

Connection

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Ted Stokes Wins Adjunct Award 9



5K Race 13



Spring Commencement 18-19

Deborah Brock Receives Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence

Deborah Brock, medical laboratory technology instructor and faculty liaison for professional development, was honored May 10 with the highest award presented to the faculty. She received the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence at the College’s spring commencement.

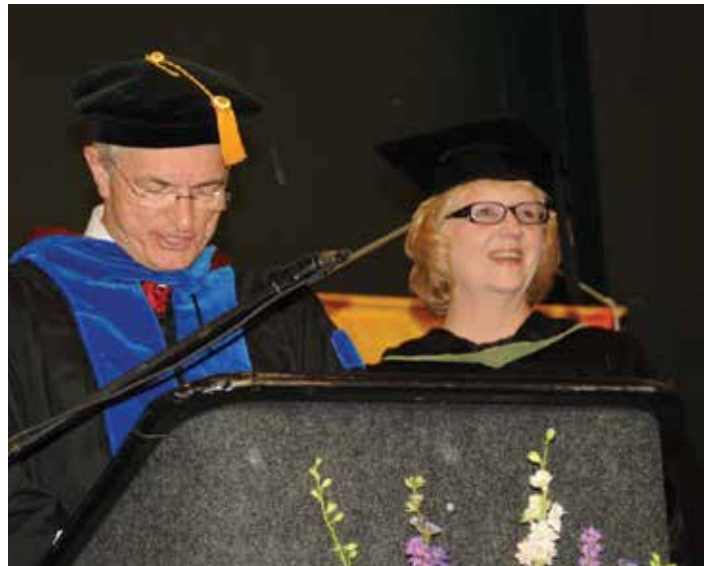
Dr. Booth presented the medallion to the Anderson resident. The medallion is presented each year to the instructor who has contributed the most during the academic year to the profession of teaching, to the development of the College, and to the students.

Deborah joined the College in 2006 as an instructor for the Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) department. She also serves as the faculty advisor to the student chapter of the Future Laboratory Professionals Organization and is a regular presenter at State and national conferences focusing on topics that promote student success in the field of medical laboratory technology.

“I see first hand Deborah’s dedication to our students, her profession, and to this College,” said MLT Program Coordinator Polly Kay, who nominated her colleague for the award. “I admire the energy of her efforts and the passion that is so clearly demonstrated in her desire to help the students to be successful. I value the experience and insightful ideas that she brings to Tri-County.”

Since 2008 MLT graduates have earned their national credentials by scoring a 100 percent pass rate on the National Certification Exam administered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). “This is due greatly to Deborah’s relentless efforts to ensure that all of the MLT graduates are armed with essential information to pass the exam and possess the skills needed to make a valuable, competent laboratory professional,” said Polly. “In fact, the clinical teachers at the

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Deborah Brock, medical laboratory technology instructor and faculty liaison for professional development, received the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence at the College’s spring commencement. Presenting the award is **Dr. Booth**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Independence Day
(College Closed)..... July 4-5
Summer CommencementAugust 2

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

Connection

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Easley Campus

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Oconee Campus

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

Connecting



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Several times over the last few years, I have paused to reflect on the progress we are making on our “learning college journey” – a journey we started when I arrived at Tri-County Technical College in 2003. Every important institutional decision over the last several years is connected and has been intended to move us forward in this journey to become a learning college dedicated to the success of our students. Each step we take prepares us for the next step.

Our most recent step was the creation of a new Transition to College unit. The best way to explain how it fits into our overarching strategy is to give you a review of where we started and the progress we have made during recent years.

At the beginning of our journey, we were focused on becoming *the* role model in community college education. We wanted to be known across the nation as the college that does “the right things right.” We set the bar high for ourselves.

Woven into that thinking was our desire to become a learning college. In 2007, the Executive Staff officially adopted learning college principles, which emphasized the importance of creating substantive change in individual learners and engaging them as full partners in the learning process. Our focus was to create as many learning opportunities as possible, with particular emphasis on collaborative learning activities and measurable outcomes.

“An infrastructure in and of itself will never create greater student success. It is the people who work within the infrastructure and share a common vision that will continue to move us forward.”

- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

Around that same time, we were involved in our ten-year SACS reaffirmation. Part of the reaffirmation process included the creation a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The faculty and staff voted on a theme for our plan: Starting Now - The Transition to College.

Once the theme was adopted, we developed our Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) to facilitate the transition to college. Built on learning college principles, the major components of the LEI were an expanded orientation program and thematic learning communities for first-time postsecondary students. This initiative was successful in improving student learning and retention, so we knew we were heading in the right direction. In fact, our QEP Impact Report was so well received, our SACS liaison asked for permission to place it in the SACS resource area for other colleges to reference.

