



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To achieve great things, you have to believe. The Hibbing Community College Foundation believes in the strong academics offered at Hibbing Community College and its well qualified faculty.



*Dr. Pam Perell*

Our Foundation has worked hard to achieve great things this year because of our belief in the college. By the end of the year, alumni and friends will be able to keep updated on

Foundation happenings through our new web page. Additionally, the Cardinalumni publication has continued with the dedicated work of our board members.

The Hibbing Community College Foundation proudly awarded 103 scholarships to students from 30 different high schools throughout Minnesota during the academic year 2007. Awards averaged \$425 each and totaled \$44,125.

This year, in addition to the traditional awarded scholarships, the Foundation helped support the Startin' Young program furthering the idea of advanced college education. Also, the Foundation contributed scholarship funds for the 2008 Italian study abroad science course through monies generated by faculty payroll deductions intended for Foundation designation.

In August, Hibbing Community College and the Foundation welcomed Bob Erickson, whose strong belief in MnSCU has helped him achieve his goal of biking to all 53 MnSCU campuses to promote education, raise funds for part-time scholarships, and spread awareness of the rising cost of education

With the support of alumni and friends of Hibbing Community College, the Foundation can continue to achieve great things. Please consider supporting a deserving student at Hibbing Community College through a scholarship fund option outlined on the back page.

## FACULTY FEATURE

**Mike Ricci** believes to the depth of his soul that "theater can spark, that it can reveal the possibilities that life has to offer." His fervor has brought more than mere sparks to the Hibbing Community College stage: he has brought the stars out with HAIR, PHANTOM and TOMMY.

A graduate of Farmingdale High School in Long Island, Ricci entered college in Plattsburgh, New York, with intentions of a medical career. But as the affable college instructor is fond of saying, "Funny things happen along the way"—including his own life story.

His college English instructor—also the theater director—was looking to cast a principal part as an Arab in the *Time of Your Life*; and when Ricci showed a little interest, he was asked, "Oh, by the way, do you play the harmonica—the Arab does?"

"No," Ricci responded, "but I do play accordion." The part was adjusted accordingly, and the spark that Ricci now speaks of had seen first light.

"That play was sort of fun," Ricci recalled. That led to another play, and then another. "It sort of grew on me," Ricci recalled with a smile.

An acting class led to another instructor noting, "You gotta stick with this—you're good." Then came a dance class. Then a theatre class. The world had lost a doctor and gained a thespian.

After receiving his BA in theatre, Ricci headed for New York and every open call audition that he got word of. He attended Herbert-Berghoff and the American Academy of Art schools only to find himself matched against students who already held parts in Broadway productions.

Besides attending acting school, Ricci was hosting a radio talk show, running a carpentry business, and studying history and archeology.

But an offhand comment by a teacher at the Actors and Directors Lab in New York that Ricci "had a real good eye for directing" was soon followed by the pursuit of a MFA degree in directing from Florida State University.

Ricci had found his love. "All those varied interests that distracted me from focusing on acting served as a perfect background for directing and gave me an excuse to learn more about the world," he reflected.

Although having a professed goal of becoming a professional director at a regional theater—not teaching—stints at the Old Courthouse Theatre and the

Charlotte Repertory Theatre in Concord, NC, and the Actors Theatre of Louisville, KY, led to teaching positions up and down the East Coast, followed by being named an Outreach Program Workshop leader at the Great American History Theatre in St. Paul in 1995.

Then an ad solicitation in a Minneapolis paper for a theatre director at Hibbing Community College, followed by an interview and a job offer landed the talented director and teacher on the local campus in 1997—much to the subsequent delight of a decade of students and local theatergoers.

Ricci has directed 20 major productions on campus and has been responsible for well over 100 other workshops, concerts, guest artist appearances, and children's theatre shows, bringing a level of professionalism and artistry not seen before in this area.

