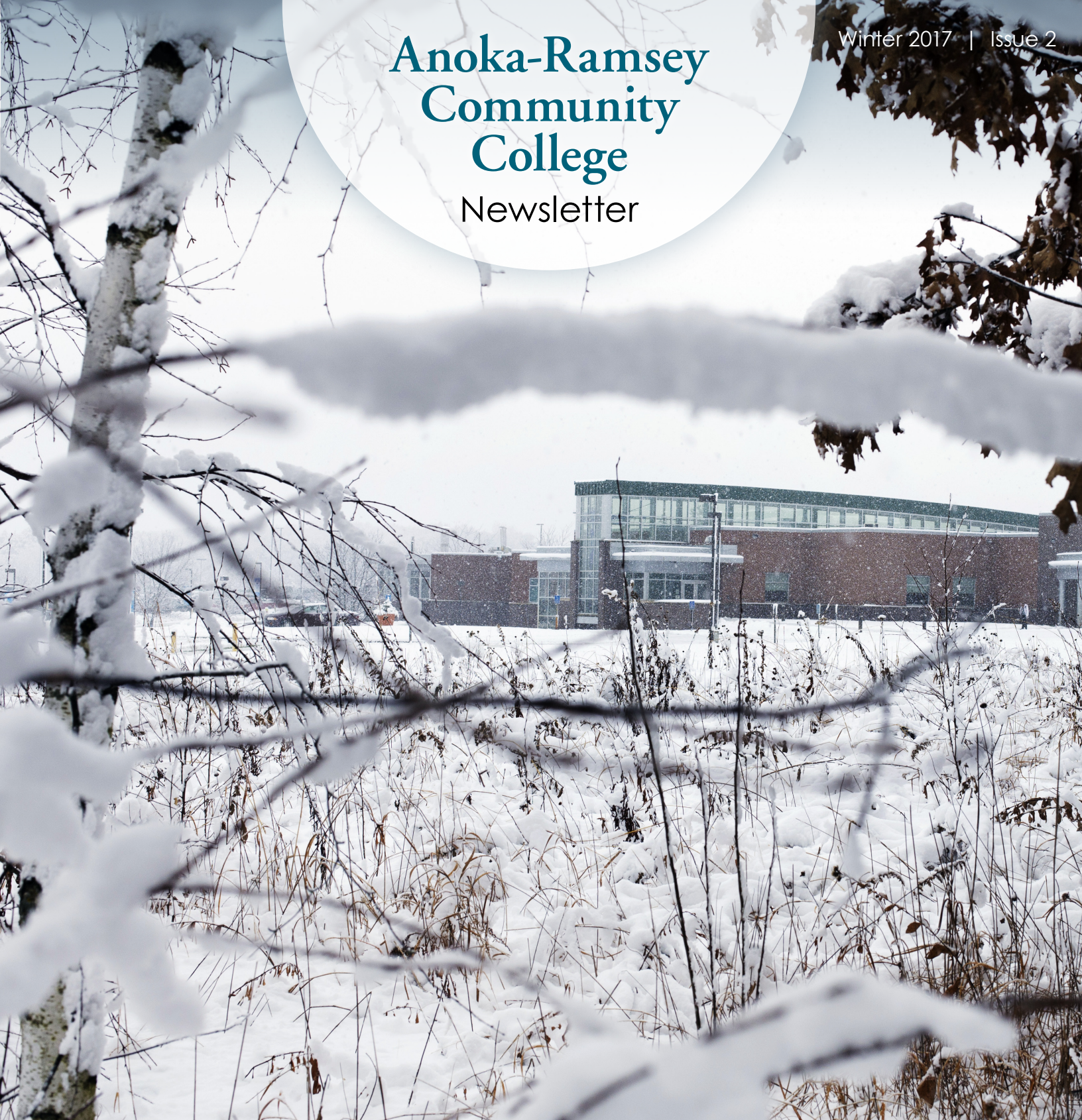


Anoka-Ramsey Community College Newsletter



This Issue: Aspen Prize Finalist • Lasting Impressions • Scholardazzle 2017 • Creative Writing • Some Assembly Required



