

SC Alumni



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SC Hockey Students Score On-Ice and Off

SC Connection Is Golden

SC Home of Champions

Faculty Focus:

Michelle Randall

T.J. Frader—

A Little Focus Goes a Long Way

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COVER PHOTO

T.J. Frader at his Quicken Loans office.

Photo by Rena Laverty

SC Students Score – On-Ice and Off

They’re not throwing hats on the ice yet – and certainly not an octopus. But students at Schoolcraft College are throwing their hats in the air in joy as they had the opportunity to play the first-ever intercollegiate Schoolcraft hockey game, facing a team from Ferris State University.

Formed by student Andrew Lindsay, the hockey team is not an NCAA- sanctioned program, but what colleges call

an independent club team that plays against other colleges’ club teams.

When Lindsay began recruiting this past winter, fellow students Brendan Barger and Sheldon Varhol jumped in right away to help Lindsay get the team started. The three are co-captains. Lindsay then recruited his dad, Rob, a retired NCAA Division II hockey coach. “I guess I’m back in the game,” said Coach Lindsay.

The team’s first season ended with a record of 8-10-3. “We had a flat start at the beginning,” said Coach Lindsay, “but we had a great run from January to March. I feel we’ll have a real powerhouse next season because we have a lot of talent coming to Schoolcraft.”

Co-captain Barger said, “One thing that makes this so great is I thought my hockey playing career was over. Then Andrew approached me about the team and the dream came back alive.”



2016 first-ever Schoolcraft College club hockey game

'Connection' Is Golden



2015-2016 Connection Staff

Excerpted from a recent issue of the Schoolcraft Connection by Camyle Cryderman, Editor-in-Chief

In February of 1966, five years after Schoolcraft College was established, the first student-run newspaper was published on campus. At just four pages long, the newspaper – then known as the “*The Commuter*” – was a work in progress, but a momentous one at that.

Now, exactly 50 years later, the publication has evolved into an award-winning success. Known as the “*Schoolcraft Connection*,” the newspaper has gone through many transitions and made drastic content changes as well.

The original issue of the paper featured stories about the school’s dress code, a student fundraiser and the first plans to build the iconic Waterman building on campus. Through the years, the newspaper has continued to evolve into a wealth of information-sharing articles about events on campus, popular movie reviews and student profiles throughout.

There to see the transition of it all was former newspaper adviser Sherry Springer, who began as assistant director of the Student Activities Office in 1987 and later that year became the first adviser of the *Schoolcraft Connection*. In her more than 25 years in the position, she helped develop the newspaper into what it is today. The *Schoolcraft Connection* has been under a new adviser, Rena Laverty, since 2012 and the newspaper is now an online publication.

“The excitement of it all was the best part of my time there,” said Springer. “Being able to go out and teach the students how to write and interview was very rewarding.”

Guiding the newspaper staff to win awards like “Overall General Excellence,” “Best All-Around Non-Daily Newspaper” and the esteemed “Best Community College Newspaper in Michigan,” Springer helped spark the passion for journalism in many students.

“While originally studying graphic design,” said Michael Simari, Schoolcraft Connection photography editor in 2008, “I found a love for photography that may not have been discovered if weren’t for my time spent working for the Schoolcraft Connection. Being photo editor at the Connection taught me so much on how to be self-sufficient while having to keep organized.”

Simari now works as the on-line photographer for Car and Driver magazine, in part thanks to his time on the Schoolcraft newspaper.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCHOOLCRAFT ARCHIVES

A Little Focus Goes a Long Way

Many times an education at Schoolcraft College teaches you more than information – it teaches you about yourself.

Alumni Focus with T.J. Frader

“That’s what happened to me,” said 2008 SC alumnus T.J. Frader. “One person in particular – accounting instructor Michelle Randall – helped me to be serious about my studies, which naturally led to my doing better in school.

“In fact, I felt that, because she helped me so much, I would stay after class and help other students who needed a little tutoring. I took the initiative and worked harder on what I was learning so I could communicate it back to the others who needed help. That made me feel better about myself and caused me to focus even more on my studies.

“And that’s all thanks to Professor Randall. She cared. She made me make decisions on which road to take. I took the accounting road.”

Why Schoolcraft? “I really didn’t know what I wanted to do,” said Frader. “So I decided to go to Schoolcraft instead of a four-year school to give me time to figure out where I wanted to be. I tried out a few different subjects and, after spending time talking with Professor Randall on my options, I decided on accounting.

“I believe that other schools wouldn’t have given me the chance to meet and know professors and get their opinions that can help so much. Many of their classes are so large that you never get to even talk to the professors, much less have a meaningful conversation.”

After graduating from SC, Frader went to Eastern Michigan University, where he received a bachelor’s degree in accounting. He’s now an underwriter for refinance loans at Quicken Loans in Detroit.

“I love it here,” he said. “It reminds me of Schoolcraft College in that both

places have a really nice atmosphere. At school, you’re able to work closely with your professors and you have an open, relaxing atmosphere. And it’s the same here at Quicken. We have great flexibility here and it’s open, not closed off like in some companies.

“At Quicken – just like at Schoolcraft – I get the feeling that I’m valued. And what’s more important than that?”



T.J. Frader in his element at Quicken Loans, Detroit Michigan

Motivator Loves Her Job

Someone stepped in.

Faculty Focus with Michelle Randall

“I call it divine intervention,” said Michelle Randall, Associate Professor of Accounting. “It’s why I’m teaching at Schoolcraft right now.”

