

# the **ranken** experience

VOLUME FIVE ISSUE FOUR – SPRING 2009



Read more about the SkillsUSA competition on page 15

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**RANKEN**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL!

**program key**

**ACR** | Automotive Collision Repair Technology

**AMT** | Automotive Maintenance Technology

**ART** | Architectural Technology

**BSAM** | Bachelor of Science in Applied Management

**BSAT** | Bachelor of Science in Architectural Technology

**CRP** | Carpentry and Building Construction

**CST** | Control Systems Technology

**EAT** | Electrical Automation Technology

**ECDM** | Electrical Construction Design and Management

**ESDT** | Electrical Systems Design Technology

**HPRT** | High Performance Racing Technology

**HVACR** | Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology

**INT** | Industrial Technology

**IT** | Information Technology

**IWT** | Internet and Web-based Technology

**PLT** | Plumbing Technology

**PMT** | Precision Machining Technology

**STE** | Stationary Engineering

**WLD** | Precision Welding and Fabrication

**WWK** | Woodworking





**Ben Ernst**, President

## note from the president

**O**ver the past few months, St. Louis has been hit hard by several large companies laying off hundreds of employees. In fact, most of us probably know someone personally who has been affected by these tough economic times. We continue to hear about the rising unemployment rate, and the expectation is that things will get worse before they get better.

Though we haven't been completely unfazed by the recession, Ranken and its graduates are continuing to thrive. Our graduates are still in demand and finding jobs in their field, most within six months of graduation. The Career Services office at Ranken recently published their statistics for the past two graduating classes and the numbers are extraordinary. Of those students who graduated in December 2007, 100% have found employment, and of our most recent graduates of May 2008, 99% are working in their field.

While the number of jobs around us seems to be declining, our average number of job opportunities per graduate has actually increased over the past year. We currently have an average of more than five job opportunities per graduate college-wide. In areas such as Precision Machining Technology, Information Technology and Industrial Technology, the number is much higher.

Several companies in the area are sending their employees to Ranken for continuing education and training, and we have also been enrolling students who have recently been laid off and would like to learn a new trade. We hope we are, in some small way, helping to rebuild the workforce in our region. We have worked hard to build what Ranken is today, and we have a great deal to offer students, alumni, staff and the community. If you know someone who could benefit from continued education or retraining, we would like to help.

For parents who have children in high school who are beginning to look at college options, we ask that you add Ranken to your list and compare our programs to other schools in the area. We invite you to visit campus to see first-hand why our programs are superior and why employers want to fill their open positions with Ranken graduates.

There is a reason that Ranken has been around for more than 100 years. We take pride in what we do and how we do it. We not only give our students an excellent education, but we also prepare them for the workforce and the real-life situations they will encounter once they leave campus. If you or someone you know would like more information about Ranken and our programs, contact our Admissions office at (314) 286-4809 or visit our website at [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu).

## Students Move Into Walker Hall

**F**or the first time in Ranken's long history, students are living on campus. On Friday, January 9, more than 20 students moved into the Myrtle and Earl Walker Residence Hall.

During the move-in process, dorm staff was on-hand to check students

in and each new resident was given a welcome bag. John Beeman, Director of Public Safety, issued room keys and parking stickers, and student ambassadors helped residents move their belongings into their new dorm rooms.

That evening, dorm staff hosted a dinner for all residents and their families, followed by an orientation session.

Though the dorms aren't completely finished, there has been a major transformation since the dedication ceremony, which was held in November. Leather furniture and flat screen television sets have been placed in the common areas and painting of the first floor is near completion.

Applications to live in the dorms are still being accepted, and it is expected that more than 30 students will be dorm residents by the end of the spring semester.

Log on to Ranken's website to view more photos and keep up-to-date on progress at the dorms.



Photo: Student ambassador, Jean Fancote, helps a student move in to the newly opened Walker Residence Hall.



Photo: One of the three common areas on the second floor of the dorms.

## Dining Hall, Library Extend Hours

**I**n order to better serve our continuing education students and new Walker Hall residents, Fresh Ideas has announced that they will offer new extended hours. The Dining Hall in Finney will now be open from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For dining on the weekends, Harris Stowe College has graciously agreed to let our students use their cafeteria.

Once Walker Hall is completed, there will be a snack shop available for students on the first floor.

Now that students are living on campus, the library has also extended their hours on Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Both the dining hall and the library, as well as other areas on campus, will continue to evaluate the need to change their hours in order to ensure our students' needs are being met.

### Dining Hall Hours

Breakfast	7:00a.m - 10:00 a.m.
Drinks & snacks	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Closed	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Dinner*	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

\*Monday - Thursday only

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## Are you interested in living in our new dormitory?

If you would like more information about living on campus, contact our Residential Life office at (314) 286-3671 or go to our website, [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu) for pricing information and to view floorplans of the rooms.

# Ranken Launches Dual Enrollment Program with St. Louis Public Schools

**R**anken Technical College and the St. Louis Public School System (SLPS) have formed an exclusive partnership in which qualified students can begin attending classes at Ranken for college credit during their senior year of high school.

Students who qualify for the dual enrollment program will not have any out-of-pocket expenses. The following high schools will be participating in the dual enrollment program:

- » Beaumont
- » Central
- » Roosevelt
- » Sumner
- » Vashon

As part of the program, high school students can enroll in one of the three programs listed below. Students who complete a semester of the program during high school will be able to complete an associate degree at Ranken in three semesters.

## Automotive Maintenance Technology (AMT)

Combining traditional and modern industry practices, Ranken's AMT program develops student proficiencies in areas such as engine repair, air conditioning, brakes and electricity. In addition, engine performance and emissions, along with suspension and steering, will be taught. Graduates of this program accept employment with many local automotive dealers and independent repair shops.

## Industrial Technology (INT)

Graduates of the INT program have expertise in a number of fields and are capable of keeping things running in a machine shop, industrial plant or large company. Students also acquire knowledge in facility maintenance as it applies to the operation of hospitals and hotels. INT students are trained in the following areas: carpentry, code electricity, hydraulics, industrial electricity, mechanical maintenance, pipe fitting, programmable logic controls, air conditioning and welding.

## Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology (HVACR)

Graduates of the HVACR program are prepared for employment as a general HVACR mechanic or can specialize in fields such as residential air conditioning, commercial refrigeration or heating equipment. They also work at industrial plants, hotels and hospitals. HVACR students are trained in the following areas: applied electrical circuits, basic refrigeration and electricity, gas, oil and electric furnaces, materials and equipment, problem diagnosis, refrigeration part replacement and sheet metal.

For more information on this new program, contact LaTrina Rogers at (314) 286-4833 or [larogers@ranken.edu](mailto:larogers@ranken.edu).

## Career Services Continues Extraordinary Job Placement Rate

**O**ur extraordinary career placement rate is a big selling point for potential Ranken students. The Career Services office, which includes Janie Summers, Coordinator, and Liz Tate, Administrative Assistant, works very hard to ensure that our students are finding jobs in their field.

One big responsibility of this office is to stay in close contact with local businesses so that they are aware of Ranken and what our graduates can offer. Career Services keeps a database and continually works to add new businesses to the files.

"We use a variety of resources to find information about businesses in the area so that our students can be aware of all of their options," said Summers. Since December 2008, 146 new businesses have been added to the database.

The office hosts several events throughout the school year to introduce businesses to our students. Employers are invited to visit campus to learn more about the College during employer breakfasts, and twice per year, the office coordinates a job fair in which employers can speak with students about their company and accept resumes.

