

Connection

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Thomas Strange Named to Commission

Thomas Strange, of Easley, has been appointed to the College's Commission, the nine-member governing board of the College.

Pickens County Council appointed Mr. Strange to the Commission, effective in June. His term expires April 2014.

Mr. Strange is Senior Director of Research and Development for St. Jude Medical in Liberty.

"Being a South Carolina native, I have been interested in economic development in the state for a long time," he said. "An integral part of education is a workforce that is educated and prepared to make our State a better place. Tri-County Technical College is a premier example of an organization dedicated to doing just that."

He says he's had an informal relationship with the College for years, with St. Jude Medical often relying on the Corporate and Community Education Division for training and hiring graduates to work at St. Jude Medical in Liberty. "When this opportunity came up to serve on the Commission, I was happy to say yes," he said.

Mr. Strange has an extensive background in materials science and is the author of 43 patents and numerous papers over the last two decades, covering all aspects of capacitor development, with an emphasis on foil development for aluminum electrolytics.

After receiving his undergraduate degree and completing graduate studies in Physics at the University of South Carolina, he joined Philips Components as a member of the research staff.

During his 15 years with Philips Components in Columbia, South Carolina, and two years with Aerovox, Inc., in Huntsville, Alabama, he participated in or led the research activity involving the development of electrochemical and AC film capacitors. He was a member of a small team of entrepreneurs who, from 1994 to 1996, developed and produced the pioneering flat medical grade electrolytic capacitor that made thoracic implantable cardioverter defibrillators possible.

Over the last 14 years at St. Jude Medical, Mr. Strange and his team have been introducing new technologies that continue to define state of the art in implantable medical devices for both pacing and arrhythmia correction.

His honors and achievements include receiving the 1985 North American Philips Corporation (NAPC) Creative Innovator award, the highest honor for NAPC; the 1998 St. Jude Medical Hendrickson Award for his work on development of flat capacitors, the highest honor for St. Jude; and the 2001 InnoVision Award for

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Thomas Strange

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Faculty/Staff
Convocation August 18
First Day of Fall Semester..... August 22
Get Connected Events
Pendleton Campus..... August 31
Anderson Campus..... September 1
Easley Campus September 7

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



Ronnie L. Booth
President

Connecting

In our ten-year vision publication, we have a section titled “Cultural Adaptation” where we talk about cultivating attitudes, habits, and a mind-set integral to achieving our vision. Service to others, integrity, shared responsibility for outcomes, empowerment, accountability, and other elements are discussed.

Also highlighted is the importance of data-driven decision-making processes. Our Institutional Research and Evaluation Department does a phenomenal job of collecting, analyzing, and organizing data for us to use for this purpose.

While all of us make a conscious effort to use data in making decisions and then review the outcomes of those decisions, the time has come for us to take this effort to the next level. Data-informed decisions and documented outcomes aren’t enough. We need to take a hard look at how effective we are as an institution in achieving what we set out to do – unit by unit, and as a whole.

Institutional effectiveness can be defined as the extent to which an institution fulfills its mission and achieves its goals. An institutional effectiveness process should be an ongoing, institution-wide process of planning and outcomes assessment for the purpose of documenting that the College is achieving its mission and goals and continuously improving its programs and services. The process starts with the College mission, vision, and strategic plan. At the unit level, the process should include developing assessment methods and criteria for measuring success and documenting results – and then using the results to show that the unit is continually improving its programs and/or services.

SACS also has expectations for institutional effectiveness. Colleges are required to demonstrate that they have formal plans in place for continually improving the effectiveness of their educational, administrative, and student learning outcomes.

Because we currently lack a coordinated effort to manage these critically important processes, the time has come for us to hire a Director of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness for Tri-County Technical College. This person will develop a process to integrate planning, assessment, and institutional research to encourage continuous assessment and improvement of all of our programs and services and to ensure consistency and compliance with SACS requirements.

