor Ashley Cruikshank said, "I don't think they ran merely to "block" MCC. I think they genuinely wanted to be Treasurer. You are right that they decided to seek office fairly late in the process. Or at least they ran a less public campaign prior to the meeting."

As Treasurer School, MCC will be responsible for maintaining budgets, collecting dues and keeping in dialogue with other Texas community colleges.

When asked if the loss of three officers within the past year would affect their ability to fulfill the responsibilities of a state office, SCIA Historian Marissa Markey replied, "I don't think it will affect our ability at all. We have strong officers who are willing and able to get out there and get the job done."

SGA meets every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Student Service Center.

the elderly.

"I wanted to do something different, I've been working in a nursing home for eleven years now and I'm ready for a change," said Hutchison, "nursing homes don't have Massage Therapists, the therapy that they do have is more occupational, it's not like hands-on Massage Therapy. So I thought maybe I could do that."

Kramer said she wants all their students to reach their full potential.

"I think Sandy and I both agree that we want the next generation of Massage Therapists ... to be the best they can be, and we want to contribute to their becoming the best they can be," said Kramer.

MCC's Spring 2005 Massage Therapy School began Feb. 22 and ends Aug. 18.

The cost of the course is \$1,850, which can be paid in phases.

Students considering enrolling in an upcoming class must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, have no criminal record and be in good general health.

For more information on MCC's Massage Therapy School, please contact Joyce Sims by



2004-2005 : A glance at the past

Maria Villagomez
Photo Editor

Theatre:

The drama department put together six major plays for MCC and the community to enjoy.

In the fall, it performed "The Old Lady And The Thief", gave Bram Stoker's "Dracula" an English dialect and adapted the 18th century play "The Servant Of Two Masters" to "LaStrada." The spring semester started of with the play "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown", followed by "Mikado" and finalized with "A Man For All Seasons."

Campus:

For the academic year, six professors received the NISOD teaching award.

Director of Commercial Music Robert Page, Office Technologies Specialist Beverly Walker and Speech Communication Instructor Linda Dulin received the honor in the fall. While, government professor Mike Mike Campenni, accounting instructor Janis Colehour and science teacher Theresa Sparks accepted it in the spring. Library users complained about loud noises coming from the bottom floor/cafeteria area forcing alterations to be made in the LTC policy. These changes included banning the use of profanity, screaming excessively and playing video or card games.

MCC's enrollment increased by approximately 12 percent in the past year. A \$73.4 million bond proposed campus renovations, but the majority of the voters, representing only 4 percent of registered voters, turned it down. The proposal would have funded a new science building, an improved library, additional parking spaces and classrooms for the University Center.

However, MCC's campus did see renovations to existing facilities. Workers repaired the Liberal Arts Building's roof and remodeled the LTC's second floor staircase.

Special Events:

The Highland Herald staff hosted its annual non-UHJ high school journalism competition or J-3 Summit. First place winners were Allison Krause in the Brites category, Ardala Wigman in sports, Laura Brumley in editorial and Sara Schumacher in photography, all of them were from

Midway High School.

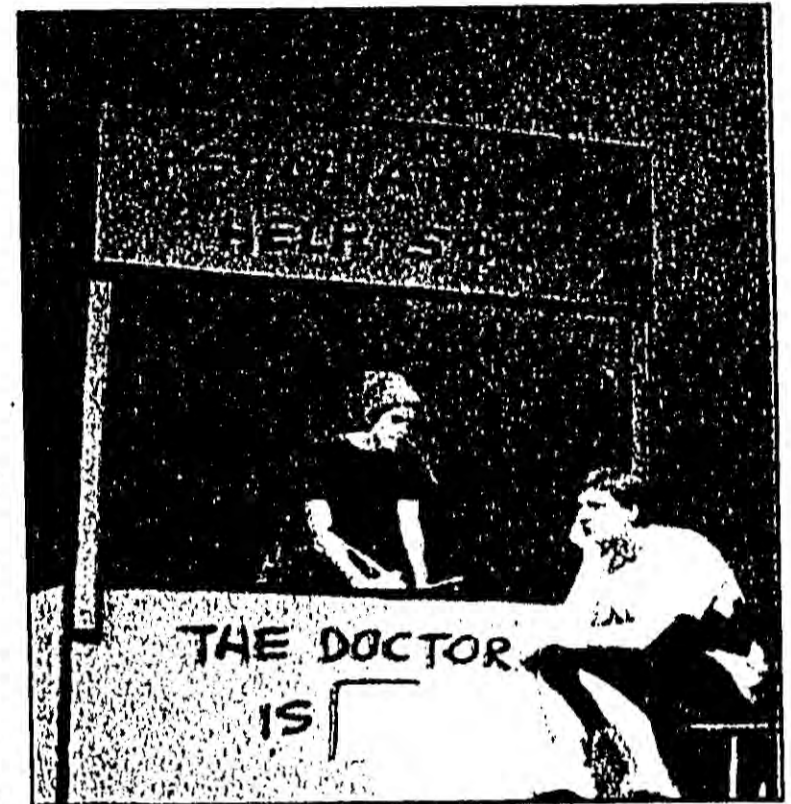
Fairfield High School had two winners Weston Kingsley in the feature category and Jessica Penner in the news writing category.

At the end of February, the BSA staged the annual Black History Celebration, "Looking Back into the Past and Now into the Future" to educate students about African American heritage and African Americans who have impacted history.

Cultural entertainment for the program included such as step dancing, historical skits, song and modeling provided by various local and high school organizations.

Nationally recognized spoken word and hip-hop artist, Komplex, headlined the celebration and performed much of the poetry. The program was held in honor of the late mayor of Waco, Mae Jackson and as a tribute to Johnnie Talton, a counseling specialist in Student Support Service, for her devotion to MCC the last 23 years and her dedication with Black student activities.

In March, the Tartan Scholarship Committee brought Hugh Thompson, the Forgotten Hero of MyLai, to speak. Thompson was one of the three American Soldier's that reported the massacre in Vietnam and receive the Soldier's Medal in honor of their bravery thirty years later.



Digital Image by: Ian O'Mallan

The theatre department opened the spring semester with "You're Good Man Charlie Brown"



Digital Image by: Maria Villagomez

The bond issue would have funded additional parking spaces to avoid overcrowding in the campus parking lots.

Upcoming '05 Commencement

Jon Michael Swetnam
Staff writer

As the spring semester winds down, McLennan Community College is preparing to host its commencement ceremony for graduating students.

Commencement will take place at 8 p.m. on May 10 at the Highlands Gymnasium. Currently, an estimated 460 students qualify for graduation in Spring 2005, said Herman Tucker, Director of Student Enrollment Services.

This number is down slightly from last Spring's 470 graduates. Roughly 200 candidates have indicated they will participate, Tucker said.

The Highlands gym will accommodate about 2,000 people with additional floor seating available for guests.

Guest parking will be available in lots A, B, D, and E. Additional spaces will be available in lot C and the parking lot on Powell Drive, Tucker said.

"We will designate more parking spaces near the Highlands gym for the elderly and those who need handicap accessibility," Tucker said.

Dr. Herbert Reynolds, President Emeritus of Baylor University, will speak at the event.

The order of services is still being finalized, but there will be a reception for the graduates and their guests at the McLennan House Gardens after the commencement exercises, Tucker said.



