

Connection

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Community, College Celebrate 50 Years

At a community celebration to kick off Tri-County Technical College's golden anniversary, Senator Thomas Alexander quoted the late Senator Marshall Parker, one of the College's founding fathers, in an excerpt from a 1991 speech the Seneca senator gave to Tri-County graduates. He read: "Education and economic development are inseparable. Education without job opportunity is folly; a good job without education is impossible."

"We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us," said Senator Alexander, who is chair of the Oconee County Legislative Delegation. Looking back at photographs from 1963 when Tri-County Technical Education Center opened its doors and attracted 919 students during its first year of operation, Senator Alexander noted how things have

changed aesthetically, but emphasized that the College's focus of providing educational opportunities for all citizens remains the same. "The great thing about Tri-County is that

it has changed as the needs of the community and the needs of its students have changed. We're better today because of the 50 years Tri-County has been part of our community."

Dr. Booth recounted the history of the College. "In the early 1960s, there were not a lot of opportunities. The State was rather poor and undereducated and wasn't attracting industry. We needed a better educated workforce."

South Carolina's 16 technical colleges were created as tools for economic development. In 1961 S.C. faced a bleak future. During the early 60's, young people were leaving in droves because there were few jobs for them.

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Fifty years ago Tri-County Technical College made South Carolina history by becoming the first multi-county technical institute in the State. The College kicked off its golden anniversary celebration with a community reception January 26 on the Pendleton Campus. During the program, leaders from the three-county area talked about Tri-County's important role in the community. Pictured from left are Clemson University President **James F. Barker**; **George B. Patrick, III**, deputy secretary of the South Carolina Department of Commerce; **Senator Larry Martin**, chair of the Pickens County Legislative Delegation; **Senator Thomas Alexander**, chair of the Oconee County Legislative Delegation; **Rep. Mike Gambrell**, chair of the Anderson County Legislative Delegation; and **Dr. Booth**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

S.C. Speech and Theatre
Association's Annual College
Festival CompetitionFebruary 11
College Goal S.C.February 18
Anderson QuickJobs Development
Center Groundbreaking March 9
Pendleton Campus
Open House March 9
Faculty/Staff Meeting March 28

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

Connection

is published ten times each year by the
Office of the President and the Public
Relations and Marketing Department.

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Easley Campus

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Oconee Campus

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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



Ronnie L. Booth
President

Just before Christmas 2010, I promised our Institutional Advancement staff that I would match any funds raised in 2011 for the scholarship named in memory of my mother, Hazel S. Booth. To my great surprise and pleasure, the amount raised exceeded my expectations.

I was honored to fulfill my commitment to match these gifts for two reasons. First, of course, was to show those who gave how much I appreciate their thoughtfulness. Second, was because this scholarship helps the College further its core mission, which is to provide affordable, accessible educational opportunities to the citizens of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. In the next few paragraphs, I will share a little about my parents' life story, which also will help you understand how our core mission resonates with me personally.

Two years before my parents married, my father joined the Navy after trying his hand at college; first at Wofford and later at the University of South Carolina, and then at myriad jobs in Columbia. After much frustration, my father and a dozen of his boarding house buddies hopped a train in Columbia and headed to San Diego for boot camp and the new life they saw before them. Eventually, he found his way back where he never wanted to be, on the family farm.

My mother, like many of her generation, yearned to leave her difficult post-war life on a mule-plowed farm and find a better life for herself and the family she longed to have. She was able to do that, but only by dropping out of high school and moving across the state to marry my father, who had just attained the one condition that my maternal grandfather put upon him before allowing the marriage -- a real job. That job was as a security guard at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, S.C., and the year was 1951.

After my mother and father married and settled into Aiken, I was born the middle child of five. As the son of a hard-working, pistol-packing, no-nonsense father and a mother who was overwhelmed trying to feed, clothe, and discipline a rather rowdy bunch of kids, I quickly came to understand that our life was measurably different from that of others. My mother tried working outside the home on several occasions to supplement the family income, but without an education beyond 10th grade it was extremely difficult to find meaningful work that financially justified her absence from a growing family. My father then started picking up part-time jobs so that my mother could tend to us.

After several false starts, my father proved very successful in finding a line of work to supplement his meager earnings on his "real job." The paint contracting company he started not only made the difference between a cramped rental house and his own home; it also provided work for me and my brothers as we grew through high school.

Throughout my childhood, my parents worked hard, worked us hard, and did absolutely the best they knew how given the resources they had. One resource they did not have access to was higher education which could have helped them break the difficult cycle of life in which they found themselves, and their children. There was no such thing as a community college or technical college in South Carolina at a time when they both could have used the services we now offer.

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Spotlight on Retention & Student Success

The discussion and implementation of retention and student success strategies are at the top of the list for major college goals and initiatives in 2012.

The nine-member Strategic Enrollment Management Committee (SEMC) spent much of 2011 studying retention trends and focusing on developing and refining strategies and initiatives to retain our students and to help them to be successful, said Amanda Blanton, dean of enrollment management and chair of the SEMC. She emphasized that retention is everybody's business. "We are all here to serve students. Some of us serve students directly through teaching, advising, counseling, etc. Many staff members may not directly interact with students, but what they do can affect students. We all need to be retention minded and student success minded," she said, adding that "one encounter that is not student friendly can impact a student's decision to stay or leave."

The Executive Staff adopted 10 strategies last fall that are "critical elements of successful retention progression and completion programs," said Amanda.

