Applied science degree helping fill assistant positions

Wednesday is National Administrative Professionals Day

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON - With National Administrative Professionals week being celebrated across the nation next week, a local instructor at Southeastern Community College is showcasing a program that's aimed at helping traditional and non-traditional students find spots in the workplace.

Trisha Hopper, who teaches the administrative professional programs at the community college in West Burlington, is looking for the traditional and non-traditional students who are looking for a quicker path into, or back out of, the workforce.

The programs are two-year degree programs called Associates of Applied Science degrees. The degrees give students hands-on practical skills that put them in positions to excel at office jobs that have ever-increasing demand.

The immediate benefit of the program is the cost. Hopper said tuition at the college is very low at $174 per credit hour. Base tuition at some four-year schools in the state is at least twice that rate and nearing $1,200 per hour for out of state students.

Hopper said students can be in the workforce before they graduate or immediately after, making money instead of spending it on two more years of schooling. Entry level

As part of their instruction in computer software management, Hopper’s class is currently building a cookbook to help practice integrating software application.

Out with the old...

Construction crews pull down the former HTC elementary school in West Point Friday morning, Dennis Menke, the project chairman is show at bottom right.

The following story was written by one of my readers, Janet Swaby, from Unionville, Iowa. Janet, after reading the story I wrote about our bucket calf, Blossom, couldn’t resist telling me about their bucket calf, Lucky. And I couldn’t resist sharing Lucky’s story with you.

Don’t assume that the butcher shop is the only ending for a bucket calf. Our favorite bucket calf was Lucky. She was a “first twin.” Many times, when a cow has twins, she will only claim the second one born. (This is because cows initially identify their calves by smell, and the second one born has the most recent smell.) Our son, who was in high school at the time, found Lucky abandoned in the pasture and brought her home on his shoulders. He built a pen for Lucky next to my vegetable garden and trained her to a bottle.

Lucky thrived. When summer arrived, I’d come out to my garden to find that my Roma tomato plants had been eaten down—with a pile of green tomatoes lying on the ground. Lucky would eat the foliage and spit out the tomatoes. I guess the pen was built a little too close to the garden!

We eventually put Lucky in with the other dozen heifers we were keeping back for our herd. It was a big day when we brought home the bull we’d bought for those heifers. Those girls looked like they were at a junior high dance where just one boy had shown up.

All the heifers clustered around the new bull to check him out, each hoping she’d be his “dance partner.” All except Lucky. She came over to our son to nuzzle him and see if he’d brought her an ear of corn. I’m not sure she knew she was a cow.

Lucky stayed in our herd for years. She was amazing—more like a pony than a cow—and would let our grandkids ride her, something we’d never, ever try with any other cow!

Lucky would follow us anywhere, which made the other cows follow as well—(something very handy to have when you’re trying to move the herd from one location to another.)

Lucky got over her shyness of The Bull and had
OBITUARIES

PATRICK GEORGE MARTIN

Patrick George Martin, 88, of Nauvoo, IL, passed away on Thursday, April 19, 2018, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL. He was born June 20, 1929, in Warsaw, IL, the son of George D. and Myrtle A. (Roth) Martin. On March 31, 1951, Patrick was united in marriage to Betty L. Pitford in Warsaw, IL. She survives. Patrick graduated from Warsaw High School in Warsaw, IL, and attended the University of Illinois in Galesburg. He was of the Christian faith. Patrick was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Korean War as a Sergeant First Class. His years of employment included Sheaffer Pen, iron construction, dairy farming, and MMC Enterprises.

He is survived by two sons, Patrick W. (Kandy) Martin of Keokuk and Dennis L. (Penny) Martin of Keokuk; fourteen grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; three brothers-in-law; four sisters-in-law; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and two sisters; one daughter, Constance Blum.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday with the family meeting with friends at the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA. There will be no visitation. Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Obituaries

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

OBITUARIES

MARJORIE KATHRYN TEMPLETON

Marjorie Kathryn Templeton, 95 of Strongsville, OH, formerly of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, April 19, 2018 at the Southwest Residential Hospice in Strongsville, OH.

