



SCC Expanding Healthcare Partnerships in Region

It has been a busy few months for the Nursing & Allied Health Department. In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, SCC strengthened its relationship with the St. Charles County Department of Public Health by actively participating in the Point of Distribution (POD) mass vaccination clinics. Nursing & Allied Health faculty and students were called upon to administer vaccinations and support operations at the St. Charles Family Arena. They will continue helping for seven weeks – and help provide thousands of vaccinations to the community. .

In 2020, that vision expanded with the introduction of the Culinary and Agricultural Center (CAC). More than just a space for SCC's new Associate of Applied Science degrees in Culinary Arts and Agriculture the building provides room for collaboration among campus programs and community partners.

“The innovative space represents the

opportunity for students to make connections between healthcare, food and sustainability,” said Amy Koehler, SCC-Dardenne Creek Campus provost, “while advancing their educational and career goals.” The CAC will also allow SCC to partner with local healthcare providers and hospital partners to offer targeted nutrition and wellness courses. “We are proud of the work we are doing to help address local employment needs,” Koehler said. “The demand for healthcare workers continues to grow, and we are adapting our programs and expanding our partnerships to help meet that demand.” In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, SCC strengthened its relationship with the St. Charles County Department of Public Health by actively participating in the Point of Distribution (POD) mass vaccination clinics. Nursing & Allied Health faculty and students were called upon to administer vaccinations and support operations at the St. Charles Family Arena. They will continue

to partner with the Department of Public Health throughout vaccination distribution.

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program is a great example of how a few changes can lead to big results. Since creating a hybrid training course last summer, the program has seen full enrollment. “We also began our first Patient Care Technician (PCT) cohort with SSM Health last year,” explained Koehler. “In just six weeks of combined on-the-job and in-class training, students are able to start their career in the healthcare field. Plus, once they successfully complete the program, they are guaranteed a job at SSM Health.”

In January, SCC started its first Health Occupations Program at the high school level. In partnership with the Wentzville School District, high school students are given the chance to explore all healthcare careers. At the end of the program, students are eligible to complete the Missouri CNA Certification Exam.

SCC Professor Inspiring Students Inside and Outside of Classroom



Like many young students, SCC English Professor Dr. Joe Baumann loved stories growing up. He loved telling them. He loved hearing them. He loved books, movies, television shows and video games.

But when asked what he wanted to be when he “grew up,” Baumann always navigated toward science.

“In eighth grade,” he recalled, “I wrote down on some end-of-grade-school thing that I wanted to be an optometrist.”

Things changed when he hit high school. He found a love for English and writing.

“I think it was really my great high school English teachers that invigorated my interest in studying writing and books. That, I guess, is what really great teachers do: they make their passions yours,” Baumann explained.

Writing has become a central part of who he is, personally and professionally.

“If I wasn’t writing, I’d probably lose my mind, especially right now,” said Baumann.

“It’s how I process the world and make meaning out of the chaos that seems to only get more intense every day.”

Dr. Baumann became a full-time faculty member at SCC in 2014. Since that time, he’s been busy. He’s been published in many literary journals, publications and online magazines. He also has a growing list of awards to his name.

“I like seeing my work out in the world, and knowing that it’s been chosen and curated by editors makes it feel somehow less “Hey, look at me!” than if I was self-publishing or writing on a blog or something.”

Baumann recently awarded a prize from Freshwater Review Magazine at Scholastic University. His work has also appeared in journals such as Passages North (a story coming out in 2022), Sou’wester, Barrelhouse, and in Electric Literature, a fairly major online magazine that has published some of his favorite writers.

His favorite published piece is a story he wrote a few years ago called “Still Life.”

“It’s very short--three or four pages. It’s about parents who children have passed away, and they are doing art therapy. They draw their kids, and the paintings come to life, but only as long as the parents don’t touch them,” stated Baumann. “It won a writing prize and was later included in an anthology, and lots of people have said very nice things to me about it.”

As an educator, Baumann tries to inspire his own students, especially in writing classes.

“What I aim to do is help them find joy in the process, in simply discovering their own abilities and enjoying the work,” said Baumann. “Writing is hard, and it’s easy to feel underwhelmed with one’s own efforts. I try to show students that getting where they want to be is actually possible.”

Over the years, many of his students have found a successful path forward, both inside and outside the classroom.

