

Canton ATC: At The Crossroads

In three quarters of a century, the first public post secondary, two-year school in New York State has matured from a basic school of agriculture to a diversified technical college.

The State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College at Canton, dedicated to preparing students to work at technical jobs, has survived periods of austerity and has grown to accommodate its mission. Today, Dr. Earl W. MacArthur, president, sees the college in volcanic unrest, ready for the shift and change of the future. The past, with its Model T and milk bottles, is history. Today, Canton ATC is at the crossroads.

"The demand for technical employees in the country's economic development continues to escalate," Dr. MacArthur says. "Students recognizing these opportunities continue to seek a high quality technical education at ATC."

Students coming to Canton ATC — many of them from the North Country — are aware of the placement statistics in the technologies. From Canton ATC, more than 90 percent of the last five graduating classes are

employed. The average starting salary for technical programs at the college exceeds \$15,000. Eight of last year's graduates started work at more than \$32,000.

Staying Abreast Of The Times

This change in quality of education and demand for technical workers reflects the constant struggle to stay attuned to the marketplace and to provide educational opportunity to all students seeking technical knowledge.

"The major issue facing Canton ATC is to assure that the resources necessary to provide that educational opportunity are available to those individuals seeking a high priority technical education in a public institution," Dr. MacArthur said.

Statistics show that in eight and a half years, ATC graduates pay back the State's subsidy in their education through taxes. That's a 12 percent return on investment. And, that continues for 40 years!

However, the annual operating budget at ATC is \$17 million. The State contributes only \$9.7 million toward

that operating cost. Dr. MacArthur says, "Public support for Canton ATC and the State University becomes more and more important if our future technicians are to be able to reach their goals and future opportunities, to the benefit of us all."

CAMPAIGN ATC

In 1983, the Canton ATC College Foundation launched CAMPAIGN ATC, a three-year drive to raise \$350,000 for five specific areas: the Annual Fund, the library collection and special equipment replacement, special academic equipment, educational communications, and academic computing software.

Since the ATC operating budget results in a \$26.5 million impact on the local economy and since the value of the campus complex represents a \$44 million construction investment, the goal for the campaign seems minimal.

Positive Action

Despite adverse effects of State budget cuts, the year 1983 was not without progress at Canton ATC in an on-going thrust to build academic

vitality for society's technological advances. Among significant activities and changes are the following:

• Increased computer-use opportunity through development of an academic computer center and the initiation of a Computer Science curriculum.

• More recognition of scholastic ability through the College Foundation's scholarship awards program. The Honors Scholar award provides full support for an academic achiever. The Dr. Harry Howe Endowment Fund was established by Dr. and Mrs. Howe for an annual \$500 scholarship to a Nursing student. Other scholarships and grants are awarded annual-

ly through the Foundation. • The Canton ATC farm complex has undergone extensive renovation which includes the installation of a methane generator to convert animal waste to biogas for the production of electricity. The renovations mean not only greater service to community through research and demonstration, but also increased opportunity for student experience on a modernized, computerized farm.

• Athletic programs continue to excel under stressful conditions resulting from budget cut threats. The hockey team continues to improve with practice at far-away ice arenas,

reflecting a high degree of determination despite deficiency. • The college provides valuable public service activities, such as short-run training programs for local businesses, blood banks, emergency medical technician training, use of campus meeting room facilities, and numerous other services to the general public.

At The Crossroads

Canton ATC is at the crossroads. Its course is to increase educational opportunity as the technologies advance. In the years ahead, the road to career opportunity should have no barriers at Canton ATC.



BANK PROVIDES SOFTWARE LIBRARY — Canton ATC has a computer software library and equipment thanks, in part, to the St. Lawrence National Bank. Over the past few years, the bank has contributed more than \$30,000 to provide SUNY Canton ATC students an opportunity for greater microcomputer literacy.

Here, E.J. Lyons (foreground), President and Chief Executive Officer of the St. Lawrence National Bank, inspects the software library in the ATC Academic Computer Center. With him are Dr. Earl W. MacArthur, Canton ATC President, and Mary Kay Mahoney, Technical Specialist. (ATC Photo by Scanlin)

...and the concept died almost everywhere due to lack of funding.

But it didn't die at two SUNY units — Plattsburgh and Canton. Canton ATC, in fact, is enthusiastic about the program and has held an on-campus fund-raising campaign for the continuation of the program.

In its second year, the Canton ATC Honors Scholar program rewards high scholastic ability. Lynn Christy, the first awardee, maintained a 4.0 average as a freshman. To be chosen as a candidate for the award, the high school student must have completed a college preparatory program and must rank in at least two of the following categories: top five percent of the class; 93 high school average; combined SAT of 1250 or ACT composite of 28.

The Honors Scholar receives full

financial support for tuition, all room and board, books and supplies.

Because there were so many outstanding students applying for the award this past year, the College Foundation awarded five Presidential Scholarships, amounting to \$500 each, after naming Casey C. Whalen as the Honors Scholar.

Maintains Excellence

As a senior, Lynn Christy continues to receive the full scholarship if she maintains a 3.75 or better average.

In December, she said "I'm working on a 4.0 this semester, but it's more difficult because I'm more active. I have a lot of things going this semester. I'm vice president of PTK (Phi Theta Kappa, honorary fraternity) and am on the Dorm Council and serve as a volunteer tutor to a girl in algebra. I'm a tour guide, and was an orientation leader. There is just a lot going on. I'm really involved on my

...team."

Thus, Lynn finds her academic work in Engineering Science demanding.