Along the way he has received a Minnesota Arts Leadership Award and a Maddie Simmons Art Advocacy Award in 2001 to go along with a MACT Best Director Award in 1999.

Ricci enjoys the small town atmosphere and familiarity that lets him "get things done quickly." And those "things" involve "every nut and bolt" facet of the production—from selling tickets to aligning the soundboard.

Part of those duties fall upon his wife, Ellie, a master set designer and scenic art specialist who creates most of the sets and backdrops for the plays. The couple has one daughter, Danielle, an instructor with an Austin, TX, dance company.

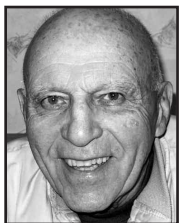
He has written grants totaling more than \$150,000 for renovations to the relatively small, 280 seat campus theatre.

New lights, rigging, stage floor, storage areas, and sound system have enabled the 1,200 square foot stage to become the Beast's castle, the underground lair for the Phantom, and the setting for a rock opera.

Although Ricci admits that theatre "has been a tough life" in the sense that society loves to support the arts—except financially—he professes no regrets because theater "can get you thinking about yourself and what you could or should be doing"—that "spark" that he has brought to Hibbing Community College and to the community of Hibbing.



## ALUMNI CORNER



When **Louie Sella** attended our local community college, it was called Hibbing Junior College and students could be found in the building ranging in age from kindergarten to sophomores in college, with the college occupying essentially the west wing of the massive Hibbing High School.

But the school still had “good teachers,” according to Sella, a 1943 graduate, “with a reputation for graduating some very good students.”

Sella enrolled at HJC directly after high school graduation from Nashwauk, only to see his college plans interrupted after junior college by “a call from Uncle Sam” to serve in World War II.

Originally selected by the army to attend school at Texas A&M for specialized training, Sella found himself in the European Theater of the war in September of 1944 when—purely arbitrarily—the “bottom half of the alphabet” from his Aggie class was sent overseas due to the critical shortage of servicemen.

Severely wounded in southern France in December of that year, Sella spent the next fifteen months hospitalized stateside, where he met his future wife, Edna, who still shares his life today.

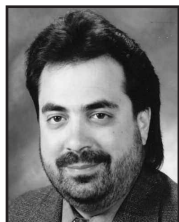
After being discharged, Sella enrolled in the aeronautical engineering program at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1947. Sella returned to northern Minnesota in January of 1948 and was hired by M.A. Hanna, eventually being certified as a mechanical engineer and working 19 years for the company.

Sella then changed careers to become a salesman for Continental Sales and Equipment Company, working again for 19 years before retirement.

He noted that his years at HJC “started me on my career path with good teachers who were great role models,” especially, for him, engineering instructor Lou Becker.

Basketball coach Doc Savage was another favorite, and Sella recalled playing—and losing—twice to Virginia Junior College for the Range JC Championship.

Louie and Edna Sella still reside in Hibbing and have four grown children—Jimmy, Jeff, Sandra, and Susan.



**Dr. Mark Versich**, currently a board certified family practice physician at the Hibbing Mesaba Clinic, found the two years spent at HCC from 1986-88 to be “an outstanding experience” that prepared him well for his future education.

Hibbing Community College afforded him the opportunity to “transition from high school to the college experience,” acquiring a sense of responsibility and maturation in the process.

Versich found that “a sense of being treated as an individual, not just a number attached to a tuition bill,” went a long way towards making the adjustment to a college environment, as did the “small personal touches” that made him feel comfortable.

All the credits earned at HCC readily transferred to St. Thomas without any difficulty, and the academic foundation laid at the college enabled him to move on to the University of St. Thomas with a solid background that helped him attain a biology major and chemistry minor with honors.

After graduating from St. Thomas in 1991, Versich matriculated to the UMD/UM medical school, earning his doctorate in 1995 and thereafter undertaking a residency program in Grand Forks from 1995-98.

