

# NEWS FROM jackson community college

## Graduation marks time to celebrate, look ahead

**M**ay marks the end of another traditional academic year. This month, we celebrate commencement activities at Jackson Community College, with more than 600 students eligible to graduate. It is a very rewarding time for a college president, because you see lives changed thanks to the higher education students have received here.



opportunities and boost your earning potential, whatever your goals in life may be.

**Which college makes the most sense for me now?** JCC offers a quality education that is affordable and convenient. Check us out and compare.

Accessibility is an important feature of the community college. We want to provide an open door to all seeking higher education. Toward this end, the College continues to expand offerings both off-site, at satellite locations such as Western and Grass Lake high schools, continued emphasis in online education, weekend college options for working adults, and efforts to increase student success for all. You will find support to help you succeed, with services like tutoring, and outstanding faculty who take time to get to know students and offer help when needed.

With JCC student life opportunities outside the classroom, you can make new friends, explore your personal interests, develop leadership, or serve your community. Gain valuable life skills that will help you whatever career path you choose, such as working well with others, settling conflicts and more. A variety of clubs, sports, community service and performing arts opportunities await. If you are looking to get out of the house and live on your own, JCC will have two student residences available, the current Campus View unit and a new Campus View II build-



ing which is currently under construction and will be completed this summer.

Whether you are right out of high school or what we call in academia a "non-traditional aged" adult, JCC offers in-demand career

programs to help you find a job, as well as transfer opportunities to provide you an affordable start to a bachelor's degree.



The economy is challenging, but that makes it all the more important to have the right education and skills to find a job. JCC can help you start, and in just a few years from this time, you too will have reason to celebrate!

**Congratulations to the class of 2009! Well done.**

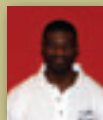
Dr. Daniel J. Phelan  
President



Are you a high school senior celebrating graduation this spring? Congratulations! That is indeed a significant accomplishment. When you consider your future, I hope you will consider JCC. Here are a couple important questions.

**Where do I want to be in five, 10 or 20 years? How can I get there?** A college education can help expand your hiring

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**STUDENT PROFILE Anton Allen**

Student Anton Allen strives to live by the words of some great leaders. "Gandhi said we should be the change we want to see," Allen notes. "And Martin Luther King said life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others? That is what makes me want to help others, to try to be the change and help others change."

His efforts at Jackson Community College have not gone unnoticed. Allen is the 2009 recipient of the George E. Potter Outstanding Student Award.

Allen is a sophomore at JCC who is studying business administration. He is a supplemental classroom instructor and walk-in tutor for mathematics in the Center for Student Success. He is a member of the Men of Merit, JCC's new student group for African American males dedicated to helping them succeed, and he has spoken to several groups on their behalf and for the College, including local schools, JTV, the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and a Michigan legislative subcommittee in Lansing. He's also volunteered to help with Campus View student housing's Li'l Jets Weekends. He traveled to New Orleans in 2008 with the Alternative Breaks Interest Group to help in the continued cleanup of Hurricane Katrina damage.

Allen said he is very grateful for the award and sees it as a confirmation of the work he's done as a student at JCC.

"There is nothing more gratifying than the warmth and gratitude on someone's face when you've helped them or changed their life," Allen said.



With the Men of Merit, he hopes to urge his fellow members, as well as the community, that a college education is important and necessary in today's world. 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.

"One of my main goals with the Men of Merit is to lower their attrition rate and raise their retention rate," Allen said. "I want to help them graduate and be successful."

In his own future, he plans to finish his studies at JCC in the Fall, then hopes to transfer, most likely to either Spring Arbor University or Siena Heights University, to continue his studies and earn a bachelor's degree in business. He hopes to someday run his own non-profit organization that will help children who are less fortunate to learn and impress on them the value of education, as well as becoming an entrepreneur with his own business.

"I didn't do all of these things to win an award, but this does show that the work I've been doing has gone toward something good, and that is very inspiring to me," Allen said.

**Kids College offers youngsters chance to have fun, evolve their creativity**

Jackson Community College will welcome young people to campus again this summer for two weeks of special interactive sessions designed just for them, Kids College.

Kids College is a series of fun weeklong sessions designed for ages 9-13 to help develop imaginations in a setting that is supportive and nurturing. New this year is Bio Mania, a session exploring biology.

**Week One, June 15-19**

**Session One: Show Biz Kids**, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Explore the secrets of performing onstage as a singing group, using choreography and gesture to bring zing to your singing. Be part of a final performance showcasing your talents.

**Session Two: Enter Stage Right**, 1-4 p.m. Enjoy a week of theatre learning and fun with acting workshops, acting warm-ups, theatre decorum, make up demonstrations, theatre lingo, exploring the theatre upstage, down stage backstage, and under the stage. Write and perform your own short play. Limited to 14 students.

