An MCU cohort group becomes like a family. Just as with family, when a cohort member is struggling, everyone struggles with them. The Bowling Green 13 cohort found itself in a fight with a powerful enemy in 2010 - cancer. Cohort member, Denise Yates, was diagnosed with breast cancer. This was not a new fight for her, unfortunately. In December of 2000, Denise was diagnosed with Medullary Thyroid Cancer. She had two major surgeries and her cancer went into remission. In April of 2003, she had a recurrence of the Medullary Thyroid Cancer. Her specialist told her she had a sixty percent chance of ending up with a trachea and no voice box. According to Denise, "God was not ready for me to be quiet at this point in my life". She had to have 35 radiation treatments to her throat. Throughout her bouts with cancer, Denise has had five surgeries, chemo, and radiation and thanks to God, she is in remission!

Denise was such a blessing to BG13 because she strengthened us instead of us being strong for her. She scheduled her treatments on Fridays so she could have them the day after class to spend her weekend recuperating and be well enough to come to class again Thursday. She did not miss a class due to her illness or treatments. During prayer time, Denise always had a prayer request for someone else's health issues, but never her own. One of us had to mention her in prayer. She was always upbeat and never exhibited a moment of doubt that she would prevail, yet again, against the awful disease. She knew she had the Great Physician and Healer on her side. She was an inspiration to our entire cohort. She brought us closer together and showed us how to handle adversity in our lives. As a tribute to Denise's strength and faith, we all placed a BG13 Breast Cancer Pink Ribbon sticker on our graduation mortarboards. In addition, cohort member Tammy Shoemake led BG13 in raising $1030 for the American Cancer Society in honor of Denise.

Each MCU student and faculty member has probably either been affected by cancer or will be at some time. BG13 would like to challenge you to give your time, money or resources to fight this terrible disease. If you find someone you love dealing with cancer, remind them of Denise and how her faith, strength and positivity carried her through it three times. Denise is an inspiration to us. We are so thankful for the cohort experience and lifelong friendships we made along the way. We learned things together that books and professors alone cannot teach. Those are the things that will stick with us and help us succeed beyond graduation.

Thanks Denise, MCU and BG13. It was an experience that I, for one, will never forget. Sherry Tilley, BG 13
Mary McSparin has officially received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree from Mid-Continent University's Advantage programs! Today things came full circle for me in many respects. The little girl that spent summers in Hickory, KY with her grandmother, graduated from college just a few miles down the road from there. God always has a plan and I am so thankful for the plans He has for my life!

Jacqueline Jackie Gail Norton Wow I am so glad to be a part of this historical class of graduates! Congratulations Mid Continent University Class of 2011!!!!!!!

Mary McSparin

Donna James Bailey I just want to say that the whole team at Mid-Continent did a wonderful job Saturday and made each of us graduates feel special! Thank you to Mid-Continent for helping so many of us fulfill our dreams!!!

Shawna Campbell What an awesome ceremony today. I was so blessed....

Ashlee Griffith I could be the happiest girl ever... I GRADUATE from Mid-Continent University's Advantage programs December 3rd at 3:00pm at Graves County High School. To all my family and friends, if you can make it that would be great. Would love to see ya'll there...

Michelle Felts Lucas (Lex 1F) Congrats to everyone!! I cried as I looked at all the pictures knowing that I will be a part of the next graduating class. When you start it seems like graduation is so far away but it truly sneaks up on you fast!!! I truly pray God blesses each new graduate and each of you will allow God to bless you and guide your footsteps!!

Ashlee Scherer Adams Thanks so much Mid-Continent University's Advantage for making the last years for my husband and I a great experience - GO Owensboro Cohort - we are the class of 2011!

And God Created Mid-Continent—Brunch Speech by Mary McSparin

And God said, “Build them a place where they can expand their knowledge, grow as a person, and learn.” And God created Mid-Continent.

And God said, “Make it a place where they can interact with other adults, and learn from each other; and structure it where they have time for their jobs and time for their families.”

And God said, “Give them a chaplain that reads My Word, prays for them, and tells them about Me.

And God said, “Their sacrifice will be blessed when they stay up late writing papers, and when they meet together to work on presentations.

And God said, “Give them staff and cohorts to encourage them when they struggle, and keep them focused.

And God said, “Give them instructors that know Me and love Me; who will do their part to further My Kingdom.

And God watched as they came; He watched as they learned; He watched as they were ministered to; He watched as they grew close to each other. He watched as they received their degrees on graduation day.

