Southwestern Magazine

An annual publication of the Southwestern Community College Education Foundation

Spring 2014

Housing Matters
Student Housing Key to Continued Enrollment Growth PAGE 4

Mount Ayr Grad Leaves SWCC as Iowa’s New Century Scholar PAGE 6

Sports Successes of 2013-14 PAGE 8
Another exciting academic year is coming to a close at Southwestern Community College! On the pages of this issue of the Southwestern Magazine, you will find articles about some of the highlights of the year. From having student Megan Doubleday selected as the New Century Scholar for Iowa, to the success of our athletic teams in state and national competitions, to the addition of another student residence hall on campus, it has been a memorable year.

On the pages of this magazine, you will find a list of donors to the Education Foundation as well as scholarship recipients. Generous donors are making a difference in the lives of our students. To quote a recent e-mail from the parent of a former Southwestern student, “SWCC was an affordable option…It allowed her [his daughter] to blossom into the student she needed to be in order to be successful at a four-year university. She had an outstanding apartment/suite to live in (best I have seen). It was a great transition for her from high school to college life.” The student ultimately completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees in four years of college with the help of the jump start she received at Southwestern. This young lady completed college without debt, with the help of hard work and scholarships, which is commendable in today’s environment. Dad said, she is now employed and “actually making money.” What parent wouldn’t be excited about that!

It is through the strong support Southwestern enjoys from the businesses, communities, and individuals we serve that make stories, like the one shared by the parent quoted above, possible. We hope you enjoy the brief update on current happenings at Southwestern included in this issue of the Southwestern Magazine.

Dr. Barbara J. Crittenden  
*Southwestern Community College President*
Cover Story

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by Terri Higgins

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On the Cover
As of fall 2014, SWCC will have capacity for at least 280 students in on-campus housing, a hefty increase from the 42 students housed on-campus in 1972.
With a new three-story residence hall, Spartan Court, going up and a total capacity for at least 280 students to live on campus, student housing at SWCC has come a long way since its inception in 1966!

During the fall 2013 semester, the residence halls were at 105 percent of total occupancy. This demand, accompanied by the limited rental market in the Creston area, propelled the college to move forward with the additional residence hall, Spartan Court, to be constructed prior to the start of the fall 2014 semester.

In the Beginning
Under the header “SWCC Gets Student Housing,” the 1972 Sou’Wester yearbook states, “An important addition to the SWCC campus this year is College Park, a long-awaited solution to student housing.”

Prior to this, student housing had been located off-campus in the old hospital building in uptown Creston. According to board of trustees’ records, during the 1967-68 school year, a double room without private bath cost $150 per semester. With private bath, the cost increased to $165 per semester.

According to the ’72 yearbook, College Park was a trailer park consisting of seven units, each housing six students. It says the park was “funded for $80,000 by Creston business men and constructed by the Creston Development Company.”

The park was located east of campus near where Spartan Suites stands today (see campus map on page 16). According to the yearbook article, each unit provided its six occupants with “three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, kitchen equipment, and two bathrooms.”
From the 1972 Sou’Wester yearbook: “I can’t believe I ate the whole thing!” Bruce Bissell’s home cooking provides the right domestic atmosphere as Larry Chandler studies happily in their SWCC unit.

According to Paul Somers, retired SWCC director of student services and counselor for academics at the time, the decision to go with a trailer park for SWCC’s first on-campus housing came down to dollars and cents, as well as the need for enrollment growth.

“Honestly, the reason we did it ... well, up to that point most of our students drove to campus. We realized if we were going to have any kind of enrollment growth, we were going to have to provide some housing,” Somers explained.

Each trailer was assigned in the fall as either all-male or all-female depending on enrollment trends. Somers said through the years, as programs and sports were added and students were coming to Southwestern from further away, the need for additional housing continued to grow. “When recruiting students from any distance, we needed to be able to provide places for them to live, and we wanted to be able to house them on campus,” Somers stated.

In 1979, a need for additional housing for female students was identified and Wilson Hall was constructed. Tracey Evans, SWCC student activities coordinator, was a resident in Wilson Hall during the 1983-84 academic year. Evans enjoyed the opportunity to get to know other students by living on campus. “A lot of the time we just hung out in each other’s rooms,” Evans laughed. “We had four separate rooms and then shared a bathroom and showers.”

When asked about what expectations she had for student housing at that time, Evans paused and said, “I had no expectations.” That is a student perception of the past.

[Article continued on page 16]
Mount Ayr Grad Leaves SWCC as Iowa’s New Century Scholar

By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

Recent Southwestern Community College (SWCC) graduate Megan Doubleday of Mount Ayr has received accolades statewide and nationwide for her academic accomplishments while attending SWCC.

In March, Doubleday was honored as a member of the 2014 All-Iowa Academic Team during a recognition ceremony held March 5 in Des Moines and sponsored by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Then, on April 8, Doubleday headed to the American Association of Community College Convention in Washington, D.C. to be honored as Iowa’s New Century Scholar. With this honor, Doubleday will receive a $2,000 scholarship to the college of her choice.

