

Connection

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Kay Rhodes Receives Staff Excellence Award

Kay Rhodes, the admissions liaison for the Nursing department, was honored with the highest award given for staff excellence at the College’s annual faculty/staff fall convocation.

Kay received the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence, along with a cash award made possible by the Tri-County Technical College Foundation. The award goes to a person who has demonstrated over and over a strong belief in the purpose and mission of the College.

For the past five years, Kay has served as our Health Education Division-dedicated admissions counselor, helping nursing students to stay on track with scheduling the classes needed at Tri-County and for admission to Clemson.

“Kay is the student’s initial point of contact, and she has really made an impact here,” said Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the Health Education Division. “She’s nurturing and encouraging. She guides the students into making smart choices early, makes sure there are no barriers from a curriculum standpoint, and aids in helping them to transition as smoothly as possible. She truly has revolutionized our ability to advise students at Tri-County and to encourage them to the BSN degree and beyond.”

This one-to-one, consistent advising is key in student success, said Lynn. “It makes a big difference with our pre-nursing students. They can be realistic and successful.”

“My co-workers have made nursing a very desirable major at Tri-County Technical College,” said Kay. “The reputation for student service that our program has earned interests students from all over South Carolina and Georgia. They come to Tri-County to hear the Nursing admissions story because they want to be a part of our program and its success. I am blessed to be a member of this College and this department. I am pleased and humbled that I was chosen for this award.”

As part of her role as admissions liaison, Kay has grown the cohort group of students ready to start the BSN completion program at Clemson University (through the LPN to Professor program) from four initial students to 54 this May.

She developed the current admissions process for the department that includes the notice of completion and competitive admission, and manages both of these processes. She also notifies students, via e-mail, of acceptance into the clinical portion of the program. She developed the New Nursing Student Orientation and the Updates to Nursing Guide to make sure that all Nursing

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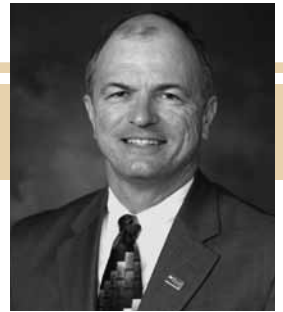
Kay Rhodes, admissions liaison for the Nursing department, pictured with **Dr. Booth**, was honored with the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence at the annual faculty/staff fall convocation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AnMed Blood Drive..... September 8
Anderson Campus
Get Connected Event September 8
Learning College
Lecture Series September 22
Anderson Campus
Blood Drive September 29

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

Connecting



Ronnie L. Booth
President

It is always good to kick off the new academic year with Fall Convocation. This was my eighth, and it was great to see so many familiar faces in the audience, as well as new ones. I was able to sense your excitement and anticipation for the coming academic year, which makes me all the more excited about what lies ahead of us.

During Convocation, each of the Vice Presidents and I talked about our top priorities for the coming year, focusing on the key things we must accomplish as we follow the roadmap provided by our ten-year vision and three-year strategic plan. Mind you, we didn't cover all of our priorities, but we did try to address those activities that will take much of our attention, energy, and resources. I thought it might be helpful to reiterate some of what we shared, particularly because some of you were busy registering students and could not be present.

Priorities for 2010-11

- Construction of our long-anticipated Easley Campus will be completed this fall, and we will officially open in time for Spring Semester. We are ironing out final plans for staffing, programs, and services. Later this fall we will open the academic building and begin providing enrollment services, including a special Easley Campus Enrollment Day. The QuickJobs Development Center will open and begin offering non-credit classes as early as mid-September.
- Three short years ago we were a single campus institution. Now we have four campuses (including Easley) and a small learning center in Honea Path. This completely changes the way we do business. This year, a project team will be chartered to begin developing a comprehensive multi-campus strategy. Global in scope, this strategy will help to inform everything we do – strategically and operationally – and will address coordination and collaboration at every level.
- Five programs are up for reaccreditation site visits this year: Business Technology, Expanded Duty Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Nursing (associate degree), and Veterinary Technology. A great deal of focus and preparation is needed to ensure we meet reaccreditation requirements.
- A project team will be formed to address a variety of issues related to distance delivery of credit courses, including how we provide adequate academic and student support services to online students.
- Our Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) has been a tremendous success since it was piloted in 2007. Our Fall 2008 - Fall 2009 retention rate for LEI participants was 8.6 percent higher than the general student population. A Title III grant proposal titled "Learning through Community and Connections" has been submitted to help us build on the success of the LEI program by constructing an environment that promotes academic and social integration of all first-time postsecondary students. Even if we are not funded, we still plan to move forward in phases using the plan we developed for the grant.
- We are midway through our Major Gifts Campaign, which will culminate with our 50th anniversary celebration in 2012. So far, we have raised \$3.5 million, with a goal to raise \$7-9 million. During the next year we will ramp up our county-by-county fund-raising strategy.
- Pendleton Campus parking has become a tremendous challenge. This fall we will complete construction of a 400-space parking lot on nearby Mechanic Street, which will open in time

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Spotlight on Gateway to College

Reengineering and change have been watchwords for the Gateway to College program and staff over the past 18 months.

