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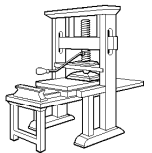
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On the cover: Arriving on the Milford campus from the south on a cool and clear November morning.

**Published each semester by journalism and photography students
at Southeast Community College**

www.sccchallenge.com



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Write for The SCC Challenge and get class credit!

Journalism courses for spring:

JOUR 1810 - Introduction to Mass Media

This class covers many areas of mass media, including music, movies, social media, books, media law, and ethics, while getting a taste of what it’s like to be a journalist for The SCC Challenge.

Lincoln dorms on the way

By My Nguyen

LINCOLN – The Lincoln campus anticipates a new addition of residence halls located east of the campus by January 2024 that will open for all kinds of students in need of housing.

In recent years, dorms have become an increasing trend in community colleges.

The Lincoln campus is the last of three Southeast Community Colleges in Nebraska to offer residence halls for their students. Housing is currently provided for Lincoln SCC students at Nebraska Wesleyan University as a partnership between the two colleges.

Data from current students concluded that an estimated 1000 beds on campus could be filled. A second residence hall is already in planning phases and could begin construction soon after the completion of the first residence hall if demand is high.

Bev Cummins, Vice President of Program Development and Lincoln Campus Director, toured many other university dorms to perfect a residence hall unique to the Lincoln campus.

Her goal is to give students in need of

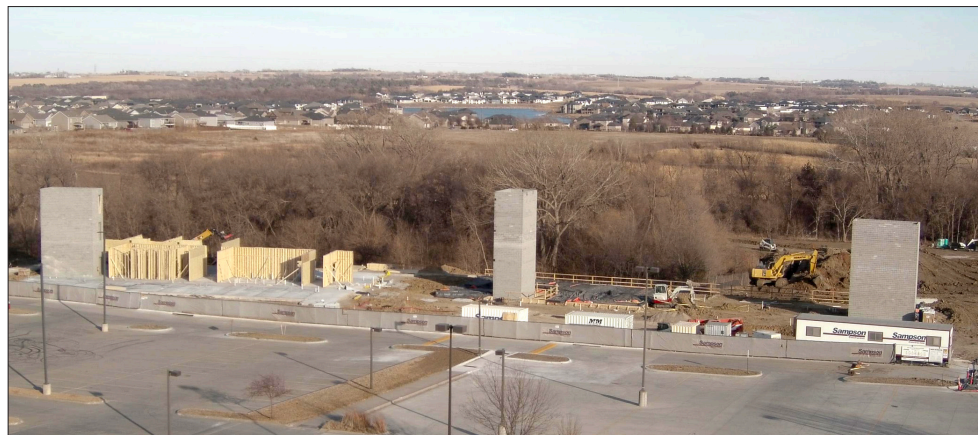


image contributed

Above, construction of the Lincoln campus dorm is well under way, and below is how it will appear upon completion.

housing the “opportunity to be able to live in safe and secure housing and have meal options.”

Cummins kept in mind, “As a mom, what would I want for my child?” while deciding what is best for the students and their dorms.

“We didn’t want an apartment style set of residence halls,” Cummins says. “We wanted it to be very community based.”

The residence hall will provide lots of activities for students to create a welcoming environment and make long-lasting connections.

Cummins notes the benefit of having residence halls being, “Students who have a lot of commonalities who live together can be resources for one another.”

Therefore, students

will be able to share their preferences when choosing roommates using the residence hall forms in hopes to boost academic productivity.

Cummins considered many elements while planning the location and layout of the residence hall. She made sure to include many communal spaces, such as lounges and a gym to hang out or study together as well as a walking distance which is comfortable for students

to get to class.

She strives to create “a sense of place that students could feel excited and at home” while on campus.

According to Cummins, other additions will include a convenience store, a parking garage, security and possibly the MoPac Trail.

Plans for the residence hall continue to develop as changes occur throughout the year.



New Global Studies Certificate helps students add a worldly edge to resume

By John Cook

SCC's Global Education department started a new program this year, the Global Studies Certificate. It is designed to give students a strong global foundation if they wish to continue academics or work in any field where understanding international cultures could be a key to success.

The GSI certificate is the latest idea from the Global Education Department, headed by Nicole Trevena Flores.

"The Global Studies Certificate is an opportunity to tell employers that you have a toolbox of skills to work with a diverse group of people," Flores explained. "It tells employers that you have an interest not only in your community but the world."

The certificate is designed to be stackable with just about any degree an SCC student is working towards. There is a single required class, Intro to Global Studies, then 18 credit hours of classes from an approved list of general education classes.

Janet Scott, who teaches the intro to Global Studies class, has been one of the people working to create this program for the last several years.

"Education in general and SCC are trying to move towards stackable credentials," Scott said. "What better way to do that than to tie in global education?"

"If you are already getting an AA in business, for instance, you have

structure to push students through," Flores explained. "It was a lofty list of qualifications, so the GSI certificate was a stair-step opportunity to get students involved and create a degree of variation."

The idea of using the

the classes. It would have been silly not to get it."

"From there, the Denizen project only required a bit more work and taking a trip abroad," Streeter continued. "It gave me an excuse to sign up for the trip to Paris this spring."

The Global Education department is working to expand the GSI program even farther in the future. Plans include reworking the class list and working with teachers to make certain the listed classes have a strong international focus in the coursework.

The Global education department is not stopping there. Flores and her team are working on creating a full Global Studies Degree.

"The eventual goal is to create a Global Studies AA," Flores said. "It takes awhile to create an actual AA or AS so the goal is 2024 for that."

In the meantime, students who are interested in adding a more well-rounded international appeal to their education and resumé can look to the new Global Studies certificate. It is another way SCC is helping students find their path to possible.



no extra classes to take," Scott pointed out. "It's all built in to get the certificate, so why wouldn't you?"

The GSI certificate was also designed as a way to bring attention to the SCC World Denizen project, described by some as GSI on steroids.

"The Denizen project has been around for years but there was no

certificate to promote the Denizen project seems to be working. Sandy Streeter, a student here at SCC, will be the first person to earn the new certificate as well as the first student to earn the World Denizen award upon graduation.

"For me, it was a no-brainer," Streeter explained. "When the certificate came out, I already had already taken most of

All three campuses celebrate International Education Week

By Jamie Rodriguez

International Week was the week of Nov. 14, and it is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education.

The week celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide by obtaining mutual understanding and connection globally.

Nicole Trevena Flores, a social science chair and psychology and sociology instructor, is the Global Education Coordinator.

Flores has planned a variety of activities this year across all three SCC campuses in an effort to broaden perspectives.

Beatrice campus celebrated all week with a selfie station that included international flags at the Kennedy Student Center.

Participants were encouraged to take part in posting selfies and tagging SCC with #SCCBeatriceAroundTheWorld. The posting counted as one of the stamps for a passport.

Tuesday, Nov. 15, through Thursday, Nov. 17, featured the World Cup via a pool tournament with soccer brackets, with students playing in teams of two.

The championship match counted as one of the stamps for the passport for players and the audience.

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, French or other international cuisine was featured for lunch in the dining hall, which also counted as one of the stamps for the passport.

Available all week was

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Youth Exchange links U.S. and Germany

By Hunter Weaver

Have you ever wanted to explore Germany while learning about their local culture and language? That dream can be made a reality through the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, or CBYX, is an exchange program between the United States and Germany that is meant to strengthen the bonds between the peoples. The Program was created after World War Two.

Nicole Trevena Flores is the college conductor for the program at Southeast Community College and is in charge of working with the program to make sure everything goes smoothly.

"The program really takes a lot of pressure off of SCC regarding visa applications," Flores explained. "SCC helps with finding a host family for the students in the United States and providing overall support."

The CBYX is a widespread program in the U.S. that works with many schools. The program itself does most of the heavy lifting when it comes to travel and overall planning. Over 75 German students come to the United States every fall, with two of those students landing at SCC.

When asked why German students would come to SCC Flores explained, "The students that exchange to SCC have a trade focus."

Flores explained how

this program is very exciting and enriching not only for the students themselves, but for the schools they exchange to.

Flores believes that "The program being at SCC allows our students to see different cultures while staying in America."

Flores described how "Many students don't have the money to travel and experience the world, but this program brings the world to those students, which I believe is very important."

The program favors sending students that attend schools they are already connected with, meaning students at SCC have an opportunity to experience Germany.

Flores stated, "They would rather send a student from a school they

are already connected with."

The program is not without its own challenges, but they may be surprising to some.

Flores divulged how "Some people may think that finding a host family would be the hardest part of this process, but we have so many wonderful staff members at SCC that are willing to take in these students."

Flores expressed that "The real challenge was making sure they had a vehicle".

Flores explained, "Car prices have risen over the past couple of years. You used to be able to find a car for a few thousand dollars but not anymore."

Even though there may

continued on page 29

Milford adds instructors for fall

Bonni Riehle

By Lauryn Bailey

MILFORD - Bonni Riehle was hired as a welding technology instructor at Southeast Community College (SCC) in Milford, and says she is thoroughly enjoying this fall.

This is her first semester teaching full time at SCC, and the majority of the courses she teaches are welding classes for all the students at Milford that are going into other trades but need welding classes.

Riehle also teaches a small engines course at Lincoln that shows students how to take apart an engine and put it back together. The first time she taught the small engines course was three years ago at SCC.

The small engines course allows students to learn how each of the systems within an engine works and how to diagnose when an engine is not running properly.

As the students are going through the course, they are also becoming master tech certified.

Riehle grew up in a small town in Wyoming and graduated from Burlington High School in 2010. She then went to the University of Wyoming and decided to major in architectural engineering.

She quickly realized



Bonni Riehle

that freshmen classes were boring and reconsidered her major.

Riehle says, "At night, we would sit in the room in the middle of our dorm where all our engineer students would get together and work on homework."

"I was the student that was helping everyone else with their physics and calculus," she recalled. "I really enjoyed helping the other students with their homework even though I wasn't really enjoying classes. That's when I decided I would enjoy being a teacher a lot more than I would enjoy being an engineer."

While there, she started dating the man who is now her husband and who had just gotten a job in Lincoln after graduating in September of 2010. She decided to marry him and move colleges.

Riehle went through

the SCC and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) programs at the same time. She got her welding diploma from SCC, where she took some of her favorite welding classes.

She graduated from UNL with her Agriculture Education Bachelor's Degree as well as her Math Education Bachelor's Degree. She is set to graduate with her Master's in Instruction and Curriculum in December.

Before teaching at SCC, Riehle taught middle school shop classes at Lux and Scott Middle Schools for a year. She also taught high school classes at Northeast High School for four years.

The last two years, she taught at Waverly Middle School.

When asked about what she enjoys most about teaching, Riehle said, "Building relationships with students and seeing them get excited about these hands-on classes."

"It is great to see when things click for them," she explained. "A lot of times, students come in and do not have experience in that area. At first, it might be intimidating or frustrating, and then when they start doing it and finally figure it out, they get excited about that."

Riehle typically gets to work around seven in the

morning and gets everything ready for the day by starting with turning all the gases on. There are gases in a cylinder room, and those are all piped into the welding lab where students work.

Students normally start arriving a little before eight. She focuses on going through her emails and grading their work before they get there.

The first week of classes was mainly covering safety procedures. She then demonstrates anything that needs to be shown for the week of what they will be working on.

She also has the task of ordering metal and other supplies, so she has to find time to cut and prep the materials for her classes.