Dr. Barb Crittenden, SWCC president, accompanied Doubleday on her trip to Washington, D.C. to receive the award.

"We are pleased Megan was selected as Iowa’s New Century Scholar," stated Dr. Barb Crittenden, SWCC president. "She is an excellent student and has been involved in a number of activities on campus. Megan is well-deserving of this recognition. We are happy she chose to begin her college education at Southwestern."

Doubleday, who graduated from SWCC on May 9, 2014, earned her associate of arts degree with a 4.0 grade point average. While a student at SWCC, Doubleday was active in Student Senate (president), Dazzlers dance team (co-captain), student ambassadors, Phi Theta Kappa (vice president of fellowship), work study, and tutoring. She plans to attend Iowa State University in the fall majoring in elementary education with an endorsement in math. Due to her academic achievements and honors, Doubleday is also receiving a full-ride academic scholarship from Iowa State.

Doubleday knows she made the right decision attending SWCC first and says she is honored to represent Iowa as the 2014 New Century Scholar.

"I am so thankful I decided to start my college education at Southwestern Community College," exclaimed Doubleday. "Because I did, I had the opportunity to get involved in numerous organizations including Phi Theta Kappa. Through this honor society there are multiple scholarship opportunities available for two-year transfer students like myself."

As a New Century Scholar, Doubleday was one of 51 recipients nationwide. The New Century Scholars program and All-USA Community College Academic Team, which is sponsored by Follett High Education Group and presented by USA TODAY and Phi Theta Kappa, share a common application and together recognize outstanding community college students. More than 1,700 students were nominated from more than 900 community colleges for recognition. Judges consider grades, leadership, activities and most importantly, how students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, founded in 1918 and headquartered in Jackson, MS, is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1,285 chapters on two-year and community college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, Peru, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions.
Meals from the Heartland
By Beth Kulow, Dean of Student Services and Meghan Kalvig, Admissions Representative

Meals from the Heartland is a non-profit organization composed of volunteers who package meals for delivery to starving people around the world, as well as here in Iowa and elsewhere in the United States. The vision of the organization is to alleviate life-threatening hunger. Individuals, businesses, schools, churches and various civic organizations have come together to show the nation and the world what people who truly care can accomplish.

Southwestern Community College has hosted the Meals from the Heartland organization for two consecutive academic years on the Creston campus. During the first year we were able to put together 54 cases of food, equating to roughly 11,664 meals to feed insecure families. This year Southwestern partnered with surrounding communities to bring more than 280 area volunteers on-campus to partner with the SWCC campus community to reach a goal of packaging 60,000 meals.

On April 23, 2014, hundreds of local volunteers descended on the Spartan gymnasium, in teams of eight to 10, to create and package meals for the food insecure in an assembly-line style. During the five hour on-campus event, 60,264 meals were packaged which surpassed the original packaging goal. In addition to packaging more than 60,000 meals, financial contributions poured in from area business, community members, students, and church organizations. In all, $12,601.15 was donated back to Meals from the Heartland to pay for the cost of the food that was packaged and to assist with the shipping cost to place the meals in the hands of those who need it most.

Once again, the Meals from the Heartland Mobile Hunger Fight coincided with Southwestern Community College’s Pay it Forward (PIF) Week. In the spirit of giving without expectation of return, we hope to move people with the spirit of generosity, and to create a wave of kindness throughout the week that we hope will be more far-reaching than we ever get to hear about. According to Dave Bradley, executive director of Meals from the Heartland, Iowa is quickly becoming “The Hunger Fighting Capital of the World” due to the loyal supporters in the state.
It's been fun to be a Spartan during the 2013-14 academic year! Many of the college's sports teams have gotten to celebrate moments of great success. Some of the highlights follow:

**Volleyball Fifth at Nationals**
The 2013 Spartan volleyball team had an amazing season followed by a great run at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) DII National Championship in Perrysburg, OH, from November 21-23, 2013. The Spartans defeated Kirkwood Community College to win the Region XI Championship in Fort Dodge earning a trip to nationals.

The Spartans ended their run at the national championships on November 23, 2013, placing fifth with a 3-1 tournament record. Outside hitter Janaya Fox, sophomore from Bellevue, NE, was selected to the All-Tournament Team. Head Coach Melissa Blessington was named Region XI Coach of the Year.

Cassidy Yong, freshman setter from Bellevue, NE, was named to the 2013 NJCAA Division II Volleyball All-American Second Team and First Team All-Region. The Spartans finished the 2013 volleyball season 9-2 in the conference with a 37-10 overall record.

**Cross Country Finishes in Top Half of Pack at Nationals**
In a field of 55 represented teams, the SWCC men's cross country team finished 26th at the NJCAA National Cross Country Championships, held in Fort Dodge on Sat., November 9, 2013, improving seven spots from the previous season.

