History was made on May 12 when Winston Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua-Barbuda, visited western Kentucky to speak at Mid-Continent’s graduation ceremony.

Prime Minister Spencer was the first foreign head of state to ever visit the Paducah-Mayfield area, let alone speak at an area college or university. The Prime Minister’s visit was a result of a long-standing mission partnership with the University and Antigua to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Prime Minister’s four-day visit not only was a great privilege for Mid-Continent University (MCU), but an opportunity for him to meet people in western Kentucky and experience its hospitality and beauty. At special events in his honor, the Prime Minister met with U.S. Representative Ed Whitfield, an aide to U.S. Senator Rand Paul, area pastors who have mission interests in Antigua, business and industrial leaders, and MCU Trustees and employees. Paducah Mayor Bill Paxton presented the Prime Minster with a “Duke of Paducah” award and Mayfield Mayor Teresa Cantrell gave him the “Key to the City.” In return, the Prime Minister gave them signed books about Antigua-Barbuda.

The University also presented the Prime Minister with an honorary doctorate for his work to improve the lives of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. A devout believer in God, he does that by supporting and encouraging Christian missions to help lead the people of his country to Christ. He isn’t afraid to publically share his faith.

May 12 was also a historic day because it marked the largest graduating class in MCU’s history and included the first graduates to receive Master of Science degrees in Human Resources Management. The more than four hundred and thirty graduates included students from the Dr. James W. Cecil Baptist College of the Bible, traditional students from the Baptist College of Arts and Sciences, and adult Advantage students who received Bachelor of Science degrees, Associate of Science degrees and Master degrees. There were graduates from ninety-eight communities in Kentucky and thirty-five in Illinois, as well as several other states.

Prime Minister Spencer gave an inspiring speech urging graduates to be shining lights to make positive contributions in their communities, states and nation. “For some of you this is a new beginning, an opportunity to explore new pathways and examine new horizons in life; for others, it is a continuation of advancement in a particular field of work,” he said, “But for all of you, this graduation ceremony is a testimony of your desire to continue a life journey of service and stewardship to your community.” (continued on next page)
FACEBOOK FORUM
WHAT YOU’RE SAYING ABOUT ADVANTAGE

“If there is any friend of mine that is interested in getting a college education let me know. Mid-Continent University’s Advantage was the best experience I ever had. Me and Tanya Henderson went through the Associates and Bachelors together and boy was it worth it. The have classes all over the place and they are only one night a week. You will not regret doing it.” — Billy Henderson

“Thank you to the Professors and Staff at MCU! The day was filled with wonderful memories in the making!” - Jean Ann Cooper

“Congratulations to the Class of 2012. You guys we did it!!!” - Linda Chandler

“Great day at Graduation at Mid-Continent University’s Advantage. Cannot believe I finally have a college degree. Thanks to my family for the sacrifices they have made for me. It’s now on to the next stage of higher education. It was great seeing all of our teachers and how they are just as proud of us as our own family.” — Jeff Newton

“We demand “no hair” on the list of hair lengths! :) DL 013” — Michael D’Elia

“Thank you Mid-Continent for such a wonderful graduation. The memories I have from this day are priceless. I pray that the Lord continues to bless this school as you continue kingdom business.” — Sherry Kessinger Martin

“Thank you for a wonderful graduation and memories I will cherish for a lifetime. I can’t wait to do it again next time in a blue robe!!!” - Michelle Felts Lucas

“Today is the day!!! I GRADUATE with my Associates from Mid-Continent University’s Advantage, my parents are here from Cleveland, Ohio, my brother surprised me from Denver. What a great weekend!!” - Heather Comer

Congrats to the Class of 2012!

He also reminded the graduates that in pursuing a higher education, they followed Biblical teachings. From Biblical scripture he quoted Acts 26:18 that says “The first step of education is to have one’s eyes opened and be turned from darkness to light” and Proverbs 4:7 that teaches “the beginning of wisdom is to work to acquire it. At the cost of all you possess, strive to gain insight.”

