Calling All Alumni: MCC Publishing New Directory

Alum Wins Seat as Circuit Court Judge

Take a Walk on the Wild Side: Instructor Improves Kasey Hartz Nature Trail

Early College Program Provides High School Students Fast-Track to College Degree
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On the cover: 2013 Graduates celebrating their success at the May 2 Commencement ceremony
Photos by Peter Koryzno

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Letters from Our Readers

Path to Success
I was at MCC from 1958-1960. I took two years of French from Mr. Sheets. I was impressed with how devoted he was to the language, and that he had been to Paris and loved the city. I was ready to fly from home, and he encouraged me to find a summer job in another part of the country. I found a summer job at Acacia National Park. It was my first chance to travel and live on my own. I loved the experience. What I remember especially when I returned to school was meeting Mr. Sheets. He told me that he could see that my summer experience had changed me: I was more self-confident and focused. I think his interest and observations helped set me on the right path in life.

Judy Benham Weinstein

Proud and Involved Alum
Muskegon Community College was a big turning point in my life. Coming out of high school, I was lost and had no idea which direction to go. As it turned out, my two years at MCC gave me inspiration, maturity, and a good sense of myself to move forward with my future. I owe this to my instructors, honestly. I was so fortunate to find leaders with a passion at MCC. In particular, Jack Rice, Judy Brooky, Rich Oman, and many others, helped my find my path and gave of themselves while doing so. I think this is what a community college should be. There is a good reason why MCC is top-rated.

Even though I am talking about many years ago (eek, very many!) the quality of instructors and the strengths and variety of programs still makes MCC a great learning institution, both in knowledge, and in personal growth.

I continue to involve myself with MCC because it, to me, it is still one of my great learning opportunities. I will always be a proud MCC alum and I thank all of those people who have and still do inspire me.

Anette Buchholz, ‘80

Cultivated Life-Long Interest
I am following up on your invitation to comment on influential instructors during my stay at MCC. One person immediately came to mind. I had Mr. James Moyes for two semesters of Economics. His ability to communicate this complicated subject was critical to my development as a business major. If you let Mr Moyes know you have difficulty grasping an economic concept, he would go out of his way to explain the issue in a different manner and in real world terms. Certainly it helped with the small classes at MCC to develop close communication with the instructor.

After my first semester and earning an “A” grade, I immediately signed up for the second class. Mr Moyes continued to expand my knowledge and developed in me a sincere and life long interest in economics and American business. I used this base knowledge all during

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From the Editor

Subject Matters?
This issue’s “Letters from Our Readers” features recollections from alumni about instructors who had a lasting and positive impact. The influence is often made more indelible by a love of the subject matter. Certain subject matter in the hands of the right instructor can cause a switch to flip, and suddenly you are forever in love and turned on by chemistry, economics, or language.

MCC’s current facility improvement plan illustrates the need for the College to expand our facilities for science, the arts, and health/physical education. How did your MCC classes in these subjects impact you? What lessons still remain with you? Inquiring minds and readers want to know! Please send us your note about the study of science, arts, and health, what it means to you and why these subjects matter.

We appreciate your ongoing interest in MCC and look forward to hearing from you soon. ♦

Tina Dee, MS, CFRM
Director of Community Relations
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my undergraduate and graduate studies and even today I find myself reflected back on the economic principles taught to me by Mr. Moyes.

I’m not certain where Mr Moyes is today but I would welcome the opportunity to shake his hand and thank him for providing the springboard for my future success in business.

Roy Cowdery

Appreciating Caring Instructors
It may sound odd to some, but I still have a special place in my heart for political science instructor Kurt Troutman. It doesn’t matter that he and I have different views on politics; Mr. Troutman is very respectable and is open to others’ views, as long as you can “back up” your views. I fondly remember when our class took a mid-class break and during that time, Mr. Troutman went to the Registrar’s Office to obtain a handful of “drop slips” (for those who want to drop a class). When we returned from mid-class break, Mr. Troutman was upset because some students in our class were not engaged with the lecture and/or just did not care about the class; it was just a “filler.” Mr. Troutman’s behavior struck me in a very positive way. When I transferred to a four-year university, most professors do not care if a student drops the class or is not engaged in the class, since they “get paid either way.”

