According to many news reports and information that all of us receive, it is obvious this is a time of many challenges facing our communities and our students. However, it is also a time of invigoration, new ideas, and passion to fulfill our college’s mission of improving the life of the individual student. We are wrapping up the 2010-2017 strategic plan, “Success one step at a time”, and ensuring that our college does not forget our purpose. As we enter the 40th anniversary of offering classes, it is imperative that our college’s strategic plan is visionary and includes realistic and important measures of success. We have used input from community members, students, employees, and the Board in developing the plan, and are now in the final stages of revision and formatting for distribution.

However, it is critical that our college has the ability to implement the plan during a time of constrained resources. Our college will realize double digit reductions in state appropriations this year and further reductions are likely in FY2011. Our local taxpayer investment provides the vast majority of operational funds with state aid and student tuition accounting for less than half of our operational expenditures. Our Board has been diligent in keeping the tuition rate low for our students as we strive to keep the central mission of SCCC/ATS in mind. As state aid declines and local funding and student tuition remains constant, scholarship aid and contributions to program improvement must be realized. Throughout this edition of Connections, you will read about achievements of students, alums, and departments. I encourage you to thoughtfully consider the investment in these individuals that has allowed for their success. As the year end approaches, I hope you will consider a contribution to the SCCC/ATS Foundation to enable continued success of our students and college.

The next 40 years will be exciting and, with your help, we can continue to meet our mission of improving the life of our students.

Best wishes this holiday season and I wish you well in 2010.

College develops a “Go Green. Save Green.” campaign

A part of this campaign was designed to encourage potential students to come to Seward County Community College/Area Technical school and stay for two years. Even the students who take concurrent classes while they are in high school can benefit from completing their first two years on the SCCC/ATS campus.

The savings are impressive. For example, a student who comes to SCCC/ATS and finishes at a university can save over $14,000 compared to the person who attends a four-year college for all four years. That’s enough to purchase a car.

Estimated cost of attendance at higher education institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Tuition/ Fees</th>
<th>Room/ Board</th>
<th>Est. Books</th>
<th>Sem. Total</th>
<th>Year Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Arlington</td>
<td>$4,093</td>
<td>$3,218</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$7,711</td>
<td>$15,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
<td>$3,443</td>
<td>$2,999</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$6,842</td>
<td>$13,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newman University</td>
<td>$9,600</td>
<td>$3,328</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$13,328</td>
<td>$26,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Kansas</td>
<td>$4,102</td>
<td>$4,612</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$9,114</td>
<td>$18,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge City Community College</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$2,251</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$3,626</td>
<td>$7,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seward County Community College/ Area Technical School</td>
<td>$930</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$3,430</td>
<td>$6,860</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students living in Seward County may also apply for a tuition grant, which pays for the $40 per credit hour tuition cost, leaving only the $22 per credit hour for fees.

The average cost of attending a university in Kansas is over $14,000 per year. If a student goes to that institution for four years, the bill could total over $56,000.
The May 2007 tornado that ripped through Greensburg, Kansas had a devastating effect on many different people, including Seward County Community Junior College alum Carolyn (Sears) Morton. Morton’s mother and brother lost their home in the twister that left the town of Greensburg crumbled. Now she is in her second year of trying to help rebuild what was lost and getting things back to normal.

On that unforgettable May 4, Morton was in Wichita with her mother, a Greensburg resident, watching the brewing storm on TV and internet with its sights set right on the small Kansas town. As they watched on TV terrified of the ‘what ifs’, Morton and her mother had their first look of the devastation. When the news channel showed the Greensburg hospital crushed to the ground, Morton said she knew that her mother’s house, which was just blocks away, had suffered the same fate. However, the material possession of her mother’s house was the furthest thing from Morton and her mother’s minds. They had a brother, a son, and his two boys that were in the town when the tornado hit. As the dust settled at about 1:30 a.m., Morton began to get phone calls from friends in the area and to the delight of her and her mother, had heard that someone had seen her brother Eric alive and well. As they still waited anxiously and nervously to hear the news come out of his own mouth, Morton’s phone rang around 3:30 a.m. and to her glee, her brother’s voice was on the other end of the line. While they talked for a few minutes, Morton’s mother asked her son if she still had a house, but he told her she did not. Amidst the disappointment of that, Morton and her mother understood that things could have been worse. They still had each other, they still had Eric, and the most important thing, their family was still intact.