In order to prepare our students to speak with potential employers, Career Services also hosts a "Resume Writing and Interview" workshop, which involves companies that hire our students. Their hard work continues to pay off for our students and it is proven in their statistics:

### Job Placement Rate

- » 12/07 graduates - 100%
- » 05/08 graduates - 99%

### Job Opportunities

Currently, the number of job opportunities per graduate is **5.41** College-wide\* compared to 4.69 one year ago.



Photo: Members of the Career Services office.  
L-R Liz Tate and Janie Summers.

\* See page 19 for a breakdown of job opportunities per program.



## Drag Racer Danny Miller Visits Campus

**O**n Tuesday, January 20, drag car racer Danny Miller visited campus and spoke with students in Ranken's automotive programs. Approximately 150 students attended his talk, which was held in the atrium of the Mary Ann Lee Technology Center.

Miller spoke to the students about his background and experience in the automotive industry, how he got involved in racing and specifically about the technical aspects of his car and the current state-of-the-art technology. He gave students advice on how to get into the racing industry and job opportunities that are available.



Photo: Drag racer Danny Miller speaks with students in the automotive programs at Ranken.

Ranken's relationship with Danny Miller began in 2006 when Ranken graduate, Larry Kelso who now works for Sikkens contacted Larry Schmidt in Automotive

Collision Repair about a potential partnership.

"Larry emailed me and said that Danny Miller was looking for someone to do the paint work on a new retro funny car that he was building," said Schmidt. "We were very excited about the opportunity that this could give our students and the fact that, in return, Ranken's logo would be put on the car. It was a win-win situation."

The ACR department agreed to do the work and presented the opportunity to their students. "Out of the entire class, the two female students in the class were the ones who were most excited and volunteered," said Schmidt. Barb Cleveland (ACR 2006) and Jessie Wilkins (ACR 2006) worked on the car, and their hard work paid off.

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Marketing has created a student newsletter to keep Ranken students up-to-date on campus news and events.

**The Ranken File** is posted to InsideRanken every Monday and includes news, scholarship information, tips from the Student Achievement Center and a city calendar.





Photo: Jessie Wilkins works on preparing the car for painting.

"Danny thought so much of their work that he had their names put on the car," said Schmidt.

Miller has a long history of fast and well designed cars. His "Plastic Fantastic" fuel funny car was originally built in 1969 and appeared on the cover of the funny car issue of Hot Rod Magazine in April 1971.

Miller worked as a crew

chief for Shirley Muldowney and later Bill Taylor's Coke Cavalcade of Stars "Super Duster" funny cars. Miller currently owns his own company, "Danny Miller's Rear- Gears," a premium manufacturer of Ford 9" rear end components, but is still very involved in the racing industry. Racecar driver, Randy Baker has been driving Miller's car for the past several years and will be driving the remodeled version of the "Plastic Fantastic" full time this year.

For more information on Danny Miller's company and to see a racing schedule, visit his website at [www.rear-gears.com](http://www.rear-gears.com).



Photo: The completed funny car at Indy.

## Student Referral Program

**D**uring the dorm open house last December, Ranken rolled out a new Student Referral program. With this program, current students, alumni and other friends of the College can refer potential students who may be interested in furthering their education and training.

Current students who submit a valid referral card are automatically entered into a monthly drawing to win an iPod Shuffle.

The first drawing took place in January, and Nicholas Schrader, a December graduate from the Automotive Collision Repair program, won the drawing. Nick actually referred two students (one day student and one continuing education student), and both enrolled in classes. The new students each received a bookstore credit for registering.

To refer a potential student to Ranken, do one of the following:

» Contact the admissions office at (314) 286-4809

» Fill out a referral card online at  
[www.ranken.edu/Admissions/Referral.asp](http://www.ranken.edu/Admissions/Referral.asp)



Photo: Nick Schrader won an iPod Shuffle for referring two students to Ranken.

## ST. LOUIS AUTO SHOW

Thanks to the generosity of the St. Louis Auto Dealers Association, Ranken was able to set up a booth at the St. Louis Auto Show that was held at the America's Center downtown January 28-February 1.

Many alumni, potential students and friends of the College stopped by the booth. Visitors had the opportunity to enter a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship for the fall semester.

**John Kaczmarczyk**, a high school student at Fort Zumwalt South, won the scholarship.

Thank you to all of the faculty, staff, alumni and students who took time out their evenings and weekend to work at the booth.

## Ranken Creates New Hybrid Technology Seminar

**H**ybrid technology is the wave of the future, and due to industry demand, Ranken created its first-ever hybrid technology seminar. This two-day course was designed for automotive technicians, service associates, roadside service personnel, instructors and others who are interested in preparing for the most current automotive technology.

"Currently, hybrid cars make up about 3% of automobiles on the road, but with people becoming more and more aware of the importance of saving energy, this number will continue to increase," said Dan Kania, Automotive Department Head. "It's becoming increasingly important for those in the automotive industry to understand the parts involved in hybrid cars and how they run. These cars use high voltage wiring so first responders and those working in repair shops can get hurt if they don't



Photo: Hybrid donated by Toyota (2007 Lexus GS450H)

know what they are doing."

The course, which was held on the evenings of February 23 and February 25, included an introduction to hybrid vehicles and information on alternative fuel sources. Attendees included independent shop owners and individuals from Enterprise Rent-A-Car. "It's important for companies that are leasing these cars to understand how they work so that if the car breaks down they can explain to the roadside assistance people and the repair shop the safety measures to take," said Kania.

John Shoffner and Al Davenport, both instructors in the AMT division, coordinated the course and hope to continue to offer the course in the future. The AMT division currently has two hybrid vehicles (a 2007 Lexus GS450 H and a 2001 Prius), that students work on during their electrical training. Both vehicles were donated by Toyota.

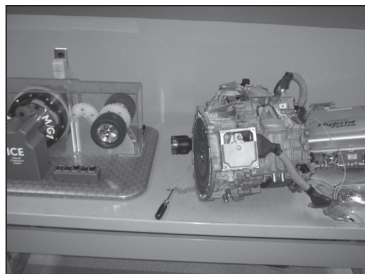


Photo: Hybrid transmission and other typical hybrid parts.

## Board of Trustees Welcomes Two New Board Members



**R**anken's Board of Trustees would like to welcome, **Pamela B. Jackson**, who became a member on May 20, 2008.

The eldest of four children, Jackson was born and raised in western Pennsylvania where she attended public schools. After high school, she attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where she earned a B.S. degree in Chemistry and B.S./M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering. She also received an Executive MBA from Boston University.

Jackson began her career at the Western Electric Engineering Research Center in Princeton, N.J., where she was a member of the research staff. Since then she has led many engineering, design, manufacturing, marketing, quality and product reliability groups in several states.

Jackson is currently Vice President of Technology at Emerson Corporate in St. Louis, Mo. She joined the company in April 2001 after a successful career at AT&T and Lucent Technologies where she most recently served as the Vice President and General Manager of Lucent's MicroPower Division located in Austin, Texas.

Jackson brings a great deal of insight and experience to the Board and has received numerous recognitions for her involvement in the community and professional organizations. Some of these include the New York City YWCA Salute to Women Achievers Award, the National Black Engineer of the Year Dean's Award and the Greater Lawrence Massachusetts Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN) Award.

