

# THE BEACON



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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

This issue of the Beacon is all about “keeping it local”. Some of our greatest assets, as a community, are the many talents and passions of our graduates. Combined with the professional skills learned at SST, those student interests can turn into fulfilling, lucrative careers that have a direct impact on the local economy. Below are stories from a variety of SST alumni - many of whom went to college in New Hampshire, all of whom are working locally. Enjoy!

- **Jason Poole '99, Building Construction Technologies**

My junior and senior year at Exeter High, I took Building Trades. During my time with the Seacoast School of Technology, I had the opportunity to build a wheelchair ramp in the community, assisted with the construction of Planet Playground, and completed two homes from start to finish. With the help of the staff at SST along with all the experience I gained during my time there, I was able to secure scholarships for my continued education at the University of New Hampshire. I majored in Construction Management and Architectural Technology and graduated in 2001. I started my own construction company, JPW Construction, just out of college and have been involved with all types of construction since that time. I am licensed as a Construction Supervisor in the State of Massachusetts and am also Lead Certified here in New Hampshire. When asked where I learned all that I know about quality construction techniques, I credit my time at SST for giving me a solid foundation and the drive to continue challenging myself with education in this and related fields.

- **Elizabeth Murphy '10, Animal & Plant Science**

I graduated from the Animal & Plant Science class in 2010 and went on to the Thompson School of Applied Science at the University of New Hampshire to major in both Ornamental Horticulture and Applied Business Management. I will be graduating in May with my dual Associate's Degree. SST has really helped me in all areas of my life – school and work in particular. Both SST and Ms. DeMarco helped me figure out what industry I wanted to work in and have helped me find my passions. I have been working at the Exeter Flower Shop for more than a year now. I work during the summer and while on academic breaks from school. I love what I do at the shop and it allows me to use skills that I learned both at SST and other skills that I have learned by working in the industry. My job has allowed me to really understand how a flower shop runs and operates. I couldn't have asked for a better experience and I love what I do.

- **Stephen Mancini '07, Digital Communications**

I am a local animator and designer. I am currently working in Newfields, New Hampshire at Microsource Inc. There, I create and animate interactive children's books on the iPad eBook platform. I am also designing layouts and interactive digital magazines using the Mag Plus plugin for Adobe InDesign. At SST, I was in the first graduating class of Digital Communications. This class played a major role in where I am today. SST gave me an opportunity to discover exactly what I wanted to study in college even before the college process started. I attended the Art Institute in Philadelphia. I continued to build onto what I learned at SST, and I have made it into a full-time career!

- **Emily York '00, Early Childhood Education**

I had wanted to be a teacher since I was in the 2nd grade. The Seacoast School of Technology opened up the door for me to begin working hands-on with children before I even graduated from high school. Attending the Early Childhood program not only exposed me to lesson planning and working with preschool-aged children, but it also provided me with an opportunity to work in a 1st grade classroom as part of an "internship" program. This prepared me for my Teacher Education Programs at Endicott College and West Virginia University. After receiving my Master's Degree in Elementary Education, I returned home from WVU and began working at Main Street School in Exeter. I am currently in my 8th year of teaching at Main Street School, and coincidentally, I teach my 1st grade students in the same classroom as where I did my internship while a student at SST. SST gave me many different opportunities that most other students my age did not have a chance to experience before entering college. The lesson planning and teaching experiences that I received at SST helped me enter college a step above many of my classmates. One of the most important things that SST did for me was confirm that I wanted to become an educator. To this day, I continue to sing the praises of the Seacoast School of Technology to parents, students and fellow teachers. The opportunities I was given at SST not only shaped my career, but gave me a foundation from which I continue to instruct every single day.

- **Harry Lindsay '99, Automotive Technologies**

I started my automotive career in 1999. The dealership I worked for was very impressed by what I could do and what I knew right out of high school. I attended the New Hampshire Community Technical College in Manchester and studied Automotive in the Ford Asset program. College was easy for the first three quarters because I only refined the skills and knowledge I already knew from what I learned at SST. The last quarter I learned topics not addressed at SST. I now own my own business in Brentwood, Gus' Auto, with a satisfied customer base. I strive for quality work at a fair price, something that I was taught at SST. I owe my success to SST and the teachers that made me who I am today.

- **Sarah Downing '06, Health Science Technologies**

I took part in the Health Sciences program my junior and senior year of high school. I enjoyed attending SST because it focused on my career goals and allowed me to do hands-on work. During my senior year, I was able to receive my Licensed Nursing Assistant Certification (LNA) as part of my internship. I have been working as a Licensed Nursing Assistant at the Rockingham County Nursing Home for the last six years because of the training I received at SST.

- **Dan Anzalone '08, Welding Technologies**

I currently work for R.H. White Construction Co., Inc. as a pipe welder. We construct gas pipe lines for the natural gas industry and install propane lines at gas facilities. Without SST I may never have gotten the chance to try welding and catch the interest that inspired me to continue my welding career onto college and ultimately have a long-term future in the industry. I attended the Manchester Community College and earned an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Welding Technology and I have hundreds of hours of continuing education and dozens of gas licenses. I would strongly recommend to anyone considering SST to try anything that seems of interest and put full focus into it because it may end up being their career.

