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Community College
Montcalm *Summer 2021*

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MONTCALM COMMUNITY
COLLEGE MAGAZINE is
published periodically by:

**Montcalm Community
College**

2800 College Drive
Sidney, MI 48885-9723

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Mandy Christian, staff accountant and human resources assistant at Greenville Tool and Die.

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The Stanley P. Ash Building on MCC's Sidney campus.

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MCC alumna **achieves her goal** without accumulating college debt

Andrea Dowland graduated in the spring with three degrees

By Shelly Springborn

Andrea Dowland is proof that going to college doesn't have to break the bank.

The 20-year-old from Crystal graduated from Montcalm Community College in the spring and doesn't owe a penny for her education.

Dowland said her journey at MCC began when she was just 16.

"I graduated from high school and I moved here with some family so I could continue my education," she said.

"I knew I wanted to go to a community college instead of a university because I don't like debt and I will not pay the extra money for the classes I can take here," Dowland said. "I just knew that I didn't want to spend so much money that I would

be in debt. I didn't want to take out any student loans, and quite frankly, you don't have to if you work hard enough."

When she first enrolled at MCC, Dowland intended to pursue a career in education, aspiring to teach algebra.

"I quickly decided that wasn't what I wanted to do, so I enrolled in some business classes to get a feel for that. I ended up falling in love with marketing," she said.

While it sounds simple, Dowland said finding a balance that allowed her to work enough to pay the college expenses not covered by her financial aid and juggling school and home had its challenges.

As a student, she worked as a work study at the college's former Subway restaurant, eventually transitioning to a work study position in the college's Human Resources Department.

"That made it easier for me to take classes because I could do homework when all of my work was done," she said.

A few months before she graduated, she left the work study program to take a permanent part-time position as the college's co-curricular coordinator, overseeing and organizing a variety of cultural events for the college.

Although she chose to attend college part-time while working, she recommends to others to attend classes full-time if possible.

"If you can take 15 credits a semester, you can earn your degree in two years and go on to the next great thing," she said.

Dowland earned three associate degrees from MCC this spring – in Business Marketing, Business Management and Business Entrepreneurship. Through an articulation agreement between MCC and Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), she transferred 90 credits to SNHU, where she will complete a bachelor's degree in marketing in December.

"The transfer process was so easy. I filled out a paper, was contacted by an advisor and they pretty much did everything for me," she said. "They actually recommended that I take a history class and another English class here to save even more money, which was super nice."

Dowland now works full-time in MCC's Financial Aid Department as a Financial Aid Advisor. Her dream is to work in the marketing profession making commercials and eventually becoming a chief marketing officer.

For students uncertain about their future, she said, "Just get in there and do it, even if you think you can't. I did it at age 16." ■



Financial aid

MCC has established a financial aid program of grants, loans, scholarships and work study opportunities in an effort to assist students with their expenses. Students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) used by the Financial Aid Office to determine eligibility for most aid sources. Visit montcalm.edu/financial-aid, email finaid@montcalm.edu or call **989-328-1207** for more information.

MCC Foundation

The MCC Foundation has more than \$360,000 in scholarships and aid available annually to assist students in achieving their educational goals. Visit montcalm.edu/mccf for more information.

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*MCC Director of Financial Aid
Jessica Herrick assists a student on
MCC's Sidney campus.*

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MCC **inaugurates** Stacy H. Young, Ph.D., as the college's sixth president

By Shelly Springborn

The Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees inaugurated Stacy H. Young, Ph.D. as the college's sixth president during a celebration May 7 on the college's Sidney campus.

During her inauguration address, Dr. Young said, "Your being here today brings honor to me and more importantly to Montcalm Community College, and I am grateful to you.

"I promise to work tirelessly to serve you as president and live our mission of transforming lives through quality education," Young said. "I am committed to serving you in a way that honors our past, considers our present and looks forward to our future."



Stacy H. Young, Ph.D., was inaugurated as Montcalm Community College's sixth president on May 7.



The presidential medallion is the formal symbol of the Office of President at the college.



MCC Board of Trustees Chairperson Karen Carbonelli, at right, recognized Dr. Young during the inauguration ceremony. Also pictured is Vice President for Academic Affairs Rob Spohr.



