Creating Futures

Normandale’s burgeoning AFA program is a model for 2-year colleges nationwide and has students choosing writing careers.

“Passionate about creative writing”

Normandale’s burgeoning AFA program is a model for 2-year colleges nationwide and has students choosing writing careers.

Left to right: Creative Writing program alums Kyle Adamson and Chris Kinniburgh, with program director Kris Bigalk
There is much excitement these days around Normandale Community College. The first of the three major construction projects was completed in August 2011 when the remodeled Kopp Student Center opened; the Parking Ramp will be completed this summer, as well as the Academic Partnership Center in January 2013. The three projects were celebrated with the community at the Grand Expansion ceremony in September.

We have had a number of other successful events this year. The Normandale Community College Foundation celebrated a successful 2011 Toast of the Town campaign, raising over $115,000 toward student scholarships and program support. Also, over 1,000 community members, faculty, staff and students participated in our third annual Success Day. More than 150 opportunities. Also included is a look at the rich history of our Creative Writing program, as well as successful alumni from this program.

We hope these stories will give a good capsule of where Normandale has been, and where it is going. This is an amazing time to be part of where Normandale has been, and where it is going. This is an amazing time to be part of Normandale campus community, and I hope this read will offer perspective and give an appreciation for this exciting time.

Joe Opatz
President
Normandale Community College
Welcome to the New Dean of STEM and Education

Dr. Cary Komoto was named Normandale’s Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and Education in January. Komoto has been a successful educator for over 20 years. He came to Normandale from the University of Wisconsin-Barron County in Rice Lake, Wis., starting in 1991 as an assistant professor in the Geography and Geology Department and eventually rising through the ranks to full professor. Komoto recently had chapters on teaching geography published in two different books.

Komoto also has an extensive record of service, including service to the discipline of geography at the national level, through shared governance in the UW Colleges and at UW Barron County, and to the Rice Lake community.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Komoto received his Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Geography at the University of Minnesota.

Campus Currents continued on page 13

Welcome to the New Director of Advising and Counseling

Torrion Amie came aboard as Normandale’s new Director of Advising and Counseling in December 2011. Amie worked previously at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls where he was the Assistant Director of the Academic Success Center since 2009. He oversaw eight programs for student success and retention in that position. Other positions include leadership in TRiO programs, including Assistant Director of Student Support Services at UW-River Falls from 2007-2009, and Upward Bound Coordinator at both Arlington High School in St. Paul, Minn. and UW-River Falls from 2006-2007.

Amie was an ad-hoc instructor at UW-River Falls (1998-2006 and 2010) and has worked extensively with students in Twin Cities-area K-12 schools. He has been an online instructor at Dakota County Technical College since 2009, and was an assistant track coach at UW-River Falls from 1999-2011.

Amie received a Master of Education degree from the University of Minnesota in Kinesiology, and a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from UW-River Falls.

A Look Back: Sara Durhman

One of the key fundraising events for Normandale’s Toast of the Town Challenge, which raised over $115,000 this year, is held at Mall of America (MOA). The Normandale Community College Foundation received a great deal of help and support from MOA Community Relations Manager Sara Durhman, who is a Normandale alumna.

Normandale says Durhman was a great fit for her because of the quality of the Event Management and Hospitality program. “While I was at Normandale I really found my calling and passion—being detail oriented, and learning the whole process of event planning,” said Durhman. “I enjoyed everything about the Hospitality program, and it was rewarding to move forward and use the skills I learned to help the community.”

After earning her Associate Degree in Hospitality Management, Durhman started working for the March of Dimes in Southeast Minnesota as an event planner, and was eventually promoted to locations with larger walk sites. Durham moved on to an event manager position with the education foundation for the Minneapolis Public School District called Achieve Minneapolis.

She held that position for nearly five years before joining Mall of America in May 2011. Her first day at MOA gave her a flavor of the fast pace and excitement that come with working at such a high-profile location, as they hosted March of Dimes’ “Race for the Cure,” an event with over 60,000 participants that raised millions of dollars. At that point, Durhman realized the impact that Mall of America’s many events have on the community and how rewarding the position she held would be.

