

Connections

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical
Winter 2004 - 2005

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Pam Solberg Named Foundation Executive Director

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be working at Southeast Technical. I get to spend time with the greatest people in the world – people who want to help others, invest in the future of their college and communities and who want to make a difference," says Pam Solberg, who joins Southeast Technical as Executive Director of the College Foundation.

Solberg, who has an extensive background in non-profit development and marketing, replaces the retiring Ivan Imm as Executive Director. Before joining Southeast Technical she worked for eight years as Development Director for



Pam Solberg

Riverfront, an organization that serves people with disabilities in western Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota. Prior to her position at Riverfront Solberg worked in marketing and hotel management. She graduated from Luther College and is pursuing a master's degree at Winona State University.

Solberg has been busy learning about the college and the role the Foundation plays in supporting it. "I joined Southeast Technical because I believe in the college's mission and its direction for the future," said Solberg.

"The way we work and the needs of business are constantly changing. Southeast Technical is in tune with that, constantly developing its programs to stay on the cutting edge," continued Solberg. "As a result, our students are well-equipped to pursue their chosen careers. They get jobs in their fields, use their talents and training and contribute to our community, and the world."

A Message from the President



James Johnson, President

Providing students with a superior general and technical education for employment, skill enhancement and retraining is the focus of everything we do here at Southeast Technical. Our increasing enrollment reflects the excellent job we are doing

to provide
opportunities for
our students —
we're one of the
fastest growing
institutions in
the Minnesota
State Colleges and
Universities system.

We have been very proactive in anticipating and meeting the needs of our students and business partners.

While increasing numbers of students view a Southeast Technical

education as vital to their careers and to the regional economy, they have had to cope with double-digit tuition increases. Since the fall of 2000, tuition for students in the MnSCU system has risen over 60 percent.

At the same time, state appropriations have dropped. In 2000, the state supported about two-thirds of the costs of college. Today, that amount has slipped under 50 percent.

Students have had to

make up the difference. And many of our students are going into debt. Students now borrow twice as much to pay for higher education than they did in 1995.

Higher education is a public good: good for our state's economy,

good for our

Enrollment

Growth

2000-2004

for our families. We
all benefit. All of
us here at
Southeast
Technical are
working to expand
funding sources,

increase partnerships with

business and industry, healthcare organizations and government, and remain good stewards of our resources.

But in order for Southeast Technical to stay vital and to continue meeting the needs of our students and our region we need the involvement of our 18,000 alumni all over the world. Our Foundation and the Alumni & Friends Association continue to grow. The Foundation



has awarded over \$90,000 in scholarships for deserving students during the 2004-2005 academic year. Your support makes a tremendous difference to our students.

As we face along with our students increasing pressures, it is more important than ever to maintain relationships with our most important asset – our alumni. We need to stay connected and continue to strengthen Southeast Technical.

James J. Johnson

President, Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical

Jim Johnson is One of a Kind

By Bob Andraschko, Chair, Alumni Council

It has been my great pleasure to be associated with Southeast Technical for over eight years now, first with the Winona College Foundation and then when the Winona and Red Wing College Foundations merged. After leaving the College Foundation, I have been fortunate to work with the Alumni & Friends Association.



Bob Andraschko

In all of my years with the College, one person stands out in leading the Foundation and working for the interests of our students — President Jim Johnson.

Jim has gone beyond the call of duty in helping the Foundation, and, in turn, the Alumni & Friends Association succeed. He has provided a clear vision for our efforts and Southeast Technical students have been the real winners. We have been able to provide support that so many students need to complete their educations. And Jim has always been the first one there

with a pat on the back or a word of encouragement for a job well done.

I think Jim is a special individual and, Jim, we want you to know how much we appreciate your leadership. Through your efforts, you have helped the Foundation and the Alumni & Friends Association make a real difference at Southeast Technical.

Know someone who has made a difference at the College? Then let us know for the next edition of Connections. Contact Pam Solberg at psolberg@southeastmn.edu



Solberg, cont'd

Solberg, who has met a number of students since arriving at Southeast Technical, believes that many would not be here without support from the Foundation. "It's a privilege to share stories of many of these students with our donors and to advocate for scholarship support. The investment made by donors can change the course of their lives. The benefits to all of us are enormous."

