



## Featured Alumni Years: 1955 & 2002

Stories, photos & more!



 Find us on  
**Facebook**

Check out our other issues  
you may have missed!

[www.southeast.edu/alumniandfriends](http://www.southeast.edu/alumniandfriends)

### Upcoming Events & Information

1968 Milford Graduates, 50-Year Alumni Reunion,  
Milford Campus..... May 4  
Memorial Day, College Closed..... May 28  
Spring Quarter Ends..... June 7  
Milford Graduation, 6:30 p.m..... June 8  
Beatrice Graduation, 7 p.m..... June 8

Lincoln Graduation..... TBA  
Automotive Summer Camp, Milford Campus... June 8 & 9  
Independence Day, College Closed..... July 4  
Summer Quarter Begins..... July 11  
Labor Day, College Closed..... Sept. 3  
Summer Quarter Ends..... Sept. 20



# Spring Time of New Beginnings

Spring time brings a season of new beginnings. As the days become longer, the weather warms and the trees, lawns and flowers begin to green. Spring brings with it a new energy, awakening of life, new birth, and renewed feelings of promise and dreams of the future.

For more than 80% of the SCC enrolled students financial assistance is needed to pursue their educational goals and dreams of the future of making a living with an education from SCC. Although SCC continues to be one of the most affordable higher education institutions in Nebraska, not everyone who wants to attend SCC has the available resources to do so. Scholarship support has become an increasing important source of tuition assistance. The SCC Foundation is focused on raising more dollars so that more students can experience what you as SCC Alumni experience by building a career with an education from SCC.

Does a review of your 2018 New Year's resolutions, goals, and dreams have you moving towards accomplishments that have been impacted and made possible by your SCC Educational experience?

Does a review of your goals and resources include making a difference in the lives of current and future SCC Students by demonstrating an "Attitude of Gratitude" in the form of "Paying it Forward" with a donation to the SCC Educational Foundation?

The SCC Educational Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation responsible for encouraging, receiving, investing, stewarding, and disbursing private support on behalf of the donors of Southeast Community College for the benefit of the College, its programs, facilities, students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The Foundation Board is comprised of community leaders representing a broad cross-section of businesses within the College's 15-county service area. Board members represent leadership and community service and share the Foundation's value of ensuring opportunities for success at SCC.

Spring is a time of new beginnings. We are reminded of the saying that we make a living by what we get but a life by what we give. Spring is an opportunity for renewed commitment to incorporate your goals into your daily tasks and to make a difference for many of our SCC students by donating to the SCC Educational Foundation. What you plant now you will harvest later.

Designate a specific scholarship or make a donation to the SCC General Scholarship Fund. For a current list of scholarships funds access the student scholarship listing for the SCC Educational Foundation Scholarships at [www.southeast.edu](http://www.southeast.edu). On behalf of the entire Foundation Board thank you for your support of SCC and our Students.

## Types of scholarships available for donations:

● **Annual Fund:** Donation made on annual basis by a person or organization. That donation is used each year to provide scholarships to students who meet the established eligibility criteria.

● **Endowed Fund:** Requires a minimum contribution of \$5,000 and can be added to at any time. The principal remains in place in perpetuity, and only the interest earned each year is used to fund student scholarships. Beginning January 1, 2018, our interest rate being credited to endowed accounts is 5.0 percent. This rate is reviewed and set every six months by the SCC Educational Foundation Board.

● **Establish a new scholarship** based on your interests or intentions. A minimum contribution of \$200 is recommended. Our staff can assist you in determining criteria. **Call the office at 402-323-3411 or 402-323-3488, or send us an email: [jhuck@southeast.edu](mailto:jhuck@southeast.edu) or [jvolker@southeast.edu](mailto:jvolker@southeast.edu).**

The SCC Educational Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. All scholarship donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. SCC does not charge any overhead or management fees to our scholarship accounts so all of the funds donated go toward student scholarships.

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

Please complete this form, cut it out and mail it to: **SCC Educational Foundation**

**301 S. 68th St. Place  
Lincoln, NE 68510**

**Donate online at [www.southeast.edu/giving](http://www.southeast.edu/giving)**

Contributions are tax deductible.

1. Enclosed is my one-time gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . (Make checks payable to SCC Educational Foundation.)

2. I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year for 1 2 3 years for a total gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(please circle one)  My employer has a matching-gifts program.

**3. Please apply my gift to support:**

Student Scholarships  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please apply my student scholarship donation to:**

Annual Scholarship or  Endowed Scholarship

- Beatrice Campus  Beatrice Campus
- Lincoln Campus  Lincoln Campus
- Milford Campus  Milford Campus
- Area-wide Scholarship  Area-wide Scholarship

Specific Program of Study \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Please contact me regarding:**  Planned Giving/Estate Planning  Creating a Scholarship Fund

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ SCC Dates Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Interest/  
Program of Study \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of donor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## In this issue...

### BEATRICE/FAIRBURY CAMPUSES

My Life After SCC .....	4
Relay for Life has Hit Campus! .....	4
100th Practical Nursing Graduating Class Celebration .....	5
In Memory of . . . Beatrice and Fairbury Alumni .....	5
Family Leads Dr. Walter to Nursing Profession .....	6
Featured Year: 2002—From Sports Turf Management to Arborist .....	6
Former FJC Basketball Player Hoping to Connect with Former Teammates . . . .	6
Moving Forward after Setbacks .....	7

### LINCOLN CAMPUS

1985 Graduate of SCC Receives Alumni Award from NCCA .....	8
“Course” Now Open & Accepting Reservations .....	8
Learn to Dream Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary .....	9
SCC Practical Nursing Alum Dances Her Way Through Continuing Education Classes .....	10
Surgical Technology Moves One Step Closer to Competency Standards .....	10
In Memory of . . . Lincoln Alumni .....	10
New Director of Advancement .....	11

### MILFORD CAMPUS

Featured Year 1955 — In Their Own Words .....	12
1968 Graduates 50-Year Reunion .....	12
Scott Kahler Retires .....	12
Congratulations to SCC’s Outstanding Alumni .....	12
Automotive Summer Camp .....	13
Knowledge is Power .....	13
How SCC Changed Graduate’s Life .....	14
1957 Graduate Still Teaching at 86 .....	15
In Memory of . . . Milford Alumni .....	15

#### Board of Governors

Chairperson: Nancy A. Seim, Lincoln; Vice Chairperson: James J. Garver, Lincoln; Secretary: Kathy Boellstorff, Johnson; Treasurer: Robert J. Feit, Lincoln; Dale Kruse, Beatrice; Terrence L. Kubicek, Lincoln; Steven Ottmann, Dorchester; Edward C. Price, Lincoln; Donald Reiman, Virginia; Lynn Schluckebier, Seward; Kristin Yates, Lincoln; Pat Galitz, Faculty Representative, Lincoln (Jan. 16, 2018)

# BEATRICE CAMPUS

## My Life After SCC

"I attended Southeast Community College after graduating from Waverly High School in 2004. I decided to attend the Beatrice Campus because I didn't know what I wanted to do the rest of my life. All I knew was that I wanted to follow my passion for agriculture. I was able to explore many different paths while attending SCC. I always had a passion to be in a leadership role and was able to do that as a member of the Ag Club. I served as club president, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and student senate. I also served as a Resident Assistant and a Student Ambassador. I have so many memories from SCC that will last a lifetime.

