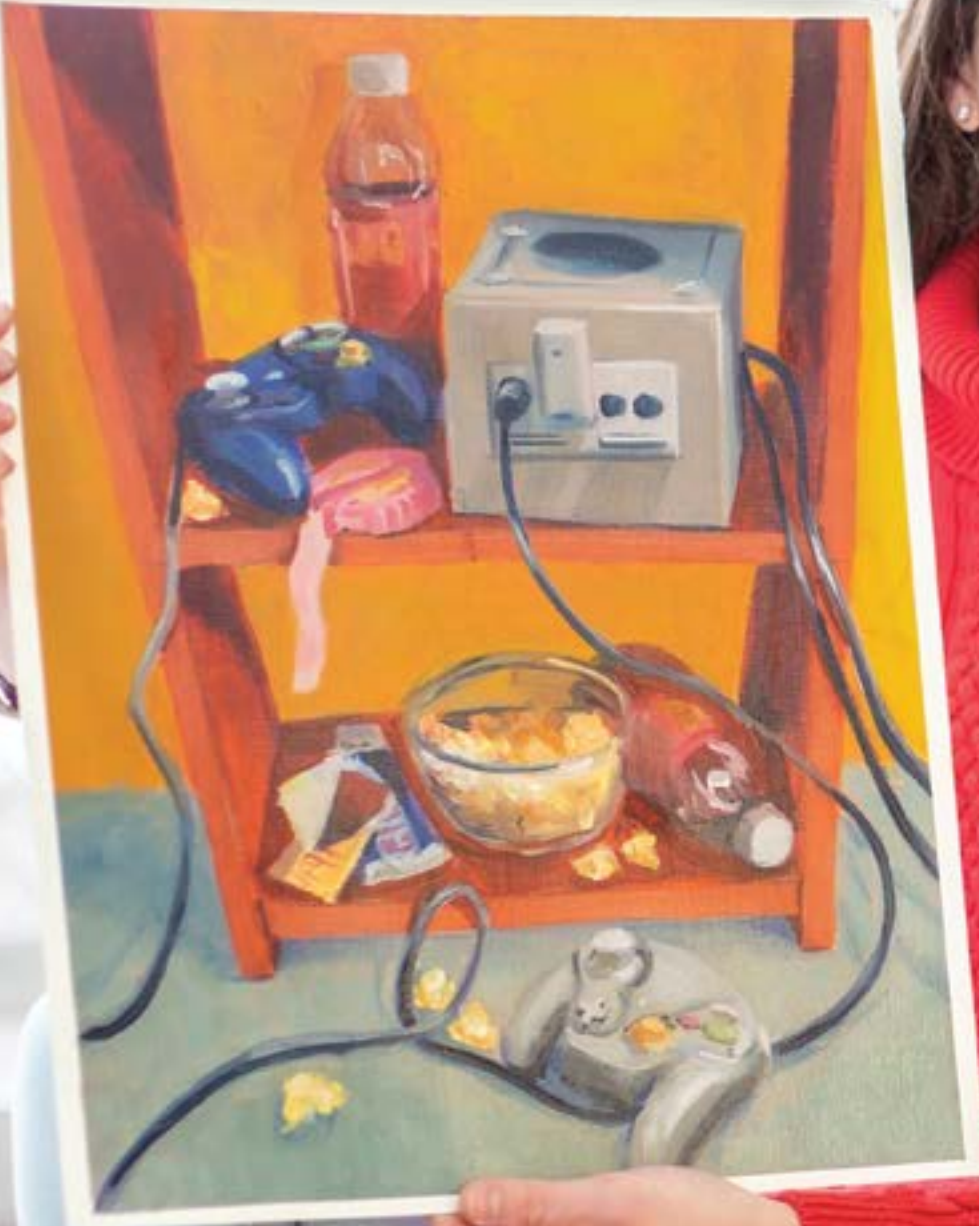


Anoka-Ramsey Community College Newsletter



This Issue: Business Program • Creativity on Campus • Anoka Ramsey Foundation • Nursing Program • STEM



ANOKA-RAMSEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A member of Minnesota State

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The President's Message

As we get ready to ring in a new decade, I am excited about the future of Anoka-Ramsey Community College. Our college is truly a special place, thanks to the support of our diverse community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and local industry and educational partners.

