

Featured Content



Beatrice's Distinguished Alumna

Susan Barnard has two degrees from SCC. Pictured: Barnard, left, with Toni Landenberger.



Family Affair

Hattans passionate about computer programming.



Ivette Trentini

SCC alumnus is now an associate dean with a diverse background.



15 Nebraska Hall

You can help save one of SCC's oldest landmarks.



18 **Foreign Service Officer**

Denise Knapp travels the world for her job.

On the cover: Tyler, Dave, and Jill Hattan.



Southeast

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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(August 2021)

BEATRICE CAMPUS

Ag Students Giving Back to the Community

The Agriculture Leadership Class at the Beatrice Campus took part in a Leadership Project on Nov. 9, 2021. Four groups of students went on a "Restore Tour" of the Beatrice community where parts of town needed to be spruced up. Students helped homeowners by raking more than 70 bags of leaves.

"We had a very successful Ag Leadership Project," said Amanda Fairley, Ag instructor. "We raked leaves and picked up trash. The students said their highlights were helping the community and bonding as a group, and also built new friendships because of the experience."

Students are required to plan one project and also participate in other service activities throughout the semester. Earlier in



the year, they cleaned up a two-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 36. *





Band



Front row, from left: Judy Harvey, Evelyn Straub, Jerry Craiq, Lorene Kostal, Keith Duensing.

Second row, from left: Marian Lamm, Marvin Scheuler, Wendell Mohling, Mel Molzer, Bill Murphy, Norma Kuhlmann, Dale Cerny, Ronald Walker.

Back row, from left: Marlin Weiner, Shirley Duey, Norman Frerichs, Angeline Naiman, Beverly Mustain, Enid Meeske, Elwood Oberhelman, Richard Percival, Lyle Klataske, Alan Svajgr, Freddie Drexler, Richard Lowe, Mark DeLong, Ronald Bohling, Larry Bringewatt.

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BEATRICE CAMPUS

Beatrice's 2021 Distinguished Alumnus

Susan Barnard earned not one. but two degrees from SCC's Beatrice Campus. That is one of many reasons she is the 2021 Beatrice Campus Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

"I was very fortunate, I got to experience SCC-Beatrice twice, once as a kid right out of high school and second as an adult who had been in the workforce for 20 years. Both experiences were outstanding for me!" Barnard said, upon finding out she received this recognition.

She received her business degree in 1991. She chose SCC because it was close to her hometown of DeWitt and because she was paying for college on her own, it was the most practical choice.

"I had a really good experience studying business at SCC," she said. "My instructors were top-notch, and I made a lot of friends there."

She then worked in the business field for almost 20 years, but always had an agonizing 'what if?' feeling deep down inside. Wondering if she had made the right choice, she decided to go back to college, first at SCC to study Criminal Justice, then at Peru State College to earn her bachelor of science degree, also in Criminal Justice.

"I was raising my daughters who were 15 and 9 at the time." she said. "I took a huge leap of faith, left a full-time job and became a full-time student at SCC once again. During this time, Lsometimes worked three part-time jobs in addition to school and raising the girls. It was an incredibly busy time in my life but one I wouldn't trade for anything!"

Barnard currently works for the state's judicial branch as Interstate Compact/ Interdistrict Transfer Coordinator. She's responsible

for overseeing adults on probation supervision who want to transfer in or out of Nebraska. She also trains probation officers through their training academy. She said her job is a perfect blend of both her degrees. and thanks to one SCC instructor, she chose the best career path.

"My academic advisor and instructor of many of my criminal justice classes, Keith Mabon, was top-notch," she said. "He is probably one of the hardest instructors I've ever had. He pushed

me when I needed the push and believed in me. He encouraged me to pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and the classes I took gave me a solid foundation in the criminal justice world."

Barnard has two adult daughters and will soon be a grandmother. She and her significant other, Doug Penner, live in rural Beatrice where she loves to garden, refinish furniture and explore photography. .



In Memory of...

Fairbury / Beatrice

Tracy Hoffman-Ideus (Agriculture Management & Production, 2003) Glen Ideus (Agriculture Management & Production, 1988)

Elizabeth Kramer (Academic Transfer, 2008) Sid Regnier (Dean of Administration, FJC)

Retirements

Bruce Schwisow Maintenance Worker II

Thomas Young Social Science Instructor

BEATRICE ALUMNA SHOWS WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A HORTICULTURE DEGREE FROM SCC

When students study Horticulture at SCC's Beatrice Campus, there's a number of potential careers to consider. Among those careers: Landscape construction and installation, greenhouse manager, nursery manager, and many more.

Brittany Timoney of Ulysses graduated with a degree in Horticulture & Turfgrass Management in 2019. She is currently a landscape designer with Heartland Lawns in Omaha. She said Heartland was one of the few places that considered hiring her without a four-year degree.

"Other places were more interested in hiring me as an intern or assistant designer," she said. "However, during the interview process, I was able to prove the passion and drive I have for plants, people and the industry. Anyone can pursue a career they love if you work hard and have passion toward it."

She loves her job because she's able to combine her love of plants and connecting with people. She helps both experienced and novice homeowners with their landscape needs.

"I love that I get to introduce new plants to their homes and educate them in how to care for their landscape," she said.

Timoney said SCC gave her the skills and experience to get her foot in the door. She enjoyed the smaller classes because instructors were always there to help, including with her threemonth internship in Visalia, California.

"If it wasn't for my instructors and advisor, I wouldn't be where I am today," she said. "They encouraged

me to take a big leap across the country to experience an incredible internship that started my journey in the industry. That internship opened so many doors for me when I graduated college. I am now working as a fulltime designer, which I thought I'd never be able to do without a four-year degree."

She advises others to consider SCC whether they want to work right after college or transfer to a four-year institution. One thing she's learned since graduating is that things don't always turn out as expected.

"My goals have definitely changed since I started college, but I am excited to see what the future holds," she said. "My future goal is to become a head landscape designer to help manage and teach new designers. I definitely have some growing and learning to do first, but I'd love to help

others grow as well."

