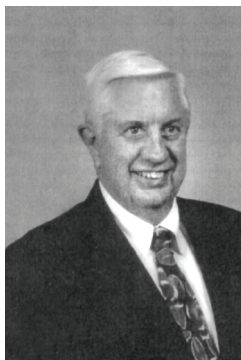




Reflections

News from Muskegon Community College

MCC to Create “Richard & Ann Kraft Alumni/Foundation House” Adjacent to Campus



One of Muskegon Community College President David L. Rule’s key goals is to expand the visibility and role in the community of the College’s foundation and alumni services. Achieving that goal took a giant step forward due to the generosity of a leading member of the College’s class of 1949. “Our plans call for creating a space to house the operations of the

Foundation for Muskegon Community College and the MCC Alumni Association—so now their respective boards of directors will have their own place to call home,” he said.

Dr. Rule announced recently that **Richard H. Kraft**, has pledged funds to create a place adjacent to campus into a center from which fund-raising efforts and alumni services can be based. Kraft, now retired from the Flint-based engineering firm that bears his name, will provide \$125,000 for the capital project with hopes of inspiring and challenging other alumni to pledge additional support to later add functional amenities to the planned center.

Kraft completed two years in the pre-engineering curriculum at Muskegon Junior College, and then transferred to Michigan State University to acquire his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. His generosity is not new to the College—several years ago he and his sister, Susan Kraft Mateer, endowed a scholarship fund to provide tuition assistance to promising MCC students. He was honored in April 2007 as Muskegon Community College’s “2007 Alumnus of the Year” at commencement exercises. To complement his financial support for the College, Kraft joined the Foundation for MCC Board of Directors.

“The College provided me with a terrific start on my education and I am very pleased to be able to help future generations benefit from a great college,” Kraft said. The initial plans call for remodeling the house on Marquette Avenue to accommodate offices and meeting rooms. Future goals for the facility include entertainment/leisure activities, such as alumni and donor receptions. This is where Kraft and the MCC foundation board plan to challenge MCC alumni and friends of the College to fully complete the facility, which will be known as the “Richard & Ann Kraft Alumni/Foundation House.”

“As you might expect, we are very excited about this project and truly appreciate the commitment of Dick and his wife to make this dream a reality,” notes MCC President Dave Rule.



Architect’s Rendering of Alumni/Foundation

Winter 2007 - 2008 Inside:

- 3 - Alumna Leaves a Great Gift
- 4 - One-Stop Enrollment Center Planned
- 5 - Planetarium to Get a Makeover
- 6 - Longtime Athletic Director “Retires”
- 7 - Alumni News
- 11 - Scholarship Winners

Dear Friends of MCC:

Considering all of the negativity surrounding the State of Michigan's budget situation, there is little wonder that community college presidents in Michigan (and indeed across the entire country) are being encouraged to "act public, but think private." This is one way of underscoring the need for public institutions to work harder at securing alternative streams of funding to supplement traditional sources.



To be sure, all is NOT doom and gloom. At Muskegon Community College we are fortunate to be in a position to craft a balanced budget and still be able to keep tuition costs among the lowest in Michigan. It has not been easy, but with the help of dedicated staff and with guidance from the MCC Board of Trustees, MCC is well-positioned to continue offering West Michigan residents an outstanding education at the most affordable cost.

Capital facility needs continue to outpace resources, however, and we are hoping to generate alumni and community support for three small-to medium-sized projects that we feel will enhance the College's educational programs and help continue to serve the greater community in the fashion to which it has been accustomed. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find detailed information about each of these projects, but I wanted to just mention them here since we are hoping to secure your involvement, financially or otherwise.

In no particular order, we need to renovate and upgrade the Carr-Fles Planetarium equipment and facilities so that future generations of students and area residents can continue to enjoy the spectacular star shows presented there also. Thanks to the generosity of 1949 graduate Richard Kraft and his wife, Ann, the College is well on its way to having its first Alumni/Foundation House, a facility where alums and friends of MCC can enjoy camaraderie and plan events. Help is needed to take the Kraft Alumni/Foundation House to the "next level," which includes an expanded facility, landscaping, and a barbecue area. Last, but certainly not least as far as our students are concerned, is the development of a student Wellness Center adjacent to our athletic facilities.

While none of these projects are "overwhelming" with respect to capital costs, together they represent opportunities to enhance



overall College offerings that will serve future generations of West Michigan residents well into the future. Hopefully, these projects also represent for you, a chance to get reconnected with Muskegon Community College in a fashion that will make you feel good about the quality of life we enjoy here. I invite your support and will endeavor to answer any and all inquiries in a prompt and accurate fashion.

Kindest Regards,

Dr. David L. Rule, President



Reflections is published for the alumni of Muskegon Community College.

Dr. David L Rule, President
Bill Loxterman, Julie Weller, Co-Editors
Todd Radel, Designer
Don Bogema, Photographer

Alumni Association Board of Directors

Julie Weller (1977), President
Bill Paulson (1948), Vice President
Janie P. Brooks (1969), Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Burrell (1984)
Rhona Colbert (2000)
Dr. James DeHudy (1968)
Erma Gibson (1989)
Charles Johnson
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Bill Loxterman (1970)
Brenda Mitcheltree (1999)
Donald Mitcheltree (1988)
Tom W. Olson (1949)
Diana Osborn (1973)
David Seith (1985)
Dr. Mark Shunta (1975)

Parents: The Alumni Office appreciates updating records on MCC alumni. If this publication is mailed to your residence, and your son or daughter no longer resides with you, would you help by furnishing the correct address? Please call the Alumni Office at 231.777.0461, or mail to: Alumni Office, 221 S. Quartermile Road, Muskegon, MI 49442. Thanks!

