

Giving back

Dave Hansen helps his students stretch their views, think critically at MCC



“The best education is one that is applied to life.”

– Dave Hansen

By Shanika P. Carter

Dave Hansen, an adjunct instructor at Montcalm Community College since fall 2015, wants to impact his students the same way his teachers impacted him.

Hansen’s main area of focus at MCC is philosophy, which includes courses in Bioethics, the Philosophy of World Religions and Social Problems. He is also an online adjunct professor of religion at Oklahoma Wesleyan University and Kingswood University in Canada.

Serving as a dual enrollment instructor as well, Hansen has taught at Lakeview, Belding, Tri County, Fulton and Central Montcalm high schools. This outreach provides him the opportunity to leave an impact on even more students.

“I teach because I see it as a way to give back,” said Hansen, who spent his freshman year of college at MCC. “I have fond memories of teachers, instructors, and professors who made an impact on my life. My favorite instructors at MCC were Les Morford and Jim Fatka. They both stretched me as a student and made learning fun.”

Hansen earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion with a concentration in Christian Ministry from Southern Wesleyan University and his Master of Practical Theology degree from the Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Now at age 53, Hansen, who resides in Lakeview with his wife, Sara, is halfway through his Doctor of Ministry program with a concentration in Societal Leadership. As lead pastor of Lakeview Community Church since 2010, Hansen believes in putting the subject matter he teaches into practice.

“I desire for students to discover their worldview and learn how to think critically,” Hansen said. “I want students to know what they believe and discover why they believe it.”

Hansen said that his classes leave room for many opinions, and his main concern is that his students establish their opinions thoughtfully with the knowledge of the ethical principles used to derive those opinions. To achieve this, he incorporates a variety of course delivery methods to provide opportunities for all students, including lectures, videos and a lot of discussions. ■