

# MCLENNAN

## Highlander Quarterly

Winter 2008

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*Remember the MCC Foundation  
in your annual giving  
and estate planning.*

### FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT SUCCESS!

The 21st Annual MCC Foundation golf tournament was held on Friday, Oct. 3 at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco. This year's tournament boasted its first title sponsor, Granite Ford of McGregor, and consequently it assumed a new name: *The MCC Foundation-Granite Ford Golf Classic*.

More than 200 players, including several members of the 1983 MCC National Champion Men's



**Harry Harelik, Clint Hill of Granite Ford (Title Sponsor) and Dr. Dennis Michaelis.**

### Alumni Spotlight



***"Never underestimate the power of a great school!"  
--Thomas Cordell, MCC Graduate***

*If there is a "traditional" path to achieving an education, it is obvious that many of the students at MCC don't take it. Whether due to personal, academic, social or economic factors, these students face hardships along the way that would derail even the most motivated scholar. Thomas Cordell, an MCC graduate and member of the Highlander Alumni Association, is one such example:*

Thomas Cordell, age 25, was born in Austin and spent his early childhood frequently moving due to an

... see Alumni p. 2



**Members of the 1983 MCC National Championship Baseball team reunite at the tournament.**

Baseball Team, signed up for a full day of golf, food, visiting and reminiscing. The tournament netted more than \$45,000, a record high for the 21 years the tournament has been in existence.

Plans are already underway for the 2009 golf outing on the first Friday in October 2009. Sponsors may contact the MCC Foundation at 299-8604 or [rdeleon@mclennan.edu](mailto:rdeleon@mclennan.edu) for more information.

... see Golf p.3



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Office Location: 1728 Powell Drive (by The Highlands Gym)

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT, *Continued*

unstable family environment. At age 15, when he was in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, he dropped out of high school. But thanks to the support of Keith Crunk, former Valley Mills High School Counselor, Thomas resumed his high school career and completed the remainder of the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in only one year. He graduated from Valley Mills High School two years early at the age of 16 with a full scholarship to TSTC in hand.

Immediately after graduating, Thomas moved out on his own but soon traded college for a full-time job to make ends meet. Eventually, he landed work through a temporary agency as an Operations Trainee at Waco-based EMSI.

Thomas set about learning everything possible about the nature of business at EMSI. After two years, he was promoted to Lead Computer Operator and began taking courses at MCC. The knowledge he gained at MCC, he says, enabled him to “revolutionize” his department, earning him 2003 Employee of the year honors. Over the next few years, he continued to strive for excellence at work and school, and he rapidly rose in the EMSI ranks. In 2007, he was promoted to Manager of the Customer Connectivity department.

This year, Thomas graduated from MCC with an Associate’s in Computer

Information Systems, an Associate’s in Art, and a certification in Application development. He immediately enrolled in the University of Texas at Brownsville to pursue his Bachelor’s in Information Technology through the University Center. He will complete the program May 26, 2009 and plans to continue his education to earn a Master’s in Educational Technology.

“Though I have worked hard to accomplish my goals, none of this would be possible without the love and support of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin, the parents of Stephen Franklin, my best friend of 10 years,” Thomas says. “Also many thanks to the awesome teachers and advisors like Fred Hills, Linda Reichenbach, Tom Justice, and Rush Hathi. Everything I am or will be is a direct result of all these people.”

Thomas says there are two lessons to be learned from his story: the first is that no matter what a person’s situation, with hard work and determination anyone can achieve their destiny. The second is to never underestimate the power of a great school.

“When the right programs and teachers combine with a determined student ... great things will happen,” he says.

### HONORS FOR MICHAELIS, HARELIK



MCC president **Dennis Michaelis** was honored recently by the Paris Junior College Board of Regents for being a “visionary president (who) left a lasting legacy benefiting Paris Junior College and the city of Paris.” Michaelis served as PJC president from 1983-1988. Under his leadership, the college constructed the Dragon Park running track and the Hunt Center. He is being honored upon announcing his retirement after 20 years as president of MCC. Michaelis is shown at the Nov. 8 PJC Homecoming game along with his wife Beverly, left, and current PJC President Dr. Pamela Anglin.

**Harry Harelik**, executive director of the MCC Foundation, was named “Outstanding Professional Fundraiser” by the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the annual Philanthropy Day celebration Nov. 13.



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THANKS TO OUR HUNDREDS OF  
GOLF TOURNAMENT SUPPORTERS!