Durhman really enjoyed the experience of working with the Normandale Community College Foundation on the Toast of the Town Challenge, and especially being part of an event that gives back to the students who are part of the place that helped lead her to such a rewarding career.
KOPP STUDENT CENTER
The place to connect

Normandale Community College is one of the most crowded campuses in the MnSCU system—not only when it comes to classes, but also event and meeting spaces. With over 40 student clubs and organizations, along with many community events going on around campus, it was important to add quality spaces for those events and many other activities. That is one of many reasons why the remodeled Kopp Student Center’s opening last August was a welcome addition to campus.

“The Kopp Student Center has generated a great deal of excitement since its opening in late August,” said Kopp Student Center Director Chris Mikkelsen. “Students are continuing to discover the new space and the feedback has been extremely positive. Students have made the Kopp Student Center their place to connect with classmates and faculty. They come here for a variety of reasons; whether it is to simply grab a bite to eat or utilize the many services, the energy here is always vibrant.”

Centralized services in one location
The Kopp Student Center has also centralized many of Normandale’s services into one building. This allows students to tend to many of their needs without leaving the campus. The main desk, Kopp Central, is where you can get questions answered, bus passes, campus IDs, games equipment rental, etc., and is where staff offices are located. In August, the Normandale Campus Store (formerly called the Normandale Bookstore) relocated from the College Services building to the Kopp Student Center. The result has been an increase in both traffic and sales volume. Having more space allowed the Campus Store to expand its services: it now has a bigger retail hub, a separate area devoted to technological needs, and a separate spot for textbook purchases and returns.

Just inside Kopp Student Center’s upper level main entrance, is the home of the US Bank branch. Normandale is the first community college in the Twin Cities to have a bank branch in its student center. The branch provides the convenience of banking and associated financial services right on campus.

If you are in the Kopp Student Center around the noon hour, you will notice a rush of students heading in many different directions. Students have packed the 98th Street Café to take advantage of the many great items on the menu, thanks to a great partnership between Normandale and Lancer Hospitality. Food selections include a consistent menu of sandwiches, pastas, soups and salads, a taco bar, pizzas, assorted beverages and many other great items, including daily specials. In addition, Lancer provides snacks, sandwiches, tea, coffee and tasty desserts at the Overlook. Lancer also offers catering services for any event.

Centralized services in one location
The Kopp Student Center has also centralized many of Normandale’s services into one building. This allows students to tend to many of their needs without leaving the campus. The main desk, Kopp Central, is where you can get questions answered, bus passes, campus IDs, games equipment rental, etc., and is where staff offices are located. In August, the Normandale Campus Store (formerly called the Normandale Bookstore) relocated from the College Services building to the Kopp Student Center. The result has been an increase in both traffic and sales volume. Having more space allowed the Campus Store to expand its services: it now has a bigger retail hub, a separate area devoted to technological needs, and a separate spot for textbook purchases and returns.

Just inside Kopp Student Center’s upper level main entrance, is the home of the US Bank branch. Normandale is the first community college in the Twin Cities to have a bank branch in its student center. The branch provides the convenience of banking and associated financial services right on campus.

If you are in the Kopp Student Center around the noon hour, you...
You may see groups relaxing around a game of pool, an informal breakdance match, a game of hacky-sack or ping pong.

**Overlooking the beautiful Japanese Garden**

The Normandale Japanese Garden is one of the true treasures of the Bloomington community. Situated right next to one another, the Kopp Student Center and Japanese Garden can provide a great combination for any celebration, ceremony, meeting or gathering. The tranquil beauty of the garden and the variety of services available in the Kopp Student Center can provide the complete package for any event.

The Overlook is another multi-purpose area of Kopp Student Center that has a gorgeous birds-eye view of the Japanese Garden and wetlands beyond it. Alongside the Overlook is a tiered space where performance-centered events such as movies, spoken word, musical acts and karaoke are held.

**Students a priority via clubs and organizations**

The space versatility and variety of services that the Kopp Student Center provides has opened up many different options for Normandale’s campus. But most importantly, the Kopp Student Center is there to serve its most important population—the students.

From the beginning planning stages to the opening in August 2011, the remodeling of the Kopp Student Center has been a process that has heavily involved the student population. As a large portion of the $14.6 million project was funded by student fees, the presidents of the Normandale Program Board, Phi Theta Kappa and Student Senate were part of the many meetings that went into the planning of the facility.