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Student Life

Are you at a disadvantage and need tutoring?

Blake Abbe
Chief Editor

The Student Support Services' program praised its best students and teachers April 20 at its 3rd annual awards banquet.

Achieving a high level of academic excellence is a prestigious moment in a scholastic career, and for a student that is less fortunate to do so is a triumph of character. This program has been helping underprivileged and resource deprived students for 25 years at MCC.

"The Department of Education gives out the grant money to students who are either first generation, have no income or have a disability of some sort," said Katie Garrett, Project Director of Student Support Services. "Some of the services we provide for our students are tutoring, academic advising, personal counseling and if anything is getting in the way of the student's success we try to intervene. Our whole purpose for being on this campus is to make sure the student will succeed."

SSS received its grant for the next four years, but after that time period the program's existence is up in the air.

"We have to submit a grant proposals, and we are in competition with thousands across the United States...the competition is fierce," Garrett said. "Actually, 75 SSS programs were not refunded this year, so we were one of the lucky ones."

The loss of a program like this would not hurt MCC as a school, but would affect the community of students.

"It's not so important what it can do for MCC, but for it's important for what it can do for the students that it serves," MCC President Dennis Michaelis said. "It is important for helping students move forward in their education."



Digital Image By: Blake Abbe

Kenny Frazier rocks out during the grand finale of the electric guitar ensemble on April 26 at the Fine Arts building.

Frazier bids MCC adieu

Daniel Defoe
Staff Writer

Kenneth W. Frazier, a commercial music instructor at MCC, will be retiring this year after twenty-four years of teaching. Frazier arrived at MCC in the fall of 1981 with the opportunity of shaping MCC's commercial music department.

"When the program began there were no textbooks... One of the most fun things was to develop a program that was customized to students needs," Frazier said.

The students have also been a favorite part of Frazier's job.

"I think I enjoyed teaching students who really wanted to make a career with their instrument," Frazier said.

"One of the worst parts is when people who have potential close the door before they get to the point where they can start learning."

In addition to teaching, Frazier also has music business experience in performance, retail, wholesale, recording and private teaching.

After retirement, he plans to expand his private studio which he developed in past years.

"I will still be performing and plan to do as much performing as I can. I will be practicing and experimenting in different techniques and different aspects of music," he said.

Even though he is retiring, Frazier may not completely leave education behind.

"There is a possibility I may even come back and teach a course or two as an adjunct faculty member," Frazier said.

Student Support Services Award Winners

Cumulative GPA Award

- John Overman
- Almee Sowell
- Michelle McDade
- Valerie Haynes
- Ann Strunck
- Laura Buro
- Dee Walter
- Amanda Tucker
- Rae-Lynn Raup
- Nina Stephens
- Reyes Lopez
- Jeffrey Nolan
- Francine Francis
- LaShawn Dawson
- Neddie Moore
- David Dauber

Graduation And Transferring Students

- Doris Anderson
- Nina Stephens
- Gilbert Ramos
- Ebonique Manning
- Amanda Tucker
- Joyce Tucker
- Janie Martinez
- Almee Sowell
- Francine Francis
- Reyes Lopez
- Jeff Nolan
- John Overman
- Ira Rauls
- Damon Semmler
- Marissa Markey
- Dara Ramos
- Shella Courtney
- Kim Koclan
- Linna Henderson

Other Awards

Above and Beyond Teaching Excellence

- Orlando Bama, Government Instructor
- Donnis Pearce, Spanish Instructor

Outstanding MCC Staff Members

- Valerie Parsons, Secretary, Financial Aid Office
- Diane Russo, Counseling Specialist, Career Development Services

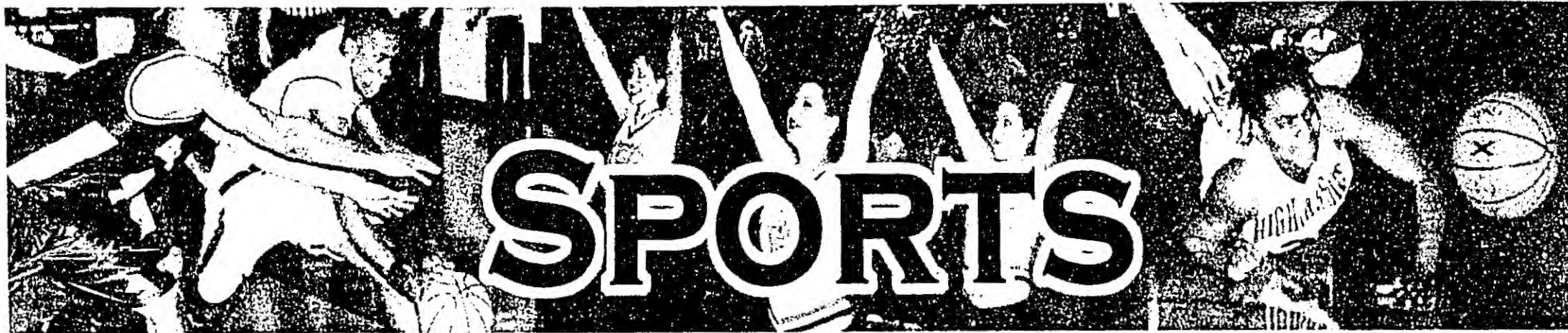
Outstanding Student Support Services Tutors

- Michelle Breshoars
- Katherino Ethridge

Outstanding Student Support Services Students

- Neddie Moore
- Nina Stephens

All the above award recipients, except the "Outstanding SSS Students" awards, were chosen based on the quality and quantity of nominations received from the SSS students.



'Landers clinch playoff berth

Michael Neglia
Sports Editor

The Highlanders have clinched a Region V tournament bid for the first time since 2001 by winning close games and clutch hitting.

The 'Landers are 9-1 in games decided by one run.

After taking a two-game set in Cisco, the 'Landers (32-17) (19-9) came home three days later to play Cisco once again.

The results were similar as the Highlanders won a one-run decision, by the score of 2-1 and destroyed the Wranglers in the second game 14-4.

Fresh off the four game sweep of Cisco, the 'Landers traveled to Temple for a second-place showdown, knowing that if they won both games they would have sole possession

second game. I guess you could say we were a little punch-drunk because we got hit in the mouth and we weren't expecting it."

Leading the playoff race by only two games, the 'Landers opened a four-game-set with North Central Texas College (NCTC).

The first game in Denton was close, with the Highlanders coming away with a 4-2 victory, and the 'Landers cruised to a 5-0 victory in the second game.

Playing in Waco three days later, the Highlanders won the first game after Lance Nobile hit a walkoff 2 RBI Triple to win the game 2-1, and the 'Landers won another see-saw battle with NCTC 6-5 in the second game, to complete the four-game sweep.

The same day, the Temple Leopards lost two games to the Hill Rebels, resulting in the Highlanders finishing the day once again in second place.

