Featured Alumni Years: 1958 & 1996

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Upcoming Events & Information

- Trades & Industry Career Fair, Milford Campus: April 22
- Nursing Assistant & Medication Aide Fair, Lincoln Campus: April 23
- Early Childhood Education, Lincoln Campus: April 24
- Human Services Career Fair, Lincoln Campus: May 6
- Professional Truck Driver Training Job Fair, Lincoln Campus: May 14
- Business Etiquette Luncheon, Lincoln Campus: May 15
- Memorial Day, College Closed: May 26
- Spring Quarter Ends: June 12
- Automotive Summer Camp, Milford Campus: June 13-14
- Independence Day, College Closed: July 4
- Summer Quarter Begins: July 14
- Professional Truck Driver Training Job Fair, Lincoln Campus: August 20
- Health Career Fair, Lincoln Campus: August 4
- All-College Conference, College Closed: August 29
- Labor Day, College Closed: September 1
- Summer Quarter Ends: September 23
Lyle Neal has plenty of incentive to retire after more than 40 years of service to Southeast Community College and the former Nebraska Technical College in Milford.

“I’ve got five fishing partners waiting for me,” said Neal, referring to his five grandsons, ages 1 to 9. “I don’t plan to be one of those retirees who sit around wondering what to do.”

Neal, whose passion for his family, church and community work, and fishing will keep him plenty busy, will work his last day at SCC’s Milford Campus on June 30. “I never dreamed I’d be here for that long,” said Neal, whose wife Bev retired last December from her work at Milford High School.

During his more than four-decade career, Neal has seen the name of the school change, new leadership take over at various levels, unprecedented enrollment growth, mind-boggling changes to technology, and five job titles of his own.

The early years

 Neal was born and raised near Thedford, located in Thomas County in the heart of the Nebraska Sandhills. He was one of five children born to Betty and the late Kenneth Neal. He graduated from Thedford High School in 1967.

That fall he enrolled at Kearney State College, now the University of Nebraska at Kearney, to study music. He wanted to become a high school music teacher.

“But I needed to learn how to play the piano, and the 7 a.m. piano lessons didn’t go over well,” Neal said with a laugh.

After one semester he transferred to Evangel College, now Evangel University, in Springfield, Mo., not for music, but to study business. “My hope was to become a high school business teacher,” he said.

Neal graduated in May 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a minor in secondary education. But it was the Vietnam era, and colleges and universities were graduating students at a record pace. Landing a job was difficult to say the least.

He returned home to Thedford and worked for a well driller when he received a phone call from his alma mater. The Nebraska Technical College at Milford was looking for an accounting instructor.

Where’s Westerville?

Neal, just 22 at the time, applied for the position, interviewed and got the job. Lowell Welsh, the first full-time director of the Milford school, hired Neal.

“I think he hired me because I knew where Westerville, Nebraska, was,” Neal said with a laugh. “That’s where he was from, and it’s not far from where I grew up.”

Although Neal was better prepared to teach high school students, he adjusted to the college classroom, picked up the nine credit hours of vocational certification that were required and set out on an 18-year career as an instructor at the College.

The next phase

In the early 1980s, former Milford Campus Director Bob Klabenes gave Neal release time to learn the Apple III computer and VisiCalc, the first spreadsheet computer program. Soon, Neal began teaching a Microcomputer Applications course, which he did for the next eight years.

“I worked with SuperCalc, PFS Write, taught DOS (Disk Operating System), Basic programming, and the programming language Pascal,” Neal said. His experience with computers was a major reason that he was hired as business manager, a position he held from 1989-1991. “I thought I’d be in the classroom my entire career,” Neal said. “But I decided to throw my hat in the ring for the business manager job.”

From 1992-1997, Neal served as vice president of fiscal services, which included supervising the Milford Area Business Office, assisting Computer Services in converting the Business Office functions from an in-house system to an integrated database system now known as Jenzabar, and co-chairing the Cafeteria Team that ultimately led to the construction of the Dunlap Center.

From 1997-2003, Neal served as assistant campus director under Larry Shaw. This period was one of the most rewarding times of Neal’s career. “I spent a lot of time working with employees on their benefits,” he said. “I tried to give them good counsel and support. Now I get enjoyment out of seeing others perform these tasks.”

One of Neal’s greatest accomplishments occurred as assistant campus director. “I requested in 1997 permission from the CEO’s Advisory Team to form a team to explore the feasibility of electronic imaging of paper documents,” Neal said.

“The team and administration approved the concept, and we started imaging paper copies for payroll, student services, financial aid, and human resources in 1998. We were years ahead of most colleges in Nebraska in regard to electronic imaging. The service is still in place today and relied upon by nearly every office and service.”

Vice president and campus director

For the past 11 years Neal has served SCC as the vice president for technology and Milford Campus Director. It’s another job that’s seen many changes throughout the years. Neal said although it’s been stressful, it’s also been rewarding. “I enjoy being with people and I enjoy the family atmosphere of our campus,” he said. “I’ve known many people their entire careers, and I’ve seen them take pride in what they do. I share in that pride, and we work very well as a campus.”

It’s no surprise that the biggest challenge Neal has faced throughout his career is changing technology. During his 11 years as vice president for technology, the network demand for Internet traffic has grown exponentially. “When I started, we had 40 megabytes of Internet connection,” Neal said. “We’re going from purchasing 300 megabytes of bandwidth soon to be 400 before the end of this fiscal year. We also have 95 percent or more dense wireless penetration all over the College. That’s a huge service to our students.”

“We’ve experienced a lot of changes over my 11 years. Moved from the Jenzabar Enterprise system to Datatel, migrated from Datatel UNIX operating to SQL, Novell to Microsoft file systems, Lotus Notes to Outlook, introduced the SharePoint Portal known as The Hub, experienced numerous upgrades to Office, Autodesk, Adobe, and countless other services.”

The next chapter

Neal, who will be 65 in late April, plans to spend time with Bev, his wife of 41 years, doing what they enjoy. “My wife and I both enjoy the outdoors, we like to read, and our church and family are very important to us,” he said. “We plan to do some traveling.”

Neal always has been a community supporter. He serves as an executive leader for Christ’s Place Church in Lincoln, is a member of the Milford Economic Development Committee and of the Webermeier Scholarship Committee. He’s also a past president of the Milford City Council, which he was a member for eight years.

The Neals sold their house in Milford and plan to move to Lincoln this summer, where they’ll be closer to three of Neal’s fishing partners, grandsons Xander 9, Tyce 4, and Gavin 1. They are the children of Neal’s son Jeremy and wife Tina. His other two “partners,” Elijah 5 and Judah 3, live in Cumming, Ga., with their parents, the Neal’s daughter Monica and her husband Josh Mayo.

Neal said there are a lot of things he’ll miss about SCC. “Obviously, I’ve had great people to work with,” he said. “It really is a family. I have an extreme appreciation and confidence in my IT (Information Technology) staff that does all of the heavy lifting. I’ll miss working with those folks.”

