

# Connection

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## Officials Break Ground on Easley Campus

S.C. Representative Rex Rice opened his remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the College’s Easley campus by asking for a show of hands from guests who had been affected by the technical college system, either as a student, a relative who had attended the College, or as an employee.

The response was nearly unanimous.

In the past, residents traveled to the Pendleton, Anderson, or Oconee campuses to take credit or personal interest classes. Legislators, county council members, and local business leaders joined College officials May 29 in breaking ground on a 37.51-acre piece of property on Powdersville Road in Easley that will become the site of the College’s third branch campus. Construction will begin this summer on the first two buildings — one is a QuickJobs Training Center and the other is a Multipurpose Classroom and Technology Center.

The future Easley Campus will be located on Powdersville Road and will give the College a presence in each of the three counties. The campus will better serve the citizens of Pickens County by offering credit and continuing education courses to residents.

“Being accessible and available to our Pickens County citizens has always been a priority of ours. This is the long-awaited first step in bringing Tri-County to your community,” said Helen Rosemond-Saunders, chair of our Commission.

*(continued on page 15)*



Legislators, county council members, and local business leaders joined College officials May 29 in breaking ground on a 37.51-acre piece of property on Powdersville Road in Easley that will become the site of the College’s third branch campus. Pictured from left are **Pastor Greg S. Phillips, S.C. Rep. Rex Rice, Commissioner Ham Hudson, Dr. Mendel Stewart, Commission Chair Helen Rosemond-Saunders, Dr. Booth, Pickens County Council Chair Neil Smith, Commissioner Ben Childress, Senator Larry Martin, Commissioner Butch Harris, Commissioner Valerie Ramsey, and Foundation Chair David Wakefield.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Anderson Campus  
Enrollment Event..... July 21  
Vet Tech Adoption..... July 22  
Summer Commencement ..... August 6  
Fall Late Registration Day..... August 18

**Check the College Activities Calendar in eTC for updated postings on upcoming events.**

## Connection

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Editor.....Rebecca Eidson  
Writer.....Lisa Garrett  
Graphic Designer .....Jessica Raymond

### Mailing Address

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

### Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

### Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

### Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center  
100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number: (864) 646-8361

Toll-free (864 area code): 1-866-269-5677

TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: [www.tctc.edu](http://www.tctc.edu)

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# Connecting



**Ronnie L. Booth  
President**

As another academic year comes to a close, we cannot forget the events that shaped Tri-County Technical College during 2008-2009.

It has been a difficult year for South Carolina and the nation, and we, too, have felt the effects of a crumbling economy – the mortgage crisis, company layoffs and closings, job scarcity throughout the region, and significant cuts in education and other state agency funding.

But one thing has become increasingly clear. People understand the value of a community college education, particularly during a time of economic crisis. Workers who have lost their jobs are turning to us to obtain the skills they need to be more competitive in the workforce. Companies are seeking additional training in order to stay afloat in a tight economy. And, families who may have planned to send their children directly to a four-year college or university are now recognizing two-year public colleges as a high-quality, yet more affordable option.

Against a backdrop of fewer resources and greater need, we still managed to accomplish great things.

This past fall, we welcomed the largest number of students in our history – 5,730 – which represented a 9.4% increase in enrollment from Fall 2007. The trend continued with Spring enrollment increasing nearly twelve percent over the previous spring and seventeen percent this summer as of the end of the drop-add period.

At long last, we established a presence in all three counties with the purchase of land for our future Easley Campus. We have historically underserved this part of Pickens County due to its distance from our Pendleton, Anderson, and Oconee campuses and its close proximity to Greenville. On May 29, we celebrated the beginning of this journey with a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new campus.

In an effort to better serve the southern-most region of Anderson County, we opened the Senator Billy O'Dell Learning Center at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path. We currently are offering non-credit career and personal development classes as we assess the demand for credit program offerings.

The successes of our new campuses are becoming increasingly apparent as evidenced by the graduation of the first LPN class from our Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center. We also expanded outreach, offerings, and services at our Anderson Campus in order to better serve the Anderson community.

Our students, faculty, and staff reached out to the community in this time of greater need by pledging the highest level of giving in the history of the College to the annual United Way Campaign. In addition, canned food drives, clothing collections, and blood drives took place on a consistent basis throughout the year. Likewise, employees broke all records of giving to the Foundation during the internal phase of our Major Gifts Campaign. Ninety-nine percent of employees pledged support to further the work of our Foundation in support of the College.

We obtained millions in grant funding to support the Mechatronics program, apprenticeships, Gateway to College, TRIO programs, our STEM conference, WIA-supported training, technology infrastructure, and more. Our ability to be creative in obtaining outside funds has enabled us to expand many of our services during a time when State funds are extremely tight and resources are scarce.

We continued to integrate learning college principles into the fabric of the College. Our best example of success is the Learning Excellence Initiative, a program for first-time college students that focuses on improving learning and the transition to College. Efforts to expand on the success of this initiative have begun to take hold across the College.

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# Spotlight on Orientation and Advising for Entering Students

Sylvia Boling says she felt really connected to Tri-County when she left one of the College's recently revamped, small-group orientation sessions.

"I was able to attend orientation, see an advisor, register for classes, and have my schedule in hand in under two hours," said the Westminster resident who plans to major in associate degree Nursing. "I expected something impersonal in a large room with a lot of people. Instead it was a small group, and the presentation was really personal and thorough. I definitely wasn't bored. That's the idea," says Vinson Burdette, dean of Student Development, who serves as one of the co-facilitators of the new orientation process that he says "transforms the student experience for entering Tri-County students."