Riehle supports students who are struggling more than others in her class by giving them tips and providing a demonstration if needed. She watches them do their weld to see how they can improve.

There are 30 weld booths, so she encourages students to come in even if another class is happening for extra help.

Her advice to those considering her career is to be in it to build relationships and help students reach their goals.

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Jill Ahrens

By Lauryn Bailey

MILFORD - Jill Ahrens is a new addition to the Business department on the Southeast Community College (SCC) Milford Campus.

She has begun her first semester at SCC as a Microsoft Applications instructor and is loving this new experience of teaching.

Ahrens was born and raised in Seward, Nebraska, and still lives there. She thoroughly enjoyed growing up in a smaller town and appreciates the close community.

Ahrens was involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and eventually became a FFA officer.

"We had a great FFA teacher, and he just instilled a lot of good community service aspects into it, which I thought was great," Ahrens says.

She graduated from Seward High School in 2012, then attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

Ahrens has always enjoyed being around animals and decided to major in Animal Science. At one point, she was considering becoming a Veterinarian and later realized she did not want to attend more schooling at that time.

Her favorite classes at UNL were biology, anatomy and physiology classes, which allowed her to be more hands on with

labs.

Ahrens graduated from UNL in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science.

After graduation, she started working at Union Bank and Trust in Seward as a teller. She also worked at the David City and York branches as well and really enjoyed customer service. She eventually made her way back to the Seward location when she took over as the branch manager in 2019.

She did a lot of working with customers and helping coach employees.

Ahrens says, "In customer service, I don't know if you ever have a typical day. A lot of it was doing loans for customers, helping assist customers with new accounts and also any finance needs they had at that time."

She worked on a lot of their budget for the branch and a lot of donation requests. She also was involved in the community with some of the committees she was on.

Ahrens also coached employees and made sure they were helping the customers to the best of their abilities. She really enjoyed training and making connections with people but eventually lost her passion in banking.

Ahrens received her Master of Business Administration degree in 2020 from Concordia

University, knowing that she wanted to become a manager in customer service and learn more about management skills.

She really enjoyed her management classes that went into interacting with customers and employees and also gave guidance on how to properly handle different situations that could arise.

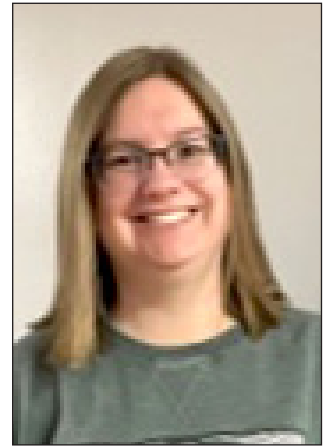
Ahrens first started taking courses at SCC during the spring semester of 2022, in hopes of finding something that sparked her passion again. The environment at SCC allowed her to find her passion once more, and she really appreciated the genuine care her teachers expressed towards her. This inspired her to want to join the community and help care for students in the same way.

"It's a culture of respect, caring and compassion," says Ahrens.

The culture that SCC has created really drew her to want to teach here.

Ahrens explained, "I had never been at a school where I truly felt like all the instructors were 100% behind me and wanting to see me succeed. This really inspired me to want to do that same thing for students to help give them a good educational experience."

Ahrens has enjoyed the switch from banking to teaching and has adjusted well to her new role.



Jill Ahrens

A typical workday now includes teaching classes, working on grades, and working on the curriculum. She finds things that are not working quite as they should and tweaking them to ensure that she is giving her students that best homework assignments and the best education possible.

She has really enjoyed getting to know the students and helping them learn and work through some of the more difficult aspects of the class in a way that clicks with them.

When asked what the most important quality of a teacher is, Ahrens says, "I think you just need to care. You need to understand everyone has a different learning style and speed. You need to be compassionate to that and help lead them from where they currently are at."

Ahrens has plenty of interests outside of

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New Milford instructors, continued

Sam Abdel

By Rachel Andrew

MILFORD - Sam Abdel has taught English in many places and has decided to settle in at Southeast Community College in Milford for the remainder of his career.

Originally from Egypt and Cuba, Abdel studied at a few places in the United States before receiving his Doctorate Degree in Linguistics back in Egypt.

Throughout his 42 years of teaching English, he taught in Cleveland, Ohio; Miami, Fla.; Nashville, Tenn.; Egypt; and China.

When asked where his favorite place to teach has been, Abdel replied, "Besides SCC...work in Cleveland was also very great."

He says he's been here

for about a month and a half and really enjoys his colleagues and his work.

Abdel chose to pursue English because he enjoys reading, literature and linguistics. It has opened up many opportunities for him and enabled him to read beyond English.

"English is a good vehicle of knowledge for any study," he says.

Abdel says that it's not only English and linguistics that he has interests in and that he finds English a very helpful tool in his study of physics, history and statistics as well.

He goes on to say that many subjects in other countries are taught in English, or one can request textbooks in English. He personally wanted to go deeper in the study of the English

language, linguistics in particular.

As an English instructor, his main goal is to transfer his love for the English language and how that might help students in jobs and their careers. He believes that success comes from good communication.

When asked what he feels his greatest strength is in regards to teaching, Abdel says he is able to simplify the most difficult subject in a way to make it accessible and understandable to students without sacrificing anything or dumbing down any content.

Although he is currently teaching in-person classes now, Abdel says that next semester he'll begin teaching online classes as well. He does say that his preference is



Sam Abdel

for online teaching because he's able to streamline everything.

Online teaching does have its drawback, though, he notes that he would configure the technology differently. He says that students sometimes find the technology discouraging, and he would like to have a different set up of technology in general.

Outside of teaching, Abdel enjoys working out, going to the gym, running, bicycling, kicking a soccer ball around and playing ping pong. He has had a tough time finding bike trails or table tennis locally though.

Abdel says that family is what brought him to Milford. He has family nearby and wanted to be close to them.

He says he is enjoying Milford and its authentic people and has no plans to leave.

Riehle, continued

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She described how she could be making twice as much as she makes as an instructor if she would have gone and welded in industry.

Riehle says, "If you're just doing it because you love welding or love one of these other trades, then go work in that trade. If you are in it because you want to help other people learn about it and grow, then that's where the

value comes in."

Riehle has many interests outside of her career. She enjoys spending time with her three children and husband.

Most of the time she is an outdoors person unless it's cold out. They have four horses, and she is currently training one of them.

She trained horses in high school and goes riding often. Her oldest daughter enjoys riding with her a lot.

Riehle enjoys outdoors stuff and likes to kayak and hike. She also loves reading and learning new things.

When she has the energy, and is in the right mood, she also likes to craft. She likes sowing, making things with wood and welding things.

Riehle says she has been enjoying the rewards and challenges that come with teaching and is looking forward to next semester.

Miller becomes new Child Development Center director

By My Nguyen

LINCOLN – Laurie Miller, Director of Child Development Center as of April 2022, was brought to Lincoln Southeast Community College (SCC) from her interests in early childhood education and leadership positions.

Working here, she hopes to supply the best care and education for the children as well as working with those who are invested in developing the brain of infants to five-year-olds as their future career.

“I really like the component of collaborating with the college and actually being able to work with the college students who are learning to work in the early childhood education field,” Miller commented.

As new Director of the



Laurie Miller

Child Development Center, Miller administers the child development program and allows parents to focus on their work while their children are getting their education.

Miller highlighted, “90% of [children’s] brains develop between birth to five years old,” emphasizing how crucial it is for children to receive that quality early child-

hood experiences.

Miller considered several other careers before officially deciding to go into childhood development.

After working for Child Protective Services (CPS), she realized, “Instead of having to do interventions later on in families and children’s lives, we could prevent it from the beginning by focusing on providing quality early childhood education.”

To build up toward her career, Miller received her education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She worked towards her leadership position by receiving hands-on experience with children in classrooms and working on different programs that helped her understand how they were operated.

Miller has been interested in the child development field for over 30 years and saw herself in a leadership position, supporting other people and forming strong connections.

Miller shared, “I learned how to be a team player and really focus on supporting my team by being in situations where I had supervisors that supported me.”

In this career, she finds her strength to be putting in all her effort in her work and ensuring everyone is included and cared about. She found

her weakness to be not balancing her work and life

Miller explained that “if you don’t take care of yourself, you’re not going to be your best at the position you’re in.”

Miller looks up to many supervisors she met throughout her career and wants her footprint at SCC to be her commitment to the child development center. She hopes for everyone to realize the importance of the Childhood Development Center.

In 10 years, Miller still sees herself continuing to work at SCC in the same department until retirement.

She hopes to “build up a strong collaboration with the college and early childhood development program.”

Miller grew up in Lincoln in a small family. Growing up with a nice childhood inspired her to work with children because she wants to give less fortunate children the opportunity to have the support she had in her childhood.

Outside of campus, Miller occasionally travels with her husband since both her children are grown up and moved out. During her free weekends, she spends time with her four cats and binge watches shows on Netflix.

Ahrens, continued

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teaching. She enjoys traveling, hiking with her dog, reading, crocheting and spending time with her family, including her 2-year-old nephew named Hayden.

Her favorite place to hike is the Platte River State Park since it is nice and shaded during the summer months. She loves taking along her one-year-old German Short-haired Vizsla mix named Maisie.

Her favorite place she has traveled to before is the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming, where she had a great time hiking with her friends.

“I am going through a mountain phase right now, so Montana is on the list for next year’s trip,” says Ahrens.

Ahrens is having a great experience with her first semester teaching at SCC and is excited to see what the future has in store for her here.

Beatrice Ag adds two new instructors

Clifford Stukenholtz

By Erik Hite

BEATRICE - Clifford Stukenholtz, a new Ag instructor on the Beatrice campus, was born and raised near Nebraska City.

From a young age, he had admired his grandfather for his hard work. His grandfather was a cattleman in Idaho and taught him everything he knows today about farming and livestock.

Stukenholtz grew up on a farm with his family and went to Nebraska City High School and



Clifford Stukenholtz

eventually went to SCC Beatrice, where he studied Livestock Manage-

ment.

After college, he moved back to Nebraska City and took over the family farm.

After farming for quite a few years, Stukenholtz decided to branch out into livestock, and he became a general manager of a swine and cattle farm. After years of doing that, he said his body just couldn't take it anymore, and he wanted a new adventure.

Today, Stukenholtz is teaching Livestock Management at SCC Beatrice. He teaches four classes: Intro to livestock Produc-

tion, Livestock Management, Animal Health, and Range Management. He says he has always thought about teaching what he loves to do, and he finally decided to do it.

He now currently lives in the house that his grandpa built way back in the early 1900s, and in his spare time, he loves to help raise livestock, be outside, and go antique shopping looking for stuff to match the age of his grandpa's house.

Meanwhile, he hopes to continue teaching what he loves for a long time.

Crystal Fangmeier

By Josh Brown

BEATRICE - With a background steeped in agriculture, new Agribusiness instructor Crystal Fangmeier is providing a future for her students and herself.

Fangmeier grew up on a family farm northwest of Gothenburg. She has three children, one son-in-law and one grandson.

"Growing up on the farm and being involved in the 4-H program just kind of made agriculture a natural field of study for me," Fangmeier said. "I have a passion for sharing the importance of agriculture on everyone's daily lives."

After helping the youth learn with the 4-H

program in Thayer and Nuckolls counties for 23 years, Fangmeier accepted the position as the SCC Learning Center Coordinator at Hebron.

"I began to miss that interacting and instruction with students and started looking for different opportunities, and that's when I saw the agri-business instructor position," Fangmeier said.