"This is the foundation for our retention plan. Any retention activity falls under one of these strategies. This is the foundation we will use as we look at retention and develop activities. The strategies enable us to look at everything – from activities directly impacting students to organizational culture.

Since the fall of 2010, the SEMC has been developing a framework for a comprehensive retention plan. One activity includes gathering data via telephone interviews about why students have chosen not to return to the College. "The major reason we hear why students leave the college is for personal reasons – finances, job scheduling, family problems or their financial aid is exhausted. We talked about, based on these reasons, what the College can do to impact those reasons. We can't impact all personal reasons, but some we can. We are analyzing data to see what programs we can initiate to address and to improve this situation," she said.

One of the first is the Financial Aid Recovery workshop designed for students placed on financial aid warning to help them to understand what that means. If a student's grade point average drops below a 2.0 or he or she has not successfully completed 67 percent of his or her attempted credits, the student has one semester to recover academically instead of two semesters, as in the past.



Brantley Bell, left, gets assistance from Advisor/Math Instructor **Robin Pepper**.

Other workshops include Academic Recovery Workshops, which are being developed by Lisa Robinson, whose position here at Tri-County has expanded to include student success initiatives. These workshops will focus on understanding student resources, calculating a GPA, how to reach goals, formulating an educational plan, as well as identifying obstacles and how to overcome them. "We want students to think in a systematic way about their academic performance last semester and how to improve it this semester. There are people and resources here to help them to be successful. We all want them to be successful," said Amanda.

One of the most recent and powerful campus initiatives to improve student success is the College's Learning through Community and Connections (LC²) initiative that provides students with opportunities to become part of focused learning communities within the College. It also connects students to a web-based academic support network linking them to resources that can help lead to success at Tri-County and beyond.

Its focus includes extended orientation and improving the website eTC portal Get Ready tab for student resources. Students also are being encouraged to take Smarter Measure, an initiative within LC² and led by Lou Ann Martin. Smarter Measure is an assessment students take prior to orientation which gives students and their advisors information about students' study habits, time management skills, and technical competency. It gives advisors information and tools to better help students to make good academic choices.

(continued on page 4)

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!

Spotlight on Retention & Student Success

(continued from page 3)

To keep the campus informed about all of these new initiatives, the SEMC has established a group portal, which can be accessed under Groups in the upper right corner on eTC. “We begin the new year inviting everyone to join the portal. We urge everyone to get involved in the conversation and to attend faculty development workshops led by Deborah Brock. The SEMC welcomes any ideas faculty and staff have. We know faculty and staff are doing great things. We want to share them with everybody,” said Amanda.

“We envision that the portal will grow and evolve as folks communicate about successes they have had and post ideas. The portal serves as one conduit of communication for retention ideas and a repository of best practices at Tri-County and beyond,” she added.

Amanda says the SEMC plans to post the 10 strategies that the College has adopted as well as the latest draft of the Executive Summary of the plan. “While we know that we are still working on developing activities, the latest draft of the Executive Summary highlights the work of the SEMC thus far and activities for 2012,” she said.

“We urge faculty and staff to be ambassadors for students’ success and to celebrate these successes and to create a community of knowledge around the importance of retention and student success,” she said.

Easley Campus Staff Collects Toys for Country Santa Program



Just prior to the holidays, the faculty and staff of the Easley Campus participated in a toy drive for the Country Santa program that provides toys to underprivileged children in the Pickens County area. The Easley Campus faculty and staff collected more than \$750 in new toys to support the program. Campus staff delivered the toys to the Country Santa offices in Pickens just prior to the holidays, and also spent the afternoon as program volunteers where they packaged donated toys in gift bags for distribution. Pictured here from left are **Shyan Menon**, AmeriCorps program assistant, **Lakishia Dinkins**, community campus student services coordinator, **Shannan Holland**, Easley Campus operations manager, and **Missy Gray**, Easley Campus administrative assistant. Not pictured are **Carolyn Gambrell**, accounting technician, and Campus Director **Dr. Brian Swords**.



The College's Ten Retention strategies are posted in the Retention Group Portal in eTC. (Log into eTC and click on Groups in the top right corner.)

Campuses Sponsor Angel Trees for Head Start Programs



Faculty, staff, and students at the College's Pendleton, Anderson, and Easley campuses sponsored an angel tree for children from the Head Start programs in each county. One hundred and forty-seven were adopted from the College's Angel Tree, sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Office of Student Life and Counseling. Pictured here at the Pendleton Campus with gifts for Clemson, Seneca, and Pendleton Head Start programs are, from left, (standing) **George Washington**, family advocate for Seneca Head Start; **Paul Watson**, of Anderson, SGA vice president; and **Mirryian Grant**, family advocate for Seneca Head Start; and (seated, back row) **Croslena Johnson**, coordinator of Student Life and Counseling Services; **Jennifer Mickle**, of Anderson, SGA secretary; and **Rosa Montoya**, of Belton, SGA treasurer; and (front) **Wendy Sutton**, of Belton, SGA president.

Community, College Celebrate 50 years

(continued from page 1)

Senator Ernest Hollings, who was then governor, commissioned a group of legislators and representatives of the State Development Board to look at the State's depressed economy at that time. The committee traveled around the United States viewing technical education systems in other states. After a year-long study, they filed a report that said the only way for South Carolina to improve its economy would be to develop its most valuable resource – its people.

