BACK TO SCHOOL

SWIC WELCOMES ITS NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS.

Health Information Technology
Assistant Professor Stacey Hairston
- AHIMA Registered Health Information Administrator
- B.S., Saint Louis University
- M.H.A., Saint Louis University

“I am able to deliver to students my knowledge and provide a real-world perspective of the health care environment.”

Culinary Arts and Food Management
Instructor Thomas Noonan
- Front line chef, Ameristar Casino
- Hot food chef, Russo’s Catering
- Adjunct faculty, SWIC Culinary Arts and Food Management program
- Associate degrees in culinary arts and hotel restaurant management, St. Louis Community College

“My over 30 years’ experience as sous chef and chef bring relevant experience to the students and provide a real-world perspective of the industry.”

Health Information Technology Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor Marijo Klingler
- AHIMA Registered Health Information Administrator
- B.S., Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- B.S., Saint Louis University

“I have always loved both teaching students and working in the health care field. My new position … allows me to share both of those passions with the students; hopefully sparking their passion within this fascinating and challenging field of study.”
As part of our strategic planning, we conduct an environmental scan annually to establish institutional priorities that address identified threats and opportunities. That full report is available online, but here are some of the situational analysis highlights:

From 1999 through our enrollment peak in 2010, SWIC achieved a 1.5 percent average annual enrollment increase, or an aggregate 18 percent hike. Despite flat to slightly down enrollment since then, future enrollment is projected to return to a 1 percent to 2.5 percent increase annually, as high school enrollments return to 2010 levels in the next three years. Presuming SWIC will continue to immediately attract one in four high school graduates, and six of 10 by age 30, as high school enrollments rebound, ours should follow suit. Correspondingly, our regional population is projected to increase by 4.08 percent by 2020, which compares favorably with the actual in-district population growth of 4.8 percent from 2000 to 2010.

Changes in federal financial aid regulations, along with continued reduced funding of the state’s Monetary Award Program, continue to impact enrollment and retention. New Department of Education rules also preclude the use of Pell Grants for elective courses outside a student’s core curriculum. So a welding student who wants to take photography has to pay for it personally. Despite increased legislative scrutiny, private-for-profit educators also continue to garner nearly a quarter of Pell Grant funding for their students, many of whom “graduate” with useless credentials and a mountain of debt.

As increasing student debt gains national attention and middle-class wage growth stagnates, there is a growing misperception that “college isn’t worth it anymore.” As startling evidence, 62 percent of 21-year-olds are not currently enrolled in college. SWIC is capitalizing on that renewed focus on affordability by promoting the value of education over a community college graduate’s employment lifetime: a two-year certificate yields an additional $500,000 in earnings, and successful university-transfer graduates earn an extra $1 million with a four-year degree. We also continue to underscore two years at SWIC costs just under $7K compared with the national public university average of $17.3K and the private university average of $58K.

Financially, the instability of state revenue and its pension crisis, the federal Affordable Care Act and performance-based funding remain “unknowns” for future planning. The economy has also slowed residential and commercial development that impacts equalized assessed valuation, adversely affecting SWIC property tax revenue. The end result is more tuition pressure on students, albeit SWIC remains at the low end of that spectrum among Illinois’ 48 community colleges, a direct result of our constant budgetary focus on efficiency. Thanks to every budget manager for putting students first.

Other threats turned into opportunities include: our new Running Start and longstanding Dual Credit initiatives should increase our 25 percent success rate in attracting high school graduates; SWIC’s online-course credit hours are up 2.2 percent to a record 10,000 taken by 2,000-plus students, which shows we are keeping pace with rapid changes in information technology as it applies to postsecondary learning; and the college is poised to take advantage of the regional business development focus on “green” technologies through the efforts of our Technical Education division and our regional IGEN Sustainability and Green Economy Center.

The Environmental Scanning Committee conclusion: “The institution is facing significant challenges financially, economically and in terms of enrollment; however, clear evidence of numerous positive trends exists.”

Said another way, even with intermittent spikes, SWIC has enjoyed a steady rise in enrollment since 1999, and that upward trend is expected to resume at an average annual increase of 1.5 percent through 2020. So, as slow and steady wins the race, and as we approach our 70th anniversary in 2016, that longevity and concurrent growth confirms we remain on a winning pace for the long run.

Pay It Forward,

Georgia Costello, Ph.D.
SEPTEMBER CAMPUS BRIEFS

**BELLEVILLE CAMPUS**

Gather your co-workers and grab some lunch at the **Fall Fest** Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Quad.

