Muskegon Community College Celebrates 85 Years of Meeting Educational Needs

Governor Snyder Delivers Commencement Keynote to Record Number of Graduates

MCC Alum Earns Awards for Documentary

MCC Celebrates 1926 Founding with Roaring Twenties Event

Green Energy Programs Expand to Include Biofuels Lab
FEATURES

5 Memorable Commencement | Governor Snyder provides address
6 Band Means Together | Student made documentary debut
7 Providing Perspective | Themed studies cross-cut disciplines
8 MCC Continues to Green | Initiatives help blue and gold go green
9 Leading Literacy | Read Muskegon partnership provides tutors
10 MCC Celebrates Anniversary | Archivist shares 85 years of history
13 Events Celebrate Contributions | Local leaders recognized
15 Jayhawk Athletics | Year of expansion provides lots to cheer about
16 New Ways to Support MCC | “Easy “out of the box” ideas

DEPARTMENTS

3 Letters
4 From the Desk of the President
6 Students of Excellence
6 Mission Profile: Diversity
9 Instructor Profile
13 Student Organization Profile
14 Alumni Profile
15 Stevenson Center Updates
17 Alumni News
18 Faculty/Staff Updates
19 Campus Events
Dear Editor

I write to commend you and your staff for a wonderful edition of Reflections, the recently revised publication for friends and graduates of MCC. It is very informative, reader friendly and focused on the good things MCC has done and will continue to do for the area it serves. The use of relevant photos is also well done and shows the best features of MCC. I applaud your work and look forward to reading the next edition.

Frank P. Marczak, Ed. D.

The new look of Reflections is totally awesome. Reflections is no longer just an alumni newsletter, but a comprehensive college magazine. The broader scope of articles and items gives a great perspective on MCC past, present and future. There is still a bit of nostalgia—keeping up with classmates, as well as being in the know as to MCC happenings. The magazine serves as a great conduit to keeping readers abreast of special projects and present and future capital campaigns.

It is my recommendation that you read the new Reflections cover to cover and write your own review. Kudos to the staff – GREAT JOB – and I am looking forward to the next edition. Hope to see you there.

Diana R. Osborn

Letters to the Editor can be mailed to Reflections, Muskegon Community College, 221 S Quarterline #400KK, Muskegon MI 49442 or tina.dee@muskegoncc.edu.

From the Editor

We Appreciate Your Friendship

You are making a difference in the lives of the students we serve...right at this minute. Just the act of reading Reflections magazine indicates your level of interest in Muskegon Community College. Those who take an interest by attending plays, athletic activities, concerts, and alumni events or just keeping in touch with MCC through Facebook, stories in the local media, or other communications are demonstrating their friendship to the college and higher education in general. Friendship is powerful...and friends do powerful things.

These accomplishments were achieved because of friends like you. Friends are important. Friends inspire us to dream the big dreams. Friends generate community engagement. Friends volunteer their time and expertise. And yes, our friends donate money. But the most valuable thing about our friends is that they advocate for our mission in a way that we could never do without their help.

And most of all, friends take an interest. Thank you for taking the time to read Reflections and for being an interested friend.

Interested in getting more involved in our mission? Have feedback for getting friends more informed or involved? Please contact Tina Dee, MS, CFRM, Director of Community Relations, at (231) 777-0660 or tina.dee@muskegoncc.edu.

![Graph of Foundation for Muskegon Community College Annual Fund Performance History from FY1996-1997 to FY2010-2011]
Commencement, Future Initiatives Showcase Student Success

MCC’s recently held commencement marked the “end” of our academic year and it was a wonderful celebration of the accomplishments of our students. With the number of students taking part in commencement up 35% over last year, we are proud to be a part of a growing number of students succeeding here in Muskegon. The participation of Governor Rick Snyder was a distinct honor and represented the first time in the 85 year history of MCC that a sitting governor served as commencement speaker. Student speaker Nicholas Chibanda stole the show. A native of Zimbabwe, Nicholas overcame incredible odds to succeed at MCC and looks forward to a future as a medical doctor. All in all, it was a memorable day for our graduates to celebrate with their friends and families.

The Governor's visit and message to the MCC community was challenging and insightful regarding the future environment for community colleges in the state of Michigan. Clearly community colleges have an important role to play. It is additionally clear that in spite of this role, community colleges are part of the wider debate taking place in the state regarding funding levels for the various components of our educational system.

First, we agree wholeheartedly that community colleges are a key for people of all ages being able to access higher education and earn a degree. The knowledge and skills gained through community colleges are critical to improving the quality of the state’s workforce. Further, we agree that education will enable our young people to compete and innovate in tomorrow’s global knowledge-based economy, which is critical for the re-invention Michigan is currently undergoing.

Second, the State of Michigan is facing its most challenging fiscal environment since the late 1970s. Nonetheless, here at MCC we are committed to operating efficiently, and providing measurable outcomes for the resources allocated to our mission. As evidenced in our commencement ceremony, we are achieving great success and we are grateful for the ongoing support of the Muskegon community. With strong academic, co-curricular, and technical programs we are well placed to respond to the needs of a 21st century economy and the specific needs of residents of our community. Moreover, with over 25 new programs and services, we are meeting the needs of our current students and those interested in being a part of what we believe is a special institution.