I am proud of our collaborative community, and I believe it is one of the greatest strengths of our college. Strong community is essential to meeting the goals of our Strategic Plan, to:

- Commit to Student Success
- Promote Academic Excellence
- Foster a Vibrant Culture that Practices Equity and Inclusion
- Establish a Strong Reputation and Valuable Partnerships

To further these goals, the college launched Strategic Plan 2.0 this fall around the theme of communication. Effective and inclusive communication is important to all four goals of the Strategic Plan. I've challenged our community of faculty and staff to individually commit to strategies that will strengthen communication in their daily work. Some of these strategies include checking in with students individually, saying *hello* in the hallway, or having more face-to-face discussion.

Our community at the Coon Rapids Campus will also see exciting renovations this year, through a self-funded remodel of our Student Services and Educational Services area, as well as our library. The phased project will take about a year to complete, culminating in a reimagined Student Services area, easier and more welcoming way-finding for students, and an up-to-date library with group study spaces. We also have a bonding

"I am proud of our collaborative community, and I believe it is one of the greatest strengths of our college."
President Hanson



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.

request for consideration at the legislature to completely renovate and modernize our Business and Nursing facilities at the Coon Rapids Campus.

As you'll read in this issue, you will note that our community is engaged in new ways of moving the college forward. Whether through new program accreditation, expanding bachelor's degree partnerships, making vital facility improvements or creating collaborative art, Anoka-Ramsey is preparing to meet the challenges of the upcoming decade.

Thank you for being part of our Anoka-Ramsey community, and I look forward to working with you in the new year ahead.

Kent Hanson, Ph.D.
President

On the Cover

Esther Stoy (shown on the cover) is an art student at Anoka-Ramsey Community College and a student-mentee in the Community Mural project. For more information about Esther and the community mural project, see page 4.

Business is Booming at College



Faculty member, Mariae Hunter and her Business students are excited about all of the happenings in the Business Division, including a new four-year degree partnership and a well-respected accreditation.

Anoka-Ramsey Community College has made noteworthy investments in the Business degree program to continue the commitment to provide a quality education and put student success first.

Global Accreditation

After a two-year process of meticulously evaluating the program's leadership, strategic planning, stakeholder relationship, overall quality, faculty credentials and educational support, Anoka-Ramsey's Business Management and Accounting program was awarded accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

ACBSP determined Anoka-Ramsey's program to be a "hidden gem" in the community. This accreditation marks a commitment to continuous improvement for Anoka-Ramsey.

"Being awarded with accreditation is just a jumping off point for Anoka-Ramsey," explained Anoka-Ramsey Dean Luanne Hogan. "The accreditation is an annual quality improvement process that we will need to work to maintain. It exemplifies our commitment to students obtaining a meaningful and valuable education, so they leave Anoka-Ramsey with the skills employers need and the growing economy demands."

Expanded Bachelor's Degree Partnerships

Beginning in fall 2019, Anoka-Ramsey Business students were offered a new opportunity to continue their education on campus.

In partnership with St. Cloud State University and the Herberger Business School, Anoka-Ramsey students can now earn a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in General Business with the option of a certificate in Professional Selling on the Coon Rapids Campus.

This partnership adds a second business option for students who already had the opportunity to receive a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Business from Concordia University on the Cambridge Campus.

A recent Anoka-Ramsey graduate, Tamara Wolter took advantage of this partnership with Concordia. "I am a single mom with two children. My big goal right now is to finish my bachelor's degree to provide financial security and land my dream job as an operations manager or logistical analyst. I will graduate with my Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Business from Concordia in May 2021, and then I plan to take a vacation. I have not gone on vacation in 10 years."

Bachelor Degree Partners & Programs

Cambridge Campus

- Business: Concordia University
- Nursing: Bemidji State University
- Psychology: Concordia University

Coon Rapids Campus

- Exercise Science: Southwest Minnesota State University
- FasTrack to License for Teaching Secondary Students: Bemidji State University
- General Business: St. Cloud State University
- Nursing: Metropolitan State University
- Psychology: Concordia University
- Teacher Education K-8 License (DLITE): Bemidji State University

Creativity on Campus



Revealing Community Through Collaborative Art

What does community mean to you? This is the question a new community art project seeks to answer with the help of Minneapolis-based muralist Greta McLain.

Anoka-Ramsey Community College was recently awarded an arts learning grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board to bring a 1,000 sq. ft. community mural to the Coon Rapids Campus. As a community-based project, the mural is intended to help tell the story of community in and around the campus.

