MCC Hosts All Alumni at ReunionFest on October 20

Respiratory Therapy Program Reaches Northwest Michigan

New Carr-Fles Planetarium Opens Thanks to Donor Support

MCC Alum Named Teacher of the Year

Jayhawk Bowler Wins National Championship

Expansion of Science, Health, and Arts Facilities Vital to Student Success
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On the cover: Anatomy student Lauren Schuiteman (right) shares her knowledge with art student Kathie Ann Thompson and firefighter Michael Boucher. Future MCC students in similar academic programs will benefit from planned facility improvements.
Letters from Our Readers

To the readers of Reflections:

I would like to take a moment to share with all of you, some of my memories about the education and career I've had at Muskegon Community College.

There are so many seasons to our lives: a time to be born, a time to die, a time to laugh, a time to cry, and inevitably a time to say goodbye.

First and foremost, a time to thank the Board of Trustee’s for entrusting me with representing MCC not just during my eight-hour workday, but trusting I would publicly represent Muskegon Community College 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I have given what will be 41 years, two months, and two weeks as of January 30, 2013 in keeping that commitment to you. Muskegon Community College has allowed me to surpass any life vision I may have had as to what my chosen career field might be. I never planned on going to college, To dream of completing three Associate Degrees from MCC and a Bachelor of Science, in Behavioral Science, from GVSU, is a dream come true. Muskegon Community College has allowed me to surpass any life vision I may have had as to what my chosen career field might be. I never planned on going to college, to what my chosen career field might be. I never planned on going to college, to what my chosen career field might be. I never planned on going to college, To dream of completing three Associate Degrees from MCC and a Bachelor of Science, in Behavioral Science, from GVSU, is a dream come true. Muskegon Community College has been my living tribute to what the college offers so many others. The ability to achieve goals they, too, thought were unattainable.

I take this moment to thank the following Presidents: Dale Nesbary, David Rule, Frank Marczak, James Stevenson, Jack

Continued on page 22

From the Editor

MCC Instructors Turn Dreams into Reality

“The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you...”

- Dan Rather

One of the most inspiring aspects of my role at Muskegon Community College is hearing alumni tell stories of how MCC’s instructors were a catalyst for academic, personal, and professional success. I am very much impressed with the instructors who I have interacted with in my two-and-one-half years here at MCC, so it’s no surprise to me when former students provide unsolicited testimony about their experience with MCC’s faculty. Nor can I say that I’m too surprised when an alum gets “misty” when sharing meaningful MCC memories. As a product of a community college myself, I understand first-hand what it means to have access to higher education at a community college and the positive impact of the instructors who really made a difference and illuminated a pathway to success.

MCC is home to 97 full-time faculty and 109 adjunct faculty who work each day to help make dreams come true for our students. In the college’s 86-year-history, there are hundreds of instructors who have made a positive impact on the lives of alumni like you.

What MCC instructors inspired you? We are seeking Letters to the Editor for the next issue of Reflections about MCC instructors who made a difference in the lives of our students. No matter how long ago, or how recently, you graduated, we encourage you to make time to complete one more assignment: send us a paragraph or two saluting your favorite instructor. In addition to warming the hearts of our faculty, your testimonial provides further motivation to current students.

Thank you for taking the time to read Reflections and for your letters about your MCC experiences. We look forward to hearing from you!

Tina Dee, MS, CFRM
Director of Community Relations/ Foundation Director
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tina.dee@muskegoncc.edu

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From the Desk of the President

Our Alumni Making a Difference

Gazing into the eyes of the MCC Class of 2012 from my center stage vantage point, I could see them fixed upon Anthony Kolenic as this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award winner shared his personal account of MCC’s role in his life.

While he has earned national acclaim as a gifted lawyer, the bond between the speaker and his audience on that special April evening in the Frauenthal Center hinged on his message of opportunity and the transformative power of an MCC education. Anthony recounted how MCC gave him the chance to attend college close to home, served as a springboard for advanced degrees, and provided him with a solid foundation for his service to the greater community.

It’s a story as old as Muskegon Community College itself and it’s one I never tire of hearing. Our first graduating class in 1928 produced Elmer L. Andersen, the son of Norwegian and Swedish immigrants, who became a progressive governor in the state of Minnesota in the 1960s. The thousands of MCC graduates who followed in the 86 years since Elmer and his classmates have been equally impressive.

One of the perks of being the MCC president is getting to meet our outstanding alumni in my travels around the community and the state, or when they visit campus. They touch every walk of life — nurses and respiratory therapists, business leaders, educators, scientists, machinists, office managers, actors, artists, journalists, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and the list goes on.

Pick any area of study, visual arts, for instance, and you can see the widespread impact of our alumni. In Grand Rapids, those who attend the popular Artprize will quickly recognize the work of MCC alum Eric Kravako. Stop into Kendall College of Art and Design and you’ll find our Michele Bosak as the assistant director of exhibitions. Bryce Porter uses his MCC education in Grand Rapids as an industrial designer at Tekna Solutions.

But don’t limit your search to West Michigan. When in Denver, Colorado, tour Stellarjae Studio and see the works of MCC alumna Anna Thielke. Across the Pacific Ocean in Sabah, Malaysia, alumna Mellisa Anys shares what she learned in our MCC studio by teaching art at the Sayfol International School.

An MCC education can and does have a ripple effect that impacts our community, our region and, at times, reaches around the world. You may not always know the individual attended MCC, but you are probably aware of his or her impact.