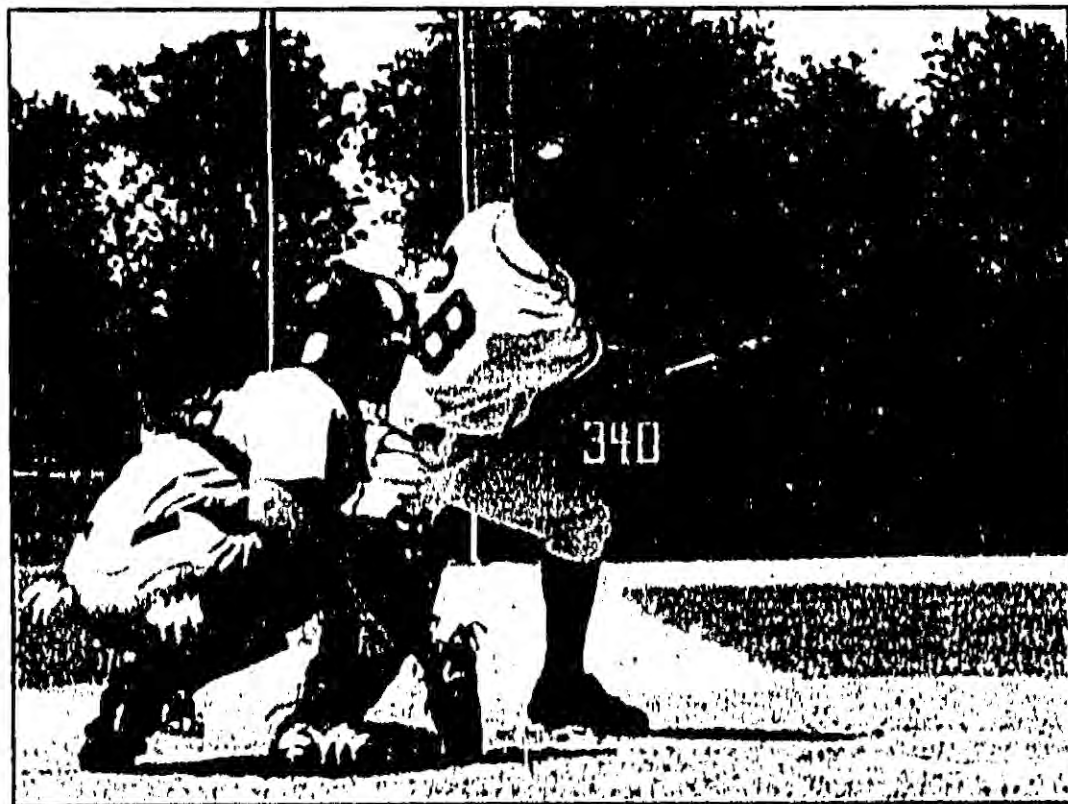
With the victories over NCTC coupled with Ranger's 14-2 loss to Weatherford, the Highlanders clinched a Region V tournament bid.

The 'Landers played a two game set with Northeast Texas in Mt. Pleasant on April 25, winning the first game 10-4 and the second game 4-2.

With the win, the Highlanders are now on a six game winning streak.

When asked about the possibility of a deep playoff run, Mejia said "Right now we're playing really well, but we've got to be mindful to the fact that can change in a hurry, and we've got to continue to do the things that we've been doing to get to this point and not get lazy and careless with it."

The Highlanders will play Blinn junior college, whom they split two games with earlier in the year on April 29 in Waco, and their final home game of the season will be May 4 against Weatherford.



Digital Image by: Eric Geoffrion

Lance Nobile hits a walkoff triple to defeat North Central 2-1 on April 23.

of second place.

The Highlanders won the first game 3-1, but trouble came in the second contest.

Temple hammered away at the Highlanders throughout the game and owned a 10-4 lead after six innings.

However, in the final three innings, the 'Landers fought back and scored seven runs to take an 11-10 lead, and their pitching held off the Leopards to preserve the victory and steal second place.

Highlander coach Pete Mejia said the team was "pretty excited; excited because we swept a really good team on the road number one; excited because we swept a rival, because of the proximity number 2; excited because of how we played coming down going into the seventh inning we were down 10-4 we won that second game 11-10. So it was a pretty big high."

Now leading second place by one game, the Highlanders had another showdown with Temple, this time in Waco.

The 'Landers cruised along the first game and had a 3-1 lead coming into the seventh inning.

However, this time, the pitching failed the Highlanders, as the Leopards pounced on them, scoring seven runs en route to a 8-5 victory.

The Highlanders appeared shocked in the beginning of the second game, surrendering four runs in the first inning.

Afterwards, the pitching settled for both teams throughout the game and Temple won 5-2, sweeping the Highlanders in Waco, taking back second place in the process.

"We lost some momentum in the last inning, we blew the save, I think it was our first save all year that we blew," Mejia said. "We were a little down from that going into the

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'Lassies ready for playoffs?

Blake Abbe
Chief Editor

For the last two weeks, the Highlassies have been inconsistent in their pitching, defense and hitting, and with the National Junior College Athletic Association Region V tournament this afternoon, the consistency of the team could be an issue.

"The pitching is not as much of a concern as the defense," head softball coach Manuel Ordones said. "The defense has kind of faltered a little bit the last week and a half, and we are known for stressing pitching and defense. It's kind of disappointing, but at the same time it is not because of a lack of effort."

The 'Lassies' hitting has also been frigid at times during the season-ending stretch. The team was shutout two out of the last five games, but like a timed bomb they would then explode the very next game for 10 runs. One thing is for sure, and that is the 'Lassies have to hit the ball every game if they want to make it to nationals.

"We're definitely going to have to step it (hitting) up, because we are going to play a lot of good teams

with good defenses," said Kelli Shaw, sophomore co-captain short stop.

One of the good defensive teams the Highlassies might have to play is Temple. The two teams have split the four games they played during the regular season with the 'Lassies outscoring the Lady Leopards 19-14. That number does not matter now however, as coach Ordones acknowledges that Lady Leopards' pitching ace Lauren Eckermann can get batters off their game.

"Good pitching stops good hitting," he said. "I can assure you that Temple has a real good girl in Eckermann. She's a quality pitcher and you are not going to score many runs off of her."

The 'Lassies' had to win one of two against Temple to finish second in the conference and receive the first round bye in the tournament. Conference foe North Central finished one game behind the 'Lassies.

"It was big for us because it was going to determine whether we were going to be sitting in second or third, and it got us a bye in the conference tournament," said Ashley

