

Alumni News

by Beth Anderson, Director, Alumni Relations

Peter Santrach is Itasca Community College's 2007 Alumnus of the Year

Peter Santrach, Class of 1952, was selected as the 2007 Itasca Community College's Alumnus of the Year. Designed to honor the many success stories among Itasca's alumni, this award is presented annually to an individual who has made noteworthy contributions to the college, community, state or nation.

Peter grew up in Calumet, graduating from Greenway High School. Because of his parent's strong emphasis on education he began his post-secondary education at Itasca. He then moved on to the University of Minnesota where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Peter has enjoyed a long and successful career as an accountant, beginning with the firm of Gunn, Gunn, & Gunn; Escondido School District; and Penn Elm Medical Group. For the last 40 years he has served as comptroller and accountant for Baker Enterprises, LLC in Escondido, CA. Additionally, he has operated a part-time accounting and tax practice since 1968.

As an appropriate way to pay tribute to his parents and to support his own belief in education, Peter established the Paul and Anna Santrach Scholarship. He initiated the endowed scholarship fund in 2004 with his donation and encouraged his family to participate as well. In thanks and appreciation for Peter's years of work excellence, Baker Enterprises LLC has also made generous contributions to this scholarship fund.

Peter and his wife Dolly, have eight children and thirteen grandchildren and reside in Escondido California.



ICC Provost Dr. Mike Johnson and Peter Santrach, Itasca Community College's 2007 Alumnus of the Year.

Upcoming Mini-Reunions

January 19, 2008
Florida Mini-Reunion, The Villages FL

February 12, 2008
Arizona Mini-Reunion, Mesa AZ

Golden Grads

Itasca Community College Foundation and Alumni Association celebrated the 50th reunion of the Class of 1957 at ICC on May 11, 2007. Four "Golden Grad" classmates were honored at a luncheon and presented with medallions commemorating the occasion. Later that day they were recognized at the commencement ceremony. Begun in 1987 by the ICC Foundation, the "Golden Grads" program offers alumni the opportunity to visit campus and renew old friendships.



1957 Golden Grads pictured are: George Stowe, Nick Berchin, Donald Haapoja and Louis Violett.

California Mini-Reunion

Don Booth, '51 hosted the California Mini-Reunion on October 13 at Chapman University in Orange, California. Don is professor of economics in the George L. Argyros School of Business and Economics at Chapman University. Attending the event were Greenway and Itasca alumni.



Front: Don Booth, Daidre (Wilson) McCredie, Shirley (Lehto) Sweeney, Elizabeth (Skurich) Bruiger, Jan (Murray) Clune, Don McCredie; Second Row: Celeste (Bechtel) Jensen, Kathy Myers, Jean (Archibald) Monico, Greg Holmes, Pete Santrach; third row, Georgia (Blake) Meade, Al Rustvold, Jerry Meade, June (Merhar) Holmes, Howie Clune and Lou Monico.



Itasca Community College
FOUNDATION

Foundation Notes

Mary Richie, Director, College Development

It has been an incredible first year for me. In meeting alumni across the country, I have been impressed by the level of enthusiasm, connection and support for Itasca. It has been an honor to support the important work of college faculty and staff as they educate today's Itasca students. This year has also been one of exceptional giving and I am pleased to announce the following new endowed scholarships:

Kenneth and Mary Makedonsky Erickson Scholarship

"This scholarship is established for non-traditional students, who for whatever reason, are not ready to attend college immediately after high school graduation" notes Ken.

Ken Erickson grew up in Cohasset and attended Grand Rapids High School until January, 1951 when he left for active duty with the local National Guard unit that was federalized for the Korean War. Ken and Mary were married two years before he enrolled as a full-time student at Itasca in 1954. Ken graduated from Itasca in 1956, Bemidji State in 1958, and earned his Master of Science in Elementary Administration in 1967. Mary began her college education at Itasca by enrolling in an evening class in 1968 and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1972. Mary passed away in April, 1986. Ken spent his professional career in elementary education, 10 years as a teacher in Benson, Deer River and Coleraine, MN and 23 years as an elementary principal in Waterloo, IA. He is retired and has four children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. He and his wife Sara reside in San Antonio, Texas.

John E. McMahon M.D. and Mary Margaret Reisinger McMahon Scholarship

This new endowed fund now becomes one of the foundation's largest for student scholarships. Dr. McMahon grew up in Grand Rapids, graduating from Grand Rapids High School in 1951. He attended Itasca Junior College and earned his bachelor degree from St. Thomas College, St. Paul, in 1955. After graduating from Marquette Medical School in Milwaukee, WI, he served in the U.S. Navy and then completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Minnesota in 1967. He had a long and successful career in private practice in the Twin Cities, studying total joint replacement surgery in England and Switzerland, and helped pioneer that surgery in the United States. He also taught orthopedics at the University of Minnesota Orthopedic Residency Program. Dr. McMahon retired in 2003.

Mary Margaret (Reisinger) McMahon was born in Hibbing and graduated from Nashauk High School in 1952. She graduated from the College of St. Scholastica in 1957 with a degree in medical records. The McMahons have six adult children and 15 grandchildren and their decision to endow a scholarship is based on their appreciation of their Northeastern Minnesota roots, their continued ties and interest in this area, and their belief in supporting the accessible, academic and career-related education that Itasca offers to learners.

Del and Lila Matteson/L & M Supply Entrepreneur Scholarship Award

A graduate of Greenway High School, Del Matteson served in World War II and then attended Itasca Junior College (1946-1947) and the University of Minnesota. He married his high school sweetheart, Lila Ruotsala of Balsam in 1946.

