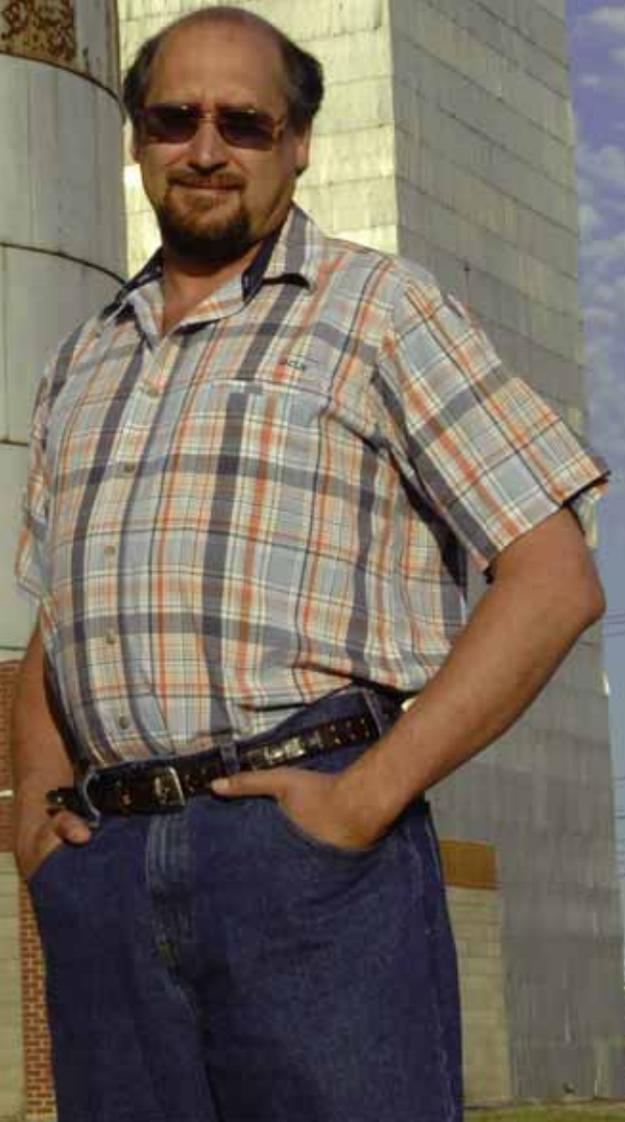


This Month

September 2008

Johnson County Community College

The Grand Tour of Kansas





Tour Harvests Kansas Roots

Faculty and staff traveling on JCCC's first Kansas Tour stop to breathe before heading on to the next church/historical site/roadside art display/wind farm/feedlot/cemetery/library/museum ...

Outreach

Cover: Dr. Jay Antle and Dr. Jim Leiker, leaders of JCCC's first Kansas Tour, focused the trip on the state's history, geography, economy, environment and culture.

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Things learned on the Kansas Tour:

- Kansas' hills, ridges and canyons can't be seen when speeding along I-70.
- Small Kansas towns that treasure their traditions also harbor a lot of individualists who disregard them.
- Winter wheat was not carried here in a Mason jar by a little Mennonite girl.

That's just the beginning of a long list of insights, facts, impressions and questions engendered by JCCC's first tour of the state.

At the end of May, 15 JCCC faculty and staff members set off in a bus for a six-day tour of Kansas. Led by Dr. James Leiker and Dr. Jay Antle, both associate professors of history at JCCC, the group crisscrossed the state, focusing on Kansas history, ecology, economy and art. Dr. Deborah Williams, assistant professor, environmental science, and Dr. Allison Smith, assistant professor, art history, shared perspectives from their fields as well.

"We realized long ago that JCCC faculty and staff had a disconnect, like many folks in this part of the state, between what happens in the KC metro area and the rest of Kansas," Leiker said. "We hear often about globalization and so we focus on 'big picture' teaching when the local and regional context is just as important."

Days were packed with visits to the Eisenhower Library in Abilene; research into sustainable agriculture at the Land Institute in Salina; the Grass Roots Art Museum in Lucas; roadside art at Mullinville; the Cathedral of the Plains in Victoria; the African-American town of Nicodemus; the Sternberg Museum's fossil fish-within-a-fish at Hays; Punished Woman canyon, the site of an 1870s battle near Scott City; the wind farm outside Spearville; the feedlots of Dodge City; and the reconstruction of Greensburg. The group braved cow pies, the threat of rattlesnakes, 35-mile-an-hour winds, and imminent tornados, and learned a lot.



