

The Itascan

Itasca Community College News

Fall 2009

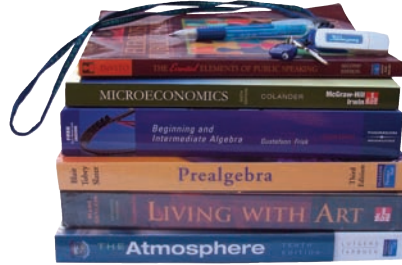
Volume 25, Number 1

Campus Update Dr. Mike Johnson, Provost

The 2009 fall semester is underway and the classrooms, hallways and parking lots are lively with students. Record enrollments across all departments including applied psychology, class act-education, early childhood education, nursing, natural resources, engineering, and – the backbone of the college, liberal arts – has resulted in 1057 full-time equivalent students for fall semester compared to 956 one year ago.

The college is providing opportunities for many dislocated workers and has started a new Power Generation Program (with capacity enrollment) as well as a new Pulp & Paper Program section.

Two new technology programs have been initiated through the Iron Range Engineering Program to provide access to programs for people living and working on the Iron Range. Engineering students can continue their third and fourth years of studies while receiving hands-on training at private engineering, mining, vendors and energy generation companies across the Mesabi Iron Range. Minnesota State University, Mankato will confer the mechanical engineering degrees at the completion of the curriculum. Most of the 15 students in the first cohort are graduates of Itasca's highly successful and nationally recognized engineering program. ICC faculty member Ron Ulseth was instrumental in developing the program and continues to be involved with teaching the first cohort. The Itasca engineering program was just recognized in *U.S. News and World Report* college ranking issue (August 19, 2009) under Best Colleges – Different Paths to a College Degree.



The second program will be offered through the University of Minnesota Duluth. Students can earn a Masters of Engineering while living and working on the Iron Range. Features of this program include credit for project work performed in work settings and classes scheduled for easy access by employed engineers.

Five additional technology programs, funded through Iron Range Resources, have been identified for implementation in the Northeast Higher Education District (of which Itasca is a member) including: Industrial Technology, Process Automation, Industrial Lab Technician, Industrial Construction and Information Management. Identified by local businesses and industry as areas needed for a well-trained workforce, Itasca will offer Industrial Technology (Pulp and Paper/Power Generation) on campus and Industrial Construction in collaboration with Rainy River Community College in International Falls.

Itasca completed its accreditation process this past spring with the official visit by the Higher Learning Commission. A 10-year accreditation was received; the highest ranking attainable. As part of the accreditation process, a new strategic plan will be developed. One of the top priorities in the strategic plan is additional on-campus student housing. Although Itasca currently houses 110 students on campus, a significant waiting list has been compiled for future semesters.

And finally, in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, Itasca ranked well above the national average in the areas of active and collaborative learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction and support for learners. The rankings were compared to similar sized two year institutions that were also surveyed.

It is an exciting, though challenging, year on campus with budget cuts and loss of appropriations. However, the energy and commitment of the faculty, staff and administration to provide all students with a quality education makes Itasca still

the best place to start!

Global Education



Students at ICC can experience their own international adventure. After graduation ceremonies each May, ICC sponsors a 10-13 day trip to a foreign country. This year the group traveled to Egypt where they spent a few days in Cairo followed by a cruise on the Nile River. The travelers took in various points of interest such as the Great Pyramid of Cheops, Sphinx, Step Pyramid, High Dam, Citadel, and Egyptian Museum. ICC students had the option of taking a credit class to study the general culture, history, literature, art and language of Egypt prior to participating in the travel experience.

In spring 2010, students will spend 12 days in France with academic credit available for those interested. Community members are invited to join the ICC students on this adventure. For more information on this travel opportunity, please contact Glen Hodgson at 218-322-2391.

ICC also offers an exchange program with Svendborg Technical School in Denmark. Each fall Danish students study at ICC and in March, ICC students travel to Denmark for eight weeks of study and additional travel.