With regard to our grads in the sciences, Ottawa County certainly knows about award-winning dental hygienist Lois Haverman and her quality-of-life changing work with the Miles of Smiles there. Closer to home, Muskegon patients benefited for decades from thoracic surgeon Dr. Steven Demos, who predicated his University of Michigan medical studies with science courses at MCC.

I could go on and on about our alumni. I am not alone. At MCC, we all take pride in the accomplishments of our former students. As educators, support staff and administrators, our students come first. So, quite naturally, we try to continue that relationship after they leave us through our Alumni Association and its communications.

Each year, we honor one graduate with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Please send us your nominations by this autumn for the 2013 award. We also host ReunionFest, which takes place on Oct. 20 this year. Plan to return to campus and let us know how you are doing, while we share what’s new at your alma mater. I look forward to seeing you.

Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D., President
Muskegon Community College
MCC, MAISD Create Opportunities with Early College of Muskegon County

Starting in Fall 2012, Muskegon County selected 11th grade students will be the first to participate in an intensive five-year high school called “Early College of Muskegon County” (ECMC).

Rather than graduating during their senior year, up to 50 ECMC students will add a 13th year and have the opportunity to earn up to 62 college credits while they finish their high school diploma. ECMC is a joint venture of Muskegon Community College (MCC) and the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD).

“Students benefit by blending their work to complete a high school diploma and an associate’s degree,” said MCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Teresa Sturrus, adding that “other successful early or middle colleges are currently operating in Michigan.”

MCC’s Sturrus and MAISD Associate Superintendent of Academic Services Jeanette Magsig worked together with local educators to craft the program and iron out the details. ECMC is designed to serve students who are “at risk” of not enrolling in post-secondary education.

Each year, three to four 11th grade students from each public school district and four to five students from non-public schools will be invited to attend ECMC. An application and interview process will be used to select students for the program. The students’ test scores and letters of recommendation will also be considered as part of the application process. The program is funded through per pupil state funding.

“Early College of Muskegon County is a new and bold approach based on the principle that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges,” said MCC President Dr. Dale Nesbary.

According to MAISD Superintendent Dave Sipka, ECMC has been two-and-a-half years in the making. “This will positively impact the local economy. In addition to preparing more highly educated students to enter our workforce, we are opening doors for those teens whose families struggle financially. ECMC students will be the first in their families to attend college.”

GVSU, MCC Approve Reverse Degree Plan

MCC students who earned 30 or more credit hours but not an associate’s degree before transferring to Grand Valley State University now have the opportunity to receive that degree.

“The number of credits a student is shy of that degree, GVSU will transfer back to MCC those credits applicable to the associate’s degree had the student remained here,” said MCC President Dale Nesbary, who co-signed the agreement July 9 with GVSU President Thomas J. Haas.

The MCC Nursing Program was granted full continuing accreditation through 2019 by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC). MCC is one of only 13 nationally accredited Associate Degree Nursing Programs in Michigan.
Commencement Speakers Offer Inspiration to Class of 2012

More than 230 graduates participated in Muskegon Community College’s 84th Commencement exercises on April 21 in the Frauenthal Center, downtown Muskegon.

This year, MCC opted to have two students speak at Commencement as duo-keynote addresses, Tammie Anderson and Chloe Andrews.

Tammie Anderson had tried college once but dropped out. Then, at age 38, with the encouragement of her husband and the No Worker Left Behind program, she enrolled at MCC. She discovered its life-changing counselors and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society. The self-proclaimed quitter began living the honor society’s tenets. She volunteered in the community, led by example - especially to her children - and became a productive team member.

“I realized everything I was doing was having an impact and making me stronger,” said Tammie.

Her hard work and dedication led to her induction into PTK. She was its service vice president and led its Commit to Complete initiative.

“I always thought that achieving your dreams meant setting your goal on the final prize,” said Tammie. “This is not the case. I have learned that achieving your dreams means setting small goals and reaching them one at a time all the while working towards finding out what your dreams really are. Our dreams can change many, many times based on the directions that we choose to take.”

Chloe Andrews overcame family financial and personal difficulties to receive academic honors and a newfound resolve at MCC.

“I thought that MCC was just my back-up choice, but in the end, I realized it was the smartest choice I have ever made because I have my associate’s degree paid for,” said Chloe, who will continue her education this fall at Grand Valley State University.

“My eyes were opened to a whole new world,” Chloe told her 2012 classmates at the April Commencement. “I’ve met amazing people, inspiring teachers, and I have been able to open many doors for myself. One of the most important aspects of this school, in my eyes, is the teachers and instructors who give you every opportunity to succeed.”

Also speaking at commencement was Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Anthony Kolenic Jr., J.D. An attorney for more than 30 years at Warner Norcross & Judd, he has been rated as one of the Best Lawyers in America annually since 1995 by Employee Benefits Law. The 1973 MCC graduate received MCC’s highest award for his exemplary personal life, professional achievements, and community service.

“This college is a real gem in our community,” said Kolenic. “My instructors at MCC were absolutely outstanding, and every single one of them helped me.”

After earning his associate’s degree, Kolenic attended Michigan State University for his bachelor’s degree, and then completed his Juris Doctor in 1977 graduating magna cum laude at the University of Michigan. Kolenic has been named Michigan Super-Lawyer for six consecutive years.

