Schoolcraft Celebrates Walsh Legacy

On January 28th, 2009, Schoolcraft College and the Schoolcraft College Foundation paid homage to John J. Walsh, former Executive Director of Development, Government Relations and CEO of the Schoolcraft College Foundation, as he prepared to embark on his new career as State Representative for the 19th District of Michigan.

Walsh, a former member of the board of trustees during the 90’s, began working for the College in 2001. He brought with him the wealth of knowledge and professional experience gained during his 15 years as a corporate attorney and also a deep sense of devotion to the community, honed by his commitment to Livonia’s Chamber of Commerce, City Council and Economic Development Partnership.

During his tenure at Schoolcraft, Walsh’s role expanded beyond oversight of the Schoolcraft College Foundation and Government Relations. His responsibilities eventually included overseeing the VisTaTech Center operations, the Culinary Arts program, The American Harvest Restaurant, Main Street Café, and Schoolcraft Food Service operations including Henry’s Food Court. In addition to his vast administrative roles and responsibilities, he also taught a political science course.

Among Walsh’s proudest accomplishments was the successful opening of the VisTaTech Center in 2003 and its continued growth and success as a community resource. The Schoolcraft College Foundation also grew and prospered under Walsh’s watch. When he became CEO of the Foundation the endowment funds were valued at $9.2 million. By 2008, the endowment had reached a value of $11.5 million. The endowment’s growth enabled the Foundation to donate $1.5 million to the College towards the construction of the BioMedical Technology Center, which opened in the fall of 2008.

In recognition of Walsh’s contributions and commitment to Schoolcraft’s success, the Foundation Board of Governors established an endowment fund in his honor. Prior to Walsh’s departure, individual Foundation Board members, community leaders, and Walsh’s friends and family all contributed to the fund. The endowment fund, which was kept a secret from Walsh for several months, was announced much to his surprise at a special campus celebration in his honor on January 28th, 2009.

Gifts made to the John J. Walsh Scholarship Endowment will be held in perpetuity. The interest earned on the fund will be used to support students who would otherwise be unable to afford attending college...a fitting tribute to Walsh’s legacy at Schoolcraft College and one of his passionate beliefs.

Although he will miss the day to day experiences of doing great work for the college, Walsh plans to stay closely connected to Schoolcraft. He plans to be an active volunteer with the Foundation, as well as teach political science courses. He has also pledged to continue his avid support of Schoolcraft College and community colleges throughout the state in his new role serving the residents of the 19th District in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Those who wish to make a pledge or a contribution to the John J. Walsh Scholarship Endowment or to the Schoolcraft College Foundation are asked to contact Reginald Best, Director of the Schoolcraft College Foundation, at 734-462-4689.

Front row from left to right: Guy Gehlert, James Fausone, Maureen Foley, Martha Snow, John Walsh, George Grafe, Ray Friedrich, Abe Munjakh, Dr. Conway Jeffress
Back row from left to right: Thomas Marek, Craig Bowles, Ed Schulz, John Bowen, Jim Jabara, Bob Farris, Jane Thomas, Elizabeth Johnson (hidden)
New Faces

When John Walsh departed Schoolcraft College to assume his responsibilities as a State Representative earlier this year, he was able to do so with great confidence as he handed his administrative responsibilities over to Dr. Jim Ryan.

Ryan spent several months preparing for his new role as Executive Director of Development and Government Relations under the astute tutelage of his predecessor, John Walsh. Armed with 38 years of experience in K-12 public education, Ryan looks forward to meeting the unique challenges that face community colleges and his role in helping poise Schoolcraft to take advantage of opportunities to serve the needs of its surrounding communities.

Ryan’s professional experience includes serving in a variety of educational and administrative roles for a number of Michigan school districts including Reed City, Taylor, and Lansing Waverly. Most recently, he served as Superintendent of Plymouth Canton Community Schools. After 7 years with PCCS, Ryan retired in February of 2008, but retirement didn’t last long as he was quickly targeted by Dr. Conway Jeffress, President of Schoolcraft College, to lead Development and Government Relations for the College. Ryan also assumes responsibility for VisTaTech operations, the Culinary Arts Program, and Schoolcraft Food Service operations including Henry’s Food Court.

