

REFLECTIONS

Muskegon Community College Magazine

Winter 2011

REFLECTIONS

**Upgrades to
Carr-Fles Planetarium
Helping Students
and Community
Reach for the Stars**

**MCC Helping
At-Risk Students
Achieve the Dream**

**1948-1950 Alumni Reunite
for Evening Under the Stars**

***Experiential Learning*
Students Learn through
Experiencing History,
Business, and Politics**

contents

Muskegon Community College REFLECTIONS MAGAZINE | Winter 2011

FEATURES

- 4 Achieving the Dream | *Helping at-risk students succeed*
- 4 Higher Learning Commission | *MCC Makes the Grade*
- 5 Richard Kraft Hosts Evening Under the Stars Reunion | *Longtime supporter invites alumni from 1948-50 back to the MCC campus*
- 7 Institute for Healing Racism | *Popular program comes to MCC*
- 8 Foundation asks Community to “Reach for the Stars” | *Campaign to renovate Carr-Fles Planetarium boosted by lead gift*
- 9 Focus on Entrepreneurship | *MCC Business Department develops new program for start-up companies*
- 10 Experiential Learning | *MCC instructors find new ways to stimulate learning by combining experience with instruction*
- 12 Student Perspective on Experiential Learning | *Participant in Gettysburg experience shares his view*
- 13 New TV Acting Class Draws Students | *Rigorous Course helps students develop character acting skills*

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 From the Desk of the President
- 3 From the Editor
- 6 Instructor Profile: Papa N’jai
- 6 Students of Excellence: Justin Arnold
- 7 MCC Student Clubs: Garden Club
- 14 Donor Profile: Marvin Anderson
- 14 Alumni Profile: Michael Burrel
- 15 Focus on the Foundation: Peter Turner
- 16 Alumni News
- 18 Faculty/Staff Updates
- 19 Jayhawk Sports Digest
- 19 Campus Events

*On the cover:
This giant spiral disk of stars, dust, and gas is 170,000 light-years across, almost twice the diameter of our Milky Way galaxy. M101 is estimated to contain at least one trillion stars. Photo courtesy of HubbleSite.com. See more of the universe at MCC’s Carr-Fles Planetarium.*

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From the Desk of the President

Science Education Key to Future Job Growth



Science education, as identified by the National Science Foundation, is key to economic growth and development. Governments across the world have been demonstrating their agreement with this principle by investing heavily in science and technology education, and are quickly catching up to the leadership position long held in this area by the United States. Of particular concern to the National Science Foundation is lagging student interest in studying natural sciences or engineering, which affects the ability to acquire the technical skills and knowledge that are essential for knowledge-intensive economies.

In the developing world, the number of first university Natural Science and Engineering degrees (broadly comparable to a U.S. baccalaureate) is rising, led by large increases in China, from about 239,000 in 1998 to 807,000 in 2006.

Community colleges play an important role in the ability of the United States to maintain its leadership role in science, as these institutions provide an important pool of students who go on to four-year science degrees. Many two-year science programs prepare students for science related occupations directly.

At MCC, the importance of science has been long recognized in the structuring of our academic programs and in the planning of facilities and equipment purchases. However, these facilities are aging, are only minimally handicap accessible, and don't provide enough

space or technology to provide our students an excellent science education.

That is why the 2010 Facilities Master Plan called for the renovation of approximately 20,000 square feet of existing lab and classroom space into larger, technology-rich instructional spaces. The plan also called for the construction of a new two level addition to the current science wing which would create 21,000 SF of new space for six new labs, including preparation space, and six new instructional classrooms.

As a demonstration of the importance of meeting this need for MCC, the five-year capital outlay plan of the college recently submitted to the State of Michigan listed this facility improvement as the college's number one priority for consideration of state funds in the fiscal year 2012.

The need for science education is one we clearly see demonstrated nationally and locally, but to get a broader picture of how Muskegon Community College is meeting needs locally, MCC is conducting a larger needs assessment process. The results of this research will be used to direct the College's Strategic Plan, which is currently being updated.

Community input will help determine the biggest educational obstacles facing our community and will also provide direction about which types of academic programs and services are needed in our service area. Students, alumni, community members, local

businesses, education partners, and other stakeholders are invited to participate in surveys, focus groups, and other methods of determining community perceptions and needs. We invite you to participate in this process by completing an online community perceptions survey accessible at www.muskegoncc.edu/needs.

The college will soon launch a major fundraising initiative to make our science upgrades and other facility enhancements a reality. We at MCC need your support to complete these important projects, whether it be a time, equipment, a financial support, or other contribution. Please contribute by visiting the following link: www.muskegoncc.edu/give, or by contacting our foundation staff by phone at (231) 777-0660 or email tina.dee@muskegoncc.edu.

Whether it is science, or any of our programmatic areas, we are striving to do our best to position our region for success. Thanks for your support and participation of our mission here at Muskegon Community College. ♦

Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D., President
Muskegon Community College

From the Editor

MCC's Needs Assessments Seeking Community Input

The mission of Muskegon Community College is to offer "programs that respond to individual, community and global needs." To help ensure that we are meeting current needs, we are conducting a series of surveys and assessments. Students, alumni, community members, local businesses, education partners, and other stakeholders are invited to participate in surveys, focus groups, and other

methods of determining community perceptions and needs.

Reflections readers are a key constituent in this process. The fact that you are reading this publication indicates that you have an interest in our mission and how we are serving the community. Please take the time to share your thoughts with us by taking a brief online survey available at:

www.muskegoncc.edu/reflections.

Thank you for your continued support of MCC!

Tina Dee, MS, CFRM
Director of Community Relations



Achieving the Dream™

Community Colleges Count

Muskegon Community College is now part of 130 colleges nationwide in the *Achieving the Dream* consortium. MCC will not only learn from those that are already a part of it, but will receive assistance from experienced practitioners in building a culture of evidence campus-wide, using data to identify problems, set priorities, and measure progress toward increasing student success. *Achieving the Dream*

colleges make lasting changes in policies, programs, and services that are integrated to support success for all students.

Achieving the Dream seeks to help more students earn postsecondary credentials, including occupational certificates and degrees.

“[Achieving the Dream] signifies a commitment to student success and institutional improvement,” said MCC President Dale Nesbary. “It will allow for us to develop and enhance our student success and completion practices, whether they ensure that students complete an associate’s degree or certificate, or complete a single course designed to train students for specific skills or jobs.”

