

Alumni NEWS

FALL 2010

What's New at SCC?

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OPEN HOUSE
Nov. 7, 2010

Featured
Alumni
Year: 1985

Stories,
photos & more!

ALL-COLLEGE
**OPEN
HOUSE**

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010
BEATRICE, LINCOLN, MILFORD CAMPUSES

Get your
hands on SCC!

Scholarship
Drawings!

Live Radio
Remote On
Each Campus!

Refreshments

SE Southeast community college

Pharmacy Technician Program – Update!

The Pharmacy Technician program has been available at SCC since November 2007. The program consists of intense training that focuses on a technician's role and responsibility within the pharmacy. Everything that the program focuses on will be used by the technician. Hands-on work allows students to experience the environment on their own. The program also prepares an individual to pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board examination. Once passed, he/she can use the designation of CPhT on their name tag.

Effective January 2011, a student will have an option to take the program face-to-face or online. The program is full-time, regardless of which avenue the student chooses. Pharmacy technicians are needed everywhere. A person can go from working at a retail pharmacy to deciding that he or she would rather work in a hospital pharmacy. The career is extremely flexible. Technicians are used in chemotherapeutic settings, nuclear pharmacies, and research centers such as Celerion (formerly MDS Pharma Services). A technician can earn anywhere from \$10 per hour to \$20 per hour, depending on experience, certifications, education, and the like. It's an amazing career and the possibilities are endless.

- For more detailed information about the program, go to www.southeast.edu, click on Programs of Study, Pharmacy Technician.
- For questions about the Pharmacy Technician program, contact Elina Pierce, MSP, CPhT, (402) 228-8247 or epierce@southeast.edu.
- For questions about applying to the program, contact Mary Ann Harms, Admissions Technician, (402) 228-8214 or mharms@southeast.edu.

Congratulations to Elina Pierce for receiving the NPA 2010 Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award!! As Elina states, "I didn't think loving your job and loving what you do deserved an award."

Insurance/Financial Services Focus – Business Administration Program

Kathy Eitzmann, dean of SCC's Business Division, said, "We will have the 1100 class (Fundamentals of Insurance I) online for summer. The rest of the classes will roll out online in the next few quarters. We will keep promoting!"

Courses developed collaboratively with industry professionals will provide an understanding of key insurance and financial services principles while providing a strong business foundation. Graduates will find many opportunities with local and national companies. Lincoln, NE, is the nation's third-largest employer in the insurance industry! Positions such as claims processor, client service representative, contact center associate and licensing representative are common. Individuals also could start working toward series exams for professional financial representatives.

To see all the course requirements, check out SCC's College Catalog online and read the information in the Insurance/Financial Services Focus under Business Administration.

Ed Stich Retires

"Think outside the box!" These words were attributed to Ed Stich at his retirement reception at the end of the Spring Quarter. When students were contemplating where they should do their internship in the Agriculture Business & Management Technology program, Ed was always encouraging them to reach further and explore something different than what they found in their life experiences up to that time. He tried to impress upon them the value that new work experiences and skills gained from that internship would become life-long assets to them when seeking their professional careers. "Let employers know you can live independently away from home." Ed's first boss at SCC, John Ahl, was in attendance and gave him much praise in helping to build the Ag program from scratch when it started in Milford in 1976. The program moved to Beatrice in 1982, and Ed served as the first program chair.



Larry Germer named Distinguished Alumnus for 2010

Larry Germer has spent a lifetime in education in Nebraska. The graduate of Chester High School attended Fairbury Junior College, earning his degree in 1960. He is a member of the class celebrating its 50th anniversary of graduation. He continued his college education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning a bachelor's degree in 1962 and a master's degree in 1975, both in Agricultural Education.

His first teaching job was in Diller, NE, as the high school vocational agriculture instructor for 12 years. Larry taught in the Lincoln Public School system for two years before joining UNL as an Extension Educator in Gage County. He served in this position for 30 years. Larry retired from UNL Extension in 2008 and was awarded the position of Professor Emeriti. He continues to volunteer with various extension programs.

As an active member of organizations, Larry has been honored by the National Association of County Association Agents with the Distinguished Service Award in 1994. The Beatrice Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Citizen of the Year Award in 1992. He still serves as a member of SCC's Agriculture Business & Management Technology Advisory Board. He has been active with the Diller Foundation Board of Directors. With all this activity, Larry is probably still best known in the southeast Nebraska area for his more than 20 years of work on the Yard and Garden program, the live call-in program on KWBE and KUTT radio stations.

Larry and his wife, Sondra, are pleased to share that five of their six children attended SCC's Beatrice Campus as part of their college education.



