



the VISION

The Publication for Southeastern Community College Friends and Alumni

Fall 2008

HYBRID AUTO CLASS GETS GREEN LIGHT Auto Technology program boosts performance with new car

Well before \$4 gas reared its ugly head this summer, SCC's Automotive Technology program was revving up students for new green car technology. Now in its second year, SCC's Hybrid Fundamentals class is off to an excellent start.

Jayson Bethurem, SCC Automotive Technology instructor, says that due to the increase of hybrid vehicles on the road, demand for technicians who know how to repair and maintain them is increasing.

"Students who understand hybrids are very sought after right now. New car dealers, independent car dealers, service centers, and auto parts dealers all want people with hybrid experience," says Bethurem.

SCC began designing its hybrid automotive technology program last year with the purchase of its first hybrid, a Toyota Prius. The vehicle, along with specialized diagnostic and maintenance equipment, was purchased in 2007 with Federal Perkins Grant funds.

Bethurem says the current Hybrid Fundamentals class takes students through intensive training in hybrid-specific components and systems. Students enter the class in their last semester after learning



SCC Auto Tech students with new hybrid vehicle components the ins and outs of standard vehicles.

"A hybrid is different from standard cars but most of its technology is essentially the same. We want them to master the automotive technology core product before they move on to the advanced hybrid

see Hybrids on page 4

FROM SMALL TOWN TO TINSELTOWN, AND BACK AGAIN Emmy Award winner's family calls Iowa home

Chances are, there is a drawer somewhere in your house with the moniker, "junk drawer." It is probably filled with everything you haven't taken the time to throw away: long-forgotten birthday cards, expired pizza coupons, pens that don't write, dead batteries, dog-eared phone books, and much, much more. However one junk drawer in the Great River Region is uniquely different.

Root through the junk drawer at SCC alumni Kenny and Suzie (Stein) Gorrell's house in Donnellson, IA and

you're in for a few surprises.

"I think I have a signed glossy photo of Mel Gibson somewhere in this drawer. Yup, here it is."

Instantly, Suzie emerges with a signed, glossy photo of Mel Gibson that reads, "Kenny, Best wishes. Mel."

"I've got more stuff down in the basement," Suzie adds.

In a flash, she returns with a box of photos of Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Russell Crowe, Cindy Crawford, Keith Richards, John Wayne, even 90's rapper, M.C. Hammer – all personally

see Tinseltown on page 6



SCC Alum Kenny Gorrell and his Emmy

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The colors of the season



Autumn is arguably one of Mother Nature's most beautiful creations, full of intense color and sweeping beauty. One only needs to travel through this wonderful region of ours to experience the spectacular vistas of our countryside awash in brilliant reds, oranges, and greens, or to take in the golden richness of yet another bountiful harvest covering our rolling hills.

Just as we all share in the colorful sights of autumn, so now do we share the colorful stories of some of SCC's featured students and alumni. In this edition of the Vision, past, present and future intersect right here at SCC. Learn how a few alumni are bringing the best of Hollywood back home to Iowa, how our

students learn green technology for today's world, how memories of past students will live on through future scholarships, and more.

I am continually amazed by how the Great River Region overwhelmingly supports SCC in word and deed. It is humbling to see that so many people throughout the region recognize the vital role that SCC plays in providing opportunities for growth and prosperity for everyone. Community support is manifested in so many ways including your continued financial investment in SCC through our newly-formed President's Circle and the recently passed six cent instructional equipment levy. Everyone here at the college values your confidence and trust in us. You

know that we will put your investment to good use so that current and future students can get the best education possible without ever having to leave our back yard.

When our weather turns to the silvers and whites of winter, let the heart-warming stories of our students and alumni keep the home fires glowing. Let us also look forward to spring as we help yet another generation of students whose stories of success and good fortune add to the rich, colorful landscape of our region

Dr. Beverly Simone

RESIDENTS APPROVE SIX-CENT INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT LEVY

In September of this year, residents in the Great River Region voted to help thousands of current and future SCC students get the best education possible by approving a new six-cent instructional equipment levy. This levy will provide \$180,000 annually for critically-needed modern teaching and learning technology, and classroom tools.

