The Legend Begins...

On the Fast Track: High school students get ahead earning college credit

Top Ten Reasons to Support the Spoon River College Foundation

Computer Information Systems
You wouldn’t believe the cool things our students are learning

What Are You Waiting For?
I am thrilled to be able to welcome you to our second issue of our CareerFocus magazine. This magazine is designed to provide you with information about the educational opportunities at Spoon River College. As an alumnus of Spoon River College, I am proud of the rich heritage of academic excellence, affordability, and accessibility. But more importantly, I am hoping you will see how Spoon River College can be a part of your pathway to a career.

At Spoon River College, our first goal is student success. We define students as anyone looking to learn something new and expand their knowledge. This knowledge could come from one of our traditional credit courses or in our continuing education courses that are available to all ages. Our faculty and staff have enacted new programs and services to ensure our students have an outstanding educational experience. We are constantly working to meet the academic goals of each student and to help every student be successful.

Spoon River College means so much to so many people... I hope you will see how Spoon River College can help you. To find out more information on the educational opportunities, visit www.src.edu.

I hope you enjoy this CareerFocus magazine and that we will see you at Spoon River College soon.

Meet Sheldon, the new Spoon River College mascot! You might say he was born on Facebook because the entire selection process was done by public vote on the social media platform.

First, we asked our Facebook followers to suggest new mascot names. We got everything from Blue Bullets to River Otters. Our Student Government Association chose their favorite sixteen names, and those went into a “March Madness-style” tournament on Facebook, with two mascots battling for public votes every 2 days. At the end of March 2013, we had our “Final Four” mascot options – Coyotes, Sturgeons, Blue Cats, and Snappers. The final decision was up to our Board of Trustees, and Snappers was chosen as our new mascot during the April 2013 Board Meeting.

Having a mascot name was not the end of it. We needed a logo to go along with the Snapper name! In September 2013, four prospective sketches to represent Spoon River College Snappers were presented on Facebook, and votes were taken. Drawing #3 was the winner with 67% of votes, with drawings #1 and #4 tying for second place with 12% of votes. In late October, we unveiled our new mascot: a snapping turtle who is a little fierce, a little cute… and we love him! We polled our Facebook fans one last time in February/March 2014 to give the little guy a name, and the winner was Sheldon.

Our new mascot was chosen by our district in every way, and we’d like to thank you for helping us choose him. Stop by the Spoon River College Bookstore nearest you and pick up some Snapper gear!
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Make Friends With FAFSA
You won’t get financial aid without it

All students applying to college should know about FAFSA.

Also known as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, everyone—rich, poor, or somewhere in between—should plan to fill out a FAFSA application as part of applying to college.

“One of the largest barriers to a higher education is the funding,” says Jo Branson, Director of Financial Aid at Spoon River College.

FAFSA is the foundation for all financial aid and allows students to be considered for federal Pell grants, state grants, Stafford student loans, scholarships and work-study programs. These funds can help pay for college tuition as well as books and some fees.

“New students, and especially their parents, are under the misconception that they are not eligible for financial aid because of the family’s income,” says Branson. “Many times this can be a wrong assumption and a reason why a lot of eligible students don’t apply.

“It’s also a misconception that student loans aren’t financial aid. This is not true. Students must apply so we can determine eligibility for need-based and non-need-based federal loans.”

Fill out that FAFSA
Branson calls the FAFSA application “like kryptonite,” robbing students and their parents of strength and resolve.

That’s because the form is a 10-page booklet with careful, step-by-step instructions. Parents need their current tax returns for a dependent student, and independent students must have tax returns for themselves and their spouse.

While the whole process can turn stomachs into knots, students and parents can usually go to the college’s financial aid office for one-on-one help. And if you complete your family’s tax forms before filling out the FAFSA, you will have your best financial information at hand.

Awards vary by college
Students are awarded financial aid once they’re admitted to a college or university. If they are admitted to several, each school will receive the FAFSA report, which the college uses to determine a broad range of financial aid options that includes grants, loans, scholarships and work study.

What’s the Difference?
A glossary of financial aid terms:

• **GRANTS** are gifts that do not need to be paid back. Grant decisions are based on family income, household size, reported assets, and the number of children in college. The most common is the federal Pell Grant that pays for tuition, fees, and books, and refunds to the student any unused money.

