

2017
Distinguished Alumnus
Chief Allen Cox

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SC
Alumni

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Alumni Night at Comerica Park

The Schoolcraft College Alumni Program had a great time hosting over 150 alumni and their families at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers play the Kansas City Royals on June 28. Guests enjoyed a night full of baseball, food, and great company. Alumni were able to share memories of their time at Schoolcraft and network with each other. Some memorable moments from the night were when Alex Avila and Miguel Cabrera of the Detroit Tigers each hit a homerun.



A Meal Fit for a Hornet

When it's time to shoot hoops, Charlotte Hornets forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist gets it done. When it's time for breakfast or any other meal of the day, Schoolcraft College grad Kevin LaFave gets it done for the professional basketball star.

LaFave is a 26-year-old recent Schoolcraft graduate who now works as personal chef for the NCAA and NBA standout. "I spend all my time at his home in North Carolina," said LaFave. "When he's traveling, he has family at home. There are always people at his house."

LaFave said he's comfortable working for Kidd-Gilchrist, who "works hard to improve his game," said the young chef. "And I'm the same way. I'm always trying to learn something new every day."

"Both he and I are open-minded. I learned that mentality from the Schoolcraft culinary program. It's where I learned to take a look at all different possibilities in preparing a meal." And it's a recipe that works for both men.



ABOVE: Kevin in the American Harvest restaurant at Schoolcraft. **LEFT:** Kevin at work as the personal chef of Charlotte Hornets forward, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist.

First In, First Out

When he registered for culinary classes in the Culinary and Dietary Operations Management program at Schoolcraft, Kenneth Damphousse didn't know he'd make history. But he did.

The young chef has become the first person to graduate from Schoolcraft College with a bachelor's degree.

"I found out in July of 2015 that they were offering a bachelor's degree in culinary arts," said Damphousse. "I signed up in August."

On May 6, 2017, less than two years later, he received his degree during his second Schoolcraft commencement ceremony. He had received his associate degree in Culinary Arts in 2008. "I had always wanted to get my bachelor's," he said, "but the universities were out of my budget."

"Now, Schoolcraft has made it all possible."



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Chris Misiak, CEC; Ken Damphousse, Bachelor of Arts in Culinary Arts; Shawn Loving, CEC.

AT LEFT, LEFT TO RIGHT: The Damphousse Family. Brother Michael, mom Kathleen, Kenneth, Leyna Masters, and dad David.

Behind the Badge

Allen Cox, the 2017 Schoolcraft College Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, started his higher learning journey by taking a few classes at Schoolcraft College after graduating high school. He went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice and a master's degree in administration and started his career as a corrections officer with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 1991.

But he knew he needed to earn one more very important credential to further his law enforcement career, so he returned to Schoolcraft College. As a graduate of the Police Academy at Schoolcraft College's Wayne County Regional Police Training Center in 1998 he was immediately hired as a patrolman by the Plymouth Police Department.

Today, with knowledge, experience and FBI training, he holsters his .40 caliber Glock semi-automatic, pins on his badge and spends his days as Plymouth's Chief of Police and director of Public Safety. He has served as Chief since 2010 and even found time to continue his studies and graduate from Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

"When Plymouth offered me the chief's job," said Cox, "I hesitated. I knew that it was an appointment, which is subject to the whim of the administration. But it's turned out very well for me and my family.

"While I never planned to be chief when I started my career, I've enjoyed my time in the position. Naturally, there are days that I miss being in the patrol car and responding to calls for service. Being chief, however, has afforded me the opportunity to impact how the department does business."

One example of the very positive impact he has had on the department is the awards and commendation program he



Chief Cox accepts congratulations from Board of Trustees Chairman Brian Broderick and Dr. Conway Jeffress.

created. "It is a nice way for employees to be publicly recognized in front of their family and friends for going above and beyond," he said.

In recognition of his demonstrated commitment to education and lifelong learning and dedication to improving the community, Chief Cox received the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees' Distinguished Alumni Award for 2017 at the college's commencement ceremony in May.

AT RIGHT, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The Cox Family. Dad Al Sr., daughter Chloe, wife Suzanne, Chief Cox, daughter Alexandria, and mom Becky.

