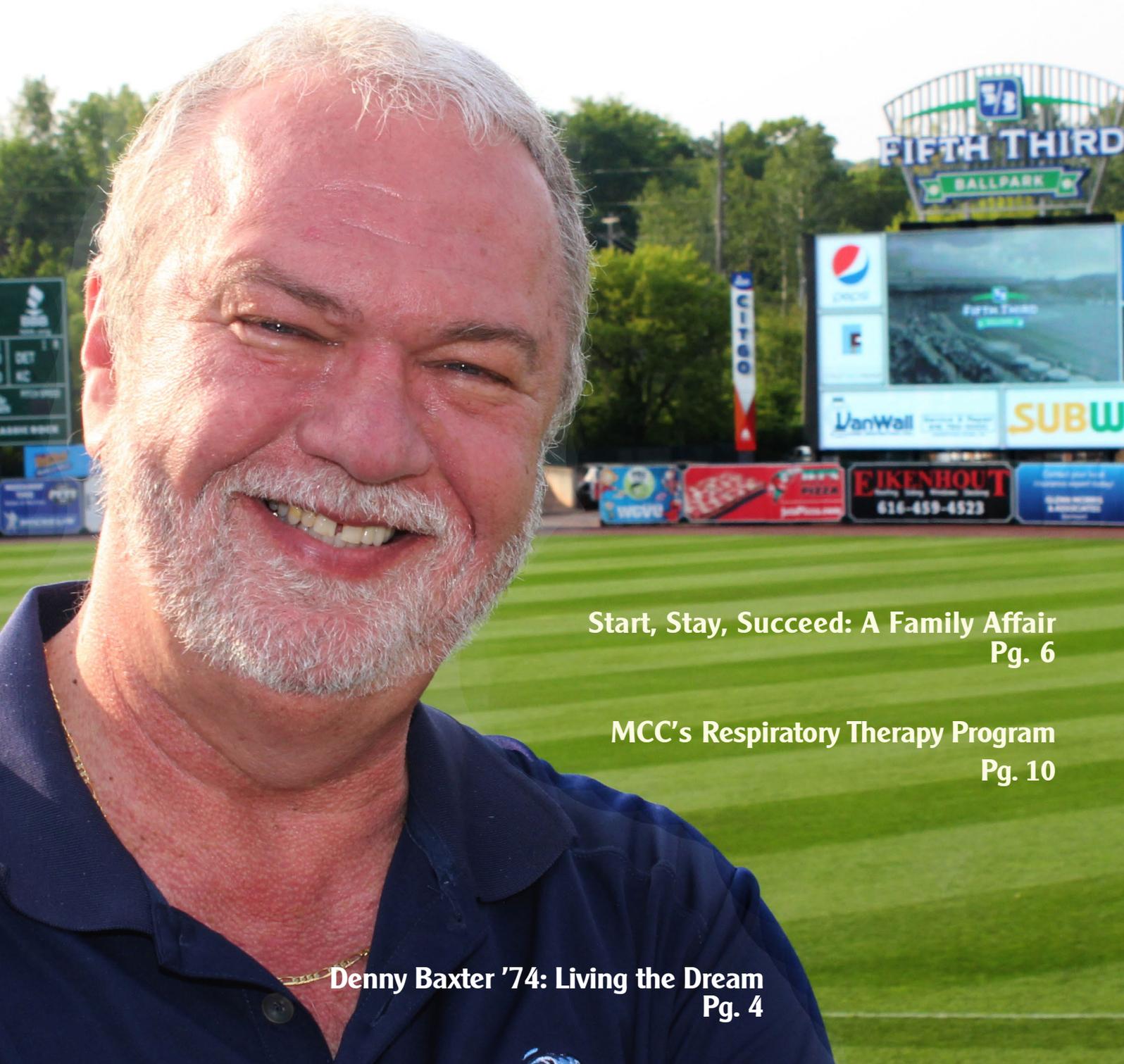


REFLECTIONS

Muskegon Community College Magazine

For Alumni, Retirees & Friends of MCC

Winter 2018



Start, Stay, Succeed: A Family Affair
Pg. 6

MCC's Respiratory Therapy Program
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Denny Baxter '74: Living the Dream
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Muskegon Community College

Letter from the President



Keeping pace with the dynamic changes happening here at Muskegon Community College requires periodic updates. One of my distinct honors as president is to share our many accomplishments.

Since the last Reflections, the College celebrated the grand opening of the Lakeshore Fab Lab and the Rooks/Sarnacola Entrepreneur Institute. Joining us in early June at the downtown locale were students, residents, business leaders, elected officials and philanthropists. (see page 16).

Our Sturris Technology Center hosted Governor Rick Snyder and other State leaders for the signing of the Marshall Plan for Talent, an initiative intended to fundamentally restructure Michigan's education and talent development system. (see page 9).

On main campus, much is happening as well. Our world record-setting Automotive Technology program moved into its new home – a renovated and expanded Plant Building located to the north of the Stevenson Center for Higher Education.

Moreover, the grand opening of the \$14 million, MCC Health and Wellness Center on Nov. 27 will transform our campus. (see page 19). Beginning in January, our students and staff will begin to reap the benefits of the well-designed, 52,000 square foot facility. A collaborative effort of the College, Mercy Health, and Grand Valley State University, the Center will house multiple MCC programs, including Health and Physical Education, Medical Assistant, and our new Simulated Mannequin laboratories. Notably,

a fully equipped and staffed Mercy Health Primary Care Clinic will address the medical needs of the underserved eastern quadrant of Muskegon County.

In September, we welcomed a new sculpture piece on campus that honors the late Dr. Doris Rucks, who was a prominent figure in the community. She served as an esteemed faculty member at MCC and Grand Valley State University. MCC alumnus Ari Norris sculpted the piece located near the Stevenson Center Entrance. (see page 15 and back cover)

In October, the return of the dueling pianos show highlighted the 2018 Founder's Day Celebration. More than \$18,000 was raised to benefit the Jayhawk Pantry which helps feed our students who might otherwise go without a daily meal. (see page 12 and 13).

We are constantly seeking to improve the educational experience for our students and our contributions as a community partner. I wholeheartedly invite you to stop by campus to see our changes firsthand and to fully participate in all that MCC has to offer.

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

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President's Blog
Dale Nesbary, Ph.D.

presidentblog.muskegoncc.edu



News and updates from
all MCC athletic teams

twitter.com/jayhawkathletic



Founder and president of Blue Cap Entertainment, Denny Baxter (lower right) and some of his staff pose with members of the rock band Kansas.

Denny Baxter '74: Living the Dream

By Peter D. Koryzno
MCC Communications Manager

On a late August evening at Fifth Third Ballpark, MCC alumnus Denny Baxter '74 gazes down from the conference room windows and surveys the colorful landscape which, 25 years earlier, he and business partner Lew Chamberlain had created from nothing.

