



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Have you ever thought about what our community would be like without Hibbing Community College? No locally accessible and affordable college education. No wonderful theater productions. No gourmet meals provided by student chefs. No vital dental services. No planetarium.



Dr. Pam Perell

We would have no course offerings for nontraditional students. Continuing education courses would be curtailed. College for Kids in the summer would cease. Meeting and conference events would be eliminated.

We would suffer a great economic loss

as a community. Students, staff, and faculty buy goods and services throughout Hibbing.

Simply put, Hibbing Community College greatly enriches us and is an indispensable asset we need to cherish and promote throughout our community.

The back page of this Cardinalumni outlines how you can help fund scholarships for deserving students through one of the programs offered by the foundation and in this way help support one of the Iron Range's academic jewels—Hibbing Community College.

FACULTY FEATURE

B.J. Rolfzen retired in 1985 after a 35 year teaching career, 25 of which were spent at Hibbing Community College. A dedicated English instructor who "loved" his students and who considered it "a



privilege to teach them," B.J. taught the personal essay, the novel, the research paper, British and American literature, and his favorite—poetry—over a quarter century college career.

Born Boniface Joseph Rolfzen on 6 April 1923 in the small southern Minnesota town of Melrose, B.J. witnessed first hand the poverty and despair of the Great Depression that began with the stock market crash of 1929.

His father, Henry, and his mother, Bernadina, were first generation German emigrants who reared 11 children—7 boys (one died young) and 4 girls—in a small house on the edge of town with no modern conveniences.

The six surviving boys shared two beds. The four girls shared one bed and a single dresser made of orange crates. Clothes hung on nails with a rod serving as a closet. B.J. had two pairs of trousers and one pair of shoes, electing to go barefoot during summers spent fishing the Sauk River for bullheads and working long hours at a neighboring farm for four cents a day.

With little prospect for the future immediately at hand, Rolfzen—within days of graduation from high school—joined the United State Navy in June of 1941, lured by the prospect of the princely sum of \$21 a month.

Initial "boot camp" at the Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago followed by more training in San Diego shortly after the outbreak of World War II led to a six year navy career designing and monitoring drones. Shortly after having been witness to the atomic bomb tests near Bikini Island in 1946, B.J. left the service as an aviation chief radioman with the rank of chief petty officer.

Using the "godsend" of the G.I. Bill, Rolfzen earned a B.S. degree in English from St. Cloud State College in 1950. He met the love of his life, Leona Welle—the most wonderful woman in the world—during a bus ride back to college. To date, they have shared 58 marvelous years together.

A year spent teaching high school English in Bertha, MN, in 1950 led to four more in Wadena. A Master's Degree earned during the summers at Colorado State University in those five years was followed by a contract to teach high school English in Hibbing in 1955.

His college teaching tenure began in 1960 at Hibbing when the junior college still occupied the west wing of the high school building. B.J. subsequently moved with the college in 1967 to its present campus site where he finished his teaching career in 1985.

"I came to class prepared, tried to be interesting, and showed no favoritism," B.J. recalled of a career that he truly loved.

He remembers his students as "cooperative and ambitious." They liked "to study and learn," he fondly recalls. "And I loved to teach them."

That philosophy coupled with an obvious love of and enthusiasm for his subject matter won B.J. the hearts of a generation of college students.

Dr. Linda (Christofferson) Shadiow, director of faculty development at Northern Arizona University, remembers Rolfzen as "inspirational, the first teacher who uncovered the connection of literature to life."

Rolfzen's initial years of retirement were spent exploring the immediate Hibbing area, motoring on scooters far and wide until open heart surgery to replace a valve in 2004 was shortly followed by a stroke and a subsequent broken hip incurred in a fall in his driveway, seriously curtailing his travels.

At the request of his children, he has self-published a biography of his childhood years entitled *The Spring of My Life*, essentially a memoir of growing up in small town Minnesota during the Depression.

Ironically, of late, his high school teaching career has given him more widespread attention as the junior English instructor of Robert Zimmerman—Bob Dylan.

Dylan enjoyed Rolfzen as an instructor and in September of 2005 Rolfzen received a personal invitation and tickets to attend the New York debut of Martin Scorsese's tribute to Dylan, "No Direction Home," although health problems prevented his attendance.

More recently, B.J. participated as a poetry reader at the opening weekend of a worldwide Bob Dylan Symposium organized by the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota from February 3 through April 29, 2007.

B.J. and Leona have five children—Ann Kleffman, who works in Hibbing for the St. Louis County Social Services; Jane Moore, a surgical technician at the Mayo Clinic; Bill, who works for the state government in Alaska; and Mary Vehrenkamp, a software engineer at the Mayo Clinic.

Rolfzen still enjoys contact from former students and loves to hear how and what they are doing with their lives. He can be reached at (218) 263-5994 or by mail at 808 East 24th St., Hibbing, MN 55746.

Any former student(s) of Mr. Rolfzen interested in starting a scholarship fund or an endowment in B.J.'s name should contact Susan Degnan at HCC, with contact information available on the back of the Cardinalumni.