• **LOANS** must be paid back to the lender, with interest. Loans mean debt, and students must understand that and request just what they need, not the higher amounts that they may be offered.

Branson emphasizes that students should understand that they have power and control over the borrowing process and should get complete details about their responsibility, repayment, and interest from their financial aid officer.

• **SCHOLARSHIPS** are gifts that do not require repayment. According to Branson, they are the most underused of the financial aid programs, because their criteria are so variable. They can be based on academics, hometowns, gender and ethnicity, or specific programs.

Most colleges will have one application for all internal scholarships, and some scholarships will take into account student need from the FAFSA.

• **WORK STUDY** is a federal program in which colleges receive a certain amount of money to pay out in student salaries. Students are limited to 20 hours of work a week, and have the opportunity to learn about their school from the inside. They also get valuable work experience to add to their resume and some feel for budgeting their salary.

Students and parents might assume they are not eligible for financial aid because of the family’s income. Many times this is wrong.

Trista Trone, ISACorps Representative
Jo Branson, SRC Financial Aid Director
Noelle Woodruff, ISACorps Representative
Michael Bigger

Michael Bigger graduated from Canton High School in 1973 and then enrolled at Spoon River College. He began the full semester at the downtown buildings but was at the new campus by the second semester, and according to Bigger, “It was all good.”

“Spoon was my whole life for the two years I was there,” said Bigger. “I went to classes there, I served on boards there, I worked there, and in my last year, I lived in a one-room apartment in the former Dahm Hall, and courted my future wife there.”

Bigger also credits his extracurricular activities—specifically as Student Senate president and student trustee—with igniting his passion for being politically active and community-minded.

“Those two positions in particular gave me the opportunity to work with staff from all levels of the college, and the knowledge I gained from my interactions with SRC personnel such as President Hearl Bishop and Ed Georgieff, along with the board members, was as important as the education I received in the classrooms,” said Bigger, who is the current State Central Committeeman for the 18th Congressional District.

And that, Bigger said, is one of the important hallmarks of a community college.

“The small size and population of Spoon River College makes it easier for students to be involved on a more significant level. That is very empowering,” said Bigger.

Bigger, who went on to earn a BA in political science from SIU in Carbondale and enjoy a successful career as a State Farm insurance agent, recalls “lots of intense positive and personal memories etched in my soul from my days at Spoon.” Besides meeting his future wife there, he mentions two other memories that stand out in his mind.

“I gave the keynote speech for Commencement the year I graduated, and I think I might be the only student trustee to have had that honor,” said Bigger.

And the third memory? “There was this party—college sanctioned but held in Wee-Ma-Tuk—that featured music by Harvey Mandel…”

Emily Valencia

When Emily Valencia of Lewistown graduated from Spoon River College in 2010, she was honored with the Student Achievement Recognition Award, given for “individual initiative, personal development, and progression toward achievement of one’s goals, along with participation and success in college extracurricular activities.”

Here’s why she got it.

A performing arts grant recipient, Valencia was active in art exhibitions and drama productions. She maintained a 3.75 GPA and was a Phi Theta Kappa member, was active in student government, walked and washed cars for diabetes, organized a “Kickin’ It Country” concert fundraiser and a Highlighter Dance (where some SRC employees did a memorable version of “YMCA”). Emily was the student trustee, volunteered time to assist elementary students with art projects, did painting and maintenance work at Youth Acres in Canton, and worked part-time.

And after channeling Winston Churchill and giving the shortest welcome speech ever by a student trustee (“Never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, give up. Never give up. Never give up. Never give up.”), she walked across the stage and received an Associate of Arts and Science degree, an Associate of Applied Science in Electronic Design degree, a Graphic Design Certificate, and a Web Design Certificate.

Valencia credits Art and Education teachers Scott and Tracy Snowman for her drive and determination. “They believed in me, challenged me, and more importantly, saw who I could be and what I could accomplish,” said Valencia. “It’s truly a feeling difficult to explain. As an educator myself, I always keep this in mind… to genuinely see the potential of a student. It can take a person miles.”

And then there was Dr. Win Htwe (“He loved his job, which made me love his class!”). There were friends and too much fun (“Misty! Alicia!”), Coffee Spoon (“amazing talent!”), and a small fire as a result of an art project gone wrong. “I wanted the piece to literally look like it had been on fire, so I literally set it on fire,” Valencia said. “The alarms went off and the whole building had to be evacuated. You might not want to include this.”