Our next step was to find a way to institutionalize and expand our LEI initiative, which required additional resources and infrastructure. The Title III federal grant opportunity provided the answer. It allowed us to build on what we learned from the LEI by creating the Learning through Community and Connections (LC2) project. We introduced thematic, linked, and integrated learning communities and made them available to all students, not just first-time postsecondary students. We then added a comprehensive academic support network through which we introduced new tools like SmarterMeasure and DegreeWorks, and we currently are finalizing an Early Alert automated monitoring system with the capability to track student progress and prompt essential interventions.

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Spotlight on Michelin Scholars Program

The top concern of today's manufacturers is finding skilled workers, especially young people, who possess the technical (math and science), as well as the soft skills needed for today's sophisticated workplace. Another concern is that high school students aren't looking at manufacturing as an option when choosing career paths. There's still a misconception that they would be performing menial tasks on an assembly line.

Michelin representatives say the company's more aggressive promotion of the Technical Scholars Program is a response to the nationwide skilled labor shortage all industry is facing today, as well as a way to change the misperception many young people have that manufacturing jobs are routine, low paying, and dirty.

"The image of manufacturing has not changed as rapidly as the reality has in our work place. We need a skilled workforce that is ready and able to work in a high-tech environment. Today's manufacturing is safe, clean, and highly automated," according to Steve Burry in Michelin's Corporate Employee Relations Department.

In an effort to combat these stereotypes, Michelin, like many other companies, has created a Technical Scholars program at area technical colleges to grow their own technicians.

Thirteen Tri-County students have been selected for the scholarship program that covers the cost of tuition, fees, and books. Scholarship recipients also gain on-the-job experience through part-time paid employment opportunities with Michelin. Good candidates for this program are students with strong math, science, and reading comprehension skills who are enrolled in Industrial Electronics Technology, Mechatronics Technology, or General Engineering Technology programs.

To be eligible for consideration for the Michelin Technical Scholars Program, students must pass an aptitude test administered by Michelin officials and an interview with plant representatives.

"It's a debt-free education for participants, along with the possibility of securing a \$50,000 a year job as a reliability technician at one of Michelin's plants following graduation. These are really



Pictured from left are (standing) **Terrell Ladson**, of Anderson, a Mechatronics major; **Bry Anderson**, of Pendleton, an Industrial Electronics Technology (IET) major; **Blaise Beard**, of Anderson, a Mechatronics major; **Brandon Popham**, of Belton, a Mechatronics major; **Robby Lightsey**, of Seneca, a Mechatronics major; and **Eric Hawkins**, of Liberty, an IET major; and (seated) **Jeremy Beacham**, of Pelzer, an IET major; **Beau Edgar**, of Seneca, an IET, major; **Darnell Winters**, of Pendleton, a Mechatronics major; **Chase Chapman**, of Anderson, a Mechatronics major; **Jacob Plyler**, of Liberty, an IET major; and **Ryan Sanders**, of Easley, a Mechatronics major.

good paying jobs with great benefits with the potential of other career opportunities," said Burry.

"It's even more than that – it's an introduction to a lifelong career path. You are almost guaranteed a job when you graduate. It's a stepping stone," said Jason Barnes, a technical business unit leader at the Sandy Springs plant who also helped to create the documentation for onboarding. He also set up the safety training that participants undergo when they sign on and is overseeing their mentoring experiences.

"Scholars are paired with the most senior folks on crew during their 20-hours-a-week paid work experience. We go to great lengths to ensure safety and that they get the most out of this experience. There's a long observation period so they can familiarize themselves with an industrial environment," said Barnes.

"Our current goal is to have 16 scholars in the pipeline in 2013," said Burry. "We are preparing them for actual jobs – if they successfully complete the program and skills testing, they will likely be offered a full-time job," he added.

"It's an industry-driven program. We are looking for high-tech reliability technicians with mechanical and electrical skills. All industries have this need and we are all pulling from the same pool of applicants. We all need high-level technical skilled workers," said Burry.

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SPOTLIGHT is a regular feature of CONNECTION that highlights College instructional programs, activities, and support services. Surveys show that our own faculty and staff play a significant role in influencing potential students to apply to the College. We're all ambassadors – so stay informed and keep doing a great job spreading the word that Tri-County is a great place to learn and grow!



Recently, 16 under- or unemployed individuals were selected for Goodwill Industries' Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) certification program, a nine-week training program that consists of a week of work-readiness training and a mix of industry-based basic skills training modules and work experience at local industries.

Tyrone Watt, a recent graduate of the MSSC class, sent this word of thanks:

"I just got hired as a Satellite Technician making 52 to 80k in Arden, NC. If it wasn't for Tri-County and your classes, I wouldn't have been looked at as a candidate, so thanks again!!"

