Message from the Interim President

Happy 2009:

It should come at no surprise to anyone that the “Word of the Year” for 2008 was “CHANGE.” As you know there is nothing as constant as change.

As we finish up the Holidays and set our new years resolutions and reflect on the last year – I offer the following:

A Cup of Coffee –

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his assortment of cups – porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite – telling them to help themselves to the coffee. When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: “If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you begin eyeing each other’s cups.

“Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee. Enjoy your coffee! The happiest people don’t have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.”

~Anonymous

So as you start the New Year remember to -
Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. And speak kindly.

Happy New Year!

Diana R. Osborn
Welcome to winter semester. The CTL will be offering some new and repeat sessions on Blackboard for developing interactive content for your Blackboard course sites. Faculty can register for any of these sessions by logging into the Teaching Resources for Faculty course site on Blackboard. Click on the Register for A Session link toward the bottom of the navigation menu. Be sure you post your registration for your preferred time. Sessions are limited in size, so register soon!

Winter 2009 Learning Opportunities for Faculty Blackboard Startup [participant size: 5, location: CTL] {hands on sessions}
January 27, 6-7:30pm; January 30, 10-11:30am; February 2, 2-3:30pm; February 4, 6-7:30pm
Each Blackboard Startup session is limited to five participants; however, if you wish to bring a laptop to participate, we may be able to accommodate you by request.

Assignment Feature and Grade Center [participant size 50, location 1100] {seminar style session}
January 23, 2pm-4pm; February 2, 6-8pm; Creating Interactive Content [participant size: 5, location CTL] {hands on sessions}
Part 1 Respondus Learning Games and Formatted Quizzes/Tests
February 10, 6-8pm; February 13, 2-4pm

Part 2 Camtasia SCORM Content
February 18, 10am-12noon; February 19, 6-8pm
Each Interactive Content session is limited to five participants; however, if you wish to bring a laptop to participate, we may be able to accommodate you by request.

Michigan Department of Education announces that Michigan ranks second in the nation for its online learning implementation and practice. Michigan requires online learning for high school graduation. Click the link cited below to view the whole article.

“In a world that demands knowledge workers, we are giving our students and our state a competitive advantage when it comes to preparing for the 21st century economy,” said Governor Jennifer Granholm. “This national ranking reinforces Michigan’s vision for innovation and our commitment to use leading-edge delivery methods to ensure our students are ready for higher education and today’s workplace.” Retrieved on 12/10/2008 from http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140--203895--,00.html

If you are interested in learning more about teaching with technology, I will offer a link to a journal article of interest with each issue. This issue’s article, Using Second Life with Learning-Disabled Students in Higher Education: http://innovateonline.info/index.php?view article&id=573 can be reviewed full text by creating a free account at the Innovate Online Journal of Online Education website.

This journal provides peer-reviewed articles related to online learning. This article discusses "The educational potential of Second Life is still in the process of being developed and harnessed. According to Stephanie McKinney, Agi Horspool, Renee Willers, Omar Safie, and Laurie Richlin, an essential step in this development will be to figure out how to use Second Life to support learning-disabled (LD) students who face numerous challenges in traditional instruction in higher education. The interactive and multifaceted media available in Second Life could allow educators to become less dependent on traditional methods, such as reading, lecturing, and note taking, with which many LD students struggle." [excerpt from abstract] The mission of the journal is "Innovate (ISSN 1552-3233) is an open-access, peer-reviewed, online periodical published bi-monthly by the Fischler School of Education and Human Services at Nova Southeastern University. The journal focuses on
Instructional Design Roadmap Continued

the creative use of information technology to enhance education and training in academic, commercial, and governmental settings. Our basic assumption is that innovation in one sector can inform practice in each of the other sectors.”

Visit the CTL website at www.muskegoncc.edu/ctl/ for more information on our services and opportunities. At the CTL in conjunction with OIT, services are available for instruction in creating online content, effective use of Blackboard, and other instructional resources. Bring your ideas for teaching with technology and let’s explore them together!

Contact me:
sarah.swart@muskegoncc.edu
231-777-0214 – Office hours are available to accommodate both adjunct and full time faculty schedules: M/Th/Friday 8am to 5pm; Tu/We 9am to 6pm. Other hours can be arranged upon request. I’m here to help you with your instructional technology needs, let me know how I can assist!

By Sarah Lelgarde Swart,
Instructional Design Specialist
Office of Information Technology and Center for Teaching and Learning

Healthy Lifestyle Committee

Mark your calendars

Bring in the New Year by learning tips on how to live healthier. Weiss Chiropractic Wellness Center will be on campus Thursday, January 22 from 1-2:00 pm in Room 1100. They will be talking about Healthy Living 101 and 5 Secrets to Permanent Weight Loss.

Please join the Healthy Lifestyle Committee in welcoming them to campus.

