Left: Blues artist Devon Allman, left, and Foundation Board Member Dana Howard
Below: From left, blues artist Michael Burks, Executive Assistant to the President Beverly Fiss and Foundation Executive Director Gary Gray

Bundled-up kids ready to hunt for 20,000 filled eggs

Above: Community Education Instructor Leslie Missey

Right: Teresa Wheelehan of New Athens with daughters, Peyton, left, and Hailey, right, and niece, Ashley, center

Above: Alexis, daughter of Communications Specialist Melanie Reinhardt

Below: PSOP Assistant Director Sharon Sea Hamilton, left, PSOP Activities Coordinator Melissa Bischan, center, and Adjunct Biology Instructor Patti Laird

Above: Web Production Developer Bryce Holthouse
One of my favorite duties as president is sharing all the good news hereabouts in my monthly board meeting reports to the community, like these items shared in April …

- Five SWIC students earned four gold medals, one silver, and a bronze at the SkillsUSA Technical Education state challenge in Springfield and Joliet. Jerry Bonifield earned gold for Precision Machining Technology and gold for CNC Turning; Alex Deatherage won gold for CNC Milling; and Mitch McFarland, Edgar McClary and Chris Johnson swept the Welding Technology category by winning gold, silver and bronze, respectively. Gold medal winners will compete at the national level in Kansas City in June. Congratulations to these students, Tech Ed Dean Brad Sparks, and instructors Mark Bosworth and Kevin Corgan.

- Approximately 95 students competed in more than 50 challenging events at the Illinois Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference in Effingham. The SWIC Abe Small Chapter earned four first-place, five second-place, and four third-place awards.

- I received a trustee communication commending Nursing Education Director Carol Eckert and her students for their volunteer work at the recent health fair in Belleville. I was informed the students did an outstanding job and everyone who attended was impressed.

- Each month the Instruction Division will continue to provide a report highlighting faculty members and their accomplishments. These reports will be provided to trustees and will be made a part of the public record.

- CIO Christine Leja was presented with the Emerald Lifetime Award for continued service in the Association of Information Technology Professionals, St. Louis Chapter.

- The Red Bud Campus hosted an eighth-grade Career Education Day with more than 500 students in attendance. The day was themed around finding a path into a desired career field. Students were able to attend three career workshops during their time on campus.

- SWIC received two awards from St. Clair County at its annual Earth Day awards program, one for partnering with Illinois American Water Company and the county health and sheriff’s departments to establish a prescription drop box program. The other award acknowledged the college’s sustainability efforts including community outreach/education, recycling, curriculum development, establishing our Belleville Campus Sustainability Center, sustainable physical plant practices, and leadership in the Illinois Green Economy Network.

- SWIC Trustee Gene Verdu was reappointed to the governor’s Council on Aging by Gov. Pat Quinn. Mr. Verdu was also elected president of the council, which was established by the legislature to advise the Illinois Department on Aging on the needs older Illinois residents and to recommend/execute related programs.

Summarizing … our students, faculty, staff, administrators and trustees should be routinely congratulated for their collective instructional and community service efforts that make SWIC the best community college in the state and among the best in the nation … and it is my distinct pleasure to do so every month for the public record.

Pay It Forward,
Georgia Costello, Ph.D.
President
SEAL OF APPROVAL
FOX 2 News co-anchor John Pertzborn recently interviewed SWIC Art student Stephen Otten about his encounter with a shoplifter in a South St. Louis grocery store. Otten, who served 10 years as a U.S. Navy Seal, subdued the shoplifter and held him until police arrived. Last year, Otten chased down a man who had fled the scene of an accident near Forest Park – and held him for 35 minutes until police could arrive. Pertzborn and Otten also discussed the artist's work as a sculptor and painter. Click here to see the full interview.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT – Phi Theta Kappa
International Honor Society members Sally Ayoob, left, and Craig Wilson, second from left, were recently honored for their place on the 2011 Phi Theta Kappa All Illinois All Academic Team. The students are pictured with Board Chair Nick J. Mance, second from right, and President Georgia Costello, Ph.D.

SHOWING OFF THEIR SKILLS – SWIC Technical Education students showed what they're made of at the recent SkillsUSA Illinois State Championship. Alex Detherage won a gold medal in computerized numerical control milling. Mitch McFarland won a gold medal in welding, while Edgar McClary took home the silver. Jerry Bonifield, son of Physical Plant Custodian Jeff Bonifield, took home two gold medals – one in precision machining technology and another in computerized numerical control turning. Gold medal winners will go on to compete in the national SkillsUSA competition held in Kansas City, Mo., in June.

