

Connection

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Sustainable Housing Project Leads to EPA Award for Tri-County/Clemson Team



Welding students **Bryant Houston**, left, **Sam Groen**, second from left, and **Alex Boom**, on far right, traveled with Clemson University students to Washington, D.C., and presented their award-winning SEED project at the Environmental Protection Agency's 40th anniversary celebration of Earth Day, April 23-26. They are pictured with **Paul Phelps**, welding program coordinator, at the Vietnam Memorial.

Collaborating with Clemson University on a sustainable housing project served as an exercise in teamwork, trust, and real-world experience for our Welding students, as well as an opportunity to place an award-winning project on their résumés.

It was also a very humbling experience for Sam Groen, Alex Boom, and Bryant Houston, three of the Welding students who participated last fall in the first phase of the SEED project that involved taking a shipping container and turning it into a hurricane-resistant housing option for residents in underprivileged countries.

"It humbles you, especially in the wake of the Haiti disaster," said Groen, an Easley resident who received a Welding degree at spring commencement.

"The project opened their eyes to participation in humanitarian efforts, along with focusing on honing their craft," said Paul Phelps, Welding program coordinator. "Now they have a better appreciation of how their skills can impact those affected by natural disasters. We read about poverty in newspapers and see it on the news, but it's another thing to work on a project that can

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tri-County Technical College
Commission Meeting June 21
Fall Faculty/Staff
Convocation August 19

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

Connection

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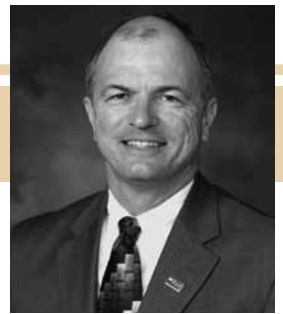
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Tri-County Technical College does not discriminate
in admission or employment on the basis of race,
color, religion, sex, qualifying disability, veteran's
status, or national origin.

Connecting



Ronnie L. Booth
President

Since 2007, we have been in a state of transition as we
evolve from being a single campus to a multi-campus
institution. Much of this transition has taken place

during a period of unprecedented State budget cuts and a struggling economy. Thanks to
your hard work, we have made great strides, and I am confident we will experience even
greater success in the future. But continued success in the current environment requires
us to be creative, take risks, and be willing to change – all while keeping student success
first and foremost in our minds.

You have heard me say many times that our State funding has dropped from 54 percent
of our budget to below 20 percent in less than a decade. We have lost millions of dollars to
date and will see additional significant cuts in the next fiscal year and beyond to FY12.

At the same time our resources are diminishing, our enrollment is exploding.

Record numbers of students are turning to Tri-County because we are accessible,
affordable, and offer the programs and services they need to reach their goals. However,
it costs more to educate students than they pay in tuition, so our resources are stretched
even further.

As we finalize our FY11 budget during this time of transition and economic challenge,
we have had to make difficult decisions. In balancing our resources against our needs,
we have determined that our main focus should be on hiring new full-time faculty in order
to preserve academic quality and promote student success. Currently, approximately fifty
percent of the teaching workload falls in the hands of part-time adjunct faculty. This ratio is
deteriorating as greater numbers of students enroll. On the staff side, only ten percent of
the workload falls on part-time contract employees. We need to strike a better balance.

This does not mean we will neglect our staffing needs; it simply means that, whenever
possible, we will use more part-time workers to meet those needs. One of the worst
mistakes we can make would be to hire new, full-time staff that we may not be able to
afford to keep in the near term. It also allows us more flexibility as we develop a multi-
campus operational model using knowledge gained from both past experience and what
lies ahead in the coming months.

We also plan to shift some staff responsibilities during this time of transition,
particularly as it relates to the opening of the new Easley Campus. For example, Tim Bowen
and Dr. Brian Swords each have been given new interim responsibilities as we determine
what our long-term needs will be. Tim's current role as director of the Anderson Campus
will be expanded to include responsibility for working with deans and others to plan
programs and services for the Anderson, Oconee, and Easley campuses. He also will retain
his current responsibilities. Brian will be relocated to the Easley Campus and assume
direct responsibility for campus operations. He will continue his work in Corporate and
Community Education, which includes managing the Quick Jobs Centers.

During the upcoming year, we will continually evaluate our performance and make
adjustments as necessary to ensure that our students are receiving the support they need.

Beyond our efforts to be conservative in staffing and budgeting during this time of
transition and scarce resources, we need to look at the ways in which we do business. How
can we be more efficient? Are process improvements needed in key areas to expand our
capacity? Is there more we can do with technology to make our services more accessible
and less dependent on human resources? Our goal is not to cut our services to students

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Faculty and Staff Receive Awards for Service to College and State

Betty Dean was recognized for three decades of service to the State at the annual spring convocation.

Betty, who served as administrative assistant for faculty development in the Academic Affairs Division prior to her retirement in May, received a 30-year pin for her years of service.

Claudia Poore, library circulation manager, was honored for 25 years of service to the College.

Receiving 20-year pins for service to the State and College were B.J. Ellis, campus safety officer; Renae Frazier, director of recruiting and admissions; Polly Kay, Medical Laboratory Technology program coordinator; John Norris, Engineering Graphics Technology instructor; Richard Smith, information resource coordinator; Cindy Trimmier-Lee, Student Support Services program coordinator; and Carol Welch, assistant director of admissions.

Recognized for 20 years of service to Tri-County was Christee Williams, Veterinary Technology instructor.

