

Featured Alumni

Years: 19

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vents 22

Lyle Neal has plenty of incentive to retire after more than 40 years of service to Southeast Community College and the former Nebraska Technical College in Milford.

“I’ve got five fishing partners waiting for me,” said Neal, referring

to his five grandsons, ages 1 to 9. “I don’t plan to be one of those retirees who sit around wondering what to do.”

Neal, whose passion for his family, church and community work, and fishing will keep him plenty busy, will work his last day at SCC’s

In this issue—

19





“I lived in Beatrice,

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1958 Graduates?

We want to stay in touch with our grads!

Email information to alumni@southeast.edu or call **800-233-5027 ext. 1216.**

Elmer Antons	Francis Fisher	Nina Lignitz	Duane Sinn	
Diane Brettmann	Larry Fuller	James McChesney	Dorothy Smith	
Ramona Bunting	Donald Geer	Robert Medina	Ronald Spitler	
Ronald Chamberlain	Donald Hartley	Shirley Mitchell	Victor Steele	Roger Weichel
Jerry Cole	Loretta Hess	Leon Potthast	Ruth Swanson	Lonnie Weidenhaft
Gary D'Angelo	Willard Jensen	Duane Renz	Jeanne Tippin	
James Davis	Marietta Jirka	Maxine Sampson	Karen Van Waning	

Can You Help Us Locate the Following 1996 Graduates?

LINCOLN CAMPUS

After 21 years as dean of the Arts & Sciences Division, **Richard Ross** retired in December 2013. Prior to accepting his position as dean at SCC, Richard worked as a high school math teacher and basketball coach, a savings and loan officer, an insurance adjuster, and dean at Brown Mackie College in Kansas.

When Richard began his tenure at SCC, the College was still focused entirely on technical education, and Richard was at the helm of General Education: writing, math, computers, science, and social sciences classes that career and technical program students take as part of their degree programs. Then, in 1993, the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education approved

a two-year academic transfer program at SCC. Under Richard's leadership and guidance, the program has grown to the largest at the College. He has successfully negotiated many transfer agreements and associate-to-bachelor degree programs with four-year colleges in the state to help students transfer seamlessly between institutions. Richard is known among his colleagues for his innovative thinking, his passion for doing the best he can for students, his many stories, his kindness and respect for others, and his love for his family. SCC would not be what it is today without the work that Richard Ross brought to his job here.

After teaching in the Professional Truck Driver Training program for 13 years, **Dave Grant** parked his SCC truck and retired in December 2013. Prior to teaching at SCC, Dave was an over-the-road driver for 36 years, and his experience was invaluable in training nearly 1,200 students. He also enjoyed

Skinner Recognized by Kansas Respiratory Care Society

Cheryl Skinner, director of Cardiopulmonary Services at Community Memorial Healthcare, Marysville, KS, has been named the 2013 Kansas Respiratory Practitioner of the Year by the Kansas Respiratory Care Society. Graduating from the Respiratory Care program in December 2007, she accepted her

MILFORD CAMPUS

Allmand Bros. Employee Wins STEP Award

Afton Hollertz, a 2004 Manufacturing Engineering Technology graduate, recently received The Manufacturing Institute's Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Production) Award. The STEP Award honors women who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their careers and represent all levels of the manufacturing industry.

"Afton is a passionate, creative thinker beyond her years who is unafraid to push the boundaries of her role at Allmand," said Brad Allmand, CEO. "She continually seeks deeper understanding, doing research and asking questions that lead her to propose ideas and improve projects which ultimately impact the work environment and bottom line. "A career in manufacturing has provided me with opportunities that I may not have had working in any other industry," Afton said. "Now, as a manufacturing engineer, I can utilize my strengths to positively impact our entire company, expanding far beyond the production floor. I get to work and build relationships with various groups of people, allowing me to learn and grow as I continue to gain experience."

