

# Spotlight on Faculty

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## LCC Ghana Experience

Education comes from more than the classroom for the students who participate in the Journey to Ghana program through Lansing Community College (LCC). This three-credit course was initiated by LCC Sociology Professor, Dr. Isaac Addai. According to Leslie Hoover, LCC Professor of Nursing and Pediatrics and a co-leader of the Ghana experience, "The LCC course has two objectives: 1) to provide cultural immersion as an extension of global education efforts at LCC, and 2) to provide service learning opportunities for all LCC students."

Students who enroll in the course attend a weekly class during Spring semester, then go on a 2-3 week trip immediately following LCC graduation (returning

prior to the start of summer semester). The cost of the trip, for both students and community participants (including LCC faculty who would like to make the trip), is approximately \$2,500 which includes air fare, transportation, and room-and-board. Additionally, they must pay for a passport, visa, and international travel immunizations. Students also pay for the three-credit course.

The group travels to Ankaase, in Ghana, West Africa, hometown of Dr. Isaac Addai. This is a small, rural village where the average annual income is less than \$100 U.S. There are three components to this service learning experience including educational, dental health, and physical health.

According to Hoover, "The education team (one does not have to be education major to be in this group: This groups is open to anybody who wants to participate in the and does not fit into the other service learning groups) teaches lessons in the three local junior secondary schools. The capstone event for the local students is a Quiz Bowl with monetary prizes

for the winners to be used for educational expenses. The dental hygiene team does oral health education, cleans teeth, and applies fluoride to children. In 2005, they saw 150 children, and in 2006, they saw 580 children. The health team primarily

includes nursing students, but has also included a medical student, a physician, a medical technologist, and a paramedic. They do cardiovascular screening and education. They screened 350 patients in 2005 and 286 patients in 2006. Free hypertensive medications were distributed the first year, but in 2006, LCC began to offer financial assistance with the purchase of national health insurance. Over 400 people were aided in obtaining health insurance that covers inpatient, outpatient, and pharmaceutical coverage, at a cost of \$16 per year U.S."



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## LCC Ghana Experience Continued...

In their free time, participants enjoy planned visits to historical sites such as slave castles, museums, and memorial parks. The group also does a canopy walk in a rain forest, attends cultural events, a local church services, and goes shopping. Other visits have included a botanical garden and a fishing village.

Each year, several individuals from the community have participated in the program as well (consistent with LCC's mission statement that "students" include individuals from the community), and faculty are invited to attend. If you are interested, applications are accepted through the International Center during the Fall semester. Interviews occur in late November or early December, and selections are made prior to the winter break.



Overwhelmingly, those who make the trip return with an appreciation for what they have, a love for the generosity of the Ghanaian people, and a realization that wealth is more than material possessions. According to Hoover, "The people we meet in Ghana have very few resources and no material wealth by our standards, but they have an abundance of love, kindness, and spirit. They appreciate life and what they have."

Currently there are three service learning programs. More service learning groups are welcome. Any faculty who is interested in starting a service learning group is welcome to talk to Dr. Isaac Addai.

*If you are interested in the program and would like more information, please contact Isaac Addai at 483-1491 or Leslie Hoover at 483-1439.*

*Note: Kevin Brown is the lead faculty for the trip this year because Isaac Addai is on sabbatical. Terry Libey will be co-leader of the trip this year, filling in for Leslie Hoover who has other commitments and won't be able to make the trip this summer. Leslie Hoover and Isaac Addai can still assist you, however, you may also contact Kevin Brown with questions at 483-1018*

## CTE Break and Summer Semester Hours

CTE Hours between Spring and Summer Semester (May 15 through June 1) will be as follows:  
*Monday through Friday:* 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

CTE Summer Semester Hours (beginning June 4 through ..... ) will be as follows:  
*Monday through Thursday:* 8 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.  
*Friday:* 8 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

## Get the Grades Out Week

### Through the CTE:

The CTE staff offers grade entry support on a drop-in basis in TLC 324. We offer the following extended hours during "get the grades out week."

