



# THE STUDENT INFORMER

Stark State College of Technology

December 2003

## Dr. John O'Donnell Named Stark State College

*Stark State Welcomes new President*



(November 19, 2003 - Canton, OH) The Stark State College board of trustees today named Dr. John O'Donnell the third president in the College's 43-year history. O'Donnell, who most recently held the position of commissioner of the New Hampshire Community Technical College (NHCTC) System, will assume the presidency of Stark State College January 5. O'Donnell replaces Dr.

John J. McGrath, who announced his retirement in August 2002, after 20 years as president. McGrath formally tendered his resignation Wednesday at a special meeting of the board of trustees followed by their official hiring of O'Donnell as president.

The 56-year-old O'Donnell was selected by the board after an extensive nationwide search and interview process conducted by the board, administration and a 15-member search committee comprised of representatives of the College and the Stark County community. Faculty, staff and students participated in open forums with the finalists and provided input to the board.

"We are confident that Dr.

O'Donnell's extensive experience and proven leadership will continue to move Stark State College to new levels of excellence," said Randall C. Hunt, Esq., chairman of the board of trustees. "The board was very impressed with his record of sound fiscal management, enrollment growth and organizational leadership, as well as his strength in program development to support business and community economic development. Perhaps what impressed the board most of all is Dr. O'Donnell's commitment to students and their success."

O'Donnell was named commissioner of the NHCTC System by then-Gov. Jeanne Shaheen. He led New Hampshire's system of four regional colleges that offer more than 200 degree and

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## Accessing Your Grades

It's getting very close to finals time, and of course the one and only thing you're worried about is the grade you're going to get! You will not be able to access your finals grade until after December 16 on the internet. To get to your grades, simply go the website, click on "Student Access" then click on "view grades" Because grades will not be posted until the 16th, no transcripts that include Fall Semester 03 will be ready until after December 16th.

**If you haven't registered for classes yet, DO IT! The earlier the better; and don't forget that you'll have to pay for them too!**

## Broken Wings makes it's Debut into the World

*Review of Broken Wings*

Be prepared for immense sadness and immense anger at the injustice. After finishing Broken Wings you will know just how cruel a world we live in and how beautiful it is when people still persevere. There's a good chance it will even instill within you a new hope to continue living, and thriving, not just surviving. Broken Wings opens your eyes to a world of hate cre-

ated for no reason, the style of writing is heartbreakingly honest and when finishing you feel as if Zoë should be awarded something. This book lacks the frills that often detract from a story, and lets the reader enter a world where there really was a happy ending. Based on a true story, Ms. Jesnik offers hope to the downtrodden. Zoë has made her first appearance at Stark State on

November 13th for a book signing. If you missed it



don't worry, there will be more chances to come; leaving you plenty of time to read this heartbreaking, yet heartwarming tale of survival and winning.

*This is Zoë Jesnik at her first book signing that was hosted by Stark State. Be sure to ask for an autograph if you see her!*

**GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS**

Guidelines for submitting articles to THE STUDENT INFORMER are meant to increase efficiency for the writers. It is also necessary to decrease the amount of time required to process and prepare articles to be included in the newspaper.

Optimally, the articles will be written in Microsoft WORD, double-spaced with 12 point, Times New Roman text. Then attach the document to your email message. Thank you. Submissions for the February issue will be due January 15th.

**THE STUDENT INFORMER**

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SUBMIT AN ARTICLE  
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 www.starkstate.edu/informer.htm

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**New President (cont. from page 1)**

certificate programs, as well as customized corporate training at seven main campuses and several satellite locations, the state's high schools, and online through distance learning. O'Donnell held that political appointment from July 2001 until August 2003, until Shaheen's term as governor was completed.

From 1999-2001, O'Donnell was with New Hampshire Regional Community Technical College at Manchester/Stratham. He served as interim president in 1999 and was appointed president in January 2000, over-

seeing 150 full-time faculty and staff and 210 adjunct faculty. As president, O'Donnell addressed the community's need for academic programs that blend information technology, bioscience, traditional manufacturing and small businesses. He enhanced the success of the college in the areas of student enrollment, student and faculty diversity, student services, academic program offerings and customized workforce training. He worked with legislators, community groups, foundations and corporations to establish the Emerging Technologies Campus, which is committed to state-of-the-art training in the newest technologies.

From 1983-1999, O'Donnell held the positions of executive assistant to the president and assistant dean for student development at North Shore Community College, Danvers, MA.

O'Donnell earned a Ph.D. in psychology and a master's degree in counseling from Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. He earned his bachelor's degree in history from Queens College of the City University of New York and has worked as a licensed psychologist in New

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**'Tis the Season of Giving**

*Christmas Gifts for the Children at New Beginnings*

Bring joy to a child this holiday season...

