

Nov - May
2023 - 2024

McLENNAN HIGHLANDER QUARTERLY



Softball and other student athletes
earn success on and off the field

The McLennan Community College FOUNDATION

Please remember the MCC Foundation in your
annual giving, estate planning & memorials

(254) 299-8604 • 1400 College Drive • Waco, TX 76708

Visit our website: mclennan.edu/foundation

Editor: Chris Qualls

IN THIS ISSUE:



Hearts in the Arts • New Board Members • Golf Tournament • Scholarship Update • And More!

ATHLETICS UPDATE

All McLennan Community College Athletics teams had impressive seasons, with students achieving results in the classroom and beyond. However, our softball team earned many distinctions. It is a privilege to help shape young men and women into leaders for the future. If the performance of these athletes is any indication, the future is bright!

ALUMNI NOMINATIONS

We are so excited to again be accepting awards for our Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Leader awards. Nominations can be made online until July 31st. Honorees will be recognized in Fall at the Scholar Brunch among peers, donors, and student scholarship recipients. Please consider nominating an outstanding Highlander today.

CAMERON UPDATE

Cameron Hall is under construction and progressing successfully. The McLennan Foundation has nearly reached the financial goals necessary to restore this gem to the community. Naming opportunities still exist on this project and can be discussed today! To join us in reinvigorating this wonderful piece of history and bridging the future of our community, reach out.

CHOSEN ALUMNI

McLennan has been the home of many proud alumni over the years including athletes in football, baseball, golf, and basketball. Our students have gone on to hold elected office, act on Broadway, publish best-selling novels and more. Mark Dickenson has recently reprised his role on hit show, *The Chosen*.

Highlander

ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

McLennan Community College • Waco, Texas

Nominate a McLennan Community College Alumni for the 2024 Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Leader awards

Distinguished Alumni Nominations

Distinguished Leader Nominations

254-299-8481 | alumni@mclennan.edu | <https://www.facebook.com/HighlanderAlumniAssociation>

Alex Balaban
2023 Distinguished Leader

The [Highlander Alumni & Friends Association](#), established in 2008 to link the College and its network of outstanding alumni and supporters, is accepting nominations now through July 31 for its **2024 Distinguished Alumni** and **Distinguished Leader** awards. Nominations can be completed and submitted online now through July 31st.

The [Distinguished Alumni Award](#) is presented to an alum of MCC who has demonstrated a record of distinguished service and extraordinary achievement in a particular discipline, organization, or cause that brings distinction to the College. Nominees must have successfully completed a one-year certificate or two-year associates degree program, or have earned a minimum of 30 transferable hours (with a degree) from the College.

The [Distinguished Leader Award](#) is presented to a 2023-2024 graduating or completing student of MCC who has demonstrated a record of distinguished service and extraordinary achievement in academic and extracurricular realms, shown remarkable leadership, or provided service to a cause that brings distinction the College.

<p>Johnathon Kiebler 2019 Distinguished Leader</p>	<p>Nallely Gonzalez 2020 Distinguished Leader</p>	<p>Killian Hutchison 2022 Distinguished Leader</p>
<p>Judge Vicki Menard 2019 Distinguished Alumna</p>	<p>Clint Lewis 2021 Distinguished Alumnus</p>	<p>Mandy Loftin Conner 2022 Distinguished Alumna</p>

FORGING LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

At McLennan Community College, excellence matters. We strive for excellence in all the we do. In the classroom and beyond, our students exemplify the high standards on which our institution is built. That is why our [student athletes](#) regularly earn recognition for their academic and athletic success. As usual, all of our athletics teams dazzled this year.

[Dance](#) earned yet another national title. The [women's basketball](#) program won a conference championship. [Men's basketball](#) persevered through nearly insurmountable injuries and still impressed with a winning season. Both our [men's](#) and [women's golf](#) teams continue to make headlines. [Baseball](#) made it to the national tournament.

Perhaps most captivating is the story of our [softball](#) team. With a nearly perfect season, our girls won 61 out of 65 games, and held their #1 national ranking for most of the season. For the second time in three years, McLennan softball proudly holds the title of National Runners Up. Many outstanding student athletes have been recognized as All-Americans, selected as MVPs, and won various awards for excellence in their position. Head softball Coach, Chris Berry, is passionately dedicated to instilling his players with the character, integrity, and tenacity they need to be outstanding leaders in and on whatever field they choose. He focuses on forging young women into the leaders of tomorrow and preparing them for success.

