Director’s Welcome

Welcome to this, the second edition of the Kalamazoo Valley Alumni+ Newsletter, a publication produced for alumni and friends of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

We are excited about the new Alumni+ initiative. Since its debut nine months ago response has been overwhelmingly positive.

As we work at building the program and adding new and exciting events and services, we hope to be able to connect with even more graduates like yourself and those who attended Kalamazoo Valley, but did not graduate. Please help us in this effort by contacting others and sharing with them our determination to connect with fellow Cougars so they too can enjoy the benefits of alumni status.

We hope you find that this issue brings you up-to-date on Kalamazoo Valley news and upcoming events, and stimulates fond memories of your time spent with us. Enjoy the photographs, reading about your former teachers and classmates, and be sure to mark your calendar with events we have planned for you such as the Alumni+ Art Show, March 2, 2012.

We’d love to hear from you. To share your story with our readers, contact us at alumni@kvcc.edu.

Steve Doherty
Director of Development

Alumni+ Calendar of Events

Friday, March 2, 2012, 7 pm
JURIED ALUMNI ART SHOW KICKOFF
Center for New Media, Arcadia Commons Campus
Show runs through March 31

Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2–7 pm
KALAMAZOO CAREER FAIR
Texas Township Campus

Alumni Register Now! www.kvcc.edu/foundation
The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation Presents

DEWEY BOZELLA
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION DINNER

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 25, 2012
5:30–8:30 PM
Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation Presents


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

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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College Updates

Updates also available at www.kvcc.edu/news and at facebook.com/KVCAAlumni

ENERGY CONSERVATION ON CAMPUS
Ted Forester is the only energy educator on staff at Kalamazoo Valley, but he says he couldn’t do his job without campus-wide support.

From February 2011 to October 2011, Kalamazoo Valley saved $397,305 in energy costs for an overall reduction of 22.7 percent. An additional $32,171 was also saved during the initial period from October 2010 to January 2011.

Forester said his primary goals are to maintain comfort and safety for staff and students; to eliminate energy waste; and to save money. He tracks data daily using internationally recognized software. “We’ve seen some major savings and we’re pretty pleased with that,” he said. “Significant changes have been made. Everyone at Kalamazoo Valley did this. It’s a team effort.”

UTILITY LINE WORKER ACADEMY
A Utility Line Worker Academy is being offered at Kalamazoo Valley Community College beginning on May 7, 2012. The 26-week-long training program provides training and certification to prepare students for high demand, high paying career opportunities as line workers.

For more information about the Academy or to apply, contact Lesa Strausbaugh at 269.353.1286 or visit the website at www.kvcc.edu/training.

DISEASE DETECTIVES
Use mannequins with realistic symptoms to learn about some stubborn public health threats and the simple steps we can all take to prevent sickness. Visit Disease Detectives at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum through May 28, 2012.

INAUGURAL ALUMNI ART SHOW IN MARCH

Throughout the month of March, Kalamazoo Valley Community College alumni will be sharing their artistic talents with the community. The Alumni+ Art Show opens on March 2 during the monthly Art Hop event that takes place in downtown Kalamazoo. Pieces accepted for the juried art show will remain on exhibit in Kalamazoo Valley’s Center for New Media until March 31. Submissions of all types of media are expected.

“This has been an exciting year for the Kalamazoo Valley development office. Through the Alumni+ program we are reconnecting with many of our former students,” said Steve Doherty, Director of Development for Kalamazoo Valley. “The Alumni+ Art Show is one example of our efforts to reach out and provide events and services for our Kalamazoo Valley community.”

About 35 pieces will be selected for the exhibit. Prizes to be awarded will include $500 for Best of Show; $300 for the People’s Choice Award; a $300 Dean’s Award; and a $300 Producer’s Award.

Volunteers interested in helping during the Art Show, should contact alumni@kvcc.edu by February 26.
JeFF MelViN ’78
Associate of Arts
Principal, Bangor High School

My choice to attend Kalamazoo Valley came in August of 1976, on the last evening of enrollment for the fall semester. I had graduated from Bloomingdale High School in June and had attended orientation at Western Michigan University in July but was unhappy with my schedule for the fall. I was also concerned about having the chance to play baseball and I knew that my opportunity to be on the team at Valley was much greater than at WMU.

That mid-day decision was one of the most important of my entire life. My two year experience at Kalamazoo Valley led me down a career path of education and athletics. Those two years were filled with outstanding instructors providing quality classroom experiences leading to my Associate of Arts degree in May 1978.

Kalamazoo Valley introduced me to several influential teachers, especially those around the gym. Phil Wilson, Al Thompson, Bob Sack and Darrell Davies all had an impact on me. These men helped me realize my potential with leadership and encouraged me throughout my two years. I transferred to Grand Valley State and graduated in June of 1980 with a Bachelor of Science with a major in K-12 physical education and a minor in K-8 elementary education.

