

news you can use

Student & Alumni News

Issue I; Vol. III | September 2010

In This Issue

- Community Involvement
- Career Tips, Trends and Highlights
- Scholarship Fund Activities

We want to keep in touch!

Help us keep in contact by sending your name, up-to-date email address, phone number and address to alumni@vatterott-college.edu.

Did You Know?

We are now on Facebook! You can go to your campus web site and find a quick link to your page. Be sure to "like" us!



Congratulations to these 2010 Recipients of the Home Depot Scholarship!

Sunset Hills: Patrick Gaines

Des Moines: Jerry Praska, Joe Hill, Terry Beliek and Jeff DeMoss

Quincy: Seth Taylor

Kansas City: Rebecca Inloes and Cynthia Hornes

Community Involvement Continues to be our Focus

We'd like to take this opportunity to give you a snap shot of what our campuses have been doing to make a difference!

Letter from Vatterott College Springfield campus director Scott Haar

The Springfield campus of Vatterott College takes pride in the role we play in our community. The third largest metropolitan area in the state of Missouri, Springfield retains a familial scope in which education resonates fully when matched with the service and trade industry that comprises its economy. Proprietary education is an economic and logistical partner in the balance between a demanding workforce and the hopes and dreams of today's employee. Vatterott College has been serving as a bridge between the interests of employers and trained employees for more than twenty years. During that time, an equally powerful and rewarding dynamic has emerged and strengthened the connection between Vatterott College and the community it serves.

This symbiosis between people and the process of education is clearly framed by the personalities, stories and life change it precipitates. It is simply not enough to be a benign institution. With a history of being student-focused, Vatterott College has become a full representation of the people and events that shape our community. As a gathering place, the school has become identifiable as a polling station for the local precinct in Greene County. With each election, the school is abuzz with the traffic and excitement of our democratic process. The school also shows great effort to solicit and collect life-saving blood as a partner site to the Community Blood Centers of the Ozarks. Throughout each calendar year, the school is led by its Medical Assistant faculty

and students in an effort to increase the total units donated from the prior event. It is common to see faculty and students soliciting new and recurrent donors for the cause. Their visible and active footprint clamors with the spirit of giving, the energy of hope, and the reward of serving others in a time of dire need.

Perhaps faculty and students from no other program are better suited to experience the relevance of purpose between the construct of education and the benefit of career skills than those from the school's Dental Assistant program. For more than twelve years, Vatterott College faculty and staff have been active participants in the mission of Springfield's The Kitchen, Incorporated, a not-for-profit medical and dental clinic that seeks to advance their mission: to offer quality health care and hope to uninsured, low-income individuals and families, with compassion and dignity. "The Kitchen" started on Palm Sunday in 1983 as a soup kitchen. The work of Sister Lorraine is alive and well today as community partners such as United Way, Community Foundation of the Ozarks and

the Missouri Foundation for Health combine resources.

Vatterott College is at the leading edge of that mission with faculty and student participation in three free clinics offered to the public each ten-week term. The school's connection to "The Kitchen" was made more than twelve years ago.

Dental Assisting Program Director, Vicki Parrott, has been personally volunteering at the free clinic since 1996.

"It's rewarding to help the



Dental Assisting Program Director, Vicki Parrott, has been personally volunteering at the free clinic since 1996.

continued on second page

Letter from Scott Haar continued

patients. Without the students and our involvement, the clinic couldn't serve them." The organization awarded her with a high honor in 2008 and presented a framed picture of her with a student examining an X-ray. The scene was annotated with the words "For teaching, for caring, thank you Vicki." Ms. Parrott's dedication to and zeal for her profession is a quality woven into the cultural fabric of her program and analogous to the way her faculty and students approach chair-side duties. "I have been told I have the heart of a caregiver," Parrott reflects. "It's my passion. I love helping people and the process of education."

Ms. Parrott's commitment to the clinic, and the subsequent care and attention her faculty and students bring to their work is further evidence that the experience of education, when refracted through a skill that produces service to others, is a process that can reveal our innate calling. For some students this calling pushes them beyond the perfunctory. Dr. Houston Ker, D.D.S., runs supplemental free clinics at "The Kitchen" every Tuesday and Friday evening. Each week, Vatterott College Dental Assistant students are on hand to assist and do so on their own time, as volunteers, without classroom credit. "They (students) do an excellent job. Without them it would not be possible and I know "The Kitchen" really appreciates them. They are invaluable beyond calculation," said Dr. Ker. "The students also get the chance to work with different dentists and gain new perspective." Carrie, a Dental Assistant student, has been a regular volunteer at the clinic, outside of her class

schedule. "It's rewarding. You see a lot of the same people and get to know them. They are very thankful," explains Carrie. She echoes Ker's remarks regarding the opportunity to work with a variety of dentists. "It's a lot of hands-on."

The level of cooperation between the school and the clinic became even more cemented in 2007 when Ms. Parrott and Dr. Ker formed The Kitchen Dental Leadership Group. The group's focus is to recruit dental professionals in Southwest Missouri to address the needs of the community and the clinic. Area dentists are encouraged to volunteer on-site, or invite "Kitchen" clientele into their own practices for assistance.