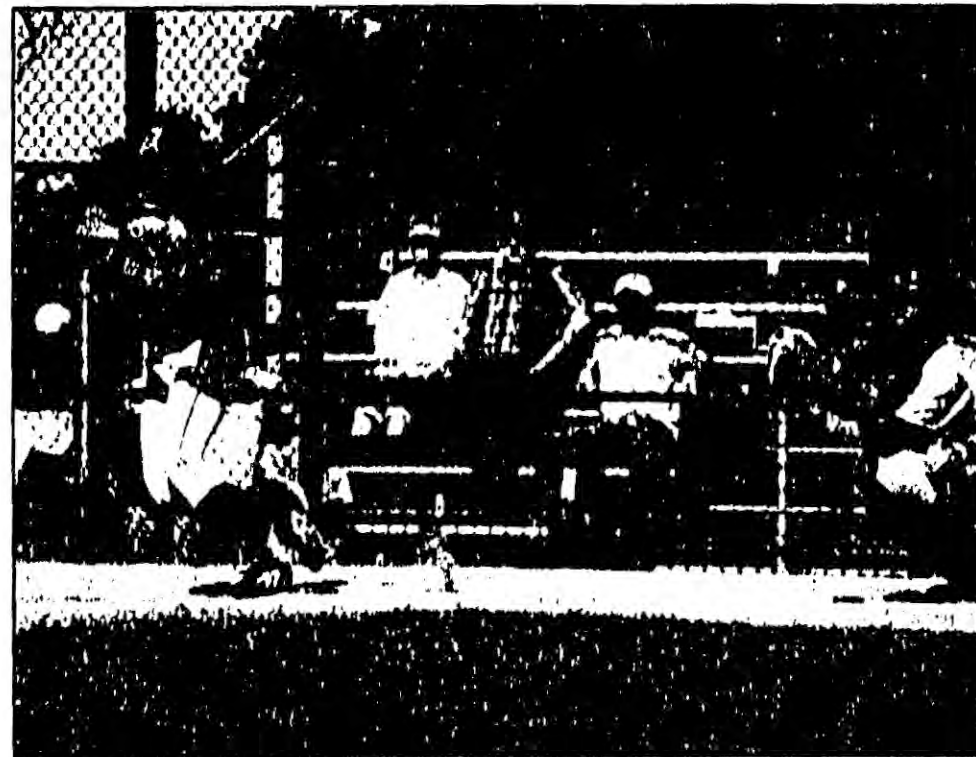
McElroy, sophomore co-captain catcher. "It was a good win plus we just like beating Temple."

Besides clinching the bye, winning the last game had an effect on the team's mentality.

"Mentally it really helped us," Ordones said. "Winning the last game of the season should give us momentum going into the tournament."

The history of the softball team in the tournament has been established since the team's first season in 1999. Since then they have made it in the tourney every year. The one thing the 'Lassies have failed to accomplish in their recent playoff history is a birth to nationals. Last year, they fell one win short of that achievement, but this year might be the year that the team will break through.

"We've got a good chance," McElroy said. "We've beat every team and we haven't been swept, so we have all of the confidence. We just have to be mentally tough



Digital Image by: Eric Geoffrion

Right-fielder/first-basemen Christina Allen takes a cut at the ball.

and not be nervous, because we're not going to face anyone that we haven't seen."

One aspect of the 'Lassies team that all of the conference opponents have seen is every pitcher. This is because the rotation consists of only three starter: Emily Herl, Anna Herl and Rayla Robinson. The depth of the staff could be a problem for a possible deep playoff run.

"It could be a concern in the long-stretch like at nationals, but right now as long as we are doing what we need to do and hit our locations then we should be fine," sophomore pitcher Rayla Robinson said.

The Highlassies will play the winner out of North Central and Grayson at 5p.m. The rest of the tournament schedule will be in the hands of the 'Lassies. The tournament is double elimination and if the team can win out, they will only have to play one game each day of the three day tourney. One loss could mean a harder prolonged road, as the 'Lassies would have to play two games on Saturday instead of one. Either way, the 'Lassies are looking forward to the possibility of making the national tournament and maybe a storybook ending against Temple in the Regional Championship.

"Oh yea, revenge is sweet," Robinson said. "It would be nice to beat them to get to nationals."

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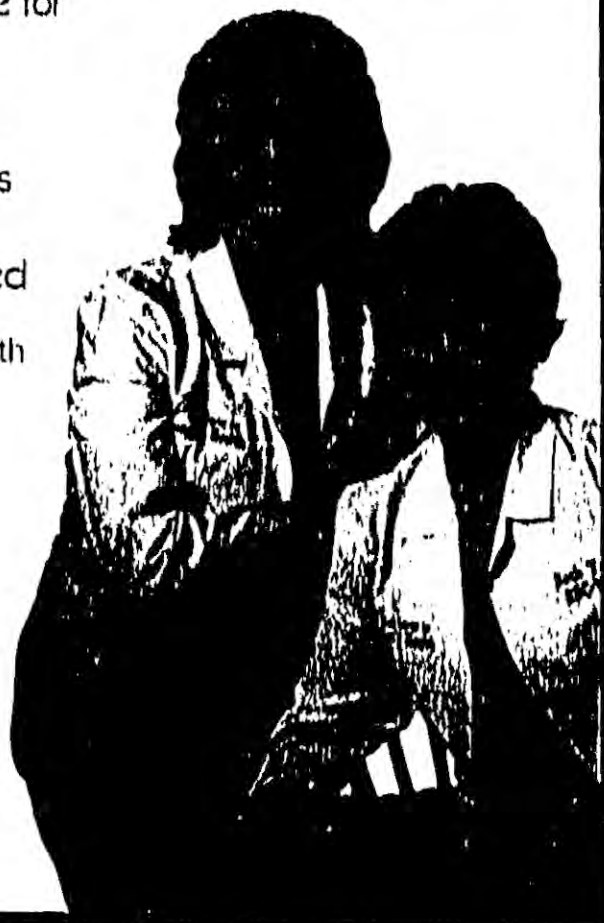
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Sophomore athletes moving on

Michael Neglia
Sports Editor

After two years at a junior college, it is time for an athlete to move on and continue their career elsewhere.

For 29 athletes at MCC, that time has come now. For two years, these players have been instrumental to their team's success, and have lived through happy and hard times in the process.

Six sophomores will be leaving the Highlander's basketball program. Only three players, Chris Ross, Jejuan Plair and Albert Vazquez, have signed with different teams.

Chris Ross will be attending Marshall University, Jejuan Plair signed with Sam Houston State, and Albert Vazquez will be going to Texas A&M International in Laredo.

Out of the other three players, Rod Jacobs is in rehab from minor arthroscopic surgery, Wesley Pendley will not be playing basketball anywhere next season and Kenny Wilson is considering between Western Michigan, Kent State, Boise State and Stephen F. Austin.

There are also six sophomores that are leaving the women's basketball program. None of the players have signed anywhere yet and all are still weighing out their options.

Margaret Wimbish is considering Virginia Commonwealth, Texas State University and Lamar University. Forward Valerie Suarez is choosing between Midwestern University, Angelo State and Tarleton State. Guard Pilar Pinkus is thinking of signing with either St.

Edward University, Texas Wesleyan University or Tarleton State while Kim Robinson is looking at Stephen F. Austin or Incarnate University.

The other two sophomores, Leslye Yates and Rebecca Arnold, do not have any knowledge as to where they might attend next fall.



Sophomore Albert Vazquez makes a layup in a 105-75 victory over Southwest Community College.

Digital Image by: Pablo Sanchez

Ten baseball players will not be Highlanders in the fall.

Among them, six have already signed with a different school for next season.

Steven Allred is going to attend UT Pan American, Neil Christian will be going to UT Tyler, Luke Perhotta will attend Sam Houston State, and Logan Ordensech will be going to UT Arlington.

Also, seven-game-winner Lance Luetge and Catcher Matt Sodolak signed with Stephen F. Austin and Baylor, respectively.

Among the four undecided sophomores are Blake Koche, Corey Jordan, Tim Jackson and Greg Johnson.

Blake Koche is considering to attend Southwestern and UT Tyler, Corey Jordan is considering Tarleton State, Tim Jackson is choosing between Stephen F. Austin and University of Houston, and Greg Johnson is thinking of signing with either University of Mary Hardin Baylor or McMurray State University in Abilene.

Seven players will not be in a Highlassies softball uniform next season.