S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden in Lucas is a cement monument to populist thought.

Even lifelong Kansans found surprises. “I thought I had a good understanding of what Kansas has to offer,” said David Smith, associate professor, hospitality management. “But Jay and Jim showed me things in the state that caused me to be excited about the diversity of things I can share with my students.”

And then there was the camaraderie. “The group brought back memories of the first years of my employment at the college at a time when the faculty and staff intermingled to a degree inconceivable today,” said Kevin Gratton, professor, chemistry. “The cross-fertilization in ideas and motivations was exhilarating.”

And that was the point. “We’re believers in experiential learning,” Antle said. “Immersing yourself in a place brings about intellectual development.”

The bus will pull away for the second Kansas Tour in May 2009. More information will be available throughout the year. 🌿

Story by Julie Haas

Lovingly maintained, Kansas’ old churches are a testament to the immigrant populations that built them.



The wind farm outside Spearville stands in a field of wheat, economically combining energy and agriculture.

Faculty

Scholars, topics and times are listed below:

■ **Dr. Ellyn Mulcahy**, assistant professor, science

Refugees in Kansas; Who Are They? Why Are They Here? What Help Do They Need?, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Auditorium, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

Health Education for Somali Bantu Women Refugees in Kansas City, 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, in Craig Community Auditorium

■ **Dr. Andrea Broomfield**, associate professor, English

The Night the Good Ship Went Down: Three Fateful Dinners Aboard the Titanic, and What They Tell Us About Class, Nationality and Power on the Eve of World War I, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, Hudson Auditorium

Gingerbread Fairings and Gooseberry Fools: What Food Can Tell Us About Character and Plot in English Novels, 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, Craig Community Auditorium

■ **Dr. Nancy Holcroft**, associate professor, science

One Fish, Two Fish, 17,500 Fish: Understanding the Diversity of Fishes, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, Hudson Auditorium

Fear and Loathing of the Lab Coat and Nerd Goggles: A Savage Journey into the Heart of Fish Evolution, 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, Craig Community Auditorium

■ **Stu Shafer**, professor, sociology

Sustenance: Food and the Roots of Sustainability, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, Hudson Auditorium

What Does Sustenance Mean to JCCC?, 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 23, Craig Community Auditorium

JCCC Names Four Scholars

For years, Johnson County Community College has had a respected Scholars-in-Residence program, bringing in and paying visiting

scholars to address students, faculty and the public. In a moment of Zen, the college woke to scholarship right under its collective nose and is initiating a JCCC College Scholars program to recognize its own faculty involved in impressive research and publication.

After an application process in the spring, four JCCC faculty members have been named as JCCC scholars for 2008-2009, two in the fall semester and two in the spring. The JCCC scholars are Dr. Nancy Holcroft, associate professor, science; Dr. Ellyn Mulcahy, assistant professor, science; Dr. Andrea Broomfield, associate professor, English; and Stu Shafer, professor, sociology.

JCCC scholars will be held to the same general expectations as visiting scholars: two presentations – one in the evening tailored for a general audience and one in the daytime tailored for students, faculty and staff; two classroom visits as an invited guest or one faculty seminar/colloquium.

The four scholars were selected from a field of 12 applicants by eight people on the College Scholars committee with consideration given to general interest, relevance of topic and diversity of disciplines.

“The applications were extremely competitive, and the committee was overwhelmed by the gifted group of scholars at JCCC,” said Patti Ward, interim honors program facilitator, a member of the committee.

Dr. James Leiker, associate professor, history, conceived of the JCCC College Scholars program and put together a proposal for its funding and continuation on an annual basis.

“The Scholar-in-Residence program has done a good job bringing in outside scholars. Now it’s time to highlight our internal faculty’s research that is just as original and exciting,” Leiker said.

For more information about the JCCC Scholars program, contact Ward at 913-469-8500, ext. 2512. 🌟



Dr. Ellyn Mulcahy, Stu Shafer, Dr. Nancy Holcroft and Dr. Andrea Broomfield are JCCC's first College Scholars.

Rugs Weave New Lives

Scholar-in-Residence

In 1978, German chemist Dr. Harald Boehmer sparked “The Great Anatolian Rug Revolution,” transforming the entire Turkish rug

industry. Even more than an industrial revolution, it has become a cultural survival project known as DOBAG, a Turkish acronym for Natural Dye Research and Development Project, which has restored the ancient art of handwoven carpets and established the first-ever woman’s rug weaving cooperative in the Islamic world.

