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A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication October 2017

#### KalamazooVALLEY

### **COLLEGE'S RECRUITMENT EFFORTS** INTRODUCE THE WORLD TO KALAMAZOO VALLEY



Diane Finch and Benaiah Nyarhui

Benaiah Nyanjui, of Kenya, might just end up a student at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, thanks – in part – to a baseball cap he grabbed on his way out the door.

Nyanjui recently sported a University of Michigan hat to a study abroad college fair in Quito, Ecuador, where he was living with his missionary parents. The maize and blue cap caught the eye of Diane Finch, manager of International Student Services at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, who was an exhibitor at the fair. She approached the 22-year-old, who was interested in studying aviation in the United States. Finch explained the benefits of a community college, specifically, lower costs, smaller class size and easy transferability to top four-year universities, including Western Michigan University and its highly regarded aviation program.

"Most international students are unfamiliar with the concept of a community college," Finch said. "When you explain the cost savings and how easy it is to transfer and earn a bachelor's degree, it really is very appealing." Several emails, phone calls and skype sessions later with Nyanjui and his parents, the aspiring pilot is working on his application to attend Kalamazoo Valley.

Quito was just one of four stops in Latin America Finch made during a recruitment trip last month. She also visited Panama City, Panama, Guayaquil, Ecuador and Lima, Peru. The tours, sponsored by FFP EDUExpos, bring colleges and universities from around the globe together to introduce students to study abroad opportunities. Kalamazoo Valley was one of only two community colleges to attend. Thirty-five institutes of higher learning participated in the fairs, which each had an attendance of approximately 3,000 people.

"Many students came with their entire families," Finch said. "It really was a great opportunity to tell people about Kalamazoo Valley and all of the opportunities we have available for international students."

Finch's trip to Latin America was part of an effort to increase the college's international student population and diversity.

Currently there are 129 international students on Valley's campus, including 65 full-time F1 (non-immigrant status) students. The majority of those students are from Africa. While the number of international students has increased from last year, Finch had hoped to see more international students on campus.

"We faced significant barriers this year," Finch said. "We had a number of visa denials, including a number of students who wanted to come to Valley from Cameroon."

Together with her staff, Finch would like to remove some of those barriers and increase the number of international students by 20 percent for the fall of 2018. She is optimistic that the students from Cameroon will reapply and hopes to return to Latin America and possibly visit Vietnam this spring to do additional recruiting. A record high of more than one million foreign students came to the United States for higher education last school year.

According to the Institute of International Education — a nonprofit organization that works to promote international education and education access worldwide, this marks the tenth straight year of growth in the number of international students pursuing U.S. college degrees.

In the last decade, the number of students enrolled in American colleges and universities has increased 85 percent. Schools in California and New York are the most popular with international students. Michigan is ninth on the list with close to 34,000 students choosing to study in the Great Lakes state. Benaiah Nyanjui hopes he will soon be one of those students.

And if he is, Finch will have a new - more appropriate - Kalamazoo Valley baseball cap for him to wear.

For more information about International Student Services visit www.kvcc.edu/ international.

# TAKING GREEN WATER MANAGEMENT BY STORM

Last year Kalamazoo Valley Community College was awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to implement green infrastructure at the Arcadia Commons Campus and Kalamazoo Valley Museum, establish a rainwater harvesting system for the Food Innovation Center, and to develop a master rain garden education program for residents in the Portage Creek and Arcadia Creek watersheds. way stormwater is handled. Traditional stormwater management practices move water quickly to surface waters. Those practices cause downstream flooding and water quality degradation. Greener practices slow the water down by providing stormwater storage and encouraging more water to be used before it leaves the site. This makes it possible for stormwater to move through the ground and emerge into the surface waters much cleaner and cooler and over a longer stormwater," Collins said. Along the creek plants specially adapted for dry and wet conditions have been planted to help absorb stormwater before it reaches the waterways.

