

Margaret (Peg) Olsen,
Class of 1983
Council Chair

Tracey
Koehler-Krepel,
Class of 1998
Vice Chair &
Marketing Chair

Linda McMahon,
Class of 2002
Friends of MCC
Foundation Liaison

Michael Rein,
Class of 1997
Events & Fund
Raising Chair

Warren Wolschlager,
Class of 1988
Finance Chair

Tim Haak,
Class of 1978
Nick Kachiroubas,
Class of 1999

Kim Keefe,
Class of 1988
Jim Nierman,
Class of 2002

Joseph Like,
CFRE
Executive Director,
Friends of MCC
Foundation

Kathrine Pfister,
Class of 1986
Development
Coordinator, MCC

Nominate an MCC Alum!

For the past three years, the MCC Alumni Council has worked with the MCC Board of Trustees to recognize alumni for their accomplishments. *Nominations of MCC alumni can be made by a friend, family or from the alumni. Applications are due September 8, 2006.* Three separate awards are presented on an annual basis at the December graduation ceremonies.

- **Career Distinction Award:** Nominee has a history of making a difference in his/her chosen career field or of helping a fellow employee to excel.
- **Excellence in Community Service Award:** Nominee has a history of serving his/her community including examples of activity that supported a community organization and/or the College.
- **Triumph Award:** Nominee has overcome obstacles that seemingly would have prevented him/her from obtaining an education.

The MCC Alumni Awards Recognition Program also helps the college identify alumni for recognition programs at the state and national level. The Illinois Community College Trustees Association and the American Association of Community Colleges both offer recognition programs for community colleges to nominate alumni for awards.

Visit the College's web site at www.mchenry.edu and go to the Alumni web page to download an application, nomination requirements and a more detailed description of the award categories. Applications are accepted anytime.

MCC Alumni Activities

Join our Alumni Ambassadors and celebrate, have fun & meet other alumni

- **Alumni Association Council**
(quarterly meetings four times a year)
- **Awards Committee Members**
(two meetings a year)
- **Events Committee**
(meets bi-monthly)
- **40th Anniversary Celebration Committee**
(newly created committee to help the college plan the anniversary and assist with preserving the college's and students' history of MCC). Any current MCC alumni or retired MCC faculty or employee are invited to participate on this committee.

McHenry County College Alumni Alert

Summer Issue, 2006



We dug out our scrapbooks to reminisce our upcoming 40th Anniversary, and we want to hear from you! Come back and help us identify the people in these photos! See article below.

Plan the Party Celebrating Four Decades!

From our humble beginning in the Pure Oil building to our expansive campus on Route 14, the College has grown to meet the needs of the communities we serve. In 2007, McHenry County College will celebrate its 40th anniversary. We owe our rich history to the many area residents, students and faculty who shaped MCC over the last four decades. From April 2007 through September 2007, the college will host many activities that both celebrate and honor the people and the events that shaped this institution. There are several ways you can become involved:

Share your stories

We are documenting our history and encouraging area community officials, former students and faculty to share their experiences of the classroom and at the College. Please send your stories to: Kathrine Pfister, Alumni Office, c/o McHenry County College, 8900 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake, IL 60012 or kpffister@mchenry.edu. Some of the stories may be used in College publications prior to or in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Classify and catalog pictures

The College has recently created an archival storage space for our historical information. We have many pictures that are not identified. As the collage above shows, we have pictures of student activities, classroom experiences and faculty and students who need to be identified. This is a great project for historical buffs and scrapbook aficionados! If you would like to help us identify people and the period of time the pictures were taken, please contact Kathrine Pfister, Alumni Office, at (815) 479-7529 or e-mail kpffister@mchenry.edu.

Plan the parties and activities

Several parties and activities will be held on and off MCC's campus during the 40th Anniversary Celebration. The 40th Anniversary Advisory Committee has come up with some great ideas, but we bet you have great ideas too! Help us to celebrate this historical event by joining in on organizing the fun! For more information, contact Pat Kriegermeier, Office of Marketing and Public Relations, at (815) 455-8562 or pkrieger@mchenry.edu.

