



NEWS FROM

Jackson community college

www.jccmi.edu

MARCH 2008



Alum finds returning to his roots suits him just fine -- page 2



McMillen-Oakley promotes students' in their artistic endeavors. -- page 2



Business major finds work as a utility teller at Comerica Bank -- page 3

Student success is our first priority at JCC

Greetings! This month's issue outlines the fifth and final criteria I use in evaluating Jackson Community College's performance: *JCC ensures the success of all students in the achievement of their goals.*

Student success is our first priority at JCC. We are committed to helping our students reach their goals, and continue to dedicate both time and resources to that end. The College welcomes the full spectrum of students...from those with the highest levels of academic ability to those who may need some help. For example, we enroll outstanding graduates from area high schools, valedictorians, salutatorians and top 10 students, who seek to be challenged in their studies and often begin their first two years with JCC, ultimately transferring to a baccalaureate-granting institution.

JCC offers students the opportunity to participate in our Writing Fellows Program, an advanced composition course that challenges students in their own writing and provides peer tutoring to other students across disciplines. JCC

students who qualify may join Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges, which offers scholarships and other benefits to students.

Indeed, this community college is often the first choice of non-traditional students because of its convenient location, affordability and flexible class times. These factors help many returning adults succeed in college, important because of their numerous responsibilities in addition to their studies.

JCC offers open enrollment to all regardless of previous achievement levels. For those who may be under-prepared for college-level work, there are a variety of assistance and tutoring programs. The Center for Student Success on the Jackson campus is open daily. Students may walk in for help with a particular subject area, and the Center offers accommodations services to those with disabilities, such as assistive technology, sign language interpreters and more.



Michael Shore, retired vice president from Consumers Energy presents a workshop at JCC's recent Project Success Day using juggling to help students better understand the process by which they learn new skills and insight into the barriers and obstacles they create in that process.

Many other efforts are geared toward student success including Foundation Studies courses offered to students who, according to our course placement test, need assistance to be fully prepared for college-level work. In recent years, JCC has instituted a special day each Fall and Winter semester called Project Success Day, when students can spend the day attending seminars on a variety of topics about how to succeed in college. Our outstanding faculty members are committed to the success of our students and provide excellent

teaching and supportive guidance to help all students. Increased efforts by our Office of Student Life are designed to help students succeed, because studies show that students who are connected and involved in college are more likely to persist and be successful.

To help us in our efforts at student success, JCC was selected to be part of a national initiative called Achieving the Dream, also geared toward helping more students, particularly those who have traditionally faced significant barriers to success and the achievement of their goals.

We continue to review and improve our curriculum, programs and services to provide the best possible education for our students, and the College is tracking the results. At JCC, we are thoroughly committed to seeing each and every student succeed!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Phelan
President/CEO



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ALUMNI PROFILE**Brad Brelinski**

Being a young attorney in the Detroit area was fun, but JCC alumnus Brad Brelinski is happy to be home in Jackson working for local law firm Curtis & Curtis P.C.

Brelinski grew up on Lake LeAnn in Jerome and graduated from Hanover-Horton schools. He attended JCC after high school, studying aviation and earning his private pilot's license. After deciding a career as a pilot wasn't for him, he completed his general studies for transfer and decided to go into business. "JCC offered smaller class sizes. You got more attention from the profes-

sors," Brelinski said. "It was also convenient schedule-wise, and allowed me to work while going to school and put away a little money."



He transferred to Western Michigan University where he earned bachelor's degree in business finance.

"I was always interested in going beyond my bachelor's degree," Brelinski said. "I wanted something with more opportunity, and I'd always been fascinated with the law. The law is something that affects everyone, every day."

So, he looked into law school and spoke with some other lawyers about opportunities in the field. He decided law school was the answer and went straight from Western to Wayne State University Law School. He graduated from law school in 2005, and passed the Bar Exam later that year.

Brelinski decided to stay in the Metro Detroit area and practice law. While it was fun, the daily grind of rush hour traffic and other aspects of big city life didn't appeal to him, so when the opportunity came up to practice with Curtis & Curtis, he didn't want to pass it up. He returned to Jackson in January and is getting used to things again. "I went and experienced the city, but for the long-term, I wanted a smaller city atmosphere, which is what Jackson provides."

