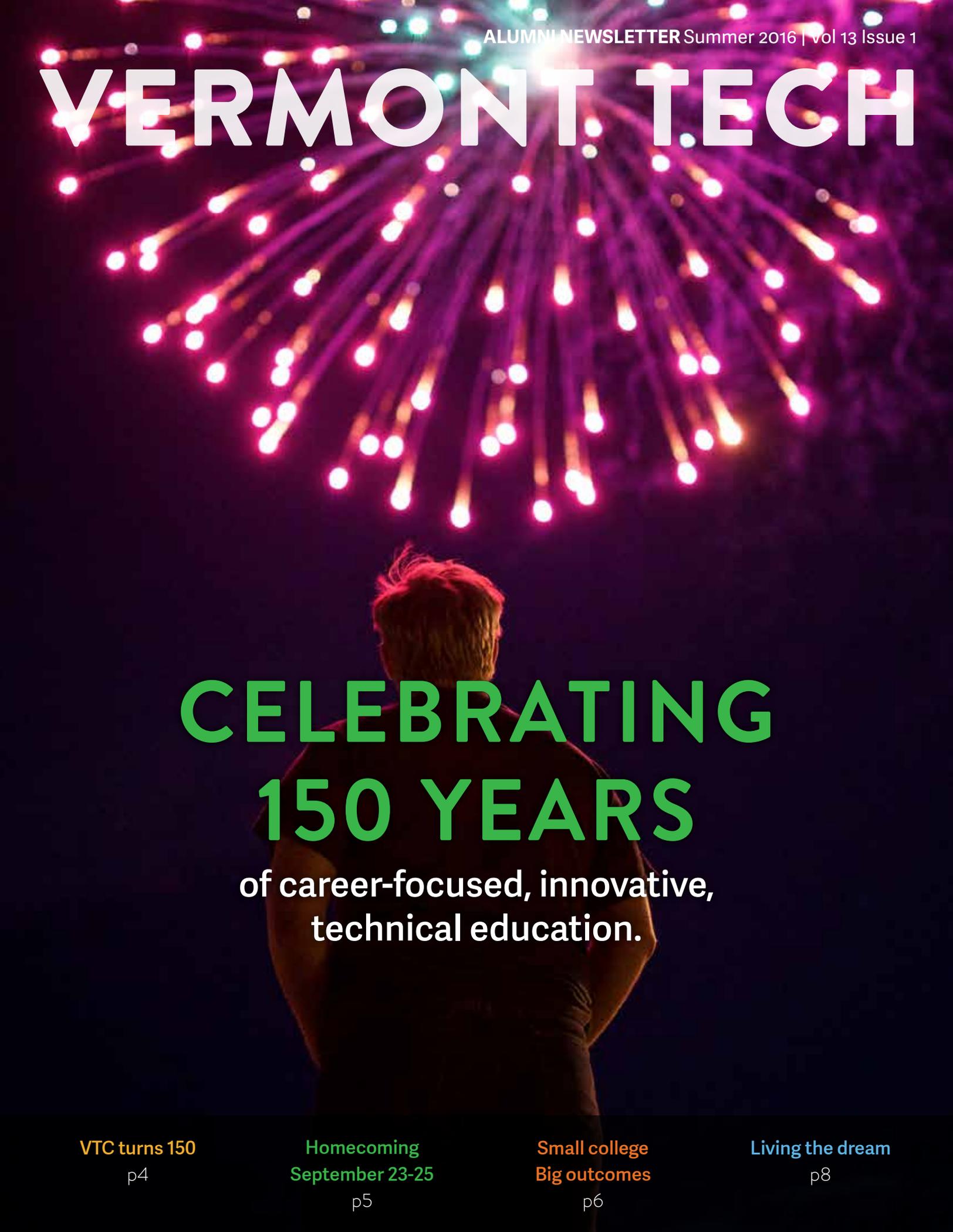


VERMONT TECH



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

of career-focused, innovative,
technical education.

VTC turns 150

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VERMONT TECH



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ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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FELLOW ALUMS!

First, I would like to congratulate the Class of 2016 on your graduation this May and welcome all of you to the Vermont Tech Alumni Association!

It is an exciting year to be a Vermont Tech alum. As the college celebrates its sesquicentennial, there are many events to take part in. These events will be excellent opportunities to reconnect with classmates and friends, professors and staff, and the campus you studied at. I encourage every alum, new and not so new, to attend at least one.

I would also challenge each of you to support Vermont Tech and the Alumni Association in any way you can. Now, I imagine most of you will think that means "please send dollars." While we certainly would not send them back if you do, there are so many other ways you can lend support: talk about your Vermont Tech experience with family and friends that are considering a college career; consider hiring a Vermont Tech grad at your place of business; return to Vermont Tech for the next degree in your field or join the alumni board – these are just a few suggestions.

It is a pleasure to serve as your president and I look forward to seeing you all of you in the coming months!!

Sincerely,
Susan Fredette, BU '95
Vermont Tech Alumni Association President



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT
SUSAN FREDETTE, BU '95

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PRESIDENT DAN SMITH STANDING WITH MIKE AUDET, '66, AND GOVERNOR JAMES DOUGLAS FOLLOWING MIKE'S INDUCTION INTO THE VSC HALL OF FAME IN MARCH.

