

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Alumni

NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2015



LORI MOORE
Alumna

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Coordinator's Column

Hello again Kalamazoo Valley alumni and friends. Welcome to the spring 2015 issue of your Alumni+ Newsletter.

Since we last talked, the Groves campus honored graduates from the Wind Turbine and Police

Academies. In December, family and friends who attended Kalamazoo Valley's seventy-fourth commencement celebrated the accomplishments of almost 200. Among the speakers that day was NoViolet Bulawayo, Kalamazoo Valley alumna and our 2014 Distinguished Alumni. She spoke of her time at Kalamazoo Valley and its impact on her future journey. She inspired us all to heed our moral compass as we journey through life. Congratulations to all graduates, your hard work and perseverance brought you to these ceremonies, so celebrate. You have earned it.

As I speak to Kalamazoo Valley alumni, a similar thread is woven into the fabric of each story, regardless of when they attended; very helpful faculty and staff that really care about students. Kalamazoo Valley Community College is focused on the future of its students. Kalamazoo Valley understands that future focus should not stop when you leave us. Alumni+ was established and charged with a "mission to foster a mutually beneficial relationship based on a common bond of loyalty between the College and its community through an engaged alumni." Engage and be a part of Kalamazoo Valley Alumni+ by nominating someone for Distinguished Alumni. Will you be a volunteer-career mentor and share information about your career, or be a reading tutor?

Alumni+ has done four mailings and sadly, some of you were unable to receive what was sent as we do not have your current address. Please let us know where you are, we don't want you to miss out. Email Alumni+ at alumni@kvcc.edu so we can find you.

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Memories of Redwood Hall

In May 1967 I was scheduled to be discharged from the United States Air Force after four years and nine months of service in the intelligence sector. As I approached this challenging transition point in my life, I needed to have some plans in place for my next step in life when I returned to the US. Kalamazoo Valley Community College was in the planning stages and it seemed an ideal institution through which to go back to civilian life. I had earned quite a few college credits while in the Air Force and I wanted to complete a series of degrees to achieve my goals.

Right after my USAF discharge in Germany, I flew to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in south central Africa (just north of South Africa). I had been invited by some friends to go there. I stayed one year and gained experiences which could never be gleaned from a text book. In addition to extensive travelling around the area, I worked for Rhodesia Railways as a pay master.

I returned to the US in May 1968 and began working at a local paper mill to save for my coming year of college at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. All there was the first year was Redwood Hall. It was a pre-fab building with spongy floors and walls with little insulation against cold and sound. However, its faculty and staff of the time were very helpful in guiding returning vets back into the world of academia. Leading this effort was Bruce Kocher (now retired). In his own special way, he provided leadership and guidance to a small group of returning vets who were anxious to get back into normal civilian life and study for various careers each had in mind.

The first two semesters at Kalamazoo Valley Community College allowed me to earn the credits I needed to graduate with an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts. It was my first step in earning three more degrees from Western Michigan University where I was privileged to teach English to International Students through the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students (CELCIS) for 38 years. Throughout this time period, I maintained contact with people at Kalamazoo Valley Community College who were involved in educating International Students.

As a side note, during this time, my daughter, Shona Drake (Salisbury), followed my footsteps and over a period of years graduated from Kalamazoo Valley Community College (in 2005) as well (see Career Source, Fall 2005, Vol. 7, Issue 1, p. 5). Her experiences, although very different from mine, were also important in heading her toward her Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Michigan University.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College has made tremendous strides over this lengthy period of time, but it still maintains its basic foundation of helping a wide variety of individuals to go down the right path to their chosen careers. I am proud to have been one of the pioneer students. And now that I am retired, I have enrolled in a KVCC class for the first time in 45 years, for a self improvement photography class. Thanks for being there KVCC!

*Darryl A. Salisbury
A.A. 1969 (May)*

RON WELCH: 20 YEARS OF WINNING

Ron Welch admits that coaching basketball is a lot more fun when the team is winning. Lucky for him, it didn't take long to build a winning program. And, to make matters even better, he has enjoyed getting to know his players just as much as he's enjoyed watching them win.

At the end of the 2014-15 season – which was his 20th year with the team - beloved coach Welch retired from his position as Kalamazoo Valley head women's basketball coach.