### HIGHLANDER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPDATE



The Highlander Alumni Association hosted its first official event on Thursday, Oct. 2: the Highlander Alumni and Friends Reunion Picnic. Surrounded by the beautiful McLennan Gardens and enjoying the smooth sounds of an MCC student jazz ensemble, about 70 alumni association members and their families gathered to reunite, reminisce and reconnect with MCC! Special thanks to QTi Apparel and Promotions for providing the great-looking MCC Alumni T-shirts! Extra shirts are still available to supporters of the Alumni Association and the MCC Foundation. Check them out in the online store at <http://alumni.mclennan.edu>.

As of the end of November, the Highlander Alumni Association proudly reports more than 620 members! Membership has received a big boost from current MCC students active in campus organizations using the alumni Web site to organize and communicate. (Check out the Radiologic Technology Association group page and their pictures from the Heart Walk!) Currently, 31 campus organizations have formed interest groups on the social networking site.

It is obvious, too, that MCC is making its mark across the world: Since our last report, we have had alumni members join from such far-flung locations as Alabama, Kansas, Florida, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, England and Taiwan! To see a roster of our membership, just click on "Member Search" on the home page.

Work continues on developing member benefits, including a member card that will entitle the bearer to discounts at local vendors and at campus events. We are also preparing to launch a Distinguished Alumni Award to be presented next spring, so start thinking about the most accomplished Highlanders who might be worthy of nomination.

Remember: the Highlander Alumni Association is for alumni *AND FRIENDS* of MCC-- you don't have to be a graduate or even a former student to join! The association welcomes members from campus (including current students), retirees and friends in the community who have an interest in MCC. There is no cost to join. Check it out today at <http://alumni.mclennan.edu>.



LaKisha Wooden, Michelle Diaz



Alisa, Kristen and Charles Petree



Student Jazz Combo

### TAX INSTITUTE SPEAKER FORECASTS POST-ELECTION ECONOMY

The MCC Foundation hosted the 4th Annual Tax and Financial Planning Institute (TFPI) Nov. 11 at the MCC Conference Center.

The Institute is designed to bring local professionals together for affordable continuing education and networking. This year's featured speaker was St. Louis-based Aaron Vaughn (pictured right), an equity analyst for Edward Jones, who spoke about economic expectations following the 2008 presidential election as well as the recent global economic volatility. Also featured were speakers from around the state presenting on the new form 990 that nonprofits will be filing for 2008, family limited partnerships, a tax update, ethics in family planning and charitable contribution planning.

The MCC Foundation spearheads this full-day conference each year with the help of the Central Texas Chapter of CPAs, the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association, the Heart of Texas Estate Planning Council and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Waco. For information about next year's Institute, contact Harry Harelik at 299-8606 or [hharelik@mclennan.edu](mailto:hharelik@mclennan.edu).



*Thanks to our 2008 TFPI Sponsors:*  
(GOLD): Edward Jones; Jaynes, Reitmeier, Boyd, and Therrell, P.C.; Wells Fargo Investment Management and Trust  
(SILVER): First National Bank of McGregor/South Bosque; Pattillo, Brown, and Hill L.L.P.

### LEGACY PLAZA PAVER CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

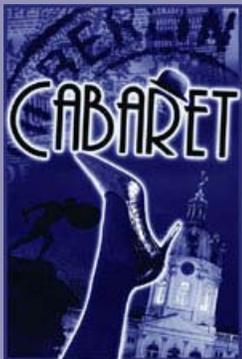


The MCC Foundation is accepting orders through Jan. 5 for the first batch of brick pavers to be installed in the new Highlander Legacy Plaza, which will be situated on campus near the Dennis F. Michaelis Academic Center.

Perfect for holiday gifts, the small pavers (\$100) offer three lines of text and large pavers (\$250) allow six lines. This is the first time donors will have the opportunity to have their name, a family name, a friend's name or a business name engraved on a brick paver in such a highly visible area of MCC's main campus. The Highlander Legacy Plaza will serve as a meeting place and an outdoor classroom in the heart of the campus. Many supporters of MCC, including staff, faculty, administration, retired employees, student organizations and alumni, are completing plans for their permanent tributes in the design of the plaza.

For more information, contact the MCC Foundation at 299-8604 or [rdeleon@mclennan.edu](mailto:rdeleon@mclennan.edu). Ordering information is also available at [www.mclennan.edu/departments/foundation/plaza](http://www.mclennan.edu/departments/foundation/plaza).

### *Theatre Gala is February 28*



Welcome to the Cabaret! One of the MCC Foundation's largest annual fundraisers, the Spring Theatre Gala, is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009. The 2009 gala will include a memorable McLennan Theatre performance of "Cabaret" at the Ball Performing Arts Center, a grand dinner buffet before the performance at the home of Don and Carol Behringer and an elegant dessert reception after the show. Tickets are \$50 per person and sponsorships are still available. For more information, please contact the Foundation office at 299-8604 or [hharelik@mclennan.edu](mailto:hharelik@mclennan.edu). Proceeds benefit MCC student scholarships.

