


Alumni NEWS

January 2023



Surgical Tech grad
successfully transitions
from the operating room
to medical sales.

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**1969 & 2015
Featured Alumni Years**
Stories, photos & more!

Upcoming Events & Information

Spring Semester Begins Jan. 9
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Non-traditional

Josh Floyd is proof it's never too late to go back to school.



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Michael Morian

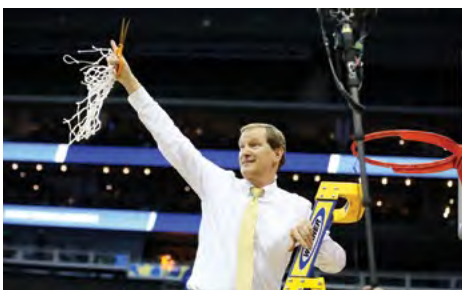
Milford alum has long and impressive resume.



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Surgical Tech Grad

Matt Stutzman shows us there's more than one thing to do with a degree from SCC.



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Dana Altman

Oregon Coach Dana Altman honored by Nebraska Community College Association.

Photo Credit: Eric Evans, Oregon Athletic Communications



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(May 2022)

SCC Continues to Grow

This is an exciting time for SCC as it continues to pursue several transformative initiatives, including enrollment growth, a second phase of Facilities Master Plan projects, and preparation for its comprehensive accreditation review.

Although many community colleges had significant declines this past fall semester, SCC experienced a slight (.1%) overall increase from the 2021 Fall Semester. On our Milford Campus, enrollment has grown 35% since the 2019 Fall Semester, following the completion of two new student housing projects. SCC has been modernizing its facilities, adding programs and implementing advising, marketing and recruiting strategies to position SCC for enrollment growth over the next several years.

This past year, SCC launched the planning and design phases of a second set of Facilities Master Plan projects: the Welding Technology Center, the Sandhills Global Technology Center and Science Center on the Lincoln Campus; the Construction Technologies Center on the Milford Campus; and an Agriculture Career Center on the Beatrice Campus. These projects, which will help the College directly address the skilled workforce shortage in the high-demand industries associated with these new facilities, will be partially funded with the College's \$50 million Empower Capital Campaign.

The College also is pursuing other facilities projects, including a new 250-unit student housing project on the Lincoln Campus. This represents the first time SCC will have student housing available on the Lincoln Campus, with completion of construction expected in late 2023, with occupancy expected in January 2024. SCC is also nearing completion of an 80,000 square-foot renovation and a 20,000 square-foot addition to house its student and academic support services on the Lincoln Campus.

This past year, the College won several awards related to its recent transformational initiatives, including the Ellucian Impact Award for Change Leadership and the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations Pacesetter of the Year Award. SCC also received 10 separate regional and national architectural design awards for its Academic Excellence Center on the Beatrice Campus. I encourage you to visit all of our campuses and tour and enjoy their new transformative spaces.

As an alumnus, I thank you for choosing SCC and for your role in helping the College pursue its mission of empowering and transforming the diverse learners and communities of southeast Nebraska through accessible lifelong educational opportunities.



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Illich". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Paul Illich
President

1996 BEATRICE ALUM CAME TO SCC FROM ENGLAND



Beatrice Campus

Astle said. “The very close community meant that after two years you knew so many people in town in all walks of life.”

Though he came to the campus on a golf scholarship, he also was able to play on the men’s basketball team as a walk-on. Playing two collegiate sports is something he will never forget.

“Basketball was also a passion of mine, and it fit in nicely to the Nebraska winters,” he joked.

After he earned his Associate of Arts degree in Academic Transfer, he transferred to Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, and then turned pro.

“I focused my energies on coaching golf, and it has taken me on a great journey,” he said. “I’ve worked in Austria, Germany, Finland, New Zealand, and currently back in the U.K. where I work with national squads and performance squads.”

In addition to coaching, Astle is currently the head coach consultant at golfcoachingbusiness.com. The business helps golf coaches develop their careers and expand their clientele, among other things.

“It’s really blown up the last two years and takes up a lot of my time alongside my own coaching,” he said.

He’s never forgotten his time at Southeast Community College and hopes to bring his children to Nebraska one day and show them where he started his college career.

“It gave me a real understanding of different cultures, and people, and how we all have different values and ideals,” he said.

He still keeps in touch with many of his classmates from SCC and through social media has been able to watch their lives go in many directions. ❖

When **Steve Astle** made the trek from Derby, England, to Beatrice, Nebraska, to play on the College’s men’s golf team in the mid-1990s, he was surprised how warm it was and at the flat Midwest landscape. He was, however, pleasantly surprised by the warmth and friendliness of his fellow athletes and classmates.

“My main memories would just be how friendly everybody was and went out of their way to help me fit in and made it a home away from home,”

BILL BACKES INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



Milford Campus

Former Student Activities Director **Bill Backes** was inducted into the University of Nebraska Kearney Athletic Hall of Fame last fall. The Columbus native was a standout

the Lopers in rushing and was the second-best receiver. He helped the football team win three straight Nebraska College Conference titles and was part of the 1963 team that made the NAIA playoffs and was ranked in the top five nationally.

On the track, he was an All-American in the 400-yard hurdles. He was also a key member of relay teams that helped KSC dominate the NCC Championships on an annual basis.

Now retired, Backes and his wife Ginny live in Milford. ❖

athlete on the track and football teams for what was known then as Kearney State College. He twice led



Photo credit:
Kearney Hub



NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT FLOURISHED DURING HIS TIME AT SCC

Lincoln Campus

Josh Floyd is a true example of how it's never too late to go back to school. At age 42, he recently graduated from SCC's Lincoln Campus with an associate degree in business.

"I was very nervous going to college," Floyd said. "I had no idea what to expect and, to be very honest, I was embarrassed to be the old guy in class. But not one time in any of my classes did I feel like I didn't belong. I felt welcomed and accepted across the board, and my life experience was an asset in many classes. I truly and genuinely enjoyed my time at SCC."

Even though he has more than a decade of management experience in various jobs, he still had a hard time finding jobs that weren't entry-level. Once he became involved in a tech start-up, he realized he needed to enroll at SCC.

"I realized fast that I needed a college degree, along with much more business knowledge to put me on

the right trajectory toward the future I wanted for myself and my family," he said.

SCC instructor Bob Zetocha taught Floyd in a speech communication course and said Floyd served as a mentor to the other students, and they all encouraged each other in their educational paths.