Fangmeier enjoys interacting with students and is impressed with their attitude and desire to learn. She said she also likes the technology that is available on the SCC campus to make learning engaging for students.

In August, she started as an agri-business instructor at the SCC

Beatrice Campus.

With Fangmeier being a new instructor, a lot of each day is spent preparing for each of her classes, which includes developing tests, creating her Canvas shell and planning classes.

Fangmeier begins her day at 8 a.m. teaching the Agricultural Career Exploration Class. She also teaches an Agricultural Leadership Class.

"I try to engage the students in group discussions and provide activities that help them practice the skills we just learned about," Fangmeier said. "I try to put them in real life situations and give them the opportunity to test their skills in working through that



Crystal Fangmeier

situation."

"I believe that you learn best when you get doing something and understand what's happening as you're experiencing the learning," Fangmeier said.

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Rossman is new Student Success coach

By Hannah Masin

LINCOLN - Brandi Rossman is the new Student Success Coach at Southeast Community College at the Milford and Beatrice Campuses, and she sat down to share her future plans with her new job.

Before coming to SCC (Southeast Community College), Rossman worked as a TRiO Advisor at Northeast Community College. Rossman dedicated 17 years to the students at Northeast before making the decision to move to Lincoln.

Rossman moved to Lincoln for personal reasons, which led her to SCC in June of 2022. There, she could continue a similar line of work with a similar school population.

Rossman describes

herself as a people-person, gaining energy from being around other people. Rossman originally decided to become a student success coach for her passion of working with college students and helping them achieve their goals.

"I just find it very rewarding to see students and be able to help them overcome obstacles and reach their ultimate career goals," Rossman states.

Rossman's job as a Student Success Coach includes meeting with students one-on-one on a regular basis to offer advice, whether that be on finding a career path, finances and budgeting, or academics. She also helps make sure that students are on the right track for graduation and answers any questions



Brandi Rossman

they may have.

"I was really looking forward to getting to know my new students, forming that connection with them, and having that relationship with the students," Rossman shared when asked what she was most looking forward to.

Rossman expressed that she did not get to where she is today on her own. She has had certain influences throughout her life that have helped shape her.

Rossman shared that during her senior year, she had an English teacher, Ms. Henry, who

was very dedicated and passionate about her job.

"[Ms. Henry] was just very inspiring to me; she's a lot of the reason I have a minor in English," Rossman recalls.

Another important influence in Rossman's life was her dad, who worked with the state legislature. She admired all the hard work that he put in throughout his career.

Although Rossman is dedicated to her job as well as the success of her students, she has many hobbies that she enjoys when she is not working. Rossman loves working out and going for bike rides, and she tries to be outside as much as possible.

She also enjoys reading and spending time with her family and kids. She also has a passion for interior design.

Rossman states that she believes it is important to maintain a positive attitude and see the good in people. These values accompanied by her passion for students is why she chose this profession.

Fangmeier, continued

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"Right now," she explained, "the most challenging part of my job is getting through the first semester and understanding how the curriculum I'm teaching fits into the semester."

"I manage to keep on top of changes in my field of study by talking to the people in the agricultural industry and find out what is new for them," Fangmeier said. "I try to find out from the employ-

ers what they are seeing these new employees need to improve on."

"My family loves to go to stock shows," Fangmeier said. "When I'm not at work or working with our livestock, gardening and spending time with family is what fills my time."

"In 5 to 10 years from now, I hope to be teaching at SCC," Fangmeier said. "I love the atmosphere at SCC, and my husband and I don't see ourselves moving from the family farm."

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Two new instructors for Beatrice humanities

Katie Meyer

By Lauryn Bailey

BEATRICE - Teaching at Southeast Community College (SCC) has brought many rewards and challenges to new sociology instructor Katie Meyer.

She very quickly developed a great appreciation for the students and employees on the Beatrice Campus.

Meyer explains, “SCC has been so good to us new instructors. Everyone is always there for you, whether that be a student, another instructor, or your boss. Everyone is always so respectful and asks how you are all the time and makes you feel like you are a part of the community.”



Katie Meyer

She is currently teaching three sessions of Introduction to Sociology and Issues of Unity and Diversity.

Meyer grew up in Adams and attended Freeman High School.

She graduated in 2015 and decided to attend Doane University, where she started her journey of discovering what really interests her.

Meyer explained, “I was actually a law major and had to take a sociology class. It was my first time ever taking that kind of class, and I had no idea what it was about. I had no idea about the different topics, and they opened my eyes a little bit on society.”

“I decided to take more classes, and I got really interested,” she added. “That is when I decided just to major in it.”

She graduated from Doane in 2019 and then

took a year off to do some law work in Kansas City. She was working as a receptionist and explained how she was not able to do as much as she wanted since she did not go to law school.

Meyer was wanting something a little bit different because she did not feel connected to sociology as much as she wanted to be.

During her time in Kansas City, she started going to the library and reading books after work. She enjoyed reading about the different social issues going on and realized she wanted to go back and get her master’s degree in

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Tonia Compton

By Melissa Jepson

BEATRICE - One of the new additions to SCC’s Beatrice campus is Dr. Tonia Compton, who teaches social and women’s history.

Compton double majored in history and political science and has a master’s and Ph.D. in history.

She said her goal in class is to teach college students about history that tends to be left out from minority groups like gender, race, identity, citizenship, and more.

According to Compton, “It is really important to

me that students leave my classroom knowing that there was somebody who looked like them who was an active part of the past, that they really see themselves reflected in the past.”

History helps us understand how we got here in our society and analyze our past, she said, and it helps us understand why things are the way they are.

She explained increasing history in the school system can potentially teach future generations about making a better society for the next generation.

It also teaches young kids and adults that we have a voice in our society and that we can create an impact on our society, Compton explained.

Without teaching that we have a voice, she says, women and other minorities probably wouldn’t have the courage to stand up for themselves.

The internet is an important part of our history where people can use their voice to create equality and equity from our systemic past, but Compton says the internet is a “double-edged sword” which also allows people to use propaganda, spread

disinformation, and manipulate the news to fit their own points of view.

Compton also pointed out that our textbooks and sources from our school districts from K-12 can be biased and only paint positive aspects about Americans themselves and history.

At the end of the day, she says, we chose how we view ourselves based on what we learned about history. It shapes how we view the political world and our values as a whole, which is why Compton says it is important to reduce biases in our educational system.

Lincoln adds two new history instructors

Daniel Berkhout

By Jared Knollenberg

LINCOLN - There is a new history instructor at SCC for the 2022-2023 school year.

Daniel Berkhout teaches HIST 2010, the standard general education class, Early American History, World History and Western Traditions, and is in his first year in his role at SCC.

Berkhout started his education career as a graduate teaching assistant at George Washington University in Washington D.C. and

later started teaching for a couple years at a various Georgia institutions, before a one-year stint at University of Central Oklahoma.

Fourteen years later, he found himself at SCC.

But it wasn't always Berkhout's plan to become a history teacher.

"I was initially studying business as an undergraduate, and I started taking both English literature classes as well as history courses," Berkhout says. "English and history and broadly liberal arts kind of opened up different ways

of viewing the world."

Berkhout had taught at bigger institutions in the past, but he wanted to get the experience of teaching at a community college.

He states that he wanted to bring his discussions into a smaller class environment, something that others may not be able to find at a university.

"There's some students who have no interest in history whatsoever, so I take it upon myself to maybe make things a little more interesting by the end of the semester," Berkhout says. "It leads to



Daniel Berkhout

these interesting discussions that you don't maybe get at a top 50 research

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Courtney Buchkoski

By Hunter Wever

LINCOLN - Dr. Courtney Buchkoski is the newest history teacher here at Southeast Community College.

This is a new step in her career, coming all the way to Lincoln from her hometown of Sammamish, Wash. This isn't her first teaching job, with her career starting at the University of Oklahoma, and eventually moving onto the Texas Woman's University.

When Buchkoski was asked what set down the path of teaching, she stated, "The most responsible way to share history is to teach it."

She has always had a love for history and teaching, even from a

young age, but her interests didn't intersect until college.

Buchkoski said that teaching was her first choice as a career path, but she didn't know what she would teach. She had many jobs before becoming a teacher, but sharing knowledge stuck out to her the most.

When asked why teach history, she had this to say, "History is very inspiring. It's the story of people."

Buchkoski believes that it is very important to society and that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. She was described her style of teaching as very animated; she hopes every class is a discussion between herself and her

students.

Buchkoski is very excited to be at SCC, with one of her main goals being "building relationships with students over time".

Her favorite part of teaching is "when the student becomes the expert."

Her hope is that every student gains enough confidence to share their own opinions and to argue for those opinions. One of Buchkoski's biggest teaching values is being open and listening to what students have to say.

She wants everyone to know that her class is an open discussion, with her saying "students shouldn't be afraid to talk."

Her love for history does not end in the classroom. Buchkoski is a member of the West-

ern History Association, a group that studies the American West, with the 19th century American West being one of her favorite subjects within history.

But there is more to Buchkoski than just being a history teacher; she described herself in a few words as a "wife," "mother" and "teacher."

When she was asked to describe her perfect afternoon, she talked about being in the backyard with her kids.

When she was asked what she wanted everyone to know about her is that she's "always around to talk to. The door to my cubicle is always open because it doesn't have a door."

New director of Entrepreneurship Center has big hopes to help Lincoln and surrounding communities

By Lilly Fisher

LINCOLN - Amy Jurgens officially took over her role as Director of the Entrepreneurship Center in April of 2022, and she has extensive hopes for the Center's future under her leadership.

Within the Entrepreneurship Center, Jurgens works closely with her assistant director, Brooke Lenhoff, and part-time administrative assistant Rae Hobbs. Together, they primarily help their Focus Suite Members with various stages of their startup and tasks like coaching, business planning and emotional support.

Focus Suite Members

rent out office space from the Entrepreneurship Center to help get on their feet as small business owners. The center similarly works closely with non-profits in Lincoln.

Outside of Lincoln, the Entrepreneurship Center services the 15 surrounding counties.

Jurgens says, "There is a great need for small business support in our rural communities."

Jurgens' position especially focuses on outreach into these communities to determine what needs are not being met and then having the Entrepreneurship Center help fulfill those needs. The long-term goal is to stimulate growth and economic



Amy Jurgens

development.

The Entrepreneurship Center also provides support to individuals immigrating into Lincoln who are looking to start their own business or restart one they may have had in their home country.

Jurgens' background is flooded with entrepreneurial endeavors that led her to her current position.

She was born in Iowa to a farming family that first introduced her to entrepreneurship through their farm, and all three of her brothers own their own businesses. Before entering her current position, Jurgens worked in insurance, student loan banking and higher education fundraising.

She found her way to Southeast Community College through a federal COVID-19 grant she was working on for the school.

With her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, Jurgens says "I always hoped I'd find my way back to teaching."

She now has her master's degree and teaches at the college in addition to her duties as director.

With all the Entrepreneurship Center has to offer, Jurgens and her team are seeking to help the community in every way they can.

"I wish more people knew about us," says Director Jurgens, "We offer so many great opportunities for people that I don't think they're aware of."

The Entrepreneurship Center celebrated its 15th Anniversary of serving the community in November.

Berkhout, continued

continued from page 15 university."

When looking for a job at a community college, Berkhout mentions it's a "different pace" from four-year universities.

"I was applying in many cases to community colleges, they're kind of a smaller regional college," Berkhout states. "It's a different pace than if you were at a larger institution."