“As someone who grew up in relatively modest circumstances, I’m grateful that I was able to get an excellent start on college right here in Muskegon,” said Kolenic.
MCC Opens Ottawa County Facility in Grand Haven Community Center

After 20 years of offering classes at Grand Haven High School, Muskegon Community College opened a new facility in the Grand Haven Community Center, at 421 Columbus to expand services for Ottawa County residents.

“This new facility is the next logical step to meeting growing needs in this area,” explained Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D., President of Muskegon Community College. “Of all the places we considered over the past two years, the location within the Grand Haven Community Center complex is best suited to meeting student and community needs. We’re now able to provide more daytime classes and a variety of student services.”

In addition to classes at the new facility, MCC will continue offering classes at the Grand Haven High School, Spring Lake Middle School, and other locations as needed. “The important thing is that we make higher education accessible,” said Nesbary. “Providing services in the neighborhoods where they are needed is the first step to helping all students and communities meet their educational goals.”

The Post-Secondary Action Team, a committee of the Chamber that includes representatives from local school districts, Grand Valley State University, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, Tri-Cities College Access Network, and other community members, invited Muskegon Community College to work with them to determine the best course of action to make higher education more accessible in north Ottawa County.

MCC Vice President for Student Services John Selmon said that MCC has “dramatically increased” its outreach in the past year to better respond to local need as enrollment tripled in Ottawa County over the past year. For more info, visit www.muskegoncc.edu/ottawa or call (866) 711-4622.

High Schoolers Sample College at Taste of Tomorrow

The 15th annual Taste of Tomorrow attracted a large number of high school students and their parents to campus on March 24 to gain insights into college life.

Under the theme of Discovering the Treasure of MCC, the visitors experienced the variety of the college’s programs, academic offerings and the types of career opportunities available to MCC graduates.

MCC faculty provided hands-on activities so students can experience some of the technologies available at the college. Alex Aamodt from Mona Shores High School won the grand prize drawing for a two-year scholarship to MCC. ♦

Prospective college students take the opportunity to explore graphic design and speak with MCC instructors at Taste of Tomorrow in Bartels-Rode Gymnasium.
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In 2000, Munson Hospital Medical Center in Traverse City desperately needed trained respiratory therapists. The premier regional medical facility in northwestern Michigan approached Muskegon Community College.

“We were providing asthma education to seven statewide sites, one of which was Traverse City, from Grand Rapids Community College,” explained Dan Knue, director of MCC’s RT program since its inception in 1980. MCC created its own distance learning facility to link the Muskegon classroom to one inside Munson.

The popular RT program, which has graduated 36 alumni in Traverse City since its first enrollee in 2001, has between 15-18 students regularly with another 20-30 on a wait list. Karen Kain, a pulmonary education specialist at Munson, provides an onsite academic link. She has been with the MCC program in Traverse City since it began and shares teaching duties with Knue and instructor Dale DeVries, both of whom alternate classes between Munson and Muskegon.

Distance learning puts an added responsibility on students. “They have to apply themselves a little more,” said DeVries, “We insist on communication going both ways, that’s why we think it’s vitally important for us to come up here as instructors.”

An extremely demanding curriculum, RT requires 800 patient contact hours for graduation. In Traverse City, Munson provides the majority of that experience, although MCC students will go to Cadillac and Petoskey at times. The Muskegon-based RT students benefit as well from MCC’s outstanding reputation.

Students need to experience what a normal therapist’s day is like.”

An RT student must devote 28 months to earn a degree because of the clinical requisites, said Knue. Most Traverse City-based RT students complete their general education courses at Northwestern Michigan College before beginning at MCC.

Each cohort of incoming RT students forges a tight-knit kinship in their small classes and shared clinical experiences. Their average age is 26 to 28 years, though some students in their 50s are pursuing a second career.

“What’s nice about health care is it doesn’t have the age discrimination problem found in many other areas,” said Knue, who accepts 35 students annually into the RT program in Muskegon.”

The expansion of home health care, the prevalence of the newborn intensive care units and the emergence of treatment for sleep disorders will keep RT a dynamic professional pursuit for the foreseeable future, said Knue.
Donors Help Students Reach for the Stars

The successful Reach for the Stars campaign officially concluded on March 31 after raising $252,148.27 for the renovation of the Carr-Fles Planetarium.

The planetarium temporarily closed its doors in June while the facility was being equipped with state-of-the-art digital projection, sound, and lighting systems, a new library of shows, and a completely updated theater environment replete with new seats, walls, floor, and a domed ceiling.

Campaign donors will be invited to an appreciation event on Monday, September 10, 2012, when they will be the first to experience the new planetarium.

More than 220 benefactors contributed. MCC graduate Richard Kraft and his wife, Ann, were the campaign’s earliest advocates along Drs. Nancy and Wayne Brenneman and graduates like Marvin Anderson, Laila Harshbarger and Yvonne Boon.

“We were fortunate to have strong employee support, too,” commented Tina Dee, Director of Community Relations and the Director of the Foundation for Muskegon Community College.

Donors were not limited by age. MCC alumna Michele Twesten-O’Toole organized her Girl Scout Troop 222 Churchill Elementary into fund raisers, while Holton Elementary students collected pennies by the thousands.

Every penny counted in the Reach for the Stars Campaign, including the 34,140 collected in a two-week span by the Holton Elementary students. The budding benefactors chose Carr-Fles Planetarium as the recipient of their fund-raising efforts this year.

