Featured Alumni
Years: 1961 & 1976
Stories, photos & more!

Upcoming Events & Information

- Labor Day, College Closed ......................... Sept. 1
- Summer Quarter Ends ................................ Sept. 23
- Milford Graduation, 6:30 p.m. .................... Sept. 24
- Lincoln Graduation, 7 p.m. ....................... Sept. 24
- Fall Quarter Begins .................................. Oct. 6
- Trades & Industry Career Fair, Lincoln Campus Oct. 14
- Agriculture Business & Management Technology Career Fair, Beatrice Campus Oct. 22
- Food Service/Hospitality Career Fair, Lincoln Campus Oct. 29
- Open House ............................................ Nov. 2
- Open House ............................................. Nov. 2
- Fire Protection Paramedic Fair, Lincoln Campus Nov. 4
- Professional Truck Driver Training Job Fair, Lincoln Campus Nov. 4
- Career Connections Fair, Lincoln Campus Nov. 19
- Thanksgiving Break, College Closed Nov. 25-27-28
- Fall Quarter Ends ..................................... Dec. 18
- Milford Graduation, 6:30 p.m. .................. Dec. 19
- Beatrice Graduation, 7 p.m. ...................... Dec. 19
- Lincoln Graduation, 7 p.m. ...................... Dec. 19
Jack Huck's Retirement

He planned to stay just two years after Southeast Community College hired him as coordinator of community services in September 1975. Now 39 years later, Dr. Jack Huck has retired. His last day as president of the College was June 30.

Just the third president in the 41-year history of the College, Huck has held the top position for the last 20 years as interim chancellor, chancellor, and president. He considers his nearly four-decade career at SCC as a "privilege."

“What I had the privilege of doing was affiliate with a group of people on behalf of the College,” Huck said. “I had the opportunity to work with a team to help students over the years, recognizing that without quality staff in place, it would be difficult to make that a reality. It’s like having the privilege to conduct an orchestra. I can’t play the clarinet, oboe or violin. But I had the privilege to work with a whole bunch of clarinetists, oboists and violinists to make a really great orchestra.”

SCC has recorded a number of milestones under Huck’s watch. Here are a few:

• The number of students who graduated nearly tripled, from 627 in 1995-96 to 1,770 in 2012-13.
• Ninety-three percent of SCC graduates found work or continued their education during the last 20 years.
• The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has listed SCC in the top 10 percent of all community colleges in the U.S. three consecutive years.
• The physical footprint of the College increased at every location, including the Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford campuses, and additional property was acquired in Lincoln, downtown and near 68th and O.

He has overseen two successful accreditation processes, played a key role in the groundbreaking Learn to Dream Scholarship program with Union Bank & Trust and Nelnet, and has been a driving force toward a successful partnership with Lincoln Public Schools and The Career Academy, which will open in August 2015.

The early years

Huck graduated from Lincoln High School and became a first-generation college student and graduate, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in education in 1969 from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

He completed his student-teaching at Lincoln Southeast High School. With endorsements in math and social sciences at the junior high/high school levels, he appeared to be on track for a career in K-12 education.

Huck earned his Master of Education degree in educational administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1971, all the while teaching seventh-grade math and social sciences in York. Later that year he landed his first administrative position as principal at Bradshaw High School. In 1973 he earned a specialist degree from UNL that would allow him to become a superintendent.

He was principal at Bradshaw from 1971-73. Huck served Educational Service Unit No. 6 in Milford as a consultant for curriculum and instruction from 1973-75. He also worked on his doctorate in administration, curriculum and instruction, which he earned from UNL in August 1975.

Career begins at SCC

In 1975, Huck weighed three offers before accepting the new position of coordinator of community services at Southeast.

“One was to head back to K-12 administration, since I had prepared myself to become a superintendent,” he said. “I also had the option of teaching at Kearney State College as a professor in the education division. Or I could come to SCC.”

With young son Ben in tow, Huck and wife Lynelle headed west in their new Chevrolet Monza for a job interview at KSC.

“Kearney State offered me the job, and I looked at the opportunity there,” he said, “but I decided to take the SCC offer. I believed at the time that (SCC) was the new frontier of education in the state of Nebraska. I thought it would be exciting to be part of that new frontier.”

Equipped with his experience at ESU 6, Huck’s main responsibility was to use the College’s existing school districts as delivery points for SCC’s educational offerings.

What’s next?

“I thought I’d stay (at SCC) two years, then see what was next,” Huck said.

What was next would be a series of positions that eventually would groom him to become president of SCC.

From 1977-79, he directed the adult education and public information offices, and from 1979-81 he was dean of instruction on the Lincoln Campus and assistant campus director.

Huck was promoted to director of the Lincoln Campus in 1981. He stayed in that capacity 12 years, breaking the string of two-year employment stints.

Lessons from Dr. Robert Eicher

The leadership at SCC changed in the early 1990s. Dr. Robert Eicher, the first president of SCC and the man who hired Huck, retired in 1992. The Board of Governors hired Dr. J. Neil Admire as the next chancellor.

In late 1993 Admire departed the College, and the Board approached Huck to serve as interim chancellor. After more than 10 years as director of the Lincoln Campus, Huck decided that he was ready to take over the leadership of the College. In January 1994 he began serving SCC as interim chancellor.

In April 1995 Huck was named chancellor on a permanent basis. As part of the College’s reorganization plan, Huck’s title was changed to president in July 1997.

Eicher’s influence on Huck was profound, even after his death in May 2012.

“I learned things like professionalism, patience and the wisdom and ability to hopefully hire excellent people for the College and then to be able to stand back and allow them to do their job to the best of their ability,” Huck said.

“Other than my own father, Bob Eicher was the most influential male in my life. In my work life and during college studies, I had the pleasure of being involved with many forward-looking, thoughtful, intelligent folks. Of all those folks, Bob was the one who saw the background I had accumulated, and he gave me the opportunity to build on that foundation.”