Randall talks about her life before teaching at the college. “When I was in high school, I wanted to be a math teacher. I always loved school. After taking the second level of calculus, I decided I didn’t like calc. So I switched to accounting and really enjoyed it.”

Her training at the University of Michigan was geared to public accounting, so that’s where she started her career. “It was great money with good opportunities,” she said, “but I didn’t feel it. So I went into corporate accounting. I did that for a while, but when I had two kids, I wanted more flexibility.”

That led to a part-time job as an accounting instructor at Schoolcraft.

“One day, I got a call asking me to teach at the college full-time,” she recalled. “On the very same day, a good friend called to tell me she was looking for a full-time babysitting job. She was someone I could trust with my kids so I did what I really wanted to do – teach full-time. I’ve been here for 15 years now.”

Randall keeps a book in her office called, “*Why I Teach*.” In it are letters and notes from students thanking her for motivating them and teaching them.

“Because I love to learn,” she said, “I like to share what I learn with other people. And I firmly believe that enthusiasm, dedication and passion can be contagious. T.J. Frader (see related story on page 4) was one of those students who struggled when he first came into my class.

In fact, he wanted to give up, so he asked my opinion. I simply told him the truth, that he was intelligent and



Associate Professor Michelle Randall

could be very good at this work. He buckled down and did the hard work after that. It worked out well for him.”

Randall said some students need confidence. “I really enjoy working with students who want to make something of themselves. Sometimes you have to be creative, work with them so they recognize their own success and build up their own confidence. In other words, even though you have to teach content and material, you sometimes just have to be a cheerleader.”

Schoolcraft College—The Home of Champions

Detroit was known as the “City of Champions” in the mid-1930s. The Detroit Tigers won the World Series ... the Detroit Lions won the NFL Championship ... the Detroit Red Wings won the Stanley Cup ... Detroit-born-and-bred boxer Joe Louis won the title of World Heavyweight Champion ... and several Detroiters won Olympic Gold Medals or set world athletic records.

Eighty years later, Schoolcraft College could well be dubbed, the “College of Champions,” as its sports teams have won championships in men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s basketball, and men’s bowling this season.

“We have a really good stable of head coaches and assistants,” said Schoolcraft Athletic Director Sid Fox.

“They’ve done a great job of recruiting and teaching.

“One example is Abe Mashhour, our men’s basketball head coach. The team has been strong both years he’s been here, finishing in the top eight in the national tournament both years. “This past season, they fin-



ished with a 31-5 record and won titles in their conference and district.”

Mashhour spelled out his recruiting philosophy. “We try to recruit high-character players who are easy to get along with,” he said. “We want talented guys who work well together. We’ve been blessed to have that kind of group the last two years. And, we have a good group again this year.”

When recruiting, Mashhour stresses academics and more individual attention, meaning Schoolcraft is a good



place to prepare for moving on to a four-year school.

Fox also is excited about the entry of two new sports into the program – men’s baseball and women’s softball, both of which started for the first time this spring.

“We should get even more students attracted to the college now with the success of our current teams and with the addition of the two spring sports,” Fox said. “And, of course, we’d like to win more championships.”



College Fulfills Hunger Need

A college food pantry for students helps some of them avoid a major choice – whether to continue schooling or work to feed their families.

“That’s one of the reasons we started the food pantry at Schoolcraft College,” said Todd Stowell, SC’s director of Student Activities. “We’ve been doing this for the last six years and more than 150 families have used the service.”

Food pantries are available on the Livonia campus and at Radcliff Center, although Radcliff has limited hours.

“When students want to utilize the pantry,” Stowell said, they fill out an initial intake form. They just need to be a current Schoolcraft student and need food for themselves and their families. They can use the pantry twice a month and can take away one bag of food each time.

To fill the pantry, students, faculty and staff donate food. There are also fundraisers, and the proceeds are used to buy food at wholesale prices. “Last year 2,000 pounds of food was donated by students and staff,” said Stowell. When we have food that’s getting close to due dates, we pass it along to community soup kitchens where they’re used up relatively quickly.

“A Student Activities group helps in retrieving the donated food from receptacles around campus. With assistance from faculty and service learning classes, members of the

food pantry student group work to keep the pantry going.”

Students who use the pantry fill bags that are provided by the college bookstore. “It’s a way to provide a little anonymity,” said Stowell. “Some think a stigma is attached so we furnish the bags.”

Food pantries are becoming a trend among Michigan community colleges, Stowell said. “It’s a needed service for our students and a way for others to give back.”



Students at work in the Schoolcraft College Food Pantry

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Special thanks to the following alumni who so generously contributed to this year’s 2015 Annual Campaign.

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Sports Dome in SC's Near Future

Schoolcraft College's competitive sports teams will soon have an indoor facility for their use. Plans are for a multi-sport dome to be built on the college's main campus.

"Our school soccer team will play its home games in the dome," said Glenn Cerny Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. The dome will be available for our other teams, like basketball, baseball, softball, cross-country and golf to practice,"

too. We'll also do training and conditioning in the dome."

The dome will also be used for classes and special events, as well as for an elite travel soccer organization – the Michigan Wolves-Hawks Soccer Club (MWHSC) – which has signed a 25-year agreement with the college to lease the indoor facility, the adjacent outdoor soccer field and office space on campus. MWHSC will use the facility during after-school hours and weekends.

The 110,500-square-foot structure, which will be heated and air-conditioned, is scheduled to be built at the southeast corner of the campus along I-275. The world-class facility will be equipped with ultra-efficient LED indoor lighting and other modern technologies.

The dome will open in August and will cost about \$6 million, and is entirely funded by private investments.



A representation of a similar sport dome