He made special note of the success of the Advantage Programs and the University’s mission as a religious institution: “I applaud Mid-Continent for its role in providing quality education by helping adults to formalize life-long learning experiences and translate them into formal academic results and achievements. This, to my mind, is a highly commendable effort by an educational institution whose primary purpose is to provide Christ-centered quality education at the highest level. Your efforts to facilitate student development by promoting the synthesis of academic knowledge and Christian values for spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical maturation, is an approach that I would recommend to all educational institutions of higher learning to wholeheartedly embrace.”

One unique and interesting aspect of his visit was the security and protection provided by the U.S. Secret Service. Although there were no threats or concerns about his safety, more than twenty-five agents followed their normal procedures for protecting any foreign head of state. They closely surveyed buildings and facilities for potential breaches of security, transported him in a police-escorted motorcade that included a bullet-proof limousine and were constantly at his side. All of the agents were cooperative and friendly and contributed to making the visit a huge success.

The Prime Minister and his staff repeatedly told us how impressed they were with western Kentucky, its people and especially the graduates of MCU. They want to come back for a return visit.

God continues to bless Mid-Continent University in many ways to keep His light shining on our mission to provide a Christ-centered education for thousands of students who want to be better servants for His Kingdom.

Article written by Dr. Robert Imhoff, MCU President and Bill Bartleman, MCU Director of Community Relations
Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

FRANKFORT 2
HOPKINSVILLE 3F
LOUISVILLE 13

LOUISVILLE 14
LOUISVILLE 16
MADISONVILLE 12

PRINCETON 5F
MAYFIELD 13F

OWENSBORO 3
LOUISVILLE

SOMERSET 1F
RUSSELLVILLE 5F

MADISONVILLE 1M (Master’s)
Way to go class of 2012!
Congratulations to the Class of 2012!
Congratulations to the Class of 2012!
“You’re off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!”
- Dr. Seuss
If you’re interested in taking additional associate/ONLINE classes*, contact your advisor at 1-888-MCU-GRAD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bardstown</td>
<td>Principles of Speech</td>
<td>Monday, 7-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green</td>
<td>Basics of Accounting</td>
<td>Monday, 7-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danville</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankfort</td>
<td>Principles of Speech</td>
<td>Thursday, 7-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Applied English</td>
<td>Monday, 7-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Biology</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Biology</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday, 7-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>English Comp I</td>
<td>Thursday, 7-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopkinsville</td>
<td>General Biology</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Financial Accounting</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leitchfield</td>
<td>Intro to Business</td>
<td>Thursday, 7-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>Principles of Speech</td>
<td>Thursday, 7-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>Monday, 7-30-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>Computer Apps I</td>
<td>Monday, 7-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayfield</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>Monday, 7-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>Monday, 7-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>Thursday, 7-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>Computer Apps I</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday, 7-26-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radcliff</td>
<td>English Comp I</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russellville</td>
<td>Principles of Speech</td>
<td>Monday, 7-23-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>Computer Apps I</td>
<td>Thursday, 7-24-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UPCOMING COHORT AREAS:**

- **Masters:** Paducah & ONLINE
- **Bachelors:** Business Mgmt: Mayfield, JALC (IL), Mt. Vernon (IL), Bowling Green, Morganfield, and Paducah
- **Psych & Counseling:** Louisville, Bowling Green, Mayfield, and ONLINE
- **Christian Ministries:** 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.

---

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

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

---

*MCU reserves the right to cancel any course. Dates are subject to change. Check with your advisor to ensure start dates of classes.
The **Academic Achievement Award** is given to the student graduating with the highest GPA from each division of the college. **Academic Achievement Award** Recipients Chanda Michelle Smith (left) Christopher Lee Lowery (middle) and Tammy Lee Barnett (right).

The **Outstanding Service Award** recipients, Jackie Meadows (left) and L’Tonia Hendrix Harris (right). This award recognizes students who have “Contributed Exceptional Service” to the community/University. Recipients are nominated and chosen by MCU faculty and staff.

