



News Release

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Century College Father and Daughter Graduated Together

When his daughter was born 24 years ago, Dave Lucchesi never imagined that he would graduate from college on the same day as his child.

But that's exactly what happened. On May 15, both Lucchesi, 53, of St. Paul, and his daughter, Lisa Burns, 24, of Inver Grove Heights, earned degrees from Century College.

Lucchesi attended Century as an adult student and Burns started right out of high school. Both took their time earning their two-year degrees, sometimes taking only one class a semester. Both worked either full time or part time while attending school, going to school mostly in the evening.

Going to college turned out to be more than either had bargained for. "It really got me where I am today," said Lucchesi, a senior quality engineer for Accellent, a medical device manufacturer. He took many classes in engineering, systems and statistics.

Burns said she explored a number of different majors and learned lots about time management. "I basically grew up at Century," she said.

Both father and daughter said they put off taking English composition, but their fears about taking this subject proved unfounded. Lucchesi ended up with an A in that class, and Burns got a B.

“In a number of different classes, I had to do presentations, and that really helped me,” said Lucchesi, a 1973 graduate of Cooper High School in New Hope. “I have to do that quite a bit in my position.”

Burns, a 2002 graduate of Highland Park High School, said she unexpectedly enjoyed learning about a wide range of subjects, including ethics and oceanography.

Lucchesi said he didn’t expect to enjoy his speech class so much, but Prof. Jermaine Davis “was really cool and told great stories.”

Both father and daughter earned good grades and spent a great deal of time studying. “My wife told me I lived in the basement,” said Lucchesi. “I was never satisfied with a “C.” I always wanted to do my best. I guess I’m a perfectionist.”

Burns said she must have inherited her father’s competitive drive. She always worked for the A grades.

Lucchesi plans to earn this bachelor’s degree in business management and he starts this fall at Bethel University.

Burns is moving to Austin, Texas, where her husband is starting a computer business. She plans to enroll in a paralegal program.

Both father and daughter also shared one other college experience – they “clicked” with at least one other person in every class they took. “I can remember vividly at least one person from every class,” said Lucchesi. “I didn’t expect that.”



Photo: Dave Lucchesi and Lisa Burns