After graduating with my Agribusiness degree I decided to continue my education at SCC's Lincoln Campus with plans to transfer to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While attending school I started working for Tractor Supply Company part-time in 2007. I thought it was going to be a good fit for me because my sister, who also is an SCC-Beatrice graduate, worked for TSC. I started at the store across town from her, and I fell in love with my job and Tractor Supply as a company. I love being a Tractor Supply team member because I am able to bring two worlds together: my passion for agriculture and helping people. When I was asked to move up in the company I left school behind and began my career in retail.

Soon after starting with TSC I was promoted to full-time team leader, then to assistant manager and finally to store manager in 2009. I took over my first store in Waterloo, IA. After managing that store for just over a year I ran the Council Bluffs, IA, store. I enjoyed my time in Iowa but knew I wanted to be closer to my family in Nebraska. The south Lincoln store needed a manager, so I moved back to my original store and worked there for nearly seven years.

I have accomplished a lot during my time with Tractor Supply, and some of them would not have been possible without the knowledge and experience that I gained from SCC. That's not only the case for me but for other team members that I have had the privilege of hiring and developing, many of whom attended the Ag program at SCC. I've also stayed in contact with many classmates and instructors since they have become my customers.



Recently I was given the opportunity to move with Tractor Supply one more time to my hometown of Waverly. I am excited because I get to work with the Waverly FFA chapter that I had the privilege to serve as president in high school, and now I'm an alumni member. I also get to continue to work with one of my favorite pet rescues, R.u.F.F. Rescue. I am looking forward to reconnecting with all of the local farm families and old friends by being able to provide a new service to the community.

I have been committed to Tractor Supply and my customers for just under 11 years and know that it is going to be my home for many years to come. When I am not at the store I love spending time with my fiancé, Jared Nelson, his son Ciptyn, and our two dogs, Phoenix and Chewy. I also serve on the Junior Ag Society Board for Lancaster County and look forward every year to volunteering at the Lancaster County Fair. Living so close to home, I also get to spend time on the family farm and help my sister with her family's pumpkin patch. Southeast Community College helped me find my path in life, and I know it has and will do the same for many others in the years to come."

*Jeana Bulling (Agriculture, 2006)*

## Relay for Life has Hit Campus!



A team has been formed to help fight against "the Dark Side"... **CANCER!** The SCC Storm Troopers came

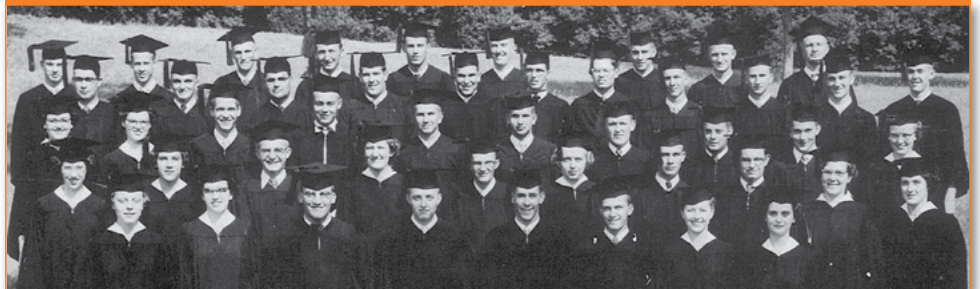
together in January to help bring awareness to cancer and to honor and remember those who have lost the fight and are still fighting. The SCC women's basketball team held a Pink Out in honor of assistant coach Kaye Schlake, who lost her battle with breast cancer last year. During Valentine's week students were invited to challenge staff and instructors in a Pie Face game. These two events alone have raised more than \$400 for the Storm Troopers cause. The SCC Storm Troopers would love for you to come to their side this spring and participate in the walk on April 28. The event will be held at the Gage County Fairgrounds from 1-10 p.m. In addition to the walk there will be entertainment, games, food, silent and live auctions, and a luminary event at dark.

**If you would like to participate and/or contribute, please contact Lacey Jurgens at [ljurgens@southeast.edu](mailto:ljurgens@southeast.edu) or Dusty Duis at [dduis@southeast.edu](mailto:dduis@southeast.edu).**

## Spring Prom Royalty 1955

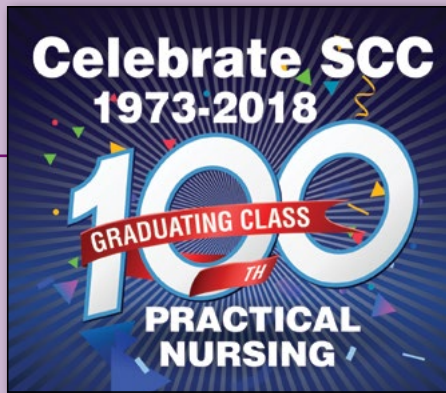


## Featured Year: FJC 1955 Commencement



## 100th Practical Nursing Graduating Class Celebration

The Practical Nursing program on SCC's Beatrice Campus will be hosting an afternoon celebration for the 100th graduating class on May 16 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Truman Center.



All nursing professionals are welcome, and past graduates of the program are encouraged to contact their classmates to attend the celebration. Attendees can earn three continuing education credits.

Bob Morgan, Beatrice Campus director, will welcome the group and provide updates related to the future of the Practical Nursing program on campus. Former faculty member Jill Duis, RN, BSN, CDE, infection preventionist for Jefferson Community Health and Life, will share the history of the program and changes in nursing over the years. Sue Hill, RN-BC, a certified gerontological nurse, a national Green House Educator and a community presenter, will entertain through use of humorous and motivational anecdotes about the health care field.

Refreshments will be served. There will be time to network and share stories with others about their time in nursing and in SCC's Practical Nursing program.

The program was developed, organized and directed by Belva DeJong (Cassell), RN, at Fairbury Junior College in September 1971. The program's first class was admitted in March 1972 at FJC in a small classroom in the basement with a few desks and four beds for skill practice. DeJong was with the program from September 1971 to 1975. She was succeeded by Jean Reily, RN, who was with the program from July 1975 until 1977.

In September 1977 the program was moved to Beatrice to be part of the newly named Southeast Community College. Priscilla Allen, RN, MSN, served as program chair until 1996 when she was promoted to dean of Health Occupations for the College. Her assignment was moved to Lincoln.

Crystal Higgins, faculty member, became the new program chair in 1996 and continued until her retirement in December 2017. Kristin Ruiz is the current program chair. The program was housed at different locations on campus, including the Kennedy Center to begin, then Adams Hall and currently Jackson Hall.

The nationally accredited Practical Nursing program has served students of southeast Nebraska, northern Kansas and parts of the United States and the world since 1971. The program is known for its standards of commitment to education of the practical nurse, competence and knowledge of faculty and dedication to a student-oriented friendly atmosphere.

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1955 Graduates?

**We want to stay in touch with our grads!**

Email information to [alumni@southeast.edu](mailto:alumni@southeast.edu) or call **800-233-5027, ext. 1216.**




Shirley Cacek	John Krauss
Carol Danielson	Paul Kuchera
Wayne Dunn	William Lea
Bob Eaton	Robert Leners
Dale Eickmann	Marlys Meyer
Jerry Fielder	Wayne Pesek
Esther Friesen	Mary Pickering
Darrell Garman	David Rowland
Genevieve George	Jerry Schmidt
Harlene Graham	Marian Shultz
Violice Graves	Lawrence Stryker
Dean Hobbemann	Robert Tippin
Richard Kapperman	Charles Vetrovsky

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2002 Graduates?


