College’s Arts & Letters helps to usher in season
Christmas Gala set Dec. 1

Enjoy the sounds of the season when MCC’s Arts & Letters Series presents its Christmas Gala featuring the talents of the MCC Concert Choir and the Guitar Ensemble on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. in the McCain Theater located in Ivy Hall.

Admission to this concert is free of charge.

This evening of holiday music will feature a musical adventure that celebrates the season. The MCC Concert Choir is under the direction of Tammy Miles with Karen Speak as the accompanist. The Guitar Ensemble is directed by Mitch Brantley.

Musical selections to be performed by the Concert Choir include *He Is Born, The Divine Christ Child, Those Who Wait Upon the Lord, 1000 Beautiful Things, O Holy Night, What Strangers Are These, A Celtic Silent Night, Peace on Earth, Carol of the Bells, Mary’s Boy Child, Jingle Bells, A Christmas Blessing.*

Additional selections to be presented by the Guitar Ensemble include *Greensleeves, Ave Maria, Cannon In D, Let It Snow, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town, Here Comes Santa Claus, Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree, Jingle Bell Rock, Fur Elise and Linus and Lucy.*

Members of the Concert Choir include Caroline Calhoun, Jamie Chaney, Kristen Hull, Abby Jackson, Jamie Murray, Leah Allison, Anna Gibson, Breanna Hoffman, Terren Sande, Adreana Bradley, Morgan Wall, Maranda Dooley, Felicia Shelton, Angel Charlie, Shonda Wesley, Meme Harris, Camora Smith, Rebecca Mowdy, Caleb Landrum, Ryder Leifried, Jackson Kercheval, Henry Pham, Laquinton Holiday, Cooper Blackwell, Austin Branning, Hayden Comans, Brandon Mitchell, Cody McDonald, Enrique Abada, J.D. Harris and Tyrus Hill. Members of the Guitar Ensemble are Adam Clark, Maranda Dooley, Walt Harrington, Rebecca Mowdy and Shonda Wesley.
Holiday term in the offing

Students seeking to earn some fast-track college credits will have that opportunity through the College’s holiday mini-mester.

MCC will offer eight courses, ranging from one to three credit hours, beginning Dec. 21, through Jan. 8, according to Michael Thompson, dean of academic affairs. Thompson said the classes are Internet-based, meaning students will not have to come to campus over the holidays except to take their final examination at the college’s E-Learning Center.

Three-credit hour classes being offered include College Algebra (taught by Lisa Shannon), College Study Skills (Lowell Martin), General Psychology (Chad Graham), Public Speaking (Dr. Todd Brand) and World Civilization (Mark Gunn). One-credit hour classes on the schedule are Sports Appreciation (Wanda McPhail), Nutrition & Wellness I (Laura Lewis), and Athletic Training Terminology (Chris Haralson). E-textbooks will be utilized for those courses requiring a textbook.

Thompson said the holiday term will actually be classified as part of the spring 2016 semester, which means students will be able to use their spring term financial aid to help pay for the classes.

“To be considered full-time at MCC and some other colleges,” Thompson said, “a student must be taking a minimum of 15 credit hours during a regular term (fall and spring). Therefore, if a student takes a mini-mester three-credit hour courses, he or she would only have to take 12 hours during the regular spring term to maintain full-time status. A university student could also take one of these courses while they are home for the holidays just to get a jump on the spring term. Also, the courses might be useful for some students who are seeking to maintain their scholarship eligibility. In the case of a student-athlete, the courses may help to re-establish their scholarship eligibility for the full spring term.”

Registration for the courses is under way. Currently enrolled MCC students can register through Eaglenet. For additional information, students can call Marie Roberts at 601-484-8580 or Deanna Smith at 601-484-4895.

“The classes are short-term and on-line, which means that are quick and convenient,” Thompson concluded. “We have a lineup of great teachers for the term, all of whom are well-versed in teaching online. The courses are open to any college student in good standing who can access a device for an on-line course. We hope a number of students will take advantage of this opportunity.”
MCC’s Tennis Teams Finish Fall Ranked in the Top 20

In the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association/Oracle College Fall Rankings, Meridian Community College Jason Pimenta, of Auckland, New Zealand, is ranked No. 9 in the polls released Nov. 18.