And God watched as they went out into the world, changed by the experience. He watched as His plan unfolded through each one of them, as they connected with co-workers, family, and strangers.

And God looked at what He created; and God said, “It is good.”
Congratulations to the Class of 2011!
Paducah 30  Hopkinsville 6  Mayfield 11F  Paducah 28
Murray 4F  Distance Learning (DL) 13  DL 18
Mayfield 16  DL 4F  Mayfield 14F
Bowling Green 7F  Distance Learning 1F
Distance Learning 2F  JALC 10  Somerset 1F
Lisa Demarest Promoted to Co-Director of Advising

Lisa graduated from Murray State with a Bachelors of Social Work and a MS in Human Development and Leadership with emphasis in Non-Profit work in 2005. Lisa met her husband of six years, Brad, in graduate school. They have two Boston Terriers named Pia and Fletcher. Previously, Lisa was a dual diagnosis therapist for three years and a social worker for five years. Lisa loves singing, cooking, interior design, and the Red Sox.

Lisa said, “Counseling, educating, advising, and helping others has been my life’s mission. God called me to do so at an early age, and I am thrilled to be serving His purpose for my life here at Mid-Continent University. To be given the opportunity to help other working adults that have families and so many other responsibilities pursue their educational goals is truly a blessing. With Mid-Continent University, now, those adults can take one class at a time in the evening or online in order to further their education, job placement, and confidence with a degree. I delight in the fact that this is not only one of Kentucky’s fastest growing universities, but that Christ is at the center of it.”

Benetta Woods, Director of Advising, said, “With the growth of our staff needs and continued student service, a co-leadership within the Advising Department was established. It is always wonderful to acknowledge outstanding personnel within our departments to share in leadership roles. I would personally like to express my congratulations to Lisa Demarest who will be taking on the new endeavor since she has already shown excellent skills as an Academic Advisor.”
Coming soon: Murray 2, Mayfield 4P & Bard 3. If you are in these cohort groups & can send a picture, email dmclaughlin@midcontinent.edu.
Bowling Green
Intro to Business  Monday, 01-23-12
College Math  Monday, 02-20-12
English Comp II  Tuesday, 02-21-12
Financial Accounting  Monday, 02-27-12

Danville
English Comp II  Tuesday, 02-21-12

Frankfort
English Comp II  Thursday, 02-09-12

Fulton
Computer Apps I  Monday, 02-13-12
General Psychology  Thursday, 03-01-12

Glasgow
Intro to Computer Apps  Tuesday, 02-23-12

Hopkinsville
Personnel Supervision  Tuesday, 02-14-12

Lebanon
College Math  Tuesday, 02-14-12

Leitchfield
Contemporary Issues  Thursday, 02-16-12

Lexington
College Math  Tuesday, 01-24-12
General Psychology  Tuesday, 03-06-12

London
Computer Apps I  Monday, 01-30-12
General Psychology  Monday, 02-20-12
General Biology & Lab  Monday, 03-12-12

Louisville
Intro to Business  Tuesday, 02-14-12
College Math  Thursday, 02-16-12
Intro to Computer Apps  Tuesday, 02-21-12
Life of Christ  Monday, 03-05-12

Mayfield
Business Math  Monday, 01-23-12
Principles of Microeconomics  Tuesday, 01-24-12
General Biology & Lab  Monday, 02-06-12
English Comp I  Tuesday, 02-14-12
Intro to Business  Tuesday, 02-28-12
Life of Christ  Thursday, 03-01-12
Personnel Supervision  Thursday, 03-01-12

Monticello
Business Math  Monday, 02-13-12

Morganfield
College Math  Monday, 01-23-12
Life of Christ  Monday, 02-27-12

Mt. Sterling
College Math  Monday, 01-30-12

Murray
Principles of Accounting  Thursday, 01-26-12
Principles of Speech  Tuesday, 01-31-12
Intro to Computers  Thursday, 02-09-12
College Math  Tuesday, 03-06-12
Personnel Supervision  Thursday, 03-08-12
Computer Apps I  Thursday, 03-15-12

Owensboro
Contemporary Issues  Thursday, 03-01-12

Paducah
General Biology & Lab  Tuesday, 01-24-12
Foundational Issues of Life  Monday, 01-30-12
Computer Apps I  Monday, 02-06-12
Business Math  Tuesday, 02-07-12
Intro to Business  Thursday, 02-09-12
General Biology & Lab  Monday, 02-16-12
General Psychology  Monday, 03-12-12
US History to 1877  Tuesday, 03-13-12