Brandi Alexander	Stephanie Marquardt
Lea Apfelbeck	Michele McLaurin
Brandon Beard	Matthew Mezger
Michael Becker	Brent Nunns
Joyce Calkin	Erin Pelton
Brett Carrigan	Tyson Poore
Susan Crosby	Caleb Pursley
Daisy Demler	Leann Remmers-Hamner
Amber Drake	Curt Richmond
David Drazic	Anthony Schnuelle
Benjamin Duncan	George Shada
Christy Frickel	Michael Shepard
Jeremy Gabel	Danathen Singleton
Kelsey Goodwin	Carrie Slama
Cortney Hartz	Zachary Smith
Shari Herman	Ryan Sorensen
Jodi Hevelone	Amber Steinkamp
Paula Imes	Daniel Stejskal
Ryan Johnsen	Sheryl Stone
Admir Kellezi	Jill Strouf
Michelle Kreshel	William Vraspir
Martin Levinson	Rebecca Warders
Benjamin Long	Christina Woodbury
Charlotte Macecevic	
Rachel Malchow	

## Featured Year 1955—We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!


**These quotes and notes were shared on returned birthday cards over the years.**

 **1955** - "I would not have been able to go on to school at that time without the JUCO (Junior College). I spent two years and no GI Bill. I did get help from in-laws at the time to help me go on. I did get a master's degree." *Marvin retired after working 32 years as a guidance counselor and seven years as a teacher.*

*Marvin Kirby, 1955 Academic Transfer*

 **1955** - *After FJC, Marvin continued his education at the University of Nebraska, University of Northern Colorado and the University of Iowa. He retired in 1997 from the University of Northern Iowa after 27 years serving as a professor of education.*

*Marvin Heller,  
1955 Elementary Education*

 **1955** - "SCC gave me the education I needed to teach school for two years. Then the business classes I took started me to a 50-year career, mainly in banking." *Rolla retired in 2012.*

*Rolla Heller, 1955 Business*

## In Memory of...

### Beatrice

Carol "Shayde" Goracke  
(Journalism, 1989)  
Kristin "Kris" Woodyard  
(Practical Nursing, 2008)

### Fairbury

Michael Austen (Pre-Engineering, 1972)  
Charles "Chuck" Bauer  
(Academic Transfer, 1971)

## Family Leads Dr. Walter to Nursing Profession

Nursing wasn't the first career choice for North Platte Community College's new nurse educator. Walter entered the profession as the result of a last request. Looking back, she's so glad she did.

"My 5-year-old niece died of leukemia on July 27, 1990," Walter said. "Before she died, she made me promise to become a nurse, and I never break a promise."

Walter's original plan was to coach softball and basketball. Following her high school graduation in 1982, the Minden native enrolled at Fairbury Junior College. She majored in journalism until her nephew was killed, at which point she dropped out of school.

Walter went back to school after her niece's request, graduating as a practical nurse from SCC in Beatrice in 1992.

She would go on to receive an associate degree from Regents College in Albany, New York, in 1998, a bachelor's degree from the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 2008 and a master's degree with a concentration in nursing education from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 2010.

In February, she added a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing degree from the University of Arizona in Tucson.

"I didn't choose nursing, it was chosen for me," said Walter. "But, I love every aspect of it. Nursing is who I am."

Some of the many places Walter has worked over the years include the Clay County Hospital in Clay Center, Kansas, the Beatrice State Developmental Center in Beatrice and The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in Wymore, where she was the restorative

coordinator and infection control and wound nurse.

"My specialty, though, is death and dying," said Walter. "It's a process that we all have to go through. I really like geriatrics and pain and symptom control, which is why I chose to work in hospice for seven years."

Most recently, Walter was the nursing assistant program coordinator at Arizona Western College in Yuma. Prior to that she was Arizona Western's interim director of nursing. She had been at the college for more than six years when she stumbled across an open nurse educator position at NPCC.

"It was an opportunity to come home and give back to the people who helped me get to where I am today," said Walter of her decision to apply for the job. "As I worked on my doctorate, all of my colleagues and former students from Nebraska kept pushing me and telling me I could do it. Now, I'm looking to inspire others. I plan to do that by showing students that learning can be fun."

*Diane Walter (Practical Nursing, 1992)*



*Courtesy of Heather Johnson, Area Communications Specialist, Mid-Plains Community College, for the article and the picture*

## Featured Year: 2002 From Sports Turf Management to Arborist



As manager of ArborNature Tree Experts, **Nick Bright** oversees the sales and outside operations and specializes

in property owner association and golf course relationships. Nick works with homeowners, property managers and golf course superintendents, along with company crews to make sure he puts the right crew with the right job for the best outcome for the customer. He is an ISA Certified Arborist (SO-9980A) and a licensed commercial pesticide applicator. Before joining ArborNature, Nick served as a superintendent at Melrose Golf Club, Haig Point Club and Harbour Town Golf Links and is a Class A GCSAA member. Nick holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Agriculture Business & Management Technology with a focus in Horticulture. He has spoken on behalf of the GCSAA in San Diego and was featured in the July 2012 issue of GCM magazine, as well as ESPN, that same year.

*Nicholas Bright (Agriculture, 2002)*

## We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!



**1981** - Not everyone wants the labor and stress of owning and operating a pumpkin patch, but Roger put some more of his agriculture training to work for him. Besides working as an account manager full-time, he has Long Pumpkin Patch to look after. Good luck!

*Roger Long, 1988 Agriculture*



**1991** - Alicia has worked for Mosaic in Beatrice for 25 years and in 2017 was promoted to associate director of Mosaic Beatrice. Congratulations, Alicia!

*Alicia (Baxa) Buhr, 1991 Academic Transfer*



**2016** - It's great to find out SCC graduates are willing to admit that life is good. "Living the dream here in central Nebraska." Don't let anyone tell you anything different.

*Dylon Smedra, 2016 Agriculture*

## Former FJC Basketball Player Hoping to Connect with Former Teammates

"I attended Nebraska Wesleyan University for one semester. After that I went to work in the construction industry for 50 years. I was employed by several companies during that time, the last one when I retired was Van Kirk Bros. in Sutton. I retired in 2010 and was the executive superintendent of the utility construction division. All of our work was in Nebraska and northern Kansas.

I was a member of the basketball team coached by Red Grovert from 1958-1960. We had a 39-11 record those two years. That is why I would like to

find out where these people are. FJC was a special place where I made a lot of friends but have lost track of them. Thank you for any help you can give me."

Marlowe Wall, FJC Class of 1960, says, "I would sure like to know if the people I played basketball with for Red Grovert are around and where they are, if they are still alive."

Mr. Wall gave permission for his teammates to contact him by email at marlowewall@gmail.com or call 402-366-3528.

## Moving Forward after Setbacks

When Kevan Hueftle says it's vital to have the right tool for the job, he talks from experience.

His right tools include custom-made prosthetic feet that allow him do farm and ranch work pain free and to train for his dream of competing in the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo.

Master craftsman Greg Davidson of Puyallup, Washington, made three prosthetics for Hueftle: one for competition, one for backyard workouts and one for daily use. The two men made connections through the Never Say Never Foundation, which assists amputees, particularly children and athletes.

Hueftle's life changed on Oct. 23, 2005.

He was scouting for deer near his family's farm west of Eustis when he spotted a coyote. When his high-powered rifle accidentally went off as he was removing it from his pickup, a bullet went into his left boot and through his heel bone.

There was no cell phone service in the hill and canyon country, but he was able to contact his grandmother, Janice, through the family's two-way radio system. She got in touch with his uncle, who summoned Hueftle's dad, Lee.

Omaha doctors didn't amputate Hueftle's left foot above the ankle until five months later, on March 30. "They wanted to cut it off that night (of the accident)," he said. "I wanted to keep it."