Community day open house provides a look at the "new" JCC



To kick off the College's celebration of their 80th anniversary JCC held a Community Open House that provided visitors with an up close look at the "new" JCC. JCC students, staff, administrators and faculty gave guided tours of campus housing, the new library, the Rawal Center for Health Professions, Potter Center backstage and other buildings on campus. A great time was had by all. Stay tuned for other upcoming events during our 80th anniversary year!

FACULTY PROFILE**Tom McMillen-Oakley**

Watching JCC's art program grow is a masterpiece in itself for Assistant Professor Tom McMillen-Oakley.

McMillen-Oakley has taught art courses at JCC since 2000 and serves as lead faculty for studio art, teaching drawing, design, pottery, art education and sculpture. He enjoys his interaction with students and tries whenever possible to promote them in their artistic endeavors.

"We've seen a lot more students come through since we launched our studio art certificate," he said. "Students register together and go through the program almost like a cohort. It's a good way for them to increase their resources and make some friendships."

McMillen-Oakley works consistently to improve the art program. JCC's new ceramics and sculpture classes, which began a couple years ago, are going well, now in their own studio space in Justin Whiting Hall. To help art history students, he is working to make lessons available through screencasting for students to download on their MP3 players.

He began teaching at JCC in 2000 after teaching eight years at Columbia Central High School. In 2006 he was named Michigan Art Education Association's Michigan Higher Education Art Educator of the Year, and has been active over the years in the local arts community.

Growth in the arts program is rewarding, and he encourages students who choose art as a career. While artists can make money on their own, the sluggish economy tends to keep people from buying as much artwork. Career opportunities do exist in a variety of areas that use art, from tattooing to graphic and web design to interior design.

Earlier this year, he went to London, England for a conference and was awed by the beauty of artwork there. He visited numerous sites in England that he had studied and taught about, such as Stonehenge, making it truly "an experience to remember."

Outside of the College, he continues to be a new dad along with partner Tod to their 2-year-old daughter, Anna Laura.



Winter film series at the Michigan Theatre features a variety of diverse picks

The Winter Film Series is held annually at the Michigan Theatre as part of JCC's English 210 Introduction to Film class. Films begin at 7:15 p.m. on Mondays; community members welcome, cost \$6 per person.



March 17 – His Girl Friday (1940) Cinema stars Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell pair up in this story of a newspaper editor who uses every trick in the book to keep his ace reporter ex-wife from remarrying.

March 24 – Into The Wild (2007) Story of a 22-year-old college graduate who walked out of his privileged life and into the wild in search of adventure. Written and directed by Sean Penn.



March 31 – Bottle Rocket (1996) A trio of friends in Texas plot a series of heists and fail miserably.



April 14 – Ghostbusters (1984) Three fired university researchers set up shop as paranormal exterminators in a unique ghost removal service.

April 21 – Superbad (2007) Story of three socially inept teenage boys who agree to provide alcohol for a party.



The April 28 movie will be announced and it will be the last film in the series.

JCC Foundation officer takes plunge for Special Olympics

It was a sunny 14 degrees the morning when Mark Schissler, director of Donor Relations for the Jackson Community College Foundation, took the plunge into Clark Lake to help raise money for Special Olympics! Quite a

heat wave in that it was 5 degrees only hours earlier.

Schissler, a Clark Lake area resident, took the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge Feb. 16, representing the Eagles Nest Restaurant the event sponsor. Dressed as a polar bear to match the event name, he plunged in a couple of times for a great cause!

“It was very invigorating!” Schissler said.



“Luckily the sun was out and there was no wind that day.”

Plungers gather pledges for the event. Schissler raised \$665 for the Special Olympics athletes and plans to serve on the committee to plan next year's event. “Supporting community events is important to us at the College. It's a good cause for the Special Olympics, to support what they do for the athletes,” he said.

STUDENT PROFILE

Katie Hubbs

Change in career course doesn't deter JCC student

Student Katie Hubbs is grateful for her new job at Comerica Bank, and gives credit for the position to a customer service class she took at JCC.

Hubbs, a Jackson High graduate, has been a student at JCC since 2005, choosing it for its quality programs and convenient location. She started out as a pre-veterinary major but was forced to switch to business administration when she found she was allergic to lab chemicals in her organic chemistry class and couldn't complete the requirements. While the change was a disappointment, she is happy in her current major and looking forward to a career.



