



Cardinalumni

ISSUE VII

FALL 2009

CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM CRUCIAL TO HCC



Hungry diners formed a long line well before the announced 11:00 a.m. starting time for this year's November 19 annual Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the Hibbing Community College Culinary Arts Program.

Turkey, mounds of potatoes and gravy "with all the trimmings" awaited, served by impeccably attired students from the popular college program.

The on campus Thanksgiving holiday feast ranks as perhaps the most popular dining experience among the many offered throughout the year under the direction of instructors Victor Bagan and Dan Lidholm.

By providing daily fare as simple as soups and sandwiches to serving elaborate hors d'oeuvres, desserts and full scale formal dinners, the Culinary Arts program serves a vital role at Hibbing Community College.

Students enrolled in the food services and management program learn basic food production and management skills that make them capably job ready for the food service industry.

"Basically we ask them to run a small restaurant for us," noted Provost Dr. Ken Simberg, "and they do a great job at a far more economical cost than if we had to privatize the service."

That small restaurant alluded to by Simberg is located in the Commons area of the school and consists of modern kitchen facilities and a large seating

area that daily accommodates the lunch needs of students and staff.

Lidholm, with a Hennepin Technical College education and a wide range of experience in the food service industry, principally oversees the first year students, currently 23 in number.

He initially provides basic introduction to the industry, starting with sharpening knives, washing dishes, cleaning work

areas and safe food handling—thereafter progressing to making soups and salads and desserts.

Students take those basic skills and begin applying them to the daily lunch service operations offered at the college.

On a rotational basis students serve on a salad crew or a range crew or a sandwich crew—all under the watchful eye of Lidholm.

"Are the burgers ready for tomorrow?" he quizzes at the end of a day's serving with his students gathered around him.

"Don't forget to prep the onions and remember not to overcook the product," he prods before dismissing them for the day.

That hands-on work experience augments 21 separate classroom courses—ranging from culinary math and culinary nutrition to hotel and restaurant food production—that compose three culinary arts options available to students.

A full associate of applied science program entails 72 credits of work and prepares students to pursue a four year hospitality or management degree at another institution. A separate 68 credit option certifies that students are ready to immediately enter the food service profession at a variety of levels from line cook to lower-level management. The third—a 33 credit program—readies those interested in immediately working as a prep cook or dietary aide at an institution such as a hospital or nursing home.

"We prepare students to go to work in the food service industry if they so desire," outlined Bagan as a basic summation of his program.

Under his tutelage, second year students—currently 13 in number—learn "finer dining skills" and apply them to many of the formal dinners hosted by the college, often implementing menus designed by the instructors

In the course of the school year more than 75 formal meals—ranging from exposing Kiddie Karousel Nursery School students to their first formal dining experience to preparing elaborate lunches for visiting dignitaries or dinners open to the whole community—are presented by the culinary arts department.

That hands-on experience coupled to the academic program options ensures that students are well prepared for food service positions, an assurance reflected by the near 100 per cent placement of students upon graduation.

"Culinary Arts is a unique program for this area," Simberg concluded, "that provides a marvelous public relations boost for the college while fulfilling its primary purpose of educating students."

CALL FOR INPUT



The Cardinalumni would like to start featuring the lives and accomplishments of former HCC students. If interested, please email the college at susandegnan@hibbing.edu with your name, year of graduation or attendance and what's "going on in your life" at the moment.

HCC WELCOMES NEW THEATRE DIRECTOR



Theatre Director, Patty Laine

Living Together, a British comedy written by Alan Ayckbourn, opens on December 3 as the first campus production directed by newly-hired theatre director Patty Laine.

Laine chose the comedy—centered around the chaos evolving from arguments, gossip, and family secrets—hoping that playgoers will “have a good time and feel good about an experience with an upbeat tone” for her initial production.

With a wealth of theater experience Ms. Laine hopes to “reach out to the community” to see who is interested in working with and working in the college theater.

Involved in theater since the age of 18, Laine “hit the ground running” this fall after being hired to replace Mike Ricci, who left to accept a similar position at North Hennepin Community College. She most recently served as theater director at a private college preparatory school in Milwaukee.

