

NEWS FROM jackson community college

Looking to the future: Challenges or possibilities?

Each month I like to share some of what is happening at Jackson Community College, and why I feel so strongly that education is vital for the future. This month, I ask you to consider a few ideas from two interesting books published by *New York Times* columnist Thomas L. Friedman, “The World is Flat,” and “Hot, Flat, and Crowded; Why We Need a Green Revolution — and How It Can Renew America.” Change in technology has taken place so rapidly in the last 10 to 15 years that it has made the world, in a sense, much smaller and, as Friedman purports, flat, or at least flattening out. With the growth of the personal computer and the development of the Internet, as well as the computer languages that allow us to communicate, share documents and relay images, video feeds and sound files around the globe at the click of a few keys, the world has indeed fundamentally changed.

With such rapid advances in information technology, the global playing field is now being leveled by companies ability to take work anywhere around the world. It’s no secret that many traditionally American jobs have moved overseas, to places like India and China who are eager for jobs and growth. While we in America struggle



Developing alternative, renewable energy sources is an important field for the future. JCC is taking its first step toward exploring new alternative energy sources with the installation of an anemometer — a device for measuring wind velocity— on the south side of campus off Kimmel Road.

with the difficult and structurally disruptive economic times, these “developing” nations are snatching up jobs that are considered “grunt work” to many here in the U.S. In the meantime, we struggle with high unemployment and a mismatch in worker skills and available jobs.

Coupled with these issues are the problems of global warming, unprecedented population growth — the “Hot, Flat, and Crowded” of Friedman’s recent work, and we as Americans stand at a precipice which could define not only our own future, but the world’s as well. As more and more of the planet reaches out for the similarity of our country’s modern, industrialized, information-driven society and its middle class lifestyle, problems of fossil fuel use and consumerism become an even bigger issue for our globe.

So, what can we do? Will other nations outpace us in today’s increasingly technical world? How long can the planet sustain our current lifestyles with the energy and climate challenges that face us, and what can we do about it?

First, we need to be diligent in our continuing focus on educating today’s students for the careers of tomorrow, and those increas-

ingly involve science, mathematics and technology. But those subjects aren’t all we need. The bar has been raised. We need individuals with technical and scientific skills, but those same people also need creativity and innovation to synthesize tomorrow’s advances. One area that needs innovation is the search for alternative energy sources and development of sustainable systems.

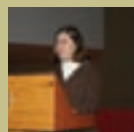
I continue to urge everyone to work toward a college education. High school students, continue taking challenging courses that will prepare you for college. For those in the workforce making an employment change, or who have lost your job, come visit with us about getting your career back on track. We offer a variety of computer technology courses for all skill levels, as well as science, mathematics, automotive, engineering, and the liberal and creative arts — English and literature, history, music, art and drama.

Serious possibilities lie in store for those with the skills and talent to succeed in our changing 21st century world!


Daniel-J. Phelan
President/CEO

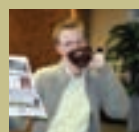


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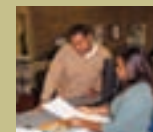
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STUDENT PROFILE Elizabeth Doerr**JCC opens door to many unexpected opportunities**

"Unbelievably awesome" — that's how JCC student Elizabeth Doerr describes her college experience so far. Doerr is in her second year at JCC after graduating from Lumen Christi High School. She is majoring in microbiology, and plans to transfer after this year and hopes to go to medical school to become a doctor.

"I've had so many opportunities that have opened up to me that I would never have imagined," Doerr said. She has studied and tutored as one of the Writing Fellows, students who are selected to participate in an intensive writing workshop class and receive a scholarship that pays for their class and books. Each fellow is mentored by a faculty member on campus, and each also spends time tutoring other JCC students.



She works in the biology laboratory, which she says has been an incredible experience and reinforces what she wants to do with her life. She plays clarinet in the Jackson Community Concert Band and is the band librarian for conductor Ron Douglass, associate Jackson Community College professor.

Doerr also is part of JCC's new Student Speakers Bureau, a group of students who travel to local area high schools to speak to those students about what they wish they had known before getting to college. "We try to give them some tried and true advice," she said. "It has helped me to be more outgoing, not as shy and introverted as I used to be."

While she first chose JCC because it was local and inexpensive, Doerr is grateful for the opportunities she has experienced at the College.

"Don't pass over JCC just because it is a community college," she said. "There are opportunities if you apply yourself and get interested in what you are doing."

First respiratory care class finishes

For the past two years, students in Jackson Community College's inaugural respiratory care program have both learned and experienced the challenges of life together. This December, the academic journey for most of this class with JCC comes to an end, and their professional futures look bright.

