



*Taking You Where You Want To Go*

# THE bridge

2019



## **The Student Athlete Experience**

SRC helps athletes focus on being a student first. Find out how!

## **Spoon River College Foundation**

Celebrating 40 years of giving.

## **Spoon River College Outreach**

Summer Youth programs:  
learning is fun at SRC!

## **Non-Traditional Career Paths**

Learn how choosing a non-traditional career can give you an edge in the job market.

# Message from the President, Curt Oldfield

Welcome to this issue of *The Bridge* from Spoon River College. Throughout this publication, you will be able to see examples of the work being done at your community college to make our communities stronger. Spoon River College is committed to helping our students and communities succeed. Work is being done every day, by our faculty and staff, to create an environment for our students to succeed inside and outside of the classroom.

Career programs are being expanded to lead SRC graduates directly into the workforce. SRC faculty and staff work with local employers to provide workforce training and retraining to meet the needs of businesses and individuals. We work cooperatively with economic development organizations in the district to support the growth of our communities. Transfer programs are constantly improved for students to complete their associate's degree and transfer

to a college or university. The SRC faculty are continually working to ensure students are mastering course content while providing learning opportunities that students will be able to apply in their careers. Spoon River College has an open door for people who want to improve their lives, and the faculty and staff are here to help students be successful in that academic journey. In this issue, you will see stories of students succeeding in a variety of programs.

Part of the SRC mission is to provide learning and leadership opportunities outside of the typical classroom setting. This edition of *The Bridge* includes a story about our athletic program. Spoon River College is proud of our student athletes and the excellence they provide in the classroom and in their field of competition. SRC strives to help students see the importance of citizenship and community service. Through athletics, student government, student honor society, and other student organizations, we strive to provide community service opportunities for students to give back to their communities.

Finally, in addition to the community service from our students, our faculty and staff have provided over 2,400 hours of volunteer time in our communities. We believe strongly in supporting the communities that support us. Our faculty and staff contribute every day to the success of our students and our communities.



I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Bridge*. If we can help you, your family, or your friends, please contact us or visit [www.src.edu](http://www.src.edu), because Spoon River College is... *taking you where you want to go.*





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## **Mission**

Spoon River College provides innovative learning opportunities that enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve.

## **Vision**

Spoon River College will strengthen its communities by providing a broad range of educational programs, cultural activities, and economic development opportunities in an environment dedicated to success.

For more information about Spoon River College graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed our programs, and other information, please visit our website at ([www.src.edu/academics/Pages/gainful-employment.aspx](http://www.src.edu/academics/Pages/gainful-employment.aspx)).

*The Bridge* is published by Spoon River College and distributed to the residents of Illinois Community College District #534. Questions about Spoon River College programs and services described in this publication can be directed to 1-800-DEGREES (1-800-334-7337). Content and design by SRC Marketing Department employees Sherri Rader and Sally Shields.

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## PROGRAMS



### **4 NON-TRADITIONAL CAREER PATHS**

Can being different actually give you an advantage? Read about six students—some past, some present—who chose to study non-traditional career paths.

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So you want to help others as a first responder? SRC is a great place to start!

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## PEOPLE



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You are guaranteed to discover fun facts you didn't know about Becky Sherwood and Krista Winters, two of our SRC faculty award winners in 2018.

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Celebrating 40 years of giving!

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For kids, summer should be about art projects, hands-on activities, and games. SRC's Summer Youth program can check those boxes in one week!

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When academic disciplines and career fields overlap, education is at its finest.

# Non-Traditional Career Paths

## Dare to be different!

*When it comes to choosing a career, being different than those within your field can make you more attractive to potential employers. The U.S. Department of Labor defines “non-traditional” as any occupation for which less than 25% of one gender makes up the workforce.*

*What does this mean to you? Being a non-traditional job applicant—for example, a male nurse, a female welder—could give you an edge. Employers are striving to achieve more of a balance*

*between women and men... especially in jobs that are dominated by one gender. “As a society, it is imperative that we work hard to remove the stereotypes and gender issues that stand as barriers to student success in non-traditional careers,” said Brad O’Brien, dean of career and workforce education.*

*Below are snapshots of some Spoon River College students who have broken the mold and studied programs in a non-traditional job field.*



### **Javier Gallo** **Nursing**

A first-year nursing student (and member of the 2019 Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois Academic Team), Gallo is excited to pursue a new career and hopes to one day work as a traveling nurse.

“Nursing is a career that embraces changes,” said Gallo. “You evolve

along with it. I love learning, so if I can make a difference to improve people’s health and experiences by applying my knowledge, I’m up for it—that’s very rewarding.”