Before that, she directed the MADCap children’s theatre in Milwaukee for five years and spent another half decade with PBS television as a production supervisor and director.

She has served as associate artistic director of theater in Texas at the College of the Mainland and was part of an international symposium held in Umbria, Italy, in 2002.

Ms. Laine looks forward to working with the Foundation and reminds local businesses and companies that *Living Together* would make for a great evening out or serve as part of a holiday party celebration.

NEW FUND DRIVE PLANNED

Don’t be surprised if you soon find yourself talking by phone to a current Hibbing Community College student. And don’t be surprised if that student makes an appeal for financial support for the Foundation.

The Foundation Board is currently planning to augment its appeals for scholarship funding with a direct phone solicitation campaign patterned after those of much larger institutions.

College is expensive. Scholarship dollars are crucial to many students. The Foundation needs your support to help provide those dollars and hopes to soon add direct phone contact as part of its appeals process.

SPVT COURSE UNIQUE TO HCC

Under the tutelage of Jesse Dahl, a North American Board Certified Energy Practitioner (NABCEP), current HCC students can now work towards a solar photo voltaic technician (SPVT) certificate holder.

In a program totally unique to HCC the 25 credit SPVT certificate program—offered in conjunction with the electrical maintenance program already in place at the college—gives students “a leg up on anybody else trying to install solar systems,” noted Dahl.

A 1999 HCC graduate in electrical maintenance, Dahl moved to the Twin Cities and joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers shortly after graduation, eventually earning a journeyman’s license in the field and his NABCEP certification.

He now brings that background and those skills and his “belief in the future of solar power” to HCC where students may now pursue a two semester course of study as a certificate holder.

The actual certification such as Dahl holds would require more education than available on campus here. But the start available through his new program serves as a “real feather in the hat” of students looking for careers in solar installation.



Jesse Dahl

As part of the program Dahl and his students have constructed an 1800 watt solar trailer whose mobility allows students to test different configurations and theories of solar power.

The trailer and a stand alone battery-based hybrid solar system tied into an on campus wind tower both serve as great “teaching stations” for the program, reported Dahl.

At some future point, the college itself may even become the beneficiary of solar generated electricity. But at this time, HCC owns the bragging rights to a technology program unique to the Arrowhead system.

HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

- Dr. Pamela Perell, *president*
- Mark Groettum, *vice president*
- David Hohl, *treasurer*
- Dr. Karen Heck, *secretary*
- Joe Arthurs
- Danette Brandstrom
- Dan Bergan
- David Hohl
- Annetta Kokkinen
- Sharon Lind
- Dan Marich
- Claudia Mescher
- Patty Miller
- Veda Ponikvar
- Shane Roche
- Helen Thran
- Mark Wirtanen

Ad Hoc Members

- (Hibbing Community College)
- Ken Simberg, *HCC Provost*
- Susan Degnan, *Director of Public Information*
- Paul Hatch, *Financial Aid Director*
- Dave Ongaro, *faculty representative*
- Doug Smith, *faculty representative*

PROVOST'S CORNER



Dr. Ken Simberg

Unless you've been living under a rock, you know the downturn in the global economy is hitting businesses right in the pocketbook. Institutions of higher education, unfortunately, are taking that same hit.

For Hibbing Community College the weakened state economy has a trickle down effect. Fewer tax dollars collected into state coffers result in less financial support for state agencies, including HCC which receives approximately half its annual operating budget through state allocated funding with the other half coming from tuition and fees.

The direct effect of the current reduced allocation on HCC is about \$1.2 million over the current biennium.

Although I have strongly argued that cutting support for higher education negatively affects the overall economy, hurts our ability to compete in a global economy, and limits student opportunities, no quick solutions appear on the horizon.

The argument for education funding competes against similar argument for public health care, care for the elderly, the monies allocated for infrastructures such as roads and buildings.

To achieve a balanced budget in the face of reduced state support, HCC in cutting expenses and seeking new revenue options. But belt tightening is difficult.

