



Pictured, from top left: Virginia Guneyli, Director of International Student Services, Laurie Bernardy, International Student Support Specialist/ DSO, Daniel Perez, Jahmar Stinchcombe, and Christopher Tadeo.

ISS Department promises multi-cultural experiences for students

As the newly-appointed director of St. Charles Community College's International Student Services (ISS) Department, part of Virginia Guneyli's job is to recruit students from all over the world to attend SCC. The department is under the purview of Dave Leenhouts, the new vice president for student services, and promises to increase enrollment, add diversity to the student body and benefit the wider community.

Guneyli joins her associate, Laurie Bernardy, international student specialist, who has been at SCC for 18 years. Bernardy's experience includes years as a designated student officer (DSO) and expertise in intake, advising and delivery of support services.

Guneyli is a former English professor with a background in world literature and ESL instruction and has extensive experience abroad herself – she has lived in Mexico and Turkey and can relate to incoming international students. She possesses experience in program development, partnerships, recruiting, and academics.

Bucking a national trend which saw foreign student enrollment drop by 7% in 2017 and another 3% in 2018, SCC has increased international student

enrollment approximately 20% since last year.

Guneyli credits the success of SCC's International Program's to its status as a "best fit" for a wider audience of students, including those previously unable to attend and pay for the premium tuitions charged to international students at most four-year American universities.

"For international students," Guneyli said, "St. Charles Community College offers a transformative, quality educational experience that's affordable."

"The region is filled with great four-year colleges, and SCC has conditional admission agreements with many of these institutions, including Lindenwood, Missouri State, Mizzou, Fontbonne and Missouri Valley," she said. "Students are automatically granted conditional admission to these institutions by enrolling at SCC, and SCC credits transfer with ease."

The ISS Department's mission is focused on each individual student as they seek a degree or certificate that enables them to transfer or join the workforce, but its role spans beyond recruiting and aims to make the entire international student experience easier and more seamless.

"Imagine an incoming student from another country, thinking, 'What is the

community like? Where will I live? I have no driver's license, no credit history, and no income. How will I arrange for even basic things before I even arrive on campus?' It's our job to guide students through the registration and academic advising process," said Guneyli, "as well as help them navigate through a different culture and in a different language, whether those students are coming to SCC or they are going abroad to study."

Study abroad programs – where students live and study abroad for a full semester and receive course credits from St. Charles Community College – are also part of the ISS mission. Guneyli is busy managing two: a 14-week study abroad in Canterbury, England, at Canterbury Christ Church University (offered in partnership with the Missouri Consortium of Global Education) and a 17-week program at Institute of Technology Carlow near Dublin, Ireland. Prospective students and their families can meet Donal McCalistair – from Institute of Technology Carlow – and learn about the 17-week program at the open house at 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15, in the Daniel J. Conoyer Social Sciences Building.

"Taking a different path to higher education in the U.S. is attractive to many international families," Guneyli said. "Students can live in a desirable location near our beautiful and safe suburban campus and will now be able to take advantage of our new student housing – available beginning Dec. 1. For international students uncertain of their academic path or just beginning it, our International Program at SCC opens a lot of doors. For our domestic students, the presence of international students offers diversity that fulfills the college mission and enriches their educational experience."

For more information, contact Guneyli at 636-922-8617 or vguneyli@stchas.edu.



“Welcome Back” sets stage for Fall 2019

News from the state, budget updates and new faces were front and center at the Faculty Welcome event held Aug. 15 to commemorate the start of the fall 2019 semester.

The morning kicked off with a musical “Welcome Back” video followed by an introduction of Dave Leenhouts, SCC’s new vice president for student services. College President, Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., then provided an update from the Missouri Community College Association and the state funding outlook for the upcoming legislative session. After reviewing portions of the new SCC Strategic Plan, she turned the tables and administered a quiz that tested knowledge of our students. Kavalier concluded on the value of culture and bridging the gap between what we say we do and what we do. Next, a video introduced new employees, connecting names to faces on campus.

