

### MR. FRANK M. ZUCCARELLI

*Chairman of the Board, South Suburban College*

On September 19, 1927, Thornton Junior College began what is now a 90-year legacy of educational opportunity to residents of the south suburban region.

Now, as South Suburban College, we must learn from the progress of those that have gone before us, so that we may develop our vision for the future. We have benefited from their progress because they have shown us that our dreams can be achieved, and in doing so have made the road to progress a little lighter. The best way we can show our respect for their achievement is to use the tools that they gave us to better our students and the community that we serve.

To those past and present, who make this progress possible, I thank you.





## DR. WILLIAM E. McVEY

### *First President, Thornton Junior College*

*At the close of the college's first year, Dr. McVey stated the reasons for the college's establishment and his hopes for its future:*

"A very significant step in educational advancement was taken by Thornton Township when the junior college opened its doors on September 19, 1927...It has always been the aim of those in charge of the educational work at Thornton Township High School that the educational advantages offered shall not be second to any in the land, and with this idea in mind, the junior college was organized...The results achieved thus far give every promise of even greater success than was expected when plans for the organization of the College began to take definite shape. The junior college has already become an integral part of the scheme of education provided for the young people of Thornton Township, and throughout the years to come it will prove of great benefit to those interested in an education beyond the regular four years of high school work."



# MR. DON MANNING

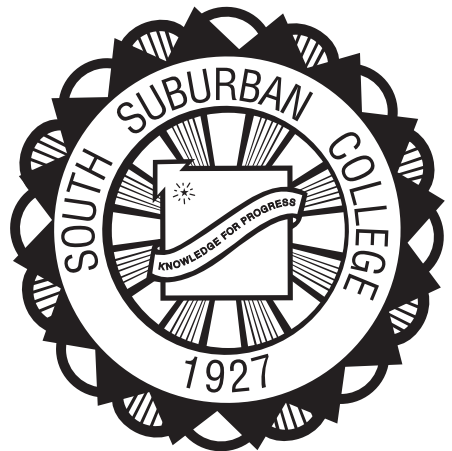
*President, South Suburban College*

South Suburban College has been providing quality education for 90 years and will continue to do so for many years to come.

As society changes, South Suburban College adapts its programs to respond to the job market. We collaborate with our partners in business and industry, to prepare our students for the workplace of the future.

The Chicago Southland is poised to become an international economic powerhouse. The Southland contains water transportation, rail transportation, road transportation, a robust industrial and commercial infrastructure, excellent educational and government institutions and many other economic development assets. But, our greatest asset is our people!

South Suburban College will continue to be at the forefront of providing workforce development, as part of the Chicago Southland economic renaissance.



# Past Presidents

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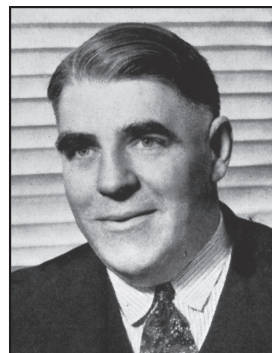
## SSC HISTORY



**Dr. William E. McVey**  
1927-1947



**Dr. Clifford R. Maddox**  
1948



**Mr. Joseph B. Stephens**  
(approximately) 1948



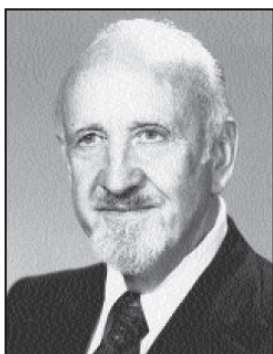
**Dr. A. V. Lockhart**  
1949



**Mr. Theodore R. Birkhead**  
1950-1951



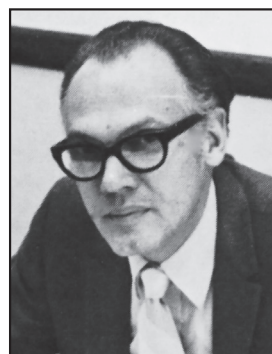
**Dr. Ernest Hanson**  
1952-1957



**Dr. James D. Logston**  
1958-1968



**Mr. Lee E. Dulgar**  
1969-1970



**Dr. J. Phillip Dalby**  
1971-1972



# SSC HISTORY

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**Dr. Nathan A. Ivey**  
1973-1983



**Dr. James L. Evanko**  
1984-1986



**Dr. James Koeller**  
(interim) 1987



**Dr. Daniel Hayes**  
(interim) 1987-1988



**Dr. Richard W. Fonte**  
1988-1995



**Mr. Robert T. Marshall**  
(interim) 1996



**Dr. Bruce D. Aldrich**  
1997-2001



**Mr. George Dammer**  
2002-2011

# Thornton Junior College/Thornton Community College/ South Suburban College

Year	President	Chairman Of The Board
1927	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1928	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1929	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1930	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1931	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1932	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1933	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1934	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1935	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. C.E. Waterman
1936	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1937	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1938	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1939	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1940	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1941	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1942	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1943	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1944	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1945	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1946	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1947	Dr. William E. McVey	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1948	Dr. Clifford R. Maddox	Mr. G.H. Gibson
approx. 1948	Mr. Joseph B. Stephens	Mr. G.H. Gibson
1949	Dr. A.V. Lockhart	Mr. G.H. Gibson
1950	Mr. Theodore R. Birkhead	Mr. G.H. Gibson
1951	Mr. Theodore R. Birkhead	Mr. A.H. McDougall
1952	Dr. Ernest Hanson	Mr. Edwin Waterman
1953	Dr. Ernest Hanson	Mr. William B. Kane
1954	Dr. Ernest Hanson	Mr. William B. Kane
1955	Dr. Ernest Hanson	Mr. William B. Kane

## SSC HISTORY

### Chief Executive Officer (President) and Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Year	President	Chairman Of The Board
1956	Dr. Ernest Hanson	Mr. William B. Kane
1957	Dr. Ernest Hanson	Mr. William B. Kane
1958	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. William B. Kane
1959	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. William B. Kane
1960	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Fred T. Ehlert
1961	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Fred T. Ehlert
1962	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Fred T. Ehlert
1963	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Henry Vandenberg
1964	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Henry Vandenberg
1965	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Henry Vandenberg
1966	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Herbert Greiner
1967	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Herbert Greiner
1968	Dr. James D. Logsdon	Mr. Herbert Greiner
1969	Mr. Lee E. Dulgar	Mr. Herbert Greiner
1970	Mr. Lee E. Dulgar	Mr. Homer M. Lefler
1971	Dr. J. Phillip Dalby	Mr. Homer M. Lefler
1972	Dr. J. Phillip Dalby	Mr. George Marovich
1973	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. George Marovich
1974	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. George Marovich
1975	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. George Marovich
1976	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. George Marovich
1977	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. Robert W. Anderson
1978	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. Robert W. Anderson
1979	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. Robert W. Anderson
1980	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. Robert W. Anderson
1981	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. Robert W. Anderson
1982	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. Robert W. Anderson
1983	Dr. Nathan A. Ivey	Mr. Robert W. Anderson
1984	Dr. James L. Evanko	Mr. Robert W. Anderson
1985	Dr. James L. Evanko	Mr. Robert W. Anderson

# Chief Executive Officer (President) and Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Year	President	Chairman Of The Board
1987	Dr. James L. Evanko	Mrs. Rita Page
1987	Dr. James Koeller (interim)	Mrs. Rita Page
1988	Dr. Daniel Hayes (interim)	Mrs. Rita Page
1988	Dr. Richard W. Fonte	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1989	Dr. Richard W. Fonte	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1990	Dr. Richard W. Fonte	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1991	Dr. Richard W. Fonte	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1992	Dr. Richard W. Fonte	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1993	Dr. Richard W. Fonte	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1994	Dr. Richard W. Fonte	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1995	Dr. Richard W. Fonte	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1996	Mr. Robert T. Marshall (interim)	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1997	Dr. Bruce Aldrich	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1998	Dr. Bruce Aldrich	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
1999	Dr. Bruce Aldrich	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
2001	Dr. Bruce Aldrich	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
2001-2012	Mr. George Dammer	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli
2012-present	Mr. Don Manning	Mr. Frank M. Zuccarelli

As reported in the annual College Catalog

**T**hornton Junior College was founded on September 19, 1927 under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education of Cook County High Schools District 205. At that time, the College was an extension of and located in a section of Thornton Township High School at 151st Street and Broadway in Harvey, Illinois. It began as a small evening school, carefully separated from the day school in the use of materials. Although Thornton Junior College was the fifth junior college established in Illinois, there was not specific legal sanction for such a school/institution until 1931.

