



# MVCconnections



FOCUSING ON THE PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES  
OF MOUNTAIN VIEW COLLEGE

## Graduates of 2009!

*MVC graduates were all smiles during commencement ceremony on May 14*

The Mountain View College Class of 2009 proudly received diplomas before family, friends, faculty and staff on May 14 at the Jesse Owens Athletic Complex in Dallas.

Keynote speaker Gloria Campos, Co-News Anchor at WFAA-TV, Channel 8, and student speaker Carlos Manuel each delivered stirring motivational messages before an audience of about 2,000 people. Campos emphasized the value of education and offered personal words of wisdom based her own experiences. Manuel challenged his classmates to continue their pursuit of higher learning and personal achievement.

Dr. Susan Ferguson served as Grand Marshal for the ceremony. Nancy Breed and John Merrifield served as Faculty Marshals, and Charles Wickersham and Sarah Conine as Student Marshals. Willie Neal delivered the opening invocation. The Mountain View family also welcomed DCCCD Board of Trustee member Diana Flores as a special guest.



**Top:** Graduates Sheryl Bell, left, and Lisa Bennett happily await receipt of their diplomas. Both were members of the first graduating class in the MVC Nursing program. **Bottom:** Keynote Speaker Gloria Campos, left, and Student speaker Carlos Manuel, delivered inspirational messages to the Class of 2009 graduates on May 14 at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in Dallas.

# Sarah Conine Receives Outstanding Student Award

The Mountain View College family gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn in Duncanville on April 24 for the 9th Annual Student Awards Banquet.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement that Sarah Conine was the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Student award. Barbara Lee and Lisa Bennett took second and third-place honors, respectively.

Other students nominated for the prestigious award included Ali Mohamad Khazem, James Hervey, Jesus De La Torre, Yavette McCuller, Evens Pierre and Farhan Fazal.

The Outstanding Student Award is the highest level of recognized achievement in academics and leadership at MVC. To be eligible students must demonstrate high academic proficiency with a GPA of 3.5 with a minimum of 21 credit hours earned. Students must also be currently enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours at MVC and must demonstrate activity in college or community as submitted on a personal vita and



**Sarah Conine, left, pictured with Office of Student Life Director Cathy Edwards, accepted the 2009 Outstanding Student award at a formal ceremony on April 24 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Duncanville.**

résumé. In addition, students must undergo a rigorous interview process with a selection committee demonstrating personal communications skills and writing skills in a submitted personal essay.

Conine, a working mom who compiled an impressive grade point average of 3.79, is a graduate of North Mesquite High School. Conine hopes to someday

teach computer science and English at the college level, and will be attending the University of Texas at Arlington in the fall.

While at MVC, Conine served as the Student Government Association President, an Odyssey Leadership Institute member, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and a member of the Disability Services Club. Conine was also honored to be named the Student Marshall at MVC's 2009 graduation ceremony.

Lee served as Secretary for Phi Theta Kappa and is a member of the S.T.A.R.S. Club. Lee also compiled an impressive grade point average of 3.93. Bennett is a graduate of the Brookhaven College Associate Degree Nursing Program at Mountain View College, completing her studies at MVC with a grade point average of 3.91.

Interestingly, all three recipients are working moms who returned to college after lengthy absences from formal education settings following graduation from their respective high schools. Conine and Lee each have two children, and Bennett is the mother of seven.

## ECHS on track to earning "Exemplary" status for 2008-2009

Preliminary results for the 2008-2009 Academic Year indicate that the Early College High School at Mountain View College is on target to earning "Exemplary" status as determined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). ECHS at Mountain View College garnered a status of "Recognized" for the 2007-2008 Academic Year.

Students must demonstrate a proficiency of more than 90 percent in four subject areas on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Test (TAKS) in order to earn Exemplary status. ECHS students at Mountain View College recently received the following results on the TAKS: Reading 99%, Math 93%, Science 94% and Social Studies 100%.

## A Day with the Senator

*ECHS teacher and student visit Sen. Royce West*

World history teacher Jeannie Adams and student Juan Pineda, both of the Early College High School at Mountain View College, traveled to Austin on May 1 for a personal visit with Senator Royce West.

Adams and Pineda joined Sen. West for the passing of Senate Resolution 815, declaring May 1-7 as Texas Early College High School Awareness Week.



**Early College High School student Juan Pineda (second from left) and history teacher Jeannie Adams (second from right) join Sen. Royce West (far left) for the passing of Senate Resolution 815.**

# A Commitment to Core Values

A tribute to people and events which exemplify MVC core values



Featured Core Value for May 2009 — “Dedication to Student Learning”

## Dreams come to fruition with first class of nurses

The first graduating class of nurses from MVC were officially honored in pinning ceremony on May 14

Proud smiles, handshakes and congratulatory hugs were the order of the day for administrators, instructors, and students as the first graduating class of nurses from MVC enjoyed a Pinning Ceremony held May 14 in the Performance Hall.