Instead of taking the easy route by moving her mother near her in Wichita and forgetting about the devastation back in Greensburg, Morton took the path less traveled and vowed to help get the tiny town back on its feet. She took the next week off of work to help clean up the town, sift through debris, and try to maintain some order in a place with no answers. She began to help her mother recreate what was lost, building furniture and such to place in her house that was being rebuilt. Her mother lived with her for eight months while her new house was being reconstructed on the same soil that it laid before the storm. As her mother’s new home became livable, Morton took a job with the Greensburg State Bank and lived with her mother during the weekdays and returned to her home in Wichita on the weekends. Morton said she “hoped by returning to Greensburg, that she could help with rebuilding the community.” Her mother’s home has been completely rebuilt and the bank that was totally destroyed is now fully functional. How long before Greensburg is back to ‘normality’? Morton thinks probably from 5-7 years but admits that the tornado will always be in the front of people’s minds. She told of how her nephew races to the basement every time the sky clouds up; a feeling many people in the town of Greensburg surely relate to on a daily basis.

Carolyn Morton said that her time at SCCC helped mold her into who she is today. Since the college was a new institution, she had to put her trust into the school. Being able to explore helped shape her into the person she now is. She said her favorite memories of her time in Liberal were being an upperclassman two years in a row since she was in the first class at the school. She said she enjoyed pep band and yearbook and said the welcoming feeling and support that she as a student got from the community made it very easy to be a part of the first students to be here. Morton hopes that more of her classmates will join the alumni online community page on the SCCC/ATS website like she did so that everyone can get back in touch and know where each other is!
**Cosmetology students**, above, recently hosted a Glamour Girl party for Morgan Carson’s birthday. The girls wore their princess outfits and received hairstyles and makeup from the cosmetology students. The party also included refreshments and a gift bag. This is just one of the many services the Cosmetology programs provides as part of their training.

**Members** of the Rotary Group Study Exchange program, above right, from Germany spent a morning on campus touring the college facilities and learning more about community colleges. Mark Merrihew, director of information technology, center, explains the equipment it takes to run the college computers, servers and other technology on campus. From left are, Sven Sternberg, Andreas Meiners, and Gerd Gossier, team leader. The group was especially impressed with the amount of technology available on campus.

**Under the direction** of new drama instructor, Alison Bridget Chambers, the college performed the Wizard of Oz, right center, in conjunction with Oz Fest Activities in the community.

**Sheila Moffett**, above left, an SCCC/ATS graduate in the Medical Laboratory Technology program, received the Kansas Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Outstanding Student Award from Nick Zerr, KSCLS awards committee chair. The Kansas Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (KSCLS) annually recognizes outstanding clinical laboratory science students from the Kansas clinical laboratory education programs.

**Lila Hagaman**, right front, attended the 15th annual Scholarship auction, sponsored by the SCCC/ATS Foundation. Hagaman was the first employee of SCCC/ATS when it was first chartered in 1967. The auction highlighted the college’s 40th anniversary and raised over $40,000 for scholarships.
**1970s**
Marian (Dyer) Long ('71) currently teaches oil painting class for seniors in Plains. She is also involved with the Meade County Area On Aging, Young at Heart Senior Center, and is highly involved with the United Methodist Church.

Don and Caroline Kemper ('71) live in Spring, TX. Don works as a quality assurance manager for Moody International in The Woodlands, TX.

Melody Ratzlaff ('71) and her husband, Larry, live in Liberal, KS where Melody works as the assistant registrar at SCCC/ATS. The couple has two sons and two grandchildren.

**1980s**
Shawn Tobin ('81) lives in Bowdon, GA. He served in the US Army 7th Special Forces Group Airborne as a sergeant during Operation Desert Storm. Shawn currently works as the principal of Central High School.

Brad McElvain ('90) lives in Holt, MO and works as a senior analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Cory Campbell ('94) and his wife, Jamie, live in Lubbock, TX where Cory works as the director of student ministries at the LakeRidge United Methodist Church.

Geraldine Valdez ('94) and her husband, Joe, live in Amarillo, TX where Geraldine works as an office manager.

Pamela (Hebberd) Twilleger ('95) and her husband, Bill, live in Ulysses, KS. Pamela is the chief nursing officer at Stanton County Hospital in Johnson.

**2000s**
D’ana J. (Aranda) Heinlein ('00) works as a school nurse in Hutchinson, KS where she and her husband, Max, live with their three children, Carsyn, Carys, and Caiyra.

Lindsey Carter ('04) is currently a zoology graduate student at Oklahoma State University where she teaches freshman biology labs. Lindsey says that she will never forget being one of the first students to live in the new Student Living Center in 2004. She recently spoke to SCCC/ATS students about her transfer experience. Her presentation was titled, Movin’ On Up! Survival tips for the winding road from Community College to Graduate School.

