

# This Month

February 2008

Johnson County Community College

**Simulation  
Center  
Gets Real**





# Center Nurses Skills and Confidence

JCCC's new nursing simulation center includes four rooms, a nurse's station and a surgical suite.

## Facility

**Cover:** (left to right) Teresa Crowder, adjunct assistant professor, Rochelle Quinn, adjunct associate professor, Kathy Carver, professor, Mindy Ritter, adjunct assistant professor, and Janalee Isaacson, professor, are among the nursing faculty who teach in the simulation center.

**A**rt and science have long been the foundations of nurse education. Now, add technology and communication.

In spring 2008, Johnson County Community College's nursing program opened a patient simulation center so realistic that it would be the envy of any hospital in the country. The 1,500-square-foot center has the look, feel and equipment of four general medical-surgery rooms and a large suite that can function as an operating room, labor/delivery room, emergency room or multi-bed recovery room.

"This type of center is very unusual. Other nursing programs may have individual rooms for simulation but not a whole hospital environment as realistic as this one," said Kathy Carver, JCCC Zamierowski Family Endowed Professor for Nursing and Medical Simulation.

Each of the four rooms has infusion pumps for intravenous fluids and medications; vital sign monitors, including telemetry capability to measure abnormal heart activity; lines with real gases like oxygen; human waste disposal systems; sinks; power columns; and communication lines for calling hospital codes. Every room has its own provisions including protective gloves, gauze, tape, IV tubing, EKG cables, phlebotomy supplies (lancets and tourniquets) and respiratory devices (nasal masks and oxygen tubing).

"We want to keep the setting as real as possible," Carver said.

A gurney-size door allows entrance into the main hall with a nurse's station at one end, the multi-functional suite at the other. In addition

to the same technology as the medical-surgery rooms, the suite has four large high-efficiency, shadow-free operating lights mounted on the ceiling and a surgery hand-washing area. Students can train for surgery; births, including ones with C-sections and other complications; or care of multiple patients in a post-op unit or trauma center. The large suite can also be used as a media classroom for debriefing simulation exercises.

The hospital unit will be furnished with four hospital beds, four transport beds, an operating table, birthing bed, bassinet for newborns and defibrillators.

The main hallway will have a secured Pyxis Medstation, an automated drug dispensing unit for controlled substances; a refrigerator for IV fluids; and another refrigerator for dietary services. A separate locker room gives students individual cubby storage cabinets and a counter-top with outlets for laptop computers.

Even ambient sounds of a hospital, such as operator pages, will be programmed into the lab.

There's only one thing missing from this otherwise lifelike hospital floor – real patients. Instead, the center is populated by highly sophisticated patient simulators that can be programmed with hundreds of symptoms of acute and chronic diseases/disorders and respond physiologically to treatment. The patient simulation center will have eight simulators – five



adults, one pediatric, and two birthing simulators with newborns.

One of the major components of this teaching environment is an audiovisual system (three cameras per room) that films students in every aspect of their work – from starting IVs to suctioning patients on ventilators. Cameras and microphones will capture decisions, beginning in the hallway when the patient first enters the unit.

Hidden behind each patient room is a dock where faculty operate the simulators and audiovisual cameras film students. “Students and faculty can use the instant replays to evaluate themselves,” Carver said. “Nursing faculty have learned to appreciate how much the technology enhances teaching.”

Communication is a key to modern hospital safety, according to Carver.

A proposal calls for JCCC to partner with five other nursing schools to use a process for patient profiles with standardized language and documentation. The new system improves patient profiles, discharge planning, patient assessment, plans of care and treatment.

A bar code system, now used in large medical centers, is in place to prevent medication errors. Students scan medications bar codes, followed by scans of i.d. wristbands to ensure the right medicine in the right dose to the right patient.

Carver knew the paradigm would shift to greater simulation in teaching, but never thought it would happen this fast.