JCC will celebrate the completion of the first group of respiratory care students at the end of this Fall semester. Respiratory care practitioners (RCPs, also known as respiratory therapists) work primarily in hospitals and assist in the evaluation, diagnosis and care of patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary problems. JCC's respiratory care program was launched in 2007.

"This first class has represented the College well, according to local employers," said Ann Flint, program coordinator. "They have performed well in terms of knowledge, work ethic and professionalism.

The students have had multiple job offers for the whole past year since they first showed up in the hospitals (for clinical experience)."

Multiple regional hospitals have tried to recruit these students, Flint said. "Now, when they graduate, these students will be eligible for the highest level of work for respiratory therapists — working in the intensive care unit and emergency room, managing critical care patients on ventilators. The demand for them at this level has also been high."

"Attending this program has made me well-prepared for my new career," said student Brooke Losey. "I am so thankful

that JCC has developed a program that suits my passion as a medical professional."

Students have overcome many obstacles and shared many personal experiences during their two years with JCC, Flint said, juggling work schedules, obligations with family and children and more. They have persevered not only in finishing their academic program, but have contributed numerous

hours of service to the community, including working at and raising funds for the local Camp Michi-MAC asthma camp, speaking to schoolchildren, working numerous hospital and college health fairs, giving pulmonary function tests, teaching the public about asthma management, smoking cessation and prevention and general lung health.

"I can say that I feel it an honor to be in this great group of people," said student Renee Jacobs of this

first graduating class. "We're all embarking on the next step, most of us are heading into positions right away, with some also furthering their education in respiratory. I will miss attending class with these fine individuals, but look forward to working alongside them in the professional setting and am proud to say I learned with them in a program that has prepared us completely for what is to come. We plan to make Ann (Flint) and JCC proud." Flint also thanks the many area and regional hospitals who have donated over \$100,000 in equipment to the program at JCC, and provided clinical training to students.

(NOTE: Some students may still have general requirements to complete.)



This group of respiratory care graduates have completed their major requirements.

Student has winning entry naming WA coffee bar Wava Joes

JCC student Nick Anderson had the winning entry in the recent contest to name the new coffee and smoothie bar in William Atkinson Hall. Using the abbreviated name for the building, WA, Anderson submitted Wava Joes. Anderson, of Jackson, received a \$100 food card. He has attended JCC for a year and is studying aviation.



Men of Merit focus on success, not challenges, for students involved

Fighting against the challenges they face, a group of black male students at Jackson Community College have come together this Fall to form the Men of Merit.

The group not only promotes college to Jackson area youth, but also provides a support network for its 30 members to succeed in their pursuit of higher education.

Members meet every other week with leaders from the community, or they go out and speak about college to younger students.

Member James Palmer has been attending JCC part-time for about five years. He says when he graduated from high school, he thought he would get a full-time job in a factory and support himself. However, it wasn't long before he realized the work world was not what he thought it would be.

"The people making real money were the ones with education and who had a skill, and that's what I wanted to be," Palmer said. "I didn't want to be the person working the hardest and being paid the least."

He is working toward his Associate in Arts degree and plans to transfer to Michigan State University or University of Michigan to continue his bachelor's degree in the liberal arts, then plans to continue and earn a master's degree in business administration. The Men of Merit group has impressed upon him the value of an education.

"I think the group is a really good thing for JCC, and I would like to continue what we've been doing, in particular for African-American kids," Palmer said. "We have learned that African Americans are a small portion of the total number of college students across the country, about 4 percent, and that's including traditionally black colleges. I think most just don't think school is cool."

Student Anton Allen is a tutor in JCC's Center for Student Success and has helped both recruit other members and tutored them in math. "We want to be each other's crutches, to be there to hold each other up and not let anyone fail. I know we can be a success," Allen said.



Carllisle Whitfield, of Detroit, is currently in his first semester at JCC and plans to become a nurse. He chose Jackson because of the availability of student housing, and lives on-campus in Campus View. "It's my first semester, and I wasn't really into anything, so when my teacher gave me a letter about the Men of Merit, I was interested in what was going on. I wanted to get into something, and I liked what the group was talking about, so I've continued with it," he said. "I've found a lot of people to talk to, and it helps you to stay positive. We all have so much in common, and if it wasn't for this group, I probably wouldn't have talked with them."

Amy Leighton, assistant director of the Center for Student Success and Service Learning at JCC, got the idea for the Men of Merit following a conference where she learned about a college in North Carolina with a similar group in which 87 percent of students who participated went on to graduate. Students in the group also learn about finances and money, business etiquette and networking, and are required to check in with an advisor every two weeks.