DeLayna (Kirby) Oliver ('05) and her husband, Jessie, live in Plains, KS. DeLayna works in the accounting department at National Carriers in Liberal.

Charity Andrews ('06) is now living in Winfield and is a children’s case manager at Cowley County Mental Health.

Susan Hickey ('06) has recently moved to Brenham, TX where she opened a Maurice’s clothing store and works as store manager.

Theron Wilson ('07) is playing professional basketball with the Gryfony Sumferepol of the Ukrainian Basketball League.

Virginia Loewen ('09) is working as the development office secretary/bookkeeper at SCCC/ATS.

**In Memory**
Ann (Williams) Gnagy ('89), 39, of Topeka, KS died March 31, 2009 after a courageous battle with colon cancer. Ann is survived by her husband, Jeff, and sons, Bryan, Evan and Jacob.

**SCCC/ATS basketball nights**
The college takes its information and prizes to high school basketball games each year. Below is the list of high school games college personnel and students will be attending.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 5</td>
<td>Scott City @ Ulysses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Boise City @ Turpin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>Laverne @ Hooker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Greensburg @ Meade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Shattuck @ Forgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 29</td>
<td>Cimarron @ Hugothon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Balko @ Tyrone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>Springfield @ Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Leoti @ Satanta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Satanta @ Moscow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Save the date and celebrate our 40th with the final event of the year!**

**Evening Under the Stars**

dinner and entertainment

7 p.m., Saturday, May 8

center of campus,

1801 N. Kansas, Liberal, Kansas

To receive additional information, call 620-417-1125.
Former student works to save the environment

When Jason Craig stepped onto the campus of Seward County Community College in the Fall of 1988 he never expected that his life path would take him where it has led him today. Craig came to SCCC/ATS as a two-sport athlete, playing basketball and tennis under for Dale Reed and Joe Anderson. His planned major while at Seward had nothing to do with sustainability; he simply wanted to get his Associate’s in General Studies Degree and move on from there. The foundation that was built for him at the college would send him in a direction that would not only change his life, but change the lives of people everywhere with his work at the Green Quad Learning Center for Sustainable Futures.

Craig came to Liberal from Hays like many other high school graduates do, to continue their love of a sport. He had planned to go through the motions of college and see where it would lead him and that is exactly what it did. While at the college, Craig said that his everyday adventures opened his eyes to many different kinds of humanities. He credits some of his favorite teachers, Ann Judd and Lee Courtney, for pushing him to explore what could be. Eventually Craig became the Student Government President during his sophomore year and also worked in the President’s Office, not knowing that both would help him in what he would be doing nearly 20 years later.

Now Craig is the assistant director of the University of South Carolina’s Green Quad Learning Center for Sustainable Futures where he helps coordinate events and educate others on environmental stewardship along with many other things associated with helping protect the Earth and the impacts of our decisions on it. He started working with the learning center as a student at USC as he was getting his master’s degree. He became increasingly aware of the different issues that it attempted to educate about, decided to join in on the battle to spread awareness there. He said that one of the center’s main goals is to educate the campus and the public on the three legs of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental. Recently Craig helped organize and put into action an Earth Summit at USC where a day was set aside to put together a plan of initiatives to help make USC a more sustainable place and try to enact a plan to help reduce carbon footprints.

When Craig was asked about things that each and every one of us can do on a daily basis to help the environment, he said “just to realize that every decision that we make has an impact one way or another on the environment. Think about the impact that your decision makes and try to make a decision that will benefit rather than harm the environment.”

To learn more about sustainability or to see what events are coming up at the learn-

Jason Craig and his wife, Marybeth, are pictured at Paynes Prairie, a preserve state park near Gainesville, Florida.

Forty years of supporting the college and its foundation

People move in and out of Liberal. Students. Donors. Employees. But there are some who never forget the time they spent in Liberal or their belief in Seward County Community College/Area Technical School and the value of higher education.

Two of those people are John and Georgia Jacobson who lived in Liberal in the seventies and eighties. Georgia was a member of the SCCC Board of Trustees from 1979-87. John established National Beef Packing Co. in 1968 and was the chief executive officer. Both were great contributors to both Liberal and the college. They donated their time to a variety of services and organizations in Liberal and they gave financial support as well. Forty years later, they still are giving to the college. Their most recent contribution of $25,000 was added to the John and Georgia Jacobson Scholarship.

The Jacobson family established National Beef in Liberal in 1968 and National Carriers as a contract carrier to service National Beef. Early on the Jacobsons showed their commitment by bringing businesses to Liberal that would employ a large number of people. What they started, continues to be an important part of the Liberal economy.