“But (retiring) just seems right. I feel real comfortable with my decision to retire now.”
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Book Editor Got Her Start at SCC

Kathy Haake attended SCC’s Beatrice Campus “because I wanted a local, affordable option for completing my core curriculum class credits for academic transfer.”

It all led to a career as a book editor.

Haake’s academic success at SCC led to a Regents Scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a double minor in psychology and sociology. After receiving her bachelor’s degree she went to New York University for her book publishing certificate.

But nursing was her first love.

“I originally went to SCC to pursue a career in nursing,” Haake said. “I had planned to go on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree and become a registered nurse.”

While at SCC, Haake’s strengths in the field of language arts were brought to the forefront.

“An SCC instructor showed me an article about the field of manuscript evaluations, a career I didn’t know existed,” she said. “I switched coursework from a science to an arts focus in order to pursue this new line of work. Because of the solid base of classes SCC offered, I was still able to acquire my bachelor’s degree in four years.”

Fresh out of college, Haake accepted a job as an editor for The Gallup Organization where she edited, proofed and rewrote communications, analytical reports, presentations, and research reports. She also worked independently as a freelance editor for many years, working on magazine and newspaper articles and editing research papers for doctoral thesis work.

Then came her big break.

“I finally landed a job in book publishing at iUniverse in 2006,” Haake said. “This allowed me to work from home in a field I loved.”

She started out as a quality assurance editor, reviewing manuscript evaluations and book edits that were performed by other editors to ensure they were up to professional standards and in line with the prescribed style for each manuscript.

“When our company was acquired by Author Solutions, a Penguin Random House company, the quality assurance work moved in-house to its headquarters in Indiana,” Haake said. “Since that time I have been performing book edits and manuscript evaluations for Author Solutions and its subsidiaries. I love helping authors’ dreams become realities!” The majority of her current work is in book editing.

“I am assigned manuscripts through an editorial coordinator,” Haake said. “The company’s liaison deals with the author, so I am allowed to focus solely on my editorial work.”

Haake said most jobs in this field require a minimum of a bachelor’s degree. Advanced specialized training, such as a book publishing program, also is a plus. Almost all companies will require that the candidate be able to pass a copyediting test, she said.

“While studying in New York, I discovered that it was quite hard to break into the field of manuscript evaluation unless you lived in one of the coast cities that are the meccas of publishing,” she said. “I was fortunate to find a local company to initiate my at-home work situation. It is harder to break into the field without that in-person connection, but not impossible.”

Haake has been married 16 years to her best friend, Kevin Haake. The couple has a 14-year-old daughter, Austen; a 12-year-old son, Kadin; and a 5-year-old daughter, Elsa. In her “free time” Haake works as the volunteer and event coordinator for Dove’s Nest, a nonprofit organization that works to empower and equip faith communities to keep children and youth safe in their homes, churches and communities.

“I’m also a hobbyist beekeeper and run a small side business called Comb and Get It,” Haake said. “I’m an active member of First Mennonite Church, where I am the church librarian. I also enjoy coercing family and friends to join me on adventure runs (the Lancaster Event Center’s Mud Run promotions often include an image of me emerging from a mud pit wearing a wedding dress) and dancing nights.”

Kathy (Wieskamp) Haake, Academic Transfer, 1996

2013 Farm Family Excellence Award

Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce presented the 2013 Farm Family Excellence Award to the Taylor Farms of rural Ames, NE. The family has been working their land since the 1890s, and all the hard work since the beginning earned them the 2013 award.

Bill Taylor started farming right out of high school and took over the family farm from his father. Bill and his wife, Pat, had six children, and three of them became the fifth generation of Taylors to farm in the Fremont area. Sons, Justin, Zach and Adam Taylor joined the operation in 1996, 2004 and 2007. Justin Taylor graduated from SCC’s Agriculture Business & Management Technology program with a focus in Crop Production.

Besides working with local businesses to run their farm, the Taylors believe it is important to give back to the community and are involved in 4-H, youth baseball, area food banks, and serving on the local volunteer fire department’s board of directors.
In Their Own Words…

“...I lived in Beatrice, graduated high school in 1952 and headed to Fairbury Junior College to play football in the fall. Football was No. 1 in my book, but they insisted I also attend classes. After a great season I didn’t know what I wanted to do in college, so I quit school. Being in the Naval Reserve, I went to petty officer school in Olathe, KS. I went on active duty in 1954 after I married my high school favorite girl, Joan Griffith, also from Beatrice. I spent two years with the Seabees in the Philippines.

I knew I wanted to complete college, so I returned to FJC to earn my associate degree. Lo and behold, Red Grovert let me back on the football team, along with some other veterans. We had a great team and went to the Junior Rose Bowl in Texarkana.

From FJC I went to Colorado College on a football scholarship. I earned a degree in business, along with a teaching certificate. I returned to Fairbury and taught one semester in junior high and one year in senior high, teaching bookkeeping and modern problems.

In 1963 I became principal of the Martin Luther Home and School in Beatrice. MLH was a private church-affiliated program for special needs children. In 1968 we moved to the Minneapolis area to start residential programs for more special needs individuals. In 1970, three other men and I started our own corporation to build residential homes for special needs adults. We served approximately 70 individuals in small home-like settings for the next 43 years. It was called Community Living, Inc.

My wife Joan (Jo) and I have had quite a life. We have three children and on Feb. 7, 2014, we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. Thinking back, it really got started when we attended FJC. Of the schools we attended (FJC, Colorado College and the University of Nebraska), our best memories are the times in Fairbury. All the staff and students were special. The football team that went to Texarkana had a 50-year reunion a couple of years ago, and it was a great recall for all of us. Too bad the Bombers aren’t still around. I’m 80 years old now and retired!”

Jerald (Jerry) Gross, Academic Transfer, 1958

In Their Own Words…

“...I came to SCC’s Beatrice Campus from Derby, England. I ended up at SCC on a golf scholarship after following a good friend of mine, Marc Hawley, who graduated the previous year. We also both played college basketball and in 1996 I was part of the most successful team in school history (at that time), going 27-5 under Coach Johnson. I was two-time MVP of SCC’s golf team and earned All-Region IX honors. Coach Bill Campbell recruited me to SCC.

I loved the small community where everybody was so friendly on campus, and there was such a diverse mix of people from all over the world. I still keep in touch with many great friends I made in those two years.

From SCC I transferred to Florida A&M University in Tallahassee on a golf scholarship and made First-Team All-American before returning to the UK to work as part of a U.S. Athletic Scholarship consultancy, sending more than 40 athletes to the United States.

I then turned professional and spent a couple of years playing golf on the mini tours. But then I turned to my real passion, coaching. I spent several seasons traveling the world, coaching in Austria, Germany and New Zealand before returning to the UK. I now have my own coaching consultancy and am head of coaching at East Midlands Golf Academy in my hometown and work for England Golf with its national squads. I work primarily in performance coaching and try to elevate results of elite amateurs and players on the European Tour and development tours.

The highlight of my coaching career so far is getting to work with a player at the PGA Championship in 2013 alongside the current victorious European Ryder Cup team members.”