Freshman Ben Friederichs, of Walcott, led the squad, covering the 8K course in 28:12 and finishing 114th out of the 298 runners.
Sophomores Gage Beers and Joe Bierl followed in 28:52 and 29:02 respectively.

The Spartans earned their trip to nationals following the Region XI meet at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City where they placed fourth.

**Dazzlers Drill Team Places at State Competition**
The Dazzlers drill team received a “I” rating, placing third in the state in the college “Pom” category, at the 2014 Iowa State Dance Championships, held December 5-6, 2013, at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

This is the first time SWCC’s team has received a one rating and placed at the state competition.

**Golfer Headed to Nationals**
Freshman Shelby Williams of Adair shot an impressive 84 on day one of the Region XI Women’s Golf Tournament at Otter Creek in Ankeny on Friday, April 25, 2014, which was good enough to lead her to a 10th place overall finish and a trip to the National Tournament, May 12-15, 2014, in Daytona, FL.

Fifteen women in the region qualified for nationals. The SWCC women’s team finished fourth overall at regionals with the Spartans competing at a high level both days. In addition to Williams, SWCC’s team included Konnor Griffith, sophomore from Cedar Rapids; Caitlin Giles, freshman from Mount Ayr; Courtney Hackett, sophomore from Corydon; and Logan Kinyon, sophomore from Lenox.

Prior to Williams’ success, Southwestern’s most recent national qualifier was Molly Budach of Mount Ayr in 2012.

**Sports Shooting**
The Spartans sports shooting team made a huge impact during its first year of competition! The sports shooting team, under the direction of Head Coach Charlie Mundy of Osceola, traveled throughout the academic year to shooting events, competing and winning against teams from across the Midwest and eventually the country.

A highlight of the 2013-14 season was placing 15th in trap shooting during the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Collegiate Clay Target Championships in San Antonio, TX, held March 25-30, 2014. There were approximately 70 colleges and universities competing in the event.

The SWCC sports shooting team had three squads, consisting of five students each, qualifying to compete at the national shooting event. Freshmen Ethan Jolliff of Indianola and Heath Evans of Diagonal each finished 95 of 100, just three targets short of qualifying for the Olympic training camp.

Most recently, the sports shooting team took home first place honors at the Iowa Collegiate Invitational, held at the Izaak Walton League in Ames on Sat., April 26 and Indian Creek Izaak Walton Sporting Clays in Nevada on Sun., April 27. Jolliff won high individual in trap with 48/50 and skeet with 43/50; as well as high overall individual for the tournament. Freshman Trenton Cheers of Indianola was high individual in sporting clays with 72/100. Other competing colleges included Iowa State, North Iowa Area Community College, Simpson College, and the University of Iowa.

The sports shooting team is open to men and women. The college’s sports shooting team holds practices at the High Lakes Outdoor Alliance in Afton.

**Track and Field**
Seven Spartan track and field student-athletes qualified for the Track & Field Indoor National Championships held March 6-8, 2014, at The Armory Track & Field Center in New York, NY.

Theo Piniau, freshman from Papua New Guinea, qualified for three races—the 60-meter dash, 400-meter dash, and the 4x400 relay—setting record marks for SWCC in each one. Other runners in the 4x400 relay, which placed second in its heat and 14th in the nation, included Rayvonne Brown, sophomore from Davenport; Ian Morrison, freshman from Omaha, NE; and Marquis Flowers, sophomore from Naperville, IL.

Shamell Mangrum, sophomore from Rock Island, IL, finished 16th in the nation for shot put with a throw of 11.34 meters (37 feet, 2.5 inches).
Thank You!

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<td>Tara Norman</td>
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<td>Marcella Howe Scholarship</td>
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<td>Robert Beecher Memorial Endowment</td>
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<td>Bill &amp; Eleanor Sandholm Endowment</td>
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<td>Second Year Auto Student Scholarship</td>
<td>Cody Bristow</td>
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<td>Marilyn E. Provost Endowment</td>
<td>Zachary Johnson, Amy Scroggie,plane</td>
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<td>ISSB (Knock, Karl &amp; Jan) Endowment</td>
<td>Garrett Abell, Zachary Miller</td>
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<td>Mrs. T.D. Murphy Nursing Endowment</td>
<td>Pauline Somers, SWCC Homebuilders Assn., Cody Gilbert</td>
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<td>SIKHS Serving America, Inc. Endowment</td>
<td>Garrett Abell, CW Gordon</td>
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<td>Don &amp; Lois Smith Endowment</td>
<td>Cassidy Warson, SWCC Homebuilders Assn.</td>
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<td>Lynn Sickels Memorial Endowment</td>
<td>Paul Bernard, Somers Endowment</td>
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<td>Mary Louise Petznick Music Endowment</td>
<td>SWCC Homebuilders Assn., Cody Gilbert</td>
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<td>Jennifer A. &amp; Philip A. Pokren</td>
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<td>Erin Lindsay Reid Memorial Endowment</td>
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<td>TRiO Student Support Services Scholarship</td>
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<td>Zachary Johnson</td>
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Alumni Updates

1960s

George Kralik ’64 is enjoying retirement in Omaha, NE. His favorite memories at Southwestern are the friendships he made.