Leaving a legacy

As he retires as president of SCC, Huck said he “hopes to leave an organization that is founded on the principles of caring and quality.”

“I say that because one of the things I’m sure of is that in order for this nation to survive in the future, we’re going to have to figure out how to effectively replace that baby boomer workforce that has made us one of the pre-eminent leaders in the world,” Huck said. “Community colleges are at the center of helping meet those demands and shaping the skillset of that workforce of the future.”

June 30 was Huck’s last day as president, but it wasn’t his last at SCC. Beginning July 1, Huck and Jeanette Völker, recently retired vice president for student services/Lincoln Campus director, each will work part-time directing the SCC Educational Foundation. Huck has other retirement goals.

“I want to play more golf, go fishing more often and spoil kids and grandkids,” he said.

Huck’s wife of 40 years, Lynelle, retired three years ago. At that time she told her husband that she needed at least one year to be home alone before he decided to retire.

“Now she’s had three, and she’s wondering if my retiring is a good idea,” Huck said with a laugh.

The Hucks have two children, Ben (wife Teri) and Jaci Klein (husband Jason) and three grandchildren: Samuel Huck and Harrison Klein, both 6, and Lindsey Klein, 4. Huck said the time is right to retire.

“I feel good about my decision,” he said. Huck turns 67 in October.
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Randy Wehling, a 1974 pre-agriculture graduate of Southeast Community College, is the recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Wehling grew up on a farm southwest of Odell and graduated from Odell High School in 1972. That fall he enrolled in pre-agriculture at Fairbury Junior College. During that time he took biology from Mr. Johnson, chemistry from Mr. Phelps, math from Mr. Barringer, and English from Mrs. Martin. George Johnson was his academic advisor.

After he received his Associate of Arts degree from SCC he transferred to Kansas State University and majored in milling science, the science of processing grains for food. At that time it was the only undergraduate program of its type in the United States. He graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from KSU in May 1976 and was employed as a quality assurance manager/chemist by Cereal Food Processors Inc. at its Kansas City, KS, grain processing facility. In August 1978 he returned to K-State to pursue a graduate degree in grain science. He received a Ph.D. in 1983. His doctoral research focused on developing improved methods for measuring vitamin contents in grain-based foods.

Upon completion of his doctorate, Wehling joined the faculty of the Department of Food Science & Technology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he has enjoyed a 30-year career in teaching and research. He serves as the undergraduate teaching coordinator for the department, as well as the lead undergraduate advisor. Teaching responsibilities include an introductory food science course, as well as more advanced courses in food biochemistry, food analysis and grain processing technology.

In 2003 he received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Association of Cereal Chemists International, a scientific organization focused on advancing the science of grains as food. He has mentored numerous graduate students during his career and has conducted research on improving the methods of food analysis and on increasing our understanding of the factors that affect grain quality when used for food. Wehling also is the author or co-author of several research publications and textbook chapters.

He is a past president of the local section of the American Chemical Society, past secretary of the local section of the Institute of Food Technologists, and is committee chair of the American Association of Cereal Chemists International. He is past president and committee chair of the Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis Club and is active in his church. Wehling and his wife Nancy live in Lincoln and have two daughters who are both students at UNL.

1962 – I started farming in 1962, joined the National Guard in 1963 (spent active duty during Vietnam encounter) and farmed until 1990. Then I worked for Bruning Grain for 15 years and retired in 2005.

I got married in 1967 and we have four children and eight grandchildren. Now I have most of my farm ground rented out, both dryland and irrigated acres. I still farm 90 acres putting up alfalfa and prairie hay but no livestock. It’s my hobby now.

Charles Fangmeier,
Business Administration, 1962, Fairbury
Featured Year 1961: FJC in the News

• Highland Junior College, the 1960 runner-up, and Wentworth Military Academy begin their schedules next week.
• The Fort Scott Greyhounds also make their debut this week, meeting El Dorado Junior College Friday night at Fort Scott.

"Joplin Juco Expected To Be Stout Defender"
Lawrence Daily Journal-World, Friday, Sept. 8, 1961

Lexington, MO (AP) – Joplin Junior College, expected to set the pace as it defends its football title in the Interstate Conference, launches its 1961 campaign Saturday night.

Joplin will be host to Fairbury, Neb., Junior College, admitted to the conference for football competition.

The Fort Scott Greyhounds also make their debut this week, meeting El Dorado Junior College Friday night at Fort Scott.

Sharon Dexter
“T’ve taught so long I remember the electric typewriter as a new breakthrough. In 1973, a friend suggested I apply to Southeast Community College as a night instructor. After several classes I was definitely hooked on community college teaching.

From 1973 to 1982, I taught classes in Lincoln and Fairbury. In 1982, I became a full-time business instructor at the Fairbury Campus. The campus moved in fall 1986 and through the years I have taught both Business Administration and Office Professional classes. I became program chair in winter 1987 and in recent years shared those duties with Toni Landenberger and RoxAnn Coudeyras.

The most rewarding part of this journey has been seeing students succeed in their careers after they have graduated. The relationships with staff members has also been a vital part of my career. Technology changes have been tremendous. The early years I remember teaching the DOS program in what is now the Kennedy lab.

I have eight grandchildren to enjoy and a golf game in need of improvement. That being said there are no more golf lessons in my future; I simply enjoy the outdoors. My husband does refer to his golf course and my golf course so that sends a direct message. Travel plans are in the future, and maybe a return trip to Munich, Germany, where we lived two years while Jon served in the military.”

Sharon retired at the end of the 2014 Spring Quarter.