Versich then accepted his current position as a family practitioner in Hibbing, where he resides with his wife, Melissa, and their two children—eight year old Marko and five year old Melissa.



Although Hibbing High School Resource Officer **Kathleen Layne** graduated from HCC in 1996, she still often finds herself on campus taking continuing education and licensure courses offered at the school.

As such, she occasionally runs into staff and college personnel from a decade in the past and remembers the “really great, good-hearted people that work there.”

Reared as part of a military family, Kathleen knew from a relatively early age that the discipline offered by a law enforcement career had an appeal, along with the chance to be a positive influence in society.

The Law Enforcement Program satisfied both goals. “The dedication of the staff gave me a focus on my career,” she reported. “Instructors were positive and supportive and helped encourage me to complete the program—even suggesting grants and scholarships to help me along.”

In fact, Kathleen was awarded the Gary Wilson Scholarship, named in honor of a Duluth police officer killed in the line of duty, after participating in an internship in Duluth.

Within a year of graduating from the Law Enforcement Program at HCC, she had been hired as a traffic control officer for the city with the rank of corporal and now serves as a liaison officer working as a “go between” the school and the police juvenile department.

She remembers Hibbing Community College as a place “where people care about you and your future.”



When **Drew Hatch**, currently a Glenwood Springs, CO, police officer, thinks of the Hibbing Community College Law Enforcement program, he grimaces at the memory of setting his alarm at 5 a.m. “to get ready for inspection.”

But the rigor and the discipline demanded of him then now serves him well in his current position as he still “does the same things now that I did before inspection in Hibbing so that I can represent myself in a professional manner.”

A 2001 Hibbing High School graduate, Hatch—ironically—would end up spending two stints at HCC, the first being one year immediately after high school graduation.

That year done, the fall of 2002 saw him pursuing a psychology degree with a math minor from the University of South Dakota, graduating in May of 2005.

But, with a career in law enforcement as his goal, he returned to the Hibbing campus in January of 2006 as an enrollee in the law enforcement program.

One year almost to the day later, Hatch took his HCC training to the Highland Ranch Public Safety Training institute in Denver, CO, in the successful six month pursuit of a Colorado Police Officer Standards and Training certification.

He credits the certification and his being offered a position on the Glenwood Springs police force to “the training I received from the instructors at HCC. They taught me how to approach the job,” he recalled. “The instructors are top notch, and the exposure to the different areas of law enforcement was phenomenal.”

Now married to the former Kate Dethloff, whom he met while attending the University of South Dakota, Hatch still is thankful for the time that HCC “allowed me to spend with my family before I moved away.”

*Please mark your calendars  
for the annual  
Hibbing Community College  
Foundation Formal Dinner  
event to be held April 24  
on campus.*

### HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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## PROVOST'S CORNER

What's in a name? For Hibbing Community College the name says it all, with the first word identifying its location and the last its purpose to educate.

But what of the word *community*? That one may not be so simple as it seems. In a sense the word identifies whom the college serves. Yet that does not mean just who attends the college—but rather who in a broad sense is served by Hibbing Community College. Let me share but a few examples of how our “community” is served by your local college.

Recently, Cleveland Cliffs Mining Company approached the college with concerns over an anticipated shortage of workers to fill vacancies at their taconite facilities due to large numbers of employee retirements. In

response, the college developed curriculum and began an Industrial Technology-Mining program to help train the next generation of workers for the mining industry.



*Dr. Ken Simberg*

In a similar fashion, a group of pharmacists and pharmacy employees met with college personnel to express a need for trained pharmacy assistants. Once again, curriculum was developed, and a new Pharmacy Technician Program emerged to train future pharmacy employees.