Former electronics instructor **Dr. Tim Brown** sent this note to Doug Allen:

"I would like to recognize **Paul Phelps** for helping me with a welding issue on a Gazelle Freestyle exercise device.

A technical problem developed, making the Gazelle is a safety hazard which could result in serious injury to the user.

Paul welded the two end plugs, and as of this morning, the Gazelle has been used for 20 days (10 hours) without further incidents.

Paul gave me a tour of the new Industrial Technology Center, and I was impressed with the facilities. This is a good investment in the economic development of the Tri-County service area and a vast improvement over the old facilities.

I am truly grateful to Paul and the Welding Department at TCTC for the help."

Don Joslyn, Student Government Association president for 2012-13, shared his appreciation for the support he recently received from several faculty and staff members:

"Thanks to **Croslena Johnson, Hubert McClure, Janelle Hicks, and Pat Vatakis**, I was able to represent Tri-County Technical College at the recent Republican State Convention and serve as a delegate from Anderson County. I had the pleasure of meeting many of our great

(continued on page 5)

Our College Family

excellence through service

With the help of a College mini-grant, **Sandra Strickland**, a program director for the Corporate & Community Education Division, recently completed the Certified Program Planner (CPP) course and earned certification from the Learning Resources Network (LERN), a national training and consulting organization for lifelong learning programs. The CPP certification is a comprehensive professional development series designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of individuals who work to develop continuing education programs, hire instructors, and conduct program evaluation and assessment. This certification acknowledges a standard of achievement and excellence in the knowledge of lifelong learning programming.



Sandra Strickland



Al Young

Al Young has been reappointed to serve on the Tri-County Technical College Commission by the Governor, and his new term expires April 1, 2016.

Congratulations to **Lisa Garrett**, public relations associate, who recently was honored with a 2012 Hermes Gold Award in the writing category for the Tri-County Technical College Annual Report for 2011-12. Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing, and design of traditional and emerging media. The awards are administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals (AMCP). This year there were approximately 5,000 entries from the United States and several other countries. Approximately nineteen percent received the Gold Award.



Lisa Garrett



Rebecca Eidson

Congratulations to **Rebecca Eidson**, director of Public Relations and Communications, who graduated from the 2013 Leadership Pendleton program April 29 in a ceremony held at Woodburn Plantation in Pendleton. Leadership Pendleton is designed for community members who want to develop their personal leadership skills and become better informed about the assets of the Pendleton Community.

The following faculty members will be serving on Faculty Senate for the 2013-14 academic year:

PRESIDENT

Todd Crisp-Simons (term begins June 1)

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Jeff Christmas

Dr. Amoena Norcross

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Tom Lawrence

Chris McFarlin

ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Doug Allen

Stan Compton

HEALTH SCIENCE DIVISION

Cheryl Brown

Buffy York

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE

Kate Williams

LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE

Marla Roberson

Adjunct faculty representatives will be elected at the beginning of Fall 2013.

in transition

BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIVISION

Cara Hamilton is our new Director of Fiscal Affairs in the Business Affairs office. Her professional experience includes 16 years with Guardian Building Products, Inc., a building materials distributor and manufacturer of fiberglass insulation for residential and commercial markets. She served as its General Manager and Vice President of North American Distribution in Greer from 2010 – 2012.

Other positions she held with the company include Vice President of U.S. Operations (2009 – 2010) and Chief Financial Officer and Vice President (2007 – 2009), as well as various financial processes and system leadership roles.

From 1991 – 96, she was Operations Controller for Regent Hospital Products, LTD in Greenville and served as Division Controller for American Trim Products in Travelers Rest from 1989 – 91. She was Senior Internal Auditor for Lee Apparel Company in Merriam, Kansas, from 1987 – 89, and she began her career as a Senior Assistant Accountant for Deloitte in Kansas City, MO.

Cara holds a B.S. in Accounting from Kansas State University and an M.B.A. from Clemson University. She is a member of the Toastmasters International, Greenville, SC chapter, and served as Treasurer and President for three years. She is active with the Girl Scouts of Mountains to Midland Council and was its volunteer of the year in 2010. She is a former member of the Industry Committee of the South Carolina Association of CPAs and the South Carolina Association of CPAs, Piedmont chapter, where she served as Vice President for two years.

She is a lay leader for Bethesda United Methodist Church where she is a Sunday School teacher and Bible Enrichment teacher.

She and her husband, Jim, have two children, Alexandria (Ali) and Rachael, who was a nominee in the Anderson Independent-Mail's Star Students Social Studies Category (sponsored by Tri-County). They live in Greenville.

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Cara Hamilton

President Booth Elected to Two National Boards

Dr. Booth has been elected to serve as a trustee for two national boards.