To keep posted on MCC’s progress in *Achieving the Dream*, visit www.muskegoncc.edu/atd. ♦

Strategic and Facility Master Plan Completed

After a year of reaching and gathering input from students, faculty, and community members, MCC has completed updates to the strategic plan. The plan, available at www.muskegoncc.edu/strategicplan, identifies five priorities: *Academic Foresight, Services to Students and Community, Physical Space and Infrastructure, Resource Development, and Human Resource Management.*

Details regarding priority #3, *Physical Space and Infrastructure*, are outlined in the Facility Master Plan, which identifies the need for new facilities in three academic areas: science, health education, and creative/performing arts. The initial planning process was completed in January when the Board of Trustees elected to implement the complete facility improvement plan, which includes new construction for the three areas and upgrades to some of the existing facilities infrastructure. In light of the \$35 million investment required, the plan will be implemented in phases, with the science addition in the first phase.

“The board clearly saw a need in all three of these key academic areas and we are all on the same page that additional classrooms are needed to meet the needs of our growing student population,” commented Teresa Sturuss, Vice President for Academic Affairs. The college’s enrollment has increased 20.51% over the past nine years.

“The board’s choice to focus on science first will help reduce the science-education gap our region is facing,” explains President Dr. Dale Nesbary. “The next phases include new space for health education and the arts. In addition to meeting crucial academic needs, these projects will benefit the community overall—by increasing access to wellness programs and the arts, we can build healthier and more engaged communities.” ♦

MCC Passes Accreditation Review

Muskegon Community College has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC/NCA) since 1929, most recently in 2000. In 2009 and 2010, MCC undertook a two-year process to realize re-accreditation, an imperative step to serving the community with credible higher education.

The comprehensive self-study process culminated in a self-study report,

submitted to the Commission in September 2010 and a site visit from the HLC took place October 25-27, when peer reviewers representing HLC/NCA were on the MCC campus.

The draft report from the HLC visiting team indicated that they would be recommending a full 10 year re-accreditation, with no three year focused visit, an accomplishment achieved by only 30% of institutions seeking re-accreditation. ♦



MCC President Dale Nesbary addresses the auditors from the Higher Learning Commission

Classes of 1948-1950 Reunite for an Evening Under the Stars

On October 30, 2010, Muskegon Community College invited its graduates from the years 1948-1950 to "An Evening Under the Stars," hosted by fellow classmate and MCC benefactor Richard Kraft.

Attendees had the opportunity to peruse issues of *The Bay Window* from that time period, as well as yearbooks and other items of interest.

Muskegon Junior College, as it was known at the time, was primarily the upper floor of what is now the Muskegon Board of Education building in downtown Muskegon (next to Hackley Park with the clock tower). Attendees were also given copies of the 1948 and 1949 yearbooks, which have been carefully stored in the archives of the Hendrik Meijer Library/Information Technology Center.

After a social hour, campus tours, group photo, and dinner, they were treated to a show in the Carr-Fles Planetarium. During dessert, College President Dale Nesbary provided an update about the college's strategic plans and goals.

Jim Perry, class of 1948, commented, "It was a very pleasant evening for old friends to get re-acquainted after so many years."

Alumni from 1948-1950 who were not able to attend, are invited to contact MCC Alumni Relations to request a copy of the yearbooks and other materials distributed at the event. Contact Julie Weller at (231) 777-0461. ♦



In the News!!
 Time Man of Half Century
 Winston Churchill
 1950 Billboard No. 1 Song
 Third Man Theme by Anton Karas
 Top Headline of 1948
 Scientists at Bell Labs invent the transistor
 Top Headline of 1949
 Mao Tse-tung establishes Peoples Republic of China



Sixty years of devotion to MCC: Class of 1948-1950 reunion attendees pose for a group shot



TUNE IN!

MCC Magazine
Monday 12:30pm & 5:30pm

Institute For Healing Racism
Tuesday 5:30pm & 10pm

Today In Education
Wednesday 5pm & 10:30pm

Tech Talk with Jeff Stipes
Thursday 10am & 10pm

Timely Topics with Andy Wible
Friday 10am & 10pm

Watch MCC TV on Comcast Channels
98, 44-5, and 902, or stream online at
www.muskegoncc.edu/mcctv

Students of Excellence: Justin Arnold

Jack Kent Cooke Award Winner Succeeding at GVSU

By Dan Rinsema-Sybenga

Former Muskegon Community College student Justin Arnold is making his way at Grand Valley State University, after winning a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship award in 2010. Thanks to the scholarship, Justin was able to quit his full-time job in manufacturing and pursue his education at GVSU full-time.

Life for Justin at GVSU has been a whirlwind. He has been involved as a Leadership Fellow with the Peter Cook Leadership Academy at the Hauenstein Center (which is on the Grand Rapids GVSU campus). In this capacity he attends monthly leadership seminars with local leaders (including Pastor Ed Dobson and Ben Goi, the owner of Eastern Floral). He has also been meeting with a mentor who was the President of a local company for 22 years before retiring. Another Leadership Academy

highlight was seeing former President Bush at the Ford Museum at the end of November while speaking about his new book "Decision Point," and Justin received a signed copy. Justin has been active with several management seminars through the Center and GVSU busy networking with VP's and managers, so he can learn more about his chosen career: human resource management.

This led to a recent opportunity for him to work as an intern this coming summer at a global company, located in Rockford, MI. In October 2010 he was appointed to the Planning Commission for the city of Grand Haven by the city council. He is looking forward to being involved in local issues, and giving back to the community in this capacity.

Justin Arnold, recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Award



Justin states, "I am keenly aware how valuable my time at MCC was, and how much the people there have contributed to my success. By delegating research opportunities to me, and helping me develop a plan for transferring to GVSU, and all the little things in between, MCC has made a giant impact in my life for the better."

Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship winners are provided with up to \$30,000 per year and only about 50 deserving students, of hundreds of faculty supported applicants, are selected annually, making it the largest private scholarship for two-year and community college transfer students in the country. ♦

Instructor Profile:

Papa N'jai, Social Science Department Chair

By Dan Rinsema-Sybenga

Papa N'jai is an instructor who came the long way to MCC. A native of Sierra Leone, Papa came to West Michigan when he began his Master's Degree at Western Michigan University. Initially wanting to get involved in nonprofit administration, he worked in the nonprofit sector in Grand Rapids, then decided he preferred the "two way street" of teaching and came to MCC in 2002.