"It's clear and convenient and serves as a meaningful intervention for students before they take courses. And it captures the resources we have available in eTC," he said.

For years the College offered orientation sessions for large groups in the auditorium on several designated days. Orientation was optional, and many entering students chose not to attend. Now the College offers small-group orientation sessions in Miller Hall multiple times each week. Participants log into eTC and follow the facilitator's lead in identifying and exploring College resources.

"We are holding three to five interactive, eTC-based sessions a week conducted by co-facilitators Glenn Hellenga, Glenda Waters, or myself," said Vinson.

"In the past, there was not as much clarity regarding the intake sequence of steps for entering students," said Vinson. "There was a consensus that we needed to clarify the steps to enrollment for entering students. This led to the development of the Eight Steps to Enrollment document. Also, the Get Ready tab on eTC was reorganized on the basis of sequential steps to enrollment. We wanted a small-group orientation format that was interactive and included participant use of eTC. An important step in their educational journey is to introduce them to the resources available via the eTC portal," he said.

The orientation sessions are followed by academic advising. Five faculty members have participated in cross-training sessions and are available following orientation to individually advise and register students, regardless of their majors. These faculty include Kaye Bathe, Polly Kay, Robert Newton, Robert Ellenberg, and Robin McFall. "We are building a core group of advisors who enjoy working one-on-one with students. We have found a kind of model that will be effective for our orientation and advisement processes," said Dr. Phil Buckhiester, vice president for Academic Affairs. "We have a lot of enthusiasm and support from Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. I'm looking



Career Services Coordinator **Glenda Waters**, standing, answers questions for **Trey Calcutt**, and his mother, **Genise Calcutt**, during an orientation session.



**Sylvia Boling**, of Westminster, seated, attended orientation, talked with advisor **Kaye Bathe**, standing, registered for classes, and had a schedule in hand in under two hours.

forward to seeing this model become the way someone becomes a new student at Tri-County."

"This sequencing provides the framework for students to know what to do next and has simplified the process of orientation," added Vinson.

An orientation e-mail account has been created for students who have questions. "They can send us any questions they have. We've had good interaction through this e-mail account," he said.

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!



The Anderson Campus recently held its first-ever blood drive and saw an overwhelming response, particularly from students. According to Greg Johnson of the AnMed Health Blood Center, "The Anderson Campus had 39 presenting donors and we were able to draw 30 successful units. That's enough to help over 65 patients. Tri-County certainly exceeded our expectations!"

*"I just wanted to send an email to tell you about a very positive experience I had today with **Amy Hart**. She went out of her way to help me, called me back quickly and was very polite. In today's world it is becoming increasingly uncommon for people to be kind and helpful. I usually am not a person to send compliments such as this, but in this instance I feel like she deserved it. She helped to walk me through the admissions process and registering for classes and took several phone calls from me until everything was resolved. Again, I just wanted to let you know that it was truly greatly appreciated."*

— Susan Skawski, mother of student, Glenn Skawski, sent this note of appreciation to Admissions Specialist Amy Hart

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. Email your submission (65 words or less) with "Brag & Share" in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at [lgarrett@tctc.edu](mailto:lgarrett@tctc.edu).

# Our College Family

*excellence through service*



Katy Goforth

Congratulations to **Katy Goforth**, who was elected President of the 2009-2010 Faculty Senate, along with At-Large Representatives Donny Winkler, Lynn Lollis, and Deborah Brock.

Last year, **Vinson Burdette**, dean of Student Development, conducted a research project on Tri-County Technical College student experiences. Based on this research, he collaborated on two presentations and was invited to present the findings at national conferences. Unfortunately, both landed on days when Vinson had campus obligations, and he was unable to attend.

One presentation was accepted for the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association held in San Diego. The presentation title for the poster session was: Community College Students and Social Integration Experiences: Results From a Phenomenological Inquiry. Authors for the session were Dr. Frankie Keels Williams, associate professor of Educational Leadership at Clemson University, and Vinson. Dr. James Satterfield and Mike Godfrey from Clemson presented on their behalf.

Also, a similar poster presentation was accepted for Clemson's HEHD Research Forum. The title for the session was The Social Integration Experiences of Community College Students. Authors for this session included Dr. Williams, Vinson, and Creative Inquiry students Kali Brown and Corey McCarthy. Kali and Corey presented for the group.



Vinson Burdette

Congratulations to **Lisa Garrett**, public relations associate, who recently was honored with a Hermes Gold Award for creative writing for her work in the 2007-08 Annual Report for Tri-County Technical College. Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing, and design of traditional and emerging media.



Lisa Garrett

Congratulations to the Staff Advisory Board for their success in the recent College-wide canned food drive. Approximately 1,000 cans of food, as well as paper products, shampoo, soap, and deodorant, were taken to Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM) May 8. A special thank you is extended to **Lisa Poore**, interim chair, who led this effort, and to **Sue Bladzik**, operations manager for the Anderson Campus, right, pictured with **Pat Vatakis**, who succeeded in collecting the largest number of donations overall at our Anderson Campus location.



Pat Vatakis and Sue Bladzik

## *in transition*

**Jennifer Ealey** joined us last month as an Upward Bound Counselor for our TRIo programs. Jennifer spent more than a decade in medical/ pharmaceutical sales before returning to graduate school to earn an M. Ed. in Counselor Education at Clemson University in 2008. She holds a B.S. in Spanish and Business Administration from Clemson University and is a nationally-certified counselor, Global Career Development facilitator, and K-12 certified school counselor.