Steve Astle, 1996 Graduate (pictured below on right)

Featured Year: 1958 Comments

“...The time at Fairbury Junior College prepared me for entrance to UNL. I received a full scholarship for football. FJC was an inexpensive way to earn 66 hours of transferrable credits.” Maurice works as a federal arbitrator and previously was the director of human resources for Sensient Color Group and a vice president of human resources at level Sundstrand Aerospace (now a division of UTC – Hamilton Sundstrand).

Maurice Smith, Academic Transfer, Fairbury

“...It was the first step in obtaining a B.S. and M.S. in Education. Forty-three years in secondary education with 39 of them as a high school counselor. I had good training and good teachers from Fairbury Junior College.” Lloyd is now retired.

Lloyd Scarrow, Academic Transfer, Fairbury

Diana (Nelson) Killman, Academic Transfer (Elementary Education), Fairbury, worked as a teacher and is now a substitute teacher/para.

Harold Tegethoff, Academic Transfer (Pre-Engineering), Fairbury, is a retired teacher. He was a math teacher at Hutchinson Junior High and Hutchinson Junior College in Kansas.
Dusty Duis Can Thank a High School Friend for What Would Become a Career In Nursing

Duis’ friend worked at their hometown nursing home, and Duis joined her when she turned 16. “She and her sister were graduates of the Practical Nursing program at Southeast Community College,” Duis said. “When it came time for my graduation, I just followed suit!”

Duis was the oldest child and the first grandchild in her family to attend college. She said SCC was a great starting point for a small-town girl and her parents. “My parents were happy that it was close to home and a smaller school,” she said. “I appreciated the small class size and the personal attention and availability of the instructors.”

After graduating from the Practical Nursing program, Duis continued taking classes at SCC with a goal of enrolling in a Bachelor of Science in nursing program. “I met my husband in sociology class, which was another perk of attending SCC,” Duis said. “He was transferring to the University of Nebraska-Kearney in the fall, so I applied and was accepted into the BSN program through UNMC’s Kearney campus.” Duis transferred to UNMC’s Lincoln campus for her final year and graduated with her bachelor’s degree in December 2000.

“My first job as a registered nurse was on a medical/surgical floor of a local hospital where I worked for four-and-a-half years,” Duis said. “What a wonderful job to have as a new nurse! I then worked as a dialysis nurse for five years and now work for a local hospice agency covering the weekend hours. I have been doing this for approximately four-and-a-half years and love it!”

Duis feels privileged to care for patients at the end of their life journey. “Being with a family at the end of their loved one’s life is a very special blessing,” she said. “I enjoy educating the family and preparing them for end-of-life issues.”

For the past seven years Duis also has worked part-time as the nurse for the Diller-Odoll School District. “I consider this my fun job as I get to work with children,” Duis said. “I occasionally get called ‘doctor’ so you can’t beat that.”

Duis monitors student health records to ensure all children are current on state-required immunizations. She also monitors for chronic health conditions that require an individualized plan of care while at school.

“A big part of my job is to train school staff in medication administration, individualized student care plans and emergency response to asthma/anaphylaxis,” she said. “I truly enjoy the education piece of what I do.”

While in college Duis worked part-time at Martin Luther Home, in a nursing home and at the Good Samaritan Hospital. She also worked at a local hospital for one year while she finished her coursework at the UNMC Lincoln Campus.

Duis and her husband have a 7-year-old daughter and 2-year-old twins. Her husband launched his farming career and has been very successful, Duis said.

“I find that my nursing career is a great supplement for the farm life,” she said. “I am able to provide our needed health insurance and supply an income to cover our household expenses. I feel I have the best of both worlds as far as being a working, yet stay-at-home, mom.”

Duis said through her experiences she maintains contact with other Practical Nursing students at SCC.

“I am always interested in hearing their stories and goals for their nursing career,” Duis said. “When appropriate I do encourage them to continue their education after SCC. The nursing instructors at SCC are wonderful and made this small-town girl feel comfortable and welcome. SCC was the right choice for me.”

Dusty (Dekoning) Duis, Practical Nursing, 1996

From the Mailbox

“Greetings from Nebraska to the Class of 1958. I graduated in May of 1958 and married Homer Ward, June 1, 1958. We both graduated from FJC and our three children graduated from SCC. I worked for the President of the College for three years after graduation, had my children and then went back to work at SCC in Fairbury (1972) managing the College Bookstore. When the College moved to Beatrice I moved with them! By the time I retired from SCC I had been associated with the College for 37 years or maybe more considering I attended almost all of the basketball games and activities at school! I have made some very good friends and was a “Mom” to a lot of students.

I still live in Fairbury and do a lot of volunteer work as well as read, scrapbook, plan class reunions, play bridge, sing and play dominos. I love being Granny Max to my five grandchildren. My husband is currently Mayor of Fairbury and my friends tease me a lot, calling me the “FIRST LADY OF FAIRBURY.” WOW –the fun never stops!!! Send us a “shout out” telling us about yourself. Our Alumni group would love to hear from you.”

Maxine (Swett) Ward, Secretarial and Business Administration, Fairbury
What Was Happening in 1958?

1958: Do you remember when . . .

- A postage stamp was 4¢
- A can of Chef Boyardee spaghetti was 19¢ and so was a loaf of bread
- A gallon of gas cost 24¢ but a gallon of milk was $1.01
- The new daytime game show “Concentration” began
- “77 Sunset Strip” first aired

You danced to . . .

“All I Have To Do Is Dream”
“Poor Little Fool”
“Hard Headed Woman”
“Purple People Eater”

And you went to see the movie . . .

“Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”
“Vertigo”

What Was Happening on Campus in 1996?

- Coach Dan Johnson posted his 300th win during the 1995-96 basketball season and also was named Coach of the Year in the conference and region.
- Leandro Massaro and Kerri Pfiefer were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.
- “Hansel and Gretel” was performed on campus for more than 1,000 elementary school students.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony for a new swine breeding barn was held at the Ag Center on Feb. 16.
- William Sapp was presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Sapp graduated from Fairbury Junior College in 1951.

1996: Do you remember when . . .

- A postage stamp was 32¢
- A loaf of bread cost $1.15
- The minimum wage was raised to $5.15
- The first ever successful cloning of a mammal was Dolly the sheep
- A major snowstorm paralyzed the Midwest
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended the year above the 6,000 mark

You spent time at the movies watching . . .

“Twister”
“Independence Day”
“Jerry Maguire”
“Star Trek: First Contact”

And listening to . . .

Spice Girls; Eric Clapton; Snoop Doggy Dogg; Sheryl Crow; Red Hot Chili Peppers

In Memory of . . .

Fairbury
Larry D. Bloyd (Pre-Journalism, 1958)
Dana W. Deger (Academic Transfer, 1973)
Gene A. Watermeier
(Formed, SCC Board of Governors)
Raymond Zurfluh (Business, 1955)

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1958 Graduates?

Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call 800-233-5027 ext. 1216.