Receiving a 20-year pin for service to the State was Roger Burgess, an instructor in the Engineering Graphics Technology program.

Recognized for 10 years of service to College and State were Cathy Cole, office manager for Financial Aid; Galen DeHay, Science department head; Tracy Ethridge, Management program coordinator; George Fiori, Computer and Information Technology instructor; Ron Humphries, training and development coordinator for the World Class Training Center; Beth Marsh, an instructor in the Administrative Office Technology program; Debbie Powell, administrative specialist in the Enrollment Management department; and Dr. Mary Scott West, Social Sciences instructor.

Shantell Cox, resource specialist in the Gateway to College program; Stefani Goodenow, lead resource specialist in the Gateway to College program; and Julia Jackson, English instructor, all received pins for 10 years of service to the State.



Betty Dean
30 yrs. State



Claudia Poore
25 yrs. TCTC



Renae Frazier
20 yrs. C&S



Polly Kay
20 yrs. C&S



Carol Welch
20 yrs. C&S



Christee Williams
20 yrs. TCTC



Roger Burgess
20 yrs. State



Galen DeHay
10 yrs. C&S



Beth Marsh
10 yrs. C&S



Debbie Powell
10 yrs. C&S



Dr. Mary Scott West
10 yrs. C&S



Shantell Cox
10 yrs. State



Stefani Goodenow
10 yrs. State



Julia Jackson
10 yrs. State

Enrollment Growth Trend Continues

Preliminary figures indicate that enrollment for Summer Term grew 11.4 percent when compared with the same term in 2009. Last Fall Semester, enrollment increased 18 percent and increased again for Spring Semester by 19 percent. Enrollment is up in all demographic categories and across all three service area counties.

We are on track to see another increase for Fall Semester, 2010. As of May 31, applications are up 20.68 percent over the same period last year. In addition, 3,365 students already have enrolled for fall semester, compared with 2,658 students on the same day last year.



Mary Wylie-Strom,
business manager for
the Department of Social
Services, sent **Sandra**

Strickland this note:

"We wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for all of the help you provided in our search for a photography lesson for our Child Protective Services workers. You went out of your way to help us, and we are very grateful. It was so kind of you to make a plea to Sheriff Skipper on our behalf. We did receive feedback that the Sheriff's Office will be helping us. Because of your efforts, we ended up with expertise that is best suited to our workers' needs. We couldn't have asked for anything better."

Jenni Evans, director of our Bridge Programs, recently sent **Josh Bishop**, administrative specialist in the Assessment Center, this note:

"I wanted to share that I was just with the mother of a Bridge student who praised your assistance highly! She indicated that you had been very helpful in answering their many questions regarding the remote testing process for her son and that your customer service and professionalism went well above and beyond. Thanks for the service and support you provide all of our students!"

Connecting

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but to ensure we are using technology for all routine transactions so staff and faculty are able to spend more time teaching, advising, counseling, and providing other services.

I am confident we can face these challenges and find new and better ways to continue to deliver the highest quality of instruction and service, driven by our unwavering commitment to student success.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Our College Family

excellence through service

Comprehensive financial reporting and superb accounting standards have earned our Division of Business Affairs the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

For the 10th consecutive year, under Faye Allen's leadership, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded our College a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

To be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR whose contents conform to program standards, said Faye Allen, director of Fiscal Affairs. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

In addition, Cathy Strasser, accounts payable technician, completed her Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) certification in the Spring of 2009. Cathy wanted to wait to publicize her accomplishment until the Fall GFO conference in October '09. Unfortunately her motorcycle accident in September kept her from making the trip to the conference for the presentation so Faye presented her certificate to her at her home during her recovery. Congratulations, Cathy.

Congratulations to **Katy Goforth**, English instructor in our Comprehensive Studies Department, who was re-elected President of Faculty Senate for the 2010-11 academic year. Others elected to Senate positions include **Penny Edwards** and **Lori Gourdin**, Arts and Sciences Division; **Phil Smith** and **John Woodson**, Business and Public Services Division; **Matt Woodall** and **Scott Brabham**, Industrial & Engineering Technology Division; **Julie Vernon**, Health Education Division; and **Dr. Amoena Norcross**, **Keri Catalfomo**, and **Donna Shannon**, At-Large Representatives.



Cathy Strasser, Faye Allen, and Ann Hall display the new Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.



Katy Goforth

Dr. Vinson Burdette, dean of Student Development, attended the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in Denver, Colorado, April 30 - May 3. He presented the paper, "Social Support and Community College Student Persistence: A Grounded Theory Model," with co-presenter Dr. Frankie Keels Williams, head of the Department of Leadership and Foundations at Mississippi State University.



Dr. Vinson Burdette

in transition

Tim Bowen and **Dr. Brian Swords** have each been given new responsibilities as we prepare to open our new Easley Campus in 2011. These responsibilities have been added for a transitional period while we determine our long-term needs in a multi-campus environment.

Tim's current role as director of the Anderson Campus will be expanded to include responsibility for working with deans and directors across the College to develop a new multi-campus strategy for planning and implementing programs and services at the Anderson, Oconee and Easley campuses. He will retain his current responsibilities as the Anderson Campus site director. Brian will relocate to the Easley Campus and serve as the site director while also retaining his current duties as Director of Operations for the Corporate and Community Education Division. This includes responsibility for the new Quickjobs Training Centers located at the Easley and Oconee campuses.

