



connections

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

What's up at the Tech? Our campuses have undergone MAJOR renovations.

If you have driven past our campuses in Winona and Red Wing within the last year, you've probably asked, "What's up at the Tech"? Major renovation is transforming our campuses, creating an updated collegiate look, providing more student-friendly spaces, and deploying an advanced technology infrastructure that enhances student learning. Through state legislation, nearly \$10 million in capital bonding appropriations have been allocated to fund these projects.

On the Winona Campus...a \$4.3 million capital bonding project, renovating 34,100 square feet

was completed in January 2007 and dedicated in a community-wide open house on March 25, 2007.

Winona students are enjoying an updated collegiate environment with high tech instructional tools such as simulation technology and "smart" classrooms. Central to the project was the creation of a Nursing and Allied Health wing with a computer lab, a massage therapy lab, and a 12-bed clinical lab equipped with the latest simulation technology for live, hands-on skill development.

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fall/winter 07-08

A message from **Jim Johnson** & **Stan Slessor**



James J. Johnson
President, Southeast Technical College



Stan Slessor
President, Southeast Technical Foundation Board

The late August floods that struck Southeast Minnesota affected many students, staff, and alumni of Southeast Tech. Some people lost possessions and vehicles, some lost workplaces and jobs. Some lost everything they owned. The effects of the flood remind us of the things that we can lose and the things that stay with us forever—like education.

Education is the key to building or rebuilding a life. It provides students with the skills to earn a living and support a family. It provides the foundations for lifelong learning that our rapidly changing world demands. If you are someone who contributes to Southeast Tech scholarships, you are doing far more than providing tuition support for needy and deserving students. You are building their lifelong capacity to create, to produce, to change, and even to be resilient when everything else is washed away. Your gift can't be measured in dollars, but only in lives well-lived because you cared enough to invest in them.

Your support also reaches beyond individual students and their families. The graduates of Southeast Tech build our homes, cut our hair, and keep our cars and computers running. They run businesses and factories. They drive trucks and they create music. They care for our children and they care for our health. Approximately 94% of Southeast Tech grads find jobs in their chosen fields, strengthen our workforce with their skills, and strengthen our economy with their earnings. Your investment in Southeast Tech students multiplies our collective wealth and enhances our quality of life.

If you are a donor to Southeast Tech, thank you for your caring and for your vision. If you are not a donor yet, we encourage you to invest in a student, and experience the joy of knowing that you have touched a life and strengthened a community—with a gift that will endure.



Foundation Staff

From left to right: Casie Johnson, Katie Przybylski, Jeff Meyer

Cover story, continued... In addition, student service areas have been redesigned to provide resources that promote student achievement including a new Learning Resource Center with 55 computer stations and access to tutoring and advising in a comfortable environment with work spaces that are conducive to studying. Students can also shop in an updated, expanded campus bookstore or find a number of relaxing places throughout the building where they can gather, study, or just hang out.

On the Red Wing Campus...major renovation is taking place now.

In the last legislative session, the Red Wing campus received a \$5.1 million capital bonding appropriation that is transforming the 1974 campus into a modern collegiate facility with a high tech infrastructure.

When the project is complete, over 38,360 square feet of space will be renovated, creating an expanded and improved learning resource center, library and bookstore. Contemporary, updated facilities are in the works for the student commons, the student services area, information technology, and customized training. State-of-the-art learning facilities for the internationally recognized musical instrument repair programs were completed as students arrived on campus for the beginning of the school year. In addition, a welcoming 660-square foot entryway with spaces for students and visitors to gather will be added.

The Red Wing Campus renovation began in May of 2007 and should be completed within a year. A community-wide open house and celebration will be scheduled when the renovation is nearly complete. Please join us for the celebration and find out for yourself, "What's up at the Tech?" ■



**Southeast
Technical students
volunteered to
assist with flood
relief efforts.**

*Tom Gierok, Truck Driving Instructor
(pictured far left), leads a group of
students on a clean-up project.*

The Flood of 2007

On the weekend of August 19, torrential rains transformed the meandering streams in southeastern Minnesota into ravaging rivers. Seven people perished in the flood, thousands of families have been displaced and their homes destroyed, and hundreds of businesses have been shut down. Roads and bridges were wiped out. A 10-county region in southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin was declared a federal disaster area.