Elmer Antons
Diane Brettmann
Ramona Bunting
Ronald Chamberlain
Jerry Cole
Gary D’Angelo
James Davis
Bass soloist
Orvin Kuhlmann
and
Jo Ann Krepecik
played at many FJC functions in 1958.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1996 Graduates?

Kevin Bowling
Julie Dillman
Kara Edwards
Robert Enlow
Thad Galusha
Janell Gottula
Amy Hartless
Rachelle Henry
Cynthia Hestermann
Sheri Hicks
Norma Hubble
Michael Kleeber
Leandro Massaro
Tim Meyn
Jeramy Olberding
Teresa Pfaff
Michael Pilkowski
Matthew Ray
Bruce Russell
Virginia Scheel
Joanna Schelhorn
Christopher Schram
Angela Schulze
Jennifer Schwisow
Christie Siebels
Allison Steib
Cynthia Svoberda
Rich Velde

Roger Weichel
Lonnie Weidenhaft
In front: Brian Schwarz, Jennifer Mick, Kim Baehr and Jon Germer.
Standing in back: Jeri Duedler, Brian Brhel, Michelle Endorf, Jaris Hennerberg, Todd Zimmerman, Brandt Jantzen and Scott Williams.
After 21 years as dean of the Arts & Sciences Division, Richard Ross retired in December 2013. Prior to accepting his position as dean at SCC, Richard worked as a high school math teacher and basketball coach, a savings and loan officer, an insurance adjuster, and dean at Brown Mackie College in Kansas. When Richard began his tenure at SCC, the College was still focused entirely on technical education, and Richard was at the helm of General Education: writing, math, computers, science, and social sciences classes that career and technical program students take as part of their degree programs. Then, in 1993, the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education approved a two-year academic transfer program at SCC. Under Richard’s leadership and guidance, the program has grown to the largest at the College. He has successfully negotiated many transfer agreements and associate-to-bachelor degree programs with four-year colleges in the state to help students transfer seamlessly between institutions. Richard is known among his colleagues for his innovative thinking, his passion for doing the best he can for students, his many stories, his kindness and respect for others, and his love for his family. SCC would not be what it is today without the work that Richard Ross brought to his job here.

When Janelle Lamb began as an instructor in Administrative Secretarial in 1979, she was teaching typing classes on electric typewriters, electronic calculators and shorthand. Janelle says, “We were working with carbon copies and learning about the automatic erasing feature on typewriters.” During her 34 years of teaching, the biggest changes were obviously technology. Even the program name changed several times to more accurately reflect this career: Secretarial Technology, Office Technology, Business Information Technology, and Office Professional. However, one thing remained constant, and that was the gratification Janelle received when students shared the impact she had made on their lives. “I enjoyed the relationships with my fellow staff members and students,” she said.

Human Service graduates will tell you they particularly remember Dave Lamb’s classes. He was engaged, caring and creative with a passion for helping students succeed. Dave commented, “I was very proud to be given the opportunity to manage the program as chair from 2002 to 2009. During that time I implemented a logo for the program, which is still used, and added a required skill display each quarter to ensure that the students could define and demonstrate their skills. Lamb’s career began in 1975 as an instructor. Over the years he found that personally he became a better active listener, a skill the program advocates. “It is extremely rewarding to walk into any human service agency in Lincoln and visit with SCC graduates using their skills to make a difference in the community,” he said. “I am grateful for the opportunity I had to assist students’ growth and success in their careers.”

Dave and Janelle are caring for their two beautiful new grandbabies! They had two new granddaughters born last fall, so the timing was perfect to retire. “We are now rocking babies instead of grading papers! Our extended plans include traveling, reading (for fun rather than work!), volunteering, and spending more time with family and friends.”

After teaching in the Professional Truck Driver Training program for 13 years, Dave Grant parked his SCC truck and retired in December 2013. Prior to teaching at SCC, Dave was an over-the-road driver for 36 years, and his experience was invaluable in training nearly 1,200 students. He also enjoyed his association with the Nebraska Trucking Association and speaking engagements to civic groups about sharing the road with equipment. He continues to keep in contact with many students and finds it rewarding to hear about their successful careers in the trucking industry. Retirement will find Dave spending time with his grandchildren and traveling with his wife. We can guess who will be doing the driving!

Pat Enevoldsen encouraged her students to choose a job they love so they would never work a day in their life. She lived that model and, even after retirement, remains actively involved in early childhood education by serving on the LAEYC board, volunteering as a trainer for the Early Childhood Training Center through the Department of Education, and other local boards advocating for early childhood programs. She confesses that seeing the light bulb go on in the eyes of young children or even adult students was very fulfilling. Her SCC career began as an adjunct instructor; and in 1996 she accepted full-time employment as the director of the SCC Child Development Center. Children and staff continue to enjoy the renovation she coordinated for the center and playground. The summer camp she began in 1997 remains a vital program for children ages 6-11. With more than 35 years at SCC, Pat has come full circle and is now continuing her adjunct role.

Hired in 1979 as a maintenance worker to work on the HVAC system and plumbing, Bob Aguilar had the responsibility for the newly built SCC Lincoln Campus at 8800 O St. With a staff of four responsible for maintenance and four as custodians, they maintained the building. Bob was promoted to plant director in 1981. The 8800 O St. campus had 10 additions to the building since 1979; and the College continued to grow by adding the Continuing Education Center at 68th & O St., and Education Square at 11th & O St. Over the years, he and his staff dealt with a major roof collapse, handled environmental concerns with the Stevens Creek watershed project, built an exercise area and added trees to the campus through a grant-funded project, added a baseball field, and created parking lots and more sidewalks. When Bob retired in December 2013, the Physical Plant had a staff of 50. He estimates that the snow removal increased to four times the original area, which is no small task, especially in the winter of 2009-10 when Lincoln had 41.6 inches of snow, and snow was piled to the top of the roof. Best wishes, Bob, for a more relaxed pace in retirement.
Skinner Recognized by Kansas Respiratory Care Society

**Cheryl Skinner**, director of Cardiopulmonary Services at Community Memorial Healthcare, Marysville, KS, has been named the 2013 Kansas Respiratory Practitioner of the Year by the Kansas Respiratory Care Society. Graduating from the Respiratory Care program in December 2007, she accepted her first career position as a respiratory therapist with Community Memorial Healthcare. KRCs President Suzanne Bollig said, “Over the last year, Cheryl has given generously of herself and her talents to Community Memorial Healthcare and the community it serves. Her dedication and professionalism is to be commended. I am personally in awe of her enthusiasm and dedication and am proud to consider her among my colleagues and fellow professionals.” The Kansas Respiratory Practitioner of the Year Award provides recognition to a respiratory practitioner for their contributions and advancement to the field of respiratory care, excellence and quality in patient care, and living the qualities of respiratory care in their community. Candidates must be a licensed respiratory care provider and American Association for Respiratory Care member, and must be nominated by a member of their peers. Skinner was nominated by colleague Charity Clark, Via Christi Hospital, Wichita. The following excerpt was taken from Clark’s nomination letter: “In less than six months, Cheryl has piloted multiple projects that promote, educate and advocate for patients and therapists across Kansas. She graciously shares her ideas with other therapists on the KRCs website. She also mentors her staff and invites others to become involved in society activities. Cheryl continually takes her passion for the profession outside the walls of her workplace to promote, educate and advocate. Her actions represent the core values of the KRCs. I believe Cheryl is most deserving of this award and appreciate everything she has done for patients, care providers and the community.” Skinner and her staff have been instrumental in promoting respiratory therapy health issues such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, smoking cessation, sleep apnea, etc. They have participated in a wide variety of community events in Marysville and Marshall County, including the Union Pacific Health Fair, CMH Health Fair, Parents as Teachers Childhood Health and Safety Fair, Lung Health Awareness Day, and KRCs Drive 4COPD booth at the Big Blue Car Show. Skinner says, “I am so very thankful for the wonderful educational/clinical experience that I had at Southeast Community College-Lincoln. The Respiratory Care instructors always went above and beyond to prepare students for an excellent career. I am also very proud of my brother, Jace Bausch, who graduated from the Respiratory Care program in December 2013.”

