

# Alumni and Friends

# SCCC CONNECTIONS

Winter 2008

## Notes from the president—Dr. Duane Dunn

The impact Seward County Community College has made on the lives of the thousands of alumni continues to impress me. This issue of SCCC Connections provides a glimpse of that impact on just a few people, but the lives of each alum has been enhanced through their experience at our college.

I'm particularly impressed with how our alumni continue to pass their knowledge on to others. You may have seen the movie "Pay it forward" in which a young boy encourages others to simply pass on good

deeds to others and reap the return in good will. Similarly our alumni continue to provide a positive influence on others through their knowledge, their successful business practices, enthusiasm about SCCC, or encouraging the individual to pursue further knowledge and civic involvement.

It has been 40 years since a group of visionary individuals in Liberal sought legislative authority to establish a community college in Liberal. Next year we'll celebrate 40 years of providing classes to our community and area. Those visionary

leaders certainly allowed the community to "pay forward" a tremendous opportunity to students, and our alumni continue to "pay forward" their experience at SCCC.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire college, we encourage you to keep in touch with SCCC through registration on our alumni website ([alumni.sccc.edu](http://alumni.sccc.edu)), through support of student activities, and support of the SCCC Development Foundation. Your continued support of SCCC allows us to "pay forward" success to future students.

## Alum/employee works to change citizenship test

By Lacy Adams, 2008 student

Elva Morales, a citizenship instructor at SCCC's Colvin Adult Learning Center, has expanded her responsibilities to assist those who need to gain their citizenship. She has



been helping the Immigration & Naturalization Service to revise the citizenship test that is given nationwide, a process that is now complete.

Dr. Michael Jones, senior advisor, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, contacted Morales and two others to help redesign the naturalization test. They examined every part of the test including the written, oral and reading parts of the exam, said Morales. She said she feels students will really benefit from the revision of the citizenship test, and was honored to have been chosen to help contribute to this nationwide project.

"This test will help all immigrants understand the American government better

and the history of America. . . which is incredibly important if they are going to live here," said Morales. The goal was to make it more user friendly. Students will still need to study hard to pass this test but it will be easier for teachers to teach this material to students. "Things have changed and the population has also changed, so the president felt that it was time the test was updated." The new test will officially be ready in October 2008.

An individual who applies for citizenship must be at least 18 years old and must be a resident for at least five years. An individual who marries an American resident can apply after three years. The only other option to becoming a citizen, said Morales, is if a parent becomes an American citizen, then he or she can apply for his or her children under 18. To prepare students for the test, Morales works with students for 4-5 months and emphasizes U.S. government, American history and the correct way to read, speak, and write English. To make them feel more confident, she also works with her students on the application and interview process.

If the judicator feels the student does not understand simple questions such as "How long have you been out of this country?" or "Who is the Vice President of the United States?" then the student will fail the exam and not proceed to the written part of it. If

the student excels in the oral section, then he or she completes the written part, answering 10 random questions correctly. A person has two chances to pass the citizenship test. If an individual fails twice, he or she must re-submit an application.

Morales said Cynthia Rapp, SCCC dean of instruction, was the one who most inspired her to do what she does now. "Cynthia felt that there was a need in the community to do this program, and she helped give birth to it."

Although Morales will attend another conference on adult learning in April, she wants Dr. Jones and his staff to come to SCCC as well and see for themselves what is happening in southwest Kansas.

As a nontraditional college student herself, she recognized the need to get an education and, once she received her high school equivalency diploma through SCCC, she continued her education at both SCCC (class of '91) and Saint Mary's of the Plains College. She was so committed to her goal that she completed her bachelor's degree in three years. In addition to assisting adult students at the Colvin Adult Learning Center, she also teaches at Washington Elementary.

She said she has always loved doing her job. "I've been teaching citizenship classes for many, many years. . . it's my cup of tea and I have loved it."

# Seward County Community College

1801 N. Kansas, Liberal, Kansas

[www.sccc.edu](http://www.sccc.edu)

## Ag Department sets records from celebrity judging proceeds

The SCCC Agriculture Department raised about \$10,500 in team sponsorships, donations and services during the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Judging Contest recently, an event that raises money for scholarships.

Top team in the agricultural affiliate division went to Great Western Dining with team members Jerry Odle, Felicia Holmes, Sarah Morey, all of Liberal and celebrity Ernie Heitschmidt of Guymon, Okla.

Plains State Bank/Syracuse Feedyard was second, with King Hay and Livestock/Hog Slat, third, Light Ranch/Doug & Teresa Wehmeier, fourth and Sharp McQueen PA/Texhoma Livestock, fifth.