Foundation Golf Event Raises Scholarship Funds

A total of $6,863 in event profits was generated for the Foundation for Muskegon Community College General Scholarship Fund by the participants, lunch guests and sponsors of the 2012 Annual Jayhawk Scramble on June 8 at University Park Golf Course.

The CBS Outdoor squad of Jeff Campbell, Viktor Anderson, Chris Churchill and Harold Coleman took first place at the 2012 Jayhawk Scramble.

Plan now to visit the all-new Carr-Fles Planetarium featuring state-of-the-art digital projection, sound system, and all new theater environment!

FREE SHOWS
7pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays
mid-September through May
Show details available at muskegoncc.edu/planetarium
Instructor Profile:

Jeff Stipes Keeps MCC at the Forefront

Retiring MCC Tech Department Chair Jeff Stipes quotes hockey legend Wayne Gretzky in describing his personal approach to higher education.

“A good hockey player plays where the puck is, but a great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be,” explains Stipes. “A great instructor always anticipates where needs are going to be.”

The Canton, Ohio native has been forecasting trends since he arrived on campus in 1987. While he taught technical mathematics, applied technical manufacturing, and data processing, his interest in a broad spectrum of fields led to his developing three of MCC’s most promising programs: Interactive Games Design, Wind/Solar, and Biofuel certificates.

Insisting that he is not an expert in the various enterprises that he has created for the college, Stipes encourages present and future instructors to establish fields of study that will be important for future learners.

“You don’t need to be the primary educator to begin programs like these,” said Stipes, who authored and co-authored 14 textbooks in computer-aided design and programming. “Once they’re established, you stand back and watch them develop on their own. Every year technology is changing and from a manufacturing standpoint it’s important to keep up with it and to always be ahead of the curve.”

Stipes plans to remain active at MCC in retirement. He’s working on developing new courses. His Sustainability for Building and Energy Auditing class will be available in time for MCC’s Winter 2013 semester. Stipes will also continue to host MCCTV’s TechTalk.

Mysteries from the College Archives

If you can identify anyone in these photos, please contact Paula McClurg, the College archivist, at: paula.mcclurg@muskegoncc.edu
Muskegon Community College finds itself at an important crossroads. Faced with learning space constraints due to its growing enrollment and needing to provide the ever-evolving technology required by its students to compete in the 21st century economy, MCC must build additional instructional space.

The architectural firm, Tower Pinkster, arrived at that conclusion in a 2010 report gleaned from an exhaustive, yearlong data-gathering process involving MCC students, faculty, the Board of Trustees and community members. In January 2011, the trustees unanimously supported a $35 million, multi-phase construction plan targeting the college’s three highest priority needs — sciences, health and physical education, and creative and performing arts.

"While the College has highly skilled faculty and eager students, our facilities do not fully meet the requirements needed to help us prepare our students to be highly competitive in the greater community and globally," said MCC President Dale Nesbary.

At MCC, the successful and popular science departments play an important role as a “feeder” for other academic programs, such as industrial technology, advanced manufacturing, nursing and respiratory therapy, as well as serving general education students. Expanding and improving MCC’s aging science wing would benefit the ubiquitous MCC science students in both current and emerging programs. These include: Agriscience, Alternative Energy, Anatomy and Physiology, Biofuels, Biology, Chemistry, Ecology, Emerging Technologies, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Science, General Education, Geology, Math, Microbiology, Nursing, Physics, Pre-Engineering and Respiratory Therapy.

To effectively vie in our global society, the U.S. hopes to attract more students to careers in science technology, engineering and math, the so-called STEM fields. However at MCC, any proposed increase in students pursuing the sciences poses a problem. Despite student interest, science classes have to be “capped” because of insufficient laboratory and classroom space.

As with the rest of Bartels-Rode Gymnasium facilities, demand exceeds space in the tiny fitness room. Buzzing with classes and activities from the wee morning hours until late at night, the undersized building hampers the MCC students’ ability to maximize their academic potential.
Proposed New Academic Facilities Vital to MCC Student Success

Only two existing classrooms can accommodate the largest science classes. The proposed improvements also include six new modern labs and six new instructional classrooms.

Meanwhile, improvements to 50-year-old Bartels-Rode Gymnasium, the most heavily used building on campus, would allow MCC to increase current offerings and implement new programs, such as Health Sciences and Recreation Management. Other current and future programs that would benefit include: Athletic Training, Criminal Justice, Fire Science, General Education, Health, Nursing, Nutrition, Physical Education, Recreation and Respiratory Therapy.

The overcrowded and antiquated health, physical education and recreation facility can no longer keep pace with the realistic demands of a more health-conscious student body. In our community, the benefits of physical fitness have never been more documented nor the deleterious effects of failing to maintain a healthy lifestyle more prevalent.

While each MCC student is required to take two physical education courses to receive an associate’s degree, the revamped facilities would also benefit respiratory therapy students who must take physical education as well as fire science students using the proposed climbing wall as part of their instruction. The master facility plan recommends a new gymnasium, including men’s and women’s locker rooms, a training room, offices, classrooms, a fitness center and a climbing wall. Additions to the existing building are included in the proposal.

For decades, the MCC Art Department has been located in a cramped, 8,400 square-foot, pole barn-style building. MCC currently has 740 students enrolled in art and media classes and expects the number of increase to 1,073 within the next 10 years.

