



MCCB NEWS

Winter 2009

Michigan
Community
College
Biologists

Dick May, Former MCCB President, passed away 12/27/08

Dr. Richard Charles May was born and raised in Sparta, MI. He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from CMU and his PhD from the University of Michigan. He lived for many years in Ypsilanti. Dick passed away on Saturday, December 27, 2008 in Grand Rapids. He loved

teaching students of all ages. His years of teaching included time at Ypsilanti High School, various area colleges and over 38 years at Wayne County Community College. He received Teacher of the Year Award at WCCC in 1992.



Dick May at a recent MCCB Conference

Dick was one of the founding members of The Michigan Community College Biologists and was active in the organization for its entire history. Dick served in many positions with MCCB, including President, long-time nominations chair and organizer of many conferences. Dick shared his love of nature by organizing and conducting field trips for elementary school

students. Dick was a gregarious and hard-working person and I personally, will miss him greatly. I'm sure all of us will.

Those who wish to may make memorial contributions to The Audubon Society.

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 - Conference pictures, etc.
 - Campus news
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Michigan Community College Biologists:
The ONLY organization whose sole purpose is to support Michigan Community College Biology Educators

FRANK L.RICHMOND of Walled Lake, beloved husband of 45 years to **Merle Richmond, an MCCB Founding member**, who is still active in the organization, died November 5, 2008 at 73. In addition to teaching for many years at Schoolcraft College and active MCCB membership since the beginning of the organization, Merle is the Coordinator of the Oakland Equestrian Coalition
Memorials to the Michigan Humane Society or Equine Star appreciated.

Oakland Community College to spend \$23 million revamping Southfield campus

Southfield is about to become a smarter place now that Oakland Community College is expanding its campus there. The college plans to invest \$25.3 million into its Southfield Campus over the next 3.5 years. The money will help pay for everything from new lab areas to new classrooms, adding 69,000 square feet of space to the existing 92,000 square feet. Among the improvements will be new state-of-the-art science labs, double classrooms, space for nursing programs, physical education classes, a computer lab, student study areas, a testing center and an improved child-care center. The improvements will help OCC satisfy the increased demand for education at its smallest campus. Southfield has experienced an 84.7 percent jump in enrollment over the past 10 years. The campus was originally designed to serve a maximum of 2,500 students yet enrolled 3,300 last fall. Revenue from a 0.8-mill property tax levy earmarked for facility improvements approved in 2001 will pay for the project. -from METROMODE, 8/7/2008, Source: Oakland Community College; Writer: Jon Zemke



Campus Rep and former MCCB President Paul Krieger notified us that Grand Rapids Community College is hiring for a BI 101 position. The deadline has been extended until January. The entire job posting can be found posted on the MCCB website, or you can go directly to the posting at <http://web.grcc.cc.mi.us/HR/postings/2008-2009Postings/BiologyWS32Repost.pdf>



Tracy Kling, Monroe Community College Campus Rep got married in May. She is now known as Tracy Rayl

Deb Hautau, former MCCB president and Campus rep at Alpena Community College, will be teaching a class of General Ecology with a group of students from May 10-27 in Costa Rica. "I'm excited about it. (It's my) first time being leader although I have been there myself two other times with other instructors." She says.



"This is my last month as Chair (of the Science Department), so life should get significantly calmer soon." That is the news I received in mid-December from Laura Thurlow, Anatomy instructor and MCCB Campus representative for Jackson Community College. John Singer, JCC's organic chemistry professor, will be taking over as Department Chair. Laura will remain the biology subchair. "Biologists are the bulk of the department, so it is still helpful to have someone managing our lab workers and dealing with biology schedule" she says. So, is it actually any calmer yet, Laura?

Schoolcraft's New Biomed Center

Architects for Schoolcraft College's new Biomedical Technology Center were asked to think about collaboration, flexibility and cutting-edge technology. This is the direction higher education is going and Schoolcraft is determined to take the lead. Richard Weinkauf, assistant dean of science at Schoolcraft, said the new facility will be a catalyst for engaging students in science, math and technology to the fullest extent, at a time when there is pressure to get the United States back in the game as a science leader. "It's a recognition across the country, not just in Michigan where it is being pushed, that science, technology, engineering and math is a place the U.S. has fallen behind in," he said. "We always enjoyed a lead. These areas of endeavor hold the most promise for the U.S., as much as the state."