Muskegon Community College is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, political persuasion, disability, height, weight, or age in any of its educational programs, activities, and employment.

MCC Alumna Leaves Gift to College

Muskegon Community College has received a gift from the estate of Isabelle Mapes Wathen, who attended MCC in the late 1940s.

Mrs. Wathen was born in Muskegon, attended Muskegon High School and MCC, and graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in business education. She passed away in June 2006 at age 80. Always a believer in education, she named MCC as one of the beneficiaries of her estate through her will.

Generous gifts such as these are necessary to support the many projects underway at the College, including upgrades to the Carr-Fles Planetarium, the establishment of offices for the College's foundation and alumni operations, and improvements to the student services corridor.

MCC is increasing its efforts to be more proactive in the area of planned giving, in response to many requests from community donors. Bequests, or donations made through a will, are the most flexible of all planned gifts. There are ways of structuring a will that enable individuals to include charitable gifts while ensuring that family obligations are answered first.

If you have remembered Muskegon Community College in your will, please let us know. We'd like to have the opportunity to recognize your generosity during your lifetime. Please contact Diana Osborn at 231.777.0350 to discuss how to make a significant difference through a planned gift to MCC.



Planned *Student Wellness Center* to Complement Campus Physical Education Facilities

Identified as the most consistently utilized facility on campus in terms of hours of use, the physical education facilities (Bartels-Rode Gymnasium) serve as a major resource for students, faculty, and the community. Now, funding support will be sought to add a Student Wellness Center designed to provide training opportunities for lifelong health and fitness.

The full facilities upgrade recommendation includes a wellness center, expanded fitness center capabilities, and additional office and locker space for the staff and coaches of the many sports offered at Muskegon Community College. Speaking about the plans, Executive Vice President for Administrative Services Diana Osborn commented, "A number of years ago we constructed a new mezzanine in the Gym that included a classroom and a small fitness center— primarily for instructional use and for student athletes. Now we are looking to expand our ability to address identified needs of our students, staff, and the community," she said.

Funding is not yet in place for this initiative and it is hoped that alumni and other friends of MCC will become actively engaged in efforts to raise the local match needed to supplement potential grants and governmental support.

ANNOUNCING... FOUNDATION FOR MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 4:00 p.m.
Presidents Conference room
Muskegon Community College



By-Laws: **Members...** shall consist of each person, corporation, partnership, trust or other legal entity making a contribution to the corporation during that fiscal year or the fiscal year preceding....
Business: Report of officers

Student One-Stop Center to Streamline Enrollment Process

Construction will commence this coming spring on MCC's new One-Stop Center designed to better serve new and current students as they apply for admission and register for classes. "The primary notion is to provide students with the opportunity to get everything done in one visit to campus, if they so desire," according to Vice-President of Student Services Janie P. Brooks (1969). "This will include everything from filing your application for admission to the College, completing financial aid forms, testing services, academic counseling, and enrolling in classes," she said. The entire main entrance, and extending down both primary corridors, will be completely renovated to better serve students.

The office of Student Services at MCC is the **single point of access for enrollment services** on campus. The staff is committed to providing quality service to all students, with a goal to remove any service-related barriers. The College has the technology in place to provide accurate and timely information, as well as anticipate and meet the needs of both the traditional and non-traditional student population of Muskegon Community College.

"Now that the reality of the One-Stop Center is on the horizon, I think that it is fair to say that the excitement extends into actually 'energizing' everyone involved with the planning and operation of this initiative," notes Associate Vice-President for Student Services George Maniates.



Architect's rendering of Students One-Stop center

One Time "Non-Traditional" Student Now Working to Help High School Students Achieve Their Dreams

Muskegon Community College is pleased to have 1994 graduate **Magnolia "Maggie" Knox** back on campus working with the Upward Bound Trio Program, a grant-funded initiative to provide academic support services to help prepare high school students for college. Following completion of her studies at MCC, Ms. Knox transferred to Grand Valley State University, where in 1997 she acquired her bachelor's degree in group social science.

Along the way she obviously developed a passion for helping young folks achieve their dreams and has worked in various capacities for the Foundation for Muskegon County, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Urban League of Greater Muskegon, and also served as a student advocate and mentor for Muskegon Public Schools. She was involved with the LEAD 2005 and GEAR-UP 2007 programs. Maggie Knox has not always worked with students and been able to utilize the knowledge and skills she acquired in college.

ers/Big Sisters, the Urban League of Greater Muskegon, and also served as a student advocate and mentor for Muskegon Public Schools. She was involved with the LEAD 2005 and GEAR-UP 2007 programs. Maggie Knox has not always worked with students and been able to utilize the knowledge and skills she acquired in college.



Graduating from Muskegon Heights High School in 1974, she spent 14 years working for Howmet when a lay-off led her back to college. Her message to "non-traditional" students is appropriate: "Don't be afraid of the challenge—education is the key to success."

Foundation for MCC Launches Drive to Renovate Carr-Fles Planetarium

Brenneman Family Provides Support

Muskegon Community College's Carr-Fles Planetarium has served the college and the greater lakeshore community well since 1972, with thousands of area visitors and local students having viewed sky shows, free of charge. The Planetarium is also utilized for astronomy instruction at the College, as it has an excellent capability to model the night sky.

