

# the**ranken**experience

VOLUME FIVE ISSUE THREE – WINTER 2008



Read more about the Fall Job Fair on page 12

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**RANKEN**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**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**

**D**uring these difficult economic times, it seems that all we hear about is rising unemployment and layoffs across the nation, especially here in the St. Louis region. While it is true that it is more difficult to find a job today than it was a year ago, we still have many employers who are looking for our graduates.

When Governor Matt Blunt was here for the ceremonial signing of the A+ legislation, he was surprised to learn that we have a college-wide average of between 5 and 6 job opportunities per graduate and that number was much larger for our manufacturing division. More than 130 businesses attended our fall job fair that was held on November 6. Most of these companies were looking for graduates from more than one department. I cannot tell you how gratifying it is for me to walk the halls of the College with tables set up everywhere and to have students lined up 10 and 12 deep to talk to employers and employers just as eager to talk to the students. During these two days of the school year, the entire campus buzzes with excitement.

These job fairs speak to the heart of what Ranken is all about. Our mission is to provide our students with what they need to gain employment and advance in their chosen career. It is obvious to me that even in hard economic times, employers looking for entry level workers prefer Ranken graduates because of our approach to education and emphasis on work ethic.

As I told Governor Blunt, the key to getting a job is having the skills and personality traits that business and industry is looking for. Ranken is clearly preparing graduates with those skills and has been for more than 100 years.

If you are thinking about your future or the future of your child or grandchild, we invite you to take a look at Ranken as a possibility for your educational path. For more information on our day or evening programs, contact our Admissions office at (314) 286-4809.

## Ranken Dedicates Walker Hall

**O**n Tuesday, November 18, the former Raskas Dairy building that is being transformed into student housing was officially dedicated the Myrtle and Earl Walker Residence Hall.

The day began with a private dedication ceremony where Myrtle and Earl cut a ceremonial red ribbon to officially dedicate the new dorms.

The events continued that evening with a cocktail reception held in the lobby of Walker Hall. Those in attendance included Earl Walker, Board members, donors, Ranken employees, students and community leaders.

A public dedication was held in the evening led by Tim Willard, Vice President of Development. Ben Ernst, Ranken President, spoke to offer his thanks to the Walkers and told the story of how the dorms came to be a reality for Ranken.

"During a board meeting, we were discussing the idea of purchasing this property. Earl said, 'If it will help Ranken, I will buy it for you.'

"The Walkers' purchase of this property and the construction of these new dorms has led Ranken down an exciting new path and is sure to change the culture that we have known," Ernst said.

Ranken Board of Trustees Chair, Bob Staley also spoke to offer thanks and to read the dedication plaque that was presented to the couple.

After a second ribbon-cutting, Earl Walker, founder of Carr Lane Manufacturing, spoke to the audience. He talked about his days at Ranken and how the training he received always helped him provide for his family and now he is proud that he is able to return the favor.



The cutting of the ceremonial ribbon during the Walker Residence Hall dedication.

Pictured L-R: Bob Staley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Earl Walker; Myrtle Walker; Ben Ernst, President

## Ernst Announces Retirement

**E**arlier this year, Ben Ernst, President of the College, announced that he plans to retire in June 2009. Ernst has been at Ranken for 36 years, 20 of which have been as Ranken's president.

The search process for a new president began in September. The position was posted on Ranken's website, [www.stltoday.com](http://www.stltoday.com), [monster.com](http://monster.com) as well as advertised in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Applications are being accepted until mid-November.

Three internal candidates have been identified and will participate in a Proficient Executive Survey which entails a 360 degree evaluation. This is an online process in which supervisors, direct reports and colleagues of the candidates have the opportunity to identify the individual's perceived strengths and areas for development. Feedback from the evaluation will be provided to the candidate anonymously.

More than 35 external applications have been received, and candidates will go through an initial screening and interview process. All internal candidates and top external candidates will then meet with Ernst, Bob Staley and other members of the Board of Trustees for a formal interview. The final review and selection of the new president will be announced by the Board of Trustees in the spring of 2009 to allow the individual time to train with Ernst to ensure a smooth transition process.

For more information about this position, please contact Janice Bollmann, Director of Human Resources, at (314) 286-4805 or via e-mail at [jabollmann@ranken.edu](mailto:jabollmann@ranken.edu).

## New Virtual Tours Now Available on Ranken's Website

The Marketing department held a photo shoot on September 11-12 for photos that were used in the 2008 annual report and on Ranken's website. During the two days, the photographer photographed students and faculty members working in the High Performance Racing Technology (HPRT) and Industrial Technology (INT) labs to create 360 degree virtual tours. The INT and HPRT virtual tours, as well as tours of all other Ranken programs, can be viewed online at <http://www.ranken.edu/AboutRanken/VirtualTour.asp>.

Thank you to all of the students and instructors who participated in the photoshoot!

## Ranken Meets Demand With New Aluminum Welding Course

**D**ue to demand from our graduates, Ranken's Automotive Collision Repair (ACR) department is pleased to offer its first-ever aluminum welding seminar.

This course is designed for Ranken alumni and current students who have passed their steel qualification test through I-CAR and want to improve or update their automotive welding skills.

Through a series of 10 hands-on evening classes, this course will cover welding safety and the proper use of welding equipment. Students will learn about the proper tuning of welding equipment and gain the skills needed to weld on newer aluminum vehicles.

The class will conclude with an I-CAR welding qualification test which is a requirement for General Motors, and recognized by many other vehicle manufacturers.

Classes will meet twice weekly—from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays—starting on January 26, 2009. The course fee is \$500, which includes the I-CAR aluminum qualification test, materials and a study guide.

The following tools and equipment are required to complete the course:

- » Safety Glasses
- » Welding Helmet with 10 shade (self darkening is recommended but not required)
- » Welding Gloves (TIG gloves are recommended but not required)
- » Welding Jacket
- » Vice Grips (two)
- » Side Cutters or Wire Snips
- » Small Metal Ruler
- » Large Marker
- » Small Marker
- » Small Screwdriver (pocket type)
- » Flashlight (for overhead welding)

The deadline to register for this continuing education opportunity is Monday, January 5, 2009.

Please contact Ranken's admissions department at (314) 286-4809 or [admissions@ranken.edu](mailto:admissions@ranken.edu) to register. Contact course instructor John Helterbrand at (314) 286-4889 or [jkhelterbrand@ranken.edu](mailto:jkhelterbrand@ranken.edu) for specific questions about the course content.

## College Undergoes Review By NCA

**B**eginning on October 20, 2008, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools sent an evaluation team of Consultant-Evaluators to conduct a comprehensive visit for continued accreditation and to write a report containing the team's recommendations. The team consisted of the following:

- » Dr. Benjamin Young, Team Leader  
(Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana)
- » Dr. Gigi Fansler (Lincoln College, Illinois)
- » Dr. Karen Knox (Southwest Wisconsin Technical College)
- » Allen Zimmerman (Ohio State University)

During the three day visit, the team met with students, Board members, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and community leaders. On the last day of the evaluation, team members performed an exit conference with key staff and faculty.

Prior to the visit, Ranken was required to engage in a self-study process for approximately two years and prepare a report of its findings in accordance with Commission expectations. Barb Edwards, Library Resource Center Director, authored the document and received positive comments from the HLC about the outstanding organization and evidentiary nature of the report.

Next steps in the process include the evaluation team presenting their findings and recommendations to the Internal Action Committee of the HLC. The Board of Trustees from the HLC must then approve that committee's action during their next meeting. The process should be finalized in February 2009 when Ranken receives an official letter detailing their accreditation status.

To learn more about the HLC and the accreditation process, visit <http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org>.

## Ranken Offers Online Courses!

Did you know that Ranken offers online courses?