The 71-year-old coach has led the Cougars to 451 wins, 12 conference championships, six national tournament appearances and countless other accomplishments. He was also named the regional Coach of the Year six times and the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Coach of the Year three times.

Retired Kalamazoo Valley athletic director and men's basketball coach Dick Shilts, got to know Welch during a basketball camp in the early-1990s. Welch was coaching girls basketball at Comstock High School when Shilts brought him on as a volunteer assistant coach during the 1994-95 season before naming him the head coach in April 1995 when the position opened up.

The women's basketball program hadn't had much success since its inception in the 1970s and despite a lot of hard work by Welch and his assistant, Terry Gillette, the Cougars weren't successful for the first few years.

"For the first two or three years, we never had a winning season," Welch said. "It was hard to get local kids to stay, but I always believed there was enough local talent in the area to build a winning team. I knew if I could get some of those kids to stay and play for Kalamazoo Valley, then we could have some success."

During his fourth year in charge, the team won its first state championship. "After that, it became OK to play at Valley,"



Ron Welch receives recognition from Executive V.P. Mike Collins at his retirement game.



Welch quipped. "Now we actually have kids pursuing us. It's kind of refreshing. It makes recruiting a little bit easier than it was 15 years ago."

In addition to coaching, Welch has taught basketball coaching and officiating classes for Kalamazoo Valley. "It allows me to work with kids on the other side of the whistle," he said. "It's nice to see when that interest is sparked." A number of Welch's former players are coaches today. "That's always fun to see," he said.

Welch said the job of coaching has been about much more than just basketball. "Every coach who's worth their salt knows it's not just about coaching the sport," he said. "It's also about life skills. It can be a difficult transition to come to college and I've always considered it part of my job to help ease that transition – to help young people become adults who understand accountability and responsibility."

One of Welch's former players, Shannon Dumond, is coaching the jayvee girls' team at Willits High School in Willits, California. She moved to Willits from Michigan six months ago, and says that when she heard about the open coaching position at the high school, she jumped on it. "I've been playing basketball since I was a little kid," she said. After high school she played for two years at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Assistant coach Maureen Brown, Welch's youngest daughter, has been on staff for 10 years and was just hired as her dad's replacement. She knows the "ins and outs of Kalamazoo Valley" and Welch is confident that the program is in good hands. "All in all it's been a fun ride," he said. "I've worked with some great people. My goal was to build the program to the level that it was with Dick Shilts. I just wanted to get something close to that. We made that happen."

THE KALAMAZOO VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE MAY 26 OFE SPEAKER WALTER BOND

Walter Bond, NBA player-turned motivational speaker, will be the keynote speaker at the Opportunities for Education dinner on May 26, 2015. The annual event, which is the main student scholarship fundraiser for the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in downtown Kalamazoo. It begins at 5:30 p.m.

For nearly two decades, Bond has been a premier expert on peak performance. His mastery in two different global industries has made him an authority on peak performance. He has delivered his entertaining and dynamic message to companies and associations throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Europe. Clients include Accenture, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, The Dwyer Group, Allianz, Amway, GNC, Hilton, Medtronic, UPS Store, Radio Shack, Red Robin and many national associations.

Bond's passion for personal development has been anchored by his professional basketball career. Although a reserve throughout his college basketball career at the University of Minnesota, Bond enjoyed an eight-year career while spending time as a shooting guard for teams such as the Dallas Mavericks, Utah Jazz and Detroit Pistons. This is where he learned peak performance truths that he has also applied to a wildly successful speaking career.

Bond's college basketball career did not say NBA at all. Only hard work, dedication and commitment got him there. That mentality is what he shares with audiences. Whether it's a new product launch, hitting sales goals, gelling as a team Bond is passionate about sharing his 31 Truths to Boost Peak Performance.

In 2013, Bond appeared as the host of The Food Network's show Giving You The Business. Bond was chosen over numerous candidates because of



his infectious personality and franchise business experience. Episodes featured restaurants such as Saladworks, Famous Familia, Toppers and Jersey Mike's. To watch a video clip of Bond, go to <http://walterbond.com/index.php/media-resources>.

The annual OFE dinner benefits Kalamazoo Valley Community College students with financial needs. The number of financial aid applications continues to increase each year and the Foundation's scholarship fund is one way the college works to meet student needs.