These funds will enable SCC to purchase equipment and technology directly related to teaching and instruction. Examples include visual and performing arts teaching, hybrid automotive technology, fire science equipment, robotic and advanced welding stations, science and health lab equipment, and interactive classroom devices.

SCC Vice President of Teaching and Learning Verlyn Fick says that \$90,000 is currently available to the college annually for equipment purchases, yet the price tag of total instructional technology requests is well over \$1,000,000 each year. This new funding will now essentially triple available dollars to help SCC shrink its technology needs gap.

"Our faculty does an excellent job teaching our students with the resources we currently have, so this money will really go a long way for us," says Fick.

With an average semester tuition at SCC of \$1,725 (the fourth lowest in the state), SCC is clearly one of the best values in education available to our Great River Region's residents. Still, over 83% of SCC's 3300 students receive some sort of financial assistance to help pay for the rising cost of college. Equipment purchased with six-cent levy funding will help SCC continue to provide a quality education while simultaneously keeping college costs as low as possible for students.

Fick says that regardless of their educational goals, each and every SCC student benefits from the use of instructional technology. Whether students plan to transfer to four-year colleges or train for high-demand careers right here, instructional technology plays a vital role.

Fick points out that career programs that are heavily dependent on equipment will benefit most.

"It's not uncommon for one piece of equipment to cost tens of thousands of dollars. With this new money, hopefully we can start chipping away at some of these items a little faster," says Fick.

The funds will become available to SCC beginning in July 2009. The levy will be in place until 2019.



Electronics students study circuitry
The Vision

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY COMES TO KEOKUK CAMPUS

Earlier this year Southeastern Community College brought together a number of local government, business and industry leaders to discuss some of the most pressing workforce needs now and in the years ahead.

“The message that came out of those meetings was workforce skills development,” says SCC’s Vice President of Teaching and Learning Verlyn Fick.

The college’s answer to address these needs was the creation of a new Industrial Technology program on SCC’s Keokuk campus.

Once the college committed to begin the Industrial Technology program, first on the list was to find the right person to develop and launch the program. This summer the college hired Andy Snaadt to do just that. Snaadt comes to the college with 12 years

of experience the manufacturing industry and understands first-hand the needs of area employers.

“Andy is a great person to lead the program. He’s got an excellent manufacturing background and has the contacts with area industry to cultivate the partnerships that will allow the college and industry to work together.”

Fick says that the college is still recruiting representatives from area industry to serve as members of an advisory committee that will work with the college on an ongoing basis to evaluate the progress of the program and help assess the program’s needs.

“Our graduates need to have the skills to hit the ground running once they enter the workforce. We value our industry partners’

input and insight.”

Fick says that components of the program will include modules and classes in applied electrical maintenance, mechanical maintenance, and assembly and production concepts. In addition to these customized modules, the college will incorporate renewable energy components such as wind energy technology.

“Wind energy is very much a growing industry and we will continue to see a demand for workers with these specialized skill sets for the foreseeable future.”

The full program is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009. Certain short-term modules and a select number of full-semester classes are set to begin in the spring.



Snaadt



Krumtinger



Santiago



Ure

SCC RECEIVES \$2 MILLION TO HELP STUDENT SUCCESS

The early morning phone call startled her. “How does \$2,000,000 over five years sound?” the staffer from Senator Harkin’s office asked Jan Wolbers, SCC Director of Institutional Grants. It was July 7, 2008, a full six months after she submitted a 50-page proposal to the U.S. Department of Education. With the College’s 20-year history of nearly annual applications to improve its developmental education and retention programs, the USDE had finally smiled upon southeast Iowa. “It sounds fabulous!” she replied.

The project, entitled “Making Good on the Promise of the Open Door: Transforming Instructional Programs and Student Support Services” will rely on at least five new employees. The first three came on board November 10 and include David Ure, Activity Coordinator/Learning Specialist, Deborah Krumtinger, Instructional Designer, and Lisa

Santiago, Student Tracking Specialist. The project will include Writing and Math Lab Specialists to be hired in January 2009, plus release time for faculty members to redesign curriculum as needed, and adult tutors.