“One of the more significant changes happened this summer when we renegotiated our WorkLink/WIA Youth Services contract and started an exciting new partnership with Palmetto Youth Connections (PYC),” said Gateway Director Diana Walter.

“In February of 2009, thanks to an idea from the chair of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Youth Council, we began to expand the collaboration between PYC and Gateway. It took a while, since we were forging new ground, but it finally all came together last month. We are thrilled about the additional support and services this new partnership brings to our WIA-eligible students,” said Diana.

“This is only one of the changes we’ve made. It’s been like redesigning an airplane in flight, but everything we’re doing is in the best interest of our students,” said Diana. “And, we’re staying true to both the spirit and original intent of what the program’s founders and leaders had in mind when they decided to start Gateway five years ago.”

In 2005, Tri-County was among four community colleges in the United States to receive three-year implementation grants from Portland Community College (Oregon) to replicate their nationally recognized Gateway to College program. Funding for the grants was provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Tri-County’s Gateway program serves high school dropouts age 17 – 20 who have demonstrated academic ability and meet specific eligibility criteria. Using a dual credit model, students earn both high school and college credit, and may simultaneously complete both the high school diploma (meeting all requirements of the South Carolina Department of Education) and a postsecondary credential.

“Over the past 18 months, we’ve been making strategic changes to enhance student outcomes, while staying true to the original program concept. We’re definitely starting to see improvements—for the students, the College, and for the program overall,” said Diana. Highlights of the changes include:

Gateway students who qualify for WIA support (which typically ranges from 60% to 75% of the total enrollment) now will receive that support through PYC. Examples of financial support include payment of Tri-County’s fees each semester, funds to offset a portion of transportation and/or child care costs, and school supplies. Other examples of support include job training (which is free to the students), financial incentives for reaching specific academic goals, job placement assistance, and additional counseling services from Deb Jorgensen, the PYC Career Coach who now is located in the Gateway Office.

“One of the many advantages is that we have PYC experts working here with us to provide WIA services. This enables us to concentrate more on our roles while expanding opportunities and support for students. PYC is



Five area residents received their high school diploma through the College’s Gateway to College Program at summer commencement. Pictured from left are **Erica L. Whittle** (graduate of Wren High School – Anderson School District One), **G. Chase Carver** (graduate of Crescent High School – Anderson School District Three), **Amanda L. Carter** (graduate of T. L. Hanna High School – Anderson School District Five), **Jessica R. Bellamy** (graduate of West-Oak High School - School District of Oconee County), and **Carrie L. Davenport** (graduate of Easley High School - School District of Pickens County).

The Gateway program is funded through Lottery Tuition Assistance, College exemption, district flow-through funds, student-paid fees, and a partnership contract with Palmetto Youth Connections that provides financial support for 40 WIA-eligible students.

GATEWAY STAFF

Diana M. Walter, Director, PK-125C (dwalter@tctc.edu)

Amanda (Mandy) M. Davidson, Resource Specialist, PK-125B (adavids1@tctc.edu)

Glenn L. McAtee, Instructional/Testing Specialist, PK-125A (gmacatee@tctc.edu)

Kris E. Coleman, Office Manager, PK-125 (kcolema3@tctc.edu)

(Deb Jorgensen, PYC Career Coach, PK-123D)

providing things like free job training through our Corporate and Community Education Division,” she explained. For example, in addition to taking credit classes, several students already have completed customer service training.

Diana emphasized that the new agreement will not affect the way Gateway works with partner schools and districts. “The only impact we hope they’ll see is an improvement in outcomes – more students completing their diplomas through Gateway and earning postsecondary credentials. Another outcome should be a smoother transition into adult education for Gateway’s WIA students who just cannot, for whatever reason, achieve their original goal of earning a high school diploma through the Gateway.”

Gateway is experiencing a healthy enrollment, with 68 students enrolled for fall semester (39 of them new or re-admitted students). Diana says she is really pleased with this level of enrollment, especially in light of the fact that no new WIA students were admitted for the summer term (due to WIA contract relocations). She went on to say that Gateway had the highest number of graduates for a spring and summer term since the program

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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!



Butch Merritt sent this note to Renae Frazier:

Every student we serve is special and in need of our help, but there are always those few who are in need of much of our help. Such is the case with the individuals from the Haven of Rest Ministries here in Anderson. It took many TCTC folks to get them ready to begin school this fall, but they made it. I commend **Donald White** as the one person who remained persistent enough to make it happen. These students had multiple obstacles to overcome, but Donald kept pushing forward until all were resolved. It is this type of service that makes a community college strong. Donald hasn't been with us long but is making a difference in the lives of those we serve. I'm proud to work alongside Donald and the many others who always take the extra effort to help people.

New SGA Officers Begin Year



Our Student Government Association officers for the 2010 – 2011 year are: (standing) **Trevor Nash**, of Anderson, secretary and a University Transfer major; and (seated, from left) **Josue Montoya**, of Belton, vice president and a University Transfer major; **Wendy Sutton**, of Belton, president and a University Transfer major; and **James Werner**, of Anderson, treasurer and a Radio and Television Broadcasting major.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Wanda Morgan, Interior Design instructor for the Corporate and Community Education Division, has been inducted into The National Association of Professional and Executive Women “Women of Excellence” Registry. In addition to teaching for the College, Wanda is owner of Wanda S. Morgan Designs, an interior and exterior design firm that services the Southeast.



