

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Alumni

+ NEWSLETTER

October 2011

ANGIE SACKETT '10
International Studies



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President's Welcome



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Alumni+ Newsletter, the semi-annual publication that will inform, entertain and connect you with the College.

Alumni+ was launched in October 2010. The publication of this newsletter both in print and on line comes as a direct result of your continued interest and support of Kalamazoo Valley.

Each issue will feature a faculty spotlight, college news and information about alumni. Watch for specific ways to reconnect with the college such as participating in the DK1 Holiday Parade activities on November 12.

We hope to include many of your stories, and welcome your feedback regarding the new Alumni+ program and this publication. We invite you to be a part of it by submitting your story or comments to alumni@kvcc.edu.

Marilyn Schlack



What is this QR code?

QR codes are basically a hyperlink for printed items. Using a QR app on your smartphone, scan the QR code and it will deliver additional content.

Alumni+ Calendar of Events

Saturday, November 12, 2011, 11 am
DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO HOLIDAY PARADE
 Hot Chocolate to Follow the Parade 12 pm to 2 pm at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum (230 North Rose Street)

Sunday, December 18, 2011, 4 pm
COMMENCEMENT
 Miller Auditorium

Friday, March 2, 2012
JURIED ALUMNI ART SHOW
 Center for New Media, Arcadia Commons Campus

April 2012
OPPORTUNITES FOR EDUCATION DINNER
 Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo

College Events ALUMNI INVITED

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 2 Global opportunities | 15 What it takes to be successful |
| 8 Ace the Interview | 16 Yogic breathing |
| 9 Adult Transfer program | |
| 11 Veterans program | |

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Black History Month | 29 Black History month movie |
| 3 Financial workshop | |
| 8 WMU On-site Admission | |
| 14 Healthy Relationships | |

MARCH

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 21 Employment Expo/ Volunteer Fair | 22 Women in History speaker |
| 20 Adult Transfer Forum | |

For details of Student Success Center events, please visit kvcc.edu/events

ALUMNI+ Newsletter

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Newsletter+ is published twice each year: fall and spring

Questions about Kalamazoo Valley Alumni+ or this publication may be directed to the Alumni Relations Coordinator at: **269.488.4314** or at alumni@kvcc.edu

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Tell your story and listen to others.
facebook.com/KVCCAlumni

College Updates

In a recent alumni survey, over 50% of respondents indicated that they wanted to receive an alumni newsletter and 29.5% wished to receive emailed news. College Updates will bring college news to light in every issue of the Alumni+ newsletter. Updates will also be on Facebook and the Alumni+ website.

FACULTY INSTRUCTIONAL AWARDS

More than 700 votes were cast, mainly by students, for Best Instructor awards. Hundreds of Kalamazoo Valley Community College instructors were nominated. The recipients were recognized at a May 20, 2011 luncheon hosted by the Faculty Success Center. This year's recipients were Rick Brill, Chafe Hensley, Kathy Kerstetter, Nicole McClure, Jeff Shouldice, and Mary Walter. Check out the videos at vimeo.com/kalamazoovalley

ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Energy Education program has already saved more than \$230,000 since it began in February of this year, which equates to an 18% savings in utility costs. Energy Educator Ted Forester said the maintenance department was particularly helpful in controlling heating and cooling systems, but everyone has pitched in to make the program a success.

Kalamazoo Valley's Sustainable Moves committee has developed a few webpages about the college's green initiative. Participation on the committee is open to all. Email lberesford@kvcc.edu for more information.

CRIME SCENE INSECTS EXHIBIT

Dive into forensic entomology, the use of insects such as flies, maggots and beetles, to reveal critical details of a crime scene—a fascinating practice that plays a vital role in solving a variety of crimes. Visit Crime Scene Insects at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum through January 1, 2012.



The new Student Success Center opened at KVCC's Texas Township Campus in November 2010. It was part of a \$12-million renovation and expansion project that was the college's first major construction since the Student Commons was built in 2001.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Form follows function at Kalamazoo Valley so the decision to centralize services linking students to a wide spectrum of KVCC resources has proven to be a success. Launched as a pilot program in 2007, the Student Services Center in a new wing at the Texas Township Campus has grown to serve more than 1,900 students each semester.

While student services such as counseling, tutoring and career advising have been a part of the college throughout its history, the Student Success Center expands those services. Essential to this proactive approach are the "student success advocates," a new type of mentor created to give students intensive individual support, tracking and follow up.

Students and advocates work together from a signed agreement which formalizes the responsibilities of both parties. The advocate serves as the personalized contact for assistance, referral and support as the student navigates his/her way through the college experience.

