



DECEMBER 2006

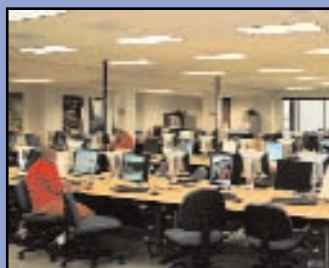
Dispatch

DAKOTA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

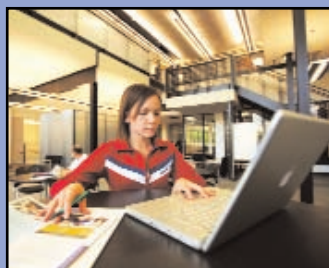
LATEST BONDING PROJECT PHOTOS:



Newly remodeled west end



Newly remodeled Flex Lab



A student enjoys the west lounge area



DAKOTA COUNTY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The DCTC Dispatch is a publication of the Office of the President. Editor for this publication is Erin Larsen. If you have story ideas or questions, write or call erin.larsen@dctc.edu or 651-423-8233.

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COLLEGE PROPERTY RETURNED...30 YEARS LATER

After 30 years, Louise Knippel has returned a piece of college property that was supposed to have been returned in 1976.

Louise, an 86-year-old former student and graduate of Dakota County Area Vocational-Technical Institute, recently sent a note via mail to what is now known as DCTC. She was returning her student ID from 1976, which clearly stated on the back that it was the property of the college and was to be returned.

Intrigued by her note, DCTC initiated an exchange of letters, phone calls and visits to get to know more about Louise Knippel and her DCTC story.


Louise grew up near Owatonna, Minn. and completed ninth grade at Mantorville High School before accepting her first full-time job at age 16.

Married in 1941 at age 21, and widowed suddenly 16 years later, Louise was left to raise four sons on her own – ages 15, 11, 5 and 14 months – working various domestic jobs to provide for her family until her children were grown.

At the age 56, after her youngest son had finished coursework at Ridgewater College in Willmar, Louise decided it was her turn to complete her education. She remembered enjoying home economics classes at Mantorville High School and decided to enroll in the new Interior Design program at Dakota County Area Vocational-Technical Institute (now DCTC). Louise would graduate with honors in 1978, as part of DCTC's very first Interior Design class.

Since then, Louise has worked a variety of jobs – some because she had to, some because she wanted to, some that used her technical training, some that didn't. She has raised four sons and enjoys 12 grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and has traveled to Europe, Germany, and Canada.

Most recently, Louise retired and will be spending more time focusing on her new passion - writing. Having written her aunt's biography, her husband's biography and her own autobiography, she has a good start in recording all of the rich and interesting history of her family.

DCTC is happy to have been a slice in Louise's history, as well as the history of others as they pursue their education and career goals. 



Louise Knippel returned her 1976 student I.D.



A large crowd of individuals from the DCTC community greeted Biker Bob

BIKER BOB MAKES ANNUAL VISIT TO DCTC

On Sept. 21, Biker Bob was greeted by a crowd of 60 faculty, staff, and students and presented with a check for \$5200 for his scholarship fund.

Biker Bob's stop at DCTC was one of the last on his 53-campus tour, which raised a total of \$31,015 to aid part-time students this year.

The bike tour is now in its fifth year and Robert 'Biker Bob' Erickson, a former Minnesota State Colleges and Universities trustee, has raised more than \$290,000 to date.



Congratulations to Biker Bob, and thank you to all the DCTC faculty, staff, and students who contributed to the bike tour. 




EXHIBIT HONORED

This past summer, the DCTC Landscape and Horticulture program developed an installation titled *Voice of the Willows* that was selected as one of 20 exhibits for the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Secret Garden exhibition. Just recently, faculty and students learned that their installation was voted one of the favorites by visitors.

In an informal poll, DCTC's *Voice of the Willows* ranked third in popularity. The director of the exhibition noted that this result was particularly impressive considering that DCTC's exhibit was placed in the farthest reaches of the Arboretum. 