In May of this year, JCC hosted the African American Male Summit, which brought local leaders and community members together to discuss ways to improve the success of black males in Jackson. Director of JCC's Office of Multicultural Relations, Lee Hampton, organized the summit and is working to help provide leadership to the young men in the group.

STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

JCC Speech and Debate enjoys a successful Fall

Director of Forensics Paige Beauchene set three goals for the JCC Speech and Debate team this year; start a Parliamentary Debate program, attend more Phi Rho Pi invitational tournaments, and place at more invitational tournaments. As the Fall semester comes to a close these goals are being met by the team.

JCC has attended five tournaments and will end its semester at the Michigan Interscholastic Speech League (MISL) fall tournament at Delta College on Dec. 13. In October, the team traveled to Chicago and competed at Moraine Valley Community College. Moraine Valley is a fellow Phi Rho Pi school, and this tournament was limited to students who attend community colleges. JCC reinstated its membership in the community college honor society last year and has enjoyed competing with schools with similar populations. JCC was represented at this tournament by novice, Alan Foster competing in Extemporaneous and Impromptu Speaking, and Montgomery Beauchene competing in Prose Interpretation and Impromptu Duet Acting.

At Hillsdale College, JCC sent its first Parliamentary debate team into competition. JCC, which has not fielded a Parliamentary debate team in many years, was represented by Foster and Julie Haba, novice members of the team with no previous debate experience. They enjoyed the chance to represent JCC and learn more about the event. Even though JCC did not win a round, it was a great experience for the team, Beauchene said.

At the Bowling Green/Oberlin College Swing Tournament, JCC found forensics success. Novice Extemporaneous Speaker Foster placed third in the Oberlin half on the tournament on Nov. 16. Foster's placement and sweepstakes points earned by Haba in Novice Prose Interpretation pushed JCC to a second place finish in their division. Haba finished in a three-way tie for seventh place with her interpretation of "The Dark One" by Lillian Jackson Braun.

JCC has five invitational tournaments scheduled for next semester, three Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League tournaments, another trip to Chicago for a Phi Rho Pi regional tournament and will end the season in Portland, Oregon at the Phi Rho Pi National Convention and Tournament.

The JCC Speech and Debate team is open to all students by registering for LTL 301 or COM 101. For more information contact Paige Beauchene at beauchepaigel@jccmi.edu or call 517.796.8582.

Young musicians invited to compete

Jackson Community College will host a Young Artist Competition for musicians on Monday, Jan. 9, 2009 at the Jackson campus.

The contest is open to instrumental musicians under the age of 25 as of Jan. 1, 2009. The winner will be the featured soloist with the Jackson Community Concert Band at a March 8 concert, and will also receive a \$300 prize. Auditions must be in person, and each applicant must

perform a published solo work with available concert band accompaniment, and piano accompaniment for audition. Auditions will be critiqued by a respected panel of judges in the Potter Center on the Jackson campus.

Applications are available through high school, university and college music departments. Interested musicians may also receive forms and information by contacting Ronald L. Douglass at JCC, 517.796.8559.

What's happening at JCC?

Registration underway for Winter semester

Register now for Winter 2009 classes at Jackson Community College!

Courses begin as soon as Jan. 12, 2009. Current and prospective students may meet with an advisor to discuss their schedule by contacting Student Services at 517.796.8425, or any JCC location. In-person registration hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. **A special Saturday registration will be held on the Jackson campus on Jan. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Students may register at the Jackson campus, the Clyde LeTarte Center in Hillsdale or JCC @ LISD TECH in Adrian. For information about registering, visit the JCC web site at www.jccmi.edu. Students may register in person, by mail or fax, beginning Dec. 1.



A complete course schedule is available at the JCC web site, www.jccmi.edu. For additional information in Jackson County, call 517.796.8425, in Lenawee County, call 517.265.5515, and in Hillsdale County, call 517.437.3343

Two acts added to Potter Center season

Just in time for holiday gift-giving, Jackson Community College has added two acts to its 2009 lineup. On Jan. 18, relive the rock 'n' roll sounds of 1950s with John Mueller's "**Winter Dance Party**," a tribute show to Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens. "Winter Dance Party" is the official tribute show for these three legendary rock 'n' roll artists final tour. Tickets start at \$17. Country music fans enjoy an acoustic evening with **Travis Tritt** featuring special guest, **Jerry Douglas**, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009 in the Harold Sheffer Music Hall, Potter Center. Tickets are \$45, \$40 and \$32. Purchase tickets for these and any Potter Center shows by calling the Box Office at 517.796.8600.

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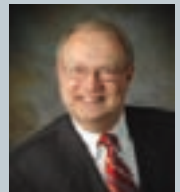
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For more information call 517.796.8425 or visit our web site at www.jccmi.edu

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