

Connection

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Spotlight on Tri-County Chorus 3



Bridge to Erskine 9



Employee Division of Major Gifts Campaign 10



Bluegrass under The Stars 14-15

Easley Construction On Time, On Budget

Construction for the Easley campus is on time and on budget, with a completion date still set for November 1, said Ken Kopera, director of facilities maintenance.

The future Pickens County campus will be located on Powdersville Road and will give the College a presence in each of the three counties.

With the brick masonry completed and roof work to be finished this week, construction workers are focusing their attention on the inside of the building. The window glass is going in now, and the sheetrock is up inside. Landscaping has started with trees being planted on the site.

“The builder, SYS Constructors, of Greenville, has done a really good job,” said Ken. “We are fortunate to have a company of their caliber building our Easley campus.”

The Multipurpose Classroom and Technology Center is a 40,000-square-foot facility funded through State capital reserves of nearly \$6 million. The facility will house University Transfer classes, computer and industrial electronics classes, as well as our Licensed Practical Nursing program. Non-credit classes (personal interest) and professional development will be offered through the Corporate and Community Education Division. The opening date for this multipurpose facility is Spring Semester 2011.

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Front view of Easley Campus



Pickens County QuickJobs Training Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

Faculty/Staff Convocation May 5
Memorial Service for former
president Dr. Don C. Garrison..... May 6
Oconee QuickJobs
Training Center Dedication May 7
Pinning Ceremony for
Veterinary Technology May 7
Pinning Ceremony for
Associate Degree Nursing May 10
Spring Commencement May 11
Faculty/Staff Picnic..... May 21
Tri-County Road Race (5K)..... May 29

**Check the College Activities Calendar in
eTC for additional activities and events.**

Connection

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Anderson Campus

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Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center
100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

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Tri-County Technical College does not discriminate
in admission or employment on the basis of race,
color, religion, sex, qualifying disability, veteran's
status, or national origin.

Connecting

The recent completion and approval of our Three-Year Strategic Plan for FY 2011-2013 represents another milestone in our journey to achieve our newly-adopted ten-year vision.

Late last fall, work on the three-year plan began at the grass-roots level when each division began designing strategic activities tied directly to our ten-year vision. Work continued in the early months of 2010 as plans began to take shape, including a workshop involving key College leaders to share strategic planning ideas. Once the division plans were finalized, the Executive Staff organized and prioritized the output, adding activities where gaps existed.

The end products include an overall Three-Year Strategic Plan highlighting our major initiatives and division-specific three-year plans that delineate all of the activities we will undertake in support of the strategic plan.

I'll share some of the highlights from the plans, which will be available on eTC in the near future.

We will develop new academic programs to meet the needs of our service area as financial resources permit, including dental hygiene, equine science, graphic communications, automotive, horticulture/turf grass management, and construction management programs. We will conduct feasibility studies for new programs in fine arts, computer and industrial technologies, as well as new certificates in some of our existing programs. The Corporate and Community Education Division plans to develop new programming to meet the needs of the community.

The successful launch of the new Easley Campus -- and its continued growth -- is a top priority. Work is already underway to design and roll out programs and implement staffing, enrollment management, and marketing plans.

Academic excellence will be the driving force behind our focus on instructional delivery and support, with emphasis on setting standards for classroom technology; designing instructional methodologies and basic technical knowledge requirements for faculty; and converting selected courses and programs to hybrid or online delivery.

As we plan for continued growth and service to the community, we need to solidify a comprehensive master plan for all our campuses that will address future building needs and a land acquisition strategy. Declining State support means we need to develop new sources of funding, which we will aggressively pursue in a variety of ways, including the continuation of our Major Gifts Campaign.

We will implement a number of new initiatives to help our students achieve and exceed their goals, including the establishment of an Advising Center, which has long been a goal of mine. We also plan to establish an Academic Support Center that will consolidate all tutoring, make-up testing, and academic support services. The time also has come to institutionalize the highly-successful Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) in an effort to serve larger numbers of new students.

Making the student experience more enjoyable and memorable will include improving the aesthetics of our campuses, designing a new student center for the Pendleton campus, and developing services for evening students. In addition, we will develop new co-curricular offerings and create more activities and organizations that build student affinity.

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Ronnie L. Booth
President



Spotlight on Tri-County Chorus

When she was designing the curricula for the Music 101, 102, and 103 classes this spring, music instructor Lori Gourdin planned for 20 students at best. But as the drop-add period ended, she checked the enrollment and discovered the courses, open to both novice and seasoned performers, had 35 persons signed up.

Among the course requirements was participation in a live performance at the end of the semester and still no one was dropping the class, she said.

This eclectic group of students, whose vocal experience ranges from music majors to those who have never sung before in their lives, gathered April 19 for their debut chorus concert for the College and the community. The ensemble choral concert, featuring solo and group performances, packed the auditorium and got rave reviews and a standing ovation.

"It was exciting; I was very thrilled with their performances. I listened to the recording of the performance the next day, and it was better than I had ever dreamed. I am so proud of them. There was a feel-good attitude that night that only music can provide," she said.