It has been an exciting year at Vermont Tech with new projects and initiatives. We celebrated the announcement of a strategy to increase enrollment of women in our **construction management, mechanical engineering technology, civil and environmental engineering technology, computer software engineering technology, and computer information systems** programs. A Vermont-based initiative, "Change the Story" (changethestoryvt.org), has analyzed Vermont labor data that suggest the wage gap between men and women is the narrowest in the very occupations for which these Vermont Tech programs educate students. These occupations also represent growing industries in Vermont. However, participation rates among women in these programs have languished in the range of 5% for the last three years. Concurrently, employers are seeking to recruit more graduates in these fields. Expanding the number of women in these programs will serve the needs of our state: more people with the skills needed to join the high-paying careers that lead to better economic independence. Employers will see better-performing teams with greater gender representation; and Vermont Tech will enjoy a more inclusive culture and campus. For these reasons and more, I feel strongly that the college's strategic focus on recruiting more

women to our STEM programs is an important initiative for the next three years and beyond.

Another initiative I feel strongly about has more to do with a personal passion for skiing and Vermont ingenuity. A recent alumnus of the college built a ski and snowboard press that now inhabits the Morrill Hall manufacturing labs.

Jason Brown received his Mechanical Engineering Technology associate degree in 2011 and Business Technology & Management bachelor's degree in 2012. Given winter's lackluster performance in the snow department, it was great that students who couldn't get out on the Randolph rope tow could build their own equipment. The first pair of student-made skis rolled off the press in February.

Another first for the Vermont State College System was the inaugural Hall of Fame event held in Montpelier on March 9th. Vermont Tech was proud to install **Mike Audet** as our first Hall of Fame representative. Mike served more than two decades on the Vermont State

Dear Friends,

One hundred fifty years ago, on a little hilltop in Randolph Center, the state created a community of learning. Over the course of the next year, we will be celebrating that anniversary and reflecting on what it means. **Legacy** – one hundred fifty years, generations of people on and off this hilltop, in and out of our classrooms. In this newsletter, you will learn more about our upcoming sesquicentennial celebrations.

Colleges Board of Trustees. On a personal note, Mike and his wife Jean's thoughtful and candid advice has been very valuable to me as a new president, but I'm just as grateful for



PRESIDENT SMITH INSPECTS A NEWLY CUT BOARD WITH STUDENT **MANNY ARETAKIS, '17**

the cheddar cheese and apple pie with which they greet me every time I visit their farm in Orwell.

The Audets have been passionate about Vermont Tech and about our students. Mike has invested his time on our agricultural advisory board and spoken with his neighbors (and anyone else who will listen to him) about the value the college provides, including to his state representatives in the legislature. That is the type of support any alum can provide. We are the state's only technical college and a remarkable value for all who pursue post-secondary education. I hope you will consider bringing the message of Vermont Tech's connection to careers in Vermont, our unique hands-on education and our commitment to affordability for Vermonter's to your community.

Right before going to press, President Smith announced he had taken a position with the Vermont Community Foundation. The college expects to announce an interim president later this summer, followed by a search for a permanent president in 2017. We wish President Smith all the best.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS.

REMEMBER.

RETURN.

REDISCOVER.

RECONNECT.

You can do all of this and more at Vermont Tech's annual Homecoming Weekend, September 23-25, at the Randolph Center Campus.



There will be fantastic dining, a chance to catch up with old friends, and the ever-popular golf scramble. You won't want to miss it!

This year the college is celebrating its 150th anniversary and will be welcoming back reunion years ending in "1" or "6", from 1941-2016. There will also be a cocktail reception on the Williston campus on September 22, and alumni receptions in Brattleboro on October 7 and Bennington on October 14. Mark your calendar now to reconnect with old friends and remember the formative years you spent at Vermont Tech.

OUR HISTORY

For 150 years, there has been an institution of higher learning at the Randolph Center site. From the Randolph Normal School in 1866, to today's public technical college, Vermont students and the state have benefitted from practical education here. In the late 1800s, Vermont needed teachers, so a teacher's college was established. In 1910 the state needed farmers, so the Vermont School of Agriculture was born. Applied technology courses were added in the 1950s and the school became the Vermont Agriculture and Technology Institute. In 1962 the name was changed once again to Vermont Technical College and the school was authorized to grant an associate degree in applied science.

"As the state's needs change, our institution changes to meet those needs," said Susan Currier, reference librarian at Hartness Library. "There's pretty much always been applied learning at this site. To me, that's what this sesquicentennial celebration

FRIDAY, September 23

- 12-6 Golf Scramble | Montague Golf Club** Register a foursome and play at Montague Golf Course. Includes prizes and dinner at the clubhouse. 🍷
- 6-9 Dinner at area restaurants** Meet up with your college buddies and take advantage of weekend specials just for Vermont Tech Alum. Pay on site.

