

Kai

Kai "Ray" and Sandy Lum have had a good life together. It all started with a glance out the window of his parent's home in Flint when Ray was a student at GMI (now Kettering University). Ray was studying and saw Sandy through the window. She was visiting her brother who lived across the street. He took a chance and went across the street to introduce himself. "And we've been together ever since," he said. The pair were married in Hawaii in 1975 while Ray was serving in the U.S. Navy.

They finished college, raised a family and after working for 36 years as an engineer at General Motors, Ray retired. Sandy retired from her career as a nurse in the special care nursery, and the pair traveled the world for a while. Then they settled in to enjoy their grandchildren and their remaining retirement.

But Ray thought, "If I live another 30 years I can't just sit around." He decided to go back to school and learn something. He decided to follow one of his passions - cooking - and enrolled at Sandy's alma mater, Mott Community College.

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"My dad owned a restaurant, and I helped out when I was younger," he said. "I decided to go back to school and learn more about cooking. In 2019, I attended MCC on the Gold Card* taking two to three classes at a time." In 2020, during Covid, all his classes were online; in 2021, he was glad when his classes resumed in person. "I was

with a fun group of people," he said. "there is a lot of interaction with the students here at MCC."

In 2022, Ray and Sandy endowed a scholarship at MCC with some extra money from their retirement fund. "We don't live lavishly," he said. "We got to do what we wanted when we retired, and now we want to do something for the community. We decided to help students through this scholarship."

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Ray said he saw many of his fellow Culinary students struggling to pay for their degrees and wanted to do something to help.

The Kai and Sandra Lum Scholarship was established with an endowment of \$15,000, and the couple has made two additional contributions of \$5,000 each. The fund awards two scholarships each year: one for Culinary students and one for Nursing students.

For Sandy, MCC is a family tradition. Her mother earned her LPN degree at MCC and went on to earn a BSN from Ferris. Sandy graduated from MCC's Nursing program and later earned her BSN at UM-Flint. Most recently, Sandy and Ray's daughter graduated from MCC's photography program and worked as a professional photographer. She has followed in her mother's footsteps once again by earning a Nursing degree from UM-Flint.

And now the tradition has evolved into helping others achieve their career goals, ensuring that aspiring Nursing and Culinary students have the financial support they need to complete their degrees.

*MCC offers a Gold Card scholarship for Senior Citizens (age of 60 or older) that reside within the college district. Gold Card scholarships will cover the cost of tuition for regular classes.

Lifelong learner