From left, John Johansen, Andrea Krause, Dr. Gary Hauck, Dr. Donald Burns and Maureen Burns attended the inauguration ceremony.



Above: Onlookers congratulate Dr. Young as MCC's sixth president during the May 7 inauguration ceremony. Left: Dr. Young and her sister, Tracy Martin, celebrate.



Above: Congressman John Moolenaar congratulates Dr. Young.



Left: Dr. Young speaks to guests during her inauguration address.

Dr. Young celebrated the college's past by acknowledging its accomplishments and recognizing its former presidents. She spoke of the college's history, of how the global pandemic has impacted education and of the college's role in leading into the future.

Dr. Young joined Montcalm Community College on Jan. 1, 2020, and she is the first female to serve in the institution's top leadership position.

MCC Board of Trustees President Karen Carbonelli credits Young for her leadership.

"Stacy immediately recognized MCC's declining enrollment and set up a task force to address this issue," Carbonelli said. "MCC quickly went from being the college with the highest enrollment decline in the state to being the college with the least decline.

"She has worked to create excellent communication between staff and students to ensure student success. She has a true open-door policy and invites everyone in," Carbonelli added.

inauguration

During the ceremony, Carbonelli presented Dr. Young the college's presidential medallion. The medallion is a formal symbol of the Office of President at the college. It features the MCC seal. The images on the seal reflect the area's agricultural, industrial and educational heritage.

"Montcalm Community College has installed a President on only five occasions, a fact that attests not only to our relative youth as an educational institution but also to the depth of commitment to the college each of our leaders has demonstrated. All have been individuals of exceptional energy, clear vision and determination. Today, we formally welcome to this distinguished company a woman of similar qualities, Dr. Stacy H. Young," Carbonelli said.

Dr. Young received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Manchester University and a master's degree in Business Administration from Bethel University. In addition, she is a graduate of Andrews University with a Ph.D. in Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration. Most of Dr. Young's research throughout her Ph.D. program focused on community colleges.

Dr. Young has worked in both corporate America as an auditor and with small businesses as an accountant. This diverse background enabled her to teach a variety of Business and Accounting courses throughout her career.



Top: Dr. Young recognized Scott Smith for 22 years of service as the college's chemistry instructor. Smith retired June 30. **Above:** Dr. Young presented the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award to part-time Criminal Justice Instructor Brian Blomstrom during Commencement, which immediately followed the inauguration ceremony. **Left:** During the college's May 7 Commencement ceremony, Dr. Young presented the Leslie K. Morford Faculty Recognition Award to Student Success Counselor Tore Skogseth in recognition of his achievements at MCC. **Bottom Left:** Dr. Young presented an Associate of Science and Arts degree to 64B District Court Judge Adam Eggleston during the college's May 7 Commencement ceremony



Serving students in education for more than 23 years, Dr. Young has worked in a variety of roles including adjunct faculty, full-time faculty, chairperson, Dean and now president. She also serves as a Peer Reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission. In addition to her formal roles, she enjoys speaking in the community and serving others. Dr. Young is dedicated to staying connected with MCC faculty and students by continuing to regularly teach. Her hobbies include running and spending time with her family. ■



commencement



***Above:** Student speaker Emily Mulnix addressed graduates during the college's 54th annual Commencement through a videotaped message. **Top right:** MCC President Stacy H. Young, Ph.D., at left, presented Terri Vining her diploma cover during Commencement.*



***Center:** MCC recognized its graduates during a drive-thru Commencement celebration May 7 on the college's Sidney campus. **Right:** Photo booths were set up around MCC's Sidney campus during Commencement so graduates could celebrate with their family and friends.*



commencement



Top: Onlookers capture Commencement for their graduates. **Top right:** Dr. Stacy H. Young celebrates with a graduate and her daughter. **Bottom right:** Vice President for Academic Affairs Rob Spohr announced each graduate's name as they walked across the stage to accept their diploma cover. **Bottom left:** Graduates enjoyed the moment as they walked across the stage.



Montcalm Community College awarded 259 degrees and certificates May 7 during its 54th annual Commencement ceremony. Graduates and their families celebrated during a drive-thru event on the college's Sidney campus.