Hueftle said he finally was convinced that fusing the foot pieces together would make it unusable for his planned career as an Ag producer. And it certainly would not work for any future use of the running skills he honed as a member of the Eustis-Farnam High School and University of Nebraska at Kearney track teams.

He attempted a comeback with the UNK track team three months after the amputation, but it was too soon in the healing process.

Hueftle then enrolled at Southeast Community College in Beatrice, where he received an associate of applied science degree in Agriculture Business & Management Technology in December 2009 and returned to his family's farm.

Although he remained passionate about his sport, it took him years to regain his competitive spirit and start training. Two reasons were back surgery in 2008 and an alcohol addiction.

"I went from being an athlete, thinking I was pretty good, to losing everything to being an alcoholic for 10 years," Hueftle said, noting that he reached two years of sobriety in August.

He never sought counseling or a support group, but just decided to quit drinking. "Something clicked in my head and said, 'You're done,'" Hueftle said.

He began training in January toward his goal to be a sprinter on the U.S. Paralympic team, knowing that at age 32 he's one of the oldest competitors. A huge challenge until this summer was running on an 11-year-old blade.

There were similar not-the-right-tool issues with his work foot. Hueftle said he would break a foot every two to three months and each replacement still caused him so much pain that he had to stop and rest every 15-30 minutes.

Constantly replacing equipment also was expensive. He said the gel liner and sleeve that protect his stump can cost \$700, and a new foot might be \$20,000.

He has received some funding help for work boots and sleeves from Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation and has been in contact about work-related issues with specialists at Nebraska AgrAbility, a project of University of Nebraska Extension and Easter Seals Nebraska.

Hueftle still thought he was doing OK with his prosthetics until he got his new equipment made by Davidson.

"I flew to Seattle with one leg and came home with four, with three strapped to my backpack," he said about his mid-summer fitting with Davidson.

"The last five or six months have been great. There's a reason that guy in Washington is considered the best in the world," Hueftle added.

A feature of his day-to-day foot are splits in the shell's toe and heel for better mobility. "This foot has been a godsend," Hueftle said about being able to work pain free. "It's an amazing, amazing thing."

To prepare for qualifying events ahead of the 2019 World Championships and 2020 Paralympics, Hueftle plans to run in 2018 invitational track meets at UNK, Doane College, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and maybe a few other places.

He's excited to see how fast he can go with his new competition prosthesis.

He was pleased to run the 100 meters in 12.12 seconds on his old Ossur blade at the UNK Invitational last April. Hueftle said the time was good enough to put him "on the radar" as an emerging athlete, but he needs 10.9 seconds or less to make the national team.

"With my new leg, my times will be much better," he said.

Davidson did not charge Hueftle for the new prosthetics. "He just wants to see me



Story and photo by Lori Potter,  
Kearney Hub Staff Writer

run and succeed and be able to fly to the Paralympics and watch me run," Hueftle said, adding that Davidson does similar work for military veterans.

Hueftle said his local prosthetics specialist at Hanger Clinic: Prosthetics and Orthotics in Kearney wants to go to Washington with him the next time to learn from Davidson how to better help others with prosthetics.

"I'm in the best shape I've ever been in. I'm stronger than I thought I was," Hueftle said, noting that he can squat lift 335 pounds.

"I used to regret walking across the yard to close the gate because it hurt so badly. Now I can do so many more things. It (new, better foot) has helped me more than anything in my farming and ranching," he said.

*Kevan Hueftle (Agriculture, 2009)*

## Featured Year 1955



Fairbury Junior College volleyball team acquired a new name, the Bombadears, and new blue and white satin uniforms in 1955. Games were scheduled with high school teams in the Fairbury area. The record for the 1955 season was four wins and two losses.

# LINCOLN CAMPUS

## 1985 Graduate of SCC Receives Alumni Award from NCCA

**Morteza Fatemi** received the 2017 Nebraska Community College Association's Distinguished Alumni Award from Southeast Community College. Each of the five Nebraska community colleges who are NCCA members selects one graduate who is worthy of the award.

Originally from Iran, Fatemi came to the United States in the late 1970s. He enrolled in SCC because of its affordable price tag and small class sizes.

"I did a little search before enrollment and decided to attend SCC because it was affordable, small class sizes, individual attention from staff, and hands-on experience," he said. "But the most important part was the job placement service."

Fatemi graduated from SCC's Environmental Laboratory Technology program in 1985. He is a senior qualification engineer for Novartis Consumer Health/GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare in Lincoln.

"What I have here today, it all came from SCC," he said. "I am proud of it, and I wouldn't do what I'm doing today without my education from SCC."

Fatemi said the small class sizes and availability of the instructors was priceless.

"I got to know all the instructors, and we were never afraid to ask questions," he said. "A lot of kids graduate from the University (of Nebraska-Lincoln)

and don't have the hands-on experience. Once I walked into this job, I knew I had done things like that at SCC."

Following his graduation from SCC, Fatemi worked as a lab assistant at SmithKline Beecham Animal Health and worked his way up to a research associate. He worked there 13 years before a 10-year career at Pfizer Global Manufacturing as a quality assurance specialist.

In 2009 he commuted to Elkhorn, where he worked as a quality assurance specialist at Merck Animal Health. Two years later he returned to Lincoln to work at Novartis Consumer Health as a QAS, and now as a senior qualification engineer.

Fatemi says he is able to use his experiences at SCC every day in his job.

"I love the science field; I learn every



**From left:** Greg Adams, executive director of the Nebraska Community College Association; Morteza Fatemi; and Dr. Paul Illich, SCC president.

day," he said. "I can always go there and relate to what I learned at SCC."

Morteza and his wife Teresa have three children: April, Heidi and Javada, as well as two grandchildren. He enjoys biking, hiking and spending time with his family in his spare time. He also loves going to work every day.

"I love my job, and they say if you love your job it becomes your hobby."

# course

Great Plains Culinary Institute

## "Course" Now Open & Accepting Reservations

with this type of restaurant," he said.

Culinary/Hospitality students will work in all facets of the

If you want to experience fine dining in the Lincoln area, now is your chance. "Course" is Southeast Community College's newest attraction, an upscale dining establishment featuring top-notch meals.

Brandon Harpster, chair of the Culinary/Hospitality program at SCC, says he hopes it will be comparable to a four-star restaurant.

"We want to show people what we have to offer and get them comfortable

restaurant, including cooking, preparing, serving, and hosting. Rack of lamb and herb-crusted beef tenderloin are some of the options on the menu.

The \$4.2 million revamp of the Culinary/Hospitality program includes the full-service restaurant, new classrooms and labs, bakery and storage space. Harpster says it's been four years in the making.

"I'm most excited to have a space where students can learn in a real-life

restaurant environment," he said. "It's unbelievable, by far what we've always dreamed of having."

"Course" is available by reservation only. Starting in July, the restaurant will be open Monday through Thursdays for lunch, and Thursday evenings for dinner.

"We are built to grow," Harpster commented. "We always had great curriculum, and we always had great faculty. We just needed great space. Now we have it."

**To make a reservation, please email Kim Williams at [Course.reservations@southeast.edu](mailto:Course.reservations@southeast.edu).**

**Lunches begin at 11 a.m. for \$15, and dinners start at 6:30 p.m. for \$22.**



## Learn to Dream Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary



When **Connie Duncan** retired from Lincoln Public Schools as a special education teacher, she didn't waste much time before diving head first into her next role as a success coach for the Learn to Dream

Scholarship program at Southeast Community College.

"I just said to my husband how we needed something for LPS students, when the newspaper had an article about the Learn to Dream program," she recalled.