^ The Itasca group shown in Denmark last spring are **front, l-r** Pam Rajala, ICC faculty, Ashton Cleveland, April Blankenship, Amanda King; **middle row**, Kay Allen, Melissa (Birt) Calgaro, Sarah Levar and Shawn Nicol; **back row** Ben Simula and Kody Calgaro.



^ The Egypt travelers were Patty and Ron Childs, Marijean Davis, Liz Dezelske, Brittany Fundaun, Erin and Jamie Hall, Janet Hatch, Jean Hoshal, Cricket Guyer, Charlie Kampen and Pam Rajala, Grace Kerr, Charity and Taryn Kuusisto, Kristina Leppanen, Gwen and Sarah Litchke, Mark Nyquist, Katie Petermeier, Patty Price, John Pula, Ashley Rasmussen, Mary Readmond, Kristy Seaver, Tara Staskivige, Katherine Venne, Mary Jo Westlake and Heidi Wright. They are pictured in no particular order in the city of Edfu.



^ Jean Bickley Holten at the dedication of the Irene M. Bickley Library.

Library Dedication

Itasca Community College and the ICC Foundation held the Irene M. Bickley Library Celebration and Dedication on October 7. Jean Bickley Holten, Itasca Class of 1947, has a long history of support for Itasca. She has provided generous funding for music, theater and classroom equipment, theater and library structural renovation and established the Jean Bickley Holten Contemporary Literature Collection and the Bickley Holten Library Fund. Jean also provides funding for the Jean Bickley Holten Scholarship, awarded annually to Itasca students.

Recognizing this generous support, the college collaborated with Jean to name the library in memory of her mother Irene M. Bickley. Mrs. Bickley was born June 9, 1897 in Antigo, WI and attended Oshkosh Normal School, Oshkosh WI, earning a degree in elementary education. She taught in Stevens Point WI and Hibbing MN before moving to Grand Rapids to raise her family. Maintaining a lifelong interest in education, Mrs. Bickley died in 1978.

Bridge to Engineering Summer Program

This summer the first "Bridge to Engineering" camp/program was held. This event served as an assimilation period for those students coming to the engineering program from an inner city area or high school. A variety of activities included swimming, tubing, math seminars, tours, class scheduling, bowling, chemistry exhibits, and project design/construction.



^ **Front l-r**, Travis Spaulding, Kelvin Johnson, Yonatan Tafasse, Tahn Tranh, Shabaka McKey, Ashley Hart and Mason Hansen (ICC Engineering faculty). **Back**, Brent Legros, Reggie McKeever, Zinovia Spaulding, Mohammed Khalil, Mahmud Khalil, Rashid Dewberry, Nick Morris, Bashada Dunbar, Aaron Smothers, Marcus Parks, Raechelle Drakeford, Pangia Moua.

Annual Scholarship Fund Drive in Process



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"Your scholarship means a lot to me.
I look forward to strengthening my own ties to Itasca and someday
being able to support students as you do today."

– Jackie, 2009/10 scholarship recipient



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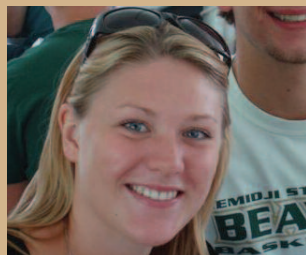
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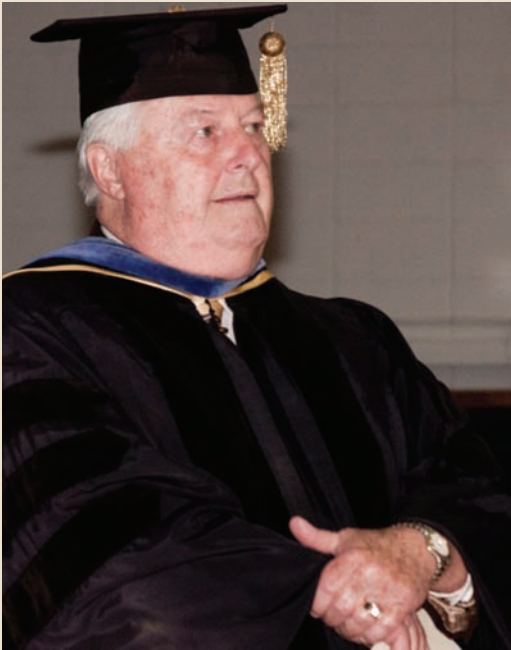
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2009 Alumnus of the Year Donald R. Booth, Ph.D.