Many of the people who have been impacted by this flood are Southeast Tech students, faculty, staff, and alumni. After the initial shock, people throughout the college began to rally and respond, reaching out to those in need, particularly our own employees. Clothing, cleaning supplies, and

drinking water were donated and distributed from the Tandeski Center. Work crews lead by faculty and staff with some of our students went out to the devastated sites. A flood relief fund for faculty and staff who suffered major losses was established by the college foundation. The recovery efforts will continue for months, perhaps years.

Most of us have never seen such devastation. It will take a long time to recover and it will take people working together to do it. It is times like these that communities come together. They have to in order to survive and thrive, and they do. Throughout the Southeast Tech community, we will continue to do what we can to help those in need. ■



picture your life: alumni spotlights



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Bakken".

Making guitars talk **Chris Bakken**

Barbara Streisand, Taylor Hicks and Chris Bakken. Think they have nothing in common? Think again.

The bass guitars used by the musicians in Ms. Streisand's and Mr. Hicks's bands were designed and built by Nordstrand Guitars outside of Los Angeles. The connection? One of Nordstrand's top woodworkers happens to be Southeast Technical College Graduate, Chris Bakken.

His passion for playing the guitar and his desire to build one, led Chris to his enrollment in the SoutheastTech Music Instrument Repair Program and with good reason. It is one of the few schools in the country offering guitar building and repair programs. The training Chris received afforded him the opportunity to build guitars from scratch, which worked in harmony with his love of woodworking.

Chris' education at SoutheastTech was instrumental in helping him realize his dream and achieve his success. He started by first picturing the possibilities of what his life would be like. What kind of possibilities do you picture in yours?



A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Casey Kinney".

In good health: **Casey Kinney**

It is probably not in the job description, but the hugs and smiles she gives and receives from patients may be the things Casey Kinney enjoys most about her job.

As LPN and Unit Manager at the Red Wing Health Center, Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical Practical Nursing graduate, Casey Kinney, spends a lot of her days interacting with health center residents and their families. She also meets with doctors and providers, reviews medicines, conducts blood and lab work and supervises a nursing staff. As Casey will attest, a position like hers can be challenging at times. But in the same breath, she will also say that the rewards she receives greatly outweigh anything else.

Casey will also tell you that she felt truly prepared for her position thanks to the education she received at Southeast Tech. Like all Practical Nursing graduates, she was taught the basics as well as great fundamental skills and excellent hands-on experiences not commonly found in other LPN programs. Dig a little deeper and Casey might admit the program was not easy, but the instructors made learning fun and were constantly challenging her and her classmates to do more to reach their potential.

Doing your career justice **Sally Cumiskey**

Two things happened to Sally Cumiskey shortly after she became a Legal Secretary graduate—she was hired by the District Court and she knew she made the right career move by attending Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical.

Sally is the Winona County Court Administrator for the State District Court. The position is both impressive and challenging. Sally is involved with modifications to procedures on the statutory changes often required when the state legislature meets. She is constantly in contact with people from all walks of life, including her communication with jurors. She is heavily involved in developing policies and procedures, preparing official reports and in coaching the staff. But, to Sally, the highest attraction of the job is that it offers tremendous variety and new challenges.

The technical skills Sally received at Southeast Tech were the ones that opened the door to the career she envisioned. Her instructors instilled in Sally the ethics to work hard and the ability to pay attention to the details, no matter how small.

Seeing yourself at the job you have always wanted requires two things—first you need to picture the possibilities, and second, you need to find a place to give you the training to make the picture complete. That place is Southeast Tech.



A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Sally A. Cumiskey".



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Roemer".

As it builds **Mike Roemer**

When Mike Roemer tells you his career is building, he really means it.

He is Vice President of Roemer Construction and Design—a firm highly sought after for their expertise in new home design and construction. He partners with his father—who by the way, is a Southeast Tech Carpentry Instructor—and he views everyday as another chance to expand his knowledge of the carpentry profession he enjoys so well. Even with his reputation of being one of the area's top quality builders, Mike has never forgotten where the blueprint for his career began—at Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical.

