

REFLECTIONS

Muskegon Community College Magazine

Winter 2012

Technology

Industry

Business

Entrepreneurship

Manufacturing

Services

**Motor Sports Club
Breaks World Record**

**MCC TV Reaching
New Audiences**

**Alumnus Stars in
Travel Network Series**

**College Takes Shape for
Upward Bound Students**

**Founder's Day: A
"Roaring" Good Time**

**MCC Programs:
Meeting Community Needs
and Turning Gears of
New Economy**



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Muskegon Community College

Dear Editor

Great work on the summer 2011 edition of *Reflections*.

You thoroughly covered the programs and activities going on at MCC that I feel right “up to date”. The layout and photos are as professional as any college magazine. I look forward to the next edition.

Ralph McCrea
Class of 1948

As an alumnus of MCC, and seeing that MCC was my first introduction into the world of dance and theater, I wish to give a special “shout out” to the article on Instructor Profile: Sheila Wahamaki - CPA Chair.

Sheila was not a part of MCC when I was in the theater program but I have been very fortunate to have gotten to know Sheila and have had extraordinary opportunities provided to me by Sheila, to work with her in the MCC theater program.

She is a generous giver of her knowledge and experience. I am a professional actress and have worked all over the world and yet, Sheila had so much more to still teach me. As the article states, she has an amazing passion and dedication to her students and her craft. She has a special gift and she is so willing to share it with others... not only with MCC, but with the entire community.

Anette Buchholz
Class of 1980

Letters to the Editor

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Help Students Achieve Full Potential

As we learned from Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, self-actualization is a human need that drives us all to reach our full potential. There’s no place better than an institution of higher learning to see self-actualization in action and witness students reaching their potential. How could there possibly be a more rewarding place to work?

I love working at Muskegon Community College and being part of an institution that is in the business of making dreams come true. Hearing the varied success stories from our students and alumni gives me great pride and deepens my passion for working in higher education. I find the enthusiasm of our students and the dedication of our faculty and staff to be contagious. All the positive energy feeds off of each other and keeps us in perpetual motion towards our shared goal of meeting student and community needs.

Getting more dedicated people involved will only increase the positive energy and efficiency in which we can help students—and communities—achieve goals. If you want to be a part of something wonderful, positive, and perpetually rewarding, consider volunteering to serve on our Foundation for Muskegon Community College Board of Directors. The Foundation for Muskegon Community College is a separate 501(c)3 organization that helps advance the mission of Muskegon Community College through donor stewardship and fundraising. If you are passionate about increasing access to higher education, creating opportunities for success, and enjoy talking with people about the power of higher education, this is the perfect volunteer opportunity for you!

Now is a great time to join the Foundation Board. The College is

poised to begin implementation of a facility master plan. New facilities are needed for three areas; science, health/physical education, and creative and performing arts. Joining the Foundation Board at the genesis of this project, seeing the related capital campaigns to fruition, and being there when the doors open for students for the first time will be immensely gratifying.

If you want to take active steps to help students and our communities achieve self-actualization, visit www.muskegoncc.edu/foundation and look for the link to the board application near the bottom of the page. I can’t imagine a more rewarding board on which to serve.

If you want to be a part of MCC’s growth, but aren’t sure about serving on our Foundation Board and helping with fundraising, there are other ways you can get involved. Get involved with the Alumni Relations Committee, attend our fundraising events, volunteer to help with MCC TV programming, or simply attend a campus event. No matter your reason for visiting the campus, you’re sure to see self-actualization in process. ♦



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'Pathway to Completion' Seeks Commitment to Succeed

Recently, I began a discussion of the five priorities listed in the Muskegon Community College 2010-15 Strategic Plan. These priorities are: Academic Foresight, Services to Students and Community, Physical Space and Infrastructure, Resource Development, and Human Resources Management. My perspectives are being shared monthly via our Campus Connections Web newsletter.

The priorities align with MCC's mission to offer our students programs "that respond to individual, community and global needs." To me, this means that the College needs, first and foremost, to understand its students before they arrive on campus. MCC must develop programs that ensure students are successful here, as well as when they move to our four-year partner institutions or return to the workforce.

In my October message, I discussed a campus initiative led by Dr. John Selmon, vice president of student services, and Teresa Sturrus, vice president of academic affairs. I reported that a broadly cast Student Success Committee had been established to consolidate student success and assessment programs on campus. The committee, by that time, had created a "College Boot Camp" designed for adults returning to the classroom, established programs designed to help students succeed during the first weeks of the semester, and coordinated with the College's Achieving the Dream initiative (see www.muskegoncc.edu/atd).

The following reflects what the committee has accomplished since, and where we expect it to go in the future.

On December 12, Dr. Selmon and Ms. Sturrus presented "Student Success:

Pathways to Completion" to the MCC Board of Trustees. The Pathways to Completion initiative provides guidance to students regarding the most effective and efficient way to complete a degree or certificate, using every resource available on campus, including faculty, staff, fellow students, the Board of Trustees and the greater community. Ultimately, the project prepares students to enter the workforce, transfer to a four-year partner institution, or continue their education through lifelong learning.

Moreover, in 2010, the American Association of Community Colleges and the Association of Community College Trustees and several other organizations released "The Completion Agenda: A Call to Action" upon which many tenets of Pathways to Completion were based. By reading this and related research, you will better understand the College's completion agenda, including:

- Student commitment and how to get it
- Accountability for outcomes
- Our completion toolkit (the Pathways to Completion Project),
- Obstacles and how to overcome them

It is also critical that our greater community understand the value and importance of having our students complete their studies, remain in the area, and fill the many vacant jobs in the state.

On Dec. 1, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder launched a Talent Dashboard (see <http://www.michigan.gov/midashboard>) designed to measure the alignment of talent produced by the state (education, workforce agencies etc.) and the employer community at large. In launching the Talent Dashboard, the Governor noted the lingering mismatch

between what Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) employers require and the ability of education to meet their needs. He explained that well over 70,000 STEM positions could not currently be filled. If so, then Michigan's unemployment rate would drop two full points.

The STEM fields are those in which community colleges are strong. Our community needs meet this challenge head on. The Pathways to Completion initiative is a key tool in helping us fill these and other jobs critical to our economy and making Muskegon and West Michigan strong in the foreseeable future. Representatives of the College will be sharing Pathways to Completion with the broader community over the next several months. I urge you to work with us and help our students to succeed.

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/eventscalendar.



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



MCC Strategic Plan Initiatives Keep Campus a 'Best Choice'

As part of its continuous quality improvement model, MCC implemented several strategic plan initiatives during the Fall 2011 semester. Some of the accomplishments are listed below.

Faculty member Dave Kiley developed the "Get-the-Job" series to help students develop their skills and understand the power of networking. The late January 2012 session will be open to community members. Students have been receiving weekly email updates on job postings and how and where to apply.

The Student Success Initiatives Committee presented its Pathways to Success and Completion Plan to the MCC Board of Trustees in December. The plan focuses on strengthening milestones and momentum points as a means of successfully moving students through MCC's system towards their academic and personal goals.

The Office of Community Relations completed its first full year of dedicated alumni relations programming that included seven different events. Increased fundraising and donor stewardship efforts resulted in a 278 percent increase in financial gifts to the college. Steps have also been taken to increase communications, brand management and overall awareness of MCC.

At the outset of the fall semester, MCC students, faculty and staff enjoyed greater access to Internet bandwidth leveraged through the college's membership in the Shoreline Fiber Consortium. At the same time, a cost reduction was successfully negotiated with the service provider, Merit Networks, for an annual savings of \$13,172. The changes will benefit



At semester's start, Tommeka Love was one of more than 200 MCC students who signed the Commit to Complete poster which is on display in the MCC Counseling Office.

student labs, classrooms and future remote classroom sites.

In November, the Board of Trustees granted permission to the College to purchase telephone service from Telnet Worldwide, a leading provider of VoIP telephone service. Using its existing fiber infrastructure, the VoIP telephone service is expected to save more than \$20,000 annually.

The Physical Plant studied patterns from the facilities audit and worked with the Education Department and Event Management to cluster events and classes into adjoining areas. This cooperation allows for better control of campus energy use, reduces equipment run times, controls custodial costs, and lowers equipment maintenance costs.

The recently formed Sustainability Committee, co-chaired by Debra Howell and Gerald Nyland, is monitoring recycling, energy use, and related efforts on campus. Its goal

is to decrease landfill material by 50 percent on campus. Learn more at: www.muskegoncc.edu/sustainability.