The pre-event reception begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program which concludes at 8:30 p.m. Reservations for the event are available through the Foundation's website at <https://www.kvcc.edu/foundation/> or email sdoherty@kvcc.edu or call 269.488.4442

Reservations for the event are \$150 for individuals and \$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.

Grant Will Boost Technical Training Opportunities

On February 25, Kalamazoo Valley Community College learned its grant request for nearly \$4 million was approved when Governor Snyder announced \$50 million in awards to 18 community colleges across the state as part of the new Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program (CCSTEP).

CCSTEP is an effort to build capacity and meet the training demand for good-paying jobs in skilled trades. The funding will enable the community colleges to purchase state-of-the-art equipment to enhance educational programs in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand occupations.

According to Governor Snyder, “this serious investment – one of the largest of its kind in the country – will tap our top-notch community colleges and help new students and adults looking for new opportunities gain the skills sought by companies looking to grow and expand, creating more and better jobs in Michigan.”

Marilyn Schlack, President of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, said “we are encouraged that the Governor recognizes that community colleges are at the center of the State’s talent development strategy.” She added, “we are delighted that our request was fully funded. Now we can move forward with our plans to expand advanced technology training opportunities for high-demand careers right here in west Michigan.”

Kalamazoo Valley Community College’s vision is to create a Center for Advanced Technical Training (CATT). “ Designated programs within the plan include Machinist, CNC, Welding, Maintenance Mechanics, Mechatronics, Advanced Electrical and related Apprenticeships,” said Tom Sutton, Project Manager and Director of Wind Energy and Technical Services at Kalamazoo Valley.

Equipment purchased through the CCSTEP grant will enable the college to upgrade and expand its training labs with state-of-the-art technology at its Texas Township and Groves Campus facilities. Replaced equipment will be donated to local high school programs to modernize and enhance their labs.

According to Tom Buszek, Dean of Instruction, Business and Industrial Trades, “the new equipment in college labs and the increased flexibility in scheduling will give our faculty the opportunity to restructure course offerings around formalized skills-based competencies. These competencies will be grouped as stackable credentials so that students can obtain the skills necessary to obtain a job and a formal workplace-recognized credential, and then later return to college and efficiently complete a certificate or degree. The bottom line, we’ll be better able to connect students with jobs as a result of this expanded effort.” Facilities and lab upgrades at the college are expected to be completed by fall 2015.

Regional industry and educational partners expressed

enthusiasm for Kalamazoo Valley’s Center for Advanced Technical Training by providing written letters of support which accompanied the college’s grant application. Those providing support included: Humphrey Products, Perrigo, Schupan & Sons, Stryker, Sturgis Molded Products, True Tech Industries, Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Administration, Michigan Works! and Southwest Michigan First.

Sharing Kalamazoo Valley Community College Memories

Thanks for the (page 2) memories Darryl Salisbury! I am certain that there are many who share your memory of Redwood Hall.

We would like Memories to be a regular feature in your Alumni+ Newsletter. There are more stories out there. Remember, these reminiscences wouldn’t have to be lengthy. The memory you share could be just a couple of sentences, whatever it would take to help us understand your experience. Darryl’s recollection of Redwood Hall brought back similar memories for me: the pre-fab building with spongy floors.

And our Alumni - plus friends – we know you have special Kalamazoo Valley memories, too. Kalamazoo Valley has a rich history in the Kalamazoo community. Were you a part of the 9th Street Players? Or perhaps you performed in one of the annual Variety Shows, back in the day. Do you remember WVKV, ‘the voice of Kalamazoo Valley?’ Or, did you attend a concert or sporting event here? Maybe a Career Fair beckoned you to the campus. A recurring theme in alumni memories is the caring and helpful faculty and staff. Was there someone who impacted your life?

Please share your memories of how Kalamazoo Valley was, or is, a part of your life. The memory you recount might provide some reassurance to a current student. You may inspire someone to embark or continue on their academic path. Remember, if you are reading this article but don’t have a memory to share, please stop in for a visit and begin making your Kalamazoo Valley memories. If you’re an alumni, consider a taking another class to enhance a skill, complete your degree and make new memories. Please e-mail your Kalamazoo Valley memory to alumni@kvcc.edu.



