

# REFLECTIONS

## Muskegon Community College Magazine

For Alumni, Retirees & Friends of MCC

Spring 2018



## Sturuss Technology Center

### A Love Story

Pgs. 4-5

## Achieving The Dream

Pg. 14

## MCC's Longest Serving Employees Retire

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## Meet your Alumni and Donor Relations Manager

Walking into the MCC main entrance from the parking lot, I could already feel the grin on my face start to spread. As I made my way to my new office in Room 400, the garden in the courtyard was in full bloom and I noticed familiar art pieces were on display. I thought about all those who have walked these halls before me-faculty, staff, community partners and, of course, our students. It had been some time since I had been back on campus, but much like riding a bike, I was navigating without even thinking about it. There was no denying how I was feeling in that moment: It was great to be back.

My name is Rachel Stewart and I am thrilled to introduce myself as your new Alumni and Donor Relations Manager at the college.

Being a native of Muskegon, MCC has played a huge role in my life from early on. Growing up I was no stranger to our campus and attended a fair share of community events like Mayfest and the WINGS Summer Program. In high school I was able to take classes through the dual enrollment program which proved worthwhile as I went on to pursue my undergraduate degree.

During my sophomore and junior years of college, I had the opportunity to work in MCC’s Office of Community Relations

as an intern assisting with events such as Mayfest, the Donor Appreciation Luncheon and the Jayhawk Scramble. The professional experience I gained from this student worker position was critical for my professional development and moving on to obtain my undergraduate degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Grand Valley State University.

After graduating from GVSU I immediately moved into a full time position at the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce and served its members as the Advocacy and Events Manager for four years. During my time at the Chamber I realized even more what a critical role the college has in the greater Muskegon community as a strategic partner not only educating the next wave of workers and business owners. MCC is also a key stakeholder in economic development with program and campus expansions that help attract talent to West Michigan.

With so many exciting developments happening at the college, I was humbled with the opportunity to serve the institution’s outstanding alumni, retirees and other community partners. Like so many of you who moved on to other education institutions or into the workforce, MCC was my first home. This is the message I hope to instill in current students and to remind those that have gone on to certificates, degrees and jobs. I want to do my best to keep you updated on what is happening at the college and assist you with your lives now as best I can!

In this role I will work diligently to provide regular updates on what is happening at MCC, develop strategic partnerships to offer you valuable benefits and assist you as much as possible with any professional development needs you may have.



It truly is great to be back and I look forward to connecting you to “our” home in the years ahead.

*Rachel Stewart*

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### Be in the know, at home or on the go!

News and opportunities  
for MCC alumni

facebook.com/mccalumni

President’s Blog  
Dale Nesbary, Ph.D.

presidentblog.muskegoncc.edu

News and updates from  
all MCC athletic teams

twitter.com/jayhawkathletic



# Sturrus Technology Center: A Gift of Love

By Peter D. Koryzno  
MCC Communications Manager



Philanthropy, at its very core, is an act of love. In this instance, it began with a husband’s selfless devotion to his wife. Add in her enduring affection for a college, her alma mater, which she championed as the respected assistant to seven of its presidents over a span of three decades. Then combine those with a mutual love of their hometown - both its bright future as well as its storied past. The confluence of this shared affection manifested itself in September, when Peter and Carolyn Iversen Sturrus presented Muskegon Community College with its largest-ever individual donation – a \$1.5 million gift – for its downtown center, which now bears their names. The former home to the Muskegon Chronicle and the Masonic Temple has been transformed into a state-of-the-art hub for MCC’s applied technology and experiential learning programs, as well as a nexus for entrepreneurs seeking to test and create new ideas. “My main purpose in all of this is to honor Carolyn because she lived and loved that

college so,” said Peter, who married her in 1987 after the passing of both their spouses. “And I know what she meant to the college.” Peter and Carolyn’s friendship dates back to the 1940s, when they, along with Peter’s first wife, Betty, were classmates at Muskegon’s Hartford School. “They were the two brightest girls in the class,” noted Peter. After ninth grade, Peter and Carolyn would part ways for the next 39 years. Carolyn attended Muskegon High School, where she parlayed her experience working part-time for Assistant Principal Ed Knudson into a job as secretary to Muskegon Junior College principal Dr. Allen Umbreit. “He brought me on and taught me everything I knew,” recalled Carolyn, who earned an associate’s degree. “At that time, it was just a one-person office. I started as secretary and ended up as assistant to the president.” Carolyn occupied a front row seat and assisted in the college’s unparalleled growth from the 1950s to the 1980s, while working directly with its leaders - Allen

Umbreit, William Dwyer, James Snyder, Ralph Austermiller, Charles Greene, Robert Keeson and John Thompson. “It was always a beacon in the town and a matter of pride for all those who went there,” said Carolyn of MCC. “I loved what I did all those years and still love the college.” In 1953, Carolyn married Robert Iversen, who taught physical geography at MCC until his retirement in 1984. “We decided at that time that I would retire when I was able and we would spend our winters in the south,” she recounted. “But that didn’t happen. He retired in June and then passed away in October.” Carolyn did retire and kept busy with the Foundation for MCC. A year or two later, she received a phone call from out of the blue. “I hadn’t seen or talked to Carolyn for 39 years before the Good Lord said, ‘Hey, that’s the person you should call,’” explained Peter, whose education and career path followed a different direction. As a youngster, he played sports around McLaughlin School with Earl and Eddie