She is president of the Chi Upsilon chapter of Chi Sigma Iota. She is a member of the American School Counseling Association, the South Carolina Counseling Association, and the National Career Development Association. She lives in Seneca with her daughter, Noelle, 4.



Jennifer Ealey

The following recently departed the College. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

**Andy Norris**

## *retirement*

### **Dr. Tim Brown Retires After 23 Years of Service**

The Industrial and Engineering Technology Division said goodbye to Dr. Tim Brown, who retired in May after 23 years at the College. Tim joined Tri-County in 1986 as the Automated Manufacturing Technology Department Head. He later became Department Head for General Engineering Technology, and for the past year he was Program Coordinator for Electronics Engineering Technology.

Prior to joining the College, he was a Process/Project Engineer at Owens Corning Fiberglas in Anderson. He holds a bachelor of science degree in Chemical Engineering and a master of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering, both from the University of South Carolina, and a doctor of philosophy degree in Electrical Engineering from Clayton University.

In 1990 he was selected by the Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) to travel to Suriname to view teaching facilities and meet with the vocational teachers. He joined four other faculty members from CCID colleges to consult with the Ministry of Education concerning the development of mechanical engineering courses he taught the next year in South Africa.

In 2006 he spent the summer at Timken in Honea Path working with management to improve the process set up in precision form grinding. This was the first time that Timken had entered into a joined project with an instructor from Tri-County.

In addition to teaching, Tim was involved with preparing documentation for reaccreditation. Eugene Grant, dean of the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division, praised Tim's attention to detail. "Tim is extremely organized and detailed in completing external accreditation requirements. He also created a model that our departments within the College used in the reaccreditation process," said Eugene.

"Tim was always very committed to the College," said Eugene. "Students considered him to be an expert in the field of mechanical and electrical engineering. Over the last 20-plus years, he prepared students to have a positive impact on the local manufacturing sector."



## **Bob Randolph Dies**



We were saddened to hear of the April 26 passing of Bobby J. Randolph, a retiree and a true advocate of Tri-County Technical College.

Shortly after his retirement, he fell off the roof of his house in 2002 while making some repairs. He suffered a broken neck and as result was paralyzed below the neck. He and his wife, Maybelle, were living in Greenville at the time of his death.

He joined the College in 1973 as department head of our Masonry program. He later was promoted to chair of what was then the Industrial Division. In 1987 he was promoted to director of TRIo and led the program until his retirement. Under Bob's leadership, the TRIo programs grew into one of our most important services to students by providing educational opportunities for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstances.

"We were grateful for his life and how he touched so many people," said Cindy Trimmer-Lee, program coordinator for Student Support Services and close friend of the Randolph family. "Mr. Randolph's funeral service was a chance to celebrate the life of a man who lived his life as a Christian and who dedicated his career to education and to making a difference in the community."

At the funeral, old and young spoke about how he had impacted their lives. "Mr. Randolph always said, 'Education can cure ignorance, and God can save lives,'" said Cindy. "He believed Tri-County was truly making a difference in people's lives."

## College Adopts Updated Logo, Colors



Just as packaging of virtually every product changes over time to appeal to a continually changing audience and culture, we now have a fresh, new look for our “package” that represents Tri-County Technical College.

At the Spring Faculty and Staff Convocation held May 6, Dr. Booth announced that we have updated our College logo for the first time in many years. In addition, we are changing our official College colors to align more closely with the College mascot, the Hawk, which is red, black, and tan. Our official College colors are now tan and black, and we plan to use a good deal of red to accent our designs.

Our strategy will be to implement a gradual, cost-effective transition. Marketing and outreach publications will be updated during their regular print cycles. Signage also will be changed over time. The public website change will be a gradual process in conjunction with a redesign plan that is already in the works. Other websites, such as eTC, tctcsports.com, the Academic Web, and the Bookstore, will be changed in the near future. We will continue to use existing materials such as stationery, envelopes, forms, publications, and brochures until they run out, with some limited exceptions (i.e., we may go ahead and order new business cards for people who continually interact with the public). We expect this transition to take approximately one year.

Watch eTC for additional updates, as well as to access updated versions of the logo and our new color palette. We also will keep you apprised on how to handle business cards, name tags, and other items. In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact Rebecca Eidson at reidson@tctc.edu or Ext. 1507.

## Faculty and Staff Receive Awards for Service to College and State

Brenda Rice was recognized for three decades of service to the College and the State at the annual Spring Faculty and Staff Convocation.

Brenda, who serves as administrative assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs, received a 30-year pin for her years of service.

Janis Cox, an instructor in the Computer and Information Technology Department, and Denise Hall, director of Printing Services, both received pins for 25 years of service to the College.

Receiving 20-year pins for service to the State and College were Faye Allen, director of Accounting for the Business Affairs Division; Sue Dacus, office manager for the Student Records Department; Robin Pepper, mathematics instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division; Lisa Poore, administrative assistant in the President’s Office; Phyllis Shealy, administrative assistant to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Julius Shirley, HVAC mechanic.

Receiving 15-year pins for service to the College were Anne Bryan, administrative assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs; Karen Culp-Linscott, coordinator of instructional activities for the Science Department in the Arts and Sciences Division; Mary Johnston, administrative assistant for the Public Relations and Marketing Department; and Dr. Brian Swords, coordinator of the Business Training Center for the Corporate and Community Education Division.