The building was introduced to the public at an open house Friday. It will serve to advance the STEM and GRIN curriculum. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and math. GRIN stands for genetics, robotics, information systems and nanotechnology. The \$13 million, 48,000-square-foot Biomedical Technology Center brings together the science, math and medical classes with state-of-the-art laboratories, a high-tech lecture theater and classroom spaces designed for flexibility.

Conway Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College, said "This college has positioned itself not just to meet the needs of Michigan and local supporters but to anticipate the needs the state will have and business and industry will have. We've taken the long view."

A central idea was to integrate the various science disciplines through shared facilities and shared conversations. "As you go through the facility, 20-30 percent of the building is dedicated to collaborative environments, student learning environments that facilitate students working as a team," said Bruce Sweet, associated dean of business technology. Sweet said the new building has formal and informal spaces. Faculty share the same office space and tools as part of the collaborative effort. In addition to formal classrooms, the building includes breakout areas where students can mingle and work with students from different disciplines. The building has an imaging and analysis lab, anatomy and physiology lab, cellular and molecular biology lab and biomedical engineering technology lab. In the physiology lab they will have a male and a female plastinated cadaver (a preserved, and pre-dissected human whose tissue have been converted into plastic, showing the body structure and organs) from the University of Michigan which will provide "consistency" in teaching human anatomy. High definition television is available in the Living Theater. They are in the process of installing an electronic scanning microscope by Zeiss which will be an awesome addition to the teaching environment.

Jeffress said reports show that the need for students in STEM disciplines will double by 2015 and there will be an expected shortfall of 280,000 math and science teachers nationally by 2015. "It's been trending that way for a decade and we've been watching it, looking at it and preparing for it," he said.

In addition to providing flexibility and technology, the new building will also include several "green" features. The college decided not to receive certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design because of the expense, but the building was designed to reach 29 LEED standards. Notable green features include two rain gardens that utilize water runoff from the roof to water the gardens; use of recycled concrete blocks; windows on the east, north and west rather than on the south to save energy; and good insulation

A chorus line of Schoolcraft College trustees and staff and local politicians gathered together to jointly cut the ribbon for the new Biomedical Technology Center. "This building was done on time and on budget and that's the way we like it," said Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress to the applause of dozens attending a grand opening for the \$13 million facility Friday. The festivities included demonstrations at the state-of-the-art laboratories, guided tours of the 48,000-square-foot facility and food from the school's acclaimed culinary arts department.

State Rep. John Pastor (R-Livonia) was joined by state Reps. Richard LeBlanc (D-Westland) and Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) in presenting a resolution from the state House on the opening of the building and its use of green construction technology.

—edited from an article by HUGH GALLAGHER The Northville, printed SEPTEMBER 11, 2008. Submitted by Pete Cason



**Schoolcraft College's new
Biomedical Technology
Building**

Kirtland's Warbler may be endangered forever

Squeezing between tight rows of jack pines, Sarah Rockwell (a doctoral student with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington, D.C unfurled what resembled a finely meshed badminton net suspended between two metal poles. It was a perfect device for capturing a rare Kirtland's warbler for study without injuring the delicate songbird. But the wily female the scientists were targeting steered clear of the net — despite the lure of a recorded male's rapid, melodious chirp piping repeatedly from a boom box. "Sometimes it happens," Rockwell said with a sigh after a fruitless half-hour.

Rockwell and her colleagues netted about 130 Kirtland's warblers this summer in the sandy flatlands of northern Michigan, part of a decades-old effort to spare the endangered creature from extinction. It's a mission that, despite considerable progress, may never end. The Kirtland's warbler appears destined forever to need human assistance for survival.

The half-ounce bird, which sports a yellow breast and bluish-gray head and tail plumage, has such strict habitat requirements that it nests and breeds in only a handful of places — primarily jack pine stands in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. Those forests are managed to meet the warbler's needs, while a campaign is waged to limit the population of its enemy, the brown-headed cowbird, which lays eggs in warbler nests. "We've gotten the bird to more sustained levels, but it's still a battle every year," said Chris Mensing, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in East Lansing.

