



WAUBONSEE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*ALUMNI*

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Waubonsee is proud to be your alma mater!

This month, we congratulate the Class of 2023. We're so proud of this year's 894 graduates. Plus, we celebrate Waubonsee's 2023 Distinguished Alumnus, who has spent 20 years in community colleges - first as a student and then as a dedicated professional.

Also, read in our "Just For Fun" section about alum daughter and father who teamed up to run together in Waubonsee's 5K. By the way, there is still time to sign up for this year's Walk, Run and WIN: Waubonsee Foundation 5K/10K. Finally, consider joining us for Waubonsee Night at the Kane County Cougars on June 22, 2023. Only \$5 per ticket, details below! We hope to see you there!

### Where Are They Going?

**Congratulations to all the graduates of the Class of 2023 - wherever you may be going next!**

A few of Waubonsee's graduates share why Waubonsee was the right first step on their path to success.



"I am very thankful for Waubonsee for supporting me and having the resources to ensure my success." **Gabrielle**



"Waubonsee really has changed the way I value education!" **Marcus**



"Waubonsee was a surprise for me - I did not think I was coming here, but I enjoyed my time meeting new friends and being a part of the QuickPath program." **Saloni**



"Waubonsee has offered me many opportunities for career and personal development. The support staff, my advisors, the tutoring center and my professors have all provided me with the support I've needed to be successful in college." **Travis**

## Faces and Places

### Waubonsee Announces 2023 Distinguished Alumnus

Each year, the Waubonsee Community College Distinguished Alumnus Award is presented to an outstanding graduate of Waubonsee Community College.

Awardees have distinguished themselves in their chosen profession, have documented evidence of contribution and service to their community, and demonstrated a continued interest in lifelong education. This year's Distinguished Alumnus is Dr. Scott Mertes, Provost at Mid Michigan College.

After earning his Associate in Arts degree from Waubonsee in 1992, he went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Winona State University, master's degree from the University of Iowa, and doctorate from the University of Nebraska.

Learn more about [\*\*Mertes\*\*](#).





## **'There Are Many Paths to Success' Waubonsee Graduate and Army Veteran Returns to Finish School, Aspires to Be a Physician**

Waubonsee student Roland Asongakap, born and raised in Cameroon, Africa, spent much of his early childhood severely sick in hospitals. In Cameroon, mosquito-borne diseases are common across villages and often deadly. While these diseases afflicted Asongakap during his younger years, a passion for serving others and an appreciation for the medical science grew in his heart.

"Waubonsee is more than I expected," said Asongakap. "It has helped me hone my study skills tremendously. I have a love for science because the courses taught me to strive. The instructors at Waubonsee give me insights, guide and mentor me, and give me encouraging words."

Learn more about [Asongakap](#).

---

## **Waubonsee Board of Trustees Seats Student Trustee**

The Waubonsee Community College Board of Trustees seated Van Wheeler to serve as the student trustee for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The student trustee was chosen by the student body and serves as the liaison between the Board of Trustees and the Student Senate, representing student interests at the board level. Wheeler was seated at the board meeting held on April 27.

Learn more about [Wheeler](#).



## Did You Know?



### Waubonsee Board Honors Longtime Trustee with Resolution

At the April 19 board meeting, the Waubonsee Community College Board of Trustees recognized the leadership of James K. Michels, P.E. with a special Resolution. The Waubonsee Community College Board of Trustees adopted a Resolution on April 19 to recognize and honor Michels for his commitment, dedication, and many years of distinguished service on the Waubonsee Community College Board of Trustees; it also bestows upon him the honorary title of Trustee Emeritus.

Learn more about [James K. Michels, P.E.](#)

---

### AACC Recognizes Waubonsee Faculty with 2023 Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction

A Waubonsee Community College faculty member has been recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Denise Nakaji, Professor of Therapeutic Massage, was awarded the 2023 Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction Recognition. This award recognizes individuals who go above and beyond what is required to ensure students succeed academically.

Learn more about [Nakaji](#).



## **Waubonsee Professor Named Faculty Member of the Year at 2023 AACC Annual Conference**

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) recently presented Waubonsee Community College Professor of History Dr. Amy Powers, of DeKalb, with the 2023 Faculty Member of the Year Award. Dr. Powers was recognized April 3 during the Awards of Excellence Gala at the AACC Annual Conference in Denver.

The Faculty Member of the Year is part of the AACC's Awards of Excellence, which includes several categories that underscore the association's priorities and bring national visibility to leaders among its member colleges. Dr. Powers is the only recipient from Illinois.

Learn more about [Powers](#).

**Just For Fun**



## **Daughter and Father Team Make it their Family Business to Run in Waubonsee's 5K/10K Trail Race**

When Waubonsee alumnus Liz Montgomery of Yorkville first heard about the Walk, Run and WIN with Waubonsee 5K last year, she knew she and her dad, Ron Scott, had to register.