Recognized for 10 years of service to the College were Amanda Blanton, dean of Enrollment Management; Jackie Blakley, dean of the Business and Public Services Division; James Canty, security officer; Mel Chandler, technical assistant and library associate; Beth Cheek, administrative assistant in the Bookstore; Phil Gilmour, Science instructor for the Arts and Sciences Division; Tom Hiebel, Humanities instructor for the Arts and Sciences Division; Greg Toney, Speech instructor for the Arts and Sciences Division; Dr. Della VanHuss, head of the Humanities Department in the Arts and Sciences Division; Ed Vassar, training and development director for licensing and recertification in the Corporate and Community Education Division; and Catherine Vinson, administrative specialist for the World Class Training Center in the Corporate and Community Education Division.

Dr. Ronnie Booth, president of the College; David Little, Biology instructor; Robert Newton, Criminal Justice instructor; and Kay Rhodes, admissions liaison for the Health Education Division, all received pins for 10 years of service to the State.



*Brenda Rice*  
30 yrs. C&S



*Janis Cox*  
25 yrs. TCTC



*Denise Hall*  
25 yrs. TCTC



*Faye Allen*  
20 yrs. C&S



*Sue Dacus*  
20 yrs. C&S



*Robin Pepper*  
20 yrs. C&S



*Lisa Poore*  
20 yrs. C&S



*Phyllis Shealey*  
20 yrs. C&S



Julius Shirley  
20 yrs. C&S



Anne Bryan  
15 yrs. TCTC



Karen Culp-Linscott  
15 yrs. TCTC



Mary Johnston  
15 yrs. TCTC



Dr. Brian Swords  
10 yrs. TCTC



Amanda Blanton  
10 yrs. TCTC



Jackie Blakley  
10 yrs. TCTC



James Canty  
10 yrs. TCTC



Mel Chandler  
10 yrs. TCTC



Beth Cheek  
10 yrs. TCTC



Phil Gilmour  
10 yrs. TCTC



Tom Hiebel  
10 yrs. TCTC



Greg Toney  
10 yrs. TCTC



Dr. Della VanHuss  
10 yrs. TCTC



Ed Vassar  
10 yrs. TCTC



Catherine Vinson  
10 yrs. TCTC



Dr. Ronnie Booth  
10 yrs. State



David Little  
10 yrs. State



Robert Newton  
10 yrs. State



Kay Rhodes  
10 yrs. State

## Nick Williams Earns All-Region Honors



TCTC golfer **Nick Williams** shot 76-76-75 and finished third in the Region X year-end golf tournament to earn All-Region honors at Terri Pines Country Club in Cullman, Alabama. His strong showing in this tournament also earned Nick All-District honors, which recognizes the top NJCAA players from the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. Congratulations, Nick.

## New Look for CONNECTION

This issue of Connection introduces a new look to match our updated College logo and colors.



# Scenes from 2009 Spring Graduation



**Lechelle Boseman**, left, and **April Brown** celebrate receiving their Early Childhood Development degrees at spring commencement held May 12. Both reside in Anderson. Brown operates Agape Christian Outreach Church's Child Care Center, and Boseman works there, also. Brown also holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood development from Southern Wesleyan University. They were featured in an article in the *Anderson Independent-Mail*.



Commencement speaker **Converse A. Chellis, III**, state treasurer for South Carolina, right, urged the College's 415 spring graduates to find their family members following the ceremony and give them a hug and a word of thanks. "When all is said and done, there's nothing more important than family," he said. Mr. Chellis is pictured with longtime Commission **Chairman Dr. Mendel Stewart**, who attended his last graduation in that role. Dr. Stewart recently announced his decision to step down after 32 years of service on the Commission.



Two of our College family members' daughters received degrees at commencement. **Susan Hall**, daughter of Denise Hall, manager of Printing Services, left, received a Veterinary Technology degree, and **Johanna Fuller**, daughter of Janet Fuller, Nursing department head, received an associate in Arts degree.



Faculty Senate President **Lou Ann Martin**, standing left, carried a ceremonial mace as she and **Dr. Booth**, front right, led the graduation procession. Tri-County began instituting the mace as part of our tradition at the May 12 commencement. Many thanks to the second-year Engineering Graphics Technology students who designed and produced the mace.



**Dickie Thorndyke**, of Santee Cooper, and **Sue Rogers**, of the Tri-County Technical College Alumni Association, attended graduation as special guests of the Foundation. Wearing white stoles to distinguish them, the Foundation invited endowed scholarship donors to participate in the graduation ceremonies as a way to show appreciation to those who have played a role in the accomplishments of our students' educational goals.



# John Powell Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

The landscape and the course offerings may have broadened in the last 37 years, but alumnus John Powell says the heart of Tri-County Technical College – its caring, compassionate instructors – remains the same.

“That’s what makes Tri-County special. Instructors care about their students and are interested in helping them to get good jobs. It’s no different that when I was a student in the early 1970’s. You’re a name, not a number,” said John, a 1972 Business Technology graduate, who owns and operates Powell Real Estate in Oconee County.

John received this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award, which highlights his dedication to his alma mater. The recipient of this award must have been awarded a degree, diploma or certificate from Tri-County; must have graduated at least one year ago; and must have made significant contributions to the College, the Alumni Association, or the community.

Since graduating, John has maintained a close connection to the College by serving on various boards and continuing to spread the word about a place that gave him career direction and many fond memories.

He says Tri-County offered exactly what he was interested in – practical experience combined with classroom knowledge.

