



# Alumni Association News

*Reminisce on the past. Connect with the present. Strengthen the future. Get started today!*

Volume 1 Number 2

Quarterly Newsletter

## MTI AA FIRST RESPONDERS CHALLENGE A SUCCESS

Emergency! Quick...Dial 911!

When firefighters, police officers or EMTs arrive and take control, you aren't thinking about how they've acquired their skills, stay strong and agile with minds completely focused. You just want their help.

On November 10, 2012 community members watched fire fighters, law enforcement and EMS showcase their prowess during the First Responders Challenge as they competed for bragging rights as the most skilled among their peers.

This family-friendly event, held at Manatee Technical Institute's Lake-wood Ranch Campus, also included demonstrations by Bay Flight, Palmetto Canine Unit, Manatee County Search & Rescue Canine Unit, as well as an emergency extrication team.

The First Responders Challenge was organized by the MTI Alumni Association and presented by the Bradenton Herald and Fawley-Bryant Architects. Proceeds benefit MTI Foundation to provide scholarships to MTI students for tuition, books and uniforms.



*Law Enforcement Winners: Christopher Huddleston, First Place; Jonathan Then, Second Place; with MTI Law Enforcement Instructor Larry Wagner. Third Place winner was Colby Martin.*



*EMS Winners: First Place Team: Jennifer Resnick & Bruce MacDougall with Jay Bush, MTI EMT/Paramedic Program Director. Second Place team featured Justin Miller & Ryan Lavender.*



*Firefighter Winners: Chad Hoeksema, Third Place; Mike Martin, Second Place; William McCallum, First Place.*

## OFFICERS

**Mike Bryant, President**

*Vice President,  
Fawley-Bryant Architects*

**Tim Hyden, President-Elect**

*Training/Safety Officer,  
East Manatee Fire Rescue*

**Hilda Bravo Torres, Secretary**

*President, Bravo Immigration Services*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications Committee

**Steve Ausborn**

*BIM/IT Manager, Bessolo Design Group*

Membership Committee

**Kimberly Bland**

*Program Director, Dental Assisting  
Manatee Technical Institute*

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Mary Chilton**

*Economic Development Council  
of Manatee County*

**Mary Knight**

*President, Computer Essentials*

**Kathy Matthews**

*Career Counselor,  
Manatee Technical Institute*

**Jormarie Mere-Beaman**

*Recruitment & Retention Specialist,  
School District of Manatee County*

**Michael Rushing**

*Law Enforcement Academy Director,  
Manatee Technical Institute*

**Earl Stockton**

*Environmental Health/Safety Officer  
Scientific Diving Program Administrator  
Mote Marine Laboratory*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Virginia Sirocky,**

*MTI Alumni Association*

# The Mission of the MTI Alumni Association

- The mission of the MTI Alumni Association is:
- To foster a sense of pride in and commitment to MTI while enhancing its reputation and prestige.
- To provide a vehicle by which alumni may be re-engaged with MTI.
- To offer networking and other opportunities for MTI alumni.
- To offer mentoring, career seminars and job fairs for alumni and students.
- To ensure the on-going recognition of outstanding achievements by alumni, students, faculty and friends of MTI.
- To strengthen MTI corporate and community partnerships as well as to actively give back to the community.
- To strengthen legislative advocacy for MTI.
- To develop greater resources for MTI in order further its mission.



*Family members watch as MTI Class of 2012 transition from students to alumni.*

## Benefits of Membership

- Job Postings
- MTI Matters
- Board and/or Committee Membership
- Job/Career Fairs
- Career Enhancement Workshops & Seminars
- Networking Events
- Image Enhancement Workshops & Seminars
- Mentoring Program
- MTI Alumni News E-zine
- First Responders Challenge
- Others TBD

# Check Out *MTI Matters* Member News

*MTI Matters* is a series of programs focusing on alumni of Manatee Technical Institute and how their training at MTI has made a difference in their lives. This series is produced monthly as a joint initiative between METV and the MTI Alumni Association. To view episodes check your local cable listings for METV or log on to [www.mtialumniassociation.org](http://www.mtialumniassociation.org) and click on Featured Alumni to see where some of your fellow graduates are today and how MTI matters to them, their families and the community.