Morrall and dreamed of one day becoming a Muskegon High Big Red, attending military school, and joining the Marines. “But my parents wanted me to go to a Christian school,” said Peter, who was in West Michigan Christian High’s first graduating class. Following a brief stint at Calvin College, he returned to Muskegon, married Betty, and took a job at Aero Manufacturing in Muskegon Heights. “While working at the machine shop, I never dreamt that this would be my type of career, quite frankly, but I loved it,” admitted Peter, who benefited from his supervisor allowing him to operate all of the machines at a time when most workers were specialists. “The toolmakers never complained that I did all their math. I had a good trigonometry background, could figure their angles, and there were some machines I could run that they couldn’t.” Plant Superintendent Orrie Mosher, a one-time top lightweight boxing contender in the 1930s, encouraged Peter to pursue tool-and-die work, which he did after getting an offer to work for Sergeant’s Machine. His adeptness at deciphering blueprints and thinking outside the box, coupled with some courses he took at Muskegon Junior College, propelled Peter to become the lead die maker within a year and a half. “There’s a path, and we don’t know that path, but the Good Lord leads us,” said Peter. “He put all these great people in my life at the right time. I am very cognizant and very thankful for that.” Peter took a job at Grand Haven Stamped Products until Dick Johnson, who ran Johnson Mold in Muskegon, enticed him to become his top mold maker creating and also teaching others to make airfoil molds for jet engines. “Even though I love making molds, there’s more of a challenge making dies because when you get done with your dies there’s always a little something you can add to make it better,” admitted Peter, who returned to Grand Haven Stamped Products, where he operated the tool room before getting into engineering and sales. Peter’s work impressed the chairman of Grand Haven-based JSJ Corporation, the largest industry in the area. He wanted Peter to run one of their plants but encouraged him to earn a business degree first. Between extension courses at MCC and driving back-and-forth to Grand Rapids, Peter earned a degree from Aquinas College. “I was in school just about every night and

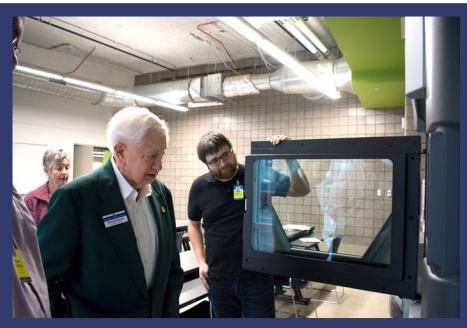
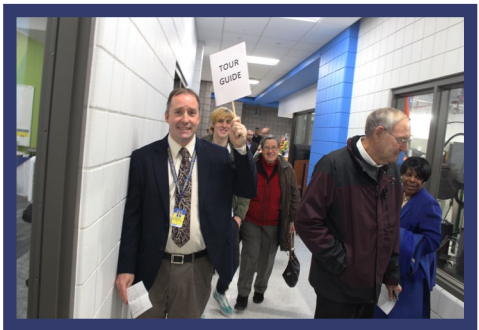
writing papers, with my wife typing them alongside me, until 3 a.m.,” recalled Peter, while they also handled the responsibilities of raising their four children. Then the nascent Shape Corporation in Ferrysburg, MI, came calling. With three machines and 20 employees, the three-year-old business was struggling to make a profit building office furniture, recounted Peter. “There was no way I was going to go there, not after what JSJ promised me,” he explained. “But I went to work there and took a pay cut because I felt called to go there.” Today, Shape Corp., based in Grand Haven, employs 3,651 people and has earned international acclaim for producing the best energy absorption system in the world. In no small measure, its success can be traced to Peter’s expertise, extraordinary vision and work ethic. From the outset, he opened doors to new clients for Shape with his engineering background. His innovative and time-saving approach to making office shelving turned heads and set a new standard. He was the catalyst for Shape diversifying into the automotive business. “I said if you don’t grow, you’re going to go backwards,” Peter told the owners at the time. “Our first job was the first robot-loading equipment for shipping car sides from Ohio to California for final assembly.” Looking for another auto industry opportunity, he asked his brother-in-law, who worked at the GM Proving Grounds testing lab, what they needed most. The answer was truck door reinforcements. So Peter designed and patented a new one that solved the problem of adjustability in the door beam. Then Peter wanted to make car bumpers, so he approached Chrysler with a new design that would modify their existing one. He also created the tools needed to make the bumpers. The deal was cemented when skeptical Chrysler reps visited Shape’s own sophisticated testing lab in Grand Haven. “When Chrysler came and saw that, they said none of our other suppliers have ever gone this far,” explained Peter, who started at Shape as its chief engineer before heading up sales, which included a memorable dinner meeting in Japan with a Honda executive during a trip by Michigan companies seeking business in Asia. “He handed me a drawing and says, ‘Can you make that?’ I looked at it and thought it was simple, but he’s got way too many

parts in there,” said Peter, who quickly drew a different design and handed it back. When the gentleman asked why he did that, Peter replied, “Because it will save you many stampings. It’ll save you press time. It could save you storage space. It will save you having to weld these parts together. We couldn’t get into Honda prior to that. By the time we got back, we had so many calls to show up at Honda.” Eighteen months later, Peter appeared with the Honda Japan president on stage in front of 3,000 Honda associates. During the dazzling production replete with fireworks, the new Honda Civic with its Shape-produced bumpers was unveiled. Peter became president of Shape Corp. in 1987, a year-and-a-half-after his wife died, and just prior to his marrying Carolyn. He retired in January 1999 to spend more time with Carolyn. The couple divide their time between Michigan and Arizona and enjoy many hobbies, especially biking. “We’ve had a wonderful life since then,” said Carolyn. However, two near-death experiences for Peter have bolstered his desire to give back. Thirty nine years ago, he miraculously beat cancer with a powerful prayer for healing. Fifteen years ago while riding with friends on the bike path between Marne and Muskegon, Peter suffered a heart attack. Amazingly, a group of emergency responders had decided to stop for coffee at a place just a mile from the remote incident. Quickly summoned, they resuscitated Peter. “I ask myself why am I still around?” Peter contemplated. “I think part of it is to be able to do something like this, to give back to the community, to give back to a place where I think, and I feel this sincerely, that God wants to see a rebirth. We are happy that we can be a part of it” How does he envision the Sturrus Technology Center? “The best case scenario is we’re going to have a whole new level of people entering the workforce than we’ve ever had in our area,” concluded Peter. “Muskegon County, Oceana County and Ottawa County are all going to benefit. We’re going to see more entrepreneurs come out of this group and future groups. I think it’s going to be a catalyst for growth in Muskegon. Even though we live in Spring Lake now, we continue to have a love for Muskegon. I just think this is going to be the rebirth of Muskegon as a community.”





