



Fall 2021

MCCB NEWS

Letter from the President

Hi everyone,

Hope you are well! It's been a busy summer for me at Mid Michigan College. Besides teaching 4 courses, participating on our Strategic Planning committee and MMC's Covid Task Force, and preparing to bargain a new contract (I'm our negotiations chair), I also completed a course from CMU's Health Sciences department. Aptly titled "At war with the virus: Covid-19", we met on nine Saturday mornings to interact with speakers from all over the world, each detailing their country/regions response to the pandemic. This was one of the most unique courses I have ever taken and it was possible with the magic of Zoom! It's hard to pick one thing that stands out the most, but the last speaker (from Canada) shared a unique philosophical perspective: Something he termed "What? So what? Now what?"

I can say with certainty, the last 16+ months have been the most unique in my 30 or so years of teaching. The "What?" of that for me had to be going remote, with no advance notice last March, forcing many of us to improvise on the fly. And I'm comfortable sharing that a lot of what I settled for was a far cry from the quality of instruction I'm used to providing (especially in the labs). I struggled with Zoom, frustrated by living in an internet dead zone and lacking camera and microphone to work effectively from home. I scrambled (with my colleagues) to find virtual replacements for F2F lab activities. I offered exams fully online without proctoring for the first time in my career. I don't think I've ever felt as inadequate, as a college instructor, while finishing that semester. And we had to cancel the Spring MCCB Conference; that was a hard "What?" too.



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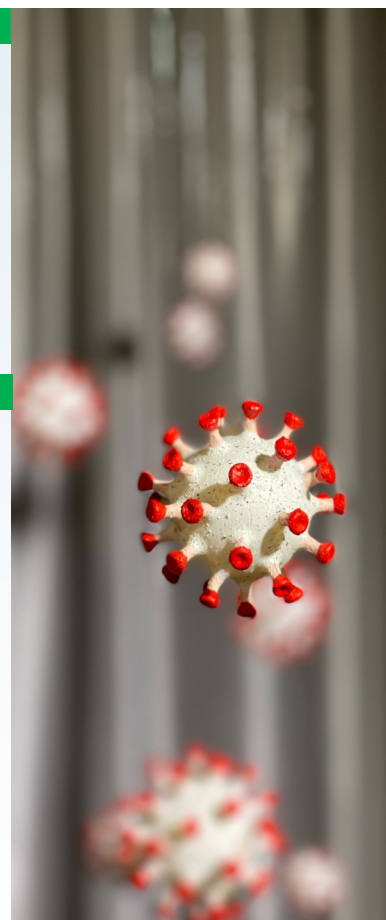


Photo by [Quinten Braem](#)

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Call to Action:

Please consider joining the MCCB Board of Directors. We are in need of people to fill future vacancies. It can be a fun and rewarding experience!



Click Link below:
[Facebook](#)

Letter From The President Continued...

I feel like I've been in the "So what?" phase since then. At Mid, we embraced disinfection, masking/shielding, and social distancing to slug our way through an 8-week F2F summer, a mostly F2F fall, and fully F2F 2021 winter and summer. Reduced class sizes helped, many of us incorporated Zoom as a hybrid option for our lectures to accommodate those quarantining or uncomfortable with attending F2F, and we learned to use lockdown browsers for exams. At home, we ordered take-out, passed on gatherings with family and friends, and spent way too much time on the computer. At MCCB, we Zoomed 5 times, offering two enrichment sessions, and optimistically hoped to run a conference in Fall 2021.

Which readies me for the "Now what?" phase. Many lessons learned have me prepared for the challenges of returning to some semblance of normal this fall. Vaccines have opened the door to increased class capacity, fully F2F instruction, and outside groups welcome back on MMC's campus. I'm still a little tentative about social gatherings; the microbiologist in me says a variant is coming that will be resistant to immunity gained by infection or vaccination. But I'm optimistic that if it does, and we must go remote, the transition will be somewhat smooth. Best of all, we are hosting the MCCB Conference for Fall 2021 and a chance for us to interact in person!

The conference will be held at MMC's Mt Pleasant campus on Friday September 24th and Saturday September 25th. Our conference committee has put together a great program of activities and sessions and we look forward to sharing with, and learning from, each other. Hope to see you there!

