Kaskaskia College’s record enrollment has created a major demand for students needing financial assistance in order for them to pursue their higher education goals. To help meet this need KC has started a Scholarship Initiative to raise funds for the College’s scholarship program. As this is one of the major goals of KC’s Alumni and Friends the association is doing its part by hosting a scholarship evening featuring motivational and inspirational speaker John Foppe.

Born with seven major birth defects including no arms, in 1970, and not expected to live, Foppe not only beat the odds but has gone on to lead a remarkable life. For 19 years, he has built a career traveling around the world with his powerful message. Foppe will bring his savvy skills and can-do know-how to Kaskaskia College on Monday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lifelong Learning Center. Tickets for the event are $10.00.

Foppe is all about results. He believes, “Visions don’t translate into outcomes because the initiative gets garbled like a code—garbled in peoples’ perceptions, reactions, and practices. My work intervenes deep down at the identity level. It’s not about people doing things differently. It’s about people being different.”

His book, "What's Your Excuse? Making the Most of What You Have" has been printed in six foreign languages. Foppe is a forceful presence who doesn't sit on the sidelines. He holds a masters degree in social service from St. Louis University. He is married. He is an artist. He has snow skied, climbed the Eiffel Tower and snorkeled in the Caribbean.

The evening will include musical performances by KC’s Instrumental and Choral groups.

To purchase a ticket for this event, please contact Angie Heiman at 545-3226.
Coach Jim McKee was affiliated with Kaskaskia College from 1967-1990, first as a tennis coach and always as a dedicated teacher and volunteer. He coached the 1971 Blue Devils Men’s Tennis Doubles team of Craig Freels and Ken Abrams, who competed successfully at state and regional tournaments before they were defeated in the National Junior College Tournament. Jim was integral to the development of a women’s tennis program at Kaskaskia College in the early 1980s and coached Kristy Jones and Mandy Travelstead who qualified for the NJCAA Nationals as a doubles team. He continues to volunteer his time with the men’s tennis program at Kaskaskia College and is an active member of the Retired Teachers’ Association at Kaskaskia College.

Robert S. Welch, Sr. attended Centralia Junior College from 1953 to 1955, and was a proven leader for the Men’s Basketball Team and one of the premier rebounders to play for the College. Robert was all conference both years that he played for the College and was inducted into the Centralia Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the 1955 Centralia Orphans. In 1955 he averaged 25 rebounds and over 22 points per game and had a record of 42 rebounds against the St Louis University Freshman team. As an administrator in the Flint public school system in Michigan, he continued to set the example for future generations until his retirement in 1992.

The 1954-55 Kaskaskia College Blue Devil basketball team; former Blue Devil Tennis Coach Jim McKee; former Blue Devil tennis players Ken Abrams and Bob Logullo; former basketball player Robert Welch, Sr. and former volleyball and softball Blue Angel player Monica (Konkel) O’Rear were the latest inductees into the KC Sports Hall of Fame. The inductees were honored during ceremonies in KC’s Lifelong Learning Center on February 20.

The Men’s Basketball Team, coached by Chuck Mundell at Centralia Junior College, now Kaskaskia College, held a record of 20-5 for 1955 and were Central Illinois Conference Champions, ranked in the national top ten and were the eighth highest scoring team in the country, averaging 91 points per game. Two team members, George Marcum and Robert Welch, received first team All-Tournament Honors for Region II, and Robert Welch was awarded the sportsmanship award. George Marcum also received the NJCAA All-American honors as the second leading scorer in the nation, averaging 33 points per game. Other team members were Jon R. Bechtold, John Bertges, Truman Bromley, Jerald Christian, John T. Dodillet, Fred W. Johnson, Jr., Richard A. Jones, Fred Kelly, Keith Kirkland, A. T. McCrary, Robert S. Welch, Sr. and Sam Wright. Team managers were Earl Whitelow and Jerry L. Morgan.

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Hall of Fame...

Former Kaskaskia tennis player Ken Abrams attended KC from 1970-1971 and was a qualifier for the National Doubles Junior College Tennis Tournament in Ocala, Florida in 1971. With his teammate, Craig Freels, they were undefeated at the state and regional levels and remained unrivaled until they competed in the national tournament. Ken taught professionally as the assistant tennis professional at Longboat Beach and Tennis Club in Florida and conducted numerous tennis clinics in the Sarasota-Bradenton area as well as working as an independent professional for several other facilities. He returned to Kaskaskia College as the men’s and women’s tennis coach from 1989-1991.

Another former KC tennis player, Robert Logullo attended Centralia Junior College, now Kaskaskia College, from 1965 to 1966 and played on the tennis team. He played the number two singles position on the number one doubles team with Tom Gray, a 1993 KC Hall of Fame Inductee. Together, they won the Southern Illinois College Conference Championship in 1966-1967 for doubles and were the 1967 NJCAA Region IV Doubles Champions. This win afforded him the opportunity to participate in the NJCAA National Finals held in Florida in June 1967 for both singles and doubles competition where he proudly represented the State of Illinois.