Charlie Barringer
“In 1972 I was offered a one-year job to teach at Fairbury Junior College, which I managed to stretch out for 42 years. I wanted to teach at the postsecondary level, but didn’t want the publish-or-perish hassle, so a junior college/community college job was the right fit. Over this time I also served part-time as the dean of instruction at SCC Fairbury, and learned that teaching and working with students is much more satisfying than administration.

I remember my first class at 8 a.m. I had a curly-haired student, Dennis Headrick, who later became my boss. I’ve had at least three former students who went on to be mathematics teachers, so I must have done something right. I’ve worked with many engineering students and had one go on to graduate from MIT.”

Charlie retired at the end of the 2014 Spring Quarter.

Cathy Barringer
“Little did I know that when I was hired in 1978 to be the librarian for the Fairbury Campus of SCC, I would move the entire contents of the library in 1986 to the Beatrice Campus. Then, in 1991, move the contents of the library to a semi-trailer for storage while classrooms were remodeled into a library area that included a network of four computers for students to use to find books in the collection.

Today students have access to entire books online and can load the book on their smart phone to use any place, any time. The books are automatically returned, so the bane of overdue books is history for the student and the librarian.

After graduating from college I was a home economics teacher for three years in a small high school in south-central South Dakota, but I had always wanted to be a librarian, so I went back to the University of South Dakota and received my master’s degree in library science. I spent two years as a high school librarian and one year working as a night librarian at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE. I felt I found my niche working in a community college library setting, so when the position opened in Fairbury, I found my career of 35 years and husband, Charlie Barringer.

When I started, microfiche, slides, filmstrips, and 16mm films were considered high technology. Computers have revolutionized the print library world to a world of online resources available 24/7.

Helping students and faculty with library resources has always been the best part of the job. The amount of information now available to students is mind-boggling compared to needing to be physically present in the library and having a finite amount of books and magazines available.

Retirement plans include hanging out with friends, traveling, reading eBooks as well as hard copy, and going fishing with my husband (he fishes; I read and take walks to explore the area.)”

Cathy retired in June.
Spring Fever 1961

“Fairbury’s college students loll in the sun. Spring fever, you know…”

Featured Year: 1961 Fun Facts and Nerd News

- New York Yankees – World Series Champions
- Fashion Icons – Marilyn Monroe, Jayne Mansfield, Audrey Hepburn, Brigitte Bardot, Sophia Loren, Kim Novak
- Familiar/Famous Quotes – “Sorry, Charlie. Starkist wants tuna that tastes good, not tuna with good taste.” (Starkist Tuna)
- “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.” (President John F. Kennedy)
- “For those who think young.” (Pepsi)
- The first Six Flags amusement park opened near Dallas, TX. It was named after the six different flags Texas had over the past few hundred years.
- Pampers disposable diapers were available for the first time.
- Black and Decker introduced the first cordless power drill, powered by nickel-cadmium.
- Billboard No. 1 Songs – “Are You Lonesome Tonight?,” “Blue Moon,” “Runaway,” “Moody River.”

F Club Steak Fry 1961

“Whatever it is, it must be good!” Norv Stewart (left) and Russ Anderson (right) observe while Dave Pohlman (center) stirs a dish for the annual Steak Fry.

Featured Year: 1961 Comments

“After receiving my bachelor’s degree (and later my master’s) in education, I taught in Central City, NE, for two years and 33 years in Beatrice, NE, before retiring from teaching.”
Larry Hennerberg, Academic Transfer, Fairbury

Executive Council 1961 Officers

Officers from left
Front row: Karen Bangert, secretary
Brenda Singleton, historian
Back row: Albert Skrabal, vice president
Ron Schwab, president

1976

Featured Year: 1976 Fun Facts and Nerd News

- Apple Computer was formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. The first computer, reports say, sold for $666.66.
- The ink-jet printer is invented.
- Writer Tom Wolfe declared the 1970s the “Me Decade.”
- VHS released; wins the war with Betamax tapes, although most agree it was an inferior product.
- Sweden’s most profitable corporation was pop group ABBA.
- Cost of a Super Bowl ad in 1976: $110,000
- Who Remembers: Paul Simon’s “Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover,” “Disco Duck” by Rick Dees & His Cast of Idiots, Wild Cherry’s “Play That Funky Music” and “Happy Days,” “Laverne & Shirley” and “M*A*S*H”?

1961

“I love hearing your students and faculty were here!”
Karen Emerson
Transitioning from 18 years in the business world as a paralegal, Karen joined the faculty of the Office Professional program in 2001 as an adjunct on the Lincoln Campus, then became a member of the Lincoln Campus Office Professional faculty in October 2004. Karen transferred to the Beatrice Campus in the summer of 2010.

The most rewarding experiences for Karen have been those times when she was able to connect students to employers. By developing relationships with area employers, she convinced many to take on a student who may have only had fast-food experience before entering the business program.

“Area employers really value the education our students receive and they trust our recommendations,” she said.

A group of students she remembers well were displaced employees from the Irwin Industries factory in DeWitt, nontraditional students who had never used a computer.

“Those students worked so hard to learn but enjoyed their time here as well,” Karen said. “We laughed together a lot.”

As an advisor for PBL, she also feels she’s been privileged to mentor students to meet challenges they never would have attempted.

Karen hopes to have more freedom to spend time with her growing group of grandchildren who live in New York City and Chicago and plans to continue teaching as an adjunct for SCC.

“I’ve made lifelong friends with coworkers. Those are the people I’ll most miss seeing on a daily basis. I hope I’ll continue to get updates from former students. It’s very gratifying to hear about their successes in the business world.”

Ashley Wit
My career at SCC began in January 2003 when I transferred here from the University of Nebraska at Kearney after finally figuring out I was an undecided student who had no direction. After enrolling in the Business Administration program I realized I had figured out my passion: business!