### 2009-2010 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION OPENS

Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, each year the MCC Foundation is able to award more than \$250,000 in scholarships to deserving students at MCC. Scholarship applications are now being accepted for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Students interested in applying for an MCC Foundation scholarship must complete an online scholarship application available at <https://mclennan.scholarships.nelnet.net>. The deadline for submission of the online scholarship application, along with other required submission materials, is **6 p.m. on January 20, 2009** (no exceptions.)

Because of the high number of applications expected, students are encouraged to submit their applications as early as possible. The application is available for online submission only; hard copies will not be accepted. Students without access to a computer may use the ones in MCC's Library. More information is available by contacting Maria Macias at 299-8668 or [mmacias@mclennan.edu](mailto:mmacias@mclennan.edu)

### TAX TIPS FOR 2008 CHARITABLE PLANNING

By: Harry I. Harelik, MPA, CPA, CFRE

Year end 2008 and early 2009 may present the most challenging of environments in many years for taxpayers considering charitable contributions. Even though the stock market is in the tank and the economy is slowing down, meaning possible job losses and business volume (and profit) reductions, some taxpayers still need and want to make charitable contributions. Consider the following (but consult with your advisor to be sure your tax planning, investment planning and charitable gift planning all coincide for the best advantage!):

- If the 2008 tax year has been profitable (And it has been for many up to now!), charitable contributions can still save taxes for those who itemize deductions. If stock investments have lost value, one might consider selling those investments and taking the capital loss (which can be both used currently and carried forward if any loss is not useable in 2008) and THEN contributing cash to a charitable entity. If the investment is still considered a good one, a taxpayer may buy the stock back after 30 days and await better value days.
- If the taxpayer still has some gains in stock holdings, he might want to sell those stocks at a gain, considering that tax rates may increase next year. By selling now, he might have lower taxes on his stock sale. He might also consider taking some losses now to offset those gains OR take gains this year (with perhaps lower income tax rates) and take losses AFTER Jan. 1, 2009, to use against what might be higher income tax rates.
- If next year may see lower income (and lower taxes because of lower income),



consider taking losses on stock sales this year and taking capital gain sales next year.

- Be aware that alternative income taxes might undo the best planning so be sure your tax advisor talks with you about your plans.
- If one doesn't have enough deductions to itemize, one might want to "bunch" two years' worth of deductions into one year, skipping the next year, so that one gets the "biggest bang" for the buck of deductions. Property taxes and charitable contributions lend themselves well to bunching (or being paid every other year).
- If income situations (or tax situations) don't lend themselves to taking all charitable contributions in one year, consider spreading your tax deductions out so that some charities get payment in one year and others in an alternative year. One could also make a sizable contribution of stock or cash to a community foundation's donor-advised funds in one year, and then advise the community foundation on other contributions FROM that fund in future years. (In Waco, the Waco Foundation is a community foundation that offers donor-advised funds).



Above: Harry Harelik, right, recognizes outgoing board members Dr. James Lewis, Kris Olson, and Ellan Burke. Right and below: guests were entertained by the fabulous MCC Tartan Chamber Singers.



*2008 Foundation Holiday Celebration*  
*December 9, 2008*  
*Ridgewood Country Club*



### HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

#### In Honor of Harry I. Harelik

Donation Given by: James and Judy Haller

#### In Honor of Dr. Marylea Henderson

Donation Given by: Meredith Eaker  
Laci Gerik  
Nick and Fay Gutierrez  
Paul Hoffman  
Melinda Ingram  
Claudette Jackson  
Robert and Michelle Johnson  
Robert Jones  
Dianne Ogden  
Marcia Pezzano  
Angela Rendek  
Diane Russo  
Rosemary Shields  
Sonja Stamness  
Marcus Sweatt  
Johnnie Talton  
Paula Unger  
Ashley Walpole  
Nancy Wyatt

#### In Honor of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Kruse's Wedding

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

#### In Honor of Dr. Johnette McKown's Birthday

Donation Given by: Mary Pratt

#### In Honor of Dr. Dennis Michaelis

Donation Given by: Stan and Nancy Mitchell

#### In Honor of Dr. Dennis Michaelis' Birthday

Donation Given by: Nancy Neill

#### In Honor of Mary and Hal Stringer

Donation Given by: Lyndon and Kay Olson



#### In Memory of Charles Scott Adams

Donation Given by: Shirley Svrcek

### SEPTEMBER 13-DECEMBER 1, 2008

#### In Memory of Helen Bryant

Donation Given by: Hatch Bailey  
Kyle and Diane Deaver  
Nick and Fay Gutierrez

#### In Memory of Marge Ellis

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik  
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Michaelis