Of all the sophomores, only two of them seem to be set as to where they are attending school in the fall at this point.

Ashley Fuller will more than likely be attending the University of Texas in Arlington.

Christina Lott said that she has decided to stay at MCC and help coach the softball team.

The other five sophomores are still weighing their options.

Ashley McElry and Megan Horner are considering attending Stephen F. Austin or UT Tyler.

Nicole Willhoite is trying to decide between UT Tyler, Stephen F. Austin, Latourneau University and Sam Houston.

Kelly Shaw is going to either UNT, Sam Houston or Texas State. Rayla Robinson will be attending either Texas State or the University of Texas in Austin.

Recruiting process gets underway

Michael Neglia
Sports Editor

The MCC athletic department has already started preparing for upcoming season through recruiting.

The basketball, baseball and softball teams have recruited 36 student-athletes for the 05-06 campaign.

The knock on the Highlander's basketball team this past season was that they weren't big enough and relied too much on running.

The 'Landers have addressed the need for size by recruiting players such as Jeremy Jordan, a six-foot-eight-inch player from Pearland High School. He was ranked 62 in the state by Texas Roundball Review, and chose attending MCC over schools such as Temple and Dodge City, Kansas.

Along with Jordan, the Highlanders have also recruited three posts transferring from Division I schools, one being another six-foot-eight-inch player and two six-foot-nine-inch players.

Their names are not being released at this time.

The 'Landers also signed Marlon Vincent from Austin

Reagan High.

He was ranked 81 in the state by the Texas Roundball Review and averaged 22 points per game during high school.

Finally, the Highlanders signed point guard CJ Richards from Waco High, who averaged 16 points per game and 9.3 assists per game, filling the void for leaving sophomore Chris Ross.

The women's basketball program is trying to break through to the national tournament after two consecutive losses in the Region V tournament final.

They have also filled a need for size, recruiting eight players overall, including five of them over six-feet tall.

"Our biggest need was inside players so we really put a premium on looking for the best post players that we needed for the next year and then being real selective as far as the other three spots," Highlassies coach Ricky Rhodes said about the recruiting class.

Among the five players over six-foot tall recruited by the Highlassies are Richarda Outley, Rachel Whittle, Stephanie Curnell, Kim Cessna and Vivian Nwosu. Outley comes from Waco High, Whittle is from Hubbard High

School and Curnell is from Cinco Ranch High in Katy, Texas.

The two tallest players, Cessna and Nwosu, are both from San Antonio as Cessna graduated from San Antonio Cornerstone and Nwosu graduated from San Antonio Clark.

The other three recruits are Jessica Mack, a five-foot-seven-inch point guard from Dallas Skyline, Kelsie Greenwood, a five-foot-ten-inch guard from Corpus Christi West Oso and Brittany Rutherford, a five-foot-eleven-inch post from Rockwall High School.

The Highlander baseball team is trying to improve upon an impressive season, where they have reached the Region V tournament for the first time in four years.

To do so, Highlander coach Pete Mejia believes pitching is the best possible route.

"You always look for pitching, pitching is priceless, and you can't ever have enough as the old saying goes," Mejia said.

See 'Recruit' Pg. 11



Dance Company rebuilding for 2006

Blake Abbe
Chief Editor

Falling short again at the National Dance Association in Daytona, Florida, is a disappointment to Sandy Hinton and many members of the dance company.

"We don't go after second place... we go after first place," director Sandy Hinton said. "It wasn't a little disappointment, it was a heck of a disappointment."

The company finished behind Japan for second in division II, but with that now in the past the girls must look toward the future if they want to have a shot at winning it all next year.

The first step in this process was completed last Saturday when next year's officers were named. Surprisingly, Hinton named four captains and no lieutenants. This is a change from the norm of two captains and two lieutenants. The captains for next year are: Brittany Jones, Jackie Herrera, Jennifer McCarrell and Amber Butts.

"I didn't let anybody tryout this year for the captain positions," Hinton said. "I told them from the very first day they walked into this dance studio, 'You're all on trial everyday you walk in.' This is something new I've done, but even though I'm old I can still learn new tricks."

The four captains are anxious to begin fresh next year in aspirations of the NDA championship in Daytona. They will start this process by welcoming in the incoming freshmen class.

"We have really great girls coming in," freshman captain Jackie Herrera said. "Technique wise we are going to expand on their skills. We need to have a good attitude and keep the family together next year."



The dance team celebrating on the bench after receiving second place at NDA in Daytona, Florida.

Courtesy of: MCC Dance Company

One of the captains wants to stress work ethic to the new dance members.

"I am going to tell them how we do things and get them pumped at nationals," freshman captain Brittany Jones said. "I want to try to get them to work hard and you get along together."

The sophomores and future freshmen will have to attend dance camps this summer to practice dance techniques such as leaping. These camps will also be like two-a-days for the company, as they will try to stay in shape in the process.

"I am going to keep dancing," freshman captain Jennifer McCarrell said. "I work at a studio back home in Dallas, and I'm just going to kind of keep dancing, working on my technique, trying to keep in shape and trying not to get fat."

The company will have to fulfill the NDA

championship expectations, or else suffer another year of defeat and disappointment in 2006.

from 'Recruit' Pg. 10

The 'Landers have done that, signing six pitchers to play for them next season. Among them are Ricky Testa, Adrian Bermudz, Cody Railsbeck, T.J. Heider, Robinson's Tyler Schwartasky, and Mace Thurman.

The Highlanders are also looking to be quicker next season.

"As far as position player wise, we're looking to get a little more speed and little more athleticism at every position, and we've done just that."

The 'Landers have signed catchers Mikey Horn, Steffan Guest and Rym Saldiver, saying that two of them could very well move into different positions if the need is there.

The Highlanders have also signed three middle infielders, Drew Bierg, Derek Davis, and Travis Tucker, and one center infielder, Nick Tussaint from Grapevine.

In addition to these players, the 'Landers have signed one out of state player, who also is their only outfielder, Alan Mason, from Dunedin, Florida.

The softball team has also recruited pitching, signing eight players, with three of them being pitchers.

The three pitchers are Jenny Isham, Dara Sliva, and Mac'All Salmon from Lorena, Reicher, and Slocum respectively.

"We definitely were looking to shore up our pitching, and we're happy with all three of our girls" Highlassie coach Manuel Ordonez said

The 'Lassies also signed Smithson Valley's second and third basemen Candice Gillespie and Brooke LaRue, and catchers Sabrina Westbrook and Sarah Rogers from Axtell and Elgin.

Finally, the Highlassies also signed an outfielder, Haley Hayes from Wichita Falls Ryder.

Ordonez said that he is still looking for another outfielder and a shortstop for next season.

All four teams have successfully recruited talent that will improve their respective rosters and make a stronger, more balanced department for next season.

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MCC's players of the month

'Lassie of the month

Eric Geoffrion
Managing Editor

Rayla Robinson's pitching prowess has earned her MCC's player of the month. As of April 19th she has an earned run average (ERA) of 1.37, 14 wins and 58 strikeouts Robinson was a huge contributor to the Highlassies' second place finish. Her 1.37 ERA was 4th in conference, 14 wins 3rd in conference and 58 strikeouts put her in 9th in conference.

"She is a real student of the game," Coach Ordonez said "she is willing to learn and is a quality person."