**Capstone of the Year Award** Recipient Kimberly J. Lindsey. This award represents the best of the best from the final project in MCU Master's program. The recipient is chosen by a committee comprised of faculty and administrative leaders.

He shall be like a tree
Planted by rivers of water,
That bringeth forth his fruit in his season...
Psalm 1:3
And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper

**President’s Teaching Excellence Award** Recipient Darlene Gibson, Instructor of English

**Congrats on your retirement,**
**Dr. Orange!**
**We will miss you!**
Overcoming Obstacles

Neal Henley grew up in the small town of Columbus, Kentucky, where he currently lives. He has three sons, Jacob Wesley (16), Brett Alan (13), and Justin Scott (9). They are his motivation for earning his degree.

Neal enrolled in Advantage to earn his associate degree because of how the course was designed. He enjoyed the one-on-one in the class once a week. He was working as a welder and an operator when his life changed.

Neil said, “I was a year through my associate’s when I became disabled with a brain tumor. My world was crushed and all I could think was that I was going to die. I had found out that I would not work again and I was going to drop out of college. Instead, I went on to graduate December 3, 2011 with an Associate of Science in Business Management. This was a great accomplishment for me and my children… Now that I completed one degree, I felt like God wanted me to continue forward. So here I am, now in the bachelor’s program, studying Psychology and Counseling (Mayfield 4P). I also plan on achieving this degree with a minor in Christian Ministries. I know I was told I would not work again, however, I have faith in God and I believe in prayer. I feel that someday I can help someone through my disability… I have my mom, dad, cousin, and of course God, to thank for getting me to go back to school. I had put it off for years simply because I had been out of school so long. I was afraid I would fail. To top it off, I was not much into school in high school and that weighed on my mind. Anyway, I bit the bullet and started my college journey. Like so many times before, my parents were right; I could do this. I am doing this… A special thanks to my family for the encouragement, to Dr. Mason, Jackie Puckett, and Jackie Imhoff for their inspiration, and to all who have added to my knowledge. Most of all, thank you God.”

EXCITING NEWS!!!
New courses available in Criminal Justice! Contact your advisor for details.

“Light It Up Blue”

Each year, Autism Speaks promotes a worldwide event on April 2nd called “Light it Up Blue.” The motto of this event is “Shine a Light on Autism.” This year, MCU participated in “lighting it up blue” throughout April.

Rebecca Harmon, Advantage Student Advisor, said, “I am so pleased that MCU is participating in Autism Awareness Month by “lighting it up blue” throughout April. As an employee and the parent of a child with autism, I am very touched that Mid-Continent supports this important cause. While autism affects my life directly, it is quickly becoming a major global issue. Spreading awareness of autism’s prevalence and symptoms is crucial to battling this disorder. I want to thank MCU for getting involved in that endeavor.”

Through Mid-Continent’s support of autism awareness, MCU is specifically supporting an organization called Autism Speaks (www.autismspeaks.org).

According to their website, Autism Speaks has grown into the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

According to a recent report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), autism statistics identify around one in eighty-eight American children as on the autism spectrum, which is a ten-fold increase in prevalence in forty years.

For more information on autism, how you can help, or donation information (all donations will go directly to Autism Speaks), go to www.autismspeaks.org.
We have been working on updates to the Online Learning Center, including a “facelift” to the home page and an updated user guide. The new OLC User Guide has additional content to reference for navigating the features of the learning environment. You will also find technology guidelines, links to update your browser software, updated diagrams, and icons that point out notes, pro tips, and important information.

Online students should be sure to check out the latest version! The new guide is located on the home page once you log-in. Look for the heading in the top middle of the page for Student Handbook & Guidelines.

We have plans in the works for more OLC updates. We love to hear your suggestions too, so do not hesitate to contact us via email: online@midcontinent.edu.