West Michigan Whitecaps players complete pre-game warm-ups. Fans devour monster hot dogs, burgers and elephant ears. Kids scurry up and down playground equipment. Without a doubt, this pristine Comstock Park, MI complex has become a top regional summer destination for fun since the two owners brought professional baseball to Grand Rapids.

"It's a perfect match, minor league baseball and families in West Michigan, right?" asks Baxter, "But you go back 30 years and people literally would say to your face, 'You're an idiot. You are out of your mind. Sports do not work in West Michigan. We've never had a professional franchise here that's made it.'"

From their very first meeting over the phone in 1984, Baxter, an accountant and financial analyst, and Chamberlain, a lawyer and businessman, uncannily shared the same vision to succeed where others had failed.

"Baseball is just a centerpiece to build everything around," explains Baxter about their formula. Their commitment to it has never wavered. Along the way, they have surrounded themselves with exceptional staff who bought into their philosophy, added their own ideas, and, in doing so, have made the West Michigan Whitecaps the national barometer by which Class A baseball team organizations are measured today.

"The baseball is really cool and really neat," he continues. "The kids at this level are just getting started and they love the attention, so they are very approachable. There's a connection that happens there. But our pitch is much bigger than baseball. We made sure that families felt comfortable here. A lot of people come to these games and literally walk away not knowing if we won or lost. They're here because it's like this summer outdoor picnic. There's not a lot of activities where the 9-year old and the 90-year-old can go to and have an equally good time. Mom likes the whole family here and the neighbors are just chit-chatting back and forth. We've got the parking lot right here, so you're not walking through neighborhoods to get here."

Baxter admittedly heads the list of those who love the place. "Make no mistake about it, this is literally home for me," he says. But long before he built Fifth Third Ballpark, Baxter's field of dreams as a youngster was an open field across from his Muskegon Heights home on Waalkes Street.

"We played there all day long," says Baxter, the sixth of seven children. "You'd hit into the trees and that was a home run. Then, as you got bigger, you started hitting into people's back yards and that started to be a problem. Everyone sharing a bat. Sometimes they were broken and held together with a nail and electrical tape. Gosh, it was great fun."

Baxter's passion for baseball came from his two grandmothers - one whose radio was tuned to the Chicago Cubs in the afternoon and the other one to the Detroit Tigers at night. He remains a fan of both teams and was at Wrigley Field when the Cubs won the

World Series. The Whitecaps, being a Tigers affiliate, has provided close relationships with his childhood heroes.

"Al Kaline, Willie Horton, Denny McLain - these guys you loved growing up - now they're associates, your family," he says. "I got an email from (Boston Red Sox General Manager) Dave Dombrowski today. How did a kid from the Heights get connected and talking to all these different people? I don't know how it happened. It was like one action after another and here I am. It certainly wasn't planned."

Baxter attended Muskegon Heights Public Schools until his junior year, when he transferred to Muskegon Catholic Central. He always loved numbers, calculating batting averages and the like, but was never a great student to that point. He found himself in the counselor's office being chastised for wasting his educational opportunity. So Baxter grabbed an accounting pamphlet off the rack and quickly announced that he could indeed be an accountant and began his career path that day.

After graduating from Catholic in 1972, Baxter attended Muskegon Community College. The experience, he says, changed his life.

"I truly valued my time there," explains Baxter, who resides in Norton Shores. "It was really a foundation piece in terms of what I became. I was not necessarily the ideal student. The college kind of straightened out my path. It was certainly an inexpensive way to get that foundation work done. I was able to maintain a job and yet begin to find out seriously what academics were. The great thing about community college was the coursework was good. Every credit transferred. And it certainly gave me some confidence that I could achieve at a higher level."

After earning an associate's degree from MCC, he attended Michigan State University and earned a bachelor's degree with high honors in accounting. He landed a job with a small CPA firm in Grand Rapids, then worked with for eight months with a larger client base at Siedman & Siedman. One of its young and aggressive clients, the ELJON Group, attracted his attention.

"I've always been somewhat of a maverick," says Baxter, who took a job with that unconventional client headed by "two young guys who were buying up companies all around the Grand Rapids area."

"Right away, I went from an accountant to a financial analyst. They had a number of different kinds of companies - computer equipment, building materials, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company, a roofing company, a contracting company, an equipment rental company - at different points in time. These guys were going to conquer the world. I was the guy that was going to go in there and fix it up for us. Tell us what's going on, figure it out and then tell us what we've got to do."

"It was great exposure for me because I saw a lot of different businesses and how they worked. And sometimes, some things are fairly obvious about what the real core principle is for success for them. Sometimes they are not. There's something underneath that, if you don't do that right, it doesn't matter what this is, you're not going to get there."

"People look at the Whitecaps and think that it's baseball. It's not baseball. That's one of the things I learned right away. There's a business here and it's a customer service activity. If you focused on just baseball and how to get the perfect pitching mound, or what not, you're never going to get it done. You had to understand the business elements of this and that's what it took to bring baseball to West Michigan. It was a business approach, not a baseball approach."

While at El Jon, Baxter watched with interest at a failed attempt in the early 1980s to bring pro baseball to Grand Rapids. His knowledge of the community, its entrepreneurs, and his business experience told him the project should have worked. On a lark, he got the names of baseball league presidents out of *The Sporting News* and phoned one. The president was willing to fly to Grand Rapids the next day. Baxter put the brakes on, but knew he was onto something.

Baxter conducted a marketing study and produced some casual designs, but a plan for a City of Wyoming ballpark was voted down. Chamberlain, who separately longed to bring a team to Grand Rapids, was encouraged by his wife to call Baxter. The two catalysts joined forces on their decade-long quest to make professional baseball a reality in the Furniture City.

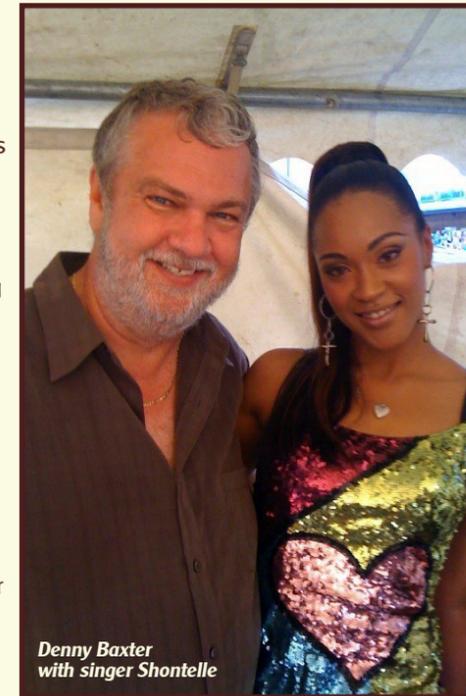
They bought an inactive Midwest League franchise and sold it for a team in Wausau, WI, which they ran for a season. They wanted to move the team to Lacrosse, WI, before that city backed out, so they chose Kane County, outside of Chicago, in Geneva, IL.