Outside of her work for the Foundation and graduate studies, Solberg enjoys spending time with her seven cats and taking walks, albeit very short walks, with her elderly dog. She and her husband get their real exercise by renovating their 150-year-old house in Ettrick, Wisconsin. She also enjoys volunteering for community service projects and quilting. Solberg has two daughters who are college students.

Solberg believes she has found her calling in development work. "I feel privileged to spend my days advocating for things that are important and that I personally care about. Southeast Technical has an important mission to fulfill – to prepare skilled and knowledgeable graduates for the workforce through our educational programs."

"This is a great job!"

Pam Solbug

Bike Tour Raises Scholarship Funds for Part-Time Students



President Jim Johnson (right) welcomes Bob Erikson, MnSCU Foundation Board Member, to Southeast Technical. Bob visited the Red Wing, Winona Airport and Winona campuses as part of his ride around the state to raise scholarship funds.

It's not unusual to see bicycle riders taking advantage of the winding roads and natural beauty of southeast Minnesota. But it is unusual for a cyclist to travel the entire state, as Robert Erikson did when he visited the Southeast Technical campuses in Winona on September 21, followed by a trip to the Red Wing campus the next day.

Erikson has pedaled his bike more than 2,200 miles around the state to 53 campuses to raise money for scholarships for part-time students in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system. Erikson, a former MnSCU trustee and current board member of the MnSCU Foundation, completed his tour in 30 days and raised over \$15,000 for scholarships.

This is the third year that Erikson has biked around the state to raise funds for MnSCU students. He focuses his efforts on scholarships for part-time students, who he believes are underserved by state financial aid practices. Part-time students make up about 45 percent of enrollment in the MnSCU system. Many balance college with full-time work and family responsibilities, and their average age is about 30 years old. Southeast Technical students, many of whom are returning to school for career training or skill enhancement, also average about 30 years old.

Scott Emmons, whose sales and marketing club, Delta Epsilon Chi, donated \$50 to scholarships, said rising tuition especially affects part-time Southeast Technical students because they are ineligible for financial aid.

In his three bike rides for MnSCU financial aid, Erikson has raised more than \$200,000 for scholarships and created tremendous awareness of the needs of students.

Foundation Honors Scholarship Recipients and Donors



Pat Papenfuss, scholarship donor, presents an award.

The Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical Foundation honored both its scholar-ship recipients and donors at its annual Scholarship Banquets. Winona scholarship recipients and donors were celebrated on Wednesday, November 10, at the Tandeski Center. A week later, on November 17, recipients and donors were honored on the Southeast Technical Red Wing campus.

The Foundation Board of Directors and Alumni Council held the two banquets to recognize scholarship recipients by acknowledging their achievements and presenting them with a certificate. It was also an opportunity to express gratitude to the many donors to the scholarship fund, who make it possible for many students to complete their education at Southeast Technical.

In 2004-05, 89 students received scholarships – 33 attending the Red Wing campus and 56 in Winona. The total amount awarded for the current academic year was \$90,700, an increase of nearly 14 percent over the previous year.

The Southeast Technical Foundation thanks Wells Fargo Bank, 1st National Bank of Cannon Falls and Red Wing, and Associated Bank for sponsoring the Red Wing banquet. Fortress Bank Minnesota sponsored the Winona banquet.

A Gift That Lasts a Lifetime

Dear Alumni and Friends of Southeast Tech,

Education changes lives. For a young high school graduate, it is the first step in pursuing a chosen profession. For a person earning minimum wage, it is the key to better wages, a skilled job and a better quality of life for that person's whole family. For a displaced worker it is an opportunity to develop new skills and jump back into the workforce. For employers an educated workforce is the key to growing a productive and profitable business. There are few investments that have more far-

reaching benefits to individuals, the families they support and the communities they live in than the investment in education. We are asking you, Southeast Tech alums and friends, to make an investment like this, by supporting the Southeast Tech Foundation's 04-05 Annual Fund Campaign.