Monica (Konkel) O’Rear attended Kaskaskia College from 1975 to 1977, and was an integral member of the women’s volleyball and softball teams during the inaugural years. In the Blue Angels first softball season, under the direction of Head Coach Mary Ann Bohbrink, a 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee, the team has a 4-4 season. Monica held a batting average of .357 with 23 RBIs and 7 home runs that year. She graduated with an Accounting degree in 1977. She then became an active member of the community, through St. Ann’s Catholic Church and her work with the US Postal Service before passing away in 2000. Her son, Calvin, attended Kaskaskia College and was named an Academic All-America and was an integral member of the 2005-2007 Blue Devils Baseball Team.

Kaskaskia College welcomes Deborah Kleiboeker to KC as the new Director of Institutional Advancement. Kleiboeker lives in Hoyleton and has extensive fund raising experience. Kleiboeker received a Bachelor’s Degree from Century University and holds the CFRE designation – Certified Fund Raising Executive with AFP

Before joining the KC staff, she served as the Director of the Hoyleton Children’s Home Foundation for more than 20 years, and most recently served as the Development Director of the Mental Health Association of Greater St. Louis

Kleiboeker says, “As an academic institution, Kaskaskia College is centered on the success of its students and the educational process. The college is growing and changing everyday with an enrollment now of 12,000 students! I appreciate the opportunity to make a difference here, and to be a part of assuring the success of the institution as a promise that it will be here for many years.”
JEFF JONES CREDITS KASKASKIA COLLEGE FOR HIS SUCCESS

For Jeff Jones, age 23, Kaskaskia College was a big step up the ladder to a good start in the business world.

Jeff, born and raised in Centralia, attended Kaskaskia College from 2004 to 2006. He now works for American General Finance in Maryville, Illinois as a financial representative. He credits his two years at Kaskaskia College as a major factor in his success.

Jeff was born March 20, 1986, at St. Mary’s Good Samaritan Hospital in Centralia. He attended the Centralia City Schools and Centralia High School, where he graduated with high honors. He was vice president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was on the tennis team which went to state in 2004 as a doubles player and was a May Fete escort in 2004.

At Kaskaskia College, he graduated Summa Cum Laude, with a 4.0 average, and was on the Dean’s List and President’s List. He was a member of the College Rotarac Association, Core Values, Phi Theta Kappa and Students in Free Enterprise.

He transferred his credits to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, where he also graduated Summa Cum Laude, with a 3.905 grade point average. He was active there in club volleyball.

Jeff has many memories about Kaskaskia College and the major contribution it made to his development and subsequent start to his career.

“KC was an enjoyable time where I learned a great deal in my classes, valuable lessons in my extracurricular groups and made some good memories and friendships,” he said.

Jones feels that KC is a great place to begin your education because it is a very accommodating, yet challenging place of learning. “The staff and faculty are not only committed to helping students discover a path of learning but also focused on providing quality courses in a positive environment. KC is a great place to take some general requirements at an affordable price that still gives you the knowledge needed to move onto a university, etc. “

“I appreciate the faculty and staff who always gave me the support and encouragement. I thank you for giving me a great start to my college career and for guiding me in the right direction.”

Jeff has many people at Kaskaskia College who made a special contribution to his education and career development. He listed some of those people, including Jill Tomaszewski, Sharon Conners, Dr. James Underwood, Travis Henson, David Quinn, Louis Fogleman and Tom Courtney and Cathy Karrick.

Jeff is the son of Michael and Sheree Jones of Centralia, and Michael is a 1968 graduate of Kaskaskia College.

“KC gave me the opportunity to challenge myself and discover what I wanted to pursue in life.”

While a student at Centralia High School, Jeff took full advantage of the dual credit course offered and was able to transfer in 36 credits from CHS to Kaskaskia. “I would encourage anyone to take dual credit classes if possible. They are a great "head-start" to college as they give you the opportunity to earn college credit without doing any extra work. They gave me the opportunity to earn college credits before ever officially enrolling at KC, and they gave me a great start in my college career.”
During her more than 40 years in education, thousands of nursing students have benefited from the knowledge and training Mary Lou Whitten provided. For the past 21 years, Whitten has shared that knowledge with students at Kaskaskia College, first as an instructor, then Director of Nursing and then later as Dean of Nursing.