“This project is not just for the college, it’s for the whole community. Everyone can participate in the design process and help to paint the mural as well,” said Rachel Breen, the Anoka-Ramsey Art Faculty member who is helping to lead the project.

“Our buildings say something about us as a community,” said Greta, who has led more than 30 mural projects. “We want to create something that represents the hopes, dreams and vision of the community so ultimately everyone sees themselves in it. In the end, we can say *we are proud*, not *I am proud*. *We are proud. We are the community.*”

For this project to be truly community based, it requires more than one artist and leader. To address this, a student-mentees program was developed. Selected students are working alongside Greta to help lead both the design and painting of the mural.

Esther Stoy (see cover photo) is one of the 20+ Anoka-Ramsey students selected as a mentee. She intends to graduate in spring 2020 (the same time the mural is completed) with an Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) degree and transfer to a bachelor’s degree program.

“If someone would have told me when I came to Anoka-Ramsey, or any college, that I would be working on something like this, I wouldn’t have believed them,” said Esther.

“Since their initial training, the mentees have been running the classroom participation events and the broader public events,” Greta said. “Not only are they helping to lead the project and work on the mural, they are gaining so many other skills, such as public speaking.”

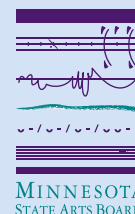
For a student like Ester with ambitions to use her creativity to contribute to a workplace where she can solve problems and create things that have a practical, functional use for people, this experience will provide invaluable skills.

“Just being part of this process is a once in a lifetime experience,” Esther concluded. “It’s exciting that what we’re doing will be so important to this campus and the surrounding community.”

To learn more about this project and ways you can get involved, visit AnokaRamsey.edu/muralproject

“This project is not just for the college, it’s for the whole community.”

Rachel Breen,
Anoka-Ramsey Art Faculty



MINNESOTA
STATE ARTS BOARD

Above left:
Greta McLain
(unrelated to
above: a mural
throughout
the campus)

...t is
...he
...r the
...nity."

...culty

...ft: Under the direction of Minneapolis-based muralist
...cLain, community members work on a community mural
...ed to the Anoka-Ramsey project).
...An example of one of the 30+ murals McLain has lead
...initial community meetings, design and completion.



Scholarships Provide Financial & Emotional Support

Ashley Mages began attending Anoka-Ramsey in 2009 as a PSEO student, and shortly after became a young, single mother. She had her eyes set on attending the University of Minnesota when she graduated high school but she was not initially accepted. Instead, she stayed at Anoka-Ramsey and immersed herself in college life, attending both the Cambridge and Coon Rapids campuses, and becoming involved with the Math Club, the *Inkspot* newspaper, the Engineering Club and the Swing Dance Club. She also served as a math tutor.

One major factor that helped her stay on course to achieve her dream was support from both college foundations. She received the Cambridge Campus Dean Scholarship (2010-2011) and the Coon Rapids Campus Kopp Family Scholarship (2011-2012). Childcare for her young daughter, Elanor (Ellie) was at times challenging, but the financial and the emotional support from the foundation demonstrated how much people believed in her. Ashley finished her degree at Anoka-Ramsey in 2011 and transferred as an upperclassman into the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota. She graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Mechanical Engineering.

"Receiving those scholarships was a huge motivator for me," Ashley shared. "It eased my financial burden and, as a single mother going to school and delivering pizzas, the support of Anoka-Ramsey meant a lot to me."

Since graduating from the University of Minnesota, Ashley has worked as an Electrical Automation Engineer. "I get to design, program (with PLCs) and debug systems for different customers. I always learn new things and no day is like another," Ashley said.

Her daughter Ellie is nearly 10 years old now as Ashley prepares to embark on a new educational journey—a master's degree program in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis on Embedded Systems and Internet of Things at the University of St. Thomas.



"The level of education I received at Anoka-Ramsey was phenomenal, and provided a firm foundation for my understanding of math, physics, and other core engineering topics. When my Anoka-Ramsey peers and I transferred to a four-year university, we knew our stuff!"

Ashley's schedule remains busy with work, volunteering, assisting with STEM activities in the community and being an Anoka-Ramsey donor.