Follow up and accountability are crucial to student success. Any student can benefit from the variety of resources provided at the SSC. Research proves that students who access SSC services are 18% more likely to achieve their educational goal, whether that is getting training for job advancement, attaining a certificate or associate degree, transferring to a four-year institution, or personal enrichment.

Similar services are provided at the SSC in Anna Whitten Hall on the Arcadia Commons Campus downtown.



Watch the SSC video!
vimeo.com/26118144

BIG MOE LAYS IT ON THICK

Paul "Big Moe" Pritchett says his small business is successful because of a delicious family recipe for barbecue sauce. "I started in my mom's kitchen with her mom's mom's recipe," Pritchett said. "It always tasted so good to my friends. They convinced me that I should sell it."

Pritchett runs Big Moe Barbecue and Catering and sells bottled barbecue sauce to stores including Meijer, Hardings, Walmart, Sam's Club, Kroger and several small, independent grocers.

"We're a small company with great products," Pritchett said. His rib stand is a popular stop at regional festivals. He sells barbecued ribs, chicken, pulled pork, rib tips and side dishes. Big Moe's Barbecue was named winner of the "Best Ribs" category in this year's Rib Fest in Kalamazoo. It was Pritchett's ninth win out of 12 years. "We won because of the quality of the barbecue," Pritchett said. "People love the taste."

Pritchett's wife, Chris, works as his office manager and their children also help with the business. "We have a lot of fun with it," he said. "We always cook the best food possible. We try to do a great job wherever we go." My mother always said, "You never know who knows who."

Pritchett grew up in Allegan and was a standout football player and wrestler. During high school, he gained the nickname B. Moe, a play on Kalamazoo's Be-Mo Potato Chip Company. The name stuck and later became Big Moe.

Pritchett came to KVCC right from high school. He studied food service and community education and also ran track. He still holds the shot put record at the college. He said many of his high school friends also came to Valley. "One of the things I really enjoyed was the camaraderie that we had with all the sports teams and the overall quality of the instructors," he said.

Coach Phil Wilson, who still coaches volleyball at KVCC, liked to challenge Pritchett. "He could beat me at every game he ever taught me," Pritchett said. "To this day, we still have lunch every so often."

Pritchett describes himself as a social butterfly and says one of the things he enjoyed most about being at Kalamazoo Valley was the opportunity to make new friends. "I had a great time meeting other guys with similar backgrounds," he said. "Some of us are still friends today. My experience at Kalamazoo Valley was instrumental in shaping my love for the Kalamazoo community."



Read mLive's story on Big Moe.
www.goo.by/wj4yZx

TROY LOVE SHARES HIS PASSION

Troy Love says he not only developed academically at Kalamazoo Valley, but he also grew spiritually when he was a student here more than 20 years ago. The college basketball player transferred from another community college to KVCC because he was so impressed with Coach Dick Shilts. "He caught my attention as someone I'd really be interested in playing basketball for so I decided to make the move to Kalamazoo Valley. It was a pretty good call on my part for an 18-year-old kid," Troy said.

In addition to playing on KVCC's basketball team, Troy joined the Fellowship of Christian Athletes club, which was also run by Coach Shilts.

Troy said he knew instantly that KVCC was different. "Kalamazoo Valley kind of fits my personality. I'm a small town guy and it had a small town feel. I was comfortable there. The people were—and I think still are—warm and caring and they want to see you succeed."

Troy is now an eighth grade U.S. History teacher at Whitehall Middle School. He said he has tried to create that same warm, caring atmosphere in his classroom. "As a teacher, I wanted to bring part of Kalamazoo Valley to the classroom and to affect kids by creating a safe, but challenging atmosphere. I think they have a ball in my class—while they're learning."

Troy and his wife Amy have been married for 21 years. The couple's oldest son, Travis, just graduated from high school and their younger son, Isaac, is a junior in high school.



Watch Troy's video!
[vimeo.com/ 26118144](https://vimeo.com/26118144)

Profile in Excellence



CATCHING UP WITH RICK BRILL

Rick Brill teaches political science and is beginning his 21st year as a KVCC faculty member. He was one of six instructors to receive an Instructional Faculty Award in June 2011. More than 700 students cast votes to determine the award recipients.

Rick said one of the things he loves most about his job is connecting with his students and helping them grasp a new concept. He said he works hard to reach everyone in his classes. "One of the greatest talents in teaching is empathy," he said.

He said he loves the positive environment at KVCC. "I'm surrounded by so many other great teachers. I meet them every day," he said.