"The idea of being in the suburbs of a major league market wasn't bad, it was great," admits Baxter. "It was all those folks who didn't want to pay the huge money to go downtown. We had big attendance. Now the numbers that were happening there were mirroring marketing studies I had here in Grand Rapids."

Their success in Illinois parlayed into a resurgence of Grand Rapids investors. Baxter and Chamberlain, meanwhile, realized they could fund their own stadium. Old Kent Bank bought the naming rights and Comstock Park offered a location. So they severed ties with Kane County and bought a Madison, WI, team affiliated with Oakland A's that eventually became the West Michigan Whitecaps.

"Lew and I let folks do their job," says Baxter, looking back on the franchise's achievements. "We're pretty heavy-handed as it relates to our

vision and making sure we operate within that vision. But outside of that we've been really fortunate. I think our hidden talent outside of being stupid enough to take the project on was that we hired some really good folks. Those folks are what's responsible for all of this. It's almost embarrassing to get an award because they're the ones that did the work. They're the ones that carried this thing out."



Denny Baxter with singer Shontelle

After a quarter-of-a-century at the helm, Baxter and his partner are in the midst of a succession plan to transition them from day-to-day operations into chairman status.

Ever the entrepreneur, Baxter can now focus more attention on his company, Blue Cap Entertainment, which he started about 15 years ago as a way to fully utilize Fifth Third Ballpark throughout the year. A diehard boxing fan, he first envisioned rekindling the popular outdoor matches held during the sport's heyday in places like Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds.

"The next thing you know I am a boxing promoter," says Baxter, who still wears the "bling jewelry" around his neck that his late wife, Cheryl, gave him to look the part. Soon, he was organizing fights in casinos that boasted the likes of Hasim Rahman, Paul Spadafora and Bronco McKart. That transitioned into mixed martial arts and eventually to musical acts, starting with Vanessa Hutchins and Corbin Blue from *High School Musical*.

"They were not successful financially, but we produced them well," he says of the latter. "I've always had this thing that your reputation's on the line. Even if you sell three tickets, the three people that bought them,

bought them with an expectation of a show. They deserve to get that show."

Minor league baseball stadium owners who own multiple parks caught wind of Baxter's promotions and contacted him to do shows. Respected as a successful baseball franchise owner, he now coupled that with his behind-the-scenes knowledge of concert promotion. Teams are increasingly calling him these days.

"I talked to every single team in baseball, every single one," he says. "I am more connected in baseball today because of music. I am the concert guy for ballparks."

In 2018, Baxter will promote about 40 concerts across ballparks from California to New England, featuring artists such as Jason Aldean, Snoop Dogg, Nelly, Alice Cooper, Jake Owen, Chris Jansen, Rascal Flatts, T.I. and Lil John. He fondly recalls his very first Fifth Third Ballpark concert with Top 40 artists Florida and Sean Kingston. He was reluctantly pressured into bringing a third act and chose an unknown kid whose only performances were on YouTube.

"It was Justin Bieber," says Baxter. "His first real stage show was here in the ballpark. He was terrible. He was 14 years old. But the place went nuts. Everybody was here for him. I had no idea who he was."

The thrill for Baxter, whether it be a ballgame or a concert, remains the same.

"It feels good making something out of nothing," he concludes. "We did that with baseball here. And when you see people leave, see the smiles on their faces and you know that somebody is there for their first show, or first date, or somebody is making a proposal there, you name it, I had a part in that. Somebody's happy because of something that I did. That's not a bad thing."

What advice would give to an MCC student who has his or her own business idea but has doubts about pursuing it?

"Chase it," he replies. "Don't have doubts. There are going to a lot of people in the world that will tell you, 'No,' but you should not be one of them. If you believe in it, go after it. You might not win, but you will be surprised sometimes what you pick up along the way. You'll be shocked that a connection leads to a different job, a whole different career. You don't know. There are going to be people all over the place saying that you can't do that. You listen and you'll live in a box. Don't tell yourself no. Give yourself that shot."

Start, Stay, Succeed: A Family Affair



From left to right: James Hylan, Judy Hylan, William Grant, Janet Grant, Dorothy Hylan, Julie Hylan Nash, Cary Nash

"Many of the professors were absolutely world class. Muskegon Community College is a great start."
~ Bill Grant

Muskegon Community College is more than a stepping stone for a local family, it is a family affair that has lasted over 60 years! Start, stay and succeed is the foundation for the Grant family legacy that began in 1958 with the patriarch of the family William Grant and his wife shortly after in 1962 Janet Grant. All of the siblings, all of their children, and seven of their grandchildren have attended Muskegon

Community College. Now the third generations has recently completed their stay and are on to successful careers. Born and raised in Western Michigan, Muskegon Community College was the ideal options with a diversity of career interests and transfer options after completion. Current MCC faculty and education coordinator, Jennifer Jones is in the middle of the pack. She has taught for eight years in the current position

and reached out to family members to piece together the highlights. The timeline shows the career paths, and highlights the college and universities where they continued their education. "MCC was the best start for me and my children. Life has brought me full circle coming back home and doing what I love at an institution that started my career on the right path!" said Jones.

William G. Grant
1958
Mechanical Engineering,
Michigan Technological University, B.S.M.E.
Aquinas College, M. Mgmt
• Head of Engineering, Sealed Power/SPX
• Consulting Engineer

Janet Hylan Grant
1962
Medical Technology,
Western Michigan University
Hope College, B.A.
• Medical Technologist
• Artist

James Hylan
1971
Education,
Olivet College, B.A.
• Choir Teacher
35 years
Charlotte, MI

Julie Hylan Nash
1978
Education,
Michigan State University, B.A.
Grand Valley State University, M.Ed.
• Reading Specialist
• Elementary teacher

Scott Grant
1987
Plastic Engineering,
Ferris State University, B.S.
Manufacturing Engineering,
Western Michigan University, M.S.
• Plastic Engineer
• Business Owner
• Engineering Consultant

Jeff Grant
1992
United States Army
• Financial Planner

Larry A. Grant
1961
Engineering,
San Diego State University, B.S.M.E. and M.E.
• NASA
• Business Owner
• Products on the Moon

Doris Goudzwaard
1970
Education,
Western Michigan University, B.S.
• Elementary Teacher
21 years

Judith Kay Goudzwaard Hylan
1971
Elementary Education,
Western Michigan University, B.S.
• Elementary Teacher
• Support Staff

Susan Henry
1986
International Studies,
Alma College
Hope College, B.S.
• Pricing Coordinator
• Oil Business

Jennifer Jones
1990
Education,
University of Michigan
Baker College, B.B.L
Grand Valley State University, M.ED
• College professor
28 years
• Business Owner

Linda Grant
1997
Sociology,
Western Michigan
University, B.A.
• State of Michigan
Case Manager
• Business Owner
• Hospital Support