The Facility Master Plan calls for construction of five new art studios, three instructional classrooms, an exhibition gallery and kiln room, as well as improvements to the Overbrook Theater and band/music area. With the rich tradition of scholastic performing arts in Muskegon County and the region, the College recently expanded its opportunities for students with the Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble and the Jayhawk Sound, all of whom would benefit from the proposed physical enhancements. These MCC grads have transferred into prestigious programs at Western Michigan University, Michigan State University, and The Berklee College of Music.

Other academic beneficiaries would include: Art, Broadcasting, Communication, Dance, Entrepreneurship in the Arts, General Education, Humanities, Journalism/New Media, Music, Theatre, Performing Arts and Visual Arts. An expanded lab and multimedia classroom to support the addition of a Communication Technology/Technician program is also part of the proposed improvements.
Alumni Profile:

MCC Alumnus Named “Teacher of the Year” Makes His Parents and Alma Mater Proud

By Julie Weller, Alumni Relations Manager

In Alumni Relations, it’s traditional to highlight graduates who have gone beyond what most of us consider “normal” careers – so people who have made films, or recorded music, or even won a Pulitzer or other prestigious award, get all of the attention.

But what about the other 99.5% of our alumni? The people who live “regular” lives, do all they can with the skills they have, and create an extraordinary life? MCC has a lot of those, and Carim Calkins (class of 1987) is a wonderful example.

The following information was written by Carim’s proud father, David (also an MCC alumnus):

This is a story about the recent honor received by a teacher from Muskegon who is currently teaching in the Livonia Public Schools school district (near Detroit) teaching gifted and talented students in the district’s MACAT program.

On November 21, 2011 after eight years of service teaching for the District, he was recognized by the school district of Livonia as teacher of the year for Livonia Middle Schools.

Carim Calkins graduated from Whitehall High School in 1983, having transferred in from Tecumseh High School when his father joined Howmet Corporation in 1981. The family (David & Luise and their son Carim) moved to Whitehall that year.

Carim joined the US Army following high school, and was honorably discharged in 1985 as a Personnel Specialist, U.S. Army Europe. He started Muskegon Community College that same year, graduating cum laude in 1987. He met Sally Johnson, a 1985 graduate of Mona Shores High School, at the college and married her in a formal wedding ceremony in the courtyard at the college in August 1987. Carim and his wife Sally moved on to Michigan State University that same fall to complete their degree requirements.

In 1989, Carim and Sally both graduated (Carim magna cum laude) from Michigan State University as new teachers, with degrees in secondary education. Unable to find suitable teaching positions in Michigan, the couple moved away to Texas, where they taught for the next two years in the El Paso area.

After two years living and teaching in Texas, Carim was deployed for Desert Storm, after which the couple began looking in earnest for teaching positions in Michigan where they could be closer to their families. In 1991, Carim found a position teaching middle school life science and physical science at a private school in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Soon thereafter, Sally began teaching second grade in the Detroit Public Schools, transferring in 1999 to the West Bloomfield School District where she teaches today.

In May 2011 when the award was initially announced, Carim was honored in a surprise all-school award ceremony at Frost, where his family was present. The official honor as the Middle School Teacher of the Year for the Livonia District was extended to Carim by

The Calkins family is on hand as the principal of Frost Middle school, Mrs. Christina Berry announces the award with Carim Calkins at her side.
the Livonia School Board at their regular meeting on November 21, 2011. The Livonia school district comprises 26 schools, with 16,256 students served by 1042 educators.

Mr. Calkins serves as the Accreditation Chairman for Frost Middle School, and has mentored 20 student teachers and pre-service teachers during his eight years at Frost Middle School. He has received numerous grants and awards during his 23-year career, and regularly volunteers as the facilitator for school clubs such as Lego Robotics Club, Environmentalist Club, You Be the Chemist Competition, and many others. This recent award came to him based upon the recommendation of students, parents and peers associated with Frost Middle School. He was awarded the “District’s Golden Apple”, and a commemorative plaque was given to him by Senator Walsh, from the Michigan Legislature. He also received numerous gifts from local merchants, and his name was added to the Livonia District School System plaque that is displayed in the District headquarters offices. In January, 2012, Mr. Calkins will be additionally honored by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

Carim met his wife, Sally at MCC, and has a story to share:

How we met is a pretty good one (algebra class at MCC - she walked in and I told a friend “there’s my future wife.”) He still owes me 10 bucks for that bet. We also remember calling MCC “High school with ashtrays,” which was a testament to the individual attention and small class sizes that we all benefited from at MCC. We have both been teachers for 23 years now, and we still feel that MCC was the best educational decision that we ever made. We were able to live at home, Sally was on 100% scholarship for her grades at Mona Shores High School, the Army was paying for my coursework, and we developed a connection to the school and our friends (not to mention each other). Made us strong students who were able to succeed when we arrived at MSU (and we were not broke or in debt for our education to that point in time).

To frame my comment about how highly we think of MCC in the educational pecking order: We’ve earned degrees from MSU (BS and MS). I’ve also continued on to earn an Ed.S. from Oakland University, and a K-12 endorsement in Learning Disabilities from Madonna University. This year has been an embarrassment of riches when it comes to being recognized for my work. The Middle School Teacher of the Year is certainly the highlight, but I have been honored for a few other things that my students and I did this year as well. It has really been an unusual time for everybody involved.

Thank you for asking more about me. I was a little embarrassed when my parents sent in the letter to you, but thank you for reading it and contacting me. They are, after all, the reason that I tried hard in school and decided to make it my career. I don’t remember a minute in my life where they weren’t encouraging me and working with me to help me succeed. ♦
FOUNDER'S DAY
EST 1926

Thursday, September 20, 2012 • 6-8:30pm

Celebrate the 1926 founding of Muskegon Community College with an evening of live jazz, fabulous hors d’oeuvres, silent auction, and other swanky fun! All profits will support MCC campus expansion projects, improving student opportunities.