Students from men's, women's, and mixed choruses performed a choral arrangement of folk songs, said Lori, who also sang and accompanied the performers on piano.

Some of the students were members of their high school choruses, one is a 15-year-old home-schooled student who takes music and Spanish classes here, and others have never had any experience at all, Lori said.



Directed by **Lori Gourdin**, the ensemble choral concert packed the auditorium and received a standing ovation.



The Tri-County Quartet performed at the Awards Ceremony. Pictured with **Lori Gourdin** on piano are **Matt Patterson, Ford Batson, Nicole Hubbard, and Bethany Bowen**.

"I didn't know what to anticipate from the first day of class," she said. "The class is open to every student. My philosophy is that everyone can be taught to sing. Some have never

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SPOTLIGHT is a regular feature of CONNECTION that highlights College instructional programs, activities, and support services. Surveys show that our own faculty and staff play a significant role in influencing potential students to apply to the College. We're all ambassadors – so stay informed and keep doing a great job spreading the word that Tri-County is a great place to learn and grow!



Sarah Shumpert
sent this note for Brag
and Share this month:

"I knew **Lisa**

Anderson, our Benefits Coordinator, could always be relied on to offer friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable assistance during the open enrollment period that comes every October – a time when I rationally and calmly make decisions about health insurance and other benefits for my family. What I discovered recently when it looked like my son's outpatient surgery might not be covered by Blue Cross Blue Shield is that Lisa will also go the extra mile to provide that same friendly and helpful support even when I am not my usual rational and calm self! Lisa was a tenacious advocate for me and my son, offering sound advice and taking the time to make numerous phone calls herself to the insurance company when I ran into roadblocks. I am so impressed by the way Lisa stayed by my side until the issue was resolved. I was able to focus on my son's well being instead of worrying about the hospital bills. Lisa's commitment to service really made me feel like I am valued, not only as an employee but as a whole person – frazzled mom and all! Thanks, Lisa!"

Jonathan Trotter, an HVAC major, sent Career Services Counselor **Alison Reynolds** a note of appreciation.

"I am writing you to say that I appreciate you for taking time out of your day to interview me. I can't thank you enough for the help that you gave me with my resume and cover letter. You gave me a lot of helpful hints that I will be sure to use not only in my next interview but also on my resume and cover letters. I will be sure to come back to you for any more help that I will need in the future."

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Our College Family

excellence through service

Five English department faculty members **Lane Hudson, Todd Crisp-Simons, Matt Simon, Dr. Amoena Norcross, and Pat Seawright** (adjunct instructor and Writing Center Director) attended the 45th Annual Conference of the Two-Year College English Association–Southeast held Feb. 25-27 in Chattanooga, TN.

Matt gave a presentation entitled "Strange Days: A Multimedia Look at Protest Poetry and the Culture That Spawns It."

Amoena gave a presentation entitled "Incorporating an e-Portfolio into a Freshman Composition Course."

Pat and Matt attended the pre-conference workshop, "Keepers of the Legends: Using History and Folklore in the Novel," led by writer Sharyn McCrumb. The English Department currently is using Sharyn McCrumb's novel, "The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter," in ENG 102 classes.

Lane and Todd also attended a pre-conference workshop, "Sculpting Poetry: An Artist's Approach to Writing Verse," led by Pulitzer prize-nominated writer/poet Edward Francisco.

Matt was elected by his South Carolina peers attending the conference (12 total) to serve as the South Carolina representative to the TYCA-SE Regional Executive Committee (REC). Amoena's three-year term in the same position was ending. She continues to serve on the REC as the editor (along with Meg Matheny of Jefferson Community & Technical College, Southwest) of the TYCA-Southeast Journal.



Dr. Amoena Norcross, Lane Hudson, Pat Seawright, Matt Simon, and Todd Crisp-Simons

Several TRiO members were recognized at the recent South Carolina Council of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SCCEOPP) State conference in Columbia.

Dr. Thwanda Davidson, TRiO director, received the organization's 2009 – 2010 President's Award.

Belinda Brownlee, Upward Bound coordinator, won the Randall McNeal Spirit of TRiO Award which recognizes someone who demonstrates continuous commitment to TRiO. The award honors the late Randall McNeal, our former Educational Talent Search Counselor who passed away in 2007. A former Upward Bound participant himself, Randall was named a S.C. TRiO Achiever, signifying him as a TRiO participant who has gone on to become a role model through his accomplishments in life.

Administrative Assistant **Janet Brdar** received the Above and Beyond Award, which highlights her contributions to the Council for Opportunities in Education (COE) policy seminar. Janet provided great support to Dr. Davidson while Thwanda was working on state initiatives for COE.



Dr. Thwanda Davidson, Janet Brdar, and Belinda Brownlee

In addition, two students, **Erin Watters** from Educational Talent Search and **Nicholas Berry** from Upward Bound, received state scholarships.

in transition

STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Tina Burton joined the Information Center staff last month as an Administrative Specialist. She is a 1994 graduate of our Office Systems Technology program and following graduation worked in the Admissions Office as an Administrative Specialist from 1995 – 98. She was a stay-at-home mom for nine years before returning to the workforce in 2007 as a part-time Rural Carrier Associate for the Anderson Post Office. She and her husband, Richard, have three children, Jena, 12; Kyle, 7; and Justin, 6.



