In May, several SWIC employees and their family members received diplomas from SWIC and other colleges. View more photos from the SWIC pinning ceremony, GED certification ceremony and Commencement on Facebook.

Adjunct Welding Instructor Doug Dawkins, husband of Professor of Chemistry Linda Dawkins, Ph.D., graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in Welding Technology. From left are, front row, Neeley Dutt; second row, Brayden Dutt, Gabriella Dutt and Zaccary Dawkins; third row, Trisha Dutt, Linda Dawkins, Bentley Dawkins and Douglas Dawkins V; and fourth row, James Dutt, Douglas Dawkins III, Douglas Dawkins IV and Elizabeth Dawkins.

Patrick Biby, part-time welding instructor at the East St. Louis Community College Center and math tutor in the Belleville Campus Success Center, graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in Welding Technology.

Assistant Director of Human Resources/Benefits Specialist Cindy Broyles graduated from Lindenwood University with a Master of Science in Human Resources.

Sam Wolf Granite City Campus Registration Services Representative Katrina Cordova graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing Education. She is pictured with her husband, Lorenzo.

Christopher DeMonge, son of Administrative Assistant-Learning Resources Debbi DeMonge, graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in Administration of Justice. He is pictured with his daughter, Allyson.
Tyler Donjon, nephew of Red Bud Campus Executive Assistant Sandy Donjon, graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in Paralegal Studies.

Molly Etling, daughter of RSVP Volunteer Coordinator Pat Etling, graduated from the University of Illinois with honors with a Bachelor of Science in Molecular and Cellular Biology. She will be attending SIU School of Medicine in the fall. From left are Pat, Molly, and Molly’s father, Jim.

Charles Houston, husband of Sign Language Studies Program Coordinator Karyn Houston, graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in Electronics Technology. From left are son Tyler, Charles and Karyn.

Child Care Student Worker Denise Hunter graduated from SWIC with Associate in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education.

Andrew Mance, brother of Board Chair Nick J. Mance, graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in Accounting.

Technical Education Secretary Melanie Phillips graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a Master of Arts in Non-Profit Management. She is pictured with her daughter, Gracie.

Mailroom Clerk Linda Russell graduated from Colorado Technical University with a master’s degree in IT security.

Enrollment Services Evaluation Specialist Debbie Schachner, left, and Academic Records Evaluator Julie Baker graduated from McKendree University, both with a Master of Arts in Education – Higher Education Services.

Part-time EMS/Paramedic Instructor Geri Strohmeyer-Clark graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing Education. She is pictured with Dean of Health Sciences & Homeland Security Julie Muertz.

Adult Basic Education Student Worker Danny Vanmil graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Applied Science in CIS Software Development.

Adam Quitmeyer, son of Dual Credit Secretary Marilyn Quitmeyer, graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Science.

Liberal Arts Instructional Services Assistant Elizabeth Williams graduated from SWIC with an Associate in Science with a concentration in accounting.
As part of my monthly report to the community we include cyclical reports from each Instruction Division dean. May’s report could have been titled: “Who says Math and Science aren’t fun?”

- The Math and Science Division teamed up with College Activities to stage the annual egg drop contest, where students combined engineering, physics and the spirit of competition to win $100 for protecting their wannabe Humpty Dumpties from a two-story fall. Over 25 teams of students participated, and the resulting media coverage was an added bonus.

- Each year the Math Chat series seems to get more popular, inviting students to explore beyond the numbers. Among this year’s presentations, Math Department Chair Keven Hansen discussed how ancient Egyptians avoided multiplication tables, Assistant Professor of Art Paula McAteer showed the powerful connections between math and art, and Adjunct Math Instructor Bruce Rogers taught students about machines that learn and think.

- Associate Professor of Chemistry Ted Dolter’s Science Chat attracted 100-plus students interested in “Probing the Structure of Molecules (and we can do it at SWIC!).”

- Jeopardy-style Math 97 contests gave students an opportunity to strengthen their skills, review for their final and earn prizes. Associate Professor of Math Connie Park coordinates the contests, with assistance from math faculty members.

- SWIC again hosted the annual Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) competition. Coordinated by Associate Professor of Math Jennifer Simonton and run by faculty and students, the contest brought over 200 students from 15 high schools to the Belleville Campus.