"The community at Anoka-Ramsey is amazing," Ashley concluded, "The instructors were very helpful and available. I still keep in contact with them and my peers. I hope to sponsor a scholarship one day so I can help someone just as I was helped."

Hard Work, Modern Facilities & Clinicals Result in Success for Nursing Student

Anoka-Ramsey Community College exists to serve all students, such as Anna Petrova, who immigrated to the U.S. from Ukraine with her mother when she was nine years old to pursue the American Dream. Her mother had been a nurse before the move, but didn't think her English was good enough to practice in the U.S.

"I think her English is good enough, but she doesn't," Anna noted.

Her mother worked hard as a certified nursing assistant to support herself and Anna. Anna, who learned English quickly, worked hard to make her way to the top of her class. Her efforts were noted by her counselor at Anoka High School, who recommended she take Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) classes at Anoka-Ramsey.

"I had no idea what I wanted to do, I just wanted to earn some college credits," Anna said. "I was thinking maybe business but I had no plans to pursue a career in health care."

When the Business courses left her uninspired, Anna considered other options. She may have been influenced by the Nursing program being housed in the same wing as the Business program at the Coon Rapids Campus, or by her mother's former career as a nurse, but when it was time for her to choose a major, Anna applied to the Nursing program. Her stellar grades and test scores landed her a spot in the highly-competitive program.

The first semesters were challenging as Anna had to work full-time, but her work ethic paid off—she made the Dean's List nearly every semester before graduating in spring 2019 with a 3.8 grade point average. She also landed a job at Methodist Hospital before graduation.

"The instructors, SIMS labs and my Acute Care Unit clinical really prepared me for my current job in the General Care Unit," Anna said. "We see a little of everything there from psych to heart patients."

Not one to slow down, Anna now works full-time and is back in college pursuing a Bachelor of Science (BSN) degree in Nursing through Bemidji State University. The program is offered on the Cambridge Campus through a partnership between Anoka-Ramsey and Bemidji State.

Anoka-Ramsey does not want to slow down either. To serve both Business and Nursing students, and those like Anna choosing between the programs, Anoka-Ramsey has a bonding request to the Minnesota Legislature seeking funding to renovate the Nursing and Business building. Full funding of the \$16.3 million project would modernize, enhance and repurpose classrooms and labs to provide flexible learning options for one of the largest Nursing programs in Minnesota.

"The Anoka-Ramsey Nursing program shapes you into a very good nurse with good skills," Anna noted. "It would be great to see the facility improvements."

"The SIMS labs and the Acute Care clinical in my last semester at Anoka-Ramsey really prepared me for my current job."

Anna Petrova,
2019 Registered Nurse (RN)
Program Graduate



Two Rivers Reading Series Celebrates 20 years

Two Rivers Reading Series

Since 1999

Each semester, the Anoka-Ramsey Community College English Department presents two exciting visiting writer series at each campus. This year, the Coon Rapids Campus Two Rivers Reading Series is celebrating 20 years of bringing acclaimed and award-winning authors to campus.

These cultural events are free and open to alumni and the general public, but the series also has a deeper meaning for students. The events strive to make learning more comprehensive by combining class work with real-world experiences, as students study the authors' work in their English courses.

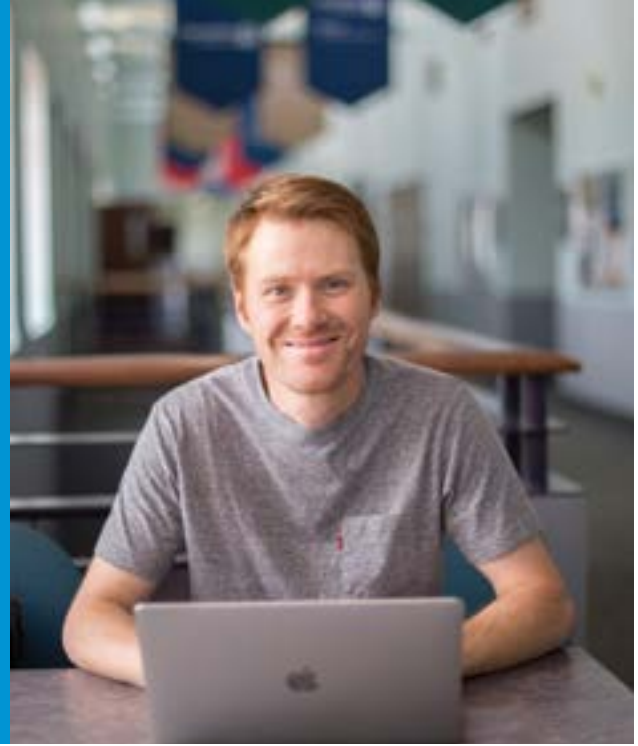
MANE Developing Expanded Applicant Review Process

Editor's Note: An earlier version of this story incorrectly said MANE application criteria are currently in use for Anoka-Ramsey's Nursing Program and Matt Oldroyd was admitted using those standards.