Princeton
English Comp II  Thursday, 01-26-12
English Comp II  Tuesday, 02-14-12

Radcliff
Computer Apps I  Tuesday, 02-14-12

Russellville
Financial Accounting  Thursday, 02-09-12

ONLINE COURSES

February 6, 2012 start date
Intro to Comp Benefits  HR Minor/Elective
Employee High Performance  HR Minor/Elective
Personnel Supervision  HR Minor/Elective
Managing Cultural Diversity  HR Minor/Elective
US History to 1877  Social Science/Elective
Music Appreciation  Humanities/Elective
Principles of Microeconomics  Social Science/Elective
College Math  Math
General Psych  Social Science/Elective
Business Math  Elective
Applied English  Elective
English Comp I  English
English Comp II  English
Life of Christ  Human./Christ. Studies Min./Elec.
Theories of Personality  Soc. Sc./PSY & SS Minor/Elective
Christianity in Plural. World  Human./Christ. Studies Min./Elec.

March 26, 2012 start date
Developmental Psychology  Soc. Sc./PSY & SS Min./Elec.
Management Issues  Business Mgmt. Min.
Managerial Accounting  Business Mgmt. Min.
Macroeconomic Analysis  Business Mgmt. Min.
Social Psychology  Soc. Sc./PSY & SS Min./Elec.
Child Psychology  Soc. Sc./PSY & SS Min./Elec.
Organizational Communication  Business Mgmt. Min.
Group Processes  Business Mgmt. Min.

UPCOMING COHORT AREAS:

Masters: Paducah & ONLINE

Bachelors: Business Mgmt: Paducah, Murray, JALC, Somerset, RLC, Mayfield, Owensboro, Louisville, London & Bowling Green

Psyc. & Counseling: Paducah, Louisville, Bowling Green, Mayfield, Owensboro and ONLINE

Christian Ministry: ONLINE

FYI: New students can join associate groups at ANY time at ANY associate cohort locations. If you know anyone who may be interested in ADVANTAGE, please have them contact MCU at 1-888-MCU-GRAD.
Academic Achievement Award Recipient Thomas Craig Rice is not pictured. This award is given to the student graduating with the highest GPA in ADVANTAGE. Congrats!

MCU Awards Honorary Doctorate Degree to Jackie Imhoff, Vice President of Adult Programs

Mid-Continent University is privileged to honor a history of excellence and service by individuals with long records of achievements in serving others. Jacquelyn Faye Imhoff epitomizes the best of what an educator ought to be.

MCU paid tribute to the values and principles that have always been at the core of Jackie’s being—faith in God, truth, compassion, fairness, justice, and an unrelenting passion and exemplary service for our students. It is for her great achievement in Christian service to society and to this institution that Mid-Continent University recognized Jacquelyn Faye Imhoff, with the degree, Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

Jacquelyn has served as the Vice President of Adult Programs at Mid-Continent for nine years, where she helped launch and currently leads ADVANTAGE. Since 1999, ADVANTAGE has served thousands of adult learners of the region and beyond. Prior to the Mid-Continent University tenure, Jacquelyn was Director of Marketing for the adult program at Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee. Other previous experiences include public school teaching and social work. Jacquelyn is passionate about education and considers it a blessing to be able to serve in a profession that provides adults a second chance to achieve their personal and professional goals while inviting all to consider Jesus Christ. Jacquelyn is married to Robert Imhoff, President of Mid-Continent University, and has four adult children and two grandchildren.

Jackie Imhoff said, “I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for this recognition by my most loved MCU. I am humbled and deeply moved. I have the utmost respect and thankfulness for the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff who have helped MCU succeed in Her mission, and thankfulness for the students who have chosen MCU as the path to complete their goals.”

During the Commencement Ceremony, Jackie addressed the most recent Mid-Continent graduates. “Sharing this day with proud graduates is the true inspiration to do everything in my power to see others achieve their dreams. My charge to you, our graduates, is to earnestly seek ways you can make a difference; tie what you do to a higher purpose, that which inspires you and motivates you.”

