

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Alumni

# + NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012

JEFF MELVIN '78  
Associate of Arts

Alumni Art Show 2

From Bangor to Prague 4-5

Opportunities for Education 7

## Director's Welcome



Welcome to this, the second edition of the Kalamazoo Valley Alumni+ Newsletter, a publication produced for alum 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](mailto: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](http://www.kvcc.edu/foundation)

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation Presents

# DEWEY BOZELLA

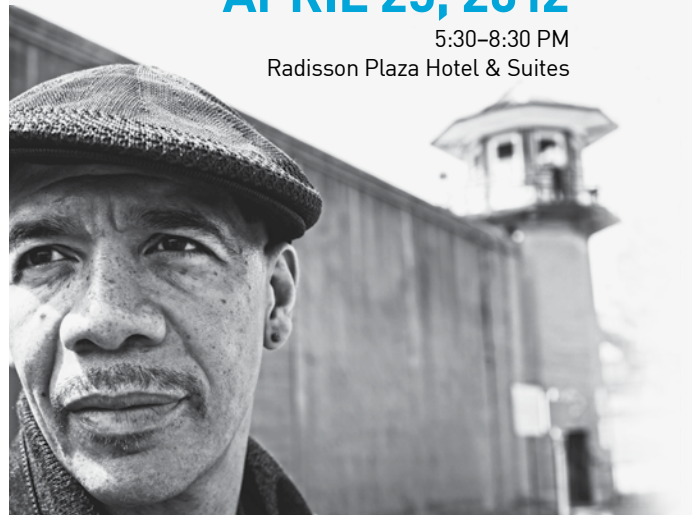
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION DINNER

**WEDNESDAY**

**APRIL 25, 2012**

5:30-8:30 PM

Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites



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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](mailto:alumni@kvcc.edu)

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## College Updates

Updates also available at [www.kvcc.edu/news](http://www.kvcc.edu/news) and at [facebook.com/KVCCAlumni](https://facebook.com/KVCCAlumni)

### 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."

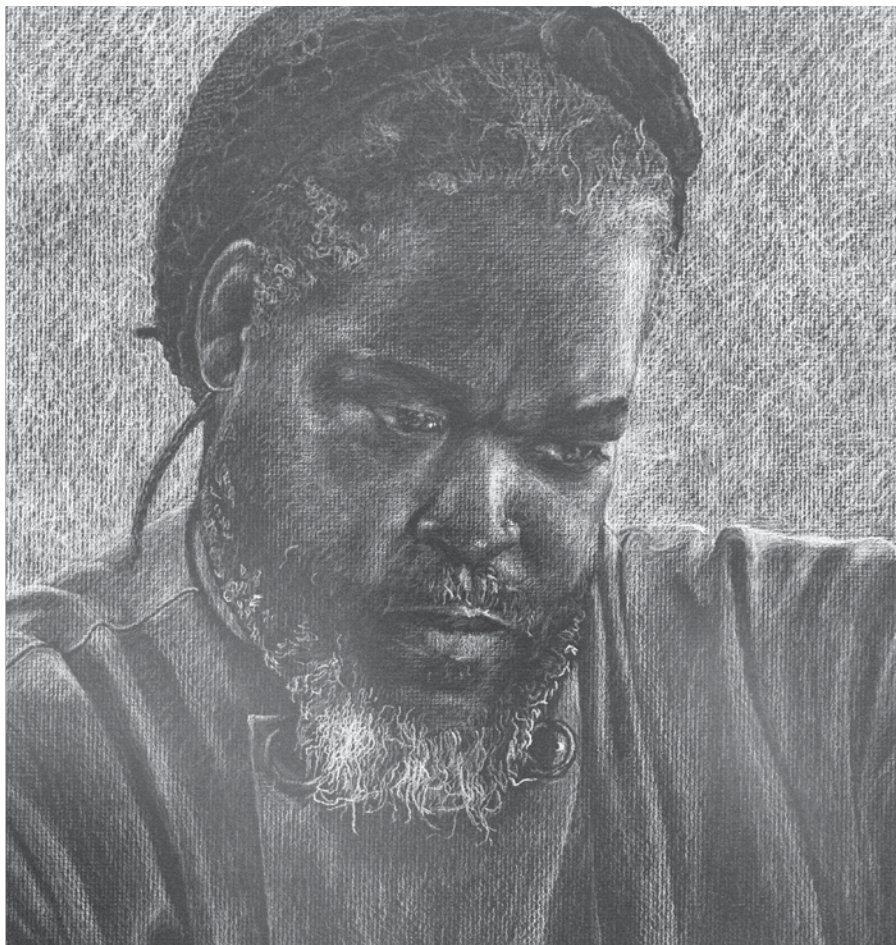
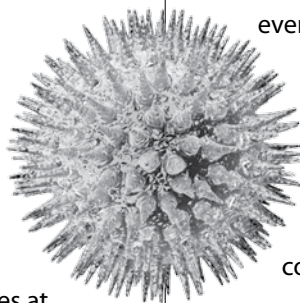
### UTILITY LINE WORKER ACADEMY