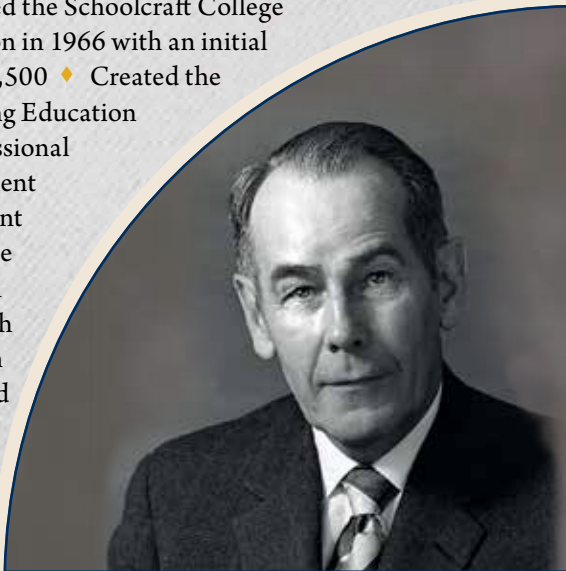


History 101: Four Presidents

Dr. Eric J. Bradner

March 1961 – May 1971

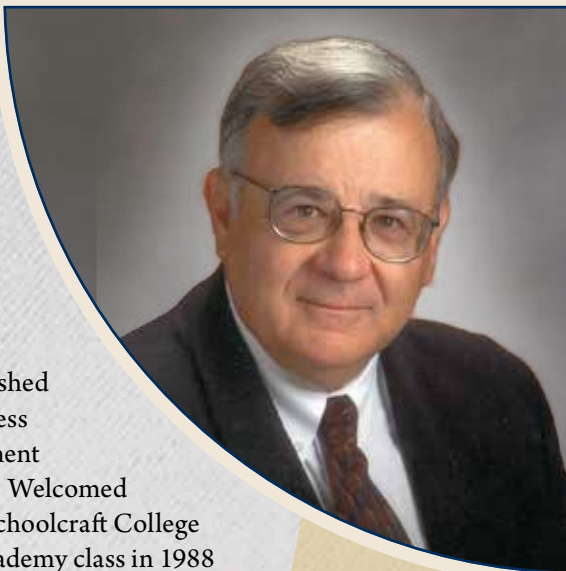
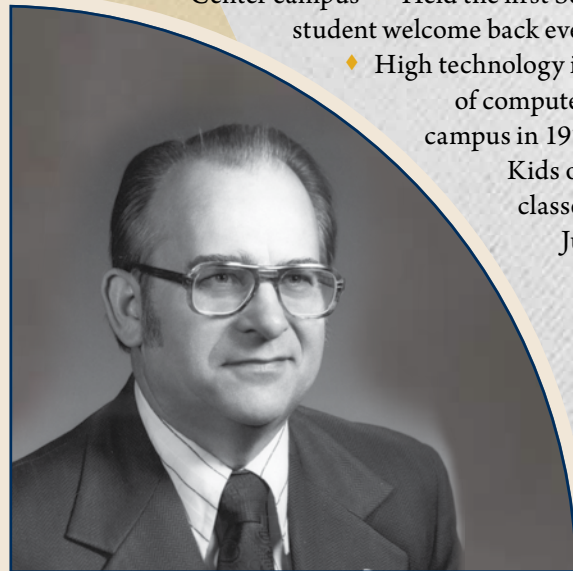
- ◆ Established Culinary Arts program in 1966
- ◆ Founded the Schoolcraft College Foundation in 1966 with an initial gift of \$12,500
- ◆ Created the Continuing Education and Professional Development Department
- ◆ Built the iconic Bell Tower with a donation from Floyd Kehrl



Dr. C. Nelson Grote

July 1971 – September 1981

- ◆ Established a presence in Garden City with the Radcliff Center campus
- ◆ Held the first School Daze student welcome back event in 1973
- ◆ High technology in the form of computers came to campus in 1978
- ◆ First Kids on Campus classes began in July of 1980



- ◆ Established the Business Development Center
- ◆ Welcomed the first Schoolcraft College Police Academy class in 1988
- ◆ The Schoolcraft College Foundation's Culinary Extravaganza Fundraiser made its debut
- ◆ Launched the first college website in 1997

Dr. Richard W. McDowell

September 1981 – June 2001



- ◆ Secured state funding to build the VisTaTech Center and the Biomedical Technology Center
- ◆ Opened the Public Safety Training Complex in 2010
- ◆ Added the St. Joe's Sports Dome to campus thanks to a corporate partnership
- ◆ Graduated the first Schoolcraft College student with a bachelor's degree in 2017

Dr. Conway A. Jeffress

July 2001 – Present

Culinary Extravaganza

2017

Sunday, September 17 ■ 2–4 P.M.

VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College

18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia MI 48152-2696

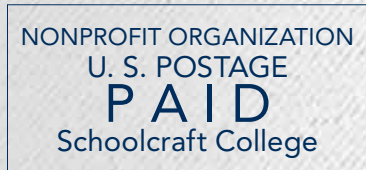


Join us for our premiere fundraiser — a strolling event where guests sample delicious food prepared by our Schoolcraft Culinary Program chefs as well as chefs from area restaurants.

Alumni Donor List Special thanks to the alumni who so generously contributed to the Schoolcraft College Foundation during 2016–2017.

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Persistence Pays Dividends

FROM ALBANIA TO LIVONIA comes the story of a Schoolcraft College student who leads the way in succeeding in school and helping others.

His name is Elis Sholla and he’s the sixth Schoolcraft College student to receive the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Sholla will receive a \$40,000 grant each year (for up to three years) to pursue his higher education goals, including completion of a bachelor of science degree at the University of Michigan.



Sholla moved to the United States just a few years ago. “I was looking for an outstanding education and infinite career opportunities in the field of science,” he said.

Laurie Kattuah-Snyder, associate dean of academic advising and partnerships at Schoolcraft, said of Sholla, “Elis has experienced many life-changing financial and personal challenges, and has learned the English language, enrolled in college, excelled in college, persisted beyond anyone’s expectations, and is ready for this next transformative phase in his life. He’s a tremendous inspiration to his fellow students.”

When accepting the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship at a surprise event in April, Sholla said, “I also have to thank the Schoolcraft College Foundation, who gave me such a great opportunity with the first scholarship they provided me to attend Schoolcraft College in the first place.”

