A Time For Reflection

January is a time of year when we reflect over the previous year and make goals for the new year. Did you know that education/learning is included in almost any top ten resolution list published? There are reasons for that.

Education is a door opener. Many adult students have found opportunities to advance closed to them because they do not have the required educational level. Career Advancement is the second most expressed reason that ADVANTAGE students pursue their education. Horace Mann, renowned American educator, once said, “Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance-wheel of the social machinery.”

Education makes you feel good about yourself. Learning helps you feel more confident and that newly found confidence directly impacts a person’s self esteem. The most often expressed reason that ADVANTAGE adults pursue their education is because it has always been a personal goal. Achieving goals always gives one a sense of accomplishment.

Education is something we do for our family. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, your child is three times more likely to complete their bachelor’s degree if you complete yours. Being a role model is the third most expressed reason adults in ADVANTAGE pursue their degree. It is an accomplishment that cannot be taken away. Learning is forever; it cannot be stripped from a person, regardless of the circumstances one might find him/herself in.

Education is a valuable contribution to one’s community and one’s country. Statistically a community that has a higher education rate also has a lower crime rate and a higher quality of life. Countries that invest in the education of their constituents improve the economic performance of the nation.

We are excited to provide our students with a unique educational approach that removes the barriers of completing a degree, but to us it is more than the attainment of your education. During your educational journey at MCU, you will have opportunity not only to develop your mind, but also to grow your soul. In Martin Luther King’s words, “Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education”. Have a blessed 2011!

Jackie Imhoff

Friend us on facebook under Mid-Continent University’s Advantage!
It’s more important than ever to submit the FAFSA ASAP. Some financial aid programs have limited money & provide funds on a first-come, first-serve basis to qualified students.

The FAFSA should be completed as soon as possible after January 1, 2011. The KY state grants are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. These funds do run out early. It is the responsibility of each student to complete the free 2011-2012 FAFSA. A new FAFSA must be completed for each academic year to determine grant and student loan eligibility. This new FAFSA will cover the academic year from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (based on 2010 tax returns).

The Financial Aid Department at MCU strongly encourages you to complete your FAFSA early. Your promptness is vital for them to process any financial aid in time for you to qualify for the maximum amount of grants. 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 to sign electronically. Your PIN (Personal Identification Number) will be available immediately when requested. If you already have your PIN, you will use it again for the 2011-2012 FAFSA. If you do not have one, you will need to apply for it at www.pin.ed.gov. The school code for MCU is 025762. You will need your 2010 Federal Income tax forms to complete the FAFSA. If you do not have one, you will need to apply for it at www.pin.ed.gov. The school code for MCU is 025762. You will need your 2010 Federal Income tax forms to complete the FAFSA. You may also chose to process an estimated FAFSA. This way the FAFSA can be processed any time after January 1. Once taxes are processed it is your responsibility to correct the estimated FAFSA and 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 them at 1-888-MCU-GRAD.

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. ALL grants are not need-based. We strongly encourage everyone to apply even if you feel there is no need. The KTG, offered only to full-time Kentucky students attending private colleges, allows a higher income level than other grants. State grant funding is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. The FAFSA should be completed as soon as possible after January 1, 2011. Awards are made until funds are depleted. The (KTG) and (CAP) grants will be available to those who qualify until the funds are exhausted. If you should miss the priority deadline, it’s still vital to complete the FAFSA for registration needs.

Faculty Spotlight on Professor Muniz

Professor Muniz (pictured left) graduated from high school in Brookport, IL and went on to earn a BS degree at Murray State University in 1970 with majors in Communication and English Literature. He continued at Murray State and received a MS degree in Communications. At the same time he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve.

He spent over 21 years in the banking industry, working first for Citizens Bank and Trust Co. in Paducah, then at Downstate National Bank in Brookport, leaving that bank as Senior Vice President to accept the position of Dean of Students at Mid-Continent in 1994.

Before and during his banking career, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve for over 20 years, retiring as a Major. He served in a basic training unit for 14 years (four as Company Commander) and then for seven years in two U.S.A.R. schools, initially in personnel administration and finally as an instructor for the Command and General Staff Officer’s College. He also served a six-month state-side assignment during Operation Desert Storm.

In his first five years at MCU, Professor Muniz served as Dean of Students. During the past 11 years, he has been the primary instructor of Communications courses and an Assistant Professor, he now serves as Lead Instructor in Communications. In April of 2008, he received the President’s Teaching Excellence Award.

