

FANTASTIC FACULTY NEWSLETTER

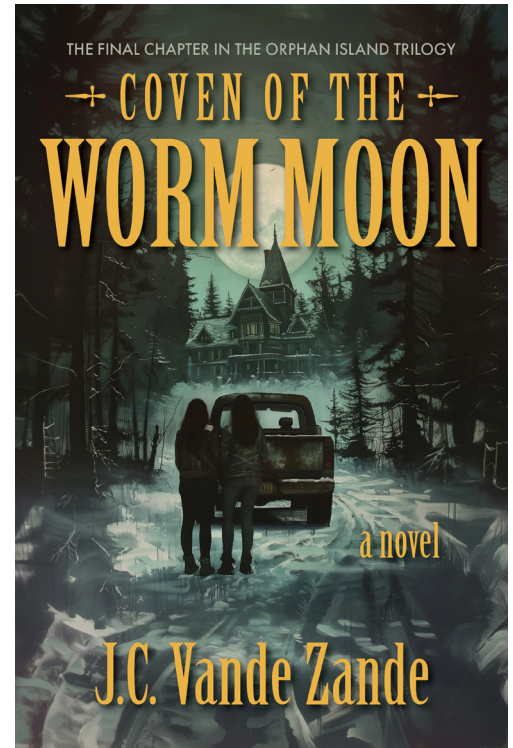


JEFFREY VANDE ZANDE, *Professor of English*

Montag Press of California announces the release of Michigan author and Delta College professor J.C. Vande Zande's final novel in his Michigan-based Orphan Island Trilogy. Just released, *Coven of the Worm Moon* finishes the story of the Fletcher family as they find themselves in a standoff once again with the supernatural. The book takes place seven years after *Blood of the Witness Tree*, the second book in the series. Published in 2024, *The Dance of Rotten Sticks* was the first book. *Coven of the Worm Moon* travels an expanse of the state, starting in Detroit, but

including stops in Bay City, Vanderbilt, The Mackinac Bridge, Munising, Muskegon and just south of Cheboygan. Rick Clifton of Quills and Chills podcast writes, "Ghosts, grief, addiction, family, and a growing sense of dread, *Coven of the Worm Moon* delivers on all fronts. Beneath its chilling supernatural horror lies a powerful story about loss, healing, and the bonds that hold us together even in the darkest moments. In this third installment, J.C. Vande Zande returns to a family we've come to love as our own, crafting a haunting, emotionally resonant novel with characters you'll genuinely care about." Vande Zande is currently touring with his trilogy of books at various events across the state.

*Here is a link to the article
in deadlinedetroit.com*



Please submit entries to lauradull@delta.edu and michaelglowacki@delta.edu

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MELANIE FISHER,

Instructor of Ceramics

MICHAEL GLOWACKI,

Professor of Graphic Design, Program Coordinator

ANDREW RIEDER,

Associate Professor of Art, Gallery Coordinator

Art and design faculty coordinated two events in April. At the beginning of month, Delta College welcomed Israel "Izzy" Davis, a ceramic artist from Grand Rapids, Michigan, as part of the Visiting Artist program. Davis demonstrated his creative techniques to students and Delta employees, followed by the opportunity for them to try it out for themselves!



At the end of April, the Delta College Art + Design program held its annual Student Art Reception. A guest juror, recent visiting artist Israel "Izzy" Davis, selected pieces from the exhibit for awards and to be displayed off-campus at Studio 23 in Bay City from May 1 – 31.



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KARA JIMENEZ, *Professor Lifelong Wellness*

In June 2026, Kara Jimenez from the Lifelong Wellness department teamed up with advanced students from the Delta College Health Fitness Specialist (HFS) program to conduct a comprehensive, sport-specific athletic assessment battery for the Hemlock High School Girls Varsity Volleyball team.

The initiative provided the young athletes with elite, clinical-grade physiological tracking while giving Delta College students invaluable, hands-on field experience in sports performance and kinesiology.