It’s hard to imagine that this is my 30th year in public education. There are many things that I would do over during my post-secondary education, but I truly cannot think of a single thing that I would change about my time at Kalamazoo Valley.

For the full story, visit kvcc.edu/alumni
I was born in Caracas, Venezuela on May 29, 1989. Since early in my childhood, my parents taught me the importance of having a great education, and the many opportunities that come with it. During my first year of middle school, my parents and I started thinking about the possibility of me coming to the United States to go to college and strengthen my English skills.

In 2006, my parents and I contacted a Venezuelan-based company which focused on study abroad programs for high school students. Michigan sounded interesting to me. Eventually I was introduced to Louis and Virginia Houseman, my host family from Kalamazoo. I enrolled in Parchment High School as a senior and also had a chance to get acquainted with Kalamazoo Valley Community College. My first encounters with Kalamazoo Valley were great. I liked the campus and the people. Everyone I met—students, faculty and staff were very approachable and friendly. I felt at home, even though I was thousands of miles away from my home country.

For the full story, visit kvcc.edu/alumni
CATCHING UP WITH WANDA SCOTT

Wanda Scott bubbles with enthusiasm when she talks about her work in Kalamazoo Valley’s Dental Hygiene clinic. After 38 years on the job, she is still giddy.

“I really, really love it,” Scott said. “It’s so much fun to see students move from unskilled hands to skilled hands, especially with the technology we have here. I literally teach ‘show and do.’ I show and do first and then we get into the didactic.”

Kalamazoo Valley’s dental wing was built in 2000. Its state-of-the-art equipment is the envy of many. “We’re pinching ourselves. It’s so much fun to teach where you have all the tools you need,” Scott said. “President Schlack is very visionary like that.”

Scott said graduates of the program can take their skills anywhere. “Our grads leave with the latest and greatest and they know how to think intellectually,” she said.

Scott has made sure that Kalamazoo Valley’s lab remains up to date with software upgrades, a camera system, distance learning capabilities and power scaling equipment. She has enjoyed returning to the classroom herself, taking 36 continuing education units every three years. “Anybody in education enjoys learning,” she said.

Scott’s students refer to her as passionate and enthusiastic. “I love dental hygiene and they know it,” she said. “I never have found it boring. It’s just exciting to me. I’m progressive. I like to see and think outside of the box. I like to figure out how students can learn things more easily.”

Scott is a Kalamazoo Valley alum. She and her husband, Walt, both have Master’s degrees from Western Michigan University. They have three grown daughters and six grandchildren. “I do a lot of fun things with the grandchildren,” Scott said. “In the winter we love to go north because we snowmobile. In the summer, we’re usually on the water.”
DEWEY BOZELLA COMES TO KVCC
Dinner raises scholarship dollars for students

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation’s annual Opportunities for Education dinner is an excellent way to reconnect with alumni and this year’s speaker should be outstanding. Dewey Bozella, who was wrongfully convicted of murder and spent 26 years in prison, will be the keynote speaker at the 8th annual Opportunities for Education Dinner on April 25, 2012 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

Bozella was exonerated and released from prison in 2009. In addition to earning many academic certificates and college degrees while in prison, Bozella trained as a boxer. He fulfilled a dream on Oct. 15 when he boxed against and defeated Larry Hopkins at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Bozella, 52, is now devoting his life to helping others, working with a non-profit organization that assists recently released prisoners transition back into society. He also works with at-risk youth in Newburgh, New York through a mentoring and boxing program at a gym dedicated to this mission.

This brings him to Kalamazoo where he’ll share his story at the OFE dinner. Bozella firmly believes in the power of education. He has earned 52 academic certificates, is a certified HIV and AIDS counselor, and has a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master’s degree in Theology. “Once I opened up my mind, that was it,” he said of the drive to learn.

The OFE dinner benefits Kalamazoo Valley Community College students with financial needs. Each year, the number of students who need financial assistance to attend college grows. Kalamazoo Valley is committed to making sure all deserving students receive the help they need and the dinner is a major fundraiser.

It will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on April 25 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites in downtown Kalamazoo. Tickets are available through the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation website at www.kvcc.edu/foundation. Tickets are $125 each or $75 each for students. Sponsor tables that seat eight are available for $1,500. For more information about the event and the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, contact Executive Director Stephen Doherty, 269.488.4442 or email sdoherty@kvcc.edu.

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ALUMNI INVITED

KALAMAZOO CAREER FAIR

Real Careers. Real People.
kalamazoocareerfair.com

WEDNESDAY MARCH 21, 2012
2–7 pm

HIGHLIGHTS
Meet face to face with over 70 employers
Dynamic breakout sessions
Learn about careers in advanced manufacturing
Free parking

LOCATION
Student Commons, Texas Township Campus
Kalamazoo Valley Community College

For more information visit:
kalamazoocareerfair.com

Start talking! #KzooCareerFair

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