# STURRUS TECHNOLOGY CENTER GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION







## MCC RETIREE'S

The longevity of MCC employees and those that retire from the institution is astounding and for many former employees, their connections and relationships with those they worked alongside for so many years does not end at retirement. We are so thankful to Darlene Collette who has been leading the charge to make sure this group is kept informed with help from Beth Smith and Jean Pataky.

To help continue these efforts, MCC retirees are encouraged to ensure their contact information is accurate and up-to-date by completing a "MCC Retiree Contact Form" on the website at [mcc.edu/retirees](http://mcc.edu/retirees). Providing this information will ensure retirees are receiving regular communications from the college with notice of upcoming events, updates about the college, condolences of MCC Staff and Faculty and more.

There is also a private "Muskegon Community College Retirees and Friends" Facebook group available for those interested in joining. This offers another platform for engagement and to receive updates.

Moving forward, we are so grateful for help from Sue Meeuwenberg, a retired MCC faculty member, who has volunteered to assist with these efforts.

"It took me a while after retirement to conclude that I wanted to--no, needed to--hear about and from my former colleagues. We all invested a significant part of our lives at Muskegon Community College, and it seems important to continue to invest and care. Not all retirees feel this way, and that is fine, but I know there are a lot of you out there who feel as I do; therefore, I volunteered to do whatever I could to help establish a better communications effort. I want to learn what you are all doing and share stories. Hopefully, with Rachel's help, we can keep the communications and contacts flowing."

More information for MCC Retirees is available at [mcc.edu/retirees](http://mcc.edu/retirees). MCC Retirees can also contact Rachel Stewart with any questions or comments at 231-777-0461.





# Two of MCC's Longest-Serving Employees Retire

By Peter D. Koryzno  
MCC Communications Manager

On New Year's Eve, MCC bid farewell to much more than a memorable 2017. The college said goodbye to a collective 100 years of dedicated service and institutional memory with the retirement of librarians Bob Vanderlaan and Paula McClurg.

The two longtime employees sat down for an interview in mid-December and recalled their experiences.

Vanderlaan, a Muskegon native who grew up a few blocks from Muskegon High School, joined the MCC staff in May 1967. He attended MCC and Western Michigan University, loved reading, and longed to be a publisher. But health issues made him reliant upon using public transportation.

"Working for a library in a central location, you could take a bus or walk to work," explained Vanderlaan, who used both modes getting to his first job at the MCC library then located in the Hackley Library basement.

The aura of that beloved library – one of Charles Hackley's many gifts to Muskegon – captivated a young McClurg and sowed the seeds of her professional career at MCC.

"As a girl, I remember sitting at the tables in the Reading Room and listening to the chimes in the Administration Building," she continued. "The building, everything about it with its historic aspect, is timeless. It's like you walk into a time machine there."

McClurg, proud of her roots in Muskegon's Lakeside neighborhood, also attended MCC and Western Michigan University. She worked part-time as a student at MCC's other library site at Vanderlaan School. She became a full-time employee in February 1970, after the college and its library relocated to the new campus at Marquette and Quarterline.

"I think there were about 8,000 volumes when we moved here," Vanderlaan recounted. McClurg remembers English faculty and others being hired to assist the custodians in transporting the books to the new two-story locale – the present-day Room 400 and College Success Center – where librarians unloaded and stacked them. The college used the opportunity to reclassify the books replacing Dewey Decimal with the Library of Congress system.

"The building was designed by Alden Dow to have the library in the geographic center, which made sense," she added.

"Half of the book stacks were on the upper level and there was another row of stacks downstairs," explained Vanderlaan. "There was a media room upstairs with circulation processing in an open room. The library became the Learning Resources Center."

"Media Services was also a part of the Learning Resources Center," added McClurg. "The reason we had to get a new library is because the electrical facilities didn't stand up to what the demand was for computers. They couldn't just add panels."

In January 2006, MCC opened the 40,000 square foot Hendrik Meijer Library Information Technology Center to offer students and the community the latest in communication capabilities, including wireless internet access, state-of-the-art library facilities/technologies and classrooms, and an internet café.

"Back in the 60s, we talked about the information explosion," said McClurg. "With the advent of computers, there was so much that was accessible that previously wasn't. So the information explosion is what really drove the library for many, many decades and still does. Now they are looking at books being passé and everything has to be electronic and, of course, there is a wide range of feeling about that."

"One of the dangers I see is that when we had books as the main resource in the library, they were edited, they went through the publisher, and you knew that what was in the book was authoritative. That old publication process is gone now. Anybody can put anything out there now."

The MCC library's collection of e-books is now triple that of its traditional hardbound texts, said Vanderlaan.

While he welcomed the advantages inherent with the advent of computers, Vanderlaan added, "Most people do not want to go to bookless libraries. There is a physiological thing about reading a book versus reading on the computer. The brain acts differently. A person retains more knowledge from a printed book."

The two employees, who served MCC for more than half of its existence, took a moment to also share concerns about the library as it moves into the future. These included having an adequate library budget, addressing and funding the role of a full-time college archivist – especially as MCC approaches and plans for its centennial celebration in 2026, and ensuring that MCC faculty incorporate student assignments that require effectively learning about and using the library resources.

"There are studies that show that the more library use there is, the higher the GPA there is," noted McClurg. "The more budget for a library in the institutional budget, the measurably higher the GPA is."

She hopes that student research projects will not wane because of the time demands on faculty.



