



MCC Faculty Synergy

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MCC Valentine's Dance/Concert

Come enjoy the live music of **Java Jive** on Friday, February 12 from 7-9:00 pm in the Student Activities Building Gym. The band will play music to which you can do the swing, fox trot, rumba, cha-cha, waltz, two-step, and more! Whether you want to join us on the dance floor or simply sit at a table and enjoy the music as concert, please come prepared to have a pleasant evening. As an extra bonus, our own **Miss Dee Luxford** (dance instructor and proprietor of Miss Dee's School of Dance in Greenville) will give some basic swing **dance lessons** in the gym from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Very light refreshments will be served. The evening is free and open to the public. We hope you will come and invite your students to be a part of the activities as well!

"MONTAGE – THE ART OF MCC'S FACULTY AND STAFF" is on display through Feb. 28 in the art gallery in MCC's Instruction North Building. Hours are 9 am to 7 pm Mondays through Thursdays. Admission is free.

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End-Of-Course Evaluations Revision Discussion w/Lunch

Faculty members are invited to participate in a discussion to review and revise the current student evaluations being used in our "on-ground" classes. Please come to D-303 at noon on Thursday, February 4. Lunch is being provided.

Adjunct Faculty Supper with the President

All adjunct faculty members are invited to a supper (tuna croissants/salad) with President Bob Ferrentino to receive an update on MCC's Strategic Planning Process. Come and learn what has been developing in reference to the college's mission, vision, and values. Your ongoing input will also be welcomed. The supper will be in the Farmhouse on Thursday, February 11 from 6-7:30 pm. Please RSVP to Jane LaLonde at janel@montcalm.edu.

Faculty Farmhouse Fellowship for February 16

Please note the **date change** of February's Faculty Farmhouse Fellowship from February 23 to *February 16*. This month's roundtable meeting will include faculty input on developmental education initiatives, and a discussion of potential programs such as Achieve the Dream and Breaking Through. Of special note will be the solicitation of faculty perspectives on a possible "First Year Experience" course at MCC, based on information gleaned from Dr. Betsy Barefoot's presentations.

Adjunct Faculty Office Spaces

In an effort to better support our adjunct instructors, the following provisions, procedures, and policies will go into effect February 1, 2010:

1. Limited office space may be reserved for regular blocks of time during each semester on a first come first serve basis.
2. Reserved time blocks should not exceed 2x the number of contact hours taught during the given semester (1 hour campus prep and 1 hour of student advisement per contact hour).
3. Reservations must be made through the Instructional Services Assistant for Guest Services at 989-328-1252.
4. Removable name plates or time-block displays will be provided. These may be placed on the office during those time periods reserved, and removed afterwards.
5. Limited storage space will be provided for those reserving regular time blocks.

Regrettably, there is not enough space available for all adjuncts. However, one office space will be maintained for non-regular student appointments on an "as needed" basis. Please arrange the "one time" student appointment through the Guest Services office.

Authentic Namibian Art Exhibit at MCC (Honoring Black History)

Now, through February 28, continue to enjoy an authentic exhibit of Namibian Art at MCC's Instruction North Building titled "Aakula yanale and Vorfahren." This special exhibit on loan from the Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University in Grand Rapids has been provided by Dr. Meredith Palumbo, Assistant Professor of Art History at Kendall, who knows the artists personally from her visits to Africa. *Aakula yanale* and *Vorfahren* mean ancestor in *Oshiwambo* and German, which are two languages commonly spoken in Namibia, a nation in southwestern Africa. In this exhibition Namibian artists Alpheus Mvula and Imke Rust explore unique cultural memories evoked by those who preceded them. For the many diverse culture groups in Namibia, ancestors are revered for their wisdom and prudent judgment, and are a critical factor in shaping the identity of the living. Literal and symbolic references to ancestors, memory, and identity frequently appear in Namibian art.

Alpheus Mvula is of *Ovambo* descent, which is an agriculturalist and cattle herding ethnic group that migrated to Namibia in the 19th century. He was born and raised on a farm in the *Ovambo* region in northern Namibia where his ancestors and rural roots had a significant impact on him and his artistic development. His abstract prints of cattle and farm implements commemorate his ancestors and the cultural continuity he experienced as a child before moving to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia.

Imke Rust is a 5th generation German Namibian descended from Christian missionaries. In the 19th century, Germany colonized Namibia until World War I when South African troops removed the Germans from power at the request of the British government.

During World War II men of German ancestry who had remained in Namibia were interned in camps in South Africa to prevent them from joining the German war effort. Rust's prints explore her mother's recollections of Rust's grandfather who was incarcerated for 6 years in Andalusia internment camp. In her prints Rust uses photographs and postcards saved by her grandmother that call to mind memories of pain and loss. The colors, images of butterflies, flowers, and children are deceptive and conceal the reality of war, suffering, and family anguish unknown to the little girl [Rust's mother] who was unable to comprehend the gravity of her family's circumstance.