"The college has also installed pervious asphalt that allows stormwater to leech directly though the surface and back into the aquifer," Collins said. The pervious pavement is rugged enough for vehicles to drive on and porous enough to allow the stormwater to return to the water cycle without being discharged into nearby wildlife habitats. A pervious pavement sidewalk and rain gardens are being installed around the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and behind Anna Whitten Hall behind Water Street. Innovation Center. This hands-on course gives students the opportunity to learn about rain gardens.

"Rain gardens are a shallow depression that traps rainwater and slows it down. This allows it to sink back into the ground." Says Anna Kornoelje, one of the instructors for the class "When you graduate from the class you will have all of the information you need to build your own rain garden." Due to the grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the cost of the class is \$45 instead of \$125. There will be another opportunity to take advantage of this special discount during the winter semester. The five-week class will be held on Tuesday nights from 6:15 until 8:15 p.m. starting on Feb. 27, 2018.

The Texas Township Campus is the second local college campus within the community to be verified as Stormwater Neutral<sup>®</sup>.

Kalamazoo Valley has eliminated stormwater runoff from going into the West Fork of Portage Creek through a series of retention ponds and green roofs.

Together with community partners, Kalamazoo Valley has become a leader on stormwater management in Kalamazoo. Pat Crowley, Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner, highlighted the ecofriendly accomplishments of the college on a recent tour for local government officials.

Crowley says that the topic of stormwater is both an environmental and economic issue and area leaders need to rethink the period of time thus reducing flooding.

Praise was given by tour participants for the betterment of the community through green techniques that are both practical and aesthetically pleasing. The Kalamazoo Valley's Culinary and Allied Health Building, located at the crossroads of East Walnut Street and Jasper Street was built in an area that could be prone to flooding. Executive Vice President for Enrollment and Campus Operations at Kalamazoo Valley Community College Mike Collins explains strategies for green stormwater management implemented on campus.

"We have attempted on all of our campuses to be stormwater neutral. On the Bronson Healthy Living Campus we rerouted the creek itself, and in doing so we created a water feature which serves to help us with additional capacity for "The last piece of the project will be installing a rain cistern that will harvest rainwater and help irrigate plant materials at the Food Innovation Center," Collins said. This building houses classrooms and greenhouses used in the Culinary Arts and Sustainable Food Systems program.

Currently a master rain gardener course which is a collaboration between the Kalamazoo River Council, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Kalamazoo Valley Museum is being taught at the Food Kalamazoo Valley offers multiple classes related to sustainability and environmental topics. For a complete schedule and to register visit: www.kvcc.edu/training schedule or www.kvcc.edu/community.

To watch the coverage of the stormwater management tour visit www.publicmedianet.org/blog/greenstormwater-management.

## **NEW OPPORTUNITIES** FLOWING INTO KALAMAZOO FOR BREWERS



Michael Christensen, co-owner of Final Gravity Brewing Company

Kevin and Michael Christensen, owners of Final Gravity Brewing Company, are working hard as they prepare for the opening of their new microbrewery in downtown Kalamazoo. The father and son are also working to pave the way for new brewers. They have established a new scholarship for first year students entering into Kalamazoo Valley's Sustainable Brewing program. Michael was in the two-year-old program's inaugural classes.

Scholarship recipients will be awarded a total of \$500 during their first year enrolled in the program. Candidates must submit an essay to apply for the scholarship. "The brewing program at Valley really helped me, so I wanted to give back to other students to enable them to move onto the next phase of their brewing career, whether that is getting a job within the field or opening their own brewery," said Mike Christensen. He said he plans to keep taking brewing courses at Kalamazoo Valley. "I will never want to stop learning about brewing," he explained.

His dad is self-taught and has been home-brewing for 15 years. "Everything that I learned was from library books," Kevin said. "When we found out that Kalamazoo Valley was starting a brewing program, we both thought that it would be a great idea for Mike to take some classes."

Mike says his classes at Kalamazoo Valley helped supplement his existing knowledge. "I'm just glad that I was able to take classes with (instructor) Mike Babb," he said. "I was one of the very first students to take the very first class. I learned so much. It really helped me to improve my brewing techniques. With every class, I learned new skills in a wide range from recipes to process."