Richard Day ’66 enjoys retirement in Indianola. One of his favorite memories about his time at Southwestern was playing ping pong between classes every chance he got. There was only one person in college he couldn’t beat in the two years at Creston Community College (before becoming Southwestern Community College). He also enjoyed singing in the Creston Community College choir under the directorship of Mrs. Petznick because “she knew how to get the best from each of us and win competitions,” and “classes with Mr. Gray, our math instructor, because he was a special teacher who could make sense out of the toughest math problems and made the class a pleasant place to learn.”

Rolyne Kafka ’67 is the associate superintendent of finance at Ysleta Independent School District in El Paso, TX.

Frederick Steffen ’68 resides in Kansas City, MO, and serves as a city councilman there.

1970s

Dennis Chapman ’70 is now enjoying retirement in Fremont, NE.

James Lauer ’74 is a certified master black belt employed at Caterpillar, Inc., in Peoria, IL. His two favorite memories about SWCC are when he started at SWCC and was excited to be in college and when he graduated as he was the first person in his father’s family to graduate from college.

James Rogers ’75 works in maintenance and plant operations at the Guthrie County Hospital. He has many fond memories of his time at SWCC including Pizza Hut at noon, the recruiting trip to Chicago, IL, with Fox, the baseball trip to Texas, watching Pendegraft eat a light bulb, and spending time with Hooter and Kirk Levine in the commons.

Debra (Branson) March ’78 is currently the dean of library services at Young Harris College in Young Harris, GA.

Mauricca (Hoffman) Merryfield ’78 is a first grade teacher at Indianola Community Schools. One of her favorite memories about her time at Southwestern is living in the dorms and having fun with all her friends in the dorm and the trailers.

1980s

Bill Spicer ’81 currently lives in Kansas City, MO.

Robert Tisl ’81 is a MIG welder/zone coordinator at John Deere Des Moines Works in Ankeny. His favorite memories of SWCC include jazz band with Dick Bauman and being part of the Entertainers and living in the trailers and the old music house.

2010s

Betty Carlton ’79 & ’85 is now enjoying retirement in Hanover, IN.

Connie (Spicer) Ellis ’79 is a retired LPN. She enjoyed all of the new friends she made including the instructors. She met a lot of nice people during her time at SWCC.

Keep the updates coming!

There are two ways for you to send us your updates:

1. Go to www.swcciowa.edu/alumni and complete our online update form. There you can keep us up-to-date on where you are and what you are doing, as well as upload a photo for us to use in an upcoming issue of the magazine.

2. Fill out the inserted Alumni Update card and return it in the mail.
Peter Miller ’83 is a key account manager at Southern Wine and Spirits in Bolingbrook, IL. One of his favorite memories of SWCC includes the baseball road trips he went on with the team.

Donald Vondracek ’83 is a senior associate – print production manager at Mercer in Urbandale. His first day interning with the public relations department at Iowa Methodist Hospital, during his second year of college, was a memorable experience because it was the day after the 1982 Younkers Rehabilitation Center Fire. He remembers navigating the many tunnels and corridors of the hospital and spending the first day photographing the fire damage.

Tammy Kenoyer ’84 is a special education/physical education teacher at Winterset High School. She really enjoyed the softball trip to Oklahoma her freshman year.

Edee (Wheeler) McArtor ’85 is a business education teacher at Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, VT. Her favorite memories about Southwestern include playing on the college volleyball team, traveling with the team, and getting to know the players - fun time!

Doug Welsch ’87 is a maintenance technician at Cardinal IG in Greenfield. His favorite memories include the instructors who really took an interest in students’ successfulness!

Rodney Munyon ’88 is an equipment tech at QuikTrip in Phoenix, AZ. He enjoyed the interaction with students and staff.

Donald Vondracek ’83 is a senior associate – print production manager at Mercer in Urbandale. His first day interning with the public relations department at Iowa Methodist Hospital, during his second year of college, was a memorable experience because it was the day after the 1982 Younkers Rehabilitation Center Fire. He remembers navigating the many tunnels and corridors of the hospital and spending the first day photographing the fire damage.

Amy (Edwards) Coogler ’90 is the owner of Lil’ Cubs Childcare Center in Nevada, IA. Her favorite memories about Southwestern include playing volleyball and softball for Fox and Rita Schroeder.

Devy Combs ’93 is a BHIS coach at Lifeline Resources in Lamoni.

Tori (Smith) Hoke ’95 is region services manager at USA Volleyball in Colorado Springs, CO.

Justin Rayburn ’95 currently resides in Batavia and is a sales consultant at Morton Buildings in Fairfield.

