Perseverance, hard work, determination and desire... ingredients for her success.

Norma Gregorio-Perez

True Grit.

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Ami Irmen: Wanderlust

Departments + Programs
CSI: Super Sleuths
Criminal Justice Program at Kish
Get ready to join us . . .

CELEBRATING KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE

Kishwaukee College’s 50th Anniversary will be celebrated from January – December 2018 and we want you to share your memories!

Visit www.kish.edu/50th

Share your memories & photos of the people, the places, the classes & the fun that you remember from your time as a Kougar!
Welcome to the summer issue of Kishwaukee College Pride magazine.

The subtitle of Pride is “Community. College.” This really is exactly what Kish is about. We are a College that is a member of our local communities. Kish plays an important role in many aspects of day-to-day life of our community members, especially our students, creating current and future impact.

For students, the College provides a pathway to a career, offering an option to start a university education, or preparing to directly enter the workforce in a Career and Technical Education Program. We are embarking on a plan to expand our Continuing Education offerings to meet the desires of community residents.

For business and industry, we are responsive and supportive of their need to stay competitive in a number of ways, from providing graduates who have the best skills and training, to offering expert consultation on best practices. We are moving forward together to create economic growth.

In this issue, you can read stories that demonstrate just how we serve our students and communities. Meet an instructor who brings the world to her classroom, a student who took advantage of our TRIO Student Support Services Program to find success, an alum who persevered against tough odds to follow her career calling, and a group of current students who are taking their sleuthing skills to the next level and gaining valuable job skills.

These stories all illustrate the impact Kishwaukee College has on our students and communities.

As I am out in the communities, it is heartwarming to hear the Kish stories. In 2018 we will embark on our 50th Anniversary, please continue to share with me your Kish stories and your thoughts on how we can continue to make this your Community. College.

I hope you enjoy this new issue of Pride.

Dr. Laurie S. Borowicz
President

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SUMMER 2017 • KISHWAUKEE PRIDE 3
When Norma was two-and-a-half years old, her parents made the journey to the U.S. to find better opportunities for their family. Norma, however, remained in Mexico with relatives until her parents could send for her. She followed them to the U.S. at age 14, enrolling in Sycamore Middle School in winter 2006. “I did not speak much English,” she recalled. “It was hard being in a new school and a new culture. I did not know how the system worked and I could not express basic messages like going to the restroom or getting food at the cafeteria. I wanted to learn English as quickly as possible, mostly because I wanted to be like everyone else. I forced myself to listen to music, watch TV, and study English all the time.”


But she wanted more. She wanted to pursue higher education. She enrolled at Kish.

“I am an undocumented student and I could not receive any financial aid,” she explained. “I relied on my income, the support of my parents, and payment plans to cover tuition and fees.” She worked as a manicurist after school and on weekends, using her cosmetology skills to fund her ambition.

“This es solo el principio” on Norma’s Kish graduation cap translates to “This is just the beginning”. . . a theme that resonates for Norma. Kishwaukee College was a great place for her to begin her journey.
Norma made lasting relationships by getting involved at Kish – she’s shown here with friends showing off their photo booth pics and below right with fellow PTK members.

Kish was affordable but more importantly, it gave her the support she needed to transition to being a college student. She stated, “Kish was a good step in my academic career because it exposed me to the demands of college. I did well in my classes, and that made me more confident about transferring to a four-year university. While at Kish, I also set high goals for myself and developed study habits that I maintained even after I left.” Norma made another change while at Kishwaukee: she got involved.

She joined Latinos Unidos, a student organization for Hispanic/Latino students, and eventually became the President. She also joined Student Government Association and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, serving as the chapter Hallmark Officer. “I forced myself to step outside of my comfort zone. In high school, I was very quiet and did not participate in school activities, partly because of the language barrier. When I enrolled at Kish, I decided I wanted to meet more people and be part of the campus community,” she said.

“By the time I graduated, I was more confident speaking to people, participating in class, and taking on leadership roles.”

While at Kish taking her General Education courses, she found her career path, too. “My advisor suggested I work with the Career Counselor,” she said. “I talked about my interests and I completed some assessments. She helped me research various professions based on the assessments I completed. Through that research, I learned about Speech-Language Pathology. I started learning more about the field, and I made my decision to become an SLP.”

Norma graduated from Kishwaukee College magna cum laude in May 2015 and accepted admission as an SLP major at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale in Fall 2015. She faced this new experience head on with a solid foundation to stand on. She said, “I was prepared to transfer. I had an idea of what to expect and I also knew about resources available on campus. And I became involved in student organizations at SIU, just like I had at Kish.”

