

The Catalyst

A PUBLICATION OF THE KIRKWOOD FOUNDATION

Believe in our students • Believe in our future

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Reese, Kindra, Azaria and Shawn Burnell

Student Profile: Shawn and Kindra Burnell

At 33 years of age, Shawn Burnell already has a lengthy resume. He spent five years in the Army, serving two tours in Bosnia. He has worked in a steel factory, was employed at Amana Refrigeration and most recently sold cars at Pat McGrath. However, after his daughter Azaria experienced several hospitalizations due to her severe asthma, Shawn re-evaluated his career and decided to return to school to study respiratory therapy.

Shawn was born and raised in Cedar Rapids. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1992 and immediately

joined the Army. He and his wife, Kindra, married in 2002 and are busy raising Remington, 10 years old, Azaria, 5 years old, and Reese, age 18 months, while attending classes at Kirkwood.

Kindra attended Alburnett High School in 1991 and enrolled at Kirkwood the following fall. After

graduation, she began working in research in internal medicine for the VA and now works for the college of Dentistry. After several years of research, however, she longed to experience the “patient side” of health care and decided to return for a nursing degree. Kindra started in the Nursing program at Kirkwood in fall 2005. She continues to work two jobs—one full-time and one part-time. “The evening and weekend courses can work into anyone’s schedule. I would never have been able to work without those,” Kindra says. She will complete her nursing degree this May.

Shawn enrolled in the Respiratory Therapy program at Kirkwood in fall 2006. He is a stellar student, the class president and involved in community service. He recently began working with Dr. Lyla Schweiger to organize respiratory therapy students to help at a local lung conference sponsored by St. Luke’s Hospital. Outside of school, Shawn is very involved in the day-to-day

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Student Profile: Shawn and Kindra Burnell

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care of both daughters and closely monitors Azaria's asthma.

Shawn is the first member of his family to attend college. "Kirkwood does a great job across the board—selecting teachers, building camaraderie and helping students throughout.

It has been amazing," Shawn says. He received some funding from the GI Bill when he first started, but this has fallen far short of the funding needed. Shawn was thrilled to receive a Project START scholarship this year. The scholarship support has enabled Shawn to continue

in school full-time. He will graduate in May 2009. He and Kindra are looking forward to future careers in the health field.

Foundation Board Profile: Kathy Lamb

Appointed to the Foundation Board in 1987

Occupation:

Vice President Association Resources for the YMCA of the Cedar Rapids Metropolitan Area—areas of responsibility include fundraising, human resources, operational support, and strategic planning. She has been with the YMCA since 1992.

Education:

Attended the University of Missouri and Coe College

Family:

Husband, John

Three daughters: Chris* (Randy*) Johnson, Katy (Jaye) Heater Molly* (Kevin) Worthy

Grandchildren: Drew (12) and Ally (8) Johnson
Alijah (20 months) Worthy
Dylan (1 year old) Heater

*Kirkwood graduates

Community Activities and Involvement:

Since the 1970s, Kathy has provided volunteer Board leadership to a number of community organizations, including: St. Luke's Auxiliary, St. Luke's Hospital, Iowa Health Systems, Junior League of Cedar Rapids, Cedar Rapids Downtown Rotary and the United Way of East Central Iowa.



Kathy Lamb

Thoughts on Kirkwood:

With the exception of one of my sons-in-law, Kirkwood Community College has personally and positively impacted every adult member of my family. My oldest daughter, Chris, graduated from Kirkwood's Dental Assistant Program. My middle daughter, Katy,

attended Kirkwood to gain her Coaching Endorsement. And my youngest daughter, Molly, graduated from Kirkwood in Education Careers and went on to attend and graduate from the University of Northern Iowa with her K-8 Teaching Endorsement, and is in her eighth year as a teacher at McKinley Middle School. Molly will tell anyone who will listen that her **great start** at Kirkwood is what enabled her to do well and graduate from UNI. My family's personal Kirkwood experiences, together with my many years of involvement in the Cedar Rapids area, are "**proof positive**" to me that Kirkwood is **one of our area's most valued and important community resources!**

Cheryle Mitvalsky to Retire, New Vice President Named

Kirkwood Community College has chosen Kathy L. Hall as its next Vice President of Resource Development effective Feb. 25. Hall follows Cheryle Mitvalsky, who has led Kirkwood's fundraising and grants departments since 1989. Mitvalsky will officially retire in June 2008.

Hall most recently served as the Vice President of Resource Development for The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, a post she held for more than four years. Her previous experience includes 17 years with the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra as its Operations Manager and Executive Director.