When the College opened its doors in 1927, it was financed wholly by tuition, fees, and an allotment of local tax money collected by the Board of Education. The simple budget adopted by the school board on October 17, 1927, for that first year totaled \$27,496. However, during the first nine years of operation, no tuition was charged to students residing in the district. Students from out-of-district have always had to pay higher tuition, and charges were \$100 per year in 1927.

### 1927:

- Thornton Junior College started in a few rooms, some a remodeled boiler room. It opened its doors to 30 men and 17 women students, 15 faculty and offered 9 curricula. Seventy-five courses were offered, plus an additional 31 in music. The library began in one small room.





1928:

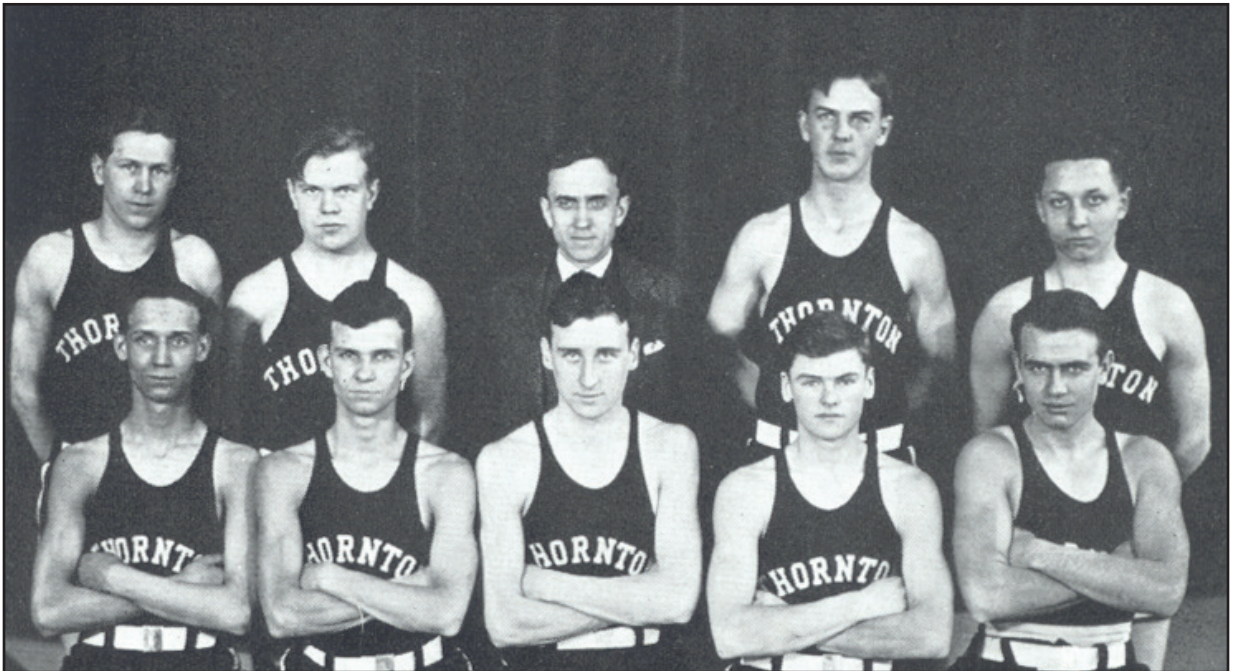
- The 1928 College Catalog shows the name as Thornton Township Junior College. The Township at that time encompassed 36 square miles.
- Some eight or ten men took part in basketball and track.

1928-29:

- The budget for 1928-1929 increased to \$34,069, providing \$22,479 for salaries; \$3,800 for equipping science laboratories, making alterations on existing classrooms, and supplying furnishings; and \$1,600 for purchasing library books. Until the College became a separate entity, the budget did not show building and maintenance costs. Good sturdy furnishings, still in use when the College moved to South Holland were purchased with \$531 allotted in the first budget and a portion of the monies allotted in the second budget.

1929:

- Fifteen students received a degree in June of 1929.



Hardcourt Pioneers: The Original Bulldogs - 1927



English Classroom - 1927

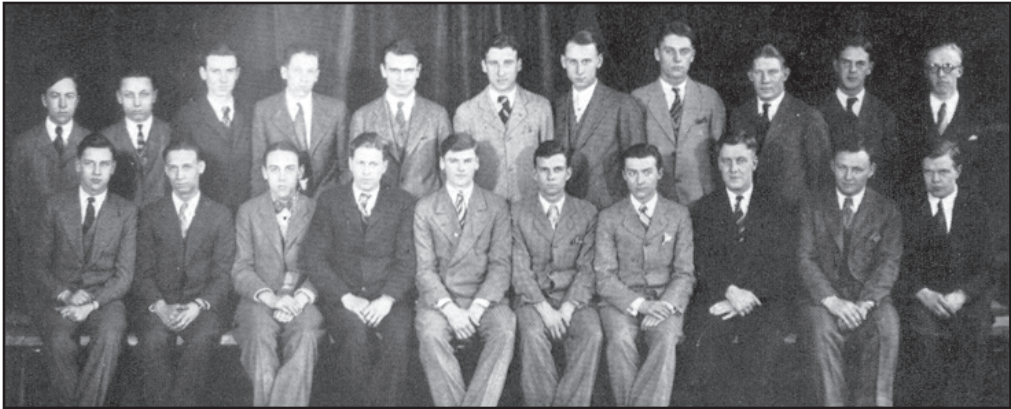


The first TJC Library in Room 113



The first freshman class that graduated from TJC - 1929

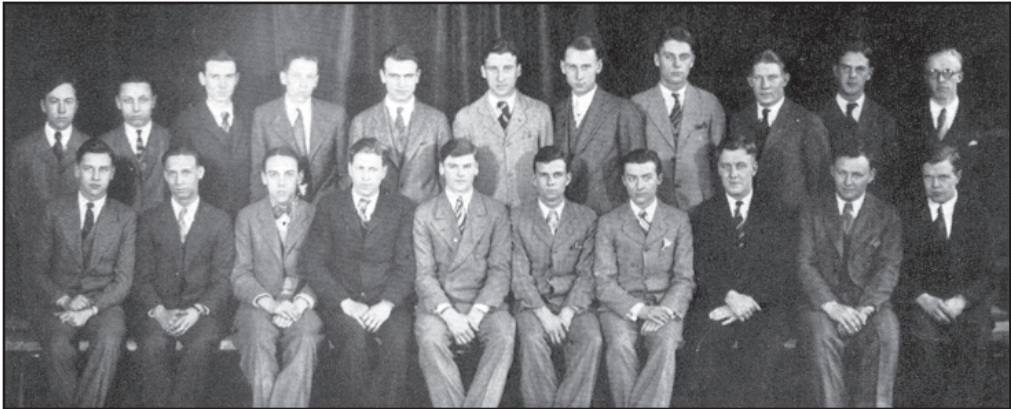




The original  
Men's Club -  
1927



Co-ed Club  
- 1928



Men's Glee  
Club - 1928

**I**n 1931, enabling legislation was enacted to ward off attacks by those who questioned the legality of the junior college in the public school system, but this legislation validated only the program of the Chicago Board of Education. In 1937, further legislation validated existing junior colleges outside of Chicago and permitted the founding of others.