These appointments are designed to provide a smooth transition into a multi-campus environment by utilizing staff with knowledge of the various aspects of Tri-County operations and the communities these campuses are serving. Their knowledge and experience will be invaluable as we modify our business practices to accommodate a multi-campus environment and integrate our new campuses into the communities we serve.



Tim Bowen

Dr. Brian Swords

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

- Belinda Brownlee**
- Shantell Cox**
- Betty Dean**
- Stefani Goodenow**
- Julia Jackson**
- Jonathan McCombs**
- Megan Moynihan**
- Alicia Rannou**
- Etta Smith**

EPA Award

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directly impact those in need."

The Clemson/Tri-County group was among the 14 college teams who received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the sixth annual National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Paul and these three students traveled with Clemson to Washington and presented their project to the EPA judges.

The team received a \$75,000 grant to continue phase two of the SEED project (<http://www.cusa-dds.net/seed/>), which employed the skills of students from Clemson's School of Architecture, Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, and Tri-County's Welding Department.

The Expo was held at the EPA's 40th anniversary celebration of Earth Day, April 23-26. Winners of the EPA's People, Prosperity and the Planet Awards, also called P3 Awards, developed sustainable projects and ideas that protect the environment, encourage economic growth, and use natural resources more efficiently.

"Last fall, Tri-County students' participation was completely on a volunteer basis," said Phelps, "and some received a cooperative education credit."

"It was great hands-on experience," said Groen. "It was a chance to learn skills we will use later in the workforce," said Boom, who is an Easley resident. "I wanted the experience to work together as a team," added Bryant.

Paul says his students never had worked on a project of this magnitude. "A real benefit is the interdisciplinary work alongside the architectural students. With Phase II funded, more and more students can get the opportunity and experience to work on this project."

Lynn Lewis is One Of Two SC Delegates For Vision 2020

Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the College's Health Education Division, has been selected as one of two delegates in SC to participate in Vision 2020, a 10-year national project that focuses on advancing gender equality by energizing the dialogue about women and leadership.



Dr. Lynn Lewis

Lynn and Margaret Seidler from Charleston were nominated by Senator Lindsey Graham to serve as S.C.'s delegates to attend the "Vision 2020 American Conversation about Women and Leadership" conference in Philadelphia beginning this October and continuing through 2013. During the assembly, women leaders representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia will participate in the American Conversation about Women and Leadership with expert panelists.

Delegates are charged with setting an agenda for action for advancing equality for their states. They will identify actions necessary to overcome barriers to equality and to set measurable objectives for the decade ahead in eight topic areas: arts and culture; business; law and finance; communication and media; education; engineering; science and technology; health; philanthropy, faith and volunteerism; and politics and government.

"We were determined to select leaders who had a conscience about yesterday, a commitment to today, and an unquenchable curiosity about what's possible tomorrow," said Catherine Ormerod, Vision 2020 project director.

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Our College Family...

Angie Abraham is New Athletic Director

Angie Abraham says there hasn't been a day since starting the job as the College's new Athletic Director that she hasn't awakened excited and smiling.

"Even when I think about all of my notes and plans and lists, I'm not overwhelmed. It's so exciting to be a part of building an athletic program with such a great group of professional coaches," she said.

Tri-County has had Men's Golf and Soccer teams for five years, but this year added women's soccer and basketball. In addition to Angie as Athletic Director, there are two new coaches on board – Alesia Smith as women's basketball coach and Ed Heberling as Men's and Women's Soccer Coach. "It's exciting and challenging and a chance to make history," she said.

Angie has 10 years of experience as a collegiate basketball coach and four as an athletics administrator. "I wanted the opportunity to be able to direct a program like Tri-County's. It's what I've been working towards. My previous jobs prepared me for this position."

After earning an associate of Arts degree at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, NY, she played basketball as a student at Buffalo State College, where she majored in Broadcasting and later earned a master's in Student Personnel Administration. "My intent was to pursue sports broadcasting as a career, but I got sidetracked with a coaching offer. I was offered a coaching job at the end of the last season of my senior year at Buffalo, served as a student assistant in the Athletics Department, and became part of the staff after graduation. That piqued my interest," she said.

After two years as assistant women's basketball coach and assistant ice arena manager at Buffalo State and one year at Genesee Community College as Assistant Women's Basketball coach and Sports Information Director, she accepted her first head coaching job at Erie Community College in 2000. "By then, a broadcasting career was out, but it was good training for media interviews and public speaking so it was not a waste at all," she said.

Angie also has worked as Head Basketball Coach and Recreation Coordinator for Bennett College for Women and Assistant Athletic Director for Defiance College. She stopped coaching in 2008 and was moved into the position of Women's Basketball Director of Operations for Winston-Salem State University.

"I enjoy being responsible for student athletes and their welfare, in addition to making sure they accomplish their academic goals either by graduating or by transferring. They are students first and athletes second," she said.



Angie Abraham

continued

Betty Dean Retires from College

We often hear colleagues tell retirees they will stay in touch after they leave the job, yet time slips away and they only see each other at the occasional luncheons and holidays.

But friends of Betty Dean say their close camaraderie won't end May 26 when she retires after 20 years with the College.



Sarah Shumpert, Betty Dean, and Margaret Burdette

Just ask Margaret Burdette or Sarah Shumpert, just two of the many Tri-County employees who plan to stay connected to Betty through lunches and phone calls.

