

# Connection

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## Milton Ponder Named to Tri-County's Commission

William Milton Ponder, III, of Dacusville, has been appointed to Tri-County Technical College's Commission, the nine-member governing board of the College.

Governor Mark Sanford appointed Ponder to a three-year term on the Commission. He takes the seat formerly occupied by Ben Childress and represents Pickens County.

"I am so proud and appreciative for the opportunity to serve on the Commission," said Ponder, who served as Director of School and Community Information and later as Hearing Officer and Director of Student Services for the School District of Pickens County until his retirement in 2008. "I am aware of the impact that Tri-County has on the three-county area it serves and the opportunities it provides for local citizens. Tri-County plays such a crucial role in supporting local industry, and in preparing the workforce, especially during these economic times. I hope to be able to support and continue the legacy carried on by the dedicated Commission members, administration, faculty, and staff who have worked so hard to make the institution what it is today."

Ponder is a graduate of the University of South Carolina Law School and formerly worked as an attorney with the law firm of Finley, Ponder and Warlick. He is a retired Colonel with the United States Army Reserve and is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, Pickens County Bar Association, American Legion Post No. 11, Keowee Lodge No. 789 AFM, Fraternal Order of the Police, and the board of directors of Pickens Savings and Loan Association.

His past community affiliations include serving as president of the Pickens County United Way, chair of Pickens County Forestry Board, a member of the South Carolina Truancy Task Force, the Youth Advocate Program Board of Directors, Pickens County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Rocky Bottom Camp for the Blind Advisory Board, and chair of the Pickens County Salvation Army Advisory Board.

He is a member of Easley First Baptist Church where he teaches the Roy C. McCall, Sr. Men's Class.

He and his wife, Toni Jean, have one adult son, William M. Ponder IV, who resides in Columbia with his wife, Elizabeth, and their son, Wyatt.



Milton Ponder

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Commission Meeting .....Aug. 2  
Practical Nursing Pinning.....Aug. 3  
Anderson Campus Open House ....Aug. 4  
Allied Health Pinning.....Aug. 4  
Summer Graduation .....Aug. 5  
Fall Faculty/Staff Convocation.... Aug. 19  
Fall Semester Begins ..... Aug. 23

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

# Connecting



**Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

During these hot summer months, we are entering the final phases of construction at the Easley Campus. I am pleased to report that everything is progressing according to schedule.

A new campus affects everyone, so we have made communications on this topic a priority. Regular “Easley Campus Updates” are being added to the Special Initiatives Channel in the eTC portal. We’ve also posted the timeline for completion of the project. Check the channel regularly to stay informed.

Even though the campus will not officially open until January, a lot of public activity will start much sooner. The QuickJobs Development Center should be open by October and we will immediately begin workforce and customized industry training. By November 1, we will have a “storefront presence” in the main academic building to allow prospective Spring Semester students to begin the enrollment process locally. The exact services to be offered still are under discussion.

In addition to a storefront presence, we have Dr. Brian Swords as our “man on the ground” in Easley and Pickens County during this time of transition. Already he is spending time out in the community meeting with business, industry, and community leaders, as well as public school personnel and student groups. By listening to their needs, we hope to establish a campus that quickly will play a vital and valued role in the community.

Staffing for the Easley Campus will be rolled out in phases over the next five months. The Executive Staff and others are considering numerous options to ensure the success of our students and the campus. Details about staffing, services, programming options, enrollment opportunities, and more will be communicated in the eTC updates as soon as they are identified and approved for action.

Many people have worked tirelessly on this project to date and will continue to do so in the future. First, I wish to express my appreciation to Ken Kopera, who has been the workhorse and watchdog on this project from its inception. Thanks to Ken and his team, all I have to do is drive by and watch the campus come out of the ground.