"MCC was the perfect college for me for my first two years and a good transition between high school and university. I enjoyed my time there and value the education I received from quality teachers and professors."
~ Julie Hylan Nash

"I believe community college really makes a difference, especially with the residents in our town."
~ Jan Grant

Andrea Henry
2011
Electrical Engineering,
Michigan Technology University, B.S.E.E.
• Systems Engineer

Brandon Jones
2013
Criminal Justice and Sociology,
Western Michigan University, B.S.
• Police Officer
• Field Training Officer

Stephan Jones
2015
• Personal Banker

Ethan Jones
2016
Architecture,
Ball State University
• Student

Megan Grant
2012
Health Science,
Western Michigan University
B.S. Science
• Radiology
Mercy Health

Abby Volkers
2014
Medical Records,
Baker College
• Medical Records

Dakota Grant
2015
Software Engineering,
Western Michigan University
• Student



From left to right: John Stevenson, Jennifer Jones, Ethan Jones, Alexandria Biederstedt, Stephen Jones, Heather Jones, April Jones, Brandon Jones, Christy Grant, Jeff Grant, Linda Grant, Scott Grant, Susan Henry, Mike Henry, Janet Grant, William Grant

Cody Theil Wins Inaugural \$10,000 Sarnicola Entrepreneur Award

By Peter D. Koryzno
MCC Communications Manager



Cody Theil won the inaugural Sarnicola Entrepreneur Award, a \$10,000 grant from Nick and Ashley Sarnicola and the NextGen Foundation, presented to a Muskegon Community College (MCC) student whose entrepreneurial concept is judged the best in an annual competition.

Nick Sarnicola announced the winner on June 1 at the MCC Rooks/Sarnicola Entrepreneur Institute and Lakeshore Fab Lab Grand Opening in downtown Muskegon.

A surprised Theil, fighting back tears of joy, told the audience of more than 100 attendees, "Two years ago, I didn't even know how to enroll for a classes." I am a first generation college student. I never planned on going to school until a year and some change ago.

Theil's winning concept is to create a marketing company which taps into "an entire generation of hardworking young adults who are not being utilized...an unbeatable team of creatives and technical minds who are just waiting to be given their chance." Theil will connect this resource with today's small businesses and promising startups, who are "being crushed by the increasing costs of creative work. They're moving at a fast pace and don't have the time to do it themselves."

"Because I am part of this generation, I believe in us, and I know we can deliver," continued Theil. "We are a go-getter group who will face each challenge with raw creativity and natural talent. My team will be largely reimbursed in knowledge, experience, and portfolio work. While they will be paid, our costs per hour will be much lower than other firms."

"While all businesses can benefit from our service, we will primarily be targeting small businesses. Preferably those who are heavily invested in the West Michigan area and show a real passion for their craft and believe in their businesses. We will also be targeting startups and owners who show natural zeal."

An Indiana native whose family moved to West Michigan when he was an infant, Theil

graduated from Western Michigan Christian High School in 2015. During his junior year, he set his sights on a graphic design career. He enrolled at MCC in Fall 2016 when the Graphic Design Program was in a period of transition.

Theil praises MCC Business Department faculty members Kevin Kyser, David Stradal and Christopher VanOosterhout for making a difference in his life.

"They were just my biggest advocates," he explained. "They worked so hard to get a schedule for me and to get my courses. They really believed in me. Two years ago, I had no idea what college was about. You kind of always get this idea that you're going to be just another student, another number. And the fact that I got to come here and sit down with the business chair and put together a customized plan, it's unreal."

Theil developed his award-winning concept in Stradal's Entrepreneurship Capstone class at the same time he first learned of the Sarnicola Entrepreneur Award.

"On the first day of class, he told us a successful business doesn't just sell a product or service, it solves a problem," recounted Theil. "I thought about what's my biggest problem. It was the fact that I was a student working on my portfolio and had a little bit of success meeting with clients, but whenever I would email or cold call an agency, they didn't pay any attention to me because I'm just a kid. I really saw an opportunity to provide a solution for both businesses and students."

As for the award, Theil remembered thinking that at the time that it would be great to win, but that it was something out of reach.

"Then suddenly you're sitting in front of this webcam presenting your plan to Nick Sarnicola. It's the most nerve-racking experience. I've spent two years fine tuning this plan and then it finally comes down to this and it hits you and the sweat starts pouring out. What was really cool was meeting him in person and just shaking his hand. He gives you a hug and he's the most genuine, warmest person. The fact that he's real. It was a shock to me."

"I'm so excited that NextGen is fulfilling its purpose by helping to propel Cody into entrepreneurship," said Sarnicola. "He is an amazing young man who has a great business plan. I can't wait to see him in action and for NextGen to be his first client"

Theil earned a Graphic Design Entrepreneur associate's degree from MCC in May and currently plans to attend Grand Valley State University for graphic design this fall. In the meantime, though, he has already started meeting with NextGen's Patrick Adams on honing his concept to provide graphic design, marketing, and branding services to that firm's growing list of budding entrepreneurs.

"Cody wants to complete a bachelor's degree at Grand Valley State University while developing his business," said David Stradal, chair of the MCC Business Department and Director of the Entrepreneurial Studies programs. "The award is tailored over two years to enable him to earn that degree and succeed at both. It also includes mentoring provided by Executive Director of Next Generation Patrick Adams, Kevin Kyser, and myself.

"Not only is Cody an immensely talented designer and excellent communicator, he possesses a natural drive that will serve him well as a young entrepreneur," said MCC Graphic Design Instructor Kevin Kyser.

The Sarnicola Entrepreneur Award competitive process itself included two rounds of business plan presentations. In the first round each student had to present to a judging panel comprised of John Brocci and Ozeta Aaron from SCORE and Patrick Adams. The committee then selected two finalists, Theil and Ashley Jagnecki, to present directly to Sarnicola.

"Nick was very impressed with both presentations but in the end Cody's unique and timely idea for a student-based marketing firm resonated more with Nick than Ashley's Mexican-themed food truck," explained Stradal. "All the judges thought Ashley's idea was extremely viable and encouraged her to pursue that dream."

Stradal admittedly was impressed with all the MCC students who competed for the Sarnicola Entrepreneur Award. "All have the potential to be strong, local, entrepreneurs," he said.

MCC's Entrepreneur Program continues to help high school, college students, and adults to develop strong business ideas for local businesses to grow our economy. For more information please call David Stradal at (231) 777-0304.



Governor Tours MCC and Signs Marshall Plan for Talent

Gov. Rick Snyder visited Muskegon Community College's Sturuss Technology Center in Downtown Muskegon on June 26 when he signed into law the Marshall Plan for Talent.

The initiative is designed to connect employers with educators, to pair students with in-demand careers, and to encourage apprenticeships and mentorships with an educational focus on certifications and occupational licensing.

During his visit, Snyder also toured the Lakeshore Fab Lab, located in MCC's Rooks/Sarnicola Entrepreneur Institute, as well as two of the college's applied technology programs – automation and welding – inside MCC's Sturuss Technology Center.