“Lots of them, of course, happen in the classroom: when a student makes a breakthrough in their writing, or shows a vast improvement, or talks to me about how they’ve developed a certain confidence they may not have had before,” said Baumann. “I’ve also had former students get into graduate programs, land stories or poems in magazines, or find their own way to those desired successes.”

Due to the pandemic, the last several months have been a challenge, Baumann admits.

“Especially in creative writing courses, the challenge is to reproduce a version of the intimacy and community that happens in a classroom with fellow writers,” said Baumann.

He gives a lot of credit to his students, who have adapted well to the changes.

“I joke with them that I’m the newbie to Zoom compared to them – and how they are very go-with-the-flow; when I forget to share my screen or unmute, they laugh and take things like that in stride,” said Baumann.

SCC Celebrates Black History Month

St. Charles Community College’s African American Faculty & Staff Association (AAFSA), the SCC Library and the Office of Student Life recognized Black History Month with a collection of themed events in February.

The Multicultural Engagement Speaker Series featured several topics, including

overcoming obstacles, a history of hair braiding, and service, education, leadership and faith.

Professor Marvin Tobias also hosted the Black Excellence, Black Legacy virtual panel discussion with three African American entrepreneurs. They discussed the motivations, trials, triumphs and the desire to leave a legacy behind them.



SCC Alumna Finds Calling as a Writer



Angelina Chartrand wasn't sure what she wanted to pursue as a career, but as a St. Charles native, she knew St. Charles Community College was where she wanted to begin.

"I thought a community college was a wonderful place to start my academic career. I knew it would give me a unique opportunity to explore my options for the future," stated Chartrand. "Since I was raised in St. Charles most of my life, St. Charles Community College seemed like the natural choice."

When she first got to SCC, Chartrand began pursuing a transfer degree in studio art, which

included classes in creative writing and English.

"Assistant Professor Baumann taught a lot of the creative writing courses I took at SCC," explained Chartrand. "He was such a supportive teacher. He felt like someone you could always reach out to, no matter the problem."

Her talent became clear to Baumann early on.

"What stood out to me about her work was a particular interest in human psychology," said Baumann. "A lot of students frame their work and begin with plot rather than character, and she was the opposite. Stylistically, she reminded me a bit of Emily Dickinson."

Chartrand had found her calling. She started shifting her focus on becoming a writer.

"The last semester I attended SCC, I took Assistant Professor Baumann's publishing class," stated Chartrand. "One of the assignments was researching literacy journals and the submission process. I happened to research The Oakland Arts Review."

After SCC, Chartrand decided to pursue an English Studies degree with an emphasis in creative

writing at Lindenwood University. It was there she received notice the Oakland Arts Review was accepting submissions. She decided to submit her story "Ersatz."

"It felt like fate," she admitted. "The most challenging part of the process was just working up the nerve to submit it. The potential for rejection is frightening but something all writers must inevitably work through."

Her hard work paid off – The Oakland Arts Review accepted her short story. "To be honest, I never expected my work to be accepted," beamed Chartrand. "I think writers are always inherently nervous about putting their work out there; it's a vulnerable and intimidating experience. To be able to get that confirmation email that says, 'Hey, we loved your work. You're in,' there's nothing quite like that. I'm still buzzing over it and probably won't ever stop."

"Moruadh," another short story written by Chartrand, was also accepted by the Arrow Rock Literacy Journal for an upcoming issue.

Modernizing and Expanding Degree Programs to Address Local Workforce Needs

According to Pew Research, millions of Baby Boomers retire each year from the U.S. labor force. But in the past year the number of retired Boomers increased more than in prior years. The number of total retired Boomers sits at 26.8 million, and the number keeps growing. The Department of Labor believes there are some 7.6 million unfilled jobs across the country right now.

It has become clear that America is facing an unprecedented skilled labor shortage.

In January, St. Charles Community College approved changes to modernize its work-ready degrees and certificates. By reducing the number of general education requirements for SCC's Associate of Applied Science degree and Certificates of Achievement, students will be able to obtain a degree and hit the workforce quicker.