This new position will be posted sometime within the next several weeks, and the search process will begin in earnest. My hope is that we will have someone on board by the end of this calendar year.

We have a strong foundation upon which to build our institutional effectiveness processes under the leadership of a new director. As mentioned earlier, our Institutional Research and Evaluation Department does an outstanding job of collecting and interpreting data to help us make data-informed decisions, comply with reporting requirements, and much more. In addition, we have an excellent start to our strategic planning process, as evidenced by our three-year plan and ten-year vision. By now taking steps to coordinate these efforts at an institutional level, we are making a solid commitment to continuous quality improvement of all aspects associated with fulfilling our College mission.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Connection

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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.

Our College Family

excellence through service

For the 11th consecutive year, the College's Division of Business Affairs has earned the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Earlier this month, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded our College a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.



Pictured from left are **Debbie Norris**, **Cathy Strasser**, **Kristal Doherty**, **Faye Allen**, **Gregg Stapleton**, **Linda Driggers**, **Roberta Sitton**, **Ann Hall**, **Lynn Shook**, and **Matt Whitten**.

Congratulations to **Kristal Doherty**, who is Tri-County's first-ever Certified Public Procurement Officer. For two years, she has worked toward this certification by completing classes, in addition to her on-the-job experience and education background. She is among the 56 professionals in the United States and Canada who successfully completed the CPPO examination held May 2 - 14. Kristal says this national recognition gives more importance to the role of a procurement officer in an organization. "It emphasizes the importance of making purchasing decisions that will get the most value for taxpayers' dollars," she said.



Kristal Doherty

in transition

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

Luke Black

Wanda Screws

Karen Thompson



Sandra Strickland is proud to announce that her daughter, **Ashley**, recently graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Business Administration (Finance & Marketing) from the University of South Carolina.

In addition, Ashley was hired into the Leadership Program at WESCO International, Inc., in Columbia, SC. WESCO is a leader in industrial supply with an extensive offering of electrical, data communications, general maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) and electrical OEM products.

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.

Executive Staff Updates

- **Enrollment:** Amanda Blanton, dean of Enrollment Management, provided enrollment forecasts for Fall Semester. Enrollment is expected to be flat, possibly slightly higher or lower than last fall.
- **Strategic Plan:** We have now entered FY12, which means units need to begin undertaking activities outlined in our 2012-14 College Strategic Plan.
- **EPMS Planning Stages:** Any EPMS planning stages that have not yet been developed by supervisors need to be completed as soon as possible.
- **Process Improvement:** A team will be assembled to develop a project charter to engage a consultant to examine our processes for enrolling new, returning, and continuing students and make recommendations to improve those processes.

Anderson Campus Site of Anderson Community Awareness Day



An Anderson County deputy showed training techniques with a member of the department's canine unit.

The Anderson Campus was the site for the June 25 Anderson Area Community Awareness Day where residents had an opportunity to observe interactive activities by emergency responders

Hosted by Anderson County, the event showcased a squad-car driving course, crime-scene investigation presentations, and



Firemen demonstrated the Jaws of Life.

a firearms simulation. Emergency responders gave demonstrations of how people are removed from motor vehicle accidents with hydraulic rescue equipment. The Life Flight staged a call and a bomb squad robot was at the event.

Anderson County emergency responders answered questions about topics such as gun safety, fire safety, preparing for a disaster, and protecting property.

Our Criminal Justice students attended the event to gain valuable experience in regard to training procedures, said Program Coordinator Sandy Robertson

Kevin Mahlan is New Men's Soccer Coach

Three weeks ago Kevin Mahlan moved to the area from Florida to prepare for his new job as our Men's Soccer Coach. Since then, he has spent his days making phone calls, getting to know prospective athletes, and preparing for tryouts on August 9 to assemble a team for the new season that begins August 22.