Tri-County was founded in 1962 when the tri-county residents pooled their resources to plan the College after Act 323, Section 23, of the South Carolina General Assembly established the State Committee for Technical Education and provided for the establishment of regional centers. Governor Hollings signed Act 905 of the General Assembly on April 7, 1962, creating what would eventually become Tri-County Technical College.

"We were created with a mission to fuel economic development, and I'm proud to say we still do that," said Dr. Booth. "By forging partnerships, we are where we are today."

Rep. Mike Gambrell, chair of the Anderson County Legislative Delegation; said the State's technical college system is recognized as one of the best in the nation. "Tri-County provides the best in technical education and has become an invaluable tool in industrial recruitment. Knowing that there is an educated work force here makes this area an easy sale to industries and businesses. We couldn't make it work without Tri-County."

"Clemson University is proud and grateful for the partnership we have with Tri-County," said Clemson President James Barker. "I'm inspired by what you are doing. I'm excited about the future of our Bridge to Clemson program. I'm also proud of the role Clemson played in founding this institution. One of our

A vertical graphic celebrating the 50th anniversary of Tri-County Technical College. At the top is the college's logo, a stylized 'T' with three curved lines. Below the logo is the text 'TriCounty TECHNICAL COLLEGE' in a serif font. The center features a large, gold-colored '50' with a grey ribbon-like banner across it. Below the '50' is the word 'ANNIVERSARY' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a white box contains the text: 'You can visit the 50th anniversary website by visiting www.tctc.edu/50. Photos from the reception are under the "Anniversary Highlights and Photos" link.'

proudest moments was the hand we had in the beginning this institution," said Mr. Barker, referencing former Clemson President R.C. Edwards, who was instrumental in Clemson College, at that time, donating acreage that was outside Mr. Clemson's willed land to serve as the site for Tri-County.

"Tri-County is leading our community to a better quality of life," said Senator Larry Martin. "Congratulations on a tremendous five decades. So much lies ahead. The technical college system is an easy sell on our front in Columbia."

There is no more important member of the State's team than the technical colleges, said George B. Patrick, III, deputy secretary of the South Carolina Department of Commerce. "Colleges like Tri-County make South Carolina unique and attractive for investment. When I ask manufacturers what keeps them awake at night, the answer is always running out of a trained, skilled workforce. I can't think of a more valuable partner for the Department of Commerce than the technical college system," he said.

"The need for Tri-County Technical College is greater now than ever before," said Senator Lindsey Graham. "For many families, this is the place to start. Working together is increasingly difficult these days, but Tri-County represents that when we work together, we can be better than we are individually. I hope to be here for the 75th anniversary."

Special thanks is extended to Doug Norwine and the Music Department at Anderson University, Hamid and KD Mohsseni of Anderson Restaurant Group, and Ann Herbert for their support and assistance with the 50th Anniversary Reception.



On behalf of the Pendleton Fire Department and the Anderson County Fire Protection Commission, Anderson County Fire **Chief Billy Gibson** wrote Dr. Booth this letter:

"As you are aware, the Pendleton area and the Anderson County Fire Department suffered the loss of **Firefighter David Crenshaw**. He was a leader in the fire service and a friend to folks throughout the county. Faced with planning a funeral service that was certain to be a logistical challenge, I called Campus Safety Director **Rick Clark** in hopes that he could provide some assistance with parking and traffic. Rick graciously offered the use of your overflow parking lot on Mechanic Street, as well as a shuttle service for those attending the funeral. He was involved with our planning team throughout the entire process and offered several helpful suggestions. The day of the service, he and the rest of your personnel were instrumental in traffic control and directing attendees in the right direction.

On behalf of the Pendleton Fire Department and the Anderson County Fire Commission, I would like to commend Rick and the entire Tri-County Technical College Campus Safety staff for their assistance and professionalism. The service they provided may have seemed part of their job to them, but they were a huge assistance during a difficult situation for all of us involved in the service.

I would like to thank you for allowing Rick and his staff to assist us. This entire operation was a fine example of the cooperative spirit for which our region is known."

Jay Sloan, Mechatronics program manager, sent this note about **Debbie Norris** to Ann Hall and Faye Allen.

"I just wanted to say how much I appreciate Debbie Norris and the assistance she gave me recently. I took a trip for the College but ran into some unexpected

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Our College Family

excellence through service

Dr. Brian Swords, Easley Campus director, has been elected Chairman of the Easley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Brian is beginning his third year of service on the board.

Kevin Steele and the Campus Store staff recently were featured in "Foreword Online" - an online newsletter published by MBS Textbook Exchange, Inc., the industry leader in wholesale textbook distribution. The newsletter touted the innovative strategies and services Kevin has undertaken to make the Campus Store successful.



Dr. Brian Swords

Three Faculty/Staff Members Are Educators of the Year

Three faculty/staff members have been chosen as the College's 2012 Educators of the Year and will be recognized at the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) meeting in February.

Dr. Phil Buckhiester, provost, is the College's outstanding administrator; **Dr. Harriette Dudley**, public services department head and early childhood development instructor, is the outstanding instructor; and **Kevin Steele**, manager of administrative services, is the outstanding staff nominee.

Each will be honored at the SCTEA Annual Conference, set for February 23 - 25 at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort. SCTEA is a professional association of technical education personnel and others interested in post-secondary technical education.

Kevin also is the College's nominee for the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year Award. He will compete with nominees from the other 15 technical colleges. The winner will be named at the conference.