Ryan McCabe, A.S.A., ’08

Letters from Our Readers - continued from page 2
From the Desk of the President

Jayhawks: Stand Proud and Be Counted

Each time an edition of Reflections is penned, it reminds me how much of a leader Muskegon Community College continues to be in West Michigan. For 87 years and counting, our outstanding faculty and staff have helped countless students achieve their dreams. Let me share with you some examples of this:

- Based in part from her experiences as a student at MCC, Annette Smedley, J.D., acquired the skills to help her be elected as 14th Circuit Court Judge.
- Honor student and Phi Theta Kappa officer Mikaela Taylor was active in numerous MCC Overbrook Players productions, an active member of the garden club, and was recently accepted into the environmental studies program at the University of Michigan.
- MCC’s Early College of Muskegon County program, along with corollary programs in Newaygo and Ottawa Counties, provides hundreds of students with the opportunity to earn college degrees within one year of graduating from high school.

These wonderful achievements and more are chronicled in this edition of Reflections.

Moreover, the College is working with Harris Connect to update the Muskegon Community College Alumni Directory. Over the summer, well over 50,000 alums will be contacted to update their information for the directory and comprehensive database. Your support and participation of this project will allow alumni to reconnect with old friends, expand professional networks, and enhance greatly the ability of the MCC community to share our story.

I am very proud to serve you, the alums, students, faculty, staff and friends of Muskegon Community College. The things that you all accomplish allow me to “brag” every day about the College. You help bring meaning to the saying “once a Jayhawk, always a Jayhawk.”

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

Congratulations, Class of 2013!

Left: Diana Osborn, with her Distinguished Alumni Award, and former Vice President for Student Services Janie Brooks.
Center: Steven Fiorenzo, retiring business instructor, leads procession with mace.
Right: Graduates celebrate with families.
Alumni Profile: Annette Rose Smedley

MCC Alum Breaks Gender Barriers as Circuit Court Judge

By Julie Weller, Alumni Relations Manager

Annette Smedley, a 1995 graduate of Muskegon Community College, is the perfect example of what the power of an education is capable of — combined with perseverance and a lot of energy.

Smedley, elected in November 2012 as 14th Circuit Court Judge of Muskegon, is the first female voted to that position and the epitome of success in the workplace and the hard work required to get there. Graciously, she credits Muskegon Community College with helping her attain her career goals.

“The campaign trail was tough and long,” said Smedley, “but I had wonderful help from some MCC students out of Mr. Troutman’s [political science] class, which brings my college career to full circle. I started at MCC and now have a wonderful job with the help of MCC.” (see related story on page 7)

When Smedley began at MCC, she was married and had a child (she and her husband Everett have been married now over 32 years). Then he joined the U.S. Navy and they moved to Virginia for eight years before returning to Michigan. When the family moved back, Smedley resumed classes at MCC, intent on finishing her college education and also getting a law degree.

“Going to MCC for my first two years helped me to save time on traveling because I now had three children and a full time job but was even more determined to get my degree,” said Smedley. “My experience at MCC was amazing — the professors were always willing to work with me; the environment was always inviting whether it was educational or entertainment. MCC has a range of opportunities for its students. I look back fondly on my years there.”

Academically, she has earned a degree in accounting from Key Business College, an Associate’s in Arts degree from Muskegon Community College, a Bachelor’s in Political Science from Grand Valley State University and a Juris Doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Smedley accomplished all that while raising six children, working various jobs, and commuting to Lansing on weekends to attend law school. It’s somewhat exhausting just reading about Smedley’s accomplishments and it begs the question of why and how she set these lofty goals in the first place.

“My reason for becoming an attorney was that I thought I would love it and to my wonderful surprise I love it more than I ever imagined,” said Smedley. “I decided to become a judge when Judge Graves had to retire because of age, and there had not been an open seat in 30 years. I love being in the court room so I thought this was a great opportunity to move up in my career and maybe make a difference in people’s lives.”

Judge Smedley with husband Everett after the December 2012 swearing-in ceremony
MCC Students Mix Politics and Class

In MCC’s Introduction to American Government course taught by Kurt Troutman, students get hands-on experience with hometown politics. Troutman invites local political candidates to speak to his class, plus he requires the students to work a minimum of 20 hours on the campaign of their choice. In Fall 2012, Annette Smedley’s campaign for 14th Circuit Court Judge was adopted by numerous students as their class project.

“Over the course of her campaign, she [Smedley] came in to talk with the students three or four times,” said Troutman. “She’s a wonderful speaker. The students all really liked her. They went to her house to help with her campaign.”

According to Troutman, it may have been the involvement of the students which helped her win. “The margin of her win was small – without the hard work of the students, she may not have won that election.

“She is the smartest person I’ve met in 30 years in the business,” continued Troutman. “And after the campaign was over, she was back in the classroom thanking the students.”