### **Michaela Lyon** **Diesel & Power Systems Technology**

Lyon has been following her dad around and “wrenching” on engines since she was a toddler, whether it was the neighbor’s race cars or farm machinery. She is now a student at SRC aiming to earn an Associate in Applied Science in Diesel & Power Systems Technology.

Her dream job? Lyon had the answer to that question without hesitation. “I would love to open my own performance shop someday.”



### **Erica Lacy** **Computer Information Systems**

A current student at Spoon River College, Lacy is working toward an Associate in Applied Science in Computer Information Systems. She’s always had an interest in configuring software and repairing technological equipment and would like to pursue a career as a Computer Technician.

“Computer Information Systems at SRC is a great hands-on program,” said Lacy. “Since technology is always expanding, you learn new things every day.”



### **Abigail Holloway** **Welding**

Holloway took welding as a dual credit course while attending Canton High School. Why? “Because people told me girls don’t weld, and I wanted to prove them wrong.”

In May of 2018, Holloway earned a Welding Operator certificate.

She is currently working at Basement

Dewatering in Canton and making plans to return to college, possibly to pursue a career as a mechanical engineer.



### **Wade Hunter** **Nursing**

Hunter (pictured here with instructor Becky Sherwood) is currently in his second year of nursing school at SRC. He is excited to be close to graduation and looks forward to working in a hospital setting.

“I chose to go into nursing because I wanted to better provide for my

family,” said Hunter. “Nursing quickly turned into a great passion of mine, and it got me to better myself in the process.”



### **Ashley Storby (Mason)** **Ag Business Management**

Storby earned an Associate in Science degree from SRC in 2008. She received a Bachelor’s in Agriculture Education from WIU in 2011 and a Master’s in Agronomy from the University of Florida in 2013.

“As an agronomist, we have the responsibility to work alongside our

customers to help them be successful,” said Storby, a field sales agronomist at Pioneer. “It is both an awesome and humbling experience. I highly recommend a career in ag for those interested. Every day is different, and you will never get bored!”



# FACULTY PROFILES

## Becky Sherwood

Becky Sherwood always knew she wanted to teach. She played school using her stuffed animals as students and graded their homework with her stickers. She also wanted to be a nurse, driven by her mother's teachings of compassion and putting others' needs first. She found a way to do both.

"I knew I could be a nurse and then become a nurse educator, so while I was helping others in my nursing career, I was also building experiences from which I could use one day to share with and teach students."

After almost 20 years as a surgical nurse, Becky added a weekend job in an emergency room to build additional experiences, then eventually earned her Master's Degree in Nursing Education. Armed with all she needed to finally teach, she was hesitant only because "I loved the comforts of my surgical family."

And then Becky got a sign. An unexpected medical event left her in the role of patient rather than nurse and with a new outlook on life. A routine surgery when she was 38 years-old led to sepsis, pulmonary embolism, a ride in the Lifelight helicopter, and five cardiac arrests.

## Krista Winters

From a high school drop-out with a 1.9 GPA to a Master's degree and career she loves, biology instructor Krista Winters is proof that one's past does NOT define one's future, and that sometimes what you think you want to do, isn't.

Only 17 when she quit school, Krista earned her GED when she was 20, motivated by those who teased her about being too dumb to even finish high school.

A CNA certificate came next with an eye toward a nursing career. Her low high school GPA meant taking multiple developmental classes. When it came time for a biology class, she didn't expect to do well. "My biology grade in high school was a D minus. I hated biology and pretty much all science courses."

Krista not only did well, she realized she loved the class material. "It's amazing what happens when you put a little effort into studying and do what your instructors tell you to do."

She also discovered she was good at explaining things when she helped fellow students who were having trouble doing genetic problems. "I showed them how I did them, and one said to me that she wished I was teaching the class." That compliment led to Krista tutoring biology

"After being critically ill for several months with multiple events spanning over three years, I knew this was a life challenge I could learn from, and I also knew it was time to make the leap into teaching. In 2015, Becky joined SRC as a nurse educator. Three years later, she was honored with the 2018 ICCTA Full-Time Faculty Award during the College's commencement.

Becky's favorite thing about being a nurse is helping others, and her least favorite thing is not being able to take away their pain. As for teaching, she loves witnessing students' "Aha! I finally understand!" moments, and hates when a student doesn't succeed. Students who engage in negative self-talk will most likely have Old MacDonald's Farm sung to them. "During orientation, I present on Emotional Intelligence, also referred to as EI, so I'm now regarded as the 'E-I-E-I-Oh!' educator."