With the growing popularity of digital cameras and projection systems, however, MCC's 35-year-old facility is fast becoming obsolete and its continuing usefulness is threatened. Since the Planetarium uses analog technology, and new programs are only being produced digitally, MCC is not able to purchase new shows. Furthermore, it is becoming more and more difficult to find replacement parts to make repairs when the system breaks down.

Fortunately, the Planetarium has its supporters, including local physicians Drs. Wayne and Nancy Brenneman. Nancy is the daughter of Dr. Robert Fles, the former MCC Board Chair for whom the Planetarium is named. Nancy and her husband have jump-started the campaign to upgrade the Planetarium with a cash gift that will go toward new equipment and renovation of the facility.

What is needed to return the Planetarium to a modern footing? At the very least, a basic digital planetarium instrument and new sound system will be required. The cost of such an upgrade would be over \$180,000. With additional funding, MCC could purchase a higher quality instrument as well as new seating.

As the only Planetarium along the lakeshore, the Carr-Fles facility serves an important purpose for our students and community. If you would like information on how to **Be a Star** by helping the Carr-Fles Planetarium Renovation Project, please contact Diana Osborn, MCC's Executive Vice President for Administra-

College Awarded Four-Year National Science Foundation Grant

Muskegon Community College has been awarded a four-year grant from the National Science Foundation for \$473,310. The NSF program, Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM), makes grants to institutions of higher education to support scholarships for academically talented, financially needy students. Of MCC's total grant, \$418,200 will be dedicated to scholarships for students pursuing STEM courses of study.

MCC's project, *Muskegon Scholars – Developing STEM Professionals in Michigan*, will be managed by MCC instructors Greg Marczak (1984) and Toby Moleski. They will recruit participants from local high schools, Workforce Development Centers, and through various college outreach programs to pursue education and careers in STEM fields. At least 20 academically talented, financially disadvantaged students will receive scholarships for MCC tuition, fees, and books each year of the grant. Participants must be full-time students at MCC and will be chosen from candidates majoring or planning to major in mathematics, geology, chemistry, astronomy, physics, or engineering.

The new manufacturing economy of West Michigan demands trained STEM professionals. The *Muskegon Scholars* project will ensure that students perceive skill in science, engineering,



Greg Marczak



Toby Moleski

and mathematics as necessary to achieve greater career opportunities and success. This will be accomplished through the student support mechanisms already available at the college, as well as through the learning community to be established for the STEM scholars. The success of the students participating in this program will be enhanced through face-to-face mentoring resources and an assortment of other student support activities such as job shadowing, internships, and cohort support groups. In addition, students will participate in professional activities and will receive assistance in transferring to four-year institutions.

For more information, please contact Toby Moleski in MCC's Math and Science Department at 231.777.0293.



Longtime MCC Athletic Director Gene Gifford (1971) “Retires” — Takes Helm of Olivet College Basketball Program

Talking with Gene Gifford about his fast approaching retirement as athletic director and head coach of the Jayhawk men’s basketball program, it quickly became apparent that his decision to leave Muskegon Community College did not come easily. His affiliation with MCC goes back to the early ’70s, where as a student-athlete he made his mark athletically on the campus hard courts and baseball diamond.

Moving on to Olivet College following graduation from MCC in 1971, Gifford played basketball while acquiring his bachelor’s degree, majoring in physical education and minoring in social studies. Gene taught and coached at Oakridge Junior High before finding a home at Ravenna High School, where he also served as athletic director from 1977 to 1993. For much of that time, starting in 1981, he served as head coach for the MCC Jayhawk men’s basketball program. Then in 1993 he joined MCC full-time, serving as athletic director while continuing to coach basketball.

“I’ve been extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to coach so many fine young men over my 26 years with the College,” he said. Reflecting on one particular highlight in his career at MCC, he noted that “winning the 1999-2000 Western Conference Championship, only the fifth in College history, and the first in 25 years, was extra special.” Being the 1989-90 National Runner-Up team was special as well. Gene was quick to give credit and high praise to others as he considered his accomplishments as athletic director: “I was really fortunate to have a very good staff—both coaching and support staff. They made my job a lot easier.” “Of course,” he continued, “the support from the administration and Board of Trustees was always appreciated.”

“Overall,” he said, “I’d have to say that Muskegon Community College athletics are more recognized in the community, as well as the state and region, not only for successes, but for how Jayhawk athletes represent the College and community.” It is obvious that Gene Gifford, father, teacher, coach, athletic director, and mentor to many, considers building strong character in young folks to be a large part of his mission in life.

Now, accepting an appointment as head coach of the Olivet College men’s basketball program “fulfills a long-time dream to someday coach at a four-year college,” he remarked. While some may consider that Olivet’s gain is MCC’s loss, the legacy that Gene Gifford leaves behind will serve Greater Muskegon well for many years to come.



ten entries in the Regional Qualifying Tournament, plus two additional members from the entire team. A total of nine wrestlers on the team earned individual academic honors. The following individuals are Members of the National Academic Team for Wrestling in 2006-07.

<u>Wt. Class</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>High School Attended</u>
125	Jubran Nassar	Dearborn Fordson
133	Robert Espinoza	Kalamazoo Central
141	Todd Barton	St. Louis (MO)
149	Wayne Leonard	Richmond
157	Mike Leonard	Richmond
165	Jordon McKiernan	Richmond
174	Westin Wilkie	Ferndale
184	Josh McAllister	Clarkston
197	Luke Dobb	Fruitport
285	David Wyper	Perrysburg (OH)
133	Chad Johnson	Fruitport
184	Marwan Faraj	Plymouth Canton

Jayhawks Win National Academic Team Award

The 2006-07 Muskegon Community College wrestling team won the NJCAA Coaches Association award for the team with the highest overall grade point average and academic success. The Jayhawks achieved an overall GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. The award is based on a team’s

Muskegon Community College, the Athletic Department and the wrestling coaching staff are extremely proud of this accomplishment by the 2006-07 wrestling team and congratulate them on a job well done. A true athlete strives for both academic and athletic success in their career. The Jayhawks will also be honored by the NCAA National Wrestling Coaches Association at the 2008 National Wrestling Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri.