SATURDAY, September 24

- 10-12 Registration | Judd Hall** Check in for the day and enjoy a cup of Joe with fellow alum.
- 10-12 Campus Tours** Meet a tour guide in front of Judd to take you around campus and see what's new. Old Dorm open for self-guided tours.
- 10-11 Alumni Coed Soccer Game | Soccer Field**
Stop by the soccer field ready to play or cheer! Teams will be chosen at the field, co-ed play.
- 
- 10-3 Bookstore Open | Judd Hall (rear)** Shop the Bookstore for Vermont Tech memorabilia.
- 10-5 Apple Picking | Orchard** Alumni may pick a half-bushel bag free! Bring your red apple coupon to the orchard on the southeast corner of campus.
- 10-6 SHAPE Open** Bring your coupon to the front desk to enjoy free use of the facility.
- 11-12 Apple Cider Press** Join us outside of Judd Hall to help press some apples for cider. Weather permitting.

- 11:30 Class Photos | Judd Hall**
Join your class to capture your moment in history. Photos will be available for purchase on-line.
- 12-1 Alumni Association Luncheon | Judd Hall** Enjoy a traditional luncheon while reminiscing with old classmates. 🍷
- 1-2 Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Awards** Remain in Judd Hall after lunch to participate. Meeting agenda is in your registration packet.
- 1-5 Varsity Soccer Tailgate | Soccer Field** Come cheer our Varsity teams as they take on Hampshire College. Women begin at 1pm, Men at 3pm. Bleacher seating.
- 2-3 Class Reunions '6s and '1s | Allen House** Visit with your classmates in a small setting for an intimate class reunion. Other class reunion year locations will be posted.
- 4-5:30 Hypnotist | Judd Hall** Join the fun and see if you are open to hypnosis. Be prepared to be put under a spell!
- 6-8 Beer Tasting/Alumni Mixer | Campus Center** Sample craft beers from local breweries Brocklebank and Bent Hill while catching up with your classmates. Music by WVTC. Cash only. 🍷
- 8-8:15 Sparklers & Group Photo** A whole group photo on the Morey Green to celebrate 150 years!

SUNDAY, September 25

- 10-12 Brunch with the President | Morey Hall** Wrap up your fantastic weekend and say farewell to your classmates over brunch in the dining hall. 🍷
- 1-5 Varsity Soccer Games | Soccer Field** Support our Varsity teams against Unity College. Women begin at 1pm, Men at 3pm. Bleacher seating.

is all about. We've changed to meet the needs, but if you come here, you'll always get that hands-on learning."

To mark the anniversary and that long history of technical training, the Hartness Library will feature interactive displays, oral histories collected by students and audio stations to collect alumni stories highlighting college history. In addition, an alumni room will be established in collaboration with the career placement center to provide a place for students job interviews, encourage alumni participation in the Vermont Tech network, and bring a higher profile to alumni affairs.

We hope to see you this fall! **vtc**



REGISTER at www.vtc.edu/homecoming

Advance registration and online payment available for \$ events.

SMALL COLLEGE. BIG OUTCOMES.

The 6-Month Job Outcome Report for the class of 2015 is out, and the numbers are impressive!

Vermont Tech's overall job placement rate is **94%**, and the percentage of graduates employed within their field is an inspiring **98%**. These numbers are consistent with the 2014 report, which had 98% overall placement and 96% of graduates working within their field of study.



STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO TALK WITH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS DURING THE ON-CAMPUS CAREER FAIR IN MARCH.

Few colleges can boast such high rates, and post-graduate success has become a hallmark for Vermont Tech. "Our number one marketing tool is our placement rate," said Karry Booska, Director of Career Development for the college. **"Right now the job market is awesome. Our majors are very heavily sought-after."**

Booska said there is high demand for an educated workforce in electrical, mechanical, manufacturing, construction and software positions, and "nursing goes without saying." She says the college has been adept at staying abreast with the needs of the marketplace throughout its 150 year history. "I think we do a really good job of keeping the majors aligned with the employers," she said. "We change our majors as their needs change, starting with when we were primarily an agricultural school. Right now, manufacturing is back, after a slump. It's amazing. Everybody needs people right now."

Vermont Tech offers a variety of career resources to graduating students, including help with resume, cover letters, mock interviews, online job listings, and employer visits. A recent career fair on campus drew more than 100 potential employers and filled the SHAPE gym. About one-third of those

employers sent former Vermont Tech grads as their recruiters.

"Employers are seeking our grads," Booska said with confidence. Those jobs often come with high starting salaries, especially in computer software and construction management. "Last year, I didn't know of anyone who walked out without a job of at least \$50,000 in construction," she said, adding that she knows of at least one student making six figures just two years out of Vermont Tech. Software grads can also do very well financially. "They'll start at \$45,000, but can move up very quickly," she said. "They tend to bounce around a lot. Construction grads tend to stay with the company and grow with the company."

For all of Vermont Tech grads, Booska says the future is promising. "It's a really, really great time to be looking for a job." **vtc**



STUDENT **BONNIE MULVANEY, MEC '17**, SHOWS OFF SOME OF THE NEW LABORATORY UPDATES TO A GROUP OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

GIRLS ROCK.