Gift tags and Donations tags are now available on the Phi Theta Kappa Giving Tree located in the Student Lounge (Student Center). These gifts will be going to the Children at

New Beginnings (a transitional housing for homeless/abused families). If you plan to take a gift tag, please limit your purchase to \$10-\$20. All wrapped gifts and donations need to be returned to **Cherie Barth** in the Admissions

**Monday December 8.**

Phi Theta Kappa appreciates your help in giving gifts for these children to have a happy Christmas Season! Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

**Student Nurse Association Updates**

The Student Nurse Association has chosen the Domestic Violence Prevention Project to be our focus charity this year. A list of what is being accepted for the project is listed outside the nursing Lab door. All donations are being collected in special boxes inside the lab. Deadline for this project is Christmas break. The elected officers for the Student Nurse Association are as follows: President: Ann Eakins, Vice Pres.: Mike Spring, Secretary: Lisa Swogger, Treasurer:

Mindy Slabaugh, Activities Chairperson : Melissa Vehar and Ashley Semrau, Repoter: Brandy Rue. We are holding a 50/50 raffle see a student nurse or advisor Marie Kirsch for tickets and details.



**Need a new daycare? Check out Denise**

Denise's Day Care Center  
 1625 17th St. N.W.  
 Canton, Ohio 44703  
 (330) 471-7916  
 Administrator: Denise Crossan  
 \*Type B Certified \*Open M-F, 7AM-5PM  
 \*Infants-School Age

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Finals week is December 9th-12th; and the official winter Break Begins the 13th of December and goes until the 11th of January.

**The Chair**

*By: Brian Lizotte*

Mounted on a white eighteen inch by twenty-four inch matting and firmly held by a golden French provincial-style frame, a painting of a lonely, diagonally placed chair is displayed. The chair, which is of French peasant styling, sits in a pale green painted corner of a dimly lit room. This lightly stained piece of furniture, with its tightly woven sea-grass seat, appears to give off warmth. Although it is resting on a soot-covered, red bricked floor and is adjacent to an obviously drafty, forest-stained door, it radiates comfort. A desolate, inanimate object should not feel so warm and inviting, but it calls to one's soul and forces a wanting of retirement for the evening.

The feeling of

***Continued Page 4***

**New President (concluded)**

Hampshire.

O'Donnell's career in education has spanned not only community and technical college administration and leadership positions, but he has been a dedicated faculty member at both the undergraduate and graduate level for nearly 30 years. He is currently a visiting professor at Salem State College in Salem, MA, teaching counseling and psychological services in the Master of Science program. O'Donnell and his wife, Ellen, have three

children and currently live in Beverly, MA.

Stark State College is a two-year state college offering 42 associate degree programs and seven certificate programs. The College, located in Jackson Township, has an enrollment of 5665 credit students and approximately 2500 non-credit students. Over 250 full-time faculty and staff, and approximately 300 adjunct faculty are employed by the College.

**Pearls of Wisdom*****Former Stark State Student shares Pearls of Wisdom***

I wanted to let members know that being an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, emphasis on active, made a difference for me in the world outside of Stark State College. A number of interviewers commented on not only my membership, but also my achievements and the accomplishments of the chapter in which I had played a part. I landed a position with an integrated marketing company located in the Belden Village area called the Incept Corporation. [www.InceptCorp.com](http://www.InceptCorp.com) This position, prior to my getting involved, was slated to be a 30-day internship for a college student. The organization was impressed by my background and brought me onboard as a Marketing Specialist. The final

determination on the position becoming full-time and whether it will evolve into a salaried position will not be determined until the 90 days has been completed. During this period 30, 60 and 90 day evaluations will be completed. The initial 30 day evaluation indicated that I am exhibiting "highly effective performance, exceeding overall standards." Naturally, I am striving to improve to "outstanding performance; far exceeding overall standards for the job."

I do want to make it clear to our newest members, those members and officers with whom I worked and those who are preparing to graduate in December or May that my Phi Theta Kappa experience

played a key role in how things went for me in securing this opportunity. I sought a work environment in which I would be comfortable more than I looked to attain a specific position title. I utilized a recommendation letter from Phi Theta Kappa International, in addition to a tremendous reference from Cherie, to help Incept finalize their hiring decision. Further, I was able to get the letter tailored to not only say that I was an officer, but to mention that I had facilitated an educational forum at the International Convention and that I had been a hallmark award winner as a Distinguished Chap

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**Stark State is Now Ohio's Largest Technical College**

(Canton, Ohio – October 27, 2003) – Stark State College has reported the largest enrollment in the 43-year history of the College, with 5,665 students on campus this fall, an increase of 9.9 percent over last fall semester. The College has also been recognized by the Ohio Board of Regents as the largest technical college in Ohio, replacing Hocking Technical College which previously held that distinction.

"This increase in enrollment is an endorsement of the quality of our academic programs and indicates that more and more

people are aware of the outstanding value Stark State College offers in higher education," said Stark State College President John J. McGrath.

"It is also evidence that people in Stark and surrounding counties value the advantages we offer: small class sizes, affordable tuition, convenient location, flexible class schedules and a broad selection of degree programs that provide them with rewarding careers in today's fastest-growing fields," he pointed out. Approximately 93 percent of Stark State's graduates are employed upon graduation.