COLLISION REPAIR PROGRAM ASE APPROVED

In late September, DCTC received notification from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) that the Collision Repair and Refinish training program 'continues to meet the standards of quality education as certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence.'

The program instructors also received compliments on the concern and hard work directed at automotive educational needs at DCTC, made evident by the high quality of the program. 

DCTC AWARDED GRANT FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

The Institute for Community College Development (ICCD) has awarded Dakota County Technical College Associate Dean of Business and Entrepreneurship Christine Pigsley a \$5,000 Applied Research Grant to collaborate with non-profit micro-enterprise organizations to design programs for women entrepreneurs. 

Campus Success

COLLEGE AWARDED \$1.33 MILLION IN MJSP GRANTS

Dakota County Technical College was recently awarded four Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) grants totaling \$1.33 million to provide training to employees at area businesses.

A grant with Amerilab Technology for \$309,411 will train 235 employees in supervisory skills for frontline supervisors, quality skills for lab technicians, FEDA good manufacturing practices for machine operators, automation skills for maintenance technicians, and English as a second language.

An award of \$300,000 to Foldcraft will train 344 employees in supervisory skills, Auto CAD, lean manufacturing, process management software, and English as a second language.

Frontier Communications received a grant totaling \$328,190 to train 300 employees in customer service and sales skills for call center staff, safety, wireless and new technologies for

technicians, leadership, and English as a second language.

The fourth MJSP grant went to Swift Transportation in the amount of \$397,000 to train 200 individuals in a three-week CDL training program with direct placement to the company.

"We are very proud of our relationships with the Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership, business, and industry. DCTC strives to provide the kinds of training the market is demanding, and MJSP grants are one way that we do that. I am thrilled that we have this opportunity and look forward to seeing the results," said DCTC President Dr. Ron Thomas.

DCTC coordinators for the grant are Larry Raddatz (Amerilab), Pat McQuillan (Foldcraft), Antar Salim (Frontier), and Mark LaMere (Swift).

CONCRETE MASONRY STUDENTS DONATE TIME, LABOR TO LAKEVILLE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT

Four new towers have been erected at the Lakeville Veteran's Memorial thanks to donated labor from students in the DCTC Concrete Masonry program.

The towers were necessary in order to provide a base for a canopy that will enclose a F56 Saber jet that was in service during the Vietnam War. It took the students nearly 75 man-hours in late October to complete the work.

Completed, the four towers are made up of 8", 12", and 16" concrete blocks that are adhered with about two tons of mortar. The blocks were stocked on scaffolding and manually lifted into place on the tower.

Total, the structure contains 624 blocks laid by hand, each weighing between 35 and 65 pounds, and is core-filled with 12 cubic yards of grout.

"The guys did a great job on the project. We do a lot of different concrete work in the community and donate the time and labor. The experiences we have are good for everyone involved," said DCTC instructor Paul Geisler.

Be sure to head to Lakeville to check out the work these dedicated students and their instructor did on this project.



The team works to construct the four towers that will serve as a base for a canopy that will enclose a F56 Saber jet used during the Vietnam War.



The team, from left to right: Jason Anders, Matt Mulcahy, Alex Raway, Sam Billmeier, Bill Sagissor, DCTC Concrete Masonry instructor Paul Geisler, TJ Lawrence, and Blake Winchell.

Students and Alumni

DEAN REHPOHL USES DCTC CLASS TO BRANCH OUT

When Dean Rehphol's 17-year-old freelance business designing corporate presentations and creating animated product demonstrations took a hard hit following 9/11, he knew he was going to have to branch out his creative skills for additional income. The question was, how?

To begin with, Rehphol took a job as an art teacher at New Life Academy in Woodbury. For two years, he worked with the students and found himself inspired by the learning environment and hands-on approach that his computer design work had lacked.

Knowing that he wanted to work with metals, Rehphol made the decision to enroll in a welding class offered at DCTC after learning about it from a friend.

