



Dispatch

JULY 2005



DAKOTA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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Coming soon: A new look for DCTC!

A new state-of-the-art library, media center, science lab and telecommunications facilities are coming soon to Dakota County Technical College's main campus in Rosemount, thanks to successful passage of a bonding bill this spring in the Minnesota State Legislature.

DCTC students will benefit greatly from the \$7.38 million allocated to the college, which is arguably the most significant event to happen on campus since DCTC opened in the early 1970s.

"We are thrilled for our students that this project was funded," said DCTC President Ron Thomas. "In order to deliver the best-possible education, we need facilities that meet the needs of our students. This project was long overdue."

Thomas said he anticipates construction will begin this summer, with the entire project complete and ready for students arriving in August 2006. Classes will continue uninterrupted during the construction phase, but there will be some room changes to accommodate the new floor plan.

"There will be some noise during construction, but that will be music to our ears here at the college," Thomas added. "We know this will be an outstanding addition to DCTC that will benefit everyone." 



Top: Library

Bottom Left: Commons

Bottom Right: Academic Support

Images provided by Wold Architects and Engineering.



DAKOTA COUNTY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The DCTC Dispatch is a publication of the Dakota County Technical College President's Office. DCTC is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities System and an equal opportunity employer/educator.


Grounds for Success.

Rep. Joe Atkins speaks at DCTC graduation

Those attending DCTC's 2005 graduation ceremony were treated to words of wisdom from a long-time figure in Dakota County politics. State Rep. Joe Atkins has a history of supporting education in the community, starting with a three years on the Inver Grove Heights School Board, to his present post as a legislator representing District 39B.



A 1988 University of Minnesota graduate, Atkins received a Juris Doctor degree - magna cum laude - from William Mitchell College of Law in 1991, before beginning a decade-long term as mayor of Inver Grove Heights from 1992 to 2002. During his time as mayor, he lowered city property taxes for the first time in 20 years, doubled the city's general fund reserve, and oversaw a three-fold increase in commercial growth. In 1996, he began a successful law practice with the South St. Paul firm of Thuet, Pugh, Rogosheske, and Atkins.

A new member of the DCTC Foundation Board of Directors, Atkins lives in Inver Grove Heights with his wife Julia and three children. 

Woodfinishing group dedicates plaque to founder of national network

\$15,000 endowment announced by college


When Idaho craftsman and sculptor Alan Marriage founded the Professional Refinisher's Group (PRG) in June of 1998, he likely had no idea how powerful that decision would prove to be. Using his own computer, he started a system of moderated daily e-mails for professionals in the furniture restoration and conservation trades around the world. Most of these folks had never met, but they shared a love for their work.

out a leader, and the future of his web site and e-mail network in question. His son, Austin, has since taken over.

To commemorate Alan's life and commitment to the art of woodfinishing and furniture restoration, DCTC - home to the nation's only certified college woodfinishing program - has announced the creation of a \$15,000 endowment in Alan's name.



This network, known to Marriage and his followers, including Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) Woodfinishing instructor Mitch Kohanek, as "Groop," prospered for five years, with Alan referred to by all as "The Boss." Then, in September 2003, Marriage died tragically in a car accident, leaving the PRG with-


"The Alan A. Marriage Memorial Endowment will benefit students who share Alan's love for woodfinishing," said DCTC President Ron Thomas. "This endowment will ensure that no one will ever forget the contributions Alan made to the industry, and how much he enjoyed coming to DCTC to work with Mitch." 

Outstanding Alumni of the Year



Dave and Lois Anderson have been named "Outstanding Alumni of the Year" in 2005 by DCTC President Ron Thomas. Voted Entrepreneurs of the Year in 2004 by Twin Cities Business Monthly, the Andersons' Rosemount-based Bay & Bay Transfer Company is a trucking company spe-

cializing in dry-bulk and other freight commodities. The Andersons' privately held, \$30-million company employs 111 full-time, and an additional 113 contract drivers, to handle Bay & Bay's 260 tractors and 385 trailers.

Bay & Bay is a family-owned and operated business with Lois serving as president, Dave as vice president, and son Sam as vice president of sales and marketing. Proud to be part of the Rosemount community, Dave and Lois currently serve on the Dakota County Technical College General Advisory Board. It is a privilege to have the Andersons as members of the DCTC family. Lois was formally recognized during DCTC's graduation ceremony in May. 