His global perspective is perfect for his subject areas; geography and anthropology. He enlightens students with technology-rich presentations of the subject matter, combined with his knowledge of how global connections across lands and cultures affect our day-to-day life in Muskegon. His most popular and well received class is Cultural Diversity, which provides a window for



Papa N'jai enjoys teaching at Muskegon Community College

students beyond their own experience, helping to make them better global citizens.

His colleagues respect him, evidenced by his recent appointment to chair of the Social Sciences department. In that capacity, he uses his administrative skills to facilitate the smooth running of the department, which houses 11 full time

instructors, and promotes numerous special events, including Global Awareness Festival.

"It's such a treat to teach at MCC," stated N'jai. "As much as I impart knowledge to the students, they get me back double with fresh eyes and perspectives that keep me sharp and excited to learn." ♦

Garden Club Flourishes

By Kyla Brooks, Office of Community Relations Work-Study

The Garden Club is a flourishing upstart club in its second year of operation. Originating in 2009 from an idea presented in a class assignment by club president Jon K. Perog, the garden club has a clear-cut mission.

To improve the community by growing food for charity is being accomplished every day at the garden club. By doing, and not just discussion alone, the garden club is not only looking to feed the

community, they are working toward sustainability without contributing to consumable energy use as well as reducing waste by recycling.

Through numerous fundraisers, support from area business entities, and the direction of club advisor, Kathy Pollock, the club's tight budget is being met. For a mission such as this, support is always in need. Volunteers are always needed, and the requirements are very simple to

join. No experience is necessary; just be a currently enrolled student at MCC (with a love, like, or interest for gardening), and hold a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

Volunteers and members gain lifelong knowledge in gardening, build friendships and confidence, and participate in service for the community where it counts the most. It's quite simple, the more students that join or volunteer in the garden club, the more benefits and support the club will receive. The more support gained, the more crops produced -- which leads to more people in need being helped. That's the math on which the garden club has built its short term goals. ♦



All green thumbs: MCC Gardening Club members planting for tomorrow

Institute for Healing Racism Moves to MCC

After more than a decade and with more than 3,300 Muskegon area citizens as graduates of its classes, the Institute for Healing Racism has moved to Muskegon Community College. In 2010, after a long and very supportive relationship with Muskegon Public Schools, officials of the IFHR began partnership with Muskegon Community College to host all IFHR sessions as well as provide office space for the organization.

"We have found this to be an extremely helpful partnership," explained Larry Lindquist, Chair of the IFHR Board of Directors. "MCC has a lot of assets that make us great partners. Since our partnership began we have been able to cut our class fees in half, due

to overhead saved by being located at MCC." While partnering with MCC, the IFHR remains a separate nonprofit organization, governed by its Board of Directors.

MCC, with its many Community Education offerings, has been able to incorporate the IFHR sessions into its materials, meaning increased exposure for IFHR programs.

Upcoming sessions of the IFHR include the Basic Institute, entitled "A Conversation on Race," and Institute II, "The Next Step" which focuses primarily on institutional racism. Each will be offered on a continuing basis during the coming months. More information is available at www.muskegoncc.edu/ihr. ♦



SAVE THE DATE

Founders' Day Gala

**Thursday,
April 28, 2011**

**Celebrating
85 Years of
Higher Education**

 **Muskegon
Community College**

muskegoncc.edu/gala • (231) 777-0569

Planetarium Campaign Will Help Students and Community Reach for the Stars

Muskegon Community College's Carr-Fles Planetarium—the only free planetarium in West Michigan—has been promoting the study of science and providing free shows since 1972. While the planetarium is an important learning tool for MCC students, it is also a community treasure that has over 4,300 visitors each year. Over half of these visitors are elementary students getting their first experience of the wonder of our solar system and beyond.

Even though the planetarium is widely enjoyed, the technology of the 38-year-old equipment is aging and some information in the shows is out of date. Muskegon Community College is committed to making sure this important resource remains available to the community and it's the goal to create a state-of-the-art education and entertainment destination for everyone to enjoy—free of admission fees. To this end, the Foundation for Muskegon Community College launched the Reach for the Stars campaign. The Foundation launched the campaign late last summer with a \$395,000 goal. Meeting this goal will provide the funds needed to upgrade the planetarium with a digital projector, the latest shows, new sky dome, and theater environment.

The campaign got started with a “big bang” in October with a \$50,000 gift from alumnus Richard Kraft and his wife Ann. “In addition to Richard being an outstanding MCC success story, he has been a great friend to the college and therefore, to the greater Muskegon community,” stated College President, Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D. “His advocacy for this project and higher education in general is appreciated.”

Kraft, who attended Muskegon Community College from 1947-1949, is clearly passionate about the planetarium project. “I challenge all MCC alumni and the greater Muskegon community to support MCC and the modernization and operation of the Carr-Fles Planetarium,” Kraft said.

In addition to the free shows offered each Tuesday and Thursday evening, the planetarium provides special educational programming to school groups and organizations. Teachers and group leaders have the opportunity to select from 15 shows that are offered during private sessions at the planetarium.

“While many people may think about the planetarium as entertainment, the real purpose is education,” explained Jon

Truax, Planetarium Director. “Visits to the planetarium instill a sense of wonder about the universe that helps inspire an interest in science at a young age. And, no matter the age of student, the study of science helps fortify critical thinking skills that are the foundation of a liberal arts education.”

Truax went on to explain that he was pleased to have such a positive response from Kraft, MCC employees, and other community members supporting the Reach for the Stars campaign. “Even though the planetarium is widely enjoyed, the technology of the 38-year-old equipment is aging and some information in the shows is out of date—the upgrades are very much needed,” said Truax. “Understanding and technology in the field of astronomy have made immense progress since 1972. New discoveries, made possible with new equipment, have provided new insights into the workings of the universe. In order to properly present these developments and enlighten our visitors with up-to-date information, these upgrades are unquestionably necessary.” ♦

For more information about making the dream of a state-of-the-art planetarium come true, visit www.muskegoncc.edu/reachforthestars or contact Tina Dee, MS, CRFM, Director of Community Relations/Foundation Director at tina.dee@muskegoncc.edu or (231) 777-0660.