Kirkwood President Mick Starcevich praised Mitvalsky's "incredible legacy to education and the community."

More than 19 years ago, Mitvalsky began her role as the Executive Director of the Kirkwood Foundation. Under her leadership, the Foundation's assets increased from \$300,000 to more than \$18 million, and the donor base grew from a mere 100 donors to more than 1,255. In 1989, the Foundation awarded \$29,580 in scholarship support to students. For the current year, more

than \$1.4 million was provided in scholarship support. As a one-person development office in 1989, she launched the college's first-ever major gifts campaign, raising more than \$6.5 million for student scholarship assistance. This spring, the Foundation expects to complete a \$10 million campaign to support student scholarships, student programs and the areas of greatest need.

"What Cheryle has done for Kirkwood, for Cedar Rapids and our whole community college system is nothing short of astounding. Students, faculty and staff for generations to come will benefit from her tireless work and philanthropic leadership," Starcevich says. "This is a new chapter in the great story of Kirkwood, and we welcome Kathy to that role."

Hall also cited Mitvalsky's "exceptionally high standard of leadership" in accepting the new position. "I look forward to building on Cheryle's firm foundation of college and community support in this new role," she says.



Cheryle Mitvalsky



Kathy L. Hall



Get Connected, Stay Connected...

Are you a Kirkwood alum?
We want to hear from you!

Visit our website at
www.kirkwood.edu/alumni
or contact Nancy Craig at (319) 398-1281.

Scholarship Allows Sandy Frederick to Still Make a Difference



Gary Frederick

"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."

These words, attributed to Helen Keller, helped frame Sandy Frederick's focus and 15-year career at Kirkwood Community College. Sandy worked tirelessly with staff, faculty and students, providing professional services in the Advising Center and assistance to help Kirkwood students achieve their goals. In January 2001, following Sandy's death from cancer, her husband, Gary,

and their children, Amy Hessel and Adam Frederick, established in her memory the Sandy Frederick Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

"Sandy flourished at Kirkwood and believed that student success was a reflection of Kirkwood's supportive and positive environment," Gary says. His wish was to create a permanent legacy that would forever reflect Sandy's commitment to students.

Gary hopes others know how rewarding it is to give, and that gifts of all sizes make a difference. "Sometimes we think our gifts are not substantial or will not generate a significant scholarship. However, Sandy saw the needs of students every day; and to me, there is no better opportunity to help fuel their success," Gary says. "It is deeply satisfying to receive a student's letter of thanks, and I encourage others to consider their own opportunities and follow suit."

Gary has tremendous confidence regarding the administration of Kirkwood's scholarship program. His endorsement is sincere, and he says everything has been first-class!

Gary continues to observe Kirkwood's growing synergy with local business and industry. A retired Rockwell Collins

employee, Gary recognizes the major role Kirkwood plays in training and re-training today's workforce. Working together, these educational and industrial leaders impact and strengthen our community. Education opens up worlds of opportunity for our students, yet Sandy's experiences will always be a reminder of the many challenges they face in pursuing their education. Since Sandy's death in 2001, 14 students have received financial assistance from the scholarship created in her memory. Gary finds great satisfaction in doing whatever he can to help them succeed and is equally satisfied to know that *Sandy is still making a difference.*



This framed quote, given in Sandy Frederick's memory, is on display in Kirkwood's Learning Services Test Center

"Sandy flourished at Kirkwood and believed that student success was a reflection of Kirkwood's supportive and positive environment."

—Gary Frederick

What Is an Endowment?

An endowment is a fund established through a donation of money to Kirkwood with the stipulation that the funds be invested and the principal remain intact. This allows the donation to have a greater impact over a longer period of time than if it were spent all at once. With an endowed fund, a portion of the investment is used to support student scholarships and specific college programs of interest to the donor.

Why are endowments at Kirkwood critically important?

Endowments are like financial insurance policies for the college, ensuring that “dividends” from a fund will support scholarships and recurrent student needs. For community colleges, support through endowment funding can be particularly important for a number of reasons:

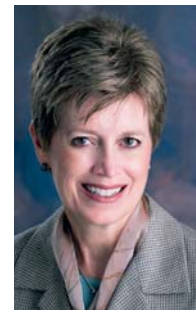
1. Community colleges historically receive a lesser percentage of state and federal funding in ratio to the number of students they serve than four-year colleges and universities.
2. Community colleges have expanded their mission over time to meet the growing needs of students and communities; however, state and local funding has not kept pace with that broader mission.
3. Enrollments have grown dramatically, but no new state funding has been appropriated to support these new students.
4. Community colleges strive to keep tuition as low as possible to ensure access for students with limited means. Community colleges must do more with less while trying to meet the needs of students and businesses for both education and training programs.