While a student at UNK I was involved in many groups and organizations on campus and wanted that same connection with SCC. I was involved in PTK, PBL, Student Senate, Rotaract (a short-lived club here at SCC), was a student ambassador and also interned in the Admissions Office. Initially I had planned to graduate with the A.A.S. and venture out into the workforce, but a scholarship thru PTK and Peru State College made it possible for me to attend for little to no cost and finish my bachelor’s degree.

Lambert Vet Supply became my home after college and my first full-time job as a working adult. I worked in the marketing division and wore many hats at that time. My main responsibilities were coordinating trade show events, email marketing campaigns, overseeing the production of the company catalog and various other tasks. In early fall 2008 I learned that the Beatrice Campus of Southeast Community College was looking to add to the recruitment team, and I began the application process. After two interviews and weeks of waiting, I was offered the position in October. I was beyond elated to come back to where (for me) it all started.

Working with parents and students can, on occasion, be challenging based on a number of factors. As the years went on I became more confident and learned more than ever about the College and the processes used. In 2012 I had the privilege of helping with a new recruiting piece the College had purchased, a Microsoft CRM product called Recruiter. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this technology; it has amazing capabilities. I have had such joy over the years overseeing the Student Ambassadors and seeing where life takes them after college with work, families, etc.

I now have the opportunity to continue my education and have started a new adventure. I will begin teaching business and information technology this fall at Lawrence/Nelson High School (7-12). I am enrolled in a program at UNK designed for those in the workforce with a bachelor’s degree who want to finish a teacher certification degree. Once I am settled in my teaching career and have finished the initial certification, it is likely I will pursue a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction.

Life has led me on a wonderful path, and in 2011 my husband and I began our journey together. He also is an SCC alum, graduating from the Agriculture Business & Management Technology program. We live in Chester, NE, with our one-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Grace.

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1961 Graduates?

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1976 Graduates?
SCC’s Medical Assisting Program Ranked No. 11 Nationally

The Medical Assisting program at Southeast Community College is ranked No. 11 on the list of the top 50 most affordable medical assisting schools in the U.S. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, one of the best accreditation boards for medical programs in the United States. The ranking is based on total estimated annual costs, which includes in-state tuition, books, fees, and more.

Kathy Zabel, program chair, said “SCC’s Medical Assisting program is proud to be recognized as the No. 11 program in the nation. We have a dedicated team of faculty who work extremely hard for student success. Ninety-seven percent of our students pass the CMA (American Association of Medical Assistants) Certification Examination prior to graduation. The College and the program are very aggressive in placing students in jobs. Local physician offices want to hire SCC students, and many are hired prior to graduation.”

Aaron Young Opens A Café by ChefauChef

Chef Aaron Young received his degree in Food Service/Hospitality with a focus in Culinary Arts in spring 2009. Chef Aaron also holds a certificate from Walt Disney World for completing the Disney College Culinary Internship, which he completed in winter 2008. He was recognized by the Nebraska Restaurant Association in 2012 with the “Rising Star Award.” In April 2014 Chef Aaron received the Iron Chef Award from the Jr. League of Lincoln’s Dish It Up event.

Aaron’s restaurant, A Cafe by ChefauChef, is located at 643 S. 25th St., Suite 7, in Lincoln. Chef Aaron’s ChefauChef Catering is unique because he plans a custom menu with his host for each event designed around the host’s needs, desires and budget. He believes that each event is special and unique and the food should reflect the same.

Chef Aaron extends an invitation to SCC graduates to visit his restaurant or let him help with your catering needs.

Students in the News

Jeffrey Barber, 2003 graduate of Computer Information Technology, recently accepted a new position as director of technology at Bailey Lauerman, Omaha, NE. Jeff most recently held a position as senior network engineer/technical sales with Firespring and continues to work with the business he owns, IthinkWebdesign/IthinkNerd. Congratulations, Jeff!

Professional Truck Driver Training Graduate Wins National Award

Harry Seebold, a 1998 graduate from the SCC’s Professional Truck Driver Training program, won the Chevon Red Eye Driver award for driving one million miles without an accident.

He drives for Saia Motor Freight, a nationwide LTL carrier in Lincoln. Seebold received a check for $5,000. Congratulations, Harry!

Featured Year: 1976

Food Service Students at Whittier

The Food Service/Hospitality program continues to grow and change!

The SCC Board of Governors recently approved a $1.6 million expansion for the Lincoln Campus cafeteria which will also include updates in the Food Service/Hospitality program. Watch for improvements over the next year which will include new space for the restaurant class luncheons and dinners!
Fashion Merchandising Graduate Remains in Retail

“As a 4-H member in high school, I learned to design and make most of my clothes. That was the motivator for me to pursue the Fashion Merchandising program at SCC in 1979,” said Cherie Wegner Travis. An internship at Ben Simon’s, a family-owned small department/specialty store in Lincoln, was the start to her career in retail. Travis recalled that she wore many hats at Ben Simon’s, from manager to buyer. Her 24-year career with Ben Simon’s ended in 2001 when the business closed. “I took my experience and helped open and manage Rachel’s Boutique, a locally owned business,” Travis said. Five years later she purchased the business and has continued to build and grow this unique shop. “Retail can be very challenging. If only I had a crystal ball to see into the future and help me make decisions regarding purchasing! My SCC degree helped with some of the business details and marketing decisions.” Being open to changes and continual learning has been a key to her success. “My store is a full-line Brighton store, handbags, jewelry, sunglasses, charms, belts, and home accessories,” she said. “We also carry Pandora jewelry and unique clothing and jewelry and accessories from other companies.” Customers will tell you they shop at this locally owned Lincoln business because of her exceptional customer service. Her smile is free, as is her gift wrap, customer’s wish lists and personalized service. Her store exudes her charm and is a bright spot in the retail world in Lincoln at 70th and Pioneers.