Milius Recalls Transitioning From Fairbury JC to Four-Year Schools

Jeanette Milius (Fairbury Junior College, 1979) has some advice for students planning to transfer from SCC to a four-year college or university:

"Thank the instructors who make you think and make classes challenging," she said. "You will be rewarded for this hard effort when you attend a Regents school. Having the 'best grade' does not make up for having the 'best knowledge.' It is critical to get a good foundation in principles courses so you are prepared for what is expected of you in upper-level learning."

Milius transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln following her graduation from FJC. But she earned her bachelor's degree from Peru State College.

"Peru State brought classes to Fairbury and Beatrice in the late 70s and early 80s, so rather than commuting to Lincoln for all my B.S. hours, I took classes from Peru State to finish up my degree in accounting," she said. "I went back and earned a degree in business administration, also from Peru State. I continued to work part time (teaching) for FJC until it closed. After that, I worked on the farm and part time in the local CPA firm until I relocated to Lincoln."

Milius began graduate school at UNL in fall 2001. "It was a long and challenging process in two definite respects," Milius said. "First, it was a challenge to get accepted into the MBA program. Secondly, I worked two jobs while attending graduate school."

In UNL's College of Business Administration, Milius was part of a pilot program to benchmark the university as a school that graduated business leaders with ethics. The course, Milius said, is now a permanent part of the CBA curriculum.

"It was very stressful at times, working with 450 students each fall," said Milius, who had 12 assistants during her two years on the job. "And I had 120 students each spring, but it was also a great learning experience."

Milius offered additional advice to students who may follow a similar educational path.

"Never believe you are completely prepared for the transfer to a Regents school," she said. "Going from small classes with one-on-one exposure to a school with many lecture halls is a shell shock in and of itself. It's not that instructors in Regents schools do not care, but the volume in these environments makes it difficult to provide the same personable contact a student receives at the community college."

Milius said she's proud to have obtained her MBA "in my advanced years."

"I would not trade that experience, either," she said. "I had the life knowledge and working experience that provided valuable insight into many of the topics we studied in graduate school. I value and appreciate my MBA to the fullest. Working at the university also provided me valuable contact with many of the professors there, and to this day I have a good relationship with them."

Ag Alumnus Thankful for Experience at SCC

I was born in Jay County, Indiana, in 1958. I was raised on a dairy/hog farm. All I ever wanted to do was farm and milk cows. My parents wanted me to do something else, however.

I served a mission for my church from 1977-1979 in Rome, Italy, and consequently speak Italian, which I keep current. I married in October 1979 and was working in a factory in Portland, IN. We had plans to move to Lafayette and attend Purdue in August 1980, where I had completed Purdue's short course in agriculture in 1977.

However, the economy turned very sour in early 1980, and I lost my job. A good friend of mine lived in Nebraska at that time near Hickman and co-owned a large hog farm (440 sows was large back then.) He called me and offered me a job two days after I was laid off. He didn't know I had been laid off. I believe in miracles!

We moved to Nebraska in late February 1980, and we fell in love with the state. I became aware of the ag program at the Beatrice Campus through some friends at church and looked into it, since I was now not going to be attending Purdue. Frankly, I had decided that I didn't need a four-year degree at that time, but I wanted something to satisfy my parents, if nothing else.

So I signed up and went to school full time (commuted from Hickman) and worked full time at the hog farm. I loved my experience at Beatrice. It was a new program at Beatrice and wasn't at full speed when I was there. Part of the program was an internship, and Ed Stich told me I could use my current job since it was in agriculture. I didn't want to do that as I really wanted to milk. So I found a dairy in my area (Darrell Wubbels) and he took me on. I worked two jobs for a quarter.

When I graduated in 1982, I quit the hog farm and became a junior partner to Darrell. That was a dream come true for me, but it was very short-lived. Nineteen eighty-three was a drought year and the height of the failing ag economy of the 80s. Feed was high, and cattle prices were low. Unable to make a go of it in a joint venture, we moved back to Indiana onto my parents' farm in late 1983 and started milking.

I was in deep debt, but we were young and determined. We had our first child in 1985, and it became apparent that I was not going to be able to support a family with what we had going. I was making plans to expand when my mother died in 1988. My father remarried a year later. I also had sold the dairy in 1986 as part of the government's buyout program, but fully intended to get back in at the end of the five-year period.

We also had our second child in 1988 and our third in 1989. My world was absolutely turned upside down. I had no choice but to abandon my farm plans and seek off-farm employment. Thank goodness I had my two-year degree from SCC. I used it to get on at Central Soya in Decatur, IN, and worked for almost five years on the company's Master Mix Feeds Research Farm. The last two years I managed the Intensive Research Center, where we conducted energy metabolism experiments with both swine and fistulated dairy heifers. It was a very good job, but I became aware that a two-year degree was

not enough for advancement. I enrolled in an adult program at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion and started night school.