VERMONT TECH is on a mission to change the way people think about women in the workplace. The goal of the college's new **Gender Equity Initiative** is to increase female enrollment in historically male-dominated fields and advance the economic security of women in Vermont. But first, there are a lot of preconceived ideas to tackle.

"There's still a perception that girls can't do math and science," said Mary O'Leary, Chair of Vermont Tech's Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology department. "That's just wrong. We're really good at this stuff."

The college has set new female enrollment targets in construction management, mechanical engineering and technology, civil and environmental engineering technology, computer information

technology, and computer software engineering. President Dan Smith says when women aren't equally represented in these high-paying fields, it creates a dangerous gap in economic development. "It will be a

engineering and math) professions in a way that appeals to them. "We're working to come up with real world projects that are more community-based," said O'Leary. "Instead of a stormwater project, we'll do a

"There's still a perception that girls can't do math and science. That's just wrong. We're really good at this stuff."

Mary O'Leary
Department Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology

steep climb to address our workforce challenge if we are leaving half the talent on the table," he said.

One of the ways Vermont Tech is reaching out to young women is to position STEM (science, technology,

design for a school or bike path or sidewalks—things that contribute to the quality of life. Those projects are more attractive to women. It's doing well by the community, and it really does resonate with young women."

LIVIN' *the* DREAM

*Entrepreneurs are risk-takers. They tend to believe in themselves, and can be **relentless in the pursuit of opportunity.** The qualities that distinguish entrepreneurs from other types of business people—curiosity, ingenuity, and vision—help them identify and fill unseen market needs.*

These are the people who keep a spark lit in Vermont's economic engine. Their start-ups create jobs and fuel growth; not to mention their contribution to the state's culture of independent thinking.

For people who dream of being their own boss, Vermont Tech offers an AAS, BS, minor and specialization in entrepreneurship. The same kind of hands-on, applied learning the college is known for is available in classes designed to help students transform ideas into enterprises. Students learn strategies for successful marketing, manufacturing, finance, and business planning. They dive into human resources and organizational behavior. From exploring a concept to pursuing funding, Vermont Tech teaches the leadership skills necessary to create a new venture.

The spirit of entrepreneurship is not new to Vermont Tech, despite the recent launch of the new degree programs. The stories of three successful alums help illustrate how their education helped them create their own ventures.

SAMANTHA CHU '08



ALUMNA, **SAMANTHA CHU, '08**, (MIDDLE), SMILES IN THE KITCHEN OF, "THE NOODLE STATION" IN HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, WHERE SHE AND HUSBAND, **CHRIS GALE, '06 & '08**, WORK TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE.



When **Samantha Chu** graduated from Vermont Tech in 2008, the country was in the middle of a deep recession. Jobs were scarce, even for the highly trained and qualified.

"The year I graduated was hard," she remembers. "I had a hard time finding a career that fit me well." Fortunately, the business technology & management grad had a role model who served her well. Her father had moved to the U.S. from Hong Kong and opened a Chinese restaurant when she was just two years old.

"Growing up in the restaurant business is a unique experience," she said. "It gives you a passion for working for yourself." Samantha took that passion and ultimately created a unique, dual concept eatery in Hanover, New Hampshire called Noodle Station/The Swirl and Pearl. The Asian fusion restaurant, paired with a frozen yogurt shop, has been a hit with Dartmouth students and local families alike.

Samantha works closely with her husband, **Christopher Gale**, who is a 2006 graduate of the Architectural & Building Engineering Technology program and a 2008 graduate of the Architectural Engineering Technology program. The demands of the restaurant business can have the couple spending 65-70 hours a week together at work. "We love it," she says of their work partnership. "We enjoy spending a lot of time together. It's an easy team effort. Without him, I don't think I would have been able to make it in this business."

More challenging, Samantha says, is finding and keeping good employees. "People come and go really quickly. Sometimes they leave unannounced. It's definitely been challenging." Samantha's classes at Vermont Tech in business management, organizational communication and HR have given her the foundation to deal with heavy turnover. "I think a lot of the skills I learned at school have been helpful with scheduling, procedures and consistency."

A big part of the appeal of the Noodle Station/Swirl and Pearl is the ability to customize an order. The Asian-Italian fusion restaurant offers a make-your-own noodle bar with 11 house-made sauces, 11 types of pasta, and a variety of vegetables and protein. The adjoining dessert shop offers 30 flavors of bubble tea and 8 rotating, self-serve flavors of frozen yogurt. Some customers create a favorite dish and never vary from it; others enjoy discovering new taste combinations each time. Either way, Samantha is happy to see her young business grow year over year.

"I love cooking and so I love seeing my customers enjoy my food," she says. "It's really rewarding to see people happy and coming back to try new things. It keeps you going."



NICK SHEPARD '12

ALUMNUS, NICK SHEPARD, '12, DECIDED TO TAKE THE PLUNGE AND START HIS BUSINESS WITH ONLY \$40 IN HIS POCKET.



