

THE BEACON



Volume 1, Issue 1, October 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

There are many changes at the Seacoast School of Technology beyond the \$8.5 million renovation, officially completed on June 30, 2009. One of them is this newsletter. Formerly known as *SST Today*, the name is being changed to *The Beacon*. A beacon is a light that guides, much as the programs of the Seacoast School of Technology guide students toward bright and rewarding careers. A beacon can be seen in the School's lighthouse logo. There are countless adults who, like beacons, guide our students. Some of them are faculty members and some are volunteers. A few of these important adults are recognized throughout this newsletter, along with other exciting things that are happening at this wonderful school. You should know:

- Steve Baum, a member of the Culinary Arts Advisory Board, donated \$12,000 to the Culinary Arts program for the purchase of a Point-of-Sale System. This technology, essential for all Culinary Arts students, has not been available at SST until now. After a great deal of research, teacher Jim Collins, has decided to purchase the same system used at schools such as Johnson & Wales, as well as, many fine dining establishments. Mr. Baum also donated a television with a video hook-up to the program. We thank Mr. Baum for his overwhelming generosity and confidence in the Culinary Arts program.
- Paul Marcoux has been recognized as the Seacoast School of Technology's first *Champion for Children*. A huge supporter of the Animal & Plant Science program and the FFA, Mr. Marcoux has given countless days, nights and weekends over the past 17 years! Whether loading up storage trailers prior to renovation, unloading trailers and organizing the classroom, shop and greenhouse after the renovation, helping to create the FFA float for the Exeter Holiday Parade, building shelves and closets, hanging banners from the rafters or digging and installing the pond in the greenhouse and attending the Big E year after year, his dedication and commitment of time and talent is unsurpassed. Paul Marcoux is the husband of Animal & Plant Science teacher, Anne DeMarco.
- The Biotechnology program welcomes new teacher, Courtney Wrenn. Ms. Wrenn has an undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Dartmouth College and a graduate degree in Biology from the University of Massachusetts. She worked many years in the biotechnology industry and has several years' experience teaching high school Biotechnology.
- New Hampshire Partners in Education has recognized SST as a Blue Ribbon School for the 08/09 school year. This award was earned because of the impressive number of volunteers that work with us. In fact, there are currently 714 individuals from local businesses and industry who work with our programs. Our school has never earned this distinction before. We are proud of it and grateful to those who support us in so many ways.

The Seacoast School of Technology is a regional career and technical center serving Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional and Winnacunnet High Schools.

- New Hampshire Partners in Education has recognized SST as a Gold Circle Award Winner because of the specific contributions of the following volunteers: Exeter Area New Car Dealers' Association and Sue McFarland Moynahan and Doug Miles; Dr. Phil Hatcher and the Computer Sciences Department at the University of New Hampshire; Carolyn Holt and Trundle Bed Farm; John Conrad and Maine Oxy; Alfred Thompson and Microsoft; Cheryl and Bill Arsenault and EmbroidMe; Lisa Caron, R.N. and the Rockingham County Home; Judy Merrill and Stuart's Dairy Farm; Tom Petot and Tom O'Gorman and the Exeter Inn. These are but a few of the hundreds of local businesses that support SST by: serving on advisory committees; providing job shadows; speaking to classes; participating in the Business Roundtable; giving advice; providing internships; serving as mentors; donating equipment and attending networking brunches.
- Culinary Arts Advisory Board Chair, Denise Landis, was nominated as the 2008-09 New Hampshire Partners in Education Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Landis has been the catalyst behind the organization and strength of the Culinary Arts Advisory Board which has raised a significant amount of money for the program, primarily through the Wine Auction Gala. She also provided funding for field trips to Chinatown and Dole & Bailey, was responsible for nearly \$1,000 in outside knife donations, was a weekly patron in the restaurant and attended all evening events. Most recently, Ms. Landis secured a donation from KitchenAid of eight mixers valued at \$400 each.
- Summer Camps for Middle School Students were a tremendous success. Nearly 110 middle school students from schools throughout the region attended nine different camps taught by our teachers. Each camp related to one of the programs offered at SST. Summer Camps will happen again with sign-up opportunities coming available in the spring.
- Pre-Engineering and Computer Programming teacher, Vaso Partinoudi, spent two intense weeks at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute earning her credentials to teach the Project Lead the Way engineering course, Introduction to Engineering Design. Ms. Partinoudi holds two masters' degrees in Engineering and presented her findings on a recent water study at three international conferences last year.
- We are pleased to offer an after-hours English class once again this year. Taught by Dr. Joyce Robinson, Language, Literature and Technology is a great way for students to earn English credit if they have fallen behind. Interested students or parents should contact us for more information.
- Welding Technologies teacher, Jonathan Theberge, updated his OSHA certification for Construction Industry Trainers over the summer. Students in his program and Building Construction Technologies have the opportunity to earn 10-hour Construction Safety Cards. His training included: implementing an effective safety and health program; World Wide Web compliance assistance; most frequently cited violations; hearing conservation policies; work zone issues; ethics and training techniques.
- Math is a focus in each of our programs. In fact, our teachers received national recognition in an article entitled *The Value of Math-in-CTE*. Featured in *Techniques*, the national journal for the Association of Career & Technical Educators, the emphasis of math in all programs and the collegiality among teachers at SST in sharing and developing math lessons was highlighted on the national stage. It has been found that students who are part of Math-in-CTE often score better than others on standardized tests because they have a relevant context in which to solve math problems instead of just relying on memorization of equations.