The Muskegon Community College 2010-15 Strategic Plan can be accessed online at www.muskegoncc.edu/strategicplan.

Your feedback is encouraged. Please send your comments to MCC President

Dr. Dale K. Nesbary at president@muskegoncc.edu.

Using Graphics to Reach the Illiterate

Kim Page's graphic design speaks directly to adults who cannot read. They told her so when choosing her visual concept for the current Read Muskegon poster and billboard campaign against illiteracy in the community.

"I tried to put myself in their shoes," said Kim, an avid reader who attends MCC on the Trade Reenactment Act. "I cannot imagine not being able to read. It opens so many doors for you."

Last year, Read Muskegon approached MCC instructor Nancy Slater and her Digital Imaging students to craft a poster encouraging non-readers to become literate.

"Every semester I am amazed at the amount of talent that walks into my classroom," admitted Slater, noting

that Kim and other displaced workers with practical, real-world experience often have an advantage.

"They have these wonderful minds that can create concepts because graphic design isn't about just going to the computer and working the software, it's about being a thinker and being able to identify and develop concepts that really speak to your audience." ♦



MCC instructor Nancy Slater (left) and Kim Page discuss graphic design elements.

MCC on a Mission

Our Message: 'Start, Stay and Succeed'

With President Obama's call to have 5 million more community college graduates by 2020, MCC's Student Services Office has turned a spotlight on student success and completion.

"Our mission parallels what the U.S. wants," explained John Selmon, vice president for student services. "To accomplish it, we need more students to attend, persist and graduate."

MCC breaks the process into three phases and seeks to strengthen each one, he added.

"What are we doing at this institution before a student comes to us. Then once they get to us, what are we doing to move them through the institution. Lastly, what are we doing to move them beyond our institution."

MCC will work with local schools to address the achievement gap between high school and college that lands students in collegiate developmental courses. MCC will partner to administer its COMPASS test as early as 10th grade to inform students on areas they need to improve to be college ready. MCC launched two initiatives - Commit to Complete and Declaration Day - to keep current students on a pathway to graduation.

"Our focus is on the tipping point - getting their first 24 credits - after which they are more apt to graduate," said Selmon. "We want them to be either workforce or transfer-ready."

MCC will work individually with its students to identify their goals and to craft a blueprint for achieving their specific objectives. ♦

Visitors 'Hooked' on Student's Art

MCC graduate Mary Jo Westerberg sculpted a rocket fish, aptly dubbed, "Catch a Future," in honor of her alma mater and its positive spirit.

Displayed in Grand Haven last summer, it now adorns the entrance to the MCC building. Mary Jo, a BFA student at Kendall School of Art, wanted her final product to be cheerful and uplifting, reminiscent of her experience at MCC.

"They welcomed non-traditional students and were very encouraging," said Mary Jo of the College.

After Mary Jo earned her first MCC degree, another 20 years would pass before she would start and complete her second one. She put her aspirations on hold while home schooling her two sons. Both attended MCC. ♦



Mary Jo poses next to her sculpture in Grand Haven, where MCC offers regular courses. Students can meet with an MCC rep at the Coffee Grounds in Grand Haven every third Wednesday of the month.



Experience Germany May 8-20 with MCC Faculty, Students

You're invited to experience German culture, international business and its landscape as part of MCC's exchange/study abroad program from May 8-20, 2012.

Now in its 16th year, the program partners MCC with Kaufmännische Schule Stuttgart Nord, a German technical college. MCC students with at least 15 credits, faculty and staff, and alumni are invited to participate. The estimated cost, with airfare, is \$1,800-\$2,000 per person.

"We'll spend three days in Munich, then 10 days with our German sister school," said MCC instructor and program director Katherine Tosa.

"We'll visit medieval monasteries and towns, modern German businesses, tour Stuttgart and stay with host families. It's a life-changing experience."

Knowing German helps, but participants will learn some basics. For more info, contact Tosa at katherine.tosa@muskegoncc.edu or (231) 777-0376. ♦

MCC-TV Viewership Expands to Ottawa, Oceana, and Allegan Counties

MCC TV, the educational cable station operated by Muskegon Community College (MCC), expanded its availability when it began broadcasting on the West Michigan Charter cable system. The station is now available on Charter cable channel 994 in the Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg, Whitehall/Montague, Hart/Shelby, Holland, Allendale, Hudsonville, Jamestown and Allegan areas.

"We're extremely pleased to share this service with more area residents," stated Dr. Dale Nesbary, President of MCC. "MCC TV is a leader in higher education and workforce development in West Michigan. We are sure that our residents will benefit from this expansion. We're also grateful to Charter for allowing us to expand our coverage to their network of customers."

MCC TV is an educational cable TV station, available on Comcast's Muskegon cable system on Channels 98, 44-5, and 902, or Charter's West Michigan cable system on Channel 994, or streaming online at www.muskegoncc.edu/mcctv.

The MCC TV studio is located in the Stevenson Center for Higher Education at MCC. The station produces several television programs, including "Tech Talk," a talk show on alternative energy with MCC Instructors Jeff Stipes and Larry Visconti; "Timely Topics," hosted by MCC instructor Andy Wible; a show featuring the Institute for Healing Racism, and the college's own live sporting events, among others. The station also serves as the exclusive home of Muskegon



Big Red football and airs a monthly show produced by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District.

The channel also broadcasts live news programming from Deutsche Welle, a German-English language broadcaster featuring world news from a European perspective, and UCTV, programming from the University of California system featuring knowledge and achievements in science, health and medicine, art, music, theater, humanities and public affairs. On the weekends MCC TV broadcasts Classic Arts Showcase, featuring classic arts performances in the area of opera, symphony, theater and more.

"Each February will be our ratings period," explains Rod VanNortwick, MCC TV Operations Manager. "We'll direct viewers and other community members to take our online survey to provide feedback about our program content and quality." VanNortwick said the responses will be used to update programming as needed to better meet needs and promote MCC's mission.

For more information about MCC TV or its recent expansion contact Operations Manager Rod VanNortwick at (231) 777.0541 or mcctv@muskegoncc.edu or Tina Dee, Director of Community Relations at (231) 777-0660. ♦

MCC Plans to Open New Location to Serve Ottawa County Community

After 20 years of serving Ottawa County with classes at local high schools, Muskegon Community College will further increase access to higher education in this community with a new Ottawa County location.

“We are very close to finalizing a location that will serve this area well,” says MCC Vice-President for Academic Affairs Teresa Sturrus. “After working with our partners from the Ottawa Area Intermediate School Districts, superintendents, and other community leaders, we got the feedback we needed about what programs



and classes will best fit the local needs at our new Ottawa location.”

While the opening date of the new location has not yet been determined, MCC is partnering with a local coffee house to have “office hours” to meet with prospective students. MCC is at The Coffee Grounds in downtown Grand Haven 4-6pm on the third Wednesday of each month.

Anyone wanting to learn more about programs, financial aid, scholarships, classes available in Grand Haven, or other topics is welcome to visit with representatives during this time or call (231) 777-0366, or visit www.muskegoncc.edu/ottawa. ♦

Classes at Four Sites in Newaygo County

“We continue to expand our opportunities in Newaygo County and to work with local leaders to plan for the future,” said Edward Breitenbach, Dean of Instruction and Assessment “They know that we have the best thing to offer.”

MCC offers courses at four locations in the county: the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service; the Stream; the Fremont Public Schools Continuing and Higher Education Center; and at Grant High School.

“We have more dual enrolled students than before,” said Breitenbach. “Newaygo County students are seeing the value of what we have to offer - a quality education that will transfer anywhere.” Individuals may meet with an MCC representative at The Stream on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ♦

Scholarship Recipient Jamie Paiva

Nielsen Scholarship Winner Finds Her Calling

Nielsen Scholarship recipient Jamie Paiva took a few years to find her true calling and even longer to discover MCC was the best place for achieving it. But the future nurse admits the wait has been worthwhile.

“The teachers and the experience I have had in this program reaffirm my reasons for choosing MCC,” says Jamie. “The teachers really do care about their students, care about our grades and try to help us succeed. If I have questions, I don’t feel like I am a bother to them. At other colleges, I did not have those experiences at all.”