"By eliminating the research process, you're cutting down on critical thinking skills," she added. "You're cutting down on all the things that people really need in a society to deal with the information explosion. It doesn't matter if it's on a computer or in a book. You still need to evaluate what you're using. The library is where we have the widest variety of resources, whether they be e-books or the tens of thousands of journals. The faculty have to be cognizant that research skills are what the students are going to need in order to be useful citizens."

Access and sharing information, which initially attracted McClurg to library work, have become a growing concern for her.

"The whole concept of getting information to people and keeping it free is very important to me," she said. "Now, unfortunately with where we are going, especially with the technology, you have to have more and more money to get information, and that is dangerous territory."

McClurg and Vanderlaan are ready for the next phase of their lives. Neither thought he or she would remain at MCC for five decades.

"This still is, to me, a temporary job. A half century later, it's still a temporary job," concluded McClurg, whose retirement plans are "to do whatever I want."

Ever the librarian, Vanderlaan will assist at the First Congregational Church Library in Muskegon and attend more cultural events with his wife. "Instead of a three-day vacation, she wants me to take a five-day vacation now so that we can go to the lake."

The college  
said goodbye  
to a collective  
100 years of  
dedicated service  
and institutional  
memory with  
the retirement  
of librarians Bob  
Vanderlaan and  
Paula McClurg  
on Dec. 31.





JaTeryn



Ellis



Mckenzie

## In their own words: Experiences from the Early College Program

*Interviewed by Rachel Stewart*

*Walking the campus of MCC, I enjoy any opportunity to engage with our students. Recently I ran into a group of familiar faces I had not seen in some time. I asked, "What year are you in now?" the answer, "I'm in the Early College Program so in high school I'm a junior, but in college I'm a freshmen."*

*The Early College Muskegon County is a program that allows select students to extend high school by one year in order to earn both*

*their diploma and up to 62 college credits from MCC at no cost to the students.*

*Now in its 8th year, we wanted to catch up with some graduates and reflect on their experience in the program. JaTeryn Moore is a 2013 Alumna now at Michigan State University, Ellis Johnson is a 2015 Alumna now at Central Michigan University and Mckenzie Davis is a 2014 Alumna now in the Nursing Program at MCC.*

### Why did you choose the Early College Program?

JM: I chose to participate in the Early College Program to gain an early exposure of a college setting. Neither of my parents attended college and finished, which makes me a first generation college student. My ultimate goal was to obtain a level of comfort with balancing a rigorous schedule, being involved in the community, and participating in different activities at MCC. Furthermore, as a minority student, I wanted to set an example for other minority students who may want to participate in the program. Being that I wanted to further my education, I knew this program could allow me to develop the appropriate networking skills needed to function professionally.

EJ: I choose the early college program because of the financial benefits, as well as to be beyond my peers in education.

MD: I choose the Early College Program so I could get my associates degree debt free! It helped me prepare myself for my future, and allowed me to get all of my prerequisites done for the MCC nursing program.

### What did you enjoy the most about the program?

EJ: I enjoyed being able to prepare myself for university, and it definitely paid off now that I am here.

JM: My most enjoyable moments in the program were attending the semester seminars that Lee and Erin would plan for the early college students. The seminars were informational and sometimes they would have professionals with different educational backgrounds give presentations about their success stories. They were always so motivating. Most of my time was also spent in the college success center and the tutoring center. The atmosphere in both locations truly inspired me being that students utilize these centers for help with hopes to excelling in various classes.

MD: I enjoyed meeting new people from other schools, and having a great support system with Val, and Lee!

### What are some misconceptions about the program?

JM: One common misconception involves students believing they wouldn't receive the same education at a community college as they would at a 4-year institution which is not true. Most of the classes that are required for early college students are general education courses. Those classes are the same for most colleges and universities, whether you attend a university or not. After students complete their third year in early college, this allows them to further their education at a four-year institution and transfer as a Junior rather than a Freshman. Another common misconception about the program deals with students assuming they will not be able to balance high school and college courses at the same time. As a college student, there will be several different classes that you will be required to take and successfully complete. This will require, hard-work, dedication, and endless days of studying. Being that the ECMC program only has a set number of courses for students to take each semester, this gives them the opportunity to be able to balance the two. Time management and self-motivation are essential skills that will be beneficial for anyone. This program is the perfect chance to help students develop, grow, and learn professionally.

MD: Sometimes people think going to college and high school at the same time is hard. Don't get me wrong, sometimes it is. It's all about time management and figuring out what your priorities are. I was a full time college student, a full time high school student, athlete, and still came out of the program successful.

EJ: Many people think that people will treat you differently as an early college student, and sometimes the teachers will. The other students however think that the program is awesome and usually don't treat you any different.

### What type of student would you recommend this program to?

EJ: I would recommend this program to students that know they will struggle paying for the things that college requires, and for students that are able to take on a lot of work. It does pay off!

JM: I would particularly recommend students to the ECMC if they are excelling in high school. Your high school cumulative GPA from freshman and sophomore year will be used heavily to determine your acceptance into the program. Likewise, my recommendation would be to a student who has excellent time management skills. It is really easy to get behind in college, but it is difficult to catch back up. Beginning college, also means having to be able to adapt to a new and fast-paced environment and be around different people every day. A student should be able to handle these specific adjustments. Lastly, I would recommend students who are self-motivated and dedicated to their education.

MD: A student who is very organized, and wants to get a jump start on their future.

### Favorite memory of MCC during your time here:

EJ: My favorite memory at MCC was the amount of friends that I made, and the introduction to classes that helped me decide what I want to do in the future!

JM: During my time at MCC, I have had many memorable engagements that I have been involved in. There are two main memories that I can remember vividly. My first memorable experience was having the opportunity of dissecting a fetal pig and sheep eyes. This was a great learning experience being that my future career goal is science related. My second favorite memory was interacting with other early college students in the office during finals week and receiving great snacks. The chex mix and hot chocolate were always my favorite.