What size donation is required to establish an endowed fund?

The minimum gift level required to create a separate endowed fund at Kirkwood is \$15,000, a threshold that donors can meet over a period of years. This level was established to ensure there will be enough income generated each year to provide a meaningful award.

To create a lasting legacy that will permanently link your name to the success of our students, please contact Susan Ovel, Director of Planned and Endowed Giving, or visit our website at www.kirkwood.edu/foundation. Like Kirkwood’s 15,000 credit students, you too will acquire an incredible education!

**For more information,
call Susan Ovel
Director of Planned
and Endowed Giving
(319) 398-5409
Susan.ovel@kirkwood.edu**



Susan Ovel

With an endowed fund, a portion of the investment is used to support student scholarships and specific college programs of interest to you.

Savings Bonds: A Forgotten and Untapped Asset

Savings bonds are likely the nation's most widely held appreciated asset. They represent major assets that may have stopped growing and could now be directed to charitable purposes.

More than 55 million Americans hold U.S. savings bonds, with an estimated value of nearly \$200 billion. A large percentage of bonds date back 30 to 40 years and have stopped earning interest.

The World War II generation holds the bulk of savings bonds, and many of those bonds have now matured, stopped earning interest and are largely collecting dust—forgotten, but ready to be resurrected to meet new needs.

Bonds are normally taxed when they are cashed, are reissued to another person or reach final maturity. But, donors can cash in the savings bonds, pay the applicable taxes on earned interest over the years, and then contribute the remainder to a charitable organization.

U.S. savings bonds have not historically been popular charitable gifts, primarily because Treasury regulations restrict the lifetime reissue of bonds and limit transfer to family members and personal estate trusts, such as revocable living trusts. Organizations cannot be designated as death beneficiaries, and savings bonds cannot be transferred directly to charitable organizations.

Solution A: Using proceeds from cashing in savings bonds, we may be able to construct a charitable gift that makes payments to you for life. The resulting charitable deduction helps offset any tax liability from cashing the bonds. And, you'll receive fixed payments for life that are partly income tax-free during your life expectancy.

Solution B: Leave the bonds, upon the death of the owner, directly to us in your will or charitable remainder trust to first make lifetime payments to one or more of your named beneficiaries and then finally to Kirkwood.

Did you know?

- **Series E savings bonds, initially issued May 1941 through November 1965, had a 40-year maturity date. That means 1941 bonds matured in 1981, and those issued in November 1965 matured in 2005.**
- **Series E bonds issued from December 1965 through June 1980 had a 30-year maturity date. Many of these bonds have since matured and stopped earning interest, with the last of them to mature in 2010. For Series EE savings bonds, all issues have a 30-year maturity period.**

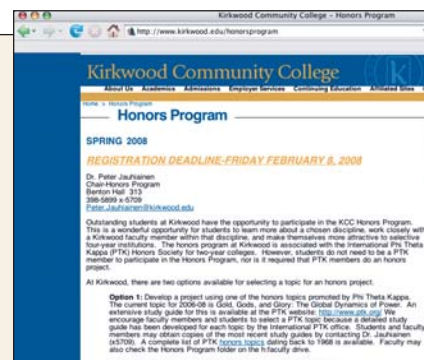
Kirkwood's Honors Program

Today's students want to be challenged. Many seek rigor and relevance in their coursework and look for opportunities to participate in energizing discussions. Kirkwood's Honors Program provides outstanding students the opportunity to push their academic boundaries, work closely with faculty in their career field and make themselves more attractive to selective four-year schools.

The mission of the Honors Program is to promote original research, creativity, independent thinking, problem solving, innovative applications and academic excellence by providing students an opportunity to do individual projects with faculty mentors or to take classes with other Honors students.

Kirkwood will implement an additional component to the Honors Program this fall by offering Honors sections to top students.

Students can elect to take Honors sections that are more academically challenging versions of regular courses. Students participating in Honors sections will be in classrooms surrounded by excellent fellow students in a stimulating learning environment that promotes active, personal engagement, discussion, critical thinking and collaboration with peers.



Alumni Achievements: Andy Petersen



A familiar voice to many Cedar Rapids area morning commuters is that of Kirkwood alum Andy Petersen. Andy hosts the News Radio 600 WMT morning show from 5 to 9 a.m. He updates listeners with current events and welcomes callers' opinions on a wide range of topics. When off-air, Andy records commercials, books guests for shows and researches discussion topics for upcoming programs.