I also wish to thank Dr. Lynn Lewis, chair of the Easley Campus Start-Up Operations Workgroup. This group spent several months researching and developing recommendations for the many decisions that must be made as we launch the new campus. Now, Dr. Brian Swords is chairing the new Easley Campus Implementation Workgroup, whose work began in June and will continue until the campus opens in January, 2011. Members of both teams are listed in the eTC Easley Campus Updates I mentioned earlier. Please thank them for their good work when you see them.

It is surprising to think that until three short years ago, Tri-County was a single-campus institution located in Pendleton. Now we have added a full-service campus in

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## Connection

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# Spotlight on Learning College Summit

You'll often hear Susan Allen, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, say that being a learning-centered college isn't an initiative, it's a mindset.

In short, that means learning is everybody's business. Whether it's the faculty member refining new teaching strategies, the counselor encouraging students to participate in extracurricular activities, or the maintenance technician keeping classrooms well lighted, it's the responsibility of every member of this College team to help place learning first throughout our campus community. Student learning occurs when a student begins the college experience by applying for admission, continues through orientation and registration, and extends throughout classroom experiences and other student development opportunities.

Just four years ago, the College embarked on a journey to become a role-model community college committed to these learning college principles and concepts. Specifically, the Learning College approach "places learning first and provides educational experiences for learners anyway, anyplace, anytime."

Because we are always striving to make students' learning experiences the best that they can be, and for the College to do things better and in more engaging ways, adopting the Learning College philosophy was a natural fit for Tri-County.

"It's a shift from your perspective to the learner's perspective," said Sarah Shumpert, director of Instructional Support.

Since 2007, a good cross section of faculty and staff, representing every division, has attended The League for Innovation in the Community College's national Learning College Summit.

This year a team of three Tri-County faculty and staff served as presenters, as well as learners. "We had been on the Learning College journey for three years. In the past, we had sent teams to attend the Summit. This year we wanted to do more than attend," said Susan.

A proposal co-written by Sarah, Galen DeHay, and Dr. Vinson Burdette was given the green light by the Learning College team at



For the past three years, Tri-County has sent a delegation to the League for Innovation's Annual Learning College Summit. This year, we progressed from listening and learning to teaching and sharing our experiences on our own journey to becoming a learning college. **Dr. Vinson Burdette**, dean of Student Development (left), **Sarah Shumpert**, director of Instructional Support (third from left), and **Galen DeHay**, Science department Head (fourth from left) led a session titled "Creating Synergy: The Story of Developing a Learning-Centered Orientation." Pictured with them are fellow Summit attendees (from left) **Lou Ann Martin**, Math instructor and Title III Design Team chair; **Susan Allen**, associate vice president for Academic Affairs; **Deborah Brock**, Medical Laboratory Technology instructor and faculty liaison for professional development; **Lee Tennent**, Information Technology director; **Eugene Grant**, dean of the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division; and **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, dean of the Health Education Division.

Tri-County and later accepted by the Summit. The three presented a session titled, "Creating Synergy: The Story of Developing a Learning-Centered Orientation," at the conference held June 6 – 9 in Phoenix, AZ.

"It was flattering to be listed in the program alongside Learning College veterans from vanguard colleges (the first 10 learning colleges on the national grant)," said Galen. This was the second time the team had presented their ideas – the first was at Piedmont Technical College's New Directions conference.

"The Summit reviews were amazing," said Susan, who attended this year along with Deborah Brock, Vinson, Galen, Eugene Grant, Dr. Lynn Lewis, Lou Ann Martin, Sarah, and Lee Tennent. "Many said it was the best presentation at the Summit, and I agree. The attendees were engaged, and there were lots of questions at the end. It was an authentic sharing of the project's challenges and problem-solving techniques, and it wowed the crowd. They were impressed because not only was it a modeling of good orientation, but it displayed an example of good collaborative learning," said Susan.

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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!



**Luke Black** received a thank you note from **Hanna Hammond** following the awards day presentations at Crescent High School. She wrote, "Thank you so much for personally delivering my scholarship certificate at awards day. I was very honored to receive the Ernest H. and Ruby Hicks Scholarship. I would like to thank you for all of the help you have given me in enrolling at Tri-County."