Berkhout states that he had many instructors that helped guide him to where

he is today.

"It's the instructors that I encountered at both Notre Dame as well as in grad school at George Washington," Berkhout says. "You're constantly looking for models, right, you're trying to stylize your voice."

Students who will encounter Berkhout's classes can be ready to engage in plenty of discussion and debates.

"I would argue, history instructors need to move away from written

memorization," Berkhout explains. "Having discussion and debates, I think is always the best way; it forces you to reconsider your own assumptions and do so constantly."

In the future, Berkhout hopes to teach a course about U.S. business history.

When Berkhout isn't teaching, he often enjoys going out and seeing the city or town he is living in, traveling and watching sports.

Two new faces for math and English in Lincoln

Nancy Smith

By Melissa Jepson

LINCOLN - Nancy Smith had multiple careers and changes during her youthful lifetime. It might have taken her many times and multiple degrees to find her true passion, but sometimes, that's just the way it goes.

Throughout her life, Smith loved to tutor people about math and help others during her years of growing up, but she did not think she would make a career of it.

Smith grew up in Goehner and graduated during her school years during that time. After graduating, Smith moved to Lincoln for college.

Smith was a traditional college student and attended the University of Nebraska and pursued

a series of four different majors during her college career, including engineering, and ultimately earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy with a minor in math and a master's degree in math.

She said that Philosophy is probably her biggest regret and wished she got into a math degree right away.

One of the reasons she was not satisfied with her philosophy degree is that there are not many job opportunities or careers with a philosophy degree.

After life in college, Smith moved and lived in several states.

To begin, she worked for a software company in Kansas City for five years, working as a product manager and a project manager, and moved with

that job to Portland, Ore.

After leaving that job, she taught at Portland Community College and then the Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Ore.

During that time, she thought she would stay in Oregon but moved to Denver, Colo., for six years before moving back to Lincoln.

When Smith moved back to Lincoln, she taught part-time at Southeast Community college and UNL. She even taught one class at Wesleyan University.

After all this time, Smith is very confident that her forever home after being all over the country is Nebraska.

She just started to teach at SCC full-time just this year in the fall of



Nancy Smith

2022.

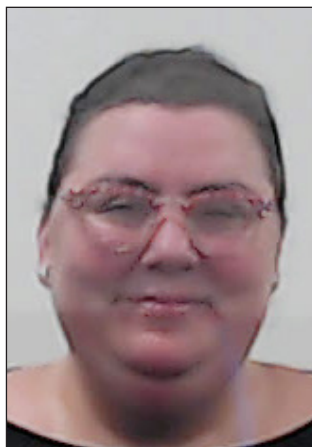
She is very content with her job and with all trial and error from her career choices. Smith always knew she loved to teach, but did not see it until years later. Smith loves the benefits and people that her job offers at SCC.

Lydia Presley

By John Cook

LINCOLN - First-year, full-time English instructor Lydia Presley followed an uncommon path to becoming a teacher: she started out as a pianist. She also started her college career having never set foot inside a classroom before.

Presley was born in Omaha to a staunchly conservative family and was home-schooled from 5th through 12th grade. Her first experience with college came on a piano



Lydia Presley

scholarship to UNL where she soon realized that she was under-prepared.

"So, I went into class, and I had no idea what to expect; I didn't know if there was assigned seating, I didn't know how to take notes, I didn't know how to write a paper, none of that," Presley admits.

"(This was) because my education, because of my background, was how to take care of a family, how to cook, clean, that kind of stuff," she explained. "The only thing I knew was how to play piano, and that will not get you through college."

After a year at UNL followed by two more at the University of Wyoming, Presley left school because she was struggling with her Gen Ed classes. Twelve years later, at 33, Presley chose to give college one more try. It was this decision that led to her current career as an English instructor.

"I went to a small liberal arts college in Illinois, Eureka College, and I decided to just throw myself all in and finish my

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Beatrice Practical Nursing adds two faculty for fall

Madison Jordening

By Jordan Durand

BEATRICE - Madison Jordening joins the Beatrice SCC campus as new Practical Nursing Instructor.

Jordening is a Nebraska native, growing up in the Louisville area. She currently resides in the area with her husband and two cats. She is very excited to begin this journey in teaching with SCC, as she was a student of the program herself not too long ago.

This was the end goal for Jordening; she claimed she was “waiting for the right timing.”

As soon as the teaching position became open, she jumped on it.

“I knew I wanted to teach after going through the program myself,” she stated. “I enjoyed how intimate the courses were; it was just a waiting game at that point.”

Whether it’s lab work, assisting with clinicals, or teaching theory, Jordening is ready to build connections with her students.

She explains, “I want my students to learn from me, but also be able to relate to me.”

When questioning what her life might look like if she hadn’t jumped into this profession, Jordening stuck to her guns.

She explained, “I think that I would be in some sort of research setting,

possibly environmental science. I like looking into water quality. Somehow, it all relates back to health.”

Outside of the classroom, Jordening is very active and enjoys spending quality time with family.

“I enjoy winter sports,” she said. “In the summer, I enjoy gardening, whether vegetable or flower gardening, and finding what method helps them thrive the best.”

“I also have two cats that I spend a lot of time with,” she added, “and I have gotten into golfing recently within the past few years. I enjoy going on bike rides. We live very close to the Homestead trail. We enjoy traveling



Madison Jordening

when possible; our vacations typically are spent at National Parks.”

When asked what advice she would have given herself, she stated, “Be patient – you will understand more things with time.”

Jamie Siems

By Ethan Hutchison

BEATRICE - The world will never have enough teachers and nurses; when it comes to new SCC instructor Jamie Siems, she is both.

Siems got her start as a geriatric nurse at an assisted living facility where she worked for 22 years as director. She got her schooling done first at Nebraska Wesleyan to complete her general education classes, then went to the Brian School of Nursing to become a registered nurse. Now as a teacher of nurses, she is going to be attending



Jamie Siems

UNMC for her master’s degree.

As a mother of four boys ages 11, 14, 18 and 20, Siems has a crazy work and life schedule

teaching hours worth of vital nursing information by day and chasing around those kids by night. Most days, she is in the lab teaching her nursing students from 6 a.m. to 2-3 p.m.

According to Siems, however, that rigorous schedule is part of the reason why a Practical Nursing degree is so valuable. As opposed to other institutions, SCC is a two-year program that is run at a very fast pace; in fact, most of her students get jobs in the medical field while they are still learning in the classroom.

She says, “You can

make a good living while you are still in college taking this program, and the need for nurses will never go away.”

Siems explained the benefits of being in her practical nursing program is getting a ton of hands-on experience in the lab on high-tech mannequins and also practically on volunteers. There are also some days where students are learning clinical training, going to a nursing home and learning on the job training. Practical nursing gives LPNs a chance to practice.

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Beatrice Practical Nursing adds two faculty for fall

Amy Kellogg

By Tyler Egger

LINCOLN - Amy Kellogg is a new medical assisting instructor at SCC who enjoys all things outdoors and teaches a lecture and a lab.

This is Kellogg's first experience in a professional teaching environment, but she has worked as a certified medical assistant and worked at Bryan physician. Her main reason for coming to SCC was opportunity.

The opportunity stems from one of her patients approaching her about the job at SCC.

Kellogg enjoys the interactions with her students and getting to know them as a person. She really wants her students to look forward to coming to class.

When asked about what she does to help students be successful, she said that she makes sure to focus on subjects that are going to be on the exams. Kellogg also wants students to see the benefits of coming to class and actively participating. Discussion is also a big part of her classroom, and she likes fresh, new subjects that aren't repetitive.

Kellogg has also said she is trying to break the barrier of being reachable, so her students know that she is always willing to help them succeed.

After being asked what



Amy Kellogg

she liked the most about what she does, Kellogg swiftly praised the staff that brought her on and couldn't have asked for better.

Kellogg says that SCC is "probably the best situation I've ever walked into for a career."

The teaching aspect is also an aspect of the job that she simply enjoys. She likes preparing the students to move onto the next class and ultimately the next stage.

Kellogg stated, "I just like preparing (students) for the next step whether that be the next class or the next job."

Kellogg went to college at SCC back in 2009 but is working on an associates at Grand Island Central Community College.

Kellogg grew up in northeast Nebraska on a hog farm, and her father grain farmed. She graduated from Bancroft-Rosalie in 1986 and now lives in Lincoln.

Oksana Letyayev

By Isaac Mickle

LINCOLN - The Medical Assisting program has a new instructor this semester, former graduate Oksana Letyayev.

Letyayev attended the Medical Assisting program at SCC back in 1997 and earned her bachelor's degree from UNL in 2014.

Medical assistants help doctors and assist with procedures.

She knew she always wanted to be a teacher and always had interest in the medical field.

She says, "I've always wanted to share knowledge."

When asked about what she is most looking forward to, she said, "I'm looking forward to seeing the students grow and get better."

Letyayev says students "learn terms and how it applies to the medical world."

The first-year teacher says she has always been very passionate about the medical field and health.

She says, "I have a lot of experience from my previous jobs. I am excited to teach these new



Oksana Letyayev

students."

Letyayev's previous experience include working for CHI health. She spent 15 years at the family practice office and urgent care office.

Letyayev says she is a big family person.

"I love spending time with my family. I have two kids and a husband," said Letyayev.

Letyayev also enjoys visiting different national parks and hiking in the mountains with her family.

The one thing she would tell her students about college or the future is "Never give up and keep trying."

She enjoys fishing, gardening hydrangeas and do just about anything outside. Additionally, she is quite the dog lover and gushed about her adopted dogs.

She is also a big fan of

humor and enjoys anything that gives a good laugh.

For advice, Kellogg offers that "You can never have too many friends" and "Life happens, make the most of your time."

Two more new faculty for Lincoln campus

Ashley Hostetler



Ashley Hostetler

By Jamie Rodriguez

Ashley Hostetler, a new instructor here at Southeast Community College (SCC), teaches Introduction to Sociology, Diversity in Society and Issues of Unity and Diversity.

She says Introduction to Sociology is her favorite class because she enjoys showing students how interesting Sociology can be.

Hostetler is a new faculty member in The Career Academy (TCA), exposing high school students to Sociology in an effort to expand the Sociology department by eliciting interest in Sociology.

One thing she hopes to accomplish “is to be a member of this community, as well as an advocate. Also, I have not been able to be in academia full time, and I am looking forward to immersing myself full time.”

Of all the hats Hostetler wears, being

an instructor is what she values most.

Hostetler says, “I love engaging and interacting with students, which is one of the main reasons for becoming an instructor.”

Hostetler really enjoys diversity and loves getting back into the classroom and enjoying her passion.

Hostetler chose SCC for the community feel that SCC has compared to other colleges. Despite SCC having multiple locations, she thinks the college is a strong community.

Hostetler’s step-son attended the Milford location in the automotive department, and she loves the empowerment the programs give the students.

Hostetler chose SCC because it was a place where she could grow with the college.

She encourages her students to get excited about sociology and would like everyone to know that sociology is a part of everyday life.

She hopes that students will be able to see that it is not scary to be a sociologist and that we are all sociologists in our everyday lives. She encourages students to engage with sociology every day and be open to discovering a new way of seeing the world.

Hostetler didn’t always want to be a college

Kristina Paul

By Vincent Welch

Kristina Paul, a new instructor in the Computer Information Technology program, tells about what the future holds for students while also sharing her own journey of becoming an accomplished member of the Southeast Community College team.

Growing up in Waverly, then moving to Lincoln at a young age, Kristina Paul made do with the resources she had available to find her passion in working with computers.