MD: My favorite memory was getting a call from the MCC nursing program allowing me to start in the Fall of 2017.

### Final thoughts:

EJ: I have chosen that I want to be a leader of an early college student as a career when I am older!

JM: I am truly grateful to have been a part of the Early College program. I will continue to cherish all of the lifelong memories and keep in contact with the friends I made over the course of those three years. Thank you for allowing me to share my story as an ECMC Alumna.

MD: "Choosing to apply for the Early College Program is honestly one of the best decisions I have ever made."

**Future students can apply for Early College during their 10th grade year of high school. Applications are available in the high school counselor's office or at [muskegoncc.edu](https://muskegoncc.edu). Students must have at least a 2.5 GPA, be able to reach set scores on the MCC placement test, and be on track to graduate high school. Lee Andrews is the Dean of Early College of Muskegon County and Val Shelby is an Early College of Muskegon County Mentor.**

### Early College Celebrations

- \$600,000 in scholarships and financial aid for 2017
- Average of 61 credits earned
- 43 students are eligible to walk in graduation ceremony
- 40 have applied to 4 year schools
- 3 are attending vocational programs
- 1st year students average GPA was 3.3
- 2nd year students average GPA was 3.2



# Achieving the Dream with Useful Data

At first glance, one might think that these 'Useful Data' pieces result in data driven decisions, however, JB challenges that "The data is there to start the conversation. The decisions are people driven, but data informed."

It started with a grant in 2010 to be a part of Achieving the Dream-a national nonprofit organization and leader in community college higher education aimed at closing achievement gaps and accelerating student success. The game plan called for guiding evidence-based institutional change, influencing public policy, generating knowledge and engaging the public.

After obtaining that initial grant, Muskegon Community College has taken great strides to help its college students stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree.

In 2015, MCC was named as an Achieving the Dream Leader College as a result of high-impact best practices, including new student orientation programs, academic goal setting, College Success Seminar offerings, tutoring and the Fast-Track accelerated math program.

To address the needs of students and faculty MCC began developing "Useful Data". Under the direction of Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kelley Conrad, these infographic-esque pieces are produced once a month with assistance from Director of Data and Analytics JB Meeuwenberg, Director of Institutional Research and Grants Eduardo Bedoya, and Student Success Lead Jenny Klingenberg.

"Useful Data" topics have ranged from the Early College Program, Screen versus Seat time of Students, Student Engagement, and more. As these pieces are published each month, staff and faculty are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the information further.

At first glance, one might think that these "Useful Data" pieces result in data driven decisions, however, Meeuwenberg challenges that "The data is there to start the conversation. The decisions are people driven, but data informed."

Previously he added that these data-informed conversations were not happening among faculty. Now a year later, as new problems arise and solutions are proposed his MCC colleagues are asking "What does the data say?"

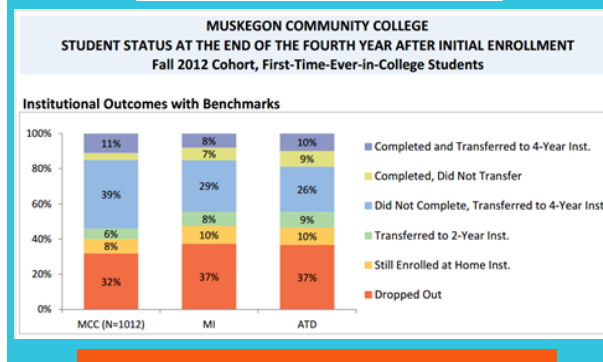
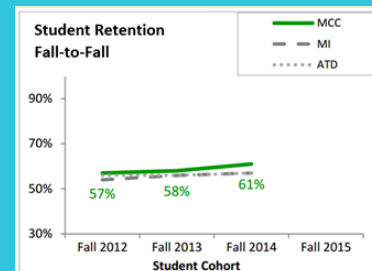
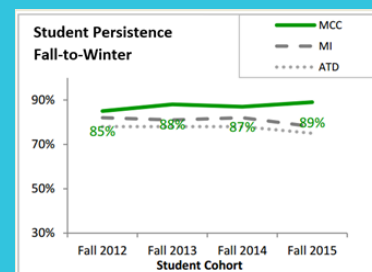
## Useful Data

Summer Summary

June 2017

Muskegon Community College

At the end of each school year, Achieving the Dream compiles data from the National Student Clearinghouse to help colleges see whether their reform efforts have led to improvements in the rates at which students persist toward their academic goals. The charts below demonstrate that MCC has made steady progress since 2012 and is a leader among Michigan community colleges and ATD schools.



"Useful Data" pieces are available on the website at [Muskegoncc.edu/usefuldata](http://Muskegoncc.edu/usefuldata)

## NEW CAREER AND TRANSFER SERVICES DESIGNED TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED



Photo by Peter D. Koryzno

As Muskegon Community College continues to adapt to the needs of students in an ever-changing world, the full time position of a Career Services and Transfer Coordinator was created. Held by Heidi Romero, the position is two-fold to offer expertise to both students entering the workforce from MCC and also to those transferring to four-year institutions.

One main priority for Romero has been the creation of a Hire a Jayhawk-the new online job board available for students, alumni and community members. This new platform is a resource for MCC job-seekers to find potential employment opportunities, as well as for businesses to post job openings.

Job seekers must have an updated resume to complete their profile on the job board. Assistance with creating a great resume, including hosting resume workshop events, is another piece of Romero's job that has been a focus in the first year.

"Just recently I've helped an alum with their resume who hasn't been at MCC since the 80s and that same day a current student

who was on campus preparing to transfer to GVSU." Said Romero. "Moving forward, I hope to grow the opportunities to help students create resumes so they are ready as potential jobs become available."