"Because we are great friends, our relationship will not end with her leaving; however, I will miss seeing her bright smile each morning and her positive outlook that is so infectious each day," said Margaret, coordinator of SACS Compliance and Assessment. "Betty is a beautiful person in all respects. She and I have spoken about our belief that no one is irreplaceable in his or her responsibilities at the College, but I have to believe that HOW Betty did her job was one in a million. Her delightful personality, her drive for perfection, her love and respect for others, and her calming manner are just a few of the characteristics that make her so special. I know these qualities will make her happy in retirement, and she will continue to positively affect anyone whose path she crosses."

"I really will miss Tri-County, but it will be nice to spend time with my family and my grandchildren, in particular," said Betty. "Jimmy (her husband) and I are building a house in Clemson, so the month of June will be hectic. My sister in law, who is in a wheelchair, is building a guest cottage on our property so we will be getting her settled in, also. But I do look forward to not waking up at 6 every morning," added Betty.

"I've really enjoyed my time here at Tri-County," she said. Betty began in 1990 as an Administrative Assistant in the Personnel Office and four years later moved to the JTPA (now WIA) office where she worked for five years. During a federal budget cut, she was moved to the Institutional Advancement office where she worked as an Administrative Assistant for Faculty/Staff Development from 1999 - 2006. Since then she has worked with Faculty Development, SACS, and committee work for the Academic Affairs Division.

"Over the years, I learned the different aspects of the College and that kept my job interesting and fresh," she said, adding that her fond memories include "working with (the late) Bob Chiles and David Read in the EDWAA program (JTPA) and seeing the positive changes in dislocated workers after they got a degree and found another career path." She also lists "working with Margaret Burdette in Faculty Development and learning to do the 'TCTC Boogie' with her, Anne Bryan, and others for a faculty-staff retreat at Unicoi."

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Lynn Lewis

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Lynn says she views equality as more about measurement than sameness.

"South Carolina has plenty of work ahead to gain equality for women in areas like small business leadership, overall salaries, and the equitable percentage of women in political office. Nationally, we still see examples of cases where women don't receive pay comparable to their male counterparts," said Lynn. "In many ways, we're still a patriarchal society. It's a delicate area, but we can't afford to be delicate for the generations of women to come. The implied, or known, glass ceiling has diminished greatly over the last 30 years, but it's still there," said Lynn, who remembers in her early career as a nurse when a female nurse stood and gave the male physician her seat when he entered the room.

"I am so excited to be chosen as a delegate for Vision 2020," said Lynn, who currently serves as president of the S.C. State Board of Nursing. "This effort will put women together to talk at the grass-roots level to look within our states to see areas that can be developed and improved. Margaret and I are on extreme geographic parts of the state, but we are of like minds in terms of experience and era. We will look at ways to be effective in enlightening and educating the inequalities that exist in our state," she said.

"There has been tremendous change in the last 30 years, but there is a lot of work left to do. There are subtle, and not so subtle, inequities that still exist in how men and women are measured," she added.

"This conference will energize me and others to empower women into some effective and empowering discussion about the future of women and women's rights in SC," she said. "It's really an honor to serve the state in this capacity."

SGA President Earns Associate in Arts



Student Government Association President **Allison Ekwere**, of Piedmont, received an associate in Arts degree and is transferring to Clemson University. She says serving as president of both the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Student Democrats increased her self confidence and honed her leadership, time management, and public speaking skills.

Countdown to Commencement



Courtney White, manager of donor relations and director of the College's Alumni Association, right, helps **Amanda Prather**, of Iva, with her graduation attire before the College's spring commencement May 11. Amanda received an associate degree in Nursing.

Paul Phelps Receives Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence

Paul Phelps, Welding program coordinator, was honored for his 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 11.

Dr. Booth presented the medallion. 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.

"Paul Phelps' contributions to Tri-County span much further than Clarke Hall (where the Welding program is housed on campus)," Megan Moynihan, student support service coordinator for the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division, wrote in her nomination. "The first day I met him I was impressed by the knowledge and passion Paul possesses for welding, as well as his willingness to share it with others," said Megan.

In the five years that Paul has served as program coordinator, the Welding program's enrollment has doubled – from 60 to 120 students – and its campus and community involvement has increased. "Paul agrees to help with everything he's asked and more," said Scott Brabham, Welding instructor. "He's always available for students even when it's not convenient for him and he somehow still finds time to look for ways to continue to improve the program. He has taken on and completed lots of projects in the last five years that have benefitted the community, the College, our division, and this program," said Scott.

Last year the Welding department partnered with Clemson University's Architecture and Landscape Architecture students in a project to take a shipping container and turn it into a hurricane-resistant housing option for residents in underprivileged countries.

In just eight weeks, around 30 Tri-County and Clemson students – working two days a week, four hours a day – turned the shipping container into a prototype. Last month the SEED Project (<http://www.cusa-dds.net/seed/>) earned the Clemson University/Tri-County Technical College team a \$75,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency at the sixth annual National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. (See full story on page 1.)

Other service-learning projects include constructing fabricated trailers for firefighters to use to collect aluminum cans to raise money for burn victims and creating the entrance gates at our Pendleton campus.

"Paul is always readily available for the students," said Megan. "I have spoken with many Welding students who note Paul's help not only with academic advising but personal advising as well. Paul has an understanding that student success does not come from instruction alone," she said.