Becky wants her students to know that "Nurses rock! Be proud of your accomplishments, and know that your educators are proud of you!" On her to-do list is a European vacation and obtaining a Doctorate in Nursing. She dreams of retiring to Hawaii. "They need teachers too!"

for the next two years, which led her to realize that not only did she now love biology, she also loved teaching.

By 2010, the former drop-out had earned her associate degree (CSC '06), BS degree (WIU '08), and MS degree (WIU '10). In 2011, she joined the biology faculty at SRC full-time.

In 2018, Krista was honored with the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from Carl Sandburg College, and was also honored at the Spoon River College commencement with the H. Truman Standard award for teaching excellence.

Krista's students say that she goes above and beyond to make sure students understand course material, and one noted that "Even if you don't like biology, Krista makes it fun and interesting."

That's Krista's super power. "I can often reach those students who don't like biology, because I was once them."

When not teaching, Krista loves spending time with husband Bobby, children Jacob, Aleisha, Ashley and Nick, and grandchildren Robert and Damien, watching good horror movies, and TRYING to get in shape by running.



Becky is married to "my hero, Darren," and they are parents to Huskies Ramsey, Wiley, and Shelby, as well as to cats Maxi and Trixie, while they eagerly await two Great Dane babies. They are Becky's favorite "people" to spend time with, and she hopes someday she can sing without making them cry.



Krista has been to Europe multiple times, but would like to explore more places than just the Midwest in the US. Hawaii is at the top of her list.

Krista is a member of the Illinois Community College Faculty Association and has held multiple positions, including president, secretary, and currently the VP of membership. She also co-chairs the IAI Biology Majors Panel, and serves as secretary of the IACCB (Illinois Association of Community College Biologists).

# Athletics at SRC:

## Our student athletes put emphasis on *student*.

Student athletes—because they are students first, and athletes second—must maintain a 2.0 GPA, and are required to spend a minimum of four hours a week in the Learning Resource Center (LRC), where a variety of academic support services are available, including tutors and student success coaches.

Student success coaches are trained to assist students with designing academic and career goals, learning new study strategies, and overcoming test anxiety. They also share college and community resources that may aid students in issues outside of school, such as childcare, housing, and transportation.

“I have the opportunity to work with our student athletes on a regular basis. They face many of the same common struggles as all students, such as moving away from home for the first time and making good use of their time. Student athletes especially have to balance their time between school and their love of the sport,” said Abby Beck, student success coach on the Canton Campus.



An early alert system is in place that allows faculty to refer any student (not just student athletes) who may be struggling, and in addition, faculty is asked to complete grade checks for student athletes three times a semester.

“Our student athletes continue to excel in the classroom. I’m proud to say they have received their share of multiple Academic All-Americans and Academic All-Conference awards over the past several years,” said John Bassett, athletic director and head softball coach.

Currently, members of the baseball and softball teams have a combined average GPA of 2.87.



**Left to right:**

**Connor Wise of Bryant, Illinois**  
**Jurnee Adams of Moreno Valley, California**  
**Kaitie Van Pelt of Lewistown, Illinois**  
**Ashlyn Towery of St. David, Illinois**  
**Cassidy Locke of Canton, Illinois**  
**Clay Schroeder of Canton, Illinois**



# What's in the future for the SRC Snappers?

With the completion of the Multi-Purpose Building in 2017 on the Canton Campus, the College began preparations to re-establish the volleyball program in the fall of 2019, and both men's and women's basketball programs in the fall of 2020.

"Athletic programs at SRC have been taking big steps over the last few years. Baseball and softball teams now practice and lift weights in the new Multi-Purpose Building, and we have hired coaches for the new athletic programs," said John Bassett, athletic director and head softball coach.

"The Snapper Villas have made it much easier for those athletes coming from out of the area to find convenient and affordable housing, and that will also enhance the new programs. It's an exciting time to be at Spoon River College!"



## Volleyball: 2019-2020

SRC alumna Makenna Barker of Lewistown will serve as head volleyball coach when volleyball begins at SRC in academic year 2019-2020. Barker was a Club Volleyball team member for Illini Elite in Bloomington from 2009-2011, and for Peoria Elite from 2012-2013, and was a member of the Illinois College volleyball team during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Barker has been an IHSA Volleyball Official since 2013, an Assistant Volleyball Coach for Lewistown District #97 since 2015, and an Eastside Club Volleyball Coach in East Peoria since October 2017.

"Makenna played at a competitive level of club and college volleyball and understands the importance of excelling in the classroom while striving for excellence on the court," said Bassett.

Barker received her Associate of Arts and Sciences degree from Spoon River College in 2016 and her Bachelor of General Studies degree from WIU in 2018. She is currently working on her Master's degree and eventually a PsyD.