Wrestling Scholarship Honors Dedicated Jayhawk

The recently established Dan Burt Memorial Wrestling Scholarship at MCC is a testament to the namesake’s love of the sport and his commitment to Muskegon Community College during his lifetime.

A former Jayhawk wrestler and assistant coach, Dan died on Jan. 15, 2012 after a courageous battle against cancer. The initial funds for the Dan Burt Memorial Wrestling Scholarship were raised through memorial donations from Dan’s family and friends and a golf fundraiser.

“Our goal is to continue to increase the scholarship fund through continued donations and the annual Dan Burt Memorial Golf Scramble,” said Ron Gaffner, who coached Burt at Spring Lake High School and MCC and later hired him as an assistant after Burt finished his career at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo.

The Dan Burt Memorial Golf Scramble is scheduled for Aug. 17, 2013. For more information, visit www.muskegoncc.edu/support.

As a wrestler, Dan helped MCC capture two MCCAA state championships from 1974-76. He then became a Jayhawk assistant wrestling coach and was part of the staff that guided MCC to an NJCAA national runner-up finish in 1980.

“Wrestling has been at Muskegon Community College for over 40 years, during which time we have seen many individuals and teams succeed at the national level,” said Gaffner. “This is the first wrestling scholarship established in honor of a former Muskegon Community College wrestler or coach. The scholarship will be used to help pay tuition at MCC for a graduating wrestler from a high school in Ottawa or Muskegon County.”

Gaffner recalled Burt’s strengths as a competitor and coach.

“He was an outstanding teammate. Although he wrestled heavyweight in high school, he trained down to the 190 lb. weight class in college to help the team. He was a team leader by example. I knew the same qualities he demonstrated as a wrestler would make him an excellent assistant coach.”

The late Dan Burt’s love of Muskegon Community College’s wrestling program inspired his family to establish a fitting legacy in his name to assist future student-athletes.
Student Showcase: Mikaela Taylor

Plan to Protect Our Natural Resources

MCC honor student Mikaela Taylor loves the Lake Michigan ecosystem for more than its beauty. She plans to make a career out of protecting it. After MCC, she will pursue environmental studies this fall at the University of Michigan.

“I basically want to work on water quality, aquifer depletion and water contamination,” said Mikaela, who came to MCC after attending Seattle Pacific University in Washington.

At Holt High School, she was involved with the Science Olympiad, school plays, and competed in soccer. She appreciates that MCC offered her similar extracurricular opportunities. An officer with Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Mikaela oversees a health awareness campaign for its Hallmark Project. She portrayed eight different characters in the MCC Overbrook Players’ recent production of The Laramie Project. She also helps with outreach efforts as an MCC Garden Club member.

“I’ve taken both the environmental science class as well as Biology 104, which is more environmentally based,” she said. “Those were really good courses and got you more involved with the community.”

Making a positive impact is important to her. She shifted her career focus from chemical to environmental engineering before honing in on the environmental studies aspect of it.

“We don’t necessarily need to engineer more things to find solutions,” said Mikaela. “We just need a better understanding what the earth has already given us and how to use it. When we affect other organisms, it in turn affects us.”

Mikaela Taylor found the ideal college in MCC for her varied interests in community service, acting, and concern for the environment.

Early Intervention Program Promotes Success

by Mike Alstrom, CIO, Ellucian

When it comes to using technology to help students succeed, Muskegon Community College is ahead of the curve. MCC implemented Course Signals in 2012 as part of its Early Alert System to warn students of impending academic “trouble” and help increase student success.

MCC is the first community college to use Course Signals on a continuous basis. Course Signals was pioneered at Purdue University, where Dr. John Campbell developed the predictive model it uses.

The color-coded “signals” appear on the student’s Blackboard page and in an e-mail to them, warning those who are at risk of under-performing in a course as early as two weeks into the semester. Students receive a stoplight signal indicating the level of their performance, and also receive a message from instructors that give each group directions on what they can do to make changes.

How does this make a difference? MCC compared student grade distributions in classes with Course Signals to previous courses without the program, with the same instructor and instructional method. Eleven out of 20 courses achieved a positive shift in success. In courses with 20 or more students where signals were sent within three weeks, seven out of nine courses showed a positive shift in grades. And, where five or more signals were sent, ALL of those classes had higher grades than previous courses without signals.

What do students and instructors think? Participating students were surveyed, and 75% found Course Signals an effective way to receive information. More than half said the message they received with their signal prompted them to use support services such as Tutoring Center or the Library.