ALUMNI CORNER



Rita (Costanzi) Charter earned her AA degree from Hibbing Community College in 1974, followed by a BS degree in English from Mankato State University and a MEd degree from the College of St. Scholastica.

Currently, Charter teaches English at Chisholm High School, while also serving as a media specialist. She credits the education she received at HCC as critical in shaping her “decision to become a teacher—a choice [she] has never regretted.”

She found HCC to be “a great place to begin a college career. And I do mean *college*. Academic standards were high, and class sizes were small,” she recalls.

When she transferred to MSU, the chair of their English department granted her five credits beyond those that accompanied her AA degree because he knew of the HCC standard for excellence.

B.J. Rolfzen’s English class—particularly freshman composition and British literature—student senate meetings, and opening the HCC Theatre Complex with “Fiddler on the Roof” in 1972 rank among her fondest memories.

Rita is married to John Charter, and they have one son—Mark, age 17.



Dr. Michael Zakula attended Hibbing Community College from 1970-1972 and found that the “quality” education he received in biology and chemistry made the transition to dental school at the University of Minnesota “relatively easy.”

He was challenged as a student at HCC “and the course work was outstanding.” He later scored in the 99th percentile on the national Dental Aptitude Test, helping him get accepted into dental school with only two years of pre-dental education.

In fact, he notes that some of “the course work that I had at HCC was more challenging than a lot of the courses I had in dental school,” helping facilitate his acceptance into orthodontic residency.

Zakula played football at HCC and served as captain for one Northern Division championship team. With the HCC Chamber Band, he participated in an International Music Festival in Guildford, England—where he met his future wife who was touring with another group from Pennsylvania.

He and wife, Lisa, live in Hibbing, where Dr. Zakula maintains an orthodontics practice, and have two grown children, Linden, 24, and Kellen, 21.



Ed Matonich, HCC class of 1960 and now a trial lawyer in Hibbing, readily admits to having “skipped the last three years of high school,” with little direction until “Hibbing Community College gave me a chance to make it up.”

One of four Matonich children to graduate from HCC and later earn four year degrees, Ed recalls that he was not certain what to do after high school until he saw a community college course catalog “with a wide spectrum of course offerings” and decided to pursue a law degree.

Hibbing Community College gave him an education that “made it possible to graduate from the University of North Dakota law school in 1964.”

Now a nationally recognized trial lawyer, Matonich—among numerous other honors—has been listed among the Best Lawyers in America for the past dozen years and is a member of the prestigious International Society of Barristers, serving as president in 2005, the same year he was named Minnesota Lawyer of the Year.

“Simply put,” Matonich professes, “I wouldn’t be where I am today were it not for Hibbing Community College. It saved me.”

Matonich still resides with his wife, Judy, in Hibbing, where he has been practicing law for 43 years. Their daughter, Julie—married with two children—also has earned a law degree and practices with the firm out of its Minneapolis offices.



Dr. Jessica (Bergan) Morgan attended Hibbing Community College from 1992-1994 before matriculating to the University of Minnesota Duluth where she earned a biology degree as a pre-med student in 1996. In 2000 she was conferred as a Doctor of Medicine by the University of Minnesota.

As an HCC student, Bergan won the Chancellor’s Award of Excellence honoring “outstanding women students in mathematics, science, and engineering in Minnesota community colleges,” the first HCC student to be so honored.

In recalling her two years spent in Hibbing, Bergan found that HCC “allowed me a good transition from high school to college. In addition, I was well prepared to transfer to a larger university. My teachers covered the necessary material and far more.”

Currently practicing family medicine at St. Mark’s Hospital, Jessica now lives in Salt Lake City, UT, with husband, Kevin, and has just given birth to a baby girl named Matilda Emerson Morgan.

PROVOST’S CORNER

The challenge facing higher education today is mirrored by the following parable:

While working one day, three stone cutters were asked what they were doing. The first stone cutter said he was cutting a rock. The second stone cutter said he was building a wall. The third stone cutter said he was building a palace.

Higher education must meet the challenge of turning out graduates with the vision and optimistic outlook of the third stone cutter.

Our global, diverse, fast-paced world demands a work force organized around knowledge and skills, the ability to use technology, and the capacity to work in teams to develop creative approaches to problem solving to shape a positive future. It also demands an inspired and engaged generation of learners and workers.



Dr. Ken Simberg

Today’s students are tomorrow’s workforce—and ‘workforce’ means more than available bodies. A workforce is educated and skilled and able to succeed in a chaotic, ever-changing environment. Graduates must be prepared for a future of innovation, cross-disciplinary learning, and holistic understanding.

Higher education must, as a primary mission, help students learn—and apply what they learn to real life situations. It also must energize and inspire.

No matter what their course of study may be, students must see how higher education will enrich their lives and how their future employment endeavors will serve their profession, community and society.

Upon graduation, Hibbing Community College students are expected to have acquired the following learning outcomes:

- To work productively and cooperatively
- To communicate clearly and effectively
- To think creatively and critically
- To assume social and civic responsibility
- To value self

These qualities foster a renewed sense of purpose and responsibility and allow our graduates to think beyond the routine—to see themselves not just as stone cutters but as builders of palaces.