Wanda Morgan



Dr. Peggy Champion

Dr. Peggy Champion, head of the Veterinary Technology program, was among the presenters at the SC Agriculture Teachers Conference held in July.

The College provided teams of volunteers who assisted with Anderson County’s “Day Of Action” Volunteer Day held August 14.

Team #1’s Leader was Soccer Coach **Ed Heberling**, who led the group at Habitat for Humanity. **Wendy Sutton**, SGA president, led the Anderson Interfaith Ministries team, and **Croslena Johnson**, director of Student Life & Counseling, led the volunteers at New Foundations Children and Family Services.

Congratulations to the entire **Information Technology (IT) Department** for leading us through a successful transition to Banner 8. This enormously complex project took nearly a year and involved an extensive Banner software upgrade, as well as a changeover to a brand new operating system (Linux) and upgraded hardware. Not only did the IT staff carefully plan and manage the entire project, they did so while undergoing extensive training to learn the new Linux system that replaces our old VMS system. Once again, we can claim role-model status when compared to other Banner colleges in the State Tech System because of our comprehensive approach to the upgrade.

in transition

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

Amanda (Mandy) Davidson, is the new Resource Specialist in the Gateway to College program. Mandy was a social studies teacher at West Oak Middle School for five years and for the last year has been an adjunct Economics instructor for the SC Virtual School program. She holds a B. A. in Secondary Education and an M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision from Clemson University. She was honored as a master teacher for the Teaching American History in SC Teacher Education program. She is active in the Children’s Ministry for Clemson United Methodist Church. She and her husband, Tim, an adjunct math instructor here, have two children, Blake, 9; and Anna, 1. They live in Clemson.



Mandy Davidson

Connecting

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STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION

Lillian Taylor is working as a Records Specialist. She previously worked as an Information Specialist. She began her career in the medical field, working as a Certified Nurse Aide and later as a Certified Medical Assistant. She holds an A.A.S. in Criminal Justice and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from ECPI College of Technology. She and her twins, Rozlynd and Jazmynd, ages 14, reside in Seneca.



Lillian Taylor

HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION

Julie Beard begins her first semester as an instructor in the Practical Nursing program. She spent the last seven years as a Clinical Nursing Supervisor for DHEC and prior to that was a staff nurse for seven years at AnMed Health. She worked as a Clinical Instructor for our Practical Nursing program in 2003. She holds a BSN from Clemson University and a master's of science in Nursing from Walden University. She is a member of Temple Baptist Church in Anderson. She and her husband, Doug, have two children, Hayley, 11; and Bryson, 7. They live in Anderson.



Julie Beard

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Carol Janine-Gross Heaton is working as a Lab Specialist in our Science Department. She previously worked part time as a Lab Assistant here from 2001 – 2003 and went on to work as a Lab Specialist for the Genetics and Biochemistry Department at Clemson for seven years. She is back full time in our department. She holds a B. S. in Biological Sciences from California State University and is working toward her master's of Communication Disorders through USC.



Carol Heaton

While at Clemson, she chaired the Staff Advisory Committee for the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry and was awarded the Outstanding Staff Employee Award in 2006. She served as the staff representative on the Search and Selection Committee for a new department chair in 2006 – 07. She and her husband, Bob, live in Anderson. They have an adult daughter, Hayley Heaton, and attend Boulevard Baptist Church.

The following recently have departed the College. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

Kasheema Rock

Lori Gourdin

Xinhao Gu

for Spring Semester 2011 and include a shuttle service.

- It is time to look closely at the future of our Pendleton Campus. What is our optimal enrollment? What are possible long-term parking solutions? How can we improve traffic flow and safety? Where should we locate a new Student Center? These are some of the questions we seek to answer as we undertake the development of a master plan for the Pendleton Campus.
- Corporate and Community Education will offer new services for business, industry, and governmental agencies, including training for the Department of Transportation. The new QuickJobs Development Centers on the Easley and Oconee Campuses will provide increased accessibility to our business and industry partners.
- Everything we do is driven by our mission. This year we will review our mission, vision, and values in the context of our new ten-year vision and update them as needed.

Other items mentioned include a renewed focus on leadership and employee development, a community needs assessment, and continuous improvement in all our processes.

As I said during Convocation, my goal is for us to be the best two-year college in America. You have proven yourselves to be role models in more ways than I can count, so I am confident we are moving in the right direction.

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

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

More new faculty and staff joined us at the beginning of fall semester. We will feature them in the next issue of Connection.

Rep. Dan Cooper Addresses Health Care Grads



Representative **Dan Cooper**, who serves District 10 in Anderson County and has chaired the House Ways and Means Committee since 2005, was the keynote speaker at a special recognition ceremony for Health Care program graduates in our Corporate and Community Education Division. He told the graduates that hard work and humility are imperative to leading a successful life. "Earning your certification is a great accomplishment that you can take great pride in. Treat every day and experience as an opportunity."