**Faye Allen** wrote this note:

"I would like to publicly thank our Campus Safety team for all the good work they do for our students, faculty, and staff. Most of it is behind the scenes and we never know about it. Not only are they dealing with big picture issues, like maximizing parking for record-breaking numbers of students, they also deal with the little things that make a difference for all of us. Earlier this month, I was leaving work and discovered my car wouldn't start. I called Campus Safety and **B.J. Ellis** immediately came to my assistance with a portable battery jump starter. She was quick, efficient, and a life saver! All of our Campus Safety folks are unsung heroes, and I want them to know how much they are appreciated."

**Doug Allen** received a letter from **Mrs. Sunny Hamill**, from Salem, who commended work (rewiring of lamps) completed by students in the Industrial Electronics program.

"I wish to thank you so very much for the service extended by your Industrial Electronics Department. Years ago, when I taught school in Florida, I recall that the vocational school performed services like that to familiarize students with practical applications of their studies. You were most cooperative and put me in touch with **Mr. Shan Smith**, who set up the appointment to deliver the lamps. After making contact with the gentleman and seeing that the subject matter is far more advanced (dealing in specialized electronics vs. vocational electronics) than I had in mind when I called, I am most appreciative that someone would graciously complete the work. I surely am most indebted to both you and your instructors for doing this. I am greatly impressed by the faculty at Tri-County Technical College."

# Our College Family

## excellence through service

Congratulations to **Lisa Garrett**, Public Relations associate, who recently was honored with a 2010 Hermes Gold Award for creative writing for her work in the 2008-09 Annual Report. Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing, and design of traditional and emerging media. Hermes Creative Awards recognizes outstanding work in the industry while promoting the philanthropic nature of marketing and communications professionals. The awards are administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals (AMCP). This year, there were approximately 3,600 entries from the United States and several other countries. Approximately eighteen percent received the Gold Award.



Lisa Garrett

Congratulations to members of the Alpha Zeta Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Tri-County. They fulfilled all requirements to be named a 5 Star Chapter and were recognized at the Carolinas Region Regional Convention.



Sheryl Attig

Congratulations to **Sheryl Attig** (formerly Sheryl Buotte), who will receive her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Arizona August 12.

Congratulations to **Amanda Blanton**, dean of Enrollment Management, for completing the Leadership Pickens program, and **Tim Bowen**, Anderson Campus director, for completing the Leadership Anderson program. Both of these year-long community leadership programs introduce participants to a variety of community topics and issues, including education, health care, recreation, and local and state government. This is the second community leadership program completed by Amanda, who also completed Leadership Anderson in 2005.



Amanda Blanton



Tim Bowen

Congratulations to the newly appointed members of the Staff Advisory Board (SAB): **Melinda Zeigler**, Academic Affairs; **Lisa Anderson** and **Tonique Dennis**, Business Affairs; **Jenni Evans** and **Vicki Graves**, Student Affairs; and **Rick Cothran**, Economic and Institutional Advancement. Continuing their service to the Board are **Sue Bladzik**, Academic Affairs, and **Cathy Payne**, Business Affairs. Cathy also will serve as the committee chair. The purpose of the SAB is to serve as an advisory body through which staff members may make recommendations to the Executive Staff relative to policies and procedures, interests, concerns, and issues that affect them.

## *in transition*

We welcome **Dr. Harriette Scott Dudley** as our new Public Services Department Head/Early Childhood Development instructor. She has spent most her career in education – most recently as a Professor/Coordinator for St. Louis Community College from 2000 – 2010. Prior to that she was the Early Childhood Education Coordinator for Southern Illinois University, and a Pre-K and Elementary teacher for the Norfolk public schools. She began her career as a Social Services Supervisor for the Human Development Corporation (Head Start). She holds a bachelor of Arts from the University of Missouri - Columbia in Columbia, MO, a master of Arts in Teaching from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA, and a doctor of Education from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD.