*In the first years of the College, the student body was divided into two general groups: The Co-ed Club for women, and the College or Men's Club for men. By 1931, there were nine clubs: Debate, Co-ed, College Club, the Masquers, the 13 Club (to promote school spirit), the Swimming Tank, L'Alliance Francaise, Choral Club, Women's Athletics, and the German Club. With an enrollment of only about 100 students, the Masquers, 13 Club, Swimming Tank and Choral Club were dropped for the next year, but later reestablished.*

*In the beginning of the College, there was no college newspaper, only a corner in the bi-weekly high school paper, The Thorntonite, in which articles were printed about the College "both serious and jocund."*

1933:

- First issue of college newspaper The Courier. It was dated October 2, 1933, and cost 2 cents. The original name was The Junk Courier, then Thornton College Courier with the phrase (Junk be junked) in parentheses. No explanation was given.
- The Courier had reports of varsity teams in golf, basketball, tennis and track. These teams were wearing the school colors of orange and black, and calling themselves the Bulldogs.



Women's Athletic Team - 1932

1934:

- The first scholarship was offered by the College. It granted free tuition for two years to any student who graduated with honors from any high school in Cook County.
- An editorial accused the College of having “too many intellectual lilies” to give adequate support to the athletic teams. Dr. Mina Jewel, a biology instructor, offered homemade fudge to all who would attend the next athletic function.

1936:

- Beginning this year, residents of the district had to pay a tuition fee of \$50 each school year, \$25 payable each semester. Out-of-district resident fees were increased to \$150 per year, and continued to be raised whenever in-district rates increased.

1937:

- After 10 years, the library now contained 8,000 books, employed one librarian, and posted hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

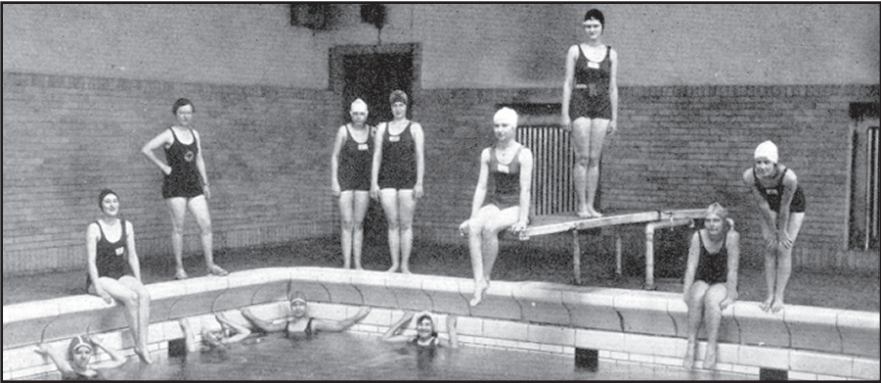
1938:

- The amount of tuition was raised to \$75 a year, \$37.50 payable each semester.
- The Harvey Women’s Club established a loan fund for college students, and the Co-ed Alumnae Club offered \$35 to the most deserving co-ed at the end of the first semester of her sophomore year.
- Lambda Epsilon, the local junior college honor society, was founded. It was later dropped and the College took out membership in Phi Theta Kappa.





Debate Team - 1930s



The Swim Tank - 1930s



Drama Club - 1930s

## the 1940s

**T**he College occupied its own classrooms in a separate section of the high school building. When an addition to the high school was built, the northwest door facing Broadway near 150th Street was designated as the Junior College entrance, and almost all of the classrooms were on the third floor of that addition, including the library. The science labs were on the second floor directly underneath that area. The College shared gymnasium facilities with the high school in the old Buda Gym, and in later years, the new gymnasium and field house as well as the swimming pool, referred to in the first catalog as "the swimming tank."

*Look Magazine*, in October, 1946, ranked Thornton as one of the first thirteen junior colleges in the United States placing it on the "Honor Roll of American Public Schools." Thornton was the only junior college in Illinois to receive this honor.

## 1940:

- In order to obtain a greater interest and participation in athletics, the Junior College adopted the intramural sports system.
- The first Job Placement Bureau was established by the Dean of Men to find students part-time work.



Thornton Junior College at night - 1946

1941:

- First College annual published. It was called The Sketchbook, cost \$1, and consisted of 32 pages of pictures and 6 pages of advertising.
- Nine men and a girl enrolled in the first Junior College primary course in aviation. The actual flying was done at Rubinkam Airport in Hazelhurst.

1942:

- The medical-secretarial and secretarial curricula were the first two terminal curricula that were offered.

1942-44:

- Counseling and guidance were first mentioned in the College catalog.
- Due to World War II, only 47 men were enrolled at the College.
- First Spanish course was offered.
- Two more scholarships were added: (1) an honor scholarship and (2) the first memorial scholarship, the Clara Cantrell Scholarship, established as a memorial to Mrs. Cantrell and given to a worthy African American student from Thornton Township High School.

1946:

- The Masquers Club was revived as the Drama Club; however, in the intervening years plays were produced annually.
- All-school Christmas party called off because of a coal strike.
- The name of the school newspaper was changed to simply, The Courier, and so it has remained.

1947:

- The 1947 edition of the school annual was called The Crow's Nest.
- The College had 19 faculty and 11 curriculums.





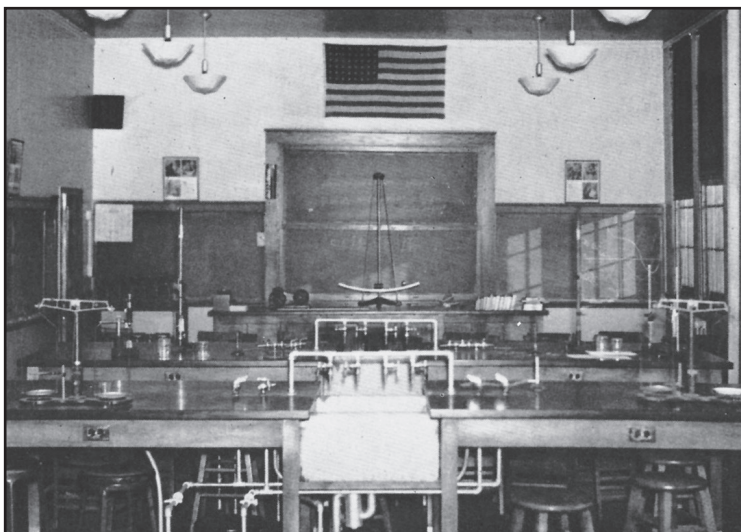
Freshman Class - 1941



Aviation Class - 1941



Student using the Chemistry Lab



A view of the Physics Lab - 1947

1948:

- The "Knotty Pine School Store," just across the campus, was a favorite hangout of TJC students.
- Because of increasing enrollment, including veterans from World War II returning to college, the United States Government gave to the Board of Education a one-story building, 50 x 96 feet, furnished, containing six classrooms to be used exclusively by the Junior College. This building became known as "The Barn" or "Building B."



The Thornton Courier



## the 1950s

**A**fter World War II, the concept of junior colleges grew, extending into evening hours, developing curricula in vocational and technical fields, and expanding into guidance and adult education services. From these expansions came a need for further clarifying the legal status of the junior colleges in Illinois and achieving a firm financial support at the state level. Finally, in the closing days of the 1951 legislature, the General Assembly established the junior college as a part of the common school system.