## New Episodes include:

**Why MTI Matters to Manatee County: Panel discussion by School Board Chair Karen Carpenter, MTI Foundation and Board of Governors Chair John Ziemnicki, MTIAA President Mike Bryant, MTI Foundation and MTI AA Board Member Earl Stockton, and Manatee County School District Recruitment and Retention Specialist Jormarie Mere-Beaman.**

**MTI Alumni Working At MTI: Follow the paths of MTI Alumni Theresa Herbst, Joel Hall and Ronai Kruger from MTI student to MTI employee.**

**First Responders Challenge: Catch the action and excitement during MTI AA's inaugural First Responders Challenge held on November 10, 2012.**

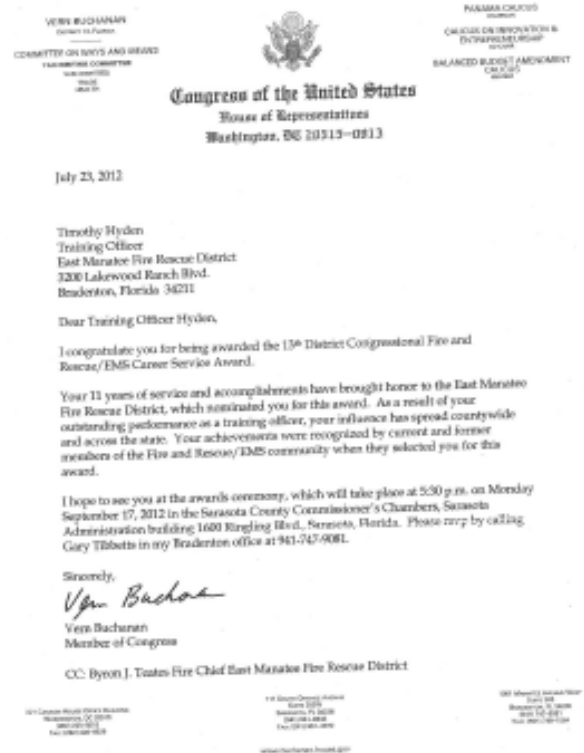
**If you would like to share your story of why MTI matters to you, please contact us at [MTIalum@manateeschools.net](mailto:MTIalum@manateeschools.net) or (941) 751-7900.**

## Show Your MTI Pride

The Manatee Technical Institute Alumni Association is all about pride - pride in MTI, pride in being affiliated with the nine time SkillsUSA Champion, and pride in how your training from MTI has benefitted you, your family and your community. Whether you are an MTI alum or a friend of MTI, membership in the MTI Alumni Association is the perfect way to show your MTI pride. Your membership is also a vote for the value of an MTI education and enables the Alumni Association to do great things for its alumni, students and *alma mater*.

## Kudos To Award Winners

MTIAA President-Elect Tim Hyden has been honored with the 13th District Congressional Fire and Rescue/EMS Career Service Award.



MTI Director and MTIAA Life Member Dr. Mary Cantrell has received a duo of honors recently. She has been named Tampa Bay Business Woman of the Year in Education and was also selected to receive the Champion of Farm Workers Award for her support and commitment toward improving the lives of migrant farm workers in the State of Florida.





# Graduation 2012

To reward students for completing their MTI respective programs the MTI Alumni Association offered them a first-year Complimentary Membership. Prior to the ceremonies last June, current MTI AA members and officers welcomed these graduates into the Association and helped them to activate their memberships.



*Hilda Bravo Torres, MTI AA Board Secretary/Archivist and Earl Stockton, MTI AA Board and MTI Foundation Board of Directors, register newly-minted MTI graduates into the MTI Alumni Association in June.*



*MTI AA members Elizabeth Torres and Miguel Morales Garroquin await graduates to emerge from the ceremony.*

# 16th Annual Chili Cook Off

Chili Cook-Off: MTI AA served up its "One-Eyed Jack" chili from its Black Jack booth during the 2012 MTI Chili Cook-Off. Proceeds from entrance fees benefitted Manatee County United Way and sales of beverages and cookies benefitted MTI AA.