Anoka-Ramsey's Nursing program is a key partner of the Minnesota Alliance for Nursing Education (MANE) Consortium. Considerations under development from MANE will allow Nursing programs to use a comprehensive assessment of each student, considering background and life experiences along with test scores to assess a person's likelihood for success in the program.

Had such a comprehensive process been used to review Cambridge Campus student Matt Oldroyd's Nursing program application, it would have considered his professional retail experience, fondness for the Cambridge community and two children.

"Deciding whether or not to go back to school at 37 years old was a challenge for me, but I feel having an education will increase my chances of being able to better provide for my family," Matt said.



A Great Start for Women in STEM



When Bora Faulkner stepped foot on an Anoka-Ramsey Community College campus for the first time in 2006 she had just finished high school in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania and moved to Minnesota to pursue her passion for science. She knew the transition would be challenging and wanted to begin her education in a supportive environment.

Bora described what she found at Anoka-Ramsey in one word: welcoming.

"Coming from a different country and joining a different culture is difficult. You doubt yourself and often wonder if you will succeed," Bora explained. "But Anoka-Ramsey has resources and great instructors who are invested in helping you succeed, and the entire campus culture reflects that."

Research or Medicine

The two careers in science that Bora considered when she first started at Anoka-Ramsey were research and medicine. She had a love for science, but with little experience, Bora was unsure which to choose.

In the summer of 2008, an opportunity became available to participate in the Independent Research Summer Program (IRSP): a 10-week formal research project partnership between Anoka-Ramsey and the University of Minnesota.

"Being part of IRSP was eye opening," said Bora. "Being in the lab was overwhelming and exciting. I decided that research was something I would like to do."

The IRSP program also exposed Bora to presenting research which offered a perfect balance for her love of science, career goals and extroverted personality.

More Than a Start in Science

Beyond helping her choose a career, the unique undergraduate opportunity at Anoka-Ramsey solidified her educational path to get there.

"I was introduced to other mentors in science and it opened doors to more research opportunities," said Bora. "When I transferred to the University of Minnesota to complete my degree in biochemistry, I worked in the lab with the professor I'd met in IRSP and continued to work as a junior scientist after graduation."

In August 2019, Bora achieved a huge milestone and defended her thesis researching how changes in osteoclasts (cells that resorb bone) can lead to bone-associated diseases such as osteoporosis to complete her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology and Genetics from the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences.

The leadership skills and confidence Bora built during her time at Anoka-Ramsey helped fuel her desire to be an example for her son and an inspiration to other women interested in STEM. Bora hopes to use her versatile degree to land a job as a research scientist in biotech, biopharma or biomed industries.



You are invited to learn more about the exciting happenings at
Anoka-Ramsey Community College at AnokaRamsey.edu

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Join Us to Support Education in Our Communities!



ScholarDazzle Fundraiser

Presented by First Bank & Trust

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020
6 to 9 pm

Pinewood Event Center, Cambridge

Connect with Anoka-Ramsey and the community and enjoy the best in local entertainment, food and more while positively impacting Cambridge Campus students.

For sponsorship information or to purchase tickets, please visit: arcc-scholarDazzle.com



Photo credit: John Christensen

18th Annual Candlelight Ski

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020
5:30 to 8:30 pm

Cambridge Campus Spirit River Nature
Area and Rms G201, G202, Lobby

Ski, hike or bring your sled and enjoy the cross-country ski trails lined with luminaries.



Community Mural Painting Workshops

March through April 2020
Coon Rapids Campus

Join the Anoka-Ramsey Art Department, student-mentees and Minneapolis-based, nationally-recognized mural artist Greta McLain to paint a 1,000 sq. ft mural that helps reflect our diverse understanding of community.

Watch here for dates:
AnokaRamsey.edu/muralproject