Erin Watters



Nicholas Berry



Tina Burton



Josh Bishop

After two years as a part-time Testing Assistant in the Assessment Center, **Josh Bishop** is now its full-time Administrative Specialist. He is a 2007 graduate of our Associate in Arts program and worked as a real estate agent for ERA Kennedy Group Realtors from 2007 – this year. He also worked for three years as a sales associate for Sherwin Williams Company. He attends ALIVE Church in Central and is a member of the National Association of Realtors. Josh lives in Pendleton.

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Andrea Barnett is our lead math instructor in the Comprehensive Studies department. She holds a B.A. in Education and an M.Ed. in Math from Clemson University. She worked as an elementary school teacher for the School District for Oconee County for 10 years. She is a member of Westminster First Baptist Church. She and her husband, Al, have two sons, Trey, 20, and Walt, 19. They live in Westminster.



Andrea Barnett

Business Affairs Division

Xinhao Gu joined the Information Technology team this month as an Applications Analyst. He received a B.S. in Computer Science from Troy State University and a master of Computer



Xinhao Gu

Memorial Service to Honor Dr. Don Garrison

A memorial service to celebrate the life and work of former president Dr. Don C. Garrison will be held Thursday, May 6, at 2 p.m.



in the Marshall Parker Auditorium in Oconee Hall on the Pendleton Campus. Faculty, staff, retirees and community members are invited to attend.

Dr. Garrison passed away on February 27. He served as president of Tri-County Technical College for more than 32 years and devoted his entire professional career – more than four decades – to education in South Carolina.

From the time he assumed the presidency at Tri-County in 1971, Dr. Garrison was a tireless advocate for technical education, and he placed Tri-County at the forefront of two-year colleges in the U.S.

The College, under Dr. Garrison's leadership, is often recognized for its contributions to economic development and for attracting international industry to the tri-county area.

On the program to share their memories of Dr. Garrison will be Glenn Hellenga, Career Services director; Dallas Jones, retired Medical Laboratory Technology Department Head; Dr. Mendel Stewart, retired Tri-County Technical College Commission Chair; and Dr. Lex Walters, retired president of Piedmont Technical College.

Please join us as we pay tribute to Dr. Garrison in this memorial service.

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Jones Among AZB Inductees



Ma Noika Baquiano Jones, of Clemson, right, was one of 39 students inducted recently into Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB), a chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Presenting her with a certificate is **April Chandler**, AZB president at Tri-County.

Our College Family *(continued from page 5)*

Science from Kennesaw State University. He worked as an Application Developer for QL2 for a year and as a Business Analyst at Wellusk, Inc. Coop for a year. He lives in Clemson.

Institutional Advancement Division

Evette Moss is now a full-time Administrative Specialist for the Institutional Advancement team. She has been working on a part-time basis since May of 2006. Evette is a graduate of our Computer Technology program and holds certificates in Networking Administration and Microcomputer Applications. While a student here, she was a LIFE scholar, in addition to receiving an Abney Foundation scholarship.

Evette is a member of the College's Alumni Association Board of Directors. She is a member of Mount Ararat Baptist Church, where she serves as Assistant Church Clerk, Youth Coordinator, Choir Director, and Youth Sunday School teacher. She and her husband, Marcus, live in Anderson.



Evette Moss

Brag & Share

(continued from page 4)

Barbara Jane Shiflett, a student in **Barbara Hammond's** Job Readiness class, sent this note after completing a class for WIA participants that covers job search skills. Barbara Jane found a job as a manager with Public Storage in Greenville a week after the class ended.

She writes; "You are a wonderful instructor, patient and kind and understanding. I hope to see you again. Again, thank you so much for your kind words and for the time I had with you in class."

If you wish to thank someone publicly, share personal news, brag about a recent accomplishment in your unit, or any other highlight, send it in for our "Brag & Share" column. E-mail your submission (65 words or less) with "Brag & Share" in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu.

MLT Fundraisers Assist Those in Need



The Medical Laboratory Technology students held several fundraisers this semester to assist those in need in their own communities, as well as Haiti.

The Senior Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) class sent \$500 to Tim Randolph Ministries, a non-profit organization that trains workers and provides supplies to labs in Haiti. After the earthquake, the students voted to send the money that they had been raising for their end-of-the year graduation celebration.

The Freshmen MLT students raised \$347 with a St. Patrick's Day raffle. The money was split three ways between Anderson Crisis Pregnancy Center, Our Daily Rest, and Clemson Community Care Center. In addition, the students coordinated a food drive April 1-12 to collect food for Our Daily Rest.

Hawks for Haiti Raises \$1,111



Our faculty, staff, and students joined together to help fund the relief and rebuilding efforts taking place in earthquake-ravaged Haiti. The SGA and student clubs and organizations set up tables and collected \$1,111 in donations from both Pendleton and Anderson campuses. Each person who donated to this worthy cause signed a banner signifying his/her contribution to help others. The banner will be displayed on campus and then sent with the donation to the Red Cross. These funds will assist the Red Cross in providing immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance, and other support to help those in need.