"His transparency in the stories he shared helped the other students to feel more comfortable in their personal journeys as well as their experiences in the classroom," Zetocha said. "I think that Josh felt welcomed because he and the other students felt safe and encouraged each other."

"Many of my classes were small enough that we could have open discussions often, and I felt encouraged to speak up if I had a question or even something more to add," Floyd said.

During his time at SCC, Floyd worked

at Broadcast House in Lincoln where he dabbled in a number of things, including working as a DJ and doing traffic reports. He currently produces a Saturday morning show on KLIN radio.

"I'm most proud of producing a radio show called 'OneShot. OneLife,'" he said. "The host brings experts on the show in the areas of money, people, faith, work, health, and hopes and dreams to help people succeed in all of these areas. Helping people is a passion of mine, and I'm glad I work for a company that sees the value in a show like ours."

In addition to that job, he also works at Zeng Granite full-time since he graduated. In the short-term, he's enjoying life and spending time with his family. Long-term, he isn't ruling out more education, and perhaps one day will become a motivational speaker.

"I feel I have a lot of hard-earned experience that would be very beneficial for many people," he said. ❖

1966 MILFORD GRAD REFLECTS ON HIS EXTENSIVE PROFESSIONAL CAREER



Lincoln native **Michael Morian** knew from a young age he wanted to attend SCC in Milford, back then known as the Nebraska Vocational Technical School. After graduating from Lincoln Northeast High School in 1964, he enrolled in the Machine Technology-Tool/Die Design program in Milford.

"I just knew that I wanted to design, engineer and build machines and devices that would be of value to others," he said. "The memories, knowledge and experiences I obtained at Milford were amazing."

After graduation in 1966, Morian spent a weekend with a friend in Denver and ended up getting a job working for Martin Marietta, an aerospace company that has since merged with Lockheed Martin.

"They hired me on the spot, and I started work that day working on the prototype of the Space Shuttle and Titan III rockets, which seemed like an amazing first job out of school until one day I got my draft notice saying they needed me to help the war effort," Morian recalled. "But with top-secret

Milford Campus

security clearances and wondering what they would do with me, they put me in charge of most of the tactical nuclear weapons in the states."

After the war in Vietnam, he had other job opportunities, including working for the Head Ski Company, designing skis using aerospace technology that would revolutionize the industry. Company founder Howard Head then asked him to help develop a new composite tennis racket.

"We signed Arthur Ashe as our rising star to promote the Head line," he said. "I designed the Arthur Ashe Competition 1 & 2. We used to go out and play together many times with a stack of prototype rackets, and he would break them up until we got a design that he really liked and we were all happy. He was a really nice guy and a great player."

Later on, Morian worked in the medical field, designing and developing some of the first artificial knee and hip prosthetics, a dialysis machine, an ultrasonic scalpel and more. He also worked at Coors Brewery to help design a vertical fermenter and a conveyor belt system to move bottles and cans through the system. Then he started his dream job.

"I started working for Ball Aerospace in the early 90s and retired from there," he said. "I was one of their top principle mechanical/aerospace design engineers and had the opportunity to work on hundreds of top-secret military projects and many consumer satellites for communication.

"I was asked to help on two missions of the Hubble Space Telescope, helped design the Kepler and James Webb

space telescopes, the Spirit and Opportunity Mars rovers, and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. I am probably only one of two people who has their name on Mars twice because my lead tech and I decided it would be a good idea to write our names on the underside of one of the top components before shipping to the launch site. Since they lasted for many years longer than the 90-day expected life, I would hope they will forgive me and just be happy for an amazingly successful design."

Since Morian's retirement he has taken up the sport of pickleball, both as a player and an official. He travels throughout a seven-state region training, teaching and playing pickleball. He also enjoys mountain biking, kayaking and sailing and recently took up playing the ukulele at age 76.

"Retirement has been another amazing experience, and I recommend it to anyone who has a desire to continue the journey through life in the fast lane," he said.

In 2018, Morian was inducted into the LNE Hall of Fame for his achievements in engineering and aerospace. He currently lives in Westminster, Colorado, with his wife Joyce. They have two children and three grandchildren. ❖



STORM ASSISTANT SOCCER COACH FINISHES SEASON AS INTERIM HEAD COACH

Beatrice Campus

Morgan Anderson never intended to be the head coach so soon for the Storm women's soccer team, but when Head Coach John Hakari took another job in South Dakota at the beginning of the season, the job became Anderson's, and she intended to make the most of it.

"Coaching has always been a dream of mine," she said. "I love working with kids that never give up! My ultimate goal with coaching would be working my way up to the (NCAA) Division I level, but you never know, I love it here."

Anderson played soccer at Millard

West High School, and then at Bellevue University from 2008-2011. She's enjoyed working with community college athletes and said this season was full of ups and downs. The Storm ended the season with a 3-12 record.

"It was full of both (highs and lows), but the highs outweighed the lows," she said. "Some days were tough, but when I remind myself why I'm doing it (the women), it makes it all worth it. I love giving back what was given to me. As a player, I had so many amazing opportunities because of soccer. I want these girls to be able



to experience college athletics and it to be a core memory they can look back on."

Anderson will spend the off-season recruiting as she has 12 players graduating this season, a constant challenge with community college sports. She is looking forward to building a team for next season.

"I will be bringing in quite a few new faces into our program," she said. "With that being said, I would like to see us back at the top of our region and have a goal of not just making the post season but winning in the post season!"

When she's not coaching, Anderson works for her husband's family painting business. The couple also enjoys spending time with their dog and playing frisbee golf. ❖

2009 SURGICAL TECH GRAD DEMONSTRATES VERSATILITY OF THE FIELD

Lincoln Campus

When **Matt Stutzman** first enrolled in the Surgical Technology program at SCC, it was because he loved anatomy and physiology while at Milford High School and wanted to go into a field where he was helping people. Not to mention, every day was different and about as “hands-on” as you can get.

“From patient care, to the thousands of different instruments that we worked with, to assisting the surgeon directly during a surgery, all of it is very engaging and directly impacts the patient,” he explained. “In this field, you learn something new every day. I specialized in orthopedics and ENT (ear, nose & throat) procedures, which helped me learn the intricacies of each specialty. Working frequently with the same surgeons allowed them to gain trust in me and my capabilities as a surgical technologist.”

Stutzman had worked more than six years as a Certified Surgical Technologist at Bryan Health’s East Campus, when he thought about expanding his education so he could become a physician assistant. Before that happened, he was pursued by a medical sales company.