He will serve as a member of the board of trustees

of the Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges, the regional accrediting body for higher education degree-granting institutions across the eleven southernmost states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia). His term began in January and will conclude December 31, 2015.

Dr. Booth also will serve on the board of directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Founded in 1920, AACC has, over four decades, become the leading proponent and the national "voice for community colleges." His term begins July 1 and will continue through June 30, 2016.



Dr. Booth

Brag & Share

(continued from page 4)

leaders, including former Senator Jim DeMint, Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator Tim Scott, Congressman Jeff Duncan, and Governor Nikki Haley. I also met Adjutant General Robert Livingston, whom I served with in Afghanistan in 2007-2008. Many thanks to all who made this happen for me. It was the highlight of the year!"

If you wish to thank someone publicly, share personal news, brag about a recent accomplishment in your unit, or any other highlight, send it in for our "Brag & Share" column. E-mail your submission (65 words or less) with "Brag & Share" in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu.

South Carolina Technical College System

FAST FACTS

- More than 250,000 South Carolinians were educated and trained by SC Technical Colleges during 2011-12.
- Fifty-nine percent of all South Carolinians enrolled as undergraduates in South Carolina's public higher education system are enrolled at one of our 16 technical colleges.
- Ninety-six percent of technical college students are residents of South Carolina.
- Eighty-five percent of students remain in South Carolina after graduation.
- Eighty-three percent of graduates were placed in a job related to their education or they are continuing their studies and furthering their education.
- One in three technical college students rely on Lottery Tuition Assistance.
- The maximum Lottery Tuition Assistance awarded is \$1,140 per semester.
- More than \$394 million has been awarded since the inception of Lottery Tuition Assistance in 2002.



Our College Family *(continued from page 5)*

Michael McComas is our new Director of Campus Safety. Michael began his career as a commanding officer for the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit in the United States Army from 1974 – 78. He served as a Supervisory Special Agent for the FBI from 1980 – 2007, and later was a contract employee with anti-terrorism assistance for the U.S. State Department from 2008 – 09. Michael was Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction from 2009 – 2010.

He holds a bachelor of science in Political Science from East Tennessee University. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Anderson.



Michael McComas

Pam McWhorter joined us as an Application Analyst in our IT Department. She worked as a Senior Developer at CSI in Easley from 1993 until April of this year. She is a 1993 graduate of our Computer Technology program. Pam lives in Easley.



Pam McWhorter

Karrie Moore is our new Financial Aid Counselor. She comes to us from Lake Michigan College, where she worked as a Financial Aid Specialist from 2007 – March 2013. Prior to that, she was a General Manager of Red Roof Inn from 1994 – 2002.

Karrie holds associate degrees in Management and Marketing, as well as General Studies, from Lake Michigan College. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and summa cum laude with a master's in Organizational Leadership. Both degrees are from Siena Heights University in Michigan.

She has two children, Jordan, 23, and Trenton, 11. They live in Anderson.



Karrie Moore

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Sandra Magee joined the College's executive leadership team this month as Dr. Booth's Chief of Staff. She is an experienced public relations manager with a background in strategic communications, community relations, media relations, employee communications, and executive support.

She retired from Duke Energy in March after a 34-year-career with the company, primarily as a Public Relations and Communications Manager, serving as a point of contact for Duke Energy in North and South Carolina. She spent much of her career in the Charlotte, N.C., and Rock Hill offices and provided direct communication support for the Catawba Nuclear Station. She was transferred to Oconee County in 2006 where she was based at the Duke Energy World of Energy. She provided internal and external support for the site vice president and his staff. She also was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the energy education center



Sandra Magee

Sandra's community affiliations include serving as board member and former officer for Oconee Alliance and the Pendleton Historic Foundation. She served on the Daniel High School Education Foundation, and is a former member of the International Association of Business Communications.

She received the 2012 Hall of Fame Award from the Oconee Chamber of Commerce, and received the top industry practice team national award for community outreach in 2009 from the Nuclear Energy Institute. She served as Committee Chair for Duke Energy's local United Way Committee supporting Pickens, Anderson and Oconee County United Way organizations.

She is a volunteer with the local Wounded Warriors group and managed media outreach for the annual Marine visit to the Upstate.

Sandra has two sons, Russell, 23, an electrical lineman with Duke Energy, and Quin, 20, who is a student in our Mechatronics program. She lives in Central.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

Kultida Dunagin is our new Librarian. She comes to us from the University Center of Greenville, Inc., where she was a librarian for 15 years. She was the Librarian for Spartanburg Methodist College from 1993 – 98.