What resulted was a student-friendly facility that has expanded opportunities across the board for Normandale’s student clubs and organizations.

Just inside the main upstairs entrance of the Kopp Student Center is a group of offices belong to the Center for Multicultural Services. The Center sets up many of diversity-related events that Normandale hosts for its student population and the surrounding community.

Headquarters for student clubs and organizations (dubbed Club Central) is located in a highly visible, prime area of the Kopp Student Center. This allows for better interaction and exposure for these clubs and organizations with the student body. A spacious common area where the clubs and organizations work with each other on various projects leads into the main meeting room (featuring an expansive view of the Japanese Garden) and other adjoining meeting rooms. The area is always bustling with activity.

“Club Central has become an unbelievable space for meeting and collaboration among student leaders,” said Student Life Coordinator Liz Sabel. “With the common and open space, it has created more visibility for student involvement and we have seen a spike in club and organization membership. The atmosphere surrounding these student groups is incredible.”

**Students and community reap benefits**

When a student arrives at Normandale, one of the goals is to help them improve as a person inside and outside the classroom, and to prepare them for their next step in life. With the space, services and other amenities the Kopp Student Center provides, both students and the community now have a more complete and satisfying college experience.
Kris Bigalk, Director of Creative Writing, designed the program, which is the first in the country to follow the Hallmarks of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). Bigalk has served as president of the AWP Two Year College Caucus, and mentions that Normandale’s Creative Writing program is held up as a cornerstone program around the country and region; several other two-year colleges have launched AFA programs based on its design.

Strong beginnings

Creative writing courses started at Normandale in the early 1970s. Normandale Creative Writing instructor Ken Hokeness founded the Eidolon literary magazine. In 1977, Patsy Lea Core, one of Hokeness’ students, passed away from cancer. Hokeness teamed up with her husband to start the Patsy Lea Core Memorial Award in 1979. The award has become a linchpin of the Creative Writing program, and to date has been awarded to 63 different students for their works of poetry, fiction, memoirs and short stories.

In those early days, there was a committee of faculty and students to manage the award, including Cary Waterman, TRIO programs director and a published poet who helped manage scholarships and activities; and Chet Corey, who helped teach Creative Writing classes and managed activities as well.

Birth of the AFA

Bigalk was hired in 1999, right around the time Corey and Hokeness were retiring. That year, Bigalk and Patrick O’Donnell taught Intro to Creative Writing, and soon thereafter added Fiction and Poetry Writing classes to the curriculum. After two years of solid enrollment, Play and Screenwriting was added.

In 2006-07 Bigalk went on sabbatical and helped design the AFA degree program, which included securing articulation agreements with BFA in Creative Writing programs at MSU-Mankato, Bemidji State University, and Hamline University. There are now six to eight different instructors teaching classes in the program.

Program spawns more activities

Normandale also offers several extracurricular opportunities for students, which give students the opportunity to interact with and form writing communities outside of class. The Normandale Reading Series, curated by instructor and poet Matt Mauch, brings well-known fiction writers and poets to campus to read their work and interact with students. The Creative Writing Club, advised by instructor and poet Lynette Reini-Grandell, provides students with the opportunity to edit the new campus literary magazine, the Paper Lantern, which is published every semester. (A recent estate gift by Normandale alumnus Kevin Downey provided funding for software to publish the magazine online.) Tom Maltman, instructor and novelist, founded the Normandale Writing Festival several years ago. Now coordinated by the Writing Center Action Committee, the Festival features workshops and readings on all types of writing.

The opportunities in the Creative Writing program continue to grow. Throughout its history, the program has produced many accomplished writers. With a strong curriculum and a backbone of committed instructors who themselves are pros in the field, the program will continue to have many more success stories in the future.
KYLE ADAMSON
Kyle Adamson always knew he wanted to go to college, but he didn’t feel ready to go after high school. Adamson opted to go into the Marines for the next four years.

He arrived at Normandale knowing he wanted to focus on a subject that dealt with the humanities. Once Adamson started taking Creative Writing courses, he could tell it was a good fit. Adamson realized when he took Elements of Poetry with instructor Kris Bigalk he was interested in writing poetry. “I noticed I was more passionate about Creative Writing classes than some of the others I was taking,” said Adamson. “Doing the work never seemed taxing, because the interest was always there.”