William Mason, MCU Chair of the Department of Languages and General Studies, commented, “Hard work should be acknowledged, and it has been my observation that Mrs. Imhoff has worked as hard as, if not harder than, any other person to see Mid-Continent succeed in the educational arena. Her many years of devotion to this cause should not go unnoticed. Her advocacy and involvement have enhanced Mid-Continent’s mission, built strong community relations across the state of Kentucky, and inspired hundreds to complete their educational goals.”
ADVANTAGE Announces Jackie Puckett as Employee of the Year

ADVANTAGE employees recently got together during a staff meeting to vote for the 2011 Employee of the Year. After discussing what traits best describe an ADVANTAGE employee, employees voted on which staff member embodied those traits. The top five traits that were mentioned the most were being dedicated, loyal, committed, selfless and having integrity. After careful consideration, they chose Jackie Puckett as the ADVANTAGE Employee of the Year.

Jackie Puckett, ADVANTAGE Admissions Representative for Graves, Fulton and Hickman counties, grew up in a farming community in west Tennessee. Within her family, she was the first to go to college. She received three degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she also held her first job as an Admissions Counselor. She said, “I truly believe that having a degree behind my name gave me a true advantage in life. Having a college degree opened doors and gave me the opportunity to have an incredible life. I worked for 20 years with an international corporation calling on corporate officials, attorneys and other professionals. I received a promotion to a national position within my company traveling all around the country. Ultimately though, I wanted to return to my true love, college admissions. A position was open in the Admissions Department at Mid-Continent and the rest is history.”

“I am passionate about seeing people change their lives. It is very rewarding to work with students and to hear their life stories. We see the students begin very scared and apprehensive about starting back to school as an adult, then gain confidence as they work through our program, and finally experience the excitement and sense of accomplishment when they complete their college education,” Jackie said. “For me, graduation day is the biggest thrill to see our students walk across the stage to receive their degree. Despite working full-time, having families, and fighting through life’s obstacles, these students have reached their ultimate goal! That’s why I am so passionate about getting a college education!”

Jackie Imhoff, Vice President of Adult Programs, said, “ADVANTAGE has been blessed with a very dedicated team of employees. Jackie Puckett is one of those exemplary employees that any organization would be blessed to have. She diligently and joyfully serves with a desire to empower others to make positive life decisions. She has selflessly assisted many area adults with putting the pieces in place that allow them to reach their goal of a college degree. She is also a very committed team player. Jackie is a very genuine and caring person and it is not a surprise that the department would choose her as Employee of the Year.”

Jackie Puckett said, “I love working for Mid-Continent! I love the people I work with! Each member of our staff works hard and is so dedicated to our students! We ARE a team, and everyone does an incredible job to make our program a success. I am blessed to have such a wonderful place to work. I truly feel that we are making a difference in people’s lives here at Mid-Continent!”

Jackie is also a person of faith and family. For years, she was very involved in high school and women’s ministry at her church in Memphis, where she and her husband, Dave, who has been an educator most of his career, lived for 23 years. Currently, she teaches sixth grade girls at her church, Trace Creek Baptist. They have two children, Lauren Puckett Casta of Collierville, TN, and Joshua Puckett of Memphis. Jackie also is a brand new grandmother to Aiden Casta of Collierville.

EXCITING NEWS!!!

We now offer our BS in Psychology & Counseling at new sites including Owensboro, Paducah, Bowling Green and Louisville in addition to the Mayfield and ONLINE groups currently offered. We also now offer our Master’s in Human Resource Management and BS in Christian Ministry degrees completely ONLINE!

Contact MCU for more details!

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Please refer to the Mid-Continent University website’s homepage at www.midcontinent.edu for class cancellations. Cancellations are cohort-specific and will be posted as soon as a decision has been made on or after 3 PM.
Happy New Year! We have some exciting things planned for the Online Learning Center (OLC) in 2012! We are adding two new programs – one at the bachelor’s level and our first online Master’s program. We would truly appreciate it if you could help spread the word.

Here is an updated list of all programs we are offering 100% online in addition to our face-to-face locations:

- Associate of Science (General Studies)
- Bachelor of Science: Psychology & Counseling*
- Bachelor of Science: Business Management*
- Bachelor of Science: Christian Ministry (NEW!)*
- Master of Science: Human Resource Management (NEW!)

*Choose from minors in Human Resources, Psychology, Christian Studies, and Business Management.

In addition, we have added another way to connect with us! We have a new blog started at http://mcuonline.blogspot.com. If you have any ideas for topics you’d like to see on our blog, please email twallrauch@midcontinent.edu, or post a comment on our blog page.