- **Angela Case '08, Digital Communications**

I attended The New England Institute of Art, where I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Graphic Design. During this time, I worked alongside the activities' coordinator to establish a consistent culture of student-focused campus life. As a Student Assistant during my undergraduate studies, I coordinated social, cultural, and awareness campaigns, as well as created educational materials and activities for the student body. I contributed not only on the creative aspects, but was also the Senior Student Assistant, where I managed events from start to finish. Currently, I work in the Teaching Learning and Instructional Technology Center at Bunker Hill Community College as the Special Programs Coordinator and E-Portfolio Specialist. As part of the TLITC, I train faculty to use and integrate new technology into their curricula, this includes different hardware, software and ideologies. My job is to spread the most up-to-date pedagogical resources to students, faculty and staff at Bunker Hill Community College. On both my college campus as well as in my workplace, I am regarded as a reliable, quick thinking, problem-solving team player. These are all skills that were seeded at the Seacoast School of Technology where I was enrolled in the Digital Communications program. The opportunity to be part of organizations like Future Business Leaders of America helped me get a head start on life and gave me professional skills that my peers did not start learning until the end of their college career. I attribute a large part of my success, especially as a young person, to what I learned at SST.

- **Bryn Adler '08, Marketing Technologies**

Since graduating from Simmons College in 2011, I have been working at a web design and marketing firm in Boston, initially as an internet marketing associate, but most recently with a promotion to the firm's marketing program manager. My job is to create, implement, and measure internet marketing programs for our clients, such as search engine optimization, content marketing, lead generation, and social media programs. I also serve as an account manager on our web design projects. I've used the skills I gained at SST extensively, both in school and in launching my career. Participating in DECA and competing at the state level as a senior developed my public speaking, problem solving and presentation abilities. Placing in these competitions showed my admissions counselor and current employer the dedication I have always had to marketing education. Similarly, working with a team of students to run and market a business built my foundation knowledge and gave me greater experience in hands-on team management. The most memorable project I had at SST was organizing and running a holiday toy drive in partnership with a local car dealership, Foss Motors. Not only did I love working with my friends to oversee the entire promotional plan of this project, but it solidified in me a love for marketing something that is good and emotionally beneficial. SST gave me responsibilities I had not yet anticipated, and I have been a better marketer and businesswoman for it.

- **Ashley Taylor '04, Early Childhood Education**

As a child I always knew what I wanted to be when I grew up - an elementary school teacher. Once I reached high school most classes seemed monotonous and more of a pre-requisite than an interest geared towards my dream job. Upon hearing about the SST's Early Childhood Program I was thrilled to challenge this childhood desire and engage myself in a program that was aligned with the skills needed to become an educator. It was the perfect opportunity to gain hands-on experiences and truly find out whether or not this lifelong dream of mine was still what I wanted. The best part was being able to test these waters before reaching the college level, where the potential anxiety of committing to a major, that I was still unsure of, was possible. The education that I received from the ECE program was extremely valuable to me as a kinesthetic and visual learner. The teachers, Carla Ranks, Stacey Jordan and Janel Holmes, engaged us in helping to create the weekly lesson plans, and encouraged us to incorporate all styles of learning for the children's best interest. They were always there to be sure that our questions were answered and give us positive feedback when we were applying skills appropriately. Their passion for the field was contagious and inspiring, and being able to work alongside them each week helped me to realize that I was making the correct career decision. Now, nine years later, I am a Keene State College graduate and I am teaching a classroom full of eager first grade students at the Main Street School in Exeter. I am thankful for my time spent at SST. It helped me gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be an educator, and reignited the passion that had once become questionable.

- **Sonya Swallow '11, Culinary Arts**

I am a 2011 Winnacunnet and Seacoast School of Technology Culinary Arts graduate. Right now, I'm keeping it local, working two jobs, one being full time at the Galley Hatch, and the other at Restyled - a consignment shop in Hampton. I also attend Great Bay Community College in Portsmouth and am working toward a dual associate's major in Hospitality Management and Accounting. In the future I plan to transfer to Southern New Hampshire University to continue my education. When I first started at SST baking was my absolute passion. The Culinary program at SST showed me that I didn't just love baking but I loved the whole industry. Now my future goal is to be a chain owner and to own many other companies.

SST boasts more than 10,000 alumni, only a few of whom are featured in this newsletter. Do you know an SST alumnus? Tell them to like us on Facebook or call us at 603.775.8461 to reconnect and arrange a time to visit their school. About 9,000 of our alumni have never seen our renovations. We'd love to welcome them back!

Do you have a senior? Be sure you encourage your senior to apply for the many scholarships which will be given out at our Certificate Ceremony. All seniors have received a scholarship application, which is due in the SST front office by 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, no exceptions. Please mark two dates on your calendar – Thursday, May 31 and Thursday, June 6. Our Certificate Ceremony will take place at Exeter High School at 5:30 p.m. on one of those dates to be determined once regional graduation dates are set.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan  
Principal