Wow -- we have received an overwhelming response from our MCC alumni after our last newsletter! Please keep them coming -- send in the "What About YOU?" form to keep in touch with your college friends.

1930s

Richard "Titch" Harrison (1938) – Majored in Economics at MCC, then served in WWII and received disabling wounds in 1942 while on the USS Lexington in the Coral Sea Battle. He retired from the Navy in 1944 as Lieutenant, and went back to finish his education. Richard attended the University of Chicago on an academic scholarship, graduated with a Bachelors degree in Economics in 1949, a Masters degree in 1950, and from 1950-53 he was a Research Associate at UC. With "too many good memories to recount" while at MCC, Richard credits the "tough" teachers he had at MCC for teaching him how to study. Richard currently holds the position of Club Historian at the Chicago-area Rotary Club.

1940s

Dorothy Pekelden Bingham (1940) – Majored in Foreign Language at MCC, earned a Bachelors degree from Michigan State University in 1942, and also received a teaching degree in English from MSU. Dorothy has fond memories of Jayhawks Basketball games, and history instructor, Dr. McKinley, who was her inspiration for pursuing History as a minor while in college. Although Dorothy no longer teaches, she stays busy as a private tutor for young children at her home in Destin, FL.

Albert Hammer (1946) – Albert started at MCC in 1941, but his education was interrupted by the U.S. Army, even though he had enlisted in the ERC (Enlisted Reserve Corps) which should have allowed him to finish college first. After he served in WWII, Albert graduated from MCC, earned a Bachelors degree from the University of Michigan in 1947, and a Masters degree in 1948. Albert has fond memories of the old downtown MCC campus with the "beautiful clock tower" – and also remembers the night unnamed persons made the clock strike "13!"

Harriet J. Heethius Oliver (1949) – Studied history at MCC, received a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education in 1951, and a Masters degree from WMU in 1956. Harriet spent 33½ years as a teacher and principal in Muskegon Public Schools. Harriet fondly remembers making coffee in huge pots for the Women's League at the old downtown campus – on a stove! She also remembers how all of her MCC classes transferred easily to WMU. "MCC continues to be an excellent beginning for students to go on and reach their educational goals," she writes.

Catherine (Hendrick) Platt (1948) – After majoring in sociology at MCC, Catherine earned her Bachelors degree from Albion College in 1950, then went on to earn her Masters from Western Michigan University. She fondly remembers Mr. Sheets and the musicals, playing in the "hungry seven" for basketball games, and all of the lasting friendships she formed at MCC.

Kenneth E. Spray (1948) – Kenneth majored in pre-engineering at MCC, and in 1951 earned a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University. Kenneth earned a Registered Professional Engineers License from Michigan in 1959, and continued his education with a Masters degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1974. As a returning G.I., Kenneth credits MCC instructors with giving him the extra guidance and help needed to make up the lost time between high school and college.

Alberta Studier (1943) – Majored in Education/Fine Arts while at MCC, and then earned her Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from Western Michigan University in 1945. Alberta fondly remembers the "old" campus downtown, and instructors Dr. McKinley and Dr. Umbreit. Alberta had five immediate family members attend MCC, and has a grandson attending in Fall 2007.

Paul R. Swanson (1947) – Paul started his lengthy educational journey at MCC, and continued it at Augustana College in Illinois where he majored in Biology in 1950. He then attended Augustana Theological Seminary (now the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago) and earned a degree in Pastoral Psychology in 1958. In 1962, Paul earned a doctorate in Psychology from Boston University. Paul credits his early years at MCC as a confidence-builder for future college study.

1950s

Douglas W. Bond Jr. (1955) – Douglas attended MCC on a Rotary Scholarship, and majored in pre-engineering. He then attended the General Motors Institute with a major in foundry engineering, and went on to achieve a Masters degree in Michigan State University's AMP Program, sponsored by General Motors. He played Jayhawks basketball and golf, and remembers the great times at MCC as "...maybe the best in my life!"

Mary C. Eherenman (1951) – Studied Elementary Education at MCC, and earned her Bachelors degree in EE at the University of Michigan in 1953. She went on to earn her Masters degree from the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1971. Mary considers her time at MCC a "great" start for her career of 32 years in elementary teaching.

Frances N. (Branyan) Shepard (1959) – Frances decided to attend college the same time as her son did, and majored in elementary education while at MCC. She went to Western Michigan University and graduated magna cum laude in 1963, and attained her Masters degree from WMU in 1969 while teaching. According to Frances, all of her memories of MCC are fond ones. MCC helped to set her in a whole new direction, and "opened doors to a whole new life."

Lawrence B. Trygstad (1957) – Studied pre-law at MCC, earned a Bachelors degree in social science from the University of Michigan, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Southern California Law School. Lawrence retains fond memories of playing on the basketball team at MCC, and credits the college with enabling him to achieve his life's dream of becoming a lawyer. Before opening his law firm in Los Angeles, Lawrence taught in the L.A. Unified School District for nine years.