“I was just hoping for a dedicated patient simulation room,” Carver said. “I never dreamed the college would have this model of a state-of-the-art hospital unit.”

Funding for the patient simulation lab and added nursing faculty has been made possible from the Educate, Enrich and Enable Fund; Drs. David and Mary Zamierowski; Kansas Board of Regents; Victor E. Speas Foundation, Bank of America, Trustee; Olathe Medical Center; and Mary Katherine Goldsmith.

JCCC received its first simulator in November 2001. During the last two years, three simulators located in a portion of the nursing procedure lab were used more than 250 times per semester for nursing, EMT and respiratory care students. There are very few semester days when the simulators are not in use. That number will only increase with the added space and simulators. All the faculty have been trained to use simulators.

“The students take the simulation exercise very seriously and take a lot of pride in being



Behind the observation glass Mary Smith (left), nursing professor, takes notes and Rochelle Quinn (right), associate professor, nursing, provides the voice and symptoms of the patient. From left: Jena Kerner, student; Colleen Duggan, nursing professor; and students Susan Rupf and Jessica Kolkin.



prepared,” Carver said. “They work together as a group to handle questions. It becomes evident that performance is directly related to knowledge base.”

Students start working with simulators during their second week in the nursing program. The complexity of simulation increases as students advance. Carver says the simulators prepare students for everyday situations as well as situations they may see once every year or two. On simulation evaluations, Carver says students most frequently write, “When can I come back?”

“The simulators make our students good practitioners by building their skills and confidence,” Carver said. “I am excited about the ability to add to the frequency and variety of simulations we can offer students.” 🌿

As viewed from behind the observation glass, students Susan Rupf and Jessica Kolkin work on an obstetrics and gynecology simulator.

# Blobaum Finds Meaning in Milo Festival

## Faculty

**E**ve Blobaum, adjunct associate professor, sociology, follows the old adage about writing what one knows – and that includes

her dissertation.

Blobaum, who hails from a small town in Nebraska, is looking at the ways in which community festivals function as ritual reproductions of traditional values, symbolic constructions of community identity and, in the case of small rural towns passing from existence, a means to cope with social change. While Blobaum's ethnographic observations of her hometown's annual milo festival are certainly academic, her writings about milo pancakes, a pork chop supper, a parade, milo queen, threshing demonstrations and who is assigned what job are also entertaining and have a common thread for anybody with rural roots.

Blobaum's research has already garnered national attention. She recently presented at the annual conference of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., with her paper, "And the Women Are in the Kitchen: Gender Roles as Public Face at a Rural Community Festival."



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Eve Blobaum, adjunct associate professor, sociology, is looking at how a small Nebraska community defines itself through a milo festival.

Because the conference had an inequality theme, Blobaum adapted an earlier paper about the festival, which looks at collective labor as a social response to economic vulnerability (the more general nature of her research).

"A lot of rural communities work together because that is their way of surviving," Blobaum said. "Farming is very risky, to farmers and to agriculturally-based communities, and these festivals, right around harvest time, can be viewed as a collective celebration."

Blobaum, who has taught at JCCC since 2004, is concentrating on small communities because "for starters, notions of community are changing."

"In the past, communities were based on geographic similarities – shared space," she said. "Communities are more and more based on shared ideologies. You look at communities on the Internet, and you see that people can form a community with someone they have never met."

As a sociologist, Blobaum values the understanding of an evolving definition of community and how we connect to one another. But what led Blobaum to studies of rural communities in the first place were interests in crime and deviance. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree in criminal justice and criminology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she also is ABD (all but dissertation) in sociology.

"Communities do so much to define normality and deviance," Blobaum said. "At first, I started looking at the social control of communities and how they exert pressure to keep undesirable people out of their community. But my research has morphed, and now I am focused on the collective process that defines a community and how people work together to construct an idea of what that community is and what it means to them."

