25 YEARS OF PROGRESS

First Institute in
Vickery-Hill Building, Augusta

Southern Maine Vocational
Technical Institute

Hildreth Hall,
South Portland
IN MEMORIAM

HAROLD ANDERSON
MORRIS P. CATES
RAYMOND DEWEY
SHELDON DOHERTY
LENA ELLIS
MAYNARD S. HOWE
WALTER RITTAL
HARRISON SMITH
ARNOLD SOULE
MAURICE VARNEY
First faculty, Augusta

S.M.V.T.I. FACULTY 1971-1972

Arlander, Richard P., Marine Science
Ballargeon, Roland E., Mathematics
Baker, Arthur A., Wastewater Tech
Banerjee, Tapan, Marine Science
Bourque, Robert F., Mathematics
Brisol, Oliver B., Culinary Arts
Cashwell, Frances P., English
Cobb, Elmer W., English
Crockett, John D., Machine Tool
Cushing, Harold H., Electronics
Daling, John W., Physical Ed.
DaCourtney, Joseph R., Dean
Dodge, Thomas W., Curriculum
Donovan, John E., Heating-Air Cond.
Doughty, Aftin L., Marine Science
Eastman, Peter S., Physics
Eastra, Weston, Marine Science
Edgcumbe, David N., Physical Ed.
Files, Walter W., Adult Education
Flebici, William J., Marine Science
Flink, Carl R., Heating-Air Cond.
Frances, Charles F., Business Ed.
Gobara, Ronald L., Drafting
Goode, Robert E., Marine Science
Goodwin, Charles F., Marine Science
Goodwin, G. Russ, Fire Science
Graves, Romulus L., Industrial Elec.
Gray, Douglas A., AT Co-op
Gray, Rodney E., Building Construction
Greer, Dr. John S., Director
Hall, Charles M., Marine Science
Hall, Wilbur R., Machine Tool
Heald, Thomas S., Automotive Tech
Hubber, George W., Marine Science
Jewett, Bert N. Jr., Machine Tool

Johnson, James A., Automotive
Kennison, William B., Physics
Kitchen, George A., Fire Science
Knowles, Dennis T., Wastewater
Knowles, George R., Mathematics
Lathem, Robert H., Culinary Arts
Lavigne, Roland A., Building Construction
Leighton, Muriel B., Library
Lomoriello, Luigi S., Marine Science
Lyon, Robert M. Jr., Culinary Arts
Marquette, Roland G., Math & Physics
Martin, Alfred A., Building Construction
Maxwell, Cyril D., Physics
McCarthy, Robert F., Electronics
Mishoe, Harold O., Culinary Arts
Morong, Frank S., Social Science
O’Leary, Paul F., Wastewater
Owens, Patricia, Child Care
Paradis, George, English
Peiffer, Lawrence J., Jr., Physics
Robertson, Judi, Marine Science
Sevigney, Gerald R., Electronics
Seabury, Mildred I., Library
Shaw, Burrus V., Welding
Siegel, Robert E., Marine Science
Slidum, George C., Mathematics
Soucy, Robert C., Marine Science
Thompson, Robert E., Automotive Tech
Tolman, Marthon G., Admissions
Turner, Norman W., Marine Science
Wallace, Gerald A., Heating-Air Cond.
Webber, Peter A., Math & Surveying
Wood, Walter, English
Wurts, Davis P., Drafting
Yates, Roland G., Culinary Arts
Director's Message

On this occasion we are observing a milestone in the growth and development of S.M.V.T.I. It is especially fitting to pause, reflect and to honor those who have contributed so much. It also provides an opportunity for an assessment which will give us a valid basis for future directions.

Congratulations on the past and best wishes for exciting expectations in the future.

John S. Greer

Shortly after World War II many of the veterans in the State of Maine found themselves unequipped to find suitable jobs. These young men, who had served in the war, yearned to be absorbed into the economic world.

There was a man of great vision who sought to do something about this situation and to provide opportunities for the veterans and others of our youth with mechanical and technical skills and aptitudes. This man brought before the Governor of Maine a proposition to establish a new and unique institute of learning. His brainchild was to have a profound effect on the youth of Maine and the state's educational system.

In 1946, Morris Cates solicited and gained the support of Governor Horace A. Hildreth, who authorized a draft on the general fund of $125,000 to finance the establishment of the Maine Vocational Technical Institute. The new school was the first in a chain of six such facilities now existing in the State of Maine, dedicated to the service of its youth.
In the beginning, the student body consisted of eighty World War II veterans, and ten faculty and staff - a far cry from the 800 students and close to 100 faculty and staff of our present facility in South Portland.