Duncan contacted administrators at LPS and expressed her willingness to be involved in the newly created scholarship. Not long afterward, she was the only employee in Learn to Dream in 2007. During the next three years, she spent time with counselors at Lincoln high schools, getting names and recruiting students. Once they came to SCC, she helped them adjust to their new role as a college student.

She remembers one time setting up a booth at Lincoln Southeast High School, and a mother had tears in her eyes when she found out about the Learn to Dream Scholarship because she never thought it was possible for her son to go to college.

"The most rewarding part for me was seeing the students and how the LTD program changed the whole life trajectory for these kids," Duncan said.

When Duncan became a member of the Lincoln Board of Education, she left SCC and her duties with the scholarship to focus her energies on her new role. However, she never stopped thinking of the program and the students she helped along the way.

"I miss the students. I miss helping them solve life's problems," she reflected.

Former SCC President **Dr. Jack Huck** was instrumental in establishing the scholarship, along with Union Bank & Trust and Nelnet. They wanted to make it possible for high school students who did not have the financial means to attend



college, or never thought it was possible to enroll at SCC and start the higher education process.

"Leaders of Union Bank and Nelnet said they would be interested in establishing a support system that would have a significant impact on students," Huck recalled. "They wanted all high school graduates in Lincoln to have the opportunity to attend college at SCC."

During the first year of Learn to Dream, 212 students were awarded scholarships. Now, the number easily doubles that, with a high of 573 students during the 2015-2016 year.

"As we track the success of these students, it's amazing to me how committed and focused they are," he said. "They are succeeding at higher levels at our institution."

Huck said there are many highlights in his 39-year career at Southeast Community College, but the Learn to Dream scholarship tops the list.

"When I think about impacting the lives of students, this scholarship program is right at the top of the heap. It's one of the bright spots of my career."

Every year in the spring, a recognition ceremony is held for the LTD students. Huck said he enjoys meeting the students and learning more about them through their families that also attend.

"Some of my best memories are talking with them and meeting their families and to learn from mom and dad about the difference this opportunity has made in the student's life," he said.

As far as the future of the scholarship, Huck said now that they've had a chance to observe it in its formative years, they've talked about the possibility of finding more benefactors to cover the entire time it takes to get a degree at SCC.

"It's something I try and pitch a little bit and maybe build on that success," he said.

The Learn to Dream scholarship will hold its 10-year spring recognition ceremony in May.

## We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!



**1981** - "I am a photographer, jewelry designer and artist. I do a lot of volunteering, including being a 4-H leader."

*Kimberly Sharples,  
1981 Human Services Graduate*



**1990** - "After almost 37 years of employment, I have retired from the Nebraska State Historical Society. I was the human resources manager there. It is in part because of my excellent education as a non-traditional student at Southeast Community College, and the encouragement from Dr. Snyder, that I became a successful HR manager. Thank you!"

*Joan Krontz-Clare,  
1990 Business Administration Graduate*



**1994** - "Promoted in 2017 to Head of Fire Inspection/Investigation Sections, state of Utah Fire Marshall, have been there for more than 17 years."

*Todd Hohbein, 1994 Fire Protection  
Technology Graduate*



**2001** - "I recently became a Honda Factory Certified Master Technician."

*Corey Hemmerling,  
2001 Automotive Technology Graduate*



**2001/2004** - "I got my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Holy Names University and now will graduate with a Master of Science degree from Indiana State University. SCC remains a school to beat in terms of quality and skill training."

*Malachy Osuagwu, 2001 Licensed  
Practical Nursing Graduate,  
2004 Associate Degree Nursing  
Graduate*



**2007** - "I'm a district manager with PepperJax Grill and oversee eight stores in Nebraska and Kansas."  
*Whitney Robinson, 2007 Food Service/  
Hospitality Graduate*



**2011** - "After earning my bachelor's and master's degrees, I am now a science teacher at Shanghai International High School in Shanghai, China."

*Tyler Goeschel,  
2011 Academic Transfer Graduate*

## SCC Practical Nursing Alum Dances Her Way Through Continuing Education Classes



**Jo Anderson** danced her way into the 21st Century and is still going strong. The 94-year-old is living life to the fullest and would not do it any other way.

Anderson graduated from the Practical Nursing program at Southeast Community College in 1990 at the age of 67. Prior to that she earned her physical therapist degree from the College of William & Mary in 1946. Now Anderson is taking dancing and acting classes through SCC's Continuing Education Division. She never stops learning.

"It's especially important to do things like this when you're older for balance and social interaction," said Gail Ogden, SCC dance instructor. "She has a great attitude, and it demonstrates that you're never too old."

Ogden says many women take the Beginning Tap class numerous times because they enjoy dancing and the friendships they develop along the way.

"It's very social, and that's what adult education is about, making new connections and having fun," she said.

This isn't Anderson's first time on the dance floor. She taught ballroom dancing in the 1940s and later was part of the Shim Sham dance group that performed at halftime during Husker basketball games.

"Everything about dancing is fun," Anderson said. "I like to move to the music."

Her daughter, Lori, accompanies her every week to the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church where they take part with a dozen other women in Beginning Tap Dance for Adults. On this particular day, she wore one of her costumes from her days as a Shim Sham dancer. Lori takes her mother on many of life's adventures.

"Three years ago at the Nebraska Cornhusker spring game, she participated in a flash mob dance and had a brief solo in it," she recalled. "Two years ago we went sky-diving for her 92nd birthday in Weeping Water."

She also took her to the Paul McCartney concert when he was in Lincoln a few years ago.

"She stood the whole time and danced," Lori recalled. "She loved it!"

Jo originally started nursing school in 1941 but changed her career course to become a physical therapist.

"Someone saw her teaching swimming lessons and told her she'd be a good PT," Lori said. "Training time was shorter, so she changed her major. At the time she'd never heard of physical therapy."

But she never lost sight of wanting to become a nurse. Anderson worked at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital and took care of patients younger than her, according to Lori.

Jo was married 66 years to her husband, Ferd. They lived all over the country and came to Nebraska in 1976 so he could be close to his family. They had seven children together, as well as five foster children. He died four years ago and while she misses him terribly, she doesn't let life slow her down.

"It doesn't seem like any time at all," she said about her 94 years on earth.

## Surgical Technology Moves One Step Closer to Competency Standards

On Jan. 30, 2018, LB360, sponsored by Sen. Mark Kolterman, advanced out of the Health and Human Services Committee with support from all seven senators on the committee. The bill would establish a mandatory registry for all surgical technologists in the state of Nebraska, creating minimum competency standards that will assist in ensuring safe patient care. Currently the surgical technologist is the only member of the immediate operating room team that does not have minimum competency standards in place. LB360 will assist in protecting the surgical patient by requiring surgical technologists to comply with mandatory reporting requirements as well. The bill will now move to the floor of the Legislature for consideration by all senators. The alumni of the SCC Surgical Technology program will be impacted by this regulation if it becomes state law by showing their continued competence through maintaining annual registration. The bill is a positive movement for the surgical technology profession. Above all else, the bill will provide surgical patients with the assurance that every member of their operating room team has demonstrated a minimum level of competence.

### *In Memory of...*

Chantelle Baker (Early Childhood Education, 2001)

Shane Besch (Visual Publications, 2009)

John Dybdall (Motorcycle, ATV & Watercraft Technology, 1985)

Brook (Ratcliffe) Eden, (Dental Assisting, 2010)

James Lightbody (Jim was involved in the legislative process that led to the current Nebraska Community College system.)