ANOKA-RAMSEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



On the Cover

“Cambridge Snow Camp”

By Elisha Johnson

As a photographer who loves landscapes, I was excited to head out on a chilly November morning with fluffy flakes falling from the sky to capture the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Cambridge Campus. A winter wonderland surrounded me as I walked down the nature path on campus. It was completely silent except for the snow lightly crunching under my feet, but I turned as if I heard something, and saw snow covered branches framing the college building. I took many photos that snowy morning, but that unstaged, naturally occurring shot was the best surprise, and one that I think depicts the beauty of the campus. Interestingly, after taking this photo, I walked a bit further and did hear a noise. As I started to look up, a branch dumped its snow on my head. Ah, the sacrifices we make for art.

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Kent Hanson, Ph.D.
President

Kent Hanson holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of North Dakota (UND), a master's degree in Human Resource Administration from Central Michigan University, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from UND.

Prior to becoming president of Anoka Technical College and Anoka-Ramsey Community College in 2013, he served as interim president of Riverland Community College, and provost and vice president for academic and student affairs at Northland Community and Technical College.

The President's Message

In the last newsletter, I spoke about several innovative and education-enhancing initiatives happening at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, and how we want to shout these accomplishments to the world.

Those initiatives, among many others, played a significant part in a recent honor afforded to only a handful of community colleges in the entire nation. It was announced recently that Anoka-Ramsey Community College was named one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation by the prestigious Aspen Institute, an international education nonprofit.

Two-year institutions, including Anoka-Ramsey, on the shortlist for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, demonstrated strong outcomes in three areas of student learning:

- Student success in persistence, completion and transfer
- Consistent improvement in student outcomes over time
- Equity in outcomes for students of all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds

Aspen officials were on campus in October to validate the data, meet our fantastic faculty and staff, and learn more about us. The winners of the Aspen Prize will be announced during a large celebratory event in Washington D.C. in March.

Whether or not Anoka-Ramsey takes home the number one prize, we could not be more proud to be recognized for the hard work and dedication to student success that happens at our campuses every day. I am personally honored to be a part of such an amazing college.

I want to thank you for your connection to and support of the college and our students. If you have an Anoka-Ramsey story to share, please tell us!

Aspen Prize Finalist

Anoka-Ramsey named Top 10 Community College in the U.S.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C. Every two years since 2011, the institute awards a \$1 million prize to community colleges for excellence in four areas: student learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings for graduates; and access and success for minority and low-income students.

To measure these criteria, the institute looks at student success in more than 1,000 public community colleges nationwide. In September, the field was narrowed to 10 finalists—including Anoka-Ramsey Community College. The prize will be awarded in March 2017 in Washington, D.C. to the winner and up to four finalists with distinction.

Aspen Institute reviewers gave Anoka-Ramsey Community College high marks for several reasons, including:

- Excellent three-year graduation/transfer rate of 56 percent
- Opportunities for students who are first in their families to attend college
- Programs for students still in high school, both high achievers and those in the middle
- The lowest-cost tuition and fees of any higher education institution in Minnesota
- High success rates for both white populations and students of color

Joshua Wyner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program, says "We were incredibly impressed by the efforts of Anoka-Ramsey Community College faculty and staff to nourish a deep culture of support for students. That, paired with an unusually strong undergraduate research program and a clear focus on teaching and learning, makes Anoka-Ramsey Community College a uniquely supportive educational environment for Minnesota students."

As a finalist, Anoka-Ramsey is now subject to an extensive auditing process. The Aspen Institute representatives are reviewing data to assess improvements in learning, graduation, workforce and equitable outcomes for all students.

For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org/college-excellence



A Conversation with **John Guenther** and **Tim Heil**



John Guenther, former Faculty member

It all started in 1971 at Anoka-Ramsey Community College with a course titled “Man and the Environment”. The course was taught collaboratively by six faculty members and attended by about 18 students. One of the instructors was John Guenther. One of the students was Tim Heil.