After earning a BA in Education from WIU, Valencia accepted a job teaching art and computer graphics at Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School. “This is where I’m supposed to be, and all those experiences brought me to this place,” said Valencia. “When students ask me if I like my job, I tell them ‘Yes, I’m living my dream! I get to spend my days surrounded by creative individuals making art all day long. What could be better?’”

A 3D art class turned into an outside art lesson in snow sculptures. “Awesome, right?” Valencia said. “It showed me that in teaching you have to take advantage of the opportunities that quite literally can fall from the sky even if it wasn’t a part of your plans!”
Top Ten Reasons to Support the Spoon River College Foundation

YOUR MONEY STAYS IN YOUR “OWN BACKYARD”
Every dollar you give to the SRC Foundation supports Spoon River College students, facilities, technology, and programs.

FOR THE PLEASURE OF WATCHING THEM “MATURE”
We promise. It WILL happen.

FOR THE WRITE-OFF
The SRC Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization, so if a tax deduction is what you desire…we can do that!

FOR YOUR HEALTH
You want the next person who gives you a shot or takes care of you in your later years to be skilled and professional, don’t you?!

BECAUSE THERE IS GREAT STRENGTH IN NUMBERS…NO MATTER HOW SMALL EACH GIFT MAY BE
No matter what you can afford, your donation multiplies by combining your gift with those of others.

The Spoon River College Foundation’s Mission: “Education is the key to an excellent future. The SRC Foundation actively seeks resources to provide excellent educational opportunities to Spoon River College.”

Visit www.src.edu/foundation or contact Carol Davis at (309)647-6395 or carol.davis@src.edu.
ATTENTION CANTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES: IF YOU ATTENDED CANTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE/SPOON RIVER COLLEGE BETWEEN 1960-1980, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. PLEASE CALL US AT (309) 647-6395 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO FOUNDATION@SRC.EDU AND TELL US A STORY FROM YOUR COLLEGE DAYS!!!

FOR THE LOVE OF ART
The next Picasso could be attending Spoon River College some day!

FOR HER
Look at that smile! Doesn’t it just make you want to contribute to her success?

BECAUSE IT’S GOOD FOR YOU!
Studies show that giving boosts the immune system and releases endorphins that improve your mood. So give and you won’t be grumpy.

BECAUSE THE KIDS... ARE WATCHING
Be a positive role model and teach our children about how philanthropy is one way to be a good neighbor.

BECAUSE OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT
The students we support today will become tomorrow’s leaders. It is our responsibility to help them become the very best they can be.

SRC Summer Youth students in Canton

 SRC Cross Country runners

For the Love of Art: The next Picasso could be attending Spoon River College some day!

For Her: Look at that smile! Doesn’t it just make you want to contribute to her success?

Because It’s Good For You!
Studies show that giving boosts the immune system and releases endorphins that improve your mood. So give and you won’t be grumpy.

Because the Kids... Are Watching
Be a positive role model and teach our children about how philanthropy is one way to be a good neighbor.

Because Our Future Depends On It
The students we support today will become tomorrow’s leaders. It is our responsibility to help them become the very best they can be.
That was almost 50 years, more than 800 students, and three name changes ago, but the program now known as Diesel and Power Systems Technology (DPST) has remained strong. And, while farm equipment is still a major part of it, this “ain’t your granddaddy’s diesel tractor program” any more.

“In 1965, 100 horsepower farm tractors were boss. Now they are used as chore tractors, being replaced by computerized, air-conditioned 200 to 400+ horsepower machines,” said Bob Owens, who graduated from the program in 1969, and was an instructor from 1983 to 2008.

Today’s DPST program—which culminates in an Associate in Applied Science degree—exposes students to a wide variety of brands of equipment, including ag equipment as well as heavy industrial equipment and trucks. Instruction on engine systems, DC electricity, parts department procedures, fuel systems, hydraulics, transmissions, air-conditioning, and the ever-changing computer technology now used are all included in this program.

“Today’s diesel and power systems are about much more than farm machinery and tractor trailers,” said Todd Thompson, one of the three current instructors. “Graduates of this program have options in many areas, ranging from service technician to management positions, being an owner/operator of their own repair shop, and doing research and development. I also include instruction in marine and rail systems, plus we offer a certificate in Rail Transportation & Power System Technology, so opportunities exist in those areas also.”