Professor Muniz and his wife Charlotte, a retired postmaster, have been married for 37 years and have two children. He has been active in his church for over 45 years. He currently teaches the Auditorium Bible Class on Sundays and also serves on his church's Board of Trustees. He and his wife are active in civic affairs and serve on their local Community Betterment Committee. Professor Muniz, an avid Cardinal baseball fan, enjoys walking, reading, and driving his “toys”, a customized Chevy Pick-up and a Jeep Wrangler.
“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”

Robert Louis Stevenson
CONGRATS CLASS OF 2010!

MURRAY

OWENSBORO

SIC 5

PADUCAH

MAYFIELD
Congrats to our Alumnus of the Year, Mayfield’s Mayor, Teresa Cantrell! (pictured above right with Director of Alumni Affairs, Donna Babcock)
**ONLINE COURSES**

**February**

- Personnel Supervision (HR/Elective) **02-07-11**
- Managing Cultural Diversity (HR/Elective) **02-07-11**
- Abnormal Psychology **02-07-11**
- Psychology of Addiction **02-07-11**
- Developmental Psychology **02-07-11**
- Management Issues **02-07-11**
- Managerial Accounting **02-07-11**
- Systems Approach to Org. Change (Business Management Min.) **02-07-11**
- Macroeconomics Analysis (Business Management Min.) **02-07-11**
- Understanding Homeland Security (Elective) **02-07-11**

**March**

- General Biology (Science/Elective) **03-21-11**
- Business Mathematics (Elective) **03-21-11**
- English Comp I (Elective) **03-21-11**
- English (Elective) **03-21-11**
- Modern World Religion **03-21-11**
- Humanities/Christian Studies/Elective (Business Management Min.) **03-21-11**
- Applied English (Elective) **03-21-11**
- General Psychology (Elective) **03-21-11**
- Social Science/Psy & S.S. Min/Elective (Humanities/Christian Studies/Elective) **03-21-11**
- Life of Christ (Hum/Christian Studies Min/Christian Studies/Elective) **03-21-11**
- US History to 1877 (Social Science/Elective) **03-21-11**

**UPCOMING COHORT AREAS:**

- Masters: Paducah & Bowling Green
- Bachelors: Business Mgmt: Mt. Vernon (IL), Paducah, Somerset, Bowling Green, Mayfield, JALC (IL), Danville, Louisville, ONLINE
- Psych & Counseling: ONLINE

FYI: New students can join an associate cohort group at any time at any of our Kentucky associate locations. If you know anyone who may be interested in going to school and taking classes in any of our locations, please have them contact MCU today at 1-888-MCU-GRAD.

*MCU reserves the right to cancel any course.
Academic Achievement Award Recipient, **Sherry Kaye Newton** (left), is a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church and is the chaplain of her cohort group. She is a lifetime Kentucky Colonel, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Beta Delta. Sherry is employed by the State of Kentucky as a Field Training Specialist for the Department of Community Based Services, Family Support Division. Sherry and her husband of 21 years, Jeff, have three wonderful sons. Sherry enjoys encouraging others to recognize and obtain their goals, and hopes to one day be an instructor in a college setting.

Academic Achievement Award Recipient, **Beverly Ann DeLap Burton** (above right), a magna cum laude graduate, has a passion for women’s ministry and plans to attend New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where she will work on her Master’s in Christian Education with an emphasis in Women’s Ministry. Beverly has been involved in various ministries in Mayfield including jail ministry, leading women’s Bible studies, and last year began Greenhouse Ministries, a ministry that encourages women to grow in their relationship with Christ. She and husband Homer Burton have two children.

WAY TO GO!!!!

Congratulations to our Outstanding Service Award Recipients Richard A. Hackett, Sr. (Frankfort) and Anna Marie Blackburn (Louisville)! The bi-annual award recognizes ADVANTAGE students who have “Contributed Exceptional Service” to the community and/or university during their tenure at MCU. Recipients of this award are nominated and chosen by MCU faculty and staff and are announced during commencement exercises.

**Tax tip:** For 2010, there are new tax breaks for students. Required course materials are now deductible, and the Hope Credit has been extended to four years instead of two. Consult IRS Publication 970 and a qualified tax pro for more info about claiming these benefits on your taxes.