Heidi (Higginbotham) Smith ’95 homes schools her children in Knoxville. One of her favorite memories of SWCC includes the success of the wonderful volleyball team led by Rita Schroeder.

Kate Burrell ’96 is a psychology instructor at Des Moines Area Community College.

Heidi (Henry) Scoles ’96 is a project manager at Wells Fargo in West Des Moines.

Buffy Bird ’97 is a cash office rep at The University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City.

Dena (Schroeder) Chapman ’97 is a social worker at Care Initiatives Hospice in Greenfield. She enjoyed the smaller class sizes and ability to interact with all students and create new friendships when she attended Southwestern.

Kristy (Drake) Goodale ’78 & ’97 is an occupational health nurse at Quality Occupational Health Services in Diagonal.

Jeremy Kinder ’97 is a teacher at Fort Worth ISD in Benbrook, TX. He really enjoyed his time in Creston. The education there laid the foundation for his future career in education. Bill Krejci was a big influence on his decision to become a coach. He also met his wife, Keeley (Miller) ’96, at SWCC, and said with her family still in Creston, they return to town each year. Go Spartans! They have a son, Landon, 11, and a daughter, Lindsey, 6.

Mike Struck ’97 is the executive director at the YMCA of Metro Chicago.

Christina Baxter ’03 is a registered nurse employed as the director of nursing services at Salem Lutheran Homes in Elk Horn. She loved her time at SWCC because she made many close friends in the nursing department.

Mind (Gustafson) Romanchuk ’03 resides in West Des Moines with her husband, Evan Romanchuk.
Sierra White '09

Sierra White '09 is a fifth grade teacher at Northeast Nodaway R-V School District in Ravenwood, MO. One of her favorite memories at Southwestern Community College was getting together with her girlfriends to support the SWCC baseball team at home and away games. Sierra says she made many life-long friends and learned many valuable things regarding education, as well as life, from some of the best teachers she has come in contact with.

Lisa Boni '06

Lisa Boni '06 is a mother/baby RN/RNC, IBCLC at Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Medical Center in Denver, CO. She enjoyed the great teachers and preceptors and made lovely friends among her classmates. She appreciated the early morning janitor who always wished everyone a beautiful day. He brightened many a morning!

Eric King '06

Eric King '06 is the coordinator of activities and Special Olympics at Southern Iowa Resources for Families.

Laura Thorn-Treadaway '06 received a double bachelor’s degree in psychology and criminal justice from Buena Vista University. She currently resides in College Station, TX.

Melissa Berry '08

Melissa Berry '08 is an insurance specialist at Iowa Ortho in Des Moines.

Shannon Lindley '08

Shannon Lindley '08 is a registered nurse at Iowa Health Des Moines at Iowa Lutheran Hospital.

Jerri (Perdue) Smith '08

Jerri (Perdue) Smith '08 resides in Stanton and enjoyed getting to know a lot of different people, young and old.

Richard Madison '09

Richard Madison '09 is a PC technician at Nationwide in Des Moines.

Lori Mercer '09

Lori Mercer '09 is an LPN at the Ringgold County Hospital in Mount Ayr. Her favorite memories of SWCC were the amazing new friendships she made.

Kendra Wagner '09

Kendra Wagner '09 is the office support assistant at Maryville Treatment Center in Maryville, MO. She loved Barb Brown’s office/business classes.

Sierra White '09

Sierra White '09 is a fifth grade teacher at Northeast Nodaway R-V School District in Ravenwood, MO. One of her favorite memories at Southwestern Community College was getting together with her girlfriends to support the SWCC baseball team at home and away games. Sierra says she made many life-long friends and learned many valuable things regarding education, as well as life, from some of the best teachers she has come in contact with.

2010s

Jacob Bennett '10

Jacob Bennett '10 is a senior airman and is a heavy equipment operator attached to a RED HORSE unit. He was deployed to Afghanistan this past fall. He and his wife, Maddilyn (Stark), '11 were married in 2011. She is working to become a dental assistant.

Tommy Boynton '10

Tommy Boynton '10 received his B.A. in jazz studies from New England Conservatory of Music and is currently an adjunct music instructor at Southwestern.

Brittney Foster '10

Brittney Foster '10 is a neonatal intensive care nurse and resides in Bonner Springs, KS.

Michele Helberg '10

Michele Helberg '10 is an RN charge nurse at Stanton Care Center and is currently working to earn her master’s degree as a family nurse practitioner.

Justin Potts '10

Justin Potts '10 is a security guard at Per Mar in Osceola.

Austin Willets '10

Austin Willets '10 is a police officer with the Knoxville Police Department.

Marissa Barton '11

Marissa Barton '11 is a paralegal with Denefe, Gardner & Zingg, P.C. in Ottumwa. She enjoyed meeting new people and playing volleyball at SWCC.

Cody Cooper '11

Cody Cooper '11 is a resource coordinator at Community Health Centers of Southern Iowa. One of his favorite memories about his time at Southwestern was the great learning environment at the Osceola Center, knowledgeable teachers, and wonderful staff. It was a great experience!