They didn’t know at the time they would become lifelong friends.

At first, with course readings such as “The Population Bomb” by Paul Ehrlich and “Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson, Guenther worried that students would feel pessimistic about the future. As Heil recalls, Guenther was right. “I remember,” Heil says, “feeling extremely discouraged about energy consumption.”

Guenther was new to community college life when the course was created. “I entered the system to take a job, and became such a fan after my experience—the faculty were so knowledgeable, sophisticated and open-minded. Probably stronger than anything else was the contact we had with students.”

One of those students was Heil, who went on to attend Gustavus Adolphus College after leaving Anoka-Ramsey. He is now president of Heil Truck Brokerage, and still thinks of ideas and uses skills he learned in 1971.

Guenther moved from Anoka-Ramsey to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources but kept his connection to the college in various ways, such as his friendship with Gene Merriam, who served on the Coon Rapids City Council and later in the Minnesota Legislature and strongly supports Anoka-Ramsey still today. Guenther also remains close to former Anoka-Ramsey Faculty member, Darby Nelson, who was the first ecologist Ph.D. in Minnesota, and of course with Heil.

Since the “Man and the Environment” course, Guenther and Heil have shared countless hours together, fishing, hunting and enjoying each other’s conversation. In hindsight, Guenther says his past worries about teaching the course and making the students concerned about the future were mistaken. He pauses as he smiles at Heil and states, “We went beyond colleagues. We became friends. And here we are, 45 years later, doing fine.”



Tim Heil (seated) and John Guenther (far right) in 1986, with friends, preparing for the pheasant hunting opener in Colome, South Dakota.

One Night. *Endless Opportunities.*



ScholarDazzle 2017 *January 27, 2017*

ScholarDazzle Highlights

- Scholarship Recipient Speakers
- Live Music by the Music Faculty Jazz Ensemble
- Silent/Live Auction
- Jewelry Auction
- Cake Auction
- Card Game
- Prizes
- Fund-a-Need

A scholarship fundraiser for the Cambridge Community College Center Foundation (Cambridge Campus) featuring an evening of dinner, drinks, music, auctions, games and more.

Each year, budget constraints force many of our students to choose between college and working full time. Our foundation awards scholarships that help them pursue higher education with less financial worry. With your help, we can support even more of these deserving students. Proceeds from your ticket, donation or sponsorship will go directly to support our scholarship fund.

To make a different donation or to offer a gift in kind, contact Lea Jacquemart at 763-433-1877.

Support student dreams and have fun!

Join Us ScholarDazzle 2017

Friday, Jan. 27

Social Hour 6 pm

Dinner 7 pm

Spirit River Community Center

1321 Heritage Blvd, Isanti MN 55040

Tickets \$50/Person

For more information or to register:

- Call Lea Jacquemart at 763-433-1877
- Email Lea.Jacquemart@anokaramsey.edu
- Visit AnokaRamsey.edu/donate

Creative Writing Program
Infused with Real Writers

Anoka-Ramsey is one of only three Minnesota colleges to provide an AFA in Creative Writing, along with an AA in Creative Writing. Courses transfer easily to four-year colleges, including articulation partners Metropolitan State University, Hamline University and Augsburg College.

By Kathryn Kysar & Miriam Queensen

For nearly 20 years, the **Two Rivers Reading Series** has introduced students to acclaimed writers. Guest authors have included Robert Bly, Louise Erdrich, Kao Kalia Yang, Alexis Pate and Wang Ping. “When you have the living, breathing author come to campus, that really brings the words to life,” says Professor Chris McCarthy.

With abundant programming, guest authors, published professors and successful alumni, Anoka-Ramsey is a great place to begin a creative writing career. The following are a few examples of the creative writing connections offered to students.