1960s

Rocky Corradin (1969) – Rocky started his education at MCC with an emphasis in cast metals, and then earned a Bachelors degree in Technical Metallurgic Engineering from Western Michigan University in 1971.

Ellen Cutler (1969) – Ellen achieved her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse by attending MCC's nursing program and achieving LPN credentials. She has many fond memories of her inspiring instructors and the nursing classes she attended, including the application of electrician skills in dealing with a faulty electric bed.

Mary Alice Goodwin (1967) – Mary majored in Education at MCC, then earned a Bachelors degree in 1970 from Western Michigan University, in Special Education. She also earned a Masters of Science degree from the University of Alabama in 1990. She fondly remembers her art history class, and credits MCC's flexibility in allowing her to attain her education while working.

Doris Herlein (1965) – Majored in education at MCC, and received a Bachelors degree in education from Grand Valley State University in 1967. She also achieved a Masters degree in teaching music from Western Michigan University in 1971. Doris credits MCC for sound preparation for advanced studies, and life. She has fond memories of many MCC instructors, and remembers how her first exams were waived because of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Alan F. Kennedy (1967) – majored in business administration at MCC, and earned a Bachelors degree from Western Michigan University in 1969. Alan has fond memories of the various campus buildings and the "Sigs" fraternity.



Stanley G. Markavitch (1963) – Majored in Education at MCC, and earned a Bachelors degree in Special Education from Michigan State University in 1965. Stanley also earned a Masters from Eastern Michigan University in 1967, and completed post-Masters work at MSU in Educational Administration. Stanley remembers traveling between buildings “all over Muskegon” while at MCC, and credits the College with laying a solid foundation for his study habits.

Michele E. May (1968) – Majored in liberal arts at MCC, and then transferred to Western Michigan University where she earned a Bachelors degree in secondary education. Michele also has 28 hours into a Masters degree in Journalism from Michigan State University. She has fond memories of performing in MCC’s production of “Becket,” directed by Jack Rice. Michele has broadened her education by taking MCC Continuing Education foreign language courses.

Roger A. Miller (1961) – Majored in Business at MCC, and then transferred to Western Michigan University where he earned a Bachelors degree in 1964, and a Masters degree in 1972. Roger also took additional course work to attain an A.B.D. in Educational Leadership. He fondly recalls nice faculty, some great dances and parties at MCC, and also credits MCC with helping him realize the importance of transferable credits.

Ardis M. Peters (1965) – Although she didn’t officially graduate from MCC, Ardis took breaks from her life as wife and mother to attend classes. “I felt the need for intellectual exercise,” she writes. “I loved attending classes. I love the school.”

Douglas G. Platt (1968) – Majored in accounting while at MCC, and earned a Bachelors degree in Accounting from Ferris State University in 1971. He also earned a Masters degree in Business Administration from Grand Valley State University in 1993. Douglas fondly recalls the student lounge in the old Vanderlaan Building, and the many friends he met there. Douglas met his wife while at MCC, and credits the College with allowing him the opportunity to work on his education in a cost-effective manner. “It is good to see that MCC has maintained its core value of providing educational opportunities for people at a reasonable cost,” he says, “and training that provides marketable skills.”

1970s

Joyce Austin (1970) – Earned her A.A. degree at MCC, then earned a degree in teaching (middle school, P.E.) from Grand Valley State University. She returned to GVSU to attain a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education in 1973, and taught emotionally impaired children in the Muskegon Public school system for 21 years before retiring. She has fond memories of instructors D. Rucks and Dorothy Vegter.

Wendy Austin (1974) – Majored in Nursing at MCC, earning her LPN in 1974, and her RN from Ferris State University in 1977. She returned to MCC in 2002 to take classes toward her BSN, and is currently pursuing a Masters degree. She credits MCC for allowing her to start college while living at home, and is grateful that all of her credits transferred!

Roy Cowdery (1971) – transferred two years of credits to Michigan State University, where he earned a Bachelors degree in Finance in 1973. Roy also earned an MBA from Western Michigan University in 1977. He fondly recalls Jim Moyer, Ed Kyvig, the “SIG” Fraternity at MCC, and credits the College with giving him a strong base both academically and socially.

Nancy Christie (1972) – Majored in Music Education at MCC, and earned a Bachelors degree in Music Education from the University of Michigan in 1975. She credits the MCC music department for her success at U of M; and fondly remembers playing cards in the cafeteria, meeting new friends, having helpful instructors, and singing with Gweneth Bean.

Douglas DeKuiper (1979) – Majored in business at MCC, earned a Bachelor in Business Administration from Ferris State University in 1981, and an MBA from Baker College in 1997. He recalls meeting new people on the MCC campus, “a good school.”

James E. Ebersole (1974) – Majored in science and math at MCC, took pre-dentistry courses at Central Michigan University, then graduated in 1993 from Texas A&M University--Corpus Christie with an RN/BSN, and is currently working towards an MBA. He fondly recalls his cross-country teammates and events, and chemistry instructor Dr. Roche, “a tough but great teacher!”

Thaddeus “Ted” J. Kozicki, Jr. (1970) – Majored in social studies and education at MCC, and earned a Bachelors degree (double-major: Social Studies/English) at Western Michigan University in 1972. He also earned a Masters degree in Psychology/Special Education from Emporia State University in 1985. Ted fondly recalls representing the social studies department at MCC in a debate with a local politician over voting age, and credits the College with building a good educational foundation for his future studies.

Betty Lee (1976) – Although she majored in Business and earned her Associates degree in the 1970s, she returned to MCC in 2000 to take classes in history, English, and biology. She credits MCC with helping her pass a realtor’s exam, and continues to read, especially history. She thought it was “pretty neat” that she was old enough to be a grandmother to most of the students.