"We have only two returning players so I'm putting together an entirely new team. The interest is great, and it's exciting," said Mahlan, who, in 2009, was named Coach of the Year while serving as boys' varsity soccer team coach and teacher at Winter Haven High School in Winter Haven, Florida. He taught and coached at the school from 2006 - 2010.

"We were the District champs in 2009 for the first time ever. It was a big deal because the team never had made a playoff until 2009. Five players signed scholarships that year, also," he said. That same year he was named Coach of the Year by the local paper, The News Chief. The next year, he received the Polk County All Sports Award.

The Tri-County Hawks begin their season with a scrimmage game against Anderson University. "We'll prepare for the season through practice (three times a day in the beginning weeks) and discipline," said Mahlan.

Although this is his first foray into collegiate coaching, Mahlan spent the last 15 years of his coaching career leading high school and competitive teams.

He also was a competitive club coach and player for Lakeland Football (Soccer) Club from 2000 - 2011 while at Winter Haven. Prior to that he was a boys' varsity soccer team coach and teacher at Haines City High School and at Tavares High School. He began his career as a police officer at the Lakeland Police Department. He also worked at the Orlando and the Leesburg Police Departments. After 22 years, he retired and in 1999, became a ninth-grade science teacher.

Mahlan holds an A.S. in Criminal Justice from Farmingdale University, a B.S. in Criminal Justice Management from LaSalle University and a master's in Education, Curriculum, and Instruction from the American College of Educators in Chicago. Currently, he is working toward his doctorate of education in Sports Management through Northcentral University.

He says he was looking for a collegiate coaching job when he ran across the men's soccer coach job posting on Tri-County's website. "I had a fantastic interview. The campus is so beautiful, and there are so many opportunities here for students. The varied majors and the large enrollment - it impressed me," he said.

Our athletics programs include varsity-level Women's Basketball, Women's and Men's Soccer, and Men's Golf.

Teams are sanctioned by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and compete within Region 10 at the Division I level.



Kevin Mahlan

Bridge to Clemson Admits Largest Class to Date

The Bridge to Clemson program, in its sixth year this fall, admitted 575 students – its largest class to date.

Bridge students are outstanding students whose applications weren't accepted at Clemson because programs are full and/or the increased competition for incoming freshmen. A first of its kind in South Carolina, this invitation-only program blends the traditional academic experience at Tri-County with the social and cultural experiences of being a Clemson University student.

This collaborative initiative between Tri-County and Clemson University offers Bridge students a university experience and seamless transition to Clemson for the sophomore year. Bridge students must earn 30 transfer credits at Tri-County during their two semesters and transfer to Clemson with a minimum 2.5 GPA. They live in an apartment complex, Highpointe of Clemson.

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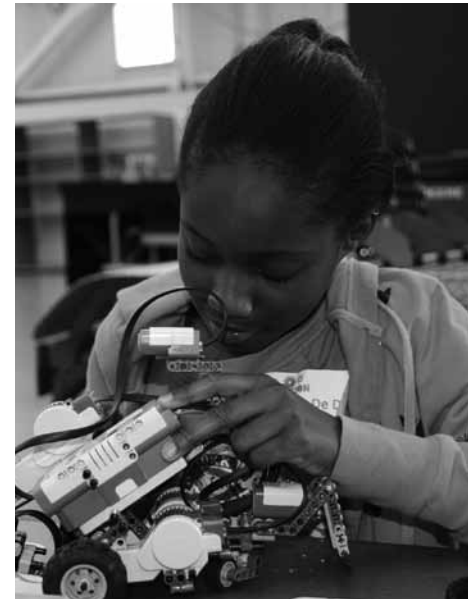


Julianna Jones, of Anderson, left, gets help planning her schedule from her advisor, Speech instructor **Dana Griffith**.



Robert Colquhoun, of Beaufort, and other Bridge students spent some time in the computer lab following their orientation session. He is pictured with **Christy Lawless**, administrative specialist in Student Records.