Remembrance of Dick York

MCC alum Steve Bazan, Class of 1980, wrote this essay in remembrance of horticulture instructor Dick York:

I attended MCC from 1978 to 1980 and was fortunate to have Dick York as an instructor for a class, "Introduction to Woody Plants." A month ago I learned that Dick passed away in 2003. I regret not having kept in touch with him after graduating. Here is the essay I published, dedicated to him:

I grew up in a small northern Illinois town surrounded by corn and open grassy fields dotted with trees. To a young boy, some trees were climbing challenges, or places to return to with a hammer, nails and scraps of wood to build a fort. Other trees were used as sources of switches for whipping, or fruit to eat, or nuts to throw at targets.

I never thought of trees differently until 1979. That year, as a freshman in college, I enrolled in a course, "Identification of Woody Plants," taught by Dick York.

Professor York was excited about trees. He loved to discover trees, touch them, smell them, write about them, talk about them and share them with his students. His love of trees challenged us to identify them, and encouraged us to look at them in a new way, to appreciate their beauty.

Our apprenticeship required class trips to arboretums, gardens and nearby campuses to find and learn about trees that Professor York had previously met and cataloged for our class. On these field trips, we circled around our studied trees like Dr. Seuss' community of "Whos in Whoville" on Christmas morning. There we took notes, each of us building a library of reference trees on wire-bound index cards. By characterizing and identifying the local trees and shrubs, we engraved them in our minds and hearts.

One late afternoon, while driving to one of our field trip destinations, Professor York nearly drove our car into a ditch

when he slammed on the brakes to rubberneck a line of trees. A storm was approaching out of the west, pushing strong winds across the cornfields and, through the stand of poplars, the professor pointed out. I looked to see the white undersides of all the poplar leaves shimmering like confetti in the wind, fixed against a moving bank of denim clouds. I've never forgotten that car window view, introduced and framed by Professor York.

Like my old teacher, I love to slow down to admire trees I discover along my driving routes. Sometimes I even manage to pull over and stop on the side of the road, rather than cause an accident. Then I get out and close the door, stretch and walk towards a tree that draws me near. I invite Dick to walk with me. Together again, we move closer and place our hands around the tree. We lean into it. We listen. When we look up through the branches, rooted to this Earth, we get a glimpse of Heaven.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



David Elder leads PTK to International Honors

McHenry County College is proud to announce that the Chi Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at MCC received a Leadership Hallmark Award and three individual awards at the April 2006 Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Seattle, Washington.

While it is an honor for a chapter to receive even one award, MCC candidates took home three individual awards as well. Individual awards honor the top 30 candidates out of 1,200 chapters worldwide, so it is a great honor for our winners. Congratulations to...

- **Distinguished Chapter Advisor Award**—David Elder, faculty advisor
- **Distinguished Chapter President Award**—Anna Berg of McHenry, Chi Upsilon Chapter President
- **Distinguished Member Award**—Katie Michelsen of Cary, Chi Upsilon Service Chair and member

The Hallmark Awards Program is the society's annual capstone awards program that recognizes excellence in programs that promote the Phi Theta Kappa Hallmarks of scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. Exceptional members, officers, advisors, college administrators and chapters are recognized annually at the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention for their achievements. Complete lists of awards winners as well as award category descriptions are available at www.ptk.org/hallmarks.

McHenry County College earth science instructor David Elder was also appointed Illinois Interim Regional Coordinator for Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Each of Phi Theta Kappa's 29 regions is directed by a regional coordinator who is also an experienced chapter adviser. Elder's appointment by Phi Theta Kappa's Executive Director, Rod A. Risley, followed a review of nominations submitted by advisors and college presidents in the region.

"David's dedication to Phi Theta Kappa shows in this appointment. It is recognition that is well deserved," said Jim Gray, vice president for Learning and Student Support Services.

"Many of the benefits of being an advisor are intangible, such as helping students of all ages to grow as individuals and the many opportunities for the advisor to engage in professional development programs," Elder said.

