



JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
—1901—

CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine

THE RIPPLE EFFECT: INDIVIDUAL GESTURES. IMMENSE IMPACT.

HOW GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS SHAPED THE
INSTITUTION AND ELEVATED STUDENT SUCCESS

FALL 2019



Founded in 1901, Joliet Junior College developed and became the national community college leader for student education. Today, with support from alumni and friends like you, JJC continues to prepare students and provide opportunities for lifelong learning and career-driven futures.

Thanks to our generous donors the JJC Foundation is creating futures by:

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CONTENTS



7

Diversity, Unity and Community

The college held a community dinner to collect public input and build new diversity and inclusion initiatives.



8

The Ripple Effect

Generous contributions through the years have elevated JJC Foundation assets to the most of any Illinois community college.



14

College Approves New 2020-2023 Strategic Plan

The new plan is predicated on six themes: academic excellence, cultural commitment, effectiveness, student success and support, perception, and outreach.



16

High School Student by Day, College Student by Night

Kamil Tomaszek is the first nursing student to graduate from the program after enrolling at age 14 as a high school student.



28

Community Members, Alumni Honored at Annual Night of Stars

Five individuals were honored for their impact on the community at the college's annual Night of Stars.

-
- 18 From the Archives
 - 22 News Briefs
 - 30 Calendar of Events

CONNECTIONS



Dear friends,

I am excited to start my fourth year as JJC's president for many reasons. We have a diligent and dedicated college community, all of whom are working collaboratively to grow and align academic programs, services, and resources. These activities ultimately support innovation in the classroom, student success, and streamlined operations to meet our new 2020-2023 Strategic Plan goals that I know will move the institution successfully into the future.

In fact, this issue of Connections focuses on the idea of a ripple effect. The stories and updates you'll read about will show just how important a single action can be for wide-ranging and robust positive change.

In short, our Foundation reached \$25 million, making it the largest community college foundation in the state. We are implementing a new system, supported by Department of Education Title III dollars, to help students succeed and get on the right path when they arrive at JJC. Upon entering the college, students will be placed on one of nine pathways that aligns with their career interests or intent, which will provide specific course sequencing to ensure they complete the right courses in an appropriate timeframe.

I am also proud to share that not only has the college had a balanced budget for 47 years, we did not raise tuition in FY19 or for this academic year, FY20. Last year, students also received over \$750,000 in scholarships to support their education through the JJC Foundation.

We are also launching a Medical Assisting program, enrolling now to start classes in spring 2020. This program prepares students to assist medical providers in a variety of duties including prepping patients and assisting in examinations, performing tests and managing medical records, and educating and advocating for patients.

Nursing and Allied Health programs continue to be a focus in meeting the needs of the community. JJC has strong partnerships with our local hospitals and healthcare providers, many of whom provide much needed clinical sites for our students. We are proud of the success of our nursing graduates – 94 percent of our students passed the 2018 national licensure exam on their first attempt – that is 7 percent higher than the national average.

In closing, I am reminded of an adage from the Dalai Lama: "Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects." Know that your individual support, affinity, and collaboration with JJC has far-reaching impact, and we are so very grateful for it.

Sincerely,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
 President

Queridos amigos,

Al comenzar mi cuarto año como presidente, tengo varias razones para estar emocionada. En el colegio contamos con una comunidad diligente y dedicada, la cual colabora en trabajos para crecer y alinear programas académicos, servicios y recursos. Estas actividades finalmente apoyan innovación dentro de los salones de clase, éxito estudiantil, y ayudan a enfocar operaciones para lograr las metas que moverán esta institución hacia un futuro exitoso con nuestro nuevo Plan Estratégico 2020-2023.

En efecto, esta edición de Connections se enfoca en la idea del efecto ondulante. Las historias y actualizaciones que leerá, mostrarán cuán importante es una sola acción en crear cambios robustos y positivos de amplio alcance.

Recientemente nuestra Fundación ha llegado a los \$25 millones, haciéndola la fundación de colegios comunitarios más grande del estado. Estamos implementando un sistema nuevo, apoyado por fondos del Título III del Departamento de Educación para ayudar a estudiantes a tener éxito y dirigirlos en una dirección correcta cuando llegan a JJC. Al ingresar al colegio, los estudiantes son asignados a una de nueve vías educativas. Estas vías son asignadas de acuerdo a los intereses de carrera de cada estudiante. Estas vías ofrecen cursos en secuencias específicas para asegurar que los cursos apropiados sean completados dentro del tiempo designado.

También me enorgullece compartirles que no solo hemos tenido un presupuesto balanceados por 47 años, sino que no hemos incrementado los costos de colegiatura para los años 2019 y 2020. El año pasado estudiantes recibieron más de \$750,000 en becas para apoyar su educación a través de la Fundación de JJC.

En la primavera del 2020, estaremos lanzando un programa de Asistencia Médica. Este programa preparara estudiantes para asistir a proveedores médicos con una variedad de deberes incluyendo actividades de preparación de pacientes, asistencia con exámenes, realización de pruebas y manejo de archivos médicos, al igual que educar y abogar por los pacientes.

Los programas de Enfermería y Salud continúan enfocándose en satisfacer las necesidades de la comunidad. JJC cuenta con alianzas solidas con hospitales y proveedores de servicios de salud locales. Muchas de estas entidades proveen sitios de práctica clínica para nuestros estudiantes. Estamos orgullosos del éxito de nuestros graduados de enfermería – 94 por ciento de nuestros estudiantes aprobaron el examen de licenciatura estatal en el 2018 en su primer intento – esta cifra es 7 por ciento más alta que la cifra promedio nacional.

En resumen, recuerdo un dicho del Dalai Lama: “Así como el agua se ondula cuando una pequeña piedra cae en ella, las acciones de individuos pueden tener un efecto de gran alcance.” Sepa que su apoyo individual, afinidad y colaboración con JJC tiene un impacto de gran alcance, y estamos muy agradecidos por eso.

Sinceramente,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
Presidente



Hello Friends,

In this issue of *Connections*, we feature four outstanding donors who have taken the JJC Foundation to the next level. This year, the Foundation reached over \$25 million dollars in assets. This significant milestone solidifies our position as the largest community college foundation in Illinois.

As I look back on my time at JJC, I marvel at the people in our community that have made the financial commitment to support the mission of the college by helping students achieve their educational goals. Our donors have created a ripple effect on the success of the foundation, the college and the thousands of students that we serve each year.

This ripple effect is based on the understanding that we are all connected. These connections stretch like an incredibly interwoven and complicated tapestry. Each of us exist within that tapestry. Everything we do and think affects the people in our lives and their reactions in turn affect others. The choices you make have far reaching consequences. We each carry within us the capacity to change the world in small ways for the better or worse.