Timoney's father, Kevin, is an instructor in the Electrical program at the Milford Campus.

For more on SCC's Horticulture & Turfgrass Management program, visit www.southeast.edu/horticultureturfgrassmanagement. ❖





Women's Soccer

SCC finished the season with an overall record of 5-10-2, 5-3-1 in the conference, but captured the Region IX championship for the second straight season. The Storm beat rival Central Community College both meetings during the regular season and reached postseason play for the second consecutive year. SCC lost to Pratt (Kansas) Community College 2-0 in the first round of postseason play.

"It was a great season overall and the first real season we've had," said head coach John Hakari, referring to the abbreviated 2020 season due to COVID-19. "My freshmen played really well, and we are looking forward going into next year." Hakari was named the 2020-2021 Region IX Coach of the Year, while five of his players earned All-Region IX honors. They are Nuvia Olivar, Trinity Babcock, Kate Jones, Alex Ebert, and Lexi Schroeder. •



Men's Soccer

The Storm went from 0-13 last year to 7-8-1 this season. Head coach Alex Scheuler said the record could have been better as four losses were by a single goal, two in overtime. He said the team made great progress in only its second season.

"We set several program records and only missed the playoffs by a single result," Scheuler said. "Looking to make a huge jump next year with potentially nine starters returning and probably 13 of our top 16 players on the roster coming back. We should be able to add some very talented recruits ahead of next year with our early success and competitiveness as a young program. As a coach, next fall could be fun, and I'm looking forward to it."

Players Toran Penner, Josh Pelling and Vaclav Borovicka earned All-Region IX honors. Penner also earned all-region honors last season. ❖



Cross Country

The men's team finished 16th at the NJCAA Division II Championships in Richmond, Virginia. The team was led by Gilbert Kimutai, who finished 10th in 25:53.2, good for All-America honors. Kimutai set the school record in the Half Marathon national championship with a time of 1:09:34.74 and a 19th-place finish. Overall, the Storm finished 10th out of 21 teams with a score of 106, the highest score in school history.

On the women's side, Olivia Sovereign finished 77th at the national meet in 21:21.7. ❖





Volleyball

The Storm finished the season with a 9-25 overall record, including 0-6 in conference play. Head coach Carrie Puhalla said her team had a lot of injuries at the beginning of the season.

"However, it did give us a chance to see who could step into those starting roles and make a difference on the court," she said.

Puhalla said freshman Kayden Schumacher made the all-tournament team during the McCook tourney, and her young team should be able to improve by next season.

"I look forward to next season as we have the majority of the starters and key contributors back," Puhalla said. �



BEATRICE CAMPUS

Executive Council



Seated, from left: Norma Kuhlmann, Enid Meeske, Wendy Sugden, Sue Hutson, Peggy Hughes.

Standing, from left: Lorelei Reed, Mrs. Elva Hayden (sponsor), Doug Pettigrew, Becky Traum, Larry Junker, Arlo Doehring, Lonnie Theye, Ralph Check, Gary Junker, Ken Stauss, and Richard Mueller.

Not Pictured: Keith Duensing and Dean Madison.

December Practical Nursing Graduates



Front Row, from left: Cassandra Zumwalt; Shaina Peters; Melissa Hamilton Dryer; Candra Nutsch.

Middle Row, from left: Tiffany Zabokrtsky; Sarah Furnas; Nicole Nolte; Joel Dryer; Eireson Brockmeyer; Lori Robinson; Nancy Drent.

Back Row, from left: Alexandra Jirkovsky; Patricia Ross; Kathryn Sipp; Kristin Caspers; Malissa Van Loggerenberg; Tiffany Trauernicht; Monica Shaw; Sandi Johnson.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1962 Graduates?

We want to stay in touch with our grads! Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-233-5027, ext. 1216.

Albert Anderson Harvey Brandt Larry Bringewatt William Carstens Mark Delong Barbara Goeking Darrell Henke

Stella Hinz Darrell Hull Ravmond lacobson Barbara Kendall Brian Knobel Marian Lamm

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2011 Graduates?

Chelsie Alexander Brendan Arena Amanda Bender Kelly Bent Tawnya Bornemeier Michelle Bruna Hallie Casto Aaron Cizek Melanie Clift **Bridget Coffey** Tina Cramer Cynthia Crawford Cara Denton Kyle Dieckgrafe Brandon Dinneen Katie Dowling John Driscoll Grant Friesen Iina Hamm Jace Harms Jodi Hasse

Emalee Maxson Carly Morehead Katherine Moyer Colten Muir Christopher Parde Lori Robison **Iordan Sales** Jessamy Schachtschabel Lindsev Schuerman Adrienne Schulenberg Elizabeth Schwartz Andrea Siebe-Shirley **Bronson Soucie Lindsey Sutter** Matthew Vineer Christina Weidner Callum Woods

We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!

"I started another company working with carbon smart technology green products." Douglas Stengel, Agriculture Management & Production/Livestock

"I run a non-profit food pantry. I substitute at a local elementary school and volunteer throughout the county I live in. I have also completed seven 100-mile trail races."

> Amy (Oellerich) Love, Office Assistant, 1987

"I just graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management."

> Kristen Bauer, Practical Nursing, 2017

Management, 1991

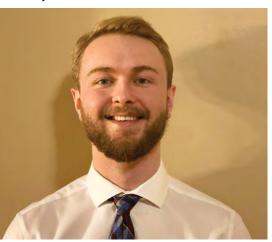
SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS: HATTANS AN 'IT FAMILY'

You could say the **Hattan** family is very "computer savvy." **Dave**, his daughter **Jill** and her son **Tyler** all graduated from SCC's Computer Information Technology program. When the program was still taught on the Milford Campus it was called Computer Programming. They all decided to go into the program for two main reasons: the affordable tuition and the job placement.

"I was drawn to SCC because of the Computer Programming curriculum reputation, and you were quickly able to get a good-paying job," Jill said.

"The students coming out of CIT have extensive hands-on practice and application of IT concepts," Dave said. "Students who apply themselves will have lots of Nebraska companies that are seeking their skills."