In 2010, Adamson submitted a poem called “Debriefing,” which was a semi-satirical, biographical look at his experiences in the Iraq War. The poem was one of nine to win the national AWP (Associate of Writers and Writing Programs) Intro to Journals award. Adamson was the only community college student to win the award.

Adamson is scheduled to finish his bachelor’s degree in Creative Writing at Hamline University following fall semester 2012, and will be serving on a panel that will discuss the transition in going from a two-year to a four-year Creative Writing program.

TERESA KLOTZ
“...I’ve been professionally successful for my entire adult life. However, my lack of a (college) degree turned out to be a huge hurdle,” says Teresa Klotz. She decided to enroll at Normandale, then transfer to a four-year school for her BA. She registered for Intro to Creative Writing her first semester. The instructor, Tom Maltman, convinced her that being a writer is a “practical and worthwhile pursuit, not just a hobby.”

Klotz applied, and was accepted into the Creative Writing AFA program. “It’s very exciting to watch my writing consistently improve with each class,” she says. “Normandale also fosters a writer-friendly environment beyond the classroom. All of the professors I’ve had have been approachable and honest about their process as writers. I’ve attended a variety of author readings, right on campus.”

EMILY KLEHR
Emily Klehr developed a passion for writing in junior high school, and always found it to be an easy way to express her feelings. When she arrived at Normandale, Klehr was immediately drawn to the Creative Writing track. She notes that her experiences in the program and at Normandale have helped her become a stronger writer, and a more confident person outside of the classroom.

Klehr recently took a position in the Tutoring Center, and has found it to be a fulfilling place to help other students improve their writing. She will graduate from Normandale with an AFA in Creative Writing in May and move on as one of the three initial members of the Hamline Honors Program.

“The Creative Writing program at Normandale really helped me gain experience with different styles of writing,” said Klehr. “My writing has progressed a great deal since my time at Normandale, because of the quality instructors and the variety of the content they teach. With the background I have gained in this program, I feel fully prepared for my next step in the Creative Writing program at Hamline.”

CHRIS KINNIBURGH
Chris Kinniburgh has always had the attitude of being open to new things. It was a mindset instilled in him by his parents as he was growing up. During that time, Kinniburgh’s family moved around to Canada, England, Minnesota, Greece and back to Minnesota. When his family moved to Greece, Kinniburgh felt inspired to write, so much so that he did it in Greek (not his native language).

When he arrived at Normandale, Kinniburgh had planned on being an English/Physics major. However, once he took Kris Bigalk’s Intro to Creative Writing he changed his mind. “Kris was able to motivate me to achieve something cool,” said Kinniburgh. “She built up my confidence, which really helped my writing.”

Kinniburgh received the Patty Lea Core Award for his poetry in 2010. After Normandale, he moved on to the Creative Writing program at Hamline University. Though at Hamline, he continued to make contributions to Normandale through an internship in which he helped transition the Paper Lantern from print to an online format.

Kinniburgh is now looking at law schools to attend when he finishes his bachelor’s at Hamline. He is thankful for how much his Creative Writing background helps his legal writing. He also credits his Normandale instructors for helping him stay on track, despite some early challenges.
CAMPUS currents

TUTORING CENTER REVAMPED, REOPENS IN NEW LOCATION

As part of the ongoing efforts to support the success of students, Normandale opened a new integrated Tutoring Center in January. It combines the tutoring and support services of the Academic Support Center, the Writing Center and the EAP (English for Academic Purposes) Tutoring Center.

The Tutoring Center provides services in math, writing, sciences, logic, reading, EAP (English for Academic Purposes), world languages and more. Those services are used in a variety of formats, including Peer Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, Online Tutoring, Study Skills Material and Make-Up Testing.

On February 6, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony that involved the Center's key staff and Normandale administrators. President Joe Opatz, Vice Presidents Lisa Wheeler and Julie Gaethlich, Director of Students with Disabilities Debbie Tillman, tutor and Supplemental Instruction leader Adam Perry and student Kuei Marial, who has used EAP and Writing Center services, all spoke at the event.

From left: President Joe Opatz; tutors Adam Perry, John DiCicco, John Rosenow, Mike Paulson, and Devona Brown (in front, with daughter Isis).