Thank you to the donors that have made a positive impact on our community. I invite you to join us in helping change lives at www.jjc.edu/creatingfutures. I have witnessed the ripple effect here at JJC and I am proud to be part of the connection.

Gratefully,

Kristin Mulvey, MSM

Executive Director, JJC Foundation

Executive Director, Institutional Advancement

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The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between JJC, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, *Connections* serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Communications and Marketing Division and the Institutional Advancement Office.

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Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for address corrections.

Spring 2019 Connections Magazine Correction
Melissa Lachcik's name was inadvertently left off of the byline of the RiverWalk homes story on page 12. We regret the error.

Community Dinner Maximizes Public Input to Support Diversity and Inclusion Goals

by Sam Sottosanto



Joliet Junior College continues to build on its priority to strengthen and support a more diverse and inclusive campus. Thanks to a community dinner hosted by JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell's Diversity and Inclusion Council and the College-Community Partnership last spring, the college has collected input from a variety of stakeholders to support clear goals and a direction for future efforts.

At the dinner, nearly 70 community guests shared a meal and, joined by a JJC representative at each table, participated in a facilitated discussion about how to strengthen and expand JJC's partnerships with the diverse community it serves. Guided by the theme of diversity, unity and community, guests were asked to provide input to inform the development of JJC's upcoming diversity and inclusion plan.

Erin Farmer, special assistant to the president and co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Council, said there was positive feedback after the event. Many community members shared that they felt more informed about JJC's student resources and program offerings – and they felt valued to know that JJC cared about their contributions. Farmer said the driving force behind hosting the dinner was a Diversity and Inclusion Climate survey that was dispersed internally in January 2019.

"We asked our community leaders their perceptions of diversity and inclusion at JJC, what they thought of our programs, ways to better involve community leaders with our efforts, and we even asked them about initiatives at their own organizations," Farmer said.

"All of this feedback is going to be worked into our diversity and inclusion plan for 2020-2023, which will be in direct alignment with the college's strategic plan."

Since Dr. Mitchell took office in 2016, it has been her goal to strengthen diversity and inclusion efforts across campus.

"The community's collective voice provided valuable input and support to our institutional efforts," she said. "I see this event as a continuum as we enhance our long and fruitful partnerships."

After the event, Farmer said JJC's Diversity and Inclusion Council put the feedback they received to use. The council is still developing a plan, but they have outlined four components:

- Hiring and Employment
- External Outreach and Business Partnerships
- Internal Employees
- Student Engagement

The plan will be implemented beginning in 2020.

"On behalf of JJC, we want to thank the community for participating in this important event. We truly value our partners and their input. It was a great success and we appreciate the feedback we received," Farmer said.

For updates on these efforts, visit jjc.edu/about-jjc/diversity-inclusion.

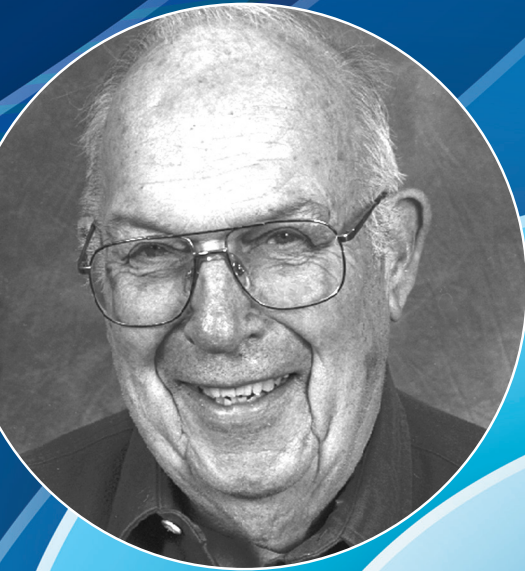
PHILANTHROPY'S RIPPLE EFFECT:

HOW GENEROUS SUPPORT HAS SHAPED
THE JJC FOUNDATION, ELEVATED STUDENTS

By Scott Harvey



Vera and Arthur Smith



John H. Weitendorf, Sr.



Edward Cwiklo



William Johnson

How would you describe a person who, along with her husband, has given more than \$5 million to her alma mater?

“Generous to the nth degree,” said Walt Zaida, on the commitments of Vera Smith and her husband Arthur to Joliet Junior College.

The Smiths’ gifts through the JJC Foundation, along with those of more than 10,000 individuals over its history, have helped the organization exceed \$25 million in assets, the largest of any Illinois community college.

In fact, donors have elevated JJC’s mission to support innovation and success for decades. Thanks to the Smiths, and notable philanthropists John H. Weitendorf, Sr., William Johnson, and Edward Cwiklo, JJC student and program success goes beyond a single donation. Their gifts have established, grown and will continue to enhance educational opportunities that impact generations in the classroom and throughout the community.



Art and Vera Smith provided \$600,000 to build the Arthur G. and Vera C. Smith Business and Technology Center.

A Commitment to Give Back

“Vera’s interest in working with the foundation grew because she believed in contributing to the community,” said Zaida, 88, who helped establish the foundation in 1973, then as JJC vice president for student services. “If you look around the community you’ll see all kinds of evidence of Art and Vera Smith making contributions.”

On the Main Campus, the proof is in the letters affixed to the brick exterior of T-Building, which reads Arthur G. and Vera C. Smith Business and Technology Center. In 1994, the couple gave \$600,000 to build the center, which houses classroom and lab space for more than 30 college programs and community services. Their endowment continues to provide \$30,000 in technology needs each year. Upon Vera Smith’s death in 2006, the college received another \$200,000 for facility improvements, along with its largest gift: \$4.3 million from her estate, and a bequest to create an endowment for scholarships and programs.

As a student, Smith, who graduated from JJC in 1924, received a loan organized by college faculty. Zaida, who was Smith’s supervisor when she worked as the college’s director of admissions and records, said she never forgot about that support.

“She was always appreciative of the fact that financial aid had helped her get through JJC,” said Zaida. “She wanted to do the same thing for students. But she didn’t like the idea of a loan as much as she did scholarships.”

Kristin Mulvey, JJC executive director of institutional advancement and the foundation, said Smith’s multimillion dollar estate gift continues to be an invaluable resource for students through scholarships and internship support.

“This fall the Vera Smith account is funding \$180,000 worth of scholarships to help part-time students become full time,” said Mulvey. “Many of our students cannot afford to go to college full time so these funds will help supplement their education.”

Yet it was only 45 years ago that the foundation launched with just \$200,000. Over the past five years alone, the average annual giving amount is \$1.7 million.