"The CIT program provides many opportunities to find great jobs locally and to meet people in the industry," Tyler added.



Dave graduated in 1973, Jill in 2000 and Tyler finished in 2021. Between the three of them they have around 70 years of IT experience with the state

of Nebraska.
Quite a feat
when they could
have their pick
of jobs in the
industry. Jill is
an IT manager
and Dave is an
IT manager II.

LINCOLN CAMPUS

Tyler has since gone on to work in the private sector, where he is a software developer. Dave and Jill say it is very gratifying to work for the state.

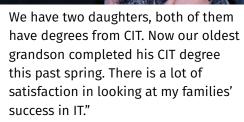
"It is very rewarding to know that we are helping and supporting citizens of Nebraska," Jill explained, "knowing that a lot of our systems are helping citizens with their daily lives."

In addition to SCC, the Hattans have also furthered their education. Dave went on to earn a degree from Peru State College, and he and Jill also took additional CIT classes at SCC. Tyler actually started at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning a degree in Business Administration, and attended SCC afterward.

"My goals include learning as much as I can about software development and to become a senior-level developer or manager," Tyler said.

No matter what path you take, the trio all agreed that enrolling in the program helped their careers. They encourage others to consider it as well. In fact, it doesn't end with Tyler. Many other members of the Hattan family also are in the same field.

"We are an IT family," Dave said. "I met my wife, who was a co-worker the first year I worked for the state.



"It is fun to have the whole family in IT," Jill added. "We are able to understand what each are working on at work. I find it very interesting when one of them starts a new project with some new technology and we are able to talk about the project and how it is going over dinner."

Dave gives back to SCC by actively hiring and mentoring SCC students. As he plans for his own retirement in the next few years, he hopes to leave a legacy in his career and to his alma mater.

"I created an aggressive intern program that thus far has provided 77 internships for mainly SCC students," he said. "We have been able to hire about 80% of those interns."

Dave also was the Outstanding Alumnus for the Milford Campus in 2013.

For more on the CIT program, click on this link: www.southeast.edu/computerinformation. •

LINCOLN CAMPUS

SCC Board Appoints Dr. Jim Sherwood to Fill Vacancy

Dr. Jim Sherwood of Lincoln is the newest member of the SCC Board of Governors. Sherwood was appointed to replace the Rev. Edward Price last August. Price resigned his seat on the Board in July for health reasons.

Sherwood represents the Third District, which is comprised of north Lincoln, Waverly, Davey and surrounding communities. He believes in SCC's role in the community, which is serving a role in workforce development while also providing a path for those seeking a bachelor's degree.

"I am excited to join the Board because I believe in the role and mission of the community college," he said. "I hope my experience in higher education will contribute to furthering the excellent job Southeast Community College is currently doing."

Sherwood had many administrative roles at colleges across the country, including the University of NebraskaLincoln Extension and in its Continuing Studies area: University of California, Berkeley; University of Maryland; and Nassau Community College, Siena College and Suffolk County Community College, all in New York.

Sherwood is originally from Cohoes, New York, a suburb of Albany. He received his bachelor's degree in History from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, and his master's and Ph.D. in History from Pennsylvania State University.

SCC's 11-member Board of Governors meets on the third Tuesday of every month with the location of meetings alternating among the three campuses and learning centers. Two members are elected from each of the College's five districts, while



the 11th member is elected at-large. Board members serve four-year terms and do not receive salaries, but their SCC-related expenses are paid.

Sherwood's term will expire in December 2024. ❖

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2011 Graduates?

We want to stay in touch with our grads! Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-642-4075, ext. 2622.

Justin Albers Ahmed Ali Ryan Amen Sentoris Barnes Yvonne Bartek Terrell Bell Gus Burhoop Eric Burke Christie Cain Rebeckah Caouette LaToyia Catlin **Ivonne Cervantes Ronald Chandler** Kelsey Chmelka Nellie Daniel

Detell Davis Megan Delaney Samira Deronjic Striker Detweiler Ama Ekpe Melvin Fertig Caroline Ficke Khatira Gheran Cari Gigax Danielle Glissman Zachary Gruber Amanda Hanquist Michael Harper David Hernandez

Carrie Hoefer Stephanie Iske Jaime Jiskra Danielle Keller Heather Klingsporn Stacey Kommers-Pulver Teddy Pika Logniabari Konne Scott Krienert Hector Lopez Lacy Lukert Natalie Masek Megan McManus Christine Menke Natalie Nevels

Marjolaine Nickerson Kathryn O'Hara Michelle O'Melia Marie O'Shea-Creal Mikiko Oka Shelby Pomplun **Ashley Pulliam** James Quinn James Reichwaldt Chelsey Schinck **Tucker Seaman** Jerome Shackelford Cody Snow

Iessica St Louis Cassandra Stohs Lilly Thavisone Caitlin Thiesfeld Kayla Thurber Marina Toscano-Esquivel **Toby Triplett** Viktoriya Tyshkun Tatyana Valdez **Kelly Vandervort** Dominique Whitehead Lyn Withers Wade Wondercheck Jaclyn Young

New Associate Dean has a Colorful Resume

Dr. Ivette Trentini is the new associate dean for Business/CIT/ Trades on the Lincoln Campus. She's spent the past 12 years as a speech instructor at the College and is looking forward to her new role.

"I want to build relationships with faculty and make sure they don't burn out of their important roles as educators," she said. "I feel this is an important aspect of serving our students, our community and the world."

Trentini was raised in Lincoln by two immigrant parents; her mother is from Guatemala and her father is from Brazil. Growing up, there were three different languages spoken in her household.

"My mother is quite upset at me for not remembering enough Spanish," she joked.

Trentini received her degree in Environmental Laboratory Technology from SCC in 1997. She went on to work at Molex in the chemistry lab adjusting chemicals for the manufacturing lines. She then went on to work at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. First, she supervised and trained employees and later worked in

research conservation.

"I worked with endangered animals and frequently I would work in cages with the big cats. They were sedated, but not so much that they didn't growl at us," she recalled.