In 2007, Paul, along with Scott, became certified welding inspectors through the American Welding Society (AWS). They completed certified welding inspector training through the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology and testing with the American Welding Society. Passing the

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Paul Phelps, Welding program coordinator, right, received the highest award presented to the faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, at the College's spring commencement May 11. Presenting the award is **Dr. Booth**.

Stephanie Brown Receives Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award

Stephanie Brown, a licensed veterinary technician who teaches in our Veterinary Technology program, received the College's 2010 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award May 5.

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.

Stephanie, who has taught at the College for eight years, is a 1992 alumna of the program and worked as a licensed veterinary technician in private practice for 13 years. She was named Veterinary Technician of the Year in 1998 by the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians.

"Consistently Stephanie takes the time to truly teach students, not just give them information and expect them to give it back," said Dr. Peggy Champion, Veterinary Technology department head. "Even though the students consider her to be very strict, she is well liked and admired among them," said Peggy, noting that in 2007 and 2009 and again this year, the graduating seniors requested that she be the keynote speaker at their annual pinning ceremony.

Stephanie's diligence and devotion are exemplified by her willingness to take on responsibilities equal to those of full-time faculty, said Peggy. "For example, she has taken on the radiology element of the program with enthusiasm and courage, which includes attending seminars and visiting Upstate Veterinary Specialists on a regular basis to gain knowledge of CAT scans, digital radiography and ultrasonography to allow her to teach these subjects in both theory and practice," she said.

"Stephanie puts the students and their education as a priority," said Peggy. When asked to take over laboratory animal medicine, Stephanie read every textbook available and added wildlife and pocket pets to the course to cover the new requirements from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the program's accrediting body.

"It's not just her willingness to learn that makes her such a wonderful adjunct faculty member; it is also her attitude," added Peggy. "She is never afraid to take on a new challenge or to adapt herself to ever-changing practices in the profession of veterinary medicine."

Stephanie lives in Pickens with her husband, Johnny, and their children, Cody and Kaylyn.



Stephanie Brown, of Pickens, a licensed veterinary technician who teaches in our Veterinary Technology program, received the College's 2010 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award. Presenting the award is **Dr. Booth**.

ADN Grad Peggy Johnston Heading To Clemson



Peggy Haas Johnston, of Clemson, right, participates in Tri-County Technical College's pinning ceremony for its graduating associate degree nurse (ADN) students. Pinning her is Nursing Department Head **Janet Fuller**, MSN, RN. Johnston was among the 13 Tri-County students participating in the LPN to Professor initiative, a partnership between Tri-County, Clemson University, and local hospitals designed to encourage graduates to pursue advanced degrees.

Gateway Grads March in Ceremony



Three of the four Gateway to College grads marched in the spring commencement ceremony. Pictured here are **Kayla Nichols**, from Belton Honea Path High School, **Casey Friedlob**, of T.L. Hanna High School, and **Elizabeth Muckey** of Easley High School. Dr. Mike Lucas, superintendent of the School District of Oconee County, presented Renate Miller-Wicks with her diploma at a luncheon prior to graduation.

Betty Dean *(continued from page 7)*

"In addition to being great at her day-to-day job, Betty is a generous listener and offers sound advice; however, I think I will miss her laughter most of all," adds Sarah, director of Instructional Support. "Almost every day we share several good laughs that are rejuvenating and keep the energy up. Even though we will miss Betty terribly, I am so happy for her because I know she has many new and exciting adventures waiting for her. This is a new beginning for Betty, and I know she is ready to embrace the next phase in her life," said Sarah.

Largest-Ever Vet Tech Class Graduates



Erin Elizabeth Hardwick, of Travelers Rest, left, participated in the pinning ceremony held May 7 for the College's largest ever Veterinary Technology class – 21 graduates. Here, **Christee Williams**, Veterinary Technology instructor, presents her with the Leadership Award from the South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians.

Three Tri-County Employees Earn Degrees



Three Tri-County employees received degrees at spring commencement. **Christy Lawless**, administrative specialist in Student Records, second from left, received a Business Technology (Management) degree; **Janet Brdar**, administrative assistant for TRiO, fourth from left, was the College's outstanding Accounting graduate; and **Teresa Summers**, campus safety officer, far right, received a Criminal Justice degree. Pictured with them are **Sue Dacus**, student records, left, and **Dr. Thwanda Davidson**, director of TRiO, third from left.

Paul Phelps

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examination earned them the Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) designation, an internationally recognized certification of proficiency in weld inspection. They also earned Certified Welding Educators credentials. The CWI certification is widely recognized, both nationally and internationally, in the welding industry.

Prior to joining Tri-County, Paul worked for two years as an assembly technician and diesel mechanic at Caterpillar and a year as an assembly technician at GE. He also worked as a welder at Sulzer and worked as a fabricator/welder and as a machine operator at Saco Lowell. He is a 2003 graduate of Tri-County's Welding Department and worked as an adjunct instructor for a year and a half. He is a member of the American Welding Society Regional Board. He serves on Tri-County's Faculty Senate committee and the Title III committee.

He and his wife, Shannon, have two children, Jonathon and Katelynn.

Vet Tech Students, Faculty Honor Memory of Classmate



At the annual pinning ceremony preceding graduation, Veterinary Technology students honored the memory of classmate Jill Salazar, who was brutally murdered by a stepbrother in April 2008. Some of Jill's family members attended the pinning and were presented with the pin Jill would have received during the ceremony. From left, **Maria Hurtado** and **Patricia Hurtado**, Jill's aunts, and **Graciela Montes**, her grandmother, and her sister **Nadine Salazar**, are pictured with **Dr. Heather Gleaton**, owner of Roper Mountain Veterinary Hospital and Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee member, and **Melissa Fernandez**, who spoke about the impact Jill had on the class. Each year, Dr. Gleaton honors Jill's memory by donating two \$1,000 scholarships to students. Jill babysat Dr. Gleaton's child and worked with her at her clinic.