Classes offered include:

- » Introduction to Business
- » College Composition I
- » College Composition II
- » Principles of Management
- » Principles of Sociology

To learn more about our online courses, contact the Academic Advising office at (314) 286-3679.



## Automotive Division Hosts Regional Conference



Photo: The ICAIA conference kicked off with a trade show held in the Moog/Rodenheiser building.

**O**n October 9-10, Ranken Technical College hosted the 66<sup>th</sup> semi-annual Illinois College Automotive Instructors Association (ICAIA) conference. The first day of the conference began with a trade show where more than 30 vendors from the automotive industry set up and displayed their products. By 8:30 a.m. more than 260 people

had made their way through the trade show. Conference attendees included 163 automotive instructors from Missouri and Illinois, many from the Chicago region. Technical presentations took place throughout the day, and presenters included representatives from GM, Federal Mogul, Lincoln Industrial, Chrysler, and 3M. Lunch was served to 265 people in the atrium of the Mary Ann Lee Technology Center.

On Thursday evening, a banquet was held at the Hampton Inn, and 161 people were in attendance. Byron Morgan from Hunter Engineering was the guest speaker and gave a presentation on the importance of training and how it affected his life. Two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Ranken students, **Derek Kleidon** from Automotive Maintenance



Photo: Members of the automotive division was presented with plaques at the evening program for hosting the event. Pictured L-R: Ronald Raines; Joe Jackson; Walter Rundell; John Helterbrand, Dan Kania and Steve Davenport.

Technology (AMT) and **Matt Borgsmeyer** from ACR. The scholarship money was a donation from the ICAIA, Hunter Engineering, Chicago Auto Trade Association, CARQUEST, and Industrial Noise Control.

The second day of the conference continued with technical presentations from companies such as Toyota, CONSULAB, Bob Coleworthy and SUNNEN.

## Ranken Faculty Member Publishes First Novel



**R**anken English faculty member and author, Jeffrey Penn May, has just released his first novel, "Where the River Splits." The novel is an account of the adventure of a married couple during a camping trip that goes wrong from the very start. May's book, published in October, is receiving rave reviews and testimonials from other local writers and authors. To read reviews of the novel, visit

<http://www.askwritefish.citymax.com/wrtestamoniols.html>.

May, who has bachelors' degrees in english and psychology as well as a master's degree in secondary education, remembers starting to write at the age of 10. One of the first short stories he remembers writing was about WWI fighter pilots. He continued to write short stories, poetry and novels throughout college and into adulthood.

His first published novel comes after a long journey of writing, editing and finding a publishing company. May, of course, is happy about his first published work but says he keeps his excitement in check.

"It's more of a feeling of relief. As a writer, until you see the checks coming in the mail, it's best not to get too overexcited," said May.

He is very satisfied with the way the novel turned out but adds that if had not been published he would more than likely still be making changes.

"I still open the book and see things that I would change. Writing is a process that never really ends. You always feel like it can be better.

"The ending of this book accomplishes what I wanted to achieve. It's uplifting. There is forgiveness and the right choice is made."

May has several more projects in process and hopes to continue his new career as a published author.

A copy of May's book is available in Ranken's library and available to purchase [www.askwritefish.com](http://www.askwritefish.com) from publisher Libros International.

# RANKEN EVENTS

## Fall Open House

**O**n Saturday, October 18, Ranken held their fall open house to welcome potential students and families onto campus to learn more about Ranken. During the day, potential students could tour the program of their choice, speak with admissions counselors and get



The hallway between the Finney and Cook buildings was lined with people wanting to tour Ranken's programs.

information about scholarships, financial aid and student support services offered. Representatives from Alumni Relations, Career Services, Residential Life, Continuing Education and the BSAM program were also on-hand to answer questions. Tours of the new dorms were also made available.

All attendees had the opportunity to enter their name into a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for the spring 2009 or fall 2009 school

year. **Troy Kingery** from Cumberland High School in Jewett, Ill. won the scholarship drawing.

A local radio station, 105.7 The Point, did their broadcast from campus that day and handed out giveaways to attendees.

Approximately 650 people attended. The spring open house is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, 2009.



Everyone who attended had the opportunity to enter a drawing to win a \$1,000 scholarship.

## Shadow-a-Tech

**R**anken hosted two Shadow-a-Tech events this fall in which high school students could spend part of the day at Ranken. During the day, high school students are paired up with a current Ranken student in the program of their choice and given the opportunity to participate in class projects to get a feel of what it would be like to attend Ranken.

The first Shadow-a-Tech event was held on Thursday, October 23. A total of 32 high school students visited campus and attended class.

During the second event, held on Wednesday, November 19, more than 60 students attended. The event was held in the dining hall where the high school students enjoyed breakfast then were taken to the major of their choice. Admissions counselors and student ambassadors were on hand during the day to help answer questions and register students.

The day ended with lunch and attendees were asked to complete an evaluation. Results of the evaluations were very good overall and several students did their placement testing and registered for classes.

Scheduled dates for Shadow-a-Tech for next semester are:

- » Wednesday, March 11
- » Wednesday, April 15
- » Wednesday, May 6

To register for one of the above dates, go to [www.ranken.edu/WhatsNew/CurrentEvents.asp](http://www.ranken.edu/WhatsNew/CurrentEvents.asp) to register online or go to [www.ranken.edu/Admissions/shadowATech.asp](http://www.ranken.edu/Admissions/shadowATech.asp) to download a registration form to mail in. You can also contact our Admissions office to request a form by calling (314) 286-4809.

## Fall Job Fair

**O**n Thursday, November 6, Career Services hosted the 2008 Fall Job Fair. More than 130 companies attended the event to speak with Ranken students about potential employment. The turnout surpassed all past fall job fairs. During the fair, which is held twice per school year, Ranken students have the opportunity to meet with

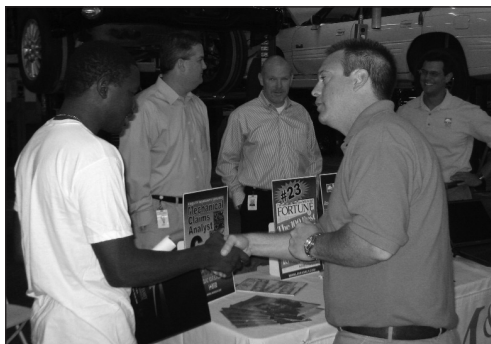


Photo: Ranken students speak with potential employers during the fall job fair.

representatives from local companies, learn more about each company and the job openings available. Employers also accepted resumes from students in order to contact them to fill current positions or for future positions. Many of the employers made positive comments about the caliber of students that they met at Ranken and were pleased to

receive so many promising resumes.

The spring job fair will be held on March 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please contact Janie Summers in Career Services at (314) 286-3665 if you are interested in representing your company at our next job fair.

## High School A+ Counselors Visit Ranken

**O**n Friday, November 7, Ranken invited A+ Coordinators from local high schools to attend a half-day event to visit the campus and learn more about Ranken and our new A+ designation.

The day began with a brief overview of our new designation and what it means for students at their high schools who want to attend Ranken. The group was then taken on a campus tour.

When the group returned from the tour, lunch was served and presentations were given by Keith Konradi about financial aid, Crystal Herron discussed Student Support Services, Steve Horner covered the BSAM program and Mike Hawley gave information about the admissions process.

The day ended with a question and answer session with admissions counselors and student ambassadors and an evaluation of the day. Evaluations were all very positive and 100% of the attendees said they learned something new about Ranken. All attendees said they would recommend Ranken to their students.

## Ranken Honors Our Veterans

**D**uring a ceremony held on Wednesday, November 12 on the Finney lawn, Ranken honored all of our students, faculty and staff who have served our country in the military.

