

## **LCC Connections**

### **October 2009**

#### ***Dr. Michael Nealon Appointed Dean of Liberal Studies***

Lansing Community College is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Michael Nealon as Dean of Liberal Studies, following a national search. Dr. Nealon currently serves the college as the Chair of the Humanities and Performing Arts Department. Prior to being named Chair, Michael served as lead faculty in LCC's Music program for eight years, growing enrollment in that program by 200% and doubling its ROI. He also greatly expanded public performances, including launching the *Soundscapes* program. Michael has also served the college as the faculty representative on our AQIP Strategy Forum teams and has been actively engaged in the college's accreditation process through the Higher Learning Commission. Prior to coming to Lansing, Michael was a faculty member at DePaul University and Northwestern University. He earned a B.A. in Humanities and Music History from St. Michael's College, an M.A. in Musicology from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. in Musicology from Northwestern University.

Dr. Nealon will transition to his new role in the next few weeks. Michael's passion for students and the community college mission, open and collaborative leadership, humor and eloquence will serve the Liberal Studies Division and the College well.

#### ***Evan Montague Named Dean of SAS/SEM***

Following a national search, Dr. Evan Montague was selected for the position of Dean of Student and Academic Services/Strategic Enrollment Management. Dr. Montague most recently served as Assistant Vice President for Enrollment/Director of Admissions at Alma College. Prior to that, he served LCC for nine years as Director of Financial Aid/Veterans Services and then as Director of Enrollment Management and Academic Support Systems. Evan began his career in student services at Michigan State University and then Albion College as a Financial Aid Officer. He earned a BA in Social Science/Psychology from Michigan State University, a MPA from Western Michigan University and a PhD in Educational Administration from Michigan State University. Dr. Montague will assume his new position on November 9. I would like to thank Elenka Raschkow for serving as Interim Dean for the past few months.

#### ***LCC IT Apprentice Team Earns National Award***

Michigan Department of Information Technology and Lansing Community College Business, Media, & Information Technologies Division (BMIT) Information Technology Apprenticeship Team has been awarded a Best of Michigan Excellence in Technology Award for 2009 from the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO). The award was presented at the Michigan Digital Government Summit in Lansing on October 14, 2009 in Lansing.

Accepting the award on behalf of this collaborative effort were Judith K. Berry, BMIT Dean and Maria Nevai, Business & Industry Account Executive from Lansing Community College and Jim Hogan, Chief Information Officer from Michigan Department of Human Services.

The award represents the Best Practices in IT collaboration with the State of Michigan Student Recruitment Program. BMIT earned the award for its Michigan cross-boundary IT internship and economic growth partnership project. The BMIT recruitment program is intended to retain IT workers in the Capital area and has received a National Science Foundation award for its efforts. The program, now in its second year, has 150 resumes on file and has made 100 industry visits on

their behalf. Some 50% of the interns have received long-term employment in the public and private sectors.

“We knew the value of our efforts to local business and government, as well as to the regional economy,” said Berry, “but we are proud and delighted to be public recognized for those efforts.”

The Annual Michigan Digital Government Summit is event is for and about state and local government. The purpose of the event is to foster discussion and dialogue on the use of information technology as a strategic tool for managers, executives and policy makers.

### ***LCC Study-Abroad Scholarship***

Lansing Community College announced a scholarship program to help LCC students study abroad through Michigan State University’s study-abroad program. Scholarships of up to \$2,000 each will be awarded to LCC students. “These awards are intended to enhance students’ academic experience and encourage increased awareness of our role in a global society,” says LCC Provost Stephanie Shanblatt. Scholarship applications were due October 15.

LCC and MSU began working together this fall to make it easier for LCC students to participate in MSU’s study-abroad programs. Through its Office of Study Abroad, MSU leads the nation in study-abroad participation among public universities. MSU’s program options are among the most diverse, with more than 260 programs in 60 countries on all continents. Its programs range in length from one week to an academic year, and they are offered during fall and spring semesters and spring break.

For more information on the LCC study-abroad scholarship or its partnership with MSU, visit [www.lcc.edu/studyabroad](http://www.lcc.edu/studyabroad) or contact LCC Social Science Professor Marc Thomas at [thomasm6@lcc.edu](mailto:thomasm6@lcc.edu) or 517-483-1912.