KALAMAZOO VALLEY ALUMNA LORI MOORE CONTINUES TO DAZZLE

Radio host and television personality Lori Moore never intended to stay in Kalamazoo. She stopped back in town after college graduation “for a minute,” but fell in love all over again with her beloved city. The city, in return, has loved Lori immensely.

Moore spent 32 years in radio, most recently with WKZO. She now hosts a television talk show, “Lori Moore.” It airs weekdays at 4 p.m. on CW7.

Moore is a Portage Northern High School graduate. She studied general education at Kalamazoo Valley Community College from 1977-1979 before transferring to Hope College. “I was very into theater and debate in high school,” Moore said. “Then I got to Kalamazoo Valley and I had all of these wonderful instructors who just kind of took me under their wings and looked after me.”

No matter what course she was in, the comments from her instructors were the same. They all said, “You’re so smart. You can go anywhere. All I really cared about was being in plays, but they were just awesome. They were all so supportive of me. I was paying for college myself and every class transferred. What a positive experience I had at Kalamazoo Valley! I just got so much confidence going there. I did much better in college than in high school.”

Moore was encouraged by her counselors and instructors at Kalamazoo Valley to apply to top universities. She was accepted at Northwestern and several others before settling on Hope College. “I never would have applied to any of them without their guidance,” she said. She also went on to graduate studies at Notre Dame.



Lori Moore as Fastrada in *Pippin*, '79



Moore performed with the Ninth Street Players while a student at Kalamazoo Valley. She starred in the 1979 production of *Pippin*, singing and dancing to the song “Spread a Little Sunshine.”

Much time has passed since Moore’s early days on stage, but she continues to spread sunshine wherever she goes. Under a WKZO initiative, Moore’s Potluck Pals cookbook raised \$750,000 over the years. Proceeds from the \$5 cookbooks went to assist local charities.

Under the name “The Lori Moore Corps,” Moore recruits volunteers for Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo. To date, she has recruited more than 75 volunteers who work as tutors with local students. Tutors volunteer for an hour a week and commit to sticking with it for a year. “It’s really cool to be able to use my community platform to do something good,” Moore said. “It’s a really great feeling.”

Moore has also teamed up with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The organization has underwritten her talk show and she strives to get the word out about community needs. “I’m always trying to stay in touch with what’s going on,” Moore said. She lives in downtown Kalamazoo and said she loves the thriving culture. “I love the Kalamazoo Valley Museum,” she said. “It’s such a great resource in Kalamazoo. I just love it!” Incidentally, Moore’s bicycle is on display in the Museum’s History Gallery.

Students Can Now Register for Culinary Arts and Sustainable Brewing Programs

Students are now able to enroll in the Sustainable Brewing and Culinary Arts and Sustainable Food Systems programs at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Courses in the new programs are being offered for the first time during the fall 2015 semester.

The Culinary Arts and Sustainable Food Systems program leads to an Associate of Applied Science Degree. The new program of study was developed with advisory groups of chefs, farmers, food processors and distributors, and food industry entrepreneurs incorporating the latest professional culinary standards. Graduates of the program can expect to work as chefs or food entrepreneurs in a variety of settings using their “farm to table” competencies to positively impact health.

John Korycki, currently the executive chef at Zazios Italian restaurant in downtown Kalamazoo, has been hired as the Director for Culinary Education for Kalamazoo Valley Community College. In addition, Rachel Chadderdon Bair, currently a Program Director at the Fair Food Network in Ann Arbor, has been hired as Director for Sustainable and Innovative Food Systems at the new campus.

The college is also offering a Sustainable Brewing certificate program and associate degree. Kalamazoo Valley students can seamlessly transfer from Kalamazoo Valley to the WMU bachelor’s program, or WMU students may enroll in the Kalamazoo Valley program during their first two years on campus.

Regardless of the student pathway, earning a bachelor’s degree will require 96 credit hours, including the 30-hour Kalamazoo Valley Community College certificate.

Kalsec® has donated resources and talent for the newly named Kalsec® Center for Sustainable Brewing Education that houses the new program. In addition to financial support, Kalsec® is contributing pilot brewery equipment, curriculum development and instruction by Mike Babb, Kalsec® hops research fellow and master brewer, and evaluation of student beers through the Kalsec® professional sensory panel.