Boehmer will give a lecture, *Nomads of Anatolia*, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, in Hudson Auditorium, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art. The lecture is free and open to the public as part of JCCC’s Scholar-in-Residence program. A reception with Boehmer begins at 6 p.m. During his Sept. 13-17 residency, Boehmer will also address JCCC textile classes.

Boehmer’s passion for native rugs began when he was teaching in Turkey. Using thin-layer chromatography, the chemist was able to analyze the dyes used in old Turkish rugs and match the vibrant colors to their original plant sources.

Under Boehmer’s guidance, weavers stopped buying petroleum-based dyes and returned to the natural plant dyes for their wool. The profit-sharing cooperative DOBAG began and now supports about 400 families in western Turkey.

According to Jan Cummings, JCCC interior design professor, Boehmer had three goals for the DOBAG project.

- Upgrading the weaving industry and creating the finest carpets in Turkey today
- Halting migration to urban centers by establishing a strong economic base within Turkish villages
- Invigorating the arts and crafts tradition of the Turkish people, thus creating a source of national pride for the future.

“Dr. Boehmer has successfully achieved his goals and continues his work in Turkey today,” Cummings said.



Indeed, the DOBAG Project has raised the social and economic status of women. Villagers are no longer forced to move to cities to look for work. A participating weaver must send her children to school, and no child labor is allowed.

DOBAG rugs are famous worldwide because of their quality wool that is hand-carded and hand-spun, beautiful colors, traditional Turkish designs and number of knots per inch. Information with the weaver’s name and village is attached to each rug and kept on file at the University of Marmara, Istanbul, which oversees the project.

Copies of Boehmer’s most recent book *Nomads in Anatolia: Encounters with a Vanishing Culture* with contributions from Josephine Powell and Dr. Serife Atlihan will be for sale on Sept. 13.

JCCC’s Scholar-in-Residence program is designed to bring visiting scholars to students, faculty and the public. For more information about Boehmer’s residency, contact Cummings at 913-469-8500, ext. 3941, or send e-mail to janc@jccc.edu. 🌿

Anatolian rugs are displayed here, photographed by Boehmer in 2007.



Faculty Votes in ANGEL as LMS

(left) Jonathan Bacon, academic director, ETC; Dr. Ed Lovitt, technical training coordinator, Staff and Organizational Development, and interim distance learning coordinator; and Dr. Csilla Dunczky, interim assistant dean, Science; are instrumental in the implementation of ANGEL.

Learning Management System

ANGEL (A New Global Environment for Learning) is watching over JCCC's learning management system.

In a 55-to-3 vote, JCCC faculty voted to replace the previous Blackboard LMS with ANGEL LMS, educational software evolved from research at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, to manage online classes.

According to Jonathan Bacon, academic director, Educational Technology Center, the ETC also favored the move.

"We hear great things about tech support with ANGEL, which we've not had with Blackboard," Bacon said.

Dr. Csilla Dunczky, interim assistant dean, Science, and chair of the LMS Search Steering Committee, says ANGEL and Blackboard will run simultaneously through the spring of 2010, at which point Blackboard will be discontinued.

Bacon proposes a pilot period for ANGEL with a limited number of faculty and a limited number of courses. He foresees a rollout of the first ANGEL classes for spring 2009 classes.

"We need to move forward in a measured way," Bacon said. "We need to train the ETC staff, build basic elements into all courses, establish default settings and templates for the system, develop training materials and train faculty before we can pilot courses."

ETC senior analysts, who have spent a couple hundred man-hours testing ANGEL, say

ANGEL is more intuitive and reliable than Blackboard and less rigid in organization, meaning materials can be more easily shared between courses. It interfaces with Banner, Second Life and SharePoint. The system has tools like wikis, blogs, journals, access to social bookmarking and instant messaging.

Dunczky sees the social tools as an advantage for students, as well as its "e-portfolio" feature where students can compile electronic documents from multiple classes for future employers. Dr. Jim McWard, English professor, who has tested ANGEL, touts the way college standards and objectives can be built into a course as a form of assessment in the new LMS.

"JCCC can use ANGEL to look at not only whether a class meets its objectives, but also the broader perspective of whether students are learning to communicate and problem-solve," Dunczky said.