She was born September 1, 1922 in Smithshire, IL, the daughter of Elmer and Fenella Downes Cooper. On June 6, 1943 she was united in marriage to Elvin Templeton in Kahoka, MO. He preceded her in death on June 22, 2013 after seventy years of marriage.

Marjorie graduated from Roseville High School in Roseville, IL. She then furthered her education and graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, IA with a Bachelor’s degree and later went on to Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL where she attained a Master’s degree.

Marjorie first began her teaching career as an elementary teacher in rural Lee County, IA schools. She had been employed by the Keokuk Community School district for twenty-eight years as a third grade teacher, with a total of thirty-five years of teaching in all her teaching career.

She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority during her college years. She later became a member of Sandusky Methodist Church where she had served on the church board and was the liturgist on Sunday mornings. She had been the president of Sandusky Lady’s Aid for twenty-three years and also participated in the Friendship Circle. She was a member of the Retired Teachers and was a life member of N.E.A., I.S.E.A and P.T.A. Most recently, Marjorie had also been attending the Cowboy Church with friends on Tuesday nights in Wayland, MO.

Marjorie is survived by two daughters, Jean Hagmeier (Rodger) of Strongsville, OH and Shirley Hively of Joplin, MO, one son, James B. Templeton (Ashely) of Sarasota, FL, six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, one brother, Kenneth Cooper of Marengo, IL and four nieces and cousins. She was also preceded in death by her parents, one son-in-law, and one niece. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA, with Pastor Dawn Butler officiating. Burial will be in the Hickory Grove Cemetery rural Keokuk.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Sandusky United Methodist Church.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.
jobs for those with this AAS degree are often near $14 in the private sector with fast potential for promotions and pay increases. Some other jobs have a higher starting wage, but it's a trade off for working days and having weekends off,” said Lee.

Hopper believes there is a misconception about the AAS degree. “The general public might not understand that an AAS degree is similar an old school vo-tech degree, or vocational degree. Some people don’t realize that SCC also has apprenticeship programs that are also along those lines.”

She said another benefit of the program is the recent push by the state for employers to create apprenticeships. The state is looking at tax credits for employers who have apprenticeship programs that turn into full-time positions.

“It’s an extension of the traditional internship,” Hopper said. “Except companies would come in and look for people that fit their needs, and then they are normally employed automatically upon graduation.”

Hopper said her classes are a great fit for people who enjoy the thought of working in an office environment, but aren’t quite sure exactly what type of job they can do. The classes help students explore a variety of opportunities and pin-point their goals.

“This program gives students a wide array of skills that they can take with them to many jobs. The goal of the program is not necessarily to be a long-term secretary, but it’s the launch pad for a lot of careers in business.”

She said her pipeline is young moms and people whose last kid are entering school, and also, students who started down a different path before they discovered how cost-effective and convenient it is to get a business degree at SCC.

“Although I would love to have more high school graduates in the program, high schools are not always the pipeline. That’s kind of the problem, the college wants us to go to the high schools and we do that, but so many of them want to go to that four-year school. What happens is they go to the university, they don’t do as well as they planned, it’s not what they expected, they’re homesick, or whatever reason and they come home. Then reality hits and they look again at SCC with fresh eyes. I’d just like to knock that middle part out and see them come to SCC in the first place. Tessa Warth, a student from Burlington, who’s in the program who said the knowledge she’s gained so far has helped her build the confidence she needed to open her own business.

“I actually just opened a hair salon in Burlington,” Warth said. “I got everything I needed from SCC to do that. You don’t only take office classes, you learn to be a better professional. You learn about business, communications - you learn accounting, ethics and not just for an office, but a business setting. I didn’t get the confidence to open my own salon until this last semester.”

Warth said the class also boosts the students resumes to the top of the pile.

“I just went to an interview and I was at the very top of the list. Not always do these employers ask for the degree, but just the confidence you have going is a huge deal. And you don’t need the training other candidates may have. So the employer saves money and you don’t stress. You just don’t put a price on that.”

Anna Gaul of Burlington said she found the simplicity of paying for the classes and the flexibility make it great fit for her.

“I’m a returning student. I decided to retrain and focus after high school and one in college and had a good paying job but cuts happened. Then here I am with all this experience, but I don’t have that degree that so many are looking for.