Patricia Houghton '11

Patricia Houghton '11 is a cardiac cath lab RN at Unity Point Methodist in Des Moines.

Rachel Sinn '11

Rachel Sinn '11 is an audience engagement coordinator at Meredith Corporation in Des Moines.

Mary (Sondag) Fields '12

Mary (Sondag) Fields '12 is a registered nurse at Tabor Manor Care Center in Tabor.

Tracey Anderson '13

Tracey Anderson '13 is an early start home-based teacher at West Central Community Action in Glenwood.

Colton Cooper '13

Colton Cooper '13 is a machine specialist at Pella Windows and Doors in Shenandoah. He really appreciated how everyone came together after the tornado.

Nelson Erroa '13

Nelson Erroa '13 is a structural detailer at Iowa Steel Fabrications in Osceola.

Cateya Phipps '13

Cateya Phipps '13 is the customer relations coordinator at Vintage Park Apartments in Lenox. One of her favorite memories about her time at Southwestern was participating in the Christmas basket donation for needy families.
The Southwestern Community College Education Foundation is dedicated to providing services and assistance to students, faculty and staff, alumni, and the community. Hard work and generosity from individuals assists in ensuring the success of the foundation and the advancement of Southwestern Community College. The Education Foundation provides financial support and services to the students at SWCC to ensure their academic success through financial support. By raising funds to keep the foundation flourishing, education becomes more accessible to all, regardless of their socio-economic background. Each year the Southwestern Community College Education Foundation provides more than 8 percent of the student body with financial support.

The foundation is continuing to grow due to generous contributions from our donors. New scholarships and endowments are continually established through the foundation, many serving as a memorial for loved ones. Estate planning provides a wonderful opportunity for an individual to set forth a future scholarship or endowment with the criterion that best fits their wishes. Establishing an endowment or scholarship is a simple process that allows for a legacy, such as a family name or memorial, to live-on year after year.

Renovated Classrooms in the Instructional Center

The 100 bay of classrooms in the SWCC Instructional Center had a brand new look just in time for the fall 2013 semester. Classrooms and hallway areas were renovated during summer 2013. The new classrooms feature additional technology, light and projection systems, new windows, carpet, and seating. The renovated hallway features a commons area that has been very popular with students.

David Livingston, December 2013 SWCC graduate, was a student speaker during the 2013-14 Donor-Scholar Dinner, which is sponsored annually by the SWCC Education Foundation, in November.
SWCC Moves to Apartment-Style Housing

Fast forward to the year 2000 and oh how student needs and expectations have changed. College administrators were beginning to recognize they were going to have to make some changes in student housing in order to remain a competitive option in higher education.

“When we began making plans to add more housing in the early 2000s, we surveyed students to see what they were looking for and a team of staff visited other colleges to see what they were providing for students,” Dr. Barb Crittenden, SWCC president explained. “We quickly determined that in order to meet student expectations and set ourselves apart, we needed apartment-style housing with individual bedrooms for students.”

In 2006, Spartan Suites, the first apartment-style residence hall on campus was constructed. The facility, with a 48-person capacity, was funded with a generous $100,000 donation, as well as $1.04 million zero-interest loans from the United States Department of Agriculture, Clarke Electric Cooperative, and Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative.

Crittenden said once the first apartment-style facility was up, it did not take long to realize the college had made the right decision. 

“Spartan Suites opened in the fall of 2006 and we knew we were on the right track,” Crittenden remarked. “Students increasingly want to live on campus rather than commuting some distance for class each day, and they want to live somewhere with at least some of the amenities they had at home.”

In 2010, Spartan Hall, a 72-person capacity, three-story facility, was constructed due to steady increases in student enrollment and because on-campus housing had been above capacity during recent years. Dr. Matt Thompson, former dean of student services, reported at the August 2009

Each of the apartment-style residence halls has a common living area and kitchen equipped with a sink, oven, microwave, and refrigerator.
In each apartment-style residence hall, students have their own bedroom furnished with a bed, desk, dresser, and closet.

board of trustees meeting, that the college’s residence halls had been full since May 15 of that year. Thompson said the dorms had a capacity of 116 students and, for fall 2009, he reported there were 152 student housing applicants. The SWCC board listened and adopted the proposed plans for construction.

**SWCC’s Newest Residence Hall**

Spartan Court, currently under construction, will be a three-story, apartment-style residence hall with capacity for 88 students. It will feature a student lounge with a large-screen TV, game and activity area, vending machines, and social/study area.

According to Beth Kulow, SWCC dean of student services, the average age of the student body at Southwestern is continually declining. “Traditional-aged college students are selecting to attend Southwestern for the exceptional value and outstanding academic programs,” Kulow pointed out. “This demographic has shown they want to leave home, live on-campus, and obtain the full college experience.”