*Dr. Harriette  
Scott Dudley*

She authored an article, "The Cohort Leadership Development Model: Student Perspectives," that appeared in the April 2008 [Community College Journal of Research and Practice](#).

She received the Phenomenal Woman Award from the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority in 2009, the Service Excellence Award from St. Louis Community College in 2009, and the Teacher of the Year award from the Sentinel Newspaper in 2008.

She is a member of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She and her husband, Ernest, live in Anderson.

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

**Darrell Cook**  
**Chameka Duncan**  
**Martina Frankum**  
**Buddy Fredrickson**  
**Donna Getsinger**  
**Donnie Glymph**  
**Lori Gourdin**  
**Rocky Ann Jablonski**  
**David Knapp**

**Robyn Mann**  
**Henrietta McGowens**  
**Rebecca Nelms**  
**Kasheema Rock**  
**Carla Rogers**  
**Jim Roser**  
**Lynnette Stewart**  
**Carol Watts**  
**Dr. Mary Scott West**

## Connecting

*(continued from page 2)*

Anderson, a small campus in Seneca at the Hamilton Career Center, a learning center in Honea Path, and soon will have our new Easley Campus. Simply put, these new campuses change everything. With this growth, we have a new set of questions to answer moving forward. How does opening the Easley Campus affect day-to-day operations of the College? How do these campuses relate to each other? What are the points of intersection? How do we need to change as we work, plan, and grow in this new environment?

We started these discussions during a planning retreat earlier this year. Now, at the same time we are focusing on the Easley Campus start-up, we will resume these discussions as we begin to develop what we have termed a "multi-campus strategy." Tim Bowen, our Anderson Campus director, has volunteered to lead us in this effort and we have put him to work. This strategy appears in our three-year plan, and many of you will be called upon in the near future to help us work through the issues.

I am amazed at the progress we have made in a few short years – and recognize that your collective efforts are what make it possible for us to successfully extend our reach in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Booth".

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President

## Fall Convocation to Kick-Off New Academic Year

Meet new members of our College family and greet old friends at the Fall Faculty and Staff Convocation scheduled for Thursday, August 19, at 8:15 a.m. in the Marshall Parker Auditorium in Oconee Hall on the Pendleton Campus. This annual celebration features a look ahead to the new academic year and the naming of our new Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence award winner and the Advisory Committee of the Year. Breakfast will be served in the College Café immediately following the program.

## Executive Staff Finalizes Changes to Committee Structure

Changes recently were made to the College committee structure to more clearly define the types and roles of various committees that contribute to continuous improvement and the completion of work on specific tasks at the College.

Three types of committees have been defined: Executive Staff, Advocacy Committees, and Division Committees.

The Executive Staff serves as an advisory committee to the President. Advocacy Committees, which include the Faculty Senate and Staff Advisory Board, advocate for the needs and interests of the faculty and/or staff and provide mechanisms for communication and input to the administrative units of the College.

Division Committees provide input and guidance to academic programs or organizational units of the College and serve as a conduit for open communication. These committees are created by a vice president as deemed appropriate to provide research, analysis, guidance, and other input needed for decision making. They may be permanent or task-specific. Each are given a charter by the respective vice president that defines the scope and any decision-making authority that is delegated to the committee. Unless specifically designated otherwise, all work of these committees is advisory in nature.

A list of committees will be published on the eTC Employee tab in the "How the College Works" channel. The listing will include the committees' membership and charter or by-laws. If required by the charter or by-laws, meeting minutes also will be posted.