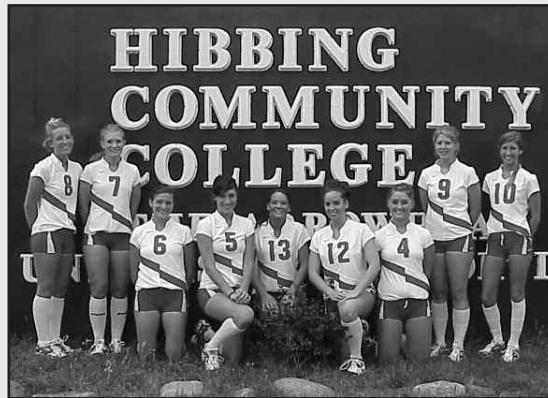
Meetings with local high schools indicated a need for additional career and technical education courses, resulting in a partnership between HCC and Hibbing, Nashwauk, Cherry, and Floodwood High Schools called the Applied Learning Initiative (ALI) whereby students from these high schools attend HCC one day a week to receive advanced automotive training beyond what is offered in their respective schools.

Additionally, the initiative created a partnership to offer engineering courses to Hibbing High School juniors and seniors. Faculty from both the college and the high school team teach the course to some 50 students currently enrolled in the collaborative program.

Lastly, in response to community requests, HCC has begun soccer and ice hockey programs at the club level, allowing students to enjoy those activities while attending college.

Hibbing Community College recognizes its obligation as a community asset and resource, fulfilling that obligation by providing employers with a trained work force, expanding educational opportunities through high school partnerships, and providing recreational options for college students.

## CARDINAL VOLLEYBALL FINISHES YEAR AT STATE TOURNAMENT



Team and All-State Second Team. Teammate Sarah Bailey, a hitter from Hill City, was named to the MCCC Northern Second Team.

The HCC Volleyball team parlayed a 6-6 record in the MCCC North Division and a 15-20 overall record into a MCCC State Tournament appearance Oct. 26-28 in Willmar. Although the team finished eighth, three sophomore squad members earned individual honors.

Hibbing graduate Nina Lutmer—ranked first in the nation in set assists per game—and Mapleton native Laura Girard—ranked third nationwide in kills—were named to the First Team 2007 MCCC Northern All-Division

## CARDINAL GOLFER JON MICHALSKI QUALIFIES FOR NATIONAL TOURNEY

Cardinal freshman golfer Jon Michalski from Silver Bay placed fifth in the MCCC Region 13 Tournament held October 1 and 2 at the Legacy Course in Brainerd, earning him a trip to the NJCAA National Tournament in New York this spring.

After a frustrating season that saw him consistently struggling on the front nine of courses and then rebounding on the back nine, Michalski put together rounds of 81 on Monday and 79 on Tuesday to qualify for the national event, to be held in early June of 2008.

Although he notes that he “will be pretty busy with school and basketball” between now and June, he is already looking forward to representing the Cardinals in a “tournament that [he] never thought” he would get a chance to play in.

## HCC THEATRE 2007-2008 SEASON

HCC Theatre Director, Mike Ricci, started this past summer with a blank piece of paper, a potential cast, and a desire to produce a play on the chaos that has consumed the country because of the war in Iraq.

After commissioning playwright Dominic Orlando to put together a script, the world premiere of *Chain of Command* found its way to the HCC stage, examining “many different chains of command one finds in wartime”—from the military to the home front.

Performances were held from October 25 through November 4, with three cast members—Pat Zollar, Joe Galatz, and Nina Kampf—nominated by adjudicators from the Kennedy Center who witnessed the production for the prestigious Irene Ryan acting competition to be held this January in Omaha, Nebraska.

The play itself also will be entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BELIEVE

NBYT CHRISTMAS SHOW  
December 6, 7 and 8

### BRAVE NEW WORKSHOP

COMEDY IMPROV  
Friday, February 15 at 7:30 pm

### A MONSTER ATE MY HOMEWORK

NBYT SPRING MUSICAL  
March 6, 7, and 8

### BORN YESTERDAY

April 24 - May 4

**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

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**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*

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