"Engineering Science is all problem-solving, and I find that if you don't catch on to what is going on in the problem, you're lost. Right now, I'm having a terrible time with Statics because it's all problem solving and you have to visualize it."

However, she is keeping up and she hopes to enter Clarkson College of Technology next year to take Computer Engineering. And, ten years down the road, what?

"I see myself probably being married and having a career — maybe I'll have a couple of kids. What I'd really like to do is live in the North Country, start my own engineering firm — some kind of computer company up here. I love it here in the North Country."



LYNN CHRISTY (ATC Photo by Scanlin)

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Canton ATC offers 40 two-year programs of study leading to the associate degree. In addition, the college has six one-year certificate programs. The two-year programs are as follows:

- AGRICULTURE, LIFE SCIENCES & PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISION**
- General Agriculture
 - Agricultural Engineering Technology
 - Agronomy
 - Animal Husbandry
 - Agricultural Science
 - Veterinary Science Technology
 - Science Laboratory Technology:
 - Chemistry Concentration
 - Biology Concentration
 - Microbiology Concentration
 - Environmental Concentration
 - Milk & Food Quality Control Concentration
 - Mortuary Science Technology
 - Medical Laboratory Technology
 - Nursing
 - Restaurant Management
 - Hotel Technology
 - Secretarial Science
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Criminal Justice
 - Pre-Environmental Science
 - Liberal Arts-Science
 - Forest Technology

- ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE DIVISION**
- Air Conditioning Engineering Technology
 - Automotive Technology
 - Construction Engineering Technology
 - Civil Engineering Technology
 - Electrical Engineering Technology:
 - Power Option
 - Electronics Option
 - Industrial Technology
 - Mechanical Engineering Technology
 - Engineering Science (University Parallel)
 - Computer Science (University Parallel)

- BUSINESS & LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION**
- Liberal Arts-Humanities
 - Liberal Arts - Social Science
 - Individual Studies
 - Accounting
 - Banking, Insurance & Real Estate
 - Business Administration
 - Retail Business Management
 - Data Processing

The one-year certificate programs are as follows:

- Building Construction
- Heating & Plumbing Service
- Auto Mechanics
- Drafting
- Electrical Construction & Maintenance
- Individual Studies

PROJECT COMPUTE

Priority is being given to provide computer literacy opportunities for students and faculty alike at Canton ATC.

The latest steps to that end are provided by two VEA grants: PROJECT COMPUTE, Phase I, and an In-Service Training for Faculty.

John Pope, Director of Academic Computing at the college, says that Phase I of the project will fund the acquisition of a VAX-750 supermini computer for the Academic Computer Center. Included will be the system mainframe with five megabytes of capacity, appropriate operating

systems and compilers, a 600-line per minute printer/plotter, and appropriate intelligent terminals.

The college will continue to utilize the 30 Apple II microcomputers which will be co-located with the new supermini and the administrative computer system in a newly designed Computer Center in Wicks Hall.

PROJECT COMPUTE is a multi-year project, Phase II of which will be submitted to the State Education Department in February, 1984. This will seek to expand system functionality to its capacity of eight megabytes and introduce the capabili-

ty for Computer-Assisted Drafting (CAD) operations within the Engineering Technology Division.

The next grant will allow implementation of a series of technical in-service courses designed to familiarize campus personnel with the use and functionality of the courseware authoring system on the VAX and other system software.

Stories By Camille Howland Assistant to the President For Community Relations, SUNY Canton ATC

METHANE GENERATOR

On September 20, 1983, Dr. Earl W. MacArthur and others of both private and public sectors involved in the project, dedicated the trend-setting anaerobic digester system at the Martin Farm.

The project will serve as a guide to farmers who may be looking for alternative energy sources. Accurate test information will be gathered on the production of biogas from animal waste so that probable benefit from such an installation on area farms can be determined.

Electricity from the biogas, as well as heat reclamation and reduction in cost of labor for daily manure spreading, all should prove to be economically beneficial to farmers,

according to the Agway Research and Development staff and Canton ATC farm management people.

MODERNIZED FARM COMPLEX

While the methane generator is an exciting addition to the Canton ATC farm, it is by no means the only activity that has been conducted by way of modernization.

Dr. H. David Chamberlain, dean of the Agriculture, Life Sciences and Public Service Division, points out that a new milking parlor includes an Agri-Comp 2025 Dairy Farm Computer. In addition, the total farm management system is computerized

and linked to the DHI computer at Cornell University.

The two Canton ATC farms provide laboratory experience for students in several curriculums. Farm animals include dairy, beef, horses, sheep and swine.

Comprehensive research/demonstration projects, in cooperation with Cornell University, are carried out in dairy, calf, and heifer management systems.

Some 20 different plant science projects are also under way.

A unique facility at the college farm is the maple sugar house which, in addition to the on-campus agricultural engineering lab and greenhouse, broadens the academic programs for many students.



WINNING TEAMS—Canton ATC is recognized nationally for outstanding intercollegiate athletic programs. Coach Erich vonSchiller has garnered a unique record of more than 200 wins in each of the two sports he coaches at ATC — soccer and basketball. The ice hockey teams consistently bring home the National Junior College Athletic Association trophy following the na-

tional tournaments. If the Northmen repeat their winning performance, this will be the tenth championship for ATC. Here, Coach Terry Martin, right, takes a break from practice to chat with two of his players. In his ten years of coaching the Northmen, Martin has had seven national championships and is looking for his eighth in March. (Howland Photo)

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