The first graduating class of the Brookhaven College Associate Degree Nursing Program at Mountain View College marked notable achievements on many levels, and by many people. After considerable administrative efforts spearheaded by MVC President Felix A. Zamora, the nursing program was officially launched in the Spring 2008 Semester.

A total of 31 nursing graduates who withstood a rigorous curriculum equivalent to four full semesters of coursework will be eligible to take the (NCLEX-RN) National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. The rewards for those graduates are already becoming evident, as administrators report that more than 50 percent of them have already procured employment contingent upon their successful passage of the NCLEX-RN.

DCCCD Chancellor Dr. Wright Lassiter served as Keynote Speaker for the event. Dr. Lassiter, in typical form, delivered a heartfelt message which charac-



**Elena Acosta Garcia (right), flanked by nursing faculty member Karen Bravo MSN, RN (left), was one of 31 students to graduate from the Brookhaven College Associate Degree Nursing Program at Mountain View College this spring.**

terized the students as fine cups of china that had been meticulously molded and shaped to serve a unique role in the nursing profession. Dr. Lassiter congratulated the students for their accomplishments, but challenged them embrace the inevitable hurdles ahead with a sense of pride, optimism, and humility.

Dr. Lassiter also praised President Zamora for his vision and persistence in bringing the program to fruition from its conceptual stages despite facing a number of formidable obstacles. Zamora was joined by a host of administrators in his efforts, including Nancy Breed, Director of Nursing at MVC; Dr. Karen Valencia, Executive Dean of Sci-

In addition to enduring the unique rigors of nursing school, the first graduating class also demonstrated an admirable sense of unity and community throughout their time at MVC. The students not only established a nursing club, Society for Nursing Students, but also initiated a scholarship fund for struggling students entitled the Larry Hutchison Scholarship Fund.

The Society for Nursing Students Club was started with almost an 80 percent participation rate, and the scholarship was named in honor of Hutchison who lost a battle with cancer after starting as a student in the MVC nursing program. In an especially emotional moment during the Pinning Ceremony, the students presented Hutchison's family with a special plaque in his memory.

### Mountain View College Core Values:

- Dedication to Student Learning
- Teamwork, Collaboration, and Unity
- Celebration of Diversity
- Celebration of Student and Employee Success
- Contributions of all Employees and Students
- Creativity and Innovation
- Cultivation of Colleagues
- Promotion of Opportunities and Goodwill
- Integrity
- Service
- Mutual Support and Respect

Have you witnessed examples of Mountain View College Core Values in action? Would you like to share those experiences with the campus community? If so, please contact Kelly Kirkpatrick at ext. 8679.

# All About Wellness

*MVC hosts Health Fair, retreats for recreation and games on “Wellness Day”*



Mountain View College hosted a public Health Fair as part of its annual “Wellness Day” activities on April 23. Representatives from a variety of health-related businesses and organizations were present to discuss health care topics, provide free screenings, and to conduct informational workshops.



Sponsored by the Mountain View College Lead Institute for Professional Development, Wellness Day also consisted of food, fun, and fellowship for employees who participated in nature trail walks, Simon Says and softball at the new Sports Complex.



**Top Left:** A tricky and ruthless James Harris serves as “Simon” during Simon Says. **Top Right:** Heather Marsh and Dr. John Pruit greet Health Fair attendees. **Bottom Left:** Ken Alferts connects for a hit. **Bottom Right:** Julius Wilson attempts to deliver the perfect pitch with Dr. Leonard Garrett waiting in support at shortstop.



## Student Services personnel gather for on-campus retreat

All Student Service personnel at Mountain View College participated in an on-campus retreat on Friday, May 15.

The purpose of the retreat was to review and regroup following the spring semester, to plan and prepare for upcoming challenges, and to review mission statements and goals as a means of enhancing student success.



Those in attendance were inspired by guest speaker Michael J. Sorrell, President of Paul Quinn College in Dallas. Dual Credit personnel also joined in the retreat.

**Paul Quinn College President Michael J. Sorrell offered insight and inspiration while speaking before MVC Student Services personnel at an on-campus retreat on May 15.**

## PSSA Employee of the Month



The Professional Support Staff Association recognized Claudia Torres as the April 2009 Employee of the Month. This initiative involves the selection of a different employee each month by the MVC Professional Support Staff Association for service excellence to the campus community.