CREATING FUTURES MAGAZINE GARNERS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Normandale received top honors for Best Magazine (for Creating Futures magazine) and Best Postcard Design at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 Conference in Omaha, Neb. The NCPR Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges in various regions across the U.S. It is the only competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.

In all, the college claimed four Medallion awards—the two gold awards, a silver award for billboard design and a bronze award for Normandale magazine. Last year, Normandale took the top prize in the nation for Best Logo Design at NCPR’s Paragon Awards in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

NORMANDALE AMONG TOP THREE FINALISTS FOR TECH AWARD

Normandale Community College was one of three finalists in the Innovative Collaboration of the Year category for the 2011 Tekne Awards held on November 3. The Tekne Awards recognize Minnesota companies and individuals who have shown superior technology and leadership. The selection as a finalist for the award highlighted the Normandale Community College Foundation’s efforts with the college to form the Academy of Math and Science.

Through those efforts, the Academy has successfully addressed the need to increase workforce in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields by attracting high school students through their guidance counseling, science and math teachers. Once students are in the Academy program, Normandale provides support to help them earn their associate degree and continue on to pursue a bachelor’s or advanced degree in the STEM field.

Since the program was implemented in 2006-07, two Academy students have been awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship and another was selected as a National Fellow of the Pearson Prize for Higher Education. Forty-four Academy students have successfully transferred to pursue their degree, and a number of them have gone on to be part of the U of M’s Future Doctors of Minnesota program. Many of these students would not have been able to attend college without financial support or would have dropped out without the mentoring support of the Academy.

As part of its commitment to STEM education, Normandale is the only community college in the state of Minnesota that is a Project Lead the Way Community College Associate. It currently partners with Bloomington, Burnsville, Eden Prairie, Minneapolis and Richfield to identify and recruit high school students to pursue a career in STEM fields, attend Normandale and enroll in the Academy.

IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING, REIMAGINED IN CERAMIC TILE, UNVEILED

The French impressionist painter Andre’ Derain’s masterpiece The Turning Road, L’Estaque has been re-immortalized by Normandale’s staff, faculty and students, as part of Normandale Foundation’s Toast of the Town Challenge 2011. Team smART spearheaded the ceramic tile project by marshalling participants to each paint their own tile, reflecting the image of a small part of the classic painting. The tiles were then kiln-baked and mounted on permanent display in the Activities Building. This art project is the fifth in a series to be on display in the college. (For more on Toast of the Town, see page 2-3.)
**STUDENTS PRESENT FAVORITE INSTRUCTORS WITH GOLDEN APPLE**

Faculty, staff and students packed the Kopp Student Center’s Multi-Purpose Room for the Golden Apple Award ceremony in February. At the event, which is organized every semester by Phi Theta Kappa honor society, over 140 students recognized 52 individual instructors who influenced them in a positive way by presenting them with an “Apple” certificate. “The event is a great way to celebrate the significant relationships students and instructors develop during their time at Normandale,” said Bernard Akem, Phi Theta Kappa president.