Judy (Kuehling) McClain (1975) – Majored in social science at MCC, and earned a Bachelor in Social Work from Michigan State University in 1977, and a Masters from MSU in 1978. Judy credits MCC with helping her to learn she could achieve on her own, and having instructors who were “accessible.”

Lori (Manning) Dombrasuky Osowski (1976) – Majored in pre-veterinary medicine at MCC, then transferred to Michigan State University and earned a Bachelors degree in Microbiology in 1978. Lori also earned a Masters degree in Epidemiologic Science from the University of Michigan in 1982. She fondly recalls her time as vice-president of Student Government, snow-boarding at the MCC Winter Carnival, and credits MCC for a good foundation for her future endeavors.

Keith C. Quimbach (1977) – Majored in Industrial Engineering at MCC, earned a Bachelors degree from Southern Illinois University in 1992, and a Masters degree from Troy University. While at MCC, he was a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Keith is a retired U.S. Naval Officer, after serving over 31 years and achieving CW03 rank.

Dorothy J. Scott (1978) – Majored in Criminal Justice at MCC, earned a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice in 1984 from Grand Valley State University, and is currently enrolled in a Masters program there. Dorothy has had a career in the Michigan Department of Corrections as a parole agent, has been a Muskegon Heights councilwoman for 14 years, and an adjunct instructor at MCC.

Karen L. Seaver (1972) – Majored in science at MCC, transferred to Michigan State University, and then earned a Medical Doctor degree from the University of Michigan in 1977. Karen recalls her MCC organic chemistry by essay exam made the large university multiple-choice exams seem easy! She also credits the affordability of MCC as really helping in the “long haul.”

Beatrice Thomas (1973) – Studied nursing at MCC, and achieved an LPN degree. As a nurse, she fulfilled her dream of helping others, and is grateful to MCC for helping her to achieve her goals.

Paul A. Toman (1976) – Majored in social science at MCC, earned a Bachelors degree from the James Madison College at Michigan State University in 1979, and a J.D. from the University of Kansas in 1992.



Paul has fond memories of instructors Patricia Tevebaugh and Jack Rice, who he says were “marvelous instructors, gracious in their counsel, and always willing to take time to speak to students.”

Robert Whitlow (1973) – Attended the nursing program at MCC, and earned his LPN. Robert credits MCC with giving him a start in his medical career.

1980s

Douglas Allen (1988) – Earned his Associates degree from MCC, and then transferred to the University of Michigan, earning a Bachelors degree in Film & Video Studies in 1990. Douglas credits MCC with helping him find a career direction. “I am really grateful for the time I spent at MCC because it made my learning at the university level that much more focused,” he writes. “I think that the time I spent at MCC is a large part of my success today not just professionally, but also as a productive member of society.” After college Douglas was an artist working in television and movie production, and is currently a financial advisor.

Gayle Pearson Burrel (1986) – Majored in English at MCC, and went on to earn a Bachelors degree in English from Grand Valley State University and a Masters degree from Western Michigan University. Gayle credits her time at MCC as helping her gain confidence. “Education is truly the key in America,” she writes. “It can change your destiny!” Gayle is a published author, most recently of *The Vellum Papers*.

Jeffrey Carpenter (1983) – Earned an Associates degree in Electronics/Industrial, and has enjoyed MCC so much he has accumulated over 97 credits. He fondly recalls Overbrook Theater productions and the Art Gallery on campus. He credits MCC for opening doors for him, and looks forward to the day when MCC will offer a 4-year degree.

Victor Elba (1988) – A student originally from Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, He earned his Associate in Science degree from MCC before returning to Africa. While at MCC, Victor worked with administration collecting information on other colleges, and was a resource person for minority students as well as in MCC’s television department. He recalls working with Linda Swartz, John Bamfield, Gail Crawford, David Mooney, and others. “I greatly appreciated the level of education, friendship, and love I received during my time at MCC,” says Victor. “I will one day hope to make a visit again to my beloved College.” Victor is presently in Kigali, Rwanda, working with humanitarian international agencies helping refugees and returnees who have been affected by war in their various countries.

David W. Fleming (1985) – Earned his Associates degree in Electronics from MCC, and traveled on-the-job to northern China, Mexico, Canada, and around the U.S. David has fond memories of instructor Phil Anderson, who he describes as an “awesome” teacher!

Brian Fredricks (1989) – Earned an A.A. and A.S. in pre-engineering at MCC, and went on to earn a Bachelors degree in Manufacturing Engineering from Ferris State University in 1993, and a Masters of Management from Aquinas College in 2005. Brian’s memories of MCC include theater class, euchre card games, campus life, and MCC’s unique architecture and outdoor environment.

Evelyn Radley Jackson (1985) – Majored in marketing and business leadership at MCC, and then earned a Bachelors degree in Business Administration in 1996. She fondly recalls concerned MCC staff who treated people well and without judgment, expert library assistance, and a great theater.

Tracey Y. Mayeda (1986) – Majored in art and design at MCC, and earned a Bachelors degree in Communications/Photography from Grand Valley State University in 1990. Tracey has fond memories of MCC’s Planetarium, art instructor Lee Collett, and her Tae Kwon Do class. She credits MCC with having a positive impact on her life and educational experiences.

Catherine Newman (1988) – Majored in Early Childhood Education at MCC, then went on to earn a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from Michigan State University in 1991, took Masters coursework at the University of New Mexico, and earned a Masters degree in Library and Information Science with dual emphasis in School Library Media and Technology from the University of Denver in 2006. Catherine has fond memories of tutoring at MCC, and although she is the only member of her family to graduate from a university, she says “MCC gave me the start I needed to accomplish great things.”