The Marshall Plan for Talent will:

Set aside \$100 million to prepare students for the 21st century economy, including \$10.5 million for career navigators, who are dedicated to help guide students toward their career and associated academic goals. These navigators will be supported by additional tools such as a web-based career exploration platform that connects students to internships, job shadowing opportunities, and other such options in their local area.

Let schools change the way they educate students, using a competency-based approach that results in high-demand skills and credentials.

Allow funding to be used for equipment, additional staff, new curriculum, professional development, industry mentors, testing fees, and other tools schools need to deliver these experiences to students.

Create Marshall Plan Talent Consortia – groups of educators and employers that partner to change the way students are prepared for careers. This will truly connect educators and employers to ensure that students experience a seamless transition from school to employment to lifelong learning.

Fund \$20 million in scholarships and stipends for high school students and low-income residents to get high-demand credentials.

Establish the Innovative Educator Corps, a group of highly-skilled, proven, innovative educators that are nominated by their local schools to be honored for their excellence. These educators will receive stipends from the state and travel around Michigan to share their innovations with others.

Creates an awareness campaign for attracting businesses and talent to Michigan.



Respiratory Therapy Director Debra Grube assists MCC students (left to right) Christy Pladies, Brad Burgess and Hannah Hoffman with learning how to intubate, suction and resuscitate a baby during an emergency procedure.

Respiratory Therapy Program

Respiratory Care Practitioners work in a fast-paced environment where technical and scientific responsibilities are matched by a real need for human relations skills.

They are involved in a wide range of life-supporting and life-saving activities. RCPs provide assessment, diagnosis and treatment to patients suffering from heart and lung disorders. They administer life supporting therapies such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, oxygen and inhaled drug therapy, and mechanical ventilation to the adult, pediatric and newborn intensive care units.

This program offered at Muskegon Community College has grown significantly since its inception under the leadership of Dan Knue in 1980 from an 8 month certificate program to now being a 28 month Associate in Applied Science Degree program. Now under the direction of Debra Grube, the program continues to evolve.

In 2015, the Respiratory Therapy Department went through a complete renovation. Prior to 2015, this department consisted of a combination classroom and lab. After the renovation the department has now expanded and includes a state-of-the-art classroom with 82-inch TV monitors, a 4-Bed Lab, 2 Individual Testing Rooms, a Storage and Resource Room and a Medical Gas Room. The lab area and the 2 individual testing rooms are set up like a real life patient room complete with oxygen, air and vacuum.

Additionally, this program continues to expand offerings beyond Muskegon to Traverse City. Whenever there is an RT class or lab being held at MCC, there is a cohort of RT students that are participating in class in Traverse City. The MCC Respiratory Therapy Program has a group of students that meet in Munson Medical Center. The hospital has a designated classroom for the RT students that is located next to the RT Department in the hospital. A TV system is used that allows the MCC faculty to teach in real time

to the MCC students as well as the Traverse City students. The students in Traverse City do the majority of their clinical rotations at Munson Medical Center as well as several other hospitals in the northern Michigan area. There is a long-standing relationship with Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City where the students can take the classes they need in order to be ready to apply for the RT Program at MCC.

The future of Respiratory Therapy is very strong. The US Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics from 2017 states the employment of Respiratory Therapists is projected to grow 23% from 2016-2026, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. The current minimum requirement is to obtain an Associate's Degree, then pass the national credential exam in order to apply for the state license so one can work as a Respiratory Therapist. Although the minimum requirement is an Associate's Degree, the profession is pushing to encourage students to go beyond the AAS degree for a bachelor degree. MCC has an articulation agreement with Grand Valley State University where those students can do their pre-requisite classes at GVSU then apply and come to MCC for the 28-month RT program and then return to GVSU to finish classes for a BS degree. The students who come through MCC can also go to GVSU once they have completed the AAS degree to obtain a BS degree.

The Respiratory Therapy Program at Muskegon Community College is another exceptional example of academic offerings provided to students that have changed with the workforce in order to best prepare graduates to succeed in the field. MCC Respiratory Therapy Alumni interested in receiving program updates and information about reunion events should contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 231-777-0461 or by emailing alumni@muskegoncc.edu .

In their own words:

MCC Respiratory Therapy Graduate Experience

Interviewed by Rachel Stewart

Muskegon Community College Alumni are leaders in their careers and Amanda Beishuizen is no exception! Now the Manager of the Mercy Health Muskegon Sleep Center & Memory Clinic, we caught up with Amanda to hear more about her own experience in the world of Respiratory Therapy.

What is your current job and what was your experience getting to this position?

I am the Manager of the Mercy Health Muskegon Sleep Center & Memory Clinic overseeing the Sleep Clinic, Sleep Lab, Memory Clinic and Neuropsychological Testing. I am a Certified Licensed Respiratory Therapist who was grandfathered in before all Respiratory Therapists needed to be registered. Upon completing my first year in the program, which was December 23rd, 1998 I gave birth to my first child on January 28th, 1999. Six weeks later, I started as a relief Respiratory Therapist at Mercy Hospital. I then added EKG Tech to my role along with covering the clerical position 1 day a week for the RT Department. After returning from maternity leave for my 2nd child in the Fall of 2001, I transferred to the Sleep Lab at the Mercy General Campus. I started as the office secretary, which allowed for full-time work during the day. Over the next year and half, I learned as much as possible about performing sleep studies and passed the International Boards to become a Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT). From there, I worked 3rd shift as a sleep tech until 2009 when I was asked to transition to daytime hours to focus on getting the Sleep Lab accredited with the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) until I was promoted to Manager in late December 2009. A few years later, I was asked to also lead the Memory Clinic which had relocated onto the same floor as the Sleep Lab. I was a project lead for the construction of the new Mercy Neurosciences building located on the Mercy Campus at 1277 Mercy Drive which opened in July of this year. This building includes the Sleep Clinic, Sleep Lab, Memory Clinic/ Neuropsychological Testing, as well as Mercy Health Healthcare Equipment DME, Outpatient EEG, and Outpatient PFT.

Why did you choose the Respiratory Therapy Program at Muskegon Community College?

I completed my Associate Degree at MCC, then went on to take classes at Grand Valley State University to pursue Physical Therapy. Unfortunately, due to large class loads while commuting back and



Amanda Beishuizen, Manager of the Mercy Health Muskegon Sleep Center & Memory Clinic

forth from Muskegon while working 3 jobs, my GPA fell below the required 4.0 to be accepted into the Master's Program. I still wanted to work in the medical field and after reviewing my options, I found that I could jump into the Respiratory Therapy Program at MCC immediately.

What did you enjoy most about the program?

I truly enjoyed the professors, Dan Kanue, Jan Fields, and Dale Devries. They created a comfortable, fun, and engaging environment that allowed students to learn together as a group. Our class was very close and often studied together outside of the classroom. The professors encouraged teamwork and were always available to answer questions.