## 1950:

- The men of the College had persuaded the administration to implement a real athletic program. Because it proved to be too expensive, in 1951 it was cut back to football, golf, basketball, baseball, tennis and track.

## 1952:

- The College's twenty-five year anniversary.
- First official yearbook, the Caldron, was published. Its title was meant to imply a "boiling down" of the year's activities in pictures and prose. The yearbook ceased to be published in 1973.
- Physical Education was added to the curriculum this year.

## 1955:

- The increase in enrollment made it necessary for the Board of Ed to erect another building, 60 x 112 feet with seven classrooms. This became known as "Building C." There never was a "Building A."



Thornton Junior College Choir - 1950

## 1956:

- Interest arose in student government and a Student Council was established, later called the Student Senate and then the Student Government Association.
- High School seniors with 13 or more units acceptable for college entrance that were in the upper 25% of the class could take a subject or two for credit at the Junior College.
- In the College catalog, it was noted that Thornton Junior College was on the approved list for the training of veterans under Public Law 550, the "Korean G.I. Bill," Public Law 346 and Public Law 16.
- Pre-Journalism, Teacher Preparatory and Pre-Veterinary curriculums were added.

## 1957:

- The amount of state aid for operating costs was increased to \$200 in 1957, and to \$7.60 per credit hour of enrollment in 1959.

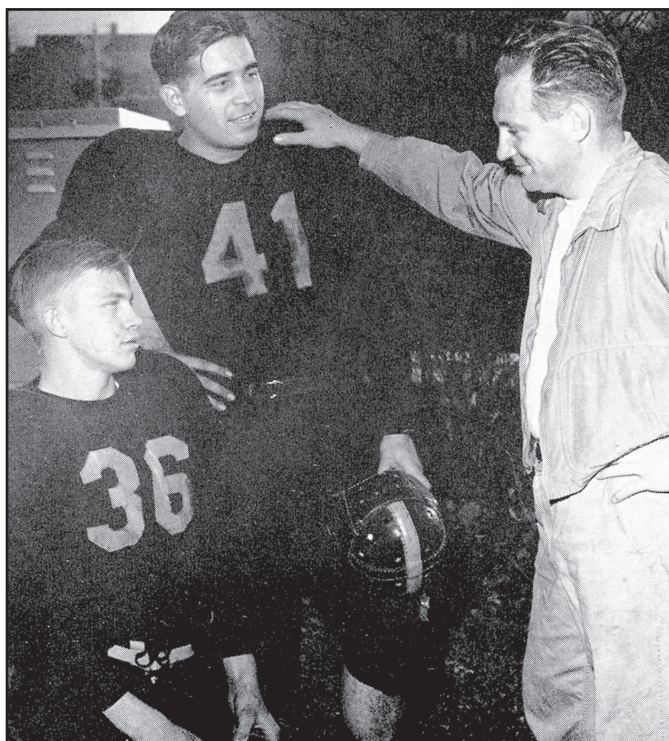


First Homecoming celebration in honor of TJC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 1952





Women's Athletic Association board - 1954



TJC Football coach Peter Schloss talks with co-captains  
Bob Beil (left) and Maurice Fernandez.



Students meet outside the Annex

*The College continued to be a part of the high school system until July 1965, when the Illinois Community College Act created Junior College District #510 and enlarged the area served to include high school districts 205, 215, and 228 (Thornton, Thornton Fractional, and Bremen.) The explosion of the student population in the 60s forced the purchase of still more buildings.*

*The Co-ed Club and the Men's Club disappeared in the 1960s when women lost interest in learning to serve a formal tea, and men no longer cared to plan a father-son banquet.*

1960:

- Thirty-three years after Thornton Junior College began, it boasted an enrollment of 550 day students and 600 evening division students.

1964:

- First technical programs taught, with classes in electronic technology, mechanical technology, machine drafting, technical math and physics.

1965:

- Still located in Harvey and part of the Thornton High School system, the junior college continued to bulge at the seams.
- The Nursing Department opened and occupied a house on Morgan Street, known as Morgan Hall.
- In the fall of 1965, library facilities were open every school night, and a few years later, counseling began to offer night hours. From these very small beginnings, the adult education program exploded into a major area of the College.
- In December of 1965 the College applied for Class I status. Following approval, an election was held to establish a separate junior college board.

1966:

- On June 10, the members of the first Board of Thornton Junior College District No. 510 were sworn in. Mrs. Naomi Dunker and Messrs. James Ard, Herbert Greiner, Henry Koopman, Arnold Labahn, Homer Lefler, and Walter Schoen comprised the seven-member board. To determine the length of time in office, these seven members drew lots. Mr. Greiner was elected the first president.
- Three portable buildings were erected south of 150th Street on Broadway. Two provided additional classroom space and one housed a new student center and lecture hall. Next, two "relocatables" were added to the campus just south of the tennis courts. By the time the College moved to South Holland in 1971, it occupied various buildings on and off the high school campus, including rooms in the American Legion Hall and a remodeled hardware store building on Broadway.

1966-67:

- The library now had a collection of 16,772 volumes for student and faculty use.

1967:

- Tuition went to a semester hourly charge of \$6 per credit hour.
- Counseling as a special service was organized with three counselors. At that time, there were only ten counselors in the junior colleges in Illinois, and Thornton had three of them.
- The College became part of the state system and the number of course offerings expanded. New fields of study such as urban and general studies programs acknowledged the changing nature of the student body.
- A pilot testing program in reading was conducted. From this small beginning grew a comprehensive testing and placement program.



Classroom - 1960s

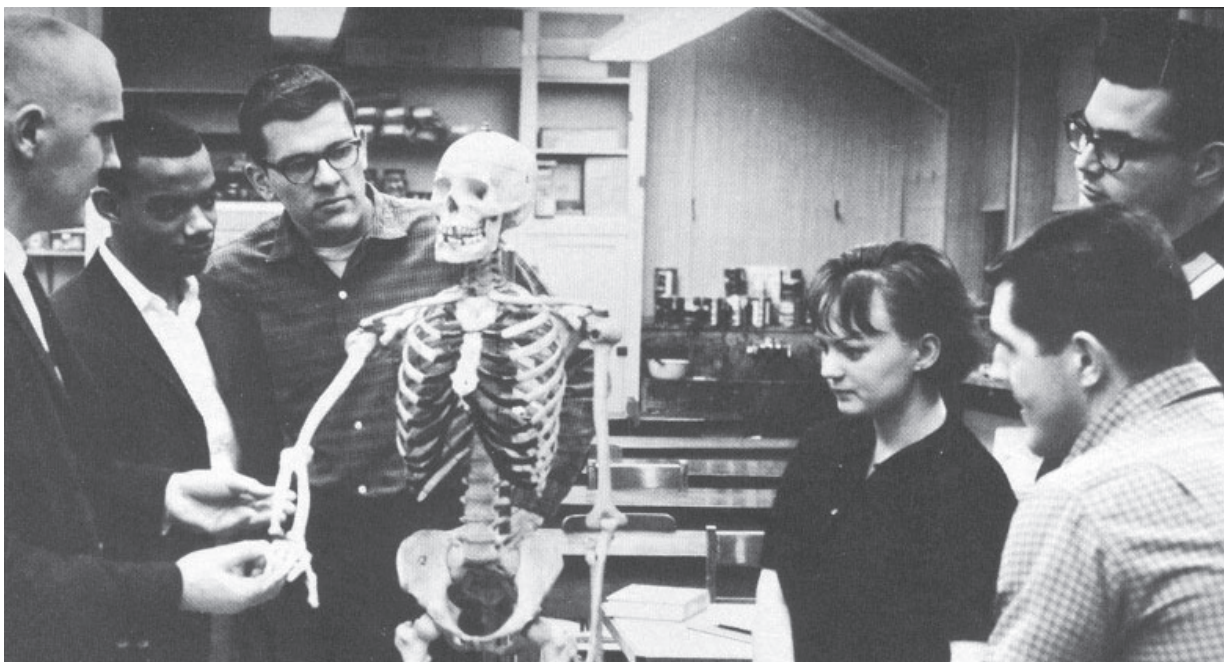


1969:

- The name of the school was changed to Thornton Community College to emphasize the comprehensive mission of the College.
- The faculty union was organized in response to the management style of the new College president, Mr. Dalby. Student groups were disbanded by President Dalby in hopes of avoiding organized protesting on campus.



