Jefferson College Noteworthy News 2015 - A Year to Remember

As we’re off to what promises to be an exciting 2016, it’s both inspiring and exciting to look back on some of the numerous achievements the College and its extraordinary faculty, staff, and students accomplished over the past year.

The Windjammer invites you to celebrate and take pride in the people, events, accolades, and progress that made 2015 a year to remember at Jefferson College!

Institutional Success Highlights Pathway to Excellence

The historic 50th commencement ceremonies in May, awarding 841 associate degrees and 113 technical education certificates. International speaker, author and consultant Carol Weisman was the keynote speaker.

Steve Meinberg and Barbara Stocker were elected to respective six year terms as members of the Board of Trustees. The Board also reorganized with the election of new officers for the next two years: Steve Meinberg was re-elected as president, Gary Davis was re-elected as vice president, Daryl Gehbauer was re-elected as treasurer, and Lisa Vinyard was approved as secretary.

To become more environmentally responsible, while using technology to increase communication transparency, the Board of Trustees began using the BoardDocs online meeting system to provide instantaneous public voting results and agenda details from each monthly meeting. The BoardDocs site can be accessed from www.jeffco.edu by clicking on Welcome > About Jefferson College > Board of Trustees.

In February, Dr. Caron Daugherty was appointed as the new Vice President of Instruction.

In connection with the College’s ongoing legislative advocacy efforts, a delegation from Jefferson College travelled to Jefferson City to speak with legislators regarding adequate, equitable funding as part of the annual legislative week in connection with the Missouri College Association.

Jefferson College was one of only seven colleges and universities nationally to be recognized in connection with the 2015 Healthy Campus Award sponsored by Active Minds and the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation for improving and prioritizing student health. It is the only national recognition of its kind that celebrates leadership, innovation, collaboration, and excellence in campus health.

In order to provide residents with access to bachelor and graduate level classes on the Jefferson College campus, the Trustees renewed the longstanding agreement with Missouri Baptist University as an opportunity for residents to earn higher education degrees.
The College was granted another five-year extension for its highly-successful TRIO Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Known as “Project Success,” the program is designed to provide support and resources to qualifying students who are first-generation, low income, or have a documented disability. The program has been funded at the College since 1997.

Led by Wellness Programs Coordinator Donna Allen-Freese, the campus wellness program sprang to life with a multitude of health-related activities, experiences and opportunities for students and employees alike.

In conjunction with April’s designation as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), Jefferson College and COMTREA co-hosted the fifth “Take Back the Night” as part of an international effort to end sexual violence. The educational and inspirational evening included guest speakers and a variety of activities and resources to raise awareness and support survivors of sexual violence and abuse.

In an effort to bring peace through nonviolence to our region, community and personal lives, the Events and Outreach Committee hosted “Ripple of Hope: From Violence to Peace” based on the historical documentary that retells the events of the day that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated and retraces the steps of Presidential candidate Robert Kennedy as he absorbs the news of the killing and responds with courage, compassion and responsibility.

Special guest Adam Walinsky, speech writer for the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, spoke about his first-hand account of Kennedy and the now infamous speech. The event also included small group discussions and a town hall moderated by History Professor Dr. Scott Holzer.

Foundation Success Supports College’s Effectiveness

Patti Christen was selected as the new Executive Director of Development.

As part of a continued emphasis on health-related education, the Jefferson College Foundation received a $210,125 grant on behalf of the College from the Jefferson Memorial Community Foundation. Grant funds were used to continue and support the student/employee holistic Wellness Program, to purchase Nursing SIM lab equipment, and to provide Health Occupation scholarships.

The Foundation’s premiere fundraising event, the fourth annual Jazz & Jeans dinner, dance and auction, grossed nearly $100,000—a new record—to support scholarships, emergency student loans, textbooks, and other projects for the benefit of students. The guest emcee for the evening was KTRS radio personality John Carney.
To celebrate those who have made significant contributions in support of the College and its students, the Jefferson College Foundation hosted its fifth Monticello Society recognition ceremony with inductees: Sheet Metal Contractors, Inc.; Harry and Genie Mueller; the Jefferson Memorial Community Foundation; and St. Anthony’s Medical Center.

The 28th annual Viking Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament hosted by the Foundation and Presenting President’s Cup Sponsor Dobbs Tire and Auto Centers was an immense success in raising over $22,000 for student-athlete scholarships.

The third annual Leader Holiday Dinner, sponsored by the local newspaper and the Jefferson College Foundation, netted over $3,800 for the college’s Culinary Arts program. The evening showcased some of the area’s best local recipes served by a staff of guest waiters from the College and Foundation, assisted by students from the Culinary Arts program.