“The beauty of being in the operating room is that you work with many people in different medical professions, which enables you to network,” he said. “After much thought and consideration, I decided to take the medical sales job while still finishing my degree at UNO (University of Nebraska Omaha). I was able to finish my bachelor’s degree by taking late afternoon/night and online classes, where I was full-time school

and full-time work.”

He is currently a sales consultant/independent contractor for Raridon and Associates in Omaha. Though he’s transitioned to a sales role, he’s still able to work in the health field he’s so passionate about and continues to help patients.

“By connecting with many of the orthopedic doctors in Nebraska, learning what needs they have and how I can provide them with solutions, I’ve been able to change careers while still having a significant impact on patients and their surgical outcomes,” Stutzman added.

As far as his future goals, Stutzman hopes to continue to build new business relationships and hopefully

work his way up in the company to become a sales team lead or sales director. Personally, he and his wife Emily have their hands full as they recently became new parents to son Weston. ❖



BEGINNING ART STUDENTS THRIVE AT EDUCATION SQUARE LOCATION

Lincoln Campus

At Southeast Community College's downtown Lincoln location, a student art wall is on display on the second floor of the College's art department.

"This is a great way to see the range of talents of our SCC students," said Dr. Rosemary Zumpfe, art instructor.

In the art studio, about half a dozen students work at their own pace on various assignments for Drawing 1 and 2. The three-hour studio class is taught by Zumpfe, who is nothing but supportive of these students, who are all at different levels artistically.

"The most important thing I want as a teacher is to encourage students to believe in themselves," Zumpfe said. "Each student has a unique creative voice."

The students taking this beginning-level art class are all taking it for various reasons; some want to be an artist, others are taking it as a requirement, others are just curious. What they all have in common is they are finding talent within themselves they never knew existed.



Sister Joy (Kristie Le) enrolled in the class because she needed it when she transfers into elementary education

at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. She wanted to drop the class after the first day, but changed her mind after talking to Zumpfe.

"She's a good teacher because she believes in us, and is very patient," she said. "I'm not good at art at all. I didn't think I could draw. I have a different view of it now. I see beauty in things."

Jasmyn White wants to be a secondary art teacher, so she's taking this class as an academic transfer student.

"I really like how we're learning different techniques we've never learned before," she said.

Holly Nitzel is a nursing student at Union College. She thought this would be an easy way to get some art credits. She found out that's not exactly the case.

"It's not easy, and it's super time-consuming," she said. "But I like this class, it's been very interesting and we're learning a lot of different techniques."

Zumpfe teaches art through close observation and analysis. She wants the students to build on the critical thinking and creative abilities they already possess and work in a supportive space to foster that potential.

"I consider students to be artists when they walk into the classroom,"



Zumpfe said. "There are no 'stars', because all of them are stars in a space of diversity and inclusion."

Jaydon Moody is a first-year student at SCC. He enjoyed taking art classes in high school and hopes to use his talents to become a graphic designer.

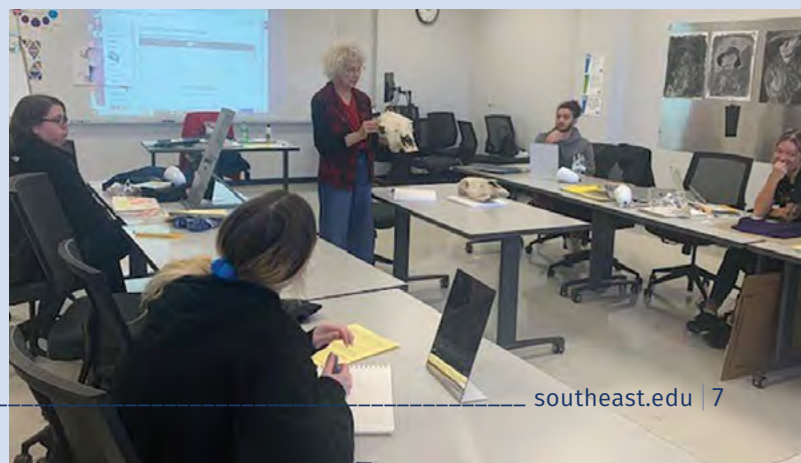
"I like the ideas that come to me and the feeling I get when it looks good," he said.

"I like the freedom of it," added Madison Bertie. "I like the parts where I get to explore."

Zumpfe said many people don't even know that SCC offers art classes as part of the Academic Transfer program, and hopes more students will consider taking a course and finding the artist from within. Studio art classes have also been taught for many years at the Beatrice Campus.

"I can't talk about art without noting its vital importance in the college curriculum and the intersection of visual art with all areas of study," she said. "I hope the 'A' will be added back into STEM." ❖

For more on the College's humanities classes, visit: southeast.edu/art



DANA ALTMAN RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FROM NCCA

Beatrice Campus

When **Dana Altman** attended Fairbury Junior College in 1976, it set in motion a number of things: his education, his future career as a top collegiate basketball coach, and his future wife. For those things, he is thankful for his time at FJC, which became Southeast Community College.

Altman received the Nebraska Community College Association's Distinguished Alumni Award during the NCCA's fall conference Nov. 6 in Grand Island. Altman was unable to attend the ceremony, but expressed his appreciation for the award and for his time at SCC.

"I really enjoyed SCC a lot," Altman said. "I met my wife there and I really enjoyed my time there. I met lifelong friends that I still stay in touch with. Thank you for this tremendous recognition. It means a lot to me."

Altman is the head men's basketball coach for the Oregon Ducks and is one of only three active coaches in NCAA Division I with 25 consecutive winning seasons, the others being Hall-of-Famers Tom Izzo and Bill Self.

Last season, Altman became the 24th head coach to record 700 career wins at the Division I level. He is the winningest coach in Oregon history with 300 wins. In 2016-17, he led the Ducks to the Final Four for the first time in 78 years and coached the Ducks to consecutive Pac-12 titles in 2020 and 2021.

Dana and his wife Reva met at SCC when he played basketball there for two years. The Wilber native said he chose between playing football at Wayne State College or basketball at FJC.

"My high school coach at the time

told me to do what you love, and I loved playing basketball," he said.

Altman chose the campus that was only 35 miles from his hometown. That was the best decision for him because he was able to play right away, and his family was close by.

"The two years I spent there was a good transition for me coming from Wilber," he recalled. "I wanted to play, and it gave me an opportunity. I wasn't ready to end my basketball career. Coach (Gary) Barga gave me a great opportunity."

After earning a bachelor's degree from Eastern New Mexico University, he served as graduate assistant at Western Colorado. Then Fairbury, Nebraska, came calling once again, this time to coach.