Greg Sosebee Receives Distinguished Alumnus Award at Graduation

When Greg Sosebee graduated from Seneca High School in 1973, most of his friends went to four-year universities. But he wasn't ready to commit to college.

After several years of working for a construction company, he was still undecided about a career. "I wanted a degree that I would use," he said. He knew he wanted to work outside, and a conversation with a relative made him consider professional land surveying as an occupation. At that time, there were two ways to prepare for a career as a licensed land surveyor: earn a two-year degree and gain four years of experience or earn a four-year degree with two years experience for a combined six years of experience. "I chose the two-year degree, and I enrolled in Tri-County's Civil Engineering program," said Sosebee.

At spring commencement, Greg received the College'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.

Thirty-three years later, Greg, the owner of Greg B. Sosebee and Associates Land Surveying in Seneca, still says he made the right decision in choosing Tri-County. "Tri-County helped me to mature," he said. "The small classes and one-on-one interaction with instructors, who were working professionals, were invaluable. Committed instructors like Dunk Chalker, who was a professional surveyor and department head, kept me involved," he said. He finished all of the requirements, except a physics class, in a year and a half and returned the next year to take the class in the evening after work.

During his last semester, he landed his first job working for Clemson Engineering Services, where he stayed for 15 years. Along the way, he received his professional surveyors' license and ventured out on his own in 1992 when he formed Greg B. Sosebee and Associates Land Surveying in Seneca. "It's perfect for me. I'm my own boss, I work outside, and every job is different. It's never monotonous."

He has kept in touch with his alma mater over the years by taking professional development classes to earn his residential contractors license and a financial planning class with his wife, Jane. Through the years, he has supported the Alumni Association by playing in the annual golf tournament. Earlier this year Greg accepted the invitation to join the College's Alumni Board of Directors.

The Sosebees support the College and believe it improves the lives of citizens, as well as the economic well being of our state. His wife, Jane, who is the Director of Government Relations for AT&T South Carolina, is a former member of the College Foundation's Board of Directors and currently serves as a co-chair of its Golden Opportunities to Shape the Future Major Gifts Campaign whose goal is to raise \$9 million over the next five years to position the College to be more responsive to community needs.

Both daughters, Laura and Mary Katherine, have taken University Transfer classes at Tri-County while pursuing their bachelor's degrees. "Like me, they saw the value in choosing Tri-County Technical College," said Greg.



*Distinguished Alumnus **Greg Sosebee** and his wife, **Jane**.*

Executive Staff Updates

- **Unit Update:** Susan Allen, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, provided an update on the progress and activities of units in her area of responsibility, including the Library, Instructional Support, Faculty Development, and Gateway to College.
- **Title III Update:** Lou Ann Martin, chair of the Title III Development Team, gave a progress update. A decision was made to move forward with a Title III grant application this summer.
- **Faculty Senate By-Laws:** Changes were approved to the by-laws to improve representation, refine the election process, and provide additional safeguards for instruction.
- **Staff Advisory Board:** New Staff Advisory Board (SAB) appointments will include equitable representation from across the spectrum of staff positions (administrative assistants, directors, coordinators, managers). SAB also will begin to align more closely with its original purpose, which is to serve as an advisory body through which staff members may make recommendations to the Executive Staff relative to policies, procedures, interests, concerns, and issues that affect them.
- **Other Topics:** Easley Campus start-up and operations, approval of the Spring and Summer 2011 Academic Calendars, the FY11 budget, and lottery-funded health education initiatives.

Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

Three Foundation Board Members Honored for Service

Three Foundation Board members are rotating off of the Board effective June 30, 2010. Recognized for their individual contributions to the Foundation are Jane Harris, Bitsy Pickens, and Jane Sosebee. Bitsy Pickens, of Anderson, who was present at the last quarterly meeting, was presented a silver tray by David Wakefield, chair of the board. Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Sosebee were not able to attend the meeting.



Bitsy Pickens, of Anderson, is presented a silver tray by **David Wakefield**, chair of the Foundation Board, in recognition of her service to the Board.



Jane Sosebee



Jane Harris

Local Banks Support Major Gifts Campaign

Tri-County Technical College's Golden Opportunities campaign is the College's first-ever major gifts campaign. The campaign's goal is to raise \$9 million in cash and pledges over the next five years to position the College to be more responsive to community needs.



Wachovia Bank, N.A. recently made a \$25,000 donation to Tri-County in support of promoting economic and community development, one of the four initiatives addressed in the College's Major Gifts Campaign. The monies will be used for workplace re-education – specifically for those individuals who have lost employment and will use Tri-County for job retraining and retooling. Pictured from left are, **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement at the College; **Scott Webber**, Wachovia's senior vice president and market president for Anderson Business Banking; **Dr. Booth**; **Jeremy Wright**, market president for Pickens and Oconee Business Banking for Wachovia; and **Elisabeth Gadd**, director of Development at the College.