She then switched gears and worked in the non-profit field, both in fundraising and administration.
She started teaching part-time as an adjunct and decided that it was something she wanted to do.

She earned her bachelor's degree in

Business Management at Bellevue University in 2006 and her master's in Communication in 2008. She started in 2009 as an adjunct at SCC, and full-time in 2011. She then received her Doctorate of Education in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University in 2018. She will continue to keep teaching in her

new role.

"I've taught several different classes under the realm of communication," she said. "I try not to broadcast the 'speech teacher' role because people become self-conscious."

One of the reasons she decided to pursue this new position is when she retires she would like to work and/or develop international education for the underserved. She believes this is a natural step toward that goal.

"She readily acknowledges the benefits of the community college education because she is living proof of its benefits," said Dr. Kathy Eitzmann, dean of SCC's Business and Community Services divisions.

When she's not working, Trentini enjoys cooking and spending time with her boyfriend and two cats. Her office is in T-101 on the Lincoln Campus. ❖





LINCOLN CAMPUS

Fire Protection Technology Graduate Receives Alumni **Award from Nebraska Community College Association**





Cordes with Dr. Paul Illich. SCC President.

Scott Cordes graduated from the Fire Protection Technology program in 1986. Since then he spent many years as a firefighter and continues to build his resume. He is now Norfolk's Public Safety Director/Assistant City Administrator. Because of his many accomplishments, the Nebraska Community College Association presented him with the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award while representing SCC.

"I cannot imagine where my life would have gone had I not connected with Southeast Community College as a young man way back when I did," Cordes said. "It certainly changed my life and sent me on an incredibly rewarding path that continues today."

Cordes, 59, became a firefighter because his grandfather, uncles, cousins, and brothers all served as volunteer firefighters in his hometown of Scribner. His father also was the fire chief.

"I grew up in a family that was deeply entrenched in the fire service," Cordes said. "I spent so much time in and around it. It just seemed like a really cool way to make a living."

Cordes began his career at the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's office in Scribner as a fire investigator and inspector. He became the Norfolk Fire Marshal in 1996, and then was promoted to Assistant Chief in charge of the Prevention Bureau, which included supervision of all code enforcement for the city. He was promoted to Norfolk Fire Chief in 2011. He said his career has been extremely rewarding over the years.

"The absolute satisfaction that comes from helping someone in their time of need and making that outcome better whenever possible warms the heart," he said.

However, he points out it's not all shiny fire trucks saving the day. There are many difficult days in the lives of a firefighter and a paramedic. He said leading the Norfolk Fire Department during the heart of the pandemic was one of the most challenging aspects

of his career. It takes a toll both professionally and personally, he said.

"The mental health aspect has to be the highest of priorities," he said. "You have to take care of the people that are taking care of the people. There is death and human suffering. Those things tend to stay with you forever when you would prefer to forget."

Cordes returned to school and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Bellevue University. He also recently finished his master's degree in Leadership and Executive Coaching, also from Bellevue University.

"My decision to further my education after SCC was to strengthen my role as the administrator of my department and prepare for future endeavors," he said

Cordes said he tends to work hard and play hard and enjoys life every way he can. He and his wife Lora have been married 37 years and have four children and six grandchildren. �

New Dean has Many Goals for SCC, Technical Programs

Caleb Herwick is the new dean of Construction, Manufacturing, Engineering & Technology at SCC. Having previously worked as an adjunct instructor in the Computer Information Technology program at the College, he is happy to be back in higher education in a different capacity.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time as an instructor with SCC," Herwick said. "I love being able to work for missiondriven organizations. I always hoped to have an opportunity to return to higher ed in some capacity that would allow me to help implement changes on a larger scale."

Herwick said he likes to be challenged and learn something new every day, and this position aligns with that. Prior to SCC, he worked at Tabitha Health Care Services as executive director of information technology.

A native of Milltown, Wisconsin, Herwick earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Union College. He then went on to receive an associate degree in CIT from SCC.

In his new position he will set the vision for programs and ensure that SCC is staying on the cutting edge.

"I enjoy working with faculty to make sure they have what they need to provide an outstanding educational experience for students," he added. "I hope to work with our program directors to identify needs and pathways for additional credential offerings within SCC, as well as building additional 2+2 pathways with the

surrounding four-year college and universities."

Herwick's wife, Shawna, also works at SCC as administrative director of accreditation, institutional

assessment and planning. Caleb

will office in Milford and Lincoln and can be reached at cherwick@southeast.edu and 402-761-8261. ❖

Retirements

Mark Jacobsen

Instructor, Automotive Technology

Dr. Jeanine Jewell

Department Chair, English

John Stephenson

Instructor, Math

Janet Stone

TRIO

In Memory of...

Holly Crook

(Academic Transfer, 2009)

Florence Anderson

(Practical Nursing, 1990)

Adam Blank

(Academic Transfer, 2004)

Kerry Bowers

(Machine Tool Technology, 2001)

Chester "Chet" Calkins

(Motorcycle, ATV, Watercraft, 2009)

Mitchel Krolikowski

(Professional Truck Driver

Training, 1992)

Lawrence Reimer

(Professional Truck Driver

Training, 1993)

Denice Sears

(Academic Transfer, 2008)

Corrinne Thomas

(Licensed Practical Nursing, 1981)

Beverly Williamson-Fletcher

(Early Childhood Education, 1994)

Emily Zech

(Food Service Hospitality, 2008)

MILFORD CAMPUS

Deere Construction & Forestry Equipment Tech Graduating Class, June



From left: Keith Tempel, instructor; Nick Ohrstrom, Jeren Scheer, Lucas Metcalf, Steve Bucholz, and Dylan Jindra.