The intent is to design, pilot, test and evaluate activities that will improve the success of the College’s diverse, underprepared, at-risk and non-traditional student population. The College will increase student success, as measured by course completions, transition from developmental to college-level courses, fall-to-fall retention, and graduation rates, through improved advising, competency-based curriculum modifications, and greater use of technology for improved learning and student support.

For more information on this grant funded project, contact David Ure at 319-208-5291.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 40,000 students attended SCC's open enrollment or continuing education classes over the last three years.

In 2000, 52 SCC students took a college class online. In 2007, enrollments topped 1000.

Since 1920, SCC and its preceding institutions (BJC, BCC, KCC) have graduated nearly 100,000 area students.

90% of SCC grads find jobs within one year. 80% will find jobs in their fields of study.

English as a Second Language (ESL) students have grown by 300% since 2003.

President's Circle Growing

"Somebody was kind enough to spend their money to educate people that they would never get to know. That's what I think philanthropy is all about." - Lee Iacocca

Such philanthropy is alive and well in the Great River Region. Five generous donors, including Jerry Courtney, Moudy Nabulsi, Charles E. Walsh, Paul Dennison, and Mary Moore and John Schuldt recently joined President Beverly Simone as members of the newly-created President's Circle.

The President's Circle exists to recruit like-minded individuals to help fulfill the mission of the College through financial support. Persons can become Charter Members of the newly-created President's Circle by gifting \$2,500 to SCC annually.

President's Circle funds are used to address the most pressing needs of the College such as instructional equipment, facilities upgrades and operating costs challenges. Wherever there are great needs, President's Circle funds will be there to help.

Members will come together at least once a year to share opinions and ideas about Southeastern Community College with President Simone and learn how President's Circle funds are helping to make a difference.

Persons interested in learning more about the President's Circle are invited to contact Dr. Beverly Simone at 319-208-5051 or send an email to bsimone@scciowa.edu.

Hybrids continued from cover

technology. That's why we put this class at the end of the program – so we can just focus on the hybrid aspects," notes Bethurem.

Bethurem adds that SCC's strong relationships with area partners help keep the program up to date. He says that some partners even help make sure instructors stay current with industry trends and technology by ensuring they receive proper training directly from auto makers.

"We're really fortunate to have such strong relationships with businesses. One of our most active partners is Deery Brothers in West Burlington. They played a big part in helping us get the hybrid program up and running."

There are opportunities for significant growth and expansion of SCC's hybrid technology offerings in the short and long term according to Bethurem.

"Right now we're only teaching our full-time day students. There's definitely a demand for this kind of training by people already working in the field. We're planning to offer this as an evening program in the next year or so."

Bethurem says he'd like the College to eventually purchase hybrid vehicles made by Ford, Honda, and GM so that students can learn the full breadth of hybrid technology.

He admits though, that goal is a few years away.

"There's a lot we can do with the Prius we have now. We're not going to outgrow it any time soon. But knowledge of hybrid systems will eventually become an expected part of any program. Our automotive students will need to have the same understanding of hybrid technology as they will internal combustion engines."



Auto Tech instructor Wes Carpenter talks about the hybrid vehicle's smart key technology

NEW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LONG-TIME EDUCATOR DEBI KINNEY

The loss of a loved one can bring about great sadness. Sometimes it may feel as though the sorrow might never end. One way that can help alleviate the pain of loss is to create a legacy for our loved one by doing something in their name to effect positive change.

Consider Debi Kinney. Debi worked as a teacher for 32 years. She graduated from SCC and went on to earn her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Western Illinois University. Her last wish was to create a scholarship at SCC for students intending to major in Education,

The SCC Foundation has been fortunate enough to help many people fulfill such wishes. Memorial scholarships allow loved ones to live on through the gift of education. Donors find comfort and satisfaction knowing such acts of kindness will help others for years to come. To that end, the SCC Foundation provides more than 300 scholarships totaling over \$200,000

each year, many of which have been established in memory of loved ones.

As her husband, Randy, states, "Debi cannot be replaced, but her legacy will live on."

Endowed Memorial scholarships totaling \$5,000 or more, like Debi's, can make a big difference in the lives of deserving students.