As an interesting sidebar, Blobaum's mother, Patti Jensen, a Ph.D. student in education at the University of Nebraska, also presented at the American Anthropological Association conference. 🌿



# Classes Start in Douglas County



**J**ohnson County Community College opened a College Close to Home site in three rooms of the former Lawrence Centennial

School, now the Lawrence Virtual School, at 2145 Louisiana St., in the spring 2008 semester.

JCCC is expanding outreach efforts into Lawrence after being invited to serve county residents by the Douglas County Career and Technical Education Consortium with the approval of the University of Kansas.

“JCCC’s focus in Lawrence is on technical/vocational education and workforce training that does not duplicate what KU offers,” said Dr. Bill Osborn, dean, Community Outreach and Media Resources.

Currently, JCCC’s College Close to Home program offers credit classes that count toward an associate’s degree or certificate at off-site locations for students’ convenience and has nine established sites throughout Johnson County.

Initially, the Douglas County Close to Home classes will be *Business Math*, *Introduction to Writing*, *Fundamentals of Math*, *Technical Math*, *Job Search Skills*, *Career Life Planning*, *Industrial Safety*, *Workplace Skills*, and *Certified Nurse Aide* and *Certified Medication Aide* labs.

“The College Close to Home site in Douglas County is a huge benefit to the Lawrence business community, the Lawrence Public Schools and students and, ultimately, to JCCC,” said Dr. Lorelee Stevens, assistant dean, Community Outreach for Credit Instruction.

The College Close to Home partnership is a natural extension of the Douglas County-Johnson County Technical College Preparation Program that allows high school students in both counties to receive advance-standing credit for high school classes when applied toward a JCCC technical certificate.

Since 2004, Osborn and Stevens have been attending meetings with the Douglas County Career Technical Consortium, a 40-member taskforce co-chaired by the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and Lawrence Public Schools. Richard W. Lariviere, provost and executive vice chancellor, KU, sent a letter to Lavern Squier, president and CEO, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, in 2007, saying it would be “reasonable and desirable” for JCCC to deliver technical training in Lawrence.

“We have a close and successful working relationship with JCCC through our Edwards Campus. We have high confidence in their ability to deliver first-rate training. We also have a sound track record of working with them to avoid duplication of course offerings and to articulate offerings to the advantage of students,” Lariviere wrote in his letter.

JCCC’s location in Lawrence Centennial School is one block south of Lawrence High School. It offers a classroom with Internet access, a health occupations lab and a resource room for instructors, staff and students.

For more information, contact Stevens at 913-469-8500, ext. 2750. 🍀

## Instruction

JCCC classes in Douglas County are offered at Lawrence Virtual School, 2145 Louisiana St.



Drs. Bill Osborn and Lorelee Stevens collaborated with the Douglas County Career Technical Consortium to provide classes in Douglas County.

# Westward Expansion



JCCC's administration of justice program will move to the west side of the Police Academy.

## Campus

Officer Tom Schatzle, Olathe Police Department, and Police Academy staff instructor, critiques a situational training exercise completed by Leawood recruits Jarris Krapcha (left) and Ben Egidy.



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Six years after the Johnson County Regional Police Academy and accompanying administration of justice program offices and

classroom were dedicated in October 2001, the academy is in need of more space.

The original 12,000-square-foot building unofficially opened in August 2001, when the 65th class of the Police Academy became the first recruits to train in the new facility, and the administration of justice program began classes that fall term. The new 4,000-square-foot expansion will increase the building size by one-third, and opening is set for August 2008.

The addition to the west of the current building will be dedicated to the administration of justice program with four classrooms, three faculty offices and a conference room. Melody Rayl, co-facilitator, administration of justice program,

says the program currently has two classrooms during the day and a third one in the evening; now the program will have four dedicated classrooms and a work area for adjunct teachers.

In terms of technology, the new space will have wireless capability and outlets for laptop computers, according to Rayl.