The Foundation and Athletics Department hosted the first ever Shocktober Monster Dash 5k fun run and one-mile walk to raise proceeds for student scholarships.

In connection with their long-standing commitment toward providing higher education opportunities for area residents, the Twin City Area Optimist Club made a $3,000 scholarship donation. The club’s commitment to raise funds for Jefferson College student scholarships started in 1995 and spans a total contribution amount of nearly $50,000.
Individual and Group Honors Signify Excellence on Many Levels

Jefferson College Foundation Outstanding Achievement Award recipients were Dr. Cindy Rossi, Faculty – Business Management Professor; Deb Shores, Classified Staff – Resource Specialist; Mark Smreker, Certified Staff – Manager of Software Development; and Marialana Speidel, Faculty – Biology Assistant Professor.

Edward Moreno (’99) was chosen as the Jefferson College Alumnus of the Year, saying “I sincerely mean it when I say I can never give back to Jefferson College what it has given to me; I am a proud Jefferson College alumnus and am grateful for all the opportunities it has provided to me both during my time as a student and since graduation.”

College President Dr. Raymond Cummiskey was awarded the 2015 Jeffersonian Award by the Jefferson County Growth Association for his outstanding leadership and service efforts to promote economic, workforce, and civic progress in Jefferson County and the surrounding region.

An inaugural group of 10 students was honored during a pinning ceremony representing their completion of the Radiologic Technology program as the first graduating class.

Dr. Mary Baricevic was a recipient of the 2015 Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and Steve Berkel received the 2015 Emerson Electric Excellence in Teaching Award.

The Marketing and Public Relations Department won 11 Medallion of Excellence Awards as part of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

Students Elizabeth Johnston and Cathy Terry were awarded Elizabeth Hoyt Clark Honors Program Scholarships in recognition of their educational goals and success.
Allan Wamsley, Director of Online and Educational Technology, was the recipient of the Dr. B. Ray Henry Service/Innovation Award which recognizes superior, innovative participation of an employee in the shared governance of the college, primarily through work on or with an institutional committee or subcommittee.

Math Professor Beverly Meyers was a recipient of the 2015 Missouri Community College Association’s Senior Service Award. She has taught at the College for 23 years and has represented the institution through many statewide projects of the Missouri Department of Higher Education along with serving 12 years as an officer of the Missouri Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges.

Enrollment Services Specialist Shanna Meyer was selected as the School Counselor Advocate of the Year by the Missouri School Counselor Association.

Nursing Program Director Linda Boeingloth and Nursing Associate Professor April Norton-Gunther received the 2015 Linda Johnston Excellence in Assessment Award.

2015-16 Student Senate President Liz Wiley was a recipient of the Missouri Community College Association’s Student Leadership Award, presented annually to one outstanding student from each community college campus who has demonstrated excellence in leadership activities.

The college’s Law Enforcement Academy classes all achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) license exam. They continue the streak of 21 consecutive LEA classes that have graduated with a 100 percent POST completion rate.

Student Brody Aubry was honored by the Missouri Community College Association for being selected to the All-Missouri Academic Team, an honor bestowed on the state’s top community college students.

Instructor of English and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Matthew Vaughan received the PTK “Horizon Award” for advisor service.

Graphic Designer Lauren Murphy designed a poster that won People’s Choice second place during the Work Ready Communities Best Practices Symposium. The award-winning design exemplified the Jefferson County CWRC using the theme “Strengthening Individuals – Strengthening Businesses – Strengthening Community” along with a variety of photos from the college’s Career and Technical Education training programs.
In addition to Dr. John Westerman being appointed the new Area Technical School Director, the ATS received national certification for its Project Lead The Way (PLTW) program that has been offered since 2013.

Jefferson College hosted the institution’s first-ever TEDx event titled “Common Ground,” designed to spark conversation and connection on campus and in the community.

Middle school, junior high and high school students took part in several on-campus learning activities including the Career Expo, Camp Viking, Athletic Camps, MSHSAA District Music Festival, Children’s Theatre, and Viking Band Camp.

Three students from the Welding Technology program were honored by the American Welding Society St. Louis Section: Most Outstanding High School Welding Student Billy Kaune, AWS Scholarship recipient Bill Bye, and Most Outstanding College Welding Student Clayton Wilson.

Area job seekers had the opportunity to meet with representatives from companies across the St. Louis region as part of the college’s Job Fair and Healthcare Job Fair coordinated by the Employment Services Office.