Southeast Tech students are worthy of your support! They come here to develop their skills and leave to make their contributions to the workforce and their communities. They often cannot afford the double-digit tuition increases that a decreasing state budget has brought about. This is where you can make a difference. You can make it possible for someone to pursue an education. Last year, through the generous support of donors, the Southeast Tech Foundation provided 89 scholarships, totaling \$90,700. Southeast Tech's enrollment is growing along with the school's reputation for providing top-notch education that meets the needs of the workforce. More students have financial needs. Your gift can change their lives.

Please consider making a gift that will last a lifetime, a gift with far-reaching benefits to individuals, families and whole communities. Please fill out the envelope enclosed in this newsletter and give your support to the students at Southeast Tech.

James Johnson, President

Eric Lawrence, Foundation President

We-no-nah Canoe Donates Kayak to Foundation

Here's your chance to ply the waters of the Mississippi in one of the best kayaks in the world!

We-no-nah Canoe, Inc. has generously donated one of its Current Designs kayaks to the Southeast Technical Foundation to raise scholarship funds. The Foundation and the Alumni Committee will sponsor a raffle with the drawing for the lucky winner on May 10, 2005.



We-no-nah Canoe recently announced plans to expand its production facilities in Winona. The company and Southeast Technical launched a three-year workforce development partnership for training and retraining of We-no-nah's 125 employees.

Tickets are just \$2 each, so take a chance to win this great We-no-nah kayak. For more information, phone the Foundation Office at (507) 453-2663.

Kymberly M. Smith '97 Repair Technician, Music & Arts Center, Charlotte, North Carolina

Kymberly has worked as a band instrument repair technician at the Music & Arts Center in Charlotte since 2000. She has been working in band instrument repair in the Charlotte area since graduating from Southeast Technical in 1997.

Nancy Gamroth '77 Desktop Publisher, Texas Veterans Commission, Austin, Texas

After working for a Fortune 500 company upon graduation, Nancy moved with her husband to Austin and has worked for the Texas Veterans Commission for the past 20 years. She prepares informational brochures, a bimonthly magazine, manuals and various reports. She is also the web master, and you can see her work at www.tvc.state.tx.us.

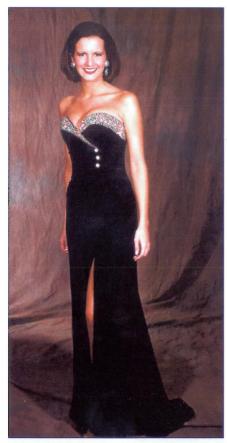
Nancy is also web master for another site – her daughter's high school band! And she misses Minnesota. "When I grow up, I want to be a snowbird – live in Minnesota in the summer and Texas in the winter!"

Heather (Poblocki) Glaser '98 Stylist, Hair Club for Men and Women, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Heather has been working for Hair Club since moving to Pittsburgh in 2000. She's using her Southeast Technical cosmetology degree as a stylist, where she sees customers through the Hair Club program to insure that they are comfortable with their look and feel of themselves with hair. She is also the women's and multicultural specialist at her center, one of about 30 nationwide.

"I have a job that I love going to every morning," says Heather. "Every day when I leave there, I have made someone's dreams come true – the dream of having hair again. I would not trade it for the world."

Michele Stark '03 Stylist, Fine Lines, Winona



Michele Stark

Michele has been busy in her year since graduating. She worked in Rochester for Rocco Altobelli Salons and moved recently to Fine Lines in Winona. In 2003, Michele took the big step of winning the Miss Winona competition and she competed in the Miss Minnesota pageant in 2004. "I enjoyed living and going to school in the community," says Michele. "The on-the-job training I got at Southeast Tech was great. I love what I'm doing."

Sherry Reck-Haines '71 Director of Nursing, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare Arcadia Nursing Home, Mayo Health Systems, Arcadia, Wisconsin

Sherry Reck-Haines holds a unique perspective on nursing education. She began her career right after high school, completing a one-year program at Winona State. In 1970 she entered the LPN program at Southeast Technical, graduating in 1971 and going immediately to work following graduation.