Dan Bialas, the Business Department Chair, has been using Course Signals for the last two semesters. “We are trying to help the students be successful,” said Bialas. “If they can be successful, then we can be successful. I think Course Signals is a great tool to help improve that success rate.”
Instructor Insight: Theresa VanVeelen

Love of Nature Benefits Students and Community

By Peter Koryzno, Communications Manager

It’s all about respect – and MCC biology instructor Theresa VanVeelen is committed to teaching students and community members the importance of preserving and respecting nature.

The MCC campus sports a 15-acre tract of land known as the Kasey Hartz Natural Area, which is bisected by Four Mile Creek and recognized by The Michigan Natural Areas Council as a natural area preserve. The land was named after Mary Kathryn “Kasey” Hartz, an MCC instructor and avid naturalist, in 1974.

VanVeelen, who “needed a breath of fresh air,” obtained a sabbatical in 2012 from the College to study other natural areas and nature trails and offer suggestions for upgrading the Hartz area. A large portion of her work included research on the immense variety of plants and animals living in three distinct types of habitats along the nature trail. VanVeelen collected over 200 plant species, took over 300 photos, edited plant fact sheets produced by independent study students throughout the years, and created new trail brochures for trail visitors. MCC’s graphics department and internship students aided in developing the final brochures.

“The Kasey Hartz Natural Area is an outdoor laboratory,” says VanVeelen. “Not only do we want to preserve the ecology of the area, but we want visitors to appreciate the complex relationships between plants and animals, and also enjoy being outdoors to bird watch, hike, or photograph nature.”

The nature trail is a favorite of elementary students who come to learn about ecology and plant life, and hope to catch a glimpse of resident critters such as squirrels, frogs, toads, chipmunks, red fox, and snakes. Visitors can choose a self-guided option using fact sheets and the trail guide or opt for a guided tour. Reservations are required. Call (231) 777-0273 for more information.

Improvements are ongoing and the wish list includes additional signage, handicap accessibility for the entire trail (first 400 feet available now), boardwalks and sidewalks, and removal of invasive species and other problem plants, to name a few.

“This is a beautiful area and we want more local residents to be aware of it,” says VanVeelen. “Unfortunately, the costs of the upgrades aren’t necessarily in our budget, and we don’t always have the extra hands we need for the work.”

If you have a love of the outdoors and wish to help out, VanVeelen can be contacted in the Life Science department at theresa.vanveelen@muskegoncc.edu. A wealth of information on the nature trail, natural area, and plant species can be found on the MCC website at www.muskegoncc.edu/trail.

Theresa VanVeelen shows her love of botany with an orchid specimen on a recent trip to Belize. Below: Community members, students, and MCC employees enjoy the Kasey Hartz Nature Trail.
Fueled by the success of its initial Early College of Muskegon County (ECMC) class, local school officials have been recruiting the next 50 sophomores to join the program later this summer.

In 2012, the first 50 eleventh-grade students began the intensive five-year high school program. With the exception of two students who left the area, the ECMC contingent is well on its way to earning up to 62 college credits from Muskegon Community College (MCC) while they finish their high school diploma, said Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) Superintendent Dave Sipka.

“We are extremely pleased with the efforts of these ambitious students,” said Sipka. “They have exceeded our expectations by maintaining about a ‘B’ average during a year of transition and demanding coursework. This is a huge jump-start for them as they work toward earning enough credits for an associate’s degree and diploma.”

Each public school district within the Muskegon...
Area ISD service area is guaranteed a percentage of seats for qualified students based on the district’s enrollment. Seats are also available for students from charter schools, non-public and home schools. The program is designed to serve students who are “at risk” of not enrolling in post-secondary education. The entire cost for the college courses, books, and materials is paid through the student’s high school per-pupil state funding. While an application and interview process are used to select students, test scores and letters of recommendation are also considered as part of the application process.

According to Early College Dean Erin Patrick, students receive a great deal of support from the MAISD, MCC, and local school staff. They are able to make use of MCC’s library, tutoring center, Special Populations Office, Counseling Center, Bookstore and Bartels-Rode Gymnasium.

“I could tell at both midterm and final exam times that students began to second-guess themselves and their academic abilities,” said Patrick. “The great thing that came out of those unsure moments was that students learned to see things through, be humble, and ask for help. This resulted in a very successful semester.”

Patrick said counselors, principals, and superintendents at the local districts have played a key role in the monitoring and encouragement of each ECMC student.

“They’ve been so easy to work with, and are now in the process of helping to identify fifty new students for next year,” added Patrick.

MCC faculty and administrators have also made the transition into college easy for the ECMC students.

“If a student was having trouble in a class, the MCC instructors and administrators were there to provide assistance during times of the day that were conducive to the ECMC students’ unique schedules, which made it more comfortable for students to approach them regularly,” noted Patrick.