He served as the College’s second Student Government Association president and was selected as a member of the Governor’s Drug Abuse Council in SC in 1972. “I still feel a real connection to the College,” said John, who, to date, is the first and only alumnus to serve on the College’s Foundation Board, was the Alumni Association’s second president, and is a longtime member of the Business Technology Advisory Committee.

During his tenure as president of the Alumni Association, he helped to organize the first annual golf tournament in 1987, which has continued through the years with proceeds from past tournaments enabling the Alumni Association to endow two scholarships through the College’s Foundation, to make professional development opportunities available to faculty and staff, and to name a room at the Anderson Campus.

He entered the real estate business in 1973, and today Powell Real Estate has 16 sales agents in three offices, and Powell, who sells just like the rest and vows that will never change.

He also owns a cattle farm, which he maintains by himself in



*John Powell, of West Union, pictured here, received the College’s Distinguished Alumni Award at the College’s spring commencement. The award highlights his dedication to his alma mater. John, a 1972 Business Technology graduate who owns and operates Powell Real Estate in Oconee County, is pictured with his wife, **Joyce**, and his mother, **Grace**.*

the evenings. In addition, he has been involved in the creation of 36 subdivisions, including being a partner in Falcon’s Lair Golf Community in Walhalla. In 2002, he and good friend, Rick Cook, formed a partnership. Today they have nine Subway franchises in Upstate SC.

In 1992, he was elected to the Oconee Medical Center Board of Directors and served as chairman from 1995 – 1998. He also chaired the Hospital’s Building Committee and the Oconee County School Task Force. He currently serves on the Business Education Industry Organization in Oconee County.

Giving back to the community is key to John so he didn’t hesitate six months ago when asked to chair a fundraising campaign to build a homeless shelter in Oconee County. To date, the group of volunteers has raised \$1.3 million dollars and hopes to open Our Daily Rest this summer.

“I enjoy what I do,” said John. “Retirement is not in my vocabulary.”

He is very active in his church, Welcome Wesleyan Church, where he leads a Small Group and sings in the choir.

He resides in West Union with his wife, Joyce, and their teenage son, Cliff, 17. They also have three adult children, Joy, James, and Mark, and four grandchildren.

## Rosas Wins Three Awards at College Speech Festival



Lily Rosas, an associate degree Nursing student, competed against students from 10 colleges and universities and won three awards at the 2009 South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association's annual college speech festival.

Approximately 70 students participated in the event held at Newberry College April 18.

Lily placed third in the Impromptu Speaking category and fourth in the Oral Interpretation category. She also was eligible for the Triathlon award, which qualifies students who participate in one event from all three event categories of Public Speaking, Acting, and Interpretation. Rosas placed fourth overall in the Triathlon Award.

College students from Tri-County, Claflin University, Columbia College, Lander University, Limestone College, Newberry College, South Carolina State University, USC Upstate, York Technical College, and USC Lancaster competed. The categories included acting, oral interpretation, and public speaking events.

## Lou Ann Martin Receives Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence



Mathematics instructor **Lou Ann Martin** received the highest award presented to the faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, at the College's spring commencement May 12. Presenting the award is **Dr. Booth**.

Her peers call her a role model to whom all instructors can look to for inspiration. Her students appreciate her dedication to her craft and leave her classroom more confident, better learners. Mathematics instructor Lou Ann Martin was honored for her dedication to the profession with the highest award presented to the faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, at the College's annual commencement May 12.

The medallion is presented each year to the instructor who has contributed the most during the academic year to the profession of teaching, to the development of the College, and to the students.

"Without a doubt, Lou Ann exemplifies everything that the Presidential Medallion represents – excellence in instruction, involvement at the College, student focus, and respect of peers," said Robin McFall, English department head.

Lou Ann joined the College as a full-time math instructor in 2003 after serving as a math tutor and an adjunct math instructor since 1997.

"Lou Ann provides quality instruction each semester in every course she teaches," said fellow mathematics instructor Robin Pepper. "Her teaching style models active learning strategies. Lou Ann uses a wide variety of teaching and assessing techniques and develops projects for her students so that they have opportunities to practice mathematics outside of a textbook. When she first began teaching online courses, she developed her own online materials rather than simply using the course shell provided. She is always looking for new ways to help her students learn," she said.

"As lead instructor for the Mathematics for Elementary Education series, she investigates what other colleges are doing so that as she refines her courses she can be certain that students will have a seamless transition to other colleges," added Robin Pepper.

In their nominations, both McFall and Pepper stressed that Lou Ann works with students to help them develop their potential and build their confidence.

Several years ago Lou Ann founded the Future Educators of Tri-County Technical College and serves as an advisor and role model to these education majors. She has served on Tri-County's Faculty Senate for years and for the past three as president. "Members of last year's Faculty Senate asked her to run for a third term as president because of the confidence they had in her to do the job," said Robin McFall.

*(continued on page 11)*

## Mary Rowell Receives Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award at Convocation



Mary Rowell, an instructor in the Science Department, is the recipient of the 2009 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award at the College.

This award is given annually at the spring faculty/staff convocation to the adjunct faculty member who is recognized for excellence in teaching, who has consistently high student evaluations, and who supports the philosophy and goals of the College.