In 2009 the clinic finished an expansion, thanks to local donations, and increased the opportunity to provide services to the public. Vatterott College has matched that opportunity with more student participation and continues to work alongside its community partners at "The Kitchen." The school has also expanded its commitment to the greater mission of the organization by leading school supply drives each of the last two years. In 2009, more than 1,500 pieces were donated to "The Kitchen" for local school children in need. "There is an intrinsic value to our relationship with 'The Kitchen' and the school supply drive embodies our mutual, fundamental missions in the Springfield community," said Vatterott College Director, Scott Haar. "The processes of giving, serving, and educating are at the core of what both organizations do."

Career Tips, Trends and Highlights

Starting Your Career Mary Weber, Corporate Director of Career Services

Getting a better job is the objective. Finishing your education for your career path is the first step. In most instances, developing the right resume is the next step. Putting together a resume is very serious business. Why? Because often it is the first impression you will make on a prospective employer. And, hopefully, after looking over your resume, the employer will grant you the opportunity to make a second impression.

What this means is that your resume is your personal marketing brochure. If you look through a magazine you will see many ads selling many products. Which ads do you respond to? For most of us, they are the ads that sell something, which meets our own personal needs. The same is true for filling a job opening. Employers look through resumes and pick the ones that best meet the needs of the job. Therefore, the formatting and content of your resume are critical.

Determining the best format and content of your resume requires answering many questions. Below is a sample of the questions that must be answered.

What resume format should I use? Chronological, Functional or a combination of the two?

- The chronological resume is the one most people are familiar with. On it, work experience is listed in reverse chronological order (most recent job first).
- A functional resume categorizes skills by function, emphasizing your abilities. A job objective is given first, followed by several sections, each discussing a different

job function. This is useful if you are changing careers and want to show how you can transfer your skills and abilities.

- A combination resume is exactly what it sounds like — it combines a functional resume with a chronological one.

Where should your educational background be placed? At the top or the bottom of the resume?

- If you are entering a new field, it should follow a summary of your skills/abilities at the top of your resume.
- If you have direct work experience in the field, it should follow your work experience.
- If you have attended college there is no need to list high school information.

How long is too long? The rule of thumb is to stick to a one page resume.

There are many ways to structure a resume. The bottom line is that you must produce a resume that will help you to get the interview. Resumes do not get you a job. What they can do is get you the opportunity to sell yourself to employers.

Are you sitting there right now thinking, wow, I need a great resume or I need to update my existing resume, but I have no idea where to begin? REMEMBER, Career Services is committed to your success and will be happy to assist you with your resume, interviewing skills, job leads, etc. **Pick up the phone and call us or stop by the Career Services Department at the Campus. We are ready and willing to assist you in your next career move!**

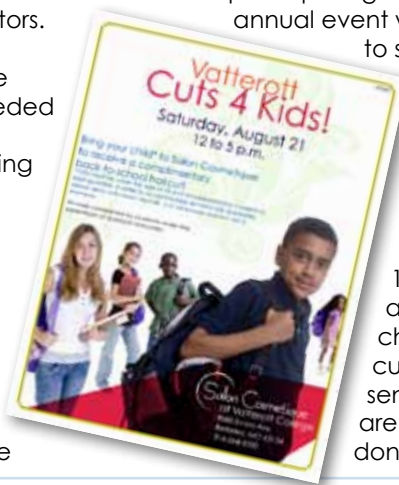


in focus

NorthPark Campus:

Leslie Dampier, Evening Cosmetology Program Director, has spearheaded a number of community service events to teach students to look outside of the classroom and to get a feeling for just how powerful their future profession can be. In May, Dampier and another instructor took Vatterott students to a local women's shelter to donate beauty services to the residents. Students offered detailed consultations, thermal styles, haircuts, make-up applications, eye lash applications, manicures and pedicures. Many of the women at the shelter had never received such care before.

"Going to the women's shelter was a great experience for both the students and instructors. It is always a pleasure to give back to the community and help those in need. We were very excited to go and help people that needed a boost of self confidence and to offer the reassurance that even though they were going through a life transition; they were on their way to a positive path. We were all surprised at how therapeutic this experience was on us, realizing how much a touch can heal. We were able to put smiles on these faces and let them know there is someone who cares, someone that wants to take the time to make them feel like a new, refreshed person when it seems as if everything else is in disarray," Dampier stated, reflecting on the



experience. Introducing community service opportunities to our cosmetology students is an opportunity to remind them of just how much their future profession gives back to others. Our students returned to school the next day energized and anxious to plan more events with the shelter. Students said they were reminded of how grateful they were. And were happy to help the ladies get their minds off of their problems. They wanted to let the women know that they are not forgotten, and help them feel good about themselves.