Romero has been part of the College Success Seminar and other classes assisting students and encouraging them to create their resumes early on in their education. The resume workshops offered are extremely valuable for students looking to enter a career immediately following their time at MCC. Alumni can take advantage of these career services as well.

For students who plan to transfer to a four-year institution after MCC, Romero has helped advise them through the sometimes difficult process to make their transition as smooth as possible.

All student athletes on scholarship were required in 2017 to attend a "Jayhawk Journey" information session meeting with Romero and Rachel Stewart, the MCC Alumni and Donor Relations Manager. During these meetings the student athletes

used the transfer tool on the website with Romero to see how the courses they were currently enrolled in or planning to take would transfer to their next institution and in doing so, how to best optimize their time at MCC to make the transfer seamless.

"As a student who transferred from MCC when this tool on the website didn't exist and now seeing it in action, I am amazed at how easy it makes planning a transfer for our students" said Stewart.

Career and transfer services are available to MCC Alumni. Heidi Romero can be contacted in the Office of Student Services in Room 103-D or by phone at 231-777-0365.

Check out our online job board and other services we provide, at <http://www.muskegoncc.edu/career/hireajayhawk/>



# Jayhawk Pantry: A Dream Come True



The Geo Club members collect donations for the Jayhawk Pantry. Right to left: Rina McClain, Jeremy Wahr, Anthony DiCesare, Victoria Mueller the Geo Club President, and Michael Ferrell.

The Jayhawk Food Pantry, which opened for business on Oct. 24 inside the Hendrik Meijer Library, represents a dream come true for the college's Student Life Office and a passion for several campus organizations.

What began as an idea in 2009 gained momentum with a recent \$1,500 grant from the Muskegon Community Foundation donation for start-up supplies, explained Sally Birkam, the Dean of Student Success and Campus Life.

"It's not just food that people struggle with," said Birkam, who has been aware of serious student hunger issues for some time.

She hopes to keep the Jayhawk Pantry shelves continually stocked with hygiene products, school supplies, and other items that add up to "all those little expenses" that the neediest students can seldom afford.

Within the first two weeks of its opening, the Jayhawk Pantry distributed 100 pounds of food to 25 MCC students. The program is open to all current MCC students, who must show an official MCC ID.

"We do not base it on financial aid or income," said Birkam. "So far, it's just the honor system."

MCC students are not only the Jayhawk Pantry recipients, but they also are encouraged to donate both their time and financial support, she added.

"It's a great cause that helps out many of their fellow students in need," Birkam

continued. "Volunteering is simple to sign up for and the sessions are usually around three hours. Any amount of help is great."

Proceeds from the 2017 Founders Day, the annual celebration of the 1926 founding of MCC, were donated to the Jayhawk Pantry.

"It was a good way to tie the public in with what Founders Day is all about, which is student success," said Amy Swope, who directs the Foundation for Muskegon Community College. "The project really resonated with the people attending."

MCC school organizations also have partnered up with the food pantry to spread the word, including the Geo Club and Phi Theta Kappa.

Geo Club members have placed boxes in the Geography Lab for donations. Club advisor Diana Casey sees their desire to help the Jayhawk Pantry as an outgrowth of their own experiences in needing food services, as well as simply wanting to help classmates and participate more in the college community.

"It's good to do something for other people," said Jeremy Wahr, a member who has volunteered at the pantry. "Six people came in and they just seemed incredibly grateful."

As its annual college project, Phi Theta Kappa, the college's honor society, started a drive to obtain backpacks, both new and used, for the Jayhawk Pantry. The effort has gained momentum with 25 backpacks, along with school supplies, being donated.

Michaela Wright, chapter president of

By Aubrey Glick  
MCC Communications Intern

Phi Theta Kappa, recalled the emotional response of one student to receiving a new backpack with the price tag still on it.

"(The student) made the comment that it still has tags," Wright said, her voice recapturing the excitement of the moment. "That just makes it all worth it. It's more than just a backpack, it's instilling in our students that we are there for them. This helps bring the community and the college together. This is all a part of supporting our college's mission."

## How to Donate to the Jayhawk Pantry

All donations are greatly appreciated and may be dropped off at the Student Life Office, Room 103, on the MCC main campus 221. S Quarterline Road.

For more information on acceptable non-perishable food items, visit [www.muskegoncc.edu/jayhawkpantry](http://www.muskegoncc.edu/jayhawkpantry)



Phi Theta Kappa's Michaela Wright stocks the Jayhawk Pantry shelves.

# UNIVERSITY PARK GOLF COURSE CELEBRATES 50TH YEAR IN 2018

By Peter D. Koryzno  
MCC Communications Manager

University Park Golf Course traces its origin to the mid-1960s, when Muskegon realtor John R. Achterhoff purchased the undeveloped property, just three miles from bustling downtown Muskegon, to build the course.

To fulfill his dream, Achterhoff hired veteran golf course architect, W. Bruce Matthews, of Hess Lake, MI, who as a young man began designing courses in Florida and England before coming to Michigan in 1931. Locally, Matthews designed and operated the Green Ridge Country Club in Grand Rapids, was the architect for the Grand Haven Golf Course, and designed and supervised expansion of Old Channel Trail Golf Course in Montague from a 9-hole to an 18-hole course.

In the spring of 1966, construction began on University Park, which Matthews predicted would be "one of the sportiest in the area." The course took its name from its locale, pinioned between two educational institutions – Muskegon Community College on the west and Orchard View High School on the east.

Designed on 69 acres, the 9-hole, par-36 course would be the only one open to the public within the city limits. Matthews captured the natural elements in his design. Four of the nine holes would span Four Mile Creek and the fairways would run through and over heavily wooded, sharply rolling terrain. An underground sprinkling system, a putting green, a driving range and bent grass greens augmented the course.

In 1967, Achterhoff, whose vision and inspiration was about to make University Park a reality, passed away. Richard L. Lindland, president of Campbell, Wyant and Canon Foundry, a division of Textron, Inc., purchased the course from the Achterhoff estate and continued its construction.