Universe Partner

Richard and Ann Kraft

Galaxy

Jean Stevenson

Constellation

Marvin Anderson

John Bartley

JAAR/McDonalds

Jean Stevenson

Star

Wayne and Nancy Brenneman

Don and Nancy Crandall

Robert and Cathleen DuBault

Roy and Karma Graves

William and Kenna Loxterman

Ann and Robert Nussdorfer

Peter Turner

Planet

Wayne and Linda Barrett

Pam and Douglas Brown

Mike and Joanna Buboltz

Leona Carr

Robert and Elizabeth Cutler

John and Sherry DeBoer

Tina Dee and Scott Lampe

Beda and Louie Dubois

Sherry Fairfield-Tagle

Diane Krasnewich and Tim Trainor

Gerald and Gayle Nyland

Diana and Terry Osborn

Mary Payne

Roy and Britta Portenga

Ted Saladin

Gary Spencer

Teresa and Tom Sturrrus

Mark Vandermuelen

Sue Wierengo

Richard and Judy Wilcox

Donald and Patricia Wilder

Lynne Wood

Susan and Paul Zemke

Rosemary Zink

Those listed have made a contribution of \$250 or more as of 12/31/10.
 Please contact us at (231) 777-0660 if there are any inaccuracies.

Multi-Disciplinary Entrepreneurship Program Launched

By David Stradal, Business Instructor

The Business Department at MCC is proud to announce a new Entrepreneurship Program. This five-course program takes students through important steps to becoming an entrepreneur including: personal skills and temperament assessment, business idea generation and feasibility, accounting and finance, marketing, and business plan preparation and presentation. Students are also introduced to key members of the community including; successful entrepreneurs, Chamber of Commerce, SCORE, and many others.

Consistent with “best in class” community colleges across the country, the Entrepreneurship Program is not just a Business Department program but an interdisciplinary program intended to reinforce an entrepreneurship mindset across all departments at the campus. Students within a discipline will find that the best prospect of employment, in many cases, is working for themselves. Some of the logical programs would be auto mechanics, welding, and media arts. Some of the not so typical programs that have already expressed an interest are

performing arts, gaming, global/special technology, and renewable energy, to name a few.

Community outreach is an important part of the new program and MCC has partnered with the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce and its newly formed E-Coordinating Council to respond to the community’s need to help individuals launch their own business. The overall goal is to instill the concept of entrepreneurship beginnings at the elementary school level, continuing it through college and beyond.

Currently MCC is seeking to build a library of the many business ownership experience stories of our alumni. If you are, or were, an entrepreneur/business owner, we ask for a brief summary of; your business, personal education profile, and experiences (see below). Alumni profiles may be featured in student newsletter distributed periodically throughout the school year in support of a “U Can 2!” message to our current students. ♦



Empowering Entrepreneurs
 on Michigan’s West Coast

MCC is partnering with e-merge, a program of the Muskegon Community Entrepreneurial Coordinating Council. Want to learn more? Do you have an alumni business story to share? Contact David Stradal at (231) 777-0304 or david.stradal@muskegoncc.edu.

Experiential Learning Provides New Direction for Learning

by Julie Weller



Experience

“The experience to be gathered from books, though often valuable, is but of the nature of learning. Whereas the experience gained from actual life, is of the nature of wisdom. And a small store of the latter is worth vastly more than a stock of the former.”

– Samuel Smiles, Scottish author

If you had the choice, would you prefer to read about the Civil War in a book, or would you rather be there? At the site of the battle, you could feel the warmth of the sun or coolness of the rain; visualize the approaching men and horses as they crested the hill to the north of you; smell the grass, dirt, and pungent odor of gunpowder as the cannons are loaded; and almost hear the charge of troops and crisp shots of rifles and cries of agony of the wounded.

Would you rather study the politics of the United States and the differences between us and other nations, or would you rather be part of the delegation?

At Muskegon Community College, you can do these things. Experience-based learning involves the whole student, meaning not just their intellect but

also their senses, their feelings and their personalities. Students in these situations are better able to relate to the subject matter in a way that is meaningful to their own lives.

“We’re in our ninth year of these programs at MCC,” said Kurt Troutman, MCC political science instructor. “We started with Model United Nations, and expanded it to Model Arab League, then to Model NATO, and finally to the historic trips in the last three years.

“Experiential Learning is the laboratory for liberal arts curriculums,” Troutman continues. “It’s the opportunity students have to apply what they’re learning in the lectures.”

When taking certain history, political science, or business courses, students at MCC have the option of visiting

historic Civil War battle sites in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania or Vicksburg, Mississippi. Or they can learn the ultimate lessons in international relations at Model United Nations, Model Arab League, or Model NATO. Business students can visit the Chicago Stock Exchange and immerse themselves in the hectic, and often frantic, world of buying and selling stocks.

“I would highly recommend this type of experience to other students whether or not they are interested in history,” said MCC student Lance Marczak, when asked about his recent trip to Gettysburg. “This trip was about experiencing learning for itself as opposed to simply listening to lectures and taking extensive notes about a particular subject. When people purely learn from information being thrown at

them by professors, it most often goes in one ear and out the other; it slowly fades and is eventually forgotten as though it never was important in the first place. Experience though lasts and brings forth a new and better means of understanding the both the historical and contemporary world around us, and that is why the significance of an experiential learning trip such as this must continue to be recognized.” (See “A New Way of Learning” on page 12 to learn more about Lance’s student perspective of experiential learning.)

The benefits to students participating in experiential learning go beyond the academic – they involve the student socially, professionally and personally.

In a report by MCC instructor David Takitaki, students gave their input on the political modeling programs. More than 95% of students who participated felt that they had gained a

better understanding of international relations, and 90% claimed to have gained research and negotiating skills. Better than 80% of participating students noted improvements to their public speaking and teamwork skills, and the responses indicating increased self-confidence, patience, and motivation all topped 70%.

Other studies have shown that this type of active learning model provides longer-term recall and problem-solving skills than learning by hearing, reading, or watching.