Rick is writing a historical biography and has discovered through research that the community is rich with history. "Suddenly I realized that I'm from KVCC. To be associated with it means a lot. I'm honored to be a part of this whole thing," he said, calling KVCC "a real mover in this community."



Watch Rick's video!
vimeo.com/25242705

Alumni+ Submitted

Love of Learning

Tom Shull, '82 Jail Administrator

It wasn't until my senior year in high school when the realization hit me; I needed to decide what I was going to do when I grew up! Many of my friends had their careers and educational paths already mapped out. They knew what schools offered the best educational opportunities in their chosen fields; they knew where they were going to live; they had time-lines and bench marks established – they seemed to have it so together. I was not one of them.

After some career searching, I decided that a career in law enforcement seemed like an exciting opportunity. The prospect of moving away to a four-year university as a 17-year old college freshman, however, did not appeal to me at all. I discovered not only did KVCC offer a program in law enforcement, but they had just added a tracking program which would lead to state certification as a law enforcement officer (now the Regional Police Academy).

Continue the story at kvcc.edu/alumni

To the Head of the Class

Margaret Banks, '87 Teacher

After high school I took some college classes at Lansing Community College. I wasn't really very serious about anything except classes related to the performing arts degree I was pursuing. Even after my son was born, as a single parent, I still saw "fame" as a possibility. Around the time my son was a toddler, my father insisted I take the civil service exam because a career in musical theater just wasn't going to support a child.

Continue the story at kvcc.edu/alumni

Submit your story by emailing
alumni@kvcc.edu

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

New branding campaign a success

Spurred by a tradition for being student-centered and keenly aware of the fundamental change in the way students access information, Kalamazoo Valley has modernized its marketing approach for the first time in 20 years.

The in-house team who accepted the challenge to completely revitalize the “look” and “feel” of the KVCC brand presentation included Michael Keller (English), Karen Matson (Graphic Design), Steven Walman (Business), Thomas Mills (Graphic Design), Mike Collins (Vice President for College and Student Relations), and recent Graphic Design graduate Thomas Wrench.

President Marilyn Schlack encouraged the team to gaze into the future to develop a graphic identity and strategies which would accurately reflect the internal brand while delivering the Valley message in an engaging way, utilizing the full spectrum of new and social media tools available.

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**TM
community college

The new Kalamazoo Valley type treatment.

The team began work late in 2008 developing a strategic plan, branding guidelines and style book. Since 2010 the KVCC marketing department, working with others has been implementing the brand across the college and in the community with new signage, a new website, college publications and social media tools.

This new approach has gained regional and national attention by earning Kalamazoo Valley no less than twelve branding and marketing awards from the National Community College Marketing and Public Relations Council and the Higher Education Marketing Association.

Maximize your Employment Opportunities **Change your Thoughts Change your Life**

Join us for an inspiring evening as

MARY JANE MAPES

presents how to change your life and enhance every encounter to assist your entry into today's workforce.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011

Doors Open at 6 pm

Program 6:30 pm-8 pm

FREE ADMISSION

Student Commons

Texas Township Campus

Pre-registration is required. You can register at

www.eventbrite.com/event/1395234183 or call 269.488.4603.

Sponsored in part by the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation and the Student Success Center

**STUDENT
SUCCESS
CENTER** 

ALUMNI INVITED

Alumni+ Program

6767 West O Avenue, PO Box 4070
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Newsletter Delivery Options



Future issues of the Alumni Newsletter will be found online at kvcc.edu/alumni.

If you prefer to receive the newsletter in print, please submit your name and address via email to alumni@kvcc.edu.



HOLIDAY PARADE KALAMAZOO

Saturday, November 12 beginning at 11 AM

Join your KVCC friends and fellow alumni for the 50th Annual Holiday Parade at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 12. Look for the KVCC canopy and watch for the KVCC Cougar Cruiser in the parade.

After the parade, follow the KVCC Cruiser to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum for free hot chocolate and to learn about the recently launched Alumni+ program.

Also, the KVM will serve as a drop off point for the DKI's Loaves and Fishes food drive that day. Bring a non-perishable food donation and receive a free pass to a Planetarium Show (While supplies last; must be redeemed by 3 p.m. on November 12. \$3 per person value).

While at the museum, explore the 50th anniversary of the Holiday Parade exhibit, the Crime Scene Insects exhibit, and Festival of Arts.



ALUMNI+ WEARABLES

The Perfect Holiday Gift

For your favorite Kalamazoo Valley alumni
(mom, dad, sister, brother or self!)

Available now at the Kalamazoo Valley Community
College Bookstore