Tickets on sale Now.

Support student success now by donating your talents and other gifts for the Founder’s Day silent auction.
Donation forms below and at www.muskegoncc.edu/founder.
For more information, call (231) 777-0660.
The Foundation for Muskegon Community College (FMCC) exceeded its goal of $105,000 last fiscal year, raising nearly $121,000 for the new Carr-Fles Planetarium, scholarships, athletics, and other campus programs. In addition to $120,997.77 in cash and pledge contributions, donors gave $7,825 directly to the Community Foundation for Muskegon County (CFFMC) to support the FMCC Endowment Fund and other funds managed by CFFMC.

“We also received 105 in-kind donations with a total value of nearly $27,000,” said Tina Dee, Foundation Director and Director of Community Relations for the College. “We received some very generous contributions of equipment, which we are using in our bio-fuels lab, automotive programs, and in other areas. In addition, many gifts of services and merchandise were donated to our Founder’s Day event, which greatly helps us meet our fundraising goals.”

“W e  a r e especially grateful for the support of our alumni board members, and employees,” noted Dee. “These groups were particularly supportive with their pledges to last year’s ‘Reach for the Stars’ campaign—we processed over 425 pledge payments last year from these groups.”

“The support of the 546 individual and business donors is truly making a difference for our students and the community. Providing scholarships and support for athletics and other areas of student life has a tremendous positive impact on the individual student. Anything we can do to remove obstacles to higher education and improve the quality of our academic programs is going to strengthen the communities we serve,” explained Dee.

The Foundation for MCC is currently seeking board members to help with fundraising and donor stewardship efforts. The FMCC board application is available at www.muskegoncc.edu/foundation.

For more information about FMCC’s fundraising efforts, please contact Tina Dee at (231) 777-0660.
MCC Winter, Spring Sports Recap

Sherman Wins National Bowling Title; Four Teams in Top 20

By Peter D. Koryzno, Communications Manager

Aaron Sherman won the 2012 NJCAA national bowling championship, while eight different Jayhawks earned All-American honors, and women’s softball and wrestling marched to the NJCAA national championships to highlight the winter and sports seasons on campus.

Men’s Basketball: Led by All-Western Conference players Isiah Law, Matt Stoll and Kulawnie Saunders, the Jayhawks posted a 22-9 mark, including a 12-4 league record. Head Coach Dave Schlump’s charges advanced to the NJCAA Region XII semifinals.

Women’s Basketball: Third Team All-American Sudan Saunders teamed with other All-Western Conference players Jazmyne Good, Lindsey Burnside and Coiya Wiley to pace the Jayhawks to a 21-6 record and the regional championship finale. Head Coach Ron Jenkins’ team was one win shy of qualifying for the national tournament.

Men’s Bowling: While Aaron Sherman became the national junior college champion by scoring a school-record 286, the Jayhawk men’s team placed fifth in the nation at the NJCAA championships in Cheektowaga, NY. Under Head Coach Bill Bowen, Scott Hichue and Sherman finished the two-day competition individually at seventh and eighth in the nation, respectively, and fifth nationally as a doubles team.

Women’s Bowling: Head Coach Bill Bowen’s Jayhawk women bowlers took seventh in the nation as a team. The doubles tandem of Stacey Walton and Becky Spoelman were 17th nationally, while Jolene Douglas was 21st place in the individual competition.

Wrestling: Guided by Head Coach Mark Brunger, the MCC wrestlers qualified in all 10 weight classes for the NJCAA national championships in Rochester, Minn., where 149-pounder Sean Turner’s fourth place showing led the squad to 17th place in the country. Steven Ruppert at 141 pounds, Thomas Bolday at 197 pounds, and Ryan Steverson at 285 pounds all finished just one match short of becoming All-Americans.

Baseball: Freshman pitcher Adam Poel, voted MVP and Pitcher of the Year on the MCC team, helped lead Head Coach Cap Pohlman’s Jayhawks to 30-26 overall record.

Men’s Golf: Caleb Johnson capped his medalist performance at the conference championships with fourth place at the NJCAA Div. II national championships. The Jayhawks were two strokes over qualifying for nationals as a team and all-conference Bill Oosting was the same margin from qualifying as an individual. Travis Clarke captured all-league honors for Head Coach Marty McDermott’s team that placed second in the region.

Softball: The Jayhawks captured state and regional titles while advancing to tie for fifth place in the nation at the NJCAA Div. II Softball Championships in Clinton, Miss. The 44-12 team was led by the All-American trio of “Boo” Basch, Dana Briggs and Katy Burns. The National Fastpitch Coaches Association presented MCC Head Coach Matt Houseman and his assistants with its 2012 NJCAA Division II East Regional Coaching Staff of the Year Award.

Aaron Sherman (right) took first place at the National Junior College championships this year. All-American Danielle “Boo” Basch (center) helped softball capture both state and regional titles. Women’s basketball was led by third team All-American Sudan Saunders (left).
October 20, 2012
4-8 p.m.