Donors can specify criteria for scholarships or leave them open to any student. For instance, qualifying candidates for the Debi Kinney Endowed Memorial Education Major scholarship fund must be Education majors attending SCC's West Burlington campus who are residents of either Des Moines County, IA or Henderson County, IL. Applicants are ranked by financial need and academic achievement.

Investment earnings from the Debi's scholarship fund will provide annual scholarships for tuition and books, with the first award to be made for the 2009-2010 academic year.



Debi Kinney

Those interested in learning more about establishing a scholarship are encouraged to contact Becky Rump at 319-208-5065 or brump@scciova.edu, or Julie Glasgow at 319-208-5062 or jglasgow@scciova.edu.

Yes, count me in as part of the Southeastern Community College Alumni Association

Name: _____ SSN (optional): _____
 Former last name(s): _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ City, ST, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ I attended SCC in the year(s): _____
 Attendance sites: West Burlington Keokuk Fort Madison Mount Pleasant
 I received: Diploma AA AAS AS Other: _____ Major(s): _____
 My occupation is: _____ My interests & hobbies include: _____
 I wish to: participate in the Nursing Alumni Chapter participate in the Fine Arts Alumni Chapter help establish another chapter

Dues

Alumnus Individual (for individuals who have successfully completed at least one credit class) Annual \$10 Lifetime \$100
 Associate Individual (for a non-alumnus individual) Annual \$15 Lifetime \$150
 Alumni Couple (for two married alumni) Annual \$16 Lifetime \$160
 Associate Business (for business/agency) Annual \$200 Lifetime \$2000

Choose membership and mail this form along with remittance to: SCC Alumni Association, PO Box 180, West Burlington, IA 52655.

Contact Becky Rump, brump@scciova.edu at 866-SCC-IOWA, ext 5065, or 319-208-5065 for more information.

Additional Contribution

Alumni Scholarship \$ _____ Distinguished Alumni Award \$ _____
 Nursing Chapter Scholarship \$ _____ Other \$ _____ (please specify) _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Date: _____

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Dues paid after October 1 are good through December 31 of the following year.

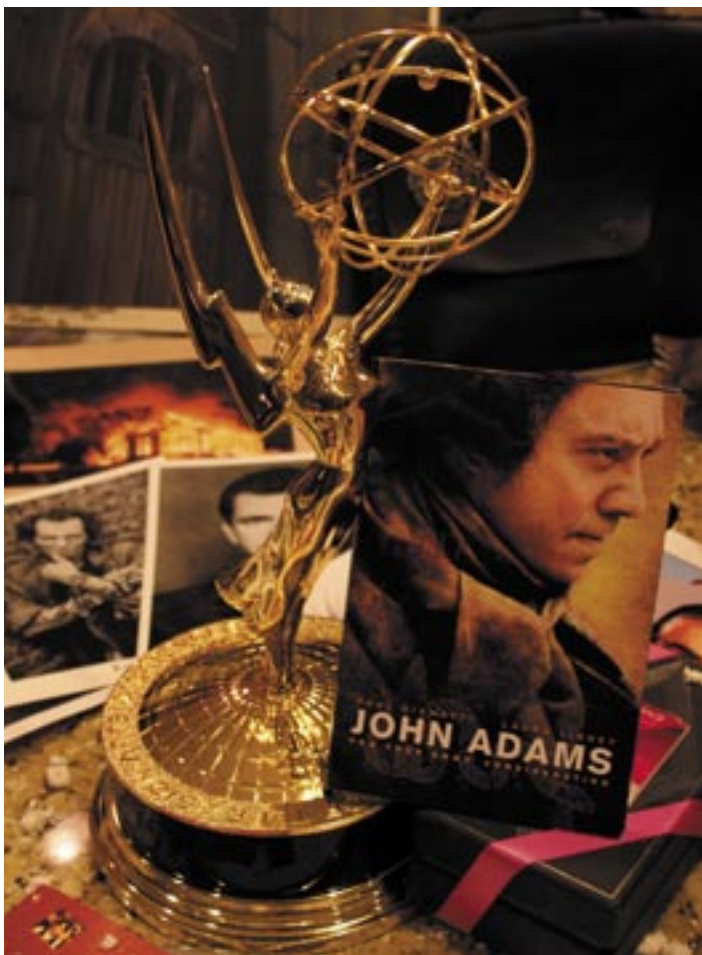
bestowing upon Kenny best wishes or thanks.