CARDINAL ATHLETE GARNERS AWARD

Kristin Riesgraf has been named an NJCAA Volleyball All-American. Riesgraf was named to the 1st team of All-Americans. Riesgraf is a sophomore, middle hitter from Hibbing. She becomes the first Volleyball All-American in HCC history. Her stats are impressive as she was in the top 25 of the country in hitting. Playing in 102 games this season, she led the MCCC in attack percentage at .397 and kills per game average at 4.75. She averaged 3.07 digs per game and .079 blocks per game. She had 25 service aces and a serve percentage of 99% (479/485), 484 kills, 88% serve receive (362/412), 305 digs, 79 blocks. Six out of the 12 members on the first team were from Minnesota. Ridgewater College won the 2006 NJCAA DIII Volleyball National Tournament and Central Lakes was third which points to the strength of the state nationally.

Congratulations to Kristin and her teammates!



HCC FOUNDATION PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Hibbing High School Seniors Jeremy Johnson, Kyle Krampotich, Rosalyn Salstrand, Megan Brownlee, Dustin Cohoe and Jessica Michaels received \$500 scholarships from the Hibbing Community College Foundation, represented by Foundation member Patty Miller at the recent Hibbing High School Award's Ceremony. The HCC Foundation contributes towards strengthening the quality and availability of higher education at Hibbing Community College by raising funds for scholarships.

HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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GIFT OF STOCK BENEFITS EVERYONE BUT IRS

(reprinted from the St. Paul Pioneer Press)

Q: I want to give shares of stock to a Catholic school [HCC Foundation, in our case]. The stock is trading at about \$100, but I bought it a long time ago for about \$15. Is my deduction the present price or the purchase price of the stock?

A: This question illustrates why people are smart to donate shares of stock, mutual funds or bonds, instead of cash, to charitable organizations.

When you give shares of stock to a charitable group, you can deduct the full value on your taxes—or about \$100 a share in this case. That's a good deal for you and a good deal for the charity, because the organization gets the entire benefit of your gift. Official charitable organizations . . . are not taxed when they sell stock. So no one pays taxes.

You would not be able to benefit from your gift as much if you sold stock yourself and then gave a gift of cash to the charity. Since you bought the stock at \$15 a share, it increased in value by \$85. The complete increase in value would be subject to capital gains taxes, up to 15 per cent tax on the money made since buying the stock.

So to get the greatest bang for your buck, give stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares to charities—not cash.

FOUNDATION HOSTS FUNDRAISER SOIREE

The thirteenth annual Hibbing Community College Foundation fundraiser held April 25, featured a preview presentation of the HCC Theatre Department's production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

A social hour of wine and a delectable medley of hors d'oeuvres prepared by Dan Lindholm and the culinary foods department preceded the musical.

Salmon, shrimp cocktail, pork pinwheels, chicken mousse, tuxedo strawberries, bread pudding, and a variety of decadent truffles served as a scrumptious prelude to the soiree.

The social hour led into a marvelous production of the Disney classic. As usual director Mike Ricci and cast presented a spectacular performance, with a working water fountain, elaborate castle set, and great special effects. The costuming was gorgeous and the singing delightful as guests were treated to an evening of song, dance, and theatrics followed by a cast reception with more treats after the performance.

Watch for information regarding next year's fundraiser in a future issue of the Cardinalumni. Monies raised go directly to student scholarships at HCC. Plan ahead to participate in an event which "Helps create a future for students."



Yes, I would like to support students attending Hibbing Community College!

- Use the amount enclosed for the general scholarship fund.
- Apply the enclosed amount to the Vision 2010 Fund.
- Endow a scholarship to be named: _____ (\$10,000.00 minimum contribution)
- Have someone from the Foundation Board of Directors contact me regarding ways that I might be of help to the Foundation.

Name

Address

City, State & Zip

Phone

Hibbing Community College

1515 E 25th Street
Hibbing, MN 55746

Phone: 218.262.6710
TDD: 218.262.7294
Fax: 218.263.2932
Email: susan.degnan@hibbing.edu
www.hibbing.edu

Vision 2010

The Vision 2010 Program focuses on adding to our endowment funds, with the goal of building the fund to one million dollars by the end of the decade.

Vision 2010 asks supporters to pledge \$1,000 to the Foundation. Those monies may be contributed in one lump sum or made in installments: three donations of \$333; or five donations of \$200.

An Endowed Scholarship

Persons, families, businesses, or organizations may endow a scholarship under any name. A minimum of \$10,000 is required, ensuring an annual scholarship of \$500.

An Annual Scholarship

If an individual or an organization would like to establish a continuing scholarship without setting up an endowment, contact the Foundation. All that needs to be provided is the annual amount to be donated, the number of scholarships to award, the criteria to qualify, the name of the scholarship, and whom to invoice each year.

The HCC Foundation is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation chartered by the State of Minnesota

An Equal Opportunity Corporation