In the mid-nineties, her older brother introduced her to educational games like *Number Munchers* and *Oregon Trail*, and as a teenager, she would play more advanced simulation games such as *Petz* and *The Sims*. Paul would frequent the help forums for these games, assisting struggling players by offering her knowledge.

“I also modded *The Sims*,” Kristina says, “nothing big, but I re-skinned objects.”

In her senior year of high school, Paul job shadowed technology support at Southeast High School for technology credit. She helped install software onto every computer in a lab, a time-consuming process.

“Nowadays, we could remotely deploy ‘images’



Kristina Paul

or snapshots of a computer to any machine and instantly have it configured the way it needs to be,” Paul says.

In 2012, Paul began her journey at Southeast Community College by spending two years in the Computer Information Technology program. Following her graduation, she was recommended for an internship for the Nebraska Department of Labor, where she would work for a total of four years.

Unsure of how her career would be affected by changing database systems, Paul left her job with the state and went to Bellevue in 2017 to get her Bachelor’s in cyber security using the credits she had previously earned at Southeast Community College. She remained in school during the beginning of the COVID-19

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Lincoln Health Sciences add more faculty

Caitlin O'Sullivan

By Jordan Durand

Caitlin O'Sullivan joins the Lincoln SCC campus as an Associate Degree Nursing instructor.

O'Sullivan is a North Dakota native, growing up in the Bismarck metro. She had initially attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, hoping to major in Journalism.

After learning that the program wasn't right for her, she made the switch to SCC, homing in on the medical field to study.

O'Sullivan's decision-making was very personal.

"After watching my mother battle an intensified stage of breast cancer, I knew this is what I wanted to do," she said. "I was very happy with most of the care that she'd received but very displeased with certain aspects."

O'Sullivan graduated in 2008 school year, then relocated to Denver to continue her education at the University of Colorado. Her full accreditation is BSN-RN-CCRN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Registered Nurse, Certified Critical Care Nurse).

In addition to her current position with SCC, she is completing her master's in nursing online with Clarkson College, based out of Omaha.

There was a lot of time working in the ICU and as a travel nurse while completing her schooling in



Caitlin O'Sullivan

Denver, especially at the Littleton, Colo., hospital. This was the end goal for O'Sullivan; she claimed she was "waiting for the right timing." As soon as the teaching position became open, she jumped on it.

"Lincoln felt like home for me when I was at UNL and SCC," she explained. "I knew I wanted to move back here. Eventually, this was the excuse that I needed."

While O'Sullivan isn't proctoring courses yet, she is ready to build connections with her students. This first semester, she has spent most of her time assisting with "clinicals" at Saint Elizabeth's hospital, assisting with the needs of other instructors, and attending daily meetings; she is very excited to begin proctoring courses of her own very soon.

When prodding O'Sullivan for her top career

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Elliot Wagner



Elliot Wagner

By Vincent Welch

Elliot Wagner, an instructor in surgical technology and a recent addition to the Southeast Community College team, talks about his journey as an instructor and what the program has in store for new students.

Wagner's story begins in Wahoo, where he grew up under the guidance of his role models, his mom and his older sister.

Wagner, inspired by his mom's work as a radiology technologist and his sister's work as a nurse, decided from a young age that he wanted to pursue a career in the medical field. Stories of other branches of the medical field came from his mother's friends, intriguing Wagner and affirming his commitment to the field.

Wagner decided to go to an open house at Southeast Community College (SCC) to see

which programs would work best for him. Wagner became intrigued with the way SCC integrated interactive lab work into the curriculum.

"SCC's programs are hands-on, which is great because I'm a hands-on learner," Wagner explains.

Another reason Wagner gave for his involvement with SCC was the welcoming staff.

To add to this, Wagner feels a comfort in working alongside the same instructors who once taught him as a student for four years. It was the encouragement of these teachers that would inspire him to become an instructor at SCC.

However, this shift in Wagner's position still presented him with a challenge: translating all of his knowledge into lessons. Wagner now has to break down the subjects that have become so natural for him and show students how to correctly perform certain processes.

One of these processes is the sterilization process, an essential process regarding the cleanliness of the instruments used for performing surgery. Wagner explains that the multi-step process of cleaning the tools requires patience and an eye for intricacies.

Sterile technique and

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New sports, locations on the horizon

By Tyler Egger

Southeast Community College's many sports teams are on the move. These sports teams include the men's and women's basketball teams, volleyball, and men's and women's cross country.

Beginning with the basketball teams, they will play next year in the gym already in the Lincoln campus's building. There are plans for renovations for things like a shot clock, locker rooms, weight rooms, and adjusting the three-point lines for NJCAA standards.

The men's basketball coach Joel Wooton resigned in May, but agreed to come back for one more season, so a new head coach is coming for the Storm.

The women's basketball head coach, Lynn Schlake, will also step down as coach, so there will be head coaching changes for both teams.

The women's volleyball team is moving to Milford next year, and there are plans to add a men's volleyball team to Milford within the next two years as well.

Renovation plans for the Milford campus have been put in place for the lines on the volleyball court and for weight rooms and locker rooms.

Teams remaining on their campus are the Beatrice baseball and softball teams and soccer teams.



image contributed

As part of the adjustments to the SCC sports teams, the basketball teams will move from the Beatrice campus to the Lincoln campus.

These team moves are an attempt to give each college "The full college experience," says Athletic Director Brett Bright.

With the addition of residence halls and sports teams, these moves are bringing the student population together.

Additional reasons for moving include the use of gym time. Many times men's and women's basketball games were scheduled on different nights, Bright explained, and the hope is to have more back-to-back games.

Bright also discussed briefly the attendance of games and a larger presence plus more individuals will be able to get involved and bring a lot more to athletics. There hasn't been much community support in the past, Bright said, but the move to Lincoln might just be the solution to that problem. The plan to have back-to-back games will hopefully result in audi-

ences staying for the next game, Bright stated.

International athletes are a big part of SCC athletics, and when asked if the international students will suffer less culture shock in Lincoln, Bright replied with "They will benefit from Lincoln because of more options for transportation."

Some other benefits include dietary needs like special food plans, which he said would be easier to accommodate on the Lincoln campus.

Diversity was another topic of discussion for all campuses, and when asked if moving the basketball team will make the Beatrice campus less diverse, Bright stated, "Not really. A lot of diversity comes from other sports."

Bright then proceeded to state that the soccer team is half international, and that team is staying put on the Beatrice campus. Also, the Beatrice campus is one of the more

residential campuses with more students living on campus.

The Milford campus, on the other hand, offers more classes on trades which attracts more male students.

When asked if moving the volleyball team would increase gender diversity, Bright said, "This may help with diverse populations having more female students on campus."

Milford in the past might not have been a popular choice for students who weren't interested in trades, he said, but having a sports team on campus might be the right thing to make it a more attractive option. That's exactly what they are hoping for, says Bright, as they take a holistic approach to looking at the needs of each individual campus.

The topic of re-branding was discussed, and a new mascot for all three campuses is expected to be announced in the coming months.

Bright also stated that there are plans to add a multitude of different sports teams to the three campuses.

These new sports that they hope to add are women's golf, men's and women's trap, men's and women's wrestling, men's and women's rodeo, and eSports.

Bright said, "We hope the students will get excited and cheer and support all the sports teams."

Storm soccer building a foundation

By Dylan DuPont

The Southeast Community College Storm men's soccer team finished the 2022-23 season with a record of 8-10-1.

The Storm started off the season very hot, winning 7 of their first 10 games. In that stretch, there was a tie as well, so they only had lost 2 games so far.

When asked about an overview that highlighted his team's successes head coach Alex Scheuler said, "Obviously, making the playoffs was a big step forward for the program. Having our longest unbeaten run earlier the year was a highlight as well."

"Unfortunately," he added, "some longer term injuries and inconsistency in front of the goal gave us some struggles later in the year. But the boys kept playing and competing hard to keep giving us a chance in every match this year."

One of the season highlights included a dominant win on the road at Minnesota West Community College, where the Storm won 14 goals to 1.

The team cooled off after the great start, going on a six-game losing streak through the first half of October.

After that losing streak, they bounced back with another great victory, taking down York JV at home with a score of 9-1.

The Storm ended the

regular season with a loss at home to Allen County Community College.

Then it was time for the playoffs.

For a third time this season, the Storm were faced off with Allen County Community College, just a week after the previous time.

This time, they would face off in the Regional 6/9 Playoffs, and the Storm was looking for some sweet revenge.

This matchup did not bode very well for the Storm, as they had lost both times to Allen County Community College, in Iola, Kansas 2-0 and at home 3-1.

The Storm ended up falling to Allen County Community College by a score 6-2, which ended the team's season.

Some important statistics to note with this Storm team are they scored 51 goals on the season, which was about 2.7 goals per game. They also went .500 at home, which means they had an even record (4 wins, 4 losses).

Coach Scheuler's team was incredibly young as they had 29 freshmen, so there were some growing pains throughout the season, and the level of play varied through different moments during the season.

Many different players could be highlighted as having a moment or two that helped them to get where they were.



image contributed

Forward Cesar Hernandez takes on a defender during a win over Central Wyoming in August.

Some of the biggest areas of strengths for the team this season were depth and options. The Storm started 30 different players, which was a very high number.

This highlighted the injuries they had, the card suspensions, and several other things they had to go through with their roster.

"This allowed us to play 2-3 different systems and formations this year, which I believe other teams weren't ready for at times," coach Scheuler said.

When asked about what are some areas of improvement as they move into the next season, Scheuler said, "I believe we're on the right path as a program and team, as we've improved our

record, our quality of play, and our competitiveness each and every year. It's just about continuing to build as we move forward in all aspects and get better every day."

For what is next to come for the next season, it's important to keep building the foundation of the program, he explained.

Coach Scheuler summarized, "Overall, just continue the forward progression of the team and the program is No. 1. If we keep doing that, keep getting better, we can build on the foundation we've set in place at SCC to accomplish the bigger goals at hand and that are potentially right around the corner for the team and program."

Storm men off to a good start

By Jared Knollenberg

Coming off a 10-16 campaign in 2021, the Southeast Community College Storm men's basketball team is looking to have a bounce back 2022 season, and is off to

a good start with an 11-3 record.

The team is led by head coach Joel Wooton, who is coaching in his 19th season at SCC, and 43rd overall, and who keeps the same strategy recruiting players to play for the

Storm.

"There's a lot of different strategies," Wooton said. "Family atmosphere, a chance to improve to move on, learn the college game, have a chance to compete nationally, and play against great competition."

The Storm returns three players from last season, including their second and third leading scorers from last season.

One of the biggest reasons to the limited number of players returning is because most players are at a community college for two years, very rarely over three.

Maijhe Wiley, who started all 26 games for the Storm as a freshman, is the team's returning leading scorer, averaging 13.2 points per game in 2021. Wiley also shot 41% from three-point range.

Sophomore guard Lucas Williams averaged 11.4 points per game last season, as he was primarily used as an energy boost off the bench.

Storm basketball will have a new look this season, with lots of new players in the program.

Among the players to watch out for this season is freshman guard Radek Pulshipher, who averaged 15.5 points per game as a senior at Viewmont in Utah.

Joining Pulshipher is freshman guard Miles

McGriff from Olathe South high school in Olathe, Kan.

In the second semester, the Storm will bring in a pair of freshman guards, Denim Johnson from Omaha and Wal-Zel Evans from Kansas City, Kan.