In the meantime, we had our fourth child in 1991. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1992. A year later, we had our fifth child, and Central Soya spun off its feed business. The new company that took it over was not friendly. It became a hostile work environment, and I started looking for new employment.

When I saw the advertisement for the job I have now, I didn't feel qualified. The company was looking for an agronomist. However, upon seeing it advertised for the third time, I felt compelled to apply.

It was a great interview, and the company actually was looking for someone who could come in and not bring a bunch of preconceived notions or practices with them. They wanted someone with a four-year degree, but an agriculture background. I had both, even though no official agronomy training.

During the next four years, I self-trained. In 1999, I passed the exams and became a Certified Crop Advisor. I am beginning my 16th year here.

It is an independent fertilizer/chemical company owned by Jim, Juanita and David Bragg. They are good people to work for. We cover approximately 65,000 acres and offer a full range of services. I am the company agronomist. We have nine full-time employees besides the owners. They have been in business about 46 years.

In the meantime, I have been able to get back into farming a little with about 40 acres of row crops, and I keep a few beef cows. I still miss the dairy, but realize that I never would have been able to compete, so selling out was the right thing to do.


Had I not gone to SCC in Beatrice and obtained a two-year degree, I know I would never have been able to stand going back for a four-year degree from scratch. Life has not been easy, but it has been better because of our time in Nebraska. I have so many fond memories and friends there.

*Mike Shrack, 1982 Agriculture Business & Management Technology graduate
Agronomist, Ran-Del Agri-Services, Inc.,
Parker City, IN*


Planning Ahead – Homecoming 2011

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, Jan. 22**, for the Homecoming basketball games. SCC hosts North Platte at 2 and 4 p.m. Watch for the fall/winter newsletter for more details, or check out the information online at www.southeast.edu when it becomes available.



 **2004** – “Transferring to SCC Beatrice from a four-year college was a great transition. Small classes and helpful instructors were a key factor in my success. I eventually transferred to Peru State College for my bachelor’s degree. After working in the marketing field for four years, I was able to return to the place that helped me find my way, SCC!”

*Ashley Rose, 2004 Business Administration graduate
Admissions Representative, Southeast Community College, Beatrice, NE*

 **1974** – “It has been more than 35 years since I graduated from LPN school at Beatrice. I graduated on a Friday evening and went to work the following Monday. I have been working ever since and have seen many changes. I do not regret obtaining my degree, and I am still learning something new and rewarding each day. Thank you. I would highly recommend SCC.”

*Marla Galusha, 1974 Practical Nursing graduate
Licensed Practical Nurse, Geneva, NE*

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1985 Graduates?

Have you kept in touch with any of these 1985 Beatrice graduates? Let them know we would like to update their records so they can be receiving the Alumni News and birthday cards. E-mail updates to alumni@southeast.edu or call **1-800-233-5027 ext. 1216**.

Ana Conde	Souhail El-Daouk
Cathy Dejonge	Hani Shukri



In Memory Of...

Craig W. Cassell (Academic Transfer-Fairbury, 1986)
Laurence Cusimano (Auto Collision Repair, 1964)
Cynthia Dittman (Academic Transfer-Fairbury, 1973)
Harold C. Dittmer, Jr. (Automotive, 1967)
Judith Fletcher (Human Services, 2010)
Douglas G. Frank (Welding, 1981; Diesel Farm, 1983)
Bonna George (Practical Nursing, 1974)
Candace Goebel (Academic Transfer-Fairbury, 1958) (Feb. 2009)
Gerald Hagmann (Diesel Truck, 1958)
Bradley Hemmerling (Manufacturing Engineering, 1975)
Ronald A. Hoffman (Diesel Truck, 1962)

Kenneth Hofpar (Building Construction, 1976)
Dennis R. Jensen (Electronic Engineering, 1970)
John R. Knobel (Academic Transfer-Fairbury, 1948)
Edward Kujath (Academic Transfer-Fairbury, 1950)
Justin Kumke (Agriculture Business & Management Technology, 2000)
Jack S. Ochsner (Diesel Truck, 1961)
James F. Rakers, Testing Center Coordinator-Beatrice, 1984-2001
Jeffrey S. Rempel (CAD, 1990; Land Surveying, 1992)
Judy (Jones, Hess) Schwarz, (Academic Transfer, 1990)
Steven L. Skocz (Automotive, 1968)
Marvin Uden (Electronic Engineering, 1958)



LINCOLN CAMPUS

Reinhard, Morton Presented Wekesser Awards at SCC



Kent Reinhard and **Rochelle Morton** were presented 2008-2009 Wekesser Outstanding Teacher and Staff awards March 2010 on the Lincoln Campus. Reinhard is a physics, astronomy and engineering instructor in the Arts & Sciences Division. Morton is a secretary in the College's Continuing Education Division.