50-Year Reunions in Milford

Last September, two reunions were held at the Welsh Center gym in Milford. On Friday, Sept. 3, 2021, 36 graduates and their guests

attended the Class of 1970 reunion when it was the Nebraska Vocational Technical School. On Friday, Sept. 10, 32 alums and their guests attended

the Class of 1971 reunion when it was the Nebraska Technical College. "It was a very interesting and informative morning, and the food Continued on Page 13



1970

Front row, from left: Michael Vrchota, Electronics; Dale Wallman, Architectural; Perry Poyner, Architectural; Dennis Pagel, Architectural; Dale Haecker, Building Construction; Dean Rediger, Auto Body; Michael Tworek, Air Conditioning; Dennis Miller, Air Conditioning; Donald Wells, Air Conditioning; Keith Andrews, Electrical.

Second row, from left: Donald Freouf, Electronics; Morris Schroeder, Electronics; Ron Morton, Civil; Allan Nelson, Diesel; Larry Oltman, Diesel; Ron Packard, Diesel; David Skomer, Diesel; Dave Sybrant, Diesel; Rodger Kaup, Diesel. **Third row, from left:** Roger Womack, Machine Tool; Robert Welshinger, Machine Tool; Rhea Larson, Electrical; Richard Endorf, Diesel; Thomas Krumbach, Architectural; Mike Rakes, Architectural; Allan McDuffee, Architectural; Wayne Petersen, Architectural; Terry Kamprath, Building Construction.

Fourth row, from left: Dennis Volkmer, Welding; Stephen Hansen, Automotive; Leroy Roeber, Machine Tool; James Kollars, Machine Tool; David Vyhlidal, Machine Tool; Barry Daffer, Machine Tool; Harlan Waak, Automotive; Joseph Block, Automotive.

Building Construction Reunion, Class of 1980



A number of Building Construction graduates were able to get together for a reunion last summer after having to postpone in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The event took place on Saturday, Aug. 28, at the 4-H building at the Seward County Fairgrounds in Seward. The alums had a great time reliving old memories and getting reacquainted with old friends they hadn't seen in many years.

"We will not wait 41 years to do it again," said Dale Samuelson. "Thank you, SCC, for a great education and wonderful memories."

From left: Bill Buntgen, John Benal, Dale Samuelson, Tom Steinbach, Fred Holly, Doug Harper, Kevin Gustafson, and Jerry Regelean.

From Page 12

was great and everyone went all out to make the graduates feel special and appreciated," said Dale Haecker, Class of 1970. "Southeast Community College's Milford Campus has a lot to be proud of over the years."

At each reunion, Campus Director Ed Koster welcomed the group with a presentation of the recent and

upcoming changes at the campus, as well as a video history. Attendees then toured the campus and finished with a buffet lunch. ❖



1971

Front row, from left: Larren Schneckloth, Diesel; Jan Harper, Manufacturing; Mark Eiting, Air Conditioning; Stephen Halsted, Air Conditioning; Kathie Bowles, Data Processing; Ron Dittmer, Construction; Gary Burkhart, Construction; Dean Mach, Construction.

Second row, from left: Wayne Burcham, Civil; Tom Scott, Automotive; Jimmy Jackman, Automotive; Michael Voelker, Diesel; Art Hansen, Diesel; James Trepka, Construction; Michael Fish, Diesel; Michael Coady, Automotive.

Third row, from left: David Kathman, Electrical; Paul Bahle, Machine Tool; John MacKichan, Machine Tool; Patrick McMeekin, Auto Body; Lyle Kruse, Diesel; Gerald Zieg, Diesel; Roy Stoltenberg, Diesel.

Fourth row, from left: Dale Beran, Automotive; Thomas Morrissey, Electrical; Lanny Beam, Electrical; Kenneth Petersen, Air Conditioning; Steven Grubbs, Architectural; Erv Minderman, Manufacturing.

Fifth row, from left: Dennis Reiners, Electrical; John Harper, Electrical; John Duncan, Manufacturing.

MILFORD CAMPUS

NDT Alum Likes the Challenges of the Program

Zoe Urtel is a veteran, having served as a military police officer in the Nebraska Army National Guard. Since then, the Crete native has had a number of odd jobs that haven't brought her any job satisfaction. As a result, she decided to enroll in SCC's Nondestructive Testing Technology program. Having known nothing about the program, it was introduced to her by a peer advisor.

"We discussed my goals, the things that motivated me, and the type of work I wanted to get into," she said. "He was the one that brought nondestructive testing in the mix. I had never heard of the industry, and after I delved into it, I decided to move forward in registering for college and completing a degree in the program."

Once she found out more about the program, she realized it fit a lot of her strengths such as attention to detail, organizational skills and a challenging work environment. It wasn't until Urtel found this program that it fulfilled her drive and enthusiasm to learn.

"Nondestructive testing has a plethora of examination methods, so there is always something new to learn and greater opportunity for growth within any given method," she said.

One of her instructors, Bill Wiley, said she was a good fit for the program because she is a very conscientious student who strives for perfection.

"She has an eye for detail and fosters a mentoring attitude for those students that aren't as far along in the program," he said. "She takes her studies very seriously and has the

good grades to show it."

Like many of the manufacturing programs, NDT tends to be male dominated. Urtel said that regardless, women should still consider the profession and show they can do anything men can do when they put their mind to it.

"If the knowledge and understanding is there and the work is completed in a timely, successful manner, it shouldn't matter if it was done by a man or a woman," she said. "I enjoy working with my hands, and a trade program meets that need for

me. I'm not one to back down from a challenge just because I'm a woman. In fact, it just drives me more to prove wrong the ones that doubt me."

Wiley said there are many potential careers to consider in the industry, including jobs in the energy sector as well as aircraft and aerospace, along with a large demand for graduates in individual testing lab companies

across the nation. Urtel graduated in December and plans to travel before entering the workforce.

"This program is a phenomenal one, and nondestructive testing isn't offered everywhere," she said. "The time we are given to work directly with actual instrumentation that is used in the industry in tandem with learning about the processes from experienced instructors is invaluable." .



Lowell Welsh stands outside Featured Year: 1962

what was the front door of the stone administration building. He is standing above the tunnel entrance that connected the administration building and shops with Nebraska Hall dormitory across the road. The tunnels under the street were removed to make way for new campus construction in 1962. They were part of the old Soldiers and Sailors Home.