Wooton is looking for his team to bounce back this season.

"We were 10-16 last year," Wooton said. "We lost some key players, and we played pretty tough schedule and lost 11 games by 6 points or less."

One of the big stories will be how the sports teams will be moving campuses, that includes SCC's basketball program.

"Not sure how I feel about the move," Wooton said. "I have mixed emotions."

"Several years ago, I thought it would be a good move," he said. "It's easier to recruit to Lincoln over Beatrice."

Overall, Wooton is feeling confident about his team for this season and expects it to be a fun year.

"I really like our team," Wooton said. "We are young and it will take some time to jell. The guys seem to have good chemistry. Once we get into the second semester, when we hopefully have everyone available, it could be a very fun year."



image contributed

Enda Brennan, above, goes for the basket in an early season 78-77 win over Northeast Community College on Nov. 1.

eSports comes to SCC

By Tyler Egger

Southeast Community College has an eSports club which competes in games like Valorant, League of legends, Super Smash Bros and Overwatch 2.

Other games that they are trying to compete in include Rainbow Six Siege, Call of Duty, Madden and FIFA. All of their games are streamed on Twitch, with team chat @ SCCesports.

The eSports room comes equipped with Arozzi gaming chairs, Xboxes, Playstations, Nintendo and PCs that are Lenovo branded with Icore 9s and 3080 graphics cards.

There are just over 101 members in the club, and adviser Chris Cummins says those numbers should grow in the near future because of collaboration with the Career Academy and the market-ing club.

Some of the players for each team include the Valorant team which is headed by their Captain, Vu Tran, and co-captain Samatha or Samo. The other players on the team are Jan Errazo (Open Pavilion), Storm Kitten/John Goodman, and Amr Rashed.

When speaking about the Valorant team, Cummins said, "This group of individuals are very committed and want to play at



photo by Joshua Whitney

Practicing in the eSports room on the Lincoln campus are Vu Tran, left, and Nathan Urbina.

the highest possible level."

They compete in different leagues, one of those being the Meta pro league in the college division. The eSports club competes in different competi-

tions on a regular basis.

There is an NJCAA league for eSports, but the SCC club would have to leave the Meta pro league to join that one. But if administration turned eSports into a varsity sport, the club would join the NJCAA league.

The Valorant season just ended in the Meta league, and the team made it to the second round of the playoffs, and the team that they lost to was the first seed.

Cummins, when talking about the success of the Valorant team, stated, "We did pretty well for forming a team two months ago and playing a normal eight week season."

League of Legends is the next game on the docket, and Cummins said he hoped to have a team together by the end of the semester.

The team is not only a
continued on page 26

Storm golf finishes fall ranked sixth

By Isaac Mickle

BEATRICE - The SCC golf team just finished their fall season ranked sixth, and head coach Calvin Freeman said he really liked what he saw from the team.

Freeman said, "My favorite part was seeing the seven freshmen develop throughout the fall in their first year."

He says the golf team consists of eight players, and seven of them are freshman this year.

One of his favorite parts of coaching is recruiting. "I look for the best

players in Nebraska that are not going to a D1 school," said the coach.

He said that he will look internationally as well. Coach Freeman likes to talk to recruits about his path to a pro career that started at SCC.

Freeman started golf at a young age.

"I went golfing with my buddy and his dad, and I just got hooked after playing for the first time," said Freeman.

This led Coach Freeman to develop a huge passion for golf.

He says he likes to share his information he

has learned over the years with his players.

"I really enjoy that 'a ha' moment and working with a player on something, then seeing them one day just get it," said Freeman.

He also said his advice for his players is "be curious and willing to learn."

Freeman is looking forward to seeing the kids grow and get better in the off-season as they prepare for the spring.

The SCC golf team will start their spring season in March and compete in the Region 9 of the NJCAA.

Illuminations seeks submissions

By Hannah Masin

Illuminations is the literary magazine at Southeast Community College (SCC) which features creative prose, poetry and arts that were created throughout the year by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

The magazine first started in 1999 and was just a small group, but it has grown into something much bigger.

Many of the previous volumes are available on the school website for viewing.

"It's a home for the creative work of faculty staff and students of SCC," shares Tammy Zimmer, the editor of *Illuminations*.

Zimmer began her work for *Illuminations* as co-editor for the magazine in 2020 with Kimberly Vonnahme before

putting out the 2021 issue on her own.

Illuminations isn't solely for creative writing, however. The literary magazine also accepts academic writing and research papers.

"The goal is to celebrate the hard work and writing of students, faculty, and staff ... we can highlight it, and give those people place to celebrate their work as well," Zimmer acknowledges.

People submit to the magazine year-round, with the cutoff date being on the last day of May.

Over the summer, Zimmer organizes an editorial board, where people help decide what is accepted into the magazine. After that, the creators are allowed to make their final edits before the creation of the magazine begins.

The creation of *Illuminations* is a process

that Zimmer spends a lot of her time on, but she doesn't do it alone.

Once the magazine is ready to be designed, Zimmer sends the work to graphic designer Nathan Comstock, who helps carry out her ideas for the cover, as well as the pages in the magazine.

Other contributors are Jes Vetter, who helps distribute the final copies of the magazines, the volunteers on the editorial board, and of course, the people who submit to the magazine.

Zimmer says the magazine is rewarding both for contributors to the magazine and the creators of the magazine.

"Seeing someone be so excited to see their art and their writing in a book that is published and professionally done... there's something special about that," Zimmer notes.

Volume 24 will be coming out this Spring, in 2023 with a launch party open to all who are interested. Information

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Chess club restarts

By Erik Hite

LINCOLN - The Southeast Community College Chess Club is restarting. The club has been out of commission since early 2020, when it was originally shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Leo Iacono is the faculty adviser for the group.

Iacono, who is originally from San Francisco, Calif., is a Philosophy instructor at SCC. He started playing chess when he was seven and grew to love the game when he joined a chess club in college.

This is the second time the club is trying to start back up. Iacono attempted to reboot it in 2021, but the Delta variant hit and shut it down again.

The first meeting was

on Monday, Nov. 14, and the club will meet every Monday as long as SCC has class. Iacono says anyone can join with any level of experience, including people who have never played.

He encourages students to try it out.

Iacono hopes to get up to eight members and says there will be visits from other local players to come and challenge the students.

Before the pandemic shut it down, the club hosted a tournament to anyone around the city on the SCC Lincoln campus, and Iacono hopes to get enough interest in the club to host another one.

For more details on the chess club, contact Dr. Iacono at Liacono@southeast.edu.

eSports, continued

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competitive experience, lots of friends can be made by joining because of the Discord channel that is used. It can be used to set up impromptu practice sessions or just to keep in touch.

When asked about who the best overall player in the eSports club is, Cummins stated, "There's one player I want to shout out, Samo. She's an excellent communicator and a true leader. Players have listened to her from the

get go"

Samo is the co-captain of the Valorant team and is ranked in the diamond division, which is top 10% in the world. She is also president of the Lincoln eSports club.

Cummins said, "We are very excited for the things to come. I can't wait to see how big this can get."

"I hope that we can host our own tournaments in the future and get more sponsorships for the club in the future," he added.

Global Studies Book Club offers a window to a broader world of literature and life

By John Cook

SCC offers a wide array of extracurricular activities for students looking to get involved in college life beyond the classroom. While many of these opportunities are easy to find, there are a few which require a bit more effort to uncover.

The Global Studies Book Club is one such hidden gem just waiting for discerning students with a love of reading to stumble across.

The book club, now in its second year, is the brainchild of Global Education Coordinator Nicole Trevena Flores.

"The book club was born out of the pandemic," Flores explained. "It was a question of how we could create programming that was more inclusive and could work across Zoom?"

The club has remained relatively obscure for a reason: it was originally created with faculty in mind. Flores first saw the club as a way of keeping

teachers engaged during the pandemic.

"It was mostly for faculty and staff, but obviously, students are welcome, to give them a way to engage with the material that wasn't exclusively on a campus," Flores explained. "I think it appeals to a different kind of person than programs like our Lunch and Learns; it gives people a different experience."

While teachers and faculty were the original target audience, this does not mean students are unwelcome.

"I really enjoyed it," said Sandy Streeter, a student in the Culinary Arts program who has recently taken part. "When I'm given an area I'm not familiar with, it's always fun to pick up new information."

"It is also a great opportunity to interact with teachers on an equal footing," Streeter continued. "It isn't like a classroom. Everyone comes to the meeting having read the book, or at least part of it,

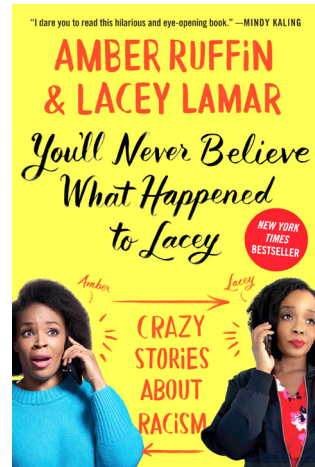


image contributed

***You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism* is the next book for the club to discuss.**

and wanting to discuss it."

While professor Flores came up with the idea for the book club, she is not solely responsible for its content. The books are chosen between the Diversity & Inclusion Team and the Global Education Committee. Lindsay Dickenson, an SCC librarian on the Milford campus, has also helped to organize the reading list.

"We started with the celebration or theme from each month regarding either global education or diversity and inclusion," Dickenson explained, laying out the process of book selection. "For instance, September was Hispanic Heritage month so we tried to do something that would tie in with that."

"We tried to get a va-

riety of fiction and non-fiction, short stories and essays so there was something for everyone out there," Dickenson said, talking about the kinds of books on the list.

The overarching theme of the book club is inclusivity. The works chosen for each month come from a wide array of authors and each is unique.

"The nice thing about these works is that if someone did not have time to read the whole book, they could focus in on one essay or one short story and still be able to talk about that," Dickenson pointed out.

For those interested in taking part, the Global Studies Book Club meets on the first Friday of the month from Noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom. Due to holiday breaks and finals, the next meeting will be in February.

The February book title is *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism* by Amber Ruffin.

The list of upcoming books, as well as how to get an invite to the event, can be found on the SCC website under the Global Education tab in Academics.

Students who sign up for the Global Studies email list also get a monthly update on the upcoming book and meeting times.

Illuminations, continued

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about release dates will be posted on the website at a later date.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni are encouraged to send their work to Illuminations@southeast.edu. Along with the submission, include the title

and description of your work, your name, student ID, and job title if they work for SCC or program of study for students.

Submissions must be in by May 31, 2023, to be included in Volume 25, which will come out in the Spring of 2024.

Review

Weird is a tale worth the time

By Hunter Weaver

Weird Al Yankovic has been a household name for many years, ever since his hit parody song “My Bologna” was released in 1979. While many people know the man, few know the story behind him.

Weird: The Al Yankovic Story will not help anybody in that regard, but it is still a masterclass in parody and subversion. I expected nothing else from a movie based off the parody legend himself.

Weird: The Al Yankovic Story is an hour and 40-minute adventure that takes many twists and turns. The film never does what you expect it to, something any fan of Weird Al will love.

It felt like a true love letter to the not only the man himself, but all of the fans that had grew up listening to his work.

Like most of his music, the film is funny because the audience has certain expectations going into the movie, and Weird Al uses those expectations to great comedic effect.

Although much of the film is factually incorrect, there are little glimpses of the truth sprinkled in.