“Since 2001, we have gone from \$6.8 million in assets to \$25 million thanks to four very generous major gift donors, large companies, alumni, employees, friends of the college, and community foundations and organizations,” said Mulvey.

For alumni that give back, JJC is viewed as a place where they earned a valuable education, and a stepping stone toward a successful future.

“They understand the impact that JJC has on the community and want to participate in an organization that is changing lives,” Mulvey said.

A Stable Beginning

Zaida recalls a sense of optimism as he and fellow members of the JJC Foundation Board of Directors met for its organizational meeting on Nov. 11, 1975. Two years after its establishment, they had gathered in the backyard of then Joliet Mayor Maurice Berlinsky to adopt by-laws and elect officers.

“It was a good group to launch a worthwhile project,” said Zaida. “JJC was a community college, and this was a group of community people.”

But before the foundation launched its first capital campaign, the focus was to strengthen its support network. Thus the Industry and Business Institute (IBI) was formed. Through it, JJC established industry partnerships to provide technical and mid-management training.

“It was a good group to launch a worthwhile project. JJC was a community college, and this was a group of community people.”

– Walt Zaida

“The first example I would offer because it’s way out in left field was we began and became involved in training people to work in the local nuclear energy industry,” said Zaida.

Other training programs catered to hospital, nursing home and food service workers. The IBI, said Zaida, was key to the foundation’s early success.

“In many cases those companies provided members of the foundation who could endorse what we were proposing to do with scholarships. They proposed that they could also offer, in addition to funds, to be resources to providing technical equipment.”

Today, industry representatives partner with the college through JJC’s education advisory committees to help faculty tailor curriculum to meet workforce demands.

“Our corporate partners have been extremely generous,” said Mulvey. “Our students are learning on state-of-the-art equipment and being trained for great jobs in several technically related fields. Companies also supply internships for our students and fund scholarships.”





William Johnson spent 50 years teaching agriculture students at JJC.

Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center

Transforming Agriculture

Growing industry support and significant individual gifts have played a major role in quadrupling the foundation's assets over the past two decades. Over that time, two people have helped move the JJC agriculture program to new heights.

At the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center, which opened in 2007 thanks to the generosity of John H. Weitendorf, Sr., students studying agriculture, horticulture, and veterinary medical technology receive hands-on learning. It is also utilized by those in continuing education and training courses, and serves as a meeting space for countless community organizations.

"The family is proud of the financial contributions that were made by our dad, which included 32 acres of land that the center sits on today. He also contributed \$2.2 million toward construction of the facility," said John Weitendorf, Jr., president of Wilmington-based Weitendorf Holdings and Investments and past president of the JJC Foundation.

His father grew up in the small farming community of Frankfort, which early on established his passion for farming and agricultural land. For more than 50 years, Weitendorf, Sr. served as owner of Town and Country

Realtors in Joliet, and later in his career enjoyed assembling land and agricultural properties.

"He was grateful for the education he received at JJC and his career success, and always wanted to give back to the community," Weitendorf, Jr. said.

Aside from JJC, Weitendorf, Sr. would go on to make generous contributions to Morning Star Mission and Joliet Area Community Hospice, among others.

Bill Johnson was a JJC professor for 50 years, during which he contributed close to half a million dollars in agriculture scholarships. Following his death in 2018, the college received a gift from Johnson's estate exceeding \$2 million, which will continue support for agriculture scholarships and fund special projects.

"Thanks to Bill Johnson, \$80,000 will be available for ag scholarships each year," added Mulvey. "Bill's estate gift will also be used to endow the first operational account for agriculture education at JJC."

According to Mulvey, Johnson wanted to make sure that any student seeking an education in agriculture was never deterred by a lack of resources.

Countless Ways to Make an Impact

Foundation dollars have also played a major role in lean budget years. In 2008, at the height of the Great Recession, the foundation called upon some of the \$2.5 million in unrestricted dollars given by Edward Cwiklo.

“Having unrestricted funds to help serve our students by providing tuition, books and fees is every foundation’s dream,” said Mulvey. “The Cwiklo unrestricted donation was used when the market was down to pay out a four percent return on scholarships.”

Cwiklo was a 1935 graduate who made his career in electrical engineering. His unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose determined by the foundation board of directors. Since his donation in 1992, JJC’s district has grown significantly, as has the cost of education and number of feeder high schools. The Cwiklo funds have helped cover shortfalls to maintain high school merit scholarships.

Whether it’s scholarships, educational equipment or special programs, every donation helps JJC students get a quality education. For many alumni and current students, the assistance has been life-changing.

“Having unrestricted funds to help serve our students by providing tuition, books and fees is every foundation’s dream.”

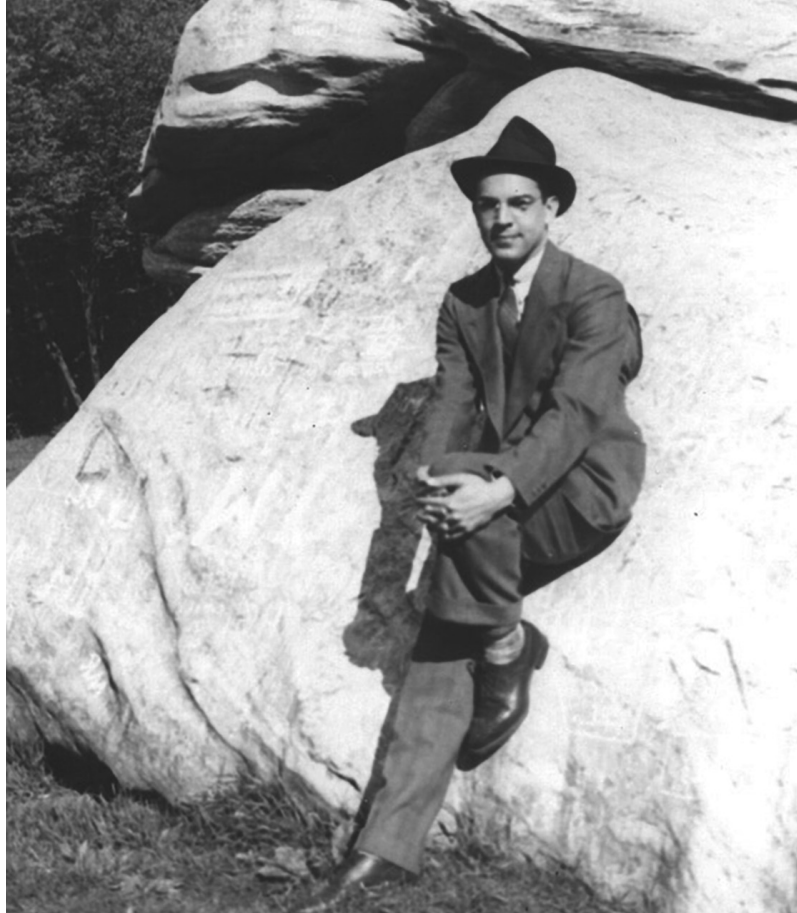
– Kristin Mulvey

“Without the Edward C. Cwiklo Technical Scholarship, I would not be able to pursue my construction management certification,” said Charles Anderson, 38. “My schooling has already resulted in a job opportunity as a project engineer with a construction company. My goal is to gain employment to support my family as a construction manager.”