Rayla is a 5'7" sophomore pitcher from Temple, Texas and chose MCC for it's, "good quality softball reputation, and winning athletic program."

Robinson was recently named 2nd team all-conference posting a 14-7-2 record.

What is your best pitch?

"My curve, it has a lot of movement, it breaks right before the plate. Sometimes I can get it to break after the plate, that is my go-to pitch."

'Lander of the month

Eric Geoffrion
Managing Editor

Tim Jackson's skill with the bat has earned him MCC's player of the month. As of April 26th, 2005 Jackson is batting .380, with 60 hits, 48 RBI's, 17 doubles, 7 home-runs and has 57 hits. His 60 hits are 4th in conference, 48 RBI's 4th in conference and 17 doubles ranks him 3rd in conference.

"He's done a lot better this year getting his timing right. But I think the main thing is overall maturity, understanding that living pitch by pitch is better than living at-bat by at-bat. He has gotten some really big hits for us late in the game," Coach Mejia said.

Not only has Jackson delivered with the bat; he also has been solid on defense "He has really improved defensively and his success is a result of his hard work," Coach Mejia added.

Jackson is a 6'1", 220 pound sophomore from Cedar Hill. He currently plays first base and bats and throws right handed. On April 27th, 2005 he was also received the men's baseball outstanding student award.

What do you do to prepare for a game?

"I usually just try to stay calm, I mean we are just playing a game. A lot of times you can get too serious before a game. Stay relaxed, stay calm, we are just playing a game. I usually joke around with all the teammates before the game."

What do you want to do after MCC?

"I think like anybody here I would like to go to a good division-I school. The opportunity to keep playing the game and go through college is really all I am looking for."

If you were not playing first-base what position would you play?

"Probably third-base, there is always a lot of action down there; that is why they call it the hot corner."

If you were not playing baseball what would you play?

"Definitely basketball, basketball is my favorite sport. My freshman year I had to quit basketball cause everybody could jump over me; so I was not going to far in that."

Who is your favorite Major League Baseball player?

"Mark Teixeira, first-baseman for the Rangers. Growing up in Dallas I have liked the

What do you do to prepare for a game?

"It is kind of a ritual. I listen to certain music before the games."

What do you listen to?

"I listen to Slow Jamz, then I listen to Motivation by T.I. It gives me a certain mindset and cockiness that I can go out and pitch my game"

What do you want to do after MCC?

"I want to go play but unfortunately some injuries will not let me do that. So I am going to Texas State, but I will be around the game. I will never leave the game. I am doing athletic training so I will be around it."

If you were not a pitcher what position do you think you would be?

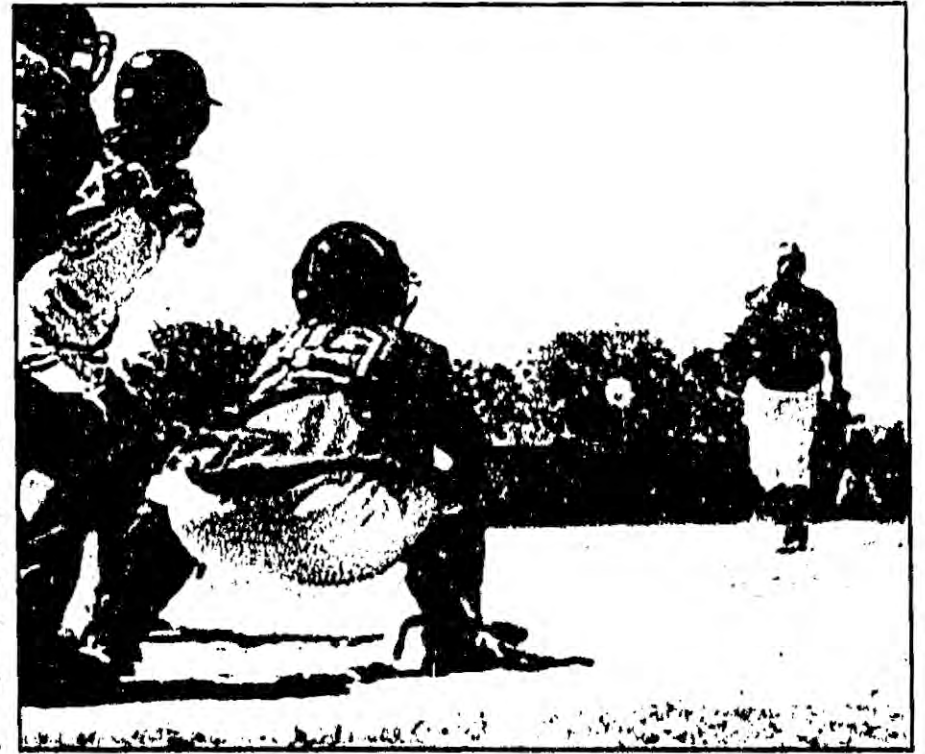
"Probably a catcher because you have more control of the game; you have a say so over a lot of stuff. Catcher gets to see everything, she is my eyes when I cannot see everything, so it would be nice to reverse roles."

What sport would you play if you were not playing softball?

"I love basketball, I played when I was in junior high."

What is one thing that Coach Ordonez gets on to you about?

"Location, at this level you have to hit your spots or you are in trouble."



Digital Images by: Eric Geoffrion

Top: Rayla Robinson unleashes a strike against Temple Junior College.

Bottom: Tim Jackson hits a hot shot to left field against North Central



Texas College Rangers ever since I was young. He is an amazing player, great defensively and switch hits for power."

What is one thing that Coach Mejia stresses or gets onto you about?

"He does not really get onto me about much, but he stresses that I be a leader on the team. I know he expects me to be a leader on the team."



Season review: a look back

Michael Neglia
Sports Editor

MCC's basketball, baseball and softball teams have had their share of jubilation and heartbreak during this season.

The Highlander's basketball team finished the year 23-8, advancing to the Region V tournament, losing in the first round and falling to Midland Junior College for the second straight year.

Despite a disappointing end, the season had many high points such as winning 10 of their first 11 games including victories over Howard and Midland, the two finalists of the Region V tournament.

The Highlanders also posted a 10-4 conference record, sweeping Grayson, and beating Weatherford once in the process.

Arguably one of the most exciting games of the year for the 'Landers was against the Collin Cougars on February 2.

Trailing by 14 points with 12 minutes to go, the Highlanders rallied to tie the game with just over three minutes remaining, and Albert Vazquez won the game with two seconds to play.

However, the Highlanders were unable to defeat their rival Temple College in two attempts, falling 100-84 at Temple, and a heartbreaking 95-86 defeat at the Highlands gym.

The top three leading scorers for the 'Landers this season was freshman Marvin Gentry, and sophomores Kenny Wilson, and Albert Vazquez, who finished averaging 15.6, 14.9, and 11.6 points per game respectively.

The Highlassie's basketball team finished their year with an impressive 26-5 record, winning the NTJAC (North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference) for the first time in 21 years, and reaching the finals of the Region



Digital Image by: Michael Neglia

Leslye Yates makes a fast-break layup in the Region V tournament opening win against Clarendon.



Digital Image by: Eric Geaffron

Amber Robinson slides into second base in a 3-0 victory against the Lon Morriss Lady Bearcats on February 25.

V tournament, before losing to South Plains Junior College 87-74.