Was there any particular faculty or staff member that made an impact on your experience in the program?

All the professors were great and supportive. Dale attended my wedding and reception and Dan helped to change my 12-hour 3rd shift clinical rotation at the end of my first year to a different location because I was approximately 30 weeks along in my pregnancy.

What kind of student would you encourage to pursue this career?

I would encourage anyone who is interested in joining the medical field. Respiratory Therapy is a great way to gain exposure to almost every area in a hospital or patient care setting from the ER, OR, and special procedures. It can be a stepping stone as it was for me, for a fulfilling lifelong commitment.

Fun Facts about MCC's RT Program!

The RT Department just completed the Self Study and Site Visit for their 10 Year Re-Accreditation passing with high marks and without any citations.

About 80% of the RT's employed in the Muskegon and Grand Rapids hospitals come from the MCC RT Program.

MCC's New Health and Wellness Center will have a Simulation Center in which the RT Department will be able to practice on patient manikins before going into the clinical setting.

Founder's Day Celebration

Over 150 students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate the 1926 founding of Muskegon Community College with a lively dueling piano show with proceeds benefiting the Jayhawk Pantry! Thanks to all for attending, sponsoring and celebrating--see you next year!



2018

New Downtown Live Concert Series to Showcase MCC and Community Musicians



The new Downtown Live Concert Series at the Frauenthal Center, 426 W. Western Ave., launched in October and will feature every Muskegon Community College music ensemble, as well as the Shoreline Symphony and West Michigan Concert WINDS which are affiliated with MCC.

The 14-concert series, which includes two groups that have performed at Carnegie Hall in recent years, continues through May 2019.

"I am extremely excited to see the collaboration of college students and community members for this Downtown Live Concert series," said Daniel M. Meyers, the MCC Director of Music. "Bringing quality music to downtown Muskegon to compliment the great performances already at the Frauenthal and more concert goers to downtown Muskegon to enjoy all the community has to offer are goals for us at MCC."

"The concerts give audience goers the opportunity to hear a wide range of music, from traditional to contemporary, and to see college, semiprofessional and even professional musicians performing great literature in an amazing historic venue. Many of the concerts will also have special guests performing alone and with the MCC ensembles making for some truly memorable concerts."

"The Downtown Live Concert Series is an exciting development in our long term relationships with MCC," said Howard Meade, past president of the West Michigan Concert WINDS and President of the Shoreline Symphony. "Development of the series theme was a collaborative effort of MCC, the WINDS and the Shoreline Symphony facilitated by Fineline Creative. A grant from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County partially funded this effort."

The Downtown Live featured musical groups are:

College Singers – The College's full soprano, alto, tenor, and bass (SATB) chorus features MCC students and community members performing a wide variety of the choral repertoire. The Singers are under the Direction of Nicholas Palmer.

Collegiates – An audition-based select SATB vocal group, the Collegiates perform a wide range of musical genres from the 17th century to modern contemporary works for small vocal ensemble. The Collegiates are under the direction of Nicholas Palmer.

MCC Wind Ensemble – Conducted by Daniel M. Meyers and entering its ninth year, the Wind Ensemble is comprised of MCC students, both music majors and non-music majors, interested in preparing and performing advanced wind band literature.

MCC Jazz Ensemble – Comprised of MCC students, the Jazz Ensemble performs traditional and contemporary big-band jazz repertoire.

MCC Honors Orchestra – Conducted by Philip DeYoung, the Honors Orchestra is a symphony orchestra for MCC students, as well as advanced high school students, performing standard orchestral works of the symphony orchestra.

Shoreline Symphony – An adult community symphonic orchestra, the Shoreline Symphony brings together volunteer amateur musicians and students from area colleges. The symphony was established in 2012 by founding music director, Annette Jurcevic, and by MCC. In 2017, Jurcevic won The American Prize in Orchestral Programming's Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award in the community division.

West Michigan WINDS – An adult community concert band celebrating its 40th anniversary this concert season, the WINDS has been affiliated with MCC since 1993. Music Director and Conductor Gail Brechting is in her 23rd year leading the WINDS. The band has performed at Carnegie Hall in 2016 and in England, Ireland, Wales, Austria, and Germany.

Downtown Live Concert Series 2018-19 Season Schedule

2018

Dec. 7 – West Michigan Concert WINDS present "A Cartoon Christmas" @ 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 10 – "All MCC Holiday Celebration" features instrumental and vocal ensembles and small group performances by students and faculty @ 7:30 p.m.

2019

Feb. 24 – West Michigan Concert WINDS present "Winners and WINDS" @ 4 p.m.

Feb. 27 – "MCC Music Spectacular" features MCC winds, percussion, vocals and strings – from soloists to large ensembles @ 7:30 p.m.

March 9 – Shoreline Symphony presents "Remix: old tunes, new grooves" @ 7:30 p.m.

April 13 – MCC Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble with local rock band Whoopee Kat in a concert devoted to closing any gaps between traditional music and the rock music world @ 7:30 p.m.

April 14 – MCC Collegiates, College Singers and Honors Orchestra present "Out of This World," featuring music by composers Mozart, Haydn, and John Williams @ 3 p.m.

May 11 – West Michigan Concert WINDS present "The WINDS Celebrate Gospel Music" @ 7:30 p.m.

May 19 – Shoreline Symphony presents "Symphonicomey" @ 3 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are available on the Star Tickets website: <http://www.startickets.com/>



Ari Norris '16 (second from right), poses with his sculpture of Dr. Doris Rucks. He is pictured with his parents, Patricia Opel and Tim Norris, both MCC art faculty members, and his grandfather, Lowell Norris.

Dr. Rucks Sculpture Created by MCC Alumnus Ari Norris

By Pete Koryno,
MCC Communications Director

Ari Norris, a 2016 MCC alumnus, was admittedly honored to have been awarded the contract in 2017 for creating the Dr. Doris Rucks sculpture, which was unveiled during ceremonies on Sept. 26 at its permanent location near the Stevenson Center entrance on campus.

For his model, he used a 1995 portrait of Rucks, who taught at MCC for 25 years and devoted more than a half century as a community activist and human rights champion in Muskegon County.

"I felt that a pose from an existing photograph would be a strong way to memorialize her, as it would have been an already familiar image to the audience that knew her," explained the 23-year-old artist who recalled meeting Rucks, who passed away in 2016 at age 92, as a youngster at various community events.

For Norris, whose own grandmother had passed away around the time he began the project in March 2017, the process was cathartic. "A little of my Grandma Norris, as a grandmaternal figure, went into Dr. Rucks' sculpture," he admitted.



David Rucks, son of the late Dr. Doris Rucks, and Gladys Hunter, sister of Dr. Rucks, admire the new sculpture during the Sept. 26 unveiling ceremony on campus.

Working as a student in famed American sculptor Gary Casteel's Gettysburg, Pa. studio, Norris created the piece using Sculptex Modeling Clay, which is an oil-based, non-drying alternative to natural clay.