The Muskegon native began her collegiate studies in New Orleans, but Hurricane Katrina altered her plans. An exceptional academic student, Jamie returned home to pursue a

degree in the medical profession, eventually gravitating to nursing.

“I wanted a career that would be diverse,” explains Jamie, who longed for a change after a decade in communications and technology sales. “With nursing, if I get bored or restless in one area, I can easily go into another. I love people. I love the sciences. I am fascinated by the human body and how you can alter things to heal someone.”

Soured by terrible experiences at other institutions, Jamie transferred to MCC. While waiting to get into the competitive program, she completed her pre-requisite courses. Today, she’s nearly halfway through her nursing regimen, active in the Student Nurse Club and completing her first clinical

foray, in obstetrics, at the Hackley campus.

“I am most impressed with the effort she puts into her assignments and the professionalism she exhibits, even as a student nurse,” remarks Chris Patterson, MCC’s clinical coordinator. “Jamie provides an excellent example of the strength of Muskegon Community College and its Nursing Department.” ♦



Jamie Paiva received a MCC Faculty Association Nielsen Scholarship.

Upward Bound Program Guides High School Students to College and Beyond

by Julie Weller

The federally funded TRiO Upward Bound program, which traces its roots to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and the original “War on Poverty,” has grown steadily in its four years at Muskegon Community College.

The program encourages the pursuit of higher education to high school students, many of whom never considered college a possibility primarily due to financial constraints. TRiO Upward Bound provides students with the necessary skills to withstand the rigors inherent in attending college. To date, 107 9th-12th grade students have participated, with 53 additional students now either currently enrolled or in the application process.

“The U.S. Department of Education requires that all students qualify as being either low-income, meaning the family’s taxable income is at or below 150 percent of poverty level,” says Robert Ross, director of Upward Bound at MCC. “Or students must be the first-generation in their family to pursue a baccalaureate degree.”

The selection process starts at the middle school level with recommendations from the staff and the counselors, he explains.

“We also meet with the eighth graders at the Muskegon High School Spring Expo, where all of the clubs and sports teams have information to hand out for students to get involved in their organization,” says Ross. “We collect names and addresses and contact the families to see if they are interested. We also meet with students at the high school in the fall to fill in any open spots. These students are referred by school staff or brought in by their friends.”

Parental support and involvement remain vital to the program’s success. Both have markedly improved in recent years at MCC.

“It took a little while to get the parents to see the importance of their involvement with the program but that has improved a lot with the last two recruiting classes,” adds Ross. “The parent attendance at the monthly meetings has increased significantly this year. We have also begun offering chaperone opportunities to the parents and guardians and that has helped to spark their interest.”

The MCC TRiO Upward Bound program also seeks to instill a sense of community in its students and the desire to develop into contributing members of society through their involvement in community service projects and volunteer work.

“Our students work with a number of local non-profit agencies to support their work in the community,” says Ross. “Many of these are group projects with our staff and students participating as a team. In other cases the students go out on their own to volunteer their time at churches, elementary and middle schools, and other non-profit groups all over the city.

“We have been able to develop relationships with the United Way of the Lakeshore, Muskegon Rescue Mission, and the Youth Volunteer Corps. We look for opportunities that cover a wide range of interests, so students can get involved in an area

where they may have a career interest. We have had students working at places ranging from Mercy Health Partners to the Golden Years Alaskan Malamute Rescue, a dog shelter in North Muskegon. During the 2010-2011 program year our students logged over 1000 hours of volunteer service.”

The program at MCC offers students tutorial assistance twice a week, academic advising, personal counseling and mentoring, and social and cultural activities. Upward Bound also offers Saturday Sessions once a month on topics of student interest, and a six-week summer program where students become totally engaged in the curriculum while on the campus of Muskegon Community College.

During the summer program, students acquire valuable personal and academic skills with instruction in math, laboratory sciences, composition and literature, and foreign language. They broaden their experience with educational field trips and college tours, guest lecturers and interaction with other college-bound students.

According to the national TRiO Upward Bound website, 90 percent of Upward Bound graduates go on to college and become teachers, social workers, college administrators, lawyers, doctors, and a host of other successful careers. ♦



Campus Celebrates 85th Anniversary

The MCC campus marked its 85th year of serving the community by celebrating its past during ReunionFest on June 18, Founder's Day on Sept. 15 and with an Open House on Oct. 20.

The events attracted many alumni, who reminisced about the excellent education they received and the lifelong friends they made as MCC students. Friends of the College recalled the important role that MCC continues to play in the region. ♦



As part of its 85th anniversary, MCC hosted an Open House on Oct. 20. Historical photos and other memorabilia were displayed by decades at various campus locations. Clockwise from the left: Visitors learn about MCC in the 1980s. The Jayhawk Sound performs at a volleyball match that evening. Don Goodman, who spoke in Overbrook Theater about the College, holds the MCC history book he co-wrote. Julie Weller greets an MCC graduate at the alumni table in Gerber Lounge.



Class of 1948 Alumnus Donates Hackley Globe, Rare Books

On Oct. 16, 1890, the City of Muskegon came to a standstill. Banks, schools, courts and businesses closed while the community gathered to honor its greatest benefactor, Charles P. Hackley, at the dedication of the stately library he had just funded.



More than a century later, the Hackley Library remains a downtown cornerstone. Now, thanks to Muskegon Community College alumnus Gene Howard, Class of 1948, several Hackley Library treasures are part of the rare book collection at MCC's Hendrik Meijer Library/Information Technology (LIT) Center.

This autumn, Howard donated a free-standing world globe that was housed in the original Hackley Library reference room. He also included a hard bound book printed in 1890 that describes the library dedication.

He donated three books, including one signed by Hackley himself, that were printed in 1900 in honor of the Memorial Day dedication of the bronze statues of Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman and David Farragut. The sculptures were a gift from Hackley and still grace the park bearing his name.

“Gene personifies the generosity of loyal MCC alumni, who fondly recall how their education and experiences on campus impacted their lives and want to ensure that future generations of MCC students will have the same opportunities,” said Tina Dee, director of community relations and the foundation at the college.

The magnanimous Howard, who now resides in Fort Worth, Texas, recently donated to MCC his quarter-acre property in Bella Vista, Ark. The sale of the land will support his alma mater.

“While monetary gifts are always appreciated and put to good use, MCC can benefit as well from donations of property, historical items and gifts-in-kind,” said Dee. “We are truly grateful to Gene for all he has done and continues to do for the college.” ♦

Reach for the Stars

Campaign to support the renovation
of the Carr-Fles Planetarium

It's the Final Countdown!
Help make the dream of a state-of-the-art
community planetarium come true
by March 31, 2012!



Your support will help improve the study of science for students of all ages. Those contributing \$250 or more receive star recognition on the *Reach for the Stars* donor recognition display at the Carr-Fles Planetarium. Make a secure online donation at www.muskegoncc.edu/stars or call (231) 777-0660 for more information or to charge by phone.



Foundation for
Muskegon Community College



Allen Thomas and his automotive students after setting the world record. (left to right) Ryan Lubbers, Lucas Mayhugh, John Broadbent, Allen Thomas, Pete Studeman, Adam Green, Eric Wilson and Jedidiah Kuepfer.

MCC Electric Dragster ‘Short Circuit’ Sets World Record in October

Muskegon Community College became a world record holder in October when its electric dragster, “Short Circuit,” reached 48.47 mph on the quarter-mile strip at US-131 MotorSports Park in Martin, Mich.

The National Electric Drag Racing Association (NEDRA) confirmed that MCC had established the 48-volt world mark.

North Muskegon’s Ryan Lubbers, an MCC student and the Motor Sports Club president, was behind the wheel, but achieving the global standard belongs to hundreds at the college, according to Al Thomas, the MCC Automotive Technology faculty member who has guided the Short Circuit project since its inception in 2008.

“There have been four years of many, many people working on this,” he explained. “While my Hybrid and Alternative Fuels class

was the main group in designing and building this car, doing the research and development, and putting together the components that other classes could not, they were not alone. Hundreds of students have been involved, not only in automotive technology, but in welding, machining, CAD, electrical, graphics and throughout our entire Technology Department wing.”

Whether or not a new record is on the horizon, Thomas says his MCC students are interested in acquiring the skills associated with the emerging alternative fuel field.

“I think the opportunity exists for employment in the field beyond these classes,” he explained. “A lot of our students are interested in making a vocation and a future out of battery or electric car opportunities.” ♦



2012 ReunionFest

Coming in October!