Harvey Appointed VP of Student Services and Lincoln Campus Director

**Bev Harvey**, an SCC graduate who has held numerous positions at the institution, is the new vice president for student services/Lincoln Campus director. Harvey replaces Jeanette Volker, who retired in early January after 34 years.

Harvey grew up on a farm near Lyons and graduated from Lyons High School in 1984. She attended Wayne State College for a short time, then moved to Lincoln and enrolled at SCC in 1986. She graduated from the Radiologic Technology program in June 1989. After working in radiology in Jefferson City, Mo., and at the former Lincoln General Hospital, Harvey became a part-time clinical instructor in SCC’s Radiography program. In 1995 she accepted the clinical instructor position in the program. She became program chair two years later.

Harvey played a key role in SCC delivering the program curriculum to other parts of Nebraska via fiber optic satellite. In 2000, SCC offered its first online program course and became the first accredited online radiography program in the nation, eventually offering the program across the lower 48 states, Hawaii and American Samoa.

In July 2009, Harvey became dean of the Continuing Education Division at SCC. During her tenure she became a champion with Global Corporate College, a network of community colleges around the nation to deliver workforce training to companies with a national and international footprint. As champion, Harvey worked with community colleges from 10 different states across the central and western region to engage companies in corporate training.

In addition, SCC established itself as the leader in creating customized e-learning courses for corporate training. Harvey highlighted some short and long term goals in her new position. “As far as the Lincoln Campus goes, I’m working with staff to finalize various construction projects at the different Lincoln locations, as well as prioritizing future projects,” she said. “As for Student Services, the short term goal is to get to know all of my staff better and find out what they need from me to support them in carrying out the college mission and meeting the needs of all of our students and helping them do their job to the best of their ability.” Harvey said she plans to utilize data to drive future actions such as assessing student needs “to make their time with us as positive as possible and to support their learning experiences.”

“I also want to identify what long-term training programs are needed to help staff continuously improve their knowledge, skills and abilities,” she said. “I want to bring our use of technology to the forefront and implement strategies that strive to engage and enhance the college experience for students using the technology that they are used to on a daily basis, in addition to assisting those without access and/or skills.” Harvey has a 9-year-old son, Harrison, and a 7-year-old daughter, Lillian (Lillie).

From World Traveler to Innkeeper

**Zach Rath** completed his associate degree in Food Service Management and Culinary Arts from SCC in 1999. The next step in his career was working for Clipper Cruise Lines on board its small cruise ships. He began as a galley steward and was soon promoted to garde manger chef and then to sous chef. From there his travels have taken him from Antarctica, South America, New Zealand, the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe. Most recently he stepped foot on his last continent, Africa! He has known since high school that he would someday own and operate his own bed and breakfast, but it was only a question of where. Open Gates Bed & Breakfast in Darien, GA, is the gem that captures the perfect setting to showcase his culinary skills and passion for hospitality. Grounded and loving it, Zach says, “the stars lined up to pursue my goal in a very quiet, quaint southern town.”

Zach invites alumni to visit Georgia and enjoy some quality time at Open Gates Bed & Breakfast.
Brad Widman’s business acumen was spot on when he and partners opened Honest Abe’s in 2011. He and his partners have not strayed from their original philosophy of creating, cultivating and maintaining a culture where people want to come to work. That may explain why they were chosen by the Journal Star’s Lincoln’s Choice Awards in 2013 as the “Best Burger in Lincoln.” They firmly believe that if you take care of employees first, they will take care of customers like no one else can. Walk into Honest Abe’s and the atmosphere is contagious; they are creative and have fun. And, Brad notes, “We serve burgers and fries. Nothing more, nothing less. With the small menu, we can focus on doing things the right way.”

His experience in food service began in 2011 with GUP Kitchen, a food truck. Immediately after graduation from the Business Administration program in 2011, Brad left food service and went to work in “cubicle life” as a customer service and technical support rep. He appreciated the opportunity, and it provided a clear answer that he would never survive in that work environment.

In 2012, when Brad and his partners heard that their landlord was getting ready to tear down the ATM kiosk in the parking lot (fondly referred to as “the shack”), they saw it as the perfect opportunity to create Sasquatch! Bakery, focusing on cookies and cake in a jar. Brad describes it as “over-the-top creative and wildly successful.” Their growth continued in summer 2013 with the opening of Sebastian’s Table, a tapas restaurant in downtown Lincoln. The menu has a Spanish influence with a Midwestern twist, with the focus on shareable, small plates. The Sasquatch! Café opened in the Wells Fargo building downtown in March 2014. It serves the menu from GUP Kitchen and Sasquatch! baked goods.

He currently serves in a corporate role overseeing all marketing and operations for four restaurants. And, even with all of the growth, he found time to continue his education at Bellevue University, receiving a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. Brad said, “My SCC degree provided a firm foundation for the problems we have faced. There will continue to be challenges as we grow, but it drives us to work even harder.” He invites SCC graduates to visit any one of the restaurants for a fun dining experience.

Eric Carter, executive chef of Providence New American Kitchen in the historic Hilton Hotel, President, Kansas City, MO, recently was selected as the Best New Chef in Kansas City. Eric previously held chef positions in Tulsa, OK, at The Polo Grill and The American Restaurant in Kansas City. His talent was recognized on a national scale when he received a coveted invitation to cook at New York’s national not-for-profit James Beard Foundation. His lifelong fascination with the culinary arts, hard work and passion have paid off.

2003 Food Service/Hospitality

Mention the name Brady Beran and SCC staff and faculty will smile. They also will tell you that Brady Beran lives his life motto: “Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent attitude.” A 2009 Academic Transfer graduate, Brady continued his education at UNL, earning a bachelor’s degree in Child, Youth and Family Science, minoring in Psychology and Communication.