In the fall of 1979, Robert and Edith Wekesser established a fund in SCC's Educational Foundation to recognize employees for outstanding service to the Lincoln Campus. Each of the recipients received \$500 checks, a plaque, a balloon bouquet, and their names inscribed on a permanent plaque on the Lincoln Campus. Full article can be viewed at www.southeast.edu.



1985 – Microcomputer Application Technology Program

Twenty-five years ago, this was the newest technology, and Compiler Basic I, Pascal I and Fortran classes provided students with state-of-the-art training to receive either a certificate or diploma.



SCC, BryanLGH College of Health Sciences Collaborate on Simulation Center

Noelle, a state-of-the-art patient simulator, has had multiple births since the **Center for Excellence in Clinical Simulation** opened in January 2010! This unique collaborative effort between BryanLGH College of Health Sciences, SCC and BryanLGH Medical Center has a full complement of patient simulators available in one location. Housed on the second floor of BryanLGH West are four adult patient simulators, one of which has software specific for anesthesia students; two pediatric simulators and Noelle, a birthing simulator with a baby and infant that include vaginal delivery, sound and color. Some don't even need to be in the hospital and will be able to be taken on the road and work wirelessly. This mobility will be beneficial for the paramedic students that will be added soon, as their work is usually outside a hospital setting. In addition, respiratory students are using the center for the first time to do their testing at the end of the spring quarter. Coordinators for the center are Renee S. Schnieder and Jodi Nelson, RN, BryanLGH assistant professor. Schnieder, MSN, RN, SCC faculty and co-coordinator of the Simulation Center, said that as of June 2010, 356 SCC students and more than 600 BryanLGH College of Health Sciences students have completed training. Additionally, they have provided tours to community groups and high school students. This arrangement improves the ability to teach students about diverse health needs across the life span, increases the number of students who have access to advanced learning technology, and provides a higher level of learning for students and employees. Schnieder says the best thing about the center is that it can "put the students in situations that you hope they would not be put into unprepared." This win-win partnership translates to excellent patient care!

Check out this collaboration at http://itunes.southeast.edu/PPT/RESPSand/VTS_01_1/index.htm.



Pictured: BryanLGH nursing student Kaci Olberding, left, and SCC instructor Renee Schnieder discuss a simulation patient's "condition" while SCC nursing student Andy

Robinson, BryanLGH Assistant Professor Jodi Nelson and SCC nursing student Sarah Thorson check other vital signs.

New Trauma Center Tries To Heal Eagles, Owls & Other Raptors



Congratulations to Betsy Finch, 1981 graduate of Medical Laboratory Technology!

As trauma centers go, the one run by Raptor Recovery Nebraska is for the birds. Such as the great horned owl that got caught in fishing line with a treble hook in its right wing. Someone found the raptor at the Louisville State Recreation Area near the Platte River and brought it in for treatment. "The wing was red, swollen and cold," said **Betsy Finch, the center's rehabilitation coordinator**. She feared the wing would not survive. Finch and her assistant, Janet Stander of Waverly, found the hook and cut most of it out of the wing. But an X-ray revealed they missed a tiny fragment. A veterinarian took that piece out, and the bird is recuperating nicely. As soon as the wing heals, the great horned owl will be taken to the state recreation area where he was found. His mate probably will be waiting. That's the good news. The bad news is that January is nesting season for great horned owls.


"The female will abandon the eggs if she does not have help feeding the young ones," Finch said. The pair won't nest again until next January. "That's why I hate to see male horned owls this time of year," Finch said. The trauma center opened in October without much fanfare. But Finch likes it that way because of the sensitive nature of their work.

In addition to owls, the center cares for injured eagles, hawks, falcons and other raptors. The center is licensed by the U.S. government and must abide by strict regulations.


Finch said the bank of hospital cages is the biggest improvement. Now the center can hold up to 30 injured raptors. The chicken coop had room for only 10 birds. "This is like the Ritz to us!" Stander said.

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Photo courtesy of the Lincoln Journal Star

 **2006** – "On Feb. 14, 2006, I received an opportunity of a lifetime; and I didn't even realize it! While I was in the Automotive Technology program at the Lincoln Campus, I was informed of a part-time lube tech job at Quick Nick's Snappy Lube in downtown Lincoln. I applied, accepted their offer and began working for the best company in Lincoln. I continued working part-time while finishing my Automotive Technology education. I graduated in December 2006, assuming I would leave my part-time job and relocate to a different automotive shop. However, Quick Nick's had a new manager position opening, and I was offered the job. I remained as manager of Quick Nick's for two years, then relocated out-of-town for my wife's job. We recently moved back to Lincoln and I found myself "back at home" working at the shop I grew to love, Quick Nick's. We will soon be expanding and opening another Quick Nick's/Walker Tire, which I will manage. The degree I received from SCC helped me become very successful in the automotive business."