Kevin Steele



Dr. Phil Buckhiester

A Note from Dr. Booth

A special thanks to those who contributed to the Hazel S. Booth Scholarship this past December. I appreciate your thoughtfulness more than you can imagine. Each year students have their lives transformed because others like you assist them in attaining their educational and life goals.

Thanks again,

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.



Dr. Harriette Dudley

in transition

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

Robert A. (Rob) Massey joined us as Director of Advising and Tutoring Services January 3. Rob comes to us from Clemson University where he has been serving as the Assistant Director of Career Development for the Michelin Career Center since 2008. He earned his Master of Education degree in Guidance and Counseling from Clemson University and earned a bachelor of Music Education degree from Lander University. He also holds an associate of fine arts degree from Brevard Community College.

Rob has academic advising experience at Piedmont Technical College and Appalachian State University, where he was an Academic Advisor from 1998 – 2006.

He and his wife, Walker, have two children Nicholas, 11; and Robin 8. They live in Liberty and are members of The Mount Church in Clemson.

Rob's office is temporarily located in RH-215.



Rob Massey



Jennifer Beattie

ARTS & SCIENCES DIVISION

The Arts and Sciences Division has two new department heads. **Jennifer Beattie**, English, Freshman Seminar and College Skills instructor, has assumed the duties as Comprehensive Studies Department Head. **Dr. Suzanne Ellenberger**, chemistry instructor, has assumed the duties as Science Department Head.

ENGINEERING & INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Doug Allen has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of the Engineering and Industrial Technology (EIT) Division. Doug is your point of contact for the EIT Division, and he will continue to serve as Department Head for the Industrial Technology Department. We will be conducting a search in the near future to fill the Dean's position.



Dr. Suzanne Ellenberger

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

Kari Carson
Eugene Grant
Chris Worthy



Doug Allen

Brag & Share

(continued from page 6)

complications. Debbie was more than willing to help me at the last moment so I could meet my schedule and accomplish what I needed to do for TCTC without worrying about the logistics. Her great service went above and beyond what I typically find anywhere. You guys do a great job, and I just wanted to say thanks.”

Diana Walter, director of Connect to College (formerly Gateway to College), forwarded this e-mail from a parent of a Gateway graduate in May 2010. We received permission from her mother to publish sections of her e-mail in Connection. Below is a (slightly) edited version of the original e-mail. She asked us not to use her daughter's name because she just left for basic training and the mother can't reach her easily to ask permission to use it.

“Can't tell you how much the Gateway Program has meant to me as a parent. I was aghast at the thought of [my daughter] dropping out of school. Gateway helped her get past her mind block, and now, nearly two years after graduating, she is going into the armed services. She did well on the entrance tests and will come out of the service as an officer with several years of experience in the field of both digital and nuclear imaging, which has worth when she returns to civilian life. Additionally, she has applied at several universities to finish up a four-year degree. So far, she has been accepted at Boston University, Penn State, and Georgetown. Thank you! If there is anything I can do to help out with the program, let me know.

Printing and Postal Services Manager **Denise Hall** is back at work after recuperating from a heart attack she had prior to the holidays. She writes, “I want to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, letters of encouragement, thoughts, and prayers during my recovery. I'm happy to be back on the job.”

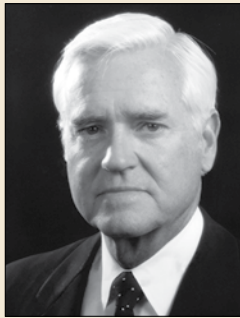
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The Early 60s



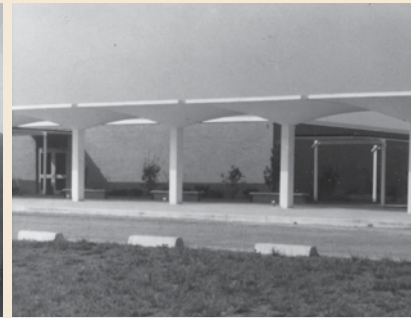
Each month throughout 2012, CONNECTION will devote two pages to celebrating the Colleges' golden anniversary. Through photos and articles, we will highlight the events which have shaped the College into the role model for community college education that it is today.



Senator Ernest F. Hollings



The founders of Tri-County Technical College: **Senator Earle Morris**, Pickens County; **Senator J.B. Lawton**, Anderson County; **Senator Marshall Parker**, Oconee County; **Senator Donald Russell**, **Senator John West**; and founding Chairman **Aubrey Marshall**.



The College at its opening

1962

Senator Ernest F. (Fritz) Hollings is recognized as the father of South Carolina's system of technical education.

Senator Hollings is credited for opening the door to higher education in 1962 for thousands of South Carolinians who wouldn't have had this opportunity without the creation of the State's system of 16 technical colleges.

In the 1950's, poor economic conditions in the State and the lack of workforce training prompted Hollings, who was governor of South Carolina from 1958 – 1966, to establish training opportunities to keep citizens from leaving the State and to spark economic growth.

Governor Hollings commissioned a group of legislators and representatives of the State Development Board to look at the State's depressed economy at that time. The committee traveled around the U.S. viewing technical education systems in other states. After a year-long study, they filed a report that said the only way for South Carolina to improve its economy would be to develop its most valuable resource – its people.