Like how his first parody song “My Bologna” was recorded within a public restroom or how



image contributed

***Weird: The Al Yankovic Story* features Daniel Radcliffe, right, as Weird Al and Evan Rachel Wood as Madonna.**

he was actually featured on the Dr. Demento Show.

The film pulls off the same thing his music does, parodies what it’s talking about while still showing a lot of love and a deep understanding of what makes it special.

To be able to enjoy this movie to the fullest, you will have to find it funny. It is a comedy film first and a music biopic second.

Much of the comedy within the film is stupid and out-landish, but I would want nothing more from this film. There are some edgy jokes sprinkled in at some points, so that is important to keep in

mind. lem of making the star actually sound like the person they are portraying, and I think this is one of the most creative ways I have seen to date.

For fans who are nervous about Daniel Radcliffe playing Weird Al, I can assure you that he does an excellent job of going for the more down-to-earth and melancholy version they were going for in the film. If that does not ease your mind enough, the real Weird Al plays a large role in the film, just not as himself.

All fans of Weird Al should check this film out. It carries the same wacky and weird vibe all of his other works are known for.

The film is currently free on Roku but be prepared to watch multiple ads throughout the film. Anyone with a little under two hours to spare and a good sense of humor should definitely check this film out.

Review

*Midnight*s breaks records and becomes an instant classic

By Lilly Fisher

Taylor Swift's 10th studio album, *Midnight*s, was released on Friday, Oct. 21, and shattered numerous records for charts, sales, and streaming in the first week.

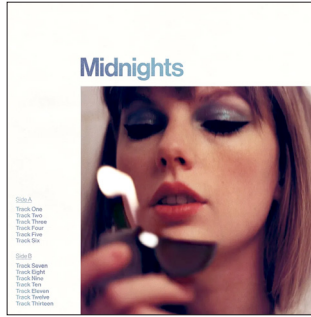
*Midnight*s is already a favorite of mine and deserves a listen to become a favorite for all.

Swift became the first artist in history to claim all 10 spots on the Billboard Hot 100 for the week after its release. She is now the woman with the most top 10s on the chart in history with 40, surpassing Madonna's 38 as the previous record-holder.

For pure album sales, *Midnight*s sold over 1.14 million units in one week, breaking her own long-standing record of 1.216 million copies sold of her album reputation in 2017.

Vinyl sales especially broke records with 575,000 units sold in a week, breaking this record only a day after the release. The previous record trails far behind with only 182,000 units sold of Harry Style's *Harry's House* earlier this year.

Spotify announced *Midnight*s as its most-streamed album in a single day along with Swift being the most-streamed artist in a single day in the platform's history. The album peaked at third-largest streaming



week ever for an album with 357 million on-demand official streams (both audio and video) but became the largest streaming week ever for an album by a female artist.

Swift declared the premise of this album as a concept album, the concept being what keeps us up at night: frustrations, excitement, love, loss, self-loathing and questions.

Jack Antonoff, Swift's co-producer, co-writer and overall collaborator for the album accentuates her lyrics with a pop-electro-synth energy for every track. The album effortlessly combines our private, late-night thoughts with melodies that make us want to sing them loud for all to hear.

The only quarrels one may have with the album could be the obvious pop sound of the album. Even though it features a unique combination of pop, synth, and other engineered styles of music, not everyone may like that music. The lyrics could still resonate with

and be enjoyed by anyone.

The message that *Midnight*s sends is one that anyone who has been stuck awake in the middle of the night, lost in their own thoughts, needs to hear.

This album has found its way into my heart with its brutal honesty about the inner demons we all face. Coming from such an astoundingly famous and successful woman, it is so refreshing to hear her express the same anxieties and hardships I have faced.

The lead single, "Anti-Hero," features lines about the effects of her depression taking over her mind at night.

"When my depression works the graveyard shift, all of the people I've ghosted stand there in the room" reminds me of the relationships I failed to keep up with during the lowest parts of my mental

health.

Young and old will find themselves enjoying this album because of its catchy lyrics and melodies that accompany them.

"Anti-Hero" also notably states, "It's me, hi, I'm the problem, it's me," reminding us how we can be our own biggest enemy.

Swift so effortlessly finds a way to unveil all our insecurities but presents them in an enjoyable format. It makes me feel like it's easy to share my fears and my issues.

*Midnight*s broke so many records because it deserved to. It gives a voice to those who do not truly know how to put their middle of the night thoughts into words. Swift simply said what we have all been thinking.

Give it a listen and at least one track is bound to be the anthem to what keeps you awake at night.

Youth Exchange, continued

continued from page 7

be some challenges in setting up the finer details of the program, Flores said that working with the students was always very easy.

"They have been really great to work with," Flores mentioned. "They have been learning English their whole lives, and they really immerse

themselves within the culture."

Overall, Flores thinks that the CBYX is an amazing opportunity for students at SCC that anyone can take advantage of. Anyone who is interested in the program can schedule a meeting to talk to Flores any time or can attend the yearly Study Abroad Fair.

Review

Netflix's *Dahmer* is a must watch

By Jordan Durand

In Netflix's most recent crime genre standout, producer Ryan Murphy touches on the fundamentals of Jeffrey Dahmer's twisted psychology.

Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story plays into human imbalance and impulse, providing a general inquiry to understand and even the desire to provide empathy, even given the egregious outcome.

After Dahmer was brought into custody, authorities found the remains of 17 men, such as pelvises, craniums and male genitalia.

This series touches on a variety of topics, from racial bypassing, the dangers of finding romance within the LGBT community, and how the judicial system would allow someone to continuously utilize their white privilege to overcome multiple attempts from the law before finally being subdued.

Murphy decided to fixate on Dahmer's upbringing for this first season.

Whether focusing on his neglectful relationship with his father, his mother's excessive addiction to opioids, or simply becoming a product of his environment, Murphy showcased Dahmer's significant personality changes throughout the



image contributed

Evan Peters, right, plays Jeffrey Dahmer in a new Netflix series.

season and how others failed to take notice or refusal to opt in.

From the gloomy pitch of Dahmer's flat to the dark undertone of the gay nightclubs he frequented, Murphy perfectly sets the tone, one to match Dahmer's personality.

Murphy's Dahmer series is inhumane and sluggish, but that's the way it was intended to be. The plot moves at just the right pace, disclosing information about what was to come, while also switching story lines in a way that isn't too confusing for the viewer.

While this series has become one of Netflix's biggest success stories of 2022, plenty of backlash and controversy shortly followed its massive debut.

As mentioned prior,

Dahmer frequently targeted LGBT and African American men; Netflix had decided to list the show in their "LGBT" section, which caused quite a stir on social platforms, with no comment being given as of date.

Evan Peters deserves some accolades for his jaw-dropping performance as Dahmer.

In a recent interview with Stone Phillips, Peters noted "trying to commit to that was absolutely going to be one of the hardest things I've ever had to do in my life because I wanted it to be very authentic."

That is one that he did very well, again adding to the massive undertone given throughout.

Providing the manic stages of backlash, yet large amounts of success

that Murphy ensued, I would state that this series was exactly what it was supposed to be, though I do wish that he had paid tribute or at least spoken with those affected prior to production.

When a tragic event happens, the story needs to be told truest to itself, and that is what Murphy's series did.

This series is a must watch, hands down, and the most authentic version of the murders made to date, if not the empathetic.

While watching, you will think of *Mindhunter*, with long scenes that slowly build tension. From Peters' monotone method of speaking to the dated set design, it peaks full circle into an uncomfortable reality, and that is the beauty within it.

I do believe that this will spark many copycat productions and bring out the most in every emotion.

In the end, Peters sums up the production best: "It's called *The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, but it's not just him and his backstory: It's the repercussions, it's how society and our system failed to stop him multiple times because of racism, homophobia; it's just a tragic story."

Paul, continued

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pandemic and later earn her Master's in cyber security in the Spring of 2021.

Positions in education became open to Paul following retirements at Southeast Community College (SCC) amidst the COVID-19 epidemic.

"[My] mother is a teacher, and I never thought I could do what she does," Paul says, "I never thought I could be up in front of a group of 30 students teaching them."

But Paul, despite her introverted nature, took the opportunity to become an instructor at SCC anyways, enjoying the job and the opportunity it has given her.

Cyber Security is a subject that Paul cares about deeply. Paul can recognize attempts at social engineering, a way to influence people to make a certain decision that she claims is mostly used for negative intent like in spam emails, but she also says it can be used for good.

She was taught to inform people on how to recognize this harmful social engineering by describing its core principles.

"I took those six principles of influence and used them as the basis for creating a two-minute PSA video where the objective was to influence parents to teach their kids about cybersecurity," Paul says.

Paul has a pulse on what remains relevant in the world of computer technology. When asked what jobs in computer information technology will be in demand in the next five years, Paul gave two answers: cyber security and artificial intelligence, the latter of which may be implemented in lower-level Computer Information Technology program classes soon due to a recent grant that the Computer Information Technology program at Southeast Community College has received.

Paul says that "predictive analytics" are relevant to artificial intelligence. A workshop in Omaha Paul attend-

ed looked at roads and analyzed factors like weather and daily use to determine when roads will need to be repaired and how companies could budget for these repairs. That data can be stored in a database, then used for artificial intelligence.

The ability to collect data like this comes in handy for many of the projects that Paul works on.

For example, by comparing data from the Department of Labor and the criminal justice system's database, Paul was able to determine if prisoners were committing fraud by claiming unemployment while incarcerated.

"We sent the results to NCJIS (Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System) and they would presumably go and catch them," Paul says. "Basically, I had a hand in stopping criminals."

With the evolution of technology, Paul sees elements of our daily lives could be improved.

One example is the use of an account username and password.

"We can't seem to get away from needing those credentials," Paul says. "We've tried other methods with single sign-on but you still need at least one username and password for that to work."

For the 2022 Fall

Semester, students at Southeast Community College (SCC) will see themselves using multi-factor authentication to navigate online resources, but the fact remains that the traditional username and password system will still remain in place before all other authentications. So while Paul is grateful for the added security measures, she is looking for a more streamlined solution.

But that's why Computer Information Technology (CIT) is rewarding for Paul and the many students that take the program. Being able to adapt to and improve the systems that we use in our daily lives with technology will be a timeless skill as long as we keep using computers.

Paul says that a very important thing for students at SCC to know is that SCC has so many connections to the workforce that make it easy for a student to enter the right career for them.

"That's how I got my internship from the state of Nebraska," Paul says.

Paul says that CIT as a career path is "here to stay," and it's easy to see why. Many students, with the rise of online and virtual courses, use computer technology to store their data efficiently, submit their homework and talk to instructors.



Presley, continued

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performance degree,” she explained, “but I needed two years because I needed to give two recitals, I had most everything else transfer and I was like - Well, I’ll pick up an English degree - and that’s where I kind of went off on this path instead.”

When asked why English, her response was simple: “Because I love to read,” she replied. “I looked at literature classes as big book clubs.”

Her love of reading led to a bachelor’s degree in English before she transferred back to UNL, her first college experience, to gain her master’s degree and doctorate as well. In the process, she became the first person in her family to graduate college.

Along with a love for literature, Presley’s time in college also introduced her to some of the unpleasant aspects of American history, especially the injustices committed against Indigenous people. It was these experiences which led to her specialization.

“I grew up in a house with a lot of systemic racism kind of prevalent throughout it,” she explained. “I was taking a non-Western lit class in my undergraduate career, and we were reading various texts from Indigenous authors, and I couldn’t reconcile what

I’d been taught with what was happening in the books, specifically what was happening in the Native American boarding schools and residential schools in Canada.”