Under Whitten’s leadership the Kaskaskia College Associate Degree Nursing, Licensed Practical Nursing and Nurse Assistant programs have graduated more than 2,000 students. Those students in turn, have provided valuable nursing services to the residents in the KC District and surrounding areas, showing Whitten’s influence has extended beyond the classroom. As Director and then as Dean of Nursing, Whitten was instrumental in the development of KC’s Nursing programs offered at the East St. Louis Center and at the College’s Vandalia Campus. She also served on the committee which helped raise the private funds to construct KC’s first branch campus.

Whitten’s compassion and concern for her fellow man extends beyond the campus. In 2008 Whitten gave her time and expertise when she traveled to India to assist in re-establishing a 300-bed Nursing hospital and school following the school’s destruction from the Tsunami that devastated that part of world.

Whitten has decided to retire, but promises to stay involved in the College in various ways making herself available as an adjunct faculty member from time to time. The College is pleased Dean Whitten will remain part of the KC family and wishes her well in her retirement. Pictured below, Mary Lou Whitten and Granddaughter during the retirement celebration.

Taking over for Dean Whitten is Susan Batchelor of Kimmundy. Batchelor has a BS in Nursing from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and a MS in Nursing, Nursing Administration Focus, from Bellarmine College in Louisville, Ky. Previously Batchelor served as a Nursing Instructor for Eastern Illinois Community College at its Frontier Campus in Fairfield. Prior to her teaching assignments Batchelor served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Clay County Hospital in Flora. Batchelor’s extensive nursing and administrative experience makes her an excellent choice for KC.
PLANNED GIVING

Most Americans have wealth that consists of assets, not cash. These assets include your home, IRA, life insurance, retirement plan, securities and other personal property. Making a lifetime gift of your assets to Kaskaskia College today, or a deferred gift to be received in the future through a will or other financial planning tool, may increase your income and provide future support to our students. In many cases you can make a larger gift than you might have thought possible, while also benefiting yourself.

A simple bequest in your will, or trust arrangement naming Kaskaskia College Foundation as the recipient may reduce the amount of estate taxes your family members will have to pay at the time of your passing. Some kinds of trust arrangement provide you with interest income throughout your life leaving the corpus of the trust to a charity such as the Kaskaskia College Foundation in combination with your estate wishes for loved ones. We would be happy to work with you and your financial advisors to create a planned gift that addresses your personal needs and philanthropic goals. Please be in touch with Deborah Kleiboeker, Director of Institutional Advancement at (618) 545-3062. Thank you for this legacy you leave for tomorrow.

WELCOME KC ALUMNI & FRIENDS

The Kaskaskia College Alumni and Friends Association was established to provide a link between the college and its students... past, present and future. It is the hope of the Association that old friendships are renewed, new ones are created and the ties that bind each of us who attended Kaskaskia College and Centralia Junior College are strengthened, making us and our community better.

PURPOSE

To provide for networking of individuals and engaging alumni and friends in the life of the College.

MISSION

The Alumni and Friends Association is committed to serving the mission of the College in supporting opportunities for lifelong learning and ensuring students receive a high quality comprehensive education.

VISION

The Alumni and Friends Association will become a dynamic and active organization serving a major role in the advancement of Kaskaskia College.

Please let us know what you are up to, and provide any information on fellow KC alums by going on line at www.kaskaskia.edu/alumni and filling out our update forms. Or drop us a note at 27210 College Road, Centralia, Illinois 62801 attention Angie Heiman.

A FINAL THOUGHT: BUT STILL THE LEARNING IS EVER IMPORTANT

As children, school is play time with classmates and all about recess and snack time. But still the learning is ever important. By the time the middle school years approach the seriousness of Math and English have set in and we are driven to achieve good results on a report card. But still the learning is ever important. In high school we look ahead to college and try to determine a career path while we often concentrate on new found relationships and driving a car. But still the learning is ever important. By the time we enter the work force or choose college, education cannot be overlooked because suddenly we realize that it affects who we are and who we will become while we try to meet financial needs and provide for our family. But still, the learning is ever important.
KASKASKIA COLLEGE WORD FIND

KASKASKIA COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Alumni
Associations
Basketball
Board of Directors
Bookstore
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Competition
Core Values
Deans
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Enrollment
Events
Faculty
Family

Fitness Center
Friends of the Fine Arts
ICCBE
Kaskaskia
Library
Scholarships
Sports
Student Center
Students
Technology
Title Three
Triple Crown
Trustees
Underwood
Winter
WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Kaskaskia College Alumni and Friends is gearing up to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of KC and efforts are underway to continue to reach out to our former classmates and friends encouraging them to be part of a wonderful celebration planned for October. As we continue to grow and expand the Alumni and Friends want to make sure we are serving you. To better help us with our planning efforts the Alumni and Friends have established a survey to gather your input. Please go to www.kaskaskia.edu/Campus/Alumni on the College’s website and take a few moments to fill out the survey. Your input is greatly appreciated.