"I went back there and had a really good year, we had a really good team," he said, which explains why he didn't stay long. His team finished third in the nation with a 29-6 season. Next, he went to Moberly (Missouri) Community College, where he spent three successful years as head coach with an overall record of 94-18. However, he was destined for greater things.

After three years as an assistant coach at Kansas State University, he started on the fast track to be a successful Division I head coach, first at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, then back at Kansas State, and then Creighton University in Omaha, where he spent 16 years. At Creighton, he took over a team with a 7-19 record and eventually made an



Photo credit: Eric Evans,
Oregon Athletic Communications

impact. He compiled a 327-176 record in 16 seasons, the most wins in school history.

"Good players make me a good coach, and I was also really fortunate with my coaching staff at Creighton," he said.

In 2010, Altman accepted the head coaching position at Oregon.

The Altman's return to Nebraska to see family that is still there. Altman's dad and brother are still in Wilber and they also have family in Fremont, Lincoln, Omaha, and Stanton.

When asked why he's such a great coach, Altman doesn't like to take all the credit, which is one of many reasons why he's such a successful coach.

"I had opportunities, and I was really fortunate to get a lot of good players," he said. ❖

FACULTY MEMBER INTERTWINES LOVE OF HISTORY AND SPORTS

Lincoln Campus

For SCC history instructor Scott Stempson, sports isn't just his passion, it's a way of life. He grew up playing many sports, and now he teaches it and other history classes at SCC and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I can't remember a time when I wasn't interested in sports," he said. "I grew up in a family that enjoyed playing and watching sports. My dad was a really good athlete and still participates in golf and jogging at the age of 80!"

In addition to teaching about the history of sports, Stempson wrote a textbook on the subject titled "American Sports History" about 10 years ago. It focuses on baseball, football and basketball and the teams that have shaped American sports culture.

"I was actually approached by a publishing company to write a textbook, and they asked me when I

could have it ready and I told them for that fall term," he recalled. "Three years later I finally had a finished product. I greatly underestimated how difficult and time-consuming it would be. It has made me a better teacher, though, because I know so much more about the subject."

Stempson grew up in Lincoln and attended Lincoln East High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from UNL in 1991 and one in political science from the University of North Dakota in 1992. He received his master's degree in history from UNL in 2000 and finally his Ph.D. in history in 2006. He started teaching the History of Sports at UNL in 2009 and has taught it in the past at SCC.

"The course is extremely popular at UNL, and it is always full in the fall when I teach it live (125 students)

and in the spring and summer when I teach it online," he said. "It usually has a waiting list. I think it's a bit of a shock when the students realize they are going to have to learn about actual American history in this course."

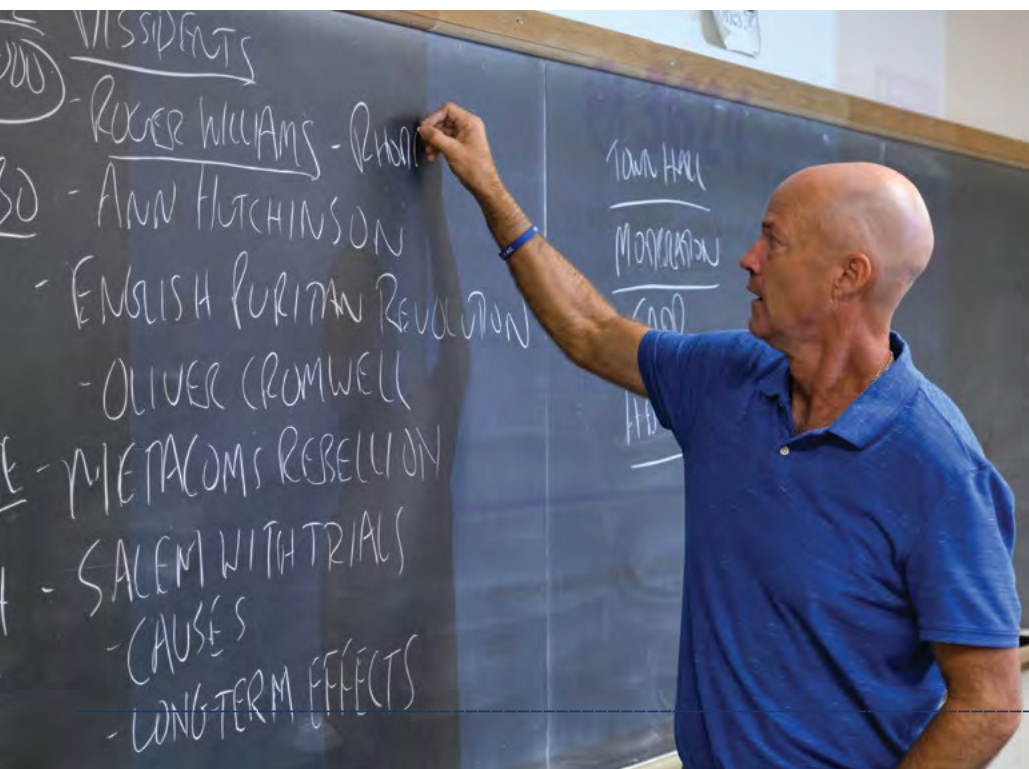
Stempson has taught at SCC for eight years. He's currently teaching both halves of "Early and Late" American History. The biggest difference between teaching at the two colleges, he said, is the size of the classes. At SCC, he's able to have smaller classes and more one-on-one time with the students.

"I do like the smaller classes because I feel like I can give each student more attention," he said. "That is pretty difficult to do with the giant enrollment courses we sometimes have at UNL."

Though he enjoys research and writing, Stempson said teaching students is still his favorite part of the job.

"It's really teaching that I love to do. Interaction with students never gets old, and it's something I look forward to every semester."

Stempson's wife Abby is an attorney in Lincoln and they have three children: JD, Henry and Veronica. They spend their free time shuttling back and forth between sporting events. ❖



BEATRICE INSTRUCTOR HAS A PASSION FOR POLITICS



Beatrice Campus

As a new political science instructor at SCC, **Dr. Griffin Hathaway** wants to hit the ground running. He brings a wealth of knowledge from teaching at various academic institutions around the country, including the American University, the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy, among others. Discussing politics is his specialty, and he hopes to have some stimulating dialogue in his classes.

"I've always been drawn to the topic of politics," Hathaway said. "Because of my parents, I have a deep sense of curiosity and wanting to understand things."