Some information taken from Twin Cities Business Monthly magazine, August 2004 issue

Annual Report

2004-2005

GROWTH

All aboard! New railroad conductor program starts this August

Second program of its kind in the United States

Students looking for a lucrative career path to put them on track will have another option at DCTC this fall. The college's new Railroad Conductor program, only the second such program in the United States, starts this August in Rosemount.

Under the leadership of DCTC Customized Training Representative Larry Raddatz, the col-



lege has formed partnerships with Canadian Pacific Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and Canadian National along with and many other regional and short lines to develop a curriculum to best prepare graduates for employment.

Average salaries for these positions are \$67,128, but be forewarned – this is not easy work – it is quite strenuous and includes physical labor and being outside much of the time.

"There is a need for more than 500 conductors in Minnesota over the next five years," he said. "The employment outlook is excellent, since 40 percent of the current labor force will retire within 10 years. In addition, 80,000 workers will be hired by the railways nationally by 2011."

Nanotechnology – Atomic Force Microscope

First-year program gets big boost from powerful nano equipment

What kind of microscope is so small you practically need a microscope to see it? Well, it's an atomic force microscope, now on site at Dakota County Technical College for use in the Nanoscience Technology program.

According to Nanoscience Technology instructor Deb Newberry, an atomic force microscope is a tool used to observe and study materials at the molecular and atomic scale.

"The microscope does not require a 'clean room' or a special environment for operation, so we can use them in our science lab at DCTC," said Newberry, whose program started last fall. "We plan to use the equipment extensively in our third semester nanoscience courses, but first-semester students will also use it."

Newberry noted that the college has also acquired a nanoscale scanning system to be used in the evaluation of three-dimensional nanoscale objects.

"This equipment is identical to systems found in many companies doing nanotechnology research," she said. "This system was purchased with funds from DCTC's National Science Foundation grant."



Nanoscience Technology instructor Deb Newberry uses the new atomic force microscope as student Kevin Cleare looks on.


DCTC faculty earn prestigious Certified Manager designation



Five faculty from Dakota County Technical College's Business & Entrepreneurship Institute recently earned the Certified Manager designation from the Institute of Certified Professional Managers.

The Certified Manager designation identifies those who have met requirements in the areas of education and experience and have passed a comprehensive exam covering managerial theories and applications. In addition, Certified Managers accept the commitment for ongoing professional development through annual recertification requirements.

DCTC faculty earning the certification are Scott R. Gunderson, lead instructor for the Supervisory Management Program, and four Adjunct faculty, W. Fred Hawkins, Ronald Poole, Antar Salim and Nicholas Hockett.

Worldwide, more than 10,000 management professionals have earned certification through ICPM, which is headquartered at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. 



Learn more at:
www.customizedtraining.com

Tom Wood 2004-2005

Teacher of the Year



DCTC Accounting instructor Tom Wood was named "Teacher of the Year" in 2005. In recognition of this honor, Wood will be able to participate in a national professional development opportunity of his choice. Congratulations Tom!

ASEP graduation illustrates college's commitment to high-quality training



Graduates of the Automotive Service Education Program (ASEP) take a moment to celebrate their accomplishments at a dinner on May 19. Instructors Tim McCluskey and Mark Hickman have been at the college for a combined 33 years.



SUCCESSSES

Skills USA student accomplishments

DCTC students headed to national technical skills competition

Seven Dakota County Technical College students collected high marks in the Minnesota state Skills USA competition held recently on the DCTC campus. College and high school students from around the state descended on Rosemount to demonstrate their skills in technical careers ranging from collision repair to advertising design.

Two DCTC students took home first-place honors in their categories and will be competing at the national level later this spring. These students were: Chelsie Krafka (Photo Technology) and Sarah Gutting (Advertising Design). This is

not the first time DCTC has been represented at the national competition, in fact, the past two national Photo Technology winners have come from DCTC.



College and high school students from all across Minnesota converged on the DCTC campus in April to participate in several Skills USA competitions. Here, students use their painting skills in the Auto Body Collision category.