She received her bachelor's degree in English from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok Thailand and earned a master's in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina. Her doctorate in College Teaching is from the University of North Texas. Kultida also earned a master's degree in Theatre Arts from California State University in Los Angeles.

She is fluent in English, Thai, and French and translates novels from English into Thai for a company in Thailand. She is the author of a book, Cultural Identity in Thai Movies and Its Implications for the Study of Films in Thailand.

She is a member of the American Library Association. She lives in Inman with her husband, Gary, and daughter, Niki, 13.



Kultida Dunagin

The following have retired from the College:

Dr. Wayman Estes

Candice Miller

Carol Welch

The following recently left the College to pursue other opportunities. We wish them well in their new endeavors:

Celeste Davis

Evette Moss

Executive Staff Updates

- **South Wesleyan University:** Southern Wesleyan University will be offering classes at our Easley Campus.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** The Personnel Office will post an eTC announcement inviting employees to complete and submit a form that indicates their level of interest in various community leadership opportunities.
- **Building Safety Coordinators:** Mike McComas, Campus Safety director, discussed safety issues and procedures, including the need to identify building safety coordinators and team leaders.
- **Other:** Campus safety; State Tech Leadership Academy; Staff Advisory Board nominations, tobacco use policy; strategic planning; policy and procedure updates; spring 2014 enrollment calendar; FY 2014 budget; reverse transfers.

CONNECTING

(continued from page 2)

Because we are on a journey, our work is never finished. Just last month, we announced the creation of a Transition to College unit that provides the necessary infrastructure to support the transitional experience. It includes all of our traditional intake functions and support tools, with the goal to offer a richer transitional experience for all new students. This new unit brings together offices that serve different student populations, each of which has a different transitional experience, including Bridge to Clemson, Connect to College, recent high school graduates, and non-traditional students. By grouping these offices, we break down silos, lean out our processes, and address the core set of needs all students have in common as they experience the transition to college, while also equipping them with their own individualized "tool box" of strategies and resources. Infused into this new unit is our recently revamped matriculation process, which is described on page 15 of this newsletter.

An infrastructure in and of itself will never create greater student success. It is the people who work within the infrastructure and share a common vision that will continue to move us forward. I am confident we now have the right people in the right places with the right infrastructure to support them.

Our ten-year vision states, "Our students will experience an outstanding learning environment and know that at TCTC we are truly invested in their success." Grounded in the reality of our experiences, the Transition to College Unit is yet another step in the right direction.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Faculty and Staff Receive Awards for Service to College and State

Five employees were recognized for 25 years of service to the College at the annual spring convocation.

Receiving 25 year pins were Lisa Anderson, benefits coordinator in the Personnel Office; Linda Brown, cashier in the Business Office at the Anderson Campus; Carol Findley, duplicating technician in Printing Services; Pam Holland, manager of the Campus Bookstore; and Pat Vatakis, administrative specialist at the Anderson Campus.

Recognized for 20 years of service to the College and the State were Shannan Holland, administrative specialist at the Easley Campus; Robin McFall, acting dean of the Arts and Sciences Division and English department head; Dr. Amoena Norcross, English instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division; Dr. Gwen Owens, reading instructor in the Comprehensive Studies department; and Julie Vernon, Practical Nursing program coordinator.

Medical Laboratory Technology instructor Deborah Brock received a pin for 20 years of State service.

Receiving 15-year pins were Elizabeth Gambrell, testing facilitator in the Assessment Center; Sarah Shumpert, director of instructional support; and Doris Simpson, executive assistant in the President's Office.

Recognized for 10 years of service to the College and State were Kaye Bathe, Medical Assisting program coordinator; Sue Bladzik, administrative specialist at the Anderson Campus; Dr. Wayman Estes, science instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division; Janet Fuller, Nursing department head; Croslena Johnson, director of student life and counseling; Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the Health Education Division; Dr. Chris Marino, director of research, evaluation, and planning; Brenda Mattison, accounting instructor; Debbie Norris, accounts payable technician in the Business Affairs Division; Lisa Saxon, administrative assistant in the research and evaluation department; Donna Shannon Palmer, department head for Allied Health and Expanded Duty Dental Assisting; Jay Sloan, training and development director in the Corporate and Community Education Division; and John Woodson, program coordinator for the Radio and Television Broadcasting department.

Registrar Scott Harvey received a pin for 10 years of service to the College, and Joan Kalley, coordinator of instructional activities for the English department, received a pin for 10 years of service to the State.