In addition to her studies, she is now working as a utility teller at Comerica Bank in Lansing. Because Comerica focuses so much on meeting customer needs, she believes her customer service class helped her land the job. “I love it, Comerica is a great company to work for,” Hubbs said. “The work is great, and I'm extremely happy.”

She plans to continue her business studies at JCC and complete her associate degree, then transfer to Siena Heights University through their bachelor's degree completion program available completely at JCC's campus. She hopes to become a certified public accountant and go into the management training program at Comerica.

“I have really enjoyed JCC; the professors are amazing,” Hubbs said. “All the professors I've had have been extremely knowledgeable and helpful and want to help you, including being a reference or offering advice.”

While it may not have been her first choice, she is very happy as a business major and urges everyone, even non-majors, to take a class or two because it's something that applies regardless of whatever field you are in.

“As a community in Jackson, we're lucky to have a community college here that is as good and well-rounded as this is. More people should take advantage of it.”



Spring/Summer sports kicks off for women's softball on March 20 with an away game against Lake Michigan Community College. The men's baseball team begins their season with an away game against Adrian College in Adrian MI. Come out a cheer on your JCC Jets.

Women's Softball 2008 Schedule

March

- 20 3 p.m. Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor
 25 3 p.m. Glen Oaks CC, Home
 27 3 p.m. Lansing CC, Lansing
 28 3 p.m. Indian Tech JV, Home
 29 1 p.m. Muskegon CC, Home

April

- 1 3:30 p.m. Alma College JV, Home
 3 3 p.m. Grand Rapids CC, Home
 4 1 p.m. Ancilla College, Home
 5 12 noon St. Clair, Home
 8 3 p.m. Kalamazoo Valley CC, Kalamazoo
 10 3 p.m. Kellogg CC, Home
 12 1 p.m. Lake Michigan College, Home
 15 3 p.m. Glen Oaks CC, Centreville
 17 3 p.m. Lansing CC, Home
 19 1 p.m. Muskegon CC, Muskegon
 22 3 p.m. Ancilla College, Donaldson, IN
 24 3 p.m. Grand Rapids CC, Grand Rapids
 26 1 p.m. Macomb CC, Warren
 29 3 p.m. Kalamazoo Valley CC, Home

May

- 1 3 p.m. Kellogg CC, Battle Creek
 11 TBA Region XII Tournament
 Battle Creek, MI

Men's Baseball 2008 Schedule

March

- 21 1 p.m. Adrian College, Adrian
 24 1 p.m. Siena Heights, Home
 25 2 p.m. Lake Michigan CC, Benton Harbor
 29 2 p.m. Adrian College, Home

April

- 1 2 p.m. Grand Rapids CC, Home
 3 2 p.m. Kellogg CC, Battle Creek
 4 2 p.m. Alma College, Home
 5 1 p.m. Lansing CC, Home
 8 2 p.m. Muskegon CC, Muskegon
 12 1 p.m. Henry Ford CC, Dearborn
 15 2 p.m. Mott CC, Home
 17 2 p.m. St. Clair County CC, Port Huron
 19 1 p.m. Ancilla College, Home
 22 2 p.m. Glen Oaks CC, Centreville
 24 2 p.m. Owens CC, Home
 26 1 p.m. Kalamazoo Valley CC, Home
 29 2 p.m. Owens CC, Toledo, Ohio

May

- 1 2 p.m. Ancilla College, Donaldson, IN
 3 1 p.m. Kalamazoo Valley CC, Kalamazoo
 9 TBA Region XII Tournament
 Battle Creek, MI
 10 TBA Region XII Tournament
 Battle Creek, MI

Jackson Community College proudly presents...

Broadway Revue

Jazz/Show Singers and Band in

Salute to Broadway!

A Singing and Dancing Extravaganza

8 PM, Friday, March 28 &
 Saturday, March 29, 2008

Sheffer Music Hall at the
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 For tickets call: 517.796.9600
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Teacher education students Kayla Dunham and Kristen Vanstempvoort helped facilitate a reading lesson with students in Amy Gamel's class at Townsend Elementary. Teacher ed students are encouraged to complete service learning projects in classrooms early on in their college education to assist in their learning and to help them have real classroom experience.