Odle also claimed high individual in the ag affiliate division, followed by teammate Holmes, second; John McKee, Liberal, third; Missy Imler, Satanta, fourth; and Kyler Moon, Liberal, fifth.

Top team in the agricultural division went to First National Bank with team members Barry Angell, Hugoton, Tina Call, Liberal, Gary Gold, Hugoton, and celebrity Frank Swan, Johnson. Other teams who placed in this division were Wade Nairn/Harrison Krey Farms/Swan Club Lambs, second; Rolling T Livestock/Stephens Farms/Williams Cattle Company, third; Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas, fourth; and Cornerstone Sales, fifth.

Barry Angell was high individual in the agricultural division followed by Vernon Baehler, Moscow, second; Gary Armstrong, Ulysses, third; Brandi Roberts, Hugoton, fourth; and Gary Gold, Hugoton, fifth.

Melissa King, Taloga, Okla., and Danny

Bray, Liberal, tied for first overall with perfect scores; Sandi Cortez, Thibodaux, LA, was third; Alan Imler, Satanta, fourth; and Zach McCracken, Syracuse, fifth.

One rivalry that has become a tradition with this contest is the Darin and Tommy challenge trophy. This award is given to the worst score in the sheep class between Darin Workman and Tommy Williams, both SCCC employees. Williams won the award this year.

The SCCC Agriculture Department would also like to thank the other team sponsors, including Mortgages Unlimited, Meade County Title Co., Byron Bird

& Associates, National Beef, High Plains Pizza, Sunset Disposal, Eisenhower Harvesting, KSLS, Western Plains Genetics and KSCB.

Event sponsors were Harrison Krey Farms, Hugoton; Swan Club Lambs, Johnson; Brown Real Estate, Beaver, Okla.; Stephens Farms, Amarillo, Texas; Rolla Corner Stop; and Southern Office Supply, Crazy House, Salty Dog, Kings BBQ, Applebees, Vargas Restaurant and Mike Hanson, all of Liberal. Seaboard Farms and Great Western Dining provided the noon meal, with David Watkins cooking the pork loin.



SCCC alumni recently participated in the Celebrity Livestock Judging Contest. From left are Tucker Fleming, Class of 2005; Melissa King, Class of 2007; Rob Miles, Class of 2007; Trevor Winchester, Class of 2007; Joseph Hough, Class of 1991; Alan Imler, Class of 1987; Kent Williams, Class of 2003; Anita Jo Rodenberg, Class of 1994; Pam Freeman, Class of 2002; Danny Bray, Class of 2002; Tonya Swan, Class of 2005; and Zach McCracken, Class of 2007.



If you've seen a new look at Seward County Community College it may be the new logo that now represents

## SCCC develops a new look for the college

the institution.

The SCCC marketing committee worked for over a year on a new logo for the college. The design has now been incorporated into a number of elements at the college, including letterhead, folders, envelopes, business cards, note cards and more. You will see it

in advertisements and on the web.

"We have been working hard to develop a uniform look across campus with consistency in letterhead, business cards and other printed items," said Dr. Duane Dunn, SCCC president. To determine the right look and the right colors for the institution, the college worked with students, community patrons and staff. The college has also developed logo and usage guidelines for use of the logo and other elements on campus.

The new logo can be used by any department on campus, including athletics. However, the Athletic Department has maintained its interlocking SC that has been used for several years.

SCCC also has a slogan and logo that it uses across campus as well. The slogan that was developed by the marketing committee in 2006 is "Success from every angle."

For further details on use of the SCCC logos, contact the SCCC director of public information at [learnmore@sccc.edu](mailto:learnmore@sccc.edu) or at 620-417-1125.



SCCC recognizes international students who come to campus each year during a flag ceremony in the student union. The college most recently established an international club on campus as well.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## 1970's

**Jim Reneau** ('73) lives in Dodge City, Kan., and works as a Firefighter/EMT for Ford County Fire and Rescue.

**Doris Laverne (Patterson) Ashlock** ('75) lives in Yukon, Okla., with her husband, Dennis.

**Donna (Nash) and Brent Houston** ('78) live in Shawnee, Okla. Donna works as a guidance counselor at a high school in central Oklahoma. She also volunteers on the Board of Directors for Gateway to Prevention and Recovery. Donna and Brent have three children.

## 1980's

**Gerald Danley** ('80) and his wife, Karen, live in Cashion, Okla., and have three daughters and one granddaughter. Gerald works as a realtor/property manager for ERA in Oklahoma City. Gerald is the president of the Cashion Lions Club and is the past president of the Cashion All-Sports Association and 4-H/FFA Booster Club.