**Communications instructor Willie Johnson receives Golden Apple recognition from student William Anderson, left.**

**Chemistry instructor Carolyn Wanamaker (foreground) awaits start of ceremony with colleagues.**

**Instructors honored**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAY ANDERSON</td>
<td>psychology</td>
<td>ANGELA EFFERTZ, physical science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMES BAGLOE</td>
<td>mathematics/computer science</td>
<td>CHRISTOPHER ENNEH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBERT BARRIS, biology</td>
<td></td>
<td>STEPHEN EVETT, accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEPHEN BARTLETT, biology</td>
<td></td>
<td>RACHEL FORCE, chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORRINNE BIDECARRIE, philosophy</td>
<td></td>
<td>JAMES FRANKENFIELD, communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARA BEEMAN Hass oulni, world languages and cultures</td>
<td></td>
<td>SHELLEY FRESE, communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARINA BEINCO, biology</td>
<td></td>
<td>CAROL FUNG KEE FNG, chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL BEMMER, English</td>
<td></td>
<td>ANNA GADEL, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRIS BIGALK, English</td>
<td></td>
<td>ROBERT GRONEMAN, music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARRY BORGEN, business</td>
<td></td>
<td>JEFFRY HEIS, music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHARD BROWN, English</td>
<td></td>
<td>JENNIFER ISAAC, communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAN BYRD, theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td>MARC JAROS, music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOYCE CAREY, communications</td>
<td></td>
<td>EVAN JOHNSON, communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIE JOHNSON, communications</td>
<td></td>
<td>WILLIAM JURNERTY, biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAYLE CARLSON, biology</td>
<td></td>
<td>DEBORAH KELLOGG, world languages and culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JONH CHRISTOPHERSON, English</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELIZABETH KLAGES, political science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUGLAS CLAYCOMB, psychology</td>
<td></td>
<td>RENA KOHARI ARSLAN, mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANCY CLAYCOMB, sociology</td>
<td></td>
<td>HATTIE DOMIBROSKI, biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATT DEMPSEY, mathematics</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELIZABETH LONGLEY, chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUKE DILLON, English</td>
<td></td>
<td>BERNARD MARCZ, history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMAS MALTMAN, English</td>
<td></td>
<td>LINDA RAASCH, psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARIM MAAMADOU, mathematics</td>
<td></td>
<td>DAVID RAYSON, history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINETTE MANIER, education</td>
<td></td>
<td>BRIDGET REIGSTAD, psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOSEPH MCCULLOUGH, geology</td>
<td></td>
<td>MICHAEL REUTER, biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNA MEJKS, English</td>
<td></td>
<td>DONI REDNICK, chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAIG MILLER, business, management and marketing</td>
<td></td>
<td>AWA ROSENBLUM, history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUSAKO MURBO, world languages and cultures</td>
<td></td>
<td>LAZARE ROTTACH, art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARLES NIKLES, psychology</td>
<td></td>
<td>TONY SAPFORD, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACK NORTON, history</td>
<td></td>
<td>GRETCHEN SCHERR-LEBKE, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIM OWEN, world languages and cultures</td>
<td></td>
<td>KURT SCHMIDT-MADIT, theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASH PATEL, accounting</td>
<td></td>
<td>BARNIE SMITH, mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVID PATES, English</td>
<td></td>
<td>KIVBERLEY SOCHA, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINDA PERCIK, sociology</td>
<td></td>
<td>JACK STACK, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOANNA PROKTOMSKA, chemistry</td>
<td></td>
<td>DEREK STEELE, physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARK PLUNK, marketing</td>
<td></td>
<td>THOMAS SUNDIKIT, mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMES POLZIN, computer science</td>
<td></td>
<td>BROOKE THADEN KOCH, sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANIEL PLESS, nursing</td>
<td></td>
<td>ANDREW TIL, psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATHERINE PULLING, world languages and cultures</td>
<td></td>
<td>RON WARD, geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINDA RAASCH, psychology</td>
<td></td>
<td>MICHAEL WARTMAN, communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DAVID RAYSON, history       |                                              |                | **FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2011-2012**

Normandale boasts accomplished faculty and staff who have been singled out for recognition in their respective disciplines. Listed below are some of the honors received over the past year.

**JENNY HANSON**, IMS Trainer and faculty member, was listed as one of the two-year college Distinguished Educators for 2012 by the Instructional Technology Council (ITC). Hanson was one of only 15 faculty members to be honored nationally, and was one of only three from the state of Minnesota to receive the award.

Creative Writing Instructor KRIS BIGALK, Economics Instructor BROOKS HERBBOLDT, Psychology Instructor LINDA RAASCH and Art Instructor MARTHA WITTSTRUCK were designated as 2012 Board of Trustees Outstanding Educators by Normandale President Joe Opitz.

**COLLEEN BRICKLE**, Dean of Health Sciences, was named one of the Top 25 Women in Dentistry in the September 2011 issue of Dental Products Report.

History Instructor ROBERT FRAME was named a finalist for the Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, which is given by the American Historical Association. Frame was nominated by a Normandale student for the honor.

**SUNNY AINLEY**, Associate Dean of Health and Wellness Programs, received a 2011 Exemplary Program Award from the Minnesota Council for Continuing Education and Customized Training for her work with the Minnesota Health Information Technology Program. This award is given to only one program/project across the state each year.