And the students agree. Alex Duffy, May 2014 SWCC graduate from Bondurant, said, “After visiting SWCC and seeing the rooms, I pretty much knew this was the place I wanted to be. It’s crazy how much housing can effect such a huge decision in your life.”

When asked how SWCC’s residence halls compare to those at other colleges she visited, Duffy stated “No comparison! I don’t know of any four-year universities where you can go as a freshman and live in an apartment.” Duffy continued, “I don’t know of any school where you can live in an apartment-style dorm and have it still be considered on-campus and have that “dorm-room student” feel.”

How does SWCC’s student housing compare to other colleges?

**Alex Duffy**

Q: What were you looking for in housing when you selected to attend SWCC?

A: After visiting SWCC and seeing the rooms, I pretty much knew this was the place I wanted to be. It’s crazy how much housing can effect such a huge decision in your life.

Q: What is the best part of living in SWCC student housing?

A: One of my favorite parts of living in student housing is bonding and hanging out with large groups of people. Whether you’re making a dinner in the kitchen, having a game night in the living room, or having a nail party with everyone on your floor, the options are endless when it comes to hanging out in housing and I love that. It’s so easy to meet new people.

Q: How does SWCC’s student housing compare to other colleges?

A: It doesn’t compare. I don’t know of any four-year universities where you can go as a freshman and live in an apartment. I don’t know of any school where you can live in an apartment-style dorm and have it still be considered on-campus and have that “dorm-room student” feel.

**Aaron Hixson**

Q: What were you looking for in housing when you selected to attend SWCC?

A: When I selected SWCC, I was looking for a housing area that made me feel comfortable and relaxed. The setup and layout of the dorms really made this decision easy for me because of the freedom and privacy that came along with the rooms.

Q: What is the best part of living in SWCC student housing?

A: The best part about living in SWCC student housing was the apartment-like feel. Having neighbors and other students around helps keep you involved and active in campus activities.

Q: How does SWCC’s student housing compare to other colleges?

A: SWCC student housing is remarkable. Many community colleges do not have the most up-to-date living situations, but SWCC instantly makes you feel at home and welcomes you with great housing opportunities.

**Serena Yong**

Q: What were you looking for in housing when you selected to attend SWCC?

A: I was looking for apartment-style dorms and SWCC had it, so that's what really won me over. I was looking for a place I could have privacy, but at the same time have the dorm college experience.

Q: What is the best part of living in SWCC student housing?

A: The best part of living in the dorms is being right next to my friends and being around them all the time. It makes things a lot easier for school reasons and hanging out.

Q: How does SWCC’s student housing compare to other colleges?

A: SWCC’s housing is so much newer than other campuses I looked at. I like the apartment-style dorms because you have privacy and you don’t have to share a room or bathroom with a lot of other people.

When asked about the benefits of student housing, Kulow explained, “Involvement in campus-wide activities increase, retention rates rise, and satisfaction of the overall experience at Southwestern is indicated on student surveys. In addition to the positive effect student housing has on the campus, the entire community benefits from additional consumers at local businesses, participation in community-wide events, and the potential to retain the students in the local work force.”

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Good Luck to the SWCC 2014 Retirees

Pat Butcher, Career Services Coordinator
Years of Service: 31 years (19 full-time; 12 part-time after retiring)
Positions Served: Dislocated Worker Center Secretary; Director of Rural Farm Center; Outreach Worker; Farm Focus Coordinator; Career Planning & Placement Center Coordinator; and Career Services Coordinator
Future Plans: The first thing I will do is disable the alarm clock! Then I will spend time with family and grandchildren and attend their activities; outdoor work, as in flower gardening and landscaping; organizing everything that has not been in the last 31 years; maybe some volunteering; and traveling.
Comments: My work at Southwestern never seemed like a job as I enjoyed all that I did. Working with all the different populations through the years was always a challenge. However, the satisfaction of helping those in various ways, whether it was making career decisions, helping them find employment through writing their resume or providing job leads, and/or seeing them succeed has been very rewarding. This job has not been a job but truly an opportunity to assist others needing help.

Dave Neas, English Instructor
Years of Service: 27
Positions Served: English Instructor; Part-Time English Instructor; Special Projects Coordinator; Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction for Special Projects; and Osceola Center/Trucking School Coordinator
Future Plans: I am planning to serve as an Interim Minister for the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ). I also am working on possible course development and on teaching of classes to be used for orientation of new community college faculty. I am hoping to teach adjunct for Buena Vista as well.
Comments: It has been a true privilege to be part of Southwestern for all these years. This has been a good place to work, with great colleagues and rewarding work to do. I have also had an opportunity, through my work with the Iowa State Education Association, to visit many community college campuses across the state and to get to know a number of colleagues at many of these institutions. Iowa Community Colleges, almost fifty years after their founding, are still a movement as much as a series of institutions. We work to level the playing field for people of all ages who are trying to better themselves. That’s a great environment in which to work.