The Police Academy will move into the former administration of justice program area.

"We need more space," said Dr. Jerry Wolfskill, director, Johnson County Regional Police Academy. "The Johnson County Sheriff's Office needs to hire 125 people during the next two years."

Johnson County Regional Police Academy is a partnership between the Johnson County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association and JCCC. The Police Academy trains full-time officers employed by more than 30 law enforcement agencies, primarily in northeastern Kansas.

At its current size, the Police Academy can train a maximum of 24 recruits per class, four classes per year. With the space acquired from the administration of justice program, the Police Academy will have the option of putting 30 recruits in each class or running five classes per year.

"The need for more law enforcement officers has grown with the population increase in the county and plans for building a new county jail," Wolfskill said. "Baby-boomers are now starting to retire so they will have to be replaced by each agency."

Recruits train at the Police Academy from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. five days a week for 16 weeks. All academy training, except live firearms and the emergency vehicle operation course and situational training, takes place at the Police Academy. 



# Weiss Joins Board

Trustee

**D**on Weiss is the newest member of the JCCC board of trustees, assuming a four-year term of office from July 2007 to June 2011.

While new to the board, Weiss has had a long affiliation with the college as a noncredit instructor with the Center for Business and Technology since the early 1990s.

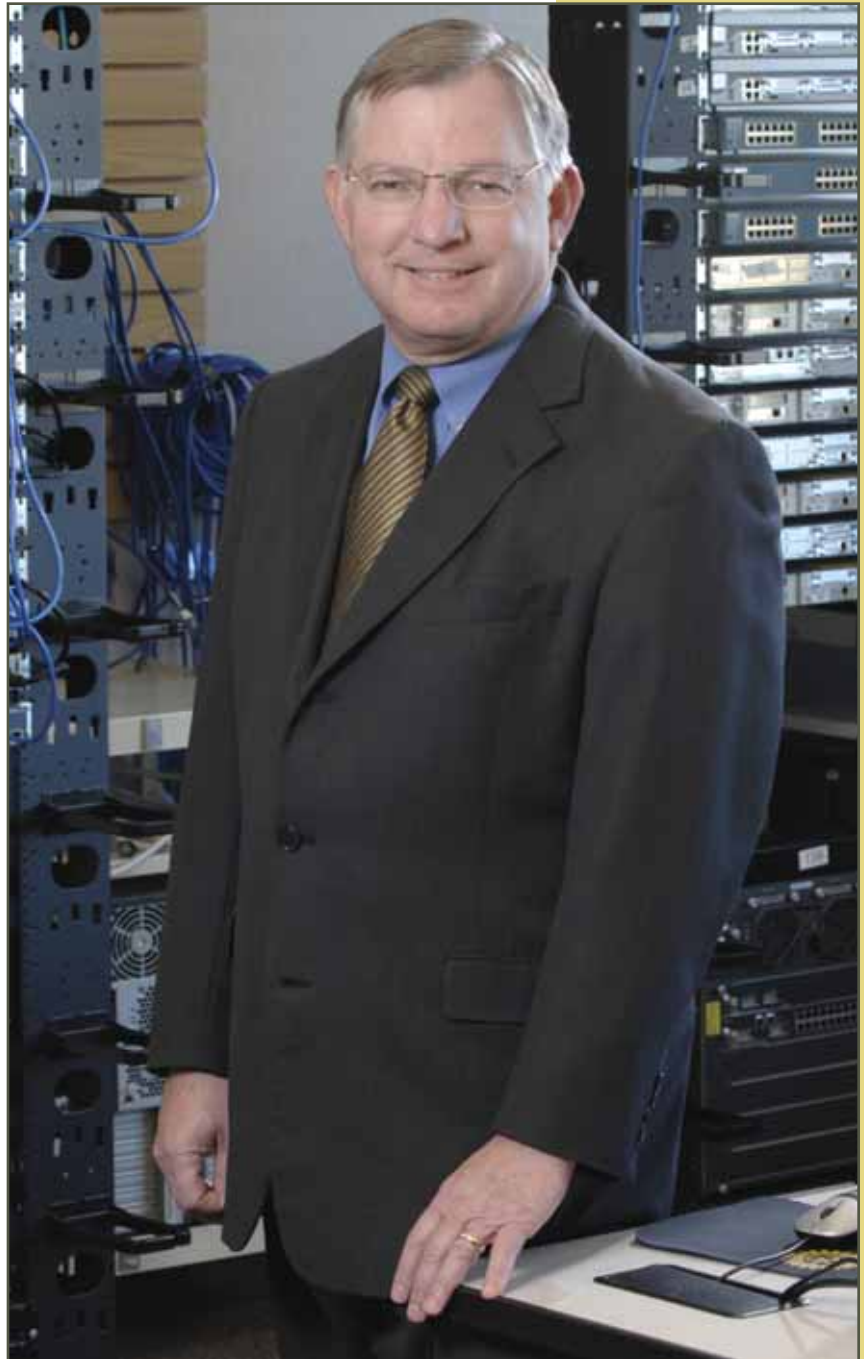
“I have been involved with higher education for a long time,” Weiss said. “Being a board member gives me an opportunity to serve the college in addition to teaching.”