Fifteen years later, Reck-Haines returned to school to pick up her RN degree at Western Wisconsin Technical College. Since 1992, she has been Director of Nursing for Long-Term Care at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in Arcadia, Wisconsin.

"Our instructors at Southeast Technical prepared us," says Reck-Haines. "I was part of a class of about 30 students, and we felt like we were part of a team. The instructors were very genuine and they allowed us to learn."



Sherry Reck-Haines

After she earned her LPN degree at Southeast Technical, Reck-Haines immediately began her career at Tri-County Memorial Nursing Home and Hospital in Whitehall, Wisconsin. She worked there for 22 years, eventually becoming charge nurse on the floor with tremendous responsibilities. She also found time to complete her RN degree at WWTC in 1986.

Today she oversees a team of about 62 people who provide compassionate care to long-term patients. "Along the way, the nurses that I've worked with from Southeast Tech are confident. They possess advanced critical thinking skills that make the difference in patient care," says Reck-Haines.

Richard Wantock '65 Former President, Watkins Products, Winona

Sometimes it's difficult to predict where your college degree will take you. Rich Wantock graduated with an electronics degree in 1965 when the program was housed in the old middle school in Winona. Almost 40 years later, Wantock can look back on a career where he rose from the mailroom to the top as president.

Wantock was the first student chosen from his class by instructor Howard Sawyer to work on a new transistor training module, which was cutting edge technology in the mid-1960s. While a student, Wantock worked part-time in the mailroom at Watkins Products. He got a job at Control Data in Arden Hills and was trained as a "customer engineer."



Richard Wantock

Wantock returned to Watkins Products in 1968 as a salesman and thrived, eventually training other salespeople and advancing to product manager in 1973. He left for a vice presidency in charge of sales and jewelry design at Sarah Coventry in New York, where he worked for five years.

Then it was on to Dart Industries to start up a new glass company, Castle Bleu. He eventually returned to Winona and Watkins as vice president of sales and marketing. Wantock was later promoted to president of Watkins, a position he held for seven years.

Looking back fondly on his days at Southeast Technical, Wantock remembers Tom Raine, a founder of the institution, as "one of the kindest, most sincere people you would ever meet. He cared about the program, and he cared about the students," Wantock said. And he has some advice for current students. "Think carefully about what you really enjoy doing and its applications for the future. Then seek your dream career with a passion and you will enjoy the rewards."

Rick Hauser '74 Beverage Distributor and Developer, Winona

Although he was at Southeast Technical for just a year, it's easy to see how Rich Hauser's experiences here set him up for a very successful career as a beverage salesman and small business owner.

Hauser studied sales and management, and was part of one of the first classes that set up and ran the college bookstore. In the classroom, Hauser's class practiced their sales routines in front of each other, often filming the sessions and critiquing their pitches. They went out and sold radio ads, and took over KAGE/KWNO one weekend to raise money for a convention they wanted

to attend. When he wasn't running the bookstore or selling ads, Hauser and his classmates learned from Bob Olson, who had been in sales most of his life and eventually took a young Hauser through his internship.



Rick Hauser

Hauser got into the beverage sales business, eventually owning a home based beverage business with his father in Winona. He later landed a job with Miller Brewing in 1987 and was with them until 1997. One of Hauser's classmates, Steve Koller, also got involved in beverage sales and now owns Farmer Brothers Coffee, a distributor in the Milwaukee area.

Hauser felt like he needed a change in 1997, and he noticed that bottled drinking water was a big item. He and a coworker founded Premium Water Company.

Their business is now the largest water distributor south of the metro area, and they have branched out into several housing development projects in the Winona area.

Hauser thinks that "there are some great 2-year programs out there" that can give students the same head start that he had. One of Hauser's daughters is completing a healthcare degree at Southeast Technical, while the other works as a radiology technician. Both have gone on to be very successful, just like dad.

Craig Anderson '78

Craig Anderson found his calling when he went to a summer jazz music camp, taking a 2-week class in brass and woodwind repair. He found that "he wanted to be in music and wanted to work with my hands," and band instrument repair provided the perfect solution to his career choice. "I remember the great deal of enthusiasm the instructors had for the program when I was there," says Anderson, who was in Southeast Technical's second band instrument repair class. "They knew it was going to grow."