Catch up with your former classmates at MCC’s second annual reunion. Enjoy food and entertainment.

Watch for more information in the mail and in the next issue of Reflections!



Muskegon
Community College

College Receives Grants to Support Green Energy and Music

\$3.5 Million NSF Grant Supports MCC Student Biofuel Research

MCC faculty and students conducting applied biofuels research at the Silver Creek Energy Lab in Whitehall and on campus over the next four years will have their educational experience significantly enhanced by a National Science Foundation grant to the college.

Darren Mattone, chair of MCC's Life Sciences Department, was informed in November that the college was one of 19 schools nationally to be selected for participation in the Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative (CCURI), which received a \$3.5 million grant from the NSF. Mattone, who worked with faculty members Jeff Stipes and Greg Marczak on the grant, was ecstatic about its transformational impact on the campus.

"This is a pretty big opportunity for MCC," said Mattone. "This grant will provide training, experts, project support, supplies, materials, travel for faculty and students to attend seminars, and training over the next four years. It's difficult to put a monetary value on, but it will be worth well over \$100,000 to the college."

The first stage will be faculty attending training sessions during the winter and spring to get the program more fully developed. He hopes to have MCC student involvement begin by summer or, at the latest, the fall semester. The benefits to the students will be many, he added.

"They will have opportunities to learn laboratory and research methods, the development of scientific reasoning and quantitative reasoning skills, critical thinking and analysis skills - all in the context of biofuels research," said Mattone.

A second benefit, he continued, is the students' exposure to and ability to gain research experience in their first two years of college, something that will give them an advantage when they transfer to a four-year institution.

"The true winners are the present and future students who will gain tremendous leading edge hands on experience in this rapidly emerging field," added Stipes about the college's Alternative and Renewable Energy Program and the grant's impact on MCC biology, chemistry and manufacturing technology students.

"Because of the vision of key faculty such as Darren Mattone and Greg Marczak, and with the support of Teresa Sturuss, Dr. Nesbary and the Board of Trustees, MCC is bringing a timely and significant educational opportunity to the college's service area," added Stipes.

The NSF grant is for transforming undergraduate education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, N.Y. is the lead institution.

CFFMC Grant Restores Steinway Piano

A Steinway piano used by MCC's College of Performing Arts for three decades will receive much-needed restoration thanks to a \$7,444 grant in October from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

"We use it every day for classes in music history, music theory and for the choir," said Scott Cutting, longtime MCC music instructor. "It needs some serious attention. The pin blocks dried out so they can't hold the pegs."

"It definitely needs work," added Jennifer Smith Florip, an MCC alumna who teaches piano at the college. "It's a beautiful instrument but it's been allowed to deteriorate.

We're very thankful for the grant. A Steinway is a performance piano so we're lucky to have one in our rehearsal hall." ♦



*MCC graduate and instructor Jennifer Smith Florip accompanies the College Singers on the soon-to-be refurbished Steinway piano.
Photo by Peter D. Koryzno*

MCC Programs Respond to Region's Current and Future Business Needs

By Peter D. Koryzno

Post-secondary educated workers are the gears driving the new economy.

In 1925, when Muskegon Community College's founders were within a year of opening the college, U.S. President Calvin Coolidge told a gathering of newspaper editors, "The chief business of the American people is business."

In West Michigan, business has experienced many peaks and valleys in the eight decades since, but one constant has remained. MCC-educated men and women continue to provide the region with a highly skilled workforce ready not only for today's jobs, but prepared to become tomorrow's business leaders.

"Now that we're in the new economy, employers recognize that most of the jobs require some post-secondary education," says Cindy Larsen, director of the Lakeshore

Chamber of Commerce.

"So the

"The whole purpose of our program is to build skills, confidence and contacts."

partnerships between business and the community college are more important than ever.

"From a small business perspective, the college's commitment to entrepreneurship is huge. Having the entrepreneurial message incorporated into many, many disciplines of education at the college is going to benefit the entire community."

David J. Stradal, a management and marketing faculty member, coordinates MCC's entrepreneur studies program. An entrepreneur himself, he has served on local organizations, including the E-Merge Council, which view entrepreneurship as a viable solution for Muskegon's economic doldrums.

"With the recession, from the President on down to the Governor, the argument is that large scale manufacturing is either going away or totally rescaling," he explains.

"The future of America is seen to be in small business. That's where a lot of the job creation and growth is coming. SBA figures show that 95 percent of small businesses fail by the end of 10 years. The whole purpose of our program is to build skills, confidence and contacts.



"Our approach to entrepreneurship is that it's not a business degree. In fact, there really isn't a certificate in entrepreneurship. We offer an interdisciplinary degree, an EAAS degree - Entrepreneur Applied Arts and Sciences. That is what makes us unique from other programs, including the four-year colleges. Say, if I am studying performing arts or child care, I might someday want to open up an art gallery or a child care center. I would pursue an EAAS."

The EAAS adds an intense 13-credit "entrepreneur core" to the general education courses and the 30-35 credit hours in the student's field of study required for an associate's degree or certificate.

The entrepreneurial component involves a series of classes. One examines the students' personal strengths and weaknesses against traditional entrepreneurs to define gaps. In another, students choose their business and learn accounting related to it. A third course adds

marketing and human resource skills and proficiency in business plan software. Lastly, students write a comprehensive business plan and must defend it to knowledgeable outsiders.

“For those who are serious and really want to open up a business, here’s a banker, or someone from the Michigan Inventor’s Network, or other people who have really done it,” added Stradal, whose seven-member advisory board, a cross section of area business, helps guide the program. “We’re community driven. We’re business-driven.” MCC’s receptivity to that audience is broad-based and time-honored.”

“We include businesses in the process of deciding important things to offer in our curriculum,” said Teresa Sturrus, vice president for academic affairs at MCC. “All of our occupational programs have an advisory committee. It really helps us keep our finger on the latest trends for the business in that area. For example, there are committees for respiratory office systems, education, nursing, welding, and electronics. Often we use our advisory committees as sounding boards if we are going to develop a new curriculum. We established a Medical Office Management Program here a few years back because of advisory committee input.”

MCC President Dale K. Nesbary, a proponent of a strong MCC faculty and staff connection to the business community, adds to that symbiotic link with his many memberships,

including the Talent 2025 Presidents Council which looks at internship and business needs across a 13-country area.

“I join committees, groups and panels that help me communicate face-to-face with business leaders and to share information about how MCC can help meet their needs,” he said.

When required, the turnaround time to meet those educational requests can be rapid.

“If the business wants some specialized training, our response time is very quick,” said Sturrus. “We can probably have something within a month that’s usually non-credit. We can teach it at their place or on campus. If they’re looking for a course or program to be developed, we have certain processes that we need to go through and that’s a bit slower.”

Meanwhile, Larsen sees MCC’s training for contemporary manufacturing positions as one of the college’s “core strengths.”

Tom Martin, the MCC industrial technology department chair who also teaches computer-aided design (CAD) classes, points out that 20 of his students were hired regionally in the past six months alone.

The demand for proficient operators of 3-D CAD, something that MCC has taught since 1996, “has come on like gangbusters in the last five years,” he noted.

The European firm fortu Powercell is partnering with MCC to have the college screen its employees to ensure that they have taken the necessary MCC courses, or their equivalents, so that the alternative battery manufacturer can hit the ground running when it builds its plant and begins operations in North Muskegon.

MCC’s Trynette Lottie-Harps, dean of continuing education and program outreach, and Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, director of business and training, regularly meet with businesses to identify their needs.

“Dan and Trynette are leading us in the right direction with expanding business and industry training,” concluded Sturrus. “We are working with more businesses, working on different types of funding, and working with local workforce development. I think the sky’s the limit.” ♦



“Partnerships between business and the community college are more important than ever.”



“If the business wants some specialized training, our response time is very quick”

Student Veterans Build, Dedicate Campus Memorial Wall

A Veterans Memorial Wall honoring MCC students, staff and alumni who served in the Armed Forces, was unveiled by the Veterans Student Organization (VSO) and dedicated during a special Veterans' Day ceremony on Nov. 11.

Tim Brandt, VSO president, designed and built the memorial wall located

along the landing of the main entrance stairwell. The glass-encased display case, which features hand-carved and hand-painted wooden seals of the military branches beneath it, has items donated by MCC vets from many wars and conflicts.