While at SIU-C, she knew with certainty that SLP was the career for her. “I have shadowed Speech-Language Pathologists in multiple areas of service and have also learned that there is a need for bilingual SLPs, which is something I plan to offer in my future clinical practice,” she explained. “My decision to pursue a career as an SLP has been inspired by my personal experiences with communication, but learning about the impact of therapy is an even greater motivation to continue.”

Completing her B.S. in Communication Disorders and Sciences from SIU and walking across the stage at the Carbondale campus in May 2017 was a moment of pride for Norma and her family. But she is not stopping there: becoming an SLP requires a graduate degree. Norma applied to several graduate programs before accepting admission at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this Fall.

Looking back over where she began and the long journey to graduate school, Norma reflected, “During my academic career, I have taken small steps, and it has taken me longer to finish than most people, but I also have accomplished more than I ever imagined when I came to the U.S. eleven years ago. At this point, I feel that everything has been possible – and will continue to work out – because I have worked very hard and had the support of the people I love.”

True. Grit.
When Joshua Lazenby graduated from Proviso West High School in 2011, the future looked pretty bright. He had been accepted at Northern Illinois University and had plans to pursue Biomedical Engineering. After gaining a little college classroom experience and a greater knowledge of engineering, he shifted his focus to Electrical Engineering. After a couple semesters, the financial reality of a university education hit. Joshua left school to work and earn some much-needed money.

Then a friend recommended Kishwaukee College. In Spring 2016, Joshua enrolled at Kish and everything realigned.

He joined the TRiO Student Support Services Program and found himself back on track.

“When I got the email from Kish about TRiO, I thought that it sounded like something that would help me out, not just at Kish, but for years to come,” he recalled. He applied to the program, was accepted and has never looked back.

Keith Wise, the Director of TRiO Student Support Services, summed up the program. “The TRiO program’s main focus is to help students further their college dream by providing them with assistance in various areas. We support them academically through academic advising and tutoring, college visits and cultural enrichment trips. We also provide them assistance with career planning.”
Joining TRiO Student Support Services made a significant impact on Joshua. “It really helped me regain my confidence and taught me how to ask for help,” he explained. “I realized I can’t do it by myself. There are people to help and support me and I need to connect to them.”

Joshua met regularly with Kim Green, Academic Coordinator with TRiO Student Support Services. She helped Joshua with his university applications – completing fee waivers, reviewing scholarship essays, and writing recommendations in support of his applications. But, more importantly, Kim was someone Joshua could bounce ideas off and who could help him identify options available to him to make the best decision.

Kim stated, “Joshua is a “master” of research. He is resourceful and uses all his connections to his benefit which is an awesome trait to have at his age! He doesn’t give up, doesn’t settle, and he pushes himself to do better. My role was to listen and help him analyze his choices.” Joshua added, “Kim and the staff would ask me the questions I needed to consider. They asked me questions I didn’t even know I needed to ask myself before making a decision.”

Joshua juggled many roles while at Kish: engineering student, Student Ambassador, and Hampton Inn employee. “I worked the night shift at the Hampton Inn, took early morning classes and stayed active on campus. Basically, I slept whenever I could find my bed!”

The hard work with the support of the TRiO Student Support Services program paid off in May when Joshua walked across the stage at graduation to claim his hard-earned diploma. One week later, he was at Kent State University with Keith Wise and four other TRiO students for the Men of Excellence weekend workshop, leading a session and providing guidance as a college graduate and TRiO participant.

Joshua is still making his final decision on where to continue his path to becoming an engineer. “One thing I learned is that it doesn’t matter where you go to college as much as what experiences you have while you are there,” he said.

“The amazing people who work with TRiO Student Support Services at Kish really made my college experience the best it could be. They honestly want to see you succeed — it is like a one-stop shop for college success.”

For more information, visit www.kish.edu/trio

TRiO Student Support Services is a federally funded program that provides additional academic and personal support to college students who meet one of the three eligibility criteria: first-generation college student; low-income student; or a student with a learning or physical disability evidencing academic need. Kishwaukee College was awarded its first TRiO Student Support Services grant in September 2015. The grant is in effect for five years.

Student Support Services is a TRiO grant 100% federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education for the amount of $226,000 per year.
Ami Irmen

Ami Irmen never left the Midwest until she was in college at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay when she joined fellow students on trips for Habitat for Humanity. “From the first moment of my first trip, all bets were off. The wanderlust kicked in pretty hard,” she recalled. Indeed, it did. Ami, who teaches English at Kishwaukee College, has since visited Kenya, Colombia, Costa Rica, and China and is making plans to spend part of summer 2018 in Scotland.