Other DCTC students who placed at the recent event on campus included: Christina Cook (2nd place, Photo Technology); Kari Bloomfield (3rd place, Photo Technology); Tony Moss (2nd place, Collision Repair Technology); Jeff Quam (3rd place, Collision Repair Technology); Brian O'Neill (2nd place, Residential Wiring); Brian Hehr (3rd place, Industrial Motor Control); and Austin Wernimont (3rd place, Concrete and Masonry).

DCTC Baseball team plays in postseason, athletics program continues to build



DCTC Blue Knights baseball team finished with a 19-20-1 record in its second varsity season.

"This year was a good start to building a very good program here at DCTC," said first-year coach Tim Huber. "The guys really battled this year. We weren't always the best team on the field but we found a way to beat some very good teams."

Some of the Knights' wins against quality competition included victories over Sussex CC (New Jersey), Lakeland CC (Ohio), DuPage CC (Illinois), and Ridgewater CC.

The team's 8-8 league record in the Minnesota Community College Conference (MCCC) south

division qualified the Blue Knights for their first-ever state tournament appearance.

"I felt like we had the strongest division in the MCCC and held our own throughout the year," Huber added. "This is something to build on going into next year. I am very happy with how our year went."

Other DCTC athletic news is positive as well. Softball will begin in Spring 2006 under the leadership of Eric Heflin, while wrestling will start the 2005 season this fall with new coach Curt Foley. Men's and women's soccer programs will continue their tradition of success under Head Coach Cam Stoltz and new Associate Coach Hisham EL-Adawe.

PARTNERSHIPS

Mitel donates VoIP connector to DCTC

IT-Telecommunications Convergence program benefits greatly from partnership

When Eagan-based Mitel Networks donated a Voice-Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) connector to DCTC's IT-Telecommunications Convergence program, it was like coming home again for Mitel's David Smith.

Smith, an alum of DCTC's Telecommunications program, currently serves as the district operations manager for Mitel and visited campus to supervise the switcher's installation.

"It was great to be back on campus and be able to help DCTC continue its tradition of excellence in training telecommunications professionals," Smith said. "The students will benefit greatly from the hands-on training with this equipment."

According to instructor Doug Thompson, the college is one of the few in Minnesota to teach voice as well as data technology, and the only institution instructing students on convergence of the two.



Students in the IT-Telecommunications Convergence program listen as Mitel's Senior Field Engineer Dan Klimek (seated in front of computer) outlines the features of the Mitel VoIP connector.

"Convergence represents the future of communications, and DCTC is uniquely able to train technicians who will work in this growing field," Thompson said.

Auto Body class installs car in physical rehab center

When most of us get in and out of our vehicle several times each day, we think nothing of it. But for those with severe injuries requiring rehabilitation, even the simple act of sitting down behind the wheel is strenuous and difficult at best.

It has always been challenging to recreate the physical movements needed to get in a car in a rehab setting. That was before Larry Boser's and Scott Logan's Auto Body students from DCTC teamed up with Fairview-University's Acute Rehabilitation Center in Minneapolis to install an actual car in the center itself.



Thanks to DCTC Auto Body students, individuals in physical therapy at the Fairview-University Acute Rehabilitation Center can practice the challenging task of getting into and out of a car - all without going outside.

Using a car donated by GM, which was used for a similar purpose at Ebenezer's Rehab Center since 1999, the DCTC students transported the car with the help of Lehman's of Bloomington into the new center and installed it to Fairview's specifications.

DCTC student Keenan Brown also appreciated the opportunity to give a hand and, at the same time, learn something about his chosen field.

"I've never taken a car apart in this fashion before," Brown said. "It's a substantial operation. I learned that you can take apart a car, bring it up five flights of stairs, and put it together again."

Officials receiving the vehicle were thrilled with the addition to their rehab program.

"It's an amazing car - a car without an engine that still allows patients to travel many miles," said Fairview Director of Rehabilitation Diana Nowatzki.

The car will be used therapy treatments so patients can regain strength and autonomy in real-world applications. A session with the car will include therapists, family members and caregivers assisting a patient in and out of the vehicle.

"The car allows independence and caregiver support," said Center Director Linda Gustafson. "It brings the outside world into the center."

Alumni Reunion/ Showcase update

More than 1,500 alumni, donors, local businesspeople, students and friends of the college attended DCTC's Showcase event held this spring on the main campus in Rosemount. Those who came enjoyed meeting with former instructors and classmates, learning about new DCTC programs and initiatives, and seeing how the college has changed over the years.