Besides looking ahead to our budget situation, our thoughts are turning to fall here at MCC. As we look ahead to the next academic year, we are particularly focused on student success through our Achieving the Dream initiative. At this point, our Achieving the Dream Core and Data teams have chosen to focus their efforts on an enhanced orientation program that we believe will greatly improve the readiness of our students when it comes time to start class.

As always, feel free to contact me at president@muskegoncc.edu, via phone at (231) 777-0303, or by visiting our main campus at 221 South Quarterline Road. In addition, any member of the MCC community can feel free to attend an upcoming, monthly President’s Forum, the schedule of which can be found at www.muskegoncc.edu/events/calendar.

Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D., President
Muskegon Community College
Governor’s Keynote Creates Memorable Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2011

By Julie Weller


Speakers included student Nicholas Chibanda, an exchange student from Zimbabwe who gave a compelling account of his early upbringing and the need to grasp opportunity when it presents itself; Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, J.D., gave the commencement address where he stressed the importance of optimism, positive action, and balance in life and work.

According to MCC President Dale Nesbary, Gov. Snyder’s appearance at commencement is a historic first for Muskegon Community College.

Inside the arena, Gov. Snyder shook the hand of each MCC graduate, something no other governor had done before.

“I’m a product of our community college system, and I’m proud of it,” Snyder said in his address.

Gov. Snyder’s message to stay positive resonated with many of the new graduates, who must now face a tough job market. In an interview with WZZM news, student Theresa Adkinson acknowledged Michigan’s employment statistics.

“I see a lot of people who graduated last year and they still don’t have a job but I have to be positive about it,” said Adkinson.

David Wells, a local attorney, was selected from a field of Distinguished Alumni finalists due to his extensive list of community involvement, high regard in his profession, and as an advocate of higher education.

In his address, Wells thanked everyone for making his time at MCC a success and commented that community colleges ‘provide an important pathway to success in life.’ After graduating from MCC in 1971, he went on to earn a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, and his Juris from Valparaiso University.

The MCC Jayhawk softball team served as ushers in the expansive arena.
Students of Excellence: Amy Deater

All-Michigan Academic Team

Former student Amy Deater exemplifies the positive change that MCC can inspire. As a non-traditional student and a single mother of a young daughter, she started MCC hesitantly and not sure what to expect in 2009. However, she grasped the opportunities that were presented to her by instructors, by her employment as a tutor, and by joining student organizations, to become one of two MCC Phi Theta Kappa All-Michigan Academic Team honorees for 2011.

In particular, her involvement in the campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa helped to foster her leadership and planning skills. Deater states, “MCC’s small classes gave me academic confidence and prepared me for a successful transfer.”

Mission Profile:

Craig Brown Wall Highlights Diversity

One of MCC’s mission points states that MCC will create an atmosphere where diversity is acknowledged and encouraged.

The legacy of Craig Brown definitely fits that goal and in order to remember him and promote continued diversity at MCC, on Wednesday, March 23, over 50 MCC staff, students, and community members gathered on dedicate Craig’s portrait to the Craig Brown Diversity Wall. It was a wonderful time of sharing stories about Craig and remembering his contributions to MCC as an instructor and advocate of diversity, and the greater Muskegon community.

The Diversity Wall is located in the hallway between Rooms 242 and 244 outside the Social Sciences department faculty offices. For more information, visit www.muskegoncc.edu/social.

In the next issue of Reflections we’ll focus mission goal #2 and how MCC is preparing students in critical thinking, communication and long-term learning skills for the changing challenges of the future. Visit www.muskegoncc.edu/mission to learn more.

Student Film Debuts

MCC’s Creative and Performing Arts department houses a variety of art forms that individually create wonderful artistic expressions. This spring the department took on an engaging production that crossed artistic disciplines to reach new heights.

“Band Means Together” is a documentary created by a film class about the newly formed Wind & Jazz ensemble, which began in Fall 2010 at MCC. The film follows the group as they prepare for their winter mid-semester 2011 concert. The result is a 35-minute film that truly puts you in touch with the musicians and their journey to express themselves through music.

The film premiered on May 2 in the Overbrook Theater and was also shown at Mayfest. On both occasions film students and musician participants were on hand to explain the project and what they learned through the process. Film student Jackson Kimmel stated that he appreciated how the class demonstrated filmmaking as a “collaborative process” and that the class was the “strongest effort of my career as a filmmaker thus far.”

By Dan Rinsema-Sybenga

Craig Brown Diversity Wall
Themed Studies Provide Perspective

As a liberal arts institution MCC aims to provide its students the best context for critical thinking as they face their futures. One innovative way MCC instructors incorporate this into their classrooms is the use of themed studies. The LIFT Institute (Learning, Innovation, Futuring, Technology) is the center for these efforts, which are led by Maria Andersen, math instructor and learning futurist at LIFT.

The idea is of themed studies is simple. Connect the “discipline silos” in education by relating every discipline, at least a few times, to a common theme. For the past academic year, there were six themes, each lasting for approximately four weeks, including the Influence of Television, Human Enhancement, Exploration of Space, Obesity Epidemic, European Influence, and Air and Wind.