Pictured from left are kneeling (left to right) **Julia Campbell**, of Pendleton, and **Hayley Rowley**, of Anderson, both University Transfer majors; and (standing) **Kayla Vigliotti**, of Liberty, a University Transfer major; **Claudia Poore**, circulation manager in our library; **Maine Dawkins** and **Jarell Dawkins**, both of Central and Business Management majors; **Croslena Johnson**, director of Student Life and Counseling Services; **Alydia Sims**, library technical assistant; **Iritte Stears**, of Clemson, SGA secretary and University Transfer major; **Paul Watson**, of Anderson, a Business Management major; **Wendy Sutton**, of Belton, a University Transfer major; **Mel Chandler**, technical assistant and library associate; **Allison Ekwere**, of Piedmont, SGA president and a University Transfer major; **Jenny Dean**, an instructor in Comprehensive Studies; and **Josué Montoya**, of Belton, a University Transfer major.

Oconee QuickJobs Center Opens



The QuickJobs Training Center in Oconee County opened April 12 with the three classrooms filled and in session. Among those classes was a new hire safety orientation for BASF (formerly Engelhard) in Seneca. Seen here is **Don Ketterman**, an adjunct instructor, teaching the class.

Executive Staff Updates

- **Apprenticeship Program:** Dr. Brian Swords, director of Operations for CCE, conducted a presentation on the progress of the Customer Service Apprenticeship Program in the CCE Customer Service unit. Consideration will be given to implementing a similar program for other customer service-related units at the College.
- **Welding Facility:** Eugene Grant, dean of the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division, presented the results of a feasibility study for the relocation and expansion of the Welding program. Next steps are under consideration.
- **Planning:** A comprehensive three-year strategic plan was approved by the Executive Staff and College Commission. This plan is aligned with the College's Ten-Year Vision. Division-level plans also have been developed and will be finalized once the FY 11 budget is complete.
- **CCE Update:** Rick Cothran, dean of Corporate and Community Education, provided an update on challenges and progress made by that division in recent months, including new programs and apprenticeships with local companies.
- **Easley Campus:** The Easley Campus Start-Up and Operations Workgroup presented their recommendations. The Executive Staff will use this input as it makes decisions and develops a final plan for the January 2011 start-up.
- **Other Topics:** College-wide document imaging system, Staff Advisory Board, parking on the Pendleton Campus.

Easley *(continued from page 1)*



Back view of Easley Campus

The QuickJobs Training Center being constructed on the Easley site is a little ahead of schedule, said Ken, and is set to open September 1. "The outside brick is up and they are working inside now. They should be finished in a couple of months," he said.

Joy Construction, who is building the Pickens QuickJobs, also built the Oconee QuickJobs facility, which opened mid-April. "Since they had that experience in Oconee, they are moving much quicker," added Ken.

The Pickens QuickJobs Training Center is funded through a \$986,364 grant from the State Department of Commerce to Pickens County. The QuickJobs Training Center will assist in workforce training and skills development for the College and for Pickens County. Instructors from the Corporate and Community Education and Industrial and Engineering Technology Divisions will teach training courses specifically based on locally identified needs and shortages.

Dr. Barry Russell to Deliver Spring Commencement Address

Dr. Barry W. Russell, president of the SC Technical College System, will deliver the spring commencement address Tuesday, May 11, at 6 p.m. at the Anderson Civic Center.

Approximately 492 students will graduate this month. In addition to families and guests of the graduates, alumni and other friends of the College are invited to attend the ceremony.

Prior to assuming his position in January 2006, Dr. Russell served as President of Midlands Technical College in Columbia. He also served in positions in the North Carolina Community College System including President of Southwestern Community College and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the System. Dr. Russell began his career in the SC Technical College System at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood.

At the state and local level, Dr. Russell serves on the boards of the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness, the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership, AdvanceSC, South Carolina Economic Developers Association, and the South Carolina Workforce Investment Board. He also serves on the South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act Coordinating Council. Dr. Russell recently served nationally on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors where he chaired the Committee on Public Policy/Government Relations.

Last year, Dr. Russell announced his plans to retire at the end of May 2010.



Dr. Barry Russell

Lou Ann Martin Named Faculty Fellow

Mathematics instructor Lou Ann Martin has been selected as the College's 2010-2011 Faculty Fellow. Her research project will focus on investigating the impact of Internet learning systems on student learning in mathematics as evidenced in skills acquisition and applying conceptual understanding in different contexts.

Faculty Fellow Selection Committee members unanimously agreed that her proposed project and plan for measuring its success will provide increased knowledge and understanding on an important aspect of teaching and learning.

The College has established the Faculty Fellow Program to give teaching faculty an opportunity to pursue the scholarship of teaching and learning. An essential component of being a true learning college is the encouragement of faculty and staff to become engaged – or, in some cases, more actively engaged – in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). This concept involves a systematic investigation of a research question and a survey of the best scholarship on the subject. Furthermore, the SoTL calls for the design and implementation of a strategy, technique, and/or innovation with a subsequent assessment of project results.