That may be the case for most of the 1,353 animals and plants on the federal endangered species list. While the Endangered Species Act calls for helping them reach the point of living and reproducing on their own, it's easier said than done. Just 22 have been removed from the list since the law took effect in 1973, among them: the bald eagle and gray wolves of the western Great Lakes region. Before delisting a species, government biologists must conclude their populations have recovered, with sustainable numbers and distribution. Also, threats must have been eliminated or controlled.

Mike Scott, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Idaho, contends the Kirtland's warbler illustrates why it no longer makes sense to think of endangered species as simply recovered or not recovered. He proposes a new category of conservation-reliant species, which could be removed from the endangered list but still get long-term protection. "With all the habitat loss and invasions from nonnative species, you'll see more and more cases where the threat cannot be eliminated, it can only be manipulated," Scott said.

In a report to Congress this year, the Fish and Wildlife Service described only 8% of listed species as improving the Kirtland's warbler among them. A census in the 1980s turned up only 167 singing males. (Females don't sing, but biologists assume there's one for every singing male.) This summer, 1,792 males were found, putting the estimated population at 3,584. "It could get up to 5,000 and I'd still be nervous about delisting," said Dave Ewert, a Kirtland's warbler specialist with the Nature Conservancy.

Fans of the Kirtland's warbler are discussing an endowment fund to ensure a permanent funding source for the recovery program, said Phil Huber, a biologist with the U.S. Forest Service. For now, Mensing of the Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the cost of protecting the warbler at \$1.5 million to \$2 million a year — a figure partially offset by revenues from the jack pine harvest. —edited from an article by JOHN FLESHER, ASSOCIATED PRESS printed 9/21/08, Detroit Free Press



Lansing Community College students may be forced to move

Howell Public Schools and Lansing Community College are embroiled in a dispute that may soon see LCC [students](#) now taking courses in Parker High School being forced to study at a new locale. The trouble arose from a lease signed two years ago, negotiated under the leadership of the previous superintendent and LCC president, which allowed the college to teach classes at the high school. The problem? State law requires instructors and others coming in contact with K-12 students to be digitally fingerprinted, something not agreed to by the teachers working under contract with the college. "They built a wing for us," said Stanley Chase, LCC senior vice president of Advancement and External Affairs. "We moved our full operation over there, in excess of 100 courses. We have 730 students taking courses there." Requiring digital fingerprinting would be a change of a condition of employment, something that would have to be renegotiated, Chase said. The Michigan [Education](#) Association "and our attorneys say that's not an area we have to comply with, given the fact we are a postsecondary institution," he said. The college's lease of the district property is effective until 2012, Chase said. "I believe that the representatives of the Howell school district are operating, from their perspective, in the best interests of their students. However, we wish they had given us more time," he said. "We are going to have further discussions." Howell Superintendent Ted Gardella said he couldn't say why the problem areas weren't resolved before now. "I can't answer that as I was not part of the negotiations. The issues should have been addressed," he said. Since state law is breached by the failure to obtain digital fingerprints from LCC instructors, the district has an obligation to terminate the college's lease, effective immediately, Gardella said. "My hope is we can reach an amicable resolution," he said.

—edited from an article by SHARON GITTLEMAN DETROIT FREE PRESS printed DECEMBER 14, 2008

State could find energy windfall just off its shores

Michigan has tremendous potential for wind energy if it's willing to have thousands of wind turbines whirling off the shores of the Great Lakes, a new report issued Wednesday said. The state could host as much as 320,000 megawatts of power from offshore wind, more than 10 times the amount of peak electricity produced now in the state from all sources. "That's an exorbitant number," said Charles McKeown, one of the authors of the report by the Michigan State University Land Policy Center. That is 80 times the projected output of the world's largest wind farm planned by billionaire T. Boone Pickens in the windy Texas panhandle. "This result has the potential to elevate Michigan's wind energy profile nationally and internationally because the resource available is significant," said Dr. Soji Adelaja, director of the Land Policy Institute and a study author.