Mary has been teaching at the College since 2002 and regularly teaches 12 – 15 hours each semester. She teaches microbiology labs at both the Anderson and Pendleton campuses, helping to ensure the continuity of instruction. She also assists with course development for the Science Department by working with instructor David Little to revise lab manuals for biology classes. She and David created

custom-published lab manuals and worked with a textbook publishing company to get them for the students. “What is most impressive about her development of all of this is that she has done it all for free. She has willingly volunteered her time and expertise for the benefit of our students and other instructors,” said Galen DeHay, Science department head.

Mary is active in the community and for the past two years has served on the Comprehensive Health Advisory Committee for Anderson District 5. The group provides guidance for issues that are related to school and the community. She also worked with the Education Department at Clemson University as an observer for student teachers. “Mary serves in this capacity because she truly cares about all students and their educational experience,” said Galen.

She holds a B.S. in Biology from the College of Charleston and a bachelor’s degree in Medical Technology and certification as a Medical Technologist (MT-ASCP) from the Medical University of South Carolina. She also holds an M.Ed. in Natural Science from Clemson University. She and her husband, Jake, live in Anderson.

## Embracing Diversity



Throughout the year, the College offers National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) workshops for faculty and staff. The NCBI is an international, non-profit, leadership training organization based in Washington, D.C., and works to eliminate racism and all other forms of prejudice and discrimination throughout the world. Pictured with Certified NCBI Facilitators **Dr. Amoena Norcross**, standing, and **Tasneen Raja**, seated next to her, are participants **Courtney White**, **Dr. Chad Gregory**, **Ron Talley**, **Todd Crisp-Simons**, **Cindy Trimmer-Lee**, **Courtney Brown**, and **Alydia Sims**.

## Merkel Receives SCAVT Award



**Stephanie Lynn Merkel**, of Mauldin, left, participates in the pinning ceremony held May 11 for Veterinary Technology graduates. She also was presented the Leadership Award from the South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians. Pictured with her is **Dr. Peggy Champion**, department head for the program.

## Martin *(continued from page 10)*

“She works tirelessly on issues brought to her through her role on the Faculty Senate,” said Robin Pepper. “She seeks input from across academic divisions, and works closely with folks from areas such as institutional research, student affairs, and instructional support to clarify issues and develop solutions. Lou Ann recognizes the importance of communication, which she models throughout her work with the Faculty Senate.”

“She supports the College’s philosophy and goals of becoming a role model and a learning college. She is one of those people whom others seek out for advice. She always takes time to listen when someone needs assistance. She has a way of encouraging others to be more than they are, more than they think they can be,” said Robin Pepper.

Lou Ann holds a B. S. in Education (Mathematics) from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a master’s in Education with a concentration in Mathematics from Clemson University.

# Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

## Margaret Murdoch Passes Away Just Before 100th Birthday

The College lost a dear friend with the passing of Mrs. Margaret Murdoch, who died Sunday, May 17, at Oconee Medical Center — 29 days shy of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mrs. Murdoch and her late husband, Cameron, were two of the College's most generous supporters who were introduced to Tri-County in 1996 through their friend and longtime College supporter, Thomas Gignilliat. He told the Seneca couple that the students at Tri-County appreciate scholarships, and Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch responded by endowing their first scholarship in 1998 and another in 1999.

When Mrs. Murdoch's sister, Katie Marshall, died in 1999, Mr. Murdoch suggested to his wife that they should honor Katie in a special way with the Katie Marshall Memorial Scholarship for medical laboratory technology students. (Katie had been a lab technician.) The Medical Technology Laboratory in Fulp Hall is named for Ms. Marshall. Two more scholarships endowed by the Murdochs carry her name.

Since making their first \$30 gift to the Foundation in 1997, Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch established 11 endowed scholarships, an instructional/staff excellence endowment for mini-grants, a priority needs endowment, and a technology endowment. In 2000, when their total giving totaled \$69,995, they were recognized as the Foundation's Philanthropists of the Year. Today, their total giving amounts to more than \$366,500.

"Dr. Lisa McWherter, Haley Sitton, and I visited with Margaret in her home on April 15," said Debbie Nelms, fiscal analyst for the Foundation, "A few days later, we learned that she had been admitted to Oconee Medical Center and that she had been sent to Lila Doyle for rehabilitation. Several of us visited with her there on April 27, and even though she was showing signs of weakness, she was still the vibrant and pleasant lady we had all grown to love. Lisa talked with her about her upcoming birthday and told her that we were planning a celebration that she would never forget. We learned that she had told others about the party and that she was looking forward to celebrating her big day with her Tri-County friends," said Debbie.

"Margaret was quick to share that her heart had been beating for 100 years," said Dr. Lisa McWherter, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "She took great pleasure and pride when calculating numbers, whether it was figuring out likely how many years and days her heart had been beating, or working with puzzles, etc. She was a fascinating lady and always equipped with a great story. Her memory was second to none. As she would tell a story, it was almost as



*Cameron and Margaret Murdoch*

though she was reading a novel, complete with the most vivid details. I admired how she carried herself—so poised and collected, intelligent and insightful. She valued education immensely and wanted others to be inspired to continuously learn. We are fortunate that she chose Tri-County Technical College to befriend and to invest within. Our College, our students, and those of us who knew her will remain in her debt for her kindness, her courageous spirit, and her generosity."

There was no formal service to memorialize Mrs. Murdoch's life. Her simple request was that her remains be cremated and that her niece spread her ashes over Lake Michigan. The Murdochs hailed from Michigan. Margaret attended Eastern Michigan College and Michigan State University, earning a teaching certification and a bachelor's degree. After teaching for two years in southern Michigan, she went to China where she taught at McTyeire Home and School for Girls, known as the "Cradle of Female Talent" in Shanghai, China. On her return to the United States via the Siberian Express, she taught in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There she met and married J. Cameron Murdoch June 15, 1939.