A Manager’s Most Important Words

It’s tempting to think more is always better. But when it comes to words, often less is more. At the dedication of a cemetery in 1863, keynote speaker Edward Everett talked for two hours and his oration was praised on the front pages of the nation’s newspapers. But history remembers the heartfelt two-minute speech that followed: Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. As Everett later told the president, “I wish that I could flatter myself that I had come as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes.” When speaking with your employees, remember the power of brevity in the…

• One most important word: We.

~Communication Solutions—for today’s manager
Third of Five

For five months, each issue of Campus Connections will list Five Things You Should Know about our accreditation self-study. Here’s the third list of five:

Everyone on campus should know there are FIVE CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION from the Higher Learning Commission. The criteria are standards that describe what an excellent community college should look like. Do we look like that? That’s the question our self-study must answer.

Since the criteria are written by a committee of educators, they could be clearer! So following each criterion is a simpler way of stating it.

ONE: Mission and integrity: The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.

More simply stated:
1. Our mission is clear and governance systems help us carry it out.
2. Our mission recognizes diversity and is well-supported.
3. We uphold and protect our integrity

TWO: Preparing for the future: The organization’s allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

More simply stated:
1. We plan for the future based on our mission and reliable evidence.
2. We have the resources to accomplish our plans.

THREE: Student learning and effective teaching: The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

More simply stated:
1. We effectively assess student learning.
2. We support effective teaching.
3. We allocate resources to support our faculty and learning.

FOUR: Acquisition, discovery, and application of knowledge: The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.

More simply stated:
1. We support life-long learning for a changing future.
2. We encourage breadth of learning and responsibility.

FIVE: Engagement and service: As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

More simply stated:
1. We learn from our constituencies and they value our services.
2. We have the capacity to respond to our community’s needs

By Richard Doctor
Creative and Performing Arts

OVERBROOK ART GALLERY

January 12 – February 27: OUT OF AFRICA and REDISCOVERING ANCIENT EGYPT. Two shows of works loaned from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts highlighting the regional focus of this year’s MCC campus-wide Global Awareness Festival. Free public reception: Monday, February 9 – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. with a lecture at 7:00 p.m. by Greg Waskowsky, Outreach Coordinator at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

STUDENT AUDITIONS:

THEATER

SCAPINO!
By Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale

January 14 & 15
Audition Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Overbrook Theater

Scripts available in Room 166 - $5 returnable deposit

Information: 231-777-0324

GLOBAL AWARENESS FESTIVAL 2009—Focus on Africa

Monday, February 9
MCC Choir—African folk songs—Location TBA 11:30 am—12:00 pm
Overbrook Gallery Exhibit – "Out of Africa and Discovering Ancient Egypt" Opening talk and reception by Greg Waskowsky of The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Overbrook Gallery
Free Film Festival begins.

Tuesday, February 10
Political Discussion – Panel discussion "African Colonialism and the US Civil Rights Movement"
Blue & Gold from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Science and Technology Seminar – Great Lakes on Two Continents—Join the exploration of two Great Lakes systems; in Africa and North America. The investigations will include applications of modern mapping technologies while comparing water volumes, formation of the lake regions, populations, and transportation networks. Room L261 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Wednesday, February 11
Introduction to Africa – Laurie Gasahl Room 1100 from 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Global Topic Investigations will explore the ancient libraries of Timbuktu, US and Africa in the new Obama era, Peace Corps experiences in Africa and much more. Blue & Gold Room from 9:15 am – 3:00 pm
Information Fair will feature booths highlighting international opportunities for students to study and work abroad as well as cultural differences around the world. Collegiate Hall from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wild & Wacky Wednesday - Bichini Bia Congo Dance Theater—Student Union from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Keynote Speaker – Papa N’Jai, native of Sierra Leone, “The Journey—from West Africa to West Michigan”—Location TBA at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, February 12
Honors Seminar—Madonna’s Film “I Am Because We Are” AIDS in Malawi with discussion lead by Phi Theta Kappa—Blue & Gold Room from 2:00 pm—4:00 pm
Seminar—Women Researching Women’s Issues—Africa—Location TBA from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Friday, February 13
FREE Film Festival concludes

Events Spanning the entire week
An International Film Series will be available daily free of charge
International Cuisine will be featured by the campus food service
International Artifacts collected from the community will be displayed at the main college entrance along with flags representing approximately 200 nations.

For more information contact Katherine Tosa—231-777-0376
### MCC Birthdays

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<td>Lori Haggerty</td>
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**MCC’s Bulletin Board**

Some of the Sociology Club members (Sarah Lorenz, Jessica Matthews, Christina Smith) are volunteering on Wednesday’s at Brookhaven; they have been painting some of the windows with Christmas decorations as well as spending time with the residences. They are having a good time giving back to the community.

**MATE Materials**

The 40th Annual Muskegon Area Teachers of English will meet at MCC on March 11. At the meeting, we give away books, texts to high school teachers who receive NO samples or funds for supplemental materials. Please send any donations to the English Office, Room 144.