All business

MCC offers a variety of programs

By Shelly Springborn

The opportunities are endless with a degree in business. Do you like working with people? What about numbers? How about computers and technology? Or would you like to be self-employed? If you said “yes” to any of these questions, a business degree may be just the right fit for you.

Montcalm Community College Accounting and Business Instructor Bill Bishop said the college strives to prepare students for a broad range of opportunities available in the current and projected workforce.

“All the business degrees offered at MCC emphasize the knowledge and skills employers are looking for now.”

-- Bill Bishop

“It doesn’t matter if you want to work in project management, finance and accounting, information technology, health care administration, human resources, marketing, general management or be an entrepreneur – understanding the language and possessing certain skill sets required of business leaders provides a distinct advantage,” he said. “All the business degrees offered at MCC emphasize the knowledge and skills employers are looking for now.”

Bishop said many of the hottest projected job market opportunities in the next decade center around accounting and finance, management, marketing and IT.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook is good for a variety of business professions over the next 10 years.

In May 2020, the median annual wage for accountants and auditors was \$73,560 in an entry-level position with a bachelor’s degree. From now until 2029, the field is projected to grow by four percent.

For the same time frame, bookkeepers and accounting and auditing clerks with some postsecondary education can expect to earn a median annual wage of \$42,410, and the job outlook estimates growth by six percent.

Budget analysts working in government agencies, private companies and universities earn a median annual wage of \$78,970 with a projected three percent growth.

There is great potential for financial managers with a projected 15 percent employment growth and a median annual wage of \$134,180.

Employment of human resources managers is projected to grow six percent with a median annual wage of \$121,220.

If you’re interested in advertising, promotions or marketing, the job outlook is projected to grow by six percent with median annual wages ranging from \$133,460 to \$142,170 depending on the position and degree level.

Regardless of your end goal, MCC has a program that will provide the foundation for one of these careers. In addition, the college has more than 125 transfer agreements with other institutions that provide a seamless transfer of credits if you want to continue on to earn a bachelor’s or other advanced degree.

“Whether you want to prepare for a career with a two-year degree from MCC or use it as a foundation for a more advanced degree, graduates of our business programs can rest assured knowing they are making a positive impact on their future career goals and opportunities,” Bishop said. ■

For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/academics

Email studentservices@montcalm.edu

Call 989-328-1277

'Take a chance'

Mandy Christian finds the perfect fit at GTD and MCC

By Shelly Springborn



Mandy Christian happened to be in the right place at the right time when she applied for an accounting position at Greenville Tool and Die (GTD).

Christian was living in Belding at the time and commuting to her job as an accounts payable clerk in Grand Rapids. While she was open to seeking a position closer to home, she wasn't heavily searching for a new opportunity.

"Every time I drove by Greenville Tool, I thought I would apply if they ever were hiring a position I was qualified for," Christian said. "I had always heard it was a great company to work for."

Then it happened – she saw a message from a recruiting company that GTD was advertising for a staff accountant. She applied that day and was quickly contacted for an interview.

"I got very lucky. For the position I applied for, I didn't have all the skills or even a majority of the skills that they wanted," Christian said.

One thing she did have was the desire and willingness to learn.

"When I went for my interview, they asked if I would be willing to go back to school for accounting," she said. "Until that time, my only experience in accounting was as an accounts payable clerk. So, I didn't really know anything about debits or credits or the details of accounting. They chose to send me to MCC."

"I loved it. It was a great school for me," she said. "A lot of the classes I needed were offered around my work schedule

and if not, my employer was very generous with letting me work around my work schedule."

It was a perfect match for her with a company that has a long history of investing in its employees through education. Christian started at GTD in March 2016, and by fall, she was enrolled at MCC.

While she had attended Indiana University, where she studied psychology, Christian said she was a bit apprehensive about returning to school. Then she met Business Instructor Bill Bishop and Math Instructor Dan Long.

"They both were very patient. If I needed help, they would help me. I appreciate that. They were great," she said.

To earn her associate degree in accounting, Christian took two classes most semesters and occasionally three, as well as summer classes. Plus, some of the classes she completed at Indiana University reverse transferred to MCC, and were applied toward her degree requirements.

"Most of my classes were at night. It definitely made for long days, but it wasn't bad," she said.

Christian has been with GTD for more than five years and currently is a staff accountant and human resources assistant.