Visitors helped themselves to a tasty collection of food and refreshments from local restaurants. Mark your calendar and plan to attend next year's Showcase which will be held:

March 29, 2006



DCTC values the thousands of individuals who have received education for employment with us for the past 34 years. The college's web site now features an alumni page so the entire DCTC family can keep in touch.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT NEXT YEAR'S REUNION!

Customized Training
reaches more than
12,200
students!



DCTC has a statewide reputation for providing quality customized training for the business community. This type of training has built strong relationships between the college and the private sector, providing the growing southern Twin Cities area with a high-quality way to enhance their employees' overall learning experience.

DCTC's Customized Training section has provided more than 109,000 credit hours since July of 2003, reaching more than 12,200 students.

To learn more about Customized Training, visit www.customizedtraining.com.



DIVERSITY

DCTC illustrates commitment to diversity on campus

Three powerful events highlight college's dedication to multicultural issues

Three recent, well-attended events on the Dakota County Technical College campus demonstrated the college's commitment to diversity education.

In April, the annual DCTC Multicultural Day was a huge hit, complete with food, dance, crafts and interactive displays featuring the many cultures represented by DCTC students. Nations represented at the event in the main campus' Central Commons area included: Iran, Japan, Somalia, Mexico, Cambodia, Russia, and many others.

DCTC also hosted a diversity workshop for faculty and staff, with acclaimed diversity trainer Lee Mun Wah as guest speaker.

Mun Wah's workshop focused on "unlearning racism" and "provided a forum for participants to discover conscious and unconscious ways in which racism has affected their lives,"

according to Peou Pin-Mene, DCTC's multicultural advisor. "The workshop was designed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our differences."

"This was an opportunity for our college to engage in an interactive discussion on diversity and racism," DCTC President Ron Thomas added. "Participants grew both professionally and personally. We could all see and learn how racism and discrimination affects people of different races."



TouGer Xiong's sense of humor and stories of immigrating from Laos were appreciated by DCTC students and staff when he visited campus.

DCTC staff and students were also in for a treat when comedian and rapper TouGer Xiong came to campus to share his story of immigrating to the United States from Laos. His rapid-fire delivery entertained – and educated – the audience about his family's experiences in the years after the Vietnam War.

Guatemalans come to Minnesota to learn skills at DCTC

Part of "reciprocal service learning" initiative by college instructors

Snow and grounded outlets are two things easily taken for granted as part of life in Minnesota, but two visitors to DCTC this winter were able to look upon it differently.

Mauricio Vasquez, a resident of San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala, was in Minnesota earlier this year as part of the college's service-learning program, which is designed to be a reciprocal educational and cultural exchange.

Over the last two years of the program, Mauricio has worked on community service and construction projects, shared his country and culture, and learned from DCTC faculty and staff at the San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala where he is an electrician. Just recently, Mauricio was able to pay a visit the United States.

During his visit to Minnesota, Mauricio participated in classes at DCTC to learn more about electrical work so he would be able to share the knowledge and skill with others in Guatemala.

As part of the experience, he attended a workshop in Moorhead where he learned about electrical codes, a regulation not commonly found in Guatemala.

(Continued on page 7).



Mauricio Vasquez (left) and Maria Medarda Castro (second from right) picked up skills necessary to work on wiring safely in Guatemala. Assisting in their training was Electrical Construction instructor Bruce Hansberger (second from left), Communications instructor Anna Verhoye, and IT-Telecommunications Convergence Instructor Doug Thompson (right).

Travel and Tourism graduates open agency four months after graduation

Book It! Travel
www.bookittravel.com

Located in...



Moving like a bullet train crossing the Japanese countryside, two Dakota County Technical College graduates opened a new travel agency less than four months after completing their studies at DCTC.


Carrie Caldwell and Darlene Mongoven, who finished their Travel and Tourism degrees at the Rosemount campus in December 2004, have created Book It! Travel in Minneapolis. Book It! held an open house celebration this March.

"For both Carrie and I, returning to college and taking these courses was a direction change," Mongoven said. "My instructor Judith Sparrow helped me get registered, and she was a big part of why it worked. Her personal involvement was very valuable, and that's what makes the DCTC Travel and Tourism program so great."