While his professional experience to date has prepared him well for his new responsibilities, Ryan feels he has had the opportunity to learn a great deal over the past few months. “No one can ever fill John Walsh’s shoes, but moving forward, I feel very confident that with the solid foundation established by John and his staff, the commitment of the Foundation Board of Governors’ and its volunteers, and the support of the administration of the College, we will continue to experience great success.”

Ryan and his wife Kathy, a retired special education teacher, have been married 22 years. Both are very active in their church and enjoy spending time with their 2 children and 6 grandchildren.

Reginald Best joined the Development staff as Director of Development and CEO of the Foundation in September of 2008. Having served in a number of development roles at Eastern Michigan University, University of Chicago, and Wayne State University, Best brings with him 17 years of fundraising experience and a wealth of ideas and opportunities for Schoolcraft to explore.

“Four year universities and colleges have been involved in development activities for decades, some for a century and more. Community colleges are just coming of age, especially as it relates to garnering financial support from alumni and the community to support scholarships, programs and services. Schoolcraft is poised to take advantage of the best practices of four year universities and we are ready to raise the bar away from dependence on special event fundraising to a more individualized, donor driven major gift focus.”

In addition to overseeing the development functions of the Foundation, Best will play an important role in state governmental relations. He will serve as an advocate for Schoolcraft College in the important decision-making processes that affect funding, and program and service opportunities the College provides for students and the community.

A lifelong resident of Michigan, Best and his wife Chera have two children and reside in Southfield. Best is graduate of Bishop Borgess High School and Wayne State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Psychology and a Master’s in Education. He is also a graduate of the Indiana University School of Philanthropy.

Summing up his vision for the Schoolcraft College Foundation, Best says, “As a Foundation, we are looking forward to indentifying ways to provide people who love and support Schoolcraft College the opportunity to give back to the College. We want to encourage them to become engaged in a variety of ways that interest them and to continue to support the good works of the college, our students and the community.”
Foundation Grants Total $84,704

The Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors awarded 17 grants to faculty and staff during the 2008-09 academic year, totaling $84,704. The grants, targeted at projects that enhance curriculum, college outreach or professional development, included:

- $12,000 to provide textbooks for students, based on need.
- $2,000 to provide new students with “How to Get Good Grades in College,” a guide for promoting student achievement and academic success.
- $7,800 to the Learning Support Services’ Bridge Partnership Program. The Bridge Partnership is a project of Learning Support Services in collaboration with Livonia’s Franklin High School designed to enhance the learning path of students from 10th grade through high school graduation. LSS is committed to advancing students’ college preparedness and to ensuring college success when students arrive at Schoolcraft College.
- $5,000 to support the Learning Assistance Center’s Learning Disabilities Tutoring Program, which assists students to improve their reading comprehension and writing skills.
- $10,000 for the Peer Assisted Learning Program (PAL), a program designed to increase offerings in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to train PAL tutors in the principles of structured group study.
- $2,000 towards the “Save a Life Tour” a Student Activity program held on March 11, 2009 focusing on alcohol awareness and the devastating effects of drinking and driving.
- $2,200 to assist international students on campus via Peer Mentoring, ESL tutoring and monthly support meetings.
- $6,000 to provide learning disabilities sensitivity and strategy training for all faculty and staff.
- $4,000 for the Student Activities Office to coordinate campus visits of traveling exhibits from museums. Exhibits, such as the “Jim Crow, Hateful Things” exhibit focus on social, cultural, political and economic issues, and are used by instructors to enhance classroom studies.
- $2,000 to continue the Global Round Tables Symposium, which raises student awareness of global issues.

The Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors makes grant awards in the spring of each year.
Campus News

Biomedical Technology Center

After 10 years of planning and two years of construction, the Biomedical Technology Center officially opened its doors to students in the fall of 2008. The state-of-the-art math and science classrooms are outstanding and equipped with the latest technology; the building also features a globally connected learning theater and a nursing lab.