Less than a year after the committee filed its report, Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens county leaders talked about working together to become a part of the movement to improve the economy in the region and State. Political leaders and economic developers believed that an investment in the knowledge of all South Carolinians would be reimbursed through an expanded economy.

Tri-County was founded in 1962 when the tri-county residents pooled their resources to plan the College after Act 323, Section 23, of the South Carolina General Assembly established the State Committee for Technical Education and provided for the establishment of regional centers.

Governor Hollings signed Act 905 of the General Assembly on April 7, 1962, creating what would eventually become Tri-County Technical College.

Senators J.B. Lawton of Anderson County, Marshall Parker of Oconee County, and Earle Morris, Jr., of Pickens County joined Senator John C. West of Kershaw County, representative of the State Committee, when funds were requested from the General Assembly to acquire original funding of \$500,000. They were successful and construction began on 23 acres of land donated by Clemson University.

1963

Tri-County TEC opened September 10, 1963, with Bill Yarborough as director. It attracted 919 students during its first year of operation. The curricula included electronics technology, machine tool, welding, and other engineering technologies. The classroom/laboratory/administration building contained 42,000 square feet of floor space.

Tri-County was the first of the State's 16 technical colleges designed to serve multiple counties.



Aubrey Marshall, right, founding chairman of the Area Commission welcomes Hughie Collins, of Mountain Rest, the first student to enroll at Tri-County.



Hughie Collins on Pendleton Campus 2011



*W.T. (Bill) Yarborough
First College President*

FIRST STUDENT

It has been 50 years since Hughie Dewitt Collins stood in front of Pickens Hall to pose for a photo with Board Chairman Aubrey Marshall, welcoming him as the first student to enroll at the new Tri-County Education Center.

“I had just graduated from Walhalla High School (Class of 1962), and it was a big deal to get to come to Tri-County,” said the Mountain Rest native. “It was exciting to attend the first two-year college in the area,” said Collins, who enrolled in Electronics classes.

“Looking back, being the first to enroll is a proud moment for me, to be part of Tri-County’s history,” he added.

After earning an Electronics certificate during the first year of classes, he planned to begin the second year, “but I volunteered for the service before I was drafted,” he said. Collins enlisted in the Army in 1963 and spent four years in the service. He was stationed in the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served in Vietnam. After getting out of the service, he went to work in the Adjutant General’s office in Columbia as a maintenance supervisor. He stayed there 15 years.

He moved back to Oconee County in 1988 when he took a job as transportation

supervisor with the School District of Oconee County. After 20 years, he retired, but not for long. He now is the camp host for a campground in Cherry Hill.

Hughie and Sandy, his wife of 16 years, still reside in Mountain Rest.

BILL YARBOROUGH

Walhalla native W.T. (Bill) Yarborough served as the first Executive Director, beginning in September 1963 when the College opened its doors until his resignation in 1971.

Under his eight-year leadership, the College grew from one building and 272 students to three structures and more than 1,600 students. Tri-County exceeded all other technical colleges in South Carolina in total enrollment growth during the fiscal year 1970 – 71. During Mr. Yarborough’s tenure, the College added two buildings, Anderson Hall in 1968 and Miller Hall in 1970. He laid the groundwork for accreditation by the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools, which was granted in 1971.

Mr. Yarborough, who died July 27, 1996, at his home in Leesville after a brief illness, is survived by his widow, Carolyn Few Yarborough, and their four adult children.



The late William T. (Bill) Yarborough, the founding president of this College, seated, is pictured with the late Earle Rochester, our Industrial Services and Special Schools Manager from 1964 - 91, and Charlie Gibson, retired dean of Continuing Education.

Yarborough helped to establish Greenville Tech before coming to Tri-County in 1962 and serving as Tri-County Technical Education Center’s chief executive officer until 1971. Tri-County was about a year old when Mr. Rochester joined the faculty teaching several subjects and serving as our first Industrial Services Representative. He continued in that role until his death in 1991.

Charlie Gibson is one of the plank owners of the College. He became the first associate director on May 16, 1963, and in 1971 assumed the position of dean of Continuing Education. Mr. Gibson retired on December 31, 1991.

Connect to College Graduates Largest Class to Date

Seven area residents received their high school diploma through the College's Gateway to College (now called Connect to College) program in December. The Connect to College initiative serves high school dropouts age 17 – 20 who qualify for this unique program and live in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. The program enables students to earn a high school diploma (awarded by participating area high schools) while achieving college success. Students earn both high school and college credit, up to and including an associate degree, awarded by Tri-County Technical College.

The December group was the largest group to graduate at any one time, and 2011 was the largest graduating class for any Gateway year. A total of 17 students graduated in 2011. The largest year prior to that was 2010, when 10 students graduated.

*Pictured (top row) from left are **Stephanie A. Kelley** (graduate of West-Oak High School); **R. Travis Marchbanks** (graduate of Seneca High School); and **Jordan T. Mullen** (graduate of Seneca High School); (middle row) **Douglas C. McClatchy** (graduate of Pendleton High School); **Ashley C. Watts** (graduate of T.L. Hanna High School); and **Tyler L. Diehl** (graduate of Seneca High School); and (front) **Chelsea N. Fink** (graduate of Pendleton High School).*



CBS National News Visits Easley Campus



CBS National News visited the Easley Campus as a part of a story reporters were doing on the changing economy in the Pickens County area. The story discussed the benefits of training and featured students in our Industrial Electronics credit program and our Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) in Corporate and Community Education. The segment aired on January 20. Pictured with the students and the CBS news crew following the shoot are (far left) **Dr. Brian Swords**, Easley Campus director, and (back row, second from left) **Robert Ellenberg**, instructor in the Industrial Electronic Technology program.