The MCC Foundation is proud to support McLennan athletics with scholarships and programmatic financial support. Please consider [recognizing student excellence with a donation today](#). Naming options are available for major donors. To discuss options, contact the Foundation at foundation@mclennan.edu.




HEARTS IN THE ARTS GALA

INTO THE WOODS

From the founding of McLennan Community College in 1965, we have strived to serve our students and community with educational and enriching opportunities. Over the years, we have become known for the quality of our Visual and Performing Arts department. Alumni from our arts programs have won Grammys, produced with the biggest names in music, authored bestselling novels, performed on Broadway, and more. The Foundation proudly provides scholarships for students interested in studying the arts.


The [Hearts in the Arts Gala](#) raised more than \$53,000 this year for student scholarships under the guidance of Honorary Hearts in the Arts Chairs Drs. Dianne and J. Clay Sawyer, to whom we owe sincere gratitude. Among our most successful Gala events, this year's show was **Into the Woods**. We are grateful to all [Hearts in the Arts Members](#) and supporters who joined us for this memorable night. Your support ensures that local students can continue to achieve their dreams affordably. Please consider renewing your membership and securing tickets today for the 2024-2025 Hearts in the Arts Gala to enjoy a wonderful production of **Guys and Dolls**.




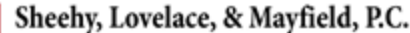



22nd Annual Hearts in the Arts
Theatre Gala
February 22, 2024


Gala Sponsors



Waco Tribune-Herald


H-E-B


Sheehy, Lovelace, & Mayfield, P.C.


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2023-2024 Hearts in the Arts Members

Hearts in the Arts Executive Producers
Nancy Logan | Drs. Dianne and J. Clay Sawyer


Hearts in the Arts Executive Directors
Virginia and Dr. Donald K. Lewis | Ellie and Dr. Eddie Morrison
Drs. Ruth and Bill Pitts | Doreen Ravenscroft

Hearts in the Arts Choreographers
Jean and Richard Fallas | Drs. Johnette and Stanley McKown

Hearts in the Arts Patrons
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Susie Farley | Marilyn Ginnane | Annette Lindsey | Linda Hatchel | Glenda Strum

Friends of the Arts
Edana and Dr. Phillip Croyle | Pamela Smallwood | Lorraine Stansel | Sharon and Charles Stern



Special thanks to Drs. Dianne and Clay Sawyer for being our
2023-2024 Hearts in the Arts Honorary Chairs!


HIGHLANDER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALUMNI
EXCELLENCE

ALUMNI & FRIENDS REUNION PICNIC

On Thursday, June 20th, more than 100 Highlander Alumni, friends, and family joined the MCC Foundation for the 16th Annual Alumni & Friends Reunion. We met at Slowrise Slice House, which is led by an Alumna of MCC, to enjoy delicious pizza, great friends, and a beautiful atmosphere. Participants were given t-shirts or hats to display their Highlander pride, and several lucky guests walked away with door prizes. Many of you joined us for a trivia competition and demonstrated the excellent quality of your MCC education. If you were not able to make it to this year's Alumni Reunion, please get in touch today to find out how you can be involved with our [Alumni Association](#), and be sure to join us next year.






ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MARK DICKENSON

Local business leader and MCC Alumni, Mark Dickenson, and his wife Sally may not yet have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, but they are making their community proud! The two are returning to the small screen for the upcoming fourth season of the hit show, **The Chosen**.

When Dickenson moved to Waco, his only goal was to play baseball for the Highlanders. He never expected to be wandering through the desert for a television show of biblical proportions. He and his wife have repeatedly been invited to join Dallas Jenkins, **The Chosen's** creator, for filming. When not on set, Mark and his wife run [Morrison's Gifts](#).

MCC is proud that Dickenson is able to apply what he learned in class and on the field to a television show that impacts millions. To support current and future students pursuing their dreams, please consider partnering with the MCC Foundation to [provide scholarships, capital improvement funds, or estate gifts and make an impact that will last through the centuries.](#)

AN UPDATE ON CAMERON HALL

Construction is underway on [Cameron Hall](#). Despite an unusually rainy few months, progress is evident along the Bosque, and we expect it to be finished in early 2025. After carefully removing hazardous structures, construction professionals are hard at work to rebuild this cornerstone of our community. Now in place is a strong foundation on which we can build a legacy that not only extends deep into the heart of Waco’s history, but also in the future for generations to come.