Jackson is a member of Sigma Xi and Beta Gamma Sigma honorary societies as well as the American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the International Women's Forum, the Black Alumni of MIT and the Urban League. She is also participates in church activities and is an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Jackson has been married for 33 years to her husband, John Bush, and together they have three daughters: Lorri, Judi and Rachel. They currently reside in St. Louis County, Mo. In her spare time, Jackson enjoys playing the piano, quilting, skiing and cooking.



**O**n February 26, Ranken's Board of Trustees welcomed their newest member, **Bruno B. Schmitter**.

Born in Kuesnacht, Switzerland, a small town on lake Zurich, Schmitter was educated in the regimented Swiss public school system and attended a four-year Co-op program with the Engineering School of the Canton of Zurich. He graduated as a mechanical engineer in 1974 and served his mandatory duty in the mechanized division of the Swiss Army.

Schmitter immigrated to the U.S. in 1979 and co-founded a privately-held, St. Louis-based machine tool manufacturing firm, Hydromat, Inc. The company started with a handful of employees and produced \$750,000 in sales the first year and then grew into a multi-national organization of over 200 associates producing over \$80 million in sales annually.

Schmitter serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Hydromat, Inc. and is a promoter of Total Quality Management (TQM). He is considered a visionary in the manufacturing industry and successfully demonstrates a hands-on, people-oriented management style and stands by his commitment to excellence and total customer satisfaction.

Schmitter has been married to his wife, Judy, for 30 years and together they have three children: Tanya (27 years), Nadya (24 years) and Dylan (20 years). Both girls are graduates of DePauw University, and Tanya currently works at Hydromat in the Marketing department. Nadya is attending Queens University of Charlotte and will graduate in the spring with an education degree. Dylan is a junior at Purdue University in the School of Technology and plans to study abroad in Germany this semester.

In his spare time, Schmitter enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and playing golf.

## Ranken "Goes Red"

**O**n Wednesday, February 4, the Women In Technology (WIT) group celebrated American Heart Month by hosting their own National Go Red event.

WIT invited guests to wear red to show their support and provided lunch and a speaker from the American Heart Association (AHA). Joycelyn Farmer, the Midwest Regional Vice President of Cultural

Health Initiatives for the AHA, spoke to the group about risk factors, warning signs and prevention measures of heart disease and stroke in women.

More than 40 women attended the event. Each person was given a raffle ticket and several attendance prizes were awarded. WIT has formed an

alliance with the AHA to show its support for women's health. The group plans to participate in the 2010 Go Red for Women campaign as well the 2009 and 2010 Heart Walk.

WIT, which began about five years ago, provides female students and employees at Ranken a forum to discuss issues, socialize and get acquainted with other females on campus. Four times a year, the faculty and staff get together with female students for a luncheon. At each meeting, a speaker addresses issues specific to women including health, finances and how to succeed as a woman in a male-dominated technical field.



Photo: The Women In Technology group held a "Go Red" day to honor American Heart Month.



Photo: Joycelyn Farmer, the Midwest Regional VP of Cultural Health Initiatives for the American Heart Association, spoke at the WIT luncheon.

# EVENTS

## SkillsUSA

**O**n Friday, February 6, Ranken hosted the SkillsUSA district championships. Ranken students competed with about 150 other local high school and college students in technical fields such as: Architectural Drafting, Automated Manufacturing, Automotive Refinishing, Automotive Service, Carpentry, CNC Milling, CNC Turning, Collision Repair, HVAC, Precision Machining, Residential Wiring and Technical Drafting.

Winners from the district event will go on to compete in the Missouri state finals, to be held at Linn State Technical College, April 2-4, 2009. Several Ranken students have placed highly at the state level in past years, and in 2007 Ranken students took first place in the nation in the Automated Manufacturing Technology competition.

Vice President for Education, John Wood, said that Ranken hosts SkillsUSA events because, "We want to show support by participating in the district competitions, and demonstrate our respect for the quality of the vocational programs in local high schools. We also enjoy putting our students up against the best of the best."

The following schools participated in the competition:

- » Ranken Technical College
- » Four Rivers Career Center
- » South County Technical H.S.
- » East Central College
- » Lewis & Clark Career Center
- » Clyde C. Miller H.S.
- » North County Technical H.S.

Congratulations to the following Ranken students who will be competing in the state finals:

Automated Manufacturing	Charlie Meier, Danny Farrington and Nathaniel Smith
Automotive Refinishing	Chris Sladek
Automotive Service	Derek Kleidon
Carpentry	Jake Linteznich
CNC Milling	Jaryd Patton
CNC Turning	Andy Mayer
Collision Repair	Cody Pryzgoda
HVAC	Corey Valleroy
Precision Machining	Mike Ehrentrom



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Sarah Heithaus - Electrical Systems Design Technology

**S**arah Heithaus will graduate from the Electrical Systems Design Technology (ESDT) program this May, and she is already taking great strides towards a promising career in the industry.

Heithaus has worked at RSL Lighting as an intern since last August. She currently helps with order entry, customer service and also goes out on sales calls with the sales representatives. Her boss at RSL recently obtained a new client that had purchased a building downtown to be turned into a restaurant and nightclub. He involved Heithaus in the entire process from meeting with the client to the selection of fixtures. Sarah completed the lighting schedule for the project and was surprised when the architect printed her schedule and recognized her by name on the blueprints for the project. "I was pretty excited to see that my work was actually going to be used on the project," said Heithaus. "They said the schedule was very professional looking and very detailed."

Heithaus has received several job offers but would like to stay at RSL after graduation and become their lighting designer doing all their lay-out drawings. "They are really mentoring me and helping me get a better idea of what I want to do within the lighting industry and where I eventually want to be," she said. "I learn new things every day about products and processes, and now I have been able to put all of that knowledge into a real-life project."

Ranken's ESDT program is currently the only one of its kind in the St. Louis region. Graduates go on to get positions such as electrical designers, estimators, lighting designers and sales representatives and currently have an average of six job opportunities waiting for them once they complete their degree.

"We are really proud of the progress that Sarah is making in her career," said Larry Sission, ESDT Instructor. "This project has given her the confidence and experience she needs to put her degree to work after graduation."

For more information on Ranken's ESDT program, visit [www.ranken.edu/OurPrograms/Electrical/ESDT](http://www.ranken.edu/OurPrograms/Electrical/ESDT).



## Ranken Students, Staff, Go Above and Beyond

**O**n Thursday, December 4, Student Support Services hosted a College Fair for members of the TRiO program. The event was a great success, but the true success story was how Ranken students and staff went above and beyond the call of duty to help one of the fair participants.