Ashley Pitt, 19, who will graduate in the fall, said she’s on the path to becoming a healthcare provider thanks to support from the Vera C. Smith Scholarship.

“It offered me peace of mind that someone believed in me enough to help me achieve this goal,” said Pitt.

The two are among a growing number of JJC students earning need-based and merit scholarships, 700 of which are now available through the college. It’s possible because of continuous foundation support from thousands over the years, and could not have reached



Edward Cwiklo May 22, 1938

this level without generous endowed and estate gifts from Art and Vera Smith, John Weitendorf, Sr., Bill Johnson, and Edward Cwiklo, among others. Their passion for JJC, and foresight to chart a more accessible path for students, resonates beyond classroom experience, into homes and ripples throughout the community.

“With a gift to the JJC Foundation, you are investing in the future of the students and providing a positive impact on them and their families,” said Mulvey.

For lifetime foundation member Walt Zaida, it was well-placed optimism at that organizational meeting nearly 45 years ago. He’s since observed the foundation grow its local industry ties and alumni connections, elevating student opportunities and further cementing JJC’s mission as an accessible institution dedicated to student learning and community prosperity.

“The fact that so many of the things that the foundation can do for and with the college solidifies us as a community,” said Zaida.



College Approves Strategic Plan

By Kelly Rohder-Tonelli

The new 2020-2023 Strategic Plan was approved at the Board of Trustees meeting in September, and is considered the overarching plan to guide the college into the future.

“This plan is structured to be broad enough to allow for flexibility, but specific enough to provide guidance for the next several years,” Dr. Judy Mitchell, JJC president, said.

The college’s Strategic Planning Committee, comprised of a cross-representational group and led by Dr. Randy Fletcher, vice president for academic affairs, collected input from internal and external stakeholders with help from

Thomas P. Miller and Associates. This work, which began in spring 2019, established a new vision statement, new mission statement, and six goals to address six themes that emerged through extensive data collection.

“You’ll see that we have, through all the input collected, significantly shortened our mission statement. It is important for everyone to quickly and easily identify and understand our mission and how it drives our activities. I believe our goals are truly representative of opportunities we have to grow the institution,” Dr. Mitchell said.

VISION

Joliet Junior College is the first choice for learning, working, and cultivating pathways to prosperity.

MISSION

Joliet Junior College inspires learning, strengthens communities, and transforms lives.

GOAL 1

Theme – Academic Excellence

Enhance learning experiences of students to prepare them for educational, career, and personal success.

For the first goal, the college seeks to increase instructor assessment of learning and commitment to professional development.

GOAL 2

Theme – Student Success & Support

Provide exceptional and accessible services to students as they explore and pursue their personal, academic, and career goals through guided academic pathways.

For the second goal, the college seeks to increase the usage of services available to our students, in addition to increasing the number of students that complete an academic pathway to increase persistence and retention.

GOAL 3

Theme – Effectiveness

Strengthen operational effectiveness.

With the third goal, the college looks to support increased staff productivity by streamlining internal processes and operation.

GOAL 4

Theme – Perception

Elevate perception of JJC.

For goal four, the college seeks to broaden community awareness and perception of JJC and its resources.

GOAL 5

Theme – Cultural Commitment

Pursue excellence in equity, engagement, and inclusion.

For goal five, the college intends to increase employee satisfaction and morale, in addition to increasing its employment of minority populations.

GOAL 6

Theme – Outreach

Improve coordination of external outreach.

For the sixth goal, the college intends to broaden its relationships and representation within community organizations and business and industry.



High School Student by Day, College Student by Night:

How One Unique Student Earned His Nursing Degree

By Katie Newberry and Sam Sottosanto



Kamil Tomaszek, 19, made Joliet Junior College history last May after becoming the first nursing student to graduate from the program after enrolling as a high school student. Starting as a 14-year-old, he took his regularly scheduled classes at Romeoville High School and worked toward his JJC nursing degree at night.

“It was definitely challenging to attend both high school and college at the same time,” Tomaszek said. “While many of my high school peers would attend school functions or spend time together, I would be at home studying for my upcoming exams or I would be at work.”

Driven to accomplish any goal he set his mind to, Tomaszek graduated in the top four percent of his high school class. At the same time, he was earning his Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) certificate at JJC, which gave him the opportunity to work at Rosewood Care Center and AMITA Glen Oaks Hospital.

Tomaszek earned his associate degree in nursing exactly one year after receiving his high school diploma. Now, thanks to JJC and Lewis University’s RN to BSN partnership program, Tomaszek will complete his bachelor’s degree in nursing at Lewis by May 2020 – only a year after receiving his associate degree.

His nursing instructors agree that Tomaszek stands out among the crowd.

“I had Kamil during his 48-hour preceptorship and the nursing staff at AMITA Presence St. Joseph Medical

Center loved his enthusiasm, his knowledge and his ability to critically think,” said Kathleen Wolz, JJC nursing faculty.

“It was refreshing having Kamil in clinical,” added Julio Santiago, Tomaszek’s clinical instructor. “He came prepared to clinical with a smile, a willingness to learn and demonstrated excellent skills as a student nurse.”

“I have always felt drawn to that specialty... I like the idea of being a leader, advocating for the patient.”

– Kamil Tomaszek

Tomaszek, who currently works as a registered nurse at AMITA St. Joseph Medical Center, plans to continue his education after graduating from Lewis to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

“I have always felt drawn to that specialty because it means I’d be in a surgical setting, in the operating room, and I like the idea of being a leader, advocating for the patient throughout the surgery,” Tomaszek said. “There are so many things that are in store for me in the future, but I could not have gotten to where I am today without the fantastic nursing faculty at JJC. I have to praise them for teaching and advising me on my journey into this field.”

For more information about JJC’s nursing program, visit jjc.edu/nursing.