The ceremony, led by Jeremy Sutton, Director of Residential Life, began with a prayer led by Electrical Instructor, Andy Raines. The attendees then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Each veteran was called to the front by name and Rose Crawford presented them with an American flag lapel pin.

The ceremony ended with the playing of the National Anthem. Thank you to all of our veterans who have served our country.

### Ranken Veterans

#### Faculty/Staff

» John Beeman  
» Al Davenport  
» Tom Ely  
» Ben Ernst  
» Jerry Esselman  
» Ron Ettling  
» Sal Francis  
» Jim Gravitt  
» Kent Hornberger  
» Steve Navarrette  
» Dennis Needham  
» Alan Osborne  
» Ron Paul  
» Marcus Record  
» Drew Shands  
» Tom Schroeder  
» Larry Sisson  
» Kurt Trice  
» Jack Walsh

#### Students

» Robert Banden  
» Jacob Bickline  
» Brandon Blanco  
» Patrick Bowker  
» Katurah Brown  
» Adam Fuchs  
» Micah Garrett  
» Gregory Gebert  
» Rachel Henkelman  
» Torri Holbrooks  
» Terry Lybarger  
» Patrick Mahoney  
» Michael McCoy  
» Douglas Messmer  
» Robert Price  
» Paul Schmitz  
» Joshua Scott  
» Russell Sides  
» James Simington  
» Mariam Thompson  
» Virgil Thompson  
» Michael Wolf  
» Andrew Zykan



Photo: Ranken students, faculty and staff who have served our country in the military.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Alex Chau - Architectural Technology



Alex Chau, current ART student

**W**hen Alex Chau learned of the Career Discovery Program at Harvard University, he immediately knew that it was a great opportunity for a big step in his education and future career. The Career Discovery Program at Harvard University Graduate School of Design is an intensive six-week summer program in architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning and design.

Chau, a second-year Ranken Architectural Technology (ART) student, sought the advice of his teachers and they all agreed that he should apply, even though the process and acceptance would be difficult. The first step was to write an essay and get several letters of recommendation. The topic of the essay was, "Your most satisfying project." Chau decided to write about the 2007 food drive and RankCan sculpture competition in which Chau had formed a team that won second place for their creation.

Once accepted, Chau had the task of finding a way to pay for the course fees as well as his living expenses for the six weeks he would be in Boston which he estimated was about \$7,000. To raise part of the money, he decided to organize a raffle. Chau raffled off two prized Michael Jordan cards that he owned. Instructors from the architecture department helped out by donating items to raffle off as well. Kelley Raftery donated hand-made jewelry, and David Graf donated two tickets to a Cardinals game. With the help of the instructors and his fellow students, Chau raised about \$500. The local chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students matched the \$500 he had raised. David Cowell, owner of Cowell Engineering, also donated money to help sponsor Chau's trip. The rest of the money needed for expenses, Chau paid out-of-pocket.

During the six weeks, Chau spent mornings attending lectures and afternoons in the studio working on projects. Classes also included field trips to current job sites. Alex completed a total of three design projects over the course that included everything from basic drawings to model-making. Though the work was strenuous and the days were long, Chau enjoyed the opportunity.

"Our days started at 8 a.m. and we were usually in the studio until it closed at 12 a.m.," said Chau. "It was a lot of hard work, but I learned a lot that will supplement the education I am getting at Ranken and give me an edge up when its time to look for a job."

At the end of the course, Alex received a glowing letter from the instructor, Landon Brown, and the highest evaluation that a student can receive. Brown commented on Chau's problem solving skills as well as his creativity, work ethic and positive approach to the program.

"I was very proud of the determination Alex demonstrated in his quest to attend Harvard," said Kelley Raftery, an instructor in the Architectural Technology department. "His horizons have been forever broadened. His experiences and hard work will serve him well for many years to come. I wish all of our students could travel and experience the world of architecture - the lessons are invaluable. We all expect that Alex will be very successful in his career after Ranken."

During his stay in Boston, Chau stayed in the Harvard dorms and attended the course with 250 other students from eight countries and 32 states.



## Marketing Campaign Uses Actual Ranken Students

**T**he latest round of Ranken advertising is starting to show up on area billboards. Featuring Ranken's familiar "I'm Ranken Material - Are You?" tagline, the advertisements depict students from various technical fields, each discussing the technical training and career options available in their programs. The billboards are eye-catching and have garnered attention from potential students and their parents, but what many observers don't realize is that all of Ranken's advertising features actual Ranken students. Each year Ranken holds several photo shoots on campus and students are selected to represent their departments. Many of the students belong to Ranken's Student Ambassador program, and interest in appearing on a billboard is extremely high.

"They start asking on the first day of school," said Ranken's Director of Marketing, Susan Flayer. "They all want to know when the next photo shoot is, and whether they can participate and be selected for our advertising."

"We try to use students and alumni as much as possible in all of our promotional materials," Flayer continued. "When you hear our radio advertising, most of those quotes came from Ranken students. Our catalog and website are also full of quotes and photos from our students and alumni. We want to portray the College as authentically as possible, and we do that by featuring actual students who are enrolled in the programs."

How do the Ranken students who are currently featured feel about having their face on a billboard? Brandon Tutterow, a student in Ranken's Automotive Collision Repair program, said "It's cool being on a billboard, and my parents were pretty excited. They made a special trip to go see it one night. I know a couple of the other guys who are on billboards, and we all argue over whose picture looks the best."

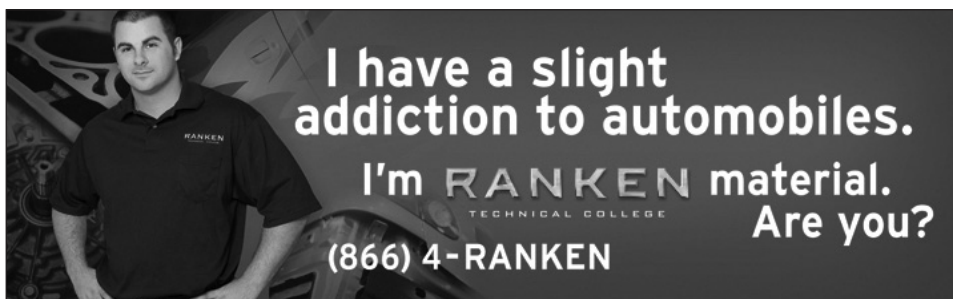


Photo: Ranken ACR student, Brandon Tutterow, on a billboard located downtown on Highway 55 Northbound.

## Student Ambassadors Take A Break

**O**n Thursday, November 20, the Ranken Student Ambassadors took a break from school and work to participate in an Ambassador social event.

The group started out at the SportsStreet Grill inside the St. Louis Mills Mall for dinner then headed over to The Putting Edge for 18-holes of glow-in-the-dark putt-putt golf.

Ranken's student ambassadors are an influential group of students who are passionate about Ranken and want to spread the word about their positive educational experience to prospective students.

Student Ambassadors assist in a variety of ways including giving campus tours, planning campus-wide events and helping the admissions office and other departments in a general capacity.

Ambassadors are required to work at least 20 hours per semester, including mandatory attendance at the College's open-house events. Students who complete these requirements receive a \$250-\$500 tuition credit per semester.

In addition, ambassadors attend monthly luncheons and other ambassador social events, in which they have a chance to socialize and meet students in other fields of study. Past ambassador events have included attending Cardinals baseball games and an afternoon at Dave & Busters.

To learn more about the Student Ambassador Program, log on to [www.ranken.edu/MoneyMatters/](http://www.ranken.edu/MoneyMatters/) or call the program coordinator at (314) 286-4849.



**CLASSES NOW FORMING AT OUR  
WELDON SPRING LOCATION!**

Call Admissions at (314) 286-4809 for more information

# RANKEN AND OUR COMMUNITY

**R**anken's commitment to outreach activities extends further than business and industry to include its neighborhood and the local community. The College is involved in many activities that meet the needs of our surrounding community.