“It kind of made me start questioning things,” Presley said, “and it sent me an interest into indigenous literatures that has grown over the last 10 years into my official specialization: Ethnic Studies, Indigenous Literature and Cultures, and Great Plains Literature.”

Even though Presley is currently teaching Composition as well as writing workshops, her passion for Indigenous literature still comes into play. Her favorite book to teach is *The Jailing of Cecelia Capture* by Janet Campbell Hale, and her students tend to agree.

“It’s an Indigenous book, and at the end of all my literature classes, I ask all my students if there’s any books I should continue to teach, and that one, hands down, every single student has said I should teach it in the last five years that I’ve been teaching that class,” she said.

With her doctorate in English and specialty in Ethnic Studies, Presley could have pursued her career at any number of colleges. So why did she choose SCC?

“What I love about SCC is that I’m connecting

and able to connect to students who I very much recognize,” she offered.

“Because you know, there’s many different backgrounds and histories that I’m a part of as well. It’s given me a place to be able to be the person that I wanted to have in my life when I went back to school, or when I went to school the first time around.”

“I didn’t really have anybody to go to, I don’t even think I knew what an advisor was, let alone how to contact one,” she explained. “So the thing that I love about SCC is that it provides that opportunity. SCC has a very open, embracing and willingness to listen type of attitude that I love.”

As an old school online gamer, Presley is also a big fan of teaching online alongside in person classes.

“I love the exciting technological opportunities that teaching online has,” she explained. “I’m a gamer, so being online, communicating online, fostering online communities has been in my blood since 1999 when I first started playing *Everquest*.”

She is also expanding her online skills by taking more classes at UNL, this time in the Bachelor of Education program for structural design, technology and online learning. These classes also dovetail

with the goals of the SCC English department to come up with new and different ways to engage students online.

If a student finds themselves enrolled in one of Presley’s classes, here are a few fun facts about her to know:

She has real online gaming bona fides; she met her husband playing *Everquest 2*, and he eventually moved here to be with her – from England.

She is also a voracious reader. She once challenged herself to read 365 books in 365 days and succeeded.

She has, by her own admission, an irrational fear of dinosaurs. She has tried to keep this a secret, but people always find out somehow.

If she were only allowed to read one book over and over for the rest of her life, she would choose *The Princess Bride*.

Finally, there are those dogs mentioned at the beginning.

“I have two Corgis, a three-year-old named Bacon and a one-year-old named Eggsy,” Presley said. “I call them my breakfast club. On nice days outside, I often try to hold classes outside and bring the dogs so we can have some dog therapy time. They love people. My Corgis are my babies.”

Siems, continued

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The pathway for a student in Siems' class to become a Registered Nurse is three steps: receive a degree from the Practical Nursing program at SCC, take a test from the LPN board, then get into RN school.

This is the same pathway everyone has to do to become an RN; however, doing practical nursing through SCC takes less time so students can begin their careers sooner.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals and care facilities around the country were desperate for help. Not having enough nurses was a major problem.

Siems said, "In theory, someone who took practical nursing at SCC and completed their two-year program could have gone to work at a hospital helping during the COVID pandemic right away."

Like Siems said, the need for nurses will never go away. In her classes

this semester, she has 19 students who are getting training from someone with two decades of experience, and Siems describes the facilities at SCC Beatrice to be an "extremely high tech lab filled with everything from a real hospital all the way down to the hospital beds."

Siems followed in the footsteps of her mother who was also in the medi-

cal field.

When asked if she was following in the footsteps of her mom, Siems said she "didn't always know I was going to be in nursing, but knew I wanted to work in the medical field so that I can help people."

She also said that her father was an educator, so ending up being a teacher of medicine is the best of both worlds.

Hostetler, continued

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instructor, but she was encouraged to give it a try by one of her graduate school professors.

Hostetler explains, "I did it because one of my grad school professors recommend I give it a try."

She adds, "I was petrified at first. I loved talking to people about sociology. My professor saw my talents, and once I got into the classroom and saw the growth that happened with my students during the semester, it made me really excited."

She communicated that it is okay to change one's mind; especially post COVID 19, finding a passion is something more socially acceptable than ever. Since the pandemic many people are changing their careers, she said.

Currently residing in

Papillion, Hostetler is originally from southern California and commutes to campus every day.

The commute, she states, "gives me time to think and decompress on the way home."

Hostetler is a dog lover with three dogs that rule her household and is looking into adopting one more that she is fostering.

She also enjoys gardening in her spare time. She is an avid urban-farmer and grows pumpkins and cucumbers and started canning this year.

Hostetler advises students to advocate for themselves by communicating with everyone instructors included, not just classmates.

"Teachers and staff know what you are going through," says Hostetler. "I let my students know that they can come to talk to me about everything."

Wagner, continued

continued from page 21

asepsis compromise most of the first semester. The second semester prepares students for real surgical procedures in clinical sites.

Before visiting clinical sites in Lincoln and Omaha in the second semester, students complete competency assessment in the lab at the end of the first semester. The assessments in the first semester are check-offs to assure the students have the basic skills to help with real patients safely.

All of these processes ensure that a student enrolled in surgical technology can be ready for real human scenarios at clinical sites.

"Five to ten years ago, the job opportunities would have been fewer," Wagner added.

Now, with a global pandemic, COVID-19, the addition of outpatient surgery centers throughout Nebraska has certain-

ly added to the need for more surgical technologists.

Wagner lists two new surgical facilities in Lincoln that have been announced this year alone: the Advanced Medical Imaging surgery center on 70th street and Pioneers Blvd. and The Nebraska Neurosurgery Group Health Plaza on 27th and Old Cheney Rd..

Wagner says that while certain facilities may differ in their process, it is always important for a student to compare and learn from what works best.

And if surgical technology seems overwhelming, Wagner assures that it is a highly rewarding career.

"Being part of solving the patient's issues and being a part of seeing those immediate results and knowing you're helping someone out is fulfilling at the end of the day," Wagner explains.

Meyer, continued

continued from page 14

sociology.

She recently graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with her Master's in Sociology.

Meyer said she had some wonderful instructors in her undergraduate career that had a great influence on her becoming a teacher.

She states, "Witnessing them and knowing the impact they had on my life and changing my perspectives really helped open up my mind and being very open-minded to life."

"I think that is what made me really want to become an instructor; I want to be there for those students," Meyer stated.

Meyer has office hours for around three hours a day for students that need additional help or have any questions.

She is taking classes for training that is required for new instructors. She is also part of two committees and helps out with the girls' basketball team.

Meyer states, "I played basketball my entire life, and I also played for a couple years at Doane. I have always loved the sport and have really enjoyed helping the girls out."

"When the opportunity came about, I was happy to take it and become a part of the team," she said.

Meyer said she understands how important it is for her to be flexible for

her students. She makes time for them with her busy schedule and wants to be a resource for them.

This is her first time teaching, so she is adjusting to all the new things and learning how to help her students learn to the best of their abilities. She is working to personalize everything and make adjustments to prepare for the next semester.

She states, "I enjoy having quite a diversity within my classrooms the most. I learn so much from my students. Its not just me trying to teach them and them learning. I am learning from them as well. It's a mutual learning environment, and I really respect that."

Meyer is very appreciative of the constant support she receives from everyone on campus.

She states, "All the other instructors are always reaching out and asking if I need help or if there is anything they could do to make things a little bit easier on me. Them just relating to me is helping me a lot. I love that about the community here. They actually make you feel like you're a part of the community rather than an outsider."

When asked about the most important skills for a teacher to have, Meyer explained, "Being very technological and open minded on different things we can use is important."

She also added that

teachers should "help students engage with the material by incorporating different activities that they can get application out of, and being flexible is huge for instructors since students all have different schedules and need that flexibility."

"Communication is huge for relationships between students and instructors," she explained. "As long as you are communicating and you are both on the same page, then everything typically will find an answer."

Her biggest piece of advice to new students is being flexible and an open communicator.

She explains, "As long as you can communicate and express how you are feeling to your instructors and to other students, it will make you feel like you are being heard. Being heard on campus is one of the biggest things for a student. When your voice is heard, you feel much more respected and involved. Expressing your opinions and emotions in a respectful way goes a

long way."

Meyer has many interests outside of her career.

She is an outdoors person, so she enjoys going for walks and runs. She is also a sports fan and enjoys hanging out with friends and family.

If she is not on campus, she is with friends or family doing something outside typically.

Meyer loves how passionate and involving everyone is, especially on the Beatrice campus

She explains, "The students are absolutely amazing here. They might not be entirely interested in everything I am teaching, but we have created a rapport where the respect is mutual."

"When I see them outside of class, we will make an effort to say hi and ask how each other are doing," she said. "It's just the mutual respect that students have here that make it such a great experience."

If she could do it all over again, she says she would not change anything about her journey.



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Cash prizes are awarded to top student submissions

International Education Week, continued

continued from page 7

the library display, which also counted as one of the stamps for the passport.

Also throughout the week were digital posters featuring a “Fun Fact” about each of the countries students originate.

On Friday, Nov. 18, at noon was a drawing for winner of passport prize in the Kennedy Student Center.

In Lincoln, the Campus Store posted a display for International Education week and a local Indigenous group session was

held on Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Also on Tuesday were two presentations, “How to Lead a Study Abroad Trip” and “How to be a Student Study Abroad Participant” from 11 a.m. to noon.

The following day, the faculty and Global Education department came together to present on the Global Education award and scholarship, again from 11 a.m. to noon.

On Thursday, Nov. 17, a presentation titled “Mental Health Considerations in Asian Popula-

tions” was geared towards promoting mental health and sponsored by the Psychology and Sociology Club.

Food Truck Friday was an opportunity to explore different cultures with taste buds.

Fun with languages was also held on Friday, Nov. 18, from noon to 12:45 p.m. in room N-1.

All other events were held in room S-1 and via Zoom.

For International Education in Milford, there were passports available at the campus store, li-

brary and in the residence halls.

An international games event was held on Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the opportunity to play games and sample international candy.

Also on the Wednesday was the dodge ball world cup at 7 p.m. in the Welsh gym.

Another feature of International Week on the Milford campus French food in the cafeteria.

O’Sullivan, continued

continued from page 21

highlight thus far, she jokingly answered, “that hopefully is still to come!” before diving into the full realm.

She notes that she received the “Daisy” award while working at the Littleton Hospital. This award is given to the medical faculty that makes the biggest difference in someone’s life, usually nominated by patients or their families.

“I have the award in my office,” she explains. “It’s something that I can look at to keep me going on the hard days, knowing that I made a huge difference in someone’s life.”

Outside of the classroom, O’Sullivan is very active in the community and enjoys spending quality time with her husband and daughter. She enjoys

spending her weekends watching football, cooking, baking or crocheting.

“My weekdays can become very busy, starting my days with a workout, heading to the office for work, picking up my daughter after school, and finally enjoying what time is left in the evening before going to bed, only to do it all over again the next day,” she affirms.

“I love to take advantage of the weekends; it’s a nice break to disconnect,” she added.

O’Sullivan’s teaching philosophy can be stated almost as a piece of advice, one for a measure of good.

“Try to picture where you were a year ago and how you wanted to be where you are now, so, so badly,” she said. “You must have the same

mentality and always plan your next move.”

Looking to the future, O’Sullivan said, “I hope to connect with my students, not only in my styles of

teaching but to help them find the right path in nursing in which they can thrive. I was a student at SCC 15 years ago. Now it’s time to flip the roles.”



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