Branching Out: JJC's Romeoville Campus

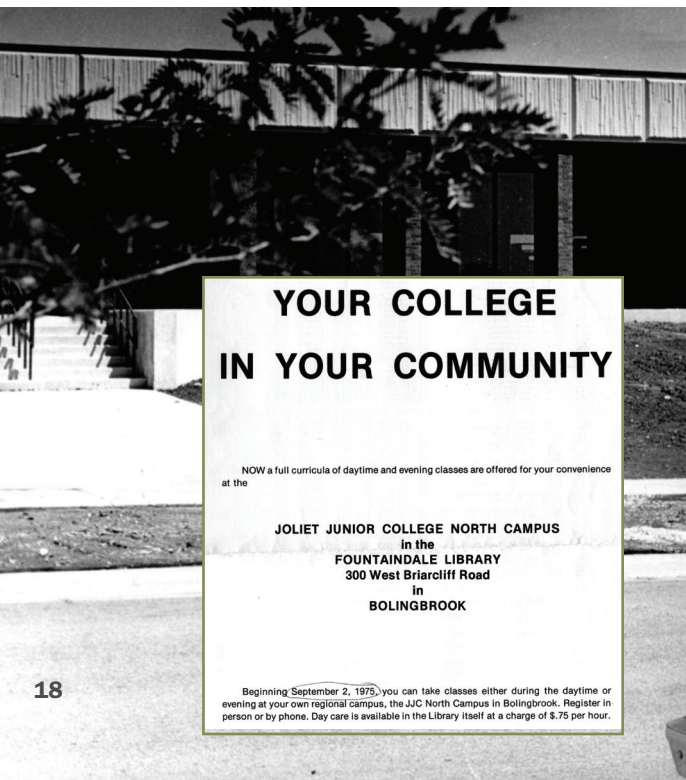
A Retrospective, 1975-1982

by Amy Chellino

A donation of JJC memorabilia is as thrilling as opening a present. The contents may be completely new to the JJC Archives, like a 1965 letterman jacket we recently received, or an addition to an existing collection, for example, the missing issues of the Blazers from 1938 that completed a gap in the newspaper collection. After the 45,000 square-foot expansion of JJC's Romeoville Campus a few years ago, I received two boxes filled with mementos from a staff member which filled an important space in the Archives about the first branch of JJC, then called the North Campus. After review, the items were safely transferred to archival storage and are housed in a preservation-monitored environment in the Archives at the Main Campus Library and join artifacts that represent a shared history of our college. The history of Romeoville Campus, specifically, is presented here through newspaper articles, photographs, brochures, marketing pieces and commentary and is a reflection of the progressive mindset, community commitment and collaboration that JJC perpetually represents.

As the first dean of JJC's North Campus, Alice Herron stressed to the Bolingbrook newspaper the Beacon in

1982, "Whatever the people of a community need, Joliet Junior College tries to provide. That's the philosophy of a community college." In the early 1970s, Bolingbrook, Romeoville, Lemont, Lockport and Plainfield were described as "literally growing out of the cornfields," according to a report titled Future Development of North Campus. Beginning in 1975 and due to this population growth, JJC began offering classes in the northeastern sector of the district which was the first step in establishing a North Campus branch of Joliet Junior College. However, North Campus was not just an extension of JJC's Main Campus. With Herron at the forefront, North Campus set out to meet the individual needs of this community and recognized and supported ESL students, single women, homemakers, working students and commuters. North Campus became a fusion of new technology to support the first type of distance education at JJC, flexible scheduling, convenient locations and childcare services. This retrospective spotlights the beginning of JJC's North Campus during the transformative years of 1975 to 1982.



1975

North Campus first opened in a leased space at the new Bolingbrook Fountaindale Public Library. There were six classrooms including labs for GED/ESL, business skills, and a day care facility. A Future Development of North Campus report compiled by the college in 1975 detailed the demographics of the community and stated, "The North Campus is serving communities which have an adult population predominantly in the career-skill building years... whose lifestyles do not allow time to travel distances to attend classes." Furthering this description, Herron was quoted in a local newspaper with, "Convenient sites meet the needs of the rapidly emerging adult student clientele who have limited time and resources for travel."



1976

Alice Herron was the chief administrator of North Campus from 1976 to 1984. “Know thy community” was an integral part of her philosophy. “While we are an extension of Joliet Junior College, we are not a mini carbon copy of the main campus,” she insisted. “We know that our student clientele is different because of age distribution, interests and economic backgrounds, and we make a special effort to build programs that reflect those unique characteristics,” she explained in the 1980 college marketing piece *Grow With Us at Joliet Junior College*.

1979

English as a Second Language (ESL) students found a welcoming and supportive environment at North Campus as featured in several articles in *The Beacon* newspaper. “The universal language of a smile and a handshake is where we start,” explained ESL supervisor, Peg Linton. An International Friendship Club was formed and met at North Campus. ESL instructor Bertha Hevia related, “The Bolingbrook area is represented by many nationalities who have such fine experiences and holidays to share with others...I see this group as an opportunity for newcomers from other countries to meet native born citizens.” Specifically, 16 nationalities were represented in the student body. An additional ESL program was the Adult Basic Learning Experience, also known as ABLE, which helped students improve their reading, English and math skills while providing information on job acquisition, consumer buying, family living and citizenship. Approximately 500 people successfully completed the program in 1979.

Programs unique to women in the community were incorporated into the North Campus curriculum. The Displaced Homemakers and Suddenly Single courses were designed for women who were recently divorced or widowed and focused on career exploration, financial counseling and personal interest assessment.