"ANGEL is more intuitive," said Tracy Newman, senior analyst, ETC. "ANGEL was written by instructors. Blackboard was cobbled together by programmers. In ANGEL, you simply drag and drop files into a course instead of uploading it."

"Ultimately, ANGEL will be much easier for students and faculty to use," Dunczky said. 🙌

Hernandez Inspires Work Ethic



Dressed in his uniform and JCCC baseball hat, Victor Hernandez, groundskeeper, looks 20 years younger than his age of 81.

“I am not rich in money. I am rich in health,” Hernandez said.

Born Oct. 7, 1926, Hernandez is JCCC’s oldest employee, working 20 hours a week mowing, weed eating, helping plant flowers, cleaning mowers, operating forklifts and picking up trash.

“I can give the younger guys a run for their money,” Hernandez says during a break from mowing.

Hernandez started at JCCC on March 6, 2000, and he says he plans to continue as long as he can do the work.

“I enjoy working. It keeps me mentally and physically fit,” he said.

Hernandez, Kansas City, Kan., lives in the same house he did as a child, purchasing it from his father when his father and mother retired to Mexico. A World War II veteran, Hernandez enlisted in the Army at age 18 and served in the 100th Infantry Division in a heavy weapons squad in Germany, discharged at the rank of corporal.

After the war, Hernandez worked for what is now BNSF as a carman for 43 years until his retirement in October 1988 at age 62. His retirement plans included traveling and taking life easy with his wife. But as Hernandez is fond of saying, “You can’t foresee the future.” He

learned that wisdom by experience. Retirement plans changed when his wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and lived 10½ years until her death in November 2007.

“The doctor told me I needed to find something to do besides sit with my wife in the nursing home every day,” Hernandez said.

Brian Anderson, JCCC maintenance supervisor, told Hernandez about the groundskeeper job, and Hernandez, at first hesitant that the college wouldn’t hire “an old man,” took the position.

“Victor is one of our best employees. He is dedicated, hardworking, self-motivated and stays on task,” said Rex Hays, director, Campus Services. “He not only does a good job for Campus Services but is a good representative for the whole college. He is helpful to everybody.”

Life isn’t all work for Hernandez. He bowls Tuesday nights and has a 189-199 average. He maintains an acre yard and travels. He was taking a road trip with Anderson this summer to the Grand Canyon.

“I feel content,” Hernandez said. 🌿

Staff

Victor Hernandez, age 81, works at the college 20 hours a week.



Carter Has 'Capitol' Ideas

Dick Carter, president, The Carter Group, Topeka, has more than a dozen years of experience in public affairs, grassroots coalition

building, association management and lobbying in Kansas.

Carter was selected to serve as the college lobbyist beginning Dec. 1, 2007, by the board of trustees after a review of applicants by Dr. Terry A. Calaway, president; Mitch Borchers, director, purchasing; Dorothy Friedrich, vice president, Policy and Strategic Initiatives; and Joe Sopicich, director, Institutional Advancement. In July, the board voted to retain the Carter Group as college lobbyist for the 2008-2009 academic year.

"My role is to be a liaison to the college from the legislature and a conduit of information from the college to the legislature," Carter said.



Dick Carter attended the State of the College Event in February.

A fifth-generation Kansan, Carter received a bachelor's degree in general studies from the University of Kansas and began his career as area director of the American Heart Association in Topeka. He has also served as public information officer with the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, director of government relations for the association management firm of Barbee & Associates and most recently as director for external relations for the Kansas Board of Regents.

In 2003, Carter established The Carter Group, specializing in public affairs, government relations and association management. In addition to JCCC, his clients are the Travel Industry Association of Kansas, Kansas Tourism Initiative, City of Manhattan, Kansas Dietetic Association and Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Carter was a consultant for Kansas: A New Horizon in 2004, a comprehensive study prepared for the Kansas Board of Regents that looked at funding for higher education in Kansas. He says the most pressing issue in the Kansas legislature affecting JCCC is the state's funding of community colleges.

"What portion the state will pay for support of community colleges will be an ongoing issue," Carter said.

His most intense work as lobbyist is the 90 days the legislature is in session January through May. During the summer, he works with legislative and policy committees that direct the next session of the legislature.

Asked about specific gains he has made for the college, Carter says he has elevated JCCC's presence and increased its visibility.

"I think it is important for JCCC to maintain a consistent and regular presence in the Capitol," Carter said. "I am providing that familiar face."

Carter visits JCCC approximately twice a month, once for board meetings and once for community events.