BB&T recently pledged \$25,000 to the College in support of promoting economic and community development, one of the four initiatives addressed in the College's Major Gifts Campaign. BB&T's donation will support small businesses through the College's Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development and the Institute for Manufacturing Competitiveness. Pictured from left are **Richard C. (Rick) Stanland, III**, senior vice president and city executive for BB&T in Anderson; **Dr. Booth**; and **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement.



The Tri-County
SPRING OPEN
TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The Alumni Association and the Athletics Department at Tri-County co-hosted the Tri-County Spring Open April 30 at Brookstone Meadows Golf Club in Anderson.

The event raised \$6,866.63, and proceeds from the Tri-County Spring Open benefit both the Alumni Association and the Athletics Department.

“This tournament is always so much fun for the players to participate in,” said Courtney White, manager of donor relations for Institutional Advancement and director of the College’s Alumni Association. “The Alumni Association works hard to stay in touch with its graduates, and this is a great way to have them participate in a College activity. We also enjoyed seeing a lot of our industry partners on the course this year. Thanks to everyone for making this tournament such a success.”

Score of 53 Wins Team First-Place Prize



A low score of 53 won the team of (pictured here beginning third from left) **Mark Knight, Joe Dierickx, Scott Huse, and Clint Carter** the first-place prize in Tri-County Technical College’s Spring Open golf tournament. Pictured with them are **Courtney White**, coordinator of the Spring Open, left, and **Angie Abraham**, our new Athletic Director.



The golfers enjoyed hotdogs and hamburgers prepared by Eugene Grant, dean of the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division, and Doug Allen, Industrial Technology department head, (both alumni) on the grill made by our Welding students. Pictured here are the team members, from left, **Tom Smith, John Powell, Chris Webb, and Mike Blackwell**.



Many thanks to alumnus and former Alumni Association President **Jimmy Edmonds**, who has supported the tournament since its inception. In addition to playing in the tournament, he was there from start to finish, assisting with putting out signs in the morning and helping with breaking down the event that evening.



Several Tri-County employees played in the tournament. Pictured here from left are **Jim Roser, Glenn Hellenga, Luke Black, and Donald White**.



Dr. Booth, right, talks with longtime College and tournament supporter **Jim McCoy**, retired manager of Timken in Walhalla and former Foundation Board member.



Kevin Laird, of Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood



Skylar Blair and other golf team members participated in the tournament through a golf club raffle and a challenge drive.

Les Marmitons Meets Monthly at Anderson Campus



Les Marmitons of Keowee, an international culinary club, holds its monthly meetings at the Anderson Campus. Here, guest chefs **Abdesslem Gherbi**, **Karim Gherbi**, and **Laurent Marode**, enjoy a laugh as they instruct members of the Keowee Chapter. The visiting chefs are from Le Bom Bis, a bistro in Paris. They also are well known in France as the jazz trio, Le Trio Invite. Les Marmitons is one of our community partners helping to develop Culinary Arts at Tri-County.

Students Win Six Awards in Welding Competition



Our Welding students won six awards in the State Technical College's Annual Welding Skills Competition held April 30 at Greenville Technical College. First- and second-year Welding students from five of the State's 16 technical colleges participated in various categories in the competition. Tri-County students who competed are pictured here: (front row, left to right) **Dolan Jahn**, of Central, third-place winner; **Kenneth Price**, of Central, third-place winner; **Bryant Houston**, of Liberty, second-place winner; **Ethan Graham**, of Seneca, first-place winner; and instructor **Scott Brabham**; (back row) instructor **Ronnie Smith**; instructor **Larry Hembree**; **James Moore**, of Seneca, third-place winner; **Robert Tedford**, of Seneca, second-place winner; instructor **Matt Woodall**; and Welding Program Coordinator **Paul Phelps**.

Campus Service Honors Life and Work of the Late Don C. Garrison

Our lives are about the legacy each of us leaves behind.

"It's not about how much you amass, the awards you receive or the diplomas on the wall. It's about how many people you help. Don Garrison truly helped people," said Dr. Mendel Stewart in his remarks at a memorial service honoring longtime educator and retired



Dr. Booth, left, presents **Carol Garrison**, widow of the late Dr. Don C. Garrison, with a bouquet of flowers before a campus memorial service to honor the life and work of Dr. Garrison, who passed away February 27. Pictured with them are the Garrison's son, **Donnie**, and his wife, **Cheryl**, and their sons, **Bolt** and **Bryant**.

Tri-County Technical College President Dr. Don C. Garrison.

Dr. Stewart, who served on Tri-County's Commission for 32 years, was among the family, friends and colleagues who gathered May 6 at Tri-County Technical College to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Garrison, who passed away February 27. He served as president of Tri-County Technical College for more than 32 years and devoted his entire professional career – more than four decades – to education in South Carolina.

Speakers shared memories and talked about the many lives he touched as president of Tri-County from 1971 until his retirement in 2003.

"We're here to celebrate a life well lived," said Dr. Ronnie Booth, president of Tri-County. "I smile every time I think about your dear husband," he said to Carol, Dr. Garrison's widow. "He was incredibly gracious to me when I took this job and showed me the lay of the land. He was a man of integrity. He did it right and he did it well."

From the time he assumed the presidency at Tri-County in 1971, Dr. Garrison was a tireless advocate for technical education, and he placed Tri-County at the forefront of two-year colleges in the U.S.

The College, under Dr. Garrison's leadership, is often recognized for its contributions to economic development and for attracting international industry to the tri-county area.

"He lived and breathed Tri-County Technical College," said Dr. Booth.