Suzie apologizes, “I know, you’d think we’d put all this stuff in frames or something.”

Whereas most people might nab the occasional pen or coffee mug from work, Kenny Gorrell bags autographed photos of Hollywood’s leading actors and discarded props from the sets of blockbuster movies. That’s because Kenny makes a living as a mechanical special effects artist. His resume reads like a video store top 100 movies of all-time list: *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *the Transformers*, *the Waterboy*, *the Patriot*, and *Forrest Gump*. With almost 20 years in the business and over 50 films and TV shows to his credit, he’s made a name for himself.

Then, during an ah-hah moment, Suzie exclaims, “Oh, do you want to see Kenny’s Emmy statue?”

In September Kenny won an Emmy award for Outstanding Special Visual Effects for his work on the HBO miniseries, *John Adams*, *Join or Die*. The nominated segment involves the reenactment of snowy conditions faced by Adams and other soldiers during the Revolutionary War. It features acres and acres of land covered with artificial snow, iced-over wagons, horses, and cannon, and dozens of frozen, dead soldiers.



“The phone rings a lot more now that he won an Emmy,” Susie laughs. Kenny’s story would make Horatio Alger jealous.

“When he first started, he was parking cars at Disney World,” Suzie says. “But he’s just so persistent. He kept asking, talking, making contacts, networking. He never took no for an answer.”

Kenny and Suzie attended SCC’s Keokuk campus in the late 1980’s before their move to Florida.

She laughingly admits, “he might have fibbed a little about his time at SCC. You offered classes in mechanical special effects, didn’t you?”

His persistence paid off and Kenny soon became a liaison for visiting actors which then led to a job in the Disney animation studios serving as a runner, shuttling drawings between the staff of illustrators.

I got you in the door, it’s up to you to make something of it.

“He even managed to land a job as an animator but when they found out he couldn’t draw, he had to take a different job,” jokes Suzie.

Not long after that, a producer gave him a job sweeping warehouses on a movie lot. Suzie says that producer gave Kenny a bit of advice that would set the tone for his career.

“I’ll never forget what he told Kenny. He said, ‘I got you in the door, it’s up to you to make something of it.’”

Kenny took those words to heart and eventually found his path as a mechanical special effects artist. He learned how to make bad guys bleed and cars explode. He created frozen wastelands, staged epic pirate ship battles, and summoned raging thunderstorms.

Fast forward to 2001. Kenny and Suzie were raising three young children in Orlando, FL when he reached a point in his career where his skills were in such high demand that the family could go wherever they wanted. The two had always wanted to raise their family in a small town and so Suzie suggested returning to where she grew up: Donnellson, IA. Not long after that, Kenny was again traveling the country making movies and Suzie was raising the kids in a familiar, family-friendly environment.

Suzie says such family moves are becoming popular with people in the business as they shun the ills of the big city and leave behind the sky-high cost of living and crime rates, and sub-par education. She continues that Iowa is uniquely positioned to attract elements of the entertainment industry and that Des Moines has created tax incentives and launched recruitment efforts.

“The state of Iowa is doing a lot, especially Tom Wheeler at the Iowa Film Office. He’s really working hard to create a very positive climate for businesses to set up shop in Iowa,” she notes.



Suzie says that she and Kenny are working with the Iowa Film Office to create "Tour Iowa," a DVD designed to highlight all the benefits of making films in Iowa. The DVD will showcase, among other things, the variety of landscapes, towns, and scenery throughout the state that could be used as settings for movies. They also helped found Film Southeast Iowa, an association tasked to specifically promote this corner of the state.

This fall she and Kenny met with local officials and investors to discuss ways to build a 20,000 square foot sound stage. The goal is to create a versatile space in that can be rented to film makers.

"Bringing a film to the area would be a huge economic boost. Hotels, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores – a lot of people work on a movie and they all need to buy stuff. They're here for months and they spend a lot while they're here," Suzie says.