“In addition to preparing more highly educated students to enter our workforce, we are opening doors for those students who in the past could only dream of college,” concluded Sipka.

Early College Programs Added in Ottawa and Newaygo Counties

Starting in Fall 2013, high school students living in Ottawa and Newaygo Counties will have the chance to participate in the Early College programs.

“The expansion is a natural since we have partnered with Newaygo and Ottawa counties for many years,” said Trynette Lottie-Harps, dean of continuing education and program outreach at MCC. “Early College programs have become more visible within the last three years. The districts were very interested in exploring this new territory.

“While the concept is the same as Early College of Muskegon County (ECMC) with the 13th year completion and earning both a high school diploma and an associate’s degree, students will not take their classes on the MCC main campus.”

Instead, classes will be offered at various locations in both Ottawa County and Newaygo County.
It can be very satisfying to leave a legacy. You demonstrate that you care and want to be a part of the future even as you were a part of the illustrious past. It doesn’t have to be difficult to make a gift that creates a wonderful legacy of caring and concern. Here are three easy ways you can support the future of Muskegon Community College.

1. **Give from your IRA or other pension account.** Simply name MCC as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401k or similar tax-deferred account and you will have assured that some of your assets will benefit the college. One satisfying additional result from this strategy is that these assets permanently avoid taxation.

2. **Give unneeded life insurance.** Many of us discover as we age that the insurance we carry may no longer be needed. Perhaps the children are all grown or the mortgage has been retired. Now those thousands of dollars in benefits can be reallocated to other current or future purposes. If you are certain you no longer need the insurance, consider gifting the policy to MCC now and receive a current income tax deduction for the cost or replacement value.

3. **Give and receive life income.** With CD interest rates at historically low rates, many of us are actively looking to increase retirement income. One great way to increase income may be through a life-income giving strategy such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Each of these instruments provide income for life, often at substantially higher rates than bonds or CDs, and offer a current charitable income tax deduction for a gift the college will not receive until your death. Life-income giving may provide some tax-free income as well. Contact the MCC Foundation office for more information about giving while retaining income from your gifts.

FMCC can help you decide which planned giving strategy makes the most sense for you. Contact us today and we can help you leave an MCC legacy.

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**John G. Thompson College and Community Fund is “TOPS”**

*By Trynette Lottie Harps, Dean Of Continuing Education and Program Outreach*

The T.O.P.S. Program was developed to provide a higher education learning experience for non-traditional high school students. T.O.P.S. stands for Tackling Obstacles, Possessing Success and this is true for many students in Alternative Education especially when you add life to the formula. Alternative and Community Education desired a challenge for their students who were motivated and had displayed success.

Thanks to support from the John G. Thompson College and Community Fund, Muskegon Community College was able to accept the challenge and develop a program to meet that specific need.

*continued on page 19*
Reflections Magazine

Scholarship Recipient Sharon Gifford

Scholarship Recipient Ready to “Pay it Forward”

Sharon Gifford, Muskegon Community College Nursing Program student and married mother of two, is well aware of the effects of stress. Academically, her financial stress has been lessened by receiving scholarship monies from the Amos Nordman and Muskegon District Nurses funds.

Because of the extensive work required to complete her nursing degree, Gifford quit her job a year ago to focus on her studies, making the scholarships essential in many ways.

“Of course, receiving scholarships is a great financial help for me and my family, but it also motivates me to want to do well and succeed,” said Gifford. “Not having the financial stress of having to pay for schooling out of my own pocket decreases the amount of stress in my life. It allows for me to face the stressors of school with a positive attitude, and has opened my eyes to see how blessed I have been in my life.”

Gifford attended the Donor Appreciation luncheon on a snowy day in February to show her gratitude to the attendees. “I am very thankful for those donors who are making my dreams possible,” said Gifford. “Thanks for this opportunity, hopefully this will influence others to apply for scholarships as they are a great blessing in life.”

Gifford graduated as a registered nurse on May 2 at the MCC Commencement in the L. C. Walker Arena.

“There are so many people out there willing to help and all it takes is to apply,” said Gifford. “Once this journey is done, I too hope that I can be an influence for good and pay it forward to others as others have paid it forward for me.”

Mysterious Treasures in the College Archives

We have instructor photos from the past we cannot identify! If you recognize anyone in these photos, please contact Paula McClurg, the College archivist, at paula.mcclurg@muskegoncc.edu
MCC Alumni Directory in the Works

Muskegon Community College, with the help of Harris Connect, is putting together a book of our alumni based on input from our graduates.