Nick Shepard had \$40 in his pocket when he bought the first supplies for his new startup. “I figured there’s never going to be a perfect time, so here we go.” That kind of well-considered risk-taking and belief in his business have characterized the 24-year-old’s career as a young entrepreneur. One year later, Vermont Vegan Tattoo Soap can be found online, in Vermont tattoo parlors, and at Healthy Living.

“You’re putting yourself out there. It’s scary stuff,” he admits, but an Associate Degree in Business Technology & Management from Vermont Tech helped him identify a market and find the right niche for his product. Unlike many skin care offerings, Vermont Vegan Tattoo Soap is made of plant-based materials, including vegetable, coconut and avocado oils—products his Facebook page says have been used for millennia to prevent infection, relieve pain, and accelerate healing. Tattoo artists use the liquid soap to wipe away excess ink, and customers use it during healing.

“There’s definitely a market for it,” Nick says. During his research, he learned that the Dial soap was the industry standard for tattoo care. He believed he could make a natural alternative, so he began experimenting in the kitchen of his Colchester home. “There’s more chemistry involved than I ever thought I’d be doing,” he laughs. He started with a bar soap, but then learned tattoo artists prefer liquid. He went back to his high school chemistry teacher and visited the online communities of people who make their own soap.

Eventually, he reached a critical point in the start up phase. His side business of soap making was starting to require more of his time and attention. His wife was due to deliver their second child any day. He took a deep breath, quit his day job, and directed all of his energy to his fledgling operation.

“I’d been reading a lot and listening to motivational speakers,” he said. “Most successful entrepreneurs have made big decisions in their lives. You have to put yourself out there.”

Nick admits that much of his success has been hard-won. “I definitely made some mistakes, but I’ve learned along the way,” he said, including how to raise money for more sustainable packaging through an online Kickstarter campaign.

Nick credits his business professors at Vermont Tech, especially Allan Rodgers and Joyce Twing, with planting the entrepreneurial seeds in him. “I remember a lot of conversations at Vermont Tech,” he said. “We didn’t have the Entrepreneurial minor when I was there, but we talked about politics and economics. We were always told, ‘The point is to go out and create a business.’”

Now that he has, he’s moving quickly toward his five year goal of having an internationally-known product within the tattoo industry. “Everyone says they want to be known the world over,” he says. “But given the state of this niche market, I believe that’s an attainable goal.”

JOHN PALMER '69



JOHN PALMER, '69, NEVER WANTED TO BE A DAIRY FARMER - INSTEAD HE BECAME VERMONT'S LARGEST POULTRY PRODUCER. PICTURED HERE IS HIS OFFICE AT MISTY KNOLL FARM IN NEW HAVEN.



John Palmer never wanted to go into dairy farming--too demanding, he says. "You've got to milk those cows at least twice a day, mostly at the same time." Instead, he became Vermont's largest poultry producer. His family-owned and operated Misty Knoll Farms in New Haven produces 300,000 chickens, 20,000 turkeys ... and feeding time is free-choice.

He might not have envisioned such a large business when he was a student at Vermont Tech. When John graduated with an Associate Degree in Electronics in 1969, his student deferment had run out. "I was at the top of the list" for military service, he said. After serving in the National Guard, he spent 23 years at IBM—but memories of growing up on a poultry farm were never far from his mind.

"I wanted to be doing something in agriculture because it was in my blood," he said. "I couldn't get rid of it. My idea of a vacation was an afternoon in the hayfield."

John found his opportunity when his daughter raised six turkeys, fed on local grain, in the family's basement for a 4-H project. The turkeys were so popular, John saw the potential for a larger operation. Today, Misty Knoll Farms poultry is found in health food stores and high end restaurants throughout New England and New York. They're naturally raised, fed whole grain free of antibiotics, and they command a premium price.

"We can't compete on price with the commodities, so that's one of the reasons we went all-natural," John said. Another motivation was the family's desire to treat the land and the farm as an irreplaceable resource.

In addition to practicing sustainable farming, Misty Knoll Farm contributes generously to its community.

The company donates chickens for the New Haven Fire Department's barbecues, turkeys for the New Haven Congregational Church turkey dinner, and poultry to "about 100 other organizations across the state," John said humbly.

He says his engineering degree comes in handy on the farm every day. "We do all of our electrical work," he said. "Our barns have computer-controlled temperature, air flow monitors, and alarm systems." He continues to contribute to the Vermont Tech community by serving on the Alumni Steering Committee. "Everybody wants to stay connected to their past, a little bit," he said.

When he's not on the farm, he's an unofficial ambassador for the college. "It has a good reputation, a great history, great placement rates," he said. "I encourage any of the high school students I run across to check it out."





THE ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund is critical to the operation of the College. It is our greatest source of unrestricted support and support designated for departments and academic divisions. Annual Fund gifts are expended in the year received and are applied to those areas of greatest need and opportunity.