Human Services Graduate Fulfills Dream In Montana

Toni Delgado-Hatten understands the power of having someone believe in you! She will admit that in her rebellious teen years, teachers were not high on her priority list. Nor did she ever think it might be her career path. As a high school dropout, she began to realize the value of education and found herself completing her GED and graduating in 1996 from the Human Services program at Southeast Community College. Those accomplishments were the stepping stones to walk away from unhealthy relationships and choices. In 1997 Toni, her husband, and three children decided to follow their dream of moving to Montana. “It was timber, tourists and a huge lifestyle change,” Toni said. The education seed had been planted while serving as para-educator for her children’s school. She pursued a bachelor’s degree in teaching at the University of Montana. Upon graduation, she accepted a position at Sunset School, a one-room school in the rural mountains of Montana. Toni accomplished her goal.

The Assertiveness Training class at SCC was a “game-changer.” “I began to realize that I could have control over my life,” she said. “Empowerment is a term that comes to my mind and was a huge factor in how I moved forward with my life.” She shares that concept now with her current students as she encourages them to own their own feelings and choices.

Toni laughs when she explains that she started with one student in school the first year. Now in her third year of teaching, she had eight students ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade. “I use my human service background every day as I continue to build the school enrollment, maintain relationships with parents and establish trust with students,” Hatten said. “I use my human service background every day as I continue to build the school enrollment, maintain relationships with parents and establish trust with students.”

Masek Respiratory Care Career Path

In 2002 a family friend knowing Chris Masek’s interest in the health field recommended SCC’s Respiratory Care program. With that recommendation, Masek enrolled and graduated in 2004. “For five years I worked at Methodist Hospital in Omaha working the floors and progressing to ICU,” he said. “It was a great career, but I didn’t see the patients after they left to know if they fully recovered. My position as mechanical ventilator coordinator at Kubat Pharmacy is much different. On a daily basis I work with patients in their homes on ventilator support, some being full-support and others are NOC/PRN. The one-on-one education to patients and families about their treatments is very rewarding, and I coordinate with doctors and nurses to help facilitate a plan for care with each individual patient.” The ventilator program has grown from 13 to nearly 50 patients in the five years Masek has been with Kubat Pharmacy. “Being a part of my patients’ lives is so rewarding. When I look back at the end of the day, I’m 99 percent sure that what I do makes a huge difference for my patients.” Masek agrees that he has a gratifying career which makes the time he has with his family so enjoyable.

Recent Retirements

Virginia Hess, retiring program chair for Associate Degree Nursing, said, “My 24 years at SCC have gone by so fast. I initially taught childbirth classes, nursing continuing education classes, and for two years was an instructor in the Licensed Practical Nursing program. For the last 22 years I have taught classes in the Associate Degree Nursing program and served as program chair since 1996.” Hess fondly remembers Edna Snodgrass, former Practical Nursing program chair, as she encouraged her to apply for the program chair position.

Hess treasures the relationships she has built with the clinical coordinating group, the Nebraska Action Committee, Nebraska Assembly of Nursing Deans and Directors, and especially the faculty within the program. “Helping students succeed has been very rewarding,” she said. “I may continue to assist with some labs and will help with the program’s self-study and site visit for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing scheduled for January 2015.” With her new-found freedom she will be tending to her garden, traveling and spending time visiting with friends and family.

Mary Trumble, retiring program chair for Practical Nursing, enjoyed the time she spent assisting with advising, planning and mentoring students.

Trumble admits she will miss the interaction with students but is looking forward to new opportunities in retirement. She will continue to help with the skills check-off lab on a very part-time basis. Trumble smiles when she says, “I was very fortunate to work with a wonderful faculty during my 17 years at SCC. They went above and beyond the call of duty, especially when I broke my ankle. They met me in the handicapped parking with a wheelchair for 12 weeks and took me back out at night, enduring snow, slush and cold winds! I also got some very fast rides down the long halls from my helpers!”

Volunteering and mission trips are high on Mary’s bucket list, with a trip planned to Africa in July. Of course, quality time with her grandchildren ranks at the top of her list.

Mary Trumble (l) and Virginia Hess (r)
Vozar Appointed President, East Mediterranean Field

“At the time I decided to attend SCC, my dream was to have my own Christian bookstore. I worked hard to learn what I could, as fast as I could, and ended up on a career track that was similar but much different than I anticipated.

Initially after SCC, my job took me across the country, first to Indiana then Ohio working in management for Adventist Book Centers, my denominations’ retail outlets. My SCC foundation was instrumental for my job as I oversaw all accounting and inventory functions at the stores I served which, at the time, were up to $1 million in annual sales. After ten years, I left to go on the road as a Bible salesman to Christian bookstores. This was an exciting growth time for my career as I learned much from those I served in this specialty retail sector. During this time my wife and I purchased a small game company, Bible Games Company, and we focused our whole lives around this for the next 20 years.

Our lives have always been heavily connected with church work which led my church to call me to the Gospel ministry as a pastor. We eventually closed our business because of the economy and our focus on ministry. Through that full-time ministry we received a call to serve as treasurer for our church’s Middle East regional headquarters, East Mediterranean Field (EMF), serving Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Syria. In May 2014, I was appointed as president of EMF.

My duties require me to travel throughout our territory except Syria at this time because of the civil war. However, I have been throughout Lebanon, Jordan and northern Iraq (Kurdistan). My main focus is to look after our established churches and schools. In Beirut, we have two main schools that serve diverse local populations; one to 700 mostly Muslim students and the other to 400 from Christian families. We also have a learning center that serves over 60 Syrian refugee children to fill the gap of education during their displacement from home.