“I’m not a history person,” said MCC student and military veteran Robert Boyer. “The book was a hard read, but the trip [to Gettysburg] was the most educational experience of my life, outside of going to Afghanistan. It was awesome! And, the instructor’s information was phenomenal. I recommend it to anyone.” ♦

Experiential Learning Activities at MCC

➔ **Model United Nations**
Leadership, Politics, and Negotiating

⬅ **Model Arab League**
Leadership, Politics, and Negotiating

↗ **Model NATO**
Leadership, Politics, and Negotiating

↖ **History Trip: Gettysburg, PA**
Historic Civil War Battlefield

↗ **History Trip: Vicksburg, MS**
Historic Civil War Battlefield

⬅ **Business: Chicago Stock Exchange**
In the midst of the action, on the floor of the Exchange



Participants of the trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania pose with statue of Abraham Lincoln

A New Way of Learning

by Lance Marczak, MCC Student

If a blatant educational society illustrates anything, it is that the majority of those who ardently seek success in life must pursue and commit to some form of academic learning. The academic environment our society has created has tended to overemphasize pure information learning, ignoring the value in experiencing what others themselves experience. Simply listening to lectures and taking extensive notes is no longer exclusively acceptable because in today's world, educated experience prevails over educated knowledge. In order for one to reach his or her full academic potential, one must discover the benefits that come from experience, and if there was ever a pair of experiences in my life that embodies this idea, it is my recent school trips to Gettysburg and Chicago.

For the fall semester of 2010, I chose to take two unconventional classes that MCC was offering (my initial motives for doing so I still do not know). One was a history class that solely focused on the

Battle of Gettysburg and the other consisted of an international study and "Model" of the United Nations. For the Gettysburg class, the ultimate objective was to take a trip to the one place where the most upfront perspective of the Battle could be given -- Gettysburg itself. In the weeks prior to the trip, the class met once a week to learn the background of the Battle and gain a basic understanding of its significance and implications. While learning all this information was necessary and beneficial, I could not help but find myself lost and a bit bored being once again lectured to.

The same can be said for the United Nations class as well. The point of this class was to take a trip to Chicago where we would simulate a United Nations conference as representatives from a member nation (in this case Haiti). In the weeks leading up to the trip to Gettysburg, it was the same old business of researching and trying to learn as much information as humanly possible.

Finally going on these trips after weeks of learning information on these two subjects though, brought forth a means of understanding it all. The phrase, "Seeing is believing" was no longer just a children's reference to belief in Santa Claus; it rather took on an entirely different meaning and introduced a way of learning never experienced before. Seeing the actual battlefield of Gettysburg and participating in a realistic model of a United Nations conference greatly enhanced my perspective of both historical and contemporary aspects of reality. Going on these experiential trips proved more valuable than any monotonous lecture could ever be.

That is not to say that lectures and discussion cannot be beneficial, but simply learning by trying to absorb every piece of information that a teacher throws at you is often overwhelming. The information most often goes in one ear and eventually out the other; it slowly fades and is ultimately forgotten as though its given importance is nonexistent. For the benefit of us all, our learning experiences in the classroom must be applied to reality, so that they are not just scrambled accumulations of arbitrarily accepted facts and ideas. It is important for society to continue educating itself in academic knowledge, but it must also recognize experiencing that knowledge because without experience, knowledge is nothing more than words on trees. ♦



MCC students (l-r)
Joshua Johnson, Lance
Marczak, and Gabriel
Gasior mug for the
camera on the trip to
Gettysburg

Beyond the Stage: MCC Students Learn the Rigors of Acting for TV

By Dan Rinsema-Sybenga

Everyone waits for the camera. The camera waits for no one. That's a hard truth students of Carlo Spataro's Acting for TV and Film class have been learning for the last eight years. Begun as an addition to the Theater degree offered at MCC, the class has grown in expectation and possibility as Michigan's film industry expands. But at its core, the fundamentals haven't changed; what are the techniques that will make acting believable and convincing to viewers down the line peering in on a screen?

Carlo Spataro began Acting for TV and Film in 2002 after he had retired as the founding Director of Theater at MCC. Spataro had come to MCC in 1965 as the College was preparing for the opportunities afforded the arts, thanks to a catalytic donation by

Harold Frauenthal to create the Fine Arts wing of the "New" campus. After years of directing for theater, Spataro was interested in the challenges of a different form of acting, and submitted the curriculum for his new course idea to what was then Instructional Affairs. The course was approved and started by having students try their skills in 10 minute scenes and 15 minute mini-plays.

Four years ago Spataro began using episode screenplays that gave students a larger framework within which to develop their characters. First, the structure was provided by Smallville, and more recently by episodes of the Twilight Zone. For the first time in 2010 Spataro wrote his own episode, titled "Who am I?", inspired by the Twilight Zone.

The 16 students who made up the 2010 class were some of the finest Spataro has seen. "This class makes you step out of your comfort zone, and requires a different level of participation, as opposed to an appreciation class," stated Spataro. "These students didn't miss an off campus taping, and have shown up to every class activity, even when not required."

But as with anything where acting is involved, it always comes down to persuasion and believability. In "Who am I?", the students undertake a dizzying case of misplaced identity, spanning space and time. You can see for yourself how they do on MCC TV as the episode is airing through February. ♦



Shoot for the Stars

Golf Outing to benefit the Carr-Fles Planetarium at Muskegon Community College
Friday, June 3, 2011 ■ 8am-2pm
University Park Golf Course
\$80 includes lunch and prizes
Details/register at muskegoncc.edu/golf2011

MCC Earns Military Friendly Status

Muskegon Community College was designated a Military Friendly School by *G.I. Jobs Magazine*, an honor bestowed only on the top 15% of colleges, universities, and trade schools nationwide. This designation was made due to efforts to recruit and train military and veteran students.

For more information on services MCC provides veterans, visit muskegoncc.edu/veterans. ♦



Donor Profile:

Marvin Anderson

By Julie Weller

Muskegon Community College has remained a warm memory in the heart of Marvin Anderson, a 1966 graduate and recent benefactor of MCC's "Reach for the Stars" planetarium fundraising campaign.

Anderson majored in business while at MCC, and after earning a Bachelor's degree in business at Western Michigan University, eventually owned his own accounting business. "Every class you take broadens your view of the world," said Anderson. "You have to have the desire to put your best foot forward and apply yourself."

Anderson, who now lives in Indiana, learned of the Carr-Fles Planetarium and its major upgrade campaign in the Muskegon Chronicle.

"When I read about the [Planetarium] in the Muskegon Chronicle," said Anderson, "I decided to help by making a sizable donation to kick-start the fundraising project."

The Carr-Fles Planetarium, West Michigan's only planetarium offering free shows to the public, has been in operation since 1972.

"The Carr-Fles Planetarium is open year round," said Anderson. "Hopefully, with the upgrades, it will become a tourist destination instead of a local and area 'hidden gem.' Let's step forward and do this. This project is more than one individual can do, but we can do it together." ♦



Marvin Anderson (left) discusses the planetarium upgrade with MCC President Dale Nesbary.