Barker has already begun recruiting players. First to sign were local athletes Cassidy Locke (Canton) and Kaitie Van Pelt (Lewistown).



## Women's Basketball: 2020-2021

Marc Lowe will be leading the women's basketball team beginning in academic year 2020-2021. He brings more than 25 years of coaching and recruiting experience at the college level, including as assistant women's coach and recruiting coordinator for the University of Illinois-Chicago, Jackson State University, and Bradley University.

Lowe also took a turn with the men's program, serving as assistant coach and recruiter for Missouri University of Science and Technology and Western Illinois University. He served both the women and men's teams at Allen County Community College, and was the director of the men's basketball operations at the University of Alaska-Anchorage. Currently serving

as boys' assistant varsity coach at East Peoria Community HS, Lowe founded the Hooper's In Training Basketball Academy and served as girls' head varsity coach at Illinois Valley Central HS.

"Coach Lowe's experience and expertise will help make our new program successful. I look forward to working with him and I'm glad he's part of the SRC Snapper family," said Bassett.

Lowe is a 1987 graduate of Missouri Valley College. Originally from Topeka, Kansas, he resides in Dunlap with his wife Julia and daughter.



## Men's Basketball: 2020-2021

Chance Jones will be head coach of the men's team when the sport kicks off in 2020-2021. He is currently employed by the Illinois Department of Corrections in Kewanee, and is also the head boys' basketball coach at Galva High School, where their record is 39-23 and has included a regional final appearance. An earlier coaching run at Galva (2010-2013) ended with Lincoln Trail Conference Championships two years in a row and a 45-11 record.

Jones also served as head men's basketball coach at Blackhawk East Community College, where his overall record was 50-34. During his last season there, the team finished as Arrowhead Conference Champions, Region 4 Championship Runners Up,

with an overall 26-7 record, and ranked 14 in the national polls. The team boasted six academic all-conference award winners.

"We are excited Chance has joined us. With his experience and proven success recruiting and winning at the college level, he is the perfect person to lead our program," said Bassett.

Jones is a 1997 graduate of Abingdon High School, where he played basketball. He went on to play two years at CSC while earning his associate's degree. Jones also has a Bachelor of Business Administration/Criminal Justice degree from North Central University. He resides in Galva with his wife Alyssa and their four children.



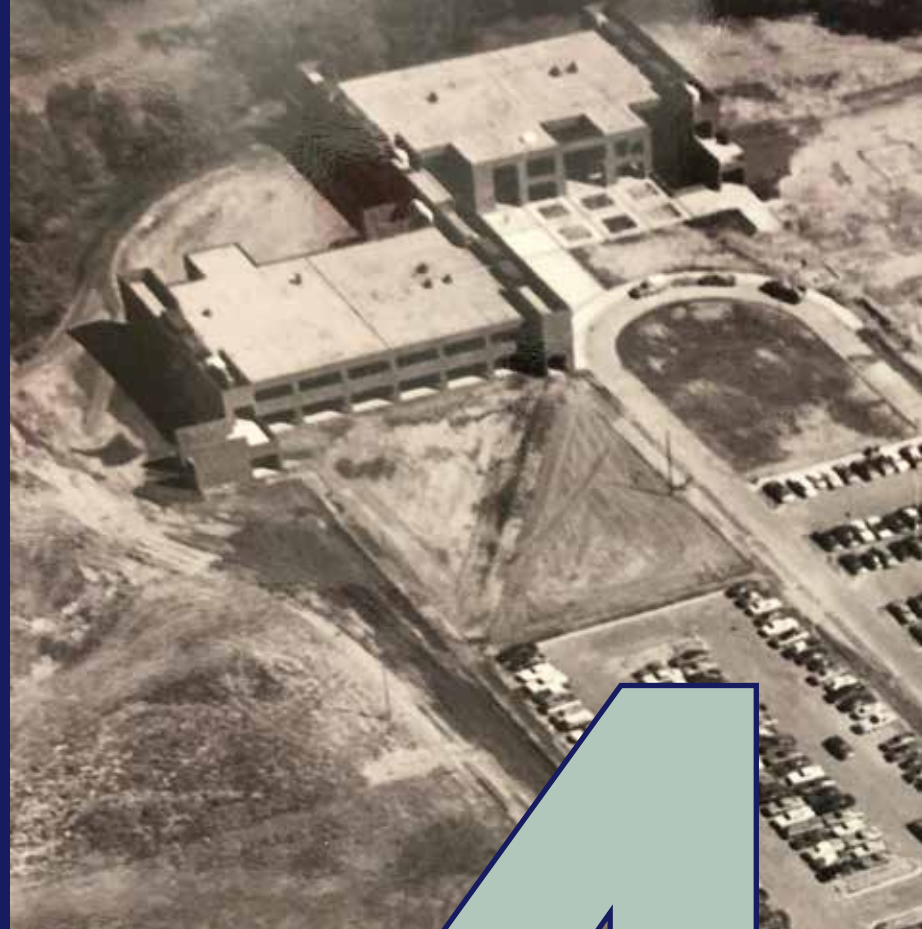




Thanks to you, for 40 years now, the Spoon River College Foundation has changed lives and improved the educational experience for thousands of students. With your help, we'll impact thousands more in the years to come.