- The Cambridge Campus offers the **Minnesota Writers Series**, a creative writing club, and a regular creative writing class. Instructor Bill Breen says, “Each semester, I’m amazed at the way my students combine creativity and critical thinking to investigate their lives. We have fun in the class but there’s also serious self-discovery taking place.”
- The course “A Writer’s Life: Publishing, Proposals, and Grants” focuses on publishing, marketing, and public relations. The Associate in Fine Arts (AFA)

capstone is a mentorship with a faculty member who writes in the student’s chosen genre. The course culminates in a publishable manuscript that can be used as a writing sample for grant, work, or college applications.

- **Poetry City, USA**, is a year-long joint publishing project between the AFA creative writing programs at Anoka-Ramsey, Normandale and North Hennepin community colleges. Jasmin Ziegler, editorial professor for Poetry City, USA, also advises the Creative Writing Club that published “Rapids Review”, the art and creative writing journal of the Coon Rapids Campus.
- The **Careers in Writing** speaker series introduces students to professional writers; guests have included Star Tribune music critic Jon Bream, senior books editor Laurie Hertzler, and senior travel editor Kerri Westenberg.
- Kathryn Kysar is the author of two books of poetry, “Pretend the World” and “Dark Lake”, and editor of “Riding Shotgun: Women Write about Their Mothers”.

January 2017
Creative Writing
Faculty, Student,
Alumni Briefs

- **Professor Elizabeth Tannen** was awarded a 2017 Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) grant in poetry for \$8,500. Tannen will work with a mentor to generate and revise two in-progress poem sequences and to compile her first full-length poetry manuscript.
- **Creative writing alumnus Joshua Chase** graduated in spring 2016 with a master’s degree in Rhetoric and Writing from Saint Cloud State University, where he served as assistant director of the program’s composition program. He entered a Ph.D. program in Rhetoric, Theory and Culture at Michigan Tech in fall 2016.
- **Professor Paige Riehl** is the poetry editor for the Midway Journal, an online literary magazine based in Saint Paul.
- **Fall 2016 Creative Writing AFA graduate Taylor Houle** published his creative nonfiction piece “Miracles” in the fall 2016 edition of “East Fork”, an

online literary magazine of work by two year students published by University of Cincinnati—Clermont College.

- **Professor Scott Hall** is the editor for the Minnesota English Journal, which publishes academic papers, teaching narratives, teaching materials and creative submissions.
- **Creative writing alumnus Morgan Hughes** graduated with an MFA in Creative Writing from Hamline University in May 2015 and recently published his creative non-fiction essay “God Hates Ventriloquists” in the online magazine “Fogged Clarity”.
- **Professor Kathryn Kysar** will serve on a panel discussing “To Grade or Not to Grade: Assessment and Undergraduate Creative Writing” and reading her poetry at “Twenty Years of the Two Year College Caucus: A Celebration” at the Association of Writing Program’s 50th Anniversary annual conference in Washington, D.C.

Some Assembly Required

College Art Department builds wood fire kiln to enrich student experience



Anoka-Ramsey Community College built a wood fire kiln to provide students with the opportunity to investigate ceramic surfaces produced only through wood firing. The kiln was completed in September and loaded for the first time in mid-October.

Art Faculty member, Mark Lambert was a driving force behind the project. This is an interview conducted with Lambert about the kiln.

Brick by brick: (from left) Anoka-Ramsey Community College students Wes Van't Hull, Alex Bivans and Mike Smieja join guest artist Ted Neal to build a new wood fire kiln at the Coon Rapids Campus.

Why did you want to build the kiln?

"Anoka-Ramsey is known for its ceramics facilities and workshops; this kiln will strengthen our ability to provide a rich ceramic education."

How is the wood fire process unique?

"The vapor and ash from the wood fly through the kiln and land on the pots. When the ash is hot enough it will flux with the silica and alumina in the clay to form a natural glaze. In this way, the kiln provides opportunities for continued research of natural ash glazes."

Will the kiln offer any other benefits to students?