Best wishes,
Jeff Percha
Professor of Biology
MCCB President

Campus Updates

Montcalm Community College:

At Montcalm Community College, our entire science and math departments will spend the next year displaced as our building gets a complete remodel. We are taking advantage of some underutilized spaces - for example our former ceramics lab will be the new home to all A&P classes through at least summer 2022. The decision was also made to end our 20+ year use of physical cadavers and to switch over to an Anatomage cadaver table (starting mid-fall 2021). Our entire campus is also undergoing a tech remodel as projectors are removed from all classrooms and dual 75" TV screens are going up. Our department will be reviewing how teaching online (asynchronous) and LOL (Live online synchronous) worked in science courses last year and making scheduling recommendations to administration as we look to the future.

St. Clair Community College in Port Huron:

We have an exciting and new virtual reality Human Biology course at SC4. Students will be able to explore laboratory techniques using this VR technology.

Link: <https://sc4.edu/exciting-new-virtual-reality-human-biology-course-now-available/>

Upcoming Events

Fall 2021 MCCB Conference

The Fall 2021 MCCB conference will be held September 24th and 25th at Mid Michigan Community College in Mount Pleasant. A tentative schedule and application is included at the end of this newsletter. You may also register online using the link below:

Register online at: <http://www.mccb10.org/rsvp/>

Website Info

Please visit our website at:

<http://www.mccb1.org/>

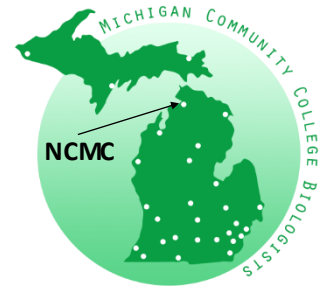
You will find information concerning conferences, job positions, general information about our organization as well useful web resources on our website.

If any MCCB member knows about biology positions, upcoming relevant conferences, seminars, or workshops being held in Michigan (as well as throughout the U.S.) please email information to:

Isis Arsnoe

mccbmembership@gmail.com

Spotlight: North Central Michigan College



Fun facts about Michigan Community Colleges,
Written by biology faculty: Isis Arsnoe

Name: North Central Michigan College (NCMC)

Mascot: Timberwolf

Location: Petoskey; educational centers in Gaylord & Cheboygan

Approximate Student Enrollment: 1,800

North Central Michigan College was established in 1958 with the main 207-acre campus located near downtown Petoskey, MI. NCMC services the “Tip of the Mitt” students and beyond with the addition of 3 online degree programs to begin fall 2021. NCMC offers 24 Associate Degrees, 39 Certificates and maintains popular Early College partnerships with area schools. The top transfer institutions are Lake Superior State University, Grand Valley State University, and Northern Michigan University. The college offers 3 club athletics programs (cross country, ski, e-sports) and in April 2021 adopted its first mascot, the Timberwolf. 2021 will also bring the opening of our newly renovated Borra Learning Center. Renovations include 7 new high-tech classrooms, relocation of student services and the addition of a 3,000 square-foot student commons learning space.

There are several exceptional accents on campus (e.g. nursing simulation lab, solar panels, green roof, mobile fabrication lab, Anatomage table, and more) but my favorite features *by far* are 1) the Natural Area and 2) the NCMC Greenhouse. Our 195-acre Natural Area is just a few steps from the door of the Health Education and Science Center (HESC), where the science courses are housed. The Natural Area contains approximately 2 miles of ungroomed foot trails and boasts over a dozen biotic communities from grassy meadow to mixed deciduous forest to cedar swamp. Bordered by the Bear River, this ecological treasure is home to many species of prokaryotes and eukaryotes – general biology, earth science, and microbiology classes can be found utilizing this amazing space for various learning activities throughout the academic year. The Natural Area is open to the public and is heavily utilized and loved by many community members.

Another favorite is the NCMC Greenhouse, a 720 square-foot space attached to our general biology classroom. Our greenhouse is home to many different plants and features a “bog” table with various carnivorous plants. Students observe the diversity of plant life and enjoy the calming aspects of this beautiful greenspace. In spring, biology classes start and maintain their own garden plants that they take with them at the end of the semester. This year, we started extra plants and created a fund raiser for our campus food pantry. At current, the greenhouse is mostly utilized by biology classes, art students, and groups organizing tours with our incredible greenhouse caretaker.

North Central Michigan College



Pictured top left: NCMC Natural Area in Winter

Pictured top right: NCMC Natural Area in Summer

Pictured Middle left: NCMC Greenhouse

Pictured Middle right: HESC Building viewed from Natural Area pond

Pictured bottom left: Stream Sampling the in the Natural Area.



Michigan Community College Biologists

A Statewide Network for Biology Educators

**2021 Fall Conference, Mid Michigan College
September 24th & 25th**

Conference Agenda (Tentative)

All events will take place in the Community Room (Rm 186) of the CLAB Building (Mt Pleasant Campus) unless otherwise noted. Parking is free.