She brings her experiences into her classroom at Kish.

How have all her travels impacted her as a teacher? The answer lies in her own days as an undergraduate student. “When I was in college, my favorite professor was Dr. Stefan Hall. One of the classes I took with him was Scottish Literature. Dr. Hall is of Scottish descent and has spent a lot of time in Scotland. He would even show up on Scottish holidays in his family’s tartan. I know, without a doubt, that I would not have gotten nearly as much out of that class had he not had those personal experiences with the culture – including my wanting to visit there someday,” she explained. “I understand what having that firsthand knowledge can mean for my own students – most of whom don’t have the opportunity to travel yet in their lives – this is my way of helping them connect to the world outside of the classroom, outside of the community they grew up in.” Her travels give her reference points to share, experiences that illustrate commonalities, and opportunities to inspire wanderlust in her students.

After her six Habitat for Humanity trips in college, Ami was comfortable traveling in the U.S. But it took a graduate course at NIU to get her to book her first international flight, to Kenya. “My professor Diane Swanson brought in several guest speakers who talked about international projects they were working on, one of which was the Jane Adeny Memorial School for Girls, founded by Andrew Otieno and Teresa Wasgona, professors at NIU who are originally from Kenya,” she explained. “After their presentation, I couldn’t get it out of my head. I thought that maybe I could go over, teach memoir, have the girls write their own stories – because there is nothing more empowering than knowing and telling your own story. Next thing I knew, I was planning a curriculum and a trip.”

While in Kenya, Ami experienced what education is like for students in a different country, and she found it to be an enlightening and sobering experience. “I visited a primary school and the kindergarten classroom was a tin shed with rocks and logs for the students to use as seats. There were pieces of cardboard that someone had written the alphabet on – this is what they were using to learn their letters. It was heart-breaking,” she said. “Because I have witnessed just what it means to fight for an education, it is disheartening when I think that some students in the U.S. aren’t taking their chance at an education seriously.”

Continued on page 10.
Left: Ami with Mama Tica, her host in Costa Rica. Right: Ami instructs a class on memoir writing in Kenya.

Students in Kenya happily display a Kishwaukee College pennant – a souvenir from Ami.
Ami Irmen

Returning from Kenya, Ami reached out to a friend who had joined the Peace Corps and was serving in Colombia. Megan Birnbaum and Ami had met at Kish faculty before Megan headed to Barranquilla, Colombia, with an open invitation for Ami to visit sometime. Fresh from Kenya, Ami accepted the offer and spent a week exploring Caribbean coastal life. She followed that up by signing on to be the Assistant Director with the Study Abroad Program for Kishwaukee College students (offered through College of DuPage) and spent a month in Costa Rica. After these trips, she felt bold and decided to throw her hat in the ring for the Faculty Exchange Program. In the program, faculty/staff are matched with counterparts in colleges located abroad, usually Europe. Ami was surprised to find she was matched with an English Language instructor in China name Wang Jinghan and jumped at the chance to visit.

The China trip was part of a reciprocal program: Jinghan came to the U.S. and stayed with Ami for two weeks in October, coming to Kishwaukee with her to see how the community college system works and what Ami’s position as an instructor was like. She also got a taste of life in the Midwest – touring Jonamac Orchard, visiting Chicago, eating good (real) pizza, and even carving a pumpkin for the first time. In return, Ami flew to China the following May and spent two weeks with Jinghan, going to the university she teaches at, and exploring Xi’an, China. It was an experience she will never forget.

“Seeing the Terra Cotta Army has been on my bucket list for quite some time, and it was impossible to take in the true scale of this until I saw it in person,” she said. The Terra Cotta Army is “funerary art” and consists of 3000 full sized terra cotta clay human and horse figures, each carved with unique features, placed in the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China, to protect him in the afterlife. They were sculpted and buried in 210 B.C. and discovered in 1974.

Her other favorite memory from China? “The food. I am ruined for life. Chinese food is incredibly spicy – which I love. Every single thing I ate was delicious. For my first lunch in China, Jinghan’s mom taught me how to make steamed dumplings. After that, I told Jinghan I wanted to pack her mom up and take her home with me.”

Ami encourages her students to take the leap and travel when they can. “When my first opportunity arose to travel, I learned that I really can just hop in a car or get on a plane and just go. It truly opened up the world to me in a whole new way,” she explained. “Pictures and prose can only do so much. Experiencing something first hand is the only way to truly understand it. I feel so very fortunate for these opportunities that I have been given.”