Of particular success this year was the topic of Human Enhancement, during which Dr. Joseph Dvorak of Research in Motion gave a speech, arts students made related paintings, P.E. students looked at disabilities that might be considered super-abilities, and Graphic Design students made brochures for companies that are in a human enhancement field. All are innovative ways to incorporate timely themes and developments and present them in a way that gets students to better understand how their particular discipline, or class, fits into the global context.

ReunionFest is MCC’s first ever “all-class” reunion—join us in Collegiate Hall for a night of fun, mingling, and nostalgia just for you! In addition to connecting with former classmates and instructors, you’ll meet MCC President Dr. Dale Nesbary, learn what’s new at MCC, and enjoy a great dinner—all for only a $10 donation to the Alumni Association!

4:00-6:00pm Pre-event Theater Workshop for theater alumni
6:00-6:30pm Registration, appetizers, and mingling
6:30-6:35pm Welcome
6:35-7:30pm Dinner and live music
7:30-8:30pm A variety of breakout activities including tours, shows, learning opportunities, coach and faculty interactions and more - get details when you register by phone or online

ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI: It’s time to verify your alumni information! Help ensure our new alumni database is accurate by contacting us today online or by phone to confirm or update your alumni information and make your ReunionFest reservation at the same time.

Even if you can’t attend ReunionFest, confirming your alumni information by 6/4/11 will register you to win a $100 Barnes & Noble gift card!

Please call or click to respond and update your information
(231) 777-0461 • www.muskegoncc.edu/reunion

Muskegon Community College
Alumni Relations • www.muskegoncc.edu/alumni • (231) 777-0461
MCC Expanding Green Energy Programs

Muskegon Community College’s ongoing commitments to the environment have been highlighted by several new programs and initiatives on campus. Along with energy cost-saving investments like upgrading of heating and cooling systems, lighting motion and brightness sensors, and campus improvements like the Green Roof system at our Outdoor Learning Center, come many new and innovative learning experiences for MCC’s students.

MCC was recently awarded a grant to send four faculty members to the International Biomass Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Each faculty member attended different educational tracks, with the intent of incorporating this knowledge into new programs and classes for alternative energy. The tracks included Dedicated Energy Crop Urban Wastes, Forest and Wood Processing Residues, and Food Processing Residues, which will be integrated into the MCC Biofuels certificate program.

In 2010, the MCC Board of Trustees allocated $50,000 for the purchase of analytical instrumentation capable of testing biofuels. In February 2011, Muskegon Community College was awarded a $24,500 State of Michigan DELEG grant to provide the additional equipment needed to begin testing.

The success of this venture does not rest with MCC alone. From the beginning, MCC has partnered with Scott Erdman of Erdman Holdings who has provided the facility where the laboratory is located. Another major partner, Tim Korthase & Sons, has provided significant electrical and construction services to the project, without which this project would not go forward. Silver Creek Energy Lab was built in conjunction with industrial, business, academic, and government leaders. With outreach to the community, MCC can provide hands-on experiences using real data to help educate the public about the importance of biofuels to our future.

MCC is very excited that this project is community based. According to Greg Marczak, Biofuels Coordinator for MCC, this project is all about leveraging industrial, business, government, and academic resources throughout the region. “Our biggest goal is to give back to the community that gives to us,” says Marczak. As examples of the deep community involvement, GVSU MAREC has provided significant networking help and provided a $20,000 atomic absorption instrument donated to them from Trace Analytical. Don Nelson, president and CEO of Airmaster Systems, understood the vision and donated significant chemical and biological hoods, countertops and sinks. The MAISD has provided valuable support for the vision of making sure that our K-12 system will be able to take advantage of what this lab has to offer.

An open house is planned for early June for area school educators and public officials, with an additional open house in the fall for MCC students interested in the curriculum.

According to Jeff Stipes, chair of the MCC Technology department, the college has also received a grant to develop a sustainability course for the alternative & renewable energy curriculum. New courses for existing curriculum are always on the agenda to keep technology up-to-date for students.

“Plans are in the works for a Fall semester 2011 development of an energy efficiency course for the alternative & renewable energy curriculum,” noted Stipes.

The MCC Motorsports Club has also kept up with alternative energy as it applies to motor vehicles – in addition to the acclaimed “White Lightning” ethanol-powered car; they are also working on an electric dragster and a biodiesel pickup truck.
Partnership with Read Muskegon to Provide Cooperative Learning Opportunities While Training Tutors

The inability to read can be more than simply an impediment to getting a job. It can be deadly. Prescription drug labels, safety warnings, etc., depend on the ability to be read to keep consumers safe. This makes the task of Read Muskegon, a local nonprofit group formed in 2005 with the goal of improving literacy, critical.

Read Muskegon defines literacy as “the ability to read, write, speak, compute and solve problems at the level needed to function on the job, in the family, and in the community.” The organization says as many as 22,000 people in Muskegon County, with a population of about 173,000, struggle with the issue in one form or another.

To combat this community issue, Read Muskegon and MCC, over the summer of 2010, entered a partnership to increase the number of tutors for the organization by connecting MCC students with local residents who need help reading. To accomplish this goal, MCC created a new elective course where students learn how to tutor and actually spend time tutoring.