## The Chair *(continued from Page 3)*

warmth may be coming from the soothing glow of a nearby fireplace. There are subtle orange and yellow hues casting on the rigid, mostly shapeless legs which are re-enforced by a set of two parallel dowels stretching from leg to leg. These dowel-pierced timbers in the front of this sturdy piece of French art are slightly tapered at the base and reach upward just past the lightly tattered, woven seat. They abruptly come to an end in a fashion that appears as though they have bluntly punctured through the corners of the seating surface. In doing so, they have not compromised the integrity of the structure. The rear set of legs, also tapered toward the floor, curve up gently and reach a height that is twice the distance of their forward sisters' stature. They are graciously transformed into the back of the wooden chair.

Although the back has an uncomplicated architectural design, it is easily believed to be gracefully comfortable. The outside posts are coupled by non-decorative slats of lumber which, after years of wear and becoming smooth, have stolen the silhouette of an unsuspecting sitter's spine. The slats consist of two identical pieces in the middle and a top piece with a slight bow that barely crests the adjoining vertical posts' summits. All three planks have been strategically placed and evenly spaced. This wood sculpture is solid and plain, yet it is warm and calming.

Nested in the center of the gently concaved seat, rests a heavily abused tobacco pipe. Coupled with its small, soiled, canvas bag of a possible cherry flavored toxin, it is a relaxing treat to the owner of this rugged seat. Almost out of sight, behind this master's throne, sits a small, paint-chipped, wooden box. This little, green, keeper of treasures is intriguing. It wants a curious eye to know what special trinkets lie within. It begs to be violated. If the owner of this box was anonymous, no person would give this semi-hidden object a second look; however, the owner of this secret keeper is well-known. He has boldly scribed his first name on the front of this curious cube, tempting the on-looker to steal a peek at what might be awaiting discovery.

The name on the box would lead one to believe that he is also the owner of the chair. In that he is the owner of the chair, it can be assumed that he is the occupant of the small, quiet, pipe-smoke filled room as well. The name viewed on this little box is Vincent. Vincent is the inhabitant of this cozy, trouble-free corner. Van Gogh is the painter of this masterful scene, showing a tiny view of his world. He simply titled this work "The Chair".

## Pearls *(continued from page 3)*

ter Officer. It is important to work with International to reflect achievements you accomplished/offices you held other than just serving as an officer. I strongly encourage any Stark State student invited to join Phi Theta Kappa to take advantage and make the most of this opportunity. Being a member of Phi Theta Kappa provided me with opportunities I would have never had otherwise enjoyed. It allowed me to take part in activities that not only made a difference in my quality of life, but more importantly made a positive impact on the lives of other people. Since joining Phi Theta Kappa it has brought great joy to my heart to see people with whom I shared friendships at Stark State join the ranks of Phi Theta Kappa. The important part is to understand that being a Phi Theta Kappan is more than being part of a select group. It is more than a fancy pin, a prestigious induction ceremony and the opportunity to wear a gold tassel and stole as part of your graduation outfit. Phi Theta Kappa is a door that opens a world of new opportunities for you to take part in; to develop meaningful relationships with people that can extend beyond the campus and remain a valuable part of your life. I will work hard

to make the most of the opportunity I have been given with the Incept Corporation. Optimally, this position will last beyond 90 days and offer me opportunities for professional growth and continuing personal development for years...just as my association with Phi Theta Kappa has. Should that not happen, I will identify and secure the position I am meant to have that will fulfill my needs and provide the opportunities I seek. The bottom line is that no matter how that works out, I will be proud to be able to live a life that embodies the hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa.

In closing, I would like to say that while I may not be as active in the chapter as I would like, while I may not be able to sit with you at your regular monthly meetings or help out with activities such as bake sales and founder's day...my heart is with you and my spirit will always be there. I will do whatever I can do to assist Beta Gamma Epsilon as the days go by, the months pass and the years mount. I will never forget the people with whom I have connected in Phi Theta Kappa; and hope that we shall remain connected as time goes by.

## Largest Technical School *(continued from page 3)*

Stark State's affordable tuition of \$108 per semester hour is also an advantage for local students. "Our administration, faculty and staff strive to keep costs down, while ensuring that our instructional programs are up-to-date and meet the needs of students and employers," McGrath added.

Stark State has sustained steady enrollment growth through most of its history, but since 1999 the College has experienced a 24 percent increase in headcount. The physical plant of the College has also experienced steady growth over the years with 14 buildings completed and several currently under construction. The W.R. Timken Center for Information Technology will open in January for spring semester classes, providing 46,000 square feet of additional classroom and laboratory space for students.

Stark State College of Technology is a two-year, state-assisted college offering 42 associate degree programs in business technologies, engineering technologies, information technologies, health technologies and public service technologies. The College also offers certificate programs, continuing education programs and customized contract training services. For information, call 330-966-5450.