Stan Matzke Jr. (Retired Related Studies Instructor, Milford Campus; Asst. to the President of SCC; Member of SCC Educational Foundation Board)

## New Director of Advancement

With 25 years of fundraising experience, **Rick Blessen** of Crete is Southeast Community College's first director of advancement. Blessen most recently was the development director at Doane University in Crete. He looks forward to using his experience in higher education fundraising at SCC.

"Southeast Community College is providing not only an opportunity for students to have an affordable top-quality education, but to be educated in high-demand, well-paying fields," Blessen said.

Blessen is a Columbus native who graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1993. In addition to Doane he also worked at Nebraska Educational Television and the Nebraska Humanities Council. He and his wife, Jennifer Robison, have three children: Jack, Gus and Belle, who attend Crete Public Schools.

He told his family he wanted to work somewhere he could leave a lasting legacy.

"I want to look back with a sense of pride," he said. "I would love to walk these campuses with my grandkids some day and show them what we were able to accomplish."

Blessen is working on securing funding for many current expansions at SCC, including a new health sciences building



and culinary space in Lincoln, a new diesel technology facility in Milford and an improved residential and dining space in Beatrice.

Southeast Community College offers more than 50 career and technical programs in Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford, as well as online.

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2002 Graduates?

**We want to stay in touch**

**with our grads!** Email information to

**alumni@southeast.edu** or call **800-233-5027, ext. 1216.**



Nicole Abbott	Caleb Meyer
Laura Ahlers	Lindsey Mierau
Huma Ahmad	John
Joel Anderson	Miller-Andersen
Joann Arington	Rocky Neal
Andrew Bestwick	Ahna Nelson
Heidi Bohnart	Michaela Odbert
R. Bransford	Billi Packett
Nicholas Britton	Sara Pasbrig
Jessica Cabela	Jodi Phillips
Donghyoun Chang	Regina Pypenko
Julie Christensen	Trisha Rahe
Ryan Coleman	Jared Rains
Andrew Dawson	Kelli Rasmussen
Dena Dennick	Sandra Riedl
Kelly Eaton	Danny Rogers
Jennifer Erie	Kristen Ryschon
Tamrah Forrest	Mary Schmidt
Cynthia Fox	Celisa Schweitzer
Katrina Gallington	Tonny Sehnert
Alec Griswold	Ronald Shotkoski
Junping Han	Amy Slaymaker
Megan Hardesty	Clyde Soappman
Kelly Harrison	Stephanie Sorensen
Melissa Howard	Michelle Sowash
John Hurley	Elisabeth Spataro
Marissa James	Sarah Teinert
Robert Johnson	Sarah Thaller
Lesli Joseph	Jennifer Timm
Trevor Kalkwarf	Amy Turner
Carolyn Kudlacek	Lyn Varrati
Katie Kunasek	Christopher Webster
Braden Manolidis	Holly Weiner
Stephanie	Barbara Whittaker
Marquardt	Lea Wiley
James Matson	Marion Willoughby
Susanne	Adam Winsenburg
Matson-Pulec	Bonnie Woltemath
Robin Maxwell	Brandi Woods
Robyn Menke	Dorinda Zachry
Jenifer Mettler	Hongxing Zhang

### 1955 Pop Culture

#### #1 Hit Songs

"Rock Around the Clock"  
by Bill Haley & His Comets  
"The Yellow Rose of Texas"  
by Mitch Miller  
"Mr. Sandman"  
by The Chordettes  
"Hearts of Stone"  
by The Fontane Sisters

#### Movies You Might Have Seen

"Rebel Without a Cause"  
"Lady and the Tramp"  
"Oklahoma!"  
"Guys and Dolls"  
"The Seven Year Itch"

### 2002 Pop Culture

#### #1 Hit Songs

"U Got It Bad" by Usher  
"Foolish" by Ashanti  
"Hot In Herre" by Nelly  
"Lose Yourself" by Eminem  
"Dilemma" by Nelly featuring  
Kelly Rowland

#### Movies You Might Have Seen

"The Lord of the Rings:  
The Two Towers"  
"Harry Potter and the  
Chamber of Secrets"  
"Ice Age"  
"My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

# MILFORD CAMPUS

## Featured Year 1955 – In Their Own Words



“My passion has always been cars. I grew up in Ogallala with a father who sold them, and I loved them. After graduating from

Ogallala High School in 1951 and briefly attending Wichita University (now Wichita State University), I returned to Ogallala and worked at a body shop doing minor repairs. I decided if this was my life's ambition, I should have some schooling on the subject. One of the radio and TV instructors at the Nebraska State Trade School, Emil Fahrlander, was from Ogallala, and that was my first connection to the College. I also had a good friend, Roger Elmshaeuser, who graduated from NTS.

I enrolled in the fall of 1953 in the Basic Automotive program. I lived in Milford at one of the local boarding houses with four other NTS students. During my second year I moved to Seward where I rented an apartment and drove to school. There was a full class of 25 students in my Auto Body & Fender program.

Not long after attending, I knew most of the faces of students and instructors, definitely a benefit of going to a school that size! Certain things stand out in my mind, like the race to the cafeteria every day

through the tunnel under the street. I also remember Bob Eicher, whose name lives on at the campus today. Eicher was the registrar and a coach at the school. He asked me to be the editor of the first ever annual, “The Tradesman.” I had previously written articles for the school paper for our department. Later I attended Eicher's retirement reception on campus with my old classmate, Jack Hibbs. We were in line to shake hands, and Bob asked Jack how he had been all these years. Jack remarked, “Well, they haven't named any buildings after me!”

I graduated in 1955 and returned to my hometown of Ogallala. Initially I found a job selling cars, and then began a life of farming that lasted 46 years. Even though I did not use my automotive training in my farming career, I did use it in my personal time as I bought, restored and sold more than 200 cars over the years. My passion for cars never died.

I often give advice to others attending Southeast Community College: use the resources SCC offers to your best advantage. It will be very rewarding. The facilities students have now are a welcome change. In addition, students don't have to worry about the state legislature voting to close it down like they almost did in our day! I had a life well spent, and I count every day faithfully.

Two of my NTS classmates later became auto body instructors: Marvin Bartling of Lodgepole taught at both Sidney and Scottsbluff schools and Bob Bowen at SCC.”

*Herb Ruser, Class of 1955,  
Auto Body and Fender Graduate*



## 1968 Graduates Friday, May 4, 2018 50-Year Reunion

The Milford Campus of Southeast Community College (formerly Nebraska Vocational Technical School) will be hosting a 50-Year Alumni Reunion for all 1968 graduates of the Milford campus on Friday, May 4, 2018.

If you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend, please contact Shelly Tolle, Alumni Coordinator, at [stolle@southeast.edu](mailto:stolle@southeast.edu) or 402-761-8242.

**Reservations are required.**

- 8:30 a.m. .... Welcome/Refreshments
- 9:30 a.m. .... Slide Show/Campus Tour
- 11:30 a.m. .... 1968 Graduate Group Pictures
- 11:45 a.m. .... Complimentary Buffet Lunch

## Scott Kahler Retires

After graduating from Lincoln High School, **Scott Kahler** attended and graduated from the Machine Tool Technology program at Southeast Community College-Milford in March 1977. Before his SCC teaching career began in 1982, Kahler was employed by Aaron Machine in Lincoln, and pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduating in 1981. Kahler taught at SCC in the Machine Tool Technology (now Precision Machining & Automation Technology) program for 35 years and was instrumental in the addition and renovation to the PMA program on the Milford Campus and also The Career Academy in Lincoln. Scott has many interests, including gymnastics, reading, theatre, vintage racing, British and Miata cars, and Auto Cross. Congratulations Scott! We wish you much enjoyment during your retirement!