The men say they work well together and each brings his own creativity to the process. "We really complement each other well," Kevin said. "Mike likes to test the limits and be creative with his recipes, while I am more of a traditional style brewer."

Final Gravity, which is a technical term in brewing for determining the alcohol by volume, started out small. "I had been going to a brewery called Patchwork. The owner asked if we wanted to brew some beer for a couple of her taps and they became really popular. In July of 2014 we took over the brewery full time and bought the business and all of the equipment," Kevin said. That location at 103 N. Phelps Street in Decatur has been hopping ever since.

The new downtown Kalamazoo location at 246 N. Burdick is behind the Kalamazoo Valley Museum on the north end of the Kalamazoo mall. "I chose this location because I would walk from the parking garage to class and I always really admired the area," said Mike.

The Christensens hope their new microbrewery will be an asset to other brewers through collaboration and shared facilities. "It's not about competition. We are all one big family in the community made up of people who care about brewing," Mike said.



Studying at Kalamazoo Valley Community College has become a family tradition for Pam Laning. Pam and her two children, Chad Laning and Taylor Lawrence, are all Kalamazoo Valley graduates. Pam's sister Cathy and her three children are Kalamazoo Valley alumni, too. "It's kind of a family affair," Laning said. Public Schools, earned an associate degree in general studies from Kalamazoo Valley in 2013, the same year her daughter Taylor Lawrence earned an associate degree in liberal arts at Valley. The women walked together during the college's April 2013 commencement ceremony. Before graduation, they even took a don't talk, kids who are traumatized. I use art to develop relationships with them. They can tell me things through drawing that they can't say."

Laning loves encouraging her students, but has always made her own children her top priority. "I wanted to make sure my kids were taken care of before I focused on myself," she said. Her daughter is now the New Student Coordinator in the Enrollment Management office at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She started taking classes at Kalamazoo Valley as a dualenrolled Loy Norrix High School senior. Lawrence said she always knew she belonged at Valley. "I had already planned to go to Valley after graduation because my mom and brother loved their experiences so much and I saw at an early age the importance of affordability. My mom raised my brother and me as a single parent and she always told us we were going to college and we would find one way or another to pay for it. Kalamazoo Valley was going to be the way to do it."

I loved my experience so much at Kalamazoo Valley, I stayed connected to Valley and I always knew in my heart that I would love to work there someday. Finally in 2017, a position opened in the student recruitment office that seemed right for me. I just knew that I could make a difference in a lot of people's lives by sharing my experience and helping them decide Valley is the right place for them."

Laning's son and Taylor's brother, Chad, is also a Kalamazoo Valley graduate. He received his associate of science degree in Computer Aided Drafting in 2009 and is now assistant head brewer at Lansing Brewing Company. "My experience at Kalamazoo Valley was great," he said. "I really enjoyed the small class sizes and how friendly all the instructors were. I picked Kalamazoo Valley as a stepping stone for me to get my associate degree and then transfer to WMU to finish my degree in engineering," Chad Laning said.

Laning, a Kalamazoo artist and educator, says going back to college was the first thing she did just for herself. She started taking college classes right after high school, but stopped when she got married and became a mother. She was divorced and her children were in high school and middle school when she finally returned to college and earned her degree. "I took classes because the topics interested me and it was so much fun," she said. "I love Kalamazoo Valley Community College. It was relaxing for me. I'd love to go back."

Laning, who has 22 years of experience as a special education paraprofessional for Kalamazoo government class together. Laning chuckles when she recalls how different their approaches to college were. Lawrence came to class with snacks and a cell phone while Laning took meticulous notes and avoided distractions.

In addition to being an exemplary student, Laning is a talented artist. She has entered Kalamazoo Valley's Alumni+ Art Show multiple times. "I love the Alumni Art Show," she said. "I do a lot of art in regards to my dad, Marv Lamb, one of the founders of Heritage Guitar. I would love to retire and do art." Until then, she's content using art to inspire children in the classroom. "Even before I graduated from Valley, I used art with my students," she said. "I have kids who Lawrence says Valley was the perfect way to start her college studies. "My two years at Kalamazoo Valley were absolutely amazing," she said. "They helped me prepare myself academically, socially, and professionally to take on a four-year university. I truly felt like Kalamazoo Valley wanted me to succeed."