In 1980, employees of National Beef honored John Jacobson by establishing a scholarship in his name. The scholarship was later renamed the John and Georgia Jacobson Scholarship. The couple continues to support this fund that benefits National Beef, National Carriers or Supreme Feeders employees and their children who attend SCCC/ATS.

In addition, the Jacobsons established the Jacobson Georgia Jacobson Professional Development Fund to benefit college employees through professional growth and development, such as attending conferences and taking classes toward a higher degree.

“Above everything else, we believe in education,” said Georgia. “We started businesses in Liberal and we lived in Liberal for many years, becoming a part of that community. The college has always been a very important part of the Liberal community. It has helped students achieve a certain success they would not have without this college. We will always have a very special place in our hearts for Liberal and the college.”

Very recently, John celebrated his 99th birthday with family and friends and “we were reminiscing about Liberal and the good memories we have of that area.” They are especially remembering their time spent here with their son and daughter-in-law, John and Trudy Jacobson.

John still enjoys bridge and golfing. Georgia still enjoys bridge and volunteer work. While in Liberal, she volunteered at Southwest Guidance Center. Her most re-
**SAINTS ATHLETICS NEWS**

**Volleyball**

The Lady Saints Volleyball team finished 26-11 this season and won its first conference title since 2003 with a Jayhawk West Conference record of 11-1 this season. After starting the season unranked in the NJCAA top 30 poll, the Lady Saints climbed to #9 in the country and finished the year ranked 14th in the nation. Their season ended in the Region VI Tournament where they dropped a 5-set match to rival Pratt in the tournament’s final four.

The Lady Saints started its season 5-0 at the Lamar Runnin’ Lopes Classic where they defeated national tournament participant Seminole State as well as knocking off 19th ranked Laramie County twice. Seward started conference play at 11-1 overall as they hosted Garden City in a match that they would hardly break a sweat in to move to 1-0.

Once again this year, the Lady Saints wore pink camouflaged uniforms when they played Hutch to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer. Before the match began the Lady Saints honored Jo Velasquez, a two-time survivor of the disease to serve-up their first serve of the night and at the end of the match both teams signed the ball and presented it to her.

Seward finished conference play winning their final three matches and would be crowned Jayhawk West Conference Champions in front of their largest crowd of the year on sophomore recognition night in the Greenhouse. Now needing just three wins in the Region VI Tournament to reach their ultimate goal, the Lady Saints had their eyes on the prize, a trip to the national tournament.

Unfortunately all fairy tales don’t come to a happy ending in real life and the Lady Saints picked the wrong time to struggle. They lost their first two matches in the Region VI Tournament and went home in 4th place, ending what was otherwise a great season for them.

Diana Castrillon and Sheina Fernandes were named First Team All-Conference and Lindsey Miller and LaKendra Sanders were named Second Team for the second consecutive year. Head Coach Bert Lual was voted the Jayhawk West Coach of the Year and both Castrillon and Fernandes are being considered for NJCAA All-American honors.

**Basketball**

The basketball teams opened their 2009-10 season at home with the Pepsi Classic on November 6-7. The Lady Saints were picked by their Jayhawk West foes to finish second behind defending Region VI champions Hutchinson beat Seward by two points in the Region VI final a season ago.

The Lady Saints return six players off last season’s 28-6 squad including Rachel Barnes, Megan Lassley, Vaneza Junior, Nadia Rosario, Sheila Washington, and Liz Ginther. Barnes returns as one of the best players in the conference after averaging 13.1 points 7.6 rebounds, and 3.5 steals per game as a freshman while Lassley returns as one of the West’s top point guards following a freshman season in which she scored 9.3 points and dished out 4.4 assists per contest. Junior returns to Liberal much improved from a season ago in which she put up over 7 points per game while shooting 47 percent from the field. Rosario is back on the court following a knee injury. Washington will help stabilize the back court this season after a freshman year in which she played in all 34 games averaging 3.6 points, 2.6 rebounds, and 2.4 assists per contest. Ginther returns as one of the better 3-point shooters on the team.

Four freshman join the fold this season including guards Kendra Spresser, Hoxie, Kansas; Morgan Skomal, Haven; and Tameka Sanchez, Liberal, and forward Sumr Robinett, Sublette.

The Saints opened the season ranked as high as fifth in some publications and are picked to win the conference by their peers.