Don’t miss this month’s **Concerts in the Café**! Four of a Kind Band starts things off Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 7 p.m., and You Can’t Beat Experience Band will bring down the house Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. Contact College Activities at ext. 5561 for more information.

Bring your grandkids – of any age – to the **PSOP Generation Celebration** Monday, Sept. 16 from 5-8 p.m. Enjoy a sit-down dinner, music from the Country Western Band and photobooth fun! For more information or to purchase tickets, $7, stop by PSOP or call ext. 7042. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Join Assistant Professor of Music **Diana Umali** and St. Louis cellists Daniel Henderson and James Nacy for an **evening of chamber music** Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. in The Schmidt. The free concert features unique gems from the piano/duo cello repertoire, featuring the “Suite for Two Cellos and Piano” by Gian Carlo Menotti.

The Music faculty will have a chance to showcase their talents at the **SWIC Music Faculty Recital** Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. in the BC MC Theatre. Hear your favorite faculty members sing and play the guitar, piano, trumpet and euphonium.

If you are a SWIC alum or work with students who’ve graduated, stop by the Foundation, MC 2240, for a cool new **alumni T-shirt**. Sales of the shirts benefit student scholarships. Just $10 can help other students reach their dreams.

**RED BUD CAMPUS**

Grab the whole family and head to Lincoln Park across from RBC for a free **Family Movie Night**! Don’t miss the recently released Disney/Pixar film “Monsters University” Friday, Sept. 13 at dusk. Popcorn, candy and beverage sales will benefit the College Activities Alternative Spring Break in March 2014. Don’t forget to bring your chair or blankets for the lawn!

**CORPORATE DONATIONS BENEFIT TECH ED**

Industrial Technology Coordinator **Mark Bosworth**, right, and Starrett Inc. representative David Brumfield pose with a digital height gauge the company recently donated to the college. This unique tool accurately measures machining projects and finished parts on an ultra-precise level. It is worth approximately $1,000 and will be used in precision machining technology courses and training at SWIC this year.

In addition, Anheuser Busch Co. has donated a new three-level conveyor system, called a Multi-Level Box Distribution Center, to SWIC to help train students to use, maintain, repair and install conveyors. This system will provide important hands-on experience for students in the Industrial Maintenance Mechanic and Electrical/Electronics Technology programs. The college hopes to finish assembling the conveyor belt system sometime this fall and apply it in courses spring 2014.

**EAST ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTER**

Learn prose from the pros at the **Writers’ Workshops Series**! Poet Drucilla Wall will lead a workshop Wednesday, Sept. 11 at noon, and Poet Steven Schreiner will present Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. Both workshops will be held in the Learning Resource Center.

**PRESIDENT COSTELLO HONORED**

President **Georgia Costello**, Ph.D., was recognized by the St. Louis Business Journal as one of the 25 Most Influential Business Women of 2013 at a recent luncheon at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel. Pictured from left are Patricia Miller, St. Louis Business Journal editor; Costello; and Jennifer Blome, KSDK news anchor. Costello is the only educator and only Illinois business leader to be honored.
FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the August meeting, the SWIC Board of Trustees:

- Accepted the following grants: a $455,180 Greater East St. Louis Community Grant from the Illinois Community College Board; a $381,034 AmeriCorps Grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services; and a $47,405 Program Improvement (state) Grant to assist career and technical programs and services.

- Approved the following appointments: Basic Literacy and English as a Second Language Program Director Brandon Shigematsu, Ph.D.; Assistant Instructional Technology Manager Lori Kovarik; TRIO Student Development Specialist Kati Graville; SWGCC Student Services Coordinator Ashley Martinez; PSOP Senior Volunteer Programs Administrative Assistant Lynette Calamese; and Teaching and Learning Secretary Stefanie Martin.

“Regular Board Meeting Minutes” and “Other Board Minutes” are posted on www.swic.edu. Click on “About Us” and “Board of Trustees.”

COOL CATS — Kashmir the Snow Leopard helps welcome Sam Wolf Granite City Campus Executive Director Frank Miles to the college at the Path to Success orientation event. Miles replaced Chuck Whitehead, who retired after 20 years of service to the college.

GETTING ORIENTED — Communications and Web Coordinator Laurie Almodovar, right, and her son, David, joined Kashmir the Snow Leopard for a photo at the Belleville Campus New Student Orientation. Students and parents who attended learned about the resources and opportunities the college has to offer. They could choose from a Thursday evening session or a Friday morning session.