While these are just a few of the instructors who go the extra mile to make learning fun and educational, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize two other leaders by example.

Our full-time faculty member of the year, Associate Professor of Biology Bob Weck, has secured a grant for the second year to mentor a SWIC student in a summer internship at the Jerry F. Costello National Great Rivers Research and Education Center Confluence Field Station. He’s also one of several faculty members who serve on Illinois Articulation Initiative panels, working hard to be sure our courses transfer well to the four-year universities in the state. Impressively, Mr. Weck is the third Math and Sciences instructor in the past four years to be awarded faculty member of the year, which leads me to my second acknowledgement.

To our recently retired Math and Science Dean Amanda Starkey … thank you for your exemplary service, your unwavering dedication and your infectious enthusiasm: you will be sorely missed.

Pay It Forward,

Georgia Costello, Ph.D.

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**JUNE CALENDAR**

- **23** IGEN Electric Vehicle Road Trip, 2:15 p.m., BC LAC parking lot
- **25** Summer BBQ, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., BC Quad; Free lunch with student ID; $2 for nonstudents

**JULY CALENDAR**

- **July 4-Aug. 14** Exhibit—Belleville Bicentennial: 200 and Andrea Hoelscher: Photographs, The Schmidt
- **5** Fireworks, 7:30-10 p.m., BC

**JUNE CAMPUS BRIEFS**

Find out what ARTrageous activities are planned at The Schmidt this summer at swic.edu/sac. Kids camps, teen intensives, adult workshops, College for Kids camps and an exhibit featuring artifacts from Belleville’s first 200 years and photos of arranged fruits and vegetables by artist Andrea Hoelscher are all on tap.
SPECIAL BOND—GED Instructor Phyllis Schuetz had the tables turned on her following May’s GED Certification Ceremony. Her student, Devin Frisbie, presented her with a certificate of achievement and a medal of honor following the ceremony where he was recognized for earning his GED certificate.

DECADE OF SERVICE—Adult Basic Education Instructors, from left, Cecelia Struckhoff, Kathryn McElroy, Pamela Bywater and Susan Genin received special recognition at the GED Certification Ceremony. They were honored for 10 years of service as ABE faculty and the role they have played in helping students achieve their goals.

SPECIAL THANKS—President Georgia Costello, Ph.D., thanked GED Certification Ceremony keynote speaker Ralph Korte, chairman of the board of The Korte Company, with an announcement that a $1,000 contribution had been made by the Foundation to the GED Testing Fees Fund in his honor. Korte earned a GED in 1955 and shared how the foundation of education helped him build his $200 million design-build construction company.
GRADUATION

COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION—President Georgia Costello, Ph.D., left, takes a moment with Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee. Joyner-Kersee served as the keynote speaker at SWIC Commencement. In appreciation of her speaking commitment, the SWIC Foundation donated $1,000 to the Blue Storm Athletic Fund in her name.

MAKING HISTORY—The Running Start program celebrated its first class of graduates at the recent SWIC Commencement. These Granite City High School students simultaneously earned their high school diploma and associate degree. Pictured, from left, front row, are Running Start Counseling Coordinator Michael Johnson and students Alexis Lee, Andrea Upshaw, Lydia Barton and Laura Gibson; back row, Director of Running Start Valerie Thaxton, Ed.D; students Tyler Milos, Lucas Pulley, Josh Miller and Chris Keehler and Vice President for Community Services and Campus Operations Mark Eichenlaub, Ed.D.

YEE-HAW!—Attendees of the Wild Wild (South) West Trivia Night and Silent Auction enjoyed dressing up and sharing snacks. Playing on the Adult Basic Education team were, from left, Literary Coordinator Brenda Boggs, Director Lea Maue, Ph.D. (standing), Secretary Mary Brisk, Adult Transition Services Coordinator Susan Schultz (standing) and Boggs’ husband, Charles Floyd.

THE TALL AND SHORT OF IT—Money raised from the trivia night and silent auction goes to student-athlete scholarships. Pictured, from left, are LaRoyce Eason, Rebecca Lawrence and Romondo Ray.