Alumni Profile:

The Burrels: A Family of MCC Alumni

by Julie Weller

It began around 1970, when the late Dr. William Burrel was challenged by the young members of his church. They told him he could not do well at Muskegon Community College because discrimination prevented it. Dr. Burrel rose to that challenge, attended MCC with a 4.0 grade average, and went on to get his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees as well.

Eventually all 12 of the Burrel children attended MCC, including Michael Burrel, current member of the Alumni Relations Committee, and past President of the MCC Alumni Association.

"MCC is the best option out of high school for the local population," said Michael. "The level of education is second to none. The credits transfer anywhere in the world. And MCC's dedication to collegiate sports gives area athletes numerous opportunities."

After graduating from MCC, Michael obtained his bachelor's degree from United Bible College, and started a career

path which included YFCA Outreach Director, Muskegon Public Schools At-Risk Specialist, White Lake Area Community Education "Work First" program, Habitat for Humanity Community Organizer and Developer, Prosecutor's Office Crime Victims Advocate, and now Pastor of the Apostolic Church of God in Muskegon. Michael has also published a book of theology, "How Are the Dead Raised?"

Family and faith are ingrained in the Burrel family, and Michael is no exception. He and his wife Lecia have been together 27 years, and their five children are also on the college track, all either attending universities or planning to in the near future. And if Michael ever encountered discrimination, he never let it slow him down.

"I was the first black homecoming king at Orchard View High School in 1979," said Michael, noting that all 12 of the Burrel children attended Orchard View schools. Here is a family, with multiple generations, proving that with faith and good education, you can go anywhere you want to go! ♦



Vintage Burrel family photo from 1990



The focus of this year's Global Awareness Festival is on Europe. This week-long event brings the world a little closer to Muskegon. All activities are free! Join us for lectures, discussions, films, foods, information fair, global entertainment, artifact displays, 200 flags, and much more! Highlights include:

Monday, February 7

- ▶ MCC Choir: Folk songs of Europe
- ▶ EU: The New Europe discussion

Tuesday, February 8

- ▶ Folktales and Fun
- ▶ EU Film and discussion
- ▶ Science and Technology Seminar: Wind Power in Europe and West Michigan
- ▶ Under the Tuscan Sun at an Italian Cooking School

Wednesday, February 9

- ▶ Keynote Speaker: Michael Soimar, President L-3 Combat Propulsion Systems, native of Romania

Thursday, February 10

- ▶ Honors Seminar hosted by Phi Theta Kappa
- ▶ Seminar: Women's Issues

Friday, February 11

- ▶ EU Film and discussion

Event details at
www.muskegoncc.edu/GAF

Focus on the Foundation: Founding Board Member Peter Turner

By Dan Rinsema-Sybenga

When Peter and Beverley Turner arrived in Muskegon in 1972 they had no idea that they would become so intimately tied to the Muskegon and MCC communities.

A business executive, Peter was dispatched to Muskegon as the Executive Vice President of Bennett Pump, after he led an acquisition by his then employer, Molson Canada, that unwittingly left the company as the owner of this local company. Within months of their arrival, Beverley had put the couple's international experience to use tutoring international students at MCC. That quickly led to a stint in college advertising and eventually a position as an English instructor.

With his increasing community involvement, and obvious connection through Beverley, attorney Lou Landeman approached Peter to sit on the initial Foundation for Muskegon Community College Board, which was just being founded at that time. Peter agreed and immediately became engaged in the long range planning the college had then recently embarked upon. Having served as the Vice-President for Planning at Molson, and overseen strategic initiatives which had doubled their revenue, Peter was a natural at helping MCC prepare for the future.

"We always knew education would be the future of this community, and I am so proud to have contributed to an institution that provides that essential life link for residents of the Muskegon community," stated Turner.

From the late 1990s through 2006, Peter was an integral part of realizing the addition of the Meijer Library to the MCC campus. In fact, in memory of his wife Beverley, Peter provided a donation that resulted in the English Garden just outside the Library, a fitting symbol of his and Beverley's commitment to the MCC community. ♦



"I couldn't have been more pleased than to be a part of the initial long range planning efforts of the College, which have born much fruit over the years."



ALUMNI NEWS

1940s

Mary Pelotes Davros (1947)

Major Area of Study: Education/
Teaching

Higher Degree: BS at Western
Michigan University

Advanced Degree: MA at Western
Michigan University and Special
Education at University of Michigan

Fond Memories or people at MCC:

Dr. John McKinley, Professor of
Sociology and Alexina Meier-English

**What impact has MCC had on
your life and/or career?** A strong
desire to continue learning. Without
the super foundation that the MCC
staff gave me I truly believe that I
would not have been as successful in
my professional and personal life.

1950s

Mary Eherenman (1951)

Major Area of Study: Elementary
Education

Higher Degree: BA from University
of Michigan

Advanced Degree: MA in Education
from Indiana

Fond Memories of MCC: Excellent
professors/teachers... small class
size... social activities... and all of the
perks of a small college!

**What impact has MCC had on
your life and/or career?** It gave me
an excellent foundation to go on to
UofM for my last two years, and my
education courses there.

1960s

Charlene Knuth (1967)

Major Area of Study: Social Studies
Higher Degree: BS from Grand Valley
State University

Advanced Degree: MA from Central
Michigan University

Fond Memories of MCC: Having
to find rides to classes at various
locations - Vanderlaan Bldg, Hackley

Bldg, Wilson Bldg, since there was no
central campus. It was a great way to
meet other students. I was able to
take an Art History Class at the new
(back then) campus at Quarterline
Road before graduating.

**What impact had MCC had on
your life and/or career?** MCC
provided me with access to higher
education at a reasonable cost. The
high academic standard and quality
of education helped achieve personal
goals. Several of my former students
chose to attend MCC and had
positive experiences.

Ray Veeder (1965)

Major Area of Study: Everything

Higher Degree: BA at Western
Michigan University

Advanced Degree: MA at Western
Michigan University

Fond Memories of MCC: Men's
Union and Teeter-Totter Fundraiser

**What impact had MCC had on
your life and/or career?** It was the
foundation of my education.

Russ Sterenberg (1963)

Major Area of Study: Pre-Education
Higher Degree: BA at Michigan State
University

Advanced Degree: MA at Michigan
State University

Fond Memories of MCC: The
excellent instruction Fridays in the
lounge and beach parties at the bend.