Business Machines - 1960s



**G**round was broken for the permanent building at 15800 South State Street on January 23, 1970. Phase I was completed two years later, and approximately 7,000 students first entered the hallways on August 24, 1972. Phase II was completed on August 2, 1976.

On August 30, 1971, the College campus was moved to South Holland, on the southwest corner of the 103 acres purchased for the new campus at a cost of \$1,247,251. This move was into a 21-building interim complex with 120,000 square feet for classrooms, offices, laboratories, and the library. The interim buildings were brightly painted and faced Route 6, causing much comment from passersby. The land had been an onion farm, and the brick-drying shed was retained to be used by the College for storage.

1970:

- Tuition was raised to \$8 per credit hour.
- Course work in aviation was once again offered, but the student had to seek his own flight training.

1975:

- Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Peter Schloss was instrumental in the growth of SSC Athletics, including expanding women's programs, developing coach and player recruitment, and the completion of the SSC Fieldhouse. His legacy continues through the Peter & Pauline Schloss Bulldogs Scholarship Fund. The SSC Fieldhouse was finally completed at TCC, fulfilling the vision of Athletic Director Peter Schloss and with the support of President Nathan A. Ivey and the SSC Board of Trustees.

1976:

- Phase II was completed on August 2, 1976 and the College was now offering all of its programs and courses at its new facility. The new facility had 5 levels, covering 437,596 gross square feet.

1977:

- The College's fifty-year anniversary.
- Enrollment increased to 9,701 students, 132 full-time and 179 part-time faculty, 8 division heads and 21 other administrators. A total of 651 received a degree in June of 1977.
- Tuition was raised to \$38 per credit hour.
- There were now 11 on the counseling staff, headed by a dean.
- The library expanded to three levels, with 30,000 books, audio-visual equipment, films and tapes, one dean, four professional staff members, hours from 7:45 am to 9 pm, and was renamed the Learning Resource Center.
- There were approximately 30 curricula from which a student could receive a career-oriented associate's degree, and approximately 17 from which they could receive an associate's degree. There were also eight

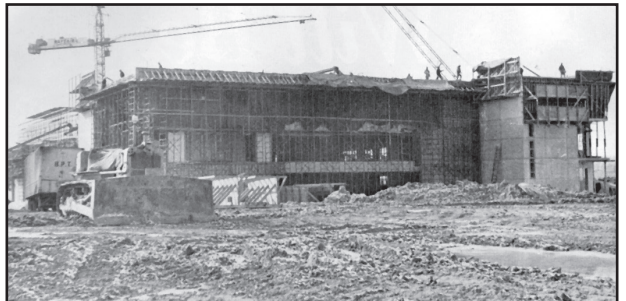




Concept for the new Thornton Community College campus - 1971

## WHERE ONCE THERE WERE ONION FIELDS...

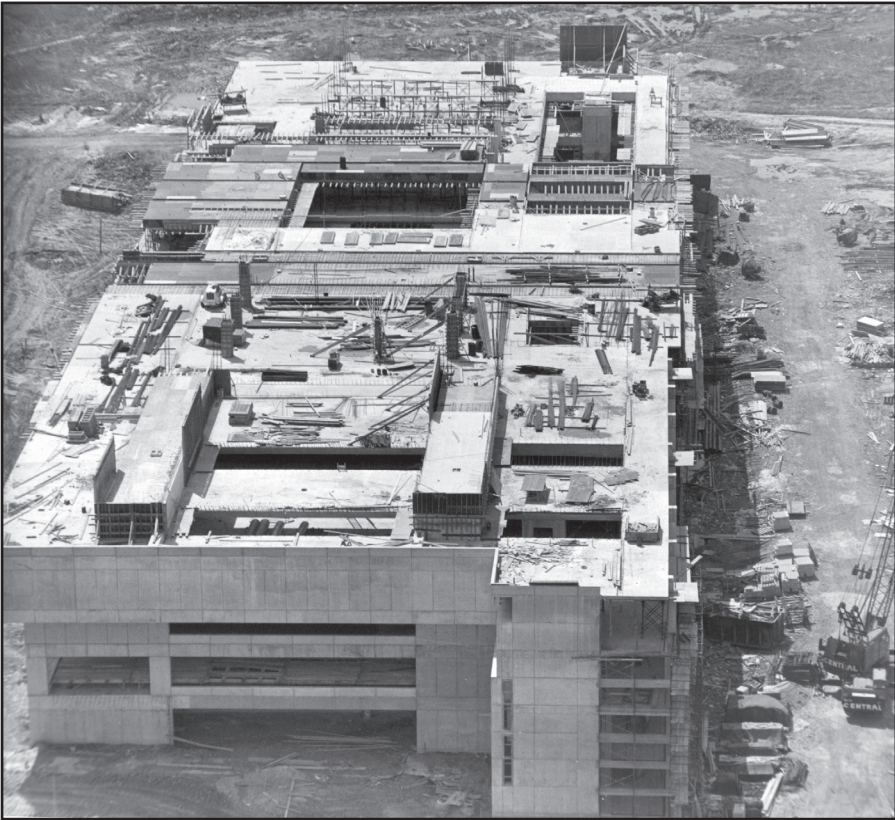
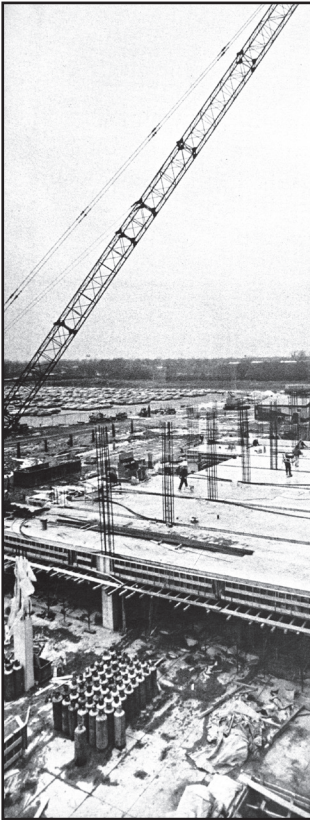
Mr. Angelo Polverre, Secretary -Treasurer of Mayfair Construction Company; Mr. Marvin Fitch, Architect; Dr. James D. Logsdon, former President of Thornton Junior College; Mr. Lee E. Dulgar, President of the College; Mr. Homer Lefler, President of the Board of Trustees break the ground on the site of the new Thornton Community College campus in South Holland, IL.







Part of the 21-building temporary barracks complex - 1970s



Construction of the current Main Campus in South Holland - 1970s







programs granting certificates.

**O**n July 1, 1988, the Board of Trustees voted to change the College's name to South Suburban College. The reason for the change was two-fold: first, the name better reflected the area serviced by College District 510, which includes 20 communities in Thornton and Bremen Townships. Secondly, it eliminated confusion with local high school districts whose names also begin with Thornton.

## 1980:

- The College purchased 25 IBM typewriters for instructional purposes for the College's Division of Business and Commerce.
- From the *Courier*: "For the first time in the history of TCC all the reporting, editing, layout and printing of the *Courier* will be done by Journalism and Graphics Arts students.