While attending the class, Rehphol inquired to the instructor about using a gas torch and found it to be his preferred sculpting tool.

After his class at DCTC, Rehphol began putting his newly acquired skills into practice, dabbling and welding together a few human figures. Then,



Dean Rehphol at work in his Cottage Grove shop.

inspired by the diversity of Minnesota's trees, Rehphol began experimenting with small-scale, welded trees and taking them to art shows. People reacted to the sculptures with enthusiasm, and it became clear that Rehphol had an idea with potential.



"People were really interested in the sculptures and thought they very unique," said Rehphol.

Because of the unique nature of his work, Rehphol was limited in finding inspiration from other artists. That is, until he created a black olive tree for a member of the Minnesota Bonsai Association and found their practices to be very similar to his.

When building a tree, Rehphol uses his oxy-acetylene torch, diamond-encrusted stone saw, and his hammer and anvil. The piece usually begins with 22-gauge sheet metal formed to create a trunk and 'grows' through the addition of rods that get increasingly smaller as they are added. Depending on the complexity, the pieces can take several days to several weeks to complete, with some having more than 2200 welds.

"I have only been working with trees for the past three years, but the way that I sculpt and the designs have evolved a lot. And, I am interested in possibly taking another class and doing larger-scale pieces," said Rehphol.

To learn more, visit his Web site at www.r-tree.com.



Presentation of the check and DVD player to Trinity Nursing Home

STUDENT SENATE REPLACES DVD PLAYER STOLEN FROM NURSING HOME

In the same week that Farmington's Trinity Care Center used donated funds to purchase a new DVD player for its residents, the DVD player was stolen. And in the same week of the purchase and theft of the DVD player, Jean Dresch, vice president of DCTC Student Senate and a nursing student, paid a visit to the Trinity Care Center looking for ways that DCTC Student Senate could get involved with the community.

While Dresch's original intention had been to participate in a service activity at the care center, her plans changed after hearing about the stolen DVD player during a conversation with Trinity Care Center's activities and volunteer services director, Joy Brand.

"After Joy told me about the stolen DVD player, I knew that they would not be able to replace it unless they received another donation. They have a wonderful facility, and replacing the DVD player seemed like one way we could help them out," said Dresch.

The DCTC Student Senate members set about the job of seeking donations, and their expectations were exceeded. The Senate members not only collected a number of items from local businesses and individuals for a silent auction on campus, but the Apple Valley Best Buy donated a Philips DVD player.

On Wednesday, Sept. 20, the DCTC Student Senate was able to present Trinity Care Center with the new DVD player, along with a \$200 check to be used for resident activity funding.

"During winter, we bring in entertainment for the residents and also provide gifts during the holidays for our residents that don't have family. This money will be able to help with those activities," said Brand. "We just can't thank DCTC enough."

SECOND ANNUAL LITERARY AWARD RECIPIENTS SELECTED

Three DCTC students were recognized during the second annual Literary Awards, which honors students for outstanding writing.

Glenntisha Davis, an Applied Visual Arts major, Priscilla Sowah, a Practical Nursing major, and Architectural Technology major Jeffrey Murphy all received the award, which DCTC uses as a way to recognize that successful careers require excellent written and oral communications.

Nominations for the award are based on faculty recommendations to a committee as they grade student essays. The faculty member submitting

the nomination informs the student, asking them to resubmit their paper for consideration. The committee makes the final decision concerning who will receive the awards.



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2006 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER SEASONS CLOSE

Facing the most challenging schedule in its three-year history, the DCTC men's soccer program managed to move up the ranks, finishing 10-11-1.

The 2006 men consisted of 14 freshmen out of its 27-man squad, with hopes of building through stronger recruiting efforts next year.

The women's soccer team finished the 2006 season with an overall record of 4-10-2. With nine returning starters, the Blue Knights hope to make progress towards a second regional championship in the program's four-year history.

Watch for all the latest on the Blue Knights at www.goblueknights.com. 