Karl Ochs II (1986) – Majored in chemistry at MCC, and went on to earn Bachelors (1988) and Masters (1991) degrees in Chemistry from Hope College. He credits MCC with giving him his start in his career, and getting personal attention from instructors in small classes.

Heath Pope (1989) – Majored in math and science at MCC, then transferred to Michigan State University where he graduated with a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1992. From there, he was an officer in the U.S. Navy for eight years, before returning to the private engineering industry. He attained an MBA degree from Old Dominion University in 2004, and worked stateside and in Canada before returning to the West Michigan area.

Julie MQ Smith (1989) – From MCC, Julie transferred to Grand Valley State University and earned a Bachelors degree in Business in 1991. She credits MCC with helping her learn to study in a “non-threatening” atmosphere, and says that as a small business owner, she would not have gotten there without MCC.

David Tchozewski (1982) – Majored in Business at MCC, and received his Emergency Medical Technician license in 1983. David went on to earn a Bachelors degree in Mathematics from Grand Valley State University in 1987, and a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from GVSU in 1996. He credits MCC for a solid academic foundation, and also instructor Barney Herron’s rigorous math classes as giving him the most benefit. David currently teaches math for Jenison Public Schools, and is the District Career Coordinator.

Pamela Wilson (1983) – Earned her Associates degree in Nursing at MCC, and went on to earn her Bachelors degree (BSN) from Grand Valley State University in 1994. According to Pamela, attending MCC was “the best decision I ever made!” And although she says she went into labor during the State Board exam, she has spent the last 30 years in nursing!

1990s

Jason William Bach (1992) – Majored in Business at MCC, and then earned a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from Grand Valley State University in 1999. Jason fondly recalls his days as a work study in the Financial Aid office, working for John Morano.

Brayton Back (1990) – After graduating from MCC, Brayton took Communications classes at Grand Valley State University. Brayton credits MCC with helping him become a better middle manager, and he is currently the state director of the Child Evangelism Fellowship in Lansing.

Paul Crum – A student at MCC spanning 30 years, Paul is just short of an Associates degree, and fondly remembers the campus and instructors. Studying at MCC has enabled him to teach chapel for 25 years, and be a counselor for 25 years at a local facility.

Matthew Jones (1992) – Graduated from MCC with a Liberal Arts major, and then transferred to Albion College, where he earned a Bachelors degree in English. Matthew fondly recalls cross-country skiing at Muskegon State Park for a recreation class, and remembers retired political science instructor Richard Charles Ford as being a “role model.” Matthew also credits MCC for giving him a low-cost alternative to a traditional four-year institution.



Candace Krause (1999) – Majored in dance at MCC, and then transferred to Western Michigan University to study dance. Candace is currently working on her four-year degree in Human Services from Baker College. She has fond memories of her dance classes with Cathy Weideman and the late Judith Brooky-Green, and theater instructor Rich Oman.

Christine Lynn (Soper) Horton (1994) – Graduated from the Nursing program at MCC, then attended Grand Valley State University to study social work. Christine's fond memories of life at MCC include the flexibility of class time, available loans, grants, and scholarships, and outstanding counselors. "I have friends who went directly to four-year universities who are still paying off their loans," she writes. "We all agree now that starting off at a community college is the best choice."

Melinda "Mindy" Lynch (1993) – Majored in Education at MCC, then went on to earn a Bachelors degree in Physical Education from Grand Valley State University in 1996, a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University in 1998, and most recently, an Elementary Education endorsement from GVSU in 2005. She fondly recalls her years on the Jayhawks basketball team, and also faculty Beth Smith, Bob Chupp, and Gene Gifford. "MCC was a great start for my college education, and part of who I am today," she writes.

Matthew T. Miller (1999) – Majored in Criminal Justice at MCC, earned a Bachelors degree from Grand Valley State University in Criminal Justice in 2001, and his Doctorate and Law Degree from Cooley Law School in 2005. Matthew fondly remembers the CJ spring open house, and MCC CJ instructor Roy Shields. According to Matthew, MCC "helped shape me into what I am today."

Jennifer (Rosema) DiGennaro (1996) – After earning her Associates degree at MCC, Jennifer transferred to Grand Valley State University and received a Bachelors degree in Behavioral Science in 1998. She fondly remembers the nature trail and campus water areas. She credits MCC with saving her a lot of money, and making the transition to GVSU easier.

Caleb Siefert (1997) – Majored in Psychology at MCC, and then transferred to Michigan State University where he earned a Bachelors degree in Psychology in 1999. He went on to receive an M.A. and Ph.D. from Adelphi University, and in 2006 completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital in clinical psychology. Caleb credits MCC with having a major impact in the course and direction of his life, along with influential instructors Dr. Blair Morrissey, Dr. Craig Brown, and Dr. Carlo Spataro. "During my time at MCC, I went from a poor student to an excellent student," says Caleb.

Georgia (Stroven) Andres (1997) – Majored in Criminal Justice at MCC, and went on to earn a Bachelors degree in CJ-Law Enforcement from Ferris State University in 2000. She fondly remembers good friends, poker games, and instructor Roy Shields at MCC. Georgia is currently a police officer with Sergeant rank.

Randi Stuthard (1995) – After receiving her Associates degree at MCC, she earned a Bachelors degree in Sociology from Grand Valley State University in 2001, as well as a Masters in School Guidance Counseling K-12 in 2007. She credits MCC with allowing her to afford to continue with her education.