**Here's to 40 more years of the  
Spoon River College Foundation.**

To learn how you can get involved and change lives or benefit from the work of the SRC Foundation, visit **[www.src.edu/foundation](http://www.src.edu/foundation)** or call **(309) 649-6260**.







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# EMERGING PROGRAMS

Spoon River College has two new programs on the horizon: **Advanced Manufacturing** and **Medical Laboratory Technician**. “We monitor workforce trends, project future job needs, and, when possible, create new programs to ensure our students have the training to meet those needs,” said Brad O’Brien, dean of career and workforce education. Advanced Manufacturing and Medical Laboratory Technician are currently going through an approval process with SRC governance and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). If approved, the programs could be offered as early as the fall 2019 semester.

## Advanced Manufacturing

Spoon River College is currently in the process of creating an Associate’s Degree in Advanced Manufacturing. “Through classroom work and hands-on training, the degree will focus on manufacturing and industrial maintenance, with some emphasis on welding,” said O’Brien.



Examples of careers in the field of Advanced Manufacturing include:

- Assembler
- Machinist or Tool/Die Maker
- Equipment Operator
- Production Technician
- Floor Assembly Supervisor
- Quality Control Executive

## Medical Lab Technician

The Medical Lab Technician program at SRC will prepare students to take the national certification exam given by the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).



“As a medical laboratory technician, you will work with physicians and other healthcare professionals to perform tests to diagnose, prevent, monitor and treat diseases,” said Melissa Miller, coordinator of allied health.

The demand for medical laboratory technicians currently outpaces the number of trained technicians... locally and nationwide. “We’re creating this program to meet a need in our community hospitals,” said Miller.

## EMT Training

***Are you the type of person who chooses to run toward an emergency rather than away from it... because you want to help?***

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are often among the first to respond to accidents and other events where serious, life-threatening injuries occur. Spoon River College can provide the training to help you volunteer or work for ambulance services, hospitals, fire, police or rescue squad departments.

The EMT program is a one-semester program focused on basic life support in the field and transportation of ill and injured patients. The curriculum is

based on the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Standard Curriculum.

Barb Whedbee, EMT instructor on the SRC Macomb Campus, worked as a paramedic at Mc-Donough District Hospital for 26 years. She later worked as a nurse, then an EMS coordinator at OSF St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg. For Whedbee, teaching new students is a way of giving back.

“Having worked in EMS for 30+ years, it’s a real pleasure to teach EMS classes and watch stu-

dents develop a passion for the pre-hospital caregiver role that I still hold dear,” said Whedbee. “It takes a special person to work in a setting where you never know what you’re walking into every day, every call.”

This program is designed for individuals who want to develop skills focusing on basic life support in the field, as well as provide initial assessment and management of care for the ill and injured from the pre-hospital setting to the emergency or hospital care environments. Upon completion of the curriculum, students will earn a certificate from SRC, and they will be able to take the EMT-B certification exam.

In Canton, EMT courses are taught at the Fulton County Emergency Medical Association by instructor Lisa Fahrenbruch, who began her career in EMS at a community college in Colorado 30 years ago. “The college where I took my EMT class was very much the same as SRC,” said Fahrenbruch. “That EMT class changed my life, opening up so many doors for me. That’s what I want to do for our students. It’s an amazing class where, not only do you learn about emergency medicine, you learn a lot about yourself.”

To learn more, check out a course schedule at [www.src.edu](http://www.src.edu). You can also contact an advisor at 309-833-6069 (Macomb) or 309-649-6400 (Canton) and ask about EMT classes.



**Two EMT students demonstrate providing breaths to a non-breathing manikin.**



**Instructor Barb Whedbee teaches her students to prepare to establish cervical stabilization.**



# learning is **FUN** at SPOON RIVER COLLEGE

**The Spoon River College Office of Community Outreach's Summer Youth program provides FUN educational opportunities!**



**Students always enjoy learning about art. Art classes allow students to do hands-on activities and use their creativity.**

Director of Community Outreach Velvet Powell is about to begin her twenty-second year of employment with Spoon River College, and every summer, she's been able to participate in some aspect of planning or teaching the **Summer Youth** program. "I've enjoyed watching these kids grow through the years," Powell said.