Friday, September 24th

5:30-6:00pm	Check-in
6:00-7:00pm	Welcome, Dinner & Announcements
7:00-8:30pm	"Conservation Medicine" - Dr. Thomas Gehring, Central Michigan University

Saturday, September 25th

7:30-8:20 am	Check in & Continental Breakfast (Photo Contest begins)
8:20-8:30 am	Welcome and Announcements
8:30 am	Depart to a local Wildlife Management project, transportation provided courtesy of MMC
9:00-10:30 am	MMC's HAS Program and Wildlife Management – MMC staff
10:30 am	Depart for MMC
11:00-12:00 pm	"Current Great Lakes Research at CMU" - Dr. Kevin Pangle, Central Michigan University (refreshments available)
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch & General Membership Meeting
1:00-1:50 pm	Session 1 (choose 1)
2:00-2:50pm	Session 2 (choose 1) (Voting for Photo Contests ends at 3:00)
3:00-3:50 pm	Session 3 (choose 1)
4:00-4:15 pm	Closing Remarks (Photo Contest winners announced)

Sessions:

Session 1 (1:00 pm – 1:50 pm):

**The Challenges of a Captive Audience - An introduction to the Jackson College
Corrections Education Program (JCCEP)
Dr. Matthew Badtke (JC)**

Location: *Rm TBD, CLAB Building*

**A&P Roundtable – Discussion on challenges and issues related to teaching A&P remotely
during the pandemic
MMC Staff**

Location: *Rm TBD, CLAB Building*

**Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge: Estuarine Gateway to Saginaw Bay
Eric Dunton (SNWR Wildlife Biologist)**

Location: *Rm TBD, CLAB Building*

Session 2 (2:00pm – 2:50pm):

**Experience with a faculty mentoring network through the QUBES group
Dr. John Doudna (LCC)**

Location: *Rm TBD, CLAB Building*

**Round-table discussion on benefits of hosting a Community STEM event at your
institution**

Leigh Kleinert (GRCC)

Location: *Rm TBD, CLAB Building*

Session 3 (3:00pm – 3:50pm):

**Avida-ED, an AI-based computer research platform used to study evolution
Dr. Katherine LaCommare (UM)**

Location: *Rm TBD, CLAB Building*

**Roundtable discussion on issues relevant to adjunct instructors
David Proctor et. al.**

Location: *Rm TBD, CLAB Building*

Sessions:

Session 3 continued (3:00pm – 3:50pm):

Research on the Belize Barrier Reef

Trish Finnerty

Learn more about the research being done at St. George's Caye at Ecomar Research station near the Belize Barrier Reef. Ecomar conducts research on bottlenose dolphins, Antillean manatee (sub-species of West Indian Manatee), several species of sea turtles, and Queen conch. The session will also include details on how to organize, promote and run a travel course for students to study in these unique environments.

Location: *Rm TBD, CLAB Building*

Hunting and Anglers Scholarship Program (HATS) and Wildlife Management MCC Staff

An introduction to the new HATS program at Mid Michigan College, followed by a tour of an ongoing wildlife management project. The project property is located at 7001 S Nottawa Road, Mt Pleasant, Michigan.

Parking at MMC: Parking is conveniently located in the lot just west of the CLAB building, MMC Mt Pleasant Campus (2600 Summerton Road, Mt Pleasant, MI) free of charge.

Accommodations: The Baymont Inn (5858 E Pickard St, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858) is a little over one-half mile northwest of the Mt Pleasant MMC campus.

ROOM DETAILS/HOTEL AMENITIES:

- Two queen size beds: Friday's rate is \$188.10, and Saturday is \$152.10 plus taxes.
- One king bed: Friday's rate is \$179.10, and Saturday is \$143.10 plus taxes.
- Each room has a refrigerator and a microwave, flat screen tv, coffee pot, hairdryer, iron, and ironing board.
- Free continental limited breakfast from 6am -10am
- Pool and hot tub open from 7am -11pm
- 24-hour fitness center

TO MAKE A RESERVATION: Please call the hotel directly at 989-775-5555 to speak with one of our friendly front desk team members. Please be sure to mention that you are with MCCB group. We do require a valid credit card to hold and to be charged when checking in.