According to the American Wind Energy Association, Michigan is the 14th windiest state on land, at 16,000 megawatts of possible wind power. No one had measured the state's offshore wind potential before. Whether the state will ever see that much wind power — which would require nearly 100,000 spinning turbines dotted across the lakes — "depends on what's economically feasible," McKeown said.

Some coastal states are looking at offshore wind energy, but the report said the Great Lakes have advantages over the salty oceans. States control the zones off their ocean shores for only 18 miles. Michigan controls the four lakes it borders to the middle of the lakes, McKeown said. The state has 40% of the surface area of the lakes under its jurisdiction and controls much of the lakes' bottom, where turbines would stand. That puts Michigan ahead of even other Great Lakes states for wind projects. There are obstacles, however. Turbines would have to be placed outside shipping lanes, away from delicate ecological habitats and out of the paths of migrating birds. Developers would have to pay for cables for miles to move the electricity. Boaters or cottage owners might object to the sight of the whirligigs invading their horizon. The United States has no offshore wind projects. Public opposition killed a wind project off Cape Cod.

—edited from an article by TINA LAM •DETROIT FREE PRESS printed OCTOBER 2, 2008

Madagascar: Creature Discomforts

South African man accused of trying to smuggle hundreds of rare chameleons, snakes, lizards and frogs out of Madagascar inside his jacket and luggage was convicted Tuesday and sentenced to a year in jail. Jo van Niekerk, 29, a zoology student from Pretoria, was arrested in November at Antananarivo Airport with 388 animals, among them several species found only on Madagascar, including a fanged snake and a nocturnal leaf-tailed gecko. Around 100 lizards and frogs were pulled from the lining of his jacket, including a dead lizard, officials said. By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS The New York Times Published: December 9, 2008



The Life Science Department of Muskegon Community College requests your help. We are gathering data on the types of biotechnology equipment used in laboratory courses in order to make the most informed decision possible in purchasing equipment for our

department. In late January, please look for an email containing a link to a short online survey. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes of your time. The results will be shared with all MCCB members and their affiliated schools. It should be very helpful to all schools looking at technology equipment. Thanks in advance for your help.
Kathy Pollock, MCC

Top 10 New Years Resolutions for the New Administration

(from the Union of Concerned Scientists)

1. Defend Americans from unsafe drugs, toys, and other products by requiring that federal agency leaders protect employees who blow the whistle when science is misused. Hundreds of government scientists have reported a fear of retaliation for expressing concerns about their agencies conduct. Federal government scientists will be looking for a clear signal from agency leaders that the manipulation, suppression, and distortion of science will not be tolerated.
2. Allow the public access to tremendous scientific resources by letting government scientists tell us what they know. The first step is to reform federal agency media policies to allow government scientists to better share their expertise with the public.
3. Protect the air we breathe by obeying the law and setting air pollution standards based on science. The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Science Advisory Committee should have a key role from the start in assessing air pollution threats and ensuring that air pollution standards are based on the best available scientific information.
4. Restore our faith in government by providing more information to the public about how science-based policy decisions are made. Agencies should disclose all scientific information used in making a decision, the names of the individuals involved in making the decision, and whether or not there was any dissenting scientific opinion.
5. Use science to conserve our natural heritage for future generations. The role of science in making decisions to protect imperiled species under the Endangered Species Act has been eroded significantly, reducing the government's ability to protect our nation's biodiversity.
6. Collect enough information to give us flexibility to meet future challenges and keep tabs on current problems. Initiatives like the Toxics Release Inventory have been recently scaled back, robbing the public of critical information regarding what chemicals are released into our communities. And climate change monitoring satellites have been threatened with funding cuts, severely hampering the usefulness of long-term data sets.
7. Hold your administration accountable to high scientific integrity standards. Give the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy the authority to investigate the state of science at federal agencies and report its findings to the public.
8. Keep politics out of science by reining in the power of the White House to tamper with purely scientific analyses. While it is appropriate for the White House to coordinate activities across agencies, OMB should respect the quality analysis that comes from agency scientists with decades of expertise.
9. Safeguard our health by putting the Environmental Protection Agency back in charge of evaluating the potential dangers of chemicals without interference from other agencies. Roll back new rules that allow agencies with clear conflicts of interest such as the Department of Defense or Department of Energy to delay scientific assessments of the toxicological and cancerous effects of chemicals for a database known as the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS).
10. Protect us by shining a bright light on all agency meetings held with special interests so we can understand their influence. Too many decisions have been made behind closed doors with too much influence from special interests, putting our health, safety, and environment at risk. -Last Revised: 12/16/08. www.ucsusa.org