Our College Family

(continued from page 7)

Galen DeHay is Director of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

Just before we broke for the Christmas holidays, longtime instructor and Science Department Head Galen DeHay accepted the position of Director of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. This new position reports to Dr. Booth and oversees the Research and Evaluation staff. As a team, they are now known as the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning.

This new position is responsible for developing and implementing a robust institutional effectiveness program for the College.

“We will be looking at what we do as a College and how to continually improve,” said Galen.

“We will focus on showing how well the College is succeeding in accomplishing its mission, vision and key strategic objectives and goals. Much of this work involves planning – a big piece of the process. The Strategic Plan tells the story of how we will meet our goals.”

Using data, this new office also helps to identify institutional issues. Student success, in general, is a big issue, he said.

“This office will make sure that our planning is in sync with the institutional goals, such as improving student success, and we will come up with measures that help us to determine if we are meeting those goals,” he said.

A recent student success initiative took place at the beginning of the semester when students who are on warning status with their financial aid were invited to a recovery workshop. Several meetings were held to give them information on how to get back on track. “These intervention strategies help students to be successful,” he said. “This is a good example of continuous improvement. Using data, we will be looking at what we need to do, trying out new strategies, assessing their outcomes, and making improvements to be able to do things better next time,” he explained.

“For example, what can we do to improve students’ success in college? We find that students are leaving the college after one year. Are they not academically prepared? Are they disengaged? What can we do to help them to achieve their goals? Our goal is to find out why. The data tell the story,” he said.

“We will look at what engages students and what will keep them here. We also will look at our processes and how they affect student success. We want to look at improvement holistically, not just at retention numbers.”

After 12 years in the classroom as a biology instructor,



Galen DeHay

Galen says he wanted to work at the institutional level to effect institutional change. “The job is exciting and interesting from a scientific point of view. We look at data and how we use it to assess what we set out to do. The institutional effectiveness process is data driven, as is science in general. I’m using the same thought processes that I did as a biology instructor to come up with solutions. Now I’m looking at institutional issues as opposed to science classroom issues,” he said.

Over the years Galen has been a major player in the progress the College has made in becoming a ‘Learning College,’ one that is focused on our students’ learning and success. In recent years, his responsibilities have expanded beyond the classroom. He took a

sabbatical from teaching in 2006 to focus on leading a team to develop the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS reaffirmation. The result of the collaborative effort was the Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI).

As Coordinator of Science Instruction, he collaborated with the Bridge to Clemson program and Clemson University’s Academic Success Center to pilot a Supplemental Instruction (SI) program at Tri-County designed to enhance student success in historically difficult first-year courses.

Galen is the 2007 recipient of Tri-County’s Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, the highest award presented to faculty at Tri-County. The same year he was named the S.C. Governor’s Professor of the Year for two-year institutions.

The Central resident holds a B.S. in Biological Sciences and an M.S. in Zoology from Clemson University. Prior to joining Tri-County’s faculty, he was a teaching assistant for anatomy and physiology at Clemson.

Brag & Share

(continued from page 6)



Easley Campus Director **Dr. Brian Swords** sent this note and photo of the new signage at the Easley Campus.

“Many thanks to **Ken Kopera, Eric Griffith, and Buddy Hughes** for the work they did on the Easley Campus signage. In addition to a new entrance sign and landscaping, new signage was erected throughout the parking areas to assist in student and event parking.”

Congratulations to **Amy Borders** (formerly Burrell), English faculty member, and Brant Duncan on the birth of their son, Albert Reed Duncan, born January 17. He weighed 8 lbs., 7 oz., and was 21 inches long.

Following the chorus concert in December, **Marla Roberson** wrote:

“I attended ‘An Evening of Music’ presented by The Tri-County Chorus on December 2, 2011. We have such a treasure in **Jeff Christmas, Alice Skaar, Jillian Sprague** (student), **Sheryl Attig, Anita Brown, and Eric Lapin**, not to mention all the students that performed that evening. It was a wonderful presentation and I look forward to many more. In fact, I enjoyed it so much that I recreated some of the music using the Library’s Alexander Street Press database!”

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.

New Choir Concert Features Solo, Group Performances



Jeff Christmas, music instructor, conducts the Tri-County Chorus before a capacity crowd during “An Evening of Music” December 2.

The College’s new choir presented a choral concert featuring solo and group performances Friday, December 2.

Students from men’s, women’s and mixed choruses performed a choral arrangement of diverse songs, said Jeff Christmas, new music instructor and choir director. “We hope it’s just the beginning of a multitude of performances to come,” said Jeff, who was a music instructor for Pellissippi State Community College before coming to Tri-County last semester.

The performances were an eclectic mix, including spirituals from the American

South, contemporary American folk songs, and hundred-year-old songs from the Catholic Church tradition, as well as romantic, classical, and contemporary pieces by soloists.

The choir’s musical experience is equally as diverse, Jeff said. “A few of the students never have sung in a choir in their lives and for some, it’s been a lifelong experience,” he said.

“The diversity of their experiences leads to a richer overall experience in class and in their performances,” Jeff said.



Dr. Sheryl Attig, an instructor in Social Sciences, was joined on stage by her son, Skylar, while performing *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* by Bach on guitar.