Mike knew early on that the profession he envisioned for himself would be one that afforded him hands-on opportunities. Southeast Tech gave him those opportunities and the training he needed to make the most of them. The instructors and programs lent themselves to teaching Mike the vital lessons in the importance of completing projects in a timely fashion, coordinating and working with sub contractors and what it takes to be able to add the extra touches that make a good home great. Mike credits the small class sizes for giving him high amounts of one-on-one instruction.

It takes a bit of building to construct a career out of a dream. Mike Roemer did it by picturing the possibilities. He saw them waiting at Southeast Tech.

In a World of Style **Kathryn Hamernik**

Some people would say Kathryn Hamernik leads a beautiful life.

She has been a stage artist with Paul Mitchell. She has given hairstyle performances at Radio City Music Hall. She has been a Stylist Trainer for AVEDA. Her talents have taken her on travels to Canada, Hawaii, New York, and China. But she has never forgotten where the road started—at Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical.

For Kathryn it began with a dream and then a plan of where she wanted to go. The training she received at Southeast Tech is how she got there. The instructors and programs that promoted dreaming big and looking outside the box, gave Kathryn the confidence and skills she needed to succeed.

It is a long way from the hallways of Southeast Tech to the runways of the fashion world. But if Kathryn Hamernik made it by first picturing the possibilities of what her life could be, maybe you should too.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn J. Hamernik".



Foundation Director, Jeff Meyer, stands in front of the George Koehler memorial Reflective Space, with George's sister, Gretchen. George graduated from the electronics program at the Winona Technical School in 1962. Gretchen designed the space and also donated the items within the space.

George Koehler memorial

Robert Erickson bike tour



President Jim Johnson greets Trustee Bob Erickson during his 2,300 mile bike tour to raise scholarship funds for part-time students.

Robert Erickson's final 53-campus bike tour raises \$31,602 to aid part-time students.

Robert Erickson, chair of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation, has raised \$31,602 on his sixth and final 2,300-mile bike tour to create scholarships for part-time students. To date, Erickson has raised more than \$335,000 over six years.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation and individual college and university foundations will distribute scholarships with donations generated from the bike tour.

"Bob's willingness to ride nearly 14,000 miles to focus attention on the needs of part-time students is unparalleled," said Catherine McGlinch, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation executive director. "We cannot thank him enough for his dedication to the cause. In hanging up his biking shoes for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, he should know that he has made a profound difference for hundreds of students."

A message from the Executive Director



Dear Alum,

My first year as director of the Southeast Technical Foundation has been fast, fun, and extremely rewarding. I have been able to work with some amazing people who are truly dedicated to the mission of the Foundation and who steadfastly support the College. It is a pleasure working with people who are as passionate about technical education as I am.

As alumni, you should feel proud of your roots and be thankful of the great education you received while at the College. Your certificate, diploma, or degree enabled some of you to become business owners or corporate executives and for others it allowed you to change careers by learning a trade that would guarantee a good wage and career.

Southeast Technical College is proud to call you an alum and I am honored to have met many of you. I have even had the pleasure of

working with some alumni to expand access and affordability to education for current and future Southeast Technical College students. As alumni of the College, they are making a big difference in the lives of current and future students. Through their support, the Foundation awards over \$100,000 annually in the form of student scholarships.

As an alumnus, I want you to reflect on your college experiences and ask yourself: How did the education from this College impact my life? Was there a particular instructor who made a difference in my life? If you feel that your education made a positive impact in your life, please join your fellow alumni in supporting the students of Southeast Technical with a contribution to the Foundation's scholarship program.

With your support, the Foundation will help reduce the economic barriers to an education for many students. So please take out your checkbook and make a donation that is proportional to your ability to give. Each dollar contributed goes a long way to making education more affordable.

I hope each and every one of you has a happy and safe holiday season!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeff Meyer
Executive Director of the Foundation
Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical

2007–2008 Southeast Technical Foundation Board

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The Southeast Technical Foundation Board extends its thanks to **Eric Lawrence, Dan Mjolsness, Don Peterson, Arne Skyberg, and Ron Wenzel**, Board Members who retired from board service in 2007.