Jay Sisneroz, Automotive Technology – SCC Lincoln

 **1986** – "This was the best money I have ever spent! It was a great time in my life, and Bill Meehan was an outstanding instructor who changed many lives in a positive way."

*Scott Cordes, Assistant Fire Chief, Norfolk Fire Department; Norfolk, NE
Fire Protection Technology – SCC Lincoln*

 **2001** – "I just finished my Micro comps for a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Arkansas, and I still think of SCC as the greatest school I have ever attended! I appreciate the efforts of SCC."

Aaron Johnson, CFA; Business Administration – SCC Lincoln

Community Colleges for International Development – SCC Graduates

In 2008, after an orientation in Washington, D.C., Baskharou Abraheem, Ahmed Farag, Mohamed



Said Mostafa, and Mohamed El-Maghraby arrived in Lincoln ready to enroll in Medical Laboratory Technology, Business Administration, Radiologic Technology and Laboratory Science Technology. These students from Cairo, Egypt, were selected to participate in the Community College Initiative program, which provides quality educational programs, professional development, employment skills and a first-hand understanding of American society to underserved, non-elite international young adults.

Community Colleges for International Development administer the CCI programs with funding from the U.S. Department of State and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. CCID and ECA are working with Fulbright Commissions and in-country partners to recruit, select and prepare participants for their U.S. experience.

Susan Kash-Brown, assistant director of Continuing Education, coordinated an intensive four-week ESL class to assist with academic English. Benjamin Zink and Wayne Babchuk, project coordinators, identified mentor families, offered support throughout the project, advised, monitored, advocated for the students, and implemented the Freedom, Democracy and Personal Responsibility programming. The FDR classes were designed to give students a first-hand understanding of American society, develop an understanding of democracy and government in the U.S., and build leadership skills and a sense of personal empowerment and social responsibility.

In June 2010, the students received their Associate of Applied Science degrees and returned to Egypt to contribute to the continued economic and democratic development of their home nations using the skills they gained in the U.S. SCC is proud to have had the opportunity to serve as a model and platform for expanding access to higher education in the developing world that will advance economic development.

Keeping You Updated:

- Ground was broken in June 2010 for the **Health Sciences addition with an anticipated completion date of January 2011.** This new addition will provide space to move the **Physical Therapist Assistant** program from the Entrepreneurship Center and provide classroom space for paramedic training, a computer lab and classrooms.
- **Business Administration** has added a new program focus, **Insurance and Financial Services.**
- **A Long Term Care Administration program** has been approved and will begin January 2011. It will also be offered online.
- **Polysomnographic Technology** is now a separate program offering a certificate.
- Early Childhood Education will add a **Home Visitor/Family Advocate certificate.**

SCC Emergency Medical Services Student Assists in Haiti

Five days after the earthquake, the team providing assistance in Haiti was assembled. Airline tickets were purchased and equipment and survival gear were packed. Ryan Brizendine's previous experience in Honduras made the process of building a health team for Haiti an easier transition, but he was not prepared for the extent of devastation. The team, consisting of a cardiologist, two nurses, three EMT-Basics, and a family practice doctor, had previously spent time on a work team in Honduras.



A contractor and an individual in charge of communications/logistics were added to the team in Haiti. The members were from Oregon, Wyoming, Washington, California and Nebraska.

Ryan and his group arrived in Santo Domingo among chaos, no cell phone reception, and a full day's drive to Port au Prince. Within thirty minutes of crossing the border into Haiti, it was evident that the destruction was immense. What once were three story buildings were now giant piles of rubble. The people walked the streets with a shocked almost robotic look to their faces. Some of the primitive tent camps that Ryan saw housed up to 10,000 people.

With help from a physician from the United States, they moved to the villages and provided direct services to the Haitians. Locating camps in need of assistance and using materials available, they created a clinic. Boards and bricks found in the rubble served as examining tables. There, they set up a triage system where the EMT's located the most critical patients, nurses performed exams, and the doctors came up with treatment plans.

Ryan recalled several individuals that stood out in particular during this time. A ten year old who had been treated for a fractured right arm arrived at the clinic with a tree branch wrapped around his arm for support and the news that both of his parents were dead. He was being cared for by his sixteen year old sister. Another young child, eight years of age, arrived for treatment knowing that his mother had passed away and that his father had been trapped and had to have his leg amputated. The last information the young boy received was that his father was in a makeshift hospital on the parameters of the Miami airport. He did not know for certain if his father was alive or not.