The 'Lassies started conference play with 10 consecutive wins en route to a 12-2 record, sweeping rival Temple and Grayson.

Arguably their best performance of the season was when they clinched the conference title with a 76-53 thrashing of the Temple Lady Leopards on February 23, pulling away in the second half with a 17-3 run.

The Highlassies were also victorious in a second round tournament game against Midland despite being the smaller team and not playing at their best.

Sophomore Margaret Wimblish, Freshman Kim Robinson, and Sophomore Valerie Suarez were leading scorers with 17.2, 11.5, and 11.1 points per game respectively.

Wimblish and Suarez also led the team averaging 6.9 and 4.4 rebounds per game.

The Highlanders baseball team has improved drastically from last year, surpassing their overall and conference win total, currently standing at 32-17, including 19-9 in conference play.

The 'Landers are tied in second place with the Temple Leopards and have recently clinched a bid to the Region V Tournament in Abilene in May.

High points of the 'Landers season so far include snapping a 12 game losing streak to Grayson, coming

back from a six-run deficit to sweep Temple on the road, and a victory in a 28-22 slugfest against Vernon.

Other important events throughout the 'Landers season include a four-game sweep of Cisco and NCTC, and splitting a four-game set with San Jacinto, ranked first nationally in the pre-season poll.

Freshman Lance Nobile and Sophomore Tim Jackson are the Highlanders top two hitters, averaging .388 and .380 respectively as of April 18.

Freshman pitcher Chris Martin is second in the conference with a 2.58 ERA and in fourth place with 54 strikeouts, while Sophomore Lance Luetge is second in the conference with seven wins.

The Highlassies softball team has also had an eventful season, finishing the regular season with an overall record of 29-12, with a 20-8 conference record.

The 'Lassies finished in second place in their conference and will face the winner of Grayson and NCTC in the second round of the Region V tournament on April 29 in Denton.

Highlights to their season include sweeping then-conference leader NCTC, four game sweeps of Ranger and Cisco, and a 9-2 thrashing of Temple on the road.

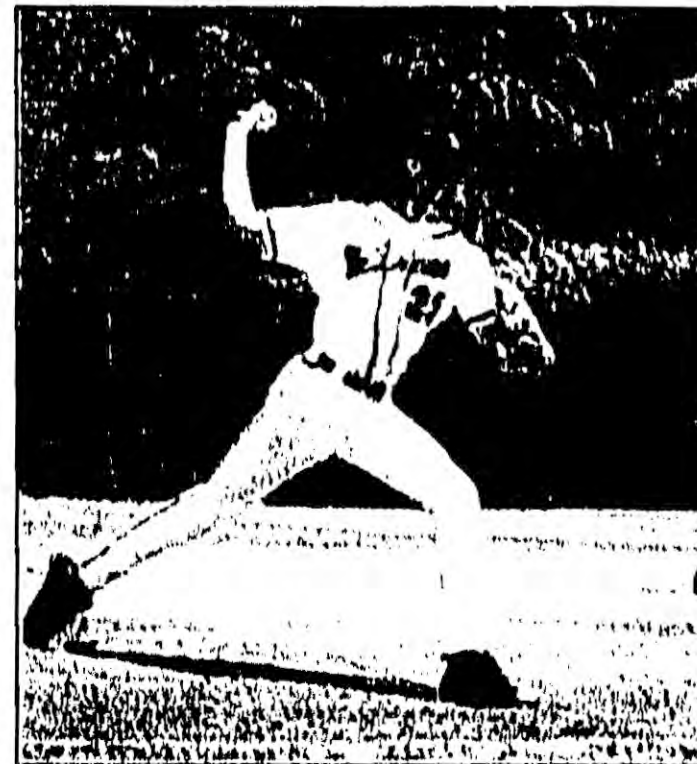
The top hitters for the 'Lassies were Christina Allen and Ashley Fuller, who finished with a .331 and .313 average, respectively.

Rayla Robinson was dominant for the 'Lassies finishing in fourth place in the conference with a 1.37 ERA and posting a 14-7 record and two saves.

Anna Herl has also pitched well, posting a 2.51 ERA and a record of 7-0.

This has been a successful and eventful year for MCC athletics as all teams, with the exception of men's basketball, have a higher win percentage than their previous season.

Hopefully, the 05-06 campaign can live up to and surpass these standards.



Digital Image by: Eric Geaffron

Logan Ondrusok fires a pitch over the plate in a win against NCTC.



A songwriters' workshop

Jonmichael Swetnam
Staff Writer

One of the most daunting tasks facing a musician is generating their own songs.

"It's amazing," instructor Bill Howard said. "I've seen people who know all sorts of different songs and wouldn't have any problem making new material on their own because they know the music, but they will insist up and down that they aren't songwriters."

The project was designed to help musicians develop their own material by showing them the elements that go into a good song like chord progressions and finding lyrical inspiration.

"There are a lot of people out there who might, for example, work a nine-to-five job and just play an instrument or write lyrics on the side," Howard said. "People who simply want to play because it's fun, but find writing new stuff daunting."

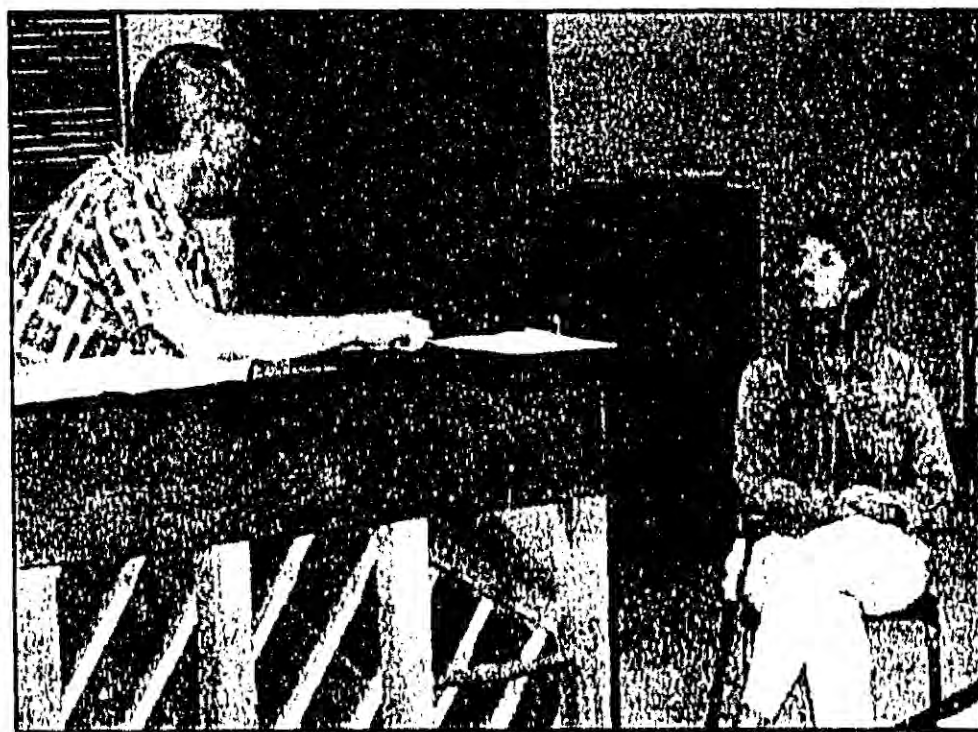
Instructor Beth Ullmann said one of the workshop's primary goals was to let people know that MCC offers a commercial music degree.