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](http://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.



Alum Bill Fritsch's entry titled "The Civil Barber"

## 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](mailto:alumni@kvcc.edu) by February 26.

# Alumni making an impact locally and FROM BANGOR

With alumni numbering well over 250,000 the impact of Kalamazoo Valley on the region continues to grow. Graduates completing studies on campus or transferring to other colleges and universities are making their mark. Here are just three stories from graduates making a difference both at home and abroad.

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.

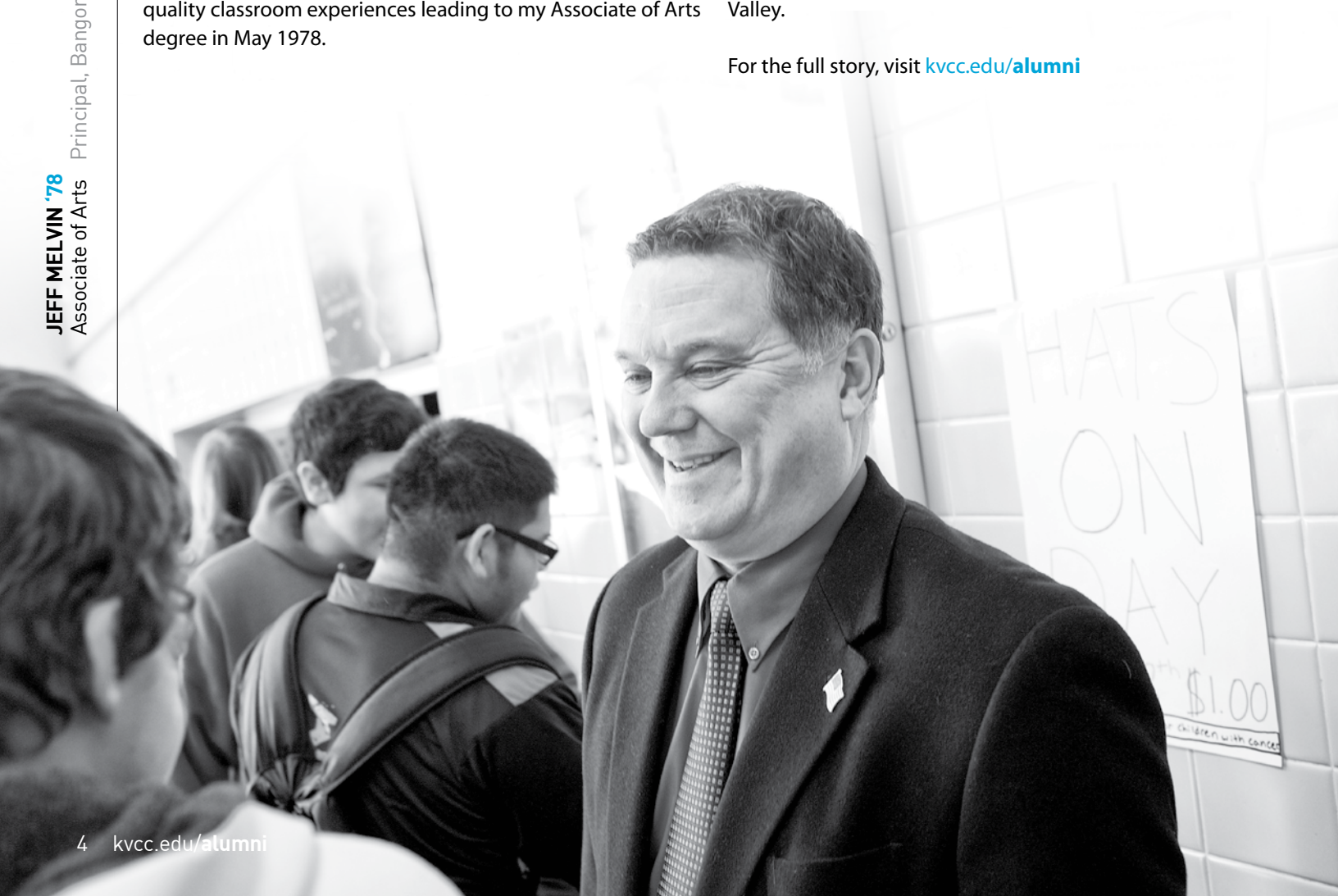
Kalamazoo Valley introduced me to several influential teachers, especially those around the gym. Phil Wilson, Al Thompson, Bob Sack and Darrell Davies all had an impact on me. These men helped me realize my potential with leadership and encouraged me throughout my two years. I transferred to Grand Valley 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](http://kvcc.edu/alumni)