**MCU Writing Tutorials:** The writing tutorial provides basic information on writing for different purposes. Check it out at: [http://www.midcontinent.edu/pdfs/WritingTutorial.pdf](http://www.midcontinent.edu/pdfs/WritingTutorial.pdf) Check out our new APA Tool at [www.midcontinent.edu/apa-writing-style](http://www.midcontinent.edu/apa-writing-style)
Welcome New Cohorts!

If your cohort photo hasn’t been featured yet please have your class rep email dmelaughlin@midcontinent.edu so we can arrange a photo to be taken and featured in a future edition. Cohort photos coming soon: BG 6F, Lebanon 3F, Paducah 33, Paducah 14F, Murray 2 and Frankfort 3F.
CONGRATS to Our New Sigma Beta Delta Members

Aaron Pearson—Baton Rouge, LA
Alexis Blankenship—Marion, IL
Amanda Coleman—Princeton, KY
Anna Marie Blackburn—Louisville, KY
Anndrea Coffman—Benton, KY
Beth Caraker—Vienna, IL
Bobi Cavins*—Goreville, IL
Camille Bryant—Paducah, KY
Cathy Lakisha—Louisville, KY
Charles Coelho—Murphysboro, IL
Christa Cole—Murray, KY
Christy Case—Island, KY
Christy Dyer*—Mayfield, KY
Crystal Brown—Shepherdsville, KY
Daniel Chilton—Mayfield, KY
Debra Collett—Shepherdsville, KY
Donald McCoy*—Mt. Washington, KY
Dylan Bowling—McLeansboro, IL
Emily Rafael*—Cobden, IL
Felisha Bochaintin—Ashley, IL
Greg McCauley*—Paducah, KY
Heather Chaney—Salem, KY
Jacqueline Hogancamp—Barlow, KY
Jesse Barger—Almo, TN
Jon Cochran—Princeton, KY
Jonathan Armstrong—Murray, KY
Joy Durant*—Harrisburg, IL
Karen Ballard—Fancy Farm, KY
Karen Carroll—Paducah, KY
Kimberly Carter—Cambria, IL
Kristan Crook*—Henderson, KY
Leah Arnold—Paducah, KY
Lisa Adam—Gilbertsville, KY
Lisa Hayes*—Madisonville, KY
Lisa Jones*—Bowling Green, KY
Lori Gelgut*—Energy, IL
Mark Allen—Barlow, KY
Martha Crane—Harrisburg, IL
Mary Burns—Louisville, KY
Maxine Carter—Franklin, KY
Michelle Mangrum—Mayfield, KY
Monique Carroll—Bowling Green, KY
Penny Morgan*—Fulton, KY
Phyllis Martin*—Freddonia, KY
Rebecca Wren*—Paducah, KY
Rhonda Florida*—Madisonville, KY
Richard Crowder—Russellville, KY
Roger Croney—Hopkinsville, KY
Roger Sikes*—Owensboro, KY
Sabrina Black—Vienna, IL
Shawna Campbell—Bowling Green, K
Sherri Miller*—Hurst, IL
Sherry Newton*—Hopkinsville, KY
Susan Crocker—Princeton, KY
Vickie Bryant—Mayfield, KY
Vulanzo Blount—Henderson, KY
Yolanda Butts*—Owensboro, KY

Membership is the highest national recognition a business student can receive at a college or university with a Sigma Beta Delta chapter. To be eligible for membership, a business student must rank in the upper 15% of their undergraduate or graduate programs and be invited by faculty officers. Candidates who are members are recognized by the green and gold cords. The purposes of Sigma Beta Delta are to encourage and recognize scholarship and achievement among business, management and administration students, and to encourage and promote personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honorable service. Sigma Beta Delta established its first chapter at Belmont University in 1994 and has grown to over 225 chapters in 45 states. MCU’s Chapter was established October 31, 2005.

*Sigma Beta Delta Honorees

*colors may not be available in all sizes

Get your ADVANTAGE gear!

We have ADVANTAGE hoodies for sale for $18 (see photo on left). Small-3XL available in purple, dark chocolate, royal blue, dark heather (gray), irish (kelly) green, light (powder) blue, and N. Carolina blue*. ADVANTAGE gear can only be purchased through your class rep. Ask your class rep for more details. For MCU gear, check out the Cougar closet online at our website http://www.midcontinent.edu/cougarcloset.

*colors may not be available in all sizes

Please refer to the www.midcontinent.edu homepage. Cancellations are cohort-specific and will be posted immediately once a decision has been made.