There is consistently a waiting list to get in the program that attracts students from throughout Illinois and beyond. Part of the program’s continued success is a history of dedicated teachers who have brought real world work experience to their teaching game, including a few who were themselves graduates of the program.

Thompson already had a two-year certificate in Ag Mechanics and more than 25 years of experience in the repair and operation of mechanical systems—including six years of owning his own shop—when he began teaching in 1998.

“I came out to take a diesel electronics class that Bob Owens was teaching, and basically never left,” said Thompson, who went on to earn an associate degree from SRC and whose passion for teaching earned him the 2014 H. Truman Standard award for teaching excellence after he was nominated by more than 40 students.

Instructor Joe Clemens is also one of Owen’s “products.” Clemens graduated from the program in 1997 and then transferred to Southern Illinois University where he earned his B.S. degree in General Agriculture with a specialization in Agriculture Technology in 1999. He worked as a technician at Arthur Ring Inc. in Rushville—which is also where he completed his internship while at SRC and where he worked while attending SIU—until 2008 when he returned to SRC to teach.

“In 1965, 100 horsepower farm tractors were boss. Now they are used as chore tractors, being replaced by computerized, air-conditioned 200 to 400+ horsepower machines,” said Bob Owens, who graduated from the program in 1969, and was an instructor from 1983 to 2008.
“I realized that teaching was a way for me to be in this industry in a way I hadn’t thought about before,” said Clemens, who was also influenced by long-time instructor Brian Telander. “Brian and Bob were great instructors and set a good example for me to follow.”

Joe Clemens, Instructor

“Helping students truly understand how a system works and seeing them succeed, especially if they had been struggling, is rewarding,” said Mayall. “If I can inspire students to face their challenges and make a positive difference in their performance, then I’m doing what I believe teachers should do.”

The three make a strong team, and countless students have benefited from the knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm that each brings to the program.

“Students also benefit from the partnerships that have been cultivated over the years with more than 120 implement dealers and employers throughout the region who provide internship opportunities for students—internships that often lead to full-time and long-term employment.

“For many of our students, it’s graduation on Saturday afternoon and full-time work on Monday morning,” said Thompson. “I believe the fact that we have so many employers who want our graduates is a testament to how well-prepared our graduates are.”

When 2014 graduate Kody Horn was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, he wrote that “all three of the diesel instructors have had a huge influence on my success in the program. They encouraged me to problem-solve on my own so that I truly understood and learned the systems and mechanical processes, allowing me to assist other students, which I really enjoyed.”

Following the 2014 Commencement, Thompson wrote a message to Horn saying, “In the years to come there will be openings for diesel instructors at SRC. When that time comes, apply. You have a gift for working with people and helping them understand. I saw those same traits in Aaron (Mayall) when he was a lab assistant here.”

And the legend continues...
Exciting things are happening in Spoon River College’s Computer Information Systems (CIS) program. Students are learning how to build a computer from scratch, search hard drives for criminal evidence, and build games.

It’s all part of training for today’s competitive IT job market. Well… maybe the game-building is only for a tiny fraction of the job market, and partially just for fun. But if you’re looking for a new career in IT or trying to advance in your current position, the CIS program at Spoon River College can prepare you through a challenging curriculum that includes lots of hands on training.

Dean Clary, SRC Director of Technology Services and CIS instructor, knows just how important technology is to every business. “Today, there just are not many businesses in existence that don’t use computers in some way,” said Clary. “Technology keeps getting bigger, and it’s in every business, every field. Manufacturing, food, healthcare. And the jobs are out there.”

Let’s say you’re ready to jump in. The next step is to figure out if you want to earn a degree or a certificate. Your choices are:

- Associate in Applied Science Degree, Computer Information Systems
- Computer Forensics Certificate
- Computer Information Technology Certificate

Associate in Applied Science Degree, Computer Information Systems

Upon earning your degree in CIS, you’ll be prepared to work as a Help Desk Technician or to launch a career in the fields of Network and Computer Sales and Support, Application Development, Software Development, Hardware Design, Network Administration, Network Design, Network Cabling, Computer Forensic and Intrusion Analysis. Students might also choose to transfer to a four-year school to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

Examples of classes you might take while earning this degree include:

- Intro to Operating Systems
- Computer Hardware Concepts
- Networking Essentials
- Network Security Concepts

“While earning your Associate Degree in CIS, you will learn how to build a network from scratch and how to build a computer from scratch. It’s not just what you see in homes, but what you see in businesses – it’s that next-level experience,” says Clary. “And being in the field, I know it’s attractive to the business owner to have that experience on staff.”