The ten youthful instructors staffed four major areas of study: Automotive, Electrical, Machine, and Radio, with related courses in English, Math, Drafting, and Science. This was a start in the evolution of vocational and technical education as we know it today. This modest beginning was housed in the old Vickery Hill building in Augusta with its squeaky wooden floors and its dimly lighted cubicles, partitioned off hastily with wallboard, plywood, and chicken wire. The immediate neighbors of the Maine Vocational Technical Institute were other state agencies on the floors above and in the surrounding wings of the building.

The administration consisted of Deputy Commissioner, Morris Cates, Department of Education liaison, Registrar Maynard S. Howe in whose honor Howe Hall on our present campus was named. Mr. Howe taught book-keeping part-time and was assisted in administrative duties by one secretary, Mrs. Lena Ellis.
Now sharing its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary with S.M.V.T.I. and post-secondary vocational education in Maine is the Student Senate. Jim Johnson organized MVTI Athletic Association as the forerunner of the present Student Senate and continued as this body's faculty adviser for 20 years. The association was supported financially and actively by students and faculty alike. It was not unusual to see Bert Jewett playing softball with the students on a borrowed field in Hallowell, with Clint Slocum playing on the opposing team, or Rom Graves and Jim Johnson sharing student teammates in a furious badminton game.

1948 Baseball Team

While all this was transpiring, "Mac" MacLean might be doing a 360 degree somersault or walk around the picnic area on his hands to the delight and entertainment of all present.

The Association financed the first athletic and extracurricular programs. The uniforms of the first ragtag baseball team were mismatched, and the catcher's outfit was donated by a student, Carl Trask. The bats were turned out by an automatic machine invented by Rom Graves. The wood was from an old, fallen ash tree donated by Ted Zientara, an automotive student. The first varsity baseball team was jointly coached by Jim Johnson and Rom Graves.

The Maine Vocational Technical Institute was soon to outgrow its cramped Augusta quarters and seek a site to accommodate the already growing student population. Historical but rubble-strewn Fort Preble in South Portland was selected as the new headquarters. Because of its geographical location, the word "Southern" was later prefixed to the already cumbersome school title.

Early competition, Augusta

Fort Preble Buildings

The move from Augusta to South Portland in 1952 was to be remembered by its sometimes amusing incidents which set the stage for many anecdotes that persist today in the memories of those who took part.

School equipment from an office typewriter to the largest machine was loaded onto trucks, transported to South Portland and unloaded, all by the faculty and staff.
wires and setting up communications. One story has it that Bert Jewett nearly fainted as he watched a thousand-dollar piece of automotive equipment slide off the top of a load and come crashing to the ground. Incidents notwithstanding, the move was completed in time for school to open on October 6, 1952. Just prior to the move to South Portland, H. Porter Perkins served as principal, and was followed by Louis Dodd who, within a year, relinquished this position to Earl Hutchinson.

With the sound philosophy of the old South - "Conservation of energy" - as their theme, Graves and Johnson became operators of a crane and forklift, respectively. "Smitty" (Harrison Smith), through his carpentry talent, boxed up fragile items and the office girls and some faculty wives supplied the crew with coffee.

Science Instructor Hubert Vernon, doubling as a truck driver, broke down in Brunswick, where he found himself with no license or papers of any kind; with no apparent assistance forthcoming either from Augusta or South Portland headquarters, Hubie, exasperated, walked away from the fully overloaded truck and hitchhiked home.

"Mac" MacLean and Bert Jewett were stationed on the South Portland end during the move. Mac was delegated the task of climbing utility poles with his spikes, salvaging "Mac" MacLean and Bert Jewett were stationed on the South Portland end during the move. Mac was delegated the task of climbing utility poles with his spikes, salvaging.

At S.M.V.T.I., new instructors were added, new philosophies were adopted, new courses were implemented, and the Institute flourished into one of the finest schools of its kind in the country. The tenure of Director Hutchinson saw a new Automotive Technology building erected, as well as a new Dining Hall. Considerable renovation and remodeling of the older buildings also took place as needs dictated.

New courses were added in Building Construction, Culinary Arts, Marine Technology, and Heating and Air Conditioning. These courses required the enlistment of some new...
instructors: Fred Martin, Ralph Grant, Arthur Jordan, and Dick Foss. Other instructors appointed included Dave Crockett, Machine Tool Technology; Bob Hasson, Mathematics; Roland Lavigne, Building Construction; Arnold Soule, Drafting; Harold Cushing, Electronics; Bill Brisse, Culinary Arts. Other early-day names which come to the author’s memory are: Allen Bernstein, Dean Adlard, George Rodick, Frank Stone, Frank Newell, and Peter Panagakos. Early arrivals to the staff were: Walter and Mildred Rittall; Doc Doherty; Harold and Alice Libby; Herb Sanders; Elliott Mitchell; Raymond and Gladys Dewey; Lorraine Denaco; Lee Rollins and Dick Pence.