One of my favorite experiences happened fairly recently. My wife, JoAnn, and I were in Cairo for meetings and took some personal time to do some sightseeing. As we rode across Cairo on the Metro system, there were times we were literally squished like human sardines in the train cars. We could see many stares as we were obviously foreigners. When the train was nearing the next station a Muslim couple motioned to us as to where we were going. We showed them on the map located on the train wall. They smiled and tried to talk; but we speak very little Arabic and they no English. With big smiles of joy, they literally took us by the hand and led us through the mass of passengers to the proper train platform for our transfer which was in the same direction. They departed a few stations before our stop but did so with bigger smiles and faces full of joy.

The assumption in the Middle East is foreigners are Christians. This couple, and even more later, went out of their way to help direct us through the maze of the Metro. They were kind, caring, and concerned for us. The reality of the Middle East is much different than what we see and read about in the US. As one Muslim cleric told me once in Jordan, “We each have papas and mammas. We each have hopes, dreams, and troubles. We each have families and desire to care for them. We must each learn to live together with mutual respect and concern.”

Another misconception in America, is that Middle Easterners wear robes, live in tents, ride camels and live a strict Muslim lifestyle. In fact, most wear very western clothes including the same designer brands you see on Americans. They live in apartments or houses and have cars that are as nice, or nicer, than many Americans have. While there are those who are strict Muslims, the Christian/Western influence is great and most are more secular in their lifestyle even though religion is part of everyday life for the average person here. Lebanon is fully a Christian culture though in recent decades the Muslim population is now greater than the Christian.

As to living in the Middle East, people are very friendly, open and hospitable. When you are invited to dinner expect a feast - even from a poor family. To not participate is a great insult. I have friends who have been to dinner with refugee families where the adults literally fasted for days for there to be extra food for the feast.

Most of my career recognitions came in the form of promotions working from the warehouse into management, then as the manager of a $1 million+ operation in Ohio. During my Bible sales career, I earned the Sales Leadership Award each year being the first salesman in the history of the company to earn it his first year. Of course the biggest recognition came when appointed as president of the East Mediterranean Field of Seventh-day Adventists. This appointment is the highest honor and most humbling recognition I have ever received in my career.

My SCC education was without a doubt instrumental in my success through the various phases of my career. The accounting and marketing classes were especially targeted to help as I advanced through my career. I still remember asking my instructor at SCC in a 10-Key Adding Machine class, “Why in the world do we need to have such a class?” She replied, “Simple. The more efficient you are the greater asset you are to your boss and your company.” I became very efficient at the 10 key but her counsel stuck with me in many other areas, even today.”

Pastor Ron Vozar, President
East Mediterranean Field
serving Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Syria.
Annual Wekesser Award Recognitions

Jeanette Bean was recognized by her co-workers as going beyond the call of duty, taking time to get to know students and staff and encouraging students to succeed. Bean began full-time employment in the Lincoln Campus library in 2004 and spent the previous 10 years working part-time in the library. She said, “I never expected any award for doing the work I love. Just being nominated by my fellow co-workers is an honor in itself. There are many employees who do outstanding work but are never recognized. I feel especially blessed to have won this award.”

Vicki Rethmeier was nominated by colleagues for her devotion to students and to the College, excitement about the topic at hand, contagious smile, endless enthusiasm, and ability to make students accountable, many times without them even knowing it. Rethmeier has been employed at SCC since October 2008. “This award reinforces that what I do every day at SCC has an impact,” Rethmeier said. “I am fortunate to be part of Southeast Community College. This award speaks to the talents of the many remarkable people who helped me along this journey, and I thank them.”

Robert and Edith Wekesser established a fund in SCC’s Educational Foundation in 1979 to recognize employees for outstanding service to the Lincoln Campus. Each recipient received a $500 check and recognition plaque.

Duane Parrish, Welding Instructor, Retires

Over the 39 years Duane taught at SCC, he watched the program grow and the quality of the instruction improve. “The skill set probably did not change much over the years, but the computerized equipment and CNC machines made it easier to learn,” Parrish said. In 1975 he was working as a welder at Nebraska Boiler and learning the trade from Navy welders. They taught him the basics. But when he learned about welding classes at SCC, he enrolled for additional training. Program Chair Pat Wagner was instrumental in having Duane begin teaching welding classes. “There aren’t many shops in town without a student I have trained. In fact, every one of the current welding instructors were my students. It has been gratifying to see students gain skills and confidence to succeed in their careers.” Parrish will continue to pursue his hobby of rebuilding old cars, maintain his acreage and, most importantly, play with his grandchildren.

2014 Best Nurses in Nebraska

Congratulations to the following SCC graduates for placing in the top 10 Best Nurses in Nebraska!

- Jody Macke, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 2002 Associate Degree Nursing
- Molle Barker, Bryan Medical Center, 1999 Practical Nursing
- Patricia Fisher, Pawnee Manor Nursing Home, 1989 Practical Nursing
- Virginia Hess, retired Associate Degree Nursing program chair, received Honorable Mention honors.

Lincoln Campus Continues to Grow!

Construction on the new $25 million Career Academy, a partnership between SCC and Lincoln Public Schools, continues to progress. This will be a two-story structure attached to the south side of the building. When you visit the Lincoln campus, you will be welcomed with additional parking on the east side. The contractors goal is to enclose the facility before inclement weather and we will continue to share the progress with you in upcoming newsletters. The Career Academy is scheduled to open in August 2015. For additional details on the academy, visit https://www.southeast.edu/News_Stories/Groundbreaking_ceremony_for_SCC-LPS_career_center/
New to SCC Milford Campus!

Rachel Sommerer was hired in March 2014 as the new TRiO Counselor/Advisor for the Milford Campus. Before coming to SCC, Rachel worked for 13 years at the University of Missouri-St. Louis as first a counselor, then assistant director, for the TRiO/Student Support Services program. Shortly before leaving, Sommerer was named director.