New Degree Offering: The Bachelor of Science in Christian Ministries program is now available in the online format. Help us spread the word!

The 10 Most Common Job Interview Questions

The best thing an individual can do to prepare for a job interview is to practice your answers to the questions you’re most likely to be asked by an interviewer. It is suggested that you practice these questions by answering out loud as well as writing a response down on paper.

Here are the 10 questions you’re most likely to be asked in a job interview:

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What interests you about this opening or why do you want to work for us?
3. What do you know about our company so far?
4. Why did you leave your last job or why are you thinking about leaving your current job?
5. Tell me about your experience at ___. (Fill in with past job description.)
6. What experience do you have doing ____? (Fill in each of the major responsibilities of the job.)
7. Tell me about your strengths.
8. Tell me about a time when… (Fill in with situations relevant to the position. For instance: Tell me about when you had to take initiative or had to deal with a difficult customer).
9. What salary range are you looking for?
10. What questions do you have for me?

Source: http://money.usnews.com/

MCU TUTORIALS:
http://www.midcontinent.edu/pdfs/WritingTutorial.pdf
www.midcontinent.edu/apa-writing-style
http://www.midcontinent.edu/math-tutorials
Amanda Pass, ADVANTAGE Student, Recipient of SIPMA 2012 Scholarship

The Southern Illinois Personnel Management Association (SIPMA) recently announced Amanda Pass as the recipient of their 2012 scholarship. Amanda currently lives in Herrin with her husband, John, and four children, Nicole, Spencer, Lauren and Leah. She is the Human Resource Manager at Pepsi MidAmerica in Marion, Illinois. She said, “On April 13, SIPMA presented a scholarship at their annual conference at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois. As the recipient, I was honored to receive the scholarship and the compliments of my professors. Thank you, Mid-Continent for providing the MSHRM (Master of Science in Human Resource Management) Advantage program.”

About two years ago, Amanda enrolled in MCU’s MSHRM cohort group in Paducah. This May, she graduated with her master’s degree. She explained, “I entered the program because I felt I needed a Human Resource background to use my management experience and customer service skills to move to the next level in business.” She also said, “I want my children to know that education is the key to their future.”

Amanda continued, “Going back to school is a commitment of your time, energy, relationships and finances. The first few months were tough, but the COHORT friendships help you get through the weekly classes. The light at the end of the tunnel is spectacular— to know that your hard work and determination has paid off is priceless… My education was a stepping-stone into Pepsi MidAmerica that allowed me to work alongside some of the hardest working people who have the dedication and determination to do their job to the best of their ability.”

CONGRATS AMANDA!!!

Spring 2012 Sigma Beta Delta Undergraduate Inductee Ceremony

Several students were recently inducted as members of Sigma Beta Delta (SBD). SBD was established to recognize students who have attained superior academic scholarship in business programs in schools and colleges with regional accreditation. Dr. David Williams, Dean of Graduate Studies and Spring Inductee, said, “I consider it an honor to be associated with Sigma Beta Delta. At Mid-Continent we are able to recognize the best of the best with membership in Sigma Beta Delta. In a business management program recognized for excellence, membership in SBD represents a significant academic and personal achievement. I congratulate our new members.”

CONGRATS TO ALL OF OUR MCU SIGMA BETA DELTA MEMBERS!!

“I wanted to let you know about the great surprise I received. Last night was my last time to teach for Mid-Continent University. The Fulton 2F cohort surprised me with a cake and a bag full of gifts. I had mentioned in class my love for hiking trails and enjoying the outdoors, so they supplied me with a backpack, hiking pole, hat, water bottle and cooling towel. What a great ending for my last night of teaching! I appreciate more that I can express in words the thoughtfulness of the Fulton cohort for my retirement celebration and gifts. Teaching for MCU has been a pleasure and I have thanked God many times for providing me the opportunity to teach in a Christian environment. Thanks for letting me share this experience with MCU.”

Debra McCuiston

MCU will miss you, Professor McCuiston!!

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.