Cantrell Among Medical Coding Graduates



Kate Cantrell, of Central, left, is among the graduates of the Hospital Medical Coding Specialist program. She received her continuing education certificate from instructor **Rose Arblaster**, RN. Participants take four core courses in the medical coding program which prepare them to take the national certification exam for certified professional coders. Graduates are employed in doctor's offices, hospitals and insurance companies.

Kiana Green Honored for Highest GPA

Kiana Green, of Iva, left, was honored for having the highest GPA (during the Upward Bound summer component) at the College's 30th Annual Upward Bound Awards Banquet held recently. She also received the Best Achievement in English Award. Presenting the awards is **Dr. Thwanda Davidson**, director of the TRiO programs at Tri-County.



Upward Bound is designed to help high school students bridge the gap between secondary school and college and to provide them with financial and academic resources to prepare for postsecondary education. The federally-funded Upward Bound project, sponsored by Tri-County, serves 9th - 12th graders from Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties and provides high school students with services year-round through its academic and summer bridge components.

NASA Astronaut Kicks Off STEM Conference



NASA Astronaut **Patrick G. Forrester** (Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired), left, pictured here with his wife, **Diana**, and Mathematics Department Head **Dr. Jerry Marshall**, visited the campus and talked about his career and his most recent visit in space, the STS-128 mission to the International Space Station aboard space shuttle, Discover. He also discussed the importance of promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in all levels of education.

In addition to speaking on campus, Colonel Forrester delivered the keynote address at the STEM conference to around 100 educators from Anderson-Oconee-Pickens school districts, along with educators from Tri-County and Clemson University. The conference was hosted by BorgWarner in Seneca.

Veterinary Technology Named Advisory Committee of the Year

The contributions of the College's Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee members – as advocates for the program, the students, and the animals they care for – earned them the honor of advisory committee of the year.

This is the fifth time the committee has received the trophy. Veterinary Technology Department Head Dr. Peggy Champion and Advisory Committee Chair Dr. James Mullikin accepted the trophy and plaque on behalf of the committee.

The Veterinary Technology Advisory Board, consisting of veterinarians and technicians, meets regularly to evaluate and to develop the curriculum, to secure grants, to investigate scholarship opportunities, to promote the College, and to serve as consultants to the department head.

Two accomplishments that stand out this year are the committee's progress in establishing a 2 + 2 articulation agreement with Clemson University and increasing the number of continuing education events offered on campus for veterinary technicians.

Due to the leadership of Dr. Mullikin, the College now has an agreement with Clemson that allows the university to accept credits graduates receive for their Veterinary Technology degree towards a bachelor's degree.

This spring Dr. Keith Allen of Upstate Veterinary Specialists and the Pfizer Corporation sponsored a continuing education event for more than 100 veterinary technicians. Because Dr. Allen was able to secure Pfizer Corporation as a sponsor, the all-day event was free to those attending.

In addition, Dr. Allen and his partner, Dr. Dermot Jevens, along with Dr. Heather Gleaton of Roper Mountain Animal Hospital, generously provide scholarships, totaling \$4,000 annually, for Veterinary Technology students. Dr. Steven Shrum, owner of Holly Tree Animal Hospital in Simpsonville, pays the SC Association for Veterinary Technicians membership fees for the students. "Without these generous monetary contributions, some of these students would not be able to participate in either the program or the SCATV," said Dr. Champion.

Advisory Committee member Cheryl Bauknight, of Easley, demonstrates her love for animals in her contributions to the Pickens County community and the College. Bauknight serves as an active member of both the Veterinary Technology advisory committee and the IACUC committee, which oversees all animal



*Veterinary Technology Department Head **Dr. Peggy Champion**, middle, and Advisory Committee Chair **Dr. James Mullikin**, of Easley, chair of the Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee, right, accepted the Advisory Committee of the Year trophy and plaque on behalf of the committee. Making the presentation is **Dr. Booth**.*

care for the USDA. She has donated to the "PAWS for a Cause" campaign, which allows individuals to purchase a decorative dog paw, a cat paw, or a horseshoe in memory or in honor of a beloved pet. Proceeds go to the College Foundation to support the Veterinary Technology program.

Throughout the year committee members volunteer as guest speakers in the classroom, along with contributing supplies and equipment to the department.

All members accept students to participate in externships at their facilities. "An externship is a requirement of the program, and without their willingness to take our students, and sometimes even pay them for their time, the externship would not be a positive learning experience for our students, as well as the faculty," said Dr. Champion.

"Our advisory committee does a great deal more than just advise us on our program. They are individuals who care not only about animals but about helping our students to be successful. Without their contributions, we couldn't do all that we do as a program," said Dr. Champion.

Tri-County's program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and is endorsed by the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians. It offers training in large and small animal clinical and surgical nursing, various laboratory skills, as well as courses in lab animal technology, office management, and computer skills.

Spotlight *(continued from page 3)*

began, which also reflected a 43% increase for the 2009-2010 academic year over the 2008-2009 academic year.

"It's interesting to note," Diana stated, "that this fall we had 28 of the new students qualify academically to take college-level courses in their first term, as opposed to taking the normal foundation term of three developmental courses and the College Skills course. This compares to six who qualified to do that last fall. Sometimes people don't realize that Gateway students take the same College placement tests and meet the same academic requirements as all other Tri-County students. Despite their potential, it's important to understand, though, that most of these students have lots of other challenges they must overcome in order to be successful."