Highlights of the budget and facilities by Todd Galbierz, vice president for administrative services/COO, included the annual funding breakdown, a brighter enrollment outlook for fall and a review of construction projects including an update on Student Housing.

Vice presidents John Bookstaver, Ph.D., and Heather McDorman previewed the timeline for the activities surrounding the college’s accreditation preparations and self-study efforts.

The morning concluded with a report by Betsy Schneider, executive director of the SCC Foundation and special assistant to the president, who gave an overview of an increased distributions in scholarships and campus enhancements, the Employee Sponsored Program and a brief update on plans for a college capital campaign.



Human Services Program approved for new credential

Starting in December 2019, graduates from St. Charles Community College’s Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) program in Human Services can be considered for social work positions that typically require a four-year degree. The decision affects the hiring practices of a broad coalition of mental health providers across the state. Traditionally, the Missouri Department of Mental Health requires a bachelor’s degree to fill critical positions like community behavior support specialists – frontline case workers in the mental health system.



SHOUT OUT to the Grounds Department for this beauty behind the FAB building.

“Employers found that the staff they needed for these positions were hard to find and weren’t staying in the position for long once they were hired,” said Sylvia Malta, LCSW, MSW and associate professor of human services at SCC. “These positions require employees to work one-on-one with their clients in challenging environments. After some research, the Department of Mental Health saw that those employees with associate degrees can do the job just as well or better and tend to stick around longer.”

SCC has approximately 70-75 students in the program and graduates roughly 10-12 each semester, helping to fill a widening personnel gap in the market.

“What many of the agencies that staff for these positions have asked me is: ‘How many people can you send us?’” Malta said.

The credentialing will give SCC students the chance to qualify for these positions and earn as much as if they held a bachelor’s degree – up to \$17 per hour.

“This change offers our graduates increased salary, increased marketability, fills a critical skill and personnel gap and helps service an underserved patient population. There are a lot of hurting people out there, and our graduates can help them get the mental health services they need,” Malta said.

SCC celebrates the success of the Foundation



With SCC Foundation President, Scott Liebel, Betsy Schneider, executive director of the Foundation, thanks donors and Board members for their support.

The annual Foundation Celebration was held July 16 at Whitmoor Country Club where scholarship donors, Foundation Board members and SCC faculty, staff and administrators celebrated the Foundation’s achievements for the 2018-19 year.

Betsy Schneider, executive director of the Foundation and special assistant to the president, emceed the event that celebrated the impact supporters made this year. She offered gratitude to the Board for awarding \$100,000 in student scholarships and \$135,000 in academic and program enhancements to support the college mission.

“We really appreciate the support and encouragement people give to our students through their gifts,” said Schneider.

Following remarks from SCC President Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., the Foundation Board President Scott Liebel recognized board members for their commitment.

Student scholarship recipients Drew Bowdish and Magda Carbajal thanked guests for helping provide their scholarships. Micah Humphreys, associate professor of agriculture, discussed how funding supported the addition of beehives for SCC’s new Agriculture Department.

The 2018-19 academic and program enhancements made possible by proceeds raised at events and by individuals and corporations include:

2019 Foundation-funded grants

- All-in-one student sign-in computers
- Academic advising registration lab
- Beehives for agriculture
- Computer headsets with microphones
- English as a Second Language materials
- Guest speakers for Democracy Days
- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectrometer upgrade
- Professional development subscription
- Water refilling stations for Center for Healthy Living

2019 privately-funded grants

- Automatic digital blood pressure machine
- Computer numerically controlled router for Workforce Development Manufacturing Industrial Training
- Laparoscopic simulator
- Math tournament
- Molecular puzzles for biology
- Phlebotomy trainers
- Piano class video equipment
- Resuscitation manikin trainers

Welcome Week events

Welcome Week was Aug. 19-23 and featured popsicles, lemonade, music from SCC Symphonic Orchestra and more!



SCC launches new NJCAA cross country, track and field program for 2019-20

Starting this fall, St. Charles Community College will launch its first ever NJCAA-sanctioned, Division III cross country/track and field program for the 2019-20 school year. This new athletics program offers unique opportunities for scholar-athletes to compete with regional talent while pursuing their two-year degree.