The College has worked hard for the past 35 years to focus efforts on connecting to the community in a variety of ways. Some of these efforts include:

- » Creating a beautification corridor around the College that includes approximately one square mile in the neighborhood. Ranken has undertaken projects such as planting trees and shrubs, and cleaning up the local park
- » Building 46 new homes in the surrounding area through the Ranken Community Development Corporation
- » Sponsoring summer camp programs on campus
- » Sponsoring education and training programs that benefit industry and the community
- » Establishing a dual enrollment program with the St. Louis Public School District
- » Working with the local Youth Technology Education Center, a not-for-profit educational organization near campus that provides after school and summer programs for neighborhood children
- » Holding an annual toy and food drive that benefits local church food banks and day care centers
- » Membership and participation in local neighborhood associations including the Vandeventer Citizens for a Better Community, Weed & Seed, Education Committee of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, the Human Development Corporation's Network of Employment and Training Partners, North County School Business Partnership, Cole School Task Force, Beckett Park Neighborhood Group, Fountain Park, Lewis Place and Fairfax Court
- » Establishing scholarships designed to support a diverse student population
- » Participation in the annual James Miller Block Party event

- » Volunteer services of Ranken's Internet and Web Technology (IWT) department for creation of a website for the Lewis Place Historical Preservation project
- » Ranken's Phi Theta Kappa chapter sponsors a reading program for local school children
- » Providing space and meeting rooms for local community projects and groups such as the St. Louis Tax Assistance programs, Junior Achievement, Weed & Seed, Better Family Life, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Metro Vocational and Technical Assistance Program
- » The Ranken Outdoor Club hosted and taught a free Hunter Safety Certification course in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Conservation
- » Employees participate in community hosted events such as Blood Drives and United Way campaigns

Photo: Ranken's campus located at the corner of Finney and Newstead Avenues.



## Ranken's RCDC Program Brings New Homes to Local Neighborhood

**T**he somewhat blighted community that surrounds Ranken has been a long-standing issue that can often affect students' decisions to attend the College.

In the early 1990's, Ben Ernst, President of the College, realized that Ranken had resources that could help the community, which weren't being utilized. At the next Board of Trustees meeting he made the suggestion that if Ranken could purchase land in the neighborhood at reasonable prices, the Carpentry department could build and sell affordable homes. The Trustees gave their approval, and this first step became known as the Corridor Project.

Ranken began purchasing property, cleaning trash-filled lots, planting trees and flowers and working closely with area residents.

The second phase was kicked off in 1993 when Ranken entered into an agreement with St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) to erect and market residential housing. This new not-for-profit organization was called the Ranken Community Development Corporation (RCDC).

Through the RCDC program, Ranken students receive hands-on experience in a real-life work situation, and area residents receive affordable housing to help revitalize the neighborhood.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," said program assistant, Pat Capps. "The program continues to be a success. Even with the current housing market, we continue to sell homes that our students have built."

Today, under the direction of Carpentry Instructor and Project Manager, Jeff Bosick, the program has continued to grow and strives to perfect the process. The fall 2008 semester was the first time since the program's implementation that home foundations were poured and ready for second year students to start work on day one of the semester. The program has also evolved to include students from other programs such as ART, Heating and Cooling and Plumbing. This cooperation gives Ranken students the real-life experience of how the contractor and sub-contractors must all work together to complete a project on time and teaches them how their work and timeliness affects everyone else around them.



Photo: Ranken carpentry students building a home as part of RCDC.



Photo: RCDC home under construction on Cook Avenue.

Ranken has purchased property and built homes on West Belle, Finney, Newstead, Cook and Page Avenues and has plans to build homes on Evans in the future. Currently, Ranken students are building 2-4 homes per year in the neighborhood and at the end of this school year will have completed a total of 46 homes.

During their time in the field, students are taught a variety of construction methods and learn to deal with real-world situations that may arise on a job site. To get this experience, each carpentry student is given the opportunity to act as the foreman for one week during the semester. This gives students the opportunity to see the big picture of a construction project and learn what it takes to keep the project running and on-time to completion.

Instructors also ensure that our students are keeping up with new products and techniques that are used in construction. At the current home being built on Cook, students are learning to install a new trend in brick veneer called NovaBrik which is a patented mortarless brick siding system.

"We think it's important to teach our students the new trends in construction because it gives them a leg-up on the competition when they are looking for a job," said Bosick.

Once the homes are complete, Capps works with a local real estate agent to sell the homes. So far, 40 out of the 46 homes have been sold.

"The homes our students build are nice homes. They take a lot of pride in seeing their hard work come to completion with someone buying the home," said Capps. "Our real estate agent liked our homes so much that she purchased one for herself!"



Photo: Local couple who purchased a home from RCDC.

Residents of the surrounding neighborhood have been very supportive of Ranken's efforts to bring new homes into the area.

"The RCDC program has really helped improve Ranken's relationship within our community," said Bosick. "We are able to give our students the opportunity to learn in a real-world environment and the residents get to see new families moving in and revitalization of the neighborhood."

The RCDC program continues to grow, and in spring 2009 will partner with the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward and the Greater Ville Neighborhood Preservation Group to build new homes on Evans Avenue. The new project will be called "Jospeh B. Clark Estates", named after former 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman, Joe Clark. Construction on this new site will begin in March with excavation and the pouring of foundations.

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## HVACR Welcomes Local Boy Scout Troop



Photo: Boy Scout Troop 51 working on their tool totes.

**O**n October 1, Steve Jones, HVACR instructor, held a shop demonstration for local Boy Scout Troop 51 of the Thunderbird District in St. Louis, Mo. The troop, led by Scout Master, Harry Lohse and Assistant Scout Master, Chris Fosage and chartered by Our Lady of Sorrows, visited Ranken and participated in a project in which they were able to build a metal tool tote.

Jones began the day by talking to the troop about shop safety. Then began the hands-on project by giving a description of the major tools used to build the tote. Jones had prepared several totes ahead of time as examples and gave instructions on how to properly build the tool tote.

During the hands-on project, the boys were taught to bend portions of the metal tote and cut and pop-rivet sections of the tote together.

The troop was very grateful for the use of Ranken's facilities and the time that Jones took to hold this workshop. For the completion of the project, the boys were awarded their metal merit badge.

## Automotive Division Helps Missouri Drivers

**O**n Wednesday, September 17, the automotive division held a training program that allows local repair shops to do both safety and emissions testing. This training is not only helpful to the shops but to motorists in Missouri, since there are more locations for them to choose from when needing these tests.

The division developed the class a year ago in conjunction with the state's Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Highway Patrol.

The training utilizes a real emission tester in a classroom at the Mary Ann Lee Technology Center. The tester used is loaned to the class by SYSTECH, the company that sells the testing machines.

Since the program's implementation, the division has trained more than 3,500 automotive technicians in the region. Classes are currently held once a month and are limited to 50 participants per class.

For more information about class dates and times, please contact the automotive division at (314) 286-4834.



Photo: Walter Rundell teaching the September safety and emissions training class.

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## NEW FACES AT RANKEN

Ranken would like to welcome the following new employees who joined our team this fall:

- » Jackie Barnes, Administrative Assistant Development
- » Patsy Zettler, Administrative Assistant Continuing Education

EMPLOYEES



## Ranken Announces New Partnerships With St. Louis Public Schools

### - Dual Enrollment Program

**S**tarting in spring 2009, Ranken will pilot a program that will give high school seniors the opportunity to be enrolled in high school and college simultaneously.