Donor Recognition Wall

The Southeast Technical Foundation unveiled its very first donor recognition wall on March 25, 2007, as part of the Winona Open House celebration commemorating the completion of the campus remodeling project. The donor wall enables the Foundation to recognize the generous contributions of our annual and life-time benefactors in a public forum and on an ongoing basis. One wall of the space is designed to recognize

our benefactors who have established endowments with the Foundation, while the other wall is designed to recognize the Foundation's fiscal year benefactors and in-kind contributors. A similar donor recognition wall will be installed on our Red Wing campus near the completion of the current campus remodeling project.

Benefactors and donors

The Foundation Board, College Staff, and students of Southeast Technical wish to thank the following benefactors for their generous contributions made from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

These gifts have enabled us to award over 135 scholarships for students totaling \$136,000 during the 2007–2008 academic year.

Visionaries \$5000-\$9999

Fastenal Co.
John and Barbara Hanson
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Merchants Bank
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Dan and Pat Rukavina
Severson & Associates
Sara Spafford
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Sally Standiford

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Winona Daily News
Winona Rotary Club
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Investors

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\$25-\$99

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John Reed
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Andrew Thomas
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Underdahl Chevrolet, Inc.
Vision Design Group
Peggy and Richard Whalen
Deloris and Kenneth Ziebell
Peggy Ziebell
Steve Zmyewski

***The Southeast
Tech Foundation is
grateful for two new
endowment gifts:***

- The Red Wing Shoe Company Master Tradesman Scholarship Fund
- The Bob Olson Memorial Scholarship

In-Kind Gifts

The Southeast Technical Foundation would like to thank the individuals and corporations that have contributed over **\$92,000** in in-kind gifts from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007.

In-kind gifts are used to directly train students or to leverage additional resources for the Foundation's scholarship program.

Outstanding Alumni



2007 Outstanding Alum
Debbie Greenwood, Winona Campus



2007 Outstanding Alum
Laura Blair, Red Wing Campus

Nominate an Outstanding Alum for 2008

Each year the Southeast Tech Foundation and Alumni Association honor an outstanding alumnus from the Red Wing Campus and the Winona Campus. The outstanding alumni are selected for personal or professional achievement and service to the community and the college.

The Southeast Tech Alumni Committee invites you to submit nominations for the 2008 Outstanding Alums. Nomination forms are available on the college web site at www.southeastmn.edu/alumni. You may also call the Foundation Office at (507) 453-2663.

For **Debbie Greenwood**, a career in sales means building relationships and going beyond the competition. On a small sheet of paper in her planner, the 53-year-old Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical (Winona campus) graduate still keeps one of the lessons her sales and marketing instructor, Bob Olson, taught her: It reads: "Competition does not mean war... it means learn, it means prepare, it means be your best."

Greenwood graduated in 1981 from Southeast Tech's sales and marketing program, but she stayed in contact with Olson. She said Olson encouraged her to be where she is today, and now she wants to give something back. When she accepted the Outstanding Alumna of the Year award at a graduation ceremony in May, Greenwood dedicated the award to Olson, who died a few years ago. "I call him my lifetime mentor," Greenwood said. "If he knew you had a potential in sales, he would follow your career."

Olson encouraged Greenwood to apply for an advertising position at the Winona Daily News about 26 years ago, and now she is one of the top advertising consultants at the newspaper.

Tom Kelley, Winona Daily News advertising director, said Greenwood is an integral part of the advertising team, and her upbeat personality is contagious.

Greenwood has been an active member of the Winona community, serving on local boards including Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Co-operative, Winona County Red Cross, historical downtown committee, and Southeast Technical's Foundation.

Laura Blair, 1998 graduate of Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical (Red Wing campus), received the 2007 Outstanding Alumna Award during graduation ceremonies. Laura Blair was selected because she exemplifies life-long learning and is an outstanding community leader.

Blair's experience with life-long learning began when she earned a two-year degree from Alexandria Technical College. After a decade in Nevada that included a plan to complete an undergraduate degree in English, she returned to Red Wing. She contacted Southeast Tech to take a computer course. One course led to two

years of study, and she ended up working with the college management information systems. "I got more out of the two-year technical college than I ever anticipated," Laura said.