TRUSTWORTHY
SWIC welcomed a new student trustee April 20. Amanda Corrado of Granite City was chosen to become the new student trustee from the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus for 2011-2012. Corrado is pursuing Associate in Arts degrees in Spanish and History. She is the president of Alpha Kappa Rho, the SWGCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. In addition, she serves as secretary of the SWGCC Student Advisory Board. She is also a peer tutor in the Success Center and a peer mentor in the TRIO Student Support Services program.

BELLEVILLE CAMPUS
Taste food from other countries, enjoy entertainment from foreign lands and learn about other cultures at the Multicultural Festival, Friday, May 6, from 6-10 p.m. in the Quad. Admission is free with food available for a nominal price. Visit SWIC.edu/mcf for more information.

RED BUD CAMPUS
The Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Thursday, May 5 will include: a cookout from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on the front lawn, with chips and salsa, hot dogs, cookies and drinks; a Study Break from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the lawn, that includes inflatables, the Balloonatic and games; and a Blood Drive from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Performing Arts Room, with giveaways and snacks for donors. Please call ext. 8104 to make a blood donation appointment.

SAM WOLF GRANITE CITY CAMPUS
Help raise funds for SWIC Foundation Sam Wolf Granite City Campus Scholarships at the Annual SWGCC Scholarship Golf Scramble on Friday, May 20, at the Arlington Greens Golf Course in Granite City. For more information, contact Chuck Whitehead at ext. 7313 or Jill Lorance at ext. 7342.

FILM FAVORITES
The winners of the Ecology Club’s Film Festival contest receive their prizes at the Earth Day Celebration. Pictured, from left, are Tim Ashe (second place), Kanika Nicholson (first place), Associate Professor of Biology Randi Papke and Tony McCauley (third place). Each team was challenged to create a short film based on the theme: “Who Needs a Planet?”

Pictured, from left, are Welding Instructor Kevin Corgan, McClary, Board Chair Nick Mance, President Georgia Costello, Ph.D., McFarland, Detherage, Technical Education Dean Brad Sparks, Bonifield and Industrial Technology Coordinator Mark Bosworth.
THE SWIC MEDICAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM recently completed a successful site visit, thanks to Program Coordinator Cheryl Hutchison, Assistant Professor Howard Gunning, Instructor Dana Woods and all who support the program.

SWGCC TRIO ACADEMIC SPECIALIST NADINE MATHESON and ESLCCC SITE REP CARLTON PETTY were married Feb. 26. The two met when Matheson was teaching a class at the ESLCCC. She kept getting lost, so Petty kindly helped her with directions. They went to lunch professionally after the semester ended, and as they say, the rest is history!

THE 2011-2012 PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR IS A TRUE SWIC-CESS STORY. BETH BURNS is a 1998 graduate of the Computer Information Systems program here at SWIC, for which she now teaches. Burns has been with the college for seven years teaching classes in Web Development, Electronic Publishing and Graphic Communication. In addition, she works in the Faculty Technology Center teaching her fellow educators to use Blackboard and other educational technologies. She and her husband, Steve, have a 7-year-old son, Steven.

AS THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT CHAIR, 2011-2012 FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR KEVEN HANSEN leads and mentors 18 full-time and more than 40 adjunct faculty members in addition to his teaching duties. Hansen has been with SWIC since 1999, teaching courses as diverse as Review of Arithmetic, Calculus and Finite Math. Over the past four years, Hansen has been a member of the College and Career Readiness team. In his spare time, he is actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America, leading a camp in Wisconsin every year.

MEN’S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH JAY HARRINGTON was recently honored at the Kentucky state basketball tournament as a member of the “Sweet 16 Legends” team for his successful career at Breckinridge County High School. He helped lead his team to a state championship back in 1965.

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PANEL DISCUSSION – A panel discussion, Gender Diversity in the Workplace, was recently held at the Belleville Campus for faculty, staff and students, high school educators and Employer Advisory Council members. The panel included, from left, Geri Boyer, a founder and managing partner of Kaskaskia Engineering Group LLC; SWIC Director of Human Resources Sherry Johnson; and Jason Schneider, paralegal at American Family Insurance Group.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS Email melanie.reinhardt@swic.edu with your individual or your department’s accomplishments.
CIVIL DISCUSSION
Mailroom Coordinator Helen Altman, representing the “Sons of Confederate Civil War Veterans,” left, talks with Assistant Professor of Music Ed Jacobs at the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War two-day celebration at the Belleville Campus. Jacobs organized the “Fife and Drum Presentation,” which illustrated Civil War area music. The commemoration included presentations on history, discussions of reenactments, music, artifacts, flags and regalia.

