A giant 70 comprised of students, student-athletes, faculty, staff, trustees and Foundation board members marked the college’s 70th birthday. The photo was part of the 70th Birthday Bash organized by College Activities and the SWIC Foundation.
President Georgia Costello, Ph.D.

Cabbies celebrating SWIC

Dean of the Business Division Janet Fontenot, Ed.D.

Kashmir posing with the cupcakes

President Georgia Costello, Ph.D.

Students tricycle racing
A crowd of more than 1,200 high school students is expected at the fourth annual Manufacturing Day celebration Oct. 14 at the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus...the biggest turnout yet for this event. Student interest in manufacturing technology mirrors a growing national – and international – trend in higher education: occupational/career training means almost certain employment.

The Wall Street Journal reported Sept. 26, that “two million U.S. manufacturing jobs will remain vacant over the next decade due to a shortage of trained workers, according to an analysis by the Manufacturing Institute.” Nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics data in the same WSJ article showed “two-thirds of high school graduates who enrolled in college in 2015 opted for four-year degrees,” indicating “skills-based training remains a tough sell in a country where four-year university degrees are seen as the more viable path to good-paying jobs.”

Thankfully, that has not been the case for SWIC. Enrollment in Technical Education Division has been on the rise since 2010. This fall, Technical Education programs are up 5 percent overall with triple-digit growth in semester credits for Aviation Maintenance Technology, Aviation Pilot Training and Electric/Electronic Technology.

Completion rates for these programs remains strong as well. SWIC once again finished among the top 100 community colleges nationally for awarding associate degrees and one-year certificates. Community College Week ranked SWIC ninth in the nation for awarding associate degrees in Precision Production disciplines and 23rd for Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies. The magazine also ranked SWIC 55th in the country for issuing one-year certificates...out of nearly 3,000 institutions awarding associate degrees and occupational certificates.

National statistics indicate that occupations in industrial technology fields are growing rapidly, giving credence to the notion of “almost certain employment.” Jobs for industrial maintenance mechanics are expected to rise 16 percent; heating, air conditioning, ventilation and refrigeration technicians 14 percent; and pipefitters 12 percent by 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Tech Ed faculty report that many of their students are hired straight out of the program before graduation.

The success of the SWIC Industrial Technology Center has caught the attention of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and U.S. Congressman Stehny Hoyer (D-MD), both of whom have visited the ITC to promote programs and facilities such as the SWIC advanced manufacturing program as a template for others to follow.

During his numerous visits to the ITC, Sen. Durbin has had a two-fold agenda, one being to promote the instant-employability of honorable occupations. The second was a call for federal intervention to raise the accountability bar and/or stop grant funding for private for-profit colleges, many of them vocational. Fast forward to his Sept. 22, 2016 news release, wherein Sen. Durbin applauded the Department of Education for terminating the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Universities, which accredited now-defunct Corinthian, ITT Tech and Westwood colleges.

The recent closure of ITT Tech prompted SWIC to put out the resulting good word via publicity and social media: SWIC is ready, willing and able to deliver the highest quality career training … without a mountain of post-graduate debt.
ALL CAMPUSES

If you’re providing emotional, physical or financial support for an older adult, the upcoming Caregiver Workshop is for you! The workshop will be held Monday, Oct. 17 from 5-7 p.m. in BC MC 3300. Participation is voluntary and may be attended on personal time. Reserve your spot by calling ext. 7081 or 7044 by Tuesday, Oct. 11. A free box meal will be provided to registered participants.

Have you gotten your Sapphire Saver Card yet? It’s not too late. Get great discounts to 15 local merchants. Saver cards are available for each campus – Red Bud, Sam Wolf Granite City and Belleville. Get a card for $10 each and you can support your favorite participating student club or organization, Athletics, PSOP and the SWIC Foundation. For more information, call Shelly Crehan at ext. 5663.

If you have a great idea for an innovative project that will enhance the SWIC learning environment, the SWIC Foundation wants to hear it! The Foundation will be awarding up to $25,000 in Enhancement Grants for 2017. Applications will be due in the Foundation office by 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7. Awards will be announced in December. Applications are available on eSTORM in the Forms and Templates/Foundation folder.