On May 4, 1968, University Park Golf Course opened its doors to the public. The fees were \$1.50 for nine holes on weekdays and \$2 on weekends. Players had to walk its 3,326 yards that initial season because golf carts were not an option.

PGA member Dale Grieve, a top amateur player at Montague High School and Western Michigan University in the 1930s before turning professional, leased and operated University Park Golf Course. He resigned as pro and greens keeper at Rolling Green Club in Saginaw to take the position. Previously, he was pro at the Marywood Country Club in Battle Creek and at Lincoln Golf Course. Grieve would manage University Park for the next 15 years.

On Feb. 20, 1975, the Muskegon Community College Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to authorize the purchase of the 69 acres, developed as University Park Golf Course, for \$320,000 from Richard Lindland. He donated as a gift to the college \$25,000 worth of equipment, including golf carts, tractors and mowers.

The trustees approving the purchase were: Chairman Dr. Robert J. Fles, Treasurer John E. Medendorp, Donald A. Seifert, Antoinette Reynolds, Thomas C. Clock and Robert E. Garrison, Jr. Trustee Ruth Marcus was out of town.

Fles, citing the example of the University of Michigan purchasing land several decades before it was needed for expansion, said MCC needed to be far-sighted. Twenty years from now, he remarked, the board will be remembered for making the right decision. "We got a good price and we're making a sound investment," he noted.

Within just three years, University Park yielded a 13.14% return. Purchased for \$320,000 in 1975, the property was worth \$387,500, reported local appraiser Elden Nedeau to the Board of Trustees in 1978.

At the time, other possible long-term options, outside of golf, mentioned for the property included: construction of an area-wide Vocational Education Center; construction of a Center of Higher Education, offering upper division courses through a link-up with other

institutions, such as Grand Valley State College; expansion into a wide variety of agricultural or agro-business programs that could include landscape management, ornamental horticulture, and floral shop management; construction of a greenhouse for use in an expanding botany program; startup of a sands and soil management program with use of some sections of the parcel as outdoor laboratories; a research program into pollution control that conceivably could tie-in with the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System; and training opportunities for students interested in tractor and farm implement repair.

However, MCC's short-term plan - leasing the golf course to a private owner and serving only in a landlord-type capacity with a profit-sharing arrangement – remained in place until two years ago.

In 2016, the college took over operation of University Park Golf Course and made several needed improvements to the fairways, greens, tree lines, and driving range. A computerized management system was instituted in the clubhouse, and a new fleet of electric golf carts was added, as were the popular GolfBoards, which look like motorized surf boards with a handle and a place for a golf bag.

Today, University Park members share the course with Muskegon's First Tee Program, in which the next wave of aspiring golfers learn the fundamentals that lead to the lifelong benefits of playing the sport. Meanwhile, in 2018, three generations of older golfers will take pause to celebrate their own fond memories, accomplishments, and friendships amassed over 50 years at University Park Golf Course.





# River Voices Returns

*River Voices* is a literary magazine that got its start at Muskegon Community College during the 1970s and showcases the work of current students, faculty and alumni. After more than a three-year hiatus, English Instructor Shauna Hayes felt compelled to bring the publication back in 2017.

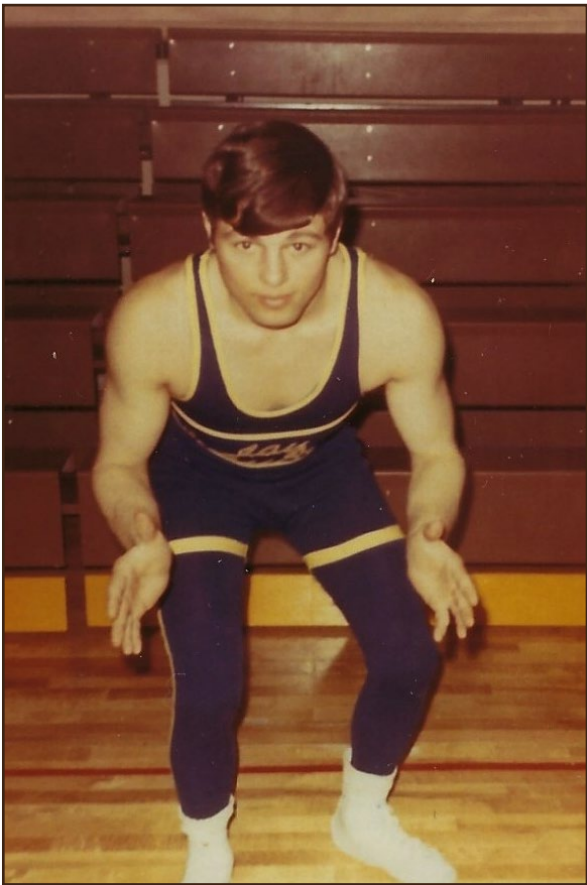
“I was inspired to breathe life back into *River Voices*, not only because I am a literature instructor and am in love with the written word, but also because I had previous experience designing and editing a college literary magazine” shared Hayes. “When I attended the College of Charleston, I was offered a position as editor of the college’s two literary magazines: *Illuminations* and *Crazyhorse*. The experience I had working with students and faculty was rewarding and educational and created a passion for helping students publish their work.”

The revival of *River Voice* offers a balance between the new and the nostalgia of previous editions. “The title remains the same, but I wanted to give the magazine a fresh look and feel. The magazine showcases poetry, prose, art, and photography of current students, alumni and staff” says Hayes. “I have also included in last year’s publication a brief explanation of the foreign language student trip to Belize along with photos taken by the students themselves.”

Although Hayes led the charge to revive *River Voices*, she had help along the way. “I was fully supported by the English Department and the various members of the MCC staff that I met with. Everyone worked hard to help create a quality magazine.”