Jefferson College was the host site for the 36th annual Mastodon Art and Science Fair with over 3,000 K-12 grade participants from area public, private and home schools.

The Student Senate received an award as the 2015 MCCA Student Government of the Year and Jefferson’s 2014-15 Student Senate President Will Rohman received individual recognition for his leadership and contributions.

In addition to attaining the illustrious “5-Star” designation, the Xi Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special ceremony involving alumni from throughout the past 50 years, including representatives from the first inductions in 1965 and 1966. The celebration was also highlighted with the burial of a time capsule and the planting a memorial Laurel shrub.

The popular Performing Arts and Cultural Enrichment (PACE) event series returned for another season with numerous performances and guest artists such as the Harlem Wizards, Carmen Bradford, and the CharFlies. The series also featured several student-community performances such as plays, band and choir concerts, theatre performances, and art exhibits.

The Jefferson College chapter of the National Technical Honor Society acknowledged the scholarly excellence of over 115 students.

Director of Planning and Outreach Trish Aumann received the Arnold Rotary Club’s “Service Above Self” award.
When the game is over, the truly excellent continue to excel… Kandy (Beemer) Thomas (basketball 2006-07) and Jay Marshall (baseball 2002-03) were inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame.

Three Vikings were named NJCAA All-Americans: Mary Grace Masters (first team volleyball) and Rachel Poole (second team volleyball) and Chevaughn Walsh (first team soccer).

Greg McVey was appointed as the new Athletics Director, only the fourth person ever to hold the position in the history of the College.

Several student-athletes were acknowledged by the NJCAA for outstanding academic achievement: Marketa, Illetskova (volleyball) Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence (4.0 GPA), Amanda Davis (softball) and Ashley Davis (softball) Superior Academic Achievement (3.80-3.99 GPA), and Joshua Abegg (baseball), Erica Turney (softball), Theresa DeCosty (softball), and Lucija Barac (volleyball) Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.60-3.79 GPA).

The College held a campus and community celebration to unveil a new Viking mascot “Victor E. Viking” and retire the previous mascot “JC” following a 10 year reign.

Doug Still (pitcher) was selected in the 30th round of the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft by the Atlanta Braves. The Vikings have had a player drafted every year since 2007, with 19 Vikings since 2008 that have either been drafted or signed a professional contract.

The Jefferson College softball team finished an amazing season by competing in the NJCAA national tournament for the second consecutive year, finishing ninth in the nation.

After winning the Region 16 championship, the soccer team battled in the National Championship tournament, finishing seventh.

The baseball team won their ninth consecutive Midwest Community College Conference title and earned the #1 seed for the Region 16 tournament for the fourth time in the last six seasons.

The baseball field underwent some of the most significant updates in last 30+ years, including the installation of new backstop w/suspended netting system, replacement of retaining wall on first base seating area, new padding/protective netting on dugout railings, and installation of turf home plate halo and walk-ups.
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S A V E T H E D A T E...
Your Destination Lies Ahead

Jazz & Jeans
DINNER  MUSIC  AUCTION

April 30, 2016

DESTINATION
Jefferson College Field House
Hillsboro, MO

Ticket & Sponsorship Information Coming Soon!
Taming of the Shrew

Feb. 25-28  Spring Play “TAMING OF THE SHREW”
            Feb 25, 10am / Feb 26, 8pm / Feb 27, 8pm / Feb 28, 2pm

Mar. 6    Choir Concert: A Celebration of Song ◆ 3pm FREE!
Mar. 8    Band Concert: Fabulous Folksongs ◆ 7:30pm FREE!
Mar. 10   Spring Jazz Showcase ◆ 7:30pm
            Featuring world-renowned trumpeter Sean Jones
Mar. 11-13 48 Hour Film Festival (April 1, 7pm Film Festival Screening) FREE!
Apr. 12   Kneebody, Modern jazz rock band ◆ 7:30pm
Apr. 25 - May 6  Student Art Show FREE!
May 1     Backyard BBQ, German Polka Band, Festhaus-Musikanten ◆ 1pm FREE!
May 3     Band Concert: Poems, Dreams, and Fantasies ◆ 7:30pm FREE!
May 4-5   Pottery Sale ◆ May 4, 10am - 6pm / May 5, 10am - 4pm FREE!
May 5     Choir Concert: A Lighter Fare ◆ 7:30pm FREE!

Jun. 17-19, 24-25  Summer Musical “COMPANY” Jun 17, 8pm
            Jun 18, 8pm / Jun 19, 2pm / Jun 24, 8pm / Jun 25, 8pm