Del has had a long and successful career, much of it as an entrepreneur in the emerging business field of cooperative buying groups and discount sales. He and business partner Jim Luthen opened the first L & M Supply Store in Grand Rapids in 1959 and their business partnership grew to include six other stores across Northern Minnesota.

Over the years Del and Lila and their four children all contributed time and support to the family business. Lila passed away June 20, 2007. Del continues to "coach" the current operators of L & M, including his son and members of Jim Luthen's family. This scholarship is established in an effort to help students realize their dreams in the business world.

Betty Shannon Scholarship

Betty Shannon grew up in Grand Rapids where her parents owned and operated a small grocery store. She graduated from Itasca Junior College in 1941 and continued her advanced schooling at St. Scholastica, Duluth (B.S. Nursing Ed., 1944), St. Mary's School of Nursing, Duluth and St. Cloud Hospital School of Anesthesia. Betty enjoyed a rewarding 40 year career in health care, including 25 years as chief anesthesiologist at St. Joseph's Hospital in Brainerd. Following retirement in 1983, Betty returned to Grand Rapids where she currently resides.

Leo, Margaret and Clarence St. Martin Scholarship

Clarence St. Martin's concern for the challenges adults face in returning to college to better their career opportunities, prompted his scholarship gift in memory of his parents. Born in Grand Rapids, Clarence graduated from Grand Rapids High School and then attended Itasca Junior College in 1956. In 1965, after nine years in construction, he began his long career with Blandin Paper Company, retiring after 30 years in 1995. Clarence enjoys winters in Bullhead City, Arizona and summers in Northern Minnesota.

M.G. Shaw Scholarship

"I have been a public health nurse, a business woman, a homemaker and mother of three daughters – Peggy, Ginnie and Betsy. I strongly favor affordable educational opportunities for committed students in the Itasca area," states Mary Glea Shaw. A member of the Itasca Community College Foundation board of directors from 1992-1998, Glea served as board chair in 1994/95.

Itasca All-Class Reunion Held on June 29

Reminiscing about their games, teammates and coaches are l-r, Ron Radakovich, Nick Berchin, Dave Anderson and Lou Violett, all members of the 1956 men's basketball team.



Itasca Community College and the ICC Alumni Association hosted the IJC/ICC All-Class Reunion on June 29. Alumni, former faculty and administrators, current faculty and staff, and friends of Itasca celebrated 85 years of quality education and tradition at Itasca during the daylong event.

Photo and memorabilia displays, campus tours, food, good conversation, presentations and group gatherings were all part of this great event. Don Boese, historian and retired ICC history instructor gave a presentation on Grand Rapids as a river town. A delicious summertime picnic was served followed by a short program, which included introductions of former administrators.



80s / Tim Graupmann, Brian Skadsem, Debbie Bruns, Susan (Kronmyr) Johnson



40s / Eunice (Holm) Sackett, Claude Eggebraten, Shirley (Sweet) Taylor, David Olin, Jean (Bickley) Holten, Les Martin, Vivienne (Clune) Martin, Julie (Bogdanovich) Gram, Jean (Radmanovich) Peroni, Dale Hoshal, Wayne Hoshal, Liz (Ernst) Peterson, Pete Decenzo, Denny Brandon, Vic Shoaff, George Wagner.



60s / Front: Marlene Wisuri, Linda (Olson) Bergum, Joy (Reese) Derr, Christine (Knight) Sericati, Lois Lauring, Dan Zobenica, Will Backes
Back: Larry Longmore, Richard Lauring, Lowell Johnson, Doug Johnson, Bernie Backes, Leona (Clark) Stockwell, Bob Stowe, Joanne (Cyronek) Torfin, June (Hanson) Libbey, Susan Larson, Mark Scipioni



50s / Front: Sally (Anderson) Tonsager, Stella (Sobtzak) Cook, Bob Johns, Carolyn (Paul) Paschke, Gerald Hofer, Janice (Murray) Clune, Shelo (Lazarro) Gigliotti, Georgia (Blake) Meade, Lee Sisler, John Koski, Gordon Kuluvar, Louis Violett
Center: John Hecimovich, John Shoaff, Nancy (Hanks) Hansen, Bob Hakala, Austin Anderson, Howard Clune, Joe Helkamp, Gordon Holm, Jerry Meade, Carol Toms, Jim Drieman, Bud Tervo
Back: Keith Austin, James Nye, Ed Koza, Adela Fuls, Warren Anderson, John Rydberg, Russ Wivell, Bill McLean, Art Toms, Dennis Nordeen, George Rudduck



Velma (Comstock) Brooke, '36 and Wes Libbey, '28 share their stories of Itasca.



70s / Cricket Guyer, Trika (Guyen) Smith, Shirley (Martin) Johnson, Betty Jones, Ruth (Norgard) Tobie, Al Norgard, Sheila (Olson) Wright, Sharon (Bullock) Richards



20s & 30s / Wes Libbey, Eleanor Baldwin, A. Richard Baldwin



Faculty & Staff / Front: Marty Licke, John Licke, Mary Lou Learmont
Center: Trika Smith, Larry Dukes, Candace Knudson, Deb Kee, Cricket Guyer, Brenda Johnson, Beth Anderson, Annette Delich, Ken Smith, Ann Vidovic
Back: Will Backes, Kevin Jones, Mary Richie, Gordy Savela, Noel Olander, Don Knudson, John Rothstein, Mike Johnson, Bart Johnson, Chad Haatvedt, Harold Annette, Joe Sertich, Jean Hoshal, Jim Gabrielsen