She said the school’s payment plan helped pay for tuition and she said that helped her get through the first year and then the second year she was able to get grants and scholarships to help offset the costs.

Catay Marek said the program has allowed her to retrain and refocus after being out of school for a couple years.

“I was originally a high school student who came to SCC after high school. My first year I was going for a medical assistant, but realized it wasn’t what I wanted and I didn’t know what I wanted so I left for a couple years and then came back.”

Marek said she moved back to be closer to her family who is a veteran and could help her with some benefits to help pay for school. As a former employee with Marshall’s in Tennessee she saw first hand how those with these types of degrees can move ahead faster.

“There was part of the employment above the management that required degrees. I didn’t feel confident in going to school down there so I came back here. It was stressful trying to find a place where I wanted to grow as an adult. When I saw this, I realized it was time to get with the program.”

Marek works with the Burlington Family Practice medical office in Burlington and said if she had gone to work there directly she wouldn’t have had the credentials she does now.

“Our school is in medical office in Burlington and said if she had gone to work there directly she wouldn’t have had the credentials she does now.

“Here I got the idea that I can move up if I get the opportunity, I know what I need to do because of this program.”

Marek said the degree program requires 220 hours of internship work. She said that really helps students understand the work and whether or not, it’s a fit for them.

“I think this is the only business program that requires an internship,” she said. “That makes you get your foot in the door, and then you can find out for yourself in that scene if you like it or not.”

Hopper said the program also puts the students head and shoulders above other candidates when it comes to office software programs like Microsoft and Excel.

“I just talked with an employer who said everyone says they know Excel, and they think they do, but they don’t. These students have had four semesters of it so they know it,” she said.

Gaul said the program has shown her what she thought she knew as an employee that she really didn’t.

“With my years of experience in the field, when I came back here I learned more than I thought I knew. And I learned the easier shortcuts that I didn’t know before.”

Warth said Hopper maintains solid relationships with the area work force and that’s a benefit in and of itself.

“Mrs. Hopper breaks her back trying to maintain good relationships with people in town,” she said. “The last interview I went to, the employer had so much confidence in her and what she’s teaching and that carried a lot of weight with them.”

Hopper said employers in the area have been contacting her looking for students and she said she just hasn’t had enough in her classes to send them potential employees.

Students or people thinking about returning to school can get more information on the program at www.facebook.com/sc-cadmiprofessional/. Students can message Hopper through the Facebook Messenger or by email at thopper@scciowa.edu.

From the Front

Degree puts students back in workforce

SCC instructor Trisha Hopper answers questions Friday in her Administrative Professionals class. This week is National Administrative Professionals Day.

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Bloodhound girls win

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON - The Fort Madison girls tennis team got back on the winning track Friday night with a 7-2 win over Burlington on the road.

The Hounds were close to a full sweep of the meet, but the Grayhounds’ Emily Bloomer knocked off Katie Larson at No. 1 7-9 and the doubles team of Mallory Pohren and Rachel Mason knocked off Kearstyn Johnson and Larissa Ferrill 6-8.

At No. 2 singles sophomore Mihó Shiraizy rolled to an easy win over BHS senior Grace Breuer 8-2. Johnson knocked off Moose at No. 3 singles 8-3, and Ferrill shut out Pohren 8-0.

At No. 5, Mercedes Doty downed Jillian Bolander 8-3 and Lanie Kuntz got by Jadeen Reed 8-6 at No. 6 singles.

Boys fall to unbeaten WB-ND

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - No. 1 seed Sam Avery won in singles and doubles as the Bloodhounds hosted West Burlington-No. 1 Notre Dame on Thursday, but FMHS fell 3-6 in the meet to fall to 2-3 on the season.

Avery beat Travis Willis in a tiebreaker on the No. 1 court. Avery won the first set 4-6, but returned the favor in the second set with a 6-4 win and then took the tiebreaker 10-8.

At No. 2 Austin Krueger battled Quinn Koelker to a 7-6 win in the first set by sealing a 7-5 set tiebreaker. Krueger then won 6-3 in the second set to end the match.

CJ Dupuy gave Jason Thurman his first loss of the year after Thurman took the first set 6-3. Dupuy battled back with a 6-3 win in the second set and handled the tiebreaker 7-5.