That was no small feat given that on Sept. 24, 2004, he suffered a traumatic brain injury during a high school varsity football game. He was minutes from death after collapsing on the sidelines and had a slim chance of surviving. “Prayers and the grace of God saved my life that night,” he said. He faced death several more times during the next five weeks while he remained in a coma and endured four major surgeries. When transferred to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, he was unable to speak, read, walk or swallow. His determination and zeal for life since his TBI has been nothing short of miraculous. He accepted his first full-time job as a spiritual growth encourager with Back to the Bible. When budget cuts eliminated that position, Brady began working at the Legacy Terrace as activities aide. He still maintains his professional speaking career (www.bradyberan.com) and married Amber in July 2012.

Blinda Weber, 1995 Business Administration graduate, recently was elected second vice president, group customer connections and operations for the group division of Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. In her new role, she is responsible for the overall management of the group division’s programs, projects and initiatives. Blinda joined Ameritas in 1997 as a group marketing micro specialist. She has held several positions within the division, most recently director of group business systems. She also graduated from Doane College with a B.A. degree in corporate communication. A member of National Association of Dental Plans, Blinda serves on two committees focused on FAIR Health activities and health care reform. She also is a member of LOMA’s group systems committee. Congratulations, Blinda! Courtesy of Ameritas

Jeremy Woitaszewski, AIA, NCARB, recently accepted a position with BVH Architects, Omaha, as a registered architect. Jeremy began his career with Kenneth Hahn Architects as a CAD technician. He continued his education at Iowa State University, earning a Bachelor of Architecture degree and brings 14 years of experience in project planning and design to his new position.

1998 Computer Aided Design Drafting

Terrell Bell recalls listening to his uncles and family members talk about their truck driving careers. After several fast food jobs, he began asking questions and became serious about his future. Upon graduating from the Professional Truck Driver Training program, he accepted a driving position with Gana Trucking. Bell said, “I work large construction sites like Pinnacle Bank Arena and State Fair Park, but I also do small residential jobs. The trucking industry is so vital to our economy. It has been fun to watch Lincoln grow and to know I play a small part in that.” Terrell recently attended the Professional Truck Driver Training Job Fair as a recruiter for Gana. He admitted that “I never thought I would be back as a recruiter at SCC, but it was a good feeling to be on the other side of the table visiting with prospective employees.” Terrell also is responsible for training new drivers and reviewing policies and procedures regarding equipment instruction.
Update on Retired Fire Technology Program Chair

Bill Meehan can honestly say he has been in the fire industry all of his life. A native of York, NE, one of his first assignments while in the Navy was on the airport crash crew in Olathe, KS. He then accepted a position with the state of Nebraska teaching volunteer fire departments, including departments in Kansas, Colorado and South Dakota. As he and his family moved throughout Nebraska, he was a volunteer for numerous fire departments. The job required evening and weekend hours, and with a young family, he was missing family activities.

In 1981, Bill accepted the chair position for the SCC Fire Technology program. He coordinated the program, with the help of a few part-time adjunct instructors, for 23 years. With limited travel requirements, Bill was now able to spend quality time with his family. However, that was not at the exclusion of SCC students.

One could say that SCC students became an extension of his own family. Former students continue to be a part of his life, and when Bill experienced health problems, the support from students was phenomenal. So much so, that Bill was moved from a single bed hospital room to a double room, with one bed removed, to accommodate the visitors. Bill recalled, “I was so blessed. When we had snow, my sidewalks were shoveled. Students came with shovels and work clothes and built a waterfall in my back yard.” Many of those students have advanced to fire chiefs, fire officers, fire investigators for law firms, and even city administrators, and they still take time from their busy schedules to stop and visit.

The program went from 18 students to 100, with a wait list of up to two years at the time of Bill’s retirement in 2004. He was instrumental in the design of the fire tower and building. He implemented evening classes, worked with Lincoln Fire & Rescue, and received a donated fire truck.

With more than 50 years of fire service, Bill continues to serve on the planning committee for the fire arson investigations, is an administrator of the Fire & Arson conference professionals, is a member of the Society of Fire Service Instructors, served on the SCC Advisory Committee until 2013, and was a volunteer for the Bennet Volunteer Fire Department until 2009. He thoroughly enjoys the time with his children and eight grandchildren. The coffee pot is always on, and Bill would love to visit with former students.

SCC, LPS Career Center Moving Forward After Voters Approve Bond Issue

Construction on a new $25 million career center on SCC’s Lincoln Campus will begin soon, thanks to the Feb. 11 passage of a $153 million bond issue requested by Lincoln Public Schools. The career center has been in the planning stages for more than a year. Officials from SCC and LPS traveled to select communities across the country to determine a preliminary concept, held numerous meetings to help determine career areas, then discussed design plans with an architect. Dr. Jack Huck, SCC president, said the center’s options will engage students earlier in the career exploration process. “This is an exciting project on so many levels,” Huck said. “High school students throughout our service area will have the opportunity to explore several career pathways, and they will be able to earn high school and college credit at the same time. Exposing students to possible future careers, while at the same time introducing college-level coursework, will serve them well.”

Broad fields that will be part of the center are agriculture, food and natural resources; business, marketing/management and entrepreneurship; communication and information technology; health sciences; human sciences and education; and skilled and technical sciences. Clusters within the broad field areas are bio-science technology; food processing and technology; financial services; business, marketing/management and entrepreneurship; programming, database and networking; health; culinary, K-12 education and early childhood education; and manufacturing, welding, engineering, construction trades, and automotive technology. Preliminary plans are to accommodate school districts throughout SCC’s 15-county service area who wish to use the facility. Those plans will be finalized at a later date. The plan is to hold morning and afternoon classes in the center, but that could expand to include evening and possibly weekend classes, Huck said. The two-story center, with approximately 125,000 square feet, will be attached to the south side of SCC’s existing Lincoln Campus building at 8800 O St.

We would appreciate your help locating 1996 Lincoln Graduates!

We want to stay in touch with our grads! Please access our website https://www.southeast.edu//MissingGraduatesLincoln1996/ to view our listing of the 1996 missing grads.

Contact us at alumni@southeast.edu with any US mail address, email address, or name updates. Thank you.

In Memory of…

Lincoln

John Anderson, (Retired Instructor, Machine Tool Technology)
Melinda Devlin (Business Administration, 2004)
Timothy Draper (Human Services, 1993)
Randy Hiatt (Assistant Director Career Academies & K-12 Connections for Instruction)
Linda Holmes (Human Services, 2011)
Karen Miller (Business Administration, 1978)
Patricia L. (Myers) Lehecka (Office Technology, 1983)
Courtney Pochlman (Dental Assisting, 2003)
Dave Wolfe (Motorcycle Technology, 1976)
Adam Wolken (Professional Truck Driver Training, 2008)
Almand Bros. Employee Wins STEP Award

Afton Hollertz, a 2004 Manufacturing Engineering Technology graduate, recently received The Manufacturing Institute’s Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Production) Award. The STEP Award honors women who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their careers and represent all levels of the manufacturing industry.

“Afton is a passionate, creative thinker beyond her years who is unafraid to push the boundaries of her role at Allmand,” said Brad Allmand, CEO. “She continually seeks deeper understanding, doing research and asking questions that lead her to propose ideas and improve projects which ultimately impact the work environment and bottom line. “A career in manufacturing has provided me with opportunities that I may not have had working in any other industry,” Afton said. “Now, as a manufacturing engineer, I can utilize my strengths to positively impact our entire company, expanding far beyond the production floor. I get to work and build relationships with various groups of people, allowing me to learn and grow as I continue to gain experience.”