Now, as the City of Red Wing's information technology director, Laura is back in school on weekends completing her undergraduate degree in English through Augsburg College in Minneapolis. "This is something I want to finish for myself," she said. The 45-year-old is now looking into a master's degree through Augsburg. "I believe that you can never stand still," she said. "At 45, I'm trying to keep going."

She is a member of Dawnbreakers Kiwanis, serves on the United Way Board, and volunteers at the Friendship House and KidsCount, a local program for abused children.

This mother of a 22-year-old daughter has purchased a motorcycle. She commented, "I figure, when in Rome...."

When she spoke at the graduation ceremony, she shared her life-long journey with education. She emphasize that graduation is just the beginning, not the end, of the life-long journey.

Sales and Marketing Alumni Reunion

On January 25, 2007, the Southeast Technical Alumni Association held a Sales and Marketing Alumni Reunion with a special kickoff to the Bob Olson Memorial Scholarship Challenge.

Over 80 people attended the event including family and friends of Bob Olson and Sales and Marketing Alumni. Nearly \$5,000 was raised the night of the event to match the \$5,000 donated by Southeast Tech Alum, Nick Lundquist. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$18,000 to endow a Bob Olson Memorial Scholarship for students in the retail and sales management programs at Southeast Tech.

Bob Olson was a Sales and Marketing teacher on the Winona Campus for 17 years. Through those years he touched the lives and changed the futures of many students and colleagues.

Scholarship Banquets

Southeast Technical Foundation honored donors and scholarship recipients at the annual scholarship banquets on October 18, 2006 on the Winona Campus and October 25, 2006 on the Red Wing Campus.

The Winona banquet was generously sponsored by Fortress Bank of Winona. The Red Wing banquet was sponsored by 1st National Bank of Cannon Falls and Red Wing, Wells Fargo of Red Wing, and Associated Bank of Red Wing.

Students, parents, and spouses gathered to share a meal and honor the benefactors who made the evening possible while celebrating the achievements of the 2006–2007 scholarship recipients.

The 2007 banquets were held on October 16, 2007 in Winona and October 23, 2007 in Red Wing. The Winona banquet was sponsored by Eastwood Bank of Winona

and the Red Wing banquet was sponsored by Associated Bank of Red Wing and 1st National of Cannon Falls and Red Wing.

Red Wing Golf Tournament

The 2nd annual SE Tech Golf Tournament and Silent Auction was held September 7, 2007 at the Red Wing Golf Club. The golf tournament and silent auction were sponsored by more than 100 businesses and individuals. The event's proceeds will support the Southeast Technical Foundation's scholarship program.

The Foundation is grateful to all who played and contributed to make this tournament a success for the second year.

Winona Hangar Dance

Southeast Tech held its 3rd annual "Hangar Dance" on February 10, 2007. The dance took place on the Winona Airport Campus, raising funds and awareness for student scholarships.

The dance had a 1940s theme and included a live swing orchestra, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and raffle for an all-expense paid trip for two to Las Vegas.

Picnics

The 5th annual Alumni & Friends Welcome Back Picnic was held on the Winona Campus on September 6, 2007. Due to construction on the Red Wing Campus, the Welcome Back Picnic was held a bit later than usual and took place on October 9, 2007.

Students, faculty and staff, and Foundation Board members enjoyed an afternoon of barbecuing and socializing with old friends and new acquaintances. The food was served and prepared by Southeast Tech faculty and staff, while prizes and refreshments were provided by the student senates of each campus. Witt Vending, our campus food service provider, generously donated all of the food to make this event a huge success.



Bob Olson, beloved teacher and friend, was honored by his family at a special event for alumni and friends. An endowed scholarship has been established in his name.



President Jim Johnson (left) and Pete Roehl (right) accept a check for \$18,984.91 from David Murphy, CEO of Red Wing Shoe Company, at the 2006 Scholarship Banquet on the Red Wing Campus.



Finalists in the Million Dollar Shoot Out at the 2nd Annual Southeast Tech Foundation Golf Tournament held on September 7 at the Red Wing Golf Club enjoyed a day of golf to support scholarships for students.



A group of dancers dressed in vintage clothing came from as far as the Twin Cities to participate in the 3rd Annual Hangar Dance.