"One thing was to get it out to the community that we offer a degree in commercial music, and that we offer that program," Ullmann said.

"This was our second crack at it," Howard said. The first was last year, and we're hoping to have another next spring, but the dates aren't set yet. We're probably going to make it an annual thing."

The commercial music department used last year's workshop as a model. They took some of the difficulties encountered in the previous workshop and attempted to iron out those problems this year.

"One of the things we did differently this year is separating into two groups. We had a group for musicians and one for lyricists," Howard said.



Digital Image by: Jonmichael Swetnam

Instructors Beth Ullmann and Bill Howard collaborate on a demonstration piece for the songwriters' workshop.

Splitting the workshop into two groups let the instructors focus more on what appealed to each group, Howard said.

"It let us focus more on what appealed to each group," Howard said. "That way we didn't have people trying to digest a skill that was new and maybe a little abstract to them. We could teach each group something that played to their strengths."

Each group watched an instructor cover various elements of songwriting. Ullmann and Howard gave lectures on musical elements and how to employ them. Each lecture was followed by a question and answer session.

"It can be very difficult when you're trying to pick and choose something for a mix of skill levels. The main trick is

finding a way you can set it up to teach everyone something new without boring anyone to tears," Howard said.

The instructors said they were aiming for a relaxed atmosphere in their lessons.

"The biggest idea of the program is that whether you're a beginner or a pro or a weekend warrior, what it really boils down to is you play because music is fun. It's not supposed to be this big, difficult process where only the top one percent can achieve anything," Howard said. "We wanted to share the joy of being able to sit down and make something that is yours. Where you can sit there and say, 'Hey, that's mine!'"

The workshop was open to anyone, with no attendance fees or special requirements.

"The workshop was intended strictly for commercial music. We didn't touch on classical styles or anything like that. It was open to any style of commercial music you can think of: rock, rap, country, hip-hop, and blues," Ullmann said.

The program received a lot of positive feedback from those who attended, Ullmann said.

"One of the great things about the program was that we had a handout that kind of encapsulated what we covered. People could walk out with something written down, and not just a lecture. That way people felt like they had tools they could work with," Ullmann said.

"We first heard about it in professional development three years ago, when the division head came down and asked how we planned to maintain our numbers and how we were going to recruit more people into the department. We decided to do a workshop to recruit people into the program. We were contacted and told we had to do unit planning. That would be the songwriters' department's unit planning task," Ullmann said.

Ensemble enjoys longevity

Blake Abbe
Chief Editor

With a guitarist like Kenny Prazler, the MCC electric guitar ensemble has expanded in popularity and praise with their multiple genre music.

The genres of music that the ensemble plays consists of jazz, blues, swing and country. Prazler has been the instructor of this class since it started and enjoys every minute of it.

"I started this ensemble about 21 years ago," he said. "Friendship is one of the main things I get out of this group, and songwriting would have to be the other."

The group consists of 15 players. Some of them have been with the ensemble for 20 years and others for five or 10 years.

"This ensemble has been stable for the last 10 years," he said. "This ensemble is a continuing education or community type group."

The other ensemble, taught Monday nights, is a student oriented group and it is credit based.

The majority of the songs played in the ensemble are cover songs from artists and groups like Willie Nelson, The Rolling Stones and The Eagles, but Kenny Prazler and others in the group write their own musical compositions. See 'Ensemble' pg. 15



Digital Image by: Blake Abbe

Both Vlyvo performs at the electric guitar ensemble on April 26.

Entertainment

Friday, April 29, 2005

McLennan Community College

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Symphony performs semester finale

Kimberly Yezak
Staff Writer

Trumpet fanfares and flute trills of the MCC Wind Symphony filled the Balls Performing Art Center on April 25 as the group performed its end of semester concert.

Under the direction of Brian Harris, the thirty-something piece ensemble played seven distinct works featuring mainly American composers such as Alfred Reed and Robert Russel Bennett.

The ensemble opened with a cheerful march by Henry Fillmore and continued the spirited pace with Samuel R. Hazo's Scottish ballad, "Perthshire Majesty". Percussion director Jonathan Kutz carried on the liveliness as he and his student Nathan Cornelius impressed the audience with an energetic rhythmic marimba duet.

The energy of the music did not die down until the symphony performed the solemn piece "Old Churches" by Michael Colgrass.

Harris explained that its use of Gregorian chant generates the atmosphere of a monk congregation before a service.

Yet after this calm work, the vigor picked back up with "Cakewalk", a piece by Robert Russell Bennett that reflects popular dances of the mid-1900s. For the sophomores that are transferring to other universities in the fall, this concert marks their last performance at MCC.

"We've been working on this set of music for about three weeks," sophomore flutist Christina Waddle said satisfied about the outcome of the final concert.

But for some like Waddle, who has been playing her instrument since she was three, it isn't the end of her music career.

She has been accepted to UNT on scholarship for music performance with aspirations of being professional.



Digital Image by: Pablo Sanchez

Members of the MCC Wind Symphony performing for their final concert on April 25.

'Ensemble' Pg. 14

"Over the past 20 years I've written over 60 arrangements," Frazier said. "Some of the songs that we write we read like a stage band would."

The ensemble is singer Beth Vivio. At the ensemble, she sang five songs during the guitarists' "specials," and now that she has become a regular with the group she sings most of their songs.

"I am friends with Bob Lott of the group, and he asked if I would come and sing a couple of songs," Vivio said. "It went from two songs to about six songs."

Now that she is a regular, some that have heard her sing would probably wonder if she wants to pursue singing further.

"I pretty much decided that music is a hobby," she said. "Way back I tried to get a degree in music, and then I realized that I probably wasn't going to have a career that would amount to much. It's for fun and this is a great opportunity to sing."

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Connecting with youth

Kelly Patterson
Staff Writer

At MCC, Youth Connection is trying to help society "move forward".

The organization hosted its ninth annual Central Texas Regional Conference titled "Moving Forward: Effective Way to Reach Our Youth" April 8 in the Community Service Center.

This one-day conference aimed at helping educators and counselors better understand today's younger generation and shared the methods of efficient communication and good example to reach students.

"The conference isn't really for youth itself; it is for the people who work with youth," Youth Connection spokeswoman, Carolyn Nichols said.

During lunch Annette Furon, author of "Straight Talk For Teenage Girls" had a panel of teenage girls demonstrate how the girls should handle realistic situations.

The conference also advised participants on how to "effectively go back and work with kids," Nichols said.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Hal Urban of California, discussed the impact of words and showed how educators can make a significant difference in youth's lives.

Even though directed toward those from Central Texas, the conference's popularity brought people from as far away as Corpus Christi.

"When we first started the conference we were kind of thinking Central Texas, but we have seen it expand so much," Nichols said.

"People tell me that they learn more in this one day than many three-day conferences they attend."



Carmen Turner and Cade Turner

A Man for All Seasons

Directed by Micah Patzke and Pablo Sanchez
Page Design by Kelly Watterson



Top: Darin York
Middle: Collette Currie, Sarah Enriquez and Addison Roush
Bottom: Cory Sharp and Addison Roush



Addison Roush and Collette Currie