Work groups also are chartered on a regular basis to address specific issues such as parking expansion and start-up operations for new campuses. While

*(continued on page 8)*

## Pharmacy Tech Advisory Board, Grads, Friends, Honor Jerry Hausler



*The Pharmacy Technician Advisory Committee, along with numerous graduates, current students, and College friends, gathered to honor and bid farewell to the program's lead instructor **Jerry Hausler**, fourth from left, at a reception. After a career as a pharmacist and eight years of teaching Pharmacy Technician classes in the Corporate and Community Education Division, Jerry is retiring, and he and his wife, Lynn, are moving to Colorado. Pictured here are Advisory Committee members **Clifford Collie**, pharmacist; **Andrea Skelton**, pharmacy technician; **Janelle Hicks**, program director for Health Care; **Sandy Kaiser**, pharmacy technician; **Rick Patrick** and **Ann Herring**, pharmacists.*

## Recent MLT Grads Score 100 Percent Pass Rate on National Registry

All 12 of the College's spring Medical Laboratory Technology graduates have earned their national credentials by scoring a 100 percent pass rate on the National Registry administered by the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

Since 2006, four out of five graduating classes have achieved 100 percent pass rates. The Class of 2007 achieved a 92 percent pass rate.

The exam is a computerized, competency-based exam. Students are tested on five areas: chemistry, microbiology, hematology, immunohematology, and body fluids. There are 100 multiple-choice questions to cover these five major areas of clinical laboratory science.

"We are very proud of our graduates," said Polly Kay, MLT program coordinator. "They were a very conscientious group who focused on the details. We had excellent comments from the facilities where they did their clinical training throughout the year."

Medical laboratory technicians analyze blood and other bodily fluids for disease processes in hospitals and doctors' offices. "They are a vital part of the health-care team. A large percentage of health care decisions is based on laboratory results. It's so important for the lab result to be accurate and precise," said Polly.

Tri-County's six hospital affiliates are AnMed Health, Bon Secours Saint Francis, Baptist Easley Hospital, Cannon Memorial Hospital, Self Regional Health Care, and Oconee Medical Center.

The MLT program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). In 2003, the MLT program received a maximum seven-year accreditation with no recommendations for improvement following a national accrediting agency's two-day evaluation.

## Pre-Employment Fair Can Lead to QuickJobs Training



**Richard Parker**, director of the World Class Training Center, standing, talks to the group about Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) training which can give future and incumbent employees a competitive edge and will help to meet industry needs by preparing new workers for entry-level production and fabrication jobs.

Persons looking for advanced manufacturing jobs attended the June 17 Pre-Employment Manufacturing Training Fair held on the Pendleton Campus in the Industrial and Business Development Center.

The fair was sponsored by the WorkLink Workforce Investment Board, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, and Tri-County.

Participating employers include Bosch, Clarion Technologies, Human Technologies (HTI), Kroger Anderson Bakery, and U.S. Engine Valve.

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a screening interview with potential employers. If the applicant met industry requirements, the industry representative recommended the individual for training. If the candidates met entry criteria, they may have the opportunity to enter one of the QuickJobs training programs including the Certified Production Technician, Mechatronics (electronics and mechanical competencies), and CNC Operator at no charge. Upon completion of the training, company personnel will be given the opportunity to interview these candidates for employment in advanced manufacturing facilities in the three-county area.



**Tim Strickland**, of Anderson, left, talks with **Robert Feagan**, human resources manager with The Kroger Company, Anderson Bakery.

## Bridge to Clemson Program Admits 550



**Della Vanhuss**, Humanities department head, addresses Bridge to Clemson students and their parents during one of four Bridge orientation/registration sessions held in June/July.

Target enrollment for the Bridge to Clemson program this year is 550 – the largest class ever in the program’s five-year history.

This invitation-only program blends the traditional academic experience at Tri-County with the social and cultural experiences of being a Clemson University student. Five orientation sessions were held – three in June and two in July – for these recent high school graduates who narrowly missed admission to Clemson because of limited space and high demand.

The program offers a 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 2.5 GPA.

## Textbook Author Visits Math Class



Mathematics textbook author **Dr. Ron Harshbarger** visited Tri-County math classes and talked with students about his career and how he became a textbook author. This summer the Arts and Sciences Division began using Dr. Harshbarger's book, *College Algebra with Modeling*, for a Math 109 class that transfers to Clemson University. "We chose Dr. Harshbarger's book because of the excellent modeling applications," said Dr. Jerry Marshall, math department head. "Math 109 is a class to prepare students for business college algebra, and this textbook gives good examples from business and the book is very readable." Lunch was provided by Blake Allvine of Pearson Addison-Wesley Publishing Company.