Lou Ann Martin

Bridge to Erskine Program is Avenue for Transfer Students

Erskine College-bound students who want to begin their studies at Tri-County and transfer as sophomores now have a formalized avenue for transfer – the Bridge to Erskine program.

Tri-County and Erskine officials signed an agreement Tuesday, April 6, that allows students to take their first year of University Transfer classes at Tri-County, following a clearly defined sequence of courses that lead to a seamless transfer to Erskine.

The Bridge to Erskine program is intended for first-time college students who are recent high school graduates. Freshmen students who apply for the program will be evaluated by the Erskine College Office of Admissions to determine if they meet the standards for invitation into the program. In addition, students who are denied admission to Erskine for academic or space-available reasons and live in the tri-county area will be notified of the program option by Erskine's admission staff.

After completing one year of University Transfer classes at Tri-County, if specific requirements are met, the student transfers as a sophomore. Academic requirements include earning 30 hours of course work as specified by Erskine and achieving a grade point average of 2.7 or above. Students who meet those requirements automatically will be accepted as sophomores at Erskine. "Bridge students who are successful do not have to apply as transfer students to Erskine. It's a guaranteed admission if they do their part," said Dr. Phil Buckhiester, vice president for Academic Affairs.

"I really have enjoyed working with Dr. Gid Alston (Erskine's interim vice president and dean of the College) on this program the past few months. We at Tri-County are always pleased when the quality of our programs is recognized through formal, mutually beneficial partnerships with four-year institutions," said Dr. Buckhiester. "It is especially pleasing to be collaborating with an institution of Erskine's academic reputation. The Bridge to Erskine Program provides a seamless transition process for Tri-County students to become Erskine students, with the assurance that their Tri-County course work will transfer, giving them sophomore status when they begin their studies at Erskine."

Tri-County students who qualify for the Bridge program will receive a waiver of the Erskine application fee and will be considered for transfer scholarships. They also will be assigned a student mentor who will guide them through the transfer process and their first semester at Erskine.



Dr. Booth and Erskine College President Dr. Randall T. Ruble, left, signed an agreement Tuesday, April 6, that allows students to take their first year of University Transfer classes at Tri-County, following a clearly defined sequence of courses that lead to a seamless transfer to Erskine.

Connecting

(continued from page 2)

Our strong relationships with other colleges and universities will be the starting point for developing new collaborative initiatives, particularly with Clemson University and other area four-year colleges and universities. We will continue to strengthen partnerships with local businesses, industries, public schools, and government organizations, which will include fully defining and communicating our unique value proposition.

Revitalizing the College's diversity program will ensure we represent the community we serve and that people from all cultural backgrounds feel at home at Tri-County. Professional growth for employees will include full-time employees and adjunct faculty, with a focus on leadership, mentoring, professional growth, and teamwork. We also will review our compensation strategy and succession plans.

The facilities and infrastructure at all campuses will be addressed through preventative maintenance, accessibility improvements, energy conservation, and parking, as well as leveraging the use of information technology. We hope to build a QuickJobs Center and a second academic building in Anderson, relocate our Welding facility, and create additional instructional spaces on all our campuses.

Our planning is now complete. Now the real work begins. We have the right team in place to make it happen, and I look forward to tackling these new challenges with you. Let's begin our journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Booth'.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

Foundation Kicks Off Employee Division of Major Gifts Campaign

This week the Employee Division of the Foundation's Major Gifts Campaign kicked off its fundraising efforts to obtain 100 percent participation from new faculty and staff.

"I urge our new College family members to participate at whatever level they can," said Dr. Booth, when he spoke to the group's vice chairs at their organizational meeting.

He explained that in the fall of 2009, the College formally kicked off the external phase of its five-year Major Gifts Campaign to raise funds for programs and students. Foundation staff and its external fundraising team have reached out to the community for support in four areas: expanding educational opportunities, improving technology and equipment, enhancing opportunities for student success, and promoting economic and community development.

The goal is to raise \$7 - 9 million dollars by 2012, which marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the College.

"The funds raised will expand opportunities and provide resources for our students. We will be laying the foundation for the next 50 years. I urge you to be a long-term partner with the College and to do what you can," said Dr. Booth.

In 2008, faculty and staff participated in an internal phase of the Major Gifts campaign, when participation reached 99 percent, the highest level of employee giving in the history of the College.

You may contribute to the four areas mentioned above or you may designate your contribution to go to another area of the College, such as endowments," said John Lummus, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement.

Following the faculty/staff convocation in August 2008, Dr. Mary Scott West and her husband, Danny, a pharmacist at CVS in Clemson and an adjunct instructor for our Pre-Pharmacy program, pledged \$5,000 to the Major Gifts Campaign to create the Student Mental Health Counseling Endowment. Mary says their pledge will produce the seed money for a part- or full-time licensed mental health counselor.

"Students and their well being are our highest priority. With 5,700 students on campus, it's inevitable that students will have a crisis, ranging from being suicidal, to substance abuses, to being at risk to themselves and others on campus. It's imperative that a professional address these issues during the crisis stage so the student can get some help," said Mary. "I hope many others will contribute so the endowment can grow, and we can hire someone in the near future."