Pimenta has had a fantastic fall season going undefeated in Region XXIII and Southern JUCO ITA Regional play, said Coach Wanda McPhail. Pimenta qualified for the National Small College Championships that were held in Sumter, S.C., at Palmetto Tennis Center in October. He played Hironi Koyangi, a sophomore from Ventura College his first round. After losing a set 6-2, he won the second set 6-2 before succumbing to an injury in the third set tied at 3-3 with Pimenta serving to go up 4-3. Hironi won the match in the third with a 6-3 score. Hironi came in as the No. 1 seed in the tournament in 2014 and eventually finished in fifth place. Pimenta could never completely recover during the rest of the tournament but refused to default his matches. He lost to Ryan Brough from TJC 7-5, 6-0 and to Ismael Mzai from Seminole State 6-4, 6-2.

McPhail said Pimenta brings so much to Meridian; he is an outstanding student, a team leader and a tremendous athlete with a great attitude. Sam Butler, a sophomore, comes in ranked 38th. Only 50 players are ranked nationally in singles. In doubles, Pimenta/Butler finish the fall ranked No. 16. The ITA/Oracle rankings only rank 25 doubles teams. Pimenta/Butler drew an at-large opportunity to participate in doubles at the National Small College Championships in Sumter. Pimenta’s No. 9 ranking in singles and the No. 16 in doubles are the highest rankings received in the fall by MCC men’s tennis players. The men’s team is ranked No. 18 without the help of incoming freshman, Breno Goncalves from Portugal, who will join the team in January.

MCC women are ranked 15th behind stellar play of four incoming freshmen and a solid group of returnees from 2014. Only 25 teams are ranked on both the men’s and women’s side. At the Southern JUCO regional, Meridian’s women placed five ladies in the quarterfinals and four in the semifinals. Paige Gibson is the only nationally- ranked player on the women’s side for the fall season. She is ranked in the Top 50 at No. 43. Meridian’s ladies have had a great fall season behind the play of sophomores Gibson, Jami Daugherty, Alden Hartley and Brittany Allen as well as outstanding play from a strong group of freshman ladies: Taylor Miller, Kyra Holway, Hayden Hill and Shelby Zachry. These ladies will be joined in the spring by soccer player, Jordyn Hull.

Meridian’s tennis teams are now concentrating on academics and taking a chance to do a good deal of community service. Meridian returns to the courts Jan. 30 with an exhibition match. To see results and or Region rankings visit the International Tennis Association website at www.itatennis.com and click on the menu bar at the top Awards and Rankings and click on rankings in the drop down menu. Meridian placed other players in the Region III rankings. Region III encompasses seven states.
Putting fun in fundraisers
As a fundraiser, the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College is giving away a TaoTao 50cc Scooter. Tickets are $5 donation per ticket or five tickets for $20. If you want to get a ticket, let Cathy Parker, honors college adviser, know; she’ll send a student to your office.

Also, the honors college students are participating in Samaritan’s Purse (Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project). Please consider donating empty shoeboxes to their cause. For details, contact Parker at extension 799.

Naming names
Nominations for Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities are now open for faculty/staff to complete. The form is available online.

The deadline for submissions will be Monday, Dec. 7, at noon. If you have a sophomore student or May 2015 graduate who has a 3.0 grade point average or higher; who demonstrates outstanding community involvement; who participates in leadership within school organizations and/or extracurricular activities; and who has future leadership ability and/or potential, please consider nominating the student.


Save the date
The Eagles Nest Bookstore Christmas Open House is Dec. 4, from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Can you volunteer?
Capitol Day for the Mississippi Faculty/Staff Association for Community and Junior Colleges will be on Wednesday, Feb. 3. And your help is needed.

“We need to begin plans to show our support for the community colleges,” said Winn Maxey-Shumate, MCC Faculty Staff Association president. “Let me know if you would like to join us and how many students you would recommend to go with you. We would love to fill a bus to take that day,” she said.

Contact Maxey-Shumate via email your thoughts and commitment by Tuesday, Nov. 17.