"These 160 women are the faces of exciting careers in manufacturing," said Jennifer McNelly, president of The Manufacturing Institute. "We chose to honor these women because they each made significant achievements in manufacturing through positive impact on their company and the industry as a whole." The STEP Awards are part of the larger STEP Ahead initiative launched to examine and promote the role of women in the manufacturing industry through recognition, research and best-practices for attracting, advancing and retaining strong female talent.

On Feb. 6, The Manufacturing Institute recognized 160 recipients of the STEP Award at a reception in Washington, D.C. The STEP Awards program highlighted each honoree's story, including their leadership and accomplishments in manufacturing.



Featured Year: 1958



"I started my business the summer of 1957 before graduating from the Building Construction program in May 1958. I have never regretted going to Milford Trade School, as it was called in its day. I am still working every day as people keep calling me to do work. I have built approximately 100 new homes and remodeled three or four times that many. I have done concrete work in Nebraska, Kansas and Tucson, AZ. I worked on a lot of commercial projects, including banks, post offices, schools, hospitals, and churches.



I have lived in Hildreth, a town of about 350, all my life. I have been very active in the community and church and have been a Lion's member for 52 years. I have been in business 55 to 56 years, which is the longest run privately-owned and operated business in Hildreth history. Thanks for a great education."

Gary Sanders, 1958 Carpentry & Cabinet Making (now Building Construction Technology) Graduate

1963 Graduates Attend 50-Year Reunion

Twenty-seven 1963 graduates and their guests attended a 50-year reunion at SCC during the annual Open House on Nov. 3, 2013. Everyone enjoyed a buffet luncheon and a guided tour of the campus and shared many stories about their college days.



Front row, from left: Wayne Siems, Peculiar, MO, Building Construction; LaVerne Hansel, St. Paul, Automotive; Michael Welsh, Omaha, Diesel; Gary Thompson, St. Edward, Diesel; Gerhart Wehrbein, Elkhorn, Diesel

Second row, from left: Val Dworak, Seward, Automotive; Gerald Schaben, Seward, Auto Body; J. Thomas Peterson, Goddard, KS, Auto Body; Dean Ackerman, Hastings, Automotive; William Spielman, Lincoln, Air Conditioning; Melvin Gilsdorf, Bellevue, Air Conditioning

Third row, from left: Larry Kness, Ozark, MO, Building Construction; John Rasmussen, Grand Island, Diesel; Robert Fuelberth, Central City, Diesel; John Vasina, Columbus, Drafting; Jerry Springer, Utica, Electrical; Gene McNair, Holstein, Building Construction, Dennis Brothers, Potter, Electronics

Fourth row, from left: Michael Wenzl, Grand Island, Building Construction; LaRoy Hiebner, Henderson, Building Construction; Steven Yost, Clay Center, Electrical; Keith Haussler, Hastings, Welding; Steve VanZandt, Lincoln, Drafting; Lyle Hubbard, Kalona, IA, Electrical; Tom Sieck, Pleasant Dale, Automotive; Richard Glaser, Lincoln, Electronics; Gaylord Sealing, Shelton, Automotive.

Father, Twin Sons, All SCC Graduates, Enjoy Racing

Racing is in the blood of **Bill Slezak** and his twin sons, Shawn and Shane. And that's no surprise since it was in the blood of Stu Vavra, Shawn and Shane's grandfather, who had success racing circle tracks during a 24-year career.

Bill, a 1981 graduate of the Diesel Technology program, raced weekly for eight years at local dirt tracks (Street Stock and Pro Am classes) until Shawn and Shane were born. At that time the racing budget was spent on necessities for raising his sons.

"My love of race car driving was rekindled in 2004 when I was asked to drive a car for Greg Ekeler," Bill said. Ekeler is a 1988 SCC graduate of the General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program. "I raced in the Outlaw Cruiser class. We won quite a few races, including the 2006 State Championship at Junction Motor Speedway at McCool Junction."