Does he enjoy his service to JCCC?

"Absolutely. It is great to be connected to an institution that is moving forward and growing." 🌱

Planting for the Future

Under a bright Kansas spring sky, little hands sowed big ideas about good nutrition when they planted an edible schoolyard at the

Hiersteiner Child Development Center on May 8.

Gardeners, ages 1 to 6, planted tomatoes, sugar snap peas and melons in a hoophouse, an unheated greenhouse, as a way to harvest healthy attitudes toward food choices and local, sustainable agriculture.

“Research in the Berkeley, Calif., Unified School District indicates that when children see where foods grow and help to plant and care for them, they are more likely to eat them,” said Sara McElhenny, program director, HCDC.

Lindy Robinson, assistant dean, design and hospitality management, and David A. Smith, associate professor, hospitality management, researched the Chez Panisse Foundation’s school lunch initiative, a district-wide effort in Berkeley, Calif., to create healthier meals, and then developed the JCCC edible schoolyard in order to yield produce for use in HCDC’s school lunches.

“Culinary programs are obligated to be involved in the Slow Food movement because we can make a difference in the eating habits of young people, habits that stay with them for life,” Robinson said.

Smith says it will be a three-season garden with children planting crops like broccoli and cabbage in the fall. The hoophouse (also called a high tunnel) is a low-cost greenhouse with UV plastic covering to extend the growing season. In addition to the learning potential for children, Smith says he hopes they have fun getting in the dirt, watching plants grow and helping with the harvest.

On hand for the ceremony were donors and dignitaries including Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

“Kansans feed the country. We feed the world. And having a project that links that history of Kansas with a notion that food preparation should be healthier is visionary,” Sebelius said.

Funding for the edible schoolyard is provided by Dr. George Semb and Patricia Semb and the Sunflower Foundation. 🌻



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius gives tree planting directions to (left to right) Kylie Brewer, Kobee Austria and Carson Couch as Allyson Moyer, lead teacher, Rain Forest room, assists.



Don Perkins, director, Budget and Auxiliary Services, displays another asset – performing on his acoustical guitar before the planting of the edible schoolyard.

Getting Creative at the Nerman Museum

NMOCA



Ryan Conly smiles as he brightens his sculpture with color.

Teacher Cynthia Wood illuminates features of *Elephant*, a painting by Amy Sillman.



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Area children study contemporary art and get inspired to create their own works when they take Contemporary Creations classes

at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art.

Contemporary Creations classes are an extension of the museum's tour program and are designed for 8- to 11-year-olds. The two-hour classes are evenly divided between art tours and studio time in the Tearney Education Center's children's studio. In the classroom, students draw from concepts they've learned and inspiration from works of art they viewed to create their own pieces.

"The children have a lot to say about the art right away. They like sharing ideas with each other and then taking those ideas and creating their own unique works of art," said Cynthia Wood, one of two Contemporary Creations instructors along with Amy Wunsch.

Wood, art teacher at Brougham Elementary School, Olathe, loves taking students all over JCCC's campus to view pieces of art.

"Being able to see the art in person, rather than looking at a reproduction, allows the students to really relate to the work. I don't see this many students getting so excited and engaged in the regular art classroom where we look at posters or pictures from the Internet," Wood said.

According to Wood, students have most enjoyed the ceramic projects. A favorite lesson involved learning about contemporary Native American art and then creating a clay vessel. Students worked with a quick-drying clay that

does not need to be fired in a kiln. Other projects have included 3-D paper sculptures, painting, working with pastels, and creating miniature monuments with foam board.

Karen Gerety Folk, curator of education for the Nerman, says the number of students turning out for the classes has been excellent. More than 70 students participated in classes during the month of June. Like Wood, she feels that seeing works of art in person gives students a totally different perspective on what it must have been like for the artist to create the work.

"Students actually see the size of the artwork and gain a sense of how the work was created. All kinds of questions come up that students might not otherwise ask. How did the artist create a painting so large? How big of a studio space did he or she need to make the piece?" Gerety Folk said.

Exploring questions like these helps the students learn to look at art in a more critical way.

"Our tours are focused on visual literacy, learning how to look at a work of art and pick out the artist's choices," said Gerety Folk.

Often times, students have so many ideas to express, they need little prompting from the teachers.

"There are instances when I just stand back and see where the students take the discussion. Then I can tailor my teaching to their interests and observations," Wood said.