## Committee Structure

(continued from page 6)

these groups are not considered part of the official committee structure of the College, they play an important role in addressing specific projects and issues.

We have several reasons for this renewed focus on our committee structure: to ensure that committees understand their charge and responsibilities and are thereby able to focus on their task(s); to enable the College to manage the inevitable proliferation of committees; to improve communication throughout the College as important ideas are being discussed; and to ensure that many different perspectives are taken into consideration as the College faces critical growth and resource demands in the future.

## Anderson Campus August 4 Open House Will Showcase Services and Programs



Final touches are added to the new chemistry lab completed this summer at the Anderson Campus.

An August 4 Open House event at the College's Anderson Campus will showcase its services and programs available this fall.

"This is not a class registration event, but rather a true open house," said Tim Bowen, director of the Anderson Campus. In addition to tours of the facilities, attendees will be 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 in their entirety at the Anderson Campus.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and is open to the public.

"Tours will showcase the new chemistry lab and renovated classrooms, as well as the biology lab and culinary labs. Presentations on various career fields will be available and faculty and staff will be on hand to talk about new and expanding academic and career programs," said Tim.

"Our goal is to offer the services and programs of Tri-County right where people live and work. The focus this year has been to create more classroom space, especially science and computer labs, and to increase the course offerings so students can get full schedules exclusively at Anderson," said Tim. Significant building renovations and new scheduling options recently have added the potential for 70 new course sections over what was possible just this past spring. The pieces are now there for us to meet the anticipated increase in student enrollment," he said.

For the past three consecutive semesters, the Anderson Campus has experienced phenomenal growth. Summer school enrollment at the Anderson Campus is up 41% over last summer; and that's with four classrooms off-line for construction, said Tim. "Similarly, our enrollment for this past fall and spring increased 49% and 62% respectively," he said.

"Our goal at this campus is to be Anderson's community college and we hope we are now meeting expectations by offering our two flagship associate degree programs in their entirety. This also provides the foundation for developing other signature programs, such as criminal justice, culinary arts, early childhood development and automotive technology," he said.

### Other happenings at the Anderson Campus this summer:

- Renovations for three new faculty members' offices include faculty workroom space and renovated cubicles with added work stations for adjuncts.
- Road-widening project with special turning lane has been completed.
- Truck Driver training pad project is progressing with paving beginning this week.



## Stay Informed on Progress at Easley Campus



*Photo taken July 9, 2010*

As Dr. Booth mentioned in his column on page 2, the College is making it a priority to keep you informed of progress as we plan for the opening of the Easley Campus. We'll continue to provide regular updates in Connection, but you can access the latest and more detailed information in eTC on the Message Center tab in the Special Initiatives channel.

Recent highlights from the eTC channel include:

- The QuickJobs Development Center will be completed and open by September 7. The Corporate and Community Education Division has been very successful in lining up industry and workforce training to begin as soon as the building is completed.
- By November 1, the main academic building will be completed and the College can offer a "storefront presence" that will allow prospective Spring Semester students to begin the enrollment process locally. The exact services to be offered are still under discussion.
- A special Easley Campus Enrollment Event is planned for November 9. This event will allow the College to share information about Easley Campus programs and services. Visitors will have the opportunity to apply for admission, learn about financial aid, take the placement test, speak to an academic advisor, and more.
- Credit classes will be offered beginning Spring Semester, 2011.

Remember to visit eTC for the latest progress updates!

## Student Carpool Lot Planned for Fall Semester

Tri-County is once again anticipating record enrollment for Fall Semester. To help accommodate the increased demand for parking, Pendleton Campus Student Parking Lot B will be set aside for vehicles with two or more students the time of parking from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m., Monday – Friday. This option will be communicated to students through eTC announcements, orientation, posters, and fliers. Employee spaces in Lot B will not be impacted, but we encourage all employees to consider carpooling options, too. We also anticipate the need to ask some employees once again to park at an alternative location and ride a shuttle to campus during the first several weeks of Fall Semester. Details will be communicated in the near future.