SCC LAUNCHES "SAVE NEBRASKA HALL" **FUNDRAISER**

You can do your part to Save Nebraska Hall, a historic landmark on Southeast Community College's Milford Campus.

At 100 years old, Nebraska Hall is the oldest building on the Milford Campus. Originally built as a hospital for the Soldiers and Sailors Home in 1921, it was converted into a dormitory and cafeteria for the students at the Nebraska State Trade School in 1941. Two new residence halls have been built in the last few years. Prairie Hall opened in fall 2019, and Meadow Hall opened in fall 2021. Because of its historical significance, a "Save Nebraska Hall" campaign was launched.

"The Save Nebraska Hall project is an incredible opportunity to reinvigorate an iconic building on campus that has had such a significant history both for the state of Nebraska and the campus itself," said Ed Koster, SCC Milford Campus director.

The overall historic feel of the building will be preserved, while also including several updates to meet ADA requirements. The future of Nebraska Hall will serve three purposes on the campus. Since the structure has three floors, each one can serve a separate need as follows:

- · Student union space with study areas and meeting spaces.
- · Business office with Admissions, Registration and Financial Aid.
- · Student Success space for Advising, Testing, Career Services, TRIO, CAPS, and more.

The College is able to use grants and capital funds to pay for the majority of the estimated \$5.5 million renovation project. The remaining \$1.5 million will be raised privately. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2022.

To donate to the Save Nebraska Hall campaign, go to

www.southeast.edu/facilities-donate.

For more information, contact Ed Koster at 402-761-8224 or ekoster@southeast.edu. �

In Memory of...

Stanley Allgood (Diesel, 1971) Terrance "Terry" G. Abels (Electrical, 1963) Adam D. Bean (John Deere Tech, 2003) Mark L. Bechtel (Diesel, 1984) Stanley Behm (Diesel, 1965) Robert "Bob" Britton (Building Construction, 1964) Russell Buehler (Architecture, 1989) Robert A. Burback (Data Processing, 1971) Dianne Buller (Computer Programming, 1980) Bill Copple (Welding, 1966) Roy A. Davison (Building Construction, 1958) Richard Dush (Machine Tool, 1966) Kenneth Epp (Automotive, 1972) James F. Foster (Diesel, 1971) Ivan D. Gross (Air Conditioning, 1957) Bruce Hansen (Auto Body, 1967) Jeffery J. Happold (Architecture, 1988) Norman F. "Charlie Brown" Hilger (Diesel, 1966) Susan M. (Holquin) Hull (Automotive, 1982) Mike H. Itzen (Diesel, 1980) Melvin Tracy "TJ" Jones (Diesel, 1982) Mark Knudsen (Machine Tool, 1977) Bernard Konen (Electronics, 1959) Roger M. Lueking (Auto Body, 1966) Lawrence "Larry" Mach (Diesel, 1969) Hans E. Meyer (Electrical, 2005, and Electrical/Electromechanical, 2008) Robert "Paul" Monteith (Auto Body, 1975) Marvin B. Nielson (Diesel, 1969) Greg J. Penner (Manufacturing Engineering, 1979) Samuel Rank Jr. (Drafting, 1969) Eldon Rhodig (Auto Body, 1956) Robert Ruhr Ir. (Building Construction, 1971) Leroy M. Ruppert (Diesel, 1960) Russell Rysavy (Drafting, 1968) Robert D. Slama (Auto Body, 1979) Steven W. Sloggett (Computer Programming, 2001) Thomas Strothkamp (Air Conditioning, 1971) Steven D. Wilson (Welding, 1976) Steven Woockman (Electronics, 1974) Jerry L. York (Land Surveying, 1994)



From Left: Sarene Friedli, Kevin Uhler and Sheri Christensen.

Campus Honors Employees at Annual Award Ceremony

SCC's Milford Campus held its annual ceremony for Outstanding Staff and Faculty and Years of Service awards.

Kevin Uhler, program director for Auto Collision Repair, GM ASEP, Ford ASSET, MOPAR, and Professional Truck Driver Training programs, and Sheri Christensen, math and science instructor, received the Outstanding Faculty awards.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this award, Christensen said. "Teaching at SCC the past 24 years has been so rewarding. I really appreciate the recognition from my students and colleagues."

Sarene Friedli, administrative assistant, received the Outstanding Staff award.

"I truly enjoy coming to work every day," Friedli said. "Being recognized with the Outstanding Staff award for being who I am and doing something I enjoy is very humbling."

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Milford presented plaques and \$500 checks to the three recipients. The Farmers & Merchants Bank has been sponsoring this award since 1983.

Years of Service Award recipients:

45 Years

Donna Havener

40 Years

Bruce Spitser

35 Years

Cloy Stutzman

30 Years

Mike Stalker

Randy Williams

25 Years

Joy Steckly Shelly Tolle

20 Years

Doug Meyer

Keith Tempel Jeannette Masters

Jim Davenport

Craig Shaw

15 Years

Karl Eickhoff Jon Kisby

Cory Scott

10 Years

Tammie Lang David Madcharo

Stacy Riley

5 Years

Joshua Beck

Michael Bergwell

Misty Griggs

Chuck Hansen

Toby Oglesby

oby oglesby

Ann Schlueter Elizabeth Steinhour

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1962 Graduates?

We want to stay in touch with our grads! Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-933-7223, ext. 8242.

Eugene Benolken Robert Black Neil Dudley Ervin Dvorak Andrew Goebel Jerry Hahn Richard Hoffman Ronnie Ireland John R. Johnson Terry Kilgore George Luehrs Melva Luft

John Maddox James McCormick Ronald Meyer Andy Pavlovics Salvadore Reyes Paul W. Robinson Dean Wolken

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2011 Graduates?

Travis Adams Zackary Chadwick TJ Coon Kevin Ferrone Devin Langdon Ryan Masters

Jesus Munoz-Arrieta Sara Norman Lydia Phillippe

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Milford Distinguished Alumni Tom Downey, Class of 1980

Growing up in Merna, Nebraska, Tom **Downey** was the oldest member of his family. Since he wasn't quite sure what he wanted to do after high school, he figured attending SCC and studying Manufacturing Engineering Technology was a good fit for his interests and his budget.