Her advice to others is "take a chance. Apply for the job you don't think you are qualified for or might be out of your comfort zone because you might get the opportunity," she said. "That's what happened to me. It has done wonders for me all the way around. I love my job!" ■

Shifting gears

Career exploration helped Hilary Gustin find her passion for accounting at MCC

By Shelly Springborn

One meeting, one career assessment test and one teacher forever changed Hilary Gustin's career path.

From an original plan to pursue a career in health care to shifting gears midway through college to earn a degree in accounting, Gustin found her passion in numbers after enrolling in her first accounting class at Montcalm Community College.

In her position as an Experienced Associate and CPA at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC (PwC) in Detroit, Mich., Gustin works in private company and personal financial services, providing tax compliance and consulting services to privately held businesses and high net-worth individuals. For example, many of her clients are pro athletes.

However, early in life, she didn't set out to be working with stars.

"I did not expect to have pro sports teams and pro athletes that I followed as a child become my clients," she said, reminiscing of growing up in Greenville.

Gustin attended MCC over the course of four years before transferring to Grand Valley State University.

"I ended up sitting out a few semesters at MCC because I was undecided about what I wanted to do," she said.

With her mom and sister both working in health care, she thought that was her destiny, but it just didn't feel right. So, she made an appointment with MCC Student Success Counselor Tore Skogseth to talk about her options.

"He had me take a career interest assessment, and based on my results, he suggested taking an accounting class," she said. "Because of that, I enrolled in Bill Bishop's accounting class. I saw the passion

he had for accounting and that helped me spark an interest to pursue accounting. He had to be the best instructor I had between my time at MCC and Grand Valley."

"Until my senior year of high school, I pretty much envisioned going away to a four-year university – the typical living in a dorm, having a roommate and finishing college before I started work," she said. "When I truly started exploring my options for college and saw the cost of attending a university, I realized how nice it was that I could stay close to home and save a considerable amount of money by attending MCC and working full-time while I was going to school."

Gustin graduated from MCC in 2013 with an Associate of Liberal Studies and a Liberal Arts certificate, having completed all of her basic educational requirements under the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (MACRAO) transfer agreement, now the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA). She went on to earn her bachelor's and master's degree in accounting at GVSU and also completed her CPA credential.

She said applying for an internship at PwC was the best decision she ever made. Gustin joined PwC full-time in 2018 and is working toward promotion as a senior accountant.

"My ultimate career goal would be to someday become a partner in an accounting firm," she said, "and hopefully, when I retire, to know that I serviced my clients to the best of my ability."

Through her journey, she has insights to share with others who may be undecided in their career path.

"View every person you meet as a door that could lead you to discover a new interest or opportunity," she said. "Had I never met Bill Bishop, or seen the enthusiasm he has for accounting, I may not have been inspired to follow the path that I'm on today." ■

"View every person you meet as a door that could lead you to discover a new interest or opportunity."

-- Hilary Gustin





MCC **helped** me **get** a footing in my **career**

Alumnus Seth Newman says he discovered his passion as a student

After graduating from Carson City-Crystal High School in 2008, Seth Newman was unsure of what his career path would be.

"I didn't know what type of career path I was interested in or what university to attend," Newman said. "Because of that, I chose to bridge the gap with Montcalm Community College. I was familiar with the college, having taken swimming lessons there as a child, and it was only a short drive for me."

Newman attended MCC from 2008 through 2010. He remembers the benefits of the intimate feel of the classrooms and the one-on-one work with his instructors.

"Attending MCC helped me adjust from high school to college with being able to interact with students of all ages," he said. "I have some fond memories particularly of professors who helped bring out my academic side. Ken DeLong was always entertaining with his enthusiasm for teaching. We always waited for him to jump on the desks and start shouting. That style helped me to continually show interest in my work and pay attention to the classroom."

In 2010, Newman was accepted to Central Michigan University where he graduated with a degree in journalism. He went on to work for Spartan Sports Network as a radio broadcaster. From 2013 through 2018, you could hear Newman on the radio for Michigan State basketball and football. He became the Michigan State football sideline reporter and pregame host sharing the air with radio broadcasting legend and Detroit Pistons play-by-play commentator George Blaha. During his time as a radio



broadcaster, Newman won numerous awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. He was featured on a weekly radio show that was broadcast in more than 12 states where he hosted athletes who recounted their careers. MLB Legend Alex Rodriguez and current Minnesota Vikings' quarterback Kirk Cousins are just a couple of athletes who were featured on his show.

