

Family Ties

There's a 60-year age difference between Ashley Schlotzhauer, 17, and Lyle Murphy, 77, but a similarity in their love of learning and

mutual admiration. This grandfather and granddaughter are both enrolled at JCCC during the spring semester.

Schlotzhauer, a junior at Blue Valley North High School, is attending night classes Jan. 8-March 14 to earn a certified nursing aide certificate.

"I want to go into the medical field, and this will help me get my foot in the door," Schlotzhauer said.

Murphy, who earned a bachelor's degree in Greek and Hebrew from Calvary Bible College, Kansas City, Mo., in 1963, and a master's degree in linguistics and history from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1967, took *Elementary Spanish II* in the fall 2006 semester and is enrolled in *Intermediate Spanish III* this spring.

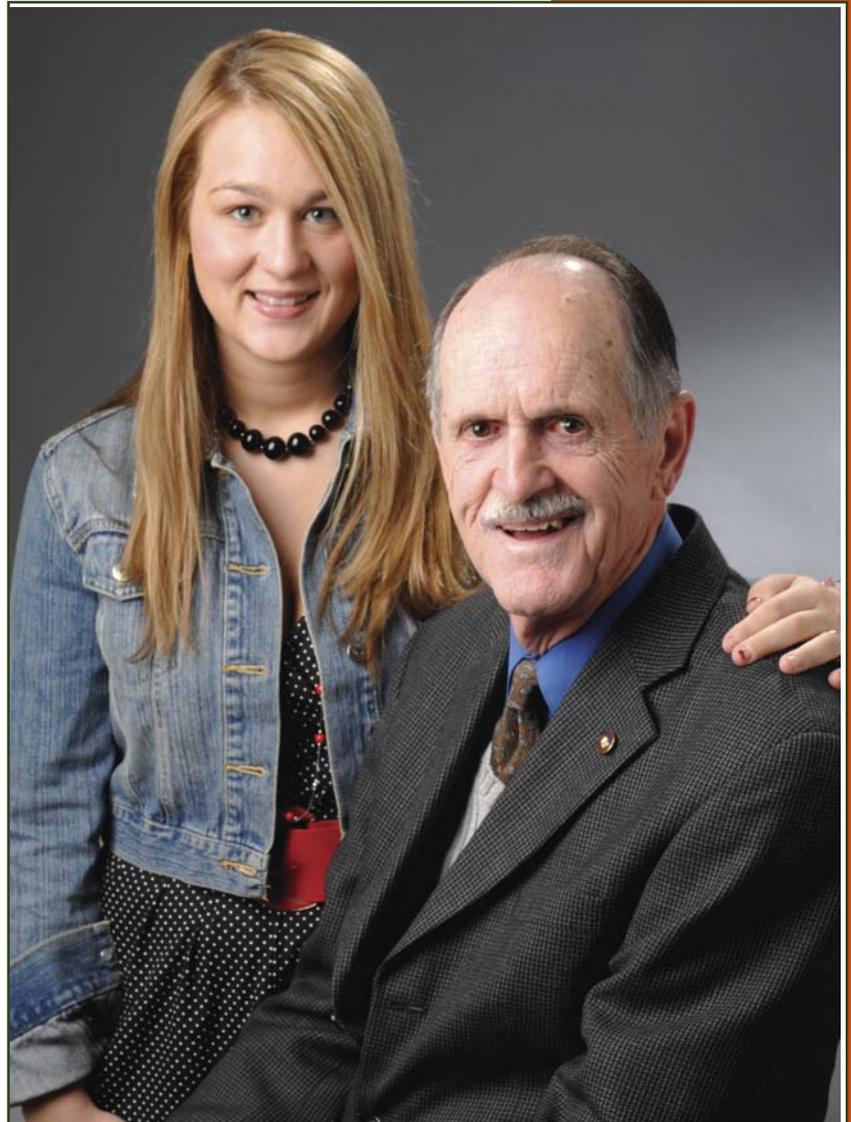
"I'm building on my high school Spanish from 1943-44," Murphy said with smile. "I am doing pretty well considering it's been six decades since my last Spanish class."

Murphy, an ordained Baptist minister, served in evangelism at Centropolis Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., for 37 years and is now a church conference speaker in the Kaw Valley District.

"There are 8,000 people in my district, and hundreds who I can't speak to unless I learn Spanish. I want to take care of that, and I am grateful that JCCC offers so many Spanish classes," Murphy said.

Murphy refers to himself as a "permanent student" having taken summer classes for 18 summers in the department of theology at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind. He also self-published a novel in 2004, *The Time of Jacob's Trouble*, a story of an American soldier and Israeli girl caught up in the Middle East conflict.

Schlotzhauer is also a scholar. She was inducted into National Honor Society in the fall, takes a full load in high school with classes such as pre-calculus and chemistry in addition to CNA classes, and is the photographer for the high school yearbook. She lives about 12 miles from her grandparents and visits with them frequently. Murphy and Schlotzhauer agree that they learn from each other.



"He teaches me that I should always be learning something new," Schlotzhauer said. "I see how learning has enriched his life and how he is always teaching other people. He is a great role model."

Murphy is equally appreciative of his granddaughter.

"I was a fairly bright student through high school," he said. "But I see in this girl the vision to reach a goal. I wish I had pressed on with a clear goal at her age."

Murphy says it is great to have JCCC as a "front-line, front-rank" institution.

"I would be feeling guilty not taking a class," he said. 

Ashley Schlotzhauer, 17, and Lyle Murphy, 77, granddaughter and grandfather, are both JCCC students spring semester.