Computer Forensics Certificate

So what can you do once you earn your certificate in Computer Forensics? You can work in Network Administration or Computer Forensic and Intrusion Analysis. This certificate is great as a stand-alone or for adding value to existing credentials.

Examples of classes you might take while earning this certificate include:

- Computer Hardware Concepts
- Computer Forensics
- Survey of Criminal Investigation

“In a criminal investigation, a computer forensics expert will take a suspect’s computer and search for files that might serve as evidence,” explains Clary. “Most computer forensic jobs are in law, but some companies hire people to find what is called a ghost image – meaning even if it was deleted, the computer forensics expert knows how to find that image.”

Raspberry Pie vs. Raspberry Pi

What a difference one letter makes! If you hear someone in the Technology Department at SRC mention “raspberry pie,” he’s probably not planning a potluck. It’s more likely that he’s referring to the credit card-sized computer developed in the UK, Raspberry Pi. It’s made for exploring, experimenting, programming… the perfect learning tool! Spoon River College is introducing the Raspberry Pi in upcoming network and network security classes to teach building websites, building network monitors, and produce network scenarios in labs. Raspberry Pis will also be used in hardware classes.
Douglas Okey, SRC English and Drama instructor, revitalized the SRC Drama Program in Fall 2014 after a nearly-two-year hiatus! As before, the Drama Program will have an academic curriculum that includes acting courses as well as drama-oriented classes for humanities and fine-arts credit. The program is planning student-centered performances with productions in both fall and spring semesters each year. Finally, performing grants (scholarships) to recognize and reward the work of talented students will also be reintroduced.

The SRC Drama Program has produced graduates who have gone onto careers in performance, including TV and film actor David Pires and, most recently, New York stage performer Kyle Motsinger. A student from the 1990s, Jacob Welch, is a theatre professor and award-winning lighting designer.

In the years since founding director Bob Gorg retired in 2008, the program has undergone various transitions. In the 2013-14 academic year, the program was in hiatus for the purpose of rebuilding. During that year, the “black-box” theatre production space was extensively renovated and updated through the expert consultation of SRC graduate Jacob Welch.

For more information about opportunities in the SRC Drama Program, contact Douglas Okey at 309-649-6308 or douglas.okey@src.edu.

The Spring 2015 show will be a contemporary comedy, *The Nerd* by Larry Shue. Students interested in both cast and crew positions should plan to attend auditions December 3-4 – watch for more info!

**Computer Information Technology Certificate**

If you earn a certificate in Computer Information Technology, you’ll be qualified to work as a Help Desk Technician or in Network and Computer Sales and Support. Earning this certificate may also open up opportunities for promotion.

Examples of classes you might take while earning this certificate include:
- Intro to Programming
- Fundamentals of Networking
- Advanced Operating Systems

“The Computer Information Technology Certificate is a great addition to your resume,” says Clary. “It can really help you move forward in technology. Or, even if you just want to learn more about computers for a hobby or to help operate your own business, the knowledge you gain while earning this certificate will be extremely helpful.”

**Employment Outlook**

Information Security and Data Assurance are two of the hottest areas of employment in the IT world today. Security methods and data assurance (protecting data) is embedded in all SRC’s courses. Students learn how to secure desktops, servers, networks, wireless, and data itself. In the CIS program, students will be able to confidently demonstrate how they can help a company become more secure in how it operates and uses its information and data.


These statistics make sense to Raj Siddaraju, SRC’s Chief Information Officer. “Technology touches nearly all aspects of our lives,” he said. “It will remain the foundation of the global economy for years to come.”

To get started, go to src.edu/catalog and read more about the CIS program on pages 132-133. You can see when classes meet by going to src.edu and clicking on “schedule & registration” under Quick Links. If you need help, call one of our advisors at 1-800-degrees.
During the 2014-2015 academic year, high school students enrolling in college credit courses accounted for 9.6% of the College’s enrollment. These high school students are taking advantage of the articulation agreements between SRC and nine participating high schools in the College’s four-county district.