Lisa Anderson
25 years TCTC



Linda Brown
25 years TCTC



Pat Vatakis
25 years TCTC



Robin McFall
20 years C & S



Dr. Amoena Norcross
20 years C & S



Dr. Gwen Owens
20 years C & S



Julie Vernon
20 years C & S



Deborah Brock
20 years State



Sue Bladzik
10 years C & S



Dr. Wayman Estes
10 years C & S



Janet Fuller
10 years C & S



Croslena Johnson
10 years C & S



Joan Kalley
10 years State



Brenda Mattison
10 years C & S



Lisa Saxon
10 years C & S



John Woodson
10 years C & S



Donna Shannon Palmer
10 years C & S

Ted Stokes Receives Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award



Ted Stokes, a longtime instructor in the Industrial Electronics Technology (IET) department, third from left, received the College's 2013 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award May 8. Ted, an Anderson resident and engineering manager at Schneider Electric in Seneca, is pictured with his family, from left, daughter, **Amy Stokes Gibbs**; wife, **Tequilla**; and son, **Tanner Stokes**.

Ted Stokes, a longtime instructor in the Industrial Electronics Technology (IET) department, received the College's 2013 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award May 8.

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.

Ted, an Anderson resident and engineering manager at Schneider Electric in Seneca, has taught evening classes in the IET program for 17 years. He also has served on the IET Advisory Committee for more than 15 years.

"Ted's role in industry allows him to keep our students aware of the latest changes in the controls technology world and lets our students in on emerging trends," said Doug Allen, acting dean of the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. "Ted has been a vital part of the co-op program we have had at Schneider for years and he has facilitated donations from his company to the College, which has helped our laboratories to maintain state-of-the-art equipment."

In their evaluations, students praise Stokes' professional approach and dedication to preparing them for today's workplace. One student wrote, "Ted teaches us the technical side of becoming a good troubleshooter but also instructs us on how to be professional employees as well."

Instructor Robert Ellenberg agrees: "Ted is remarkably knowledgeable in his area of expertise and equally willing to share his wisdom. He has a great capacity to connect with students and they feel privileged to have him as an instructor."

Instructor Ron Talley said, "In a rapidly changing environment, new technology emerges several times a year. Ted Stokes has been an excellent instructor and advisory committee member who is helping to keep our curriculum relevant. Adjuncts in our area, especially of his caliber, are very difficult to come by due to industry demands and high compensation. The fact that Ted has been serving our community for as long as he has is because he loves teaching."

Ted holds a B.S. in electrical engineering from Clemson University.

Workshops Give Employees Voice in New Strategic Plan



The College published its new Three-Year Strategic Plan in early April and immediately launched a series of workshops designed to give employees the opportunity to have a meaningful conversation with their colleagues about the unique contributions each person can make to ensure we are successful in achieving our vision. The workshop focused on the practical vision elements around which the plan was constructed; the challenges we face in achieving the practical vision; what needs to change in order to move closer to the vision. Nearly 150 employees participated in one of seven offerings. Pictured here in one of the workshops are (from left) **Richard Smith**, **Beth Marsh**, **Amy Roberts**, and **Robert Newton**.

Come Dine with Us at Anderson Campus June 13

Come dine with us on Thursday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. for a healthy version of some Italian classics. Spanish instructor and chef Timeko McFadden will prepare a healthy Italian meal that won't bust your calorie budget. For \$10, participants will learn about some healthy swaps to make Italian dishes leaner and, at the end, enjoy a three-course meal. Recipes and full nutritional breakdown will be provided. The class will be held in room 142 at the Anderson Campus. Contact Lisa Anderson at landers2@tctc.edu for more details.

Foundation News

Bank of America Supports Connect to College



Bank of America Charitable Foundation made a \$3,000 donation to the College's Connect to College program. The funds are designated for textbooks for students in the program that serves high school dropouts age 17 – 20 who meet specific eligibility criteria and live in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Using a dual credit model, students earn both high school and college credit, and may simultaneously complete both the high school diploma (meeting all requirements of the South Carolina Department of Education) and a postsecondary credential.

Presenting the check is **Kerri Myers**, Bank of America/Merrill Lynch assistant vice president, fourth from left. Also pictured are, from left, **Elisabeth Gadd**, director of development; **Diana Walter**, director of the Connect to College program; **John Lummus**, vice president for the Economic and Institutional Advancement Division; and **Sharan Milsap**, vice president at Bank of America/Merrill Lynch.

Foundation Kicks off Employee-Giving Campaign

The Foundation kicked off its "I Give" Employee Giving Campaign at the Faculty/Staff Convocation. The goal is to obtain 95 percent participation between May 2013 and the next faculty/staff meeting during Fall Semester (date to be determined).

Employees have been very generous in supporting the Foundation over the years, said John Lummus, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement. Employee giving for the Golden Opportunities Major Gifts Campaign, conducted from 2008 – 2012, totaled \$211,285. Additionally, the Foundation raised \$28,420 in gifts from employees for fiscal year 2011 – 12, he said. "Your generous gifts to the Foundation will help to make it possible for us to award 400 scholarships to deserving students at Tri-County for FY14."