The class began in fall 2010 semester with seven tutors working with learners and changing lives. Currently two of the teams are still working (teams = tutor/learner pairs). During the recently completed winter semester, four tutor/learner pairs formed and all of those continued through the end of the class.

While the class is directed to future teachers, students studying anything from optometry to social work to nursing to “just studying” have taken part in the class.

Courtney Schaub-Olsen, director of Read Muskegon and instructor of the course, says the partnership is beneficial for both students and Read Muskegon. “We’ve had students tell us that they couldn’t imagine not tutoring now that they have given it a try,” Schaub-Olsen said. “That’s an awesome thing to hear.”

Learn more about Read Muskegon at www.readmuskegon.org.

Instructor Profile:
Sheila Wahamaki, Recent CPA Chair

Happen on any class, rehearsal, meeting, or any other of Sheila Wahamaki’s multitude of engagements at MCC and what will strike you is the passion and excitement Wahamaki brings to everything she is involved in. And that’s not just because she is a theater instructor, though maybe it helps.

Wahamaki is particularly able to connect with students, drill down to the core of the lesson and help a student come away with insight into themselves, others, and the classroom material. Wahamaki and husband Kirk, director of Muskegon Civic Theater, have richly blessed the Muskegon theater community since their 1999 move to Muskegon.

Sheila earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theater from West Virginia University and a Masters degree in Communications and Theater from Indiana State University. Prior to arriving at MCC, she was a theater instructor at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and Indiana State University. She is the most recent Chairperson for the Creative and Performing Arts Department and continues to be the Director of the Center for Theater at Muskegon Community College. Beyond her college commitments Sheila is active in the greater Muskegon arts scene and serves as the coordinator of the Muskegon Area Arts and Humanities Festival, an organization that connects Muskegon Community College to the arts and humanities community institutions throughout the Muskegon area.

Sheila Wahamaki advises an acting student at Muskegon Community College.
Muskegon Community College Celebrates 85th Anniversary

Compiled by Paula McClurg, Library Technician/Archives

Muskegon Junior College was established by the Muskegon Board of Education in 1926 and was housed on the third floor of what was then the new Muskegon Senior High School. It was a pioneering effort, since only four other two-year institutions existed in Michigan at the time.

The students excelled in their academic goals and found time also for extra-curricular activities. The Bay Window, a student newspaper, was started. It is still being published today. Many clubs, athletic teams (including football), and social activities were also instituted as was an annual variety show, the “Roof Raising.” In 1929, Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for two-year colleges, established the Omega Chapter at the College.

By 1934, enrollment in both the College and the high school had grown beyond the capacity of a single building. The Junior College, therefore, moved into the former Hackley School in downtown Muskegon across from Hackley Park (now the Board of Education Building).

It was appropriate that the College should occupy the old Hackley building, which had been presented to the public schools of Muskegon by Charles H. Hackley after fire had destroyed the original Central School. The city’s “First Citizen” believed that a community was obliged to offer its youth the kind of training which would enable them to earn a good livelihood and at the same time contribute to the well-being of the community.

At the time of its move into this facility and for 17 years after, Muskegon Junior College was primarily geared to those students intending to complete at least four years of college. Muskegon's reputation in this field of the “college transfer” program was an enviable one, and continues to be so today.

Then in June of 1951, after an enabling act by the Michigan Legislature, the name and educational scope of the College was changed. “Muskegon Junior College” became “Muskegon Community College,” thereby reflecting the expanded nature of the College’s programs.

They were broadened to serve a larger number of students with a wider variety of interests. Courses were added in retailing, the vocations, the technical fields, public health, and the trades. These courses enabled young men and women to prepare themselves for a specific field of employment in two years of training beyond high school. There was no shrinking of the transfer program, only an expanded curriculum to serve a larger segment of the community.

In the post- World War II years, enrollment climbed quickly and the Community College “campus” had to grow accordingly. The Muskegon Board of Education, which still operated the College, utilized available space in many of its buildings, and rented other community facilities when enrollment exceeded the capacities of those buildings.

By the early 1960s, enrollment had topped 2,000 and the College was operating full-time at Hackley, Vanderlaan, and Wilson schools and part-time at eight other locations. The time had come for another step in the development of the College.

Both the University of Michigan and the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities recognized the high quality of education and accredited the College in 1929. The College has been continuously accredited since then.
The Board of Education formed a Special Citizens Committee to study the entire program and make recommendations. The Committee proposed that the College be separated from the public school system, that a countywide community college district be created, that a board of trustees be elected to plan, build, and operate the school, and that millage be voted in sufficient amount and for enough years to build and operate the College.

In April of 1963, the county overwhelmingly approved the recommendations of the committee and elected the first Board of Trustees. The elected board went to work immediately and by September of that year had purchased the 111-acre campus on which the College exists today.

Alden B. Dow and Associates was named architect and by the summer of 1965 drawings were completed and construction begun. The Vocational-Technical Wing was completed and occupied in the fall of 1966 and the following September the entire complex was placed in service. Formal dedication ceremonies were held October 22, 1967, with Dr. Ashley Montagu, one of the world’s foremost anthropologists, delivering the dedicatory address.