Andy, a 2001 graduate of Midland High School, grew up on a farm in Wyoming, Iowa. He received Kirkwood's Presidential Scholarship and attended the college from 2001 to 2003. While at Kirkwood he was involved in a plethora of campus activities including Student Ambassadors, Kirkwood Student Productions, the *Communiqué* student newspaper and various intramurals. After completing his AA degree, he

transferred to the University of Iowa and graduated with a Communications degree in May 2005.

Andy attributes much of his success to his experiences at Kirkwood. He found the small class sizes helpful as he made the transition from Midland High School. Easy access to Kirkwood's faculty and the one-on-one time they made available was also beneficial. Through his involvement in various

student activities, Andy learned how to carry on conversations with strangers, work cooperatively in groups and handle difficult situations.

But to Andy, one of the biggest advantages was the hands-on experience he was able to gain as a first-semester student at Kirkwood. He worked as a sports editor for the *Communiqué* (and learned he didn't like writing). He did play-by-play broadcasts for the basketball games, anchored newscasts and participated in Kirkwood Student Productions. These experiences helped guide him as he made decisions regarding courses to take, activities to pursue and his future career. Kirkwood is proud of his achievements—congratulations, Andy.

Another option is for qualified students to work with a faculty mentor to develop an Honors project and to earn one credit hour. The nature of a student's Honors project is left open to inspire creativity in both the student and the faculty member, as well as to allow for adaptation to a variety of disciplines. The Kirkwood Foundation has made scholarships available for students enrolled in Honors projects.

There are some wonderful benefits for students who participate in the Honors Program. Graduating with Distinction in the Honors Program will appear on the transcripts of students who complete six Honors credits with A's or B's and have a cumulative GPA of 3.25. Students can enter their

projects in the annual Honors Project Competition and have the opportunity to compete for cash prizes totaling \$1,000. Additionally, students who complete Honors projects or courses can take a free, three-credit course at Coe College.

If they decide to transfer to a four-year institution, they can receive additional perks. Students will receive a \$10,000 automatic scholarship at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon and will be accepted into the Honors Program at Mount Mercy College if they transfer there.

For more information on the Honors Program, visit: www.kirkwood.edu/honorsprogram.

Little-Known Facts About Kirkwood

- Every native species of tree in the state of Iowa grows on our main campus! This was a long-term effort of Facilities and Grounds staff over several years. Support from Alliant Energy and Trees Forever helped make this happen. During the spring and fall, Parks and Natural Resources students walk about the campus doing tree identifications with their instructors—a living lab that beautifies the campus at the same time.
- Kirkwood leads the nation in training first responders with funding through the Department of Homeland Security. Kirkwood prepares first responders and state departments of agriculture to respond effectively to agricultural disasters. This funding is earmarked for only 13 nationally-recognized universities, including LSU, Texas A&M, Johns Hopkins and ONE community college—Kirkwood.
- CCID is headquartered on our campus. This is a global partnership-building group involved with more than 160 community colleges in North America and interactive projects on five continents.
- Kirkwood students go to class with students from across the country and around the world. Students come from 100 different countries, all over the United States and all 99 Iowa counties. Our students can participate in one of 13 different study abroad programs in Australia, Russia, Brazil, Guatemala and other nations!
- Kirkwood is the ONLY community college in Iowa to house an area agency on aging on the campus—Heritage Agency.
- Kirkwood is home to Iowa's only full-time jazz station, KCKK-FM. Many cities with metropolitan populations of 2–3 million can't make that claim.

Cheryle Mitvalsky

Vice President

Kathy L. Hall, CFRE

Vice President, Resource Development

Susan Ovel

Director of Planned and Endowed Giving

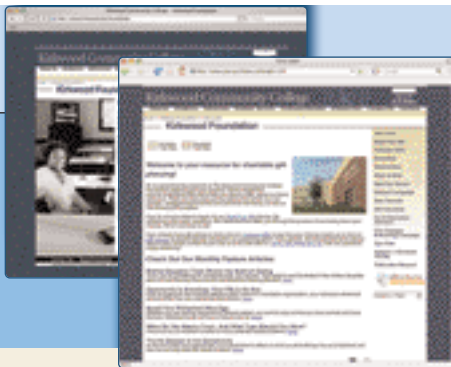
Jody Donaldson

Scholarship Coordinator

Sarah Peters

Application Support Analyst

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friends and Kirkwood by visiting
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