The number of submissions received for the revival issue surpassed expectations. “It was very difficult to narrow it down and I was amazed by the quality of the student’s work” noted Hayes. “It made me even more proud to be part of something like this, since these types of publications are typically only found on large university campuses. It is wonderful to be able to offer all of our students the same opportunity.”

Hayes shared that moving forward she hopes to encourage prominent regional artists and authors to submit their work so MCC students can see their work alongside these successful individuals and in turn, motivate the next generation of artists from Michigan.



## MCC Alumnus Michael Shearer to Join National Wrestling Hall of Fame

Muskegon Community College alumnus Michael Shearer, who in 1969 became MCC’s first-ever National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) champion wrestler, was inducted into the National Junior College Wrestling Hall of Fame at the NJCAA National Wrestling Tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on Feb. 24.

The Dowagiac, MI, native compiled a two-year dual meet record of 30 wins and no defeats at MCC. He was a two-time Michigan Community College state champion, the 1969 Outstanding Wrestler at the Michigan Collegiate Championships, a two-time Muskegon Community College Outstanding Wrestler 1968-69, selected NJCAA First Team All-American and Outstanding College Athletes of America in 1969.

Shearer began wrestling in 1962 for Coaches Dick Boles and John Lewis at Dowagiac High School, where he was a two-time conference champion in 1965 and 1966. Wrestling at 120 lbs. he was a Michigan state champion – Dowagiac High School’s first-ever - in 1966 with a 34-0 record.

At MCC, he competed two seasons – 1967-1969 - under Coach Sid Huitema and compiled an 80-6 record. He won the NJCAA National Championship as a sophomore at 123 lbs. with only 2 points being scored against him during his six matches. He competed along with freshman teammate and NJCAA Hall of Fame heavyweight, Chris Taylor, also from Dowagiac High School.

In 1969-70, he was an assistant coach for the Muskegon Community College NJCAA National Championship Team. He then transferred to Iowa State University, where he wrestled for two seasons in 1970-72.

Shearer, who retired in 2010 from Rink Printing of South Bend, IN, currently lives in Dowagiac with his wife, Connie. He has three children, Stacey, Louis and Adam, and seven grandchildren.

He becomes the tenth Jayhawk since 1981 to be inducted into the NJCAA Wrestling Hall of Fame. He joins Coach Ron Gaffner and Chris Taylor (1981), Russ Swanson (1988), Tim Smelser (1995), Jeff Steele (1998), Doug Lee (2000), Tim McDonald (2001), Anton Hall (2012), and Claude Ruffin (2013).

# Class Notes

Update your alumni information online at [muskegoncc.edu/alumni-relations/](https://muskegoncc.edu/alumni-relations/)

### 1960s

#### John Arnold Johnson, 1969

John graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in 1969 and went on to receive a bachelor’s degree from Grand Valley State College in 1971. In 2004 he retired from Ottawa County.

### 1970s

#### James W. Sanford, 1977

James graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts in 1977. He is married with two children and is currently the CEO of Central State Bank in Beluah, Michigan.

#### Anna Browne, 1978

Anna graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts in 1978 and went on to Michigan State University to receive a bachelor’s degree. During her time at MCC she was on the tennis team and was involved in the school paper. Anna now works at Standard Insurance Company in corporate communications.

### 1980s

#### Nanci DeLong, 1981

Nanci DeLong received her Associate in Science and Arts in 1981 and has now retired from GTE/Verizon.

#### Kelly Miller, 1981

Kelly graduated with an Associate in General Studies in 1981. She went on to Western Michigan University and received a Bachelor of Social Work in 1984. Kelly now works at Great Lakes Caring Hospice.

#### Jeri Wonders, 1981

Jeri graduated with an Associate in General Studies in 1981. She is now working at the Muskegon Area District Library.

#### Karla Cleveland, 1984

Karla graduated with an Associate in Applied Science studying nursing. She has worked as an oncology certified nurse for 19 years and is now at Mercy Health Muskegon.

#### Nancy Maycroft, 1984

Nancy graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in 1984. She has since retired from Muskegon Community College.

### 1990s

#### Alan Betts, 1990

Alan graduated with an Associate in Applied Science studying electronics. He now works at Honeywell International.

#### David Longmire, 1992

David graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts focusing on criminal justice. He now works for the State of Michigan Department of Corrections.

#### Anton Josephson II, 1995

Anton graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in 1995 and went on to the University of Miami and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Anton is now the Director of Human Resources at Stryker Corporation.

#### Djuna Lang, 1995

Djuna studied Criminal Justice and graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts. Now married with two children, she works at the E.C. Brooks Correctional Facility.

### 2000s

#### Rusty Jibson, 2003

Rusty graduated with an Associate in Applied Science studying electronics technology. He now works at GE Aviation as a Machinist.

### 2010s

#### Courtney Sikkenga, 2010

Courtney graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts in 2010. During her time at MCC she played on the Jayhawk Softball Team. She went on to receive a Bachelor Degree in Secondary Education from Grand Valley State University in 2012. She now works at Muskegon Middle School.

#### Jene Patitucci, 2011

Jene graduated with an Associate in Science and Arts in 2011. During her time at MCC she was part of the West Shore Youth Symphony and Community Choirs. She is currently finishing her Bachelor of Professional Studies at Berklee College of Music. Jene currently works at Alameda String Academy.

#### James Halman II, 2012

James graduated with an Associate in Applied Science studying computer information technology. He now works at Bekins Audio Video and Appliance.

#### Melanie Tuck, 2016

Melanie graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in 2016. Since then she has started a new job at The Cove at Lake Woods.





Muskegon Community College

221 South Quarterline ♦ Muskegon, MI 49442

# SAVE THE DATE - DUELING PIANOS

Friday, October 12

6:00pm-9:00pm

Holiday Inn Downtown Muskegon

## Founder's Day Celebration