After graduating, Anderson found a job in Gallup, New Mexico. He got his start, and ended up running his own business in the Flagstaff, Arizona area. Now he works for Allied Supply, a musical instrument and parts supplier based in Wisconsin, where he has been since 1992.

"In the band instrument repair field, it has to be hands-on instruction, which the small classes at Southeast Tech make possible," says Anderson.

"For graduates of the program, there are solid opportunities and good jobs out there."

John Riester '75 Owner, Riester Refrigeration, Red Wing

In a sense, John Riester has maintained a constant connection with Southeast Technical since receiving his degree in 1975. The owner of a successful commercial refrigeration company, Riester has remained in the Red Wing area where he attended school, served on the college advisory board and takes interested students on the job with him.

After fulfilling his military service, John Riester was interested in going



John Riester

back to school, so he enrolled at the Red Wing campus of Southeast Technical. After graduating he started his company from the ground up and has been in business for over 29 years installing and servicing large refrigeration units and coolers.

"Southeast Technical supported my interest," says Riester. "You learn so much about the mechanical part of it and in managing the business aspect. This business requires a lot of extra hours — you're on call 24 hours a day," he continues. "If you work hard and don't give up, good things come your way."

"We aren't successful if the school and our customers aren't successful. I think the quality of the graduates speaks for itself," says Riester.

"I'm thankful for the school," says Riester. "I employ 10 people, and nine of them are graduates of Southeast Technical."

Sally Cumiskey '77 Court Administrator, Winona

"Working with all the people makes it an interesting and exciting place to work. It's challenging and there's always something new," says Sally Cumiskey of her job as Court Administrator for Winona County.

Judges appoint court administrators to manage their local court offices.

Cumiskey schedules hearings, coordinates juries and manages fine payments. "The majority of people in court are not happy, so the emphasis is on customer service for people both inside and outside the courtroom," explains Cumiskey.

Cumiskey earned a bachelor's degree in foreign language with a minor in English from Saint Mary's University. She joined the Peace Corps and taught English in Thailand, and after returning to Washington, D.C. to teach she



Sally Cumiskey

decided to go back to school. She completed the legal secretary program at Southeast Technical while working from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. at Ruth's Restaurant.

She is most proud of how her office performed when the Winona County courthouse was flooded on Labor Day weekend in 2000. "We needed to hold arraignment court on Friday, and we were able to move operations to City Hall and hold court there without interruption. Our office really pulled through," she says.

Dean Everson '93 Sales Engineer, Healy Ruff Corporation

Dean Everson fine-tuned the art of combining the skills he learned at Southeast Technical with his outside experiences. As a student he never realized how his training in the aviation program would eventually lead to his current career.

In the early nineties Everson heard news that Northwest Airlines would construct a maintenance facility in Duluth, so like most savvy students he was attracted by the aviation program in Winona.

"I knew what I wanted to do and was prepared to take the program seriously," says Everson. Plus, he adds, "the program offered features I was looking for, it was a compressed program requiring a minimum of 16



Dean Everson

credits per semester and it made me focus on what I was there to do." Everson's first job after graduation took him to Seattle, where he worked on large aircraft for Tramco (now BF Goodrich Aerospace). He wanted to make use of other aspects of his skills so he moved to Duncan Aviation in Nebraska and smaller corporate aircraft. When he heard from a couple of classmates about an opportunity at Milltronics Manufacturing in

Waconia, the timing was perfect since he was thinking of returning to Minnesota. Everson's skills were a good fit for Milltronics' core CNC machinery manufacturing operation. His hands-on experience, plus an understanding of hydraulics, pneumatics, metalworking and mechanics made the service area a natural fit. Everson's job at Milltronics allowed him to travel extensively throughout the U.S. and six foreign countries.

The economic slowdown convinced Everson to diversify his skills so he took a sales engineer position at Healy Ruff, manufacturer of municipal water controls in St. Paul. "I always enjoyed working with people so this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," says Everson.