A priority of Gateway has been and continues to be improving student outcomes, said Diana. Last year the resource specialist position, now held by Mandy Davidson, was restructured to include graduation coach responsibilities. Mandy also supervises recent Gateway grads who work part time as "graduation buddies" for students in their final terms.

"We know we can continue to improve our graduation rates, and we are making progress in that regard. All students now have written educational plans and use them to stay focused, not only on completing their high school diploma but to reach their postsecondary goals, too," she said.

"We have several students on track to earn simultaneous credentials," Diana says. "I can't wait for that! To see a student walk across the stage and receive his high school diploma, and then get up and march again with the College students to receive a postsecondary credential—that will truly be a great night!"

"We've had lots of changes in procedures and personnel this year, and some changes have been rough, but in the end, it's all been positive for students. They have more services and there's definitely more focus on core outcomes."

"We are taking full advantage of the opportunities presented to us," said Diana. "We are making Gateway into a better partner for the College and more integral than ever to the region's solution for dropout recovery," she said.

"A huge and unexpected benefit for the

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Two Sign Basketball Letters of Intent



Shemicka Smith, of Wendell, NC, and **Tessa Lumpkin**, of Knightdale, NC, seated left and right, respectively, sign national letters of intent to play women's basketball at the College. They are pictured here with Women's Basketball Coach **Alesia Smith**, seated middle, and Athletics Director **Angie Abraham**, standing second from left. Also pictured are **Paulette Smith**, mother of Shemicka, standing left, **Shakala Greeves**, friend of Shemicka, standing third from left, and **Donna Lumpkin**, grandmother of Tessa, standing right.

We are expanding our athletics program this fall by adding varsity-level women's basketball and soccer teams. Both teams are sanctioned by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and will compete within Region 10 at the Division I level.

Romanian Dancers Perform on Campus



During their two-week stay in the area, 12 Romanian dancers, led by 61-year-old instructor Florica Budusan, gave a performance that featured traditional Romanian folk dances.

Open House Showcases Anderson Campus

An August 4 Open House event at our Anderson Campus showcased its services and programs available this fall. In addition to tours of the facility, attendees were able to receive admission and financial aid information, as well as talk to College representatives about student services and academic programs, which now include the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees in their entirety at the Anderson Campus.

Tours showcased the new chemistry lab and renovated classrooms, as well as the biology lab and culinary lab. Presentations on various career fields were available, and faculty and staff were on hand to talk about new and expanding academic and career programs.

Vassar Discusses Truck Driving Opportunities

Truck driving instructor **Ed Vassar**, left, talks with **Perry Moore**, of Easley, left, and **Jerry Browne**, of Liberty, about CDL classes.



Seabrooks Sample Cothran's Cuisine

Ashley Cothran, culinary arts instructor, right, demonstrates her skills to (from left) **June Osborne**, one of our truck driving instructors, and **Cordes and Clinky Seabrook**, of Anderson.



Dinkins Stresses Early Start for College

Lakishia Dinkins, right, talks with **Lauren Petry**, a home schooled senior, about the importance of starting early to get ready for college. Lauren's parents, **Scott and Janice Petry**, of Anderson, are seen with her. Janice is a 1982 Business Management graduate, and her father received his degree the same year.

Spotlight *(continued from page 8)*

College is the opportunity to be a community resource for dropouts of all ages. Gateway doesn't just serve the students we admit," said Diana. "Every person who calls or walks in the door gets an educational plan with specific referral information and options for postsecondary education after competing a high school credential. We want people to know that the Gateway folks are friendly and knowledgeable and willing to help you get to the right place, even if it's not here." Just as an example, for this fall, 134 people registered for Gateway's Information Sessions – 35 new students were ultimately enrolled, but many others were served, too, with individualized education plans. There is an answer out there for each person – we just need to help him or her find it."

"It has been a busy year, and it's going to get busier, but that's what makes Gateway such a fun place to work," Diana said.

Kay Rhodes

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students receive the current information. This fall the updates will be available online with face-to-face question-and-answer sessions.

Kay has taught College 103 and 105 classes on her own time and later volunteered to work with the Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) whose classes are designed to improve students' learning through examining and refining their first-year college experience. She facilitated the LEI Smart Start orientation this summer.

Co-workers praise her caring and compassionate attitude toward students, her attention to detail and her dedication to being a team player.

"Kay makes my job easier, and I'm not sure what we would do without her," said Nursing Department Head Janet Fuller. "She is thoroughly deserving of this award, and she has become an integral part of the Tri-County family with her can-do attitude and willingness to work for the betterment of the College. Kay is an outstanding ambassador for the Nursing program and the College," said Janet.

"She has helped hundreds of students to navigate the maze of Nursing program entry and always does it with a positive attitude and smile. Customer service comes first with Kay," echoed associate degree Nursing instructor Shelley Burgins.

"She brings to this role her job experience as an educator which enables her to be a great communicator, as well as a good listener with our Nursing students and staff," said associate degree Nursing instructor Jackie Rutledge.