In the fall semester of 1967, with the environmental movement well underway, the Ecology class began work on the Natural Area, a 10-acre natural preserve accessible by trails. The Natural Area opened in 1970 and was renamed the Kasey Hartz Natural Area in 1974. The trail head was made barrier-free through a grant in 1991, and guided tours showcase the area’s natural beauty.

The first addition to the new campus was the Frauenthal Foundation Fine Arts Center, completed in 1968 and named for the Muskegon industrialist whose gift had made the Center possible – A. Harold Frauenthal.

When the new district was created, the name of the College was changed to Muskegon County Community College; but in the spring of 1969, at the request of the Board of Trustees, the State Board of Education approved changing the name once again to Muskegon Community College. With an enrollment of more than 5,000 students, the College exists today in its eighth decade of service to area citizens.

The Carr-Fles Planetarium opened its doors and the sky to the public in 1972. Stars, constellations, and deep sky objects have been introduced to both students and the community.

The University Park Golf Course was acquired in 1975, with its own driving range, putting green, golf pro, and golf shop. It provides instructional possibilities for the Physical Education program and an interesting and challenging course for the public.

Also in 1975, the continued growth of the Art Department necessitated a new Art Building on the north side of the campus.

January 1995 opened a new era of educational opportunity with the completion of the Center for Higher Education on the campus of Muskegon Community College. The Center houses upper level courses and programs offered by Ferris State, Grand Valley State, and Western Michigan universities. These institutions, along with Muskegon...
Community College, have formed a consortium to coordinate offerings to meet the needs of West Michigan residents.

The 90,000 square foot facility represents about one-third the size of the main building and was constructed to complement existing architecture. Attached to the main building near the Technical Wing, the Center for Higher Education contains the latest in communication technology with all of its 35 rooms connected via fiber optics for voice, video and data transmission. In addition to housing the educational programs of the consortium member institutions, the Center is also the new home for MCC’s Television Studio and Graphic Design program. In the courtyard between the Center and the old building, an Herb Garden was established and continues to be cared for by the West Michigan Herb Society.

The German Exchange Program began in 1995 and the International Studies Program followed in 1999. The first annual Global Awareness Festival in 2000 opened the international curriculum to all students with a wide variety of activities and presentations.

The Muskegon County Wastewater Management System property was chosen in 2001 as the location for the Observatory. The details of the Moon, Saturn, the Andromeda Galaxy, Orion and many more of our celestial neighbors are visible through the 16-inch reflecting telescope. The Observatory hosts public open houses at various times throughout the year.

In 2001, the Center for Higher Education became the James L. Stevenson Center for Higher Education to honor the MCC President who brought the project to completion. The consortium continues to provide upper level classes in the Muskegon area through its continued partnerships with area universities.

Vocational training was enriched with the opening of the Career Technology Center in 2004 in partnership with the MAISD. State-of-the-art facilities opened to area high school students who receive college credit and get a head start on a variety of Associate Degree/Certificate programs.

Opened in January 2006, the Hendrik Meijer Library/Information Technology Center offers students and the community the latest in communication capabilities, including wireless Internet access, state-of-the-art library facilities/technologies and classrooms, and an Internet café. The 40,000 square foot facility has three levels overlooking the woods and creek, and offers special services including individualized reference service, interlibrary loan, photocopy machines, group study rooms, a quiet reading room, a workstation for visually impaired persons, and both class and individual orientations.

“White Lightning,” an ethanol-powered car, was built by the Motorsports Club in 2007. It was followed in 2009 by an electric motorcycle built by the Alternative Fuels class and “Short Circuit,” an electric dragster brought into being through the collaboration of all departments in the Industrial Manufacturing Wing.

The Student One-Stop renovation was completed in 2009, with convenience for the student as the focus of the project. It consolidated Admissions, Financial Aid and Counseling services and the Testing Center.

2010 heralded in the Outdoor Learning Lab as the Alternative and Renewable Energy Certificate program opened. A green roof and a hands-on wind turbine for the students are visible on the roof of the Administrative Offices. ♦
MCC Events Promote Better Community

By Dan Rinsema-Sybenga

It takes participation and recognition of all of Muskegon’s diverse communities for the region to prosper. For this reason MCC has organized and hosted the Women of Accomplishment and Love in Action (African American community) award celebrations over the years.

This year both events were wonderful times to celebrate the service contributions of community members, as well as to take inspiration to continue to move the Muskegon community forward.

Award winners at this year’s Women of Accomplishment event included Suzette Castrejon, Amy Heisser, Charlotte Johnson and Trynette Lottie-Harps.


MCC Student Organization Profile

Teachers of Tomorrow

MCC has many clubs and organizations dedicated to causes and pursuits that bring together students to enrich their experiences at MCC. The Teachers of Tomorrow (TOTS) club is dedicated to aiding students in the education and childcare fields to work on projects that will benefit the welfare of children, providing valuable experience along the way.

Club members participate in service learning projects, as well as attending conferences and workshops. Over the recent academic year the club hosted six educational professionals for workshops at MCC. The group also helped plan and execute the yearly Paths to Success conference, a resource of Muskegon area educators, held every November.