Eve Shafer, Lewistown High School graduate, is a perfect example of making good use of dual credit. Eve took several dual credit classes in high school and after she received her diploma in May of 2013, she even took some summer courses at SRC. When Fall 2013 at SRC kicked in, Eve was already a sophomore. She earned her Associate of Arts & Science degree in May 2014 and has now transferred to University of Illinois where she’s a junior majoring in Animal Science.

“Dual credit really helped me get ahead,” said Eve. “I was taking classes I needed for high school anyway, so it made sense to earn college credit at the same time. I’m studying to be a veterinarian, so the dual credit classes I took saved me money and time – a whole year!”

Some parents are under the misconception that dual credit is only for the most advanced learners in high school. This is not the case! Students must be in good standing at the high school, be at least 16 years of age or older, and must have a “B” average. Students who fall below the “B” average will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

After dual credit, Spoon encourages students to complete their Associate degrees at SRC, as Eve did, for two major reasons – to save time and money.

On the Fast Track:
High school students get ahead earning college credit

Whoever said “good things come to those who wait” has probably never met the driven high school students who enroll in Spoon River College credit courses to get a jump on their college education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Number of Students Enrolled in Dual Credit, 2014-2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astoria High School</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton High School</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba Middle-Senior High</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Havana High School</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewistown Community High School</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macomb High School</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushville-Industry High School</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoon River Valley High School</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIT High School</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>231</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you know someone who would like to get a jump start on their college education? Learn more! src.edu.
Employee spotlights

Stephanie Howerter

Fourteen years ago, after receiving a BA in English from Eastern Illinois University in 2000, Howerter came to work for SRC as an assistant in the Havana Center, did a brief stint as the Community Outreach Coordinator in the Canton Outreach office, and has now returned to the Havana Center as its director.

And while Howerter didn’t intend to enter the world of education (her 5-year old self wanted to be a veterinarian), she has a genuine enthusiasm for the work she does with the students and with the Havana community.

“I love assisting our students and watching them succeed in their goals,” Howerter said. “It’s a job where I can truly feel like I’m helping people and that what I do makes a difference.”

Besides watching the success of the students, Howerter said it has been amazing to watch the growth of the Havana Center.

Howerter is a member of the Mason District Hospital Auxiliary and the Mason County Coordinating Council. She also teaches Sunday school and is involved with the SRC Relay for Life Team.

Dr. Win Htwe

Dr. Win Htwe has taught Physical Science at SRC for 21 years. Before that, he taught and did research for 12 years in his homeland of Burma at Rangoon University, the same university where he earned a B.S. in Physics and an M.S. in Nuclear Physics. In 1987, he left the country ahead of a rebellion that resulted in a military regime and a devastated country, including a dismantled education system.

“Rangoon used to be one of the best educational institutions in Southeast Asia,” said Htwe. “After the 1988 uprising, all universities were closed and dispersed to remote areas, lab and research equipment was confiscated, and most educators left the country,” said Htwe.

Burma became Myanmar, Rangoon University became Yangon University, and Htwe came to the United States where he earned his M.S. in Physics from WIU and his Ph.D. in Atomic Molecular Physics from Missouri University of Science and Technology, and began a new teaching career at SRC while also teaching part-time at Bradley and WIU.

Now, 25 years later in Myanmar, stability is slowly returning to the country where there is a newly elected president who Htwe says “is committed to reforming the educational system.”

Htwe has been part of that reform, traveling back to Myanmar when time permits to give presentations and workshops on classroom and online teaching methods, helping create curriculum, demonstrating the application of computers in the science labs, and guiding them through the accreditation process and the rebuilding of their labs.

“There is still much to do,” said Htwe, who also gave three lectures (in the Burmese language) on Voice of America, and along with family members, donated lab equipment.

“I would like to get their planetarium fixed, start a training school, and recruit students for SRC, specifically for engineering, agriculture, and nursing. It will all take time.”

When not teaching, Htwe is an active member of the Board of Advisors of the Chicago Burmese Buddhist Association, and is a founding member of Chanmyay Satipatthana Vipassana Association (meditation center), Chanmyay Satipathana Vihara, in Springfield. He also presents regularly on Buddhism to several universities in the Peoria area.

Lori Murphy

Lori Murphy has seen more than a few changes in the 25 years she has been an SRC employee, including changes in her position (five times) and in supervisors (13 times). “It’s all been good,” said Murphy, senior office assistant for Community Outreach in Canton for the past five years. “I’ve worked with many great people, had a lot of fun, and all three of my children have attended SRC.”