“St. Charles has a great track record supporting athletics and have had four programs competing at Division I,” SCC athletics director Tim Brix said, “but one of the reasons I took this job was the opportunity to build up programs from scratch. Cross country/

track and field was a great starting point. At Division III, we can build up the program, assist enrollment and keep talented athletes competitive. For students who were on the fence for being selected by Division I schools and scholarships, this is a great option. It allows them to stay active and competitive in the sport they love, get a degree and it provides great exposure to high school talent who may have been previously overlooked. At St. Charles Community College, they’ll have a chance to be seen by four-year Division I schools.”

The program will be led by Jacob Sundberg, who prior to starting at St. Charles Community College was an assistant cross country coach at Lake Forest College (Ill.). While at Lake Forest he helped maintain the team’s overall ranking – 3rd for women and

5th for men – within the Midwest Conference and coached four individual All-Conference finishers.

“Our mission,” Brix said, “is to get talented student athletes into our program to get better, hone their skills and then graduate with an A.A. degree to help them move onto the next level, whether that’s a scholarship at a Division I school or just moving onto a four-year degree.”

The college will be hosting the 2019 Region 16 NJCAA cross country championships against Mineral Area College Friday, Oct. 25.

“This will be a great opportunity to see our local talent and have other schools, parents and students visit the campus and see the great stuff we’re doing here,” Brix said.

For more information, contact Timothy Brix at tbrix@stchas.edu.

Inaugural event recognizes service of recent retirees

A celebration was in order, and a celebration it was, as 40 faculty and staff were celebrated on Friday, Aug. 16, as recent retirees from SCC were invited to a new event honoring the college’s long-serving team members.

The Retiree Reception was held at Whitmoor Country Club and included a brief program led by SCC President Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., and Board of Trustees President Pamela Cilek, that recognized the honorees for the years of dedicated service.

The retirees, who concluded their service in the 2018-19 year, were feted by SCC faculty and staff, as well as their family and friends.

The following individuals were included recognized and included in the celebration:

Fay Aubuchon, Dennis Battern, Judy Bauer, Linda Branch, Mary Jane Chadwick, Calvin Chandler, Susan Define, Kathy Drews, Joy Dufraim, Rand Dull, Mary Jo Grimm,

Janice Hackney, Marvin Hardin, Joseph Hartnett, Patricia Haynes, Karen Jones, William Kristen, Michael Kuelker, Tom LaFata, Carol Limpert, Jie Lin, Ernestine Love, Patricia McDermott, Terrance Moore, Lori Nash, Margaret O’Dea, Jane O’Donnell, Vicki Remington, Christine Romer, Jean Rose, John Schatz, Lisa Seidler, Becky Slawson, James Sparks, Louise Tannehill, Victoria Teson, Stephanie Tolson, Curtis VanGeison, Ellen Wilson and Jody Witt.



Dr. Barbara Kavalier (left), SCC president, and Pamela Cilek, SCC Board president, congratulate Jie Lin on her recent retirement.

President hosts SGA leaders to kick-off new year

Leadership of many types had lunch together on Monday, Aug. 20.

The President’s Office hosted a lunch that included student leaders and President Barbara Kavalier, Ph.D., and Board President Pamela Cilek.

“It was a pleasure spending time with such dedicated students,” Kavalier said. “I have no doubt that they will accomplish great things this year and will be of great service to their fellow students. I look forward to working with them.”



Pictured, from left: Pamela Cilek, SCC Board president; Katie Montanaro, SGA treasurer; Grey Rische, SGA president; Fernanda Pasillas Napoles, SGA vice president; Sophia Calignaoan, SGA secretary; and Rachel Verbeck, SGA parliamentarian; Dr. Barbara Kavalier, SCC president; and, Betsy Schneider, executive director of the SCC Foundation and special assistant to the president.

**BE EXTRAORDINARY.
BE SCC.**