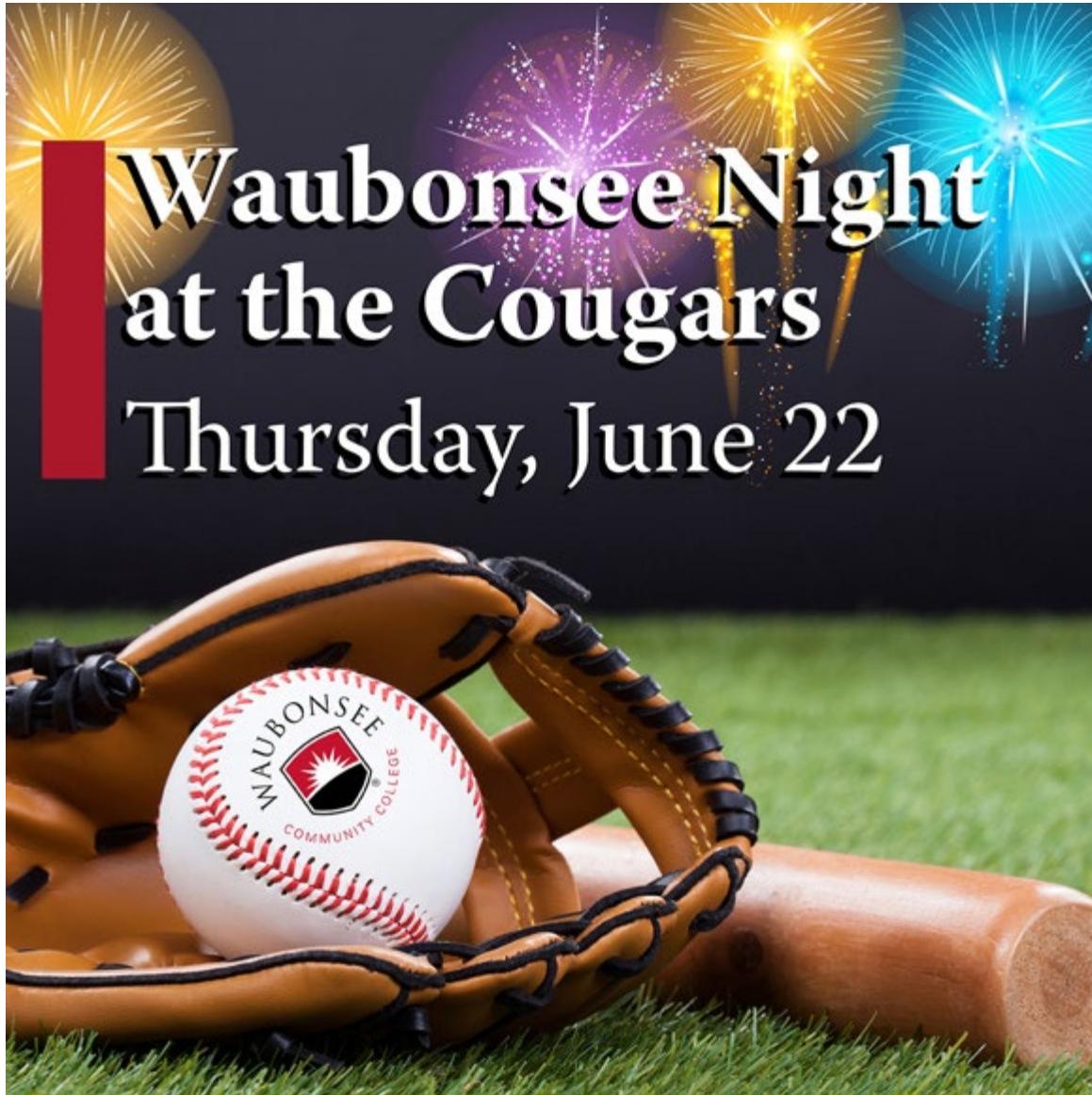
"Ever since I was a kid, my dad and I have been competitive and we enjoy running," said Montgomery. "I knew this was a perfect opportunity to run together back on campus, especially since at the time, I was training for a marathon."

Scott, now a retired carpenter and former football referee, also attended classes at

Waubonsee. At 70 years old, Scott maintains an active lifestyle by participating in cross-fit three to four times a week and joining his daughter in runs.

Read the [inspiring story](#).

---



## **Waubonsee Night at the Kane County Cougars**

*Save the Date: June 22, 2023*

**Join the Waubonsee Community at the Kane County Cougars!**

*Cheer for the Cougars with other employees, faculty, students, alumni and their families.*

- \$5 Tickets for Students, Alumni, Staff and their Families
- Show Your Spirit - Wear Waubonsee Gear!
- Pre-game Concert and National Anthem performed by Waubonsee's Steel Drum Band
- Concessions Specials and Post-game Fireworks Show

We are encouraging alumni to select section 108 when purchasing their \$5.00 ticket. For ticket purchase and promo code information, visit [\*\*Waubonsee Night\*\*](#)

We love learning more about our alumni and sharing their inspiring stories with you. If you or someone you know should be highlighted in our next Alumni Newsletter, please email us at [alumni@waubonsee.edu](mailto:alumni@waubonsee.edu).

We value you and your experience! We hope you take a moment to share a story of your time at Waubonsee. You can do so by submitting it [online](#), giving us a call, or scheduling a visit to allow us to treat you to coffee or lunch in the [\*\*Waubonsee Café\*\*](#) and a tour of the [\*\*Sugar Grove Campus\*\*](#).

Best regards!



Scott Peska, Ed.D.  
Assistant Vice President of Student Services and Alumni Relations  
Waubonsee Community College  
[speska@waubonsee.edu](mailto:speska@waubonsee.edu)  
(630) 466-2363

[\*\*Click Here to Support a Student\*\*](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Waubonsee Community College  
Route 47 @ Waubonsee Drive Sugar Grove, IL 60554-9454