### ***Moody’s Affirms LCC Aa3 Credit Rating***

Moody’s Investors Service has affirmed the Aa3 credit rating for Lansing Community College, indicating strong confidence in the college’s financial position. The college’s outstanding debt is secured by the general obligation limited tax pledge and represents a first budget obligation. Affirmation of this high rating reflects LCC’s broad, diverse economic base benefiting from the stabilizing base of MSU as well as the state’s capital; well-maintained financial operations with satisfactory reserve levels; and a manageable debt position that is expected to continue despite near-term borrowing plans.

### ***Trustee Woods Elected to Central Region Nomination Committee***

LCC Trustee Edward Woods III was elected to the Central Region Nomination Committee of the Association of Community College Trustees at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Community College Leadership Congress held in October. The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States. The Central Region Nominating Committee is responsible for the interviews for nomination of all candidates for ACCT Board At-Large and Regional and Diversity Committee in the Central Region.

### ***BWL 2009 1st STEP Launch***

Last week, the Lansing Board of Water and Light successfully launched round two of “1st STEP,” in partnership with LCC, CAMW!, Lansing School District, Ingham and Eaton ISDs, Clinton RESA, and the IBEW to provide high school students meaningful workplace experiences and pathways to high demand utility industry careers. The September 30 orientation at Dart Auditorium hosted more than 70 interested students who will be vying for 10 co-op positions available this year at the BWL. Of the 70 students, those interested will complete an application, interview with CAMW! and then tour and interview with the BWL. The 10 students selected will start their BWL training during their last semester of high school in January. Upon successful completion of the program, participants will receive a \$1,500 scholarship to LCC.

### ***Lansing Business Networking Event***

On October 13, the LCC Purchasing Department participated in the Eighth Annual Lansing Business Networking Event held at West Campus. LCC Purchasing Director Becky Beard is chair of the Lansing Area Public Purchasing Group. The event brought together public purchasing agents and vendors in a structured working session to facilitate procurement networking opportunities for purchasers and to stimulate local economic development. More than 80 vendors registered to attend the networking event. Joining LCC in participating were: the City of Lansing, Ingham County, Lansing Board of Water & Light, the Lansing School District and Michigan State University.

### ***LCC Hosts AMA Midwest Leadership Conference***

LCC will host the American Marketing Association (AMA) Midwest Leadership Conference, “Tools for Your Future,” October 23-24 at the West Campus. The conference gives AMA members and LCC students the skills they need to be successful in the business world. The AMA tools include leadership, motivation, networking, and team building. We hope students will leave this conference feeling more confident about their skills which in turn will enhance their ability to succeed.

### ***Faculty & Staff News***

We have a new director for the High School Diploma Completion Initiative. Her name is Margaret (Peg) A. Lamb, Ph.D. She holds both a Doctorate in curriculum, teaching and policy and a dual Masters Degree in Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders from Michigan State University. Peg has ten years of experience directing federal and state grant projects including the supervision of 5-15 project staff and management of budgets. Her work has been recognized at the state and national level through the Governor’s Innovators to Watch Award in 1999 (1 of 12 in the state) and the National All Means All Award 2000 from the University of Minnesota (1 of 35 in the nation). Since 2004, she has worked as an educational consultant in her own business, providing grant writing, training and consultation services to area business, non profit organizations and school districts. Peg’s entire professional career has been devoted to teaching students at risk, developing programs and systems to address their academic and special needs, and researching how teachers can work collaboratively to improve education outcomes for this population. Please welcome Dr. Peg Lamb to Lansing Community College.

**Margie Clark**, LCC’s Director of Nursing, received the Carol Franck Nursing Leadership Award on October 2. Margie was honored for her work as an advocate for the nursing profession and passion for improving healthcare throughout the state. In addition to her chair and program director duties at the college, Margie was appointed by Governor Granholm to serve on the Governor’s Task Force on Nursing Education. The task force was assigned to review the nursing

standards, nursing education and nursing practices which govern all nurses in the State of Michigan. Congratulations, Margie!

**Matthew Fuerst** was hired as portal administrator in the Information Technology Services Division. Matthew will manage and administer the LCC Portal and Content Management System (migrating from Oracle to Luminis Platform) and all its associated integrations. His most recent positions were programmer/analyst at Telecorp Products and adjunct faculty in economics at Baker College. Matthew has a master of art degree from Walsh College.

**Stephanie Fournier** was hired as a Human Resource Management Systems business analyst in the College Operations Division. She will develop, support and maintain such HR systems as Banner, PeopleAdmin Applicant Tracking, Learning Management System, and related HR websites/links. Stephanie's most recent position was as an international HR Specialist for Chrysler LLC. She has a master's degree in training and development from Oakland University.