She joined the College in 2004 as a WIA counselor. She holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Winthrop University and a master's degree in Human Resource Development from Clemson University. She is a member of the S.C. State Employees Association and is a volunteer with the YMCA.

She and her husband, Billy, live in Anderson.

Health Programs Pin Graduates



Jeremy B. Cheek, of Anderson, right, participates in the pinning ceremony held August 4 for Surgical Technology graduates. Pinning him is **Cheryln Brown**, program coordinator. Cheek was the department's outstanding graduate.



Stacy N. Martin, of Clemson, right, participates in the pinning ceremony for Expanded Duty Dental Assisting graduates. Pinning her is **Donna Shannon**, department head for Allied Health/Expanded Duty Dental Assisting.



Laura Lee Morrison, of Anderson, left, participates in the pinning ceremony held August 3 for Practical Nursing graduates. Pinning her is **Beth Schultz**, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing instructor.

Dr. Booth Tells Summer Grads: Planning is Important, Execution is Essential

Reflecting on the victories and defeats of three famous military generals, Dr. Booth told the College's summer graduates that applying these same military strategies to their personal and professional lives is a recipe for winning at life.

Two-hundred-and-thirty-nine graduates received degrees, diplomas and certificates at the College's summer commencement held August 5 at the Anderson Civic Center.

In his commencement address, Dr. Booth highlighted the winning strategies of Civil War General Ulysses S. Grant and two famous South Carolina generals, Wade Hampton III and Francis Marion.

"First, planning is important, but execution is essential," said Dr. Booth. The second lesson we can learn from these famous generals, said Dr. Booth, is that everything is not an issue worth dying over – you can't always get what you want or when you want it. "My hope is that each of you will learn the fine art of give and take and that you will decide what is really important to you and make a strong stand on those few items."

"The third and final lesson is that no one is born a general," said Dr. Booth, adding that these three generals didn't start out at the top – they earned their honorable positions through hard work, perseverance and patience.



Thomas Thompson was among the associate in Science graduates. He is the husband of **Laura Thompson**, administrative specialist for the associate degree Nursing and Veterinary Technology programs, pictured here.



Betty Ruth Carson, of Starr, right, received an Early Childhood Development degree. Betty is the mother of **Jackie Blakley**, dean of the Business and Public Services Division, pictured here.



Faculty Senate President **Katy Goforth** led the procession, carrying the mace.

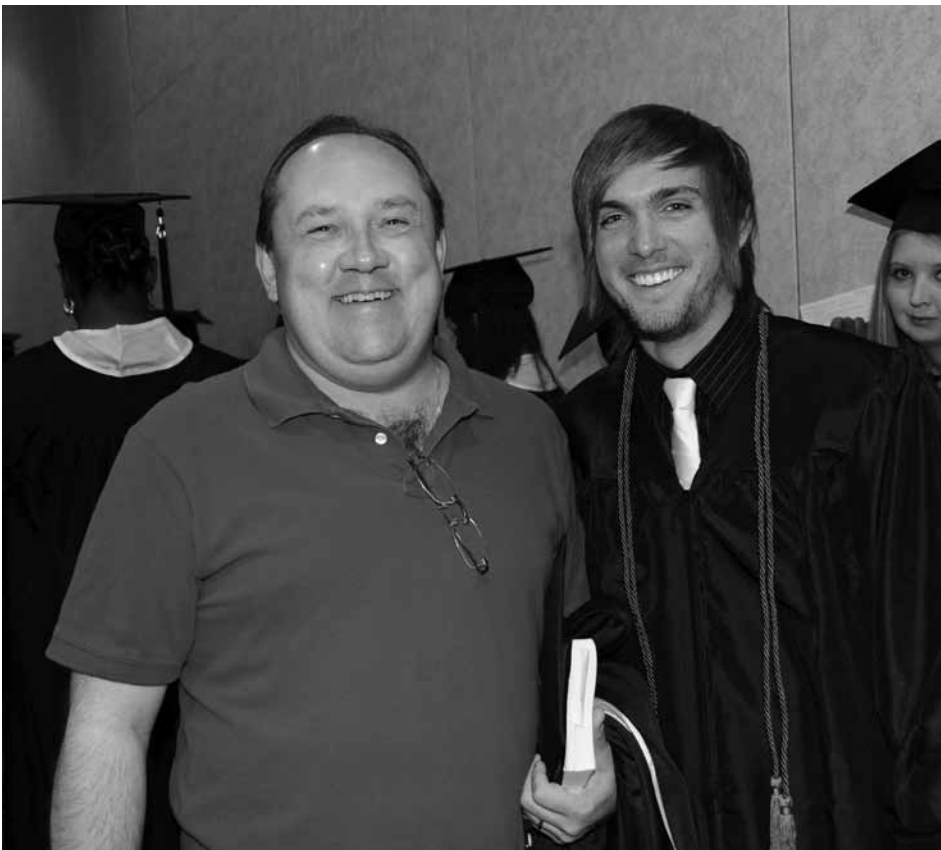


Thomas J. (Maine) Dawkins, of Central, flashes a smile as he crosses the stage to receive his Business Technology (Management) degree. Prior to graduation, he received the Outstanding Management Student award, along with the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappa Student Award.