No, the apples didn't fall far from the tree as Shawn and Shane do their share of racing, too. **Shawn, a 2006 graduate of the Automotive Technology program**, began racing Figure 8 cars in 2002, switched to the Cruiser class from 2003 to 2006, and then began racing Hobby Stock, which he continues to race.

"My fifth night racing Hobby Stock I won the 2007 Nebraska State Fair Championship race in Lincoln," he said. "I ran my first full year in a Hobby Stock in 2010 and am still racing them."

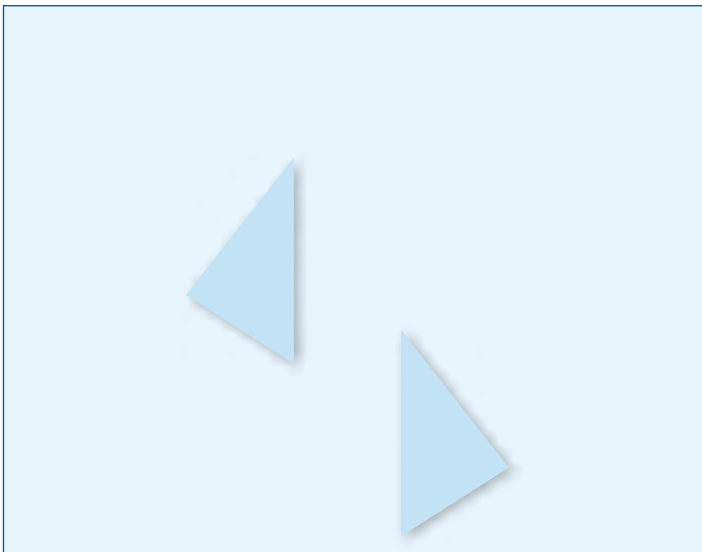
Shawn won the 2010 and 2011 IMCA Hobby Stock season points championships at Beatrice

Speedway and won 11 A features in four years. He also won the 2012 Beatrice Speedway Spring Nationals race. Shawn qualified for the 2010 and 2012 IMCA Super Nationals in Boone, Iowa, which is the largest IMCA-sanctioned dirt track race of the year, lasting six days and averaging more than 800 race cars annually.

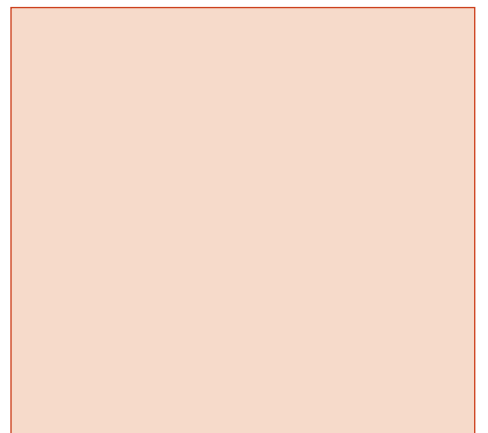
Shane, a 2006 graduate of the Automotive Technology program, also began racing Figure 8 cars in 2002 and was alongside Shawn throughout the early 2000s.

"We won multiple feature races at several different tracks and a track championship at Thayer County Speedway in 2006," Shane said.

Shane decided to study Automotive Technology because he wanted to learn how



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SCC's Lincoln Practical Nursing Program Celebrates

100th Graduating Class

Twenty-four students received their Licensed Practical Nursing pins March 20, 2014, the 100th class to graduate from Southeast Community College's Lincoln Campus program since it began 50 years ago. A reception, complete with a slide show, photo albums of past classes and refreshments, was held for students, their families, alumni, current and former instructors, and friends.

Pictured below is the Lincoln Public School

October 18, 1964.

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were graduated under the Manpower Development and Training Act and
started on Oct. 28, 1963, by the State Board of Nursing. On March 17, 1964,
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To read more, please visit: https://www.southeast.edu/News_Stories/Practical_Nursing_in_Lincoln_Celebrates_100th_Class/

Searching for employment? Register for the SCC Employment Website at <https://placement.southeast.edu>

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