## 1981:

- Enrollment at Thornton Community College in March was about 9,642 students.
- The new student parking lot was opened.

## 1982:

- The Student Center was dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Cleland Marie Cofer. The late Mrs. Cofer served as Student Center attendant from 1972-81, and was known affectionately as "Ma" by both students and staff members.
- Enrollment increased to approximately 10,000 students.

## 1983:

- The history of the College was preserved in a newly organized Archives Room, located in the Learning Center, through the efforts of Barbara Meyers, LRC Director, and Judi Mack, Public Relations Director.

## 1984:

- By faculty request, Art Gallery 4141 was dedicated as the Dorothea Thiel Gallery.

1986:

- The faculty went on strike for six weeks.
- The Board of Trustees restricted smoking to designated areas.
- The Construction Technology Program provided students with opportunities to get firsthand experience rehabilitating vacant, eyesore housing in the area.

1988:

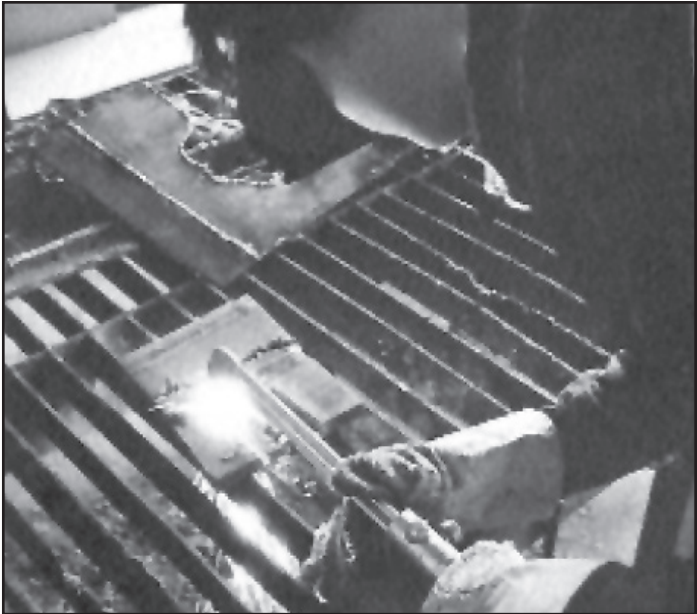
- The Atrium and Campus Store were remodeled.
- Court Reporting was added to the curriculum.
- The name of the school was changed to South Suburban College. Extensive renovations were performed in the Atrium, Campus Store, Cafeteria and Student Lounges.

1989:

- An in-house custodial department was formed, doing away with contracted janitorial service.



TCC Commencement - 1985







**O**n February 3, 1992, SSC officially opened the University & College Center, located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue in Oak Forest. This new facility was opened to better service residents of the western portion of the district and to provide opportunities for district residents to complete a four-year degree. Both day and evening classes are offered at the Center, as well as a variety of support services.

In 1998, more than 15,000 students were enrolled at SSC, on average, during a typical year. The College offered a wide selection of career training programs, a variety of college transfer programs, and customized training and short-term classes to businesses. In addition, the College has state-of-the-art meeting facilities available to community groups and businesses. Plus, a number of cultural events are sponsored by the College, including plays, comedy acts, special lectures and concerts, adding to the richness of the performing arts in the south suburbs.

### 1990:

- Renovations were made to the school's Child Care Center, including the creation of an outdoor playground.

### 1991

- The Business & Career Institute was created in July.

### 1992

- On February 3, 1992, SSC officially opened the University & College Center, located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue in Oak Forest.



University & College Center groundbreaking in Oak Forest, IL. Left-Right: Ron DeTella, Architect; John Daly, Vice Chair; Katie Jackson Booker, Trustee; Senator Debbie Halvorson; Frank Zuccarelli, Chairman; Jacqueline Martin, Trustee.

the 1990s

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1996

- First distance learning classroom is completed, and courses are taught by faculty.

1997

- South Suburban College website is created and put online.

1998

- First Internet courses taught by South Suburban College faculty. The College is selected to become a member of the Illinois Online Network.

1999:

- South Suburban College becomes a member of the Illinois Virtual Campus, online courses are offered to any student in the State of Illinois.
- Renovations and expansion of University & College Center campus completed.
- Project Higher Ed was started to begin bridging the gap between what students learn in school and what skills they need to be successful in America's workforce.
- The College earned a 10-year accreditation from the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This is the longest accreditation period awarded by the association.



South Suburban College University & College Center (now Oak Forest Center)





Building Technology staff and students with Chairman Zuccarelli at Habitat For Humanity Project Site



Anatomy class



Academic Assistance Center students & tutor



Communications class



Cinco de Mayo dancers

## the 2000s

**S**SC continued to provide educational opportunities to the community in traditional areas, as well as in new and emerging fields. The College also played a more integral role in preserving the history of the Chicago area and served as a place for discussion on issues that faced the region and the nation.

The College offers 30 different programs and a variety of student programs including campus organizations, athletics, and art, music and theater departments. SSC provides student services such as counseling for career planning, job placement, childcare and academic tutoring.

## 2000:

- The College now served students in parts of three townships, encompassing 94 square miles. In September, the College had 7,738 students, 355 full and part-time faculty and 28 administrators. This year, 428 students received a degree and 492 received a certificate.
- Online Academic Assistance Program was developed jointly by South Suburban College and Parkland College.
- The Business and Career Institute relocated its staff offices to a new building at 58 W. 162nd Street in South Holland.

## 2001:

- The look of the school was changed with renovations to the Student Entrance and an outside color scheme of blue and white.





The family of Lee E. Dulgar at the gallery dedication.

- The Sharp/Danka Art Gallery was renovated and dedicated as the Lee E. Dulgar Gallery.
- The ACT Center was opened in the Business & Career Institute to deliver state-of-the-art testing and training services to area individuals and employers.

## 2002:

- The College hosted a 75th Anniversary Open House. Over 1,000 guests toured the building.
- In September 2002, SSC celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a special Celebration Dinner to commemorate the opening of Thornton Junior College in 1927. The theme was the Roaring Twenties and the celebration was called Runnin' Wild.
- Illinois voters made history by electing Senator Lisa Madigan as the state's first female Attorney General. SSC welcomed her as its speaker for the college's 75th Commencement Ceremony the following spring.



the 2000s

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## 2003:

- SSC's Karen Johnson, Dean of Economic and Workforce Development, received the Joan Simon Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Community College Economic/Workforce Development Association (ICCEDA).
- SSC student and martial arts instructor Fred Jordan of South Holland set the Guinness Book World Record for the most bricks broken in one minute.
- SSC surpassed all goals and expectations by raising nearly \$27,000 for the American Heart Association.
- SSC Board of Trustees passed a motion to give a tuition waiver for one free credit class to any U.S. veteran of the armed forces who had not previously enrolled in class at SSC.

## 2004:

- Dr. Alexander White, Holocaust survivor and member of "Schindler's List," spoke to a large assembly of students in the Kindig Performing Arts Center.
- SSC hosted its 76th Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 23. This year's commencement speaker was Illinois Senator and future U.S. President Barack Obama.
- The Carol Manning Student Assistance Fund was formalized, helping 46 students with the cost of books and other related student aid totaling \$11,811.00

## 2005:

- SSC dedicated the Village of Phoenix Historical Wall, one of a series of projects displaying old photographs, many from the late 1800's and early 1900's, maps, articles and other publications throughout the hallways of the Main Campus and the Oak Forest Center. SSC now has 12 Historical Walls dedicated to the communities that comprise District 510.
- SSC student Cheng-Yung [Jason] Kuo, of Homewood, was selected as one of 46 Finalists out of 750 entries from throughout Illinois to vie for prizes in the 2005 Annual Collegiate Artists Competition.
- "Negro League Legends" baseball players Johnny Washington, Ernest Westfield, Charles Johnson, Hank Presswood and Bob Wiggins visited SSC.
- The SSC Foundation set its Annual Donor Drive record high, raising \$135,374 for student scholarships—\$100,000 more than just five years prior.