Aside from his broadcasting, Newman continued to write. He was the lead writer in two regionally published magazines that focused on Michigan State athletics where he conducted one-on-one interviews with future NBA and NFL players.

"MCC helped me get a footing in my career," Newman said. "I began to enjoy writing and learning basic AP Style. It was a good mix of not being too intimidating with the atmosphere and helping me learn new aspects that would advance my career."

Since leaving the broadcasting industry, Newman has become the Director of Marketing and Advertising for a multi-million-dollar international dental production company that crafts retainers, athletic mouth guards, night guards and teeth whitening trays. At Sporting Smiles, Newman oversees the direction of the company brand and social media. He's since moved out of Michigan and now lives near Milwaukee, Wis. Looking back at his time at MCC, he realized that it was just the start of his career.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without MCC," Newman said. "It was a great safety net for me to discover what I was passionate about while continuing my education. I'm thankful it was an option while I figured out my next step." ■

MCC helps couple complete their degrees **debt-free**

by Shanika P. Carter

Achieving a college education without accumulating debt isn't easy, but it is possible.

Montcalm Community College alumni and employees Madison and Josiah Morgan-Crater did it.



Together for eight years and married since the summer of 2019, Madison is a Human Resources Assistant at MCC, while Josiah is a Service Desk Lead in the college's Information Technology Services Department. The couple met in high school and were both enrolled in the college's dual-enrollment program, which allows area high school juniors and seniors to take college classes while still in high school. Partaking in the dual enrollment classes, alone, contributed greatly to their debt-free school status, as Madison graduated from high school with 27 college credits, all paid for by their high school.

Having started at MCC through dual enrollment, they agreed that continuing their education at MCC was a natural step. Financially, they benefitted from the lower cost per credit hour when compared with universities and private colleges, and they both received scholarships through the MCC Foundation.

Josiah said MCC's quality of the education and the smaller, intimate setting, was also attractive to him. He explained that the quality of education he experienced at MCC met the same standards as he received at the university level. In recognizing the instruction, both praise the knowledge and caring nature of the instructors.

"They encourage you to be your best and are great about giving you praise," Madison explained. "Before I went





to MCC, I had zero confidence in myself; when I left I felt empowered and confident in myself, thanks to the education I received and the instructors I had."

Madison eventually graduated from MCC with two associate degrees in 2017 – accounting and business administration management – followed by the completion of an additional class to receive her third degree in entrepreneurship in 2018. Josiah also graduated from MCC with two associate degrees – computer support technology in 2016, followed by web development and programming in 2017.

Both Madison and Josiah transferred to and graduated from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) with their bachelors' degrees after shopping around and considering all options. Madison transferred 90 of her MCC credits toward SNHU's business administration program, leaving her with only 10 more classes (30 credits) to complete the degree in 2019. Josiah also transferred 90 credits toward the graphic design and media arts bachelor's degree program at SNHU, which he completed in 2020.

Already holding down solid jobs and incomes, the couple was able to take on the out-of-pocket costs for their SNHU courses.

"We have a lot to be thankful for because of Montcalm Community College."

-- Josiah Morgan-Crater

"My degree most definitely supports what I am doing professionally and in my career," Josiah said. "With my degree and certifications that I received while getting my associate's, I obtained a job with the college as a service desk technician."

Josiah was eventually hired into his current full-time role as an MCC service desk lead.

Madison has also utilized her educational background, currently working part-time as a human resources assistant

and operating a small, handmade candle business out of their basement. "Candles by Madison" began in 2013 while Madison was still in high school, but she says she started making candles in third grade.

"Candles were just a hobby for a lot of years, but I've always loved business, so I just transitioned it into a money-making venture. For as long as I can remember, I always wanted to own my own business."

Even during the pandemic, Madison says that "Candles by Madison" had its best year yet in business, with a focus on driving sales through her website after the craft shows and local business that housed her candles had to close during the pandemic.

Overall, the couple is thankful and appreciative of how MCC has contributed to their debt-free status, which Madison points out led to them being able to purchase their first home in 2020.