Joliet Junior College
North Campus



BOLINGBROOK CENTER

300 W. Belaircliff
Bolingbrook, IL 60439
(312) 759-8852



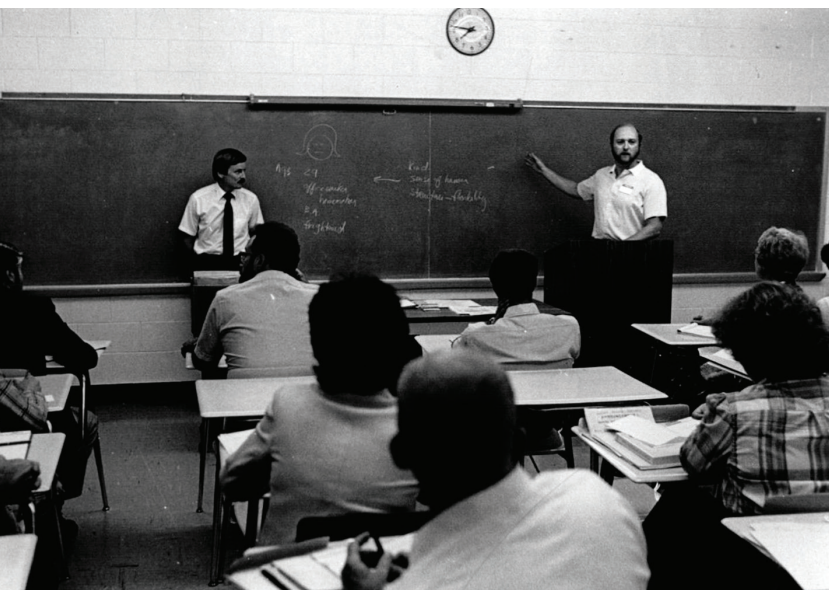
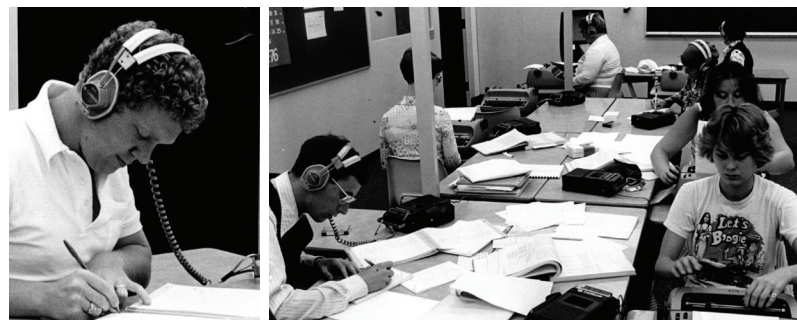
1980

North Campus enrollment grew to 1,200 students in five years. Additions included 10 classrooms, a science lab, secretarial skills lab and student lounge. “There is no doubt that [JJC] will continue to grow... Please accept my invitation to participate in this growth adventure,” then-President Derek Nunney said in the introduction to *Grow With Us at Joliet Junior College*.

1980

To meet the diversity of interests and lifestyles of the residents, telecourses were a new option for distance education coursework at JJC according to the document *Television Center-North Campus* which pointed out that the purpose of this innovative course design was to “provide access to learning opportunities...in new and convenient ways using modern technology.” The North Campus telecourses expanded on the penchant in *Grow with Us at Joliet Junior College*, “As a campus without walls, the North Campus of Joliet Junior College is not so much a place as a continually evolving concept”.

Secretarial courses in typing, shorthand, machine calculating, transcription and secretarial procedures were offered as “open entry” which meant that students could work at their own pace at North Campus labs. North Campus student Sharon Pemble illustrated in *Grow With Us at Joliet Junior College*, “As a single parent with two children to support, I wanted to make sure my job would be secure, and by improving my secretarial skills [at JJC], I felt I could firm up my position by being able to do an even better job.”



1981

A North Campus study revealed that students were 66% women, 55% married, 41% thirty or older, 63% working towards a baccalaureate, 68% lived in Bolingbrook, and 10% held advanced degrees. Herron described of post graduates returning to college, “Many of [these students] earned their degrees in pre-computer, sometimes regarded as prehistoric times...Those people take data processing, computer programming and other computer science classes just to keep up with rapidly changing job demands.”

1982

Instruction was moved to the new Romeoville Center located at 755 Luther Drive, a Valley View elementary school at the time. Over 2,000 students were enrolled, and a student lounge was one of the added features of this new site. Today, the building serves as administrative offices for the Valley View School District.



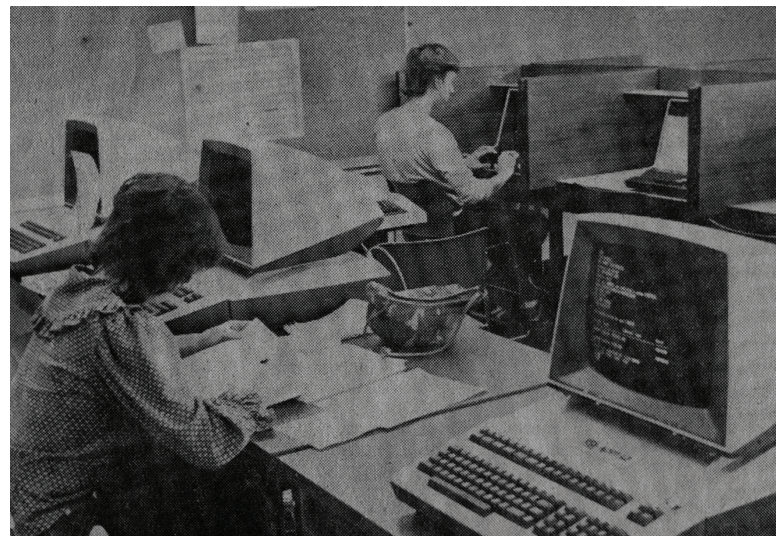
An open house and ribbon cutting ceremony were held on October 21, 1982. Attendees enjoyed music selections from the JJC Jazz Band and Chanteurs and hors d'oeuvres prepared by culinary arts students. A hands-on introduction to the microcomputer with special personalized computer-messages for guests was a highlight of the night. Country-western dance, calligraphy and handwriting analysis were part of the general interest demonstrations.

*The Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees
cordially invites you to attend the
Grand Opening Ceremony
and
Open House
of the
North Campus Romeoville Center
5-9 p.m. Thursday, October 21, 1982
Valley View School
755 Luther Drive
Romeoville, Illinois*



COBOL, FORTRAN and BASIC were computer languages taught at North Campus. A Herald News article advertised that the “facilities in the North Campus Computer Science Laboratory will be increased...to a total of seven general terminals and five word processing terminals...The terminals allow the students at the North Campus to interact directly with the main PRIME computer on main campus” which was state-of-the-art technology in 1982.

In 1993, the 35,000 square-foot permanent building of North Campus opened its doors in Romeoville at 1125 W 135th Street. Cited as “the newest branch of a venerable tree of learning” in a press release for the groundbreaking ceremony, North Campus has continually connected with Herron’s initial mission to offer the community an education tailored to their exclusive needs. Most recently, an Adult Education Collection of materials for ESL and developing readers was added to the campus, now called the Romeoville Campus, Learning Resource Center. As Herron affirmed, and which rings true in the present day, “The only way to make a community college, such as JJC, reflect the needs of a community, is to know that community.” JJC’s commitment lies in welcoming and serving a continually evolving group of students who strive to meet educational goals and are provided with the tools to make success achievable no matter the obstacle.



To learn more about JJC’s history and to view digital copies of yearbooks, Blazers, Wordeaters and more, visit the Archives website at <http://library.jjc.edu/collections/archives>.

For information on the sources used in this article, contact Amy Chellino, JJC librarian, at achellin@jjc.edu, (815) 280-6708.

Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college’s past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
(815) 280-2344

News Briefs



From left: JJC Board of Trustees Vice Chairwoman Maureen Broderick, JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell, Jon Rosenberg and Dino DeSalvo with LyondellBasell, and JJC Personal Enrichment Coordinator Brenda Large.

Members of the JJC Community Recognized by the Illinois Community College Trustee Association

By Katie Newberry

Seven students, faculty members, alumni and corporate partners of Joliet Junior College were recognized by the Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA) this past June.

LyondellBasell, JJC's longtime corporate partner and one of the world's largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies, was the recipient of the statewide 2019 Business/Industry Partnership Award.

According to the ICCTA, the Business/Industry Partnership Award recognizes an Illinois business that has built a successful workforce-training alliance with a local community college.

"The overarching goal of our partnership is to educate a skilled-workforce while ensuring that JJC's programs stay updated with the changing needs of the industry," said JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell.

Two JJC faculty members, Teresa Carrillo and Nancy Seymour, were recognized as nominees for the ICCTA's Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member Award and Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award, respectively.

Three JJC alumni were also nominated for awards: Dr. Thomas Streitz - Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award; Victor Xavier Colón - Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship; and Kayla Siam - Pacesetter Award.

Current student Javonna Stepney was a nominee for the Paul Simon Student Essay Contest. The award provides a one-time \$500 scholarship to the student who best describes "How My Community College Has Changed My Life."

OPT, Vet Tech Programs Work to Give Dog a New Leash on Life

By Katie Newberry

The Orthotics and Prosthetics (OPT) program, with the assistance of Veterinary Technology, are helping to give one friendly pup a new leash on life.

Woodie, a blue-nosed pit bull, lost both of his hind paws at five weeks old from trauma caused by another animal when he was abandoned in a Joliet forest preserve.

A local couple, Jenn and David Grelick, adopted Woodie. His care required changing his bandages twice a day and taking him to laser therapy at a veterinary clinic. It was there the couple learned of the OPT program at JJC, which has helped other animals in the past. After some research, Jenn connected with Mike Brncick, the OPT program coordinator, who invited Woodie to campus.

“Dr. Brncick’s class was willing to work with Woodrow on trying to create a custom prosthetic. For us as pet parents and having no idea where to start this was a godsend,” Jenn said.

Christina Bunde, an OPT graduate that helped Woodie, is grateful for the hands-on experience.

“Working with Woodie has prepared me for a career in the OPT field because it gives me a better understanding that not every patient or every situation will be by the book, not all patients are going to be the same,” said Bunde.

JJC’s Veterinary Technology program was brought in to take x-rays to help fit the prosthetic devices. Woodie then underwent surgery in March to shave down a piece of jagged bone so his prosthesis would fit better.

Woodie is now practicing walking with his new prototype prostheses. Soon he’ll be fitted with permanent devices allowing him to run and play as much as he wants.



Jenn and David Grelick took Woodie, an injured blue-nosed pit bull, in when he was just five weeks old.

2019 Foundation Sponsorship Campaign

by Amanda Quinn

Thank you to our business and community partners who have invested in the 2019 Foundation Sponsorship Campaign. These donors committed to sponsoring at least one of our signature events at the platinum, gold, silver, or bronze level.

This year's special events included Night of Stars, JJC Athletic Golf Outing, and the JJC Haunted 5K Run/Walk.

Platinum Sponsor



Dave Holmes accepts the J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award at Night of Stars.



Runners at the JJC Haunted 5K Run and Walk.

Gold Sponsors



*John and Theresa
Weitendorf Jr.*

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors

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- Dollinger Family Farm
- First Midwest Bank/Wealth Management
- First Secure Bank
- Forsythe Gould Funeral Home
- Forward Space, Coalesse, Steelcase
- Gallagher Benefit Services
- Haas Factory Outlet
- Harrah's Casino
- Hometown Suburban Vending
- Indicom Electric
- L. DeGeus & Associates
- Legat Architects
- Morgan Stanley – William Conte
- Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers
- Silver Cross Hospital
- Smith Painting Services, Inc.
- Wermer, Rogers, Doran & Ruzon, LLC
- Wight & Company



Baseball alumni enjoy the afternoon at the JJC Athletic Golf Outing.



Gregg Braun, Director of Athletics with former Director of Athletics Wayne L. King, Jr.



Board of Trustees members at the JJC Athletic Golf Outing. From left to right: Mike O'Connell, Chairman Bob Wunderlich, Secretary John (Jake) Mahalik.



Longtime biology professor, Dr. William M. Zales (blue shirt, holding the top right corner of the monument), was honored for his central role in establishing a nature trail and arboretum on campus.

Retired Professor Zales Honored at Arboretum, Nature Trail Rededication

By Katie Newberry

The Natural Sciences Department hosted a rededication ceremony in May to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Dr. William M. Zales Nature Trail and Arboretum.

Zales was a biology instructor at JJC from 1967-1999. He taught courses in botany, general biology, plant taxonomy, ecology, conservation and taxidermy. He believed that all students should know the value of nature and the importance of preservation.

Zales originated the idea of a college arboretum and nature trail in 1975 as part of the College Use Plan in an effort to showcase the ecological diversity on campus, as well as create an accessible outdoor learning laboratory.

Upon his retirement in May 1999, both the arboretum and nature trail were officially named after Zales for his central role in their establishment.

At the ceremony, Zales had the chance to say a few words. After the speech new stone monuments honoring the retired professor were unveiled.

“It was certainly an enjoyable enough opportunity just to use these two living laboratories in my classes but when they were named after me and now with the addition of a permanent stone monument I am deeply honored with appreciation,” said Zales.

The arboretum currently features over 150 species of trees, shrubs and vines.

JJC’s nature trail consists of 2.75 miles of paved trail and two miles of unpaved trail. The paved portion is part of the Forest Preserve District of Will County’s Rock Run Greenway Trail and can be used for cycling, skating, walking and running. The unpaved portion is a footpath only.

“My hope is the trail system and arboretum will remain for the education and enjoyment for JJC students and community long into the future,” said Zales.

FY20 Budget Approved Marking 47 Years of Balanced Budgets

By Katie Newberry

The Board of Trustees approved the college's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020 on June 12. This is now the 47th consecutive year that JJC's budget has been balanced.

The total operating budget for FY20 is \$97.98 million, a 2.4 percent increase over the FY19 budget.

"Our budget is developed each year to support our mission of being an innovative and accessible institution, dedicated to student learning, community prosperity, cultural enrichment, and inclusion," said JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell.

In the FY20 budget, tuition and healthcare costs were kept flat as the college continues its commitment to accessibility and fiscal responsibility.