VSO members took an active role in the ceremony. Brant spoke at the dedication. MCC student Jack Langlois, a veteran of both

the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, and Nancy Maycroft, a veteran, offered remarks. The VSO provided the firing squad for a 21-gun salute. MCC instructor Daniel Meyers played Taps on the bugle. The Muskegon High School ROTC served as the honor guard. In Collegiate Hall, The College Singers sang a medley of the military branch anthems. President Dale Nesbary and Board of Trustees member Nancy Frye, a veteran, both spoke. ♦



Tim Brandt puts the finishing touches on the Veterans Memorial Wall, a tribute to those MCC alumni and students who answered our nation's call to military service.



Treasures Fill the Muskegon Community College Archives

The illustrious history of Muskegon Community College is told, in part, by the vintage and sometimes rare, photos, documents and books housed in the Hendrik Meijer Library/Information Technology Center.

Paula McClurg, who oversees the archives collection, is eager to speak with individuals willing to donate their MCC historical items to the College. She can be reached at (231) 777-0493. Her e-mail address appears below.

In the meantime, the Archives collection includes many unidentified items. Please get in touch with Paula if you can name the people in the photographs below. ♦



Mysteries from the College Archives - If you can identify anyone in these photos, please contact Paula McClurg at paula.mcclurg@muskegoncc.edu.

TV Host, Author Steven Rinella Traces his Inspiration to MCC

Steven Rinella, 1994 Muskegon Community College graduate, has loved the great outdoors since the ripe old age of three – and now has made a career of it.

Author of two books, *The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine* and *American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon*, Rinella has been enthralled with hunting since a very early age and has formed a career out of his non-fiction books and feature writing for magazines, as well as hosting the Travel Channel TV show "The Wild Within."

Rinella grew up in Twin Lake, Michigan, graduated from Reeths-Puffer schools, and went on to Muskegon Community College, where through the advice of his English 101 instructor, began to write about his passion and what he knew well – which was hunting, fishing, and the great outdoors.

"I had many inspiring instructors at MCC, but my English instructor Nelvin Jager really encouraged me and reinforced my writing skills," said Rinella. "I was struggling with my writing until he told me to write about what I knew. My first writing success was about how to trap a fox."

Rinella was also inspired by now-retired humanities instructor Carlo Spataro. "He taught me to be passionate, to believe in my ideas."

"I was always interested in writing about the outdoors," continues Rinella, "but I just didn't know how to go about it."

After college, Rinella moved west to Montana to focus on his chosen career as an outdoor and adventure-travel writer. Apparently he figured out how to "go about it," as he has written numerous stories for many of the nation's top publications, including

the *New York Times*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *O the Oprah Magazine*, *Glamour*, the *New Yorker*, *Field and Stream*, *Petersen's Hunting*, and *American Hunter*.

According to the promotional marketing of his books, Rinella explores the "exciting, inspiring, and often dangerous world of the modern-day hunter-gatherer." *The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine* chronicles Steven's year-long quest to hunt and fish for the necessary ingredients to prepare a 3-day, 45-course feast from French master chef Auguste Escoffier's 100-year-old cookbook *Le Guide Culinaire*. His "shopping list" included interesting fare such as an antelope's bladder, a stingray, the smoked ham from a black bear and a baby street pigeon.

In 2008, Rinella wrote the award-winning *American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon*. This book was inspired by his personal story of hunting for a buffalo in the frozen wilds of Alaska's Wrangell Mountains. The book is an ode to wilderness and a tribute to America's greatest and most symbolic beast.

The popularity of his writing then led him to television. He was first approached by the Travel Channel to host a show based on hunting and other travel adventures called "The Wild Within."

While the show aired, Rinella followed the tradition of sustenance hunting, where nothing he harvested went to waste, and he only pursued abundant



species that are properly managed in order to protect their long-term ecological sustainability. Some of his show adventures included crabbing in Alaska, searching for wild ingredients to make traditional pa'ina in Hawaii, gathering snails and other edibles in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and re-creating Lewis & Clark's original trek through the Missouri Breaks.

What's next on his agenda? A new TV show on the Sportman's Channel starting January 2012 called *Meat Eater*, where he takes his hunting/gathering adventures to a new level.

Rinella describes the new show in an online blog, "It has the same look and feel as *The Wild Within*, the same non-stop action, the same philosophical approach, but it's even more authentic and gritty and gorgeous," he writes. "During the creative process of putting the show together, we used the slogan 'Killer Hunts, Killer Food' as our rallying cry. And that's exactly what *Meat Eater* will deliver to you."

When he's not traveling or in search of his next adventure, Steven resides in New York with his wife Katie and son James, Steven's future fishing and hunting buddy. ♦

Harnessing the Power of Social Media

by Peter D. Koryzno



Nationally recognized for her annual math technology workshops, MCC instructor Maria Andersen just co-created the college's first Social Media course, has 2,600 followers on her Twitter account and is an unabashed proponent of the educational power of emerging technologies.

"I have six college degrees and I have learned more from my social networking than I learned in any of those degrees," admits Andersen, who earned three bachelor's degrees – in math, chemistry and environmental biology – in just four years at the University of Montana.

"That's not to say there's no value to education, there is. I wouldn't be here today without it. But my colleagues send me valuable stories and information, direct me to the right resources at the right time when I need data, and point me toward research articles that answer my questions. The social network becomes a lifeline to like-minded and innovative thinkers and the top people in research fields."

Andersen employs that same immediacy with her MCC students. She records her lectures so students can repeatedly view them. Her classes use discussion boards for both communications and homework assistance without having to wait until the next scheduled class.

Shortly after joining the MCC math faculty in 2002, Andersen, who earned both an MBA and a master's in math from the University of Wyoming and a doctorate from Western Michigan, began using an online homework system in her department.

"I've always been willing to try new things, and not necessarily technology,

if I think they have some value," said the Virginia native. "I won't try them just for the sake of it. There's plenty of technology I get pitched that I don't use with my students."

She credits her Math Department peers with collectively embracing, screening and learning the technological tools and programs required to launch online instruction in 2007. Soon, other community colleges took notice.

In 2008, Andersen oversaw the first math tech workshop on campus. She also directs professional development for the LIFT Institute, a facility designed to meet the technological and instructional needs of MCC faculty.

The Social Media course that debuted in January 2012 was designed by Andersen and MCC business instructor Christopher VanOosterhout. The subject matter has become the medium of choice for a growing cadre of Americans, especially the youngest generation.

"If no one teaches them how to appropriately use social networks, should we be surprised by some of the things we see happen?" concluded Andersen. "If you tap into the right networks, you can learn about any subject you want." ♦



Foundation for Muskegon Community College Donor Appreciation Day

President Nesbary, Jayhawk, along with MCC students, faculty, and staff took time to pose for a "thank you" photo in appreciation of our donors. Each year, the Foundation recognizes top donors at a Donor Appreciation Day Dinner. For more information on how you can be included in this group, contact Tina Dee, Director of Community Relations/Foundation Director at (231) 777-0660.

MCC Distinguished Alumni Nominations Needed!

The Muskegon Community College Alumni Relations Committee seeks nominations of deserving alumni for its annual Distinguished Alumni Award, presented at the MCC Commencement Ceremony.

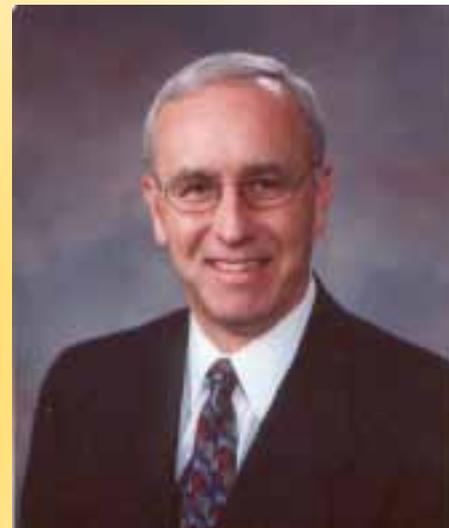
A tradition for many years at MCC, the Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor that Muskegon Community College bestows upon an outstanding alum. The award salutes the achievements of outstanding alumni whose personal lives, professional achievements, and community service exemplify the objectives of their alma mater.