In a period of ten days, the group used up all of their supplies. During this time they lived in tents and also slept outside because of the fear of additional building collapses. They survived the continuing aftershocks, one being a 6.2 which caused additional deaths.

The entire group became ill on the return trip home. Ryan landed in Lincoln after a thirteen-hour flight from Florida to Nebraska with a fever of 104.5. Yet when asked if he would do it again, Ryan's answer was a definite yes. He explained that all members of the group are dedicated to their organization, Legacy International Response (LIR), whose cause is continued help to the Haitians. Ryan and the team believe it is their mission to leave a legacy wherever they go through teaching others who work with them to become both leaders and teachers to those around them. LIR is working to develop mobile medical teams to deploy into the most devastated areas of Haiti as well as to continue supporting other areas. Please visit their website at <http://legacyinternationalresponse.com/> for information on applying for a team or providing a donation. All donations go directly toward helping Haitians in need.

Ryan feels that along with his experience in Honduras, the EMS training through SCC provided him with confidence in his skills and great training. He is very appreciative of Ryan Batenhorst, program chair, Emergency Medical Services, and clinical coordinator, Jaime Merryman, who were very supportive and helpful during his stay in Haiti.

Ryan graduated in June 2010 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Emergency Medical Services. Upon completion of his Associate's degree, he also received a Bachelor's degree from Union College in International Rescue & Relief. He plans to return to California, his home state, to work for the Fire Department as a Paramedic, and continue helping out with international relief work.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1985 Graduates?

Thanks, SCC alumni for helping us reach graduates we have lost touch with! We do not have current addresses for the following 1985 alumni. Can you help us locate these graduates? Email any updates to alumni@southeast.edu or call 1-800-642-4075, ext. 2622.



Robert Barta	Mark Franks	Rebecca Holeka	Becky Metzler	James Shaw
Angela Brown	Lisa Ann Goodwater	John M Holt	Colleen Marie Peavy	Lori June Snider
Thomas Roy Cochran	Renee Green	Michael Jensen	Melody Philipp	Jerolyn J Urbach
Sandy Curtis	Robin L Hahn	Ross Dean Johnson	Earl Alexander Pitsch	Sheila Whitney
Janet D Delay	Nicole Hansen	Mary Kay Jones	Janette Pokorny	Elisabeth L Wonders
Frank Densberger	Ron Harwood	Jill Keller	Angie May Rezac	Kenneth Wulf
Rosemary Dillow	James Alan Havel	Nancy Lappe	Ruben P Saul	Kay A Wurtele
Valerie Doherty	Daniel Hedges	Janet Legros	Mary Pat Sawdon	Tracie Wurtz
Mary Eunice Enders	Brian Jay Heileman	Randy Lockhart	Thomas Schrepf	
Mary Jo Fangman	Brenda S Henning	Chris Luebbe	Gale Eugene Schultz	
Juliene Ferrara	Lisa Marie Hergenrader	Lori F McPherson	Malinda Schultz	



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

1970 Graduate Is Thankful For His Education

Following graduation from College, I went to work as a tool & die/mold maker technician at Henderson Manufacturing in Henderson, NE. As the first and only tool & die technician, I worked on everything. The plant had seven injection molding machines and several punch presses to make irrigation gates. We expanded into custom molding and expanded the shop to six people, which I supervised.



In 1978, I accepted a job as molding engineer at Bourns Inc. in Ames, IA. Bourns produced electronic components on a very high volume scale, more than one million parts a day. As molding engineer, I was responsible for the upkeep and building of more than 1,200 molds, 45 molding presses and quality standards. I also set up molding in other Bourns plants around the world (which was very challenging) and designed molds and molding systems.

After the closing of the Bourns Ames plant in 1990, I became the sales and project engineer for Mid Central Plastics Custom Molding in Des Moines, IA. The John Deere Ag division was my largest customer: tractors, combines, back hoes, planters, cotton pickers, and several others. My job was to contract new plastic molded parts, working with engineering, purchasing, the production lines and quality. I enjoyed helping the engineers design new parts the most. My biggest achievement was being awarded Supplier of the Year for the whole Ag Division. I retired from this position in July 2009. Mid Central Plastics, now Innovative Injection Molding, is celebrating its 50th year in operation.

It has been a wonderful, rewarding and challenging career, and I owe it all to the start at Milford Tech (now SCC). Without the training and guidance at Milford, I would not have had the knowledge or been able to meet the challenges which were ahead. This career has blessed me with friends throughout the world and has supplied my family with a very good living standard. Thank you Milford Tech.