This new dual enrollment program will be offered to St. Louis Public School District (SLPS) students who are interested in pursuing a technical education after they graduate. High school seniors who meet a specific set of requirements will have the opportunity to attend Ranken in the afternoons and be fully enrolled as both a high school student and a college student. The classes they take at Ranken will earn college credit and the hope is that students will decide to continue their education after high school. To start, the SLPS will send 10 students from a select group of schools. Depending on the success of the program, other schools will be included and more students will have the opportunity to dual enroll.

### - Fresh Start/In It 2 Win Program

**R**anken announced on Thursday, November 20, a new partnership with the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) which would offer scholarships to participants in their "Fresh Start/In It 2 Win" program. In cooperation with Missouri State Representative Jamilah Nasheed, Ranken has been meeting with representatives of the program, and recently pledged to offer scholarships to as many as 50 qualifying public school students.

Fresh Start/In It 2 Win allows students who have dropped out of school to complete the requirements for a high school diploma in one year. To qualify for the new scholarships at Ranken, students must complete the program and earn their GED, then pass Ranken's admissions tests. Students must then apply for all applicable federal and state financial aid. When those resources are exhausted, Ranken will step in to make up the difference, removing the price barrier for those students who otherwise qualify to attend the College.

Ranken President Ben Ernst said "These are hard-working students who demonstrate a clear desire to succeed, and the aptitude to do well at Ranken. By removing the last remaining financial barriers to their success, we hope to encourage many more of these students to seek degrees from our highly-successful technical programs. We know that with the right support, these students will go on to have successful careers in technical fields."

Ranken hopes to have the first eligible students begin classes for the spring semester, January 2009.

## Ranken Kicks Off Annual RankCan Sculpture Competition

**B**eginning at the end of October, Ranken students, faculty and staff began collecting donated food items to kick off the 2008 Food Drive and RankCan competition. Once the items were collected, students formed teams to begin building sculptures with the food items around the theme, "Technical Programs," to enter in the creation portion of the event. The teams were then judged on their sculpture as well as how many food items they collected. The winners were announced on Wednesday, November 19.

### >> Food Drive

- The **Industrial Technology** (INT) department donated the most total food (4,659 items) and also had the highest student-to-food ratio (82 items per student).

### >> RankCan Sculpture Competition

- **First Place**  
Student Government Association (SGA) for their "Willy's Jeep" display
- **Second Place**  
Information Technology department for their "Nintendo/Mario Brothers" display
- **Third Place**  
Industrial Technology division for their "INT Shop" display

The total amount of food items collected was 8,853. INT and SGA will receive a pizza party for winning the competitions.

The purpose of the annual food drive and RankCAN creations event is to help feed the hungry in the St. Louis area during the holiday season and to exhibit the technical skills of our students. The food will be donated to two local church food pantries (Pleasant Green and Lane Tabernacle), to Ranken students in need and other local organizations.



Photo: SGA members building their winning creation, "Willy's Jeep"

## Ranken and Community Organizations

Ranken maintains membership and participates in several local neighborhood associations. Some of these include:

» **Vandeventer Citizens for a Better Community**

» **Weed & Seed**

Weed and Seed is a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. It is an innovative, comprehensive multiagency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. Weed and Seed is foremost a strategy—rather than a grant program—that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity. The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers and public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs.

» **Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis**

Ranken is a member of the Education Committee of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, which advocates for educational equality for minorities while providing programs that ensure early skills achievement, equal access to secondary educational opportunities and parental involvement.

Photo: Finney Building located on Ranken's campus



» **North County School Business Partnership**

The North County School Business Partnership is a committee linking schools with the business community, providing mutual awareness, information, programs and opportunities that will enhance the experience of students, teachers, administrators, and business professionals in North St. Louis County.

## Scholarships Help Students Experience Ranken

With the help of alumni and donors, Ranken offers many scholarships to help students that might otherwise not be able to attend Ranken. Some of these include:

- » Remington/Thomson Financial Need Scholarship/Loan
- » Emerson Scholarship
- » The Frederick Eiseman Scholarship Fund
- » Kurt H. Jensen Scholarship Fund
- » Jeanne L. Dennis Scholarship Fund
- » The William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation Scholarship
- » Dr. John Mason Scholarship
- » The Monticello College Foundation Scholarship
- » The Dana Brown Charitable Trust
- » Continental Tire North America, Inc. Scholarship
- » Robert C. Jaudes Scholarship/Loan
- » The Boeing Company Scholarship
- » The Home Builder's Association of Greater St. Louis Construction Scholarship

For a complete listing of scholarships available or for more information about one of the above scholarships, please contact our Scholarship Director, Mary Lou Burke at (314) 286-4802.

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

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## 1940's

George Ott (Radio 1941) retired from the television service industry after 40 years in the business. He worked on the radar that first saw the incoming Japanese planes that bombed Pearl Harbor. "Because of Ranken, I always had work. I was able to scratch out a living in a very competitive industry," says Ott.

## 1950's

Robert J. Lee (Machine Shop 1952) worked at a tool maker until 1987 when he retired. He received his teaching license and taught machine shop at a high school in Southeast Missouri. He and his wife have helped over 100 homeless children get off the streets and provided them a home. He writes, "All of this would not have been possible if I had not been a graduate of David Ranken School of Mechanical Trades making enough money to support our interests and lifestyle."

## 1970's

Bill Waeltz (ART 1973) recently started his own firm with partner, Tony Prete, called Waeltz & Prete, Inc., a civil engineering firm located in Round Rock, Tx.

## 1980's

James Hartzel (IEE 1980) is an electronics hardware engineer for Hewlett Packard in Houston, Tx., and resides in Waller, Tx.

James Schulte (RAH 1980) works for Johnson Controls in St. Louis, Mo. as a general foreman.

Mark Flieger (RAH 1984) is employed by AirMasters as a project manager.

George Bishop (IEE 1987) works for Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, Mo. as an electrician.

Brian Schaper (ACR 1988) is in product management for Dent Wizard International located in Bridgeton, Mo.

## 1990's

Missy Auten (ART 1990) was recently hired at Heneghan and Associates, PC, as a drafting technician. Missy is working on the Bunker Hill water tank replacement and improvements to the Delhi-Brighton Road project. Heneghan and Associates has offices in Jerseyville, Godfrey, Columbia and Centralia. Missy lives in Alton, Ill.

Donald Nagel (AMT 1992) is a lawyer in private practice in Valparaiso, In.

Stanley Wilson (IPC 1993) has worked for Little Blue Valley Sewer District in Independence, Mo. as a systems administrator for 13 years.

Jason Prichard (AMT 1996) has taken a new position as service director for AutoCenters Nissan in Wood River, Ill.

Luis Delgado (CNT 1998) is a Level II network engineer for Regions Bank in Belleville, Ill.

Gerald Friedel (PLT 1999) was married to Carrie Fortschneider on December 15, 2007. Gerald is employed by Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #553 and resides in Brussels, Ill.

Scott "Wags" Weidner (PMT 1999) was married to Angela Nelson on May 31, 2008 in Nassau, Bahamas.

## 2000's

Melissa K. Hancock (CNT 2000) was married to Casey Hayes on August 24, 2008. The couple live in Chicago where Melissa is an IT professional at T.Y. Lin International.

Todd Sawyer (IEE 2001) was married to Elizabeth Sitzes on December 15, 2007. He is currently employed by Anheuser-Busch. The couple resides in Alton, Ill.

Matt Young (PMT 2001) was married to Rebecca Braun on June 14, 2008. Matt is a machinist at Olin Brass in Alton, Ill.

Sam Schwartz (PMT 2001) was married to Caitlin Estes on October 13, 2008. Sam is a machinist at Gateway Metalizing in St. Louis, Mo.

Nicholas Schneider (IEE 2002) was married to Rachel Edwards on August 2, 2008. Nick is employed with IBEW Local #649. The couple resides in Brighton, Ill.