4 speakers from the fall conference have sent copies of their presentations to us and Ralph Gorton has posted them on the MCCB website. They are:

1. Creative Assessment in the classroom and Aquatic Birds, Dr. Kathy Winnett-Murray, Hope College. [pdf file]

2. Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes, Dr. Rick Rediske, Grand Valley State Univ. [pdf file]

3. Exploration of submerged sinkhole ecosystems in Lake Huron, Dr. Bopi Biddanda, GVSU. [PowerPoint file]

4. Phylogenetics: The "E" word in disguise, Dr. Keith Crandall, Brigham Young University [PowerPoint file]

You can access these files at: http://www.mccb1.org/fall08_slides.htm



Theresa Van Veelen, Muskegon CC Campus Rep and organizer of the Fall conference, looks over some of Harry Benson's pictorial atlases from Morton Publishing (look at their Botany book, its fabulous!-ed.)

Steve Magdzinski converses with Heather Wesp, Past-President of MCCB and Montcalm Community College campus rep, while Christine Miller, Bay Mills Campus Rep, looks over some of his Freeman, Worth and Hayden-MacNeil textbooks



Arlyn Boorsma shows Kathy Pollack of Muskegon Community College, some of his cool teaching tools from EduTek



At the 2008 Fall conference, Muskegon Community College did an admirable job of attracting sponsors who offer highly relevant products to members. They included: Rick Lillich, rep for Mager Scientific Inc, a microscope, camera, and imaging dealer (who had some terrific dissecting scopes!); Steve Magdzinski, publishers rep for WH Freeman, Worth

publishers and Hayden-McNeil textbooks; Arlyn Boorsma of EduTek, a company that makes clicker systems, among other cool teaching tools; and of course our most staunch supporter, Harry Benson of Morton Publishing, who produce high quality lab books, ancillaries (including Paul Kriegers Visual Analogy Guides for anatomy & physiology; my personal favorites!-ed.) and photographic atlases.

The Southeast Michigan Community College Consortium

Centers of Expertise Program

was recognized as the "Educational Program of the Year" at the 2008 Automation Alley Awards Gala held at the Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Mich. on Sept. 12. The annual gala allows Automation Alley, Michigan's largest technology business association, to celebrate the significant technology advancements of its member organizations. More than 60 entrants competed for this year's awards.

The Southeast Michigan Community College Consortium has established Centers of Expertise to help build capacity and expertise for training tomorrow's workers. Consortium members include Henry Ford, Macomb, Monroe County, Mott, Oakland, Schoolcraft College, St. Clair County, Wayne County and Washtenaw Community College.

The five centers established by the schools will develop training programs in advanced manufacturing and alternative energy and fuels.

"Washtenaw CC has focused its efforts on innovation in advanced manufacturing, as well as new methods in tooling technology and the entrepreneurship necessary to bring them to market," explains WCC Business & Industry Services Director Linda Hammond, who is coordinating efforts at WCC.

Henry Ford (electro-mechanical systems), Wayne County (entry-level technicians), Mott/Schoolcraft (product lifecycle management), Washtenaw (front end product design), and Monroe County are taking a critical look at careers in advanced manufacturing and the skills and knowledge necessary to prepare workers for the emerging jobs.

Macomb (alternative fuels), Oakland (alternative energy and vacuum technology) and St. Clair County (solar and wind energy) are developing training programs in alternative energy. All nine community colleges will merge innovation concepts into their newly developed advanced manufacturing or alternative energy training and classes.

The schools are in year two, the implementation portion of the three-year grant, and are beginning to work with businesses to train their workforce in these areas.

Susan A. Starr
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