"Never having to be dried or fired, molds are taken directly from the sculpted 'original' and the clay is recycled into the next project," explained Norris, now in his final year in Northern Illinois University's School of Art and Design Sculpture program. "Specifically, the clay that was used in the Doris Rucks sculpture became the arms, trumpet, and head of my sculpture of Clarence Zylman, Muskegon's 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.'" That Norris work will be unveiled at a later date in downtown Muskegon.

"The process produces a permanent sculpture, cast in bronze, which will last for centuries," said Norris, noting that the casting was completed in Eric Blome's private studio in Woodstock, IL. The Rucks sculpting took Norris around two months, while the mold making, casting, and clean-up of the bronze required an additional six months.

The sculpture rests atop 1,322 pounds of cloud gray granite extracted from South Dakota. The design was done by Norris and the lettering by Muskegon-based Superior Monument Coompany, whose consultant Cristine Bouwkamp suggested the color to complement the patina of the bronze.

"I think the most rewarding part of this process was seeing Doris' son, David Rucks, and her sister, Gladys Hunter, both so overjoyed and emotional during the ceremony and afterward," concluded Norris. "Seeing the look in their faces, that's how you know you've done it right."

Lakeshore Fab Lab

A state-of-the-art entrepreneurial hub located in the heart of downtown Muskegon at 388 W. Clay, the Lakeshore Fab Lab, supported and managed by Muskegon Community College



(MCC), empowers people of all ages to learn, dream, design, and build their ideas.

The facility, which officially opened on June 1, 2018, houses more than a half-million dollars' worth of equipment in a space where inventors can invent, businesses



can prototype, and children can learn and gain hands on experience with STEM-based projects.



Situated inside MCC's Rooks/Samicola Entrepreneur Institute at 388 Clay St, the Lakeshore Fab Lab is physically connected to MCC's recently opened Sturris Technology Center, home to cutting-edge applied technology classrooms and laboratories for automation, robotics, welding, electrical, foundry, alternative energy, engineering and CAD.

"The proximity gives Lakeshore Fab Lab members the option to build bigger pieces with larger machines and more capabilities," noted David Stradal, the MCC Business Department chair and director of the College's Entrepreneurial Studies Program. "We are the only facility of our kind within a 30-mile radius."

Membership is open to anyone – students, entrepreneurs, local businesses, museums, clubs, etc. – from anywhere. Members aged 16 and over, who have completed the required Fab Lab safety class and specific machine-related training, can use the equipment by themselves. Members under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

To schedule a tour or for more information about the Lakeshore Fab Lab, contact Chris Kaminsky at (231) 777-0212 or e-mail christopher.kaminsky@muskegoncc.edu.

The Lakeshore Fab Lab, which is sponsored by donations from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and the Fremont Area Community Foundation, includes access to the Ann and Richard Kraft Rapid Prototype Center and the Orville and Susan Crain Membership Center.

What can members do at the Lakeshore Fab Lab?

3D Printing – Create three-dimensional object of all levels of complexity, from toy dinosaurs to high temp resistant engine prototypes

Laser Etching – Engrave wood, glass, and plastic. Make award plaques, unique family portraits on wood from regular photos

Robotics – Learn how to program machines that run today's modern assembly plants

Metal Milling – Use a machine for metal working/manufacturing applications

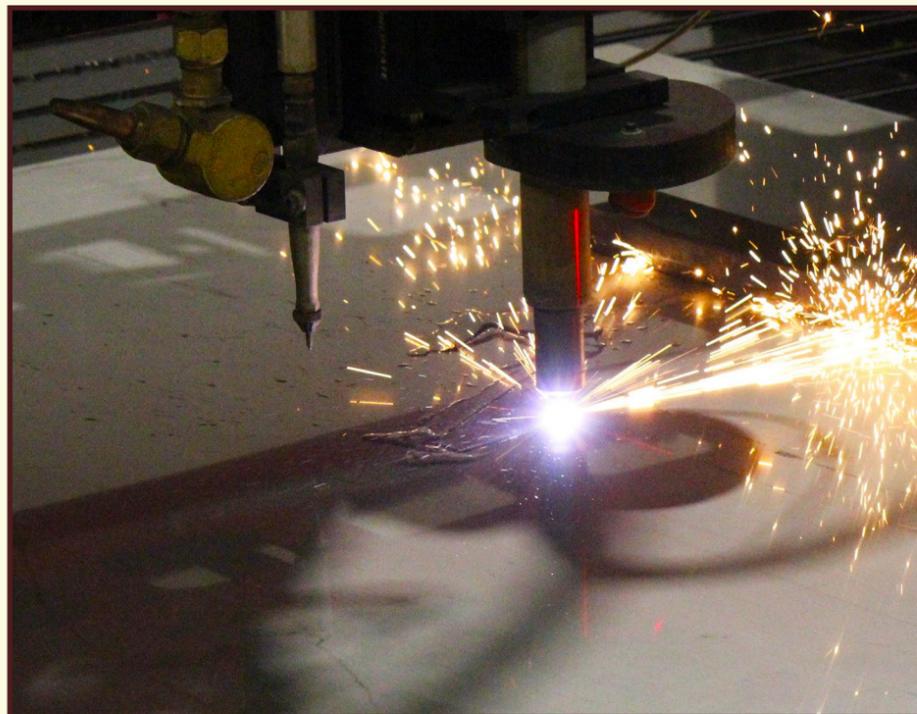
Large Format Vinyl Printing – Make banners, decals, car wraps, window clings, and stickers

T-shirt Hot Press – Make custom t-shirts

Digital Scanning – Create 3D printed copies of objects

Plasma Water Table Cutting – Cut metal sheets

Routing – Shape plastic and wood



By Peter D. Koryzno
MCC Communications Manager

MCC Graduate Receives Gilman Scholarship to Study Art in Italy

Theo Randall, a 2017 MCC graduate who is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Art History at Grand Valley State University, has been awarded a prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study this summer in Florence, Italy.

The Spring Lake, MI, native, who has interned at the Muskegon Museum of Art (MMA) since January 2017, hopes to use the experiences of studying Italian art and visiting museums like the Uffizi Gallery and the Galleria dell'Accademia to create an art education presentation for Muskegon area students.

"It seems only fitting to complete my Follow-in-Service Project at the Museum after studying art history abroad because of my internship and history with the Muskegon community," explained Randall, a 2017 graduate of the North Ottawa Early College program at MCC. "Using what I learn in Florence next summer, I will create a presentation for students at Muskegon Community College and seniors at Muskegon High School."

The presentation, which also taps into Randall's experiences as an MMA intern, will cover the similarities and differences between art museums and art in modern America versus those in modern Italy using the example of Florence.

