

# ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AUGUST 2021



## SCC Welcomes Students Back on Campus

It was an exciting scene Aug. 23-27, as the hallways at St. Charles Community College were once again filled with students.

More than 80 faculty and staff volunteers were placed throughout campus, helping guide students during the first two days of classes. Each volunteer donned a custom T-shirt, letting students know they could ask for help if they needed it.

“It’s been so amazing to interact with students face-to-face again,” said Amy Scheers, director of performing arts. “You can tell the students are excited too. Many of them had to go remote during the pandemic, and some spent

their freshmen year of college remote.”

Many students were experiencing campus for the first time – students like Jackson Pohlmann. The St. Charles native is undecided about what he plans to pursue at SCC, but so far, he’s liking the “campus vibe.”

“A lot of my friends decided to go to SCC,” he said, “and I’ve seen a lot of them already. It’s a really nice campus, but it’s not so big that you get lost. So far, it’s been great.”

Due to the rising number of COVID cases in the region, SCC is requiring masks be worn in public indoor spaces this fall, regardless of vaccination status. SCC is not requiring students,

faculty or staff to be vaccinated. However, the College and the CDC continues to strongly recommend all eligible people receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Meanwhile, On Aug. 18, students were invited to the Cougar Comeback on campus. Hosted by Student Services, the event was a chance for students to get to know campus before classes started. Not only were students able to get their student ID and parking passes, but they got the chance to learn about important services on campus such as the IT Help Desk, Office of Multicultural Student Engagement and the Career Center.



## Faculty Returns to Campus During In-Service Week

Faculty returned to campus August 16 and were greeted with a Welcome Back Bash. The week kicked off with a chance to gather for lunch on the Campus Plaza to socialize and reconnect. Additional activities throughout the week included

SCC Spirit Day, an ice cream social and Cardinals Day.

During the All Faculty Update on Thursday, August 19, faculty received a college update from Dr. Kavalier, a financial and facilities update from Vice President Galbierz, an

Academic Affairs and HLC Update from Vice President Martin, and a special presentation on student retention and success from Dr. George Kuh.

## Dr. Greg Bosworth Named Humanities and Social Sciences Dean

St. Charles Community College welcomed Dr. Greg Bosworth to campus in June to lead the new Humanities and Social Sciences Division.

“My experience at SCC has been great,” said Dr. Bosworth. “Having the ability to work with a top tier group of faculty, staff and students has been very rewarding. Working with colleagues from a vast array of educational backgrounds has been instrumental in my transition to this leadership role.”

Dr. Bosworth was most recently the Dean for the Division of Arts and Sciences and Associate Professor of History at Jarvis Christian College. Formerly, Dr. Bosworth was the Director of the Quality Enhancement Plans at Southern University and A&M College as well as North Carolina Central University in the Department of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Bosworth was the Assistant Vice President for Academic Initiatives and Associate Professor of History at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina and from 2009-2012.

“We are so excited to welcome such a student-centered educator to SCC,” said Dr. Holly Martin, vice president for academic affairs. “Dr. Bosworth brings with him 16 years of experience as both a faculty member and administrator in higher education.”

Dr. Bosworth completed his Ph.D. at Howard University in Washington D.C. and his undergraduate and graduate studies at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His research interests lie in African American Studies with an emphasis on African American Communities during the Civil Rights Era.



“My goals for this semester are to continue to build upon the tradition of student success. Working with faculty and staff to create/enhance processes to build upon retention, persistence and completion,” added Dr. Bosworth. “I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in continuing our push regarding diversity, equity and inclusion.”

In his spare time, Dr. Bosworth can be found golfing, reading, working out, bicycling, hiking, going to the movies or theatre, cooking and enjoying good food.

## SCC Adult Education and Literacy Program Leading State in Student Progress

For the last two years, St. Charles Community College’s Adult Education & Literacy (AEL) program has had the highest percentage of measurable skill gains for students in Missouri, despite many challenges brought on by the pandemic.

“Our committed approach, along with the expertise of our teaching and office staff, allow us to stand apart from many of the AEL programs in the state,” explained Mandy Rose, associate dean of AEL at SCC.

The SCC AEL program serves more than 700 students every year. The program currently employs seven dedicated office staff and 32 passionate instructors, but Rose says it’s often the volunteer staff who can really make a difference in a student’s life.

“Our volunteers are so amazing. Our volunteer program has grown to more than 50 dedicated community members who want nothing more than for a student to succeed,” said Rose. “Not

only do they provide assistance in every AEL or ESL classroom, they build lifelong relationships with our students.”

The classes are completely free for students. Because of its efficiency and leadership, the SCC AEL program operates at a much lower cost than the state average. SCC supports the AEL program by providing office space and classrooms on campus, as well as the technology and tools necessary to make the program a success.



# From the Big Screen to Broadway, SCC Theatre Instructor Makes Her Mark

Jodi Benson was the voice of Ariel in Disney's Little Mermaid. Joe Machota starred in Mama Mia on Broadway. Michael Maize has appeared in television shows like Blue Bloods and Hawaii 5-0. All were taught by St. Charles Community College Theatre Professor Lynne Synder.

She admits that not all of her students end up famous. "Most of my students actually go on to theatre teaching careers rather than just performing," she explained, "but many of them are doing well, and they truly enjoy what they do."

Synder's self-proclaimed "love affair" with performing arts began when she was five years old.

"I began taking dance lessons," she said. "I was fortunate enough to have a mother that took me to see world famous ballet companies, musicals and concerts at a very early age. I was hooked!"

Going to the theatre still excites Synder to this day.