- A new Micro-Turbine will be installed in the boiler room at the Seacoast School of Technology. Along with solar panels at Exeter High School, the entire project, which is headed up by Capstone, should save SAU 16 about \$500,000 over the next ten years. Students from Pre-Engineering, Welding Technologies and Building Construction Technologies will be involved with this project.
- Technology Careers teacher, Andy Andersen, attended the Six-State Agricultural Teachers' conference in Plymouth, Massachusetts over the summer. In addition to learning about invasive plant species and national tractor safety training, highlights of the conference included a reunion with former SST Animal & Plant Science student, Melanie Sanborn, who is now teaching her own agriculture program in Pennsylvania. Mr. Andersen also served as a judge for the National Proficiency Awards for the upcoming National FFA convention. His summer work connected him with teachers and students from each of the lower forty-eight states.
- Health Sciences students, under the guidance of teacher Linda Cutler, recently gave a presentation to all SST students on flu prevention. Proper hand washing and hand-sanitizing practices were the focus of the presentation. Students also learned proper ways to cough and sneeze so as to minimize the spreading of germs.
- Automotive Technologies teacher, Sean King, spent his summer taking courses, supervising student interns and working as a technician to ensure his skills stay sharp and current.
- The vision of having the facilities and equipment at SST available to all people in the region year round is beginning to happen. In addition to Summer Camps for Middle School students, collaboration with the Great Bay Community College (GBCC) has produced the first GBCC class offered at SST – Small Engine Repair. Look for more GBCC courses to be offered at SST such as ASE training in the automotive technologies building. Welding classes for adults through the Exeter Community Center for the Arts (ECCA) are in their second year. Exeter Adult Education uses SST rooms for classes such as computer applications, yoga and culinary arts.
- Teacher Resource Counselor, Pat Brinkley, attended a conference over the summer which focused on the transition of high school students with autism to the world of work or post-secondary education. Ms. Brinkley is instrumental in assisting with successful transitions from high school for many of our challenged students.
- Community service plays a large role at the Seacoast School of Technology. Nowhere is it more evident than in the Animal and Plant Science program and teacher, Anne DeMarco, spent her summer doing just that. She volunteered at the Sagamore Animal Hospital in Rye, worked a week managing Cobbler Hill Farm while the barn manager was on vacation and volunteered as a 4H judge at the Stratham Fair. She also developed curriculum for a course she is teaching at the University of New Hampshire this semester called Youth Organizations.
- SST welcomes new Teaching Assistant, Stacey Beaulieu. Ms. Beaulieu earned an associate's degree from Dean College and a bachelor's degree from Salem State College. She has ten years experience working with students with special needs. Ms. Beaulieu is the varsity girls' lacrosse and the junior varsity field hockey coach at Triton Regional High School.

- Equity Counselor, Maryann Wortley, attended a conference conducted by the National Institute for Women in Trades, Technology & Science. The conference focused on strategies and best practices for recruiting and retaining females in technology. Ms. Wortley was invited to be a ‘guest lecturer’ for a graduate class at UNH (Psychology of Career and Personal Development) to talk about middle and high school career development. She also completed an online class, Introduction to Teaching ESL/EFL, to better support and assist the ESL students at SST. Finally, as a volunteer with the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team, she co-facilitated group activities with NHANG military youths whose parents were to be deployed to Iraq at the end of August.
- Marketing Education teacher, Sandra Flannigan and Culinary Arts teacher, Jim Collins, spent a week focusing on Math-in-CTE. They were joined by their “math partners” Steve Latvis from Winnacunnet and Mike Shore from Exeter High School. Career & Technical teachers from around the state attended this event hosted by SST. Trainers from the National Center for Research of Career & Technical Education at the University of Louisville led the sessions.
- Congratulations to Digital Communications teacher, Kristine Groleau. Ms. Groleau and her students recently produced a video highlighting the programs of the Seacoast School of Technology. Students were responsible of all aspects of production from scheduling to filming to editing. The video will be used as a marketing tool. Ms. Groleau’s program is also responsible for designing the cover page of *The Beacon*.
- For the second summer in a row, Career Advisor, Marilyn Kellogg, spearheaded a multicultural camp experience focused on facilitating friendships and understanding of cultural differences among local children and children from other countries. The influx of immigrant and refugee families to New Hampshire has made this opportunity possible. Ms. Kellogg’s vision of peace through understanding is one that is easy to embrace. Additionally, Ms. Kellogg was recently named Exeter Rotarian of the Year.
- Taking a world language is essential for all students. Whether on a construction site as the supervisor of a non-English speaking crew, working as a nurse caring for a patient who speaks only Spanish or collaborating on an Engineering project with a virtual team from China, knowledge of a foreign language is a critical skill in all career fields.

I hope this letter has given you a glimpse into the continuing education and service SST teachers are involved with during the few short weeks of summer. You may also better understand the very significant impact volunteers have on each program at the School. We are indeed fortunate.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan
Principal

SEACOAST SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY
2009-2010
IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, October 12	NO SCHOOL/Columbus Day
Wednesday, October 14	Internship Reception, 6:00 pm Automotive/Building/Welding/Biotech
Thursday, October 15	Julia's Restaurant Opening 12:30-1:30 pm Reservations Required
Friday, October 30	1 st Quarter Grades Close
Wednesday, November 4	SST Business Roundtable, 5:00-9:00 pm
Wednesday, November 11	NO SCHOOL/Veteran's Day
Friday, November 20	SST College Fair, 7:45 am – 1:30 pm
November 25, 26, 27	Thanksgiving Recess
Thursday, December 3	HOSA Santa Spaghetti Supper, 5:30 pm
December 17 & 18	SST Mid-Term Exams/Mandatory
Thursday, May 29	*SST Certificate Ceremony, 5:30 pm Arthur Hanson Performing Arts Center Exeter High School
Wednesday, June 2	*SST Certificate Ceremony, 5:30 pm Arthur Hanson Performing Arts Center Exeter High School

*Contingent upon sending school graduations