Since Ami started traveling, she has visited three other continents (South America, Asia and Africa), and is planning to visit another (Europe). Even with all this travel, she still has room in her passport for more stamps. She summed it up . . .

“My goal is to see every U.S. state – I’m currently at 28/50 and Washington D.C. – and visit at least one country on each continent. Though my dream goal is simply to see everything.”

From top to bottom: Ami visits Emporer Qin’s Terra Cotta Army.
At the foot of a mountain outside of Xi’an after a hike with Jinghan.
Ami at a beautiful garden of statues at Xi’an.
SkillsUSA is a national organization that partners with colleges, high schools and industry professionals to help ensure the U.S. has a skilled workforce by promoting education in career technology fields. SkillsUSA has over 300,000 members in 52 states and territorial associations. In Illinois there are 88 participating high schools and colleges, with Kishwaukee College being one of them.

SkillsUSA offers students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in their chosen field. In February each year SkillsUSA participants take a written test in their desired field. Students scoring high enough are invited to the hands-on competition at the state level in April. Students who earn a first place at state, earn an invitation to the National Competition held in Louisville, Kentucky in late June. Over the last 5 years, Kishwaukee College has had over 50 students participate in SkillsUSA at the State and National levels.

SkillsUSA provides a platform for students in a variety of Career and Technical Education programs, including:

**Automotive Technology** – students learn the full range of automotive technical functions from diagnostic tool use to engine rebuilding.

**Collision Repair Technology** – students learn to analyze and repair damage to vehicle body and systems.

**Computer Aided Design (CAD)** – students use CAD software to easily and efficiently create both architectural and mechanical designs.

**Computer Information Systems** – students can choose from programs in web design, networking, programming, Cisco networking and network administration.

**Criminal Justice** – students gain practical knowledge and an understanding of law enforcement, investigations, and security.

**Diesel Power Technology** – students learn to service all types of diesel-based equipment using cutting-edge diagnostic and maintenance systems.

**Welding** – students learn arc and gas welding as well as advanced metal joining processes such as Metal Inert Gas (MIG) and Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) welding.

For more info on Career Technology programs, visit www.kish.edu/ct
Anyone who has watched a crime show on TV knows pretty much what the forensics team does: process the scene, collect evidence, do the science to determine all sorts of info and even carry a weapon and go with uniformed officers to arrest the criminal.

Right? Wrong.

The Crime Scene Investigation professionals and the Forensics professionals are actually two different groups of people in law enforcement. Dave Dammon, Criminal Justice faculty member at Kishwaukee College and Sergeant with the Belvidere Police Department makes that distinction very clear to his students. “One group processes the scene,” he explained. “The other group is in the lab processing the evidence scientifically.”

The Criminal Justice Program at Kishwaukee College offers a two-year Associate in Applied Science degree in Forensics Technology. In addition to Criminal Justice courses, the program includes courses in chemistry and biology to help build the necessary science foundation needed in the program. The program also offers a one-year certificate in Crime Scene Processing that requires a sequence of Criminalistics courses.

Dave Dammon ensures Criminal Justice students get a full range of experiences in both collecting evidence and processing it. Students learn these skills in the College’s state-of-the-art Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) and Forensics labs. The labs were both part of the College’s 2012 renovation project and Dave makes great use of them to mock up crime scenes and give students the opportunity to perform labs that can take several days to complete. “We currently offer labs and hands-on sessions that no other community college in the state offers. I feel we have one of the best programs out there,” he said. “But I want to keep on increasing our use of technology for policing and in the forensics lab.”
Students in Dave’s classes gain experience in everything from extracting DNA from “crime scene” samples and doing a comparison against “suspect” samples to a forensics entomology experiment on campus this spring. The entomology experiment tested the scientific observation skills and stomach of the students. Raw chicken was left in controlled test areas on campus – near water, near the tree line, and near an agricultural field. The students observed insect activity at each site over a couple of weeks, collecting samples to take back to the lab.

Hannah Miller, Oregon, noted that air filtering masks with a smear of Vicks® Vaporub™ was the best way to collect samples from the meat sites. “It was really interesting though because what kind of insects you found were a little bit different based on location,” she explained. “That’s important in providing information on whether a body had been moved or not. You can get a good idea of how long a body has been in place by the life cycle of the insects. It was cool, but smelly.”

For Hannah and two of her fellow students, Courtney Bolin, Kirkland, and Victoria Rodriguez, Rochelle, all the high-tech preparation over the course of the year leads to one place: the CSI competition at SkillsUSA. This year was the trio’s first time competing in CSI. Hannah said, “None of us had ever participated in a Skills competition so we practiced and read textbooks nonstop until just moments before we competed at state. For nationals, Dave was determined to not let us overthink everything. We reviewed and prepped each morning before competition, but he wanted us to relax and just go with the flow.”