## 2006:

- The Association of School Business Officials International awarded SSC with a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its preparation and issuance of a school system comprehensive annual report for the 14th consecutive year. (This award would continue each year through the date of this publication.)



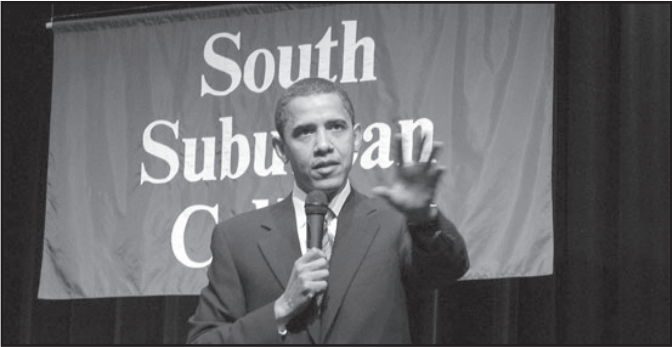
SSC Heart Walk Team



The 75th Anniversary Task Force.



Chairman Frank Zuccarelli & Treasurer Tim Pollert  
with Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting



Future President Barack Obama speaking at SSC.



Chairman Frank Zuccarelli and Trustee Terry Wells at  
Phoenix Historical Wall dedication.

## the 2000s

## 2007:

- SSC hosted an open house to announce its new Truck Driver Training Program.
- The Art & Design Department exhibited its 15th annual Regional High School Student Art Exhibit.

## 2008:

- SSC Instructor Art T. Burton was inducted into the National Cowboys of Color Museum and Hall of Fame for his work as a "Wild West" author, historian and speaker.
- The Men's Soccer Team earned the NJCAA Division I Regional Championship and Great Lakes District Championship, along with the Participation and Sportsmanship Awards at the National Tournament in Arizona where they finished 5th in the Nation.

## 2009:

- SSC history professor Bruce Allardice received the prestigious 2009 Nevins-Freeman Award given by The Civil War Round Table of Chicago for his many books on the subject, and help spreading historical interest and scholarship. SSC instructor Don Norton, Speech/Communications Department, was awarded two first place designations in the 2009 Illinois Associated Press Broadcast Awards.
- The Business & Career Institute hosted their first annual Women's Conference & Expo showcasing topics, products and services of interest to women.
- SSC's new tuition-free educational program, REBOUND, assisted 132 unemployed residents get back into college. SSC waived nearly \$100,000 worth of tuition and fees for these students, many of whom were seeking a career change.







Men's Soccer Team Celebrating Championship



# REBOUND

SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE REBOUND PROGRAM

*In the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the College continued its tradition of excellence, with notable achievements in academics and sports, as well as leadership in sustainability and career preparation.*

## 2010

- The SSC Overall Body Fitness Club hosted the 2010 Classic Bodies Bodybuilding & Figure Championship IV in the Kindig Performing Arts Center.
- Illinois Governor Pat Quinn held a press conference at SSC to announce approximately \$2.1 million in Illinois Jobs Now! capital funding for infrastructure and energy-efficient improvements at SSC.
- SSC entered a partnership with Governors State University titled the Dual Degree Program to ensure students a seamless and affordable transition towards earning both an Associate Degree at SSC and a Bachelor Degree from GSU.
- The South Suburban Small Business Association presented the South Suburban Chorale and its Director, Al Jackson, with their 2010 Creative Arts Award.
- The SSC Music Department held a free concert featuring two-time Grammy Award winning artist Chris Vadala who performed with the SSC Symphonic Band and Jazz Orchestra in the Kindig Performing Arts Center. Both ensembles were conducted by Andrew Hoefle, SSC Director of Bands.

## 2011:

- Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon visited SSC on a statewide tour of community colleges to find out about barriers to college completion.
- SSC honored former librarian Mary Alice Smith, a Harvey resident for over 50 years and a former librarian of SSC and the local high school district. She turned 100 years old on 11/11/11.

## 2012

- Former Bulldogs pitcher Tony Cingrani earned his first major league win for the Cincinnati Reds. Cingrani is one of more than 100 former SSC baseball players who have received scholarships to four-year schools and one of 18 drafted into Major League Baseball.
- Students of the SSC Building Construction Technology Program rehabbed an energy efficient home in Lansing, Illinois. SSC has been involved with building and rehabbing 18 homes since 1990.
- The Rocky Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2012 to assist students with disabilities at SSC.
- On July 1, 2012, Don Manning became the President of SSC after 22 years of service at the college. His goals as president included "ensuring that SSC is accessible to all of the residents within College District 510, Indiana, and the south Chicago region who are seeking higher education to improve their lives."
- The Business & Career Institute (BCI) moved their offices from the 159<sup>th</sup> Street location to the Oak Forest campus.



Welding Lab demonstration



Chairman Frank Zuccarelli with Coaches Darrell Scott and Steve Ruzich



SSC Chorale Director Al Jackson receives 2010 Creative Arts Award.



SSC Building Technology Students



Illinois Governor Pat Quinn at SSC.



## 2013

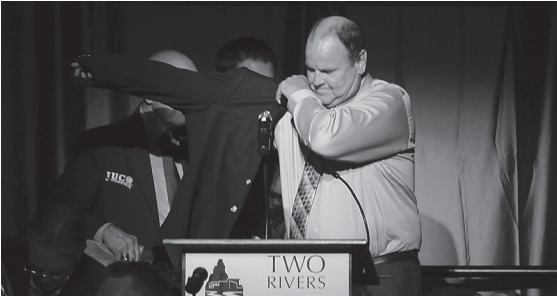
- The SSC Foundation hosted its 40-Year *Past, Present & Future* Ruby Anniversary Scholarship Gala.
- Tennie Fitts, a student of the Adult Volunteer Literacy Program at SSC, wins an annual Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service Award.
- SSC opened their new Veterans Center, designed to provide current and prospective veteran students with a wide range of information regarding veterans' benefits, financial aid, SSC programs and services, and more.
- The South Suburban College Green Club, along with the Sustainability Committee, participated in the 2nd annual Campus Cleanup Day. The Committee showcased SSC's first "Hydration Station" in the Cafeteria. The station dispenses cold, filtered water and is designed to accommodate refillable bottles.
- The SSC Legal Studies Department hosted their first annual "Law Day." The event featured a special live court case.
- The 2013 Volleyball Team won the Regional Championship and advanced to the National Tournament in Toledo, Ohio, where they finished 13th in the nation. Head Coach Larry Babcock was named Region IV District B Coach of the Year and Melva Smith was named to the NJCAA All-American 2nd Team.
- The South Suburban College Oak Forest campus changed their name from the University & College Center to the Oak Forest Center.

## 2014

- Mike Monaghan, Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, presented an ICCTA Service Award to SSC Board Chairman Frank M. Zuccarelli. "Chairman Zuccarelli saw South Suburban College and the Illinois community college system grow from temporary buildings into the 3rd largest community college system in the United States," said Monaghan.
- Bulldogs Head Baseball Coach Steve Ruzich was selected for the NJCAA Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and earned his 1,000th win in an 8-6 victory over Morton College. Ruzich, who has served as Head Baseball Coach since 1987, joined just 12 other active coaches with 1,000 wins in the entire NJCAA.
- SSC hosted a Ribbon Cutting and Open House to showcase its new Welding Lab complete with eight welding stations and welding simulator.
- SSC's student literary art publication, *The Scriblerian*, has won several awards for excellence from the American Scholastic Press Association and from the Associated Collegiate Press.