"He was the most dedicated and passionate person about the technical college concept that I've ever been around," said Dallas Jones, retired Medical Laboratory Technology department head.

"I've never known a leader more committed to what he did," said Tri-County's Director of Career Services Glenn Hellinga, whom Dr. Garrison hired in 1973. "His commitment came from the heart. Where the good guys go, Don Garrison is telling the Tri-County story."

"Dr. Garrison put Tri-County on the map," said Dr. Stewart. "He really made a difference. I never met someone more passionate about his calling in life. He truly believed in Tri-County."

"Don Garrison was the most unique individual I've ever known," said Dr. Lex Walters, retired president of Piedmont Technical College and longtime friend and colleague of Dr. Garrison.

"He loved to talk about the loves of his life – his wife, his family, this College, and his church. He was committed to the mission of the College and giving the best service to each student. Don devoted his life to Tri-County. We do miss you, but your legacy lives on," said Dr. Walters.

"I'm pleased to follow Don and to build on his legacy. I hope only half as much can be said about me when I'm gone," said Dr. Booth.

QuickJobs Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Partnerships

In today's difficult economy, there's no better time for the opening of the Oconee QuickJobs Development Center, officials agreed at the May 7 ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony of this new facility designed to provide the training necessary to build a strong, viable workforce serving Oconee County.

The Oconee County School District, legislators, county council members, the S.C. Department of Commerce, and local business leaders joined Tri-County officials to celebrate the opening of the Oconee QuickJobs Development Center located at the Hamilton Career Center.

Oconee County received \$986,364 from the State Department of Commerce to build a QuickJobs Development Center to assist in workforce training and skills development. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds covered the construction costs of the QuickJobs Development Center which is operated by the College. The land for the Center was deeded to the County by the School District of Oconee County.

Construction began last summer for the 4,600 square-foot building that houses two classrooms and a large space for labs (welding and electrical classes).

"We're here to celebrate partnerships," said Dr. Booth. "If you look at the College's 10-year vision plan, a key piece is about collaboration – working with partners and neighbors. This facility is evidence of that."

"We are thankful for the partnership between Tri-County, and the Oconee County School District," said Paul Corbeil, a member of the Oconee County Council. "Perseverance, leadership, and pride in Oconee County will help us to emerge from this struggling economy. We are proud of this partnership and proud to call you our friends."

"This Center offers basic and technical skills training close to where individuals live and that's important," said Helen Rosemond-Saunders, chair of the Tri-County Technical College Commission.

"This Center is about the future of our community and their ability to find jobs," said Senator Thomas Alexander. "There is no better time for this facility to begin its operations."

"This is an opportunity for folks to continue their educations so they can be more productive employees and consequently their children will be much better," said Dr. Michael Lucas, superintendent of the School District of Oconee County.

"You have outstanding leadership in Oconee County and they have your best interest at heart," said Bonnie Ammons, assistant director of federal grant programs of the South Carolina Department of Commerce. "Opening this technical and learning center is a long-lasting commitment to your community and its people. You're investing in a strong and capable workforce and creating opportunities for individuals and businesses to succeed in the global economy today. The Department of Commerce is delighted to be partners with you and to grant the funds to build this QuickJobs Development Center."



Cutting the ribbon are, pictured from left, **Rep. Bill Sandifer**; **Mike Pearson**, director of the Hamilton Career Center; **Bonnie Ammons**, assistant director of the federal grants program for the SC Department of Commerce; **Dr. Booth**; **Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, chair of Tri-County's Commission; **Senator Thomas Alexander**; **Dr. Mike Lucas**, superintendent of the School District of Oconee County; and **Paul Corbeil**, a member of the Oconee County Council.



From left, **Senator Thomas Alexander**, left, **Dr. Michael Lucas**, superintendent of the School District of Oconee County, and **Bonnie Ammons**, assistant director of the federal grants program for the SC Department of Commerce, spoke about the importance of the QuickJobs Development Center to the Oconee County's economy.



Classrooms in the Oconee QuickJobs Development Center were full on the day of the dedication ceremony/open house. Here, **Barbara Hammond**, Office Skills Lab manager, standing, teaches a job readiness skills class.

Annual Picnic Provides Fun, Fellowship For Employees

An estimated 150 employees and family members enjoyed barbeque and games at the annual Faculty/Staff Picnic held May 21 at the Anderson Campus and hosted by the Staff Advisory Board. Many thanks to the Staff Advisory Board members for making this year's picnic a big success: Lisa Poore (chair), Sue Bladzick, Rocky Ann Jablonski, Debbie Nelms, Cathy Payne, and Brenda Rice. Appreciation also is extended to Lou Ann Martin and Kevin Steele for volunteering their assistance. The College Foundation paid for the event.



Donald White, technology program specialist in the Recruiting and Admissions Office, brought his daughter, **Jordon**, left, to the annual picnic. They are pictured here with **Rachel Campbell**, enrollment counselor.



Patricia West, administrative specialist in the Corporate and Community Education Division, enjoyed barbeque with her sons, from left, **Roderick**, age 17, and **Sydney**, age 9, at the annual Faculty and Staff Picnic held May 21.



Mac Raymond, husband of Jessica Raymond, graphic artist in the Public Relations and Marketing Office, played a game of tag with their daughter **Emmalee**, age 6.



Danny Stovall, program coordinator for Industrial Electronics, and his wife, **Bobbie**.



Alex Eaton, History instructor, and his wife, **Jennifer**.