You may be aware that we have purchased a tract of land on Mechanic Street in Pendleton that will be developed into an off-site parking lot. This lot should be completed in time for Spring Semester and will include a continuous shuttle service to the Pendleton Campus.

## Executive Staff Updates

- **SACS Update:** Margaret Burdette and Chris Marino, both of the Institutional Research and Evaluation department, gave a presentation regarding ongoing SACS compliance issues. The College is monitoring SACS standards over a three-year period, which includes analyzing curriculum offerings, program and student learning outcomes reviews, and requests to SACS for substantive changes.
- **Title III Update:** Lou Ann Martin, Math instructor and Title III Committee chair, reported that the Title III Team is in the process of writing a grant that will focus on a two-faceted strategy to address ongoing issues related to student achievement, persistence, and retention – learning communities and a comprehensive support system. The Executive Staff approved the direction and intent of the grant, which will be submitted in August.
- **Easley Campus:** The Practical Nursing program will be moved to the Easley Campus for Fall Semester 2011. An Easley Campus Implementation Team has been formed to address issues related to campus start-up, e.g., construction timelines. Project milestones were approved by the Executive Staff. Updates will be provided through eTC.
- **Committee Structure:** Changes to the committee structure were approved to include three types of committees: Executive Staff, Advocacy Committees, and Internal Division Committees. See page 6 for related article.
- **Information Technology Update:** Lee Tennent, IT director, updated the Executive Staff on the progress made to date in implementing Banner 8, as well as other IT infrastructure improvements.
- **Enrollment Management:** Amanda Blanton, dean of Enrollment Management, reported on projects and progress in Admissions, Student Records, Financial Aid, College Readiness Initiatives, and Bridge to Clemson, as well as progress made in enrolling students for Fall Semester.
- **Other Topics:** Charter workgroup for Pendleton Master Planning; Staff Advisory Board membership; approval of various policies and procedures; social media; EPMS planning stages; incorporating the project charter concept into official procedures; and parking on the Pendleton Campus.

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# 108 Participate in First Annual 5K Race

The College's first annual 5K Race was held Memorial Day weekend – and more 108 participants decided to “Run for the Health of It.”

That was the tagline for the Tri-County Road Race held at the Anderson Campus as the campus's signature event.

Proceeds which totaled \$2,257.60 will go

toward health education student scholarships and other program needs.

Many thanks to the 30 employee volunteers who helped with the event and to the departments and students who were present to showcase their programs.



Winners in each category posed for a group photo after the race. From left are (front row) **Suzanne Mika, Laura Transue, and Kellie Eaves**, and (back row) **Brendan Todt, Mark New, and Mark Bedenbaugh**.



Nine associate degree Nursing students volunteered to be on hand for blood pressure checks before and after the event. Here **Jessica Bleckley**, of Piedmont, left, checks **Catherine Sullivan**, physical therapist at Clemson Sports Medicine and Rehab, one of the sponsors of the event.



**Debbie Nelms**, fiscal analyst for the Foundation, back, and **Faye Allen**, director of fiscal affairs for the Business Affairs Division, were among those who volunteered to man the registration tables.



Industrial Electronics Technology instructor **Shan Smith** was among the runners.



108 runners participated in the 5K race that began and ended at the Anderson Campus.

# SmartFun Camp for Kids is Fun and Educational



Several employees' children enrolled in the Camps. Here, **Isaac Johnston**, left, son of Mary Johnston, and **Sydney West**, son of Patricia West, play chess.

During June and July, the Corporate and Community Education Division held SmartFun, a series of week-long summer programs for kids ranging in ages from 5 – 14. It's a way to provide children with a fun alternative during their summer vacation while continuing to encourage their learning.