**Jerry Dockum** ('80) lives in Houston, Texas, with his wife, Bobbie. After college, Jerry started four companies including three in the Houston area. One non-profit company Jerry started is to help the poorer countries and also the local cities. He has three children, Nicole, Kylie and Kacey.

**Scott Hecox** ('80) is a teacher and coach at Norman public schools. Scott and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Norman, Okla. and have three sons, Matt, Lukas and Marcus.

**Randy Cordova** ('82) and his wife, Leila, live in Albuquerque, N.M., where Randy is a retired firefighter and coaches baseball.

**Mark Jennings** ('82) lives in Claremore, Okla., with his wife, Teresa. Mark works in manufacturing and has one daughter and one son.

**Terri (Williams) Younger** ('82) and her husband, Cole, live in Amarillo, Texas. The couple own Cole's Washout and are involved in farming activities east of Amarillo. Terri works for Highland Park Village as a leasing manager. They have a daughter, Ginger.

**Ladona (Powers) Mathis** ('84) lives in Beaver, Okla., with her husband, Shane. Ladona first taught in Elkhart, Kan., for 11 years and then moved to Dumas, Texas, where she taught for four years. Ladona has two children, daughter, Kaylee (16), and son, Michael (14).

**Lavona (Adams) Swank** ('89) recently returned to SCCC to continue her educational goals. She lives in Plains, Kan., with her husband, Justin. She has four children ranging from 4-to-14 years of age. She worked in special education at Kismet grade school for a year and a half.

## 1990's

**Linda (Burr) Cannon** ('92) lives in Great Bend, Kan., with her husband, Joe. She has worked as the Accounts Receivable Clerk for the Great Bend Cooperative Association since 1998.

**Terri L. (Earle) Salisbury** ('94) lives in Woodward, Okla., with her husband, Bill. Terri was employed at Ochiltree General Home Health and Hospice in Perryton, Texas, before relocating to Woodward. She volunteers at the Oklahoma Public Health Association.

**Stacy Leigh (Wyckoff) Calvert** ('95) lives in Piedmont, Okla., with her hus-

band, Mark. She spent nine years working in criminal justice before she began working for AT&T in 2000. She has a son and daughter.

**Morgan Weldon Hightower** ('97) lives in Sunray, Texas, where she works at the Moore County Sheriff's Office and is a Sergeant Field Deputy.

**Shauna Lee (Sandorskey) Ohman** ('98) lives in Sioux City, Iowa, with her husband, Matthew. Shauna transitioned from teaching sixth grade to pre-kindergarten. She has a 3-year-old daughter, Mia Grace, and another baby expected soon.

## 2000's

**Tiffany Leigh Cerecero** ('05) lives in Aguilar, Colo., where she works at St. Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo, Colo. Tiffany is in the process of finishing her Bachelor's Degree in nursing at Colorado State University-Pueblo. She is engaged to be married this summer.

## Alum returns to SCCC admissions office

**Molly Belt** ('05) is a new SCCC admissions coordinator. While at SCCC she was a presidential scholar, worked in the athletic office, was a member of Block and Bridle and Phi Theta Kappa (president 2004-05) and homecoming candidate in 2005. She is working on her bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University in organizational leadership.

"I am just excited to be back on the SCCC campus! I had such a great experience here as a student and I want to help the students here today have the best experience they can



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 23  
**SCCC Homecoming**  
SCCC vs. GCCC, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., gym

Friday, April 11  
**SCCC Block and Bridle Pig sale**  
7 p.m., SCCC Agricultural building

Saturday, April 12  
**Winners Only Lamb Sale**  
6:30 p.m., SCCC Agricultural building

April 17-18  
**Spring 2008 Broadway Musical**

Friday, April 25  
**Athletic Banquet**  
6 p.m., SCCC Gymnasium

Saturday, April 26  
**Agriculture Banquet**  
6 p.m., SCCC Student Activity Center  
RSVP: 620-417-1351 by Monday, April 21

Saturday, April 26  
**Formal Concert**  
7:30 p.m., SCCC Showcase Theater

Saturday, May 3  
**Pops Concert**  
7:30 p.m., SCCC Showcase Theater

Friday, May 9  
**Nurses Capping and Pinning Ceremony**  
7:30 p.m., SCCC Gym

Saturday, May 10  
**Commencement**  
10 a.m., SCCC Gym

For more event information:  
[www.sccc.edu/go/events](http://www.sccc.edu/go/events)