When Amy Verseman, Regional Admission Coordinator for Truman State University, showed up to campus to participate in the College Fair, she pulled into the parking lot, and a Ranken student informed her that she had a flat tire. When she arrived at her booth, she told Tameka Herrion, an academic coordinator in the TRiO office, about the situation. Tameka took it upon herself to find an automotive student to help out. Two automotive students, Matt Kloster and Antonio Smith, quickly fixed the tire and helped Amy make it home safely. She was extremely grateful and wrote a note to Dan Kania, Automotive Department Head, and John Wood, Vice President for Education, following her experience at Ranken:

*"When I mentioned my situation to one of the women in charge of the College Fair, she said that she would find an automotive student to help me with the tire. I assumed help meant finding an air hose to inflate my tire. Two of your automotive students, Matt Kloster and Antonio Smith, introduced themselves and after inspecting my tire, said that they would*



Pictured L-R: Automotive students, Matt Kloster and Antonio Smith

*take care of everything. (I was still under the impression that it would be a "quick fix" in order to get me home.) To my great surprise, about a half hour later, both students returned with the 3-inch screw that had caused the flat. Matt and Antonio took it upon themselves to put on my spare, take my car to the campus shop, and patch my tire! I was so blown away by, not only this service, but also the professionalism of both gentlemen! I feel fortunate to have had such a*

*great first-hand experience with the students that you are able to interact with everyday. Matt and Antonio were such a great testament to your instruction and the quality of students at Ranken. Had the courteous student in the parking lot not pointed out my flat or Matt and Antonio not done such a thorough job, I most assuredly would have been stranded somewhere on I-70. Please accept my most sincere gratitude and praise on behalf of Matt, Antonio, and the helpful student in the parking lot."*

## Former PMT Student Paves Way for Current Students

Last year, **Mechanical Devices**, a manufacturing company located in Bloomington, Ill., hired their first Ranken student Dylan Scheller, a former student in the PMT program. Scheller has excelled in his position and has impressed his employer so much that they want to hire more Ranken graduates for their open positions.

"They said he is the best worker they have ever had," said Jared Piel, PMT Department Head. "They wish that they could hire our entire graduating class."

After hiring Scheller, the owner of the company, Mark Sperry, and a human resources representative, Kimberly Bradd, attended one of Ranken's employer breakfasts and spoke

with Piel about scheduling a day for PMT students to travel to Bloomington to tour their shop. Sperry even agreed to arrange and pay for the entire trip.

Prior to the trip, Mechanical Devices sent Scheller back to Ranken to speak with the PMT students about his work experiences and how his Ranken education has helped him in his position.

On Monday, December 1, Mechanical Devices sent a charter bus to pick up 35 PMT students and two instructors, Jared Piel and Tom Ely. During the visit, the company provided a tour of their facilities, lunch and a driving tour of the city.

Representatives from the company also attended Ranken's job fair and were excited to receive several promising resumes.

After hearing what Mechanical Devices is doing to recruit our students, other companies are helping to fund trips in order for our students to tour their facilities.

Thank you to everyone at Mechanical Devices who helped give our students this excellent opportunity.



Photo: Mechanical Devices sent a charter bus to take PMT students to their shop in Bloomington, Ill.



Photo: PMT students enjoyed lunch and a presentation at Mechanical Devices.

# Ranken Graduates Have Their Pick of Job Opportunities

The Career Services office recently released their statistics for job opportunities per graduate for 2008 and the numbers were staggering. Even in these tough economic times, employers are hiring Ranken graduates. Below is a breakdown of job opportunities per graduate by program.

Program	Job Opportunities / Graduate
Automotive Collision Repair	6
Automotive Maintenance / High Performance	3
Architectural Technology	8
Carpentry & Building Construction	4
Control Systems Technology	14
Electrical Automation Technology	3
Electrical Systems Design Technology	5
Heating, Ventilation, Air conditioning and Refrigeration	5
Industrial Technology	11
Information Technology	7
Internet and Web-based Technology	15
Plumbing Technology	2
Precision Machining Technology	10

98%

98% of Ranken graduates find employment in their field within six months of graduation.

## PMT Student Awarded Haas Scholarship

**O**n Thursday, December 11, two representatives from Haas visited Ranken to present a Precision Machining Technology (PMT) student with a \$5,000 scholarship. Students who wanted to apply for the scholarship had to have completed one semester at Ranken and were required to have a 3.0 GPA. Seven students applied and were also asked to write an essay about their reasons for selecting the PMT field. The scholarship committee reviewed all of the applications and selected the winner.

Skip Fluegel and Tim Duran from Haas, along with John Wood, Vice President for Education and Jared Piel, PMT Department Head, gathered students in the PMT shop to announce the name of the scholarship winner. Wood began by thanking Haas for their continued support of our PMT program and mentioned that Fluegel is also a member of Ranken's advisory board. He then presented the scholarship award to **Andrew Jensen**, a second year PMT student from St. Louis, Mo. The \$5,000 awarded to Jensen will go towards tuition, books, tools and other school expenses.

"I was really surprised when they said my name," said Jensen. "All of the other students that applied are so deserving."

"I am really excited and want to thank Haas, not only for this

scholarship but for everything they do for us here. The machines and equipment they donate help provide the great education that we get here and help prepare us for jobs when we graduate," Jensen continued.

Jensen will graduate in May 2009 and has already started



Pictured L-R: John Wood, Vice President for Education (Ranken);

Skip Fluegel, Sales Engineer (Haas); Andrew Jensen, PMT student (Ranken); Tim Duran, Sales Engineer (Haas) and Jared Piel, PMT Department Head (Ranken).

# SCHOLARSHIPS

interviewing for positions. He also plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

"The thing that really stood out about Andrew's application was his essay," said Scholarship Director, Mary Lou Burke. "It was very cleverly written, and we could tell that he really put a lot of time and effort into it." An article and photos of the scholarship presentation were published in the January issue of the national industry magazine, "Mid-America Commerce & Industry," as well as in Haas' internal newsletter.

The Gene Haas Foundation was established in 1999 by Gene Haas, Founder and President of Haas Automation, Inc. , the largest machine tool manufacturer in the United States. One of the primary goals of the Gene Haas Foundation is to provide financial assistance for students interested in manufacturing-based careers. This scholarship illustrates their commitment to strengthening America's Future workforce.

With help from generous donors, Ranken is able to offer students more than 50 scholarship, grant and loan options.

To learn more about your financial options or to get a copy of our scholarship information guide, contact the Financial Aid office at (314) 286-4866

## Electrical Student Wins Dvorachek Scholarship

**A**t a presentation held on Friday, February 6, in the programmable logic controllers (PLC) lab, Thatcher Pazur was awarded the Ernest C. Dvorachek and Ernest H. Dvorachek Scholarship by donor, Dennis Dvorachek.

Dennis' father passed away last year and while going through his things, he discovered old tools and books from Ranken. His father graduated from Ranken's electrical program in 1947 and some of the tools dated back to when his grandfather graduated from the same program in the 1920's. Dvorachek contacted the alumni relations office to donate the items and also decided to give a monetary gift, in memory of this father and grandfather, to be awarded to students enrolled in the Electrical Automation Technology (EAT) program. Each year for the next four years, a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in the EAT day school program.

Pazur is double majoring in EAT and Control Systems Technology (CST) and plans to graduate in December 2009. He is currently a full-time day student and also works 40 hours per week as a cook at a local restaurant. "I was so surprised," said Thatcher. "I really appreciate this gift from Mr. Dvorachek. It will help me pay for tuition next semester."

Dennis decided to start the scholarship in the hopes that the recipient would "pay it forward" and help another student in the future.



Pictured L-R: Dennis Dvorachek presenting a scholarship to electrical student, Thatcher Pazur.



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Scholarships recently awarded to Ranken students:

### » Pettus Foundation Scholarship

Jarrold Jones (EAT)

The Pettus Foundation set up the Pettus Foundation Scholarship to support students who have financial need. Awardees receive \$5,000 and must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

### » Frederick Eiseman Scholarship Fund

Dustin Stumpf (EAT)

The Frederick Eiseman Scholarship Fund awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a second year student demonstrating financial need and achievement in his/her educational program.

### » Anheuser-Busch Scholarship

James Jones (AMT)

Anheuser-Busch Companies contributed money to set up an endowed scholarship fund for eligible students.