Camp Xceleration Focuses on Robots



De De Smith, daughter of Industrial Electronics Technology Program Coordinator **Shan Smith**, was among the 19 participants, ages 10 – 12, who attended the four-day Camp Xceleration 2011. Participants explored LEGO® MINDSTORM®'s NXT robots, focusing on robot construction and best practices, using gears, basics of programming, improving programs, sensors, and robot navigation. Other activities included icebreakers, a field trip to the Children's Museum of the Upstate, and a friendly robot competition. Many thanks to Robert Bosch, LLC, who again provided funding for the camp.



Enrollment and Persistence Summary Fall 2006- 2009 Cohorts

Cohort	# of students in cohort	% of cohort that met Bridge requirements ² and were admitted to Clemson	% of admitted Bridge students who matriculated at Clemson as sophomores	% of Bridge sophomores who persisted to junior year	% of Bridge sophomores who persisted to senior year
Fall 2006	231	164 (71%)	157 (95.7%)	147 (93.6%)	141 (89.8%)
Fall 2007	252	179 (71%)	176 (98.3%)	162 (92%)	155 (88.1%)
Fall 2008	312	232 (74.4%)	222 (95.7%)	193 (86.9%)	
Fall 2009	446	327 (73.3%)	308 (94.2%)		
Fall 2010	540	Available August 2011			
Fall 2011	575 anticipated				

Thomas Strange

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Technology Development in Upstate South Carolina.

In 2002 he was appointed Economic Ambassador for Pickens County by Governor Jim Hodges. He received the St. Jude Medical Patent Hall of Fame award in 2005, the University of SC Distinguished Alumni in 2007, and the Dr. Charles Towns Individual Achievement Award in 2009.

Mr. Strange serves on the board of directors for the Pickens Chapter of the American Red Cross (chair 2009, 2010); South Carolina Research Authority; SC Launch! (chair); InnoVision Technology Awards; and the Greenville Art Museum Association (president 2008).

Source: Clemson Student Data Warehouse, 9/2/10

Benefits of Learning Communities Shared



Around 20 faculty and staff attended a workshop facilitated by Dr. David Thompson, learning communities director at Kennesaw State University, pictured standing, and Dr. Carolee Larsen, assessment director at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Thompson and Dr. Larsen shared the benefits learning communities have for the student, the instructor, and the institution, as well as hands-on assessment activities to ensure ongoing improvement. Participants were provided with a packet of useful tools and information about learning communities and learning community assessment.

Two Sign to Play Women's Basketball



Nakia Lowery, of Greenwood, seated right, signed a national letter of intent to play women's basketball at the College. She is pictured with her mother, **Katina Littlejohn**, seated; Athletics Director **Angie Abraham**, standing left; and Women's Basketball Coach **Alesia Smith**, standing right.

Tri-County Technical College's athletics programs include varsity-level women's basketball, women's and men's soccer teams, and men's golf. Teams are sanctioned by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and compete within Region 10 at the Division I level.

Bridge

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This year the College hosted five major orientation sessions (all in June) with an average of 115 students and 330 total attendees each day. There was a sixth late orientation in July for students recently admitted or unable to attend the June sessions.

"The Bridge to Clemson orientations have been very successful again this year. We have received great feedback from students and parents indicating they have had a very positive experience on our campus and left orientation even more excited to be a part of the Bridge to Clemson Program," said Jenni Evans Creamer, director of Bridge and Educational Partnerships. "We are appreciative for the support of all the faculty and staff who work so hard behind the scenes to make these events happen. The entire campus community comes together to make our Bridge orientations so successful."



Maranda Ethridge, of Greenwood, seated left, signed a national letter of intent to play women's basketball at the College. She is pictured with Women's Basketball Coach **Alesia Smith**, seated, and Athletics Director **Angie Abraham**, standing. A 2010 graduate of Greenwood High School, Maranda is the daughter of Randy Ethridge and Pamela Carter.