Fantastic Faculty

Kimberly Wells, Assistant Professor, Electronic Media, has been nominated for an Emmy award by the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for her recent documentary, *Irene: Child of the Holocaust*. The documentary tells the true story about the family of ten-year-old Irene Miller and her harrowing escape from Nazi-occupied Poland into Russia. The 39th Emmy Awards Gala will take place on June 10 at the Motor City Casino Sound Board Theater in Detroit.

Adjunct English Instructor Dr. Greg Wright continues publishing new issues of his comics, *Wild Bullets*, *Holliston*, and *Monstrous*. Winter semester students enjoyed Dr. Wright’s ENG224: Comics and Graphic Novels course. And now, *Monstrous* has been picked up to be produced as a live-action studio movie. Greg is currently working on the screenplay with the producer and director.

Roz Weedman Professor of English, Emeritus started the PAWS for Reading children's literacy program at the Frankenmuth Dickson District Library in conjunction with their staff. Jethro, Roz’s rescue Boston Terrier, just finished six months of reading with kids and will resume in the fall.

Adjunct English Instructor Nina Knight, who also teaches for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, was awarded Faculty of the Year by the American Indian College Fund for the second year in a row.

Dr. Jeff Dykhuizen, Psychology Professor, presented “Meditation and Prayer: The Science of Spiritual Experience” at the annual conference of the Midwest Institute for International and Intercultural Education (MIIIE) at OSU-ATI in Wooster, Ohio in April. At the conference luncheon, Dr. Dykhuizen received the Institute’s Award for Leadership and Service. In addition to serving as the coordinator for Delta’s membership in the consortium, Jeff also serves on the Board of the Midwest Institute.

Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages Trent Wade attended the Michigan World Language Association conference in Lansing in November, where he was the sole American Sign Language teacher. Trent also traveled to the Central States Council for Teaching Foreign Language conference at the Palmer House in Chicago in March. Out of 1,200 teachers and professors who participated, Trent was the only deaf participant and only one of two ASL professors in attendance.

English Professor Jeff VandeZande had his article “*What Maslow Means to Teaching*” published in the *Community College Daily* online April 26.

May 2017
A group of Delta College professors, students and community members [pictured here at the University of Havana] visited Cuba from March 4-11 on a people-to-people exchange. Felicia Peters, Professor of Business, and Crystal McMorris, Assistant Professor of English, were co-leaders of the trip, which included a professional Cuban tour guide from Havana Tours, arranged through Education First. English Professor Karen Randolph and Adjunct Photography Instructor Michael Randolph also took part in the exchange. Highlights included visits to the University of Havana, the Bay of Pigs Museum, the Che Guevera Museum, the Ernest Hemingway Estate, and a private performance by the Cienfuegos Chamber Orchestra. The group visited a day care center, several art and music schools, a teen rehabilitation circus, a ceramics studio, a botanical garden, community art projects and a community center housed in an abandoned water tank. The Delta group faced off against a local baseball team in Remedios, ending the game with a tie score of "fun to fun." At a senior citizen center, residents taught the Delta contingent the national dance (the cha-cha) as well as the popular cricket-like game, quimbumbia. Photographs of the visit, backed by music from the chamber orchestra, can be seen here: https://vimeo.com/208597402

The play, The Groom Has Cold Feet, directed by Professor of Communication Judy Gonzalez [photo left] and Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Beth Heyart [photo right] had four successful performances May 4-6 in the Delta College Lecture Theater. Judy and Beth recognize Bruce Faccio, former chair of Technical, Trades, & Manufacturing; Michael Finelli, Associate Professor of Residential Construction, and his students; Matt Sullivan, Facilities Management, and his crew members, as well as many others from various areas of the college who showed the Delta College Value of Teamwork in making this production a success!

As an approach to teaching the value logic and critical thinking skills, Professor of Philosophy Linda C. Plackowski invited Keith Tatarelli, criminal defense attorney from Detroit and adjunct professor for Central Michigan University’s Graduate School of Business, to speak to her winter logic class. Linda used “Zoom” software with webcam and audio on a computer to connect Attorney Tatarelli in Detroit with her students in the classroom. During the two-hour session, Mr. Tatarelli explained criminal defense cases in which he successfully applied logic, and students learned how deductive logic is used in the legal profession. Linda recorded the session which she plans to use for future logic classes.

Adjunct English Instructor Amber Minor published her memoir, A Mother’s Testimony, online at Lulu. The book is “a mother's testimony about the hardships of life, raising four children as a single parent with an illness. This is also an inspirational devotional book.” Amber says, “The book is suspenseful, sad and encouraging at times. This is the first of a series of books that I will be writing; writing is therapeutic for me.”

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