## Congratulations to SCC's Outstanding Alumni



**Jerry Kleine**, September 1989 GM Automotive Service Educational Program graduate, received the Outstanding Alumni Award at the Dec. 15, 2017, graduation ceremony. Kleine is a

service technician at Tom Dinsdale Automotive in Grand Island, and received the General Motors Mark of Excellence National Service Technician Award in 2016.

# AUTOMOTIVE SUMMER CAMP

FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE TRANSPORTATION REPAIR FIELD

**JUNE 8 & 9, 2018 - SCC's MILFORD CAMPUS**

**\$29 PER PARTICIPANT (NON-REFUNDABLE);**

**INCLUDES TOOLS, MEALS, HOUSING, AND TRANSPORTATION TO A SPECIAL ACTIVITY.  
PARTICIPANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE AND REGISTER BY JUNE 1, 2018.**

**To register or for more information, contact Rick Morphew, SCC Milford Campus,  
600 State St., Milford, NE 68405 or at 800-933-7223, ext. 8317, or [rmorphew@southeast.edu](mailto:rmorphew@southeast.edu).**

## Knowledge is Power



**Mark Walenz** is as experienced as they come when the subject is ladders. Having worked many years as an HVAC technician

and more than 15 years as a volunteer firefighter, he unloaded and loaded hundreds of ladders in his career.

Then, one day, while routinely unloading a ladder, he felt his back stiffen. Reaching up and twisting to dislodge the ladder sent shivers down his spine. A visit to the doctor confirmed the injury, a diffused back, and Walenz's active contracting career came to a halt.

"It was kind of a strange thing that happened," Walenz said. "I know we're talking about safety here, but there was no way to prevent this. As our workforce gets older, it becomes even more critical to be extra careful."

Despite his injury, Walenz landed on his feet at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, where he serves as HVACR program coordinator. Walenz's curriculum is designed to equip students with the knowledge necessary to immediately step onto job sites. Once

they've completed the course, students receive diplomas and apprenticeship training certificates.

"Safety is a major component of our curriculum," Walenz said. "We cover a number of things, including the philosophy of safety, OSHA and ANSI (American National Standards Institute) requirements, drugs, prescription medicine, refrigerant safety, confined spaces, and much more."

One important section of the course focuses on the various types of personal protective equipment and vehicle safety.

"While construction sites typically require hard hats, service guys aren't used to wearing them, so we typically start with bump caps," he said. "We also talk about the cones on the side of the road, what they mean, and why those things occur. We also discuss how you park your vans, where you park them, etc."

Walenz said instructors can only do so much when it comes to teaching safety. The real work begins once students become technicians.

"Safety excellence has to come from the top down; it has to come from company owners and presidents," he said. "Even if companies have safety directors, they're not going to enthusiastically preach

safety unless it comes from those in charge. A foreman on a job site should never ask an employee to do something he's not prepared to do himself. As an industry we have to do better. Safety has to be a full-time component, not just when it's convenient."



Walenz (from left) pictured with students, Jared Rayman and Mike Minor, and Ashley Clark, interpreter.

*Mark Walenz is a 1986 Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology graduate of SCC. Walenz was recently hired by Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, IA as the HVACR Program Coordinator to start a HVACR program.*

*Printed with permission from Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration NEWS.*

# MILFORD CAMPUS

## How SCC Changed Graduate's Life

**Michael Lorens, 2014 Manufacturing Engineering Technology graduate, spoke to the Transportation/Manufacturing Division students during the Winter Student-of-the-Quarter presentation. Michael works for American Beer Equipment in Lincoln as the Lead Installation Technician.**

"College can be perceived as many different things. It can mean a learning experience to some, a party for others and sometimes viewed as a necessity. My own personal view of college changed throughout the years. It changed in three separate stages: before college, during college and after college. First, I am going to present my view before college and the process of choosing the correct one for me. Then I will discuss what it meant to me during my time at SCC. And finally, I'll give you a glimpse of the success you can expect from having such a great education.

I grew up on a farm and ranch in southwest Nebraska, so my view of further education was different than some. Most kids are taught that college is a necessity from a young age, either by their parents or high schools. I had the opportunity to graduate from high school and just continue working on the family farm to stick with what I knew and what I was comfortable with. Luckily, my girlfriend at the time and now wife, talked me into following her to the eastern side of the state to attend college. So now it was time to decide where I would go and what I would do. I was not drawn much to a four-year university because of the lack of hands-on training, so I immediately turned toward a trade school. Right away, SCC-Milford stood out to me with its amazing reputation. I toured SCC and immediately knew it was the correct school for me. Now it was time to choose a program.

At first I thought my mind was made up, and I almost joined the John Deere program since I was so familiar with working on them. But out of curiosity I decided to tour the Nondestructive Testing and Manufacturing Engineering programs. Manufacturing Engineering stood out, not because it was easy and familiar, but rather because it was completely different than anything I had done. All the different aspects intrigued me, so I signed up for the program as soon as I could. It was time for my adventure to begin.

I graduated from high school in May 2013 and started at SCC on July 10, 2013. I had no idea what to expect, or where to go and what to do. I had no friends attending SCC, so I felt like I was starting over. I felt lost at

first, but that quickly changed. It became apparent that many of the students that were attending originated from a similar background. Soon I made many friends, including in my program. Also, with the schedule being set and so consistent, it made it easy to adapt and settle in. I soon found myself truly enjoying the new atmosphere. I noticed that nearly all of the instructors had actually worked in the industry before coming to SCC to teach. This gave them a clear perspective of what information they needed to be teaching. Another great aspect was the small student-to-instructor-ratio, which enabled the instructor to help out one-on-one or present the information in different ways for others to better understand. The instructors were not just there to teach but also to help in any way as a friend. I truly treasured my time at SCC and completed all six quarters while staying on the Dean's List.

**Here's what an education at SCC did for me and what you can expect it to do for you.**

**Opportunities.** When you attend such a prestigious college, opportunities for internships and employment come from everywhere. Our trades are in high demand all over the country, and SCC has many connections. I wanted to stay around Lincoln, so I thought this might limit my options. I found the situation to be quite the opposite. I was doing some drafting for Breeza Industries of Utica during my last two quarters of college, and they had presented a full-time offer to me well before my schooling was finished. I had four other job opportunities in my field of study that I was going to interview for. But then in one day that all changed. A company came to SCC to give a presentation and indicated that they were looking to hire someone. The company was American Beer Equipment from Lincoln. So as a standard college student, the word BEER greatly intrigued me. They were offering interviews that very day, so I gave it a shot. Two days later they brought me into the company and gave me a full-time offer.


I graduated on a Friday later that month and started working at ABE the following Monday. I am now the Lead Installation Technician and travel all over the U.S. and world. Ever since I started three years ago, I have been on more than 200 flights, visited 45 states, and four countries. I just returned from Moscow, Russia. I had stepped into my dream job without even knowing it.


I always reflect on how blessed I am. Without SCC the chances of me being qualified or even made aware of this job

opportunity would have been slim to none. I appreciate what this school has done for me educationally and personally, and I hope all of you will come to appreciate that as well. You never know where or when opportunities can arise from. With the education you are receiving you have already made the first step toward success and possibly the first step into achieving your dream."