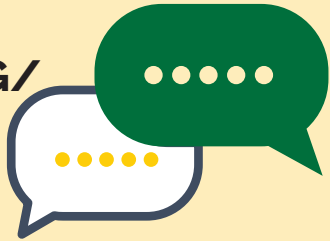
"We have a lot to be thankful for because of Montcalm Community College," Josiah said. "We were given the opportunity to become part of the MCC community and family, which we did not realize could be possible from an educational institution. We would not be where we are today, debt-free, without going to MCC." ■

MCC **supports** student learning

montcalm.edu/student-resources

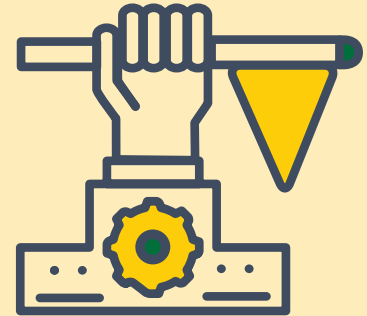
COUNSELING/ ADVISING

Helps students navigate the college experience, provides program guidance and assists with concerns related to education.



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Offers services for students who are undecided about a career path, looking for a job in their field or anything in between.



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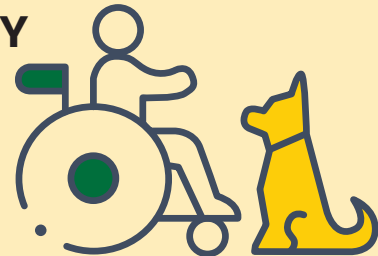
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Helps students understand assignments; generate, develop and organize ideas; engage with and document source material; revise and polish drafts; and more.



ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Provides reasonable accommodations for students with barriers to learning.



FOOD SOURCE

The MCC Food Source provides current MCC students with nutritious food items while classes are in session.



MATH CENTER

Offers drop-in coaching that can be used as much as needed for students currently enrolled in an MCC math course.

MCC math instructor helps students reach their full **potential**

By Lexie White

As a child, Katey Johnson observed how education supported her parents as they worked to build a better life for their family.

It's a long-instilled value that inspires her to support her students both in and out of the classroom at Montcalm Community College.

Johnson has worked at MCC since 2007. During her early years, she taught various mathematics courses as an adjunct faculty member. Johnson is now a full-time instructor who teaches statistics, trigonometry, college algebra and mathematics for elementary teachers.

"My primary goal in teaching is to assist students in improving their lives and reaching their full potential," Johnson said.

Johnson has been working to achieve this goal for most of her career. Before joining MCC, she taught earth science, biology, AP biology, algebra, geometry and general math at Belding High School and Lowell Middle and High Schools.

Johnson was raised by parents who saw education as their way out of poverty. She works to motivate her students to be the best versions of themselves and to create bright futures.

"I will do everything I can to assist students in achieving all they can. I have seen first-hand the difference a college degree and professional career can have on a family and I want my students to be able to provide their families with the brightest future possible," she said.

Besides teaching, Johnson enjoys coaching youth athletics. She has coached basketball and volleyball teams at the high school and middle school levels.

Johnson's love of mathematics and helping others achieve their dreams is evident in all she does.

"Mathematics is often a content area that tends to hold students back from achieving their aspirations and it is my



sincere hope that my students realize that if they are willing to work as hard as I do, they will be able to successfully complete my course and move on to their next endeavor without their math class holding them back," she said.

One of Johnson's favorite moments of her teaching career happened during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of her students had fallen behind with only four weeks left in her statistics class. The students' children were transitioning to online learning and her job at a local hospital was requiring her to work more hours due to the pandemic.

Johnson said that sometimes the meetings included her children and the students' children sitting on their laps while they worked. They would laugh about their crazy lives, but they could both see the progress that was being made and that success was within reach.

In addition to classroom instruction, Johnson will take on the role of Online Education Committee Chair this fall at MCC. She will help facilitate and guide the committee as they work to implement online education best practices. ■



'Bittersweet'

Longtime MCC Chemistry Instructor Scott Smith retires

By Shelly Springborn

Some decisions are easier to make than others and Scott Smith's decision to retire wasn't one of them.

After 22 years as Montcalm Community College's Chemistry Instructor, Smith closed this chapter of his life at the end of June.