Award recipients are selected based on the following criteria: MCC College Career; Professional

Achievement; Service to the Community; Advocacy of education and/or support of MCC; Availability – Recipients must be available for the Distinguished Alumni Award reception on April 19, 2012 and Commencement on April 21, 2012. Nominees will give a short address to the graduating students at Commencement.

All nominations to be considered for the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award must be received by February 17, 2012.

For more information and an online nomination form, go to www.muskegoncc.edu/DAA. ♦



2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient,
David Wells

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: Muskegon Leadership Program Profile - Sherri Slater is finishing her first year in the Muskegon Leadership Program, a collaborative program between Grand Valley State University and Muskegon Community College. Calling it a "wonderful playground for the mind," Slater said the program offers stimulating courses about ethics, philosophy, leadership and more. "I love how this program makes me think and I love all the professors we have been exposed to," she said. Slater lives near MCC and said she is grateful for the opportunity to finish her bachelor's degree at a campus so close to her house. Visit www.gvsu.edu/muskegonleader for program details.

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.



Muskegon Community College

Stevenson Center for Higher Education 

MCC Founder's Day Event Rekindles the Roaring Twenties

Using a “Roaring Twenties” theme, MCC Founder’s Day bash on Sept. 15 at the Lake House harkened back to the College’s 1926 founding with live jazz featuring staff and alumni musicians, candy girls, flappers, good food and fun.



Last-second bids are placed for the silent auction items.

Proceeds, including those from a silent auction, raised nearly \$11,000 in support of the “Reach for the Stars” campaign to renovate Cars-Fles Planetarium.

During the evening, MCC President Dale K. Nesbary delivered his State of the College address. What held true for our founders in 1926 still resonates just as loudly today,” he said.

“We are here to provide the community with quality higher education that transforms lives, supports local businesses, and improves the cultural and intellectual life of the region.” ♦



Craig Powers used a vintage microphone in his role as the Founder’s Day emcee.



Ann and Richard Kraft '49 pose with a candy cigarette smoking n'er-do-well portrayed by MCC student Michael Pollack.



Peter Turner and Jean Enright are greeted by President Dale K. and Connie Nesbary.



MCC alumni, staff and friends provided a backdrop of jazz music.



Candy bars invented in the 1920s and various MCC souvenirs were popular items on sale during Founder’s Day. Nancy Robbins (left) and Rachel McCoy worked The Lake House crowd.

Jayhawks Fall Sports Capture Conference, Regional Honors



Nate Schmitt celebrates after scoring the first goal in MCC men's soccer history. Story and photos by Peter D. Koryzno

Men's Soccer

In only its first varsity season, the Jayhawks men's soccer squad quickly established a winning tradition by finishing second in the conference and third in the region.

The 11-8-1 Jayhawks were paced by explosive forward Nathan Schmitt, whose 17 goals led all Region XII scorers, and gifted center back Juan Medina. Both were all-region and all-league selections. Talented goalkeeper Tyler Lane, also an all-conference pick, registered an impressive 1.79 goals-against average.

"When the year started, I didn't know what to expect," said MCC Coach Ben Ritsema, after placing second to eventual national runner-up Schoolcraft for the league title.

"I owe it to these guys who came to play at MCC and took a chance on a first-year team. We're not a first-year team anymore. Schoolcraft

showed us where we need to be. We should be in a good position to improve on what we accomplished this season."

Women's Volleyball

The Michigan Community College Athletic Association Western Division co-champions, MCC women's volleyball team posted an impressive 32-12 record while finishing second in the region and third in the state.

Talented Jayhawks outside hitter Ashley Hulbert, who was named the NJCAA Div. II National Player of the Week on Sept. 28, was one of three MCC players voted first team all-



Julie Larson (right) sets up Audrey Skrabis for another Jayhawks' score.

region, all-state and all-conference. She was joined by middle hitter Audrey Skrabis and setter Julie Larson, the latter also named to the all-conference freshman team. MCC was ranked as high as 13th nationally during the season.

"I told the team that they were the best group of players that I've ever coached in high school or college,"

said MCC Coach Rick Rykse, who has directed volleyball squads for more than a decade. "They had fun and enjoyed being with each other. I enjoyed coaching them. We accomplished one of our goals this season by winning the conference and were just one match short of getting the other - winning the regionals and going to nationals."



Samantha Zimmer

Women's Cross Country

Freshman Sam Zimmer captured all-region and all-league honors before placing 21st in the nation at the NJCAA Div. I Women's Cross Country

Championships in Hobbs, N.M. in November.

Zimmer finished ninth at the regional meet in Lansing, Mich., where the Jayhawks took seventh place in the final team standings.

Men's Cross Country

Led by all-region and all-conference runner Matt Kring, the Jayhawks placed 24th in the nation at the NJCAA

Div. I Men's Cross Country Championships held at Hobbs, N.M., in November, when Kring took 94th. At the NJCAA Region XII Championships in Lansing, Kring's ninth place led the Jayhawks to fifth in the team standings. ♦



Matt Kring

'A Cheerful Giver' Supports Planetarium

Guided by a philosophy that individuals should give back to their communities, local business executive Art Scott proudly supports MCC's Reach



for the Stars campaign to renovate the popular Carr-Fles Planetarium.

The president and CEO of JAAR Inc. McDonalds, Scott realizes that children today must compete in a global environment and require opportunities, like the planetarium experience, to enhance their knowledge of science and math.

"Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion for God loves

a cheerful giver," said Scott, quoting a passage that has served as a foundation for his civic philanthropy. "I am so blessed that God has given me this opportunity to give back."

Scott owns eight McDonalds Restaurants and has been an operator for 17 years in the Muskegon area.

Within the Muskegon community, Scott built a rich heritage of service and leadership. He serves as treasurer on the Muskegon Foundation Board. At MCC, he serves on the President's Advisory Capital Improvement Exploratory Committee. He is on the Board of Directors for the Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Ronald House. He is married to Jannie Scott and has four children and 11 grandchildren. ♦

Annual Golf Outing Friday, June 1, 2012

Save the date and plan to help us raise funds for MCC scholarships; details available at www.muskegoncc.edu/golf



Foundation for MCC Report

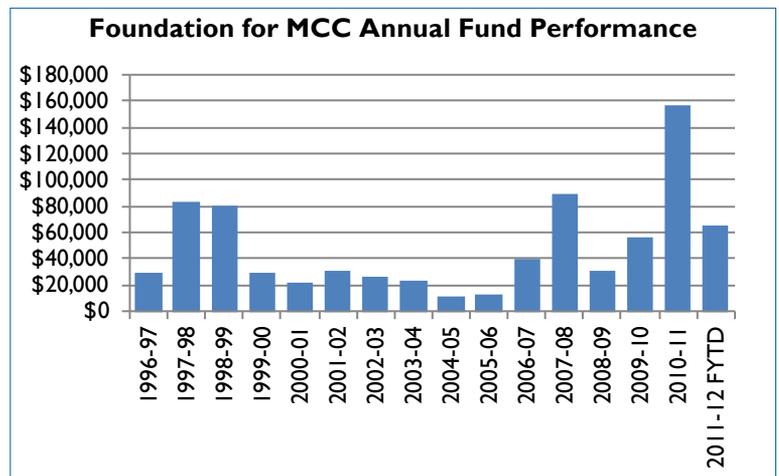
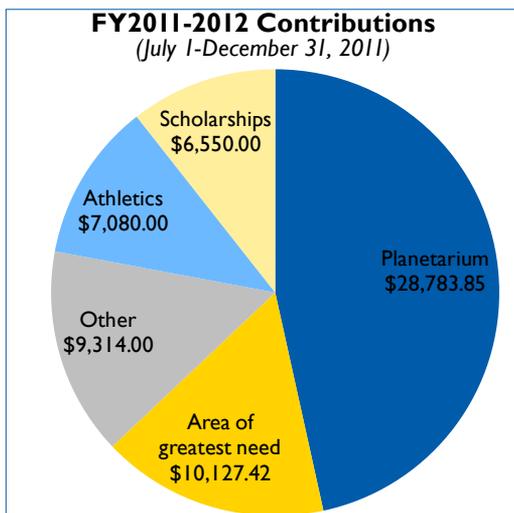
Annual Fund Campaign on Track to Meet FY2011-12 Goals

The Foundation for Muskegon Community College ended the calendar year on a high note with over 177 donors responding to year-end appeals. The nearly \$30,000 in contributions put the annual fund campaign at 62% of goal. With over \$61,000 raised in the first half of the

fiscal year, annual giving has increased substantially from the 10-year average of \$34,544.