Peggy Worthington, Adult & Continuing Education Secretary
Years of Service: 10
Positions Served: Adult and Continuing Education Secretary
Future Plans: I look forward to being a full-time grandma and being able to enjoy the activities of the grandchildren. We plan on going on a family vacation next spring with all our children and grandchildren.
Comments: Thank you to all the SWCC family for my 10 years of being a secretary in the adult and continuing education department. I have truly enjoyed each and every day of working at SWCC. The friendships, knowledge and experience have been a valuable asset to me. I have seen changes that are very positive for the future of Southwestern. Again, thank you for the friendships and experience that I have gained.

Melba Akers, Library Assistant
Years of Service: 20 years part-time (after returning from working full-time and retiring)
Positions Served: Media Assistant and Library Assistant
Comments: I enjoyed my time at Southwestern and look forward to what retirement will bring!
Oetken Office Machines Opens for Business

SBDC Success Story

By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

In 1995, Bill Oetken was recruited from his job as produce manager for Easter’s Family Center in Creston to be a sales representative for Steve Maltzahn’s business, Creston Office Machines. Oetken had a degree in business and an interest in sales so he jumped at the opportunity, not realizing that leap would lead him to business ownership someday.

Oetken worked in the capacity of sales representative for Maltzahn’s business until five or six years ago when Maltzahn began to talk about retirement. Oetken had watched the business change and evolve as the Web became more and more important in business. Following a lot of discussion, Oetken and his wife, Penny, made the decision to purchase the business. They worked out an agreement with Maltzahn so that Oetken could earn a certain amount of stock in the business each year for five years, so he would have a substantial amount invested in the business by the time Maltzahn retired. According to Oetken, this made financing a lot easier when it came time to purchase the business.

The ball really started rolling for Oetken during the spring of 2012 as Maltzahn’s retirement grew closer. It was April 2012 when he made contact with Dave McLaren at the Small Business Development Center, located at Southwestern Community College in Creston.

“Meeting with Dave was probably the best thing I’ve ever done,” explained Oetken. “He helped me think of things I never would have thought of otherwise … from paperwork to dealings with the bank, I can’t say enough about what Dave has done for me.”

McLaren helped the Oetkens with formation of an LLC (limited liability company), an LLC Operating Agreement, acquisition of a Federal Employers Identification Number (EIN), and completion of Iowa Business Tax Application; as well as writing a business plan, preparing a budget, and developing sales projections.

The comfort and advice McLaren offered throughout the purchase were also of assistance to Oetken. “I was worried about getting through those first three months,” Oetken said. “Dave calmed me down, talked me through it, and gave me an idea of what to expect. It helped a lot.”

Following the change in ownership, Oetken has been amazed at how close to exact the sales projections McLaren assisted him with have been. “We went over figures from the last three years of business, so we could look over comparables,” Oetken said. “So far, everything he (McLaren) projected has been spot on, even a little better.”

Overall, Oetken has changed very little about how the business is run since he took ownership. His business approach is far from high pressure sales. “My approach … I can’t be high pressure,” stated Oetken. “I never pressure to get the sale. People know they can trust me. My customers are pretty loyal, but you have to keep in touch so they don’t start looking elsewhere.”

Office Machines has been a part of the Creston community for more than 60 years. Oetken is going to do his part in keeping the store in town for another 60 years. When asked if he had anything else to add Oetken replied, “We always stress the ‘buy local’ and we thank everybody for what they have done and what they will continue to do.”

Oetken Office Machines, LLC
Co-Owners: Bill and Penny Oetken
110 N Elm St
Creston, IA 50801
Phone: 641.782.8464
www.officemachinesco.com
Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members

By Terri Higgins, Director of Marketing and Enrollment Management

During the past year, the SWCC Board of Trustees welcomed two new members—Carol Saxton of Leon and Zach Gunsolley of Diagonal.

Saxton, a longtime resident of Decatur County, was appointed to the board in July 2013 and elected to the board during the September 2013 school elections. Saxton has 35 years of nursing experience with the Decatur County Hospital in Leon. She is currently the hospital’s surgical services and infusion director.

In addition to her position at Decatur County Hospital, Saxton is a certified lay speaker for the United Methodist Church and assists with lay speaking duties in the Town and Country Parish.

Saxton has two children, Dr. Christy Hanthorn, DVM, and Scott Hanthorn (wife Whitney), and one grandchild, Layla Hanthorn. Saxton and her husband, Jay, reside in Leon.

Gunsolley was elected to the board during the September 2013 school elections. Gunsolley, a 1998 graduate of Diagonal High School, worked in Oskaloosa for Garden and Associates following his 2003 graduation from Iowa State University with a degree in civil engineering.

In 2008, Gunsolley and his wife, Sarah, moved back to the area. He assisted Garden and Associates in opening their Creston office. In 2010, Gunsolley became the Ringgold County engineer.

The Gunsolleys reside on an acreage outside of Diagonal with their two children, Jackson and Elizabeth.