A native of North Carolina, Hathaway got his bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill. He then earned his master's in American Studies from the American University and finally his Ph.D. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland. He hopes to get involved in student organizations.

"I hope to get involved, nurture and expand them," he said. Currently he sits on SCC's Global Education Committee and is looking forward to contributing his ideas and time.

"Dr. Hathaway has an impressive résumé and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to political science at SCC," said fellow political science instructor, Nikki Iseman. "He has an entertaining and gregarious personality in the classroom. Students will have a memorable time taking his class and learning both content





and curious anecdotes about our political system.”

Though Hathaway had never been to Nebraska prior to accepting this job, he does have a connection to the state dating back to more than 60 years ago.

“My father played pro baseball in North Platte in the 1950s for the minor league team of the Cleveland Guardians,” he recalled.

Meanwhile, he’s excited to be at a community college, where classes are smaller and there is more opportunity for dialogue and debate among students.

“It’s easy to get lost in a big lecture hall,” he said. “There’s a less-alienating aspect to it here, with the ability to reach students in a one-on-one structure and make it more personable. I enjoy talking about politics, and I’m a real zealot for not bringing up my preferences in my classes.”

Hathaway is teaching at SCC’s Beatrice and Lincoln campuses. He can be reached at ghathaway@southeast.edu or 402-228-8174. ❖



LINCOLN ALUM THRIVES AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Lincoln Campus

For Sterling native **Chris Waddle**, a community college education is a family tradition. He, his parents and his children all have ties to Nebraska community colleges.

“Community colleges have played a strong role in my family,” Waddle said. “Both of my parents and my siblings used a community college to start their education. My wife holds a degree from CCC (Central Community College), along with our oldest daughter, and our son started at CCC this fall on his way to a degree in information technology.”

Last summer Waddle was promoted to the campus president at Central’s Hastings Campus. Previously he served as the vice president of human resources since 2011 and as an instructor for eight years before that. He enjoys working at CCC, where the college is ingrained in the community.

“Here at CCC, about 94% of our graduates stay in our 25-county service area,” he said. “It is very hard not to run into someone daily whose life has not been touched by our

college. It just shows the value of the investment made by the people who live in our area.”

Waddle graduated from SCC’s Lincoln Campus in 1998 with an Associate of Arts degree. He then transferred to Peru State College, where he was able to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in 2000, and then received his juris doctorate from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 2002.

In his new position as campus president, he hopes to make sure CCC is helping to produce highly-trained students to work in the community.

“Additionally, I want people to continue to look to us to provide solutions,” he said. “Whether they are looking for short-term training, entrepreneurship, apprenticeships or a credential to advance them in the workplace, we want people to look to us first. That requires us to be out in the community talking to people and making sure they know what we do.”

Similar to SCC, Central has three campuses: Grand Island, Columbus



and Hastings, with centers in Kearney, Holdrege, Lexington, and Ord. Waddle said with a degree from a community college, there are no limits to where you can go or what you can achieve.

“Whether you are looking to get out into the workplace or advance on to a four-year college, a two-year degree will provide you with a true advantage,” Waddle said. ❖

MAJOR CHANGES TO ATHLETICS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN FALL 2023

The number of intercollegiate athletic teams at SCC is scheduled to more than double beginning Fall 2023. Also, a proposal to locate sports teams at Lincoln and Milford is set to take place at the same time.

Currently, SCC offers 10 sports that compete at the National Junior College Athletic Association level, five for women (basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, and volleyball) and five for men (baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, and soccer). ❖

New sports are:

- Esports (coed)
- Women’s Golf
- Rodeo (coed)
- Trap (coed)
- Men’s and Women’s Tennis
- Men’s and Women’s Track and Field
- Men’s Volleyball
- Men’s and Women’s Wrestling

For more information: southeast.edu/news_stories/scc_to_move_expand_athletic_offerings_beginning_fall_2023



CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING DAY AT MILFORD CAMPUS

More than 200 students from southeast Nebraska discovered dozens of careers in manufacturing and engineering through hands-on learning last fall at the Careers in Manufacturing and Engineering Technologies Day.

Participants spent the day learning from SCC students, faculty and industry partners. Students saw first-hand the use of technology and the wide variety of opportunities available in the manufacturing and engineering technology fields.

Cayden Dunkhas and his dad, Gale, came out from Falls City to

see what the day had to offer. They were specifically interested in the Nondestructive Testing Technology program, since they had a relative go through the program years ago.

“I want to explore different career opportunities,” Cayden said. “Sounds like it’s easy to get a job in the nondestructive testing field, though it is challenging.”

Jaylyn Bohling and her classmates attended from Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer High School to experience the day. She was specifically interested in welding and was able to get some first-hand experience in the

welding lab at Milford.

“I’ve already decided I’m going to be a welder,” she said.

Organizers hope this experience will allow students to begin thinking about a future career in one of the manufacturing and engineering fields, and give them a hands-on experience of what they can expect.

“Events like these provide important exposure to the field and show students the possibilities for post-high school education and jobs,” said organizer Kat Kreikemeier.

Note: SCC’s Welding Technology program is offered on the Lincoln Campus, but Milford Campus students take welding courses in lab space inside the Crete Carrier Diesel Technology & Welding Center at Milford. ❖





THOMAS CARL STONE

Milford Campus

Former Milford Campus President/ Director Thomas Carl Stone died on Oct. 1, 2022, at age 89. Stone served the Milford Campus in his role from 1984-1995 until his retirement. Originally from South Dakota, he received his associate degree in automotive and auto body mechanics from Southern State College. He went on to earn his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Colorado State University.

Following his retirement, he was awarded the American Technical Education Association's Outstanding Service Award in 1996. In September 2010 he was inducted in the South Dakota Hall of Fame. He was a lifetime member of the American Vocational Association and served as the regional president of the American Technical Education Association.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine, two children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ❖



HAAS FOUNDATION DONATES MONEY TO PRECISION MACHINING PROGRAM

Milford Campus

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

"The generosity of Gene Haas and his foundation is very much appreciated," said Kirby Taylor, program director. "This helps offset the financial burden of school. The No. 1 priority should be learning, not figuring out how to pay for it."

The Gene Haas Foundation was formed to fund the needs of communities around the California area. It has since expanded to prepare students with a career in manufacturing. Haas is the owner of Haas Automation Inc., America's leading builder of Computer Numeric Control machines, which he started in 1983. Haas also owns multiple NASCAR teams. ❖

TWO LONGTIME MILFORD EMPLOYEES RETIRE AT END OF 2022

Milford Campus



Diane Weber spent more than 20 years as a practical nursing instructor at SCC, first as an adjunct in Geneva, and then as a full-time instructor when the program moved to the Milford Campus in 2019. Prior to that she was a registered nurse at smaller, rural hospitals and is now ready to retire.