### » Earl & Myrtle Walker Scholarship

Crystal Heusohn (ART)

Earl & Myrtle Walker donated money to set up an endowed scholarship fund for students at Ranken.

### » The Saigh Foundation Grants

Cody Mueller (PMT)

Tony Torres (AMT)

The Saigh Foundation approved a grant to Ranken to provide two half-tuition scholarships.

### » Seyer Industries Scholarships

Charles Meier (PMT)

Clay Steinbach (PMT)

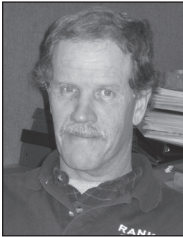
If you or your business is interested in offering a scholarship to students at Ranken, please contact our Vice President for Development, Tim Willard, at (314) 386-3674

# NEW FACES

## Welcome New Ranken Employees



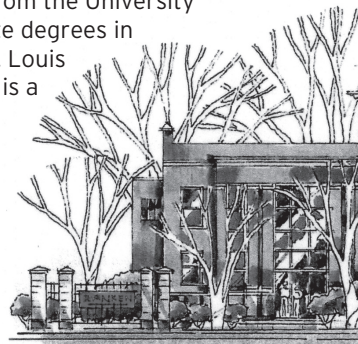
**Alan Terrell** joined Ranken on January 5, 2009 as an instructor in the Electrical Automation Technology program. He has over 20 years of hands-on experience in the manufacturing and materials handling environment. Terrell was previously an electrical engineer with Beta Raven, J R Automation, Industry General Corporation, and NKC of America. Alan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electronics technology from the University of Memphis.



**Gary Heidt** joined Ranken on January 5, 2009 as an instructor in the Carpentry and Building Construction Technology program. Heidt came to Ranken from Diestelkamp Construction where he was a superintendent. He also served as superintendent in the past for Hof Construction and Wachtel Construction in addition to owning his own business: Heidt Specialty Woodworking. Heidt has taken courses at Forest Park Community College and the St. Louis District Carpenters Council and is OSHA 10 certified with OSHA 30 certification in progress.



**Dan Fitzsimmons** joined Ranken in October 2007. He began teaching Electrical Systems Design Technology and now teaches Electrical Technology. Prior to joining Ranken he operated his own electrical contracting company where he supervised employees, served as the customer liaison and performed daily field work. Fitzsimmons previously also worked as an electrician for Gardner Electric, Kay Bee Electric and Dickherber Electric. He holds a B.A. degree in general studies from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Associate degrees in electronics and electrical from St. Louis Community College. Fitzsimmons is a certified master electrician.



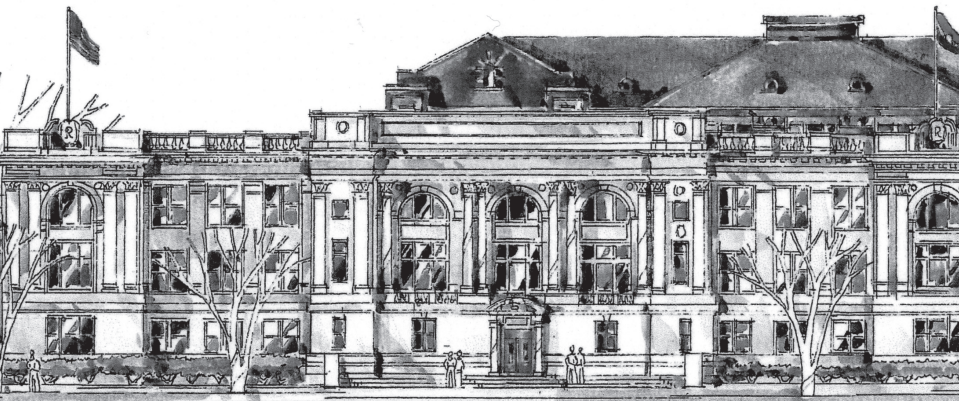
# AT RANKEN

» Matt LaRussa	IS	Database Admin.	12/8/09
» Bryan Bartlow	HVAC/R	Adjunct Instructor	1/12/09
» Ray Gaudette	PMT	Adjunct Instructor	1/12/09
» Ed Ising	INT	Adjunct Instructor	1/12/09
» David Nesler	PMT	Adjunct Instructor	1/12/09
» Mark Palmisano	CRP	Adjunct Instructor	1/12/09
» Mark White	CRP	Adjunct Instructor	1/12/09
» Patrick McLandsborough	IS	PC Technician	2/02/09

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rankent<sup>echnical</sup>college

EMPLOYEES



## Construction Division Attends Local Meeting for Networking, Recruitment

**O**n Wednesday, November 21, Carpentry Department Head Bryan Hicklin and Architectural Technology Instructor, Missy Borchardt attended a gathering of the Design/Build Institute of America (DBIA). The event took place at Logan College of Chiropractic and included individuals from local architectural firms, construction companies, contractors and other colleges and universities. Some of the companies and colleges in attendance included Walton Construction, S.M. Wilson, Alberici, Clayco, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana and Drury College.

With help from Admissions Director, Mike Hawley, Hicklin and Borchardt set up a booth with information about Ranken and our construction division. Each school was asked to give a presentation, and Borchardt's talk included general information about Ranken and how the College incorporates "design-build" into our curriculums.

The design-build practice is an integrated delivery process that has been embraced by the world's greatest civilizations. Design-builders want full accountability for architecture, engineering and construction.

"The event was a great opportunity for networking and provided good contacts with companies and other schools," said Borchardt. Several Ranken architecture students also attended for the opportunity to network and meet potential employers in the area.

DBIA's stated purpose is to achieve and maintain recognition as the industry center of expertise for designbuild practice and to lead the expansion of design-build utilization across all industries and markets. To learn more about DBIA and design-build go to [www.dbia.org](http://www.dbia.org).

Photo: Homes built as part of the RCDC program at Ranken.



## Ranken Participates in National TRiO Day Workshop



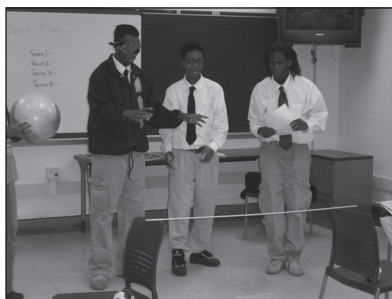
Photo: Tameka Herrion, Academic Coordinator for the TRiO program at Ranken.

**E**very February, schools across the nation gather to celebrate National TRiO Day. On Saturday, February 28, high school students from various TRiO programs, such as Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search, met on the campus of Harris-Stowe State University. The theme of the day was "Celebrate the Three E's: Education, Empowerment (and) Ethics."

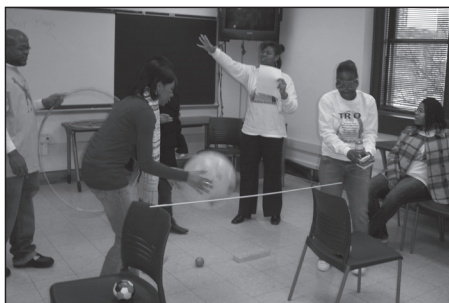
The TRiO Student Support Services staff at Ranken and students Tamara Trotman and Cornell Williams volunteered their time to be a part of the workshop. Led by Tameka Herrion, Academic Coordinator, the

group facilitated an engaging yet informational workshop on the keys to college success.