"I believe that the students in this area will benefit from hearing from one of their peers and gaining inspiration about pursuing

higher education, studying abroad, and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, while also learning about how art communities function in different cultures," added Randall. "As a graduate of MCC, I relate and understand the challenges these community college students face. Further, as a successful transfer to a four-year institution now preparing to study in Italy, I am living proof that further education and study abroad are possible."

"In addition to focusing on my experience abroad, I will also talk about my time as an MCC student. One course I took at MCC, covering the art of Gettysburg, greatly influenced my decision to study abroad. This six-week, intensive course included an on-site visit to the Gettysburg battlefield, a National Park Service site. This changed the way I viewed learning; being able to physically be in the presence of a piece is different than interacting with it only digitally or in textbooks. This method is especially effective in art history because nothing quite compares to actually being able to interact with artworks in real-time, a process that creates a lasting impression of how one views and thinks about art."

After GVSU in 2019, Randall plans to pursue a Master's in Museum Studies with a focus in Italian art and to seek a position as a collections manager specializing in Italian art.

Class Notes

Barbara Ann Cooper, 1964

Barbara graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in 1964. She now works in the Office of Human Relations at Tulane University.

Michael A. Cavalier, Jr., 1976

Michael graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in Sociology. He is now retired from the County of Muskegon Health West.

Daniel Pennington, 1983

Daniel got his Associate in Applied Science in Business Administration and now works for Mortenson Construction.

Erin Kuhn, 1992

Erin is the Executive Director of the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and was appointed by the Governor to the Michigan Infrastructure Council.

Sonya Marie Hernandez, 1997

Sonya graduated with an Associate in Applied Science and now works at Grand Rapids Community College.

Scott Steinhauer, 2003

Scott received his Associate in Applied Science with a Certificate of Practical Nursing in 2010, and now works for the City of Norton Shores.

Meagan Carr, 2006

Megan graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts and now works for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Ryan Chalk, 2008

Ryan graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts and went on to study Physical Education at Grand Valley State University. Ryan was hired as an Assistant Coach for the Toldeo Softball Program.

Jodi Kittle, 2010

Jodi received an Associate in Applied Science for Advertising and is now the Communications Manager at the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce.

Gary Steffes, 2011

Gary graduated an Automotive Technology Certificate and now works at Usher Tool & Die Inc.

Gregory Sischo, 2013

Greg completed his General Studies degree in 2013 and went on to transfer to Grand Valley State University. He currently works at AgeWell Services of West Michigan.

Seanna Mendez, 2014

Seanna graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in Biology in 2014. She now works for HiLite International.

Adrienne Lewis, 2017

Adrienne was a featured act on the ABC Television re-boot of *The Gong Show*. Adrienne now attends Ball State University.



A unique highlight of University Park Golf Course's 50th anniversary in 2018 was the August wedding of Bill and Angeline McKinley, Jr. on the green at the seventh hole. Bill, whose late father and uncle coached golf for years at MCC, now works at the course. Angeline encouraged Bill, a cancer survivor who had a bone marrow transplant, to have their wedding at University Park as a tribute to his father and family. In place of a unity candle, the two used his Dad's putter and his MCC logo ball as they joined in a "unity putt."

Special Message from the Alumni Manager:



My first year as your Alumni Manager has been filled with meaningful engagement from MCC graduates, faculty and community partners to provide programs and benefits that offer value to YOU, our alumni!

Please be sure to keep your contact information up to date to receive the monthly Alumni E-Newsletter as well as follow the MCC Alumni and Friends Facebook Page!

As always, I am available if you have any questions, feedback or would like to discuss how you can be further involved with the MCC Alumni Association.

Go Jayhawks!

Rachel Stewart

Rachel Stewart
Rachel.stewart@muskegoncc.edu
231-777-0461



Dear Retirees,

We are working hard to communicate and get the word out about what may interest you at Muskegon Community College. The two primary venues are the Email Newsletters sent from the Office of Alumni Relations and the private "Muskegon Community College Retirees & Friends" Facebook Group. Nearly 30 of you have already joined this Group on Facebook, but we would love to have all of you! It is a quick and easy way to read the current events, to read about retirees who are doing great things, and to learn of obituary details for those we have lost. Our goal is to engage more of you to offer messages or special memories about MCC—whatever inspires you—to be included in each newsletter. Please feel encouraged to send Rachel a quick email to Rachel.stewart@muskegoncc.edu with ideas you have for encouraging engagement and what you would like to hear. Finally, if you don't feel comfortable about using Facebook and finding our page, we will help you. Again, email Rachel and one of us will sit down with you!

Best,
Sue Meeuwenberg



New Health and Wellness Center Opens November 27

2017-2022 Strategic Plan Update: Goal #11

Opening of the new MCC Health and Wellness Center this month, a 52,400-square-foot classroom and academic facility on the main campus, is one of the major objectives of the Muskegon Community College Strategic Plan.

Following the grand opening ceremony at noon Tuesday, November 27, 2018, the public can tour the new facility, which will be the home to the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department, the Medical Assistant Program, and the Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Simulation Center. A Mercy Health Partners Primary Care Center is also incorporated into the facility. The collaboration between MCC, Mercy Health, and Grand Valley State University, will provide MCC nursing students with opportunities for required clinical hours.

The need for a new health and wellness building was identified in a 2010 Facility Master Plan. "Facilities matter," explains MCC Provost, Dr. John Selmon. "Quality buildings and equipment support student success. Our students get to enjoy and experience learning in some of the best educational facilities in Michigan!"

MCC's five-year strategic plan focuses on five priorities and aims to meet 25 goals by June 30, 2022. Priority #3 of the 2017-2022 strategic plan is focuses on "facilities and

infrastructure" and includes six goals that intend to "Provide a state-of-the-art learning environment that meets academic needs while promoting access and sustainability." Opening the health facility is one of the final steps to meet goal #11 of the MCC Strategic Plan, "Complete 2010 Facility Master Plan, including construction of health and wellness center, arts facility, and downtown center." Campus signage and completion of the arts and humanities building are now the only two remaining projects from the 2010 Facility Master Plan.

Tina Dee, Director of Strategic Initiatives, explained that assessment of community needs and the facilities to meet those needs is an ongoing process. "Next year, we'll start working on goal #16, which is related to conducting a new facility master plan that assesses future facility needs in Muskegon, Ottawa, and Newaygo Counties."

In the meantime, she invites alumni and other community members to visit the new Health and Wellness Center and to provide feedback on the Muskegon Community College 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. "Community input on how well our goals meet student and community needs is a vital part of the process." Strategic plan goals and measurable objectives are available for review at www.muskegoncc.edu/strategicplan.



Muskegon Community College

221 South Quarterline ♦ Muskegon, MI 49442



See the newly installed statue on main campus honoring the late Dr. Doris Rucks. Created by MCC Alumnus Ari Norris, the piece is located in the courtyard outside the Stevenson Center entrance. For information about contributing to the Dr. Doris Rucks Memorial, visit muskegoncc.edu/foundation-for-mcc