



Spring, 2005

Graduation Honors Students Accomplishments

Soon, the auditorium in the Busch Student Center of St. Louis University will fill with the traditional notes of "Pomp and Circumstance" as graduates of St. Louis College of Health Careers don their royal blue caps and gowns to receive their diplomas and certificates.

On Saturday, May 14, SLCHC graduates will be honored at the annual Graduation ceremony. According to Molly Lahlein, Graduation committee member, nearly 300 students will be recognized for their academic achievements at the ceremony scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m. Diplomas will be awarded to graduates of the Licensed Practical Nurse, the Massage Therapy, the Medical Assistant, the Patient Care Technician and the Professional Medical Billing programs. Certificates will be awarded to the graduates of the Phlebotomy Technician program.

A special feature of this year's festivities will be Commencement addresses from two of our graduates. Featured speakers include Dorian Pierce, Medical Assistant grad and Sam Key, Massage Therapy grad. Also, Julia Higgins will sing at the event.

Lahlein emphasizes that it has been a long road for these graduates. "Balancing school, jobs and family surely isn't an easy task. Students must have the drive and willpower to succeed," she explains. "Graduation is not only a time for SLCHC



Participants in Graduation Ceremonies include Dorian Pierce (top left); Sam Key (top right); and Julia Higgins (left)

to applaud these graduates, but also a day for recognizing the support of family and friends who helps our students succeed."

Lincoln Honored for Excellence in Teaching

To her students, Holly Lincoln is awesome, exceptional, rocking, hilarious and a burst of knowledge and energy. To the Missouri Department of Higher Education, Holly Lincoln is a recent recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Performance Excellence in Education.

Lincoln joined the faculty of SLCHC in July, 2001, and teaches Anatomy and Physiology, Kinesiology and Nutrition at the County Campus. But teaching represented a career change for her.

"I had already decided that I wanted to be a mortician, but my mother inspired me to go to school first and get a teaching degree," Lincoln explains. "So that's what I did."

Lincoln is passionate about teaching. "Human anatomy is the most amazing organism," she explains. "It's all anatomy - everything relates back to anatomy."

One of her innovative ideas is the Muscle Project that she calls "Muscle, Muscle, Muscle." Teams of students must

paste all the muscles onto a skeleton correctly in Anatomy I. "It's sort of a Rite of Passage between courses, and the classroom is filled with an amazing energy during the project."

Another creative idea is on display in the A & P Lab. "All my students make paper strips of DNA with images that represent themselves decorating them. I then join them to make a continuous chain around the Lab," she says. This chain is always one of the things that former students look for when they come back to visit.

Lincoln encourages each of her students, "Have the courage to follow your own path."



From left: Barb Simon, Dir. of Education; Holly Lincoln; and former Gov. Bob Holden

Career Connect Fair



Many SLCHC students and graduates met prospective employers at the April 5 Career Fair.



Alsbury Succeeds with Positive Attitude

Diane Alsbury laughs when she says, “The first massage I ever had, I hated!” Now, she will be a May graduate from the Massage Therapy diploma program.

She first became interested in the benefits of Massage Therapy while working in a chiropractic office. She received her LPN license before she had her daughter and son. She put her career on hold while she raised her family, but when the time was right, she returned to a career in health care.

Although going back to school was initially difficult, Alsbury is very glad she did. She offers this advice to other students: “If you *want* to do it, you *can* do it.”



Hubbard’s Determination is Key to Success

When Kathy Hubbard saw a commercial late one night for SLCHC, she wondered if there might be a career for her in the health field working with computers.

At that time, she was still battling cancer and was homeless, so she wasn’t sure if it was the right time to start something new. “But Mike (Melinder, Admissions office) wouldn’t give up on me. He was so positive and encouraging,” she recalls.

Hubbard was determined to succeed. In spite of all the hardships along the way, she is graduating in May. She advises, “Stay focused. Do not give up. You do what you need to do to stay focused and you will succeed.”

She hopes to work for either a hospital or doctor who specializes in working with cancer patients and possibly start her own business some day. With her determination, she is sure to succeed.