Jason Mesger (CNT 2002) works for People's Bank in Cuba, Mo. as a systems analyst and lives in Sullivan, Mo.

Tim Blanner (CNT 2002) is the lead technical support specialist for Enterprise Rent-A-Car and lives in Ballwin, Mo.

Jeff Kopsic (CNT 2002) works for Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville, Ill. as their technology director.

David Dethrow (AMT 2003) is currently employed as a sales engineer for Combustion Kinetics in Kirkwood, Mo.

Adam Woolsey (PLT 2004) was married to Marisa DeSherlia on June 21, 2008. Adam is employed by Lenz and Company in St. Louis, Mo.

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## Alumni Relations

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

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

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Andy Haase (CRP 2004) went to Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in 2005 and will be graduating in May 2009 with a bachelor's degree in History and a Secondary Education teaching certificate. He is engaged and will be married in 2010.

Ryan Sweeney (ACR 2005) was accepted into training, graduated top of his class and is now employed at Boeing Co. as an assembly mechanic. He writes, "If not for Larry Schmidt's persistence and dedication to making sure alumni and students alike find great jobs I would have missed this once in a lifetime opportunity! I am very grateful to you (Larry) for everything you've done. Thanks again! I hope to see you around Ranken in the future! Keep up the great work!"

Robert Moss (EET 2005) is employed by French Gerleman Electric in outside sales. He recently purchased his first home, was offered a new job, and is planning to go back to school for a bachelor's degree.

Brad Kieffer (ACR 2005) is currently employed as a team leader for Bodine Aluminum in Troy, Mo. He has two sons, Hunter born in 2006, and Hudson, born in 2007, and currently resides in Jonesburg, Mo.

Drew Laird (HVAC 2005) was married to Laura Back on July 12, 2008. Drew is employed by King Air Conditioning and Heating in Godfrey, Ill.

Chris Newgent (PMT 2006) has worked as a machinist for Dooling Machine Products in Hartford, Ill. for three years.

Kyle Bruhn (PLT 2006) works for Milcic Plumbing in Mt. Olive, Ill. and lives in Staunton, Ill.

Jonathan Kribs (ART 2007) was married to Emily Kruse on June 21, 2008. Jonathan is employed by William Tao and Associates as a designer.

Christopher Morris Pruitt (PLT 2007) was married to Amanda Woods on November 16, 2008. Christopher is employed by Southside Automotive.

Timothy Blasa (EAT 2008) exchanged wedding vows with Natalie Tyler on October 27, 2007, and resides in Wood River, Ill. Tim is a purchasing manager at P & O Care in Fairview Heights, Ill.

Thomas McVey (AMT 2008) is employed by Southeast Toyota Distributors in Jacksonville, Fla. as a technical claims analyst.

Kevin Kunst (IT 2008) has recently been transferred to North Carolina.

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).

## In Memoriam

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

Walter A. Thater (Machine Shop 1947) - October 2008

Donald F. Needham (AMT 1941) - October 2008

Marvin H. Darnell (AMT 1958) - September 2008

David M. Freer (ACR 1991) - September 2008

Robert R. Kramer (Industrial Electricity 1956) - September 2008

Larry A. Wolz (Machine Shop 1963) - August 2008

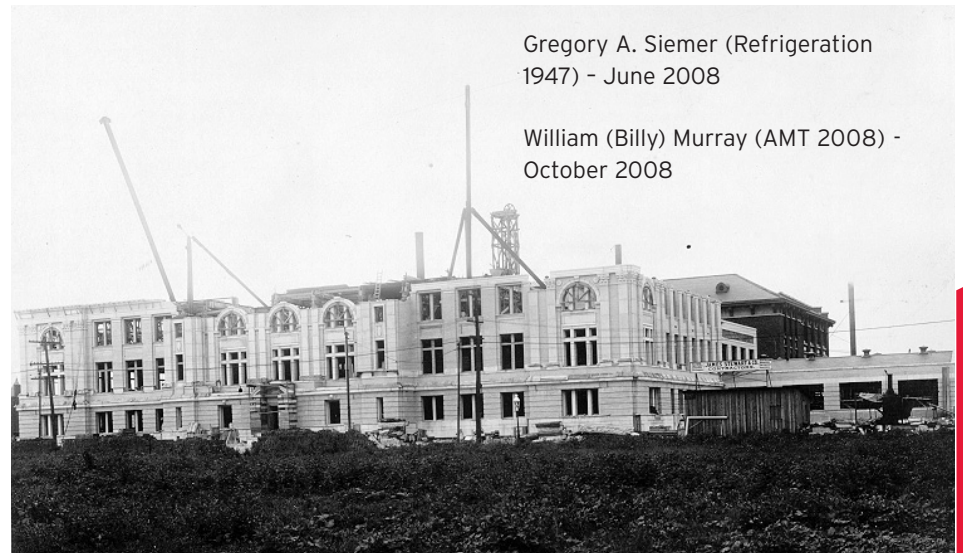
Christian M. Albrecht (EAT 2006) - August 2008

Gregory A. Siemer (Refrigeration 1947) - June 2008

William (Billy) Murray (AMT 2008) - October 2008

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ALUMNI



## Alumni Meet for Breakfast

**P**rior to the fall open house, 23 alumni met in the atrium of the Mary Ann Lee Technology Center for the fall alumni breakfast. The morning included a hot breakfast, a chance to rekindle old friendships and the opportunity to relive their days spent at Ranken.



Pictured L-R: Alumni members Richard Lurk, Carl Banholzer, Gerald Squalls and William Reichman

Several cars and trucks were on display for the car enthusiasts to view. Displayed vehicles included a 1973 Chevy Camaro owned by Ranken alumnus Bill Rueckert; a 2002 Chevrolet LS1 Corvette Convertible owned by Ranken President Ben Ernst; a 1970 Chevrolet Nova F1 Procharger owned by Ranken instructor, Omer Phelps; and a retired racing Mitler Brothers Busch Series Pit Crew Competition Show Truck.

In addition to the cars, attendees also enjoyed looking at old class pictures and donated tools and other archived items. Alumnus Bill Wagner was surprised to find himself pictured on the mural on the walls of the atrium.

During breakfast, John Malesevich, a Financial Advisor from Edward Jones, gave a presentation entitled "In Volatility There is Often Opportunity." Following the presentation he volunteered to answer questions about today's market crisis.

Campus tours were offered to those in attendance, and many stayed for the remainder of the day to take part in the other events during the fall open house.



Photo: Alumni member, Bill Rueckert with his 1973 Chevy Camaro

## Beck Gives First Alumni Entrepreneur Workshop



**O**n September 30, James Beck, a 1995 Telecommunications program graduate, headlined the first Alumni Entrepreneur Workshop of the school year. More than 40 faculty, students, and alumni from all different backgrounds were in attendance. Beck gave a presentation entitled, "Innovation, Results, & Mobility- Future after Ranken?" Beck talked about his personal Ranken education, how he weathered the numerous takeovers and buyouts, and continued to move up the ranks at Verizon Business to his current position as training manager.

"I still use lessons that I learned at Ranken today after 13 years," commented Beck. Beck also provided tips on how to stay valuable to an employer such as good teamwork, helping others, taking risks and going above and beyond the written job description.

Junior Daves, a 1959 Refrigeration alumni, who influenced Beck's decision to attend Ranken was also at the event.

See page 36 for information about our next Alumni Entrepreneur Workshop scheduled for February 2009.

## Ranken Archive Submissions

Ronald Gawedzinski and Marcia Paris, family of William F. Gawedzinski ('39 Sheet Metal, deceased 2004) donated textbooks, patterns, and drawings as well as a number of finishing tools and turners used during his school years in the sheet metal department.

Frank Vilimek ('70 AMT) donated a threader, couplers, cutters and plates for pipe fitting and pipe threading that were his father's.