The college's financial team employed a series of goals consistent with the strategic plan while creating the FY20 budget. These goals included maintaining an emphasis on student success, support of innovation in new programming and expanded resources,

the potential impact of Illinois' ongoing contribution toward the college's budget and realistic projections about property tax revenues. Additionally, JJC aimed to maintain responsible reserves.

"However, we know that we must invest in JJC to grow JJC," added Mitchell. "As such, the FY20 budget funds several items to support growth in multiple areas to meet the unique needs of our students and stakeholders, including our dual credit program, a new center to support returning adult students and new university transfer partnerships, and small business development support."

For the 13th consecutive year, JJC's financial team was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Best Practices in Community College Budgeting for FY18. This award is presented annually to colleges based on their budgeting of resources that promote student achievement.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ALUMNI HONORED AT ANNUAL NIGHT OF STARS

By Katie Newberry



Five individuals were awarded for their achievements and service at Joliet Junior College's second annual Night of Stars last April.

Dave Holmes received the J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award. Holmes has helped raise more than \$300,000 for community organizations through an annual golf outing in the memory of his friend, Tim Klotz, who died in 1999. With some of these funds, Holmes worked to endow the Timothy C. Klotz Memorial Scholarship at the JJC.

"I don't do the outing for recognition. I just do it for all the friends to get together for Tim," Holmes said.

Also a recipient of the J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award was Lynne Lichtenauer. Her service dates back to the 1970s when she worked to save Joliet's Rialto Square Theatre. She then went on to serve terms on many community boards. Lichtenauer has been recognized for her influential role with the museum's Old Joliet Prison Project.

"How fortunate I am to be recognized for something that I love to do," Lichtenauer said. "Personally I feel volunteering is just what you do to make your community better. Be sure to share your talents."



Dr. Judy Mitchell, Dave Holmes, J.D. Ross. Holmes was a recipient of the J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award.



Lynne Lichtenauer accepting the J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award.

Dr. Robert Marcink, English professor, received the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award. Marcink is president of the AFT-Local 604 faculty union and adviser to the student newspaper, The Blazer. Under his leadership, The Blazer won four first place awards for overall excellence from the Illinois Community College Journalism Association (ICCJA) in recent years.

“I owe them for this,” said Marcink, referring to his colleagues through the years. “Without their mentorship, without their teaching me the right way, maybe I’m not here today.”

Dr. Dennis Haggerty, a retired podiatrist, was given the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. After graduating from JJC and Aurora University, Haggerty established private practices in Chicago’s northwest suburbs from 1972 to 2006. Today, Haggerty spends his free time with philanthropic endeavors at children’s hospitals and in the Middle East.

“Joliet Junior College was the best and only place that I could go and it’s probably the best thing that ever happened to me.”

– Harry Resis

“I’m a part of JJC, but in reality JJC is a part of me. What do I mean by that? I mean it had such an impact on my life. Personal, on my family’s, on my career. And still, I’m standing here and it still has an impact on me,” Haggerty said.

Harry Resis, a retired private investor, also received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Resis was a baseball player and finance major. His career in finance included roles in fixed income sales and management at many major financial institutions. He retired in 2005.

“Joliet Junior College was the best and only place that I could go and it’s probably the best thing that ever happened to me,” said Resis.

“It was a wonderful evening celebrating the accomplishments of community members and alumni, and honoring donors that support the mission of the JJC Foundation,” said Kristin Mulvey, JJC executive director of institutional advancement and executive director of the JJC Foundation.

Visit Joliet Junior College’s YouTube channel to learn more about the award recipients, [youtube.com/user/JolietJrCollege](https://www.youtube.com/user/JolietJrCollege).



Dr. Robert Marcink, recipient of the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame award.



Dr. Judy Mitchell and Dr. Dennis Haggerty recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.



Dr. Judy Mitchell and Harry Resis recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.



Planetarium Shows

Tuesday Shows – 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 12	The Solar System
Nov. 26	Two Small Pieces of Glass
Dec. 10	The Story of the Christmas Star
Jan. 7	Out There
Jan. 21	Sunstruck
Feb. 4	Black Holes
Feb. 18	Asteroids and Comets
March 3	Humans and Robots in Space
March 17	The Sun, Our Living Star
March 31	Phantom of the Universe
April 14	From Earth to the Universe
April 28	Galileo
May 12	Sunstruck
May 26	Humans and Robots in Space
June 9	Sunstruck

Sunday Holiday Show – 2 p.m.

Dec. 15	Story of the Christmas Star
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Thursday Shows – 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 21	Sunstruck
Dec. 5	The Story of the Christmas Star
Jan. 2	Two Small Pieces of Glass
Jan. 16	Larry Cat in Space*
Feb. 13	The Little Star That Could*
Feb. 27	The Solar System
March 12	We Go to the Moon *
March 26	Larry Cat in Space*
April 9	The Little Star That Could*
April 23	Trip Through Space
May 7	Sunstruck
May 21	The Sun, Our Living Star
June 4	Larry Cat in Space*
June 18	he Little Star That Could*

All planetarium shows are free.
 For more information, contact
 the JJC Herbert Trackman
 Planetarium at (815) 280-6682
 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium.

**Shows put on for the very young astronomer*



Fine Arts Events

MUSIC

- Nov. 20 Student Recital, Noon
Dec. 1 Community Band Concert, directed by Charles Morgan, 3 p.m.
Dec. 6 Jazz Band Concert, directed by Rich Moore, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7 Guitar and Percussion Concert, directed by Adam Roth and Adam Cowger, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13 Jingle and Jazz, JJC Chamber Singers and Chorale conducted by Philip Spencer, 7:30 p.m.

THEATRE

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, directed by Clay Kirkland
Theatrical Production Bleacher Bums, directed by Nicki Blowers

- Nov. 14-16, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 17, 2 p.m.
Nov. 21-23, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 24, 2 p.m.

ART

Joliet Junior College Area High School Art Exhibition
Nov. 1-Dec. 9



For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/fine-arts. All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise stated.



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As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit www.jjc.edu/sustainability



Kayla Siam, a 2012 graduate, recently launched her career as a corporate attorney at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, one of the largest law firms in Chicago.

After leaving JJC, Kayla attended Governors State University and Atlanta's Emory University where she earned a Juris Doctorate of Law and MBA.

Kayla was Joliet Junior College's 2019 ICCTA Pacesetter Nominee.

"One of the most important lessons I learned at JJC is that when you invest in your community, the investment is ultimately reciprocated."

- Kayla Siam

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit www.jjc.edu/alumni-stay-connected to submit your story and reconnect with your college.