BELLEVILLE CAMPUS

If the board game Clue and mystery novels are your thing, swing by the William and Florence Schmidt Art Center beginning Tuesday, Oct. 4 for the first clue to solving “The Case of the Missing Linger Longer Loo.” End up back in 1898, scour the city of Belleville for additional clues and determine who walked away with Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec’s lithograph, Linger Longer Loo, in this 70th birthday celebration event. Hurry though! The action ends Oct. 31 when the prize winner will be selected from submitted entries.

Only a few days remain for you to enjoy interpretations of medical imaging through textiles by artists Karen Rips and Paula Chung, ceramic sculptures with figurative clay bodies by Heather Woodson and contemporary prints from the William and Florence Schmidt Art Center’s collection. The current exhibitions close Oct. 6. Three new exhibitions by artists Timothy Norton, Heather Haymart and Carol Zeman open Thursday, Oct. 27. An opening reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. and will feature Artist Talks. Learn more at swic.edu/theschmidt.

SAM WOLF GRANITE CITY CAMPUS

Students can begin completing their FAFSA, using 2015 tax information, beginning Oct. 1. To assist students, PALS will host Need Money for College FAFSA Completion Workshops Mondays and Thursdays from noon-1 p.m. throughout October. Students can stop by SWGCC Room 514 to participate!
OCTOBER CALENDAR

4
Finding Dora – cello and piano concert, 7 p.m. – Schmidt Art Center

4-31
The Case of the Missing Linger Longer Loo, BC – Schmidt Art Center

17
Caregiver Workshop, 5-7 p.m., BC MC 3300; register by Oct. 11 at ext. 7081 or 7044

18
Faculty Development/Assessment Day, no classes – college open

25
Office Halloween Candy Contest, 11 a.m. – winner announced at noon

27
Exhibition Opening Reception: Timothy Norton, Heather Haymart and Carol Zeman, 6-8 p.m., BC Schmidt Art Center

29
Creative Kids Class: Pumpkin Portrait Sculptures, 12:30 p.m., BC Schmidt Art Center, $5 per child

31
Halloween

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the September 2016 meeting, the SWIC Board of Trustees:

- Accepted a $159,309.94 grant renewal from the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Agency to benefit Adult Education.
- Accepted a $242,626 grant renewal for TRIO Support Services at the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus.
- Accepted a $263,527 grant renewal to benefit the Foster Grandparent Program at PSOP.
- Approved the full-time appointments of Administrative Secretary Karen L. Hiles, Administrative Assistant Celeste Buschschulte, Custodian Dustin Kimball and Commissioned Public Safety Officer Mitchell Ettling.

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

Faculty and staff can now make print requests online from off campus by visiting https://printservices.swic.edu (Chrome and Safari work best with this site.)

Also, let students know they can also use Print Services by visiting Room 0600 (below the Varsity Gym in the MC) and paying with cash or a check.

Print Services can print fliers, brochures and posters, and can also send faxes and scan to email.

For more info:
Robert Hall, ext. 5243
Jeana Engelke, ext. 5379

CLASSICAL GUITAR – Music faculty Ed Jacobs, left, and Travis Mattison test out a 1967 Spanish guitar made in Barcelona, Spain. The guitar was an in-kind donation to the SWIC Foundation from Dr. Charlen Smith Mitchell. Introduction to a classical guitar will be beneficial to students majoring in music, the pair noted.

In honor of the college’s 70th birthday, you can purchase discounted tickets to Six Flags – St. Louis for $33.99 between Sept. 26 and Oct. 29 for the theme park’s popular FRIGHT FEST. The tickets are good for weekend dates between Sept. 30 and Oct. 30.

Visit sixflags.com/stlouis and enter the promotion code SWIC70 to purchase tickets. Please see the promotion flier for additional information.

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE – Association of Information Technology Professionals advisor Lawrence Appelbaum, third from the right, was on board when club members came to him with a community service project idea – helping to rebuild the St. Clair County Historical Society’s website. The group recently showed off their progress to SCCHS Curator William P. Shannon IV, left.

WOMEN’S SELF DEFENSE CLASS

Public Safety is offering a FREE one-day class on the Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D) Program.

Saturday, Oct. 15
8 a.m.

To register:
Lt. Jen Edwards
618-222-5270
jennifer.edwards@swic.edu
CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM – Adult Education and Literacy Director Lisa Atkins selected the best-selling children’s book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom to share with Kids’ Club children to encourage a love of reading. Staff members of the department read to the children recently in celebration of National Adult Education and Literacy Week. ZyKeria Rice, 4, enjoyed the story that tells the tale of the alphabet letters’ race up a coconut tree.