Year-end giving boosted the *Reach for the Stars* campaign to 59.2% of goal. However, with the campaign's 3/31/12 deadline quickly approaching, staff

and Foundation Board Members are keeping busy to help make the dream of a state-of-the-art planetarium come true. If you have suggestions for helping achieve this goal, or questions about the Foundation in general, please contact Tina Dee at (231) 777-0660. ♦



Alumni News

1930s

Frances E. (Ashley) Andrews (1930) After MCC, Frances got her Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University in science. Frances was a registered medical technologist at Hackley Hospital lab.

1960s

Nancy Ellen (Westgate) Springstead (1961) Nancy graduated MCC with an associate's degree in arts and sciences, and then continued her education at Wayne State University. Her favorite memory of MCC is hiking to several off site classes in ten minutes between classes (MHS, Vanderlaan, YMCA, and Art Museum). She is currently employed at Gerber Products in Fremont.

John Gorenflo (1964) John graduated from MCC with an associate's degree in arts and sciences that specialized in electronics. John is currently retired from his position as President of Nord-lock Inc, and is part owner of AG Products Inc and Timeless Wood Care Products. He is married with five children, and nine grandchildren, and a volunteer at the Red Cross.

David L. Cooper (1965) David graduated from MCC with an associate's degree in Electronic Tech. David is currently retired from GTE, but is employed at Home Depot. He is married to Mary (Polich) Cooper, has three sons: Marc, Gregory, and Eric, and his daughter Lisa is deceased. He has fond memories of Mr. Echardt the Electronic's teacher for he was very kind, and there were great basketball games in 1965.

Ronald E. Micka (1966) Ronald graduated from MCC with an associate's degree in Business. He has two married children, and is currently employed at CWC Kautex Division

of Textron. He has fond memories of Mr J. Hughes in accounting class; he kept the material interesting and had a great sense of humor.

Stephen LeBel (1967) Stephen studied Pre-Med at MCC, and is currently retired from Able Team Inc.

Linda Owens (1967) Linda graduated MCC with an ASA, and received BSMT(ASCP) in 1969 and worked in that field until 2006, including 9 years at St. Lawrence hospital in Lansing and 27 years at Reed City Hospital. She has four children and 10 grandchildren. Linda is currently retired from Spectrum Health Reed City Campus.

C. Dennis Vanderstelt (1967) Dennis graduated from MCC with an ASA in Education, and he also played basketball. He furthered his academic career in 1969 at CMU (BS in Sec Ed), and 1973 at WMU (MA in Sec. Adm).

Alan R. Agard (1968) Alan graduated from MCC with an associate's degree in Science. He was involved in the fraternity Lambda Iota, and is currently retired from Ford Motor Co.

Paul F. Krause (1968) Paul graduated with an AAS at MCC. He went on to get his Bachelor's at MSU (1970), Masters at WMU (1976), and his Ph.D at Kent State University (1996). He was involved in the Men's Union, and has fond memories of MCC; taking geography classes with Mr. Iversen, and being in plays directed by Mr. Spataro. Paul is married with two children and is currently retired from US Army Topographic Engineering Center.

Carol (Farber) Cone (1969) Carol studied Business at MCC. In 1998 she got her AS in Business Administration, and went on to get

her Bachelor's degree in History with a Business minor. She is married with two children.

Marvin W. Wierenga Jr (1969) After MCC, Marvin earned his Bachelor's degree from Ferris State University, and his Master's from Central Michigan University. He has fond memories of MCC, where he was involved in Sigma Rho fraternity, went to lots of parties, and knew Chris Taylor. Marvin (LtCol) is retired after 32 years from the Air Force; he is currently a Lay Pastor and a Reserve Deputy Sherriff, and is married with seven children.

Christi (Caughey) Broersma (1969) After MCC, Christi went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in English with a minor in history. She has fond memories of the World History class, for it had the most fabulous teacher.

1970s

Tom Horan (1970) Tom graduated MCC with an associate's degree. He went on to get his Bachelor's at Western Michigan University in Industrial Engineering. He was involved in the fraternity Lambda Iota, and is currently retired from Meijer Inc.

Marsha L. Stewart (1971) Marsha earned her associate's in ASA, and continued on at Western Michigan University. Her fond memories were of the excellent education, and being able to stay locally while planning for the future. Marsha is currently employed at Mercy Health Partners.

Louis M. Pezet (1971) Louis learned Graphic Arts Technology while attending MCC. He was the Bay Window Photographer, and the Hockey Club President. He is married with four children and three grandchildren. He worked at Ford

Motors and is currently employed in Scientific Certification System, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Lead Auditor.

Roy Cowdery (1971) Roy graduated from MCC with an associate's degree. He went on to get his Bachelor's at Michigan State University, and his MBA at Western Michigan University. He has many great memories of MCC: Sigma Iota Gamma fraternity, Veteran's Club, excellent teachers, and many fraternity activities. He is currently the chair of the MCC Alumni Relations Committee and Sales Manager at Quality Tool and Stamping.

Alan J. Yonkman (1972) Alan graduated from MCC with an associate's degree in Electronic Tech. He went on to get his BSEE in 1979 at Wayne State University. He is retired from DTE-Energy Detroit.

Ronald Maycroft (1972) Ronald received his associate's degree at MCC he then continued his education at Western Michigan University.

Gerrit Vanderwest (1974) Gerrit received his associate's degree in Business at MCC. He is currently employed at US Bank.

Peggy A. Panici (1974) Peggy received her ASA at MCC, and went on to get her Bachelor's degree. She is currently employed at Spring Lake Public Schools.

Christie Krueger (1976) Christie received her associate's degree in Business/Accounting at MCC. She has fond memories of Mr. Cochrane for accounting and Judge James Graves in political science class, also the group of six that studied together. Christie is retired from Van Voorthuysen Iron Works Inc.

Samuel E. Coburn (1976) Samuel graduated from MCC with an AAS

in Industrial Tech. He has fond memories of MCC: Sigma Iota Gamma fraternity, and attending many fraternity parties. Samuel is married with two children and four grandchildren. He is employed at Ippel Insurance.

Starr (Acher) Evans (1976) Starr received her ASA in Marketing Management at MCC and furthered her education at Western Michigan University with a BS in Applied Liberal Studies. She has fond memories of Mrs. Jean Matty, Mr. Duane Schechter, and Mr. Sam Hollar, for they were fantastic instructors. She is currently retired from Sealed Power/SPX/Dana Corporation/MAHLE.

Frank Craig (1977) Frank received his AAS in Accounting at MCC.

Donna J. (Belote) Puisis (1977) Donna was in the LPN program at MCC and is a Licensed Practical nurse. She is currently retired from her own business.

Jo Ann (Meyers) Ervine (1978) Jo Ann graduated with an AAS in Graphic Arts. She recently married Roger Ervine on 4/16/2011 and is currently working on Chanticleer. Jo Ann is currently employed at Dart Energy Corporation.

Joel McElrath (1978) Joel received his AAS in Pre-Engineering at MCC. He furthered his education at University of Michigan (1980) with a BSCE and an MBA (1997) at Grand Valley State University. He works for the Electric Power Research Institute, with a focus in nuclear chemistry.

Cheryl (Kieft) Youngquist (1978) Cheryl studied science at MCC before transferring to complete her BS in Biology. She is married with 3 children and Volunteers with Love, Inc & Church. Cheryl's favorite memory was Spanish class.

1980s

Tracy (Caughey) Damm (1980) Tracy received her AAS in Art and Science. Her favorite memory of MCC was studying with friends. She is currently retired from Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon.

Timmy T. Nelson (1982) Timmy graduated from MCC with an AAS. He is employed at UPS.

Jeanne Peterman (1984) Jeanne received her AAS in Marketing Management at MCC. She is married with two daughters and seven grandchildren, and has great memories of having Duane Schechter as an instructor for many of her business classes. Jeanne is semi-retired and works part time at Northern Machine Tool.

Jean Marie (Dirheimer) Roberts (1986) Jean graduated MCC with an Associates in Arts. She is married to Gary Roberts, and has a son named Collin. Her favorite instructor was William Harrison. Jean is currently the Dean of Academic Services and Registrar at MCC.