In May 2010 the TOTS club participated in a service trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. While there the volunteers helped repair living areas, installed wheelchair ramps, built outhouses, built and distributed bunk beds, served a community dinner, joined in Lakota culture when possible, and gained an insight into a community that statistically has the deepest poverty in the United States. While on the reservation, TOTS were also able to visit and tour a local Head Start class room and elementary school in the village of Red Shirt.

Other service projects accomplished over the academic year included a successful Toys for Tots drive in December 2010 and ACT pre-test tutoring with students from Oakridge and Muskegon High Schools. TOTS truly exemplifies the goals and results that the MCC club experience is meant to provide!
Although 1983 MCC graduate Jim Schaub never took film or video production while he was here, he has managed to spend the last 18 years of his career as a producer, editor, writer, camera operator and technical adviser. His position as Communications System Technician and Adjunct Professor at Grand Valley State University has complemented his personal goals as a producer of video and film.

Jim is living his dream of producing film and video, and teaching it comes naturally. At GVSU, he teaches film and video editing and effects, and notes that “modeling is the best way to teach.”

Starting with a couple of photography classes at MCC before he received his Associate’s degree in Business was apparently enough to spark his interest in film. “I then went to MSU where I got a B.A. in Business,” said Schaub. “A few years later, I got a B.S. in Film and Video Production at GVSU and then in 1999, I finished my M.S. in Communications from GVSU.”

He has a wide range of experience producing corporate, documentary, non-profit, educational and film work, both as part of his job at GVSU and also independently. Jim has worked on three documentary films that have aired on PBS and also has a video in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

His production company, Clear Vision Films, is a collaboration of Jim and his brother, Rod Schaub. Recent projects have garnered the pair a lot of national and even international attention, primarily from the documentary “Up From the Bottoms: The Search for the American Dream.” The documentary, filmed primarily in Muskegon with historical narrative provided by Muskegon natives, documents the World War II migration of African Americans from the American South to Muskegon, Michigan. Actress Cicely Tyson narrated the film. “Up From the Bottoms” received five prestigious awards, including being the winner of the 2010 Paul Robeson Award from the Newark Black Film Festival.

“The latest success of ‘Up From the Bottoms: The Search for the American Dream’ is that Amtrak is using it for National Train Day promotions,” said Schaub. “They’ve booked our expert Dr. Ben Wilson as the keynote speaker and are planning to show the film at one of the events.”

Other recent projects include “Guitar Secrets of Regi ‘the Teacha’ Wooten,” and “Walter’s Wife,” a narrative story directed by Andy Fortenbacher, a recent graduate of Grand Valley’s film program. The crew included students, both current and recent graduates, alongside professionals from Los Angeles and Michigan. Actor Scott Lowell of Showtime’s “Queer As Folk” gave a powerful performance as a disturbed and sickly man.

According to Jim, the future is bright, and we’re not talking about film lighting. He has two biographies currently in the development stage involving some famous people in the acting field, and is waiting on details to be lined up before he can begin filming.

“I can’t divulge a lot of detail at this point, but it’s pretty exciting stuff, working with well-known actors and actresses,” teased Schaub.

Life back in the MCC days wasn’t quite as exciting, but Jim managed to work in some good times along with his studies. “One fun thing while at MCC is a band I was in played in the cafeteria once,” he reminisces. “I mostly remember the beautiful views in various places that I used to study. I also had a lot of fun and got in shape taking two terms of karate from instructor Fred Reineke—I enjoyed that a lot.”

We expect to hear a lot more about Jim and his career in film and video production, not only because of the recognition he has received so far, but because his sheer enthusiasm for what he does comes shining through when he talks about both his completed and future projects. You can learn more about Jim’s work at www.clearvisionfilms.net.
2010-2011 Jayhawks Sports Digest

Jayhawks fans had a lot more to cheer about in 2010-2011. Two new sports, soccer and bowling, plus the return of cross country after a 30-year lapse, meant there was always something on the athletic calendar this year.

Men’s
Cross Country – 19th in nation in return to sport after a 30-year hiatus, named Academic All-American Team of the Year.

Basketball – Finished 12-18, good for 6th place in western conference.

Baseball – Finished 41-20 (2nd place regional tournament), Coach Cap Pohlman wins 400th career game.

Golf – Earned 7th place in western conference with one golfer playing in the national tournament. Coach John McKinley retires after 17 years.

Women’s
Volleyball – Finished 35-9 (2nd in region), Tiffany Brufladt awarded western conference player of the year.

Tennis – Won conference and regional championships.

Basketball – Finished 22-9, as western conference champions.

Softball – After earning the NJCAA Division II national championship in 2010, the team finished 38-17 for the year, and were the western conference champions.

Wrestling – Finished as Regional Champions, 9 wrestlers qualified for nationals, earning a 9th place finish.

Bowling – 8th place at national tournament in first year.

Cross Country – three runners in first year of offering the program.

Bowling – 5th place at national tournament in first year.

Visit www.muskegoncc.edu/athletics for schedules, media guides, and more details about Jayhawk athletics.