Weiss is currently dean of evening, weekend and graduate studies, Keller Graduate School of Management, DeVry University, Kansas City, Mo., where he is responsible for all the graduate programs with master’s degrees – project management, human resources management, information systems management, telecommunication management and master’s of business administration. He also serves as a senior adjunct faculty member with Keller, teaching business plan writing and information technology courses.

Weiss has a 25-year career in information technology, having worked in banking and retail and as information services manager for the City of Olathe. He was later founder and president of an information technology training company that grew from zero to 172 on a list of 500 fastest growing companies in Inc. Magazine, a magazine for entrepreneurs. He is a member of Kansas Cavalry, an organization that encourages business relocation and expansion in Kansas.

Weiss sees three immediate issues for the board. First, the board needs to be transparent and require the president to answer to the board, not vice versa. Second, a decision must be made whether to refurbish the Billington Library or build a new structure. Third, there is a long continuum concerning the department of public safety’s use of weapons, and the board must decide where the college will fall on the continuum.

Long range, the board will have to look at how the college will provide services as the county continues to grow. Weiss also says the role of the college will be to provide more workforce training in the county and ensure that high school students, who are facing higher tuition rates at four-year state universities, be made aware of articulation agreements between JCCC and those institutions, agreements that afford lower tuition for the first two years of college.



Weiss believes that his DeVry dean position gives him insight into JCCC’s needs regarding student retention, tuition costs and issues of retiring faculty.

What you may not know about Weiss is his hobby – he’s a birder. At the time of this writing, he was looking forward to the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, which provides an annual census of birds in the U.S. and Canada. 🌿

Don Weiss poses in a network classroom in the Regnier Center.



# Stinson Earns AVCA Coaching Honor



The American Volleyball Coaches Association selected JCCC head coach Jill Stinson the AVCA Two-Year Midwest Region Coach of the Year for Division II. This season, Stinson led JCCC to a runner-up finish in the NJCAA D-II National Tournament and a 28-5 overall record.

Under Stinson's leadership, JCCC has compiled a 299-120-1 record and qualified for the national tournament in four of the past five seasons.

In 2005, Stinson led Johnson County to the program's first-ever national championship and was named the NJCAA and Tachikara AVCA National Coach of the Year. Last season, Stinson was inducted to the NJCAA Volleyball Coaches Hall of Fame.

During her tenure, Stinson has coached 53 All-Conference selections, 35 All-Region/District selections and 10 All-America selections. In addition, 15 of her student-athletes have garnered NJCAA Academic All-American honors.

**By Tyler Cundith**

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## ThisMonth

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