Summer Youth programs are held in Canton, Havana, Macomb, and Rushville each summer. Topics include a variety of areas including science, technology, art, life skills, health, and careers.

"It's important that we provide experiences that educate our youth but in an environment that is safe and fun," said Powell.

**For more information about SRC Community Outreach, you can visit us online at [www.src.edu/outreach](http://www.src.edu/outreach) or find us on Facebook [@srccommunityoutreach](https://www.facebook.com/srccommunityoutreach).**

**Students work as a team to look for clues that lead to opening the Breakout EDU box. This class used communication, math, and creativity skills.**



**Students get hands on experience about what our EMT professionals do every day. Learning about careers is an important part of the Summer Youth program at SRC.**



**Students used engineering skills as they created a race car out of a mousetrap.**



# College Theme

*A college theme was established in the 2010-2011 academic year as a way to highlight similarities and uniqueness of academic disciplines and career/technical fields rather than seeing them as disconnected or competing with one another. In other words, it was created to foster interdisciplinary learning and lessen the divide that often exists between academics and technical job training and the perception that one has more value than the other.*



**Dr. Robert Zellmann, Philosophy and Religion faculty, sits front and center during a colleague's presentation. Says Zellmann, "There is nothing better than listening to a student talk about how an idea from one class connected to another class, and seeing their delight in that."**

"We want students—and faculty—to see the overlap and appreciate what each contributes to a balanced society," said Michael Maher, Sociology faculty, who took the lead on the idea of a college theme. "I want sociology majors who can appreciate and understand the importance of artistic expression to progressive social movements and democracy itself, but I also want my majors to understand that welding is an art that demands their appreciation."



**Even those who don't love math enjoyed the college theme presentation by Beth VanTine, whose goal was to "defeat math anxiety!"**

Each year's theme is chosen with a tie-in to a current issue; the 2011-2012 theme, Aqua-Culture: Industry, Health, Sustainability, and the Future of Water, was the result of a record-setting drought experienced worldwide that year. The 2017-18 and 2018-19 themes, Education: Finding Truth Amid the Noise and The Audacity of Education: Navigating Truth in the Age of Fake News, were in response to the ever increasing and overwhelming amount of information people are subjected to on a daily basis.

Initially, films and documentaries were utilized to deliver the message to students. "Most viewings were attended by 15-40 students with at least three or more faculty in attendance to lead the discussion afterwards," said Maher. "We learned that it didn't really matter what the film was about. What did matter was that multiple faculty from diverse areas gathered in one place to have a conversation with students, demonstrating the purpose of a college theme."

Beginning in 2017, films were replaced with short presentations by faculty, who had 20 minutes to explain why their topic mattered, what noise, misunderstanding, and misinformation

surrounded their topic, and what truth(s) their area of expertise revealed about the topic.

Mental health, free speech, climate change, addiction, and facts about the Constitution were among the topics presented in the fall, while topics during the spring semester related to particular days, such as Diesel Engine Day, World Math Day, and World Religion Day.

This year, presentations have included Voter Registration (accompanied by a voter registration drive), Recognizing Dissonance and Avoiding the Echo Chamber, Flu Vaccine Myths, and It's the 21st Century and Johnny Still Can't Read.

Faculty and club sponsors are encouraged to integrate the college theme in their classes and in student group activities. The Aqua-Culture theme gave chemistry students the opportunity to participate in a global chemistry experiment by collecting and testing the pH and salinity of local water, while members of the Macomb Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa contributed approximately \$1,200 towards the purchase of energy-efficient appliances for a local Habitat for Humanity home. English and Writing teach-



**Faculty participating in the college theme presentations are (front, left to right) Amy Rutledge (Biology), Michael Maher (Sociology), Elaine Lucas (Health Science), Beth VanTine (Math), (back) Laura Bandy (English), Douglas Okey (English, Drama), Dr. Robert Zellmann (Philosophy and Religion), Bridget Loftus (Chemistry), Becky Leverette (Psychology), and Brian Dalpiaz (Math).**

**Not pictured were Angie Conklin (Reading/Writing), Dr. Andrew Kirk (Communications), Sarah Dalpiaz (Math), Todd Thompson (Diesel & Power Systems Technology), Becca Werland (English/Writing), Joe Glenn (History/Political Science) and Tom Vogel (Biology).**



ers have incorporated theme topics into various writing assignments including poetry pieces, research papers, and visual art projects.