After raising children and working in other positions (Caldwell was an attorney, and Mongoven earned a degree in German and International Relations), both students met at DCTC, became quick friends, and decided to enter business together after graduation.

"Both Carrie and Darlene were exceptional students, so it doesn't surprise me that they've decided to open a business so quickly after

graduating," said Sparrow. "I'm very proud that so many of our graduates go on to become successful in the travel industry."

Another interesting fact about this new agency, is that Book It! is located inside Kramarczuk's Deli, owned by Caldwell's husband Orest Kramarczuk. 



DCTC President Ron Thomas at "BookIt!" Travel in Minneapolis with Travel and Tourism program graduates Darlene Mongoven, Carrie Caldwell, and instructor Judith Sparrow.

Guatemala (Continued from page 6).

"The technology is different here. Everything is much more technical and everything is inspected. It is safer for the people," he said.

Also participating in DCTC's service-learning program was Maria Medarda Castro. Maria serves on the board for the service-learning program and has been a pioneer for Mayan women in Guatemala. Here in Minnesota, she shared her experiences in an effort to raise awareness about the discrimination that Mayan women face in her country.

"Mayans experience something similar to what African-Americans have experienced here. There is a great deal of discrimination and racism," Castro said.

It is exactly this kind of knowledge sharing that the founders of the service-learning initiative hoped to create when setting their goals. Anna Verhoye, Doug Thompson, and Bruce Hansberger, all DCTC instructors who have been a part of the service-learning program from the beginning and have participated in the visits to Guatemala, were an integral part of the visit and are excited to see the goals of the program realized.

"Three years ago, the learning-through-service initiative began at DCTC and our goal was reciprocal sharing of lives through service-learning," Verhoye said. "Annually, we have sent people to Guatemala but haven't had anyone visit us. Now, in the third year, the reciprocation has happened and we are excited to see where it goes from here."

2004-2005 Dave Schroeder awards

Each year DCTC recognizes outstanding graduates in honor of the college's former President, Dave Schroeder, who served from 1970-1999. This year's winners are...



Darlene Davis, Supervisory Management

Darlene is a non-traditional student who returned to college for both personal and professional enrichment. She remained on DCTC's President's List for her entire enrollment. Darlene received the 2003 TRIO Dedicated Student Award and was selected to attend the Student Leadership Academy. She was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honors Society, where she served as Vice President of Fellowship and represented DCTC in the 2004 Spring International Convention. Darlene's future plans are to work toward a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Public Speaking.



Rebecca Youngmark, Photography

Rebecca decided to further her own education and enrolled at DCTC in 2002. Since that time, she has served as assistant editor, reporter and photographer for the DCTC's student newspaper, *The Knightly News*. Rebecca is actively involved in Student Senate, serving as both secretary and treasurer while assisting with event planning and participation. In addition to her college involvement, Rebecca was named to the DCTC President's List every semester. She hopes to combine her photography and writing skills to pursue a career in photojournalism or work with non-profit organizations, while building up her own business.

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Flint Hills Resources Entrepreneurship Speaker Series enjoys successful Spring

Dakota County Technical College believes that entrepreneurship is a key component of the "new economy" of the 21st century. It's for this reason DCTC created its Business and Entrepreneurship Institute in Apple Valley – to provide the building blocks for successful businesses that will grow and prosper right here in our community.

A big part of the Institute's success comes from the strong support of Flint Hills Resources. Flint Hills Resources is the naming sponsor of the speaker series featuring local entrepreneurs who have achieved acclaim in their fields. The support of Flint Hills Resources has been incredibly important for the Institute.

The first four speakers in the series were: Dick Enrico (2nd Wind Exercise Equipment); Francois Paradeise (President and General Manager of Enjoy! Restaurant); Doug Cole (CEO of Cole's Salons); and Sally Smith (CEO of Buffalo Wild Wings). By all accounts, these four presentations were very well received.



For more information or to learn about upcoming events, visit:

www.dctcbei.com

"The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in Dakota County," said DCTC President Dr. Ron Thomas. "You see it in the faces of our stu-

dents as they dream of building their own business, and in the lives of graduates who are living those dreams."

The series will start up again in September with a new slate of speakers set for fall. 