I SCREAM YOU SCREAM

President Georgia Costello, Ph.D., center, lends a helping hand to the College Activities Board during its opening week ice cream social. Student Kelly Wilburn of Belleville, left, enjoys the sweet treat while CAB member Taylor Lintker of New Athens, right, looks on.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Successful completers of the Highway Construction Careers Training Program joined Special Projects Coordinator of Construction Training Projects Melissa Snelson at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Mississippi River Bridge. Pictured are, front row, from left, Teresa Foote’, Chris Stewart, Angie McCline and Donte Haire; and back row, from left, Rodney Brown, Aaron Sanders and Lance Powell.

Thanks to the SWIC Foundation and United Way, 66 students successfully completed the SWIC Summer High School Academy held at the Red Bud Campus. These funds helped provide transportation and tuition scholarships for deserving students. Waterloo High School students Stefan Kult, left, and Johnathan Collette were two of the students who completed high school while enrolled.
ON THE FLY—Senior Adjunct Art Faculty Member Brad Eilering caught this striped bass (striped bass) while fly-fishing off the coast of Maine this summer.

THE WINNING ROUTE
The 2013 Allsup High School Entrepreneurial Academy first-place winners, from left, Edwardsville High School senior Maegann Martin, Cahokia High School sophomore Aliya Owens, Mascoutah High School freshman Avery Buggs and Althoff Catholic High School sophomore Brianna Lang, stand with Associate Professor of Business Management Tom Bilyeu. They were among students attending the academy, where they learned how to start their own businesses one day.

SCHMIDT CALENDAR
There’s an art attack going on at The Schmidt this fall! New arts education offerings for children, teens and adults are under way.

In September, check out:
• Creative Kids programs based on the art of Andy Warhol and Gustav Klimt;
• Home-School Art Sampler for kids in kindergarten to second grade to learn about art;
• High School Art Series that allows students to get prepared for art school;
• How To Make a Living Through Art designed to show individuals 18 and older how to make a living as an artist.

For details, dates and costs for these programs, visit swic.edu/sac or call ext. 5ART (5278).

FOUNDATION CALENDAR
The SWIC Foundation has an active schedule of events planned to benefit student scholarships and enhancement grants for new initiatives by faculty and staff. Through our donors, and your generosity, more than 220 student scholarships were awarded this semester. Additionally, almost $20,000 in faculty and staff enhancement grants were awarded this year.

Friday, Sept. 27 – 21ST ANNUAL SWIC ATHLETICS GOLF CLASSIC at The Orchards in Belleville. Download a registration form at swic.edu/golf.

Friday, Sept. 27 – SWIC AFTER HOURS @ THE 19TH HOLE at The Orchards. Join the Foundation and SWIC colleagues from 4-7 p.m. This year’s Money Ball Golf Ball Drop, for golfers and non-golfers alike, gets under way at 6 p.m. Get your tickets! Get complete details swic.edu/moneyball or give us a call at ext. 5663.

Sunday, Oct. 20 – Inaugural KASHMIR DASH 5K FUN RUN/WALK at the Belleville Campus. Check it out at swic.edu/athletics and register in the Foundation office to participate.

Saturday, Nov. 2 – TAMBURITZANS DANCE TROUPE at Granite City High School Performing Arts Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the performance begins at 7 p.m. Watch for more details soon!

We’d also like to announce this year’s EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN will occur Monday, Oct. 28-Friday, Dec. 13. Thank you all for making last year’s campaign a huge success. We can’t wait for you to see what our thank you gift is!

The ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATION process will again take place in November and December. Announcements of grant recipients will be made in December.

LIBERAL ARTS FACULTY OFFER SOUP TO STUDENTS
SWIC now offers free cups of microwaveable soup for students in need. The Soup Program aims to help students relieve some of the pressure of achieving their academic goals while also trying to feed themselves.

Cups of soup are available at the faculty offices on the second floor of the Liberal Arts Complex. Students may take one cup of soup per day and warm it at the Café. Vegetarian, low-sodium and gluten-free options are available.

This program is funded by SWIC faculty.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR MAKING STRIDES WALK
This October, SWIC will host the annual American Cancer Society “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” 5K walk in honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Join the fight Saturday, Oct. 12 at 8 a.m. at the Belleville Campus.

For more information, contact Donna Watson at ext. 5262, or visit MakingStridesIllinois.com.

Already signed up to walk? Let us know!

Email julie.ninnis@swic.edu with information about you or your group’s involvement that day.