"Watching live theatre is one of the most thrilling experiences for me," she said, "seeing the actors performing right in front of me, lifting me out of my daily existence and transporting me to another world.

You get to experience so many different worlds!"

Her passion easily translates into the classroom at SCC. As a teacher, she tries to be as hands-on as possible.

"Acting on stage is a different animal than film and really depends upon creating a connection with the audience. I like my classes to be fun as well as instructive."

While many students enter her class with hopes of pursuing performing arts as a career, that's not always the case.

"It's exciting when one or two students who have never experienced theatre before begin to become interested and start coming out of their shells. I've witnessed many previously insecure students blossom when given opportunities to showcase their talents on stage," Synder said.

She added that there is more to performing arts than people often realize.

"There is extensive data that supports the fact that involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking and verbal skills," Synder explained, "not to mention



that performing arts can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence and teamwork."

She argues that art is at the very core of our identify as human beings. Theatre, in particular, expresses exactly what it's like to be human in many different ways.

"It's also a way to encourage diversity and inclusion by introducing us to other cultures or lifestyles," Synder said. "A show set in another time, place, or culture helps us to understand and accept other ways of living and thinking that go beyond those that we see as familiar."

Synder doesn't give a sense that she's slowing down any time soon. She's directed more than a hundred shows in her lifetime, with more on the way.

# CNA Graduate Using Skills to Make Impact in Home Care

Raised in a family full of healthcare workers, Morgan Marshall's passion for helping people comes naturally.

"I always say helping others runs in my blood," said the St. Louis native. "When the pandemic highlighted how uncertain life can be, I set out on a path to work in healthcare and become essential."

Marshall decided to enroll in a certified nurse assistant program, but as a mother working full-time, she needed a college that was flexible and affordable. She knew SCC would meet these needs.

"SCC's CNA program was fast and offered a great mix of online and in-person classes," said Marshall. "I learned a lot and felt supported throughout the entire program."

Upon finishing her CNA degree, Marshall found herself working for Assistance Home Care (AHC).

"My education at SCC gave me the hands-on experience I needed to succeed in the workforce," said Marshall. "It provided me with exceptional critical-thinking skills that I use daily in my current role with AHC."

Marshall began as a care professional at AHC, but recently accepted a promotion to Client Care Coordinator. AHC has a "promote-from-within" philosophy that encourages their employees to focus on personal, skill and career growth.

"Morgan was identified for her promotion based on her ability to live our core values on a consistent basis," said Jen Henningfeld, director of recruiting at Assistance Home Care. "Her initiative, positive attitude, personal growth and overall development at SCC made it clear that she was serious about where she wanted to go in her healthcare career."

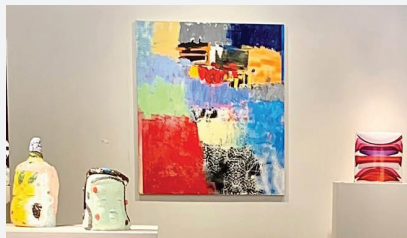


Marshall credits her success at AHC to her education at SCC, which made it possible for her to have a smooth transition from school into the workforce. Her next step is to return to SCC to enroll in the nursing program.

"My goal is to find a job that is supportive of furthering education, incorporates research and builds my clinical skills," said Marshall.

## Faculty/Staff Update

**Brian Smith**, art professor, had several paintings recently exhibited in the summer group exhibition at the Duane Reed Gallery in St. Louis Missouri.



Music Professor **Becky Thorn** attended the Missouri Choral Directors Association conference in Springfield, Mo. over the summer, where she served as Repertoire and Resource Chair for community colleges. She also facilitated a panel discussion - "Mentoring - Balancing Healthy Boundaries with Compassion" - as well as a session entitled "Themed Choir Concerts - What, Why, and How?"

Associate Music Professor **Jim Martin** held the inaugural SCC Jazz Band Camp in June. Dozens of area students were able to experience mentorship from Jim Widener, along with other clinicians from across the country.

**Dr. Joe Baumann**, assistant professor of English, signed two book contracts this summer, one for his short story collection *The Plagues*, which will be released by Cornerstone Press in January 2023, and the other for his young adult novel *I Know You're Out There Somewhere*, to be published by Deep Hearts YA in August 2022. In addition, he was the winner of *Theme of Absence's* "Philosophy, Epistemology, Metaphysics" contest.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Labor Day Holiday**  
College Closed  
Sept. 4-6

**Democracy Days 2021**  
Sept. 13 - 16  
SSB Auditorium

**Presidents Golf Scramble**  
10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sept. 27  
Old Hickory Golf Club

**Contemporary Landscape Invitational Art Exhibit**  
Sept. 7 - Oct. 10  
Reception Sept. 8  
FAB

**Nursing and Allied Health Open House**  
6 - 8 p.m.  
Sept. 22  
CHL

## St. Charles Community College Foundation - 2021 Presidents Classic Golf Scramble

Calling all golfers - pros, amateurs, novices and weekend warriors. The popular four-person scramble format makes room for every level of golfer on one of the area's most unique and challenging courses, Old Hickory Golf Club, on Monday, Sept. 27. Register with your friends as a 4-person team or as an individual golfer and we'll find a place for you!

Not into golf but want to contribute? There are several different sponsorship opportunities available! And since it's all for a good cause, the real winner is education! Proceeds support scholarships and academic enhancements.

Registration and lunch will begin at 10:30 a.m. and a shotgun start will kick off the scramble at noon. Join us for happy hour with drinks and appetizers and an Awards Presentation following the tournament.