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David Mahoney
Anthony Martin
Everett C. Maynard
Louise B. Maynard
Thomas E. Miner
Donald F. Moore, Sr.
Christine W. Motyka
Shane H. Nault
Dennis Nolan
Charles T. Nye
Peter Ott
Jeremy Ouellette
Gale B. Parmelee
Robert Payeur
Gary C. Pentek
Michael C. Pezzetti, Jr.
Katherine H. Porter
Thomas W. Powers
Douglas Punt
Charles B. Rainville
Donald Randall
John C. Reilly
Leonard Reistetter
Richard M. Roderick
Ian S. Ross
Mark B. Ryan
Richard E. Sherman
David P. Silloway
Eaton W. Snow
Kermit R. Spaulding
Amy St. Denis
Paul C. Stanley
Carolyn Stannard-Carlo
Michael D. Stead
Stephen M. Taylor

Michael Tortorella
Robert L. Tracy
Patricia K. Turley
Keith C. Warner
Charles Waterman
Gary S. Watkins
Arthur Whitman
James W. Williams
Anne Wood

The Annual Fund Honor Roll lists contributions by club level. Gifts made by local businesses, corporate matching gifts, and honor and memorial gifts are listed here as well.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Gifts of \$500 and above.

DEAN'S CLUB

Gifts of \$250 to \$499.

CENTURY CLUB

Gifts of \$100 to \$249.

GREEN & WHITE CLUB

Gifts up to \$99.

Vermont Tech regrets any omissions or errors in the listing. Please bring corrections to the attention of the Alumni Affairs office at
(802) 728-1250
alumni@vtc.edu

VERMONT TECH



BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT GRAD, **KARA BAZILE**, HUGS HER PROFESSOR AFTER THE CEREMONY.



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER, **KEN SQUIER**, ENTERTAINED THE CROWD WITH HIS HUMOR DURING HIS ADDRESS.

COMMENCEMENT

On Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, Vermont Tech celebrated the college's 150th annual commencement ceremony. In a rare step for the college, the commencement speaker, Ken Squier, was honored with a resolution from the Vermont State Colleges board of Trustees and an honorary Doctorate in Applied Science from Vermont Tech.

WDEV owner and NASCAR broadcaster Ken Squier took the stage two of the three ceremonies to inspire and encourage Vermont Tech's graduates with this year's commencement speech.

"What is being celebrated today is learning," said Squier. "To provide every new generation with the best education possible. To not only learn enough about our past but to develop new concepts, new tools to grapple with the uncertain, unknown future. It is not the work your grandfather or grandmother used to do. But desire always to see the following generations work better, more confidently than past generations. It's to add to the dimension of knowledge about labor and how best to prepare ourselves for it." Squier is currently living in Stowe and provides commentary for NBC

Sports. He was inducted into the New England Auto Racers Hall of Fame in 2002 and is a charter member of the Vermont Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

“The skills you have and the degrees you are getting are unique. They represent the ability to actually get things done,” said Vermont Tech President Dan Smith to the graduating class. “And we are counting on you to put them to use. We are counting on you to invent, make, grow, build and design things that make the world a better place, a healthier place and to make people’s lives a little bit easier.”

At three different ceremonies through the weekend, the college conferred more than 472 degrees. Of those graduating, 403 (85%) were Vermonters. The Nursing Department, which delivers its program in multiple locations around the state, featured the largest number of graduates. One hundred fifty-three (153) nursing students received degrees on Saturday. In addition, the college graduated its first classes in the Professional Pilot and Renewable Energy bachelor’s degree programs. **vtc**

VTC RECEIVES \$4,000,000 GRANT

Vermont Tech has received a \$4 million US Labor Department grant to provide training and education to prepare low- to middle-skilled Vermonters to enter the workforce with better-paying jobs in industries relevant to Vermont’s growth. Training and education will focus on the advanced manufacturing industry.

The US Department of Labor grant, awarded to Vermont Tech on Tuesday, is the only grant awarded in the nation that will serve an entire state. The grant will help support the Vermont Supported Training Education and Employment Partnership (VSTEED), a comprehensive, statewide, public/private partnership focusing on building innovative and evidence-based practices, systems and protocols to remove barriers faced by working, low-income Vermont families in accessing and succeeding in education and training to improve their job prospects and put them on a path to economic independence.

“Vermont Tech is proud to be a recipient of the working-families grant. We strive to be the source of competitive advantage for Vermont’s advanced manufacturing industry and these pathways and wrap-around services will increase the highly skilled workforce available to Vermont’s employers,” stated President Dan Smith of Vermont Tech. In addition, “we look forward to deepening our alignment with the Community College of Vermont. This partnership will increase access by non-traditional students and serve more Vermonters with a high quality education,” said President Smith.



EDUCATION HELPS WORKING FAMILIES.

Vermont Tech will work closely with the Community College of Vermont (CCV) to create H-1B aligned career pathways. Participants will undertake customized individual assessments to identify training needs and skills deficiencies, as well as to identify barriers to successful education, training and employment. Curriculum will typically incorporate work with basic education, CCV’s Career Readiness Certificate Program (with a focus on manufacturing) and CCV’s nationally-recognized Certified Production Technician (CPT) credential. A new, innovative, accessible three-part Registered Apprenticeship featuring on-the-job training and a pathway to a Vermont Tech degree will be offered.