Our alumni change emails, jobs and locations often, making it hard to keep up with them. Therefore, we have contracted with Harris Connect to update contact information for our alumni so that they can stay current on MCC news, activities, and events.

Harris will also help produce a beautiful hardcover publication that will allow grads to reconnect with classmates and old friends, as well as network professionally. There’s no obligation to purchase the directory.

Harris specializes in alumni and membership publications and the data specifications involved with this type of project. MCC alumni will be contacted by email and/or regular mail or by phone over the next few months to verify and update their contact and career information. Plus, verified alumni will receive the new Alumni Association Membership card, with benefits and discounts, and a CHANCE TO WIN A FLAT SCREEN TV! Check www.muskegoncc.edu/alumnidirectory for updates.

For more information, contact Julie Weller, Alumni Relations Manager, at (231) 777-0461 or alumnirelations@muskegoncc.edu.

Party like it’s 1926!

Join us as we commemorate the 1926 founding of Muskegon Community College with a roaring twenties style celebration at The Lake House in Muskegon 6-8:30pm Thursday, September 19, 2013

Ticket are only $19.26 and available through 9/18/13 at muskegoncc.edu/founder and (231) 777-0571 $25 at the door

For more information, go to muskegoncc.edu/reunionfest, (231) 777-0461 or alumnirelations@muskegoncc.edu
**Donor Showcase: Laila (Hansen) Harshbarger**

**1949 MJC Grad a “Stellar” Donor for New Planetarium**

Without a bit of hesitation, Laila Harshbarger exclaimed, “The two years spent at Junior College were the best of my life!”

Included among all of the great memories from her two years at Muskegon Junior College were: meeting the man she would marry, her late husband John Harshbarger; singing in the choir; and writing for the college newspaper, Bay Window.

Those fond memories kicked into gear in 2010 with a “Reaching for the Stars” reunion of fellow 1948-50 classmates to support the renovation of the aging and outdated Carr-Fles planetarium. Traveling from her home in Ohio to attend, Harshbarger saw the need, and soon became a major supporter of creating a modern, digital experience which will educate and entertain for many years to come.

“The school has grown so much since Junior College,” Harshbarger commented. “You are doing a wonderful job!”

Harshbarger raised six children with her husband John, and returned to college in 1969 to eventually earn her master’s degree in history. However, the camaraderie experienced while attending MJC was something special, and she’s never forgotten it.

“I went to two other colleges, and never had the rapport I had at Junior College,” said Harshbarger.

What’s next on her bucket list? Another trip to Muskegon for a tour of MCC, walking the beach of Lake Michigan, and...Fricano’s pizza.

**Foundation for MCC Report**

**Annual Fund Campaign on Exceeds FY2012-13 Goals**

The Foundation for Muskegon Community College (FMCC) is close to meeting the annual fund campaign goal of $120,000. As of May 15, 2013, donors contributed a total of $109,607 to support scholarship funds, athletics, facility updates and other campus programs.

In addition, $24,304.61 was donated directly to the endowment and other funds at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

“I expect profits from the Jayhawk Scramble will put us at goal. It will feel good closing the year on target, so we can better support student success” said Tina Dee, Foundation Director. “The highlight of the golf outing is hearing the testimonials from scholarship recipients during the lunch presentations. They epitomize why we need to raise funds.”

Staff and board members are also working ahead on Founder’s Day, MCC’s most important fundraiser of the year.

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.

**FYTD Contributions**
(July 1, 2012 - May 15, 2013)

- Scholarships: $62,789
- Athletics: $7,829
- Unrestricted: $8,258
- Campus improvements: $25,318
- Academic programs: $2,147
- Other: $3,265
Alumni News

1950s

Adde Lou (Schott) Garter (1958) – After studying at MCC for two years, Adde earned a BS in 1961 and an MA in 1965 from Western Michigan University. She currently runs an art studio at her home in Muskegon.

1960s

John Miller (1966) – John studied psychology and history before moving on to Western Michigan University, earning a BA, and the University of Akron. He is now President of Student Senate Men’s Union and resides in St. Augustine, Florida.

1970s

Randy Pearson (1974) – After graduating with an Associate in Science degree in 1974, Randy enrolled at Michigan State University, where he graduated with a BS in Microbiology in 1976, and an MD from Wayne State University in 1981. After completing a residency in Family Medicine at St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing he joined the faculty at MSU where he is currently employed as a professor of post-graduate education. He lives in Lansing with his wife and three daughters.