While many of her duties are devoted to lifelong learning programs and workforce development initiatives, Murphy continues to work with the SRC Foundation.

“I have always enjoyed my work with the Foundation. It’s a pleasure to work with our donors, and seeing the happiness on the faces of deserving scholarship recipients is one of the best parts of my job,” said Murphy.

“I’ve got a lot of good memories, and I’m truly amazed when I look back and realize how much the College has changed and progressed in the past 25 years,” said Murphy, who does NOT want to remember the shrimp sauce spilled on the carpet in the administrative foyer or the time a new course schedule was mailed out with a wrong phone number. A wrong phone number that connected callers to services not found at community colleges... ever.

Murphy also commented on how lucky students (and employees) are now at the Canton Campus. “They probably have no idea that the three main buildings (Taylor, Centers, and Engle) weren’t always connected by enclosed walkways. In my opinion, that was one of the best changes!”

“Lori Murphy is one of the best changes!”

Enclosed walkways. In my opinion, that was one of the best changes!”

(Here 5-year self wanted to be a veterinarian), she has a genuine enthusiasm for the work she does with the students and with the Havana community.

“I love assisting our students and watching them succeed in their goals,” Howerter said. “It’s a job where I can truly feel like I’m helping people and that what I do makes a difference.”

Besides watching the success of the students, Howerter said it has been amazing to watch the growth of the Havana Center.

Howerter is a member of the Mason District Hospital Auxiliary and the Mason County Coordinating Council. She also teaches Sunday school and is involved with the SRC Relay for Life Team.
What Are You Waiting For?

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Spring and summer registrations are now in progress. Spring classes begin January 20.
Wanda teaches her class through stories, repetition, and plenty of humor. Evaluation comments from her classes include: class was fun and informative… best class I have had in 10 years… instructor was GREAT… Wanda made a fun learning experience… I will remember so much more because of her funny tricks.

In Illinois, all establishments that serve food must have one certified person on the premises at all times. Effective July 1, 2014, in order to maintain your Illinois FSSMC Certificate, or in order to obtain a new FSSMC Certificate, you must complete an eight-hour ServSafe® IDPH-approved course and pass an exam accredited under the standards developed and adopted by the Conference for Food Protection with a score of 75% or better. The FSSMC course available at SRC covers up-to-date information on safe food handling, preparation, food storage, personal hygiene, and the prevention of food borne illnesses. Successful completion includes a certificate issued by the Illinois State Department of Public Health (IDPH). This course is offered monthly at various locations. For more details, locate the schedule at www.src.edu/outreach or call SRC at 309-833-6031 or 309-647-6260.

A multipurpose facility was in the original plans when the new SRC campus was constructed in 1972, and with the release of $4 million from Governor Pat Quinn’s Illinois Jobs Now! capital funding, a 42-year old dream is soon to become a reality. “The College is excited to see this project move forward,” said President Curtis Oldfield. “This will fill many long-term needs of the College plus will benefit our students, staff, and community.”

The new building will mean more intramural and recreational sports offerings to students, a venue capable of holding large college and community events, an onsite exercise facility for use by students, faculty, and staff, and the potential for establishing new programs of study. “We are all aware of the need for wellness activities and healthy lifestyle habits, and the recreational sports facility has become the place on campus that enables students to improve their mental and physical well-being,” Oldfield said. “It is no longer regarded as a nonacademic luxury, but a preventive health resource that will improve the overall wellness of our campus community.”

Oldfield also sees it as an important recruitment and retention tool, citing research that showed more than half of high school seniors felt that intramural sports were an important determinant when choosing a college. “The intramural and recreation programs have been invisible at Spoon River College for a number of years. By offering these informal opportunities for students to network and exercise, we are increasing the likelihood they will stay on campus and adopt a healthy lifestyle,” said Oldfield. “This also opens up the door for creating additional curriculum revolving around coaching, exercise science, and sports facilities management.”

The new building will be 27,000 square feet and will include a gymnasium with moveable bleachers, locker rooms, a training/weight room, faculty offices and space for general use. It will eliminate the need to rent outside facilities for large events and could even be utilized by outside organizations if needed. “We hope this building becomes a place where community events and activities of all kinds take place,” Oldfield said. “We also look forward to holding our 2016 Commencement in our very own facility.”

The project is being administered by the Capital Development Board, which manages all non-road, state-funded construction projects.
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