“These 160 women are the faces of exciting careers in manufacturing,” said Jennifer McNelly, president of The Manufacturing Institute. “We chose to honor these women because they each made significant achievements in manufacturing through positive impact on their company and the industry as a whole.” The STEP Awards are part of the larger STEP Ahead initiative launched to examine and promote the role of women in the manufacturing industry through recognition, research and best-practices for attracting, advancing and retaining strong female talent.

On Feb. 6, The Manufacturing Institute recognized 160 recipients of the STEP Award at a reception in Washington, D.C. The STEP Awards program highlighted each honoree’s story, including their leadership and accomplishments in manufacturing.

1963 Graduates Attend 50-Year Reunion

Twenty-seven 1963 graduates and their guests attended a 50-year reunion at SCC during the annual Open House on Nov. 3, 2013. Everyone enjoyed a buffet luncheon and a guided tour of the campus and shared many stories about their college days.
Racing is in the blood of Bill Slezak and his twin sons, Shawn and Shane. And that’s no surprise since it was in the blood of Stu Vavra, Shawn and Shane’s grandfather, who had success racing circle tracks during a 24-year career.

Bill, a 1981 graduate of the Diesel Technology program, raced weekly for eight years at local dirt tracks (Street Stock and Pro Am classes) until Shawn and Shane were born. At that time the racing budget was spent on necessities for raising his sons.

“My love of race car driving was rekindled in 2004 when I was asked to drive a car for Greg Ekeler,” Bill said. Ekeler is a 1988 SCC graduate of the General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program. “I raced in the Outlaw Cruiser class. We won quite a few races, including the 2006 State Championship at Junction Motor Speedway at McCool Junction.”

No, the apples didn’t fall far from the tree as Shawn and Shane do their share of racing, too.

Shawn, a 2006 graduate of the Automotive Technology program, began racing Figure 8 cars in 2002 and was alongside Shawn throughout the early 2000s.

“We won multiple feature races at several different tracks and a track championship at Thayer County Speedway in 2006,” Shane said. Shane decided to study Automotive Technology because he wanted to learn how to work on a variety of makes and models of vehicles. “I enjoyed my time at SCC and met friends and great instructors and found the course to be very hands-on, which was quite helpful after graduation,” he said.

Bill echoed Shane’s words. “Shane, Shawn and I feel that the education we received at SCC in Milford was a solid foundation that helped us succeed in racing, our jobs and just daily life in general,” said Bill, who is the assistant highway superintendent at Saline County. “I still enjoy working on anything mechanical whenever I get a chance.”

Shawn is engaged to be married in September, purchased a house and sold his race car. “I decided to sell my race car, but I am working on a deal with a car owner from Goodland, Kan., where he would own the car and I would drive and maintain it,” he said. “If that doesn’t work out, I will go boating with my fiancée, friends and family.”

Shawn has worked as a mechanic at Ekeler Repair in Exeter since 2002. He has raced at approximately 12 different tracks in five states. He praised the education and training he received while at SCC. “The education I received at SCC was second to none,” Shawn said.

Shane also worked at Ekeler Repair, working on farm equipment and all makes and models of vehicles. In 2008, he decided it was time for a different path and began working for the Nebraska Department of Roads as a highway maintenance laborer until fall 2011.

“That’s when I began working for the Lancaster County Engineering Department as a heavy equipment mechanic,” said Shane, who still works there. “We work on a fleet of equipment that includes motor graders, dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, and tractors. I am glad I have found my way back to this trade. Not only did my education at SCC teach me how to make a living, but it also helped tremendously when it came to my favorite hobby, dirt track racing. We built many of our own motors, transmissions and rear-end gears for our racing.”

Shane has enjoyed tremendous success since 2007. He was the season points championship runner-up in 2009 and 2010 in Hobby Stock and won several feature races during the next few years. At the end of the 2012 season he decided it was time to sell his race car. He wasn’t off the track for long, though.

Shane received a call from a good friend during the winter of 2012 and was offered a chance to drive again. In spring 2013 they decided to travel to Boone, Iowa, for the Frostbuster race, where Shane had a second-place “A” feature finish. Toward the end of the 2013 season Shane went back to Boone for the famous Boone Speedway IMCA Super Nationals. On his first attempt to qualify for the prestigious IMCA Super Nationals, Shane won his heat race on the first day to qualify for the main event later that week.

“I was very happy to come home with a 17th-place finish in the biggest race of my career on my first attempt,” Shane said. “I plan to take a few years off from driving and plan to be a fan and enjoy watching from the grandstands for a few years. All of my success in my work life and racing adventures would not have been possible without a great education from SCC.”
Morrow Collision Center is Awarded the BBB Integrity Award

The eight-hour block of time in which Dan Morrow was taking Auto Collision Repair Technology classes at SCC’s Milford Campus simply wasn’t enough. He wanted more. Whether in class or working at body shops to help pay for school, Morrow couldn’t get enough.

“When I moved to Lincoln, it wasn’t long before I was fixing cars in my garage after I would get home from work,” Morrow said. “I ended up hiring a couple of SCC-Milford auto body students to work in my garage as well. I then realized that I needed to be doing this on my own.”

Morrow, 36, graduated from SCC-Milford in 1997 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Auto Collision Repair Technology. He returned to his native Tekamah and worked at Larry’s Body Shop for a while, then moved to Lincoln in 1999. He opened his own shop, Morrow Collision Center Inc., in early 2002.

Morrow, a 1995 graduate of Tekamah-Herman High School, said he took auto mechanics classes, “but I have always been interested in the beauty of a car more than the mechanics.” He enrolled in SCC’s Auto Collision Repair Technology program because “I had always heard it was the best around for automotive training.”

Morrow said he learned basic auto body principles while working in his hometown shop.

“I had a good base in auto body knowledge and skills already, but SCC added a lot to that,” he said. “I learned that there are many ways to do the same operations, and that I could take the best of everything I see and use it myself. I really enjoyed attending Milford and made some lifelong friends. The instructors there are great, and I have a lot of respect for them and what they do. I definitely wouldn’t have the patience to teach that many kids how to do collision repair.”

Morrow Collision Center Inc. is located at 3600 N. 22nd St. in Lincoln.

“We do collision repair on all makes of automobiles, utilizing the latest in technology, including our frame measuring system, welders, computer estimating/management software, and our advanced refinishing system,” Morrow said. “There are five of us working here, including my brother Tom, who is my estimator and manager.”

Morrow was so proud of the customer service his company provides that he decided it was time to try to win the Better Business Bureau’s Integrity Award. The business was honored as the 2013 winner in the 1-9 Employee Division.

“The Better Business Bureau Integrity Award is difficult to win and involves filling out a lengthy application describing how you use ethics in your business on a daily basis with your customers and employees,” Morrow said. “We have been a member of the BBB for 10 years with not even one complaint, so I thought it was time to try for an Integrity Award.”