Lawrence transferred to Western Michigan University after she graduated from Valley, earning a bachelor of arts degree in marketing and communications in 2015. "Right out of college I started working as a marketing coordinator for a local company that hired college students," Lawrence said. "Because "I got a job right out of Valley and they offered to put me back through school at Western to get my engineering degree," he said. It didn't take the home brewer long to realize that he'd be happier making beer than working as an engineer. He's been working in the craft beer industry for four years now.

Laning said her whole family is proud of its connection to Kalamazoo Valley. "My parents are quite proud that all five of their grandchildren are Kalamazoo Valley alumni," she said. "I'm proud, too! We have all loved our experiences at Kalamazoo Valley."

## FIND OUT WHAT THE BUZZ IS ALL ABOUT



Charlotte Hubbard

## **GROVES CENTER OFFERS** FREE LEAN SEMINAR

Area employers interested in learning more about Lean business practices are invited to attend a free introductory seminar at Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Center, Nov. 2 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Corporate Training and Applied IE, the workshop: Lean: Simplify, Standardize, and Improve the Workflow will introduce Lean concepts and tools, exam case studies and present easy methods to implement Lean.

Influenced by the science of Industrial Engineering, the Toyota Production System (TPS) continues to inspire organizations to streamline the process and improve efficiency. Introduced in the manufacturing industry, TPS is now known as "Lean" and has spread across all departments in various work environments, such as banking, construction, healthcare, insurance, and other service industries.

Lean implementation starts by understanding the process, and establishing standards to create a stable and predictable work environment. With process stability, improvements can further enhance performance outcomes.

The Groves Center is located at 7107 Elm Valley Drive in Kalamazoo. The seminar is free but registration is required. To register, visit www.kvcc.edu/ trainingschedule. For more information, contact Kate Miller at kmiller1@kvcc.edu or 269.353.1257.

## ALUMNI ADVICE GO FOR IT!

A community college education has the power to raise students' earning potential and increase their lifetime employability according to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). In a recent article titled "Return on Investment to

certification, Megann was quickly able to secure a full time, good paying job in her field at Bronson Battle Creek. "My advice to others is to go for it! I was working in a restaurant and wanted to make a career change and I'm so glad I choose respiratory therapy and Kalamazoo Valley."

Intrigued by the idea of becoming a beekeeper? "So You Want to be a Beekeeper" is an information-packed, three-week course taught by Charlotte Hubbard. Hubbard, a beekeeper since 2008, manages dozens of honeybee colonies in Southwest Michigan and mentors beekeepers. Enthusiastic, humorous and knowledgeable, she speaks nationally on behalf of her favorite insect, and frequently at local beekeeping clubs and regional meetings. She is the author of "Dronings from a Queen Bee" and the children's book "If I Could Sit on a Bee's Knees."

Hubbard will review the financial, time, physical and emotional commitments required of beekeepers. Hive location, basic equipment types and essentials, various options for obtaining bees, and a timeline for making it all happen will also be discussed.

The class will be taught at Kalamazoo Valley's Food Innovation Center, 224 E. Crosstown Parkway, on Mondays, Nov. 6 to 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. There is a \$50 fee for the course. For those who decide to become beekeepers, Kalamazoo Valley also offers a threepart beekeeping course. Beekeeping 101 and 102 are both offered in the spring and Beekeeping 103 will be taught next fall.

Register today at www.kvcc.edu/ community or call 269.353.1290.



#### Beth Purdy

#### **CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA ART SHOW**

Drawings from Kalamazoo Valley art instructor Beth Purdy's children's book, "Finders Keepers," will be on display in the Center for New Media during the month of October. The public will have the first chance to see her pastel drawings during Art Hop on Oct. 6.