After all the photos and props are returned to their humble cardboard home, she ends with a bit of advice for would-be stars and starlets.

"They're always looking for talent. If you're interested in an acting job, look me up. I might know somebody in the business."

Photos courtesy of Suzie Gorrell.

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SPONSORSHIP FORM

The Southeastern Community College Foundation was established in 1982 to attract, manage and disburse contributions for the enhancement of SCC facilities, equipment, and services, and to assist students by awarding scholarships. The SCC Foundation offers an alternative to increasing area property taxes or student tuition and gives the gift of quality education to many who otherwise could not afford this important advantage.

Please contact me:

- I would like to discuss a contribution of surplus equipment.
- I would like to know other ways I could help SCC.
- I have included SCC in my will and am a member of the Legacy Society.

Please record this contribution as received from:

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ ST _____ zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 Date _____

- My employer will also make a contribution to match my gift
- My employer is _____
- Employer matching gift form included (available from employer)

Please send me information about:

- Naming a scholarship fund
- Joining a foundation giving society
- Tax-deductible, planned giving options
- IRA rollover for persons age 70¹/₂ or more

In support of the SCC Foundation, I wish to contribute:

- Paid in full (checks payable to SCC Foundation)
- Credit Card Visa Mastercard

Account Number _____ Exp. _____
 Signature _____

I pledge to pay in the following increments:

2008 Pledge: _____ 2011 Pledge: _____
 2009 Pledge: _____ 2012 Pledge: _____
 2010 Pledge: _____ 2013 Pledge: _____

Invoice me on (date) _____
 My gift is in memory of: _____

Note that all gifts to the SCC Foundation are tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law.

Please apply my gift to support:

- Scholarships
- Instructional programs & equipment
- Capital campaign & facilities
- Area of greatest need

For more information, to schedule a visit, or to return form, contact Becky Rump, 1500 West Agency Road, West Burlington, IA 52655; ph:319-208-5065.

The Vision Fall 2008



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FINE WINE FETE SET FOR MARCH 27

Where else can you taste over 60 different wines and beers from around the world in a single setting and help fund SCC scholarships and educational programs? Mark your calendars for Friday, March 27, 2009 for the third annual SCC Foundation Taste of Fine Wine & Ale and Fine Art. With help from Burlington Hy-Vee's Wine & Spirits Manager, Tom Darnall, a number of local and regional wine and beer distributors will provide samples of a wide variety of wines and specialty beers. Student art will be on display.

Organizers selected the spacious Pzazz! Event Center as the venue for the 2009 vineyard-themed event. The wine and beer sampling will be accompanied by a delicious menu of hot and cold appetizers, and antipasto and dessert stations.

A silent auction and a live auction will feature unique items, themed parties, and



Enjoying a night out for scholarships in 2008 fun getaways. While last year's event netted \$17,500, organizers are hoping to top the \$20,000 mark in 2009.

For reservations, tickets, and details on how to donate to become a sponsor, please contact Becky Rump at 319-208-5065 or brump@scc Iowa.edu, or Julie Glasgow at 319-208-5062 or jglasgow@scc Iowa.edu.



Got any alumni news? Share it!

Contact Becky Rump at
brump@scc Iowa.edu
or 866-SCC-IOWA.

Need money for college? Look here!

The Southeastern Community College Foundation awards over 300 scholarships totaling over \$200,000 to deserving students every year. To apply or contribute, visit www.scc Iowa.edu. For more information, contact Julie Glasgow, jglasgow@scc Iowa.edu at 319-208-5062.

THE LAST WORD: Give until it feels good

"Give until it feels good," says Merlin Hellman of Fort Madison, volunteer auctioneer extraordinaire for the SCC Foundation's fundraiser.

First up is the annual membership drive for the SCC Alumni Association.

Perks include 20% discount on all SCC logo merchandise in the SCC Blackhawk Bookstores, reduced rates in computer labs, free use of the libraries, free check out of audio-visual equipment (based on availability), and early invitations and

discounts to special SCC events. Join now! See form on page 5.

Next is the SCC Foundation Annual Fund Drive. Gifts support scholarships and program mini-grants wherever the need is greatest. See form on page 7.