**CATHERINE “CAPPY” BREUER**, Dean of Student Affairs, received the Special Achievement Award by the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA). Awarded since 1991, Breuer was the 18th individual to receive the honor, and only the fifth recipient as an individual representing a college. JANE EBBELE and ANGELA PROEH of the Financial Aid Office were also recognized—Erbele for 10 years of service, Proehl for five years of service.

Art Department Chair MARTHA WITTSTRUCK and the Normandale Pottery Club were awarded the “Most Creative and Longest Running Food Drive” by the Minnesota Book Award for Best Novel and Short Story. Reimringer was one of eight Honors students, and only the fifth recipient as an individual representing a college. JANE EBBELE and ANGELA PROEH of the Financial Aid Office were also recognized—Erbele for 10 years of service, Proehl for five years of service.

Art Department Chair MARTHA WITTSTRUCK and the Normandale Pottery Club were awarded the “Most Creative and Longest Running Food Drive” by the Minnesota Book Award for Best Novel and Short Story. Reimringer was one of eight Honors students, and only the fifth recipient as an individual representing a college. JANE EBBELE and ANGELA PROEH of the Financial Aid Office were also recognized—Erbele for 10 years of service, Proehl for five years of service.

Art Department Chair MARTHA WITTSTRUCK and the Normandale Pottery Club were awarded the “Most Creative and Longest Running Food Drive” by the Minnesota Book Award for Best Novel and Short Story. Reimringer was one of eight Honors students, and only the fifth recipient as an individual representing a college. JANE EBBELE and ANGELA PROEH of the Financial Aid Office were also recognized—Erbele for 10 years of service, Proehl for five years of service.

Art Department Chair MARTHA WITTSTRUCK and the Normandale Pottery Club were awarded the “Most Creative and Longest Running Food Drive” by the Minnesota Book Award for Best Novel and Short Story. Reimringer was one of eight Honors students, and only the fifth recipient as an individual representing a college. JANE EBBELE and ANGELA PROEH of the Financial Aid Office were also recognized—Erbele for 10 years of service, Proehl for five years of service.
For the first time in over a decade, Normandale Community College has a unique opportunity for you to leave a lasting legacy by naming a room in honor of an individual, family, business or in memory of your loved ones. The Normandale Community College campus has undergone a grand expansion over the past few years to accommodate the growing number of students needing a college education. Today, Normandale educates over 15,000 students annually. That is twice as many students as 10 years ago.

It is projected that by 2018, 70% of all Minnesota jobs will require some education. You can partner with Normandale to meet this growing need of educated workers while leaving a lasting legacy. Naming opportunities exist for spaces providing an affordable, quality college education. Currently only 40% of Minnesota adults between the ages of 18 and 19 are college-educated. That is twice as many students as 10 years ago.

The Normandale Community College Foundation recently received a grant from the Donaldson Foundation for $55,000. The generous contribution is in support of STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math) including scholarships for Academy of Math and Science students and new equipment to enhance Normandale’s Fabrication Laboratory. Established in 1966, the Donaldson Foundation funds charitable causes on behalf of Donaldson Company, Inc. of Bloomington, a leading worldwide provider of filtration systems. The U.S. Department of Labor and Statistics is projecting 60% of all new jobs created in the next ten years will be in STEM-based fields. Yet the number of students enrolling and graduating in STEM fields is falling far short of the increasing demand. Normandale is successfully addressing the need to increase this workforce by first attracting and then supporting students to earn their degree by offering innovative programs that transform education and deliver high impact results consistent with the needs of our students.

After 42 years teaching Normandale students, chemistry instructor Dr. Don Reznicek is retiring. To honor this legacy, the Chemistry Department Scholarship has been renamed to the Don Reznicek Chemistry Scholarship. This scholarship helps students taking second-year chemistry classes.

Do you have special words of thanks for Dr. Reznicek, great pictures or stories to share? A memory book is being compiled which will be presented to Dr. Reznicek at the end of the school year. Email them to the alumni office at alumni@normandale.edu or mail to Alumni Office – C 2117, Normandale Community College, 9700 France Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431.

Academies are being developed to further enhance students’ educational experience and provide more opportunities for students to prepare for their careers. To honor this legacy, the Chemistry instructor Don Reznicek (right) shares a laugh with student Emily Gray.