“What is most rewarding about

my time at SCC is seeing all aspects of nursing ‘click’ for a student,” she said. “I like to think I’ve had a small part in helping the next generation of nurses to take over for those who are retiring from the position.”

A graduate of Centennial Public School in Utica, Weber then attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s College of Nursing where she received her bachelor’s degree in nursing. In addition to working at hospitals, she also worked as a school nurse and a home health nurse.

“I think my variety of experiences help me view nursing as a profession with many possibilities, even in rural Nebraska,” she said.

Weber will work as an adjunct two days a week at the College until her position is filled. Then she will enjoy her retirement while working on projects at home, as well as spending time with her grandchildren. ❖

Sheri Christensen retired after 26 years at the Milford Campus working as a math and physics instructor. A native of Odell, she graduated from SCC’s Fairbury Campus in 1982 and then transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and earned a degree in mathematics in 1984. It was at UNL where she met her husband, Mark, who taught in SCC’s General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program and retired last year. She later received her master’s in Education from Concordia University in 2007.

She has many memories from her time in Milford and really appreciated the family atmosphere on the Milford Campus.

“I enjoyed meeting such a variety of students and instructors and assisting students to fulfill their dreams,” she said.

Christensen plans to spend her retirement traveling, camping, spending time with grandchildren, and just “enjoying life.”

In 2021, Christensen was named Outstanding Instructor at the Milford Campus. ❖



Retirements

Lincoln Campus

Lisa Vosta, Print Shop Supervisor, 33 years

Milford Campus

Tom Hohman, Diesel-Ag Equipment Service Tech Instructor, 41 years

Ruth Lewis, Custodian I, Physical Plant, 22 years

We want to stay in touch with our grads!

Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or
call Beatrice, 800-233-5027, ext. 1216; Lincoln, 800-642-4075, ext. 2622; or Milford, 800-933-7223, ext. 8242.

Beatrice Campus

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1969 Graduates?

Theodore J. Johnson
Jerome C. Steiner

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2015 Graduates?

Ramesy Alexis	Rebecca Mees
Tyrell Allen	Sarah Moore
Cynthia Auld	Phillomina Musekiwa
Miranda Baxa	Sherine Philip
Chase Buettner	Tiffany Rerucha
Aleta Burnos	Kirby Ruhnke
Jennifer Carter	Paige Smith
Blake Darby	Brodrick Stutzman
Sheila Durlfing	Caleb Svoboda
Rick Frederick	Kevin VanWinkle
Adam Hans	Daquiri Voss
Nicolas Hargis	Katie Whitten
Shannon Horsley	Dylan Yost
Carson Kettelhake	

Lincoln Campus

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2015 Graduates?

Lisa Akins	Nathan Laughlin
Dane Anderson	Jennifer Lopez
Emily Anderson	LeTia Macke
Cierra Arnett	Alexandria Madlock
Carlos Barron	Michael McDonald
Josephine Boden	Laura McDowell
Michelle Bowhay	Corey Miller
Michelle Brabec	Jacob Morris
Danny Briggs	Sierra Nelson
Patrick Bring	Jessica Paup
Idalia Camacena Morales	Clarence Pearson
Chelsey Carel	Hector Perez
Seneca Christiansen	Marissa Perkins
Grant Convey	Brett Pesek
Tanner Crane	Melissa Reichert
Heavenly Failor	Chelsea Ritter
Jessie Fernandez	Carolyn Schlisner
Rachel Figueroa-Colon	John Schoen
Brittany Fix	Jennifer Schuerman
Brandon Floyd	John Shaw
Nandini Priya Garige	Shea Skillett
Amanda Gibbs	Jon Swanson
Ruby Gutschow	Edward Toman
John Halpin	Trevor Udell
Madalyn Henne	Mephian Washington
Meaghan Hill	Vincent Wheatley
Jamee Hose	Priscilla White
Tonya Johnson	Courtney Willard
Robert Jones	Donald Wooten
Christopher Klusaw	Tiffany Wright
Robert Kugler	Morgan Wulf

Milford Campus

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1969 Graduates?

David Andrews	Paul Medrano
David Arnold	Donald Moeller
Robert Caldwell	Eudell Remmerreid
Donald Connolly	Juan Rodriguez
Warren Haas	Francis Sedlacek
Steven Hansen	Jerome Staples
Clair Herman	Douglas Steel
Robert Kenney	Randy Taylor
Thomas Knievel	David Williams
John Maddux	Wayne Young
Kenneth Madsen	David Zimmerman
David Massa	
Rex McKain	

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 2015 Graduates?

Adrian Acuna	Noah Lempka
Steven Allen	Dominique Mack
John Borstelmann	Jaden Meents
Jacob Bratrsovsky	Garrett Morgan
Dustin Bruch	Brian Partusch
Mark Dunn	Minank Patel
Shane Foster	Blake Reed
Joel Gronewold	Dustin Sandren
Justin Heist	Nathan Talbot
Paton Heusinkvelt	Tim Thomas
Morgan Jones	Tyler Wallace
Justin Kieffer	Zane Williams-Donahoe
Chad Kruger	
Zacherie Larrivee	

In Memory of...

Beatrice / Fairbury

William H. "Bill" Malchow
(Academic Transfer, 1986)

Lincoln

Pamela Fielder (Practical Nursing, 1979,
and Human Services, 1991)
Teresa Goebel (Practical Nursing, 1984)
Jonathan Koch
(Business Administration, 2021)
Debra Miller (Human Services, 1979)
James Olin
(Laboratory Science Technology, 1978)
Roger Ramos,
(Food Service/Hospitality, 2017)
Mary Ann Robertus
(Office Technology, 1979)
Leslie Rouse (Professional Truck Driver
Training, 1995)
Michael Thornburg
(Architectural Drafting, 1983)
Betty West (Human Services, 1987)
Leonard Yankton (Professional Truck
Driver Training, 2006)