Job Searching in 2012

Job searching is a multi-step process that can take some time. The average job search takes 3-6 months! That's why it's important to use your time as wisely as you can and to be targeted in your job search strategies.

Here are some quick time-saving job search tips that will help you in your job search:

- **Be More Than Prepared.** Always have an up-to-date resume ready to send.
- **Don't Wait.** If you are laid-off, file for unemployment benefits right away.
- **Create Your Own Templates.** Have copies of your resume and cover letter ready to edit at all times.
- **Use Job Search Engines.** Search the job search engines.
- **References Ready.** Have a list of three references including name, job title, company, phone number and email address ready to give to interviewers.
- **Don't Stop.** Don't limit your job searching to the top sites like Monster or CareerBuilder. As time passes, rejections can mount up which can make it easy to become disheartened. However, this is exactly the time when you need to work harder than ever.

   **Tech Tip—Setting up Live@edu on Your iPhone**

   - **Step 1:** Go to the home screen and touch the settings icon.
   - **Step 2:** From the mail settings menu go to Mail, Contacts & Calendars
   - **Step 3:** Touch Add Account.
   - **Step 4:** Touch Microsoft Exchange
   - **Step 5:** Fill in the blanks as follows:
     - **Email:** Complete student email (Ex: John.smith@email.midcontinent.edu)
     - **Server:** m.outlook.com
     - **Username:** Complete student email again (Ex: John.smith@email.midcontinent.edu)
     - **Password:** “Enter your password”
     - **Description:** Name the email whatever you would like
   - **Step 6:** Click Done. You should have successfully set-up your account.

MCU TUTORIALS:
http://www.midcontinent.edu/pdfs/WritingTutorial.pdf
www.midcontinent.edu/apa-writing-style
http://www.midcontinent.edu/math-tutorials
It’s more important than ever to submit the FAFSA TODAY!

Some financial aid programs have limited money & provide funds on a first-come, first-serve basis to qualified students.

It’s more important than ever to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. Some financial aid programs have limited money and provide funds on a first-come, first-serve basis for qualified students. The FAFSA should be completed as soon as possible after January 1, 2012. Kentucky state grants are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. These funds run out early. It is the responsibility of each student to complete the free 2012-2013 FAFSA. A new FAFSA must be completed for each academic year to determine grant and student loan eligibility. Your new FAFSA will cover the academic year from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 (based on 2011 tax returns).

It is your Financial Aid Department’s goal to minimize loans and maximize grants for those of you who are trying to keep your debt after graduation as low as possible or better yet, to graduate without any debt. We are very proud that our graduates have the third lowest debt in the state, next to Berea and Eastern Kentucky University (www.projectonstudentdebt.org). To assist you in maximizing your grant opportunities, MCU strongly encourages you to complete your FAFSA in January.

Your promptness is vital.

You will need to submit your FAFSA renewal or new application online using the web-based version of the Department of Education’s FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. It requires a PIN (Personal Identification Number) to sign electronically. Your PIN will be available immediately once requested. If you already have your PIN, you will use it again for the 2012-2013 FAFSA. If you do not have one or don’t remember it, you will need to apply at www.pin.ed.gov. The school code for MCU is 025762. You will need your 2011 federal income tax forms to complete the FAFSA, however, you may also choose to process an estimated FAFSA by selecting “will file”. This way the FAFSA can be processed sooner, basically allowing you to be first in line, and hopefully ensuring funds will not be exhausted. Once taxes are processed it is your responsibility to correct the estimated FAFSA. No aid will be awarded until this process is complete. The Financial Aid Department is available to assist you in the completion process should you need it. If you have questions, call 1-888-MCU-GRAD.

Do not disqualify yourself from grants by procrastinating. The Financial Aid Department encourages early completion of the FAFSA to be considered for state grant funds like the Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG) and the College Access Program (CAP) grant. One of the grants (KTG) allows for a very high household income and nearly all MCU students who are Kentucky residents that apply early qualify for it. KTG is not a small grant either; it is nearly $1500 a semester. Three thousand dollars can go a long way toward other financial needs in any household. This is a grant you can only receive if you are attending one of Kentucky’s private colleges, such as MCU. If you should miss the priority deadline, it’s still vital to complete the FAFSA for registration needs to receive loans.

Do you have any exciting news in your life you would like to share in the next Cohort Chronicle? Does your cohort group have a story or photos to share? Email your stories/photos to dmclaughlin@midcontinent.edu.