*MTI AA Work/Study Student Felicia Hammonds beams as fellow MTIAA Work/Study Student Yadira Santamaria celebrates the occasion.*



*MTI AA Work/Study Students Felicia Hammond, Mary Gaffny and Yadira Santamaria.*

**Is Grateful to the Following for Their  
Generous Support:**

**SPONSORS:**

- Bradenton Herald
- Fawley-Bryant Architects
- Bright House Media Strategies
- Bealls Foundation
- Manatee County Fire Chiefs Association
- METV
- Municipal Equipment Company
- Nestle
- Southern Comfort/One Hour Air Conditioning

**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS**

- ACT (Adult Career & Technical Education, Manatee County School District)
- Bay Flight
- Bradenton Runners Club
- Mike Browning
- Café 911
- Dr. Mary Cantrell
- Eckerd College
- Extrication Team
- Dr. Priscilla Haflich
- Heather Humphrey
- Manatee County Urban Search & Rescue
- MTI Carpentry Program
- MTI EMT/Paramedic Academy
- MTI Fire Academy
- MTI Law Enforcement Academy
- MTI Print Shop
- Palmetto Police Canine Unit
- Erika Quantuccio
- Frances Tamayo
- The Trophy Case
- Troy Toman
- Wal Mart
- Levi Waxler

# CHALLENGE VIEWS

Photos by Troy Toman



*1. Welcome to the challenge! 2. MTI AA President Mike Bryant officially opens the inaugural First Responders Challenge. 3. Tim Hyden, East Manatee Fire Rescue and MTI AA President-Elect describes the various Challenge competitions.*







4



7



5



8



6





4. Raising of the flag. 5. Erika Quartuccio sings and Levi Waxler signs the National Anthem. 6. DJ Mike Browning keeps the atmosphere charged with his music. 7. Firefighter engages in Keiser Sled skill. 8. Firefighter competing in tire pull. 9. EMS competitors engage in resuscitation event. 10. Manatee County Search & Rescue Canine Unit demonstrates a training exercise. 11. Palmetto Police Canine Unit demonstrates its "bite dog" tactics. 12. EMFR team demonstrates a car extrication. 13. Bayflite lands at MTI East Campus during the Challenge.

**Recognizes the following whose efforts  
have made this event possible:**

**MTI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Mike Bryant, President
- Tim Hyden, President-Elect
- Hilda Bravo Torres - Secretary & Archivist
- Steve Ausborn - Communications Chair
- Kimberly Bland - Membership Chair
- Mary Chilton - Reunion Chair
- Mary Knight - Communications Co-chair
- Kathy Matthews - Mentoring Chair
- Jormarie Mere-Beaman - Networking Chair
- Mike Rushing - Image Enhancement Chair
- Virginia Sirocky - Executive Director
- Earl Stockton - MTI Foundation Board Representative

**FIRST RESPONDERS CHALLENGE COMMITTEE**

- Mike Bryant
- Jay Bush
- Lesley Chevalier
- Lisa Hodgdon
- Tim Hyden
- Pat Proudler
- Mike Rushing
- Virginia Sirocky
- Larry Wagner
- Larry Swartz

**EVENT VOLUNTEERS**

- Kimberly Bland
- Brandy Braver
- Mary Chilton
- Mary Gaffny
- Felicia Hammonds
- Mary Knight
- Kathy Matthews
- MTI EMS Academy Students
- MTI Fire Academy Students
- MTI Law Enforcement Academy Students
- Rick Rossi
- Yadira Santamaria
- Darlene Sparks
- Elizabeth Torres
- Hilda Bravo Torres
- Ramon Torres, Jr.



**14**



**15**



**16**

*14. A young spectator thrills at Bayflite cockpit experience. 15. MTI Alumna Maureen Hyden and Denise Formica serve as timers for the Fire Challenge. 16. Volunteer Brandy Braver, MTI AA Executive Director Virginia Sirocky, MTI PR & Marketing Associate Heather Humphrey, and MTI Fire Academy Administrative Assistant Lisa Hodgdon are thrilled at the event's success.*



# Member Opportunities

## *MTI AA Needs Your Help!*

Members are invited to participate in the following activities. Please contact us at [MTIalum@manateeschools.net](mailto:MTIalum@manateeschools.net) for further information.

**Membership Committee** whose purpose is to increase the membership of MTI AA.

**Communications Committee:** Mission includes, but is not limited to, utilize all appropriate means to educate, inform and connect alumni, friends, faculty, administrators, students and other constituencies of MTI with the Association.

**Mentoring Committee:** Provides one-on-one advisory support and counseling to MTI students.

**Career Enhancement & Networking Committees:** Help prepare alumni and students for obtaining employment or internships. Includes, but not limited to, activities such as career seminars, networking events and job fairs.