"It is with great fondness that we remember Margaret," said Dr. McWherter. "We remember her for being the first in her family to accomplish many things — a pioneer in many ways."

Mrs. Murdoch is survived by a niece, Mary Esther Marshall, and Mary's husband Fred Niles, of Dayton, Ohio, and Manistee, Michigan; a nephew, Rolf Marshall, and his wife, Paula, of Alexandria, Virginia; and a sister-in-law, Grace Jacobi, of Seneca.

## Groen Receives Ferguson Memorial Award



**Samuel Todd Groen**, of Easley, middle, received the Brian Ferguson Memorial Award for Welding at the annual student Awards Night ceremony recently. The Brian Ferguson Memorial Award for Welding is a tribute to one of the College's welding students who lost his life in a car accident in 2004. Brian left a lasting positive impression on the Welding program, and this award is in memory of Brian's personality, attitude, and positive characteristics that he exemplified daily. Groen is pictured with Brian's parents, **Alan and Carol Ferguson**, of Anderson.

## Record Breaking Enrollment – Again!

As of the end of the drop-add period, enrollment has climbed 17.8 percent over the previous Summer Term. This continues a trend of record-breaking enrollment during the 2008-09 academic year. Enrollment was up more than nine percent during Fall Semester 2009, and nearly twelve percent during Spring, 2009.

## ADN/Pharm. Tech. Students Have Joint Lab Experience



The Pharmacy Technician students from our Corporate and Community Education Division invited some of the Associate Degree Nursing students to join them in a joint laboratory experience in the IBDC building recently to get a better appreciation of each other's roles in working together to secure correct medications for distribution to hospital patients. Here, **Heather Tollison**, of Anderson, far right, and **Amanda Wheeler**, of Pickens, far left, both ADN students, check and prepare to distribute the prescribed medications from a hospital fill cart to simulated hospital patients. Following a tour of the pharmacy lab, the Nursing students were sent to the NHC Health Care lab (simulated hospital floor) to check the medications against physician orders and correct cart contents. Looking on are Pharmacy Technician students **Sondra Kaiser**, of Williamston, and **Rebekah Whiten**, of Anderson.

Each patient's prescription order was filled by members of the pharmacy technician class and placed into the drawers of the medication cart. The simulated lab experiment included a late change in orders to the nurses who then had to phone the correction into the pharmacy where the Pharmacy Technician students sent the amended medications up to the simulated hospital room. All agreed it was an excellent learning experience. For their participation, the participating Nursing students were presented with a pocket drug reference book by the Pharmacy Technician program.

## Executive Staff Meeting Update

- **State Budget for 2009-2010:** The College's budget will be funded by the State at or close to the current amount, which reflects a 22.6% reduction from the beginning of 2008-09.
- **Reserved Parking:** More and more requests are being made for reserved parking, particularly for large groups in Lot A, which displaces many of our students. The leadership discussed the need to consider other options before making these requests, even if the other options aren't as convenient for external guests.
- **Restoration of Grade of "WF":** The Executive Staff approved a recommendation by the Faculty Senate and the Academic Delivery Workgroup to reinstate the grade of "WF." It is to be used in cases when a student's failure to adhere to the attendance policy after the withdrawal deadline inhibits satisfactory class performance.
- **Workforce Investment Board:** The WIA Board will develop mechanisms  
*(continued on page 15)*
- **New Orientation/Advising Model:** The College has adopted a new orientation/advising model, which includes small group orientation, advising, and registration on an ongoing basis leading up to each semester. Sessions are held several times each week, allowing new students to complete all the steps during a single visit to campus.
- **Anderson Campus Advisory Groups:** Internal and external advisory groups will be established for the Anderson Campus in an effort to more fully develop the vision, role, offerings, and services of the Anderson Campus.

## Two Complete Leadership Academy



**Dr. Amoena Norcross**, English instructor, top middle, and **Jonathan McCombs**, program coordinator for our Criminal Justice Technology program, bottom middle, both graduated from the year-long South Carolina Technical College System Leadership Academy.

Pictured with Amoena are **Dr. Phil Buckhiester**, vice president for Academic Affairs and **Susan Allen**, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, and Amoena's mentor during the Leadership Academy. Pictured with Jonathan are **Dr. Buckhiester** and **Lenna Young**, Public Services department head and Jonathan's mentor.

## SGA Participates in Reading Program



Student Government Association officers participated in a community service project (Reading and Enrichment) at LaFrance Elementary on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:40 am-10:40 am. Here, **Maine Dawkins** reads to students in Mrs. Shauntay Pinckney's first grade class.

## Students Perform Original Works



Music instructor **Lori Gourdin's** Music 110 Fundamentals class was given the assignment to write a 30-measure composition this semester and present it during a class session for students, faculty, and staff. Among those whose original works were performed (by Lori or themselves) are pictured here (standing) **Ashley Smith**, of Six Mile, an associate degree Nursing major; **Chase Womack**, of Clemson, a University Transfer major; **Preston Keepfer** of Williamston, an Engineering Graphics Technology major; and **Jake Sprinkle**, of Anderson, a University Transfer major; and (seated) **Bobby Castro**, of Seneca, a University Transfer major; **Justin Roe**, of Easley, a University Transfer major; **Lori Gourdin**, instructor; **Johmy Puleo**, of Greenville, an Industrial Electronics Technology major; and **Sam Sprinkle**, of Anderson, a University Transfer major.