**Austin Brettin**, left, and **Nicholas Colombo**, son of Leigh Colombo, work on a probability and graphing project.



**Emily Hart**, front, and **Brandy Arries**, daughter of Gayle Arries, create comic book drawings.



**Peter Johnston**, son of Mary Johnston, standing, prepares a cake with other participants.

# Stephanie Johnson Receives Al Norris Scholarship



*Al Norris and Stephanie Johnson*

Al Norris says the greatest honor bestowed upon him in his lifelong career in education was a scholarship endowed in his name at Tri-County Technical College.

Mr. Norris, who retired in 1994 after 22 years as Dean of Students at Tri-County, says he is proud of the scholarship established by friends, faculty, staff, and students in honor of his commitment to helping students. “The scholarship helps students financially, thereby making Tri-County accessible to one student a year. It’s always a pleasure to meet the recipients. I’m always impressed by them.”

This year’s recipient is Stephanie Johnson, a recent T.L. Hanna honor graduate, who will be taking all of her classes this fall at the Anderson Campus. After completing the associate in Arts degree, she will transfer to Clemson University to pursue a degree in Agricultural Education with an emphasis in Animal Science. Her goal is to become an agricultural education teacher at the high school level. Stephanie is the granddaughter of Pat Vatakis, administrative assistant at the Anderson Campus.

## Spotlight *(continued from page 3)*

Evaluations included such words as “creative,” “thought provoking,” “highly relevant,” and “best session of the conference.”

“It was rewarding that Learning College teams felt our presentation was appropriate for the Summit and to represent Tri-County at a national conference based on collaboration here,” said Vinson.

“It’s our success story of a peak experience where a team from three areas – student affairs, faculty and instructional support – collaborated very effectively,” said Sarah. All three say they discovered that collaborating and learning together are catalysts for transforming organizational culture. This synergy sparked the redesign of a pre-curriculum, outcomes-based orientation program.

“We talked about collaborating on the redesign of the SMART Start orientation of the Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI), which is designed to improve students’ learning through examining and refining their first-year college experience. “Our presentation is telling our story of how building community between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Divisions enhances student and organizational learning,” said Sarah.

“We took them through the process of developing how we did the redesign of the SMART Start orientation. (SMART Start, or “Super Orientation” as it has been called, is a three-hour interactive session that orients students to learning and includes an overview of campus resources and services, campus technology, and learning communities.) That’s what makes it useful for others. We talked about the ingredients for success, with one of the most important being making sure you collaborate with each other,” said Sarah.

“We had a strong philosophical framework to begin with based on pulling together to make student learning better,” said Vinson.

“We modeled that behavior in the presentation itself. We had interactive exercises. We didn’t just tell our story. We engaged the audience and got them actively involved,” said Galen. “We showed how faculty and staff from several areas of the College came together to redesign SMART Start as part of continuous improvement. This is a good example of a Learning College in action. “

“The redesign of SMART Start is an example of continuous improvement with the students participating in the journey, too,” added Vinson. “We are continually enhancing learning.”

“We are investing in their futures and preparing them for a changing world and teaching them how to navigate in their environments,” said Galen. “SMART Start introduces students to what they need to be successful in college and shows them how to access the tools they need.”

Collaborating is contagious and it’s energizing, they all agree.

“Student learning is not only the responsibility of the Academic Affairs Division. Everyone has a part in student learning,” said Susan. “Learning takes place everywhere, not just in the classroom. This experience is a great example of faculty and staff taking ownership – not just getting buy-in. Each division leader has taken ownership and agreed to support stakeholders in their area,” she said.

“Many limit the definition of students’ success to graduation rates, but the real importance of students’ success is learning how to learn and taking that skill with them into their jobs and lives. It’s about teaching them lifelong skills,” said Susan.

“Since embarking on this learning college journey in 2007, each year has brought increased awareness across the College campuses and an ongoing dialogue. As we continue to invest in our Learning College journey, we continually expand our ability to enrich and enhance learning opportunities and experiences not only for our students but also for our faculty and staff,” said Susan.