### New phone system and phone numbers at SCCC

Main campus—620-624-1951  
Alumni Office—620-417-1130  
Registrar—620-417-1061  
Business Office—620-417-1081  
toll-free: 1-800-373-9951

# SAINTS ATHLETICS NEWS

The **Lady Saints Volleyball Team** had its 10th best season in the history of SCCC volleyball winning 30 matches. The 2007 season was highlighted by the play of two freshmen, Dan Yang and Jelena Simic, who each had banner seasons while guiding the Lady Saints to a third-place finish in the Jayhawk West Conference and NJCAA D-I Region VI Tournament. Yang, an outside hitter from Beijing, China, broke three Seward County all-time records, including most kills in a single-season (860). She was named a Second Team NJCAA All-American, the 11th SCCC All-American selection since 1996, and became the first Seward County player to ever earn Jayhawk West Most Valuable Player and Conference Freshman of the Year. Simic joined Yang on the list for First Team All-Conference and First Team All-Region VI, while collecting 679 kills, which is second all-time behind Yang's total, and entering nine all-time SCCC record book top 10 categories.

The Lady Saints had a solid season recording a 30-15 overall record, which included a nine-match winning streak, the longest in four seasons. The Lady Saints topped its first nationally-ranked opponent since 2004. This season Seward County received a No. 12 NJCAA Top 20 ranking, and the program had six NJCAA National Player of the Week awards.

The **Lady Saints Basketball Team** started off the season ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA Pre-Season poll for the first-time

ever. Also earning pre-season accolades was returning sophomore Tegan Cunningham. Following an All-American freshman campaign, the 6-foot-1 inch Aussie was named a NJCAA Pre-Season First Team All-American, and she also made headlines in November signing early with Oklahoma State University for the fall of 2008. Cunningham helped lead the Lady Saints basketball team to a 36-2 overall record and a third-place finish at the NJCAA Tournament in 2007.

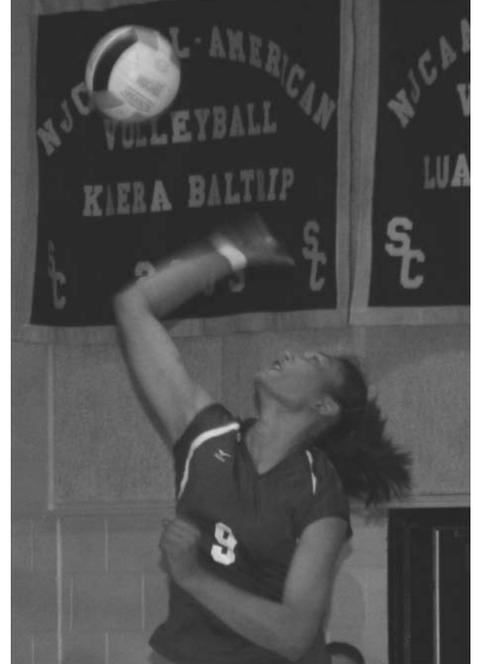
After the opening 12 games of the regular season, the Lady Saints recorded a 7-5 overall record, with three victories over nationally-ranked opponents. SCCC's demanding non-conference slate included six games against nationally-ranked opponents, and a season-opener that pitted them against the defending national champion Odessa Lady Wranglers, which SCCC won 76-64, at the Green House in Liberal.

The **Saints Basketball Team** began a new era this season under the guidance of first year head coach and SCCC alum, Bryan Zollinger. The Saints started the season with a bang going 12-2 in non-conference games. Seward County had big production early from four returning sophomores (Darko Cohadarevic, Bryson Hampton, Nick Burns and Ervin Williams), while also getting production from several newcomers who have cracked the line-up early this season.

Entering Jayhawk West Conference play, the Saints have been ranked pre-season No.

6 in the Jayhawk West Conference, while the Lady Saints were picked to win the Jayhawk West Conference from the pre-season coaches' poll.

In addition, SCCC added a dance team (below center) in fall 2007, and the 'Saintsations' made their debut in the Green House. The squad is coached by head cheerleading coach, and former SCCC alum, Scarlette Erydendall. The squad has 10 female stu-



Dan Yang becomes the 11th NJCAA All-American selection in SCCC volleyball history.



The SCCC Drama Department presented the fall play, "The Ten Rules of Internet Dating." Pictured above are Jacob Riggs, Jennifer Knox and Sergio Padilla. (photo by Cayla Thomlinson)

The SCCC Show Choir, right, performed during its annual winter concert. This spring, the choir will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



## Alum returns as GCI speaker

This spring Robert Firth will return to Seward County Community College for the first time since the mid 1980s. Firth, the president and chief executive officer of Atlas Pipeline Mid-Continent, will be the luncheon speaker at the Gas Compressor Institute April 22 at the National Guard Armory in Liberal. SCCC has been an integral part of the institute since 1995.