#### In Memory of Sylvia Freitag

Donation Given by: Mary Feltman

#### In Memory of Katherine Gant

Donation Given by: David, Annette, Lindsey, and  
Kelsey Scott

#### In Memory of Julia Hagan

Donation Given by: Susan Copeland  
Nick and Fay Gutierrez  
Harry I. Harelik  
Sandy Hinton  
Robert and Michelle Johnson  
David and JoAnn Jumper  
Dennis and Lois Myers  
Nancy Neill  
Mr. and Mrs. Earl B. Patrick  
Dr. Ruth Pitts  
Mary Pratt  
James and Teresa Rambo  
Lori Southern  
Jamie Stanford  
Don and Linda Stanford  
Rita Tejada

#### In Memory of Sam Harelik

Donation Given by: Nick and Luanne Klaras

#### In Memory of Carole Johnson

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

#### In Memory of Charles Lee

Donation Given by: MCC Business Programs

*continued on p. 10*

### MEMORIALS TO THE FOUNDATION

#### In Memory of Denise Linch

Donation Given by: Karen Conine  
Harry I. Harelik  
Robert and Michelle Johnson

#### In Memory of Carolina Mercado-Almodovar

Donation Given by: Nick and Fay Gutierrez  
Harry I. Harelik  
Sandy Hinton  
Robert and Michelle Johnson  
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Michaelis  
Drs. William and Ruth Pitts  
James and Teresa Rambo  
Don and Linda Stanford

#### In Memory of Billie Miles

Donation Given by: Hatch Bailey

#### In Memory of Margaret Mitchell

Donation Given by: Rick and Sharon Butler  
Charles and Susan Copeland  
Nick and Fay Gutierrez  
Harry I. Harelik  
Sandy Hinton  
Robert and Michelle Johnson  
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Michaelis  
Greg and Patti Mitchell  
Harry L. Mitchell  
Drs. William and Ruth Pitts  
James and Teresa Rambo  
Don and Linda Stanford

#### In Memory of Butch Pruett

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

#### In Memory of Lloyd Pruett

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

#### In Memory of Mary Pruett

Donation Given by: Robert and Michelle Johnson

#### In Memory of Ernest M. Ray

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

### SEPTEMBER 13-DECEMBER 1, 2008

#### In Memory of Claude Richards

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

#### In Memory of Sergeant Rufus B. Russell

Donation Given by: Jimmie Russell

#### In Memory of Eva Lee Sartain

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

#### In Memory of Sadie Shelburne

Donation Given by: Nick and Fay Gutierrez

#### In Memory of Frank Taylor

Donation Given by: Donald McCauley  
MCC Retirees

#### In Memory of Dan Thomas

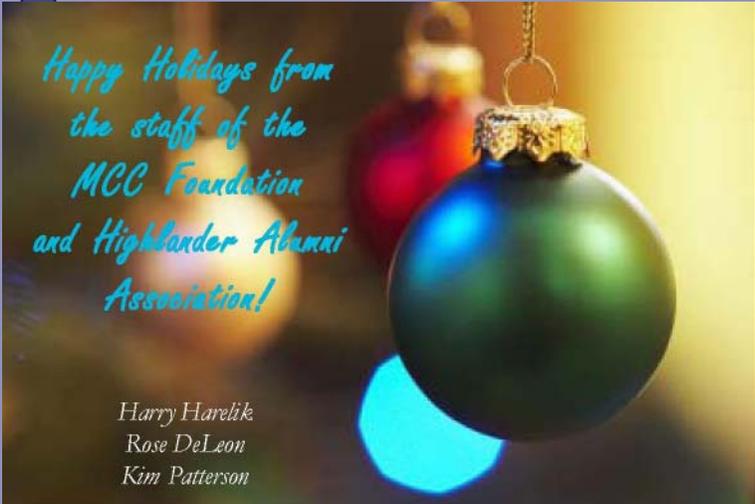
Donation Given by: Robert Ford  
Harry I. Harelik

#### In Memory of Lewis Vinzant

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik

#### In Memory of Bruce Woodard

Donation Given by: Harry I. Harelik



*Happy Holidays from  
the staff of the  
MCC Foundation  
and Highlander Alumni  
Association!*

*Harry Harelik  
Rose DeLeon  
Kim Patterson*