Both these artists used a variety of graphic art techniques in this exhibition: woodcut, cardboard print, and digital print/transfers. Namibia has a long history of printmaking influenced by the northern European graphic tradition informed by German expatriate artists and by Namibian artists trained in South Africa.

Hours are 9 am to 7 pm Mondays through Thursdays. Admission is free.

Cultural Events on the Near Horizon

February 18

"The Art of Montcalm County" presented by Larry Moss, Adjunct Inst.
Noon on MCC Campus
7:00 pm at MTEC

February 26

Monty Awards at the Barn Theater (7:00 pm)

March 1-31

Art Show in Instruction North: Featured Students/Alumni Portfolio Show

March 14

MCC's Drama Class Presents Public Performances of a Children's Play at the Barn Theater
2 & 4 pm in the Barn Theater

March 15 & 17

Lecture/Presentation: Dr. Joel Brouwer, Language Arts Instructor
"How to Read a Movie"
MCC: Noon to 1:00 pm W-210 on Monday, March 15
M-TEC: 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Wednesday, March 17

March 27

MCC Trip to Chicago

STUDY ABROAD 2010

MCC's international tour for 2010 will be an 8-day trip to London from May 18 to 25. Anyone is invited to participate, either as part of an academic study abroad course, or as a non-credit experience. This tour will include Big Ben, Windsor Castle, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, Globe Theater, excursions to Bath and Stonehenge, and more. For more information, please contact Val VanderMark at valv@montcalm.edu or 989-328-1218.

Adjunct Faculty Supper Meetings for 2009-2010

The following dates have been reserved for our Adjunct Faculty Round-Table Discussions and break-out groups. Each adjunct faculty supper meeting will be conducted in the Farmhouse from 6-7:30 pm on the following dates:

Thursday, Feb. 11
Monday, Mar. 15
Tuesday, Apr. 13
Wednesday, May 5

Full-Time Faculty Fellowship Meetings:
February 16 (4:00 pm)
March 23 (4:00 pm)
April 27 (4:00 pm)

Native American Dioramas Become Part of MCC Permanent Collection

(Diorama: a scene, often in miniature, reproduced in 3 dimensions by placing objects, figures, etc., in front of a painted background. An art form that is quickly becoming lost in our computer-generated society.)

Thanks, in part, to the generosity of the Clarkston Community Historical Society, Clarkston Heritage Museum, and the Cranbrook Institute of Science, four Native American dioramas have been acquired by MCC to showcase in our educational venues.

These scenes, or dioramas, were built to tell a story about history, but have now themselves become artifacts. Dr. Robert S. Butsch of the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum built these four Native American dioramas. Because of the detailed nature of this art form, they took three years to complete, from 1969 to 1971, at a cost of \$18,000 to \$20,000. Dr. Butsch molded each figure out of beeswax, positioning the tiny arms and legs, and sculpting each face. Each figure was then hand-painted with oil paints. Every detail was important, and Dr. Butsch used items found in nature whenever he could. When he couldn't find an item he needed, he made it himself, even creating some of the trees out of wire and scrub brush bristles! He also painted the elaborate backgrounds by hand, something that would most likely be created on a computer today. It is this kind of workmanship that makes each of these dioramas not just a teaching tool, but also a work of art.

The dioramas were initially commissioned by the Cranbrook Institute of Science, and were displayed there for almost 30 years. When a recent remodeling project made their continued use at Cranbrook impossible, Dr. Michael Stafford, Curator of Anthropology and Archeology at Cranbrook, arranged to have them displayed at the Clarkston Community Historical Society. The Society rebuilt and refinished the display cases at a cost of \$10,000. These were kept on display at the Clarkston Heritage Museum until a partnership with the Clarkston area schools took them on a six year traveling tour.

Montcalm Community College is proud to be able to share these great works of art with our MCC family and the community, and is pleased that these priceless pieces will live to serve the next generation.

Photos Depicting Montcalm Amish Culture

Last week, Mr. Paul Keep, Editor of *The Grand Rapids Press* gave permission to MCC to acquire a rich collection of photos by photographer Lance Wynn, with narrative texts by Pat Shellenbarger as featured in 2001 and 2007. With a grant from the MCC Foundation, these pictures will be mounted and framed for display on campus as part of our cultural diversity and art initiatives. Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Wynn and Mr. Shellenbarger for contributing these significant pieces of cultural and artistic heritage, and to Mr. Keep and the Foundation for making this acquisition possible.

Food for Thought

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul"
(Addison).