In addition, the College is approaching its third year of participating in Craig Blac's Community Cuts for Kids, an annual event which offers children the chance to go back to school with a fresh haircut and new school supplies. Our instructors and students volunteer their time to participate in this Sunday event and represent Vatterott at one of the event's three locations. "Community Cuts 4 Kids," also has made its way into our building; on August 21, 2010, the students and staff welcomed children 18 and under to the salon for a free haircut and style for school. This not only boosts the child's confidence, it assists the parents in cutting down on one of the many costs to send a child back to school. The students also are conducting their own school supply drive to donate to the visitors of the Vatterott event.

O'Fallon Campus:

On July 23, 2010, the O'Fallon Campus Cosmetology department participated in the 2nd Annual Backpack/Health Fair at West Calvary Church. The church provided 600 backpacks filled with school supplies to under resourced families. The Lincoln County Medical Center provided free hearing and vision screens and our very own

cosmetology program provided free haircuts for the kids. Six Vatterott graduates and nine current cosmetology students volunteered their time to participate in this event. We were able to provide 101 haircuts and have been invited to participate in 2011 as well! A big THANK YOU goes out to all who helped make this happen!

Quincy Campus:

In the last 12 months, the total community impact of the "Vatterott Volunteers" representing the Quincy campus has been substantial. Following we highlight several key events:

- Vatterott students collected more than 2,600 food items for distribution to local food pantries, restocking shelves that have been severely depleted by the economic recession in the area.
- Vatterott students collected more than \$2,500 to assist several community support agencies and to support several of their own peers struggling with financial challenges due to natural disaster or medical problems.
- Vatterott students donated more than 100 units (pints) of blood through on-campus blood drives. According to the American Red Cross, this represents the potential for more than 300 lives saved.

- Vatterott students donated 25 toys to put smiles on the faces of needy children at Christmas and 20 cell phones to bring modern communications to struggling families in the community.
- Vatterott students provided more than 100 haircuts to underprivileged children and 50+ hand massages to nurses on National Nurses Day in appreciation for their selfless service to their patients.
- Vatterott students assisted with more than 150 cancer screenings for low-income families and senior citizens at an open screening sponsored by our local hospital.
- Collectively, Vatterott students contributed more than 34,000 volunteer hours toward numerous community activities and causes.

Student & Alumni News

Scholarship Fund Activity

The Vatterott Scholarship Fund issues annual competitive scholarships to students who have a demonstrated financial need, have completed two phases, have a 90% or better attendance record and at least a 3.0 academic average. Winners are chosen by the Greater St. Louis Community Foundation. We'd like to thank everyone who has had a part in the fund-raising efforts for these scholarships. The following are just some of the activities our campuses have been involved in.

Wichita

Car Show

Every year, on the first Friday in May, the Wichita Campus hosts a Classic Car Show and Student Appreciation Day. Many car clubs, as well as local enthusiasts from across the state pencil in the date and attend year after year. In its 10th year, the Car Show has grown to over 200 entries annually with trophies and dash plaques for the car owners. The fun doesn't stop there, along with the beautiful show of cars; the school has food and art and craft vendors, activities for kids and a live band. This year, in lieu of an entry fee, the school took donations for the Vatterott Scholarship Fund. This event is the school's way to give back to community and its students by providing a fun filled day for family and friends at no cost.

Gamer Night

Everyone knows a geek or has a son obsessed with video games. On Gamer Night, the school gets its geek on! Area high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates are invited to the campus for the ultimate gaming experience. Different games are hosted throughout the building, including the newest and hottest games as well as the old



classics. Does anyone remember Space Invaders and PacMan? Pizza is provided to top off the gaming experience. The school provides a safe haven for young people to

get together, make new friends and enjoy the world of computer gaming. The \$5 cover charge was donated to the Vatterott Scholarship Fund.



Des Moines Vatteroke!

Rock, Rap and Country music filled the Des Moines campus Diesel and HVAC "auditoriums" as the 1st annual Vatteroke kicked off early May 2010. More than one-hundred students, staff and faculty broke into applause as campus Director Dan Nieland kicked off the event in country music fashion. The two day- two night concert/contest culminated with the winner walking away with the grand prize of \$100. Students, staff and faculty all contributed talents, time and two bucks for lunch and a show to help make a contribution to the Vatterott Scholarship Fund.



Admissions Director Maureen Shay handled "sound sequencing" duties, while campus director, Dan Nieland kicked off the 1st annual Vatteroke

St. Joseph Kid Day

Our Cosmetology Department's "Kid Day" raised \$700 for the Vatterott Scholarship Fund. The kids who came in, along with the students, had a great time. We were kept busy with excited boys and girls all day. Lots of different colored hair and wild nails left with big smiles. More will be planned for these fun days to bring us closer to the community in the near future. Thank you for all the support.

Online Text Books and Text Alerts

The Vatterott College Online Division recently began offering students the option to choose eBooks for their distance education courses. The adoption of eBooks for the online program allows students to save money in comparison to hard-copy textbooks while providing advanced features such as the ability to search an entire textbook and bookmark important course content.

We have recently introduced text messaging alerts to our entire student population. By signing up for text message alerts through www.vatterott-college.edu web site, students will receive updates and announcements regarding campus closings and weather related announcements along with important information regarding special events and other campus activities.