Andy Hass (1975) – Andy attended MCC, and later transferred to Kalamazoo Valley Community College to take courses in solar and electrical engineering. He is currently a self-employed IT professional.

Allen Thomas (1977 & 2004) – Allen received his Associate’s degree in Automotive Technology and later attended MCC from 1996 to 2004, earning a degree in automotive, and Computer Technology. From there he went to Ferris State, earning his BS in Computer Information Systems, and MS in Information Security Management. He is currently an Automotive Technology instructor at Muskegon Community College.

1980s

Elizabeth Giammarco (1979) – After earning her Associate’s, Elizabeth went on to earn a BA in Psychology, an MS in mental health counseling, and a PhD in Psychology. Favorite activities at MCC were Poetry Club and dramatics. She currently teaches for a number of universities, and publishes books for introductory college classes.

Paula (Tillman) Butler (1980) – After earning her Associate’s in Criminal Justice, Paula attended Grand Valley State University and Thomas Cooley Law School for her J.D. She was admitted to practice law in Michigan in 1992 and is currently the Legal Advocate for the Office of Muskegon County Veterans Affairs.

Tina Garzelloni (1981) – After Tina earned her Associate’s degree, she attended Michigan State University and graduated in 1983. She remembers meeting people from other schools and studying in the library. She is currently employed at the White Lake Community Library.

Rev. Dennis J. McMurray (1983) – A former MCC basketball player, he attended MCC for three years, earning an Associate’s in business, and later earned a BBA at Grand Valley State University. He is now Senior Pastor at Renaissance Church, married and has three children.

Michelle DeWitt (1983) – Michelle earned her Associate’s in Business in 1983, and later received her BA in Marketing at Western Michigan University. She has published a book titled “Competitive Intelligence Competitive Advantage,” and is currently employed at Granite Transformations.

Karen Johnson-Cole (1987) – After concluding studies at MCC, Karen attended Grand Valley State University where she earned a BS in Criminal Justice in 1993, and an MA in Education from Western Michigan University in 2012. She had done adjunct work for Baker College for 14 years. The USAF and National Guard veteran is currently employed by Muskegon County Human Services as Child Haven Supervisor.

Shawn Freeman (1989) – Shawn is now employed at Dassault Systems after earning an Associate’s in Arts and Science.

1990s

Kelly (Van’tHof) Curow (1994) – After receiving her Associate’s in Criminal Justice, Kelly earned a BA from GVSU in 1996, and an MSA from Central Michigan University in 2005. She is married and has two children, and is currently works for the Department of Human Services in Muskegon.
Mary K (Hagen) Callahan (1995) – After completing general studies at MCC, Mary married in October of 2011 and currently works for the Saint Joseph Hospital of Atlanta.

Christine (Yeck) Fry (1996) – After earning an Associate’s Degree in Education, Christine earned a Bachelor’s in Education, English and Psychology from Saginaw Valley State University. In 2004 she earned a Master’s in Educational Leadership. She is married, has two children, and remembers MCC’s small class sizes and the willingness of instructors to help students. She is currently employed by Saginaw Township Community Schools.

Lisa Hackney (1996) – Lisa received an Associate of Arts, and Medical Transcription in 1996. She is a 2012 Grand Valley State University graduate with a Bachelors of Science in Liberal Studies with a minor in Human Resources. She is currently a Graduate Assistant at the Muskegon regional campus for GVSU.

Dr. Ramon Hinojosa (1997) – Ramon completed his general studies at MCC, and went on to earn a BS from Grand Valley State University in 2000, an MA from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2003, and complete his doctorate in 2007 at the University of Florida. He is married with two children, and currently works for the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Research Health Scientist.

2000s

Matt Wiedenhoeft (2003) – Once earning his Associate’s in Accounting, Matt founded and is the president of PALANO Consulting and Hockey Talent Management. He is married and has three children.

Shania (Brown) Beasley (2005) – After earning her Associate of Arts, Shania attended Grand Valley State University and earned her Master in Social Work. She currently works for the Department of Human Services in Muskegon.

Steve Mason (2006) – Steve earned an Associate’s Degree in Industrial Technology, and later attended Ferris State University. He is presently working for Sun Chemical, Inc.

2010s

Brad Austin (2011) – After completing studies in biomedical electronic technologies, Brad is now employed with Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids.

Amy Deater (2011) – This MCC alumni received her Associate’s in Arts and Science, and will complete her degree in Science in Business Administration and Legal Studies at Ferris State University. She is currently employed at Readerlink.

Coffey (Davis) Penn (2012) – Coffey returned to MCC in 2001 to earn her Associate’s in Social Work, and is currently employed with Mercy Health Partners.