Other avenues of giving are the scholarship endowments or unrestricted gifts. You may honor an individual by contributing to a scholarship. For example, the Don C. Garrison Memorial



Galen DeHay



Claudia Poore

The College has 74 employees who have joined us within the last two years. If you are one of them, you'll be hearing from one of our team leaders who will talk with you about contributing to the Major Gifts Campaign. We hope you will consider making a donation.

Serving as co-chairs for the Employee Division are Galen DeHay and Claudia Poore. Team Leaders include; Luke Black, Jenny Evans, Dana Griffith, Alicia Rannou, Wanda Screws, Alydia Sims, Debbie Thrasher, Bethany Wiley, Butch Merritt, and Margaret Burdette.

Scholarship, established in 1980 with gifts from faculty and staff, honors Dr. Garrison, who served as president of Tri-County from 1971 until his retirement in 2003.

Each Christmas many faculty and staff contribute to the Hazel Strickland Booth Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in memory of Dr. Booth's mother. This gift supports the education of an outstanding student, and Dr. Booth says no gift we could purchase would be more meaningful to him.

Other ways to give include designating your donation to a specific academic program.

As a faculty or staff member, you can make a one-time contribution to this endowment, a pledge, and/or have it deducted from your check each month. "The amount isn't important, but the act of giving is," said Galen DeHay, science department head who is serving as co-chair of this campaign for the second year. "We want people to give within their ability. It's a personal decision and any gift is appreciated. The goal is 100 percent participation."

The internal campaign ends June 30.

Anderson Woman's Club Meets Scholarship Recipients at Luncheon



Lauren Taveras, of Anderson, front row, middle, and **Meagan Wilson**, of Easley, front row, right, are the two 2009 – 2010 recipients of the Anderson County Woman's Club endowed scholarship at Tri-County. They are both University Transfer majors. They are pictured with **Jessie Davis**, Anderson University's (AU) scholarship recipient and a Theatre major, (front row, left), and back row, from left, **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement; **Dean Woods**, vice president of Institutional Advancement at AU; **Cara Wood**, assistant professor of theater at AU; **K Henderson**, chair of the Club's Scholarship Committee; **Elisabeth Gadd**, director of Development; and **Susan Reed**, president of the Anderson County Woman's Club. The Anderson County Woman's Club was among one of the first to establish an endowment at Tri-County and has contributed annually to the scholarship since 1989.

Keowee Computer Club Donates \$4,400



The Keowee Computer Club made a \$4,400 contribution towards scholarships for Computer and Information Technology students from Oconee County. This year, the club chose to give the remainder of its treasury to Tri-County's Foundation for four scholarships, valued at \$1,100 each. Recipients must be residents of Oconee County, be economically disadvantaged, maintain a 3.0 or better GPA, and be Computer and Information Technology majors. Here, Club Treasurer **Len Lowe**, fourth from left, presents the check to **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement. Pictured with them, from left, are **Rick Hughes**, vice president of the club; **Harry Wertheimer**, president of the club; **Barbara Shaver**, secretary of the club; **Courtney White**, manager of donor relations; and **John Ishler**, a club board member.

Bank of America Grant Assists Students

A grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will provide economically disadvantaged students at Tri-County Technical College and the other 15 technical colleges in the state with assistance with school fees and expenses.

The S.C. Technical College System's Foundation announced a \$100,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. The funds will assist students by providing a supplemental, emergency source of funds to cover the costs of textbooks, instructional supplies, tools or uniforms for low-to-moderate income students.

With the bank's support, a minimum of 200 technical college students across the state will receive assistance.

"The Bank of America Charitable Foundation recognizes the barriers many students face in trying to further their education," said Dr. Booth. "During these challenging economic times, assistance with books and supplies could make all the difference for students with the greatest financial need. We appreciate the generosity and concern of the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and their desire to help students to achieve their dream of earning a college degree."

At Tri-County this spring, \$1,165,024 in lottery tuition scholarships were granted to 1,811 students. Last spring lottery scholarships totaled \$1,209,984 and were awarded to 2,060 students. The amount of Pell grants disbursed increased tremendously this spring. This semester 2,984 persons received a total of \$5,851,509, as opposed to 2,051 receiving \$3,122,523 last spring (2009). LIFE scholarships are on the rise also, with 918 receiving a total of \$1,634,808 this semester as compared to 750 receiving \$1,243,100 last spring (2009).

The general guidelines that the 16 technical colleges will use to administer the Additional Student Support for Instruction, Supplies, and Training (ASSIST) Fund can be found at: http://www.sctechsystem.com/news/boa_grant.html.

Spotlight *(continued from page 3)*



Orrie Kyzer on guitar, left, and **Josué Montoya**, tenor

read music or sung. Others are very experienced. It's a good balance. They lean on each other and they help each other. They are so proud of each other, and as a group they support each other. I told them from the first day, you can't have a successful chorus if you don't have the common goal of doing well," she said.

"They have really developed their voices and their group sound. It all came together. They devoted extra time to rehearsals and it paid off. It was awesome," she added.