Milford

Kent D. Adamson (Air Conditioning, 1966)
John F. Borges (Welding, 1970)
Darrel Brinkhoff (Automotive, 1966)
Kermit Brockmoller (Building
Construction, 1956)
Charles R. Brown (Air Conditioning, 1970)
David Cogswell
(Computer Programming, 1979)
Jerry L. Downie
(Electronic Data Processing, 1966)
Andrew "Drew" Eickmeier
(Automotive, 2001)
Vince Goracke (Welding, 1971)
John E. Grooman III
(Mechanical (Mfg) Technology, 1971)
Fred W. Grothe (Electrical, 1962)
Adam Helmerichs (Diesel Truck, 2001)
Kelly J. Hesel (Graphic Design, 1999)
John "Jack" Horak (Diesel, 1956)
Walter Irmer (Drafting, 1965)
Michael B. "Chief" Keim Sr., (Welding, 1978)

Rick L. Kuester (Electromechanical, 1992)
Walter Light (Diesel, 1964)
Kevin D. Miesbach
(Electronic Engineering, 1981)
Mike Penner (Machine Tool, 1966)
Tony R. Pitkin (Diesel, 1954)
Timothy J. Porter (Electrical, 1977)
Salvador Reyes
(Building Construction, 1962)
Dr. Thomas C. Stone
(Milford Campus Director, 1984-1995)
Robert "Bob" Thoesen (Automotive, 1972)
Kim P. Torson (Building Construction, 1971)
Douglas H. Wampler
(Electromechanical, 1986)
Dwayne Welch (Air Conditioning, 1966)
Glen Williams
(Retired, Dean of Transportation)
Dan Wiltfong
(Nondestructive Testing, 1990)

Milford Ford Automotive Student Service Education Training




Front row, from left: Instructor Rowdy Kluender, Jacob Beavers, Clay Weber, Instructor Tim McLain.


Second row, from left: Ryan Arbogast, Lyle Bletscher, Shea Keegan, Joel Barwinski.


Back row, from left: Tyler Wallace, Nathan Talbot, Brandon Janssen, Jordan Enderle


Not pictured: William Bertelsen.


We Like to Hear from Our Graduates!


 “The education I received at Milford helped me during my entire working career. In the U.S. Air Force, I achieved rank faster than others, and I always had a ‘leg up’ on new duties. My education has served me well!”
*Kenneth Taylor,
Air Conditioning graduate, 1966*


 “I retired in August 2018 after 47 years of enjoyment and employment in the electronic industry. I graduated from Milford in January 1971. No regrets. The program provided opportunities for an amazing variety of electronics work.”
Daniel Bohling, Electronic Engineering graduate, 1971

 “Thanks SCC. My degree helped me get a good job with great retirement. Now I’m building my dream home!”
*David Michael,
Commercial Art graduate, 1976*

 “SCC was the key for me to start my career. Thank you for everything.”
*Joseph Gaspardo,
John Deere Ag Parts graduate, 1998*

 “After completing the Dental Assisting program, I took a CDA position at UNL’s School of Dentistry in the Periodontics Department. After one year, I returned to college and completed a degree in biology at Union College in Lincoln. During my senior year, I was accepted to Loma Linda University School of Medicine and completed my medical degree. I found that my dental assisting training at SCC and work with real-world patients gave me a definite advantage over my classmates who had spent their entire lives in school. I currently practice nursing home medicine and serve as a hospice director.”
*Judith Boggess,
Dental Assisting, 1980*

 “I went on to complete my Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing this year at Nebraska Methodist College. I love my job, and my foundation was largely built with my education at SCC. I did the LPN program at the Beatrice Campus in 2014 and did the LPN to RN program in 2018. I am raising three children in west Omaha with my partner, Candice.”
*Ethan Wooters,
Practical Nursing, 2014,
Associate Degree Nursing, 2018*

 *Harry Elder, Class of 1966, would like to give a special shout-out to Coach Red Grovert from Fairbury Junior College. “This is a special note of thanks to Fairbury Junior College administration, faculty and Coach Red Grovert for giving a veteran an opportunity to begin a teaching and coaching career that would span 52 years. I will be forever grateful.”*



THERESA WEBSTER HEADS BACK TO MILFORD CAMPUS

A familiar face is heading back to the Milford Campus. Lincoln Campus Assistant Campus Director/Dean of Students Theresa Webster will be heading back to Milford, in the same role she held from 2016-2017. She officially began her duties on Dec. 19.

“I really enjoy working closely with students and creating programs and services that benefit the students and assist them along their academic journey,” Webster said.

The Osceola native earned her

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, her Master of Arts in Counseling from Doane University, and is currently working on her Doctor of Education in Education Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

She previously worked at the College from 2006-2009 as the Director of Career Advising and as Associate Dean of Students. Her dad graduated from Milford’s Diesel Technology program in 1972. ❖

NEW LEARNING CENTER COORDINATORS AT FALLS CITY, HEBRON



Wendy Friesen



Lisa Hunzeker

Wendy Friesen is the new coordinator for the Learning Center at Hebron, while **Lisa Hunzeker** is taking over at the Learning Center at Falls City. Both women bring a wealth of experience to the College.

Friesen earned her bachelor's degree in Art Studies from Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana. She also received a K-12 Art Education Endorsement from the University of Nebraska Kearney. Prior to her current job, Friesen worked as an art teacher in various communities and also worked

at public and school libraries. She is looking forward to helping others in her new position.

"I want to help others make connections and see the value that our local learning centers bring in terms of personal growth and furthering career and educational goals," she said.

A native of Lincoln, Friesen and her husband Jeff have lived in Hebron for the past 20 years. They have four adult children.

Meanwhile Hunzeker earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minnesota. She was a coordinator for SCC's Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership/DC Advantage program. SENCAP allows students in 47 school districts in SCC's 15-county service area to earn college credits at their high schools.

"One of my first goals is to make connections with individuals, businesses, organizations, and schools to establish networks of communication and partnerships throughout the Learning Center at Falls City area," Hunzeker said.

A native of Algona, Iowa, Hunzeker now lives on a farm near DuBois. She and her husband Marc have four children: Sydney, Carly, Eliza, and Luke. ❖

SURGICAL TECH STUDENTS PERFORMED SURGERY ON PIG HEARTS

Lincoln Campus

Surgical Technology students dissected pig hearts as they prepare to enter the surgical field. The faux-surgeries took place at the new Health Sciences Building at the Lincoln Campus.

Casey Glassburner, program director, said this hands-on activity aligns with the course material students are currently studying as it relates to cardiothoracic procedures.

"Going through all of the anatomy of the heart reinforces their knowledge

and gives them a firsthand view," Glassburner said.

"The pig is very similar to humans in terms of anatomy, genetics and physiology," said student, Heleena Pettee.

"Knowing the anatomy helps you know the procedures in the operating room. You become knowledgeable about what instruments to hand the surgeon."