VSTEED partners will assist participants in addressing child care issues and other barriers to training and employment through navigation services, direct assistance and leveraging all available federal, state and private resources. **vtc**

VERMONT TECH

GENDER EQUITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

O'Leary went on to say that women with strong communication skills succeed in STEM majors. She sees a real difference in the all-female teams competing in the college's annual high school bridge building competition. "There's camaraderie across the board" with these teams, she says. "They are visibly supportive of one another. There's more communication. They're good problem solvers and team players."

The bridge building contest is just one of the ways Vermont Tech focuses on middle school and high school students, especially girls. Rosie's Girls Overnight Leadership Camp, Women in Construction Day, the Women Can Do conference, Try a Major Day and the SKILLS USA competition all provide opportunities for young women to explore technical and trade fields.

Andy Myrick, Associate Professor in Construction Management, likes to think of himself as the department's unofficial gender equity coordinator and chief recruiting officer. When he receives a list of inquiries from potential students, the women are the first ones he calls. "Person-to-person contact works," he says. "Personal contact reassures them that construction management is a possibility and there are other people like them. It's unusual, but it's not odd."

Myrick said women in construction management get satisfaction from the concrete nature of their work. "They really like the feeling that 'I built that,' whether it's a building of a hospital or a road," he says. "These are very pragmatic, practical people. They like making, doing and building."

They also might be among the first in their family to attend college. "Attending Vermont Tech is an incredibly transformative experience," says Amanda Chaulk, Director of Marketing and Communications. "When students graduate with a degree in computing, construction management or engineering, they're ready for a wide variety of careers in health, education, business, transportation and more. They're ready to help solve many of the world's problems." **vtc**

announcing our
NEW programs!



MASTERS

- Software Engineering

POST-DEGREE CERTIFICATES

- Computer Networking
- Software Development
- Advanced Software Development
- Web Development

BACHELOR'S

- Entrepreneurship

WORKFORCE CERTIFICATES

- Dairy Production & Processing
- Forestry
- Sustainable Vegetable Production
- Welding



FACULTY PROFILE

JOHN DIEBOLD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOHN DIEBOLD, MEC '79 & CET '86, SHAKES HANDS WITH DWIGHT CROSS, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ENROLLMENT & ALUMNI AFFAIRS, AFTER COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES THIS SPRING.

In 1982 John Diebold was 23 years old. He had just quit his job at TRW in Ohio, packed everything into his car, and was driving around the country for six months. "I was trying to 'find myself,' I think was the term," he says now, looking back.

He already had a degree from Vermont Tech in mechanical engineering technology, but he ended up back in Vermont doing carpentry and construction. He enrolled at Vermont Tech for a second degree in civil engineering technology and started a decades-long stretch of living and learning, or "work full-time, study part-time," as he calls it. Today he enjoys running half marathons, is an avid fisherman, and is a faculty member in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology department at Vermont Tech.

He says his experiences as a traditional student, and later as a non-traditional student, have helped him understand the range of his own students now. He knows what it's like at Vermont Tech, because he's been there.

"I was a typical Vermont Tech student," he says. "A lot of my high school cohorts went right to a four-year program, or didn't go to school at all.

"The employees at Vermont Tech have one thing in common: they want to provide the best educational experience as possible for our students."

— John Diebold

When I started at Vermont Tech, it was an eye-opener, as it is for a lot of people. I couldn't wait to pack my bags and go home on a Friday afternoon. I was challenged."

John credits his early college success to Vermont Tech's then-basketball coach Austin Wood. "He was the

driving force that kept me in school," he said. "My persistence to succeed was linked to my athletic experience and not wanting to walk away. Austin encouraged me to stick it out."

By the time he returned for his second degree, John had developed discipline and had learned how to study. His degree in civil engineering technology led to a career in land surveying and civil engineering, a BS in environmental engineering technology, and a masters in civil and environmental engineering. He spent 10 years at Norwich University studying and working in engineering, and started thinking about teaching.

"I was always looking at education," he says. When Vermont Tech offered him a job, "the ability to be connected to the consulting industry and academia, and bring those two together, was attractive," he said.

John can now claim to be a second generation faculty member at Vermont Tech because his father taught physics for 15 years after a career in the military. It's a proud legacy for John. "The employees at Vermont Tech have one thing in common: they want to provide the best educational experience as possible for our students."

John admits that his life-long approach to learning isn't for everyone. Many of his students are anxious to get into the workforce and he says they are well-positioned for that path. "The attraction of a Vermont Tech degree is that you are employable right off the bat," he says. "If you can endure the rigor, there's a job waiting for you. **vtc**

VTC
at a glance

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,545

VARSIY SPORT TEAMS

6

CAMPUSES & EXTENDED SITES

ELEVEN

Bennington, Brattleboro, Lyndon, Middlebury, Newport, Norwich, Randolph, Springfield, St. Albans, White River Junction, Williston