Donald R. Booth, Itasca Class of 1951, has been selected as the 2009 Alumnus of the Year. Don grew up in Marble, graduated from Greenway High School and attended Itasca Junior College. While at Itasca he was active in debate, winning the Upper Midwest Junior College debate title. Don and classmate Dean Mitchell represented Itasca at the national competition in Bakersfield, California.

He continued his higher education in California attending Whittier College, Claremont Graduate School and UCLA where he completed his Ph.D. in 1970. Don is the Larry Parlett Professor of Economics at the George L. Argyros School of Business and Economics at Chapman University in Orange, California and is celebrating his 50th year of teaching at Chapman this year.

His professional experience is impressive and extensive ranging from research fellow at Claremont Institute to serving on the Board of Directors of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service. Don's national and international expertise has resulted in consulting, lecturing and teaching opportunities in Washington, D.C., China and Russia as well as publishing numerous articles relative to those economies. His areas of specialization are price theory, property rights, environmental economics and international economics.

Don's loyalty to Itasca and support of its students is noteworthy and appreciated. He has attended the Itasca mini-reunions in California for many years and has organized and hosted the event at Chapman numerous times.

Don and his wife Louise, are long time donors, most recently establishing the "Dean's Academic Achievement Fund" here at Itasca. Don is truly representative of the success of Itasca's alumni and we are pleased to recognize him as the Alumnus of the Year.



Golden Grads Class of 1959

Eleven members of the class of 1959 were honored at the Golden Grad event on May 14. A special luncheon and program, campus tour and recognition at Itasca's graduation ceremony were the highlights of this annual event. **Pictured l-r, front,** are Gary Titus, Shirley (Fideldy) Sobotzak, Nancy (Loberg) Raich and Elmer Mattila; **back,** Jerome Ingstad, Ray Jones, John Hecimovich, Jerry Robinson, Terry Maciej, Rankin Ahlm and Keith Austin.



Itasca Open House

Alumni and friends visited Itasca during the Open House held on July 24. Campus tours, memorabilia and seeing former classmates and friends were highlights of the event. **Pictured l-r** are Cricket Guyer, Trika (Guyer) Smith and Ardeth and Bob Johns.



Pictured l-r are Sharon Streetar and Jeanne Ahlm

Florida Mini-reunion held at Spring Training

Itasca alumni and snowbirds met in March at Hammond Field in Ft. Myers, Florida for a tailgate party prior to the Minnesota Twins vs. Baltimore Orioles game. Former Grand Rapids residents Sharon & Bob Streetar provided great assistance in organizing the event. Attending the event were Chub & Marie Christy, Red & Cathy Figgins, Rankin & Jeanne Ahlm, Ron & Wanda Ulseth, Bob & Ardeth Johns, Wendal & Sally Gilbert, Jerry & Nancy Holt, Linda Johnson, Marijean Davis, Howie & Vaun Conrad and Phil & Sherry Trebnick, Itasca baseball coaches Justin Lappa and Bill Hare and development office staff, Mary Richie and Beth Anderson.

Student Life

Student Ambassadors

ICC Student Ambassadors was one of the many campus groups that participated in the Cultural Diversity display of "What Culture Means to Us". Poster panels were decorated, displayed and judged during Diversity Week October 5-9.

Other Student Ambassador activities include Rock and Bowl in September and an upcoming dodgeball tournament in November.



^ Shown with the Student Ambassador panel is Mindy Samuelson, Hannah Benzie, Kim Workman and Ethan Dunker.