MAKING A BIG IMPACT – President Georgia Costello, Ph.D., right, stands with SWIC alum and President of IMPACT Strategies Inc. Mark Hinrichs near a construction “billboard” off Lebanon Avenue. In the past year, SWIC and IMPACT have partnered together on projects at the Belleville Campus.

GREEN FUNDRAISER
The Green Committee is taking orders for reusable gift bags that are perfect for a bottle of wine, a reusable water bottle, or anything else you can fit inside. These red, white and blue bags are $7.50 each (two for $12), and proceeds from sales will be used for prizes in the upcoming Green Committee Essay Contest. To place your order, contact Green Committee Chair Katherine Witzig, Ph.D. Prepaid orders received by May 13 will be delivered by June 20. Pictured with a bag is Liberal Arts Administrative Assistant Chris Hayden.

CIVIL DISCUSSION – Mailroom Coordinator Helen Altman, representing the “Sons of Confederate Civil War Veterans,” left, talks with Assistant Professor of Music Ed Jacobs at the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War two-day celebration at the Belleville Campus. Jacobs organized the “Fife and Drum Presentation,” which illustrated Civil War area music. The commemoration included presentations on history, discussions of reenactments, music, artifacts, flags and regalia.

BREAKFAST BUDDIES – From left, Norma Hall, Kaskaskia Watershed ranger; Jerry Costello II, guest speaker; and Jody Lafu, director of Community Education, get together at the Regional Leaders Breakfast in Evansville.

IT’S EASY BEING GREEN – SWIC was recently honored by the St. Clair County Health Department with an Environmental Excellence Award for the college’s sustainability efforts. Pictured, from left, are St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern, Vice President for Student, Campus and Community Services Valerie Thaxton, Ed.D., Director of Sustainability Karen Stallman and St. Clair County Environment Committee Chairman C. David Tiedemann.
As I was being interviewed for the “Eye of the Storm,” the student reporter asked, “Why should we be concerned about the earth on days other than Earth Day?” What a great question. It reminded me of what we have all heard…it’s not what you do in church on Sunday that matters. It’s what you do the remainder of the week.

In April, we celebrated Earth Day and had many other events at the college, but does it stop there? Success builds on success and here at SWIC, we have had lots of success when it comes to sustainability. That was evident throughout the month of April with presentations, the Green Expo, Earth Day and much more. I am thankful to be a part of those successes and it is exciting to watch the transformation and awareness that we are building.

You, too, can be a part of Earth Day every day! You can be a part of one of our committees or clubs. The Green Committee is spearheaded by two of our faculty champions, Katherine Witzig, Ph.D., and Brad Nadziejko, and they are always looking for new members. The recycling committee meets two times a semester and looks at recycling efforts at all the campuses. The Ecology Club is sponsored by Randi Papke and is a great opportunity for students who are interested in the environment.

If you don’t have time to volunteer, just be aware of your surroundings and let me know your ideas and suggestions. Have you checked out the Go Green Web page? A quick click on the green suggestion box sends me an email to let me know what ideas you have. I am always open to ideas from the community, faculty, staff and students.

“Find your place on the planet, dig in, and take responsibility from there.” - Gary Snyder

I hope to hear from YOU soon!

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This spring, the Title III grant provided an additional opportunity for faculty to meet and exchange ideas about best practice teaching strategies. A learning circle titled Tips and Tools for Using Rubrics was offered this spring and lead by Outcomes Assessment Coordinator Joyce Ray.

“It is exciting to see the different ways faculty are evaluating student learning through the use of rubrics in the various courses and disciplines,” stated Ray.

Faculty received copies of two books: “Introduction to Rubrics: An Assessment Tool to Save Grading Time, Convey Effective Feedback and Promote Student Learning” and “Assessing Outcomes and Improving Achievement – Tips and Tools for Using Rubrics.”

One faculty member noted, “Rubrics help us to emphasize the goals or objectives of an assignment to students in clear and specific ways.” Another enjoyed “the diversity of departmental perspectives.” Title III plans to offer additional learning circles throughout the final year of the grant.

Thanks to Director of IT Security Austin Winkleman, the records management efforts at SWIC are greener and more secure than ever. He has arranged to have American Document Destruction shredding service of St. Louis visit the Belleville Campus every month. The next scheduled visit for the ADD shredder truck is Wednesday, May 4.

Each month a truck comes to collect and shred paper – all of which is recycled – from secured locations. The truck has an on-board shredder, so all paper is shredded at the locations where it is picked up.

Faculty and staff interested in taking advantage of this shredding service at the Belleville Campus can email Winkleman or call him at ext. 5122.