"It was a tough decision. Bittersweet," he said.

"Teaching has been fantastic," Smith said. "I love being in the classroom. I love doing chemical demonstrations. The students love it, too. When they see there's a demonstration in class, they get so excited."

Smith, of Alma, has a long history at the college where he started his journey as a student in 1977. He graduated from MCC in 1979 with an Associate in Arts and Science and completed the credits necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (MACRAO) transfer agreement. He was hired as a part-time instructor spring semester 1990 in MCC's Science Department and continued in this role until 1994. During this time, he also worked as a high school chemistry instructor at Heritage High School in Saginaw. In July 1994, he moved to Oregon where he was science instructor at Milo Academy. He moved back to Michigan in 1995 to teach chemistry at Fruitport High School. In June 1999, he once again joined MCC, this time as a full-time chemistry instructor.

Coming from a family with deep roots in teaching, Smith said he's glad he shifted his original career path to education.

"My first job out of college was as a microbiologist in Ohio," he said. "As soon as they got me out of the lab and into management, it wasn't much fun."



He said he was influenced by the long list of educators in his family, including his dad, the late Kenneth J. Smith, who served the college as a Natural Sciences Instructor for many years, and for whom the Kenneth J. Smith Instructional Building on the college's Sidney campus is named. He was also one of Scott's instructors when he was an MCC student.

Throughout the years, Smith has had a reputation around the college for creating fun and exciting science experiments, and he left behind a few marks on the ceiling of his classroom as a reminder. He has been recognized by his students for being "fantastic. He is enjoyable to listen to and is always upbeat in the classroom."

They laud him for being excited to teach everyday and for making classroom experiments "fun and engaging. His enthusiasm is the best. It's chemistry ... there is fire and interesting reactions. He is an awesome teacher!"

Smith said he enjoyed interacting with students and making the content of his lessons fun and memorable.

"I do get goofy in the classroom. It's because I'm having so much fun," he said with a grin that reached all the way to his eyes. "I do my best to have a smile on my face and to provide a positive experience for my students."

Early in his career, Smith learned some basic teaching techniques that he said worked for him throughout his time in the classroom.

"Say it, write it on the board, stand back and say it again. This style served me very well," he said. "I tried different techniques through the years, but my old standby has stood the test of time."

This also provided some challenges during the past year with shifts to online instruction during the height of the COVID pandemic.

"This has really been fun ...
I will miss teaching and the
interaction with students."

-- Scott Smith

"It made me extra aware of face-to-face interactions," he said. "You just can't teach hands-on lab and interactive classes the same way online as you do in person."

He also said throughout the years, he learned to have more patience and to meet students where they are at.

"Those things come with experience. You never know what a student has going on in their personal life," he said.

Smith also credited the college with providing a university-level teaching environment.

"We have some awesome equipment in our lab – students get to be hands-on with equipment that they normally would not get to use until they were at the graduate level at a university," he said.

In retirement, Smith said he's looking forward to catching up on some projects at home, spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren, doing some work on the family farm and fishing. He hopes to continue teaching part-time, too.

"This has really been fun. It has been a treat to work at MCC. I will miss teaching and the interaction with students," Smith said. ■



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Associate of Science & Arts
Business Entrepreneurship, A.A.S.
Business Management, A.A.S.
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Computer Network Administration
Cosmetology Management, A.A.S.
Criminal Justice, A.A.S.
Digital Arts, A.A.S.
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 (Leading to Vet Tech Bachelor's Degree
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Skilled Trades-Machinist Certificate
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This program leads to an Associate of Applied Science degree with an emphasis in accounting and provides the background and skills necessary for an entry-level job in the accounting field.

Business Entrepreneurship (A.A.S.)

This program leads to an Associate of Applied Science degree with an emphasis in new business development, and provides the skills necessary for an entry-level job in the field of small business management.

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Business Administration Professional Track (A.A.S.)

(Leading to a B.S. at Ferris State University)
This program provides a degree completion program in Business Administration for students who have prior coursework containing a professional or occupational emphasis (i.e. Accounting, Digital Arts, Information Technology, Management, Marketing, and many others). The program features a tight sequence of major courses; however, the program also provides the flexibility to specialize in an area of interest for the student.



Montcalm Community College

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