Roger Womack, 1970 Machine Tool Graduate

Watch for More Information on New Program at the Milford Campus

SCC is developing a new program called Energy Generation Operations. This program is being developed to satisfy several public needs. The program will offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in several focus areas, including wind, solar, nuclear, coal, biofuels (Ethanol, biodiesel), natural gas, geothermal and other sources of energy generation. Students will begin coursework in January 2011. The program will be located on the Milford Campus, but many courses will be offered online.

1967 Drafting Technology Class Holds Reunion

The 1967 Drafting Technology class held a reunion in Lincoln, NE in April 2010. Fun was had by all as laughter filled the room when stories were retold. Each classmate discussed their "after Milford" life experiences and careers. Bob Friesen said, "It was interesting to hear how our Milford education played in the advancement of each individual."

All classmates who attended would like to wish classmate Harry Peterson a fast recovery. He had planned to attend but was unable to because of last-minute health issues.



Front row, from left: Dennis Vanek, Ron Sypal, Paul Vavricek. Back row, from left: Jerome Grieseman, Bob Friesen, Ron Overy, Jim Hillman.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI



George Killian

George Killian was presented the SCC Milford Campus Outstanding Alumnus Award during the Winter quarter commencement exercises March 18, 2010. Killian is a 1983 graduate from the Architectural Technology program. George has been at the University of Nebraska at Omaha nearly five years and is manager of planning and architectural services.

"The instructors gave me a great foundation to be able to stand on my own two feet," he said. "I don't think I would be in this position if it wasn't for Milford. I truly believe that." Congratulations George!



Rex Varilek

Rex Varilek, owner/operator of one of the foremost diesel fuel injection shops in western Iowa, received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Southeast Community College June 10 during the Spring Quarter Commencement exercises. Varilek, owner of Precision Diesel Inc., in Red Oak, Iowa, is a 1981 graduate of the Diesel Technology program at SCC. After several years as a diesel technician, he started his own diesel fuel injection service and repair shop in 1990. He has grown his business from a one-man shop to multiple full-time and part-time employees who service southwest Iowa and portions of Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

"The instruction that I received at SCC was most helpful and instrumental for a graduate to achieve success in his field and enabled me to reach beyond the goals I had set," Varilek said. Congratulations Rex!



1976 – "I spent 25 years in information technology for several top companies in Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky and Florida. My training at SCC was pivotal to my career during those years."

Edwin Crawford, Computer Programming Technology – SCC Milford



1984 – "My decision to attend/graduate from SCC Milford has proven to be the best educational decision of my life. I earned scholarships, honors, developed lifelong skills, learned respect and developed relationships that are still affecting my life and career today! Thank you SCC, and especially all the machine tool instructors for helping me achieve what I have today."

Brad L. Johnson, Machine Tool Technology – SCC Milford



1998 – "SCC was a pivotal player in starting my career by giving me the tools I needed to advance in my career. SCC's knowledgeable instructors, great facilities and well-known and trusted name in the schooling industry, along with an excellent job placement program upon graduation, put me on the fast track to career success. Thanks SCC!"

Cy Bailey, Auto Collision Repair Technology – SCC Milford

College Reconnected With 1973 Graduate

An old roommate and I got in touch with each other recently (after about 30 years). He noted that SCC was looking for me. After going to your Web site, I did note my name under "Missing Persons – 1973" in your Winter 2010 newsletter.

After graduation, I worked for Ray Goodwin Company in Omaha, NE as a manufacturer's representative selling heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment to mechanical contractors throughout Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota. After three years, I felt my real calling was in mechanical engineering, HVAC and plumbing design. I then went to work for Schemmer Associates in Omaha. We did new commercial projects and renovation designs throughout Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Florida, including some Disney World projects in the late 1970s. I then worked for Consolidated Engineers and Architects as the chief mechanical designer. Some of our projects included a new gymnasium and dormitories at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE, and designed all Jimmy Dean plants throughout the area. We also designed two beef and pork packing plants in Mexico, one in Hermosillo, Mexico, and one just south of McAllen, TX. These were interesting projects as the drawing had to be completed in both English and Spanish. This required several trips to the plants for construction inspection in the early 1980s. After working there for several years, I decided to move to Orlando, FL, in 1983. I worked for Bobes Associates. Most of our design projects were in the area from Daytona Beach through Orlando and across the state to Tampa. Design projects included commercial offices, stores, churches, hospitals and pharmaceutical buildings and renovations.