Professor Thomas O’Connor, a 19-year veteran biology instructor observes, “The BTC indicates that the college understands the importance of technology in the classroom and the necessity to provide the best physical atmosphere in which learning can take place. Schoolcraft College is clearly committed to providing conditions which maximize the potential of students and faculty,” says Thomas. “The new facilities include an image analysis lab which is equipped with a scanning electron microscope. It is rare to have something like this at the community college level and it would not have been possible without the space provided by the new building.”

The Schoolcraft College Foundation wishes to thank all of our alumni, community leaders and donors for your generous gifts which enabled the Foundation to provide $1.5 million toward the Biomedical Technology Center’s construction. We encourage you to visit the new facility; call 734-462-4455 to schedule a guided tour.

New Ocelot Statue

Ladner and Midge Carlton, longtime supporters of Schoolcraft College and the Foundation, recently joined with faculty and staff members to dedicate their most recent donation to the campus… Owen the Ocelot, the beautiful bronze statue now stands guard outside the Physical Education Building, greeting opponents and visitors alike.

The ocelot (f. pardalis) was selected by students as the mascot for Schoolcraft College in 1966. Owen joins his predecessor, S’craftee, who has proudly stood in the courtyard between the Forum and Administrative buildings for several years. Both statues were created by the late artist, Sharon Summers-Struble, who passed away just prior to the installation of Owen.

Midge Carlton retired in 2002 from Schoolcraft College after 32 years of service. She served in many roles throughout the years, including Dean of Athletics and Dean of Sciences. Both she and husband Ladner continue to support the College and the Foundation and are often spotted at Foundation events and College activities throughout the year.
Is Legacy Giving Right for You?

**Few things in life are more satisfying or enduring than helping an organization close to your heart. Well-planned charitable giving perpetuates your values by supporting those activities that reflect your personal passions and priorities. Giving during your lifetime is one way to support your favorite cause. However... did you know that it is not only possible, but easy, to leave a legacy that will endure decades beyond your life?**

Legacy giving plays a vital role in enabling the Schoolcraft College Foundation and the College to maintain the tradition of offering high quality education to the students that come through our doors. The average tuition for a full-time student in 2009 was $2000 per semester, not including textbooks. Although this gives evidence that the College is truly an economical choice for quality higher education, the fact remains that many of our students would not be able to attend without financial assistance. This is particularly true in these difficult economic times. The need for scholarships continues to dramatically increase; however, in addition to scholarships, the Foundation also supports the College by providing support for, cultural events, speakers, program enhancement, and capital improvement.

With this in mind, legacy gifts or planned giving are important ways you can perpetuate your support for the College. In some cases, planned giving can provide you the opportunity to give a gift that otherwise would not have been possible during your lifetime. For example, you can include a gift to the Schoolcraft College Foundation in your Estate Plans; this is an excellent way to continue your support for the Foundation’s mission of helping to transform the lives of Schoolcraft College students. The Henry Rowe Schoolcraft Society recognizes donors who have chosen to remember the College in their estates. This prestigious group demonstrates how easy it is to continue a personal legacy in a very meaningful way.

We strongly encourage you to consult your attorney or financial planner for advice about the various methods of giving. Doing so will help you determine the Estate options that are most beneficial and appropriate for you.

If you have already included a gift to the Schoolcraft College Foundation in your Estate, or if you are considering doing so in the future, we thank you in advance and ask that you please advise us of your intentions by contacting Reginald Best, Director of Development at 734-462-4689.

Please be assured that your decision to support the Schoolcraft College Foundation will be appreciated by current and future generations of Schoolcraft students for many years to come. ◆
When Marcia (Wright) Scarbrough graduated from Livonia Franklin High School in 1977, she had no idea what to do with her life.

With her mother widowed, she was eligible for a special scholarship and decided to carpool daily to Schoolcraft College with two neighbors, with the hope that she would find direction for her life.