You may contribute to faculty staff development, technology, or the wellness center initiative, or you may designate your contribution to go to another area of the College, said John

Other avenues of giving are the scholarship endowments or unrestricted gifts. You may honor

an individual by contributing to a scholarship. Each Christmas many faculty and staff contribute to the Hazel Strickland Booth Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in memory of Dr. Booth's mother. This gift supports the education of an outstanding student, and Dr. Booth says no gift we could purchase would be more meaningful to him.

Other ways to give include designating your donation to a specific academic program or the Alumni Association.

As a faculty or staff member, you can make a one-time contribution to this endowment, a pledge, and/or have it deducted from your check each month. "The amount isn't important, but the act of giving is," said John.

If you didn't receive an "I Give" brochure, which outlines ways to give, as well as features student and faculty testimonials on how the College has helped them to achieve their academic and professional goals, contact Courtney White at cwhite12@tctc.edu or Ext. 1484.

Carol Welch Retires



Carol Welch, right, gathered with colleagues April 30 to celebrate her 27 years of service to the College. Carol, who is pictured with **Renae Frazier**, director of recruitment and admissions, has worked as Assistant Director of Admissions since 2007, joined the College in 1987 as a part-time Receptionist at the Anderson Mall classroom and later became full time as an Information Specialist for the Continuing Education Division from 1989 – 93. She was named Information Center Manager in 1993, a position she held until joining the Student Affairs Division.

Says Renae, “Carol has truly given herself to Tri-County. There were countless times she stayed late and came in on weekends just to make the next workday stress-free for her staff. She resolved so many of the issues before they got to my desk. It often amazes me how much Carol was able to get accomplished. She inspires me.”

Carol will continue working part time through July to assist with the registration rush.



At the Faculty/Staff Convocation, the Foundation set up several Minute-to-Win-It games to kick off its employee fund-raiser campaign. (Top) **Claudia Poore**, left, and **Cheryl Garrison** compete in Roll with It, with Claudia winning \$100 (middle) that she designated to go to the Library. Below, **B.J. Ellis**, **Hubert McClure**, and **Laneika Musalini** compete in the Junk in the Trunk game, with Laneika winning \$100 for the Wellness Center. Not pictured are Lisa Saxon, Mandi Orzechowski, and Tom Lawrence, who competed in the Mad Dog game, with Mandy winning \$100 for General Engineering Technology.



Corporate VP Rhonda Gibby Named Tri-County's Distinguished Alumna

One of the most gratifying and inspiring aspects of Rhonda Deaton-Gibby's job as vice president of human resources for Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Atlanta is the opportunity to meet and mentor employees, helping them to navigate the professional and personal paths of their learning journeys. After having had the opportunity to work in various areas of business, including manufacturing as well as sales and operations, it is the people component that keeps bringing her back to the area of human resources.

Gibby received the College's Distinguished Alumni Award, which highlights her dedication to her alma mater, at the College's spring commencement May 10. 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.

As a student at Tri-County more than two decades ago, Gibby fondly recalls the investment made in her by instructors who recognized and encouraged her to pursue her passion for learning.

"We must be learning agile. We must make plans for how to get from point A to point B in our education and our career. I remember former Office Systems Technology (now Administrative Office Technology) instructor Judy Read talking to me about scenarios and contingency plans – how to get from point A to point B with multiple options. That advice has served me well in my career," said Gibby, who has been with Kimberly-Clark since 2005. In her current position, she supports two divisions – Kimberly Clark Health Care and Kimberly Clark Professional.

As one of the Top 100 leaders of this Fortune 500 Company, Gibby is involved in the global business and HR strategy for the company. "I am able to engage with business and human resource colleagues around the world as we put together strategic business plans and a people strategy that enables us to win in our marketplaces, as well as be a great place to work, maintaining a culture of integrity that values employees and their successes," she said.

"One of the highlights of my role is the opportunity to interact with my peers and exchange best practices. I also coach and mentor associates and work with folks at all levels within the company, gaining insight and understanding on what is important to them. This provides us the opportunity to check and adjust our policy and practices as needed," she said.

She says Tri-County instructors inspired her as a recent high school graduate who was unsure of her long-term goals.

"Acquiring an education was my goal," she said. "At Tri-County I found a well-informed faculty and staff who gave me the tools and direction to achieve my goal." She began as a day student but switched to the evening curriculum when she gained full-time employment. "I really fit into the evening program. I could work



Rhonda Deaton-Gibby, pictured here with her husband, Joe, received the College's Distinguished Alumni Award, which highlights her dedication to her alma mater, at the College's spring commencement May 10. She is vice president of human resources for Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Atlanta.

during the day and go to school from 6 - 10 four nights a week."