- Enjoy a theatrical performance by MCC students in Overbrook Theater
- Travel to the stars inside MCC’s all-new Carr-Fles Planetarium
- Reconnect with classmates or make new friends at the reunion dinner
- Stroll down memory lane with photos and memorabilia from MCC archives
- Experience the vitality of MCC today on a guided campus tour
- Learn what’s happening at MCC during President Dale Nesbary’s update

Save the date and plan to attend MCC’s annual all-class reunion!
$10 per person; Theater performance $5

Register now online at www.muskegoncc.edu/reunion.
For more information, contact Julie Weller, Alumni Relations Manager, at (231) 777-0461 or alumnirelations@muskegoncc.edu
1960s

Robert Jay Vanderlaan (1963) – After earning a Liberal Arts Degree at MCC, Robert later received a Bachelor of Arts from Western Michigan University in 1965. The former Spanish Club member is married and has been working for MCC for 44 years. He currently works in the Meijer Library.

Jerry J. Brower (1965) – After studies at MCC ended, Jerry earned a Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degrees. He has retired from Grand Valley State University where he was a professor of physics and astronomy.

Steve LeBel (1967) – This alumni focused in Pre-Med at MCC, received a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Michigan State University in 1970, and completed a Master’s Degree in Counseling from the University of Michigan in 1976. Steve has held a succession of positions over the years from consultant to CEO status in several organizations. He is currently retired from Able Team, Inc. but continues to be a day trader and works in programming languages.

1970s

Darlene A. DeHudy (1970) – Beginning studies in 1968, Darlene earned a degree emphasizing in Psychology, Social Studies, and Library Science. She remembers Mary K. Hartz as a favorite instructor. She is retired from Muskegon Public Schools and currently works for MCC Meijer Library. She will be married in August of this year.

Chuck Kennedy (1971) – Chuck earned his Associate’s Degree in 1971 and thereafter received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Western Michigan University in 1976. He was employed with Neway Equipment, and is now retired. Chuck commends MCC for allowing him to pursue his degrees while raising his three children and working full time.

Tom Selander (1971) – After earning his Associate’s Degree, Tom earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Finance from Michigan State University in 1975, and graduated from Ford Motor Company College Graduate Training Program in 1975. He has retired from the Kent County Dept. of Human Services after 33 years.

Thomas Dimatteo (1974) – Enjoying all that MCC had to offer, Thomas was involved in automotive technology studies. He has since retired from Caltronics.

Janice E. Whitlow (1976) – This marketing major works for MCC, and recalls classes with Sue Meeuwenberg and Max Monette.

Elizabeth Naruszkiewicz (1977) – This Criminal Justice major later attended Aquinas College in 1979, and earned a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education from Western Michigan University. She has retired from MCC, but still teaches as an adjunct instructor. Her fondest memory of MCC was History instructor Jack Rice, and English instructor Jean Pataky.

1980s

John J. Morano (1986) – John earned a number of degrees including an Associate’s Degree in Applied Science, Automotive, Psychology/ Business, and Humanities. He later transferred to GVSU. The veteran has worked at MCC for forty years.

1990s

Amy Galbreath-James (1993) – This Graphic Arts student, after earning an Associate’s Degree later attended Ferris State University and received her Bachelor’s Degree. She is currently employed at MCC.

Ben Ritsema (1995) – After earning an Associate’s Degree, Ben later attended Western Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education, and later a Master’s Degree in the same field. The former Soccer Club member is married, has 3 children and teaches 6th grade Social Studies at Fruitport Middle School, and is MCC’s soccer coach.

Danielle Voodre-Allen (1996) – After completing her Associate’s Degree at MCC, Danielle later earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of Central Florida in 2010, and a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice a year later in 2011.

Lynda Ferry (1996) – After earning her Associate’s Degree emphasizing in Business, Lynda later attended Baker College in 2004, and is currently attending Cornerstone University. She is currently employed at MCC.

Mike (Jon) Council (1997) – This Art and Communication major attended Western Michigan University where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree. He is currently employed at the college bookstore and is an adjunct instructor here at MCC.

Kim Cooper-Brosco (1998) – Kim earned an Associate’s Degree and focused on Elementary Education and Business Administration. She is married, has four children and actively involved in the Holton School District where she also works.
2000s

Jeanine Ferry (2000) – After attending MCC Jeanine transferred to Eastern Michigan University, and currently works for Mercy Health Partners and MCC.

Rebeka Ambrose (2002) – After earning an Associate’s Degree from MCC, Rebeka later received a Bachelor’s Degree from Michigan State University. She has two children and works in Information Technology for Ambrose Chiropractic Office.


David Martin (2005) – After receiving his Associate’s Degree, David earned a Bachelor’s Degree in English at Grand Valley State University. He is currently employed as a landscaper, and remembers MCC instructor Rich Oman.

Cindy S. DeBoef (2008) – Current employee of MCC, Cindy graduated with AAS in Administrative Office Systems. She is currently secretary to the President of MCC.

Heidi Jo Holmes (2009) – After receiving her Associate’s Degree, Heidi attended Aquinas College and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and Communication in 2011.

2010s

Sara Thorsen (2010) – Sara received an Associate’s Degree in Childhood Development. The former Phi-Theta-Kappa member remembers friends in the honor society, and her work for the Student Life Department. Sara is currently a supervisor for Fairfield Inn and Suites.

Amy Deater (2011) – Amy earned an Associate’s degree in Arts & Sciences and later transferred to Ferris State University where she is currently working on a BA in Business Administration with an emphasis in Legal Studies. She was a member of Phi-Theta-Kappa. Amy lists her favorite memory as Kurt Troutman and the Model United Nations as a favorite. She is currently employed as a tutor at Ferris State University.