"I was so thrilled to be asked that it took me about two seconds to say yes!" said Firth, who was on the planning committee for GCI when he lived in Liberal from 1975-1981. During the past three years, Firth has managed Atlas Pipeline, a \$3 billion publicly traded enterprise, in Tulsa, Okla. Atlas Pipeline is a natural gas mid-stream energy company with operations in the Appalachian and mid-continent regions that gathers, compresses, processes, and transports over 1.2 BCF per day of natural gas and produces approximately 52,000 bbl of natural gas liquids per day.

After graduating from SCCC in 1981, Firth received both a bachelor's and master's degree from Upper Iowa University and continues to serve with his wife Betty on the UIU Board of Trustees. In addition, Firth is an adjunct professor in Management, Leadership and Entrepreneurship for UIU's external degree program. Firth also serves on the board of directors of Atlas Pipeline Holdings and is

a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

He believes one of his biggest honors was being named Teacher of the Year for the Upper Iowa University Independent Study Program. Firth also had the honor of ringing the bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Sept. 13, 2006.

Firth began his career in maintenance at the Northern Natural Gas Mainline Station, Beaver, Okla., and became district manager for the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles. In 1985 Firth became an owner in Panda Resources, Inc., a start-up mid-stream energy company that was honored in 1989 by Inc. Magazine as the 24<sup>th</sup> fastest growing company in America.

As a 30-year veteran in the energy business, Firth plans to speak on topics that explain the day-to-day issues that he has been involved with his entire career—our industry, and how we contribute to the betterment of this great country. "Too often we are vilified for causing harm to the environment when we are the industry which is providing the resources to protect our natural resources."

"I appreciated his comments about veterans and the great patriotic heritage of our country and the value of hard work and education," said Don Ukens, second vice chair of the GCI planning committee, who recom-



mended Firth as the GCI speaker, especially after he learned about his connection to Liberal and SCCC. As an inspirational and motivational speaker, he emphasizes the value of hard work and education, and not accepting "your 'status quo' in life if you are not satisfied. He got to where he is today by taking advantage of the opportunities presented to him and a lot of hard work.

"Robert has a strong background in the gas compression business having worked in the gas field at Laverne (Okla.) for many years. The guys who work in the oil and gas fields relate to Robert because he has been where they are now."

Firth took courses at SCCC that helped him set his visions on the future. "My writing instructor started me down the path of creative visions, which launched me into thinking about what will happen 5 to 10 years down the road. My accounting instructor had come from a Big 8 accounting firm and really taught us the practicality of business accounting. We utilized his actual experiences to develop our accounting skills. In my free time, I enjoyed watching baseball and basketball games at the college. They were awesome!"

"SCCC energized my desire to continue my learning process and to earn additional degrees," Firth said. "I really didn't like to attend college much until my experience at Seward County, and then I just continued learning from that point on."

"Robert is a great promoter of American values," Ukens said. "It isn't just words with Robert, as he uses his time and resources to promote these values. He personifies the American Dream."



Each fall members of the Kylix Art Club, above, host children on campus for Children's Art Day.

The SCCC Development Foundation hosted its annual endowment donor dinner prior to the winter music concert. Pictured at right are John and Sue Smith; Landy Seger, SCCC nursing student and recipient of the Roy E. and Margaret E. Smith Memorial Scholarship; and Nancy Allen and Dr. Ray Allen. For information about establishing an endowed scholarship, contact Tammy Doll, director of development, 417-1131, or 1-800-373-9951, ext. 1131.



# CLASS NOTES REPORT FORM

This form is for your convenience in sending news about yourself, your family or other alumni. Let us know of any changes in occupation, recent honors or degrees earned, marriages, births, memories of Seward County Community College and other news of interest. We want to hear from you. Please send us a photo of yourself if you have one. You may also log on to [alumni.sccc.edu](http://alumni.sccc.edu) and submit your information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ New address?

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Did your spouse graduate from SCCC? \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Present occupation/title \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges now attending \_\_\_\_\_

Children names/ages \_\_\_\_\_

Current activities/awards \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Memories of SCCC \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to Director of Development, Seward County Community College, PO Box 1137, Liberal, KS 67905-1137

**Attention parents: If you are receiving the SCCC Alumni News addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at this address, please use this form to notify us of his or her present address.**



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