



# ICAIA NEWS



ILLINOIS COLLEGE AUTOMOTIVE INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

*On the web at: [www.icaia.org](http://www.icaia.org)*

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## From the Driver's Seat



It is hard to believe we are so far into the school year already, and even harder to believe so many of our students will be graduating this spring and moving into the workforce, or enrolling in technical schools, community colleges, and universities by this coming fall. I am reassured of the future for our students because there continues to be so many great options for them in life after high school. Thanks to the ICAIA, I have been able to see firsthand many of the great educational facilities available to students interested in the automotive industry. More importantly, I have been able to meet all the great teachers that make these programs possible.

Options and opportunities have continued to grow ever since I graduated from college almost six years ago. Every time I look at a school brochure there are new courses being offered from alternative fuels and hybrid technology, to street performance. Not only are the lists of classes being offered expanding, but also schools themselves continue to expand their programs, open new programs such as Diesel and Collision Repair, and offer night classes.

One of the greatest options I have recently learned about provides SIU automotive technology students the chance to take an add-on program to earn their teacher certification. We all know how hard it is to find people that have the automotive background AND have the qualifications to work in a school.

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# **From the Driver's Seat**

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Since this program has started, it has been great to learn that many of the students that I know of in the program had one of us from the ICAIA as a teacher at one point. To me, all of this must mean that enrollment is increasing in the automotive technology field of study. This also means that we must be doing something right. At the high school level, we are pushing our students to continue in the field, and at the college level, we are giving the students what they want and need to be successful.

We as members of the ICAIA are also doing something right for the association. I remember a few years ago, we were asking for volunteers to host a conference, and now we are scheduling for 2011! I have enjoyed serving as your president for the past year, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming conference at McHenry County College on March 27<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

*Dave Ligman  
Hoffman Estates High School  
2007-2008 ICAIA President*

## **Southern Illinois University Carbondale Automotive Technology Program Opens in Chicago!**

Students are now able to obtain a bachelor's degree in Automotive Technology through a Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) off-campus program being offered at Harry S. Truman College in Chicago. The off-campus offering is a "2+2 program", in which students first complete an associate of applied science degree in automotive technology and then transfer into SIUC's Automotive Technology program. In the program, SIUC and adjunct faculty teach three semesters of upper-level automotive technical and automotive business/management courses on weekends at Truman College. In addition to the three semesters of courses offered through SIUC, students will also need one semester of university-core courses to be completed at a Chicago-area university to complete the bachelor's degree.

The program is intended for and limited to graduates of the City Colleges of Chicago, residents of Chicago, and to place-bound students.

For more information about the program, please contact the onsite Program Advisor, Christina Matuschka at 773-907-3997 or [chris1@siu.edu](mailto:chris1@siu.edu).

If you are interested in adjunct faculty teaching opportunities in the program, please contact the Chair of the SIUC Automotive Technology Program, Jack Greer at 618-453-4024 or [jgreer@siu.edu](mailto:jgreer@siu.edu).

**Spring 2008  
65<sup>th</sup> ICAIA Conference  
March 27 – 28, 2008**

Hosted by:



*The Right Choice for You*



**McHenry County College**  
8900 US Hwy 14, Crystal Lake, IL 60012

**Host School Contact Information**

**Julie Nordholz**

Phone: 815-479-7511

E-mail: [jnordhol@mchenry.edu](mailto:jnordhol@mchenry.edu)

**Conference Host Hotel & Banquet Location**

**Holiday Inn**

800 South Route 31

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Phone: 815-477-7000

*The Holiday Inn is located approximately 5 miles from the college.  
Please visit the ICAIA web page at: [www.icaia.org](http://www.icaia.org) for driving directions and maps.*

**Pre-registration is strongly advised.**

Mail all registration items to:

**Art Koudelka**

ICAIA Executive Treasurer

Illinois Valley Community College

815 N. Orlando Smith Ave.

Oglesby, IL 61348-9692

**Conference Registration Information**

Registration forms are available  
on the ICAIA website.

**[www.icaia.org](http://www.icaia.org)**

***ICAIA Treasurer's Report***

The balance of the ICAIA account is at  
\$34,100.56.

The detailed treasury report will be presented  
during the Thursday Business meeting.

**Art Koudelka**  
*ICAIA Executive Treasurer*  
*Illinois Valley Community College*

**2009 Fall ICAIA Conference**

A host is needed for the Fall 2009 ICAIA  
Conference. Remember, there are some benefits  
to hosting. It creates opportunities to make  
contacts with many industry professionals in  
organizing the event and qualifies one of your  
automotive students for eligibility toward the  
ICAIA Scholarship.

***See [www.icaia.org](http://www.icaia.org) for more details on  
scholarships.***

## My Visit with Paul Rickert and Rolly Aiken

Back in the day, the College of DuPage would spend money to bring in a motivational or educational speaker during the “Ra Ra Days.” You know the “Ra Ra Days,” they are the meeting days just before the new school year starts in the fall. But, for the last ten years or so, the College decided that it would be better for the faculty to hear from the administration instead of interesting people. So I spent the “Ra Ra Days” day-dreaming about how I would spend the first days before fall term on the first year after retirement. I would day-dream about rafting through the Grand Canyon or bicycling across the country, maybe a train trip through Europe or a cruise to Alaska. However, as the day of retirement came closer, I knew there was only one place that I needed to be, that I HAD to be. I visited Paul and Rolly!

Paul Rickert and Rolly Aiken were my Automotive Service Technology instructors at Waubensee Community College when I was 18 and 19 years old. They were, with out a doubt, the reason why I became an instructor. I would sit in their classes mesmerized at their abilities to present the information in a fashion that not only made me care, but would make me remember. Both Paul and Rolly were my role models, my heroes.