Seward is led by arguably the best returning group of sophomores in the country as the Saints bring back over 70 percent of their scoring on a team that finished second in the region a season ago putting up over 85 points per contest on the scoreboard. Latiq Agard, Tony Smith, Marcus James, Jon Tassin, and Robert Sigala lead a Seward bunch that finished 23-9 last season. Agard returns from a season ending knee injury as a preseason Second Team All-American following a year in which he led the conference in scoring at 21.5 points a game as well as ripping down 7.1 rebounds and shooting 66 percent from the floor in 14 games. Smith, a Fifth Team preseason All-American pick from Sporting News Magazine, comes back to run the point after dazzling onlookers last season with 14 points, 6 assists, and 3 steals per contest as a freshman. James had an All-Conference freshman year in which he averaged 12.3 points and 5.4 rebounds a game including a 29 point 14 rebound affair against Dodge City midway through the season. Tassin put up 7.8 points and 4.2 rebounds a game and impressed as an on-ball defender at 6’8 with over 2 steals per game. Sigala averaged just 3.1 points and 1.8 assists as a freshman but fans can expect that number to vault this season as
New changes to area tech school

The college has made a number of changes at its area technical school and many of the more recent changes have been made under Dr. Bud Smithson, who is the new director of the area technical school.

The biggest change has been with changing perceptions of not only the staff, but its students as well. “I’ve used the phrase ‘more than paint’ to describe some of the changes,” Smithson said. “We have new energy-efficient windows, new tile in the hallways and new paint on the walls. As you look deeper you will see a general “clean-up” of unused spaces, converting some to usable classrooms and meeting spaces.”

The tech school has also added some additional equipment to its programs and has begun the process to get all of the transportation programs—Auto, Diesel and Auto Body—certified by the NATEF organization.

“By making some program, facility and conceptual changes we have begun to focus our faculty, students and employers from immediate needs to a focus on the future. As we continue to build our programs, our primary goal is to develop skills among our students for employment. By doing a quality job with our instruction, we hope to become a strong economic incentive to existing employers as well as future industries by demonstrating our ability to provide a good source of solid employees.”

Another plan is to develop the programs and facilities with a cluster format to allow similar, related trades to work together in their training program, just like they will encounter when they gain employment. This change will require some facility changes and has the potential to be a catalyst for improving existing programs and developing new programs to meet needs of our community and region.

The tech school is also providing a connection to additional education for students who desire to continue their education. “Our students’ first focus is finding employment in a field that they enjoy, but by joining forces with SCCC, we can now offer a direct connection to an AAS degree,” Smithson said. “This connection makes our graduates even more enticing to potential employers but also provides a better-prepared workforce to our industries.”

A Kansas Works program now provides connections to employment and benefits at the tech school, while the presence of the Colvin Adult Learning Center provides high school equivalency testing and English as a Second Language programs. These are just a few ways “we are meeting our goal of improving and enhancing the lives of our students and communities.”

Smithson has had a variety of jobs to prepare him for his new position. He was a high school drafting instructor, a distance learning instructor working with higher education occupations in the engineering, construction and manufacturing industries, a drafter working with home designers and cabinet shops, a project leader with a company that manufactured cabinets for the Dillard stores and with a virtual company, where he prepared estimates for welding projects. He was also an assistant director at Eastern Oklahoma AVTS in Choctaw, Okla. He attended Indian Capital Area Vocational-Technical School in Muskogee, Okla., while in high school and received his bachelor’s from Northeastern State in Tahlequah, Okla., and his master’s and doctorate from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, by taking courses while he worked as an instructor and administrator.

Dr. Bud Smithson, left, the new director of the area technical school gave board members Jo Ann Sharp and Dr. Steve Cauble a tour of the “cleaned up facilities.”
CLASS NOTES REPORT FORM

This form is for your convenience in sending news about yourself, your family or other alumni. Let us know of any changes in occupation, recent honors or degrees earned, marriages, births, memories of Seward County Community College and other news of interest. We want to hear from you. Please send us a photo of yourself if you have one. You may also log on to alumni.sccc.edu and submit your information.

Name __________________________________________ Maiden name __________________ Year of graduation ______

Address __________________________________________ __________________________ New address? ☐

Spouse __________________________ Did your spouse graduate from SCCC/ATS? ___ Year __________

Phone __________________________ Email address __________________________ Present occupation/title __________________________

Colleges now attending __________________________________________

Children names/ages __________________________________________

Current activities/awards __________________________________________

Memories of SCCC/ATS __________________________________________

Mail form to Director of Development, Seward County Community College/Area Technical School, PO Box 1137, Liberal, KS 67905-1137

Attention parents: If you are receiving the SCCC/ATS Alumni News addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at this address, please use this form to notify us of his or her present address.

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY TODAY
alumni.sccc.edu
It’s free and your opportunity to reconnect with the SCCC/ATS community and your former classmates.