April Szymanski (1993) – After receiving an Associates degree from MCC, April earned a Bachelors degree in Recreation Leadership and Management from Ferris State University, and a Masters of Education degree from Plymouth State University in 2002. She credits MCC for a solid foundation in academic study, and fondly remembers playing basketball for Coach Chupp. "MCC still remains as my greatest academic experience," she writes. "I was able to participate in sports, earn an Associates degree, and make lifelong friends!"

2000s

Michael Bergman (2003) – Earned an Associates degree from MCC, a Bachelors degree in History/Secondary Education from Grand Valley State University in 2005, and is currently in graduate school at the University of Alabama, majoring in Military/Naval History. He fondly remembers his MCC classes and especially the theater, and had the "privilege" of working with "great" instructors Brian Goodman, Rich Oman, Jan Agard, and Kathy Tosa. Michael credits MCC with keeping him from "drowning in debt" during his early college years.

David Michael Hanson (2005) – Majored in Physical Education at MCC, and is currently working on a Bachelors degree from Central Michigan University in Sports Management. Mike fondly remembers the 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, and "great" instructors like Dan Rypma and Kurt Troutman. Mike credits MCC with a great start to his academic career, and a smooth transition to CMU.

Kenneth D. Jackson (2000) – Majored in Business Management at MCC, and earned a Bachelors degree from Grand Valley State University in 2004. Kenneth fondly recalls his political science, ecology, and statistics classes, and credits MCC with helping him to adjust to college life nearly 20 years after high school, and helping him to achieve higher academic success.

Sherry Maxwell (2006) – Earned an Associates degree with Education major at MCC. She credits MCC with equipping her to work at a higher level, and fondly remembers MCC staff as "helpful and wonderful."

Kattie M. Parish (2004) – Earned an Associates degree with Education major at MCC. She fondly remembers her classmates, and friendly, supportive staff and faculty. According to Kattie, MCC "inspired me to realize dreams do come true if you have confidence, faith, and trust in yourself."

Sonya Peterson (2004) – Majored in Education at MCC. Sonya fondly remembers the Early Childhood Conferences sponsored by MCC, and the small classroom sizes offered.

Angela Prather (2004) – Earned her Associates degree in English at MCC, and also earned a Bachelors degree from Grand Valley State University in English in 2007. Angela credits MCC for a solid base of education which helped her succeed at GVSU, and fondly recalls instructor Elena Garcia as "an incredible Spanish professor, who inspired me to continue my study of Spanish."

Matthew Shepherd (2000) – Majored in pre-law at MCC, and then earned a Bachelor in pre-law from Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne in 2002, and his law degree in 2005 from Cooley Law School. Matt fondly remembers men's basketball at MCC when they were the 2000 Western Conference champs, and credits MCC with giving him a solid academic and social foundation. Although he initially had second thoughts about attending, he says that MCC was "the best decision I ever made."

Penney Vachon (2000) – Graduated from the Nursing program at MCC, passed her LPN exams, and then finished her RN program at Lake Michigan College in 2005. Penney fondly recalls the friendly nursing instructors, particularly Sandy Osborne.

Local Students Receive Scholarships Funded through the Foundation for Muskegon Community College

Scholarship awards to assist students attending Muskegon Community College were made in 2007 from Foundation for MCC funds administered by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County:

- Whitehall High School student **Patrick Bowen** was awarded \$900 from the Richard Kraft/Suzanne Kraft Mateer Scholarship fund. This fund assists graduating seniors pursuing a college degree. Mr. Bowen plans to study engineering.
- **Melissa Franks**, a product of Orchard View High Schools, was awarded \$400 from the Edward & Wilma Kyvig Scholarship fund, created to assist students of good academic standing.
- Three William H. Young Memorial Scholarships, to assist associate degree seeking students who have demonstrated academic excellence, were awarded to Whitehall High School student **Kristy Becklin** (\$1,000), Oakridge High School student **Andrew Potts** (\$900), and **Wendy Kops** (\$500).
- Muskegon High School Class of '46 Scholarships were awarded to **Nicholas Frank** (\$600) who plans to study criminal justice, and **Shemekia Morrison** (\$1,000).
- North Muskegon High School graduate **Megan Strockis** received a \$500 award from the Leone Derezinski Nutt Scholarship fund to study nursing.
- The August Van Eerden Scholarship, created to assist a Muskegon High School graduate in acquiring a degree in the field of education was awarded to **Nicholas Frank**.
- **Catrina Meyers** was awarded \$500 from the Muskegon District Nurses Scholarship fund. This fund assists nursing education students who plan to work in Muskegon County.



Patrick Bowen



Melissa Franks



Kristy Becklin



Wendy Kops



Nicholas Frank



Shemekia Morrison



Megan Strockis



Catrina Meyers

What About YOU?

Your friends and classmates from MCC would like to hear from you. Please fill out and return the following survey:

What years did you attend MCC?

What was your major area of study?

Did you graduate from MCC? If yes, what year?

Did you enroll in a 4-year institution following your time at MCC? If yes, where? What was your major field of study? When did you graduate?

Did you pursue a Masters or Doctorate? If yes, what, when, and where?

What fond memories (events or people!) do you have of MCC?

What impact has MCC had on your life and/or career?

If you could improve anything about MCC, what would it be?

Other comments:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Return to MCC Alumni Office, 221 S. Quarterline Road, Muskegon, MI 49442

OR

Fax to: 231.777.0531

OR

Email: webmaster@muskegoncc.edu