More Scenes from Graduation



Katherine Sparacino, of Easley, a Medical Assisting graduate, takes a photo of fellow Medical Assisting classmates prior to summer commencement. Posing for the photo are **Tina Graham**, of Westminster, left, and **Shannon Burch**, of Seneca.



John Woodson, program coordinator for Radio and Television Broadcasting (RTV), left, poses with **Joe West**, an RTV graduate, as they prepare for the commencement ceremony.

Steve Nail Addresses Human Resource Professionals



Steve Nail, vice president of human resources for Hubbell Lighting, was the guest speaker at the 23rd Annual Human Resources Professionals Luncheon held August 11.

His major accomplishments include overseeing the restructuring of the corporation from 16 companies into one, policy development (including flex scheduling, compressed work weeks, part-time, and telecommuting), and extensive employee relations activities and community involvement.

His presentation included a legislative update, including an update on healthcare compliance in 2011, the new NLRB, and the status of the Employee Free Choice Act.

More than 80 human resource professionals from area businesses and industries gathered at the Anderson Campus for this annual event hosted by the Corporate and Community Education Division.

Golden OPPORTUNITIES to shape the future

South Financial Group Supports Major Gifts Campaign

The South Financial Group recently made a \$10,000 donation to the Foundation's Major Gifts Campaign to support student scholarships and faculty development for Business, Finance, and Management classes. Pictured from left are **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement; **David Wakefield**, chair of the College's Foundation Board; **Dr. Booth**; **Ben Hagood**, senior vice president of Carolina First Bank, Anderson and a member of the College's Foundation Board; and **Jackie Blakley**, dean of the Business and Public Services Division.



Foundation Board Welcomes Five New Members

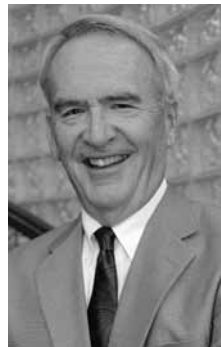
We welcome five new community and business leaders to the College's Foundation Board of Directors this month. Joining the Board's current members are Jim Alexander and Marcia Thrift Hydrick, both representing Oconee County, Ann Herbert, of Anderson County, and Michael Fee and Craig Homan of Pickens County.

Members of the Foundation Board raise money to supplement appropriations, thereby helping the College to meet the educational needs of the citizens of the tri-county area.

As Director of Economic Development for Oconee County, Mr. Alexander works with the strategic economic planning process for the county and works to retain existing industries and to recruit new businesses to the county. He was instrumental in establishing Oconee County's first industrial park and the county's first industrial spec building. He is currently working on the development of the 400-acre Golden Corner Commerce Park near I-85.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and earned an MBA in Production Management from Syracuse University. He and his wife, Martha, an adjunct faculty member at the College, live in Seneca.

Mr. Homan is Founder, President, and CEO of CH Industries, Inc., which he started in 2003 for the purpose of acquiring manufacturing companies. He has acquired two manufacturing companies, Easley Custom Plastics and Greenwood Metal Products. He serves on the Community Bank Board for Palmetto Bank and is an active member of the local Christ @ Work Group that he helped to organize in 2007. He is a graduate of Ferris State University in Michigan. He and his wife, Eileen, live in Salem.



Jim Alexander



Craig Homan

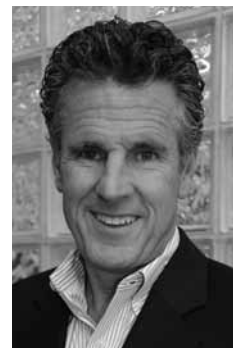


Marcia Thrift Hydrick

Mrs. Hydrick is President of Thrift Brothers, Inc., a construction business founded in 1959 by her father, Tom, and her uncle, Sam Thrift, a former Foundation Board member. She also is individually licensed by the State of South Carolina as a general contractor.



Ann Herbert



Michael Fee

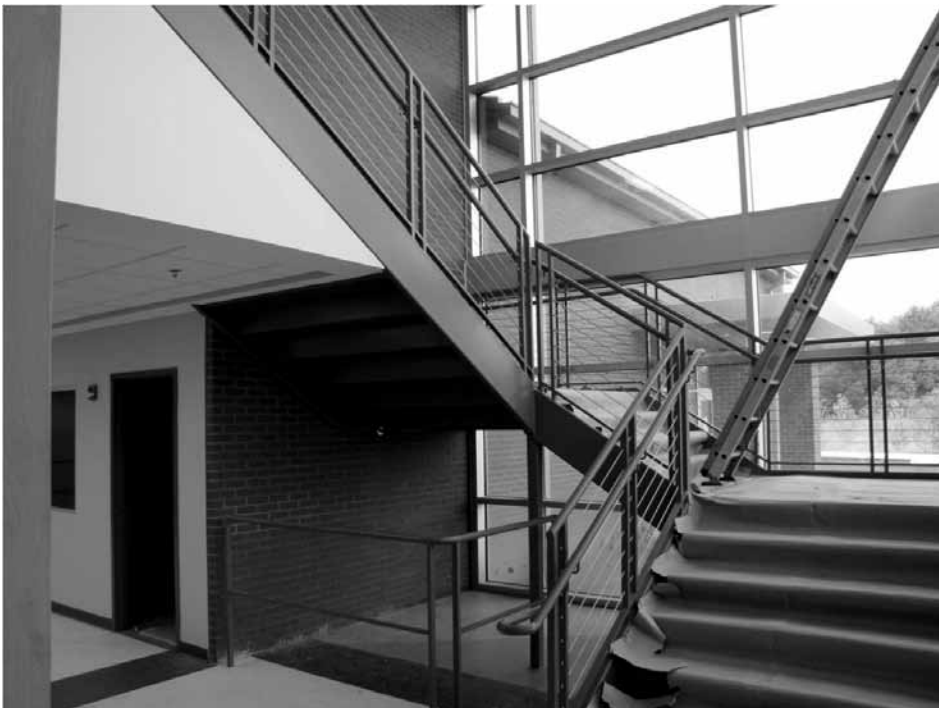
She serves on the board of directors for Seneca National Bank and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church, where she serves on the Building and Personnel committees. Through Thrift Brothers, she is a member of the AGC, Oconee Alliance, and the South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads, an effort co-founded by the company.