SCC partnered with Baxter Advanced Surgery to allow students



this opportunity, using surgical products they will actually use after they graduate. ❖

ASSOCIATE DEAN CONTRIBUTES TO BUDDHIST PUBLICATION

Lincoln Campus

As Southeast Community College's resident expert in Buddhist Studies, **Dr. Courtney Bruntz** recently wrote a chapter in the newly-published *Buddhism Under Capitalism*, an academic book published on Nov. 3, 2022.

"I am a scholar of Buddhist Studies, specifically contemporary Chinese Buddhism, and I am particularly interested in how Buddhist practice is shaped by socioeconomic contexts, plus how Buddhists are agentive in altering their surrounding societies," Bruntz explained.

Bruntz is an Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences at SCC with an extensive background in Asian Studies. During college, she studied abroad in Japan, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. After receiving a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies in Speech Communications, she went on to earn a master's degree in Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion, and a

Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies.

In her contributing chapter in *Buddhism Under Capitalism*, she focuses on the research between religious traditions being entrenched in their surrounding socioeconomic and cultural settings. The book has 11 chapters with 15 different authors.

"For this particular project, I revealed the ways that Buddhists are contributing to technological advancements in China and Japan and how they are making use of robots and artificial intelligence to meet the needs of practitioners."

This work is the result of an academic seminar titled "Economics and Capitalism in the Study of Buddhism," which ran annually from 2015 to 2019 at the American Academy

of Religion meeting. From presentations at this seminar, scholars edited their work to produce this volume, which was proposed to Bloomsbury for publication.

Prior to this, Dr. Bruntz published *Buddhist Tourism in Asia* in 2020. Coming up next, she is co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Lived Buddhism*, which will be published in 2024. ❖



Her current publication can be found at:
bloomsbury.com/us/buddhism-under-capitalism-9781350228337
For more on Dr. Courtney Bruntz, visit:
southeast.edu/news_stories/new_associate_dean_of_arts___sciences

1968-69 Tech Basketball Team, Milford Campus

Featured Year: 1969



Record 11 wins, 4 losses. This team set two school records during the season.

1) Most points in one game (120), and 2) most points per game average (84.6).

From left: Coach Bill White; Mark Springer, Milford; Ken Brinkhoff, Syracuse; Ken Tex, Papillion; Al Adams, Bridgeport; Bill Dettmer, Elmwood; Roger Royal, Syracuse; Dan Peterson, Plainview; Bruce Tresslar, Louisville; Ken Madsen, Dannebrog; Dan Diekman, North Bend; and Jim Calkins, Assistant Coach.



FY21-22 Annual Report

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

THANK YOU.

Of all of my duties as the Executive Director of the SCC Foundation, this is truly one of my favorites: expressing my sincere gratitude to our wonderful community of donors and alumni for another fantastic year!



We have just finished publishing the FY 21-22 Annual Report (southeast.edu/educationalfoundation). And what a year it has been! Your philanthropic investment provides access to a Southeast Community College education for those students to whom higher education otherwise might not be accessible.

A letter and email were just sent out this fall to all alumni about an exciting opportunity for you to participate in SCC's annual giving campaign, the Path to Possible Fund. So far, 134 donors have given to this fund—**Thank you** so much to all who have participated thus far. If you haven't given, please consider making a difference. Donations received by June 30, 2023 will be listed in the FY 22-23 Annual Report. By supporting scholarships, facilities and operations, your investment in the Path to Possible Fund will continue to enhance the educational experience of more than 9,300 students each year and will create a lasting legacy for our students.

Start making a difference today! To make a gift online, visit southeast.edu/sccd donate or send a check to the SCC Educational Foundation at 301 S. 68th St. Pl. #204, Lincoln, NE 68510.

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

Sincerely,
Michelle Birkel, Executive Director
Southeast Community College Educational Foundation

**New Scholarship Fund:
Marcia Vasek Medical
Laboratory Technology
Scholarship**



A new annual scholarship was established by Greg Vasek, family members and friends in memory of longtime SCC faculty member Marcia Vasek. She established and supervised the Medical Technology program in 1977 and worked at SCC intermittently for more than 20 years. Marcia passed away on Dec. 9, 2021.

Marcia attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before spending one year in Omaha training as a medical technologist receiving her degree from UNMC in 1972. She returned to Lincoln to work for the University Health Center and continued her studies by earning her masters in Adult Education. In 1977 she started working at SCC, to establish and supervise their Medical Technology program.

This scholarship will be awarded to students enrolled in the Medical Laboratory Technology Program. The SCC Educational Foundation would like to thank the Vasek family for this gift in Vasek's memory. For additional information on this scholarship, please contact the Foundation Office at 402-323-3411.



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Ritter Receives NCCA's Outstanding Administrator Award



Southeast Community College's Dr. Carolee Ritter received the 2022 Nebraska Community College Association Outstanding Administrator Award during the NCCA's Annual Conference in Grand Island.

"I am filled with gratitude for this recognition," Ritter said. "I believe very strongly in our community college mission, so it is deeply meaningful to me to be recognized for my work in its service."

Ritter has been at SCC since 1999 when she started as an English faculty member. She received the NCCA Outstanding Faculty Award in 2006 and has served as dean of Arts & Sciences since 2014. Dr. Joel Michaelis, vice president of instruction, nominated Ritter for the Administrator Award.

"Dr. Ritter is an outstanding community college administrator who has served SCC with integrity and dedication to the needs of the diverse students and communities we serve," Michaelis said.

The NCCA is comprised of five member schools: Central, Mid-Plains, Northeast, Southeast, and Western Nebraska. Each year the NCCA holds its annual meeting at one of the member schools and awards Faculty, Governor, Administrator, and Friend of the Year awards, along with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. Paul Illich is Honored as District 5 Pacesetter of the Year for 2022



Southeast Community College President, Dr. Paul Illich, was recently honored as the District 5 2022 Pacesetter of the Year by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). This award recognizes a community college president who demonstrated special leadership and support in college communications and marketing over the past year.

"I understand the value of an organization such as NCMPR and the importance of funding and supporting marketing, communications, public relations, and everything within those functions," Illich said.

Since he first came to SCC eight years ago, the College has undergone multiple transformative initiatives. These include the conversion from a quarter to semester calendar, adding six learning centers throughout the 15-county service area, and adding 26 new programs, among other things.

The Pacesetter award was presented at the NCMPR's Annual District 5 Conference in Sioux City, Iowa, last fall. District 5 consists of community colleges in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.