**SCHOLARSHIP RENAMED IN HONOR OF LONGTIME INSTRUCTOR**

**DONALDSON PRESENTS GRANT IN SUPPORT OF STEM EDUCATION**

Normandale Community College Foundation recently received a grant from the Donaldson Foundation for $55,000. The generous contribution is in support of STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math) including scholarships for Academy of Math and Science students and new equipment to enhance Normandale’s Fabrication Laboratory. Established in 1966, the Donaldson Foundation funds charitable causes on behalf of Donaldson Company, Inc. of Bloomington, a leading worldwide provider of filtration systems. The U.S. Department of Labor and Statistics is projecting 60% of all new jobs created in the next ten years will be in STEM-based fields. Yet the number of students enrolling and graduating in STEM fields is falling far short of the increasing demand. Normandale is successfully addressing the need to increase this workforce by first attracting and then supporting students to earn their degree by offering innovative programs that transform education and deliver high impact results consistent with the needs of our students.

Normandale’s Academy of Math and Science is a two-year development program for students majoring in STEM disciplines. The Academy supports students using a three-pillar system: professional mentoring/advising, cohort meetings and activities, and financial scholarship support. $20,000 of the Donaldson grant will be used to support Academy student scholarships.

Normandale recently signed an articulation agreement with Minnesota State University–Mankato (MSU) to offer a four-year Bachelor of Science in General Engineering degree on our campus to be housed in the new Academic Partnership Center currently under construction. $15,000 of the Donaldson grant will be used to enhance the college’s existing Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab).

To offer STEM students more options in the metro area, Normandale recently signed an articulation agreement with Minnesota State University–Mankato (MSU) to offer a four-year Bachelor of Science in General Engineering degree on our campus to be housed in the new Academic Partnership Center currently under construction. $15,000 of the Donaldson grant will be used to enhance the college’s existing Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab).

The goal of a well-equipped Fab Lab is to actively engage students and motivate them to continue their studies for a career in STEM. The MSU general engineering degree will use a project-based learning model which has been shown to be more effective in retaining students than a more traditional lecture-exam model. New Fab Lab equipment will enhance existing courses and familiarize students with the equipment in lower division courses. This will provide a solid base for the design work of the upper-level engineering courses to be offered beginning Fall 2013. The Academy of Math and Science and a well-equipped Fab Lab are two Normandale initiatives that enhance the college’s already strong STEM curriculum and contribute to a paradigm shift in the approach to education. To fill the growing need for new STEM professionals, both programs link course activity to student engagement and, ultimately, to student success by creating more STEM graduates.

Normandale’s Academy of Math and Science is a two-year development program for students majoring in STEM disciplines. The Academy supports students using a three-pillar system: professional mentoring/advising, cohort meetings and activities, and financial scholarship support. $20,000 of the Donaldson grant will be used to support Academy student scholarships.

**WELCOME TO NEW NORMANDALE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS**

The Normandale Community College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to provide philanthropic resources to help Normandale achieve its full potential as a college. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of community and business leaders, Normandale faculty and staff.

Several new members have joined the Board:

- **JOHN ETCHISON**, Technology Executive, UnitedHealth Group
- **BETH HEINZ**, Vice President, Operations, Regions Hospital
- **LORI MATHIOWETZ**, Business Development, HGA Architects
- **RYN MELBERG**, Independent IT executive and management consultant
- **SANU PATEL-ZELINGER**, Senior Manager, International Merchandising, Best Buy
Creating Futures

Volume 8, Number 1

SCHOLARSHIP AND DONOR EVENT — CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES

On February 16, over 240 students and donors came together to celebrate the academic success of our scholarship recipients and thank donors for their generous support toward creating brighter futures for Normandale students.

After a reception where student scholarship recipients met with their scholarship donors, the event moved into the auditorium for a short program. Carolyn Pratt, chair of the Normandale Community College Foundation, shared that over $376,000 was distributed last year in scholarships, emergency aid, campus improvements and programs.

Students attending Normandale are members of our future workforce and leaders. By supporting their education, we invest not only in their personal future but the future of our state, our country and our world. The Normandale Foundation would like to thank all of our donors for helping provide these students with a quality education and creating a brighter future for us all.