

August 2008

Dear Muhlenberg Friends:

As Madisonville Community College begins its 41st year of service to western Kentucky (and it has been awhile since our last correspondence) I wanted to take some time and let you know how things are, and specifically our status at the P.A. and Pauline Shaver Education Center. Academic Year 2008 saw MCC continue its work toward becoming one of America's outstanding two-year colleges and we can now say that through continuing faculty excellence, student performance in the classroom, arts programming, and private giving we as a college and college family are among the nation's elite. A strong standard of our development as a comprehensive community & technical college can be seen in the enrollment growth in Muhlenberg County, where over 700 students attend credit classes each semester.

Academic Year 2008 was a very good year; our enrollment reached 4,000 students, and over 200 received private scholarships. The Glema Mahr Center for the Arts enjoyed another wonderful season with over \$210,000 gained in total ticket sales; two shows - Marie Osmond's Christmas show and Garrison Keillor - had attendance that exceeded 1,000. The Glema Center also hosted the 2007 summer musical "Fiddler on the Roof" and the college conducted its 39th graduation ceremonies on May 9; over 340 students earned associate degrees sometime during the year.

Regarding advancement-related activities, the *Fulfilling the Promise* Campaign completed its community phase with over \$ 9.6 million ultimately received in gifts and pledges. I have included the campaign program and resulting media story from our concluding luncheon, and although Muhlenberg County was not directly targeted for solicitations during *Fulfilling the Promise*, still \$2.5 million was donated to programming and scholarships during the campaign period. The Muhlenberg Miracle continues its wonderful story, and the following is a "status report" of sorts regarding giving and endowment support for the Muhlenberg County Campus.

- The Iris Givens Scholarship Fund now has a market value of almost \$1.6 million and provides \$104,000 in annual interest; the college awards 28 - 32 adult scholarships annually through the Iris fund, and the remaining interest is being reserved to fully fund the School Counts for Muhlenberg County

workforce program that will be available for all graduating North and South seniors beginning in May 2011. MCC plans to increase adult scholarship opportunities 10% each year beginning in fall 2009.

- As I hope of you know, in August 2007 Tom and Skip Shaver completed an historic naming level pledge to the Muhlenberg Campus building in honor and memory of P.A. and Pauline. Due to payments on that pledge and other gifts already received, the Muhlenberg Endowment for Excellence now has a fund balance of over \$725,000 that earns \$46,000 annually for scholarships, tutorial wages, academic programs and arts outreach activities coordinated by the Glema Center. The TVA plant at Paradise also makes an annual gift to support workforce initiatives in partnership with the endowment.
- As a result of continuing gifts by the Everly Brothers Foundation, numerous community friends, and members of the Madisonville College Foundation, MCC is able to offer over 30 private scholarships in addition to those funded by the Givens Scholarship Fund. Many recipients are enrolled in highly employable associate degree areas that will help keep Muhlenberg County and its economic partners strong.

As MCC begins 2008/2009 and continues planning for construction of Phase II on the existing 20-acre campus, we welcome Tom Shaver and Phil Everly as our newest Foundation members and applaud the continuing work of Mrs. Joyce Whittinghill as a member of the MCC Board of Directors. Everyone associated with MCC owes Judge Bill R. Paxton a big Thank You and Good Luck for his years of service to the Board of Directors, including a term as Chairman. Judge Paxton recently stepped down from the Board, but his wise decisions, positive contributions and continuing goodwill have been a big reason why this college is so outstanding. Thanks so much Judge – may the World Series finally return to Wrigley in 2008.

I have said it a lot, but Muhlenberg County – as John Prine says – is indeed where Paradise lays. Thanks to each of you for your support of Dr. Rhoads, the Advancement Office, and the folks at the Muhlenberg Campus. When you see Joe Ben Tucker, Dr. Freddie Mayes, and Dr. Gary Givens, thank them for their continuing advocacy as Foundation members. We hope to see you in the classroom, at the Glema Center, joining us for 40th anniversary events, or just around campus for a visit during the upcoming year. Our collective regards to each of you.

John Peters
Advancement Director