“Kalsec®’s generous gift of resources and talent will enable the college to provide brewing science education in the first and only U.S. sustainable brewing school developed from the ground up,” said Kalamazoo Valley Community College President Marilyn Schlack.

Registration is open now. Go to www.kvcc.edu/worthit for more information, or call 269.488.4281.

Alumni+ Art Show Winners Announced



Photo (left to right) Linda Manguiat-Hertzog, Kalamazoo Valley art instructor Aubrey Hardaway, and Bill Fritsch.

The winners of the Fourth Annual Kalamazoo Valley Community College Alumni+ Art Show have been announced. People’s Choice and Best of Show, a \$500 prize, went to Bill Fritsch for *All Ages*, which was created with white pencil on black paper. The Director’s Choice Award went to Linda Manguiat-Hertzog for *St. Tropez*, acrylic on canvas.

Honorable Mention awards went to Steven Jones for his charcoal pencil drawing *A Scene From 1930s Flash Gordon Serial*, Jan Lucking for *Modern Migration*, created with pencil, pastel and acrylic, and Jake Andrews for his animation piece, *The Outlandish Adventures of TV Unit 309*.

About 300 people visited the Center for New Media during the April 10 Art Hop when the Alumni+ Art Show winners were announced. “We had a great turnout during Art Hop and the show is still up,” said Tom Hamann, Director of the Center for New Media at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. “It really shows off the talented artists who are former students in various disciplines of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.”

Judges for the event were Taylor Greenfield, who holds a Master of Fine Arts in Drawing from Kendall College of Art and Design; Alexa Karabin Kleiner, a fine artist and designer who received her BFA and MFA in Studio Art from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Peter Brakeman, a Kalamazoo graphic designer who has a BA from Kalamazoo College, and an MFA from the University of Cincinnati.

Greenfield is a drawing instructor at KCAD and recently began working at Calvin College as their Alumni and Annual Giving Program Coordinator. She said she was impressed with the artists who exhibited pieces in the show. “I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as one of the jurors over such an excellent and eclectic body of work—as a first time visitor to the Center for New Media, I was delighted by the variety of materials and subject matter. My choices reflect much of the same content I explore as an artist myself; images that are unexpected, that seek to ask more questions than they provide answers, and that use a variety of media to explore their message.”

This year a total of 25 entrants submitted 54 pieces for the show; 17 of these participants entered for the first time, and others returned for a second, third, and even fourth time.

The art show is sponsored by the college’s Alumni+ program, which was launched in April 2010 as a way for graduates, former students, and supporters of Kalamazoo Valley to stay connected to the college and each other.

Alumni+ Program

6767 West O Avenue, PO Box 4070
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Special Announcement

Alumni+ has acquired a limited number of vouchers for the upcoming Kalamazoo Growlers' games. These vouchers can be purchased for just \$6. each and can be used at any Growlers game. Vouchers are available on a first come, first served basis until all vouchers are sold. Email alumni@kvcc.edu to purchase a voucher. Purchasing a Growlers game voucher through Alumni+ is a home run! You will be supporting Kalamazoo Valley's own Cody Piechocki, Kalamazoo Growlers's Assistant Coach; college baseball players from across North America that play for Northwoods League teams; and Kalamazoo Valley Alumni+; and get to see great baseball.



Make a Difference



Scholarship recipient Melody Woods

Each year, the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation assists more than 400 students with the cost of their education at Kalamazoo Valley. Foundation scholarships are grown through generous donations that come in all sizes.

We are each one of us transformed because of our education at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. As Kalamazoo Valley Community College Alumni, you are part of a very large alumni family. Since the doors first opened 275,982 have taken a class at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. And as an alumni family, we have the opportunity to come together and make attending Kalamazoo Valley possible for someone.

Let's join together and make attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College a reality for someone by donating to the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation. Donations of any amount are important and welcome. As a family, Kalamazoo Valley Alumni+ will make a huge impact.

www.kvcc.edu/foundation

Alumni+ Newsletter is published two times each year:
fall and winter.

Questions about Kalamazoo Valley Alumni+ or this publication may be directed to the Alumni Relations Coordinator at:
269.488.4314 or at
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