Auto Science-first new building on South Portland campus

Vast strides in vocational education took place throughout the nation in the decades embracing the fifties and sixties. Keeping abreast of these changes, and often exceeding the national pace, S.M.V.T.I. forged ahead, setting the example for the statewide VTl complex.

During the Hutchinson administration, the names of Arnold Soule who piloted the first two championship baseball teams, Pete Webber, who founded the present intramural program, and “Hutch” who sanctioned the use of the old “cable storage” building as a shell to provide S.M.V.T.I. with its first make-do gym, should be remembered. The cast of contributing students, faculty and staff who constructed the gym would be monumental if all were recounted here. However, one student, Vernon Zinck, who coordinated the students, should not go unmentioned.

Earle Hutchinson
Director

First gymnasium at South Portland

Upon Mr. Hutchinson’s retirement in 1965, he was succeeded by Arthur H. Smith. During Mr. Smith’s tenure the Science Building was erected and dedicated as Hildreth Hall in honor of former Governor Horace A. Hildreth, in June, 1967. Inheriting Mr. Hutchinson’s enthusiasm for a multipurpose building, Director Smith and his administrative assistants, Deans Kenneth Coombs and Joseph DeCourcy, initiated requests for legislation resulting in the Hutchinson Union
Building, a monument to physical and cultural activities on the SMVTI campus. The H.U.B. was dedicated in Earl Hutchinson's honor on December 2, 1969. Upon the completion of the H.U.B., John Dakin and Dave Edgecomb were assigned to carry on the long and impressive tradition of athletic, intramural, and extracurricular activities and develop them to their present high standard.

Hutchinson Union Building

A few words at this point are fitting in memory of some of the original staff: Maynard Howe, first Registrar; Harrison Smith, Automotive Instructor; Harold Anderson, Industrial Electricity Instructor; Lena Ellis, first Secretary; Walter Rittall and Sheldon Doherty Plant Superintendents; and, just recently, Arnold Scule, formerly of our Drafting Department. All made marked contributions to S.M.V.T.I. during their association with the Institute, and we honor their memories.

In recent years several new courses have been added, such as: Marine Biology headed by Tapan Banerjee; Law Enforcement by Wolcott Gaines; Fire Science by G. Russel Goodwin; and Child Care by Patricia Owen. The Library was established and under the supervision of Mrs. Muriel Leighton has developed into a popular media and learning center.

The academic portion of the curriculum at S.M.V.T.I. is flourishing and will eventually reach the standards of "accreditation." In the last decade during this renaissance, the campus took on a new look as it became co-ed. The ratio of boys to girls is still out of balance, but the already beautiful landscape has been improved by the presence of our young ladies.

Distaff Members in Action

At a point in time near the middle sixties the right to award an Associate Degree was granted S.M.V.T.I. by the Legislature, and later on legislative approval and appropriations have made it possible to construct a new dormitory, and the projected new Culinary Arts and Electrical-Electronics buildings now under construction.
There are four members of the original faculty still serving on this the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of S.M.V.T.I. and post-secondary vocational education in Maine: Bert Jewett, G. Clinton Slocum, Romulus Graves, and Jim Johnson, Rupert MacLean, the fifth member, has recently retired from the Electronics Department, but keeps in close touch. These five have seen many changes in the school and have watched the rise of vocational education. All of these men are proud to be members of the “Quarter Century Club”, and still are contributing to the welfare of the Institute and the students of S.M.V.T.I.

Dr. John Greer, sitting in the Director’s chair for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of S.M.V.T.I., will see many improvements and innovative ideas blossom into being. These will undoubtedly include more buildings like the two under construction, new and unique approaches like the one-year program in Automotive Technology and in Culinary Arts, and larger enrollment in the Adult Education program headed by Walter Files. Under Dr. Greer’s direction, greater things can be predicted for the coming twenty-five years in the future of the Southern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute.
Action in the Old Gym

Former Maintenance Headquarters

Final Moments
(in 1953 yearbook)
Governor Curtis Visits Phykos

Faculty and Students Having Fun

Front Entrance to Campus
SMVTI 25th Anniversary Arrangements Committee

William Kennison
Christine Gray
Thomas Hasld
James Briggs
Eugene Fizzell
Walter Files
Patricia Owen
Bert Jewett
William Brisse
Romulus Graves

Chairman
Faculty Wives Club Rep.
Alumni Association Rep.
Budget
Student Senate Rep.
Industrial Relations
Publicity
Commemoration
Banquet Arrangements
Authenticity

Brochure Committee

James A. Johnson
G. Clinton Siocum
Gladys Collins
Robert Soucy
John D. Crockett
Roland Marcotte

Chairman and Author
Photographs
Format Typing
Patrons
Budget
Expediting