Morrow praised his family, particularly his wife, for all of the support. “My wife, Julie, has been like a saint for all these years, putting up with my long hours and weekends of work,” he said. “And now that we have four daughters and my business is established, I have a fairly normal work schedule.”

The couple’s daughters are (left to right) Allison (7), Danica (2), Georgia (5) and Madelyn (9).

December 1971 Architectural Graduates Reunite

Three classmates of the December 1971 graduating class of Architectural-Engineering got together for a reunion during SCC’s annual Open House last November. According to Steve Grubbs, “We had a great time visiting with each other and had a nice tour of the campus with one of our instructors. This is still a progressive campus.”

From left: Steve Grubbs, Deb (Steinbach) Volnek and Ron Froschheiser

Keith Jones Retires

Keith Jones began his career at SCC in 1981 as a Diesel Truck Technology instructor. After 32 years of service, the College honored Keith with a retirement coffee on Dec. 17, 2013. Keith graduated from the Diesel program at Central Community College-Hastings and applied his knowledge in Vietnam with the U.S. Navy as a diesel engine machinist. He then worked in the diesel truck service industry in Aurora, NE, before starting his teaching career on the Milford Campus.

Keith has provided hundreds of technicians with the skills required to work on all types of trucks and has inspired his students to deliver excellent customer service at all times. SCC will remember Keith as an instructor who never gave up on a difficult problem. He will be missed here while he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

SCC Welcomes New Instructors to Milford Campus!

John “Jake” Vance was hired in January 2014 as an instructor in the Diesel-Ag Equipment Service Tech program. He teaches fourth- and fifth-quarter students the Electrical, Power Trains, HVAC, Sprayers, and GPS classes. Jake is a 2011 Diesel Farm Technology graduate.

Dan Schweitzer, June 2007 Electrical Technology and December 2007 Electromechanical Technology graduate, began employment with SCC in January 2014. Schweitzer is the third- and fourth-quarter instructor in the Electrical & Electromechanical Technology program, teaching Residential & Commercial Wiring and Industrial Wiring, both based on the National Electrical Code. Dan also will be teaching AutoCad and Electrical Estimating classes.

Behind the Scenes

Melissa Troyer began her working career at SCC Milford as a computer operator in the I.T. Department in 1993. In 1995 she accepted the Financial Aid Technician position and currently retains the position of Associate Director of Financial Aid. Melissa received the Farmers & Merchants Staff Award in 2011, the Trio Staff Member-of-the-Year Award in 2013 and was recently honored with her 20-Year SCC Service Award.
100th Student Built House Auction

It all began in 1961, when students on Southeast Community College’s Milford Campus constructed a house on campus.

Fifty-two years later, house No. 100 was auctioned on Dec. 12, 2013.

Jeremy and Shannon Steckly of Beaver Crossing purchased the house for $108,000.

And just like 52 years ago, when Engvert and Darrol Larsen of Cordova auctioned the first house, the fourth-generation Larsen, Ethan Larsen, auctioned this home to the public.

“We are very excited to build and auction the 100th house in the program’s history,” said Ron Petsch, chair of SCC’s Building Construction Technology program. “This is historic, and the Larsen family has been with us from the start.”

Since 1979 Larsen and Associates Auctioneers have donated their house sale proceeds back to the SCC Educational Foundation. Since the beginning the Larsens have provided nearly $40,000 toward scholarships for students.

Three programs on SCC’s Milford Campus once again partnered to build a maintenance-free house containing 1,568 square feet of living space. Students in Building Construction Technology, Electrical & Electromechanical Technology, and Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology built the house from the ground up.

Ron Petsch, program chair of SCC’s Building Construction Technology program, presents a clock to Lance Larsen on behalf of the Larsen family’s contribution to SCC for so many years. Pictured from left: Daryl Taylor, Stanley Rhodes, Lance Larsen, Robert Rhodes and Lars Larsen.

Lance Larsen makes introductions before the sale begins. From left: Ethan Larsen, Lance Larsen, Robert Rhodes, Lars Larsen and Daryl Taylor.

1969 – “I went to Milford to take up air conditioning and heating, but the class was full. I asked what class was open and they said electronics, so I said, ‘sign me up!’ Looking back, I am sure glad the other class was full. Jobs were easy to come by, and I worked in 32 different states. Milford, I owe a lot for the training I got there.”

Richard Kotrous,
Electronic Engineering Technology

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1958 Graduates?

Lyle Allan
David Bennett
Jeremy Boyce
Chad Brown
Benjamin Carpenter
Ross Cerveny
Brian Chessmore
Charles Christiansen
Robert Clark
Brandon Crocker
Brock Davis
Nathan Fisher
David Flanagan
Jonathan Frauen
Virgil Holz
Joe Delgado
Richard Dieken
Bobby Drucker
Donald Eggl
John Faust
Robert Furtak
Sam Garner
Doyle Hailey
Tammie Funk
Matthew Hanson
Derek Hardesty
Daniel Harms
David Harris
Joseph Haynes
Chris Heimens
Travis Heldenbrand
Timothy Heyen
Calvary Hollister
Allen Hoogers
Kurt Hulsing
Edward Hunt
Nasir Iman
Nathan James
Andrew Johnson
Shannon Johnson
John Kos
John Lancaster
Nathan Lee
Michael Martin
Edward Mashek
Terry McMan
Andrew Moore
Robert Moore
Daniel Mountney
Daniel Patrick
Jeffrey Radabaugh
Marty Rejda
Daniel Rice
Carolyn Riley
Lennie Robbins
Gary Roop
Tyer Roth
Shawn Sammons
Jeffrey Whisner
Chris Schantz
Christie Sieffner
Jamie Sommerfeld
Brandon Steffe
Bradley Sturdy
Gabriel Synovec
Jessica Tripp-Fenton

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1996 Graduates?

Jeffrey Radabaugh
Heather Tunink
Marty Rejda
Robert Smith
Robert Smith
Patrick Murphy
Robert Vance
Gary Wagner
Robert Weber
Donald Wrightsmman

1966 – “My dad sending me to SCC Milford after I graduated from high school in Malvern, IA, was the best thing that could have happened to me!”

Don Knop, Machine Tool Technology
Twenty-four students received their Licensed Practical Nursing pins March 20, 2014, the 100th class to graduate from Southeast Community College’s Lincoln Campus program since it began 50 years ago. A reception, complete with a slide show, photo albums of past classes and refreshments, was held for students, their families, alumni, current and former instructors, and friends.

Pictured below is the Lincoln Public School of Practical Nursing first class of graduates, October 18, 1964.

The first seven classes of the Lincoln Public School of Practical Nursing were graduated under the Manpower Development and Training Act and started on Oct. 28, 1963, by the State Board of Nursing. On March 17, 1964, approximately 30 students were admitted into the first program class, which would admit students every six months. Since that first class 50 years ago, more than 2,500 students have graduated.

To read more, please visit: https://www.southeast.edu/News_Stories/Practical_Nursing_in_Lincoln_Celebrates_100th_Class/