Purdy teaches Drawing I, Painting I, Advanced Painting, 2D Design and Color Theory, and Pastels and has worked at Kalamazoo Valley for 10 years. She said she enjoys collaborating with other faculty members and likes to challenge and encourage her students. She's also happy to be showing her pastel exhibit while teaching a pastel class. "The perfect time to have an exhibit on pastels is when you're also teaching pastels," she said.

After participating in a digital storytelling workshop hosted by humanities instructor Kristin DeKam and Dean of Instruction for Liberal Arts, Dr. Billy Reynolds, Purdy decided to create the book. She started with an original drawing of a bee and a crow with an apple that she created in 2010 and expanded on the theme. "Once I decided to make it into a book, I started researching," Purdy said. She spent 14 months making the book's chalk pastel illustrations and then made some minor adjustments. also know that it's been a true labor of love, something that Beth has been working on for quite some time," said Reynolds.

Purdy published the book herself. She also sent it out to six children's book publishers and would still like to have it picked up by a publisher. "This book was a learning, exploratory project for me," Purdy said. "I've figured out what I'd do differently if I ever do this again." Purdy has several copies of the book for sale. The book can also be ordered online. Softcover books are \$10 and can be purchased at www.blurb. com/b/8162391-finders-keepers. Hardcover books are \$23 and can be purchased at www.blurb.com/ b/8071703-finders-keepers. Purdy's drawings from the book are also available for purchase. Purdy, who is married with two preschool aged daughters, is considering other book projects.

#### Alumni+ Art Show Call for Entries

Entries in the 2018 Alumni+ Art Show are being accepted until Feb. 3, 2018.

Students," AACC explained that in return for their investment in education, America's community college students will receive higher wages that will continue to grow throughout their working lives.

"It wasn't easy, but it was worth it," according to Megann Larson, registered respiratory technician (RRT). The May 2017 Kalamazoo Valley graduate juggled working full time, two children, and attending college full time to complete her associate degree. "The services at Valley are outstanding and Al Moss, respiratory therapy faculty, is an amazing teacher. He was always available to help us. Even when we were studying for our board exams, he was still willing to help us," she said.

After graduation and securing her RRT

Community college graduates will receive a rate of return of 17.8% on their investment in a community college. This rate of return continues throughout their working lives. Further, if students and their families took the money they spent on education and instead invested it in a standard bank savings account, they would have received a rate of return of less than 1percent.

Every year Kalamazoo Valley prepares hundreds of students like Larson for rewarding careers. Winter semester at Kalamazoo Valley begins on Jan. 8. To learn more about programs, financial aid, and how to get started at Valley visit www.kvcc. edu/register. "I do a lot of pre-planning so I'm usually pretty satisfied by the time the drawing is finished," she explained. "I'm sort of methodical. I stay true to my original vision." Purdy starts with a drawing, makes her own textured paper and then does a watercolor wash as an underpainting technique before finishing each piece with pastels.

The book tells the story of a crow who tries to steal an apple from a bee. In the end, they learn to share. "This is a beautiful book and timeless story that Beth tells. It's a story that we can all learn from, no matter our age. I The awards ceremony and opening night reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 6, 2018 in the Center for New Media in conjunction with the April Art Hop. This juried art show enables Kalamazoo Valley alumni to showcase their works. There is no artist entry fee.

Works submitted will be considered for six awards, which will be presented to artists on the night of the show. Show judges are area professionals who come from a variety of disciplines and whose expertise enables them to deliver expert, but impartial, determinations. Previous judges have been impressed by the variety and quality of work. For more information, go to www.kvcc. edu/alumni/artshow/.

## **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE** STUDENTS TO EXPLORE CAREERS, EARLY COLLEGE



Erick Martin, instructor at Kalamazoo Valley helping MiCareerQuest student, Nov. 2016

A pill-sorting robot, ballet dancers, a CPR mannequin and farm animals will be among the hundreds of interactive exhibits under one roof as part of an experiential career investigation event Nov. 1 - 2 for area eighth graders.

MiCareerQuest Southwest, sponsored by Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency (KRESA), invites students from Kalamazoo and Calhoun County school districts to talk with experts in a variety of fields while learning to operate and work with the actual tools, equipment and technology. Six thousand students are expected to attend the two-day event held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center in Kalamazoo.