"My success with our local and state Phi Theta Kappa Programs is to lead by example," he added, "not by authority of one's position. I jump right into the many projects right beside our students and along with fellow advisors throughout Illinois. They see my commitment and they return it many times over."

Elder became advisor of the Chi Upsilon Chapter at McHenry County College in August of 1984. He currently serves as chairman of Phi Theta Kappa's Association of Chapter Advisors, and he is also a certified instructor in the society's Leadership Development Studies program. Elder was selected as a Giles Distinguished Advisor in 1997 and received the Continued Excellence Award in 1999.

"I enjoy first and foremost being in the classroom with my earth science students, but being a Phi Theta Kappa advisor these many years has been one of the highlights of my career in education," Elder said.

Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of the Two-Year College, has recognized academic excellence in the two-year college since 1918. The society is comprised of more than 1,200 chapters at community, technical and junior colleges in all 50 of the United States, in Canada, Germany, U.S. Territories, the Republic of Palau and the British Virgin Islands, making it the largest and most prestigious honor society serving two-year colleges. Membership is based primarily upon academic achievement. The organization offers a myriad of opportunities for scholarships, intellectual enrichment and personal development through programs based on the society's hallmarks.

Class Notes

This section is designed for alumni, students and faculty to share their information with the college community. If you are interested in seeking out former classmates or faculty, let us know. We will put your request in the class notes you submit to us. Once we are contacted by those you are seeking to reconnect with, we will try to put you in touch with each other.

"I am currently a pharmacist with Target in McHenry. I am very thankful for the opportunity I had to attend MCC from 1994-2000. During those six years, I was able to complete the two years of pre-pharmacy courses necessary to apply for pharmacy school. MCC's flexible schedule allowed me to take classes that fit into my schedule as a mom with small children. I attended the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy full-time for four years and graduated in 2004 with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. Thank you to the teachers and staff of MCC!"

—Lisa Bhatta, MCC Class of 2000

"I met my husband at MCC. We both own a farm in Marengo. We are a garden center-specialty farm. We love the outdoors and stay very active. I had many wonderful experiences at MCC. I enjoyed all the dances and met some really interesting people. I would like to get in touch with Mary Anne Nielsen, who was my lab partner."

—Heather Smith Horcher, MCC Class of 1985

"I transferred to the University of Illinois at Chicago and received my B.S. in kinesiology and became a certified personal trainer through NSCA. I have been a FIT trainer at East Bank Club, the world's largest, premier health club for over six years. I have been living in Chicago for eight years."

—Renee Whittlinger, MCC Class of 1997

"Mary Kurtzman was an English teacher of mine through many bumps and bruises of my education along the way. Mary always made me feel welcome and conveyed her love for literature in the way she discussed many readings in class. There was always in-depth insight to the works we were studying and we always took away the ability to analyze and interpret literature in a way that I had not previously known. Mary's kindness and perception was a shining star in my love for literature. I am now a senior at National Louis University, majoring in English, partly because of Mary's influence in presenting engaging, enriching literature."

—Kim Worden, MCC Class of 2000

Class Notes

Tell us a little bit about what you're doing now.

Did you meet your sweetheart at MCC? If so, how long ago?

Can we put your Class Notes in our *New Directions* publication? YES NO

Can we put your Class Notes on our Alumni web site? YES NO

Response Card

Mr. Ms. Miss Mrs.

First Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Grad Year: _____ Degree or Certificate Earned: _____

Did you receive a scholarship? YES NO

If yes, which one(s): _____

Update my records with the above listed information.

I want to volunteer. Please contact me to let me know I can help.

I own my own business and want to offer a benefit to MCC alumni.

I own my own business and would like to participate in MCC's Job Fair.

I want to attend networking and professional development events.

Your contributions to the MCC Alumni Association Fund will help us provide scholarships to alumni and children of alumni.

Benefits Card

I want to join the Alumni Association. Please send me an Alumni Benefits Card. Enclosed is my check for \$10.

Please accept my donation to the Alumni Fund.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of MCC Foundation and include this Class Note/Response Card with your payment.