"I always tell folks that I learned how to learn at Tri-County. Learning how to learn is a competitive advantage. Things change very quickly today. Content can be old in 30 days. I learned to be learning agile," said Gibby, "and I learned to set priorities."

She also appreciated the diversity of the student population. As an evening student, she attended classes with other working adults. "Many times the answers to my questions came from the students themselves who talked about their life experiences. Tri-County is so under-understood. It has true value and flexibility and it can be the right, first or next step for anyone."

After earning an associate degree and while working at Clemson University, she developed a interest in pursuing roles in leadership and came back to her alma mater with a renewed focus: human resources management. She attended university transfer classes on her lunch hour while continuing to work full time.

After earning a B.S. degree in human resources at Southern Wesleyan University, she took her first job in the industrial segment with Dempster Equipment. "It was my first job in manufacturing. I got out on the floor and learned more about the people as well as the processes. I really wanted to help people to realize their goals," she said. This led to her pursuit of a master's degree at Clemson University.

With an M.S. in human resource development and business administration, she began working as a consultant at Etcon in Gainesville, Georgia. She later opened a Seneca office and was a human resource partner with business and industry and established a client base in the area. "When I was at Etcon, I enjoyed referring graduates to clients, and many times visited Tri-County classes to talk to students about how to interview and represent their skills and experiences. I always asked

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164 Turn Out for Fourth Annual 5K Race and One-Mile Fun Run

Despite rainy weather, 164 runners and walkers turned out for the College's fourth annual Tri-County 5K Road Race and One Mile Fun Run held Saturday, May 18, at the Anderson Campus. The race started and ended at the Anderson Campus located at 511 Michelin Boulevard. The race is part of the S.C. Palmetto Grand Prix, and the course is certified by the U.S. Track and Field Association. All proceeds benefit the programs and services of the Anderson Campus.

Cash awards went to the top three finishers in the 5K Open and Masters categories. Also, there were age group awards for the top three finishers in each five-year category beginning with age 9 and under.

The overall male and female winner of the One Mile Fun Run received a medal.

"We are fortunate to have community sponsors who help make this event possible," said Event Coordinator Tim Bowen, director of the Anderson Campus. Sponsors included Anderson Federal Credit Union, Duke Energy, Kravet, Michelin North America, Richard Kay Superstore, the Tri-County Technical College Alumni Association, and TTI. In-kind sponsors were Anderson Independent-Mail, Carolina Produce, Chick-fil-A, Coca-Cola, Crowe's Corporate Productions, Gotta Run Clemson, and Panera Bread.



Tom Ford, of Piedmont, was the overall race winner, breaking our course record with a time of 15:51:90.



Congressman Jeff Duncan, right, delivered opening remarks before the race began. Pictured at left are Anderson Campus Director and event emcee **Tim Bowen**, left, and Student Government Association President **Don Joslyn**.



One hundred and sixty four runners took off on the course that starts and ends at the Anderson Campus.



The team known as **Happy Feet** won the Faculty/Staff Team award.



Spotlight

(continued from page 3)

According to Burry, “There were 1.8 million graduates in the U.S. in 2013 and only the top 10 percent will be hired in their majors. Twenty-three percent of four-year graduates go back to a technical college to earn a two-year degree to learn an employable skill.”

A Workforce Development Team, consisting of representatives from Lexington, Greenville, Spartanburg, and Anderson counties, is working to change the public’s perception by partnering with technical colleges, school districts, and industry to showcase an accurate picture of modern manufacturing.

“Our goal is to begin identifying students in middle schools because the key is to find individuals with a knack for math and science. By the ninth grade, we could identify them for the Technical Scholars Program. By the time they are seniors, they can apply to Tri-County as Michelin Technical Scholars, take the assessment tests, and go through the interview process,” said Burry.

“We want the best of the best of the best. It takes great people to make great tires,” said Burry.

“To work in manufacturing, you have to have the right skill set, and Tri-County is providing that by helping to build our Technical Scholars program. But we’ve got to educate the parents. Many believe their child needs a four-year degree so they aren’t looking at other opportunities available to their sons or daughters. The Michelin Technical Scholars program is a career path that offers a free education, benefits, job security, and a future with an amazing company. We are committed to investing in your children. It’s a win for the school districts, technical colleges, industry, and the community. Our hope is that our scholars see the opportunity they received and will go out and talk about Michelin and encourage others in their community to look at manufacturing as a lifelong career,” said Burry.

Three Practical Nursing Faculty Make Lifestyle Changes; Lose Total of 150 Pounds



Three Practical Nursing faculty have made lifestyle changes that have resulted in the loss of a total of 150 pounds. Pictured from left are **Julie Beard