## Easley Campus *(continued from page 1)*

"Easley has always been an area underserved by the College. The time has come for us to be here where you live and work. We envision a vibrant campus to enrich your lives and your community," said Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders.

"We need Tri-County in our community," Rep. Rice said. "Let's educate our people and give them the opportunity to move forward and to find new jobs."

"I will support this project in any way that I can," added Neil Smith, chairman of the Pickens County Council.

The first building on the site will be the QuickJobs Training Center. It is funded through a \$986,364 grant from the State Department of Commerce to Pickens County. The QuickJobs Training Center will assist in workforce training and skills development for the College and for Pickens County. Projected opening date is late 2009 or early 2010.

The Multipurpose Classroom and Technology Center will be a 40,000-square-foot facility funded through State capital reserves of nearly \$6 million. The facility will house university transfer classes, computer and industrial electronics classes, as well as a Licensed Practical Nursing program. Non-credit classes also will be offered. The anticipated opening date for this multipurpose facility is Fall 2010 or Spring 2011.

"This wouldn't have happened without a lot of friends," said Dr. Booth. "This is a big day and a long time coming. It was the next step for the College in terms of our mission, which is to be accessible and available to the residents of our service area."

"This is nothing more important than addressing the educational and workforce needs of the county and the community in these challenging economic circumstances," said Senator Larry Martin.

## Dr. Stewart Honored for Service



**Dr. Mendel Stewart**, who has served as a Commissioner representing Pickens County for the past 32 years, has decided to step down from the board. Dr. Stewart served as chairman of the Commission from 1998 – 2008. Here, **Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, Commission chair, presents him with a gift of appreciation following the groundbreaking ceremony.

## Connecting

*(continued from page 2)*

I could write pages of other highlights, but I will conclude by saying that it is only through the efforts of our remarkably dedicated faculty, staff, and students that we were able to make such great strides in the face of unprecedented financial challenges. I appreciate your support of our mission and belief in the value of what we have to offer. You are making a difference in our community.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President

## Executive Staff

*(continued from page 13)*

to ensure coordination of benefits across agencies, including Vocational Rehabilitation, Adult Education, Gateway to College, One Stop Centers, etc. Dr. Booth is a member of the WIA Board.

- **Campus Communications:** The College will look at additional ways to expand communications with students and to reinforce communications through eTC, which is the College's official tool for electronic communications, information, and resources. One idea is to have television monitors in each building to display key academic dates, deadlines, and student activities. The newly revamped student orientation and advising model now includes hands-on activities in eTC, which will help students become better acquainted with the resource at the beginning of their academic career.
- **Strategic Planning:** Institutional priorities were discussed as part of developing a program of work for the next College Strategic Plan.

# Employees Shed More than 300 Pounds in Total Weight Loss

Over the last 17 weeks, employees who participated in the College's first At Work Weight Watchers class collectively lost a total of 314.8 pounds.

"This is amazing. We have had an excellent success rate," said Lisa Anderson, who serves as our on-site coordinator and who is a lifetime member of Weight Watchers.

A second 17-week class has been scheduled to begin June 11. Interested persons can contact Lisa at Ext. 1791 for more information.

Many from the first class want to continue their weight loss by participating in the second class, said Lisa. One of those is Lynn Shook, who has lost 42.8 pounds.

***A second 17-week class has been scheduled to begin June 11. Interested persons can contact Lisa at Ext. 1791 for more information.***

"The Weight Watchers program is nothing like I had thought it would be before the first meeting. I was very hesitant to join, but now I am very glad I did," said Lynn.

"The program is very easy to use, and the motivational talks are very interesting. Each weekly meeting begins with your private weigh-in and then we have our message for the week while we eat our lunches. These include hints and other helpful ideas for weight loss. Then we have an award ceremony following the talk. This is when you show your support for your fellow losers. One of the nicest things about this program is that it has given me the opportunity to get to know other folks from all over the campus. We are always so busy doing our jobs that we do not have time to mingle and get to know our neighbors. By having this program available to us here at work, we are able to use our time wisely, make new friends, and lose weight in the process. What a deal," added Lynn.

Faye Allen has lost 33 pounds in 16 weeks and has set a goal to lose 25 more pounds. "I know I will achieve it by sticking with the program and having the encouragement of my co-workers," she said.

Faye recalls her previous experience with weight-loss programs.

"I was into this thing called yo-yo dieting. I would diet for a while and lose a few pounds, then gain them right back. I was at the point of looking into lap-band surgery when the Weight Watchers at Work program was announced. I had heard that Weight Watchers works and this was a perfect opportunity to join. How much easier can it be? It's at work!"



*Several slimmed-down participants pose for a group photo during week sixteen.*



*Eighteen members of the first Weight Watchers At-Work class are shown here during week one.*

Faye continued: "The Weight Watchers program is a lifestyle change. It is not dieting! The program is very easy to follow, and the weekly weigh-ins and discussions are a wonderful way of being accountable for my actions. There is a lot of camaraderie and fun during the class and afterwards. We all encourage each other. Amanda Litchfield even wrote a poem about us! I want to give a warning, though. You must have your mind made up to change your eating habits. If you aren't serious, then no weight loss program will work. Thank you, Personnel Department, for bringing this program to us."

"There is a camaraderie that builds with the group," said Lisa. "Participants are very open and share their weight losses each week. We have a special bond. But it's more than weight loss. You get information that will stay with you for the rest of your life."