Staff Additions Bring Experience to SLCHC

Doug Brinker

Doug Brinker recently joined SLCHC as the Director of Admissions for the County Campus. Not only does he bring nearly 19 years experience, but he also brings his “Open Door” policy.

“The student comes first,” he stresses. “We’re here to make sure our students succeed.”

Brinker’s job includes recruiting quality students and training his staff to evaluate applicants effectively to insure success. He hopes to expand the staff to four soon and then to 10 Admissions Representatives.

“I want to develop a larger staff that is confident and competent in their abilities to attract students,” he says.

Brinker is eager to help SLCHC as a leader in the health care industry. “Attending SLCHC gives our students a great opportunity to service the community in an allied health career,” he says.



Judy Dry

During her 19 years in the Education field, Judy Dry has assumed many roles in the process of helping students from admissions to careers. She recently joined SLCHC as Director of Placement.

“I began as an Instructor, but have done just about everything -- including carpentry -- along the way to Placement,” she laughs.

Dry is passionate about helping students succeed in the work force. “I will do anything necessary to help a student in pursuit of employment,” she says. This includes reviewing resumes, conducting mock interviews with students and building our database of employers for our graduates, she explains.

One of her goals is to start an active Alumni Association. “We are always here to help all our graduates--our alumni. We want to keep updated so we can better serve them,” she emphasizes.



Jones Finds New Career a Perfect Fit

When Michael Jones decided go back to school after retirement, he was a bit nervous about his career shift. "My biggest fear was that I would no longer fit in," he explains. "Other students were 20 and 30 years younger than me. But after the first few days, those fears left."

Jones is a May graduate of the Patient Care Technician (PCT) program. He says he has always been interested in studies focusing on Biology and Health sciences, so the PCT program was an easy choice for him.



"I'm a hands on, people person. PCTs are the front line in the Health Care field," he says. "We deal with patients even more than the doctors and the RNs. We make them comfortable and tend to their needs."

Jones says he will probably begin a Nursing program after taking a break for the summer. He believes that the most important part of going to school is to be committed. "When you decide that this is what you want to do, commit to it. Discipline, discipline, discipline. Without discipline, the best intentions will always fail."



Pierce Opens Door to her Future

While opportunity did not literally knock on Dorian Pierce's door, it did appear in the building where she lives.

"I saw other tenants in my building in their uniforms and then say the commercials. So I decided to see what was available as a career," she says. She just began her externship as a Medical Assistant with North Side Oral Surgery and will graduate in May.



Pierce moved from Chicago to help care for an aunt. "The nurses who came to the house taught me how to do a lot of things, so I became interested in nursing," she explains. But with two small children and a part-time job, she didn't have time for a nursing program.

"Becoming a Medical Assistant gets my foot in the door to a medical career. It's was perfect for me."

Pierce advises SLCHC students, "Work hard. Always make it to school and work with the teachers. They will always help."



Campus Happenings



County students flex their Anatomy prowess in the "Muscle" Project, the bridge between Anatomy I and Anatomy II.



Metro students are recognized at recent Pinning ceremonies for second semester students.

Calling all SLCHC Alumni

Let us know what's happening by completing this short survey. Return the survey to us via mail or at Summerfest and be registered for a free drawing!

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Program & Graduation Date

Current Employer

Email Address:

Would you like to be active in Alumni events?



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Visit us at www.SLCHC.com

Come join us & celebrate

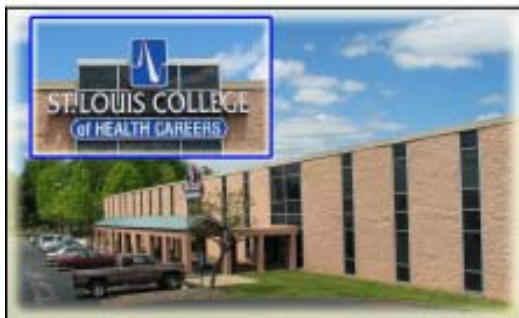
SLCHC Summerfest Picnic & Health Fair

County Campus

**July 21
3-7 p.m.**

Metro Campus

**July 14
3-7 p.m.**



Visit our New Fenton Campus

***Celebrating Past,
Present & Future at
SLCHC***

**Enjoy the summer fun with alumni,
current students and new students!**