Classes are designed so that students can try one class or come each week to learn something new. This flexibility, along with an affordable fee, allows students visiting from surrounding areas to participate.

Students can register through the Continuing Education division by calling 913-469-2323, or by downloading forms at www.jccc.edu/youth. Fall classes will be held at 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. on Saturdays beginning September. For more information about Contemporary Creations or other museum programming, contact Karen Gerety Folk, 913-469-8500, ext. 4771, or send e-mail to kgerety@jccc.edu.

Story by Emily Serafin

At 25 years, Project Changes Name

For 25 years, Project Finish gave people a second chance at education. Sponsored by JCCC and the Johnson County Library,

Community
Services

Project Finish helped adult students improve reading, writing and math skills; learn English as a second language; and prepare for the GED test.

But as of July 1, Project Finish received a new name – Johnson County Adult Education.

“The new name better reflects our mission,” said Susan McCabe, program director, Johnson County Adult Education. “Passing the GED test, which results in a Kansas high school diploma, is the ‘beginning,’ not the ‘finish,’ of an education.”

The new name is also a better umbrella term for the program which, after a quarter century, now includes Adult Basic Education; English as a second language; GED test preparation; citizenship classes; Migrant Even Start, a program designed to improve the literacy of migrant families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program; and the Olathe Family Resource Center, a comprehensive program that offers educational, vocational and case management services to families who live in the Olathe School District.

In August, the Johnson County Adult Education program adds two new classes – *Connections*, a class for ESL learners before they begin Adult Basic Education classes, and *Transitions*, English and algebra classes for Adult Basic Education students who want to transition to college.

In 2007-2008, Project Finish served 2,300 students, a 5-percent increase over the previous year. Of those 2,300 students, 75 percent improved their reading, math or listening skills on national standardized tests. In the same year, 175 volunteer tutors gave 10,000 hours to work one-on-one with students on assigned curriculum under the direction of professional instructors.

Johnson County Adult Education has eight locations throughout the county — Antioch, Oak Park and Gardner libraries; JCCC’s Olathe Center; Olathe Family Resource Center; Center of Grace, Olathe; Briarwood Elementary

School, Prairie Village; and its newest location at JCCC’s West Park Center, 8780 W. 87th St., which will have daytime and night classes beginning in August. With 10 classrooms, West Park will provide more ESL and GED classes.

“West Park will allow us to serve more people and reduce the wait-list for ESL classes,” McCabe said.

Also new, the program received a grant from the Kansas Adult Education Association Past Presidents Development Fund to buy books to start book clubs for ESL learners. Janet Daley, West Park coordinator, said 43 students participated in eight groups throughout the county in June and July. More groups are anticipated for the fall. To volunteer as a book club leader, call Daley at 913-469-7687.

Project Finish opened its doors in March 1983, serving more than 40,000 students in the intervening years. Sporting a new name, the program will celebrate its 25th anniversary with events in 2008-2009.

“Johnson County Adult Education is a life-changing program,” McCabe said. “It’s a springboard to further education and more life opportunities.”

For information about Johnson County Adult Education, contact McCabe at 913-469-7621.



Maria Rosa Bulla, a native of Columbia, gets ready to discuss a biography about Abigail Adams at an ESL book club at the Johnson County Central Resource Library.

40th Anniversary

Forty and Fabulous

This year – 2008-2009 – JCCC is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Events have been planned throughout the year.

A video presentation of the history of the college, with memories and photos of the past, will be presented at the all-staff meeting Aug. 11. Anniversary recognition will also be incorporated into Campus Kick-off activities and the all-staff picnic in September and the Foundation's annual dinner in October.

The main focus of the year will be a Free College Day. The event will be a way to show off what the college offers, bring new people to campus and say thank you to the community. Faculty and staff who are willing to participate may offer a class to the public free of charge on a Saturday afternoon in April. Topics could range from interior design to culinary techniques to computer skills – every program could offer something. Professors could also teach their interests in addition to – or instead of – their subjects (for example, genealogy or coin collecting). The college hopes to offer at least 40 classes.

The anniversary year – and celebration – will end with the commencement ceremony in May 2009.

"At 40, you can see where you've been and look ahead to where you're going," says Dr. Terry A. Calaway, JCCC president. "While it's important to honor the past, much of the focus of this year of celebration will be on the future and what the next 40 years will bring."

Story by Julie Haas

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When planning your estate, remember Johnson County Community College. For more information, call Emily Fowler, JCCC Foundation, 913-469-3835.