Should you have tools, textbooks, photos or other pieces of memorabilia to donate to the College archives for future display, please contact Kathy Fern. Your donation will be placed on display indefinitely for future Ranken students and Alumni to view.

## Help Wanted – Ranken Graduates!

**I**n today's tough economic times, Ranken Technical College is still here to support its alumni. Ranken provides lifetime career placement services to all Ranken graduates. If you are ever in the position of needing a new job, remember that the Career Services department can be a huge help during your search.

Ranken hosts two job fairs during the school year; one in spring and one in fall. Usually, as many as 150 companies attend with the intentions to interview and hire. In addition to the job fairs, the Career Services department offers workshops conducted by local human resources experts on resume writing and interviewing. This department also provided tips on writing letters of intent, cover letters, and thank you letters.

Job postings are available on Ranken's website, [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu), and on job bulletin boards in each department on campus. Ranken alumni have access to all job listings. Career Services lives out Ranken's mission by ensuring that our graduates are employed. Their success can be seen by graduates' 98% job placement rate within six months of graduation.

Ranken's quality education, instructors and hands-on training keep employers coming back. Many prefer Ranken grads over other applicants and push Ranken resumes to the top of the stack as priority interviews. Ranken has as many as seven jobs available per graduate depending on the department.

If you are currently looking for a new position or a career change, here are some tips to follow:

- » Access [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu) or email at [careerservices@ranken.edu](mailto:careerservices@ranken.edu).
- » Research potential employers for the right fit.
- » Call Career Services at (314) 286-3665 for more information or assistance with your search process.
- » Keep connected to the College with your current mailing and

email address so you receive notifications of career activities and job opportunities.

Career Services is located on the first floor of the Finney building. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may contact the Coordinator of Career Services, Janie K. Summers, via email at [jksommers@ranken.edu](mailto:jksommers@ranken.edu) or by calling (314) 286-3665.



Photo: Nick Thyer, Ranken electrical student, speaks with a potential employer at the fall job fair.

## Tidwell To Speak at February Workshop



**G**ary Tidwell, HVAC 1975 Ranken alumnus, will give the next Alumni Entrepreneur Workshop to be held on February 11, 2009 from 5-6 p.m. in the atrium of the Mary Ann Lee Technology Center.

Tidwell has been employed at Air Masters Corporation, Inc., since 1978. He began as a service technician, moved into a project superintendent position in 1985 and into his current position as contracting/construction manager in 2000. Tidwell also serves as President of the Mechanical Contractors Association (MCA) of Eastern Missouri, Inc. MCA is a non-profit construction trade association representing union affiliated mechanical contractors and is affiliated with the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA). MCA serves as an information clearinghouse to keep members informed about new developments, whether they concern national policies or new opportunities in construction. MCA strives to represent the mechanical contracting industry and to act as its spokesman in dealing with the public, government, and other associations in the construction industry. It also represents contractors in negotiations to foster labor-management cooperation and to remedy union-management problems, and furthers the development of materials and programs to enhance the skills of apprentices and improve their technical capabilities.

Gary will talk about his success after Ranken and how the education he received paved the way to his success today.

## Alumni Referral

As a Ranken alumni, you're probably already familiar with our commitment to excellent technical career education. Yet, within these campus walls, so much is new and exciting. We continue to embrace our student-centered philosophy throughout our planning processes, to ensure not only the best technical education available, but also the best experience and success for our students during their career at Ranken. We'd like your help in spreading the word.

Please take a few moments to think about what a Ranken education can mean to the life of someone you know who's interested in jump starting his or her career. If an applicant mentions that you referred them to Ranken, we will waive the \$25 application fee and offer a \$100 tuition credit upon enrollment for the first semester of classes, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you helped them get started on the road to success. Classes are forming now for the spring semester. Call the Admissions office at (314) 286-4809 to learn more about the many educational opportunities available at the College.

## Ranken Degree Was Student's Ultimate Goal



At 20-years-old, **David Janowski** had more determination and tenacity than some people twice his age. David was planning to enter Ranken's Automotive Maintenance Technology program when he graduated from high school, but when he was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer at the end of his senior year, those plans had to be put on hold. David was extremely ill and doctors told him and his family that his illness was terminal. Despite this news, David's determination to

receive a Ranken degree was unshakable.

David began attending Ranken in January 2007 while also working 34 hours per week and receiving treatment for his cancer. During that semester, David managed to do well in his classes and completed his shop tasks despite the physical difficulty created by his illness.

"In the time that I had David as a student he never said 'I can't do it'," said Automotive Instructor John Shoffner, "His attitude was always that he would do the best that he could."

While attending classes, David had to undergo chemotherapy treatment every three weeks. He was always conscientious regarding his attendance and had worked out a plan with his instructors to keep from falling behind in class.

"David always made up the work that he missed when he had to be out for treatment," said Marilyn Janowski, David's mom. "He never wanted special treatment. He was determined to finish what he started and get his degree."

"It always amazed me that David would receive treatment that usually put people out of commission for two or three days, but he would go to school the next day and then go to work."

David decided to take online classes during the summer of 2007 in order to ensure that he graduated before he passed away. Also during that summer, his family had the opportunity to take a vacation that David had always dreamed about: eight days in London, England.



Photo: David (center) pictured with some of his classmates

At the start of his last semester in spring 2008, David had become so weak he was unable to walk without a cane. Instead of being held back, David pushed forward, attending class with a cane. Doctors suggested that he quit work and withdraw from school. David told doctors that he would quit work but said, "I will not quit school." Eventually David needed a wheel chair, and his parents began driving him to and from school when he could no longer drive himself. While in a wheel chair, David rebuilt a carburetor on the maintenance department welder.

David completed his coursework during the summer of 2008. On August 6, 2008 a private graduation ceremony was held in the Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes Jewish hospital in St. Louis.

"I had kept the secret that they were coming to present him with his degree," said Marilyn, "Though I was the one surprised when his entire class showed up to watch him graduate. They filled the hospital waiting room."

David was presented with his associate degree by Vice President for Education, John Wood, and also presented with a "Spirit of Ranken Award" which had been made by the Precision Machining Technology department.

"David was so excited but completely speechless," said Marilyn. "He had worked so hard and was so determined, and it paid off. He achieved what he had always wanted: a degree."

Only one month later, David passed away on September 11, 2008. His family and Ranken friends miss him but couldn't be more proud of what he accomplished in his 20 short years. Not many people can say that they have pursued a goal so persistently, and without wavering, as David Janowski.



Photo: David (seated center) pictured with Ranken faculty, staff and administrators who attended his private graduation ceremony on August 6, 2008.



John Killingsworth  
PMT 1986 & BSAM 2007

When John Killingsworth graduated from high school, he had dreams of heading off to California for a career in the arts. His father had another idea of where he thought he should be heading. Due to the reputation and work ethic, his father had one request, "Give me two years at Ranken." Killingsworth agreed and decided to enter the Precision Machining Technology program. He still remembers his first week of school and thinking "this is really cool."

He graduated from the PMT program in 1987 and went to work at Boeing as a tool maker making tools for production aircraft. He stayed there for eight years then moved into a

company position doing tool fabrication estimates. He then moved into the F-18 program and was responsible for process improvements associated with quality and cycle time reductions. By applying 6 Sigma processes and calculating process capabilities, Killingsworth was involved with getting an understanding of inherent variation in the build process and using advanced technologies with laser measurement to measure and validate assembly variation to predict problems before they occurred. This position gave him his first involvement in process improvement.

In a few short years, Killingsworth had gone from toolmaker to a process control engineer on the production line. He had the opportunity to get involved in reducing cycle times on the assembly lines by applying advanced statistical methods. He was given the task of changing the production lines by applying Lean techniques and bringing technologies to the production line instead of moving the assemblies or the production mechanics. He attributes his success and knowledge to what he learned during his time at Ranken.