"They were pleased with their performance and were patting each other on the back. I knew they could do it. They were determined. I watched the brotherhood grow this semester, and I knew this would be good," she said.

"It was a great crowd. Everyone enjoyed the evening. It was very positive. I'm grateful to Tri-County for giving us this opportunity and for the support," she said.

So, what's next for the group? More live performances including the recent quartet performance at the awards ceremony. "I want to use the chorus as an outreach for the College," said Lori.

Alesia Smith Named Women's Basketball Coach

Tri-County is expanding its athletics program this fall by adding a varsity-level women's basketball team coached by Alesia Smith, of Clemson.

Alesia, who serves as director of the office of community and ethical standards at Clemson University, accepted the part-time coaching position earlier this year and has begun building her team.

Tri-County Technical College's women's basketball team is sanctioned by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and will compete within Region 10 at the Division I level.

Since 2001 Alesia has served as head basketball coach for the Palmetto Team Youth Association (PT Cruisers) in Clemson and coaches during the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and the Youth Basketball of America (YBOA) seasons. She will continue as assistant coach for these teams, which in 2008 were selected to play in the Las Vegas National Championship and placed second in the silver division. She also has coached the PT Cruisers to fifth place in the YBOA National Basketball Championship in 2007. In 2006 she coached the PT Cruisers to fourth place in the AAU State Championship. From 2001 – 2004, Smith was named the All Star Team Basketball Head Coach.

"We are thrilled to have Alesia Smith as the founding head coach for women's basketball at Tri-County," said Vinson Burdette, dean of Student Development. "She brings experience, high expectations and professionalism to the position." Vinson added that since announcing the launch of the women's basketball team, there has been a steady stream of prospective student athletes interested in the sport.

Smith says she has met with eight girls at Tri-County already and plans to hold practice tryouts the first week in May. "We hope to start with 15 players and we are still recruiting," she said. Athletes at Tri-County must be full-time students (enrolled in 12 credit hours) and meet the minimum GPA requirements.

"My focus is on Tri-County," said Alesia, whose goal is to select the team by May and then begin conditioning and weight training this summer. "We begin practice October 1 and the first game is set for November," says Smith, who describes herself as a coach who is fair. "I expect the players to carry themselves in a way that shows respect for the game. I believe in good sportsmanship, commitment and hard work. There are three things that I expect from them – respect for the game, respect for each other and most of all, to put academics first," she said.

"When I use the term student-athlete, the word athlete is second. The student is the priority. Academic standing is first with me. Grades are more important than the game. The degree will take you further than playing basketball," she said.

Players will be gaining skills they can use in life, such as decision making, commitment, multi-tasking and learning how to organize and manage their time, she said. "Understanding their role on the team and doing that role to the best of their ability is success for the group," she said.

"I enjoy building a team and this is a building year. We will get better every game. We are starting from scratch. My goal is to make sure we compete and get better every game. It's exciting," said Smith.

"It's all about the students. I see the benefits of doing what you love, while pursuing your goal of getting an education," she said.

Alesia holds a bachelor's in Communication and a master's in Political Science (Public Administration) from Illinois State University. She and her husband, Bryant, live in Clemson and they have three children, Aramus, Sherece, and Darien.



Alesia Smith

Health Fair Well Attended



The 2010 Health Fair held April 2 offered mini massages, face hydration, and lots of great door prizes. Here, **Martina Frankum**, administrative specialist in Student Records, right, talks with **Dr. Angela Dixon**, of Dixon Wellness and Chiropractic in Anderson. Dr. Dixon is a 1994 graduate of our Associate in Science program and was the Outstanding Humanities and Social Sciences student that year. She transferred to Clemson for more prerequisites and graduated from Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic in 1999, along with her husband, Dr. Chuck Dixon, also a Tri-County alumnus. They have operated their business since 1999.

Dental Assisting Students Offer Free Services



Dental Assisting student **Meredith Garrett**, standing, prepares an x-ray for **Mindy Amaro**, of Williamston, a Gateway to College student. Through the month of April, the Dental Assisting students performed free polishing, x-rays, fluorides, and dental sealants for students and employees.

DUI Simulator Part of Awareness Events



The Student Government Association, Campus Safety, and the Criminal Justice program sponsored the annual Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Awareness Day event April 19. A DUI (Driving under the Influence) simulator was available for day and evening students wanting to experience what it is like to drive under the influence and the hazards associated with this choice. Pictured here are **Shelia Peppers**, of Clemson, an Automated Office Technology student with **Storn Olson**, DUI awareness instructor from U.N.I.T.E. International. In addition to the DUI Simulator, interactive programming, printed resources, and free lunch from Chick-fil-A were offered.

BorgWarner Starts Apprenticeship Program



Representatives from BorgWarner accepted a plaque from Apprenticeship Carolina consultant **Brad Neese**, third from left, acknowledging the Oconee County industry's new apprenticeship program for CNC operators and production operators. Pictured with Brad are **Rick Cothran**, dean of our Corporate and Continuing Education Division; **Tim Macijewski**, maintenance technician; and **Ryan Donald**, maintenance coordinator.