**What impact has MCC had on
your life and/or career?** It gave me
a chance at college and a career in
education.

1970s

Judy McLain (1975)

Major Area of Study: Sociology and
pre-social work

Higher Degree: BSW at Michigan
State University

Advanced Degree: MA at Michigan
State University

Fond Memories of MCC: I was like
a sponge- everything was like "Wow, I

didn't know that!"

**What impact has MCC had on
your life and/or career?** I was a
high school dropout- I learned that
I could learn and that I had what it
takes intellectually to excel in higher
education.

Ellen Gedeon (1972)

Major Area of Study: Elementary
Education Social Studies

Higher Degree: Western Michigan
University

Fond Memories of MCC: Daniel
Yakes and the SS team. They inspired
me to continue social studies at
WMU and to teach.

**What impact had MCC had on
your life and/or career?** Well
prepared for WMU and excellent
prep work for my education.

1980s

Erma Gordon-Starr-Gibson

(1989) Majored in Education at
MCC, and earned a B.A. from Grand
Valley State University. She was
a former board member of the
MCC Alumni Association, and has
recently published an autobiography
"Whoever You Are, Wherever You
Are, It's Okay."

Kimberly A Moore (1988)

Major Area of Study: Criminal Justice
Higher Degree: Bachelor of Science
at GVSU

Fond Memories of MCC: The CJ
professors were great.

**What impact has MCC had
on your life and/or career?** The
MACRAO agreement is the best way
to go!

1990s

NaShawn McCarty-Hill (1992)

Major Area of Study: Business/
Marketing

Higher Degree: Graduated from
Western Michigan University, and
currently pursuing MBA

Fond Memories of MCC: Being a student representative and hanging out with my high school friends that continued on at MCC after high school

What impact has MCC had on your life and/or career? MCC gave me a great start on my education which has led to a great career.

2000s

Stacy Hamilton (2007)

Major Area of Study: Criminal Justice
Higher Degree: Currently enrolled at Grand Valley State University

Fond Memories of MCC: The wonderful staff and faculty. I worked with Carmella Martinez in the Financial Aid Office under the work study program and I loved every minute of it! I also loved the faculty at MCC and don't think I could have made it without Professors Janet Irwin, Ronnie Jewell, Clifton Young, Al Baretto, and Chris Hain there to support me along the way! I am sure I have forgotten a few but I really can't say enough about the wonderful faculty the MCC has!

What impact has MCC had on your life and/or career? MCC provided a great start for me in the world. I obtained a great education without having to go into a world of debt in order to do so! I also got the benefit of learning from the faculty who have had years of experience working in the fields in which they taught, and so I learned what I too could expect in the field.

Matt Dunn (2004)

Major Area of Study: Business Management and Marketing
Higher Degree: Graduated from Grand Valley State University
Advanced Degree: Masters from Xavier University in OH

Fond Memories at MCC: I enjoyed attending MCC basketball games; additionally, I played Fall Ball for MCC's baseball team in 2002 and thoroughly enjoyed my experience

participating in that.

What impact has MCC had on your life and/or career? MCC, in time, has made me aspire to teach as a professor at the community college level. Currently, I'm self-employed as a publisher author; co-authoring books: "Game Time Adjustments" and "Demon Chaser" with Bill Pugh.

Christopher Foreman (2008)

Major Area of Study: C/Java Programming and MACRAO
Higher Degree: Graduated from Ferris State University

Fond Memories of MCC: I remember being a work study in the IT department and learning in a great environment with great people. It was truly a life changing experience and I will always remember it.

What impact has MCC had on your life and/or career? MCC gave me the tools I needed to succeed at Ferris State University and was one of the most positive experiences I've had.

David Martin (2005)

Major Area of Study: English
Higher Degree: BA from Grand Valley State University

Fond Memories of MCC: I really enjoyed the help I received scheduling classes from my counselor Mr. Visconti. He was very helpful and informative. I also miss Mary Tyler and the Shakespeare class she taught.

What impact has MCC had on your life and/or career? In terms of a career anything definite remains to be seen. As for my life I stop and remember some times. I wonder what I would have done differently.

Kathleen Karpin (2002)

Major Area of Study: Graduated with an ASA
Higher Degree: BA in English/ Language Arts at GVSU
Advanced Degree: Masters in Early Childhood Education

Fond Memories of MCC: As an

adult returning student, I was most impressed with the willingness of everyone on campus to help me. Any faculty member that I encountered was willing to stop and help me no matter what the circumstance.

What impact has MCC had on your life and/or career? Without the warm friendliness of staff, the welcoming feeling on campus and the high expectations of students, I would not have continued or be where I am today.

Employee Alumni

Bill D. Page, Ph.D.

MCC's Dean of Students from 1985-86, wrote a book titled "Boy Scouts, Bullies and Indian Creek: It Happened in Marion." In addition to working at MCC, Bill was an elementary and special education school principal in Rockford, IL, an assistant superintendent to the Illinois State Superintendent of Education in Springfield, IL, and superintendent of schools in Whitehall, MI. The former Boy and Cub Scout Master, was also a trapper, carpenter, cabinet maker, sheet metal worker, drafter, railroad section hand, and highway worker. He currently resides in Muskegon.

What's new with you?

Our alumni always impress us with their letters and warm memories—please keep them coming! Please let us know about your newest job, retirement, marriage, or other milestones. Send your updates to alumnirelations@muskegoncc.edu.

Keep in touch with fellow alumni at www.facebook.com/mccalumni

facebook

MCC Faculty/Staff Updates

Retirements

MCC recently recognized the following retirees, who provided a total of over 700 years of service to the College (years of service is indicated): Diana Osborn, Executive Vice President (42), Roger Stoel, Librarian (41), Beth Smith, Health Physical Education and Recreation Instructor (35), Patricia DeVries, Nursing Instructor (35), Janet Taylor, College Success Center Department Secretary (35), Richard Doctor, English Instructor (33), Dr. Tim Trainor, CIS/ Psychology Instructor (33), Kathy Schrader, Tutoring Center Coordinator (32), Mary Smith, Employment Services Director (31), Teresa Finnegan, Student Services Sr. Clerk (31), Diane Krasnewich, Math Instructor (30), Janie Brooks, Vice President of Student Services (25), Margitta Rose, College Success Center Math Paraprofessional (23), William "Bill" Jacobks, History Instructor (23), Jan Fields, Respiratory Therapy Instructor (22), Janice Agard, English Communications Instructor (22), Dr. John Bartley, Geology Instructor (21), Joe Doyle, Vice President of Administrative Services (21), Judy Romans, English Department Secretary (20), Virginia Bagnieschi, Social Sciences Department Secretary (18), Connie Holmberg, Library Clerk (17), Barb Holtrop, Nursing Instructor (16), Stephen Schmidt, College Success Center Reading Instructor (15), Keith Tanis, Custodian (15), Sheryl Lowry, Guidance Counselor (14), Tom O'Brien, Director of Business and Industry Training (13), Beverly Hair, Sociology Instructor (12).