### **Monday – Wednesday, May 7, 8, 9:**

8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, May 10**

8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

### **Friday, May 11**

8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

### **Monday, May 14**

8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

### **Tuesday, May 15**

8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. (grades due by 8 a.m.)

### **Wednesday – Friday, May 16, 17, 18**

8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

In addition, TLC 326 is reserved from Monday, May 7, through Monday, May 14, for you as a roomy and quiet place for you to work on end-of-the-semester grading, paperwork, and such.

### Through Organizational Development:

Organizational Development (OD) will offer the following online training for entering grades:

Faculty Class Lists and Grading (Online): The Faculty Class Lists and Grading (Online) training has been updated to reflect the upgrades in the new version of Oracle Student. This training includes information on accessing the Faculty Self Service System, viewing class lists, and entering grades. Registration for this online training is available in iLearning.

Additionally, OD will have an open lab for grade entry support on the West Campus on Monday, May 14, from 10:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. in U224.

# Focus on Faculty:

## Catherine Griffin

Catherine Griffin has been a member of the LCC Faculty since 1994. She is a member of the Developmental Math Department, where she teaches courses including Math 107, 112, and 121.

Before coming to LCC, Catherine spent seven years teaching at Bronson Jr./Sr. High School in Bronson, Michigan. After a few years of teaching, Catherine was named Chair of the Math Department. The faculty and staff of the Math Department at Bronson worked together to build a curriculum which resulted in the highest Math MEAP scores in the area. They later worked to acquire "block" scheduling for their students so that they would have time to work together on what they were taught. Catherine enjoys the two hour class periods at LCC because it allows for the same type of learning. As Catherine puts it, "...so they can actually do some mathematics in the classroom and be actively engaged in their learning, rather than just passively taking notes."

Catherine chose teaching as a career because of her experience with a terrible math teacher in high school. She was forced to teach herself the material, and ended up helping other students as well. That experience became the "seed" which made her choose teaching as a career. She now loves teaching and, according to Catherine, her favorite thing is, "...seeing the 'light bulb' come on when a student who was frustrated realizes that he/she CAN actually do the mathematics!"

Catherine was born in Maryland and raised in Michigan, graduating from Flushing High School, near Flint. She is single and, unfortunately, was recently saddened by the passing of her canine companion of 16 years, "Buddy". This five pound loyal companion traveled with her everywhere until his passing in January. In her free time, Catherine is active in her church, is a member of the Tri-County Bicycle Association, and enjoys spending time listening to books on tape during her daily commute. She used to enjoy bicycling, but a torn Achilles tendon put an end to that. She spends her summers on a deck boat on Jordan Lake in Lake Odessa and enjoys taking guests fishing, boating, tubing, and skiing.

When asked for a teaching tip, Catherine responded, "I find it incredibly helpful to have students work in groups. They can immediately try an example similar to the one I just worked on the board and help "tutor" one another through the concepts. I also use warm-up problems at the beginning of class that they can work together on. (Each student completes the warm-ups and turns in his/her answers along with the work shown.) This keeps them engaged while I check homework completion and answer individual questions from students. I don't help on the warm-ups, but they are allowed to work together and are allowed to look at their homework for help if necessary. Since warm-ups are graded, they have the additional benefit of getting students to class on time....After grading them, I have a good idea of any 'holes' in the learning process of the students and can 'clean up' during the next class period if necessary."

## Judy Allen

Judy Allen is in her 8th year as a faculty member of the Communication Department here at Lansing Community College where she teaches Writing 121 and Writing 122. Prior to joining LCC, she taught at Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

Recently, Judy and two colleagues presented a session on external grading of portfolios for Composition I and II at the 4Cs conference in New York City.

When asked why she chose teaching as a career, Judy responded, "I've always enjoyed all aspects of English...particularly writing. I also like young people, so by putting the two together – education seemed like a natural decision."

When asked what she likes most about teaching, Judy replied, "That's an easy answer – the students. I enjoy teaching students of different ages, races, nationalities, values, and perspectives. They all bring something unique and enjoyable to the classroom."

Judy was born and raised in Muskegon, Michigan, where she attended Western Michigan Christian High School. She went on to earn an Associates Degree at Muskegon Community College, a BA in English Education from Michigan State University, and a Master of Arts in Counselor Education from Central Michigan University.