"PMT is grass roots and hands-on basics in machining. One of the most valuable pieces I got out of Ranken was to think about processes, but you have to understand the big picture as well as the detail," comments Killingsworth. "It is logic and sequence that applies to all jobs, thinking of the process starting point, ending point and all the sequential points in between. Ranken gives this to their students by teaching simple things like always remembering to have your safety glasses before doing a project."

Killingsworth had been at Boeing for 16 years when he decided to take the next step in his career and go back to get a bachelor's degree. He entered the Bachelor of Science in Applied Management program at Ranken. One evening after class he had a conversation with a Boeing executive who ended up being a senior vice president for Boeing on the

West Coast. That conversation morphed into a career development discussion.

When he completed the BSAM program in 2007 it improved his position status as well as his salary. The BSAM program educated him on the finance portion that he needed to take the next step in his career. He took his current position as laboratory operations manager 12 months ago partially because of the heavy emphasis in finance. Phantom Works is the research and development arm of Boeing. He is currently responsible for lab operations and the \$2.7 million dollar operations budget that supports the execution of part of a \$50 million dollar manufacturing technology portfolio.

"The five labs are aligned very closely with the manufacturing technology teams whose charter is to develop technologies that enable the company to bring products to the market quicker and with less cost. Our charter moves us forward to push all boundary limits," said Killingsworth. "There is an inherent risk in research that we have to take. Before we push the 'go' button, everything is monitored, everybody knows what is supposed to happen and there are no surprises."

Killingsworth is able to use what he learned at Ranken on a daily basis and attributes his success to the hands-on training he received and the opportunity he had to enter the BSAM program.

"I would tell a PMT student or Ranken graduate that education and learning never ends. Ranken is just phase one. Learning is a lifelong process," commented Killingsworth. "Knowing speeds and feeds is crucial to being a good machinist, but it's really important to also understand the business side of the field you are in."

"Learning about turning so many parts in a week, understanding the time, the estimate, margins and how all the processes equate to the bottom line is key to having a successful business," he continues. "Know where your employer is taking you in five years. See the bigger picture. Apply the knowledge that you gain and take it to where you want to go."

Killingsworth has lived out Ranken's mission and continues to look ahead and the next step in his career. He has had the opportunity to experience various levels in his field in just a short time and has been able to work with a very diverse group of people from all over the world.

"I wasn't sure what I was getting into when I agreed to give my dad those two years at Ranken, but I am so glad I did," said Killingsworth. "I would have never thought I would have the position that I have today, though I know that this isn't my last. One thing that is certain is change. Continuing to develop skills in all aspects of the business I think is key to success. It's important to build upon the solid foundation that you get at Ranken and leverage it in the workplace with your teams and peers," said Killingsworth.



# SAVE THE DATE

## Employer Breakfast

**Businesses are invited** to attend this breakfast to learn more about Ranken Technical College and how to connect with our recent graduates looking for positions in their field.

Please contact Janie Summers in Career Services at (314) 286-3665 to confirm your attendance at one of the following dates:

- » January 23
- » February 27

## Shadow-a-Tech

**High school 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.

Our next Shadow-a-Tech day will be held on March 11. To confirm your attendance, please register online at [www.ranken.edu](http://www.ranken.edu) or call (314) 286-4849.

## Alumni Night at the St. Louis Auto Show

**Join your fellow classmates** for an evening at the St. Louis Auto Show at the America's Center on Thursday, January 29. Volunteers are needed for the Ranken booth which has been provided by the St. Louis Auto Dealers Association. Please contact Kathy Fern to confirm your attendance. The auto show will run from January 28-February 1.

## Alumni Entrepreneur Workshop

**Please join us at our next Alumni Entrepreneur Workshop** to be held on February 11 from 5-6 p.m. in the atrium of the Mary Ann Lee Technology Center. Gary Tidwell, a 1975 HVAC graduate and contracting/construction manager from Air Masters, will talk about his career path from technician, to construction manager and beyond. In addition to his full-time position with Air Masters, he is also the current president of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Eastern Missouri. All alumni, students, faculty and staff are welcome.

## Spring Open House & Alumni Reunion

**Please join us at our spring open house** on Sunday, March 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take the opportunity to tour our programs, meet with admissions counselors and get information about available scholarships and financial aid options.

An alumni reunion will be held from 12-2 p.m in our new Walker Residence Hall. All Alumni are welcome.

## Alumni Night Out

**Join your fellow classmates** for an evening of sports, networking, catching up, and a friendly competition of laser tag!

- » Wednesday, March 11, 7-9 p.m.
- The Edge
- 701 South Belt West,
- Belleville, IL 62220

Discounted pricing for laser tag for alumni will be available. Open to all alumni, friends and family! Please contact Alumni Relations to confirm your attendance.

## Spring Job Fair

**The spring job fair**, to be held on March 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., is an opportunity for businesses to connect with Ranken students and graduates to fill their open positions. It is also a great opportunity for Ranken's students and alumni to have more than 100 businesses and countless job opportunities at their fingertips.

If you are a business interested in attending our Job Fair, contact Janie Summers in Career Services at (314) 286-3665.

Alumni and students interested in attending, dress for success and bring your resume!

## Annual Ranken Car Show

Join us at the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ranken Car Show** coming up in April 2009. Watch for more information in the spring Ranken Experience and on Ranken's website. All alumni and car enthusiasts invited.

## Graduation

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

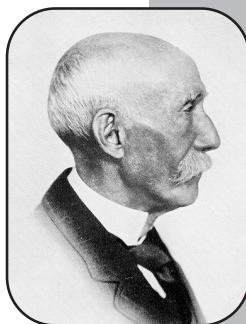
Graduates from 1959 and earlier are invited to attend the Golden Graduate ceremony which is held prior to graduation. Watch for your invitations in the mail in March!

## Useful Ranken Phone Numbers

» Admissions	(314) 286-3638
» Alumni Relations	(314) 286-4895
» Cashier	(314) 286-3658
» Career Services	(314) 286-3665
» Development Office	(314) 286-3674
» Financial Aid	(314) 286-4862
» Human Resources	(314) 286-4805
» Marketing	(314) 286-4849
» Registrar	(314) 286-3639
» Residential Life	(314) 286-3671
» Scholarships	(314) 286-4802
» Student Achievement Center	(314) 286-4891
» Student Support Services	(314) 286-3627

## Become a member of the David Ranken, Jr. Legacy Society.

To encourage others to follow in the footsteps of David Ranken, Jr., the College has formed the Legacy Society to recognize those to have made a provision in their estate to support Ranken Technical College. Gifts can be made in various ways and the type and size of the gift is not a factor in determining membership. Members receive an invitation to the Legacy Society Luncheon, recognition in the annual report and other benefits.



Gifts can be made in the following forms:

- » Bequests
- » Trusts
- » Life Insurance
- » Gift Annuities
- » IRAs
- » 401Ks and 403Bs
- » Wills

For more information contact Tony Pisciotta, Major Gifts Director, at (314) 286-3621 or via email at [avpisciotta@ranken.edu](mailto:avpisciotta@ranken.edu)





4431 Finney Avenue | St. Louis, Missouri 63113

## calendar of upcoming events

### December 2008

Day Classes End | 12  
All School Holiday | 24 - January 5

### January 2009

Spring Classes Start | 12  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day - All School Holiday | 19  
Employer Breakfast | 23  
Alumni Night Auto Show | 29

### February 2009

Alumni Entrepreneur Workshop | 11  
Presidents Day - All School Holiday | 16  
Employer Breakfast | 27

### March 2009

Spring Open House | 8  
Alumni Nigh Out | 11  
Shadow-a-Tech | 11  
Spring Job Fair | 12

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.

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