SkillsUSA is a national, state, regional, and local organization for technical, skilled, health and personal service occupations for students who are enrolled in high school and college. The CSI competition is based on a crime scene that the SkillsUSA organization sets up. The students, in teams of three, walk in to the scene cold and must process it correctly. Students must maintain a photo log, evidence log and preserve the chain of custody of the evidence collected. After the scene has been processed, the students write a report, draw the crime scene sketch and mark their evidence.

It is a competition that requires teamwork and extreme attention to detail as well as knowledge on how to perform specific skills and techniques – like lifting a latent fingerprint – efficiently and accurately. Dave explained, “The team is composed of a Leader, Photo/Evidence and Scene Diagram people. They are judged at nationals on more than their CSI skills at the scene, but also on an observation test, interview, and evidence processing.”

The Kish team was well prepared: they took First Place in the State SkillsUSA competition in April and traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to compete on a national level, earning 8th Place in the nation. “I am so proud of my first-time team. Working with Victoria and Courtney was an absolute blessing and an honor. Each one of us brought something to this team that seemed to perfectly balance us out,” Hannah stated. “I truly hope eighth in the nation made our school proud because we’re sure proud to be a part of Kish!”

For the Kish team, placing on a national stage under time constraints and observation was a goal they worked hard to achieve. For Dave Dammon, it is a just the first step. “We finished 8th in the nation this year and I am proud of the team,” he said.

“Now that they have one SkillsUSA competition under their belt, I see them on podium next year, for sure.”
Early Childhood Center
A place where fun and learning go hand in hand!

“I am a student at Kish so sending my daughter to the ECC was convenient and fit my flexible schedule perfectly. There is an educational component in everything they do, even how they speak to the kids, everything emphasizes learning through play. The quality of the care is just excellent.”
– Stephanie Brackman, Kish Student & ECC Parent

The ECC is education based childcare for children between 2-5 years old and offers hands-on learning with both indoor & outdoor experiences.

Who can enroll at ECC? EVERYONE!
Children at ECC come from families throughout the community, including Kish staff and students.

For more information or to schedule a visit go to www.kish.edu/ecc
Important Academic Dates:

**Saturday Registration**
Saturday, August 19

**Fall Semester Begins**
Monday, August 21

**Labor Day – Campus Closed**
Monday, September 4

**Apply for Fall Graduation**
Deadline – Thursday, October 12

**Submit Kishwaukee College Foundation Scholarship Online Applications for Spring 2018**
Deadline – Friday, October 20, 2017

**Online Registration Begins for Spring 2018 Classes**
Monday, November 6 • 6 am

**On Campus Registration Begins for Spring 2018 Classes**
Tuesday, November 7 • 8 am

**Thanksgiving Break – Campus Closed**
Wednesday, November 22
(Campus closes at 5 pm for Thanksgiving Break)
Thursday, November 23 – Saturday, November 25
Campus Closed

**Spring 2018 Tuition Due Date**
Tuesday, December 19

**Final Exams**
Saturday, December 9 – Friday, December 15

**Commencement**
Saturday, December 16

**Winter Break**
Monday, December 25 – Tuesday, January 2

**College Reopens**
Wednesday, January 3

**Martin Luther King Day – Campus Closed**
Monday, January 15, 2018

**Spring Semester Classes Begin**
Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Campus Events:

**Complementary Health Programs**
Wednesday, August 9 • 6:00 pm • Jenkins Auditorium

**Kougar Kick Off**
Wednesday, August 23

**10th Annual Education Panel**
Do You Have What It Takes to Become a Successful Teacher?
The 3 P’s of successful educational practice: Perseverance, Patience & Professionalism
Wednesday, November 15 • 6 pm • A1247

**See Kish in the Community at:**

**Lincoln Hwy Heritage Festival, Rochelle**
Sunday, August 20 • 3:00 pm

**Corn Fest, DeKalb**
Saturday, August 26 & Sunday, August 27

**Creston Booster Days Parade**
Sunday, September 17 • 1:00 pm

**Cortland Parade**
Sunday, October 8 • 1:00 pm

**Sycamore Pumpkin Parade, Sycamore**
Sunday, October 29 • 1:00 pm

Save the Date!

**College Fair**
Wednesday, November 1

**Kishwaukee College Foundation Gala Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction**
Saturday, November 4

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You want to go to college, but you’re unsure what program or field to go into.

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Student worker applications for Fall currently being accepted.

Registration for Fall in progress.

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