“I enjoy working with college-age students and have a deep respect for the technical programs offered by SCC. At the university I often saw students who struggled with a typical four-year program. They were pushed toward a B.S./B.A. degree when it was not appropriate for them, and they did not have a positive experience. So many of them would have flourished in a setting such as SCC and would have been very successful. In my role as the TRiO advisor at SCC, I get to offer support and encouragement to students as they achieve their goals. Everyone at SCC has been wonderful; very welcoming and supportive. I look forward to getting involved and serving the SCC community.”

Tim McLain began employment with SCC in July 2014 as an instructor in the Ford ASSET program. McLain has worked for Ford dealerships, including McGinnis Ford in Lincoln, NE, for 21 years. Tim is a 1983 graduate from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE. “I am looking forward to new challenges,” he said.

Retirements

Leon Williams was hired as an Electronics program instructor in June 1971 and recently retired in June 2014 after 43 years with the College. Williams, a 1968 graduate from Nebraska Technical College (now SCC), worked for Notifier Engineering and at Instrument Specialties Company as an engineering electronics technician before beginning employment with SCC. “Leon worked very hard and was dedicated to the College,” said Mike Aalberg, chair of the Electronic Systems Technology program. Congratulations on your retirement, Leon!

Dennis Wagner started working at Southeast Community College in 2004 as an instructor in the Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training program and retired after 10 years on June 13, 2014. Wagner had a unique relationship with his students; they enjoyed his teaching style, his honesty, and enthusiasm. Dennis did an outstanding job of giving his students experience on the latest technology of Ford Motor Company vehicles. He kept himself updated by reading all the trade magazines and attending training classes.

“It’s one thing to come to school and do an excellent job of teaching students, but his job was so much more. The balancing act that Wagner has done so well is working with all of the requirements that Ford Motor Company has for the program. He came in early and stayed late and put in a lot more hours than are mandated, just to make his program successful. He developed several impressive presentations to help students understand difficult concepts. Dennis went to high schools to make presentations to classes to help recruit students in several programs. When Dennis took over as the lead instructor, the ASSET program was a low-enrollment program. Now the program is full every intake.” According to Rick Morphew, chair of the ASSET program, “Dennis has been one of our best instructors.”

Faculty, staff, family and friends gathered June 13, 2014, to celebrate Lyle Neal’s retirement after more than 40 years of service to Southeast Community College and the former Nebraska Technical College in Milford. Neal taught in the classroom for 18 years, served as vice president of fiscal services from 1992-1997, and then served as the assistant campus director from 1997-2003. For the past 11 years Neal served SCC as the vice president for technology and Milford Campus director. Lyle plans to spend time with Bev, his wife of 41 years, doing what they enjoy, traveling and fishing with their grandchildren. SCC will miss Lyle and his leadership, but wish him wonderful, relaxing days and lots of big fish!

Save The Date!

1964 Graduates

Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014

50-Year Reunion during Open House at SCC’s Milford Campus. Invitations will be sent to 1964 graduates at a later date.

Lyle received the Distinguished Service to Milford Campus Students award.
In March 1961, Gov. Frank Morrison signed LB 115. The Nebraska Vocational Technical School entered the 1960s with a new name and a new outlook. The continued existence of the school now looked secure.

LB 115 authorized a $550,000 campus building program. The administration building, a three-story white stone structure, had dominated the campus since its early days as the Soldiers and Sailors Home. The upper floors served as living quarters for Lowell Welsh, campus director, and his family. A new home for the Welshes was built by the Building Construction students in 1961.

The home was remodeled in 2001 to house the Placement Center and the Assessment Office.

Featured Year – 1976

Diesel Technology, June 1976 Graduates

Front row, from left: David Kavan, Charles Gilstrap, Michael O’Donnell, Donald Ekeler, David Wyatt

Middle row, from left: Kenneth Gearhart, Kenneth Cumro, Clifford Lawton, William Childers, Paul Ernst

Back row, from left: Stephen Bartek, George Ruder, Duane Martin, Lowell Kulhanek

New Program – Diversified Manufacturing Technology

SCC will offer four new introductory manufacturing classes beginning October 2014. The four courses will provide basic experiences in a variety of manufacturing skills, preparing students for certification as production technicians by the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council. After completion of the four courses and a math class, students can choose among several manufacturing-related degrees offered by SCC.

Persons interested in more information about the program should contact Scott Kahler, chair of SCC’s Precision Machining & Automation Technology program, at 402-761-8354 or skahler@southeast.edu.
Marsh’s 1959 Corvette, Buse’s 1950 Mercury Paint Job Featured on Calendars

John Marsh wasn’t looking for fame when someone left a note on the windshield of his 1959 Corvette wondering if he’d be interested in having the car featured on a calendar. “I called the number and left a message, thinking that I’d never hear from him again,” he said.

Marsh was wrong. Not only did he get a call back, his prized possession ended up on the July 2014 NAPA classic car calendar. Here’s what appears below the full-color photograph of the car: “Corvette closed out the 1950s on a high note. After weathering some shaky early years it shifted gears and started living up to the label of America’s Sports Car. Visually, 1959 ‘Vettes looked cleaner than 1958s, having shed some excess trim (trunk spears, louvered hood). Mechanically, a 283 cubic inch displacement/230 horsepower V-8 was standard, and the option sheet offered a quartet of upgrades, all variations on the trusty 283. First up were two small blocks, each crowned with a pair of 4v carburetors (245 hp and 270 hp). Finally, two fuel-injected motors rounded out the choices, making 250 and 290 hp, respectively. Our featured car was one of the favored few (1,846) to be fitted with the 290 hp “fuelie,” a $484 option back in 1959.

The base price of Marsh’s car new, in 1959, was $3,875. The vehicle weighs a solid 2,975 pounds. It’s Roman Red with Snow crest white coves and a black interior.