Alumni classnotes

1970

Donald Bergler—Drafting and Design Technology—Winona Campus, senior design engineer, TRW Automotive, Winona. He and his wife Diane have three children: Nathan, Winona State University graduate in composites engineering; Lance, University of North Dakota in mechanical engineering; and Kristin, University of Wisconsin-Platteville in electrical engineering.

1972

John Broadwater—Accounting—Winona Campus, chief financial officer, Cotter High School, Winona. He and his wife Joan were married in 1972 and have three children and one grandchild.

1973

Mary Lynn Johnson—Secretarial Science—Winona Campus, registrar, MSC – Southeast Technical. She is married to James Johnson, president of MSC – Southeast Technical.

Patricia Cichosz—Secretarial Science—Winona Campus, graduate studies office manager, Winona State University. She is married to Richard, and they have four children and three granddaughters. They enjoy time with family and boating/river travel. Her most inspiring teacher is Mrs. Helen Keiper.

1974

Ann Lubinski—General Secretary—Winona Campus, travel coordinator at TRW. Ann wrote, “I

began my career at Lake Center Industries where my first day on the job was also my graduation day from Southeast Technical.” She has two daughters: Maggie, 19, a student at North Dakota State University; and Jordyn, 17, a senior at Winona Senior High School.

Jim Jacques—Sales and Management—Winona Campus, sales representative, Volkman Appliance, Winona. He and his wife Barb have two children: Joshua and Rachel. Jim and Barb have one grandchild, Lily.

1975

Robert Koch—Sales and Management—Winona Campus, general manager, MV Transportation (Minnesota City Bus Service). He is married to Linda Lou Koch.

1977

Linda Lou Koch—General Office—Winona Campus, broker/co-owner, Key Real Estate and driver, MV Transportation (Minnesota City Bus Service). She and Robert married in 1975 and have an adopted daughter Sherry Lynn who is married and lives in Orlando, Florida. Linda wrote, “Bob is the general manager at the Minnesota City Bus Service; along with being my husband, he is now my boss when I am driving the minivan for the bus service.”

1978

Gayla Carlstrom—Secretarial/Clerical—Red Wing Campus,

directors' assistant, Mary Kay Independent Directors, Red Wing. She is married to Dan. Gayla wrote, “Fifteen years after graduating we heard that Marge Frost and Muriel Copp were both retiring. We had a luncheon for them. Marge and Muriel were wonderful teachers and friends. I am an active member and volunteer facilitator with the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Goodhue County.”

1979

Nick Lundquist—Sales and Management—Winona Campus, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Fastenal Company, Winona. He is married to Maria, and they have two children: Nicole and Nicholas.

1981

Tammy Hock—Cosmetology—Winona Campus, employee, Ronco Engineering Sales Company, Inc., Winona. She and husband Larry married in 2004. Tammy wrote, “We have two kids (the four-legged variety); a three-year-old 16-pound cat Helen; and a two-year-old Silver Lab, Shelby.”

Mark Koschade—Alternative Energy Information Specialist—Red Wing Energy Center, maintenance supervisor, City of Boulder. He is married to Kelley. Mark wrote, “I was sorry to hear that the Energy Center no longer exists. It was through my studies there that I became employed in the solar field. As that collapsed in the Reagan years, my experience

led me to a more conventional HVAC experience and business self-employment. I have been with the City of Boulder in library maintenance for 18 years. My footings began by attending Red Wing Area Vo-Tech. I think we are on the brink of renewed interest and necessity for appropriate technology. I would love to hear that you have re-instituted the program.”

1983

JaNell Scott—Legal Secretary—Winona Campus, alumni relations-administrative assistant, Winona State University.

Natalie Matejka—General Secretary—Winona Campus, customer planner, TRW Automotive, Winona. She is married to Dan, a 1984 MSC – Southeast Technical graduate.

1984

Dan Matejka—Accounting—Winona Campus, city administrator, City of Goodview. He is married to Natalie, a 1983 MSC – Southeast Technical graduate.

Kathryn D. Holthe—Secretarial/Clerical—Red Wing Campus, student services secretary, MSC – Southeast Technical College, Red Wing Campus. Kathryn wrote, “I enjoy working with students, especially meeting the ones who have come from all around the world. While I was in school, my children thought it was neat that I had homework! My son Chris is married and has two girls Mary, 6

and Molly, 3. My other son Michael lives in Worcester, Massachusetts. My greatest thrill is spending time with my two granddaughters."