Lacey Scharphorn-Grattafiori (2011) – Lacey earned an Associate’s Degree in Arts and Science. Her favorite memory was Photography I and II with instructor Eleanor Gatewood. She is married, and is currently employed at PetSmart.

Stephen Abel (2012) – After earning an Associate’s with an emphasis in Drafting, and graduating from Western Michigan University in 2004, this alumnus has been present at MCC since 1978 as both student and instructor. He is currently employed at MCC as an adjunct in CAD and Blueprint Reading. Stephen is married, has 3 children, and 6 grandchildren. He commends MCC for its small class sizes and affordability.

MCC Alumni Events

Second Annual ReunionFest
October 20, 2012
MCC’s reunion party of the year! See ad in this issue for more details, and register online at: www.muskegoncc.edu/reunion. See you there!

Distinguished Alumni Award
nominations due Friday,
November 16, 2012
To nominate a deserving MCC alumnus, go to www.muskegoncc.edu/DAA.

Email Round-Up Contest for MCC Alumni
Send us your email address or update your profile information at muskegoncc.edu/alumni, and win a $50 gift card to Barnes & Noble! A lucky winner will be picked on December 2, 2012.

Alumni Reception and Play
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Meet up from 6-7pm in the Overbrook Art Gallery and enjoy the company of fellow alumni for appetizers and discounted $5 play tickets to see the classic A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

Distinguished Alumni Dinner
Tuesday, April 30, 2013
We will honor our pick for the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award in MCC’s Blue & Gold Room, 6pm.

MCC 2013 Commencement
Thursday, May 2, 2013
L.C. Walker Arena

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
MCC Faculty/Staff Updates

New at MCC:
• David Tannor, One-Year Contract Math Instructor at MCC
• Amy Swope, Advancement Assistant
• Mike Lorey, Full-Time Welding Instructor
• Ismael Enriquez, Full-Time Spanish Instructor
• Navidad Cortez, Administrative Paraprofessional, Human Resources
• Peter Koryzno, Communication Manager
• Jeffrey Hedges, Graphic Designer
• La Tonya Been, Upward Bound Clerk

Promotions:
• Kim Smith, to Department Secretary Education/Social Science
• Lois Smith, to Senior Financial Aid Clerk
• Aaron Hilliard, to Administrative Director of Human Resources

Retirements:
• Julie Bamfield
• Dennis Helmus
• Kathy Krentz
• Rick Hudson
• Jeff Stipes
• Julia Perez

“When I grow up...”

More than 3,000 visitors attended the 34th Annual Mayfest on the MCC campus on May 19. The event celebrates education by providing informative, fun-filled activities geared to youngsters. At the PNC Bank exhibit, children had the opportunity to tell organizers what they want to be when they grow up, and then to dress for their dream job and have their pictures taken.

Letters from our Readers - continued from page 3

Thompson, and Charles Greene for allowing me to use my talents to help guide the college toward being the Center for Education in the Western Michigan area. Each one of you has brought a vision that exemplifies what Muskegon Community College has and will continue to bring in the way of education and technological advancements to our service community. I will continue to be an advocate for the college and look forward to seeing how MCC will help my grandchildren get the same affordable and excellent education I and many others have acquired over the years.

With a humble spirit, I can’t express the words to thank my supervisors, co-workers, faculty, staff, maintenance, and all the people that I have had the distinct privilege to work with over the years. I love you all because you are my family. To all the students I’ve met, thank you for letting me guide you through your educational endeavors because to me it has been priceless to have been in a position to give back all that I have learned along the way.

There’s a saying that “time waits for no man,” but time has waited long enough for me to say goodbye to a place I love as much as life itself. I will retire on January 30, 2013 and see what new adventures life will bring.

With sincere gratitude,
John J. Morano, Associate Director of Enrollment Services
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 e-mail 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 Calendar

Through Nov. 1

Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity
Free shows at 7pm Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Carr-Fles Planetarium

Through Nov. 2

Overbrook Gallery: Brett Colley GVSU printmaking professor predicts “The Future” with gallery talk on October 10

Nov. 12 – Dec. 14

Overbrook Gallery: Brian Goodman MCC’s theater technician sets the stage

Oct. 17 – 21

Overbrook Theater: The Adding Machine by Elmer Rice

Oct. 24

Wind & Jazz Ensemble
Free concert in Overbrook Theater

Oct. 28

West Michigan Concert Winds
Halloween Concert
Combined concert with the Southshore Concert Band of Benton Harbor; at Reeths-Puffer High School Rocket Centre. Ticket information at (231) 557-3150

Oct. 28

College Singers
Free performance at Overbrook Theater

Nov. 6 – Dec. 13

Mystery of the Christmas Star
Free shows at 7pm Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Carr-Fles Planetarium

Visit muskegoncc.edu/calendar for complete event listings
Let’s Stay in Touch!
Please let us know if your address has changed, needs a correction, or if you’re receiving multiple copies by calling us at (231) 777-0571. And, we always love hearing from our MCC alumni! Let us know what’s happening in your lives. Maybe you’ve starting a new job or business? Got a promotion? Received an award or honor? Just retired? Share the good news with us online at www.muskegoncc.edu/alumni.

MCC Class of 2012
Passing through a canyon of thunderous applause from Muskegon Community College faculty and staff, the college’s newest graduates process into the Commencement exercises at the Frauenthal Center.