A Statewide Network for Biology Educators

2021 Fall Conference Pre-registration Form

Please register and submit fees before September 15th, 2021

MCCB memberships need to be renewed prior to or at every Fall Conference. See the membership registration form under the *Membership* tab (<https://mccbio.org/>) for more details or e-mail Isis Arsnøe (mccbmembership@gmail.com) if you are uncertain of your membership status. If your address or teaching status has changed, please submit updated information to Isis Arsnøe.

The Fall 2021 Conference is being held at **Mid Michigan College (Mount Pleasant campus)** on **Friday and Saturday, September 24th and 25th**. A schedule and conference details can be found in the MCCB Newsletter and at the MCCB website, <https://mccbio.org/>, under the *Conferences* tab. The website will be continually updated as new information about the conference is received.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Subjects taught: _____ Institution: _____

Please indicate your activities, meals and costs below:

Annual membership dues (*full-time \$40, part-time & retired \$15*) year begins in September = \$ _____

Conference Fee (both days) \$40 x _____ (number attending) = \$ _____

Friday night only or Saturday only \$25 x _____ (number attending) = \$ _____

Please indicate which meals you will be eating (*all meals include meatless options):

Friday Dinner (Pasta Buffet)* _____ (number attending)

Saturday Continental Breakfast* _____ (number attending)

Saturday Lunch (Taco buffet)* _____ (number attending)

Please indicate any special dietary restrictions here: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to MCCB or Michigan Community College Biologists.

Send registration form and check to: **Ryan Dziedzic, 1014 South Coleman Road, Shepherd, MI 48883**

Questions? Contact **Jeff Percha** (jpercha@midmich.edu)

Calling all Nature Photographers!



This is your chance to share your best photos with other biologists.

*Subjects can be anything related to biology - landscapes, scenery, macro photography, animals, flowers, micro photography, etc.

*Each person may submit 1, 2 or 3 photographs (photo size either 8 x 10 or 11 x 14 mounted on a stiff material (Matte board or foam board)).

*Bring your photo(s) and Registration form to the Fall 2021 MCCB Conference. Print off the form from the www.mccb1.org website or below in this letter and fill it out.

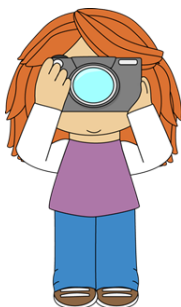
*Prizes will be awarded as determined by attendee voting. Each conference attendee may vote twice by tickets. Voting ends Saturday afternoon with awards given during dinner.

*All submitted photos will be entered in a silent auction with earnings donated to MCCB. Bidding will start at \$5 and at the end of the auction (Saturday afternoon) highest bidders will be determined. Hopefully many people will be able to take home a beautiful photograph.

* On page 3 of this document are some suggestions to reduce cost of photograph prints and matting and framing.

Enter the 8th MCCB Photography Contest

Registration Form



Your Name: _____

School: _____

Contact phone: _____

Contact email: _____

* Photo Entry #1 Title:

* Photographer's Name:

* Check the category ____ animal ____ plant ____ scenery ____ misc./other of your photo:
Shooting/Subject Information:

** Photo Entry #2 Title:

** Photographer's Name:

** Check the category ____ animal ____ plant ____ scenery ____ misc./other of your photo:
Shooting/Subject Information:

*** Photo Entry #3 Title:

*** Photographer's Name:

*** Check the category ____ animal ____ plant ____ Scenery ____ misc./other
of your photo:
Shooting/Subject Information:



Ways to Reduce Cost to Photographer:

Printing photographs and mounting and framing them can all be expensive. There are some ways to reduce the cost of the whole process. Here are some suggestions:

- If you have a color printer at home you can purchase photo paper at Office Depot, Staples, Meijers, etc and print your own at home.
- Have the photograph printed somewhere else and then you attach it to a matt board or foam board cut to the same size with spray adhesive (from Michaels, JoAnnes or other craft stores).
- Sign up with Walgreens, CVS, Meijer or Costco, etc at their photo dept. Easily done online. They will send discount coupons for printing almost every week. You can upload your photos, select size and pick them up at a nearby store. I like Walgreens as they have 40% off prints (no quantity limit) a few times a month.
- Watch Sunday papers for circulars for Michaels or JoAnnes (craft stores). They often have 50% off coupons for items. Buy a precut matt at the reduced price and behind your photo include a same size mat or foam board. You create 3 layers: the precut mat on top, your photo and behind it the backing board. (Walmart and Meijers also sell standard size precut matts.)
- With enough lead time, thrift stores, garage or estate sales often have inexpensive frames for sale. Purchase them often for less than \$5. Frames are not required for submission of photos, but they do improve the presentation.