“We want students to understand and appreciate the complete value of an education, beyond specific fields of study, careers and employment and get to the very heart of a liberal arts education that elevates an informed citizenship over all else. We also want them to be aware



**Angie Conklin presented It's the 21st Century, and Johnny Still Can't Read.**

of how important it is to be well-informed and willing to study an issue from all perspectives,” said Maher. “After all, the students we are teaching today will be the leaders making decisions tomorrow.”

### College themes through the years...

**2010-11** The Democratization of Information: Power, Peril, and Promise

**2011-12** Aqua-Culture: Industry, Health, Sustainability, and the Future of Water

**2012-13** Rights and Responsibilities

**2013-14** Culture of Competition: Conflict, Cooperation, and Creativity

**2014-15** I'll See You in Health: Global Challenges and Personal Choices in the Pursuit of Wellness

**2015-16** Education: What's the Point?

**2016-17** Education: For What It's Worth...

**2017-18** Education: Finding Truth Amid the Noise

**2018-19** The Audacity of Education: Navigating Truth in the Age of Fake News



**Sociology teacher Michael Maher recently spent some time with Diesel & Power Systems Technology teacher Todd Thompson in order to learn how to operate a backhoe.**

**“I don’t understand anything about diesel mechanics. I’ve always been interested in operating a piece of heavy equipment but probably wouldn’t even know how to start it. It made me realize I had no idea what Todd knows. If we expect our students to learn to appreciate and understand the various perspectives, skills and knowledge base in our respective disciplines and career skills, then perhaps we should model that appreciation of one another in our role as faculty.”**



## ALUMNI PROFILE Ashley Martin

In 2009, lifelong Macomb resident Ashley Martin earned an Associate degree in Nursing from Spoon River College. By 2012, she had earned an RN-BSN degree and by 2014, a degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner. After working as both an RN and Nurse Practitioner, she realized two things: patients with psychiatric illnesses such as depression and anxiety were going unserved in the area, and she needed and wanted a degree as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

By 2018, Ashley had earned that degree. “I wanted both degrees because the physical and mental are connected, with one having an impact on the other. A dual certification lets me look at symptoms of both.”

Having both degrees also makes her just one of 800 people in the US with such a dual certification. It also allowed Ashley to open the Lakeview Medical and Psychiatric Healthcare Clinic in Macomb, where she and her team provide medication consultation, individual and crisis counseling, group therapy, psychological assessment testing, and drug and alcohol treatment.

Although Ashley has had numerous teachers and classes since her time at SRC, nursing educator Julie Auger remains one of her favorites. “She cared deeply for her students, is a compassionate nurse, and stands strong for nursing as a profession.”

When Ashley was invited back to SRC recently to speak to students in a health science class taught by Elaine Lucas, students were impressed by her multiple degrees. They were even more impressed when she told them that she had earned all her degrees with absolutely zero debt and no student loans.

“It wasn’t easy. I worked the entire time and slept very little. I also applied for every grant and scholarship that was available, including the Fellheimer Scholarship for Macomb students.”

Ashley resides in McDonough County with her husband and son. When not working, she enjoys being outdoors for her own health benefit: “Nature is good for the body, mind, and soul.”

# EMPLOYEE PROFILES

## Janet Munson



Janet Munson once wanted to be a clown. She came close when she won a clown coloring contest, (the prize was being in the Barnum & Bailey circus as part of the “wedding party” for Michu, the world’s smallest man), but alas, the circus life was not

to be. Instead, she’s the director of enrollment services/registrar at SRC, a position she’s had since 2012 following 11 years as an academic and disability services advisor for the college.

Janet traveled a long road before arriving at SRC, living in six different towns and attending three different grade schools, two different middle schools, and two different high schools before graduating from Canton High School. She knows all about being the new kid.

“It was challenging, but I learned to adapt to new environments and faces, and to become

more independent. Both have proven to be useful skills in adulthood as well.”

With a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a Master’s in Counseling Psychology, that long road also included time as a correctional counselor, first at Pontiac Correctional Center where death row inmates were part of her caseload, and then at Illinois River Correctional Center, where her occasional office space consisted of a former cell in an inmate housing unit. “The atmosphere (and my office!) are much more pleasant here at Spoon River College!”

Her favorite part of her job is her role in new student orientation and graduation, both milestones in the educational journey. “It’s fun to see new faces at orientation as students are just getting started, and graduation is the culmination, with students coming together with faculty, staff, and their family and friends to celebrate their accomplishments. I love having the honor of being a part of that!”

Still an advisor at heart, she encourages students to “get involved and make the most of your college experience. Being a part of student organizations and extracurricular activities provides you with a chance to meet others and to try new things.”