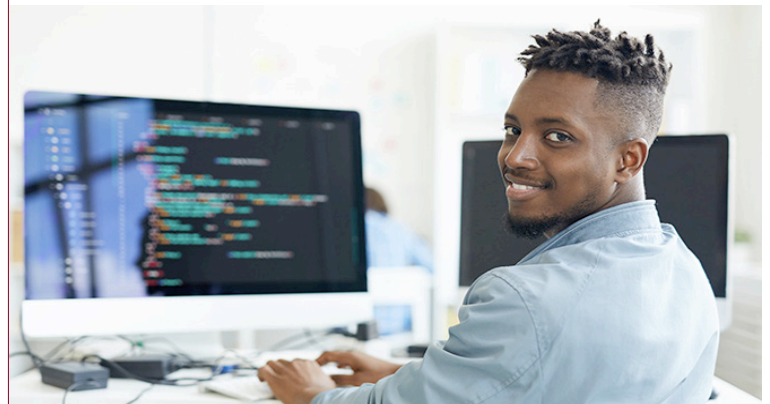
"We are reducing the number of general education requirements by nine hours for our AAS degree and 12 hours for our Certificates of Achievement," said Dr. Holly Martin, vice president for academic affairs.

"These changes will make our work-ready degrees and certificates more efficient to focus on the skills students need for success in the workplace." Dr. Martin added that quick entry into the workforce

is more important now than ever. Having students complete excessive credits for positions that do not require them doesn't align with that goal.

"This will also create clearer pathways for students," she explained. "Students will likely have better outcomes and graduation rates due to the clearer focus of these degree and certificate programs."

SCC plans to expand its work-ready offerings thanks to funding from Proposition CC passed in August. Funds from Prop CC will help fund infrastructure, facilities and equipment for new academic programs.



Faculty/Staff Update



Biology Professor **Dr. Monica Hall-Woods** will soon participate in a new undergraduate research network known as NEWT – Network Exploring Wildlife Trade. Supported through the National Science Foundation RCN-UBE,

the project intends to build the capacity of undergraduate faculty to engage students in authentic research experiences related to the increasingly relevant topic of wildlife trade. The incubator effort will engage approximately 25 undergraduate faculty in biology from across the country.

The **Honors Program** is staying current with their curriculum, adding several new courses during the Spring 2021 Semester, including Social Problems and Political Myths, Humans, Science and Medicine, Children's Literature and Contemporary Cultures, and The Psychology and Politics of Hate.

Nominations Open For Distinguished Alumni Award

The St. Charles Community College Foundation is seeking nominations of former SCC students who have become leaders in their professions and positively impact their community.

Many outstanding people have come through SCC's doors, from inspiring professionals to industry leaders and leading academics. The SCC Foundation recognizes these stars among our alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Those chosen for this award have done exceptional work and shown exemplary dedication to their communities.

While the foundation is always accepting nominations for the award, the deadline for 2021 is Sunday, Feb. 28.

To nominate a deserving SCC alum, fill out the online form at stchas.edu/distinguishedalumni.

For more information contact Peggy Schnardthorst, advancement officer at SCC, at 636-922-8278 or pschnardthorst@stchas.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Black Excellence, Black Legacy Panel

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 23
Virtual

Multicultural Experience Series

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 24
Virtual

Safe Zone Training

9:15-11:45 a.m.
Thursday, Feb. 25
Virtual

Great Student Success Project - How to Ace the Job Interview

2:30-3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 25
Virtual

Men of Color: Student Success Summit

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 26
Virtual

Hidden History – Uncomfortable Conversations – History of Racism One

12:30 -1:30 p.m.
Monday, March 1
Virtual

Tuesday Trivia Night – Theme: International/ Global

7-9 p.m.
Tuesday, March 2
Virtual

Multicultural Experience Series

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 3
Virtual

The Great Student Success Project - Day in the Life of a Professional

2:30-3:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 4
Virtual

Center Stage Performance - Our Place

March 13-14
Virtual

Hidden History – Uncomfortable Conversations – History of Racism Two

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Monday, March 8
Virtual

Tuesday Trivia Night – Theme: Movies

7-9 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9
Virtual

Multicultural Experience Series

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10
Virtual

The Great Student Success Project - Day in the Life of a Professional

2:30-3:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 11
Virtual

The Great Student Success Project - Entrepreneur

2:30-3:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 11
Virtual

Hidden History – Uncomfortable Conversations – History of Racism Three

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Monday, March 22
Virtual

Tuesday Trivia Night – Theme: Women's History Month

7-9 p.m.
Tuesday, March 23
Virtual

Multicultural Experience Series

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24
Virtual

Safe Zone Training

1-3 p.m.
Thursday, March 25
Virtual

Hidden History – Uncomfortable Conversations – History of Racism Four

12:30-1:30 p.m.
Monday, March 29
Virtual