**Special Events Committee:** Involves alumni in the organization and facilitation of special Association and/or MTI events including, but not limited to: SkillUSA/HOSA (OTCS) fundraising initiatives; groundbreaking ceremonies; ribbon cuttings; alumni reunions, First Responders Challenge, anniversary celebrations; commencement ceremonies; Chili Cook-Off, Tour of Kitchens, Manatee County Fair.

## Become a Part of MTI History

MTI will open its Main Campus on the newly-constructed facility on Caruso Road in January 2013. To celebrate its dedication, MTI is offering an opportunity for alumni to exhibit their pride in the nine-time SkillsUSA champion by placing their names on the Donor Plaque which will greet students and visitors to this state-of-the-art facility.

By joining others who are becoming a part of MTI history, donors will also support the work of the MTI Foundation whose mission is for the betterment of MTI, its students, faculty, staff and other constituencies which it serves. Among its undertakings, the MTI Foundation regularly provides scholarship opportunities as well as defraying expenses for students participating in state and national SkillsUSA and HOSA competitions.

To reserve your place in MTI history, please contact [sirockyv@manateeschools.net](mailto:sirockyv@manateeschools.net).

# How to Join MTI AA

Active: All persons having completed at least one MTI program as well as current MTI faculty and staff.

\_\_\_ \$10 per year (can increase)

\_\_\_ \$50 (covers five years no increase)

\_\_\_ \$30 (covers three years with no increase; only available at special events)

Associate: Persons not having enrolled in or completed programs at MTI such as past faculty and staff; parents of students and alumni and other friends of MTI as well as those persons having completed only a course at MTI.

\_\_\_ \$20 per year (can increase)

Life Membership: Life membership shall be granted to eligible members upon payment of the one-time designated life member fee.

\_\_\_ \$100 (available at any time, but previously-paid dues are not cumulative.)

Founding Membership: Those eligible for Active, Associate or Life Membership, and who join the Association within the first fiscal year (2012 - 2013) and remain as Active, Associate or Life members, shall be deemed Founding Members.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

MTI Program(s) Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Remember: The MTI Alumni Association is only as strong as its membership, so your participation is vital to its success. Please indicate below those activities where you'd like to become involved and/or suggest activities that you believe would benefit you and your fellow alumni.

\_\_\_ First Responders Challenge \_\_\_ Networking Events \_\_\_ Mentoring \_\_\_ Reunions

\_\_\_ Career Enhancement Workshops & Seminars \_\_\_ Image Enhancement Workshops

\_\_\_ Membership Committee \_\_\_ Communications Committee \_\_\_ Website & FaceBook

\_\_\_ My suggestion: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and mail with your dues payment to MTI Alumni Association, 6305 State Road 70 East, Bradenton, FL 34203. Make checks payable to MTI Alumni Association. Or, log on to [www.mtialumniassociation.org](http://www.mtialumniassociation.org) and join through PayPal.



# Welcome New Members!

*Newest Founding MTI AA Members as of August 6, 2012*

## **Founding Life Members**

Karen Carpenter  
Dr. Priscilla Haflich  
Marilyn Ingold  
Kathleen Matthews

## **Founding Active Members**

### **2012 Business Technology Graduates:**

Bryan Andrews  
Chelsea Brooks  
Margaret Gillbert  
Maria Hamilton  
Karen Lane  
Reyna Grillo  
Theresa Ogden  
Talaina Williams

### **2012 Culinary Arts Graduates:**

Francisco Alverex  
Darius Brerver  
Ellen Johnson  
Valencia Mitchell  
Janet Pederson  
Danielle Wynn

### **2012 Cosmetology Technology Graduates:**

Kenya Bryant-Pompey  
Francisca Herrera  
Takiran Jackson  
Harmonie McCall  
Tamara Montgomery

### **2012 Pharmacy Graduates:**

Amanda Alonso  
Anabel Arredondo  
Kathleen Clark-Butx  
Shelby Corbitt  
Tiffany Dixon  
Christopher Ganey  
Alana Hedrick  
Karen Lane  
Crystal Mack  
Stacey Santana  
Haley Whitcomb

### **2012 G.E.D. Graduates:**

Yoana Aguirra  
Angela Cintron  
Randi Coots  
James Frederick  
Marston H. Haynes Jr.  
Jacque Lee

### **2012 Medical Technology Graduates:**

Carla Alnar  
Patricia Arthur  
Amber Davis  
Maylin Garcia  
Amy Gray  
Kara Kimball  
Laura Lacy  
Cristina Penilla  
Ashley Vining