## We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!

 **1963** - "I am still driving my 1951 Studebaker I drove in school!"  
*Mark Ferguson,*  
*Electronics graduate*

 **1969** - "In 2016, I completed one goal: to ride my bicycle in every state. In 2017, I started riding in Canada and have completed British Columbia, Yukon and Saskatchewan."  
*Wesley Sterner,*  
*Drafting graduate*

 **1989** - "My husband (Jim Johnson, 1988 Auto Collision Repair graduate) and I are both proud graduates of SCC-Milford, and we recommend it to many of our friends, students and children."  
*Tina Johnson,*  
*Architectural graduate*

 **1995** - "I recently became the Scout Master for Troop 159 in Lincoln."  
*Mark Huenink,*  
*Automotive graduate*

 **1991** - "I was promoted to service manager in spring 2017. It would not have been possible without the education I received from SCC."  
*Alan Pospisil,*  
*John Deere Tech graduate*

## 1957 Graduate Still Teaching at 86



After **Neil "Pete" Petersen's** Korean conflict U.S. Army discharge, he got his old job back working at the Sioux Army Ordnance Depot in Sidney. There he met and fell in love with his lifelong partner, Darlene, a base employee and chapel organist. After they were married in 1955, they moved to Milford so Pete could attend Nebraska State Trade School (now SCC) for the Automotive program.

"While I was in College I was a volunteer fireman for the Nebraska State Trade School Fire Department. I worked all night of the 1957 tornado that took the roofs off of several of our student housing buildings on campus. I knew the Milford lumber yard owner who was a member of the Milford Methodist Church where we attended and where Darlene played the organ for worship services, so I signed for a load of plywood for emergency covers for roofs that were damaged.

My GI Bill provided us \$165 to pay for housing, tuition and food. Darlene

worked for \$43 a week at Carl Trabert's Dime Store. I worked nights and Saturdays for Kenny and Marie Dahle at Clay Craft Pottery Factory in Milford, and I also worked from 8 p.m. until the early morning hours every other night tending the steam heat plant on campus.

Darlene and I moved to California right out of college (1957) on my Korean conflict Army GI Bill. I got a job at the San Bernardino County Oldsmobile Service Center the first week we were in California and worked 11 years as a service technician. We then purchased an automotive repair service center in San Bernardino and ran that for five years, and then owned and operated another very busy and successful service center in nearby Colton, California, until retiring in 2000.

In 1977, I started teaching two nights a week and some Saturday classes at San Bernardino Valley College. At 86 years of age, I still teach there. I have my retirement plan in place. I plan to work up to lunch hour the day of my funeral.

On the morning of Dec. 28, 2017, Jesus took Darlene home to be with him in glory as God decided enough is enough. 'Well done, you have been a good and faithful Servant.' We are all very thankful for the wonderful wife, mother and friend that she was.

In 2016 we took an RV trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and north to Minnesota, but be assured that if I come again, SCC will surely be one of my stops. Thank you for jump-starting my automotive service career."

*Neil "Pete" Peterson, Grand Terrace, CA  
1957 Automotive Graduate*

## Featured Year: Class of 2002 Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning



**Front row, from left:** Kelsey Weiss, Jason Parks, Philip Rizek.  
**Back row, from left:** Brett Holmes, Matt Taylor, John Markhofer.

## In Memory of...

Stanley Boldt (Automotive, 1964)  
Bruce Burton (Electronics, 1974)  
Bruce Dannelly (Diesel, 1982)  
Larry G. Eckert (Machine Tool, 1974)  
Patrick Tim Fessler (Diesel, 1984)  
James Glover Jr. (Diesel, 1979)  
Wade James (Computer Programming, 1996)  
Stan Keller (Building Construction, 1971)  
Gaylan J. Koch (Building Construction, 1960)  
Norman Kohout (Electronics, 1967; Land Surveying, 1973)  
Thomas Meehan (Diesel Truck, 1987)  
Leo Miller (Electronics, 1960)  
Dana Mora (Welding, 1998)  
Gerald (Jerry) Oakeson (Retired Diesel Instructor)  
Robert Schultz (Automotive, 1957)  
Daniel Softley (Diesel, 1973)  
Eric Sura (Auto Collision Repair, 1994)  
Kenneth TeSelle (Building Construction, 1987)  
Bill Wendt (Machine Tool, 1971; Retired Machine Tool Instructor)

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1955 Graduates?

**We want to stay in touch with our grads!** Email information to [alumni@southeast.edu](mailto:alumni@southeast.edu) or call **800-933-7223, ext. 8242.**



Ronald Albert	Melvin Cropley	Richard Hall	Leo Koryta	Cecil Platt	Hugh Wilson
David Almgren	Joe Cummings	John Homan	Robert Liggett	Math Reiman	Willie Witham
Bert Baird	Charles Cyrus	Benjamin Huber	Thomas McCarthy	Robert Rodell	Bud Wollen
Robert Barbour	Larry Daudt	Norman Johnson	Richard McLain	Cloyd Steeves	Kenneth Wollen
Tom Beattie	Edward Deermar	Gale Jones	Ernest Osburn	Donald Thibault	
Alvin Brown	Eugene Gesiriech	Leonard King			

## Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2002 Graduates?

James Adams	Bryon Duncan	Jacob Holmes	Jose Lopez	Billie Nelson	Ryan Smith
Chris Addleman	Bradly Ekberg	Mitchell Jewell	Anthony Luna	Jason Nolda	Justin Steeby
Joshua Andrew	Barakat Elshalaby	Christopher Jones	Cassandra Manriquez	Randall Petermann	Adam Veik
Nicholas Barnes	Benjamin Ferguson	William Jones	Wrey Martinson	Kyle Peters	Salena Vieyra
John Billings	Branden Glause	Nathan Keller	Corey McGowen	Jerome Petersen	Ryan Volk
Craig Brack	Ashley Green	Michael Keyes	Mark Meiners	Jason Purviance	Thomas Watson
Duane Brouillard	Nolan Harrah	Matt Kliewer	Rachel Meyer	Brenda Regnier	Darrell Wengler
Tracey Clapp	Adam Hemmer	Ryan Knott	Philip Monjaras	David Renz	Brian Winter
Matthew Crouse	Derrick Hermanson	Andrew Kuck	Cassandra Morava	Jason Ring	Scott Zegar
Nathaniel Daily	Brett Holmes	Katrina Lang	Daniel Nadherny	Kenneth Schulenberg	Nathaniel Zimbelman
Bryan Drumheller					

Southeast Community College  
600 State Street  
Milford, NE 68405-8498

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.southeast.edu](http://www.southeast.edu)

## SCC Changing Academic Calendar to Semesters



Beginning **August 2019**, SCC will operate on the semester calendar system. The transition from quarters to semesters has been studied at length during the past two years by representatives from nearly every area of the College.

SCC received preliminary results from the Higher Learning Commission visiting team this last fall. The conversion to a semester calendar was one of several major initiatives that was validated by the report as critical to meeting the HLC's core criteria.

A Calendar Task Force was formed, and it met for the first time in August 2017, working on multiple plans to steer the College through this process. Here is a brief update on the College's quarter-to-semester calendar conversion:

*A link on the public website ([www.southeast.edu/Q2S](http://www.southeast.edu/Q2S)) contains comprehensive up-to-date information, including the calendars, timeline, a student guide, a Q&A section, and more. The site will evolve throughout this process.*

Members of the Calendar Task Force have refined the calendars, drafted a common class schedule, developed an implementation timeline, and contacted other schools to gather best practices. All of this information will be shared with SCC employees, students and the general public.

*Calendar Task Force Members: Dr. Dennis Headrick (co-leader), Bev Cummins (co-leader), Marcie DeLong, Dr. Bruce Exstrom, Rod Rhodes, Mike Pegram, Al Brunkow, Shawna Herwick, Robin Moore, and Stu Osterthun.*