One of Janet’s favorite things about working at SRC is Student Services’ tradition of Halloween theme costumes. Her favorite was the year she was Hannah Montana and her sidekick Brandi Ketcham was Billy Ray Cyrus.



Joining in and trying new things was something Janet did, even as the “new kid.” She even volunteered to be the Brown County Hornet mascot during her freshman year of high school! New things she hopes are in her future include being in a movie. “I think it’s an interesting process!” She would also like to vacation in Rome, meet the Pope, learn to play the piano, and write a book. “I actually have an idea for the story, I just have to figure out how to put it down on paper so it will be interesting enough that people will actually read it!”

Janet resides in Canton with husband Don (20 years!), and daughter Sydney, who is her favorite person to hang with when she’s not working.

## Jill Olson

Jill Olson has been the director of the Student Support Services Grant on the Macomb Campus since 2013. Better known as TRIO, the program is designed to improve the academic success of students and increase graduation and transfer rates. Jill’s personality is a perfect fit for her job, because that is exactly what she wants for students also.

“I love helping others solve a problem, easing their worries, or just making someone’s day better.”

With 140 students participating in the program, Jill has many opportunities to ease worries and make someone’s day better. She strives to get to know each TRIO student personally, and hates when she can’t remember a name. And like many other SRC employees, her favorite day is graduation.

“In the TRIO program, our ultimate goal is helping members complete their degree or certificate. It’s such a happy and emotional day to celebrate with students, to meet their friends and families,” said Jill. “I absolutely love it and look forward to it. I also cry. Every year.”

The best advice Jill ever got was from her mom, who taught her to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves in life because it may not be given again. It’s advice she passes on to students. She also tells them “It’s OK to fail, but not to give up. Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and try again!”

When not working, Jill likes to hang out with husband Ryan, and children Brynn and Clay. They live in Avon, where Ryan is a fourth generation farmer.

Jill also loves to travel, and studied abroad in Paris, France. Her favorite place she has traveled to is the Tuscany region in Italy.



(For any of her co-workers who may enjoy some secret knowledge about Jill, she is scared of heights and can’t live without mint Chap-Stick®.)



# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## Transfer Programs

### Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS) areas of concentration

Agriculture  
Art  
Biological Science  
Business  
Chemistry  
Communications  
Criminal Justice  
Drama  
Early Childhood Education  
Education  
Elementary & Special Education  
English  
General Science

Geographic Information Systems  
Health Science  
History  
Mathematics  
Physical Education  
Physical Science  
Physics  
Political Science  
Pre-Engineering  
Pre-Exercise Science  
Psychology  
Secondary Education  
Sociology

### Associate in General Studies

General Studies



## Career Programs

### Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degrees

Agricultural Business Management  
Computer Information Systems  
Diesel & Power Systems Technology  
Health Information Management  
Logistics & Operations Management  
Natural Resources & Conservation  
Small Business Management

### Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)

Nursing

### Certificates

#### Agricultural Business Management

Agricultural Precision Technology  
Agricultural Production

#### Commercial Driver Training

Basic Commercial Driving  
Commercial Driver Training  
Preventive Maintenance

#### Computer Information Systems

Computer Forensics  
Computer Information Technology  
Computer and Network Technician  
Computer User Support Specialist  
Cyber Security  
Enterprise Computer Network Specialist  
Server Administrator

#### Diesel & Power Systems Technology

Locomotive Mechanical  
Preventive Maintenance  
Rail Transportation and Power System Technology

#### Early Childhood Development

Early Childhood Education

#### Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

#### Health Information Management

Medical Assistant  
Medical Coding  
Medical Insurance/Billing  
Medical Records  
Medical Transcription  
Medical Unit Secretary  
Phlebotomy Technician

#### Logistics & Operations Management

Truck Driver Training

#### Nursing

Nursing Assistant  
Practical Nursing

#### Small Business Management

Basic Culinary Management  
Business Plan Entrepreneurship  
Customer Service  
Entrepreneurship  
Small Office Accounting  
Supervision



#### Manufacturing

Welding Operator  
Advanced Welding

#### Cooperative Programs\*

Dental Hygiene  
Paramedicine  
Radiologic Technology  
Respiratory Care

\*Spoon River College works with other community colleges to offer these programs. Courses will not be held on SRC campuses or centers. Please contact your advisor for details.





# THE VILLAS

## *At Spoon River*

The Snapper Villas is the premier on-campus student focused community. We guarantee your comfort in our fully-furnished units with private and shared bedrooms and bathrooms. We offer academic term leasing and a roommate matching program to ensure a smooth transition into your new home. All that's missing is you!

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2 Bathroom



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4 Bathroom



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