SCHE Updates

Ferris State University is offering a criminal justice degree at the SCHE. The Criminal Justice program provides the professional education necessary to prepare students for a career in the criminal justice system. Students receive a general education in criminal justice with the flexibility of selecting courses to focus on specific technical skills. Students obtain special work-related skills that will open opportunities in a variety of criminal justice agencies. The bachelor’s degree provides the foundation for students who wish to attend law school or pursue a graduate degree or other professional studies. Learn more at www.ferris.edu/statewide or by stopping by the FSU desk in room 1106 in the SCHE.

Grand Valley State University is offering a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in leadership. Muskegon Community College and Grand Valley State University have collaborated to provide a degree completion program at one convenient location. The Muskegon Leadership Program provides students with fundamental leadership principles that can be applied directly to the business and nonprofit sectors. The program encourages students to question, study, and understand the complexities of today’s professional world and focuses on problem solving, critical thinking, and communication skills leaders use and employers require. For more information, visit the GVSU office in room 1106 at SCHE or www.gvsu.edu/muskegonleader.

Western Michigan University is offering a bachelor’s degree in recreation from WMU-Muskegon—an associate’s degree from MCC will transfer into the Recreation program. Career possibilities with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation include park director, camp director, ranger, and more. The program focuses on recreation and leisure leadership, program and service development, delivery and management. The curriculum includes major/minor core courses including specific academic service learning opportunities. For more information see www.wmich.edu/muskegon or contact LaVon Williams, Regional Coordinator for WMU-Muskegon, at lavon.williams@wmich.edu or in room 1106 at the SCHE.
Reach for the Stars

Help make the dream of a state-of-the-art planetarium for the community come true

Four “Out of the Box” Ways You Can Support MCC

In addition to the many ways you support the mission of Muskegon Community College already, consider these strategies that may enable you to make an additional gift. None of these techniques will be right for everyone, but at least one might be just the thing for you.

1. Make a Life Income Gift. Charitable gift annuities are a well-established way to make a gift while retaining income from the contributed assets as well as other valuable benefits. Consider these current annuity rates in light of prevailing low CD rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Age</th>
<th>Annuity Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 years</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 years</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 years</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 years</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 years &amp; older</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the increased income you might receive from your annuity gift, you will also enjoy receiving a significant portion of your annuity with no income tax liability and a current federal income tax charitable deduction for the remainder value of your gift.

2. Make a “roll-over” gift from your IRA. The new tax law allows taxpayers who have reached age 70½ to make direct transfers from an Individual Retirement Account. If you qualify you may transfer up to $100,000 to MCC this year and pay no tax on the amount transferred from your IRA account.

3. Sell old gold or silver and give the proceeds to MCC. With gold and silver hitting record high values many thoughtful persons are considering selling unused jewelry and other gold or silver items. Have you considered that you could contribute some or all of the proceeds from your jewelry sale to MCC? For many folks this would allow you to support the College without taking a penny out of your checking account.

4. Donate an “obsolete” life insurance policy. Many of us have acquired insurance over the years to protect against a risk that may no longer exist. Mortgage paid off? If so, perhaps that old “mortgage insurance” policy is no longer needed yet it may have substantial cash value. Why not donate the policy in full or cash in the policy and contribute a portion of the surrender value? Either way you can convert an idle asset into support for MCC.

Sound interesting? If any of these “out of the box” giving strategies are of interest, contact Tina Dee at the Foundation for Muskegon Community College at (231) 777-0660.
1940s
Richard Kraft (1949) An ardent MCC supporter/donor, Richard recently challenged the MCC Class of 2011 to raise funds for the Carr-Fles Planetarium renovation campaign (“Reach for the Stars”). Richard offered to match all monies collected from students dollar-for-dollar.

1960s
Steven Demos (1961) A nominee for the 2011 MCC Distinguished Alumni Award, Steven is retired from a long career as a cardiovascular surgeon in the Muskegon area, and volunteered his time on numerous occasions to MCC’s Respiratory Therapy program.

1970s
Lois Haverman (1972) A nominee for the 2011 MCC Distinguished Alumni Award, Lois is Oral Health Educator for the Ottawa County Health Department, and implemented the “Miles of Smiles” mobile unit for that area. Lois earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan.

1980s
Janie Brooks (1988) A nominee for the 2011 MCC Distinguished Alumni Award, Janie is recently retired from her position as Vice President of Student Services at MCC. Janie earned her B.A. and M.A. from Western Michigan University, and is a current member of the MCC Alumni Relations Committee.

1990s
Scott Blease (1991) A nominee for the 2011 MCC Distinguished Alumni Award, Scott is a sales representative at Access Health in Muskegon. Scott received his B.B.A. from Grand Valley State University.

2000s
Adam Bricker (2009) Adam, an 18-year-old Norton Shores resident, graduated from Muskegon Community College with an associate’s degree in arts and sciences, and then enrolled Mental Health field, Muskegon/Grand Rapids areas.

Steven Rinella (1994) Steven is an outdoor and adventure travel writer and author of The Scavenger’s Guide to Haute Cuisine, and American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon. Steven has also finished his first season as TV host of “The Wild Within with Steven Rinella” on the Travel Channel.