JEFF MELVIN '78  
Associate of Arts

Principal, Bangor High School





# and around the world TO PRAGUE



**MARGARET VON STEINEN '97**

Associate of Arts

Communications Officer, WMU Study Abroad Office

My journey to WMU's Prague Summer Program began with a step into the classroom at Kalamazoo Valley. When my youngest son entered kindergarten, I enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. I was intent on taking classes to earn an associate's degree in which all of my courses would transfer to Western Michigan University towards a bachelor's degree in journalism. I attended classes while my kids were in school, steadily increasing my course load each semester around my family's needs.

I was in my early 30's when I began my studies at Kalamazoo Valley. I was pleasantly surprised that I felt so comfortable on campus and in the classroom. I always had easy access to the faculty and was encouraged to seek them out to advance my understanding of the discipline being studied. The college's honors program provided additional incentive and support to push myself academically and broadened my views of history, art and culture.

I graduated in 1997 and made a seamless transition to WMU with all of my Kalamazoo Valley credits and with the support of a transfer scholarship. I double-majored at WMU in journalism and creative writing and received my bachelor's degree in April 2000. I also earned a master's degree in creative writing in December 2004.

For the full story, visit [kvcc.edu/alumni](http://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](http://kvcc.edu/alumni)





## Profile in Excellence



# 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."

## Holiday Parade Recap

Kalamazoo Valley Community College alum, joined by others, helped usher in the holidays at a hot chocolate event hosted by Kalamazoo Valley's new Alumni + program on November 12, 2011.

Luis Rodriguez and Deb Ball, team captains, led the efforts of Karen Marr, Joe Topp, Larissa Hunt, Ashley McCann, Margaret Banks, Christine Lonchor and Trudy Wright. Over 700 cups of hot chocolate were served as families and friends visited the Kalamazoo Valley Museum after the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade.



# 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



### Register online

Visit [www.kvcc.edu/foundation](http://www.kvcc.edu/foundation) to register for the 2012 Opportunities for Education Dinner!

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](http://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](mailto:sdoherty@kvcc.edu).

# VETERANS TRIBUTE GARDEN PLANNED



An artist's rendering of the proposed tribute garden

A Veterans Tribute Garden is planned for construction at the Texas Township Campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The project was initiated by the college's Veterans Support Committee and the Student Veteran Networking

Group. Colleen Olson, Director of Prior Learning Assessment at Kalamazoo Valley said the garden should offer "a place of reflection for everyone to find comfort and peace to honor our veterans." She expects the garden to appeal to Kalamazoo County area veterans and their families as well as those who appreciate the sacrifices made by current or previous

servicemen and women. The community is invited to be a part of the project by purchasing bricks that may be engraved with their loved ones' names or branch of service.

The contribution for a brick is \$35 for students \$50 for faculty, staff and community members including alumni; and \$75 for corporations or organizations wishing to display their names on bricks. Donations are also accepted for this \$38,000 project that will feature 1,200 bricks. The project will be initiated when sufficient funds are collected.

An order form is available at [www.kvcc.edu/veterans](http://www.kvcc.edu/veterans). For more information contact Colleen Olson, 269.488.4744 or [colson@kvcc.edu](mailto:colson@kvcc.edu).

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If you prefer to receive the newsletter in print, please submit your name and address via email to [alumni@kvcc.edu](mailto:alumni@kvcc.edu).

**ALUMNI INVITED**

# KALAMAZOO CAREERFAIR

Real Careers. Real People.  
[kalamazoo careerfair.com](http://kalamazoo careerfair.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:  
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