Judy is a single parent of three daughters including Andi, Bethany, and Heather. She is active in her church and is a member of an organization called Moms In Touch International. In her free time, she enjoys attending her children's school events, exercising, getting together with friends, and reading for pleasure.

When it comes to teaching tips, Judy advises, "Be flexible. Stay Fresh. Have regular discussions with colleagues and don't be afraid to try new ideas. Above all, be positive and enjoy your students."



*Judy: Above, working at her desk.*

*Catherine: On the right with her nephews Zachary and Tyler.*





## The Center for Teaching Excellence Welcomes You!



### Teaching Incentive Grants

"The CTE Teaching Incentive Grant entirely funded the first year of the Capitol City Writing Institute, a three-day summer invitational institute for LCC developmental writing faculty. This summer institute idea had long been a dream for our writing faculty, and the CTE's generous support made it a reality. The institute was a huge success, and this summer (2007), the Department of Language Skills will be able to fund its continuation. Our hope is to turn the summer institute into a state-wide opportunity for developmental writing faculty that would generate revenue for Lansing Community College by its third year (2008). None of this would have been possible without the CTE's initial support."

### Jill Pennington

*Language Skills*

### Workshops

"I appreciate the CTE's uncanny ability to identify areas we're all struggling with (email quota, myriad ANGEL issues) and provide timely workshops in a collegial, non-threatening venue. I also really like John Thommen's continuing workshops and "timely tips" for mundane tasks such as working with Windows, spyware, etc. Thanks for making learning fun!"

### Lucy Smythe

*Radiologic Technology*

### Emailed synopsis of teaching publication

"Tracy, thank you so much for sending these highlights. I learn from them and take away ideas to consider every single time—and I love reading them (but don't have time to read the magazine). I continue to appreciate the wonderful job you do of offering support for teaching and learning. We are very, very fortunate to have you and your great team!"

### Roberta Peterson

*Health and Human Public Services*

If you're new to campus, or even if you've been here for a while but have never utilized the resources that are available to you....we'd like to roll out the red carpet this Spring and invite you to come and see what the CTE has available to help you in your quest for teaching excellence! We are pleased to offer a rich collection of resources including the following:

- Workshops
- Teaching circles
- Technology support
- Grade entry support
- Monthly Teaching Tips via email
- Hardware you can use in our office (laminator, color copier, scanner)
- Hardware you can check out (remote mice, digital & video cameras, CPS system)
- Software programs (for checkout and in-office use)
  - Library of Teaching Books and Resources
  - Teaching and Learning Journals/Publications
- 12-week seminar on teaching and learning
  - Teaching incentive grants
  - Sabbaticals on file for references
  - Lounge area for refreshment and rejuvenation
  - Workspace area

Look at what some of your colleagues have to say about how the CTE has helped them. Come on in and see what we can do to support your quest for teaching excellence! The CTE is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. We are located on the third floor of the TLC building in TLC 324.

### CTE Workspace & Lounge Area

"While I appreciate all of the resources that the CTE provides, one that I use most often would be the lounge area. As my carrel is small and awkward, I prefer to use the CTE as my "office space" for prepping and grading. Beyond the increase in comfort, I have come to look forward to seeing the staff members who are always ready to help with any of my questions or teaching-related questions. Perhaps most importantly, they foster a sense of community with their friendliness and generosity."

### Kim Cohen

*English*

### CTE Workspace & Lounge Area

"Our book discussion teaching circle was a great opportunity for our full-time and adjunct faculty to explore a new teaching methodology together as a group. It afforded us the opportunity to discuss curriculum issues in a way that would not have been possible without the teaching circle grant. We were able to discuss the application of ideas presented in the book, and we all received a valuable reference book to add to our professional libraries. I would highly recommend that faculty in every department take advantage of this wonderful resource on our campus."

### Denise Warner

*Language Skills*

### Faculty Orientation

Yesterday, I filled out the evaluation form for the Faculty Orientation will all high scores. However, I want to follow up that evaluation with a personal note of thanks. You did a fantastic job! Even though I have been an employee for almost a year, I learned many details about the systems that I was not aware of.