Ben Ritsema (1995) Ben studied elementary education at MCC, and earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Western Michigan University in elementary education and a Masters Degree from Western Michigan University in Education Leadership. Ben played on the club soccer team and “made many friends that are still my close friends today.” He is currently a sixth grade social studies teacher at Fruitport Middle School and the brand new men’s soccer coach at MCC.

Christopher M. Walsh (1991) A Mona Shores High School graduate, Chris studied at Muskegon Community College before moving to Chicago in 1994. At MCC he performed in Overbrook Theater productions of Shakespeare’s Macbeth (as Malcolm) and Much Ado About Nothing, and Joe Orton’s What the Butler Saw. The Chicago actor in February received an Honor Award as best supporting actor for his performance as Mr. Vandemar, an assassin operating in an alternative society beneath the streets of London, in Lifeline Theatre’s 2010 production of the fantasy play Neverwhere.

Christopher M. Walsh (1991) A Mona Shores High School graduate, Chris studied at Muskegon Community College before moving to Chicago in 1994. At MCC he performed in Overbrook Theater productions of Shakespeare’s Macbeth (as Malcolm) and Much Ado About Nothing, and Joe Orton’s What the Butler Saw. The Chicago actor in February received an Honor Award as best supporting actor for his performance as Mr. Vandemar, an assassin operating in an alternative society beneath the streets of London, in Lifeline Theatre’s 2010 production of the fantasy play Neverwhere.
at Michigan State University and has graduated this spring with a degree in physics. He and his mother credit home schooling beginning in sixth grade for fast-tracking his education.

**Cameron Flint** (2009) Cameron is a home-schooled student who spoke at the 2009 MCC Commencement, transferred to Hope College on a scholarship and earned an internship and part-time job working for TechSmith (in Okemos, Michigan).

**Sarah Michele Hawley** (2004) A nominee for the 2011 MCC Distinguished Alumni Award, Sarah is a teacher at Teach for America in the Mississippi Delta, and is a former Peace Corps volunteer. Sarah earned a B.A. from Grand Valley State University, and is currently working on her Master's at Delta State University.

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### MCC Faculty/Staff Updates

**Retirements**
Brenda Mitcheltree, Administrative Professional, 36 years of service; Pat DeVries, Nursing Instructor, 36 years of service; Eileen Grunstra, Nursing Instructor, 21 years of service; Jesse Montgomery, Custodian, six years of service; and Cindy Topping, Testing Center, 33 years of service.

**New to MCC**
John Selmon, Vice-President of Student Services; Ed Breitenbach, Dean of Instruction and Assessment.

**Awards and Achievements**
Maria Andersen recently received a Ph.D. in Education. She was also featured in an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* focusing on her work of teaching “Mind Mapping” to future math teachers.

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### Alumni Update Form

Your fellow alumni would like to read your latest news! Provide us with your update online at www.muskegoncc.edu/alumni, or by email or phone, and we'll share your update in the next issue of *Reflections*.

Alumni status (check all that apply):
- Earned degree or certificate - year of graduation ________________
- Transferred without earning MCC degree - year ________________
- Other ________________

Additional degrees you earned after MCC: ________________

Field of employment: ________________

Current employer and position: ________________

Please note any other milestones you wish to share with fellow alums (promotions, marriages, awards, etc.): ________________

What fond memories do you have of MCC? ________________

Name: ________________

Name if different during attendance: ________________

Address: ________________

City: ________________ ST: ______ Zip: ______

Email: ________________

Phone: ________________

Use our easy online form at www.muskegoncc.edu/alumni, email your update to alumnirelations@muskegoncc.edu, call (231) 777-0461 or mail your update to Muskegon Community College Alumni Relations, Office of Community Relations, 221 S Quarterline Road #400U, Muskegon, MI 49442.
MCC Student Art Exhibit
Overbrook Art Gallery 9am-4pm
Through September 15, 2011

Thursday, June 9, 2011, 7pm
Free Planetarium Show - Light Years from Andromeda
Carr-Fles Planetarium, details at www.muskegoncc.edu/planetarium

Tuesday, June 14, 2011, 7pm
Free Planetarium Show - Light Years from Andromeda
Carr-Fles Planetarium, details at www.muskegoncc.edu/planetarium

Thursday, June 16, 2011, 7pm
Free Planetarium Show - Light Years from Andromeda
Carr-Fles Planetarium, details at www.muskegoncc.edu/planetarium

Saturday, June 18, 2011, 6 pm
ReunionFest
At Muskegon Community College, visit www.muskegon.edu/reunion for details

Thursday, September 15, 2011
Founder’s Day
Roaring twenties at The Lake House!
Featuring live jazz, hors d’oeuvres, silent auction, presentations and more. For more information call (231) 777-0660 or visit www.muskegoncc.edu/founder

Thursday, October 20, 2011
85th Anniversary Open House
Muskegon Community College; details will be published at www.muskegoncc.edu/85.

See www.muskegoncc.edu/mcccalendar and find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/muskegoncc to stay up-to-date on campus events
Muskegon Community College 2011 Commencement Ceremony

A record 230 graduates participated in the May 4, 2011 ceremony at L.C. Walker Arena in downtown Muskegon. Read more about the Governor’s keynote address and other event features on page 5.