Marsh, the former dean of transportation at SCC, provided some background on the car: “We bought it in Hastings in 1990,” said Marsh, along with wife Norma. “Myself, Duane Starr and Fred Petsch went out on Christmas Eve to get it. It was very cold. The car was in a pile. It was in disrepair.”

Through word-of-mouth Marsh contacted a man in Hastings, Dallas Bramble, who dealt with used cars. He said the man worked for the railroad and had several cars stored in the “ammo igloos” near Hastings.

For the next five years Marsh worked at restoring the classic Corvette. “I tried to do something every single day, even if I spent just 10 minutes on it,” he said. “I did all of the work myself or utilized help from staff and students at SCC-Milford. I had it painted at the body shop of an SCC graduate in Lincoln. It’s the same paint that’s on it now.”

Unlike a lot of classic car enthusiasts, Marsh drives his ’59 Corvette. “It’s not a perfectly judged Corvette,” he said. “My wife and I belong to three Corvette clubs in Arizona. You don’t drive them as much in the summer. It had 83,000 miles on it when I bought it, and I’ve got more than 100,000 on it now.”

Marsh removed the body from the frame and restored the suspension and frame and found the correct engine and powertrain for it. While he paid somewhere near $12,000 for the vehicle, he’s not quite sure how much money he invested restoring it.

“Those cars now, a little driver car, 58-62 Corvettes, sell in the $30,000-$40,000 range,” Marsh said. “If they’re nice and everything is correct, they can sell in the $60,000-$70,000 range. And if they’re really nice, they’ll sell for $100,000 or more. People like those little old cars.”

During restoration, Marsh discovered some interesting things about the car. “Originally from the factory it was (painted) silver,” he said. “It had a grease pencil mark in the back trunk area that showed that. It was all silver in there. When I took the seats out and looked down on the floorboard, you can see outlines of things they painted during its trip through the assembly line. There’s no way to tell other than that. I like red and white, so that’s what I had it painted.”

Marsh doesn’t know any previous owner history. “I did find a ticket for a citation under the front seat that was for an obstructive view on the front hood,” Marsh said. “Evidently this car had something like a super charger or air cleaner sticking out of the front hood. The California State Patrol didn’t like it.”

Marsh found tire rub on the inside edge of the rear fenders indicating that big tires once were on the vehicle. And the battery was in the trunk, meaning that at one time the car may have been used in drag racing.

“If these cars could tell a story it would be really something,” Marsh said.

While the frame was straight, the body needed repair. “That turned out nice,” Marsh said.

It also had a high-RPM tachometer in it, telling Marsh that it was fuel-injected. “I’ve gotten pretty good at doing those and rebuilding fuel-injection units,” he said.

“It’s an ongoing project. I just bought correct seatbelts for it. The fun is looking for parts.”

Marsh said he and four others travel to Carlisle, PA, each August to attend a large Corvette parts show, a full 65 acres of Corvette parts.

“We’re always buying this or buying that,” he said. “I’ve got a friend who has a 1960 with the body off the frame. Another has a 1962.”

Marsh and another man started the Solid Axle Corvette Club of Arizona. Marsh also is a member of the National Corvette Restoration Society and the Corvette Club of Arizona. He and his wife also attend regional and national events and judge Corvettes.

“I’ve become a master judge on solid axle cars,” he said. The Corvette Club of Arizona is more social in nature.

“We go on ride-and-drives and dine-and-drives,” Marsh said. “We go to San Diego each year. I drive my new (2009) Corvette for that. It’s a crystal red convertible.”

Marsh has loved Corvettes since the 1960s. He owned a 1960 model shortly after graduating from SCC-Milford in 1961. “It was very nice,” he said. “I had it through 1965. I should never have sold it.”

After working at Speedway Motors for 12 years, Marsh returned to SCC in 1969. He retired in July 1998.

Pat Buse, an SCC graduate, also had his work featured on the month of December in the 2014 DuPont/AXALTA calendar.

Buse painted a 1950 Mercury. He works at Extreme Paint in Fremont. Carole Enfield of North Bend owns the vehicle. Paint products used were Hot Hues™ Razzle Berry CFX Basecoat Candy, ChromaPremier® 72500STM Premium Appearance Clearcoat.
SCC Students Volunteer with Tornado Clean-up

A number of Southeast Community College students have volunteered their time to help clean up in the aftermath of the Mother’s Day tornadoes that struck Beaver Crossing and surrounding areas. Following the storm that destroyed 16 homes, did major damage to 22 and damaged more than 225 others, along with businesses and churches, more than 100 SCC-Milford Campus students assisted with the clean-up. Students representing Electrical & Electromechanical Technology, Architectural-Engineering Technology, Diesel Technology-Truck, Computer Programming Technology, Building Construction Technology, Precision Machining & Automation, Manufacturing Engineering, and Energy Generation Operations programs volunteered. Several SCC-Milford instructors accompanied the students.

“We all felt really good after spending what time we could in the relief effort,” said Ken Reinsch, chairman of the Electrical & Electromechanical Technology program.

More than 700 volunteers were in Beaver Crossing the Saturday following the storm to help the community’s 400 residents. Some SCC employees who live in the Beaver Crossing and Cordova areas also were victims of the May 11 tornadoes.

“On behalf of the residents in the Cordova/Beaver Crossing and surrounding area, I would like to express our gratitude for the generous assistance offered by volunteers in the last few days and in the days to come,” said Lester Breidenstine, chairman of SCC’s Diesel Technology-Truck and Diesel-Ag Equipment Service Technology programs.

John Deere Program Expanding on Milford Campus

The College’s John Deere Tech program will begin enrolling 20 new students each quarter beginning in spring 2015, thanks to a nearly 20,000 square-foot addition to the existing building. Students in the John Deere Tech and Deere Construction & Forestry Equipment Tech programs will utilize the new space. Construction of the $1.3 million addition is expected to begin this fall.

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