Fifth Annual

★ BLUEGRASS ★ ★ under the Stars ★



Josh Williams, the recipient of the International Bluegrass Music Association's Guitar Player of the Year honor for 2008 and 2009, and his band headlined the Fifth Annual Bluegrass under the Stars concert.



Mountain Faith



Last Road



The Little Roy and Lizzy Show

Appreciation is extended to the many people who helped to make this year's Bluegrass under the Stars concert a success, particularly the volunteers from nearly every division at the College who greeted guests, handed out programs, manned display tables, and assisted the bands. A special thank you is extended to the Auxiliary Services, Foundation, Maintenance, and Campus Safety members, as well as the Public Relations and Marketing Department and John Woodson, who emceed the concert for the fifth year.

Many Thanks to our Concert Sponsors

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Many thanks to the faculty and staff like **Cathy Strasser**, accounts payable technician, pictured here, who helped to make this another successful Bluegrass concert. In February we welcomed Cathy back to work after several months of convalescing at home following a motorcycle accident.



Dr. Booth, left, and his father, **Dewey Booth**, are seen talking with **Rep. Rex Rice** and his wife, **Ruth**.



The Veterinary Technology students manned a booth to publicize the Pet Adoption Day. Many of the animals were on hand to meet guests. Here **Callie Stewart**, of Clemson, a Veterinary Technology major, right, is pictured with **Courtney** and **Brian White's** daughters, from left, **Issy**, **Madeline**, and **Amelia**.



John Woodson, Radio and Television Broadcasting program coordinator, emceed the show for the fifth year. He is pictured with his daughter.



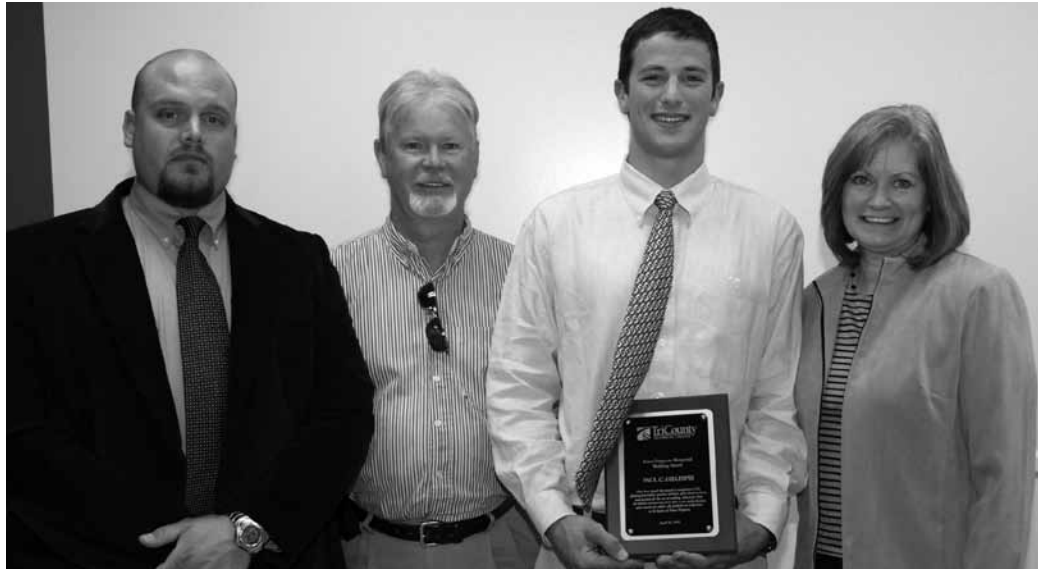
Robin McFall, English department head, left, enjoyed catching up with retired Science instructor **Dr. Sharon Miller**.

Top Students Honored at Annual Awards Ceremony

The College honored the successes of its top students with awards for excellence in academics at its annual awards ceremony held April 26.

Dr. Booth commended the group for their success and said, "We often say that we want to be the role model in community college education in the country. Students, you are a part of that because you are role models in many ways and are part of the College's vision."

Following Dr. Booth's comments, faculty presented outstanding student awards in each program of study.



Paul C. Gillespie, of Greenwood, third from left, received the Brian Ferguson Memorial Award for Welding. The Brian Ferguson Memorial Award for Welding is a tribute to one of the College's welding students who lost his life in a car accident in 2004. Brian left a lasting positive impression on the Welding program, and this award is in memory of Brian's personality, attitude and positive characteristics that he exemplified daily. According to those who knew him best, Brian had a great desire to learn, a passion for the art of welding, and a persevering spirit. In recognition of these characteristics, on display in Clarke Hall is a memorial plaque that includes the name of each year's recipient. Pictured with Paul are from left, **Paul Phelps**, Welding program coordinator, and **Alan and Carol Ferguson**, parents of Brian Ferguson.



Thomas J. (Maine) Dawkins, of Central, right, was honored twice during the evening. He received the Outstanding Management Student award, along with the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappa Student Award. Presenting the Phi Theta Kappa plaque is **Todd Crisp-Simons**, English instructor and advisor for Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB), a chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.



Janet T. Brdar, our administrative specialist in the TRiO office, right, was honored as the Outstanding Accounting Student. Presenting the award is **Meg Allan**, Management department head.