"My parents did not have any postsecondary education, and being the oldest in my family, I pretty much had to navigate my college and study options on my own," he recalled.

During his time at SCC, he stayed busy by working and as a residential hall floor manager for four quarters. He has fond memories of his time in Milford and continues to keep in touch with many of his classmates.

"The friendships made during my time with classmates, staff and other students certainly come to mind," he reflected. "Some of these relationships continue today, some 40 years later."

Even though he didn't follow a career path in his field of study, he said his education at SCC gave him the tools he uses today.

"SCC prepared me very well for my

career," he said. "The structure of class during the day, along with my jobs during college, helped me to manage time and be organized. The math, engineering, machine shop, and practically all my experiences at SCC I continue to use today in my company and career."

Downey graduated in 1980 from the Manufacturing **Engineering Technology** program. Fast forward 41 years later and he is running a successful business. Downey is the president and chief executive officer of Downey Drilling Inc., with branches in Lexington and Kearney, Nebraska, and Garden City, Kansas. His firm employs more than 60 people and operates as a full-service water well drilling and pump installation contracting company.

"In receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award, I am honored and humbled to be included with such talented, successful past recipients," Downey said. "I am proud to say that

my success can be attributed, in part, to the time I spent at SCC furthering my education."

Downey advises current students to consider careers in the construction and trade industries, since there is currently a great need for those workers. He also said to never stop learning, and to find an occupation that doesn't seem like a job.

"Find a career that you really enjoy, that doesn't seem like 'work' and strive to get a little bit better every day," he said. "We are put on this earth to serve others. Our time is short. Make the best of it!"

When he's not "working," Downey enjoys watching stock car racing and NASCAR and spending time with his wife and grandchildren. �

From Left: Rick Blessen, Director of Advancement, Tom Downey and Shelly Tolle, Career Services Specialist.



MILFORD CAMPUS

Computer Programming Graduate Plays Key Role for U.S. Abroad

Growing up as an Air Force brat,

Denise Knapp was used to moving around and starting over. Perhaps that is one reason she became a Foreign Service Officer/Diplomat who travels the world for months, even years at a time. She is currently in the middle of a four-year assignment in Matamoros, Mexico, where she is chief of the Nonimmigrant Visa Unit. She thought this job would be tamer than the others she's had in potentially dangerous regions, but the pandemic changed that.

"Since the pandemic, our focus has been figuring out new ways to be able to adjudicate visas for agriculture and other temporary workers to ensure the security of the U.S. food supply chain during the pandemic," said Knapp, a 1991 SCC-Milford graduate. "We've been successful doing this. I'm proud of my team here and my colleagues serving at the nine other posts that make up Mission Mexico and of what we have been able to accomplish during the pandemic."

Knapp has come a long way since her time at SCC. Living in Papillion at the time, she didn't want to go to a four-year school, so she chose SCC because she was good with computers. At the time, the Computer Programming Technology program (now Computer Information

Technology) was in Milford. It is currently offered at the Lincoln Campus.

"SCC gave me confidence in myself and gave me skills that allowed me to go out into the world and support myself," Knapp recalled. "The logic skills I learned at SCC are used every day in helping me identify improvements to processes, how to manage our applicants and my staff's time as best possible, and in many other aspects of my work. Without my successes at SCC, I would not have had the confidence to even apply to the Foreign Service."

After Knapp's graduation from SCC, she worked in computer programming in Kansas City and then in Omaha for First Data Corporation. She took a different job as a client trainer and traveled all over the U.S., Latin America and Hong Kong. This is when she knew she wanted to travel abroad. Knapp found the State Department's website and found out she could become a Foreign Service Officer, as a

Specialist or a Generalist. She chose the latter.

"Generalists are expected to be able to perform a wide variety of jobs, such as consular officers, political/ economic reporting officers, and cultural exchange or press officers," she said.

She passed all the required exams and was sworn in as an FSO in May 2002. Her first assignment was in Mexico, and she prepared by spending months learning the language. All of her assignments are temporary, like in the military, she said.

"We are always moving," she said.
"Sometimes assignments are for one year, but generally they are from two to three years. Our first two tours are no more than two years each so that they can evaluate us better to determine if we should be given 'tenure' and allowed to continue as FSOs."

Subsequent assignments include stints in Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Dominican Republic, and South Sudan. She's had memorable



Above: Knapp in Algiers. Left: Knapp in Khandahar. Right: Knapp in Panjshir.

Pictured



experiences in each one, including Afghanistan, which has been in the headlines recently. During that time, she ran a grants program to help build up civil society around the country. One grant was to a girls' school in the countryside of Kandahar to help create English language classes and sports programs for the children.

"The events (in September) in Afghanistan have hit me hard," Knapp said. "Those girls, now women and teens, have been on my mind a lot. I had the opportunity to assist in the evacuation from Kabul of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (green card holders) by making phone calls, confirming contact information and providing rally point information for flights out. Assisting in the evacuation taskforce was extremely rewarding and at the heart of what consular officers do, assisting U.S. citizens abroad in need."

From 2009-2011, she was able to work in Washington, D.C., where she

assisted the Public Affairs Officers in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria by providing expert speakers on a wide range of topics, from education to democracy.

"I had the honor of sending Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her daughter, Jane, who is a faculty director at Columbia Law School, to Egypt and Tunisia during the Arab Spring," she said.

As for her future, Knapp does not want to become a U.S. Ambassador or Deputy Chiefs of Missions like some of her colleagues. She prefers to be in the "thick of the action" with her American and local colleagues to secure borders and facilitate immigration to the U.S.

"I do not know yet where my next assignment will take me, but I'm



Knapp with Hillary Clinton.

looking forward to finding out," she said.

In the meantime, she keeps her eye on retirement, likely less than 10 years away. She hopes to live in a warm climate and possibly give back to the community by being a foster parent and perhaps run for the local school board. One thing is for sure, travel will always be part of her life. .