Volleyball

The 2009 volleyball season is still underway so current statistics are unavailable at this time. In last season's play the team finished with an overall record of 15-15 and 7-6 in the MCAC Northern Division. They appeared in the MCAC State Volleyball Tournament as the #4 seed from the north. **Misty Flynn**, freshmen hitter from Hill City, MN, was named to the MCAC All Northern Division First Team. **Brittany Black**, sophomore hitter from Bemidji, MN was named to the MCAC All Northern Division Second Team.

Wrestling

The wrestling team placed fourth at the national tournament last year. The team also had the 4th highest team grade point average in the nation last season. Sophomores **Steve Merth**, St. Paul, MN (2nd at 165 lbs) and **Skip Johnson**, Hibbing, MN (8th at 197lbs) were named All-Americans. Skip Johnson was also named the outstanding wrestler of year for the conference. "We have a young and talented team this year that is looking for a national title!" stated head coach Tim Setala.

Women's Basketball

The team finished with an overall record of 20-9 and 10-4 in the MCAC Northern Division. Appearing in the MCAC State Women's Basketball Tournament as the #4 seed from the north, they finished in 6th place. **Erica Cleveland**, sophomore guard from Menasha, MN, was named to the 08-09 MCAC All Northern Division First Team, MCAC All State First Team, MCAC State Tournament team, All Region and NJCAA All American Third Team. **Lexi Daniels**, freshmen guard from Remer, MN, was named to the MCAC All Northern Division Second Team and the MCAC All State Second Team. **Missy Barbacovi**, sophomore guard from Ironwood, MI, was named MCAC All Northern Division Honorable Mention team.



Baseball

The Vikings baseball team claimed the 2009 Northern Division Championship. **Nathan Voll** won the prestigious Rawlings Gold Glove Award for 2009. This award goes to the top defensive right fielder for Division III in the country. A sophomore from Roseau, MN, Voll hit .405 on the year with 30 runs batted in and six home runs. He is currently attending St. Cloud State University on a baseball scholarship.

Softball

The team finished with an overall record of 40-13 and 25-3 in the MCAC Northern Division. They were the MCAC Northern Division Champions and earned the #1 seed for the state softball tournament. They were the 2009 MCAC State Softball Champions and Region 13B Runner-Up. **Katie McBride**, freshmen pitcher from Grand Rapids, MN was named to the 2009 MCAC All Northern Division First Team, MCAC All State First Team, MCAC State Tournament Team, and was an NJCAA First Team All American. **Emma Nelson**, freshmen catcher/pitcher from Grand Rapids, MN, was named to the 2009 MCAC All Northern Division First Team, MCAC All State First Team and the MCAC State Tournament Team. **Lacey Joslin**, sophomore centerfielder from Esko, MN, was named to the 2009 MCAC All Northern Division Second Team, MCAC All State Honorable Mention and MCAC All Tournament Team.



^ Pictured l-r are Emma James and Katie McBride



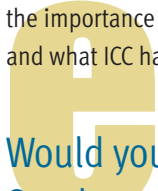
Kim Workman and Jarad Resier at ICC Freshman Orientation held on August 24.

ICC Women in Engineering Day

On Wednesday, September 30, 95 women from 14 different schools attended the ICC Women in Engineering Day held at the Timberlake Lodge in Grand Rapids.

The day consisted of breakout sessions focusing on hands-on activities and a look into the lives of a variety of engineers and professional engineers. Alumni of ICC Engineering currently working in the engineering field came back to share their educational and professional path with young women, as did engineers from the Duluth and Grand Rapids areas.

The goal of the Women in Engineering day was to educate young high school women about the career opportunities that engineering provides, the importance of women's perspectives in the field of engineering, and what ICC has to offer for an engineering education.



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LaVance Dickson at ICC Freshman Orientation held on August 24.

Photo credits: Beth Anderson, Rob Eide, Cricket Guyer, Kim Damiani, Katie McBride, Candace Perry, Katie Petermeier, Ram Rajala, Sandra Wicklund



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