Fortunately, HCC entered into this economic downturn with adequate budget reserves, which we are now dipping into as needed.

Further, a steady growth in student enrollment over the past 3 years, bringing with it a corresponding increase in tuition dollars, also has filled some of the holes in our budget.

We continue to add academic programs to attract new students such as the solar energy classes featured in this issue and we have reduced spending in areas furthest from our primary mission—namely providing quality teaching and learning opportunities in a supportive environment.

Times are tough right now, but we are blessed with a dedicated and committed faculty and staff that continues to serve our students and our community.

giveMN.org

Click. Contribute. Support H.C.C.

The Hibbing Community College Foundation knows that the future of H.C.C. and its students depends upon the generosity of alumni and donors.

The Foundation also knows that the internet is changing the way individuals make charitable contributions. Now, through our affiliation with the Hibbing and MN Community Foundation, you'll be able to make contributions to the Hibbing Community College Foundation on-line at www.giveMN.org.

Your on-line contribution will go directly to support programs and students at H.C.C. You're just a computer click away from making a difference in the lives of H.C.C. students and giving back to our community college.

Making a tax- deductible contribution is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. **Go to www.giveMN.org**
2. **In the DONATE - find a nonprofit box, type in "HIBBING COLLEGE FOUNDATION"**
3. **Click on "DONATE NOW" and make a credit card contribution.**

A receipt will be sent to you instantly, and students will benefit forever!
Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

Go to www.giveMN.org ...now!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dr. Pam Perell

My husband and I enjoy taking road trips and we love to get off the interstate highways to smaller communities. In our travels, we have noticed that communities with colleges are full of life. There are more coffee shops and delightful restaurants. Addition-

ally, we find more stores devoted to the outdoors as well as proud displays of school spirit throughout the community. Colleges bring life to a community and are a huge asset. Our own Hibbing Community College is an example of this: we have a secret jewel in our midst.

This year the enrollment at HCC is up 6%, the third consecutive year enrollment is up and one of the highest since the merger of the Vocational

Technical College and Hibbing Community College. The financial aid office reported the most financial aid packages filed in HCC History. Demand is high for a good education.

As I run into various students in the community, I find that HCC is invaluable to them. Some students are recent high school graduates trying to decide on their area of interest or keeping education costs down. Some students have been laid off or cannot find a job in their field of study, so they are retraining for a new career. And some are returning to school after their family has been settled. Many of these students could not afford an education without assistance.

With the state cutting funding we need to locally support our HCC. It is truly a fine asset for all of us. Please consider a donation of any size to further support HCC. The information above this article and our back page will provide you with information on donating. Remember the entire community is enriched by our secret jewel and your contribution is greatly appreciated.

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

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

E-mail

Hibbing Community College

1515 E 25th Street
Hibbing, MN 55746

Phone: 218.262.6710

Fax: 218.263.2932

Email: susandegnan@hibbing.edu
www.hibbing.edu
www.hibbingcommunitycollegefoundation.org

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

Any dollar amount makes a difference in the lives of students.

- Apply the enclosed amount for the general scholarship fund.
 \$20.00
 \$50.00
 Other _____

Thank you for believing in me and awarding me with a Hibbing Community College Foundation Scholarship. I will work hard to exceed your expectations.

Misti A.

I am very excited to be selected to receive the Hazel Heldt Scholarship and the Trounbridge Scholarship. It is with great honor that I accept these scholarships.

I plan on attending Hibbing Community College this fall and will participate in volleyball while pursuing my educational goals in biology and pre-med.

Again, thank you so much for the privilege of receiving these scholarships.

*Sincerely,
Kelsey W.*

*Thank you so much for awarding me the Christine and John Dolence Scholarship. I am honored and very grateful that you chose me as a recipient this year. I look forward to attending HCC this fall and continuing my studies in pre-med.
Thank you again!
Melissa N.*

I want to thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the Mary McLaughlin Scholarship. The money will really help me achieve my academic goals. I am really looking forward to the fall at HCC.

*Thanks.
Ethan B.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
HIBBING MN
PERMIT NO 181