And he hasn't passed up the opportunity for lifelong education. Everson is in his fourth semester at Metro State University seeking his bachelor's in business, creating his own degree emphasis in technical business.

"I acquired an appreciation for education by my instructors at Southeast Technical, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Steer and the late Mr. Marek, who taught me that learning is a lifelong journey."

Sharon McInnis '99 Urgent Care Nurse, Marshfield Clinic

The biggest thing that Sharon McInnis remembers from her experience at Southeast Technical's Red Wing nursing program is "how helpful and caring everyone was, and how supportive." McInnis, who now resides just outside of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is an urgent care nurse at Marshfield Clinic.

McInnis practices the same philosophy in her career that she found at Southeast Technical. "The instructors were so honest and caring that they instilled in us the same morals and values," she says.

"Nursing is not for those only interested in making money. You should go into nursing only if you really care about people."



What's New With You?

We enjoy hearing what's new with you, including employment information, changes and promotions, volunteer recognition, advanced education and training, awards or recognition and information on interesting travel or hobbies.

Send your alumni news to: Peggy Whalen pwhalen@southeastmn.edu

Students, Faculty and Friends Join for Welcome Back Picnic





The Alumni & Friends Committee hosted two "Welcome Back" picnics to kick off the new academic year – one in Winona on September 22 and one in Red Wing the following day.

Southeast Tech faculty members were in charge of the grills and buffet lines, treating students, staff, friends, fellow faculty and even a few alumni to hotdogs, hamburgers and all the fixings. Student Senate from both campuses donated prizes, coordinated drawings and provided sodas. We even had local businesses on hand to discuss career options and services available in the area. A special thanks goes out to Steak Shop Catering and Daryl Reidell for their help with staffing, supplies, food preparation and event management.

The picnic is a great way to "Welcome Back" all of our friends to our Winona and Red Wing campuses. We hope to see you next year!

Southeast Technical faculty and staff served up all the picnic goodies to students, staff, friends and alums returning for the new academic year.

The Southeast Technical Foundation – A Lasting Contribution

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

This line from a poem by Mary Oliver resonates with me as I think about the 18,000 alumni of Southeast Technical who are living and working around the world. I wonder what you are doing right now, and how your experience at Southeast Technical might have shaped your life. No doubt that many of you are enjoying exciting and fulfilling careers, raising families and contributing to your communities in many ways.

I hope that you will consider doing another thing with your life – making a huge difference in the life of another Southeast Technical student. Each year the Southeast Technical Foundation awards scholarships to a broad range of students. For many of these students Foundation



scholarships are a crucial source of financial support. Your gifts make it possible for many students to attend Southeast Technical and determine the direction of their lives, just as you were able to do.

As state support for higher education declines, the need for scholarships is greater than ever. For part-time students, Foundation scholarships are the only source of financial aid. The funds that you provide often make a critical difference when students are making the decision to attend Southeast Technical.

Please join us by giving generously to the Southeast Technical Foundation. I am certain that your gifts will give you something as well – the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing something significant and lasting with your own wild and precious life. *Pam Solberg, Foundation Executive Director*

The College Foundation

The Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical Foundation is a nonprofit foundation building resources for the students and community of Southeast Technical.

During the 2004-2005 academic year, the Foundation awarded a total of 88 scholarships totalling \$90,700, ranging from \$375 to \$2,500.

Southeast
Technical has
an annual
economic impact
of \$30.4 million
per year within
our region.

A Message from the Foundation President



Eric Lawrence, President Southeast Technical Foundation

Southeast Technical is the place that has helped many of our alumni become what they are today. We play a key role in the success of many of our graduates and in the economy of our region. From our rapidly increasing enrollment numbers, it's easy to see that many in our community understand the value of an education and training from Southeast Technical.

We need to increase opportunities for students to receive a Southeast Technical education. For many students, a scholarship makes a huge difference in their decision to pursue education and training for the workforce and strengthen our regional economy. A smarter, adaptable and highly skilled workforce benefits all of us.

Our alumni and friends make a Southeast Technical education possible for many students. We need your support to move forward.

Eric Lawrence Foundation President

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