New to MCC

Bill Bowen, Bowling Coach
Ronald Bush II, Executive Director of Human Resources
Karin Burrell, Mathematics Instructor

Jeanne Cooper-Kuiper, English Instructor
Stanley Dean, Maintenance Supervisor
Robert Eich, History Instructor
Eli Fox, Enrollment Representative
Susan Frazier, Nursing Instructor
Dean Fritze-meier, Tutoring Paraprofessional
Barbara Goudie, Nursing Instructor
Jessica Graf, HPER Instructor
Charlotte Griffith, Librarian
Larry Haughn, Wrestling Coach
Lucinda Hines, Custodian
John Johnson, CIS Instructor
Tamera Owens, Math Sciences Department Secretary
Erin Patrick, Enrollment Representative
Mary Schutt, Social Sciences Department Secretary
Ben Ritsema, Soccer Coach
Mike Smith, Cross Country Coach
David Stradal, Business Instructor
Donald Studt, Respiratory Therapy
Dr. Thomas Tissue, Chemistry Instructor
Marcia Truxton, CSC Math Paraprofessional
Chris VanOosterhout, CIS Instructor
Cliff Young, English Instructor

Awards and Achievements

Rosemary Zink has been appointed the new MCC Vice President for Administration. Besides serving as Director of Finance/Associate VP for Administration here at MCC for the past five years, she also served in excess of 20 years as Director of Finance with Ottawa County government. Previously, she served as Senior Accountant for Alexander Grant & Company. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree from GVSU with an emphasis

in Management, has CPA and CMA (Certified Management Accountant) certifications, and earned a undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University.

Pam Brown, Director of Nursing at Muskegon Community College, was appointed to the state-wide Michigan Nursing Education Council.

Mathematics instructor Maria Andersen's Algebra Activities were recently published by Cengage Learning. The book is a 1,000-page instructor resource binder of activities and teaching guides for algebra.

Most recently, an article written by Andersen, "The World is My School: Welcome to the Era of Personalized Learning," was published in *The Futurist* (Jan/Feb 2011) ♦

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Campus Calendar



Jayhawks Sports Digest

During Fall of 2010 the MCC women's tennis team won state and regional titles for the first time in 30 years when they beat Kalamazoo Valley on Saturday October 2nd. The team will compete at nationals in the spring.

MCC finished as the second-best junior college women's volleyball team in the region, after posting a 35-9 overall record. Tiffany Brufladt and Ashley Hulbert were named to the all-regional team.

The MCC men's cross country team finished its first season in 30 years ranked 18th in the country. Matt Kring, Jake Hernandez, Aaron Stenberg, Josh Wehr and Andrew Barrett all ran times that placed at nationals.

The Jayhawk Sound, MCC's new activity band, is a new addition to the sporting scene at MCC and will be playing at sports events throughout the winter semester.

Jayhawk Winter/Spring Sports – Go to www.muskegoncc.edu/athletics for full schedules of basketball, wrestling, bowling, softball, baseball, and golf. ♦

Now-March 4, 2011

Europe in Focus: Photographs from 3 West Michigan Artists - Overbrook Gallery

Now-February 24, 7pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Mars Quest, free planetarium show - Carr-Fles Planetarium

Thursday, February 3, 7pm

After The Fact: The Ongoing Life Of Documentary Photography, free lecture with Dr. Sara Blair, Professor of English at the University of Michigan - MCC's Stevenson Center Room 1100

Friday, February 4, 2011

The Vagina Monologues, Fundraiser For the MCC Emergency Fund - Overbrook Theater

February 7-11, 2011

Global Awareness Festival 2011

February 16-20, 2011

The Pillowman, a blindingly bright black comedy that is thought-provoking and funny - Overbrook Theater

Thursday, February 17, 2011, 6pm

*Alumni Theater Night - Join us for appetizers and catching up with fellow alumni and then enjoy the Overbrook Theater presentation of *The Pillowman* - Overbrook Theater (reservations required alumnirelations@muskegoncc.edu)*

Thursday, February 24, 7pm

Jazz & Wind Ensemble present their free winter concert - Overbrook Theater

March 8 - April 7, 7pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Mars Quest, free planetarium show - Carr-Fles Planetarium

Sunday, March 13, 7pm

College Singers serenade you with a free concert - Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 14-April 22

The Poetry Of Dust, painting, assemblage, and artist books by Alvey Jones - Overbrook Gallery

April 19-April 28 7pm Tuesdays and Thursday

Light Years from Andromeda free planetarium show - Carr-Fles Planetarium

Sunday, April 17, 7pm

College Singers present their free spring concert - Overbrook Theater

Wednesday-Thursday, April 20-21, 7:30pm

Studio on Stage, theater and dance students bring their classwork to the stage - Overbrook Theater

Tuesday, May 3, 2011, 6pm

Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner - Enjoy dinner with the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients and other nominees the eve before commencement - Blue & Gold Room (\$5 suggested donation to the Alumni Relations Fund; reservations required alumnirelations@muskegoncc.edu)

Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 7:30pm

Commencement - L.C. Walker Arena

Saturday, May 14, 10:00am

Mayfest - Fun-filled day of free activities and events for kids of all ages

Saturday, June 18, 2011, 6pm

Alumni ReunionFest - see www.muskegon.edu/alumni for details about this fun event for all alumni!



See www.muskegoncc.edu/MCCcalendar and find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/muskegoncc to stay up-to-date on what's happening!

Jayhawk Cecil "CJ" Luvene rises above the competition while playing at Calvin College in November. The Jayhawks overcame a 27-11 halftime deficit to win the game.

Photo by Scott Stone



Muskegon Community College

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