**Session Three: Write On**, 1-4 p.m. Write with passion and play, imagination and thoughtfulness about worlds you experience and the worlds you dream. Explore poetry and fiction. The final class features reading the best of what you've written. Limited to 14 students.

**Week Two, June 22-26**

**Session Four: Sing Your Heart Out**, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Sing with the piano, play piano for singers, or do both during this week of vocal expression. A final performance features the best of what you do!

**Session Five: Bio Mania!** 9 a.m. to 12 noon. A week of biology madness and fun! Look at the world in a different way and enjoy adventure and exploration inside and outside. Limited to 14 students.

**Session Six: Art Attack**, 1-4 p.m. Get your hands into the clay and have fun. Make toad houses, pet shakers and tiles, your own creations that you can take home with you. Express yourself with chalk drawings. Explore color and form with outline drawing. Learn about color! Limited to 14 students.

**Session Seven: Jazz It Up**, 1-4 p.m. Explore your own unique and creative expression through dance and movement. Improvise with energy, joyfully concentrate on dancing with pizzazz. Experiment with different dance styles. Create and perform your own individual and group dances. Learn about costuming, sets and planning a dance performance. Limited to 14 students.

Cost for Kids College is \$60 per session, and \$45 for each additional session. Children taking both morning and afternoon sessions will have a supervised lunch period with planned activities.

For more information, call Brandy Grajek at 517.796.8582.

**Also this summer: Band Camp**

JCC will host its 22nd Annual Summer Band Camp from June 15-25 at the Ruth Day Theatre, Potter Center. This camp is specifically designed for young musicians in grades 5-8, who may receive great instruction and benefit from the convenience and savings of JCC's program. Cost of the camp is \$95. For more information, contact Ron Douglass at 517.796.8559, or e-mail [douglasronald@jccmi.edu](mailto:douglasronald@jccmi.edu).



# Men of Merit group honored

JCC's new student group dedicated to helping African-American males succeed in college, the Men of Merit, was recently recognized by Jackson's Sisters in Ministry with an Outreach Award.

The leadership team of advisor Amy Leighton, assistant director for the Center for Student Success and Service Learning, and Lee Hampton, director of the Office of Multicultural Relations, were also honored for their guidance of the group.

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 they 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 club 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 2008, 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. Lee Hampton, director of JCC's Office of Multicultural Relations, organized the summit and is working to help provide leadership to the young men in the group.



## Commencement activities to feature honorees

Commencement activities will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13 in the Harold Sheffer Music Hall, Potter Center. More than 600 graduates are eligible to participate in the activities. Each year, JCC honors outstanding alumni and citizens with several awards given at commencement. This year, the winner of the Dr. Ethelene Jones Crockett Distinguished Alumni Award will be **Thomas Draper**. Draper worked with A.G. Edwards securities company, and later Wachovia Securities, before retirement. In the community, Draper has served on the Board of Directors of the Country Club of Jackson, St. Paul's Episcopal Church vestry, Dahlem Environmental Center, and the Ella Sharp Museum.

Three individuals are being honored with Distinguished Service Awards from JCC, **Dr. Harish Rawal**, **Tony Dungy** and **Dennis DaPra**. Rawal is a local neurosurgeon who, along with his wife Sudha, has generously contributed \$1 million to JCC's new Center for Health Professions in Justin Whiting Hall, as well as causes both here in Jackson and in his native India. Dungy is the retired Super Bowl-winning coach of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts, active in numerous charitable organizations and is also a New York Times bestselling author. DaPra is retired from Consumers Energy and served the JCC Board of Trustees for 11 years, and has also been active in United Way of Jackson County and Enterprise Group of Jackson.

Anton Allen of Jackson will receive the George E. Potter Outstanding Student Award. Allen, who is studying business administration, is a tutor on campus and member of the Men of Merit. (See related story). Also participating in the activities will be the JCC Board of Trustees, faculty and administration, Jackson Community Concert Band and Jackson Community College Concert Choir. Overflow seating will be available in the Michael Baughman Theatre.



**Draper**



**Dungy**



**DaPra**



**Rawal**

## ALUMNI PROFILE Tina Wright

Tina Wright knows what it's like to be the first in her family to go to college. Wright, who now works with South Central Michigan Works! as an employment advisor, grew up in Jackson and attended Jackson Public Schools. She was selected for the College Incentive Program, formerly CARE, in sixth grade, which offered the promise of two free years' tuition at JCC upon successful completion of high school. However, she never really thought about going to college until her junior year of high school when she was reminded of the scholarship opportunity.

"I was the first generation in my family to go to college," Wright said. "I'm very glad I made the choice to go to JCC, because I think if I would have gone directly to a four-year college, I wouldn't have made it. I didn't come from a very wealthy background, and I didn't have many interactions in my community with business people or things like that, those were all things I had to learn how to do."