After leaving Bobes Associates, I worked for REFP Engineers in Orlando for 13 years. There I worked my way up to the head of the mechanical engineering department. Projects included commercial offices, manufacturing facilities, schools and theme park design and renovation. We did a lot of the repair and renovation work at Disney World and Epcot Center, including replacement of almost all of the mechanical heating and air conditioning systems at the Disney World theme park and many of the Disney Imagineering offices and facilities. We were the engineers of record for Orange County Public Schools in Orlando and the surrounding area. Orange County is the fifth-largest school district in the United States with more than 180 individual schools and campuses, from pre-school to college. We designed three completely new schools for the county. One of the new school designs was to replace an existing high school of 14 individual buildings with 16 new buildings on the same site, while keeping the school in operation. This involved designing the entire new campus, then tearing down three buildings at a time and replacing them. The logistics of this definitely made my hair turn grey. This was a three-year project from start of design to final completion.

When I moved to Orlando in 1983, it was a nice little town, just a little smaller than Lincoln, NE. However, this didn't last long. There were about 250,000 people moving into Orlando every year. It went from a nice little town of about 100,000

to approximately three million people in the 20 years that I was there. Traffic was getting crazy, home prices were going through the roof, housing developments were going full steam ahead, and it was hard to get around. The beach was nice, though. While I was in Orlando, I got married, raised two sons, became a Cubmaster and a Scoutmaster and got older. I guess I missed the rule of 'you get old and retire to Florida'. I grew tired of the crowds, traffic, mosquitoes, and the high prices. I had enough of the Sunshine State. My parents were living in southeast Missouri, about 100 miles south of St. Louis. My father died in 1999, and my mother died in 2003. Both of my sisters and their families lived close to my parents. Both of my parent's families were in the same area. In 2003, I bought my parents' old house and moved to Oak Ridge, MO. Our oldest son decided to stay in Orlando, where he still lives. Our younger son was a senior in high school but wanted to move to Missouri and graduate high school there. We packed up and headed north. It was a culture shock for my wife and youngest son. Oak Ridge has a population of 202. The older house we bought was built in 1850 in the heart of the Ozarks.

After graduating high school, our youngest son enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was wounded in both Afghanistan and Iraq during several different deployments. After leaving the Marines as fully disabled, he lived with us for a couple of years and moved back to Orlando near his brother.

I now work for Strickland Engineering in Jackson, MO. Strickland is the only full

mechanical, plumbing and electrical engineering firm in southeast Missouri. I have been with them for six years. Most of our design projects are in southern Missouri, northern Arkansas and southern Illinois, but we also have done projects in Tennessee, Kentucky, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. One of our major projects was to convert the 25-story Alamo National Bank building in San Antonio, TX, to a Drury Inn hotel. We do engineering work for the Drury Hotel chain based in Cape Girardeau, MO. Other projects include commercial offices, schools, churches, retirement homes and hospitals throughout the area.

My wife and I are enjoying the relative peace and quiet of small-town living after 20 years in Orlando and plan to retire here eventually. Unfortunately, I have not been back to Nebraska since leaving in 1983. I originally moved to Nebraska with my parents. My father was in the Air Force, and he was stationed in Hooper, NE. After he retired, they moved to Missouri, and I stayed there for another several years. I do need to get back to Nebraska and see how the campus has changed. Believe it or not, I ran into another Milford alumnus while working on the Alamo Bank project in San Antonio, TX. The on-site owner representative for Drury was Gregg Mrzlak, a 1989 Construction Engineering graduate from the Milford Campus. It's a small world!

*Terry McCanless,
December 1973 Architectural Technology graduate*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

It has been 25 years since this group graduated from the Electronic Engineering program at SCC Milford!

Front row, from left: Scott Messing, Randall Hrnicek, Dean Lauterbach, Jim Abart. Middle row, from left: Carl Spinner, Dave Hertel, Jim Wohlers, Ricky Krause, Mark Urbach. Back row, from left: Ray Arent, Dan Meyer, Richard Hicks, Dennis Clapper, Jerry Olson.



Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1985 Graduates?

SCC has lost touch with the following 1985 Milford Campus alumni. If you can provide a current home address for any alumni listed below, please e-mail to alumni@southeast.edu or call 1-800-933-7223, ext. 8242.



David J. Benes
Scott A. Campbell
Michael J. Coufal
Lynn M. Droege
Donald B. Gillispie
Lyle D. Griess
Todd J. Henderson
Kirk B. Henning
Richard D. Hicks

Kyle L. Hintz
Richard A. Kamler
Regan S. Kitchen
Ahmad A. Matar
Donald S. Montgomery, Jr.
James E. Palmer
Jerry W. Perdew
Kevin C. Rodeman
Scott E. Sallinger

Stuart L. Samuelson
Angela S. Scheele
Roger A. Schmidt
Penny A. Skoster
Vaughn L. Stocker
Gary R. Strong II
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Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Signature of donor _____ Date _____

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