### **2012 Massage Therapy Graduates:**

Kara Currano  
Stacy Saylor

### **2012 Hospitality & Tourism Graduates:**

Renell Daniels

### **2012 Drafting Graduates:**

Maria Garcia

### **2012 Electricity Graduates:**

Derrick Snead

### **2012 HVAC Graduates:**

Eric Pierson

### **2012 Automotive Graduates:**

Bryan McBride

### **2012 Law Enforcement Graduates:**

Britton Couch  
Michael T. Horrigan  
Joseph M. Maggio  
Luis Ortiz  
Zamuel Sanchez Garcia  
Cory H. Waiters



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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### **The Torres Family:**

Especially inspirational is the Torres Family, whose four members-Hilda Bravo, Ramon, Sr.; Elizabeth and Ramon Jr. -- are all graduates of MTI. The first to attend was the mother, Hilda Bravo Torres, who realized the positive affect that MTI was having on her life and, subsequently, encouraged her husband, son and daughter to enroll as each faced their own unique challenges.

Hilda's first encounter with MTI was when she took an adult typing course. As she discovered all of the other opportunities offered by MTI, Hilda says, "I knew I'd found a goldmine." Growing up Hilda couldn't decide whether she wanted to become an architect or attorney, so when she found MTI's courses included drafting, she enrolled. Upon graduation Hilda worked for Hoveround Corporation where she provided technical drawings plus both written and verbal instructional information to assist sales forces and clients around the globe. Her love of helping people flamed her desire to start her own business and with the encouragement of her son, Ramon, Jr., she opened Bravo's Immigration Services, where she consults on all aspects of

immigration issues, finds appropriate legal services and even performs marriages. Hilda explains she has fulfilled both of her childhood dreams, having done a form of architecture in industrial drafting and is now working with attorneys to provide much needed services to immigrants seeking citizenship.

When her husband, Ramon, Sr., employed by El Conquistador Country Club for a decade without missing a day's work, became concerned that layoffs were coming, he understood that he needed to learn new skills. Hilda pointed him toward MTI where he earned his training certificates in precision machining. His instructor was so impressed with his work that he introduced Ramon, Sr. to the folks at Sun Hydraulics, where Ramon, Sr. is still employed today.

Ramon Jr. admits he needed direction as a teenager and joined his mother in the drafting program at MTI. He was the first high school student to attend this program as a sophomore, where he maintained a 4.0 grade point average. His success included being a winner in the Tools for Tomorrow All-American Vocational Student Award program. Ramon Jr. also took part in the SkillsUSA Championship where he placed first in the Regional

Professional Competition and second in the Leadership Competition at both the regional and state levels. One of his proudest moments came when Ramon, Jr., and his mother, Hilda, were inducted into the National Vocational Honor Society at the same time. Since leaving MTI, Ramon has studied business administration and is currently employed at M & I Bank. He is also studying for his Masters Degree in business with the goal of helping his mother grow Bravo's Immigration Services.

As a young child, Elizabeth was diagnosed with a learning disability. Concerned that she would not be able to go beyond a GED level, Hilda introduced her daughter to MTI in order to acquire a skill. Elizabeth describes her experience at MTI, where she was enrolled at the same time as her father, as one that completely changed her life. Not only did she earn her business administration certificates, she learned how to study, how to speak correctly, how to deal with people in a business situation and how to become a more responsible individual. Elizabeth has gone on to study business courses at then Manatee Community College where she also tutored and mentored other students. Currently, Elizabeth is studying business and marketing at the University of North Florida in addition to helping with all administrative aspects of her mother's business. She, too, wishes to become a businesswoman.

The entire family acknowledges its appreciation for their beginnings at MTI, and encourages parents of junior and senior high school students to actively research all possibilities for their children. As Hilda so aptly reminds us, "Everyone needs an education, but everyone also needs a skill."

## Help spread the word!

*Remember, the MTIAA is only as strong as its membership, so please use your social media to help spread the word about MTI Alumni Association.*

**Contact Director Virginia Sirocky**

**Website: [www.mtiaalumniassociation.org](http://www.mtiaalumniassociation.org)**

**Email: [MTIalum@manateeschools.net](mailto:MTIalum@manateeschools.net)  
(include this in your contact list)**

**Phone: 941.751.7900**