Get Connected Event Features the View from '62

Faculty, staff, and students checked out "The View from '62" at the spring Get Connected event. Participants celebrated Tri-County's 50th Anniversary and took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about student clubs and organizations. Students dressed up in their favorite decade (60's -present) for a chance to win cool prizes and enjoyed pizza, desserts, drinks, and freebies.



▲ **Katrina Burton**, of Seneca, a Management major, left, spins the trivia wheel to win a prize with assistance from Public Relations & Marketing Administrative Assistant **Mary Johnston**, a.k.a. Cher.



▲ A College mural chronicling student events from the 1960s until present day is on display in the Student Center. Here, **Glenn Hellenga**, director of Career Services, has a few laughs traveling down memory lane.



▲ Inspiring Futures Club members and Early Childhood Development (ECD) majors **Cassandra Hendrix**, left, and **Bethany Leland**, middle, both of Central, along with ECD Program Coordinator **Debra Nodine**, don 80's attire.

▼ Many thanks to the Office of Student Life and Counseling, especially Administrative Assistant **Tammy Lollis**, left, and Coordinator **Croslena Johnson**, right, for planning the event.



▼ **Paige Van Auken**, of Six Mile, a University Transfer major, recruited new members for the Environmental Club.



Connecting

(continued from page 2)

My parents pushed me to finish high school, something my mother never achieved, and then to complete college, a goal my father never met and still regrets. After one year at a private liberal arts college that I could no more afford than my father could afford Wofford years before, I enrolled at USC-Aiken and later completed my undergraduate degree at USC in Columbia.

Tri-County Technical College is now entering its 50th year of transforming lives in a way that my parents could only dream of when I was a child. The scholarships we fund, such as the Hazel S. Booth scholarship in memory of my mother, help those who find themselves in similar situations as my parents to break the cycle before they are themselves broken or overwhelmed by life.

If my mother were alive today, I know she would be humbled by your generosity and proud that a scholarship in her name is helping to make college possible for someone in need. Like many of her generation, it was her sincerest hope that younger generations would have greater opportunities to meet their educational goals. She would be enormously pleased at how far we have come as a College in providing those opportunities to our local citizens.

Please accept my deepest and heartfelt thanks for your generosity and for helping me to honor the memory of my mother.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

College, Clemson University Jointly Teach Calculus via the Internet

By Dr. Jerry Marshall

Mathematics Department Head

During fall 2011, Dr. Mohammad Ghobadi, a seasoned teacher in our Mathematics Department, and Mr. Allen Guest, an instructor in Clemson University's Department of Mathematical Sciences, participated in a pilot study involving the joint teaching of calculus using IOCOM technology. The IOCOM software allowed the live streaming in a web conferencing format that was tailored to classroom instruction. The IOCOM hardware, which was provided by Clemson University via an NSF grant, included a computer, three video cameras, four wireless microphones, and two 50-inch plasma displays. Dr. Ghobadi taught a special section of MAT 140, Analytical Geometry and Calculus I, in Oconee Hall, Room 323, that was open to a select group of Bridge to Clemson students. Simultaneously, Mr. Guest taught a section of MTHSC 106, Calculus of One Variable I, in Martin Hall on the Clemson campus. For this pilot project, they shared lecture notes, similar tests, and the same textbook. When the IOCOM materials were operating, the teachers and students in both locations could interact with one another seamlessly.

In addition to this joint learning experience, Dr. Ghobadi also exposed his students to the art of "inking," in which students' free responses were written on a Tablet PC screen and then stored for future analysis using Messagegrid, a software program developed at Clemson

University. The Tablet PCs were provided by Clemson through the means of another NSF grant, entitled "Mathematics Partnering with Computer Science to Improve Calculus Instruction and Learning."

There were many individuals involved in the success of this pilot study. The cooperation and leadership of Dr. Bob Taylor, chair of Clemson's Department of Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Marilyn Reba, senior lecturer, and Dr. Barbara Weaver, senior consultant for faculty relations and innovation at Clemson, were noteworthy. This project would not have been possible without the efforts and support of Lee Tennent and his IT staff at Tri-County in the installation and testing of the IOCOM equipment and software. They were also instrumental in establishing wireless access to the Internet for this classroom.



Dr. Ghobadi plans to teach a follow-up MAT 141, Analytical Geometry, and Calculus II, during spring 2012 using the same textbook for those Bridge to Clemson students, who were successful in his MAT 140 class. At this time, there is no counterpart MTHSC 108 class planned at Clemson University.

Campus Store Donates Book Bags to Community Organizations



The Campus Store made the holidays merrier for people in need by donating book bags and other items to several community organizations in the three-county area. Pictured with a thank-you poster featuring hand prints of Clemson Head Start students are (from left) **Pam Holland**, Campus Store manager; **Sara Crocker**, Campus Store assistant manager; and **Beth Cheek** and **Jan Clark**, both sales associates. Helping Hands of Seneca, New Foundations of Anderson, Calvary Children's Home of Anderson, and Foothills Alliance of Anderson also received book bags, blank journals, and other items to assist those in need. Many thanks to the staff of the Campus Store for reaching out to the community, as well as other faculty and staff who helped them to identify organizations in need of assistance.