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO

10:1

JOB & POSTSECONDARY PLACEMENT



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN STUDENT BODY

22



CAMPUS SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

VERMONT TECH HILL
at Randolph Center Campus

RESIDENTIAL CAMPUSES

THREE

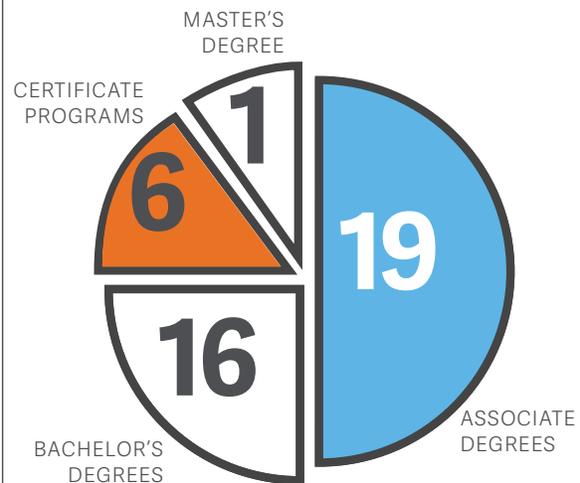
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & CLUBS



52

LARGEST MAJOR

NURSING



AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

15

CLASS NOTES

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM DUFF, HT '59, passed away on December 13, 2012

Mr. Duff was born September 18, 1939, son of the late Richard and Madeline (Taylor) Duff, and had resided in Woodbury for many years. He retired from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation after 36 years of service. Mr. Duff was also a founding member of the Woodbury Ambulance Association. He was an active EMT for 40 years and remained as an associate member.

EDWARD HUNTLEY, CET & ST '81, passed away peacefully on January 30, 2016 at Baystate Medical Hospital from complications with Primary CNS Lymphoma. Ned was born in Northampton and is the son of Almer (Bud) Huntley and mother Enid Johnson.

MICHAEL PILLARELLA, EET '69, passed away March 15, 2016. The founder of EMI Electrical Contractors Inc. and the Owner, Director and Instructor of Pillarella School of Electrical Code & Theory, Michael earned a Masters Degree in Education from Bridgewater State College, a Bachelor of Science, Industrial Arts from Fitchburg State College after graduating from Vermont Tech. He was past-president and Educational Chairman of

the Roger Williams Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, also the past-president of the Bristol County Chapter of the Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association. Michael was also a lifetime member of the National Educational Association and a Member of the Institute for the Certification of Engineering Technicians. Michael held electrical licenses in MA, RI, VT, NH and Maine. He held educational licenses in four distinct areas, Superintendent/Director, Vocational Education, Department Head and Secondary Principal.

Michael also served as an Instructor at the Massachusetts Fire Academy focusing on Electrical Safety, Fire and Arson investigation.

BRUCE CHARLAND, CET '79, passed away peacefully in his home while surrounded by family and friends on June 21, 2014. Bruce bravely and courageously battled cancer for over six years with his loving and supporting wife, Debra, and countless family and friends by his side every step of the way.

RUTH BEARD, RHT '96, died at her home surrounded by her family on Oct. 29, 2014. She devoted her life to the service of others and leaves a husband and two children behind.

PROMOTIONS & CAREER MOVES

HENRY MARCKRES, AMT '74, was inducted into the North American Maple Hall of Fame by the North American Maple Syrup Council on May 14, 2016 during a special ceremony conducted at the American Maple Museum in Croghan, NY. Congratulations!

JOHN MARTIN, ABT '87, currently serves as the military deputy director in the Defense Fuel Support Point Management Quality division. He was promoted to colonel during a promotion ceremony hosted by Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark McLeod, DLA Energy commander, on February 26.

BILLY-JO MILLS, FSC '11, has recently become Rutland Town Fire Department's first female officer. She was elected to the rank of lieutenant. Her career at the department began in 2013.

ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS & ANNIVERSARIES

KAYLA DILLON, RSP '13, & JACOB GROUT, CPM '10, have announced their engagement. Kayla is a respiratory therapist at the UVM Medical Center in Burlington. Jacob is a plumber at Cooper Mechanical in Williston. A wedding is planned for September 17, 2016 in Waterbury.

VERMONT TECH

Office of Alumni Affairs
PO Box 500, Randolph Center, VT 05061

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SAVE THE DATES: SEPTEMBER 23-25



HOMECOMING

Save the dates! There will be food, friends, and more. Call a few classmates and come celebrate. But before you do, here are a few things to keep in mind.

Did you graduate in a year ending in either 1 or 6? That means this is an honor year. Class of 1991, it's your 25th Anniversary. Class of 1966, don't let the Big 5-0 pass you by. Come see old friends and make a few new ones.

Alumni are free with a suggested \$20 donation; guests are \$20/pp. Register online or below.



For more information, see page 4 inside or visit our website and Facebook page:

www.vtc.edu/homecoming | www.facebook.com/VermontTechnicalCollegeAlumni

REGISTRATION *Clip and send to: Attn: Alumni Office, PO Box 500, Randolph Center, VT 05061 or call 802.728.1250*

- Luncheon: Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ ticket(s) to the Alumni luncheon. Alumni are free with a suggested \$20 donation; guests are \$20/pp.
- Craft Beer Tasting (cash bar)
- Both Luncheon & Beer Tasting

Name: _____ Major & Year: _____

Address: _____

Guest's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

 REGISTER ONLINE www.vtc.edu/homecoming