Faculty/Admin

New Hires

Eduardo Bedoya, Director of Institutional Research & Grants
Debra Grube, Nursing Instructor
Mike Myers, Institutional Research & Grants Coordinator
Jerry Wallace, Enrollment Services Representative

Promotions

Heather Vanderzaden, to full-time Nursing Instructor

Retirements

Phil Anderson, Faculty/Applied Technology Department (36 Years of service)
Steve Fiorenzo, Faculty, Business (14 Years of service)
Elena Garcia, Faculty, Foreign Language (15 Years of service)
Terri Hoffman, Testing Center (14 Years of service)
Mary Ottman, Testing Center (40 Years of service)
Sandy Ring, Student Life (27 Years of service)

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) 777-0461. 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.
Events

**Academic/Enrollment**

**MCC Ottawa Open House**
3-7:30pm Tuesday, July 16
Enrollment and registration information, register to win $500 scholarship!
422 Fulton, Grand Haven

**Fun in the Sun Open House**
10am-2pm Friday, August 9, 2013
Enjoy live music and refreshments at our outdoor open house while learning about MCC!
Main Campus

**Fall Classes Begin**
Monday, August 26

**Arts, Humanities, and More**

**49th Annual MCC Student Art and Design Exhibition**
9am to 4pm May 18 through Sept. 11
Overbrook Art Gallery, Main Campus

**Oasis in Space**
7pm Tuesdays and Thursdays through June 13, 2013
Carr-Fles Planetarium, main campus

Follow Jayhawk Athletics on Twitter @jayhawkathletic!

**Main Events**

**Foundation for MCC Jayhawk Scramble**
8am-2pm Friday, June 14

**Founder’s Day**
6-8:30pm Thursday, September 19

**Alumni Events**

**Parties in the Park Alumni Get-Together**
Friday, August 2, 2013

**ReunionFest**
Saturday, October 5, 2013
Main Campus

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“TOPS” continued from page 12

The John G. Thompson College and Community Fund is administered by Suzi Norbeck Thompson and former MCC President John “Jack” Thompson. The purpose of the fund is to support local programs that “benefit the community in a significant way through a college-community venture.”

The T.O.P.S. Program provides a supportive hands-on experience to students who have visions of attending college but not quite sure how to make it happen. The objectives for T.O.P.S. are to connect Alternative Education students to our campus, to prepare them for future career goals and to take the students to the next level of their education. In order to fulfill this mission, we developed three phases of the program. Each phase gradually transitioned students to more empowering information and a deeper experience which we believe will provide a better understanding of what is expected.

In Phase One, students attend the College Bootcamp hosted by Enrollment Services. The purpose of this workshop is to eliminate possible fears, stress and anxiety non-traditional students have experienced when entering a college environment. Students receive basic information about new student orientation, Placement Testing, Career Assessments, Financial Aid and the Scholarship Process, Time Management, Study Skills, Instructor’s Expectation of Students and How to register for classes.

Phase Two gives students the opportunity to take their first college course, College Success Seminar (CSS) and earn 2 college credits. This class was designed to develop and reinforce skills, abilities and behaviors that promote personal and academic success. Some of the topics covered are Effective Note Taking, Productive Study Skills, Reading and Remembering, Critical Thinking, Library Skills, Basic Computer Skills, and much more.

Diversity & Inclusion Training is the third and final phase for T.O.P.S. This training orientates students to understand and embrace people from different backgrounds and cultures. The T.O.P.S. students are familiar with their high school instructors and staff longer and feel more comfortable with them. We want them to be able to open up their perspective of others while educating them that they are a part of a much larger world. What they do and what they say affects more than just themselves or their families. They are contributors in our growing world that is constantly changing. Finding themselves and accepting others that may be different is the beginning to making a better world.

We feel these three phases will best prepare students for a successful journey. Students are recommended by their school’s staff. Those students participate in an interview with the T.O.P.S. Selection Panel consisting of faculty and staff from MCC, as well as staff from Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University. The interviews give students a chance to share their educational goals and commitment to the program.
ARE YOU TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?

Take Jayhawk along, place him in your photographs, post on MCC’s Facebook profile, and be in the running for monthly prizes! Details at muskegoncc.edu/travelwithjayhawk.

1. Cut
2. Connect
3. Take a photo
4. Post on Facebook
5. Be eligible for prizes!
Remembering Those Who Served
The MCC campus community reverently honored those who served our nation with a 21-gun salute, the playing of Taps and the military branch anthems, and emotional speeches by veterans, both young and old, on Veterans Day in November.