1986

Jeff Kramer—*Electronics*—Winona Campus, senior quality technician, Watlow Controls, Winona. He has worked there since graduation.

Brenda Berg—*Secretarial*—Red Wing Campus, bookkeeper/office, Fiesta Foods, Lake City. She is married to Ed Hufford, and they have one child, Kayala. Brenda wrote, "Marge Frost and Mauriel Copp were great teachers!"

1992

Bradford Johnson—*Aviation Technician*—Winona Campus, maintenance mechanic, Bay State Milling Company, Winona. He is married to Casie, and they have three children: Ethan, Alexis, and Gavin.

1994

Casie Johnson—*Medical Secretary*—Winona Campus, assistant to the president, MSC – Southeast Technical. She is married to Brad, and they have three children: Ethan, Alexis, and Gavin.

Melissa (Missy) Barnholtz—*Medical Secretary*—Winona Campus, administrative assistant, Inpatient Services, Community Memorial Hospital, Winona. She is married to Matt, and they have two daughters: Kristiana and Olivia. Melissa wrote, "My niece Genie and two golden retrievers also make their residence with us."

Sherry Lubich—*Business Microcomputing*—Red Wing Campus, inside sales and research, StarTech Computing, Inc., Red Wing. She is married to Mark, and they have three children: Nathan, Chelsea, and Granger.

1995

Mary A. Sjodin (1995–1999)—*Computer Program A.A.S. and Microcomputer Support Specialist A.A.S. (1995)*—Red Wing Campus; *Supervisory Management A.A.S. (1999)*—Red Wing Campus, senior network analyst, Nuclear Management Company, Red Wing. She also received a bachelor of science in information technology from St. Mary's University in 2001. She is married to Lowell, and they have three grown children.

1996

Amy Heuer—*Medical Secretary*—Winona Campus, medical transcriptionist, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare, La Crosse, Wisconsin. She is married to Brian.

1997

Betsy McMorro—*Microcomputer Support*—Red Wing Campus, senior network analyst, Prairie Island Nuclear Plant, Red Wing. Betsy wrote, "I have four boys: one is attending MSC-Southeast Tech in the HVAC program; one is a graduate of Brown College with a degree in graphic design. My other two boys attend Ellsworth Community High School; one is a senior and one is in the ninth grade."

Neil Andrew Taylor—*Musical Instrument Repair (Brass)*

Woodwinds)—Red Wing Campus, advanced life support paramedic, Peel Regional Paramedic Services, Canada. After graduation, he got married and had two daughters. He celebrated his tenth anniversary in August. He has been a paramedic for four years. Neil wrote, "College prepared me for my current job by emphasizing approaching problems from all angles and creating your own solutions through the process."

1998

Laura Blair—*Microcomputer Support Specialist*—Red Wing Campus, information technology director, City of Red Wing. She is a former employee of MSC – Southeast Technical.

Virginia Clemens—*Administrative Assistant A.A.S.*—Red Wing Campus, service operations specialist, SPX, Red Wing. Virginia wrote, "The education I received at Southeast Technical-Red Wing Campus has been an invaluable foundation for me! I am continuing my education on a part-time basis, but it's truly been the hands-on technical knowledge that has allowed me the career opportunities I have had since graduation. I am forever grateful to the staff of the college for instilling the highest academic standards and opportunities for me. I am married to Marlyn, and we have five children and five grandchildren."

Ren Nhean—*Computer Programming*—Red Wing Campus, information technology/analyst, City of Rochester.

Jamie Thompson—*Machine Tool and Die*—Winona Campus, team

leader, Fastenal Company, Winona. Jamie wrote, "I am married to Joanne, and we are expecting our first child in October 2007."

1999

Timothy L. Sorenson—*Computer Programming and Microcomputer Support*—Red Wing Campus, application analyst, StarTech Computing, Inc., Red Wing.

2000

Kimberly Armstrong—*Computer Programming A.A.S.; Microcomputer Support A.A.S.; Microsoft Office Certificate*—Red Wing and Winona Campuses, software production manager, Binary Tree, Inc., Red Wing. Kimberly wrote, "My company may be interested in hiring interns for testing messaging products we develop. I am not sure there is a class that still requires onsite hours; however, I thought the college would be a great place to recruit such people. Binary Tree hired me after completing an internship course requirement. They hired me full-time after my internship."