More than 50 local businesses and postsecondary partners – including Kalamazoo Valley Community College – will fill the 50,000 square feet of exhibit space to showcase careers in four different career pathways:

Arts & Communication Business, Technology & Human Services Engineering & Manufacturing Health & Natural Sciences

According to a 2015 Skills Gap report by Deloitte, nearly 37.5 million baby boomers will retire over the next decade and only 21 million workers will enter the workforce to replace them. MiCareerQuest addresses this impending workforce shortage by encouraging youth to consider careers in industries they might not have previously considered.

Kalamazoo Valley will be front and center with information and interactive displays in a variety of in-demand fields, according to Dr. Paige Eagan, dean of math, science and health careers at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Programs represented include EMT/ paramedic, dental hygiene, respiratory care, sustainable food systems, automotive technology, welding and HVAC as well as some of the college's Career Academies.

"Through MiCareerQuest, we are able to expose students to types of careers that they might not learn about in school," Eagan said. "It's a great opportunity for students and the community to learn more about the programs and opportunities available at Kalamazoo Valley."

The college's dental hygiene program department, for example, will have a dental simulator (a head with teeth and cheeks), dental operator stool, and dental light at the event, according to Dental Hygiene Program Director Kimberly Grubka.

"The students will have the opportunity to sit at the simulator with gloves and safety glasses on and use a mouth mirror and probe to look inside the simulators mouth," Grubka said. The dental hygiene program prepares students to become qualified dental hygiene practitioners. Students must complete one year of prerequisite courses prior to applying to the dental hygiene program. Graduates of this program are granted an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree and are eligible to take the National Board Exam in Dental Hygiene and the Regional or State Licensing Exams.

The college's Career Academies, which include the Wind Turbine Technician Academy and the Mechatronic Technician Academy, will also have a presence at the event bringing a robotic arm that students can manipulate as well as safety gear to try, according to Ben Ash, instructional manager - mechatronics for the Groves Center.

"There are a lot of really great, high-paying career opportunities in the trades," Ash said. "We want to open kids' eyes and expose them to these opportunities."

Career Academies, Ash explained, are skill-focused, employer-driven training programs that prepare students for indemand jobs in growing and diversified industries.

In addition to the Wind Turbine Technician and Mechatronics Technician Academies, Kalamazoo Valley offers a Police Officer Training Academy, Corrections Officer Training Academy, CNC Operator Academy and Cell Tower Technician Academy. Medical career academies include Phlebotomy Technician Academy and Patient Care Academy.

As part of their visit to MiCareerQuest Southwest, students can also learn more about the Early College program. The program allows students to earn an associate degree or certificate by completing a fifth year of high school with little or no expense. Students delay high school graduation for one year while they take college courses at Kalamazoo Valley. Tuition and fees are paid by the local school district. Early College expands on dual enrollment, and builds upon classes already offered through Education for Employment (EFE) and Education for the Arts (EFA).

Dr. Deborah Coates, Kalamazoo Valley's dean of instruction, Early College and Wellness and Physical Education, will be on hand to talk with students who are interested in participating.

Early College, Coates explained, is designed to help students get a head start on whatever they decide to do after graduating from high school, whether that's going into the workforce or continuing on with their education.

"Education is evolving and this is part of it. Early College prepares students for the world and makes sure they have as many options as possible," Coates said. "Early College is a great opportunity – academically and economically – for students in the area."

Nearly 450 area students are enrolled in Kalamazoo Valley's Early College program. There are currently more than 100 Early College programs in Michigan.

Kalamazoo Valley's Early College program offers transfer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to many Michigan colleges and universities as well as Associate of Applied Science degrees and a number of certificate programs.

A Community Open House and Career Fair are also part of the two-day MiCareerQuest. The event will take place Nov. 1 from 4 - 7 p.m. Parents, community members and job seekers are encouraged to attend.

The Kalamazoo County Expo Center is located at 2900 Lake Street in Kalamazoo.

For more information, visit www. micareerquestsw.org and www.kvcc.edu.

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