Beyond the immediate benefit to the athletes, this project is part of a broader, proactive effort by the HFS program to build enduring professional connections within the local community. By actively offering these high-performance testing opportunities to athletic directors and coaches across the region, Delta College faculty and students are establishing the institution as a premier regional hub for sports science expertise.

Crucially, these community partnerships expand vital experiential learning environments for Delta students. These engagements provide students with repeatable, real-world opportunities to master essential practical skills, such as building professional rapport with diverse clients, flawlessly executing complex testing protocols, interpreting intricate physiological data, and accurately applying sport-specific testing norms. This outreach provides area high school programs with access to collegiate-level evaluation tools while creating vital networking and career pathways for Delta graduates.

Cutting-Edge Testing & Metrics

The evaluation focused heavily on the unique biomechanical and bioenergetic demands of volleyball, utilizing advanced technology to assess power, agility, and injury risks:

Advanced Body Composition: Utilizing clinical-grade InBody Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis (BIA) technology, the team mapped out precise metrics including Skeletal Muscle Mass (SMM) and Percent Body Fat (PBF).

Segmental Lean Analysis: Students analyzed muscle distribution across the trunk and limbs to pinpoint hidden left-to-right structural asymmetries that could lead to non-contact ACL tears or overuse injuries.

Power & Performance Jump Metrics: Using dedicated jump mat technology, athletes were tested on vertical displacement to evaluate net dominance and explosive power.

Agility & Movement Quality Screening: The battery featured Pro Agility (5-10-5) shuttles and T-Tests alongside qualitative single-leg squat assessments to evaluate lateral closing speed, tracking coordination, and dynamic knee/hip stability.

Each athlete received a highly personalized performance report. These insights provided the Hemlock coaching staff with an exact roadmap for rate of force development training and proactive injury prevention ahead of their competitive season.

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This collaborative project underscores Delta College's commitment to community outreach and community-focused student development. By bridging the gap between classroom theory and real-world athletic application, Delta students gained direct experience acting as sports performance consultants, preparing them for dynamic careers in exercise science.

This successful project was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the Lifelong Wellness faculty and the Health Fitness Specialist Program students. Additionally, a special thank you to HFS students Emily Otwell-Brewer and Bailey Ranck, whose outstanding technical skills and leadership were instrumental in executing the testing battery and managing athlete data.



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ELENA LAZZARI, *Associate Professor of Economics*

Elena Lazzari, Associate Professor of Economics, earned a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education (HALE) from Michigan State University. Her dissertation, *Understanding the Relationship Between Military Presence and Community College Retention Rates: A Multilevel Statistical Analysis*, examined military presence and community college retention through the Geography of Opportunity framework. Using national longitudinal data and multilevel statistical modeling, the study used three indicators to account for military presence and examined whether the relationship varied across institutional characteristics and states. The findings indicate that military presence is associated with community college retention rates, although the direction and magnitude of the relationship varied depending on the indicator used to account for military presence. Overall, the study suggests that the relationship is more complex than initially hypothesized.

2026 Awardees



Elena Lazzari
Associate Professor,
Economics Delta College



Dr. Elsa Olvera
Director of Educational Opportunity
Center Delta College

Dr. Elena Lazzari (Associate Professor of Economics) and Dr. Olvera Elsa (Director of Educational Opportunity Center) were recognized with the Dr. Chiara Hensley Outstanding Institutional Representative Award during the 2026 Michigan ACE (MI-ACE) Women's Network Annual Conference, held June 15–16 at Lansing Community College. The award recognizes outstanding leadership and service by Institutional Representatives who advance the mission of the MI-ACE Women's Network and support the professional growth of women in higher education.

As Delta College's Institutional Representative to MI-ACE Women's Network, Dr. Lazzari and Dr. Olvera serves as a liaison between the college and the statewide network, sharing professional development opportunities, encouraging participation in leadership initiatives, and fostering connections among colleagues. The annual conference brought together more than 400 faculty, staff, and administrators from colleges and universities across Michigan for leadership development, networking, and collaboration.

Dr. Lazzari and Dr. Olvera are honored to receive this recognition and representing Delta College within the statewide MI-ACE Women's Network.

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