### Bernard Rochon

*Social Science*

# Noteworthy Accomplishments

**Dedria Humphries, Diane Goff, Judy Allen, and Marcy Bauman** of LCC's Writing Program, presented "Revealing our Identities: External Portfolio Assessment in the First-Year Writing Classroom" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in New York City, New York, on March 23, 2007.

**Martine Courant Rife, JD, Communication** has had the following peer reviewed articles published: (2007, Mar.). The professional email assignment or: [whatsyername@howyadoin.com](mailto:whatsyername@howyadoin.com). Teaching English in the Two Year College. (2007, May). Technical communicators and digital writing risk assessment. Technical Communication. (2007, June). The fair use doctrine: History, application, implications for (new media) writing teachers. Computers and Composition an International Journal. 24.2.

**Norb Kurtz, Communication Dept. Coordinator**, and occasional instructor of German, will lead a group of eight LCC Students on the Experience Germany exchange program, May 11-20, 2007. The ten-day trip involves home stays with students of KSN, a business school in Stuttgart, Germany. Highlights of the trip include visits to local businesses, hiking in the Austrian Alps, sight seeing at Lake Constance which borders Switzerland, Austria, and Germany, and an excellent farewell dinner high up in Castle Hohenzollern, not far from Stuttgart.

**Janice L. Barker, MS (Business Department)** has recently earned certification in medical office management from the Practice Management Institute of San Antonio, Texas. She was sponsored for this series by Michigan State University and Oakland Physician Network Services. Janice is an adjunct faculty member in the Business Department where she teaches medical office administration courses.

**Camille LaGuire, Media Arts and Information Technology** I've had a screenplay accepted into the Discovering New Mysteries festival. This mystery/drama festival accepts only six plays and six screenplays to be performed at the festival in June. My noir screenplay "Slayer of Clocks" will be performed several times during the festival in Radio Theater style. Other finalists include the likes of mystery writer Ed McBain, and William Link, the creator of "Columbo." Visit <http://newmysteries.org/> to learn more about the festival.

**Marc Thomas, Social Science Department Faculty**, has been named Chairperson of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. Marc is one of East Lansing's elected representatives on the Board of Commissioners, which oversees the county's \$75 million budget for local public safety and health services. Marc was selected by his colleagues to serve as chair for 2007. Marc teaches political science and has served as faculty advisor for the LCC Japan Adventure Program. He also serves as the Michigan Association of Higher Education Faculty Ombudsman and Grievance Officer

**Dina M. Krois, Social Science Department Faculty**, recently gave birth to a son, John Hayden Parham, on August 25, 2006. Her husband, John Parham, works at Davenport University as the Academic Dean of 12 campuses including the Lansing campus. Their new son, who they call JJ, (John, Jr. for short) joins their family, which also includes two dogs, Brandy and Kobi, and cat, Moe.

**Virginia M. Werner, Media, Art, and Information Technologies**, recently received her Master of Science in Information Technology with a specialization in System Design and Programming from Capella University.

**Marcia Rysztak, Health and Human Services**, has been elected president of the Michigan chapter of ACCESS, the American Associate Degree Early Childhood Educators. With this she will serve on the national board and has been accepted as a Peer Reviewer for the National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation Associate Degree Accreditation.



## Sabbaticals for 2006-2007

### Fall 06:

Arlena Hines  
Connie Meeker  
Jack Rotman  
Virginia Werner  
Michael Wright

### Spring 07:

Isaac Addai  
Gary Heisler  
Wanda Larrier  
Joe Warren  
Robert Welch



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Michelle Lindquist, Editor  
Darrin Higgins, Graphic Design

You are cordially invited to attend  
**Faculty Appreciation Day**

# *A Red Carpet Affair*

**Honoring 50 Years of Teaching Excellence**

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Open house 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

TLC 326

- Buffet will be served
- Caricatures by Dennis Preston
- Complimentary Chair Massages



- Slideshow of LCC "Then and Now"
- Display of Assessment Tools
- Interviews by Media Services

*Compliments of the Center for Teaching Excellence and the LCC Foundation*