CAKES FOR A CAUSE—Technical Education Secretary Melanie Phillips does her best to catch a pancake at the SWGCC Pancake Breakfast. The all-you-can-eat event was catered by Chris Cakes with the proceeds benefitting the SWGCC Anime Club, Phi Theta Kappa and Student Democrats.
OUR NEWEST NURSES—Associate Professor of Nursing Beth Raftopoulos, RN, and Student Trustee Nick Raftopoulos, pose with nursing graduates at the recent pinning ceremony. Pictured from left are, front row, Lauren Mitchell, Beth Raftopolous, Nick Raftopolous and Crystal Hill; back row, Jill Toedte, Rhoda Brewer, Nathan Gross and Eric Radford.

BRINGING HOME THE HELMET
Four students demonstrated their talent in welding at a recent skill competition. Brian Hall of Collinsville and DeAndre LePrade of Shiloh tied for first, while Zachery Burdynski of Granite City took second place, and Nick Hiatt of Collinsville came in fourth during a virtual welding contest held at the American Welding Society Mini Welding Show. Hall won a new welding helmet for his efforts, after a weld-off with LePrade. Pictured from left are Burdynski, Laprade, Hall and Welding Technology Instructor Kevin Bonham. Hiatt is not pictured.

HATITUDE – The PSOP Senior Companion Program expressed their “hatitude” to all of the Senior Companion volunteers with a special recognition luncheon. Pictured, from left, are Madison County Field Coordinator Elaine Roustio, East St. Louis Field Coordinator Deirdre Evans, Randolph and Monroe Counties Field Coordinator Deena Duval, Senior Volunteer Programs Office Clerk Pamela Scruggs, Senior Volunteer Programs Administrative Assistant Lynette Calamese and Assistant Director Carla Boswell.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PSOP
Trustee Gene Verdu celebrates PSOP’s 40th birthday at the recent Senior Celebration. Verdu was the main founder of PSOP, which started as a Preparation for Retirement class at then-Belleville Area College. This birthday party, also celebrating Belleville’s 200th birthday, involved hundreds of seniors, elected officials, a balloon artist, music by the Country Western Band and a German-themed lunch.

PSOP employees help greet guests at the recent Senior Celebration. Greeters include, from left, seated, PSOP Bookkeeper Theresa Ackerman and Activities Specialist Jean Ellen Oesterle; standing, Advocacy Specialist Sr. Leona Luechtefeld, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator Pat Etling and Alice Jackson with the St. Clair County Office on Aging.

ALL HAIL THE QUEENS
The PSOP Foster Grandparent Program recently held its recognition luncheon for its volunteers. The theme of the event was royalty, which included a throne for all volunteers to sit on for a photo opportunity. Enjoying their time on the throne, from left, are Senior Volunteer Programs Secretary Kathy Anderson, Assistant Director of the Foster Grandparent and RSVP programs Quintella Matthews and Senior Volunteer Programs Administrative Assistant Lynette Calamese.
At the May meeting, the SWIC Board of Trustees:

- Accepted a $91,060 federal grant benefitting the PSOP Retired Senior Volunteer Program from the Corporation for National and Community Service. This is the 31st year of the RSVP grant.

- Approved the following appointments: Coordinator/Instructor for the Graphic Communication and Web Designer, Development & Administration Programs Nikki Hensley; Assistant Professor of Speech/Theatre Julie Willis; AmeriCorps Project Director Abdul Ursani; and Custodian Buddy McCarthy.

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

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HRMS 2.0 PROGRESS

The Human Resources department is happy to announce the launch of our new website that offers information, forms, calendar items and so much more! When you’re on-campus, you’ll find a one-stop-shop for all things related to hiring, employment, benefits and forms. We even have news items posted regularly and a calendar of important dates. Watch for more details in future issues of Insider Chat.

HONORING OUR FALLEN

In May, the United States flag and the state flag were flown at half-staff in honor of:

- Peace Officers Memorial Day
- Memorial Day
- Lance Corporal Steven Hancock, United States Marine Corps, Coal City, Illinois

SOCIAL MEDIA SHOWCASE

From the release of our “Happy” video to coverage of graduation week, SWIC had a big spring on YouTube. Subscribe to our channel to get an email when we post new videos.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

4,135 views
showcasing SWIC and its diversity of programs