## 2015

- SSC Trustee Tony DeFilippo was presented with an ICCTA Service Award to recognize DeFilippo for his 25 years of dedicated service as a Trustee of SSC, Community College District 510.
- Six Art & Design students were presented with a municipal award from Tinley Park for their artistic bench entered in Tinley Park's annual Benches on the Avenue contest for their entry "Girl Power Rules."



Coach Ruzich's speech at the Hall of Fame



Trustee Tony DeFilippo receives ICCTA Service award.



Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon speaks to AAC Manager Hui-Ling Hite and VP of Student Development Songie Adebisi.



MB Financial Bank Business Suite



SSC Students with winning bench entry.

- MB Financial Bank presented a \$25,000 check to the SSC Foundation in part of a \$45,000 commitment to support a renovation of the college's primary conference room – the MB Financial Bank Business Suite – and to establish an endowed scholarship fund. The donation was developed through a long-standing partnership between the South Holland branch and its neighboring community college.

## 2016

- SSC, along with the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium, announced the Grand Opening of the SouthWorks MakerLab at SSC's Oak Forest Campus.
- On February 19, 2016, Head Women's Basketball Coach Darrell Scott was inducted into the Region IV NJCAA Hall of Fame.
- On May 5, approximately 250 middle-school through high school students visited South Suburban College for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Day that included a live link with astronauts. U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly of the Second Congressional District assisted in setting up the NASA link. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin also attended the event.
- SSC, in connection with the Midwest Latino Health and Research Training and Policy Center, hosted a series of town hall and focus group meetings to identify, recruit, retain, and graduate Latino students so they might gain an education leading to better employment opportunities.
- The Art & Design Department presented a memorial exhibition of Art Works by Joseph "Joe" Rejholec – colleague, mentor, friend, artist and faculty member of SSC, in the college's Thiel Gallery.

## 2017

- The Children's Theatre Company of South Suburban College celebrated its 30-year anniversary with the beloved tale "Beauty and the Beast."
- SSC Foundation sponsored a new annual alumni and retiree event that was attended by more than 200 guests.
- The college launched its first capital campaign in many years in recognition of its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The "90 for 90" seeks \$90 tax deductible donations to fund SSC Circle — a much needed student assistance center. The college will match the \$90,000 goal to finally make this project a reality.
- South Suburban College opened a new Reading Center. The center, funded in part with federal grant funds, is the result of a collaborative initiative to increase student retention and strengthen academic progress.
- SSC Foundation held its annual Gala and presented Cornerstone Awards to Frank Zuccarelli and Douglas Tweeten in recognition of their outstanding efforts toward student success and scholarship.
- It was another outstanding year for the Bulldogs Men's Basketball Team's earning their 8<sup>th</sup> national tournament bid and finishing 3rd in the country for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. Head Coach John Pigatti was named Region IV Coach of the Year for the 8th time in his 11 years at SSC.





Reading Center Grand Opening



"Beauty and the Beast" cast



Joe Rejholec sculpture Untitled, welded steel, circa 2000



2016 Bulldogs & Coach Pigatti



Left: Students enjoy 2016 Welcome Back celebration in courtyard.  
Above: Dec. 2016, SSC President Don Manning and volunteers at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery participate in National Wreaths Across America Day.

Below: 2016 SSC Symphonic Band





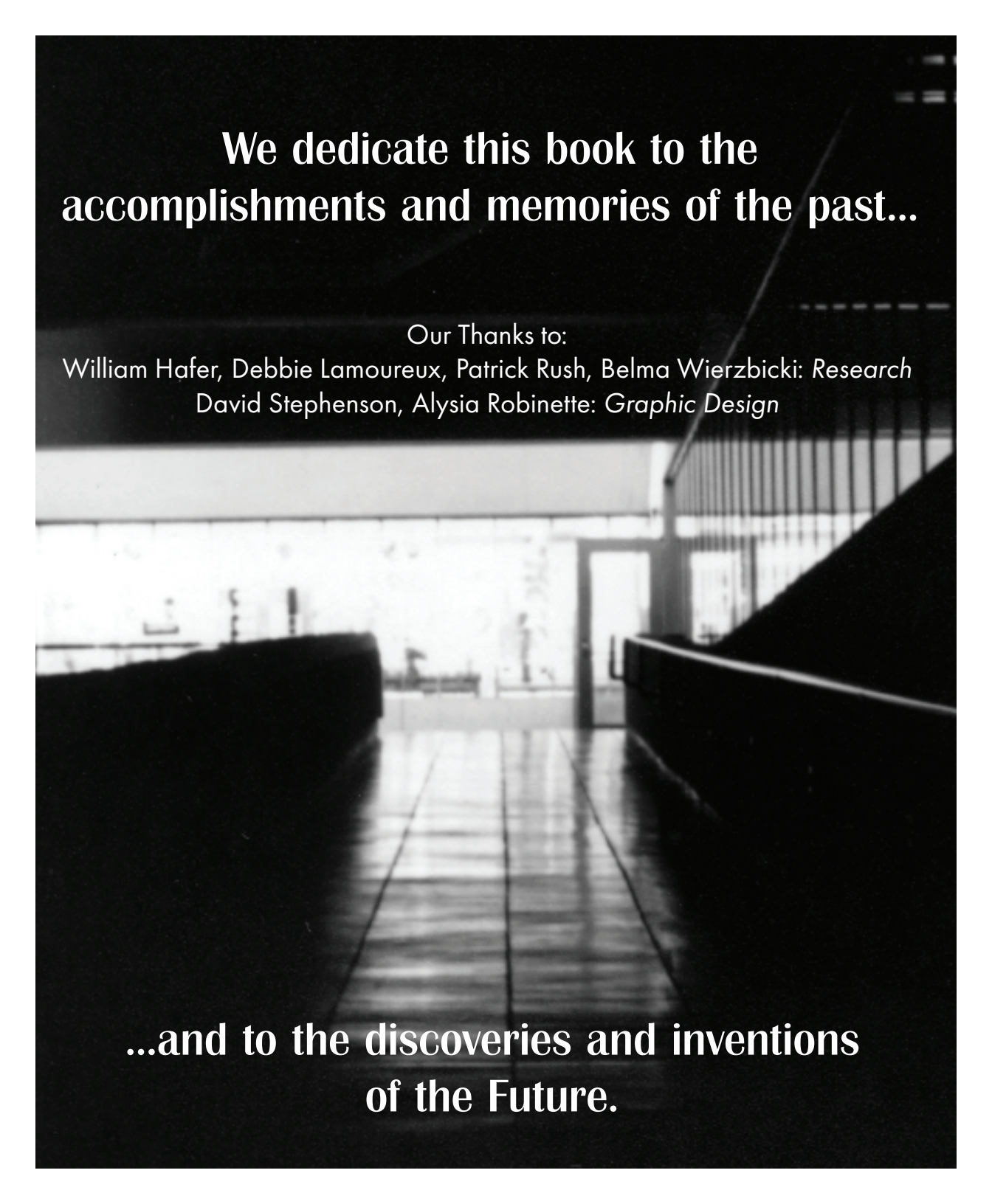


2016 HSE Graduation



HCCTP Students replaced concrete at the Student Entrance.





**We dedicate this book to the  
accomplishments and memories of the past...**

Our Thanks to:

William Hafer, Debbie Lamoureux, Patrick Rush, Belma Wierzbicki: *Research*  
David Stephenson, Alysia Robinette: *Graphic Design*

**...and to the discoveries and inventions  
of the Future.**