In a session entitled, "Pack Your Bags," students participated in a challenge in which they had to draw on many of the skills necessary to successfully navigate their college experience. Some of the main skills identified were effective communication, listening, time management, self-discipline and utilizing one's resources. Approximately 50 students participated.



Photos: Local high school students participated in various activities during National TRiO Day held at Harris-Stowe University.



# ALUMNI CL

## 1940s

John Wittman (Communications Electronics 1947) retired from Illinois Power after 38 years. He still lives on his family farm established in 1873 located in Jersey County, Ill. The farm has achieved Centennial Farm designation.

## 1950s

Ted Arens (Machine Shop 1958) is looking for information on a classmate named Bobby C. Johns, Jr., (Mechanical Drafting 1958). If anyone knows his whereabouts, please contact the Alumni Relations Office.

Don Stolle (Mechanical Drafting 1958) is retired from a career working in drafting designs for submarines, missiles, aircraft, and cars. Don also worked for Coin Acceptors where he was awarded a patent for his dime to dime vending machine payout system.

## 1960s

Ken Webb (Refrigeration, AC and Heating 1962) received the Distinguished Technical Service Lifetime Achievement Award from Johnson Control Company for exemplary level of technical support to customers within

the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) industry. Ken was the 11<sup>th</sup> recipient of this award in November 2008.

Leo Scaturro (AMT 1968) retired to Congress, Ariz., in 2005 after working for Shell Oil in Wood River, Ill. for 25 years. He started in the garage, was promoted to maintenance foreman, and became a computer programmer. He has two children and three grandchildren.

## 1970s

Michael Heimos (Truck Diesel 1974) is the Vice President of Pace Construction Company, a highway and bridge building contractor located in St. Louis, Mo.

## 1980s

John Jackson (ART 1980) is employed by RealMed Corporation in Indianapolis, Ind., as a Senior Software Engineer.

Douglas Funderburk (CST 1982) won re-election in November 2008 as the State Representative for the 12<sup>th</sup> District of St. Charles County, Mo.

## Alumni Relations

Kathy Fern, Director  
(314) 286-4895 or [ktfern@ranken.edu](mailto:ktfern@ranken.edu)

# ASS NOTES

Edward Lorden (IEET 1982) is currently the assistant director of Instructional Technology at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Mo.

Michael Alexander (Stationery Engineer 1983) has worked for Monsanto/URS for 26 years as a mechanic and operator. He is currently re-enrolled as a student in the Industrial Technology program.

Stuart Sprague (Machine Shop 1985) now lives in Lexington, Ky. Stuart is now completing his bachelor's degree in computer information technology at Western Kentucky University. He currently works at Lexmark where he tests software for new and released printers. He has been married for 20 years and has two children.

## 1990s

Scott Shipley (HVACR 1992) is currently employed at Koch Air, LLC, in St. Louis, Mo. as a technical development manager.

Kynal Hester (CNT 1993) graduated from Ranken and completed his education at Saint Louis University. He then went to work for Ameristar Casino in their IT division where he recently celebrated his 10 year employment anniversary.

Lawrence Henley (CNT 1995) is retired from Boeing and is now the Pastor of the Lilly of the Valley Missionary Baptist Church.

Joe Schilling (CRPT 1997) is a foreman for F.H. Terbrock & Sons in St. Charles, Mo. and has recently had his third son, Kyle Adam Schilling, born in August 2008.

Luke Bland (CNT 1998) is currently on his third semester of nursing school and self-employed.

Brad Guile (CNT 1999) is currently employed by IRepairSquad located in East Peoria, Ill.

## 2000s

Michael Cunnings (ART 2001) is currently the GIS manager for Peckham, Guyton, Albers & Viets in St. Louis, Mo. He is the project planner for the Urban Consulting section. He provides the computer work, graphics, makes map and other tasks needed. He has been employed there for 7 1/2 years.

Kyle George (IEET 2002) lives in Lawrence, Kan., and works for Wheatland Systems, Inc. as a project engineer on PLCs and industrial automation systems for the pipeline industry. He remembers how proud he was when he received the Student of the Year Award.

Charlie E. Lutz (ART 2002) has recently become engaged to Amanda McKenney and is planning an October 2009 wedding.



# ALUMNI CL

Patrick Fischer (CNT 2003) announced his engagement to Lauren Dobberstein and is planning a November 2009 wedding.

David Diebold (AMT 2003) has been employed for four years at Biltbest in St. Genevieve, Mo.

Ronald R. Offt, Jr. (Internet WBT 2003) changed careers in 2007 and has become a police officer for North St. Louis City, St. Louis' 7<sup>th</sup> District and moved from Granite City, Ill. to St. Louis, Mo.

James B. Cummins (PMT 2003) is currently employed by Hess Machine as a machinist in Marine, Ill., and resides in Highland, Ill.

Mark V. Lucas (PMT 2004) and Andrew Kohlbecker (PMT 2004) started K&L Machine & Tool in Alton, Ill. in 2006. The partners bought a warehouse and are determined to keep it eclectic reflecting its pre WW period. Some of their customers include Olin, Dyna 6 Power, St. Louis Couldron, and Granite City Steel. Mark says he owes it all to Tom Ely, his Ranken instructor.

Kurt Johnson (CNT 2005) was married to Priscilla in 2006, and welcomed their first child, a daughter named Hazel, in July of 2007.

Joseph Fielder (ESDT 2005) is currently a lab technician for Hubbell Electrical Products located in St. Louis, Mo.

Michael Morrissey (PMT 2006) has been employed as a machinist at Seyer Industries in St. Peters, Mo., for three years.

Don Sanders (CST 2006) is an engineering technician for Rockwell Automation in Golden, Colo.

Ryan Meuth (ESDT 2006) was married to Tabitha Lawrence in December 2008. Ryan is employed by Ameren CIPS.

Jeff Scott (INT 2006) is an instructor in Industrial Technology at Ranken and enjoys competition ballroom dancing as a hobby.

Nate Hartley (EAT 2007) exchanged vows of matrimony with Andrea Braasch in February 2009. Nate is a lineman for AmerenIP in Belleville, Ill.

Eric Struckmann (INT 2007) was married to Kelly Sanders in October 2008. Eric works at American Pulverizer in St. Louis, Mo., in the parts department.

Nick Kindle (HVAC 2008) was married to Teressa Williams in October 2008 and they reside in St. Louis, Mo.

# ASS NOTES

## In Memoriam

Ranken faculty and staff extends their sympathy to the families and friends of the following alumni who have passed away:

Bernard Goeke (RAH Service and Installation 1972) - January 2009

Chris J. Basso (Industrial Maintenance 1948) - January 2009

David A. Steen (AMT 1967) - December 2008

Fred A. Beier (AMT 1940) - December 2008

Garland W. Holliday (Carpentry 1950) - December 2008

Russell R. Early (Welding 1991) - November 2008

Tony Baima (1929) - November 2008

George W. Touchette (ACR 1974) - July 2008

Dennis P. Riegel (PMT 1999) - February 2008

Frank De Bello, Jr. (PMT 1991) - May 2007

Flyance O. Price (HVACR 1994) - November 2006

Augustus R. Fridrichs (Refrigeration 1939) - October 2006

Joseph G. Venegoni (PMT 1990) - September 2006

Kyle Boswell (Truck, Heavy Equipment Repair 1983) - February 2002

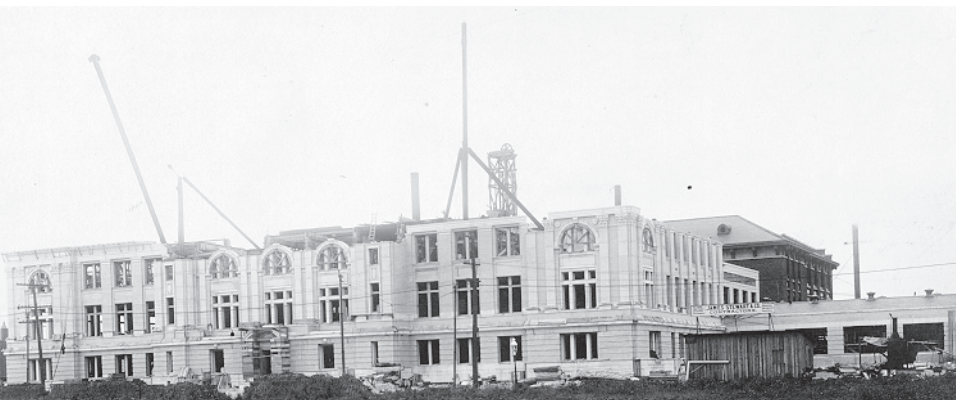
Robert B. Stolte (Industrial Electricity 1955) - June 2000

To submit an alumni update, visit our website at [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu) or contact Kathy Fern, Director of Alumni Relations.

To view a complete list of alumni class notes that have been submitted, visit our website at [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu).

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ranken technical college



ALUMNI

# ALUMNI

## Benefits for Ranken Alumni

**J**ust as the benefits from a Ranken education moved you forward in your career, so can you benefit from money saving opportunities and discounts through Ranken's Alumni Association. Alumni benefits in the form of discounts are unfolding for various local and national products and services such as car rentals, hotel discounts, online purchasing, cell phones, tickets, and much more. Please watch for upcoming issues of the Ranken Experience for benefit announcements.

- The **campus weight room** is available for any alumnus who is interested in getting fit. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Any alumnus interested in using the weight room should sign in at the front gate. Use of the weight room is free. It is located on the bottom floor of the Cook Building inside the Student Center.
- We are excited to offer employees and alumni a special discount on tickets to the last regular season game of the **St. Louis Blues**. The game is April 10, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please see the "save the date" section of this newsletter for instructions.

If you own or work for a company that would be interested in providing preferred product or volume service discounts to Ranken alumni, please contact Kathy Fern, Alumni Relations, (314) 286-4895 or email [ktfern@ranken.edu](mailto:ktfern@ranken.edu).

## Automotive Class Reunions

The 6th Annual Car Show and alumni reunion lunch will be held Sunday, April 19, 2009. In addition to the alumni luncheon, the **Automotive Division** will hold an all years reunion. All Ranken graduates are invited to attend the reunion lunch. All Automotive Maintenance and Automotive Collision Repair graduates from all years are invited to attend the departmental reunion.

Reunion activities will be held in the Moog Automotive Center on campus. All are invited to attend the car show, display cars, and visit with old friends. Save the date and make plans to attend. Any automotive graduate interested in participating in the reunion event, please contact Kathy Fern in Alumni Relations at (314) 286-4895.

# NEWS

## Alumni Mentor Program

**R**anken has established an Alumni Mentor Program to expose current students to successful people in the industry who have completed Ranken programs and are strong in business practices. As recognized leaders in the industry and past graduates, a Ranken alumnus can raise awareness of the importance of education and motivate students to excel by providing insight, feedback, compassion, and opportunities in education, social situations, and work-related performance outside of textbooks and beyond the classroom.

Thank you to the following alumni who have volunteered for the Mentor Program and have committed to helping tradesmen and women of the future.

### Automotive Collision Repair

Mike Little - ACR 2008  
Larry Kelso - ACR 1989  
Larry Schmidt - ACR 1982

### Automotive Maintenance

Bill Rueckert - AMT 1956  
Don Huster - AMT 1967  
Levi Nowell - AMT 2008  
Bob Oldani - AMT 1969

### Architectural Technology

Rebecca Kleba - ART 1995  
Joe Moehrle - Mechanical  
Drawing 1959

### Carpentry

Tom Wood - CRP 1955  
Brett Randoll - CRP 1994  
Eric Nelson - CRP 1957

### Control Systems Technology

Doug Funderburk - CST 1982

### HVACR

Robert Russell - HVACR 2008  
Scott Shipley - HVACR 1992  
Bob Finley - HVACR 1948

### Tools/Machine Shop/PMT

John Killingsworth - PMT 1987 &  
BSAM 2007  
Cedar Beel - Machine Shop 1959

### Information Technology

Will Bryan - INT 2008  
Kerry Hogan - CNT 1985  
John Wittman - Communication/  
Electronics 1947  
Kynal Hester - CT 1993

### Electrical Technology

Ron Kuhlmann - IEET 1971  
Maurice Riddle - EET 2004

## Employer Spotlight

### GKN Aerospace Hazelwood, Mo.

**L**ocal company GKN Aerospace understands the virtues of obtaining employees from Ranken. Representatives from their company can be found at our job fairs twice a year. In 2008 alone, they hired 12 students. Many Ranken graduates began their careers at GKN and are still employed there today.

GKN Aerospace, located in Hazelwood, Mo., is the aerospace operation of GKN plc, a global independent first-tier supplier of structures, components, assemblies and engineering services to aircraft and aero engine manufacturers. GKN possesses expertise in specialist aerospace manufacturing and design processes in addition to supply chain and logistics capabilities. With this unparalleled expertise, GKN offers its customers optimum solutions. GKN has over 30 centers of manufacturing excellence in Europe, the Americas and Australia. GKN employs over 8,000 people worldwide, and nearly 1,000 of those employees are aerospace engineers. The Hazelwood location is also the headquarters for GKN Aerostructures North America.

In 2001, GKN acquired the fabrication operation of Boeing Military Aircraft. This was the first outsourcing acquisition of the company, and they created strong composite and metallic structure capabilities. Boeing remains a key client and a strong partner of GKN in construction, but the Ranken - GKN relationship is built on manpower. This partnership is based on providing quality graduates to do quality work in the field of aerospace.

Justin Peters, a 2001 PMT Ranken alumnus, went to work at GKN five years ago. He started as a machinist and worked his way up to his current position as a numerical control (NC) programmer.

"GKN is a highly technical company that encourages their employees to fulfill their potential. By showing GKN my willingness and expertise, they have supported me with training in many different areas of the business," said Peters. "I have participated in lean manufacturing, six sigma, and BEC projects. In my position I use CAD/CAM software to develop NC programs, set-up procedures, and quality documents to manufacture many different aircraft parts. My education at Ranken has helped me perform on the shop floor with many different tools and machinery. It also helped me in areas of inspection, reading and understanding very complex blueprints, geometric tolerances, quality measuring tools and machines. I have Ranken to thank for building a foundation of education and skill towards my career in

Precision Machining Technology."

Ranken is thankful to GKN Aerospace for their continued support and pleased to acknowledge GKN as a Corporate Partner of the College.

GKN also made a generous contribution to Ranken in the Centennial Campaign in 2007, and they continue to support projects on campus. GKN recently made a five-year pledge toward construction of the Myrtle & Earl Walker Student Residence Hall which opened for students in January 2009.



Pictured from L-R: Tim Willard, Vice President of Development (Ranken); Don Smith, Chief Operating Officer (GKN); Ben Ernst, President (Ranken); Steve Pulliam, Vice President and General Manager (GKN).