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A Look Inside the Easley Campus



The final phases of construction continue at the Easley Campus. Interior work is well underway, and furniture should be installed by September 24. Shortly thereafter, the Information Technology Department will begin setting up computers and other IT equipment. Pictured here are the Science lab and the staircase near the main entrance to the academic building (photos taken August 13). For the latest updates on progress and plans at the Easley Campus, check the Special Initiatives channel on the eTC Message Center tab.



Executive Staff Updates

- **Ruby Hicks Learning and Collaboration Center:** The College will phase in the renovation of a portion of the second floor of Ruby Hicks Hall to create a Learning and Collaboration Center. Details will be finalized by a project workgroup.
- **Recruiting and Admissions Update:** Renae Frazier, director of Recruitment and Admissions, presented information about recruiting, the application process, contact strategies, new initiatives, and enrollment numbers for Fall 2010.
- **Health Education Division Update:** Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the Health Education Division, provided an update on division enrollment, collaboration with other institutions, upcoming opportunities, and challenges for the future.
- **Password Protection:** Lee Tennant, IT director, presented information about the importance of security as it relates to passwords, locking workstations, and desktop time-out features. His department is developing a comprehensive plan for improving information security, including an educational component for employees and students.
- **Parking:** Alternative parking is available at the T. Ed Garrison Arena and includes a continuous shuttle service. A College-owned parking lot in Pendleton will open in time for Spring Semester.

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Executive Staff Updates

(continued from page 13)

- **Pendleton Campus Master**

Plan: A team has been chartered to select a vendor to develop a comprehensive master plan for the Pendleton Campus. Ultimately the plan will address optimal enrollment, long-term parking solutions, traffic flow and safety, optimal site for a new Student Center, usage of undeveloped property adjacent to campus, and additional related topics.

- **LEI Update:** Galen DeHay, Science department head, shared information about the success of the Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) at the conclusion of the third year. Successes for 2009-10 included higher retention rates than the overall student population, revision of the Smart Start orientation, addition of a Business and Public Services cohort, completion of a business process analysis, and improvements to the Bridge-LEI cohorts.

- **Mini-Grants:** The mini-grant application process will take place in the fall, rather than fall and spring. Revised procedures will be posted in eTC.

- **Other topics:** Constitution Day Recognition, enrollment for Fall Semester, seat availability in courses, and staffing for Easley and Anderson Campuses.

Fall Enrollment Nears 7,000



As of Monday, August 30, enrollment reached 6,958 students, topping last fall's enrollment of 6,758 students. Thanks to the work of the Parking Solutions Workgroup and Campus Safety, the College's parking capacity was expanded to include a "carpool only" lot for students and an offsite parking/shuttle service option at the T. Ed Garrison Arena located 1.3 miles from the Pendleton Campus.

Foundation Board (continued from page 12)

She received a degree in Business Administration from Lander University. She lives in Seneca with her husband, Tim.

Mrs. Herbert is a leader in community service in Anderson. Her board memberships include the AnMed Health Board of Trustees, AnMed Health Development Advisory Board, Bank of Anderson, the Anne T. Gambrell Foundation, and the Anderson YMCA Development Board. She is a mentor for the Anderson County United Way's Leadership Next program.

Ms. Herbert is a graduate of Columbia College, where she received a degree in Library Science. She and her husband, Jim, live in Anderson.

Mr. Fee is Vice President and owner of The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company in Liberty. The company, which is a leading manufacturer in fire protection equipment, has 20 locations in North America, including the corporate manufacturing facility in Liberty. He is part of the third-generation of leadership in this family-owned business, founded in 1918.

He is an active supporter of community service efforts, including the American Cancer Society, the Miracle Cancer Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Shriners Burns Institute, and the United Way. He also is a member of the Adaptive Sports Foundation where he is a ski instructor for the organization's race team, as well as its summer water ski events for wounded warriors. He is a graduate of Boston College and holds an MBA in Finance from New York's Hofstra University. He lives in Seneca with his wife, Melanie, and their six children.