“Schoolcraft gave children of widows’ money to go to college,” Scarbrough said. “They helped me out. When I graduated high school, I didn’t think I had a future at all.”

She credits Schoolcraft with making her the person she is today.

“When I was 18, I was so scared thinking about what I would do with my life. Up to that point, my only job had been babysitting,” Scarbrough said. “Schoolcraft was a very nice change from high school, not a popularity contest. Everyone was there to learn. The teachers really cared about you as a person and took their time.”

Scarbrough really matured at Schoolcraft. “I even got my first job at Schoolcraft, at the Bradner Library.”

She admits, however, that she didn’t decide what to do with her life until shortly after she graduated with her associate degree in general studies in 1981. She decided to use her degree from Schoolcraft to secure a physical therapy job as a nursing aid in Detroit.

Working in the physical therapy field opened her eyes. “You see people who are handicapped and can’t walk and you realize what a gift it is to be able to walk,” Scarbrough said.

She fell in love with her job and decided to pursue a degree in physical therapy. She graduated from Macomb Community College’s physical therapy assistant program with an associate degree in 1988. MCC was one of only a few colleges in the region offering the program at the time.

“All my classes transferred from Schoolcraft,” Scarbrough said. “I think Schoolcraft helped me to transition to a career. They gave me what it took to get a good start.”

The current Waterford resident knows her life would be much different if she hadn’t chosen Schoolcraft College. Remembering her own struggles, she wanted to help current students find their path in a similar manner, so she called Schoolcraft Director of Development A. Reginald Best, Jr. to set up an annuity donation plan.

“My grandmother created a scholarship fund. She was a volunteer for 20 years. I gave to her scholarship every year, but decided it was time to start one of my own. Reginald made it very fun and easy, very honest,” Scarbrough said.

“It’s a good way to give back to the college because they’re the ones who gave me a start. It helps the students out. Some people need a little extra help. My hope is that current Schoolcraft students will use the money to better themselves.”

For more information about giving opportunities, visit: www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation/giving or call Reginald Best at (734) 462-4689.
VisTa Gala 2009

On Saturday, April 4th, the Schoolcraft College Foundation hosted its annual gala fundraising event to benefit the Culinary Arts Department. The gala provides guests a vehicle to support Schoolcraft College while allowing them the unique opportunity to savor extraordinary foods prepared by Schoolcraft culinary students under the supervision of Executive and certified master chefs. One of the many highlights of the evening... guests were given the opportunity to meet and mingle with Schoolcraft students whose lives had been transformed by their generosity.

This year’s menu included two dishes - Paupiettes de Sole ‘a la Trouvilliase and Roasted Organic Chicken “Golden Oak” prepared by the award-winning salon team under the direction of Chef Kevin Gawronski. In July, 2009 the salon team won a gold medal in the prestigious, American Culinary Federation’s National Competition.

VisTa Gala Ice Sculpture Created by Culinary Students

Schoolcraft College Award Winning 2009 Salon Team

Golf Classic Fore Scholarships 2009

On Monday, June 1st, Walnut Creek Country Club was the venue for the Foundation’s 26th annual Golf Classic Fore Scholarships. Weather forecasts called for rain — but our golfers enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of nearly perfect golf weather as they competed on the links in support of Schoolcraft College students.

Golfers hit the links at Walnut Creek Country Club for the 2009 Golf Classic

Golfers left to right... Jeff Casiano, Jim Edwards, Jim McAmmond, Bob Sanderson

Golfers, Left to right... Scott Czeszewski, Ed Forsyth, Craig Bowles.
Culinary Extravaganza
A Food & Wine Event to Benefit Schoolcraft College Students

Sunday, September 27, 2009
2–5 p.m.
VisTaTech Center

The Foundation is delighted to sponsor Culinary Extravaganza, a celebration of fine food that brings together students, food professionals and the southeastern Michigan community. You will have the opportunity to sample some of the finest culinary delicacies from the most notable restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Sponsorship packages ranging from $300 to $5,000 are available and offer additional benefits. Contact us for detailed information 1-734-462-4518.