Alma Zivkovic—*Cosmetology*—Winona Campus, owner, Lakeside Salon, Winona. Alma wrote, "I worked six years at Cost Cutters in Winona. The teacher that inspired me was Anna Houdak. I have been married for 21 years and have a daughter, Martina. I love hiking, gardening, dancing, and singing. In Bosnia, we do not have graduation gowns. It was so exciting to graduate in a cap and gown. I was the first Bosnian graduate of MSC – Southeast Technical!"

Heather Burkholder—*Accounting*—Red Wing Campus, production, Capital Safety, Red Wing. She has two daughters: Lexie, 9 and Hally, 4.

2001

Vanessa Harstad—*Accounting A.A.S.*—Red Wing Campus, human resource assistant, MSC – Southeast Technical. She is married to Steve, and they have two children: Bailey and Wyatt.

Lisa Belle Mier—*Practical Nursing A.A.S.*—Winona Campus, licensed practical nurse, Wabasha Clinic and St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Lisa wrote, "I am currently looking into applying for the registered nurse mobility program. I'm really excited about furthering my education."

Chad A. McKee—*Computer Programming, Microcomputer Support*—Red Wing Campus, senior applications analyst, StarTech Computing, Inc., Madison.

2003

Annette (Annie) Neumann—*Administrative Support*—Red Wing Campus, administrative assistant, Red Wing Area Coalition for Transitional Housing/The

Women's Center. She is married to Derek, and they have one daughter Emma Louise born on November 23, 2006.

2004

Lyndsay M. Hunter—*Band Instrument Repair*—Red Wing Campus, assistant to director of music, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Michigan.

Michael Hunter—*Guitar Repair*—Red Wing Campus, retail manager, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Michigan.

Kerri Schmidt—*Accounting*—Red Wing Campus, finance support, MSC – Southeast Technical. Kerri wrote, "I am working full-time and am going to go back to school. I am taking a few online classes and will be going full-time in the fall at Southwest State University for a bachelor of science in business administration. I am very excited! I have two cats that are my kids. Their names are Marli and Bailie. Anyone who knows me always asks how they are. I guess I talk about them a lot."

Tony Gasner (2004–2005)—*Musical String Instrument Repair*—

Guitar and Construction—Red Wing Campus, luthier at McPersons Guitars, Sparta, Wisconsin. Tony wrote, "I am married to Christin, and I love guitars."

2005

Paul Pierce—*Sales and Management*—Winona Campus, regional sales specialist, Fastenal Company, Winona.

Linda Bailey—*Administrative Assistant*—Red Wing Campus, healthcare coordinator, Workforce Development, Inc., Red Wing. She is a single mom of a teenager. Linda wrote, "Life is good because of the education I received."

Natalie Avery—*Accounting A.A.S.*—Red Wing and Winona Campuses, customer service, Lakewinds Natural Foods.

James Chilson—*Sales and Retail Management*—Winona Campus, general manager, Fastenal Company, Winona.

Jodi Halverson—*Sales and Retail Management*—Winona Campus, marketing event coordinator, Fastenal Company, Winona.

Melissa Lynn Loken—*Accounting A.A.S.*—Winona Campus, staff accountant, Wolter & Raak, Ltd.

2006

Stacy Hill—*Accounting, A.A.S.*—Winona Campus, accounts payable/cashier, MSC – Southeast Technical. She is married to Brent.

Annette Pullen—*Administrative Assistant*—Red Wing Campus, code enforcement/building inspection technician, City of Red Wing. She is married to John and has two children.

Beverly Miller—*Accounting*—Red Wing Campus, head bookkeeper, Econo Foods, Red Wing. She is married to Arnold.

Jacob VanDerhacghen—*Band Instrument Repair*—Red Wing Campus, repair technician, Musician Repair and Sales, Indianapolis, Indiana. Jacob wrote, "I love to travel!"

2007

Charity Workman—*Band Instrument Repair*—Red Wing Campus. Charity wrote, "My boyfriend Tim Snyders and I will soon be engaged."

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