## Golden Graduate Ceremony

The 50 year Golden Graduates of Ranken Technical College will be honored at the 2009 commencement exercise held on May 16 at the Chaifetz Arena on Saint Louis University's campus. All graduates who completed programs and graduated in 1959 or earlier who have not participated in the event in the past will receive an invitation. Golden Graduates, dressed in gold caps and gowns, will lead the procession of 2009 graduates. Honorees will also be invited to attend a social hour and dinner with members of the Ranken Board of Trustees prior to commencement. More information on the event will be mailed to those who are eligible.

## Alumni Spotlight



Photo: Robert E. Dunavan  
(Communications Electronics Technology 1948)  
with his wife of 65 years, Silda.

**R**obert Dunavan learned a lot and gained a great deal of experience during his time as a pilot and officer in the U.S. Navy during WWII, but when he separated from the Naval Reserve in 1946, he had no education and no skills other than flying airplanes. He and his wife, Silda had an infant daughter and were living on only the \$90 a month that was provided by the GI Bill.

Silda's relatives, who lived in St. Louis, told Dunavan about Ranken and offered the family a place to stay while he completed

his education. He looked at the College's program offerings and was immediately drawn to the Communications and Electronics Technology program. Even as a child, Dunavan had always been enraptured by electricity, radio and receivers and had even built many crystal radio receivers and devices on his own. Dunavan took the trolley and the bus from south St. Louis to Ranken every day and completed his degree in 1948.

A few years after graduation, Dunavan was hired by North American Aviation (NAA) as junior design engineer. He was assigned to a group of engineers who were selected to design drawings for a pilot control panel. He designed a box that was easy to access by the pilot featuring an indicator light, on/off switch and a volume control. His idea was to have the box tied into the aircraft and Sidewinder electrical systems. When a heat source, such as the exhaust from another jet, was indicated, the device would send a humming signal into the pilot's earphones. Once the guidance system locked onto the target, the tone would change letting the pilot know to launch the missile. Dunavan's design was immediately accepted, manufactured and installed in F-86s.

Dunavan continued to have a long, prosperous career that included becoming a design engineer with NAA, a test engineer on the Apollo and Shuttle Space programs and assisting in the development of Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Dunavan had the opportunity to take the



Apollo test command module 007 (a flotation test vehicle with a radio and other instruments), though the test cycle. This module is now aboard the USS Hornet in Alameda, Calif. He has also had a hand in preparing all command modules that have traveled to the moon.

With Dunavan being directly involved with three items that are currently on display in the Smithsonian Museum, it is an understatement to say that he has made his mark on the aerospace industry. The items include a Douglas bi-plan, which was Western Air Express' first airplane, the Apollo command test module 007, and an Apollo command module that traveled to the moon and back. Dunavan served as an engineer on each of these industry-advancing projects.

Dunavan remembers his time at Ranken fondly and realizes that his life would be very different had he not made the decision to get an education here. "Ranken provided a good foundation for me to obtain more knowledge in the field of electronics. The classes helped me build upon the experience I had gained as a pilot," said Dunavan. "Even the general education courses, like 'Public Speaking' were helpful in preparing me to further my career."

Along the way, Dunavan has had the opportunity to meet and work with many interesting people who have also made their mark on the aerospace industry. Some of whom include Scott Crossfield, the test pilot of the X-15 research vehicle; Robert Hoover, a North American test pilot who is believed to be the first man to penetrate the sound barrier; and Dudley Foster, the co-inventor of the Foster-Seely FM Discriminator used in FM radio receivers.

"The best advice I can give to other Ranken graduates and current students is to live by the words of J Paul Getty: 'Get up early, work hard and discover an oil well.'"

During the ceremonies of Ranken's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2007, Dunavan was honored as one of the College's 100 Outstanding Graduates. His biography is on display in the hallway between the Cook and Finney buildings.

Dunavan is now 88 years old and retired from the aerospace industry. He and his wife of 65 years reside in Sun City, Calif. near their daughter and twin sons.

# SAVE THE

## Ranken Night with the Blues

Join Ranken alumni, students, staff and faculty on Friday, April 10 at the Blues' last home game of the season. To get your discounted Ranken tickets:

- Go to [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)
- Click "find tickets"
- Enter "RANKEN" in the special offer code box
- Enter your email address under "create an account" to sign up
- Follow the instructions to purchase your tickets.

There is a reduced handling fee of \$1.25 per ticket. Tickets can be printed at home or picked up at the will call window.

## Placement Testing Breakfast

Choose from two different sessions on April 2 to take our placement test and enjoy a free continental breakfast. The \$25 application fee will be waived for day students who take the test during one of the two sessions. Please register online at [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu) or call (314) 286-4849. Space is limited.

## Shadow-a-Tech

**Potential students** are invited to spend part of their day on campus to get a first hand look at what it's like to be a Ranken student. This half-day event includes breakfast, lunch, a program tour and the opportunity to participate in hands-on projects in a classroom setting.

To sign up for one of the below dates, please register online at [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu) or call (314) 286-4849.

- » April 15
- » May 6

## Graduation

**The Golden Graduate ceremony** and Ranken graduation will take place on May 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Chaifetz Arena on Saint Louis University's campus.

Invitations to attend the Golden Graduate ceremony have been mailed to graduates from 1959 and earlier. Please respond by April 1, 2009.

# E D A T E



## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAR SHOW & ALUMNI REUNION

**SPONSORED BY THE RANKEN AUTOMOTIVE CLUB**

**When:** Sunday, April 19, 2009  
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
(rain or shine event)  
» Registration 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
» Judging Ends 2:30 p.m.  
» Awards 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Ranken Technical College  
4431 Finney Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63113

**Cost:** Free for spectators  
\$10 registration fee per vehicle

- » Open to the public
- » BBQ Lunch
- » All alumni lunch
- » All years Automotive Division Reunion
- » Test your horsepower on the Chassis Dyno at our new High Performance Racing Technology Center
- » Huge raffle including a Snap-On tool chest
- » Tours of Ranken programs available
- » Dash plaques for the first 200 entrants
- » First, Second and Third place trophies awarded in each class
- » Specialty awards for: Best of Show, Best Paint, Best Club Display, Best High School Student Car, and Most Horsepower on Chassis Dyno.
- » Live radio remote broadcast by KHITS 96
- » No outside coolers or alcoholic beverages allowed
- » Commemorative photos available

**For general questions or to find out how to become a sponsor, contact:**

**Kevin Meine at (314) 286-4879 or [pkmeine@ranken.edu](mailto:pkmeine@ranken.edu)**

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ranken**technical**college

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» Metro Vocational Technical Assistance Program

# RANKEN

## TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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St. Louis, MO  
Permit No. 2147

## calendar of upcoming events

### March 2009

Spring Break - Student Holiday | 23-27

### April 2009

Placement Testing Breakfast | 2  
Good Friday - All School Holiday | 10  
Ranken night at the Blues game | 10  
Shadow-a-Tech | 15  
Ranken Car Show and Alumni Reunion | 19

### May 2009

Shadow-a-Tech | 6  
Graduation | 16  
Golden Graduates Ceremony | 16  
Summer Technical Classes Begin | 18  
Memorial Day - All School Holiday | 25

Parents: If this newsletter is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, kindly notify the Alumni Office of their new mailing address: [ktfern@ranken.edu](mailto:ktfern@ranken.edu) or call (314) 286-4895.