Charlene Vlasak Campbell (1987) Charlene graduated with her AAS in nursing at MCC, and received her BA in English Literature at the University of Albany. She has traveled and worked in many areas of nursing, and is interested in hospice care and pediatric cancer. Charlene made many lasting friendships in the nursing realm. She is currently employed at Bayada Nurses/Life Plans Inc.

Scott MacDonald (1989) Scott received his AA in Criminal Justice at MCC, and a Bachelor's in 2011 at Baker College majoring in Health Services Administration. He has plans on getting his MBA. Scott was involved in the student government, and he thoroughly enjoyed the Police Science Lab classes with Mr. Roy Shields, for he was patient and had a wealth of forensic information.

1990s

Eytanaa A. Aanatye (Debra Malone) (1990) Eytanaa studied psychology/music at MCC and received her AA, she furthered her education at GVSU and earned her Bachelor's in Science, and continued on to WMU to receive a Certificate in Substance Abuse. Her favorite memory of MCC was the fabulous instructors.

Jeffrey Corbat (1993) Jeffrey graduated from MCC with an ASA and transferred to MSU to receive his BS. He continued his education at the University of Wisconsin and earned his MBA in 2006. Jeffrey is employed at Milwaukee Electric Tool.

Debra (Baatz) Barringer (1993) Debra graduated from MCC with AAS in Respiratory Therapy, and continued her education at Western Michigan University to get her BS in Health Science. She is retired from being an Organ Donation Coordinator.

Ronald R. Hillman II (1993) Ronald received his AAS in Biology at MCC, and his BS in Natural Resource Management at GVSU in 1996. He is married to Jennifer Hill '92 and is employed at Lacks Wheel Trim.

Danielle J. Voodre-Allen (1996) Danielle graduated with and an Associates in Accounting, and furthered her education at the University of Central Florida in 2010 with a Bachelors in Psychology, a minor in Cultural Anthropology, and a Criminal Profiling Certificate. She is currently employed at Symcor.

Kimberly A. (King) Brosco (1997) Kimberly graduated with an AAA in Elementary Education and Business Administration, she also received a CDA in child development association. She is married with four children, works at Holton Elementary School, and is President of Holton Parent Committee and Holton Youth Soccer Club. Kimberly has said she

was horribly shy so she forced herself to take Creative Dramatic class, so she could talk to children, parents, and anyone else.

2000s

Nancy Timmer-Johnson (2002) Nancy graduated from MCC with an ASA, and is employed at North Muskegon Police Dept.

Jon (J.B.) Meeuwenberg (2002) Jon studied math at MCC and received an ASA, a BS in Economics and a MA in Education at GVSU. Jon has one child, Brian, who was born May 4, 2011. Jon participated in the West Michigan Winds. He is currently an instructor at MCC.

Rusty Jibson (2003) Rusty graduated with an AAS in Electronic, Industrial Electrical. He has worked at GE Aviation Muskegon as a Technician/Operator since March 2010.

Elizabeth (Tejchma) Pasco (2004) Elizabeth received her AAS in Pre-Health profession at MCC, and in 2009 she earned a Doctor of Pharmacy at Wayne State University. Elizabeth is employed at Spectrum Health.

Lori (Olsen) Zuwerink (2004) Lori graduated with a degree in Marketing at MCC. She is married with one child. Lori's favorite memory is graduating and spending time at MCC. Lori is employed at Country Squire Pharmacy, Fremont.

Nan Riekse (2004) Nan graduated with OSE Administration AAS and Information Processing AAS, and also received a certificate in OSE office support specialist. Nan is employed at Trinity Health Systems-West View Family Medicine.

Christopher S. Erickson (2004) Christopher graduated with an AAS in Criminal Justice from MCC, then attended Siena Heights University, and then earned a JD from

Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He is currently employed at Alcoa Howmet in Whitehall, but will be moving into the field of law in the near future.

Alice White (2005) Alice graduated with an Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Science at MCC, and is employed at Carelinc Medical Equipment in Grand Rapids MI.

Youngguk Kim (2008) Youngguk received a degree in Business at MCC. He was involved in the International club and the Sociology club. Youngguk is currently employed at Plante & Moran, PLLC.

Cynthia (Martinez) Courson (2008) Cynthia studied Education at MCC. She was involved in being Ambassador President of Hispanic Club, and Student Board Safety Committee. Cynthia has fond memories of the approachability of the instructors, friendliness and the helpfulness of the staff, and the knowledgeable counseling staff. She is currently retired from AT&T.

Cassandra Green (2008) Cassandra graduated with an AAS in Biology from MCC, and a BS in Biology at GVSU. She enjoyed hanging out in the student union at MCC. Cassandra is currently employed at Kohl's.

In Memoriam

Daniel R. Burt, class of 1976 at MCC. Daniel was on the MCC wrestling team, and also later became an assistant wrestling coach for the college.

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

MCC Faculty/Staff Updates

Retirements

Nancy Maycroft (Student Services) 32 years; **Michael Vallie** (Faculty) 10 years; **Shirley Anderson** (Finance Dept.) 30 years; **Harry Brown** (Faculty) 27 years; **James Donohue** (Maintenance) 27 years.

Promotions

Dan Rinsema-Sybenga was promoted to Director of Lakeshore Business and Industrial Training at MCC. Dan was the Public Information Manager at MCC for a year-and-a-half after having served for five years as Muskegon Area First's Main Street Manager. Dan earned a Masters of Public Administration from GVSU and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Calvin College.

New to MCC

Beth Dick, Director of Finance;
Cindy Reuss, Dean of Enrollment Services; **Dr. Adane Gebeyaw Kassa**, Director of Institutional Research and Grants.

In Memoriam

Muskegon Community College offers sympathy to family and friends of:

Richard Charles Ford
political science instructor

Mary Jo McCann
financial aid administrator

John Bartley
geology and math instructor

John Bamfield
associate dean for student services

MCC Alumni Events

Alumni Reception and Play Thursday, February 16, 2012

Meet up with fellow alumni for appetizers, great company, and discounted \$5 play tickets to see the musical *Urinetown the Musical* in the Overbrook Art Gallery, 6-7pm.

Distinguished Alumni Award nominations due Friday, February 17, 2012

To nominate a deserving MCC alumni, go to www.muskegoncc.edu/DAA.

Alumni Relations Committee Meeting, February 27, 2012

Alumni Relations Committee Meeting, March 26, 2012

Distinguished Alumni Dinner Thursday, April 19, 2012

We will honor our pick for the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award in MCC's Blue & Gold Room, 6pm.

Alumni Relations Committee Meeting, April 23, 2012

Alumni Relations Committee Meeting, May 21, 2012

Second Annual ReunionFest October 2012

Plan ahead for MCC's reunion party of the year! Watch for more details in the next issue of *Reflections* and in your mailbox.

MCC Alumni -- get involved with your alma mater! Follow us on Facebook, meet with fellow alumni at events or attend a committee meeting. For more information, call Alumni Relations at (231) 777-0461 or email at alumnirelations@muskegoncc.edu



Among the 35 MCC employees recognized at the Service Awards Luncheon on Jan. 18 were: (left to right) Gloria Herman, Colleen Morse and Jean Roberts, who collectively have devoted nearly a century of service to the institution.

Photo by Peter D. Koryzno

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.

Campus Events

Jan. 23-Feb. 24
Artwork by Mohamad Bazzi
Overbrook Art Gallery

Jan. 17-Feb. 23
March 8-April 5
Spirits from the Sky: Thunder on the Land
Carr-Fles Planetarium

February 15-19
Urinetown the Musical
Overbrook Theater
(231) 777-0324

March 12-April 26
Artwork by Michael Arrigo
Overbrook Gallery
April 18, 6-7:30 p.m. Reception

March 30-31, April 1
Overbrook Dance Theater in Concert
XXVI
Overbrook Theater
(231) 777-0324

April 17-26
May 15-June 14
Hubble Vision II
Carr-Fles Planetarium

April 18-19
Studio on Stage
Overbrook Theater
(231) 777-0324

April 21
Commencement
Frauenthal Center

May 19-Sept. 12
48th Annual MCC Student Art Exhibition
Overbrook Art Gallery



See www.muskegoncc.edu/mcccagenda and find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/muskegoncc to stay up-to-date on campus events



Wind Ensemble Winter Concert

In tribute to the lives lost at Pearl Harbor 70 years earlier, the MCC Wind Ensemble, directed by Daniel M. Meyers, played “At Dawn They Slept” at its December 7 concert in Overbrook Theater.

