The MCCC early childhood development (ECDV) program is looking forward to many exciting advances starting in the 2008-2009 school year. These changes are expected to build a higher quality professional development experience for those enrolled in the ECDV associate degree program. The program is seeking accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC accredits early childhood associate degree programs which have demonstrated superior quality and best educational practices for their students. Several standards of effectiveness must be met to ensure compliance. The process begins with a year-long self-study involving a review of all early childhood development courses.

Additionally, the early childhood development program plans to officially establish a teaching professional student group. This group will be comprised of students who are seeking careers working with young children. Students will be given an opportunity to network and attend activities with other students with similar career goals. While the group will be affiliated with the local NAEYC and Future Teachers chapters, membership to these national organizations will not be required. Many activities, such as professional development and advocacy dealings, are planned to be arranged through the group. Last winter 18 students attended the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference. This is the largest early childhood educational professional conference in Michigan. This conference, as well as many others, is the type of activity that the students group will be involved in. Tiffany Wright, MCCC ECDV instructor, presented three workshops at the conference. She plans to serve as the faculty advisor for the group and is looking forward to having many students involved in the professional community, perhaps presenting conference workshops themselves.

To meet the needs of transferring biology majors, a new two-semester biology course sequence has been adopted. BIOL 151 (Biological Sciences I) has replaced BIOL 152 (Biological Sciences), and second-semester BIOL 153 (Biological Sciences II) has been added to complete the biology major transfer program.

The decision to adopt the two-course sequence was a result of information MCCC gathered from faculty at eight local universities. Six of the eight schools have a one-year sequence (two semesters) of introductory biology courses, which is required for majors. In some cases, MCCC’s BIOL 152 did not transfer as an equivalent to those universities’ introductory biology major courses in the two-semester sequence. Several institutions used one of MCCC’s sophomore biology, zoology or botany classes as substitutes for the second semester biology sequence. Unfortunately, students had to take additional course work to make up the four-hour difference. MCCC is now on par with four-year schools that require a full year of introductory biology for majors. The MCCC biology faculty welcome inquiries from students desiring to explore a major in the biological sciences.

Students who need one semester of biology for admission into the nursing or respiratory therapy programs can satisfy that requirement with BIOL 151.
The Math and Science Society (MASS) took a trip to the New York City area in May with the main purpose of the trip being a tour of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). Due to the logistics of traveling to Brookhaven, which is located on Long Island, approximately an hour east of New York City, MASS rented a charter bus. The group included 15 MCCC students, as well as three members of the Science/Mathematics Division: Lori Bean, Chris Perria and Jim Vallade. Most of the expense of the trip was paid for by fundraising on the part of the MCCC students. An Enhancement Grant from The Foundation at MCCC also provided funding.

The group had the opportunity to see the Brookhaven facilities and speak with many scientists who were directly involved with research. MASS was allowed to see first-hand sites such as the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider and the STAR Detector at the collider. The group toured the Center for Functional Nanomaterials, the National Synchrotron Light Source, and attended a lecture on Translational Neuroimaging.

Brookhaven National Laboratory is one of 13 national labs that is under contract to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The United States developed a system of centralized national laboratories to allow scientists and experts in a given field to collaborate on various scientific research. New technologies can be more readily developed with a committed effort towards a common goal. Brookhaven National Laboratory is actually a campus of several buildings encompassing over 5,000 acres. The mission of BNL is “to support DOE research and technology development through our leading edge user facilities and to educate future scientists and engineers. Our primary objective is to achieve a deeper understanding of the laws of nature, through Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Medicine, Atmospheric Science, Oceanography and Energy Technology. BNL welcomes University, Industrial and Government Scientists from all Nations. BNL has an international reputation for world changing discoveries and is the recipient of 6 Nobel prizes.”

Along with the Brookhaven experience, the group visited many sites in New York City, including the American Museum of Natural History, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero.

Any students interested in joining MASS should visit the clubs Web site at www.monroeccc.edu/mass. During the Fall and Winter semesters, meetings are held on Tuesdays, twice a month. Meetings are held in Room L-111 at 12:30 p.m.

Captions:
1. A group shot of the happy travelers
2. MASS members, along with their bus driver, listening to information presented by BNL representative Gene Van Buren prior to entering the facility housing the STAR Detector.
3. A model of the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider is on display and is explained to the group by BNL representative Todd Satogata.
4. Looking down the curved tube in the underground Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider tunnel.
Christopher Perria has joined Monroe County Community College (MCCC) as the college’s science lab coordinator. Perria is responsible for maintaining all science laboratories, facilities and equipment at the college. His duties include laboratory preparation, equipment and supply purchasing, and lab assistant training and supervision. In addition, Perria acts as the chemical hygiene officer for the college, ensuring that college policies and procedures comply with federal, state and local regulations.

Prior to joining MCCC, Perria was a senior research lab technician in the microbiology and immunology department at the University of Michigan Medical School. He is a 2003 graduate of Eastern Michigan University and holds a bachelor’s degree in microbiology with a minor in biochemistry.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Tracy Rayl (Kling), assistant professor of biology, received the 2008 Outstanding Faculty Award. Employed by the college since 1999, Kling holds a master of science degree in zoology from the University of Rhode Island and a bachelor of science degree in marine biology from the University of North Carolina. She teaches a variety of biology classes at MCCC, including general biology, environmental science, botany, zoology and genetics.

Rayl, a Monroe resident, is a co-founder and past co-advisor of the Math and Science Society and is still actively involved in organizing club trips and fundraisers. She is also a member of the Michigan Community College Biologists, the Michigan Mosquito Control Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the River Raisin Public Advisory Committee.

FACULTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. John Miller, professor of psychology, has completed 40 years of service at Monroe County Community College.

Since joining the MCCC faculty in 1968, he has taught courses in psychology, statistics, mathematics, supervision and statistical process control, and participated in institutional research. He has always had a passion for determining the tools required for student success, as evidenced by his 1996-1997 sabbatical work, “The Relationship of Motivation, Cognitive, and Value Orientations to Academic Activities of Students Attending MCCC.”

Other division milestones include Dr. David Waggoner, professor of chemistry (20 years) and Kathleen Shepherd, associate professor of mathematics (15 years).

PERRIA NAMED MCCC LAB COORDINATOR
GOOD NEWS

Many of you may remember Nick Goins, former MCCC student, math tutor and math adjunct. He is accepting a full time mathematics faculty position at St. Clair County Community College. As much as this is an indication of Nick’s accomplishments, this is also a testament to the outstanding work of the faculty of Monroe County Community College and especially the Science/Mathematics Division. Hopefully, Nick will act in kind and inspire a new generation of faculty as you have inspired him.

Note: This was an e-mail message sent by Dean Vinnie Maltese to the Science/Mathematics Division faculty and staff.

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WEBSITES

- Metals Shape Up with a Little Help from Friends

- Tapping Computer Science for a More Accurate Vote

- Money Doesn’t Grow on Trees, But Gasoline Might

- Remarkable New Clothing May Someday Power Your iPod
The Science labs in the Life Science area have been renovated.
A) Summer 2003: Chemistry Labs L-205, L-206 and L-207
B) Summer 2004: Biology Labs L-108, L-109 and L-110
C) Summer 2005: Physics and Earth Science Labs L-208, L-209, L-210 and L-113
D) Summer 2006: Anatomy and Physiology Labs L-102, L-103 and L-104