Projects Showcase Learning Achievements



Students from College Skills 105 learning communities (LE1 and LC^2) celebrated their achievements during an end-of-semester event where they shared projects they created to illustrate what they learned or accomplished during the semester. Pictured with their display, titled "Accepting Personal Responsibility," are (left to right) **Jennifer Arcega**, of Piedmont; **Ashley Parker**, of Pickens; **Jahik Patel**, of Piedmont; and **Alexander Blake**, of Easley.

Executive Staff Updates

- **RTV Project Charter:** A study will be conducted to explore the feasibility of upgrading facilities/equipment to address trends in digital media with the goal of re-imagining the Radio and Television Broadcasting program and creating a Visual and Graphic Arts degree program.

- **Print Management System:** Kevin Steele, director of Administrative Services, gave an update on the rollout plan to phasing in the new convenience copiers and swipe ID badges for making copies. While the new convenience copiers are less expensive to operate than the old ones, Kevin emphasized it is still far less expensive to have large print jobs run in the Print Shop.

- **Strategic Planning:** Representatives of all College divisions and the Executive Staff met to develop and organize strategic objectives and initiatives for the next three-year planning cycle. The Executive Staff then met several times to refine the input and develop the FY 2013-15 plan.

- **Other:** SACS update, 50th anniversary, holiday closing schedule, financial aid eligibility, budgeting process for FY13.



◀ Student Democrats Sponsor Coat Drive for New Foundations Children’s Home

*The Student Democrats’ community outreach project last semester was a coat drive for New Foundations Children’s Home in Anderson. They collected more than 40 coats, most of which were brand new. They delivered them at the beginning of December. Student Democrats also sponsored a holiday party for New Foundations December 2. They provided tree decorations, a DJ, the Clemson Tiger Mascot, and a photo booth. Several Student Democrats members are pictured from left to right: **Sidney Addison**, president; **April Swiantek**; **Malcolm Reeder**, vice president; **Meloney Turman**; and **Angie Lyons**.*

College Hosts Lego Competition



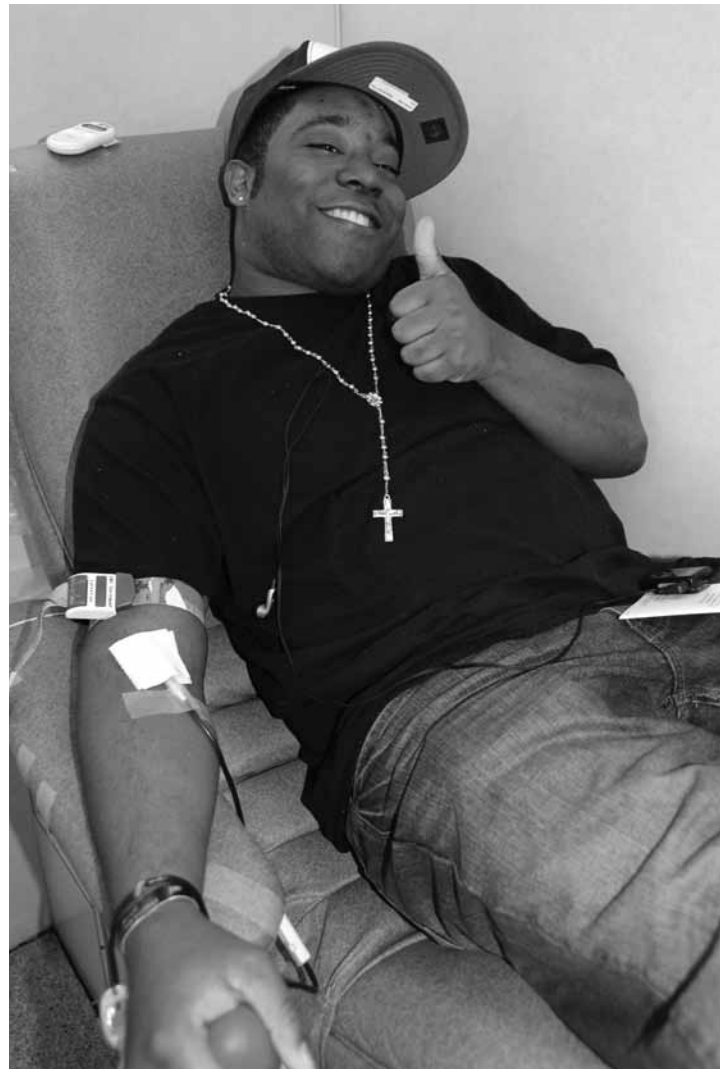
▲ The Lego Enthusiasts, or Clemson Area Super Team Lego Enthusiasts (CASTLE), received the Champions Award at the Fourth Annual Tri-County Technical College FLL Regional Tournament held January 28 on the Pendleton Campus.

Fourteen teams, representing students from area elementary and middle schools, competed in a regional qualifying event for FIRST LEGO League teams.

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a program created by the FIRST organization. It introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society. In this year’s “Food Factor Challenge,” FLL teams explored keeping food safe. The event is comprised of the robot game, a project, and core values.

This event was made possible through a generous donation from Robert Bosch LLC and was hosted by our Engineering and Industrial Technology Division.

Blood Drive Exceeds Goal of “50 Pints for 50 Years”



▲ **Tony Wright**, of Easley, a Radio and Television Broadcasting major, helped the Future Laboratory Professionals and AnMed Health to meet and surpass their goal of collecting 50 pints during a recent blood drive held on the Pendleton Campus. The event was held in conjunction with Tri-County’s kick-off celebration of its 50th anniversary.