HATS OFF TO VOLUNTEERS – The annual RSVP Recognition Luncheon was held this past month to honor PSOP seniors who dedicate their free time to volunteer throughout the community. A free lunch was served to all volunteers and the RSVP Band provided the event’s entertainment. Pictured, from left, are former PSOP employee and current RSVP volunteer Etta Melton and RSVP Volunteer Coordinator Pat Etling. Thank you to all RSVP volunteers!

Study Marine Biology in the Florida Keys, Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico

Earn college credit for swimming with manatees, snorkeling in a coral reef and hiking the Everglades in the Introduction to Marine Biology lab course.

BIOL 110 Introduction to Marine Biology – Increment II-Lab: Field Experience offers you the chance to travel to the Florida Keys, Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico to study the coral reefs and fishes of the region May 20 to June 2, 2017.

The course will be taught by Biology Professors Randi Papke, Ph.D., and Bob Weck.

Sites include the Georgia Aquarium, Everglades National Park, Coral Castle Museum and Key Largo, Coral Reef State Park, Key West, Dry Tortugas National Park and Fort Jefferson, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration lab and research vessel and Mote Marine Laboratory, and more.

The two-semester-credit lab course is $1,200 per person, plus tuition and fees.

For more information or an application, contact Papke at ext. 5458, or randi.papke@swic.edu; or Weck at ext. 5607 or bob.weck@swic.edu.
Congratulations to the first-place team in the first-ever Hackspace competition held recently at SWIC. From left, Zach Locke of Columbia High School, Jostin Hicks of Alton High School, and Eric Upson and Antoine Watson, both of O’Fallon Township High School, receive their awards from Tony Bryan, Executive Director of MWCCOE. The team won CanaKit Raspberry Pi starter kits as the first place prize. More than 50 high school and middle school students tested their cybersecurity savvy at the free event, sponsored by the Midwest Cyber Center of Excellence. The competition was designed to provide a firsthand cybersecurity experience for teenagers and motivate them to pursue an education in this growing career field.

Lisa Switzer from Triad High School tries her hand at pastry making in the dessert workshop at the recent Platinum Chef student workshops, held Sept. 28 at the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus.

College Activities celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting a Diversity Chat in the BC MC First Floor Lounge. Students learned about the Hispanic language, food and other aspects of the unique culture. They even learned a few dance moves while wearing cowboy hats, bandanas and ponchos, attire that originated in Hispanic culture.

Kashmir helped the Skyview Drive-In celebrate its 67th anniversary over Labor Day weekend. Festivities included a photo booth, music and more. Pictured with Kashmir are, from left, Sydney, 3, Camden, 5 months, and Alex, 6, children of Communications Specialist Melanie Reinhardt.
More than 300 members of the SWIC family enjoyed a St. Louis Cardinals game at Busch Stadium last month. Four lucky names were drawn to take part in a field visit before the game, where they met pitcher Trevor Rosenthal and got his autograph. Approximately 60 people took part in a pre-game flag presentation as well. Thanks to all who came out!
EXPLORING TRANSFER COLLEGES

Nearly 150 students attended the recent Transfer Night and Running Start University Presentation at the Belleville Campus. More than 25 four-year colleges and universities sent representatives to the mini-college fair to talk to students and their parents about their options. Pictured, from left, are McKendree University Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid Christopher Hall, SWIC Running Start Director Valerie Thaxton, Ed.D., and McKendree Director of Undergraduate Admission Josie Blasdel.

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

The SWIC Music faculty recently held a recital at the Schmidt Art Center. One of the performances featured Diana Umali on piano and Ed Jacobs on euphonium.

To check out the music calendar of events for the semester, visit swic.edu/music-calendar.

Kashmir Dash

5K Run/Walk

Friday, Oct. 21
5:30 p.m.
Belleville Campus

Entry fee:
$25 before race day
$30 race day

• Awards for overall male and female plus top 3 runners in each division—male and female
• Every runner receives a pair of tech gloves

Register online or call ext. 5371 for more information.

Meditation Class

OPEN TO ALL SWIC EMPLOYEES!
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3–3:30 p.m.
BC LAC 1216