With an interest in working with people, she considered both education and social work. She met mentor Mary Belknap, who then taught at Jackson High when she was a student there and later taught at JCC when Wright was attending, who helped her sort out which field she wanted to pursue. Because she wanted to work with adults as well as children, she chose social work, and completed her Associate in Arts with the MACRAO (Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) transfer agreement, then continued her studies at Central Michigan University, earning her bachelor's degree in social work. The MACRAO is an agreement between two-year and four-year colleges to ensure that basic general education requirements are met.

"Whenever I get a chance, I tell people about MACRAO. Everything I had transferred, and I felt well-prepared at Central," Wright said.

Today, she is continuing her education and is working toward her master's degree in organizational management at Spring Arbor University. She is no longer the only one in her family to go to college, as her brother is also pursuing his master's degree. In the community, Wright is the co-founder of QUESTIONS, a group for young professionals of Jackson, is part of the marketing committee for Jackson Citizens for Economic Growth (JCEG), and is active with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

In her current position as an employment advisor at South Central Michigan Works!, she has many opportunities to share and to encourage others to pursue a college education, which she says is always exciting. "I have so many words of encouragement for others thinking about college. Don't hold back; sometimes it may be scary, but it offers so many opportunities," Wright said.

Tina was recently recognized as Jackson Publishing's "30 Under 30." **Congratulations Tina!**



## Set sail for a new future with series, Navigating the College Process

Are you an adult who has thought about returning to college but aren't sure how everything works, or whether you can manage it all? JCC wants to help make going to college a little easier for adult students.

Adults who have been away from the classroom for a few years may find the answers they are looking for about career, college, finances and more with a series of three weekly workshops in June. "Navigating the College Process: A Workshop Series for Adult Learners Considering College," will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, June 9, 16 & 23, in Walker Hall room 107 on the Jackson campus.

Each workshop will cover a new topic, including:

- Choosing a career — using the Discover Career Assessment.
- Balancing your life while in college.
- Financing your education.
- Academic advising and registration information.

These **free** workshops will be facilitated by Julie Hand, director of enrollment management for JCC. For more information, call 517.796.8499.

## Spend time studying to improve selves, Dr. Kunjufu urges young blacks

Urging young African-American students to study and be mindful of their future, Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu charged an audience of about 375 in JCC's Potter Center to focus on solutions when it comes to educating African-American males, not just the problems.

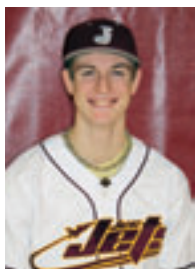


Kunjufu is an educational consultant who has written approximately 30 books, including "Critical Issues in Educating African American Youth." While most people have heard the statistics about more black males being incarcerated and the limited number who graduate high school, Kunjufu suggested solutions.

Young people need to increase the amount of time studying and "on task" — using their time to develop their talent. He urged them to be careful of their peers and who they run with, to develop goals for themselves and to have a positive attitude. Improving school curriculum, especially in critical subjects like reading and algebra, will help. Young black males need to be shown that education needs to be a priority over the NBA, rap music and drugs.

## Jets baseball, softball score on the diamonds

Jets baseball is among the top teams in the nation at the end of April, and pitchers for the baseball and softball teams gained honors for their teams.



As of April 29, men's baseball was ranked No. 7 in the nation in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division II polls. They were at the top of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association statistics, with a conference record of 20 wins and 5 losses, and an overall record of 36-9.

Pitcher Daniel Bream pitched two shutout games in one week for JCC and earned Division II Pitcher of the Week honors from the NJCAA. Bream pitched seven innings against Kalamazoo (9-0), allowing six hits, two walks and striking out seven. Later in the week, he pitched five innings against Kellogg (10-0), allowing only one hit, two walks and striking

out five. He is currently 5-1 on the season, with a .900 ERA.

Softball's Kelsey Adams pitched the first shut-out of her career for JCC, an achievement that helped her to earn Division II Pitcher of the Week honors from the NJCAA. Adams allowed just two hits and walked one in a 5-0 win over Ancilla College on April 11. She struck out four to give JCC their seventh win in eight games. Adams was named one of the NJCAA Division II Top Returning Pitchers for 2009. She has pitched 11 games for the Jets this season, 51 innings with 33 strikeouts and currently has a 3.569 earned run average (ERA).



Men's baseball has qualified for regional tournament, and women's softball was still to be decided. The men will play in the MCCA Region XII tournament May 8-11 in Battle Creek.

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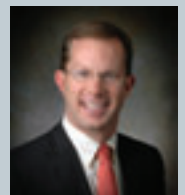
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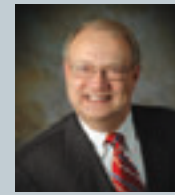
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Find your own place at JCC's Campus View student housing! Contracts are available now for the 2009-2010 academic year. Contact the Office of Residence Life at 517.796.8626 to learn more.