HVAC Student Receives \$4,000 scholarship

SCC student Spencer Barkdoll was awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to be used toward his studies. Twenty-one students from across the nation received the Trane Technician of the Future Scholarship who are studying Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning or Building Automation.

"I have worked really hard in my past summers to save up money, but finding out I got this scholarship made me happy that I didn't have to pay out of pocket this year," Barkdoll said. "I feel really fortunate that they picked me for the scholarship. It puts a big smile on my face."

Award recipients were chosen based on academic performance, leadership, participation, long-term career and education goals, and other

criteria. Awards can be used for all education-related expenses.

"We are honored to help these aspiring technicians launch a successful career in the HVAC and building controls industry," said Donny Simmons, president of Commercial HVAC Americans, Trane Technologies.

Barkdoll is a first-year student at the Milford Campus. He graduated from Lincoln East High School this past spring. His parents are Kendra and Larry Barkdoll. He attended The Career Academy at SCC and decided to continue his studies in Milford.

"My main goal is to eventually do my own thing," he said. "For example, I'd love to start my own business and employ some of my buddies with a



great paying job and help them out with a great career."

Trane Technologies creates energyefficient indoor environments for commercial and residential applications. �

Haas Foundation Donates Money to SCC's Precision **Machining Program**

SCC's Precision Machining and Automation Technology program received a \$15,000 donation from the Gene Haas Foundation. The money will be used for scholarships and for students to enter and travel to skills competitions such as SkillsUSA.

"This money allows SCC students the opportunity to travel that road without overwhelming financial burdens," said Kirby Taylor, program chair. "The number one priority should be learning, not figuring out how to pay for it."

The Gene Haas Foundation was formed to fund the needs of



communities around the California area. Seeing a growing need for skilled manufacturing technicians, the Foundation expanded its mission to include support for manufacturing training programs throughout North America and beyond. In 2020, the Gene Haas Foundation provided more than \$17 million in grants.

Haas is the owner of Haas

Automation Inc., America's leading builder of Computer Numeric Control machines, which he started in 1983. Haas also owns multiple NASCAR teams.

For more information on our **Precision Machining and Automation** Technology program at www.southeast.edu/ precisionmachining. *

New Scholarship Established for Students in Milford Program

A new scholarship has been established for SCC students who enroll in the Precision Machining and Automation Technology program in Milford.

The Elmer Wessel Memorial Scholarship will provide four \$1,250 scholarships annually to students who enroll in the program and have a 3.0 and above grade-point average and demonstrate financial need. The scholarship is named after Elmer Wessel, who graduated in 1971 from SCC's Machine Tool program. His widow, Pam Wessel, wanted to give back to the College that gave her husband so much.

"Elmer's passion was building and creating things," she said. "His mind never stopped thinking of a new way to

do something, make something. His classes helped him develop skills on precision machines to create and make these ideas come to life. Elmer also loved mentoring, teaching and sharing what he had learned with others."

Wessel co-founded Industrial Machine Specialties in 1974, and later Bison Inc., SignCo and SourceOne.



In 1993 he was SCC's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for the Milford Campus. He died Dec. 30, 2019, after a long battle with cancer. He was 68.

For more information on the scholarship, contact Michelle Birkel, Executive Director of the SCC Educational Foundation, at 402-323-3411 or mbirkel@southeast.edu. ❖



Annual Report

The SCC Educational Foundation's Annual Report is available online. If you would like a copy mailed to you, contact the SCC Educational Foundation office at 402-323-3411 or mbirkel@southeast.edu.



"My goal of becoming a Respiratory Therapist is much closer since being named one of the recipients of the Foundation Scholarship." - Brooke Knauss, current SCC student



Dear Southeast Community College Alumni, Parents and Friends,

You are part of the story of Brooke and thousands of other students here at Southeast Community College. Without great faculty, staff, donors, and community partnerships, SCC and the SCC Educational Foundation could not accomplish what we do.

The SCC Foundation has had a transformational impact on more than 50,000 students since it was established in 1975. I am fortunate to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Jack Huck who retired as Executive Director in July 2021. He is now serving as the Foundation Board President. I will continue carrying on his legacy of ensuring that all students have an opportunity for an affordable education. Your investment is life-changing for many of them.

Please consider making a difference by giving to the Path to Possible Fund. Your investment will continue to enhance the educational experience of more than 9,300 students each year and create a lasting legacy.

To make a gift online, visit www.southeast.edu/sccdonate or complete the attached form and send back to the SCC Educational Foundation.

On behalf of the entire Foundation Board and SCC faculty and staff, thank you for your support of the College and our students.

Sincerely,

Michelle Birkel, Executive Director Southeast Community College Educational Foundation

How You Can Help

YOUR Gift Matters!

Your gift makes an impact and creates opportunities for many students. Investing in SCC students is lifechanging for our students and is an investment in our community and the future workforce of our college area. the state of Nebraska and our nation.

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For more information, visit

southeast.edu/educationalfoundation.

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All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Checks should be made payable to the SCC Educational Foundation. Receipt of your gift by June 30 ensures your listing in the SCC Educational Foundation Annual Report.



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Do you know an SCC graduate who should be awarded? Nominate one today!

Southeast Community College created the Distinguished Alumnus Award to recognize outstanding graduates who have achieved great things in their jobs, community and professions.

Each year we award someone from each of our campuses in Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford. If you know of someone who is deserving and meets the following criteria, nominations are due by March 1, 2022.

Please complete the nomination at www.southeast.edu/alumni Submit no later than March 1, 2022.

Nominee will then receive a form to complete and return to SCC for consideration. Recognition will be presented in May 2022.

Selection for SCC Distinguished Alumnus will be based on the following criteria:

- Degree/Diploma from SCC Beatrice, Lincoln or Milford campuses.
- Recipient must have graduated at least 5+ years ago.
- Career responsibilities, community service/involvement, continued education and professional accomplishments.
- Can't be a current SCC faculty or staff member.