Masin Shullaw blanked the Hounds’ No. 4 player Blake Feuerhammer 6-0, 6-0 and then Jacob Fritz handed Vasin Thurman a 6-0 beating in the first set at No. 5. Thurman was able to win the second set 6-4, but dropped the first to 10 tiebreaker 3-10.

At No. 6 singles, Dylan McElderry rolled over the Hounds’ Gage Hind 6-1, 6-0.

In doubles action Avery/Krueger downed Willis/Dupuy 6-3 in the first set but dropped a 7-5 second set before winning a 10-5 tiebreaker for what would be the Hounds’ last win of the day. Koelker/Shullaw handed the Thurman brothers a 6-4, 6-4 loss at No. 2 doubles and Fritz/McElderry downed Feuerhammer/Hind 6-3, 6-2.

Bucket calf lives out life on farm

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

a calf just about every year, including a number of sets of twins. Lucky never abandoned a twin, she was a terrific mother! We tried to keep Lucky’s heifer calves in the herd, hoping her genetics and wonderful disposition would carry on. We think they did. Our son just called, all excited.

Some years ago, we decided that Lucky would die of old age on the farm—that we’d never cull her from the herd, whether she passed her pregnancy test or not. At last count, she was 18 years old.

When friends and family visit our farm, their most memorable experience is usually with Lucky. Lucky died last week. Rest in peace old girl, in bovine heaven. Your experience is usually with family visit our farm, their most memorable experience is usually with Lucky.

When friends and family visit our farm, their most memorable experience is usually with Lucky. Lucky died last week. Rest in peace old girl, in bovine heaven. Your memory lives on.

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Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt’s stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.
PUBLIC NOTICES

Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
AGENDA
DATE: TUESDAY,
April 24, 2018
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 250th Street,
Montrose, IA
AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Consider Approval of
Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Board Minutes
Consider Approval of
Claims
Public Input
Consider Approval of
IDOT Agreement for
Traffic Safety Improvement
Program Funding for W62
(Angyle Road) from US 61
to 340th Street, Agree-
ment #2018-TS-001
Consider Approval of
Midwest Construction
Consultants’ Services for
Jail Showers and Kitchen
Remodel
Consider Approval of
Wellmark Renewal Con-
sider Approval of MetLife
Renewal Personnel
Actions:
A. Step In-
crease-Health Depart-
ment
B. Step Increase-Trea-
surer’s Office
Reports:
A. Manure Management
Annual Update for Dob-
son Farms in Van Buren
County
Commission or
Committee Reports
Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING -
CITIZENS WELCOME
Workshop to follow
Vision and hearing
assistance available
upon request. Citizens
are welcome to all LCCB
meetings.

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
April 23, 2018
6:00 P.M.
Finance: Young /
Wondra
AGENDA
I. Call meeting to order and
determination of a
quorum
II. Recognition of guests
III. Reading of Founda-
tion documents
IV. Monthly communica-
tions
A. Student Rep Report
  - Ayse Schmidt
B. Curriculum Comer -
  no report
C. “Did You Know?”
D. Superintendent Goal
  Report
E. District Presentations
1. Southeast Iowa con-
  ference update
2. High School score-
  board project - Tony
  Johnson, Josh Denning
  and Bob Huffman
V. Approve the agenda
VI. Consent Agenda
A. Minutes
  1. March 19, 2018,
     public hearing
  2. March 19, 2018,
     regular meeting
  3. April 9, 2018, public
     hearing (1)
  4. April 9, 2018, public
     hearing (2)
  5. April 9, 2018, special
     meeting
  6. April 9, 2018, work
     session
B. Financial reports
  1. March Balance Sheet
  2. March Revenue
  3. March Revenue
     Summary
  4. Expenditure report
  5. Student Activity
     Expenditure Report
  6. Student Activity
     Account Board Bills for
     Approval
  7. Student Activity
     Account Board Bills for
     Approval
  8. Nutrition Account
     Nutrition Account Board
     Bills for Approval
  9. Nutrition Account
     Nutrition Account Board
     Bills for Approval
  10. Student Activity
     Account Board Bills for
     Approval
  11. Student Activity
     Account Board Bills for
     Approval
  12. Superintendents
     Hearing (2)

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