**Chad Badgero and Melissa Kaplan**, Humanities and Performing Arts Department, co-organized the third annual Renegade Theatre Festival August 20-22. Over 1,800 audience members took in 24 productions. "It's an amazing opportunity for theatre junkies and newbies to get a free fix," said Kaplan. "It's a growing attraction in Old Town's wonderful line-up of annual festivals, and it's an important incubator for new and experimental theatre works." LCC is one of five founding sponsors supporting the festival, including Ciesa Design, City Pulse, the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and the Old Town Community Association.

**Molly Cryderman-Weber**, professor of Music and Humanities, presented a session titled "Active Learning in the Music History Classroom" at the September 12 American Musicological Society Teaching Music History Day conference in Edinboro, Pennsylvania.

**Mike Daniels**, adjunct faculty in the LCC Music Program, conducted percussion workshops at the Old Town Jazz Festival on August 1 and the Old Town Blues Festival on September 19.

**The LCC Faculty Jazz Combo** performed at the Old Town Jazz Festival August 1-2. The Combo features Dennis Therrian (piano), Jon Gewirtz (saxophone), Ed Fedewa (bass) and Mike Daniels (drums), all adjunct faculty in the LCC Music Program.

**Jeff Buchin**, adjunct instructor in the Physical Fitness and Wellness Department, set the World's Record for bench pressing 446 pounds at the World Powerlifting Competition in Bradford, England on September 12. The competition is sponsored by the American Drug Free Power Lifting Federation, created in 1988 to provide fair competition worldwide for those powerlifters who wish to train and compete without performance-enhancing drugs. Jeff competed in the Masters 5 level (ages 60-64).

**Keith Phillips**, professor of French and Spanish in the Communication Department, contributed the cover feature story titled, *Language Skills for Global Competitiveness: A Michigan Perspective*, for the September/October 2009 edition of *Michigan Forward*, a publication of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

**Mark Kelland**, professor of Psychology, traveled became certified in the C.R.I.T.I.C.A.L. Approach to Teaching Martial Arts to People with Physical Disabilities through the Natural Motion Martial Arts Program. He has also successfully tested for his Black Belt and Instructor's

License in Defense Ability, a program for people who use wheelchairs taught by the International Disabled Self-Defense Association in Asheville, North Carolina, and he has earned 'Advanced' rank in the American Cane system in Incline Village, Nevada. In addition, he has published an article entitled "Psychology, Physical Disability, & the Application of Buddhist Mindfulness to Martial Arts Programs" which was published in the Journal of Asian Martial Arts.

**John Lepard**, Humanities Theatre adjunct, directed *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, on October 10 in Dart Auditorium as a benefit for the LCC Foundation.

**Isaac Addai**, Professor of Sociology, submitted a paper titled "*Religion and Subjective well-being in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Exploratory Analysis of Data from Ghana*" for publication in the International Journal of Comparative Sociology.

**Leslie Hall**, adjunct faculty of Psychology, presented at the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards on the topics: "*Shared Governance within Community Mental Health: Tools and Techniques for Success*" and "*A Curriculum for Peer Supports for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.*"

**Rosina Hassoun**, adjunct faculty of Anthropology, attended a three-day international symposium titled "*Water, Cultural Diversity, and Global Environmental Change: Emerging Trends*" at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature in Kyoto, Japan. Dr. Hassoun participated in a roundtable discussion and met with scholars, scientists, advocates and policy makers. Dr. Hassoun was an invited guest of UNESCO-IHP.

**Jim Luke**, professor of Economics, attended the League of Innovation, CIT Conference and presented two sessions entitled: "*Blogs: Save Time While Keeping Your Class and Career Current*" and "*Teaching with Blogs: Using Wordpress in Your Class or LMS*". He also led and facilitated three roundtable discussions sessions.

**Mark Kelland**, professor of Psychology, has had his textbook, Personality Theory: Connections Across Perspectives and Cultures, published.

**Sonja M. Perakis**, adjunct faculty of Economics, will be traveling to Brazil to present at the International Pensa Conference hosted by the School of Economics, Business and Accounting at the University of Sao Paulo in November. The theme of this year's conference is "*Economic Crisis: Food, Fiber, and Bioenergy Chains.*" Ms. Perakis will present an early version of one of her dissertation essays entitled "*Challenges to Valuing Joint Agricultural Products After 'the Crisis': the Case of Cotton in West Africa.*" The trip is funded by a USDA National Needs Graduate Student Fellowship supplementary travel grant.

The **Assessment Center** recently hired five new part-time support staff: James Hartley, Rachel Idoni, Justin Jones, Cassandra "Cassie" Little, and Mark Polzin.