"Wood firing is a labor-intensive process. Wood needs to be cut and stacked, pots need to be wadded and loaded, cone packs need to be made, the door needs to be bricked up and someone needs to tend the kiln during the entire firing process, which takes at least 24 hours. Students need to work together and depend on each other in order to be successful. This is a great exercise in team work and dependability."

Does the college have other kilns?

"Anoka-Ramsey also has a soda kiln, gas reduction, raku and two electric kilns."

Anoka-Ramsey's Art Department provides an opportunity to explore a variety of arts media by offering introductory studio courses in drawing, ceramics, glass, digital media, painting, photography and sculpture.

Attendance suggests that students are taking advantage of art classes. Art class enrollment has increased by 8.3% in the last 10 years. Enrollment fall 2016:

- 655 students were enrolled in Art courses
- 39 students were enrolled in the Associate in Arts with Arts emphasis degree
- 70 students were enrolled in the Associate in Fine Arts in Art degree

For more information about the Anoka-Ramsey Art Department and upcoming projects and events visit: AnokaRamsey.edu/academics/departments-faculty/art/

Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Events Calendar
AnokaRamsey.edu/events

And follow us:



Art Events

Student Art Exhibit

Feb. 13 - March 2 (Reception,
Feb. 16, 5 to 7 pm) **CR**

**Associate of Fine Arts
Portfolio Exhibit**

March 23 - April 28 (Reception,
March 23, 5 to 7 pm) **CR**

Career Center Events

Psychology Career Panel
Feb. 16, 9 to 10 am **CR**

**Business & Technology
Career Expo**
March 22, 11 am to 2 pm **CR**

Healthcare Career Fair
April 19, 11 am to 2 pm **CR**

Creative Writing Events

**Alter/ed Books Reading
& Reception**
Feb. 16, 5 to 7 pm **CR**

**Careers in Writing Speaker
Series hosts Books to Blogs
with writers Sarah Kieffer &
Molly Weiss**
Feb. 23, 2 to 3 pm **CR**

**Minnesota Writing Series,
author Ryan Berg “No House to
Call My Home”**
March 23, 7 to 8:30 pm **CC**

**Creative Writing Information
Session**
April 3, 2:30 to 3:30 pm **CR**

**Rapids Review Magazine
Reading & Release Party**
April 20, 4 to 5:30 pm **CR**

**Two River Reading Series,
author Gretchen Marquette
“May Day”**
March 29, 12 to 12:50 pm
& 2 to 2:50 pm **CR**

General Events

Candlelight Ski
Jan. 28, 5:30 to 8:30 pm **CR**

**Science Night with
Eric Lundquist**
March 2, 7 to 8 pm **CR**

5K Family Fun Run/Walk
April 22 **CC**

Foundation Events

Scholar dazzle
Jan. 27, 6 pm **CC**

Golf Event
June 20 **CR**

Music Events

Area Directors Jazz Project
Jan. 24, 7 pm **CR**

All Ensemble Concert
Coon Rapids & Cambridge
Combined Performance
March 2, 7 pm **CR**

Faculty Recital
April 7, 7 pm **CR**

Jazz Ensemble
April 28, 7 pm **CR**

**Guitar & World
Drumming Ensemble**
May 1, 7 pm **CR**

**Concert Band & String
Orchestra**
May 2, 7 pm **CR**

Choir Concert
May 4, 7 pm **CR**

**Associate of Fine Arts Recital &
Chamber Ensemble**
May 8 - 9, 7 pm **CR**

Social Sciences Events

**Women & Genocide: Victims,
Perpetrators & Prosecutors**
April 17 - 18 **CR**

Theatre Events

Rocky Horror Production
Feb. 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18, 7:30 pm **CR**

Watermelon Hill Production
Feb. 23, 24 & 25, 7:30 pm,
Feb. 26, 2 pm **CC**

Antigone Production
April 14, 15, 20, 21 & 22, 7 pm **CR**

**You are invited
to join the ARCC
Career Network
Group on
LinkedIn!**

[www.linkedin.com
/groups/7026195](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/7026195)