Paul Rickert and I became close on our shared commutes to and from school. Both Paul and I lived in DuPage County and Waubensee is in Kane County. Gas prices went through the roof in the early seventies, so Paul would drive from Elmhurst to Glen Ellyn and then we would drive together to Sugar Grove. During these drives I met the personal side of one of my teachers for the first time. We would talk about family, hobbies, vacations, and life in general.

Rolly Aiken’s racing stories were right in my wheel house. I enjoyed motor sports and attended a few races. Rolly worked on the crew for one of the race cars that I watched on my first visit to Road America. To me, that made him a celebrity.

After I graduated and was working at a local Ford dealer, I began to question my career choice. I thought back to my days as a student at Waubensee and how much I missed them. So, I took a day off and paid a surprise visit to my Alma matter. On this day, Paul told me he thought that I would make a good teacher so I drove from Waubensee to N.I.U to get information on their education degree. While a student at N.I.U. I paid another surprise visit to Waubensee. I happen to walk into a meeting to find Paul, Rolly, and others sitting around a desk with

very unhappy faces. They were talking about who would be stuck teaching a Saturday a.m. “Know Your Cars” class that suddenly and unexpectedly had enough enrollment to run. Because of Paul and Rolly I was teaching my first class that very next day.

That’s why I knew I had to visit them on my very first “Ra Ra Day” after graduation. That’s how I found myself inviting Martha and myself to their homes this past August.

Martha and I first visited Paul and Marion Rickert at their home in suburban Hendersonville, North Carolina. We were with them on the first “Ra Ra Day” after I retired and left the morning of the second “Ra Ra Day.” Paul and Marion are very happy living at the foothills of the mountains that are traversed by the Blue Ridge Parkway. Their lovely home sits on a hill that allows the lower level to be a walk out. Paul and Marion are very involved in their community, especially, church and the local public library. Paul drove us throughout his adopted home of Hendersonville pointing out every new project and every restored building. It was obvious that he was very proud of his surroundings. Paul even lobbied Martha and me to move into the area.

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### ***Thank You Lincoln Land Community College***

The 64<sup>th</sup> semi-annual ICAIA Conference was hosted at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The conference had 115 members pre-register and 31 additional walk-ins for a total of 146 members in attendance. At the conference, members gathered the latest information from the tradeshow vendors and were able to attend the numerous update seminars.

***ICAIA would like to thank the staff at  
Lincoln Land Community College  
for a job well done!***

# My Visit with Paul Rickert and Rolly Aiken

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While we were sitting in their living room, the mail carrier delivered Paul's invitation to the Fall 2007 I.C.A.I.A. conference. I realized that my admiration of Paul's communication skills has only grown with time. I only wish that I could express my feelings half as well as Paul.

Next, we visited with Rolly and Beverly Aiken in their home in New Tazewell, Tennessee. We were there during the end of the second "Ra Ra Day" and the first day of the new academic year back home. Rol and Bev own an amazing log home on a hilltop overlooking the Cumberland Gap. When I say log cabin, I mean it. This two story building has a green steel roof, a covered porch on all four sides, log interior walls dividing the rooms, and a large natural stone fireplace. Rolly drove us around the area including a lookout point in Cumberland Gap National Park where it seemed we could see forever.

Both Rolly and Paul asked me to say hello to their old friends at the I.C.A.I.A.; but, I think that I can speak for most of you when I say thank you

Paul and Rolly for all that you have done for the I.C.A.I.A. I really wanted to say thank you Paul and Rolly for my career, I owe it all to you.

By Bob Sobie

## ***ICAIA Database Report***

Currently, there are 263 ICAIA dues paying and retired members in our organization. Let me know if you plan on retiring, so I can change your dues status in the database. A new copy of the updated database will be passed out at the fall conference. If you need a copy of the current database before then, let me know and I will mail you one. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or corrections, please contact me at:

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## **65<sup>th</sup> ICAIA Conference Tentative Presenter List**

<b>Presenter's Name</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Seminar Title</b>
Skip Saurman	Megatech Corporation	Training Automotive Students for Competitive Events
Bob Bergman	Meguiar's Inc.	Defect Free by Design
Ron Ray	I-CAR	I-CAR Products & Services for a Collision Repair & Refinishing Training Program
Brian Alexander	GM Training Center/Raytheon	GM Automotive Communication and Sensors
Ken Beauvais	Illinois EPA	Get on Board with OBD
Jim Capacio	Ford Motor Company	Ford Hybrid Vehicles
Jim Haldeman	Sinclair College - Automotive Author	Alternative Fuels
Len Vogt & Joe Henmueller	Motorist Assurance Program	Customer Satisfaction & Profitability
Mike Gustafson	Vetronix/Bosch Diagnostics	Identifying Various Type of Networks & Data Communication on Vehicles
Reggie Monday	McHenry County College	Tech Prep - Articulation
James Falco	McHenry County College	Teaching Tips & Strategies
George Generke	College of DuPage	Teaching Diagnostic Strategies
Bill Bencini	Southern Illinois University	Durango Hybrid Overview
Tom Broxholm	Skyline College	Manual Transmissions
Jack McClure	BMW	To be determined
Chuck Perkins	Permatex Inc.	Liquid Gasketing & Anerobics
To be determined	Pro-Cut	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Rotor Service

**Join ICAIA by visiting us  
on the web at [www.icaia.org](http://www.icaia.org)**

At the website, you can view our past newsletters,  
conference information (*including maps & hotel information*), and how to join.  
Cost to join: -- membership in ICAIA is only \$5 per year.



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