We are so grateful to our partners who joined us for this opportunity to provide modern, efficient, and state-of-the art facilities that enrich students’ educational and historical perspectives. With your help, we have secured commitments in excess of \$4.3 million dollars.

[Give heritage](#) back to the students and community today by supporting the final stage of the project. Gifts of \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million will finalize this illustrious effort, and naming options are still available. Contact MCC Foundation’s Executive Director, [Wes Livesay](#), today to get involved and help out before construction is complete.



GETTING THE GREEN FOR MEN’S GOLF

Many of us remember one outstanding coach, teacher, or mentor who made an indelible impact on the person we are today. For many who know him, that man is MCC Professor and Men’s Golf Coach, Vince Clark. On Friday, June 21st, nearly 30 of Coach Clark’s former players kicked off what they hope will become an annual tradition: The Brothers’ Invitational—a golf tournament and fundraiser that gives back to the alma mater and man that has guided so many young people to greener pastures.

We offer a special thank you to Cory Donnell, with the help of former teammate Kade Miller, who corralled generations of Highlander golfers and raised nearly \$8000 for the Men’s Golf program. Some of those present had never met one another before, but were quickly bonded by the fraternity of sporting the same colors for the same coach. Competition was friendly but fierce with these exceptional athletes, but the feeling that ruled the day was an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Coach Clark gives so much to his students, players, and the College. His former players were happy to be able to give something back.

The McLennan Community College Foundation is excited to partner with Alumni of the College to raise financial support for the programs that most impact students. If you have an idea for how you might provide financial support to a MCC program that is dear, please reach out to us today at foundation@mclennan.edu to discuss potential partnership. Our team is happy to discuss ways we can empower our friends and supporters in initiatives similar to this one.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE



Scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year have been awarded. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, last academic year set a new record for the most amount of scholarship dollars awarded in a single academic year. The MCC Foundation was able to award more than \$712,000 to students pursuing their goals. With your help, we believe that the next academic year will bring us to new heights!

Mark your calendars!

The Scholar, Donor and Alumni Brunch will be held on **November 8th** at the MCC conference center. This event recognizes donors and the students who benefit from their generosity.

To start a scholarship in your name or on behalf of a loved one, please reach out to the MCC Foundation today!





Save the Date

Friday, October 4, 2024
Cottonwood Creek Golf Course

38th Annual
FOUNDATION
GOLF
Classic

McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WACO, TEXAS

Proceeds benefit athletic student scholarships at McLennan!
Contact the Foundation at **299-8604** or **reservations@mclennan.edu**.

Accepting sponsorships & team registration through Aug. 31, 2024



GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION IN HONOR & IN MEMORY

November 1st, 2023 - May 31st, 2024

In Honor of Balmos Family
David DeLoach

In Honor of Rick Butler
John McLennan, III

In Honor of the Cast and Crew of
"Princess and the Pea"
Linda Hatchel

In Honor of Vincent Clark
Carla Haynes-Clowe
The Waco Study Club

In Honor of David Davis
Doug McDurham

In Honor of Gary Duncan
Holly Webb
Peter Blaskiewicz
Matt Shelton
Gail Illich
Lisa Lindloff
Teri Barnes
Yumei Wu
Lorraine Stansel
Shannon Hill
Stacy Kuehn
Carmack Berryman
Mark Crenwelge
Deanna Barnes

In Honor of the Ferguson Family
Kathy Averitt

In Honor of Marilyn Ginnane
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fallas

In Honor of Harry Harelik
Eve and Joe Riley

In Honor of Paul Hoffman
Linda Hatchel

In Honor of Missy Kittner
Linda Hatchel

In Honor of M.F. Kruse
1963 West High School Legacy
Project & The Community of West

In Honor of Dr. and Mrs. Donald K. Lewis
Eve and Joe Riley
Harry and Beverly Harelik

In Honor of the MCC Foundation Staff
Linda Hatchel

In Honor of Dr. Donna G. Miller and K. Paul Holt
Dr. and Mrs. Heyward L. Green
Drs. Dianne J. Clay Sawyer



Consider making your next gift online! Click the "Make a Gift" button to access our online donation page at any time.



GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION

IN HONOR & IN MEMORY (continued)

In Honor of Gilbert Montemayor

Tom and Kathryn Proctor
Suzanne and Paul Baldon

In Honor of Lise Uhl

Drs. Ruth and Bill Pitts

In Honor of Gail Wade

Drs. Ruth and Bill Pitts

In Memory of Jonathan Balmos

Dr. and Mrs. Eddie Morrison

In Memory of Joe Kenneth Beard

Tom and Kathryn Proctor

In Memory of Dr. John S. Belew

Drs. Buddy and Louise Powell

In Memory of Mike Bidwell

Harvest Partners, LP
Darla Supowitz
World 50 Group (09/29/23)
Landon Hengst

In Memory of Darryl Black

Dr. and Mrs. Fred W. Hills

In Memory of Francis Bravo

Richard Drum

In Memory of Anna Nell Waters Brotherton

Sandy Hinton

In Memory of Margaret C. Brown

Drs. Johnette and Stanley McKown
Margaret C.B. & S. Spencer N. Brown Foundation

In Memory of Edna Ferris

The Hobbie Family
Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Sanders
Cindy and Bill Dietz
Debra Ferris and Steven Bromberek
Mike and Paula Anderson
Edward Fennessy
David and Andrea Chmiel

In Memory of Jeanette Sherrill Finley

Sandy Hinton

In Memory of Logan Fisher

Valerie Bobo

In Memory of Donnie Fouts

Dr. Sandra and Mr. Bill N. Goss
Faith Glatter

In Memory of Helen Fu

Chilan, Johnny, William, Bebo, & Alex Shiu

In Memory of Francis R. Gearhart

Neyra Bazaldua

In Memory of Joseph and Martin Ginnane

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fallas

In Memory of Gene Gooch

Linda Cheek

In Memory of Michael Graham

Dr. Sandy Goss

In Memory of Larry Harp

Dr. and Mrs. Fred W. Hills

In Memory of Clara J. Henderson

Drs. Buddy and Louise Powell

In Memory of Paul Holder

Linda Hatchel
Chris Gatlin
Michael and Theresa Campenni
Karen Holder
Dr. Richard Drum
Dub and Sharon Cunningham
Bob Ford
Dr. and Mrs. Fred W. Hills
Mrs. Sandy Hinton

In Memory of Donna Maraffa

Teri Barnes and Lisa Lindloff

In Memory of Dr. Michael McAndrew

Mrs. Suzanne Baldon

GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION

IN HONOR & IN MEMORY (continued)

In Memory of Joyce McCleery

Richard Drum

In Memory of Gilbert Montemayor

Dr. and Mrs. Stanley R. Mitchell
Suzanne and Paul Baldon
Tom and Kathryn Proctor
Linda Hatchel
Michael and Theresa Campenni
Bob Ford
Dr. and Mrs. Fred W. Hills
Mrs. Sandy Hinton

In Memory of Terry Mozee, Jr.

Drs. Buddy and Louise Powell

In Memory of C. Ray Perry

Kathy Smith

In Memory of Helga Pirelo

April Robinson

In Memory of Joe Rasso, Jr.

Teresa Raso and Dale Fritz

In Memory of Edward L. Rolan, Jr.

Kathy Rolan

In Memory of Gladys Marie Simmons

Sandy Hinton

In Memory of Dorothy and Charles Turner

Dr. and Mrs. Robb Moses

In Memory of Harvey Umstead

Drs. Bronwen Forbay and Randy Umstead

In Memory of Roy Walthall

The Clorox Company
Felipe Dias
Carlin Liao
Gopindra Sivakumar Nair
Melody Berend and Family
James M. Bull



2023 MCC Foundation BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Johnette McKown (Secretary) Deidra Emerson, Debbie Sartain, Mosie Holley (Treasurer), Len Brown, Sabrina Moore, Glenda Strum, and Shawn Trochim.

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Andy Harwell, Johnny Giotes, Wes Livesay (Executive Director), Dr. Donald K. Lewis, Paul McClinton, John Bible, Mary Perez (Vice Chair), Judge Vik Deivanayagam, Earl Stinnett, Jonathan Hill, Trammell Kelly, and Dana Hassell (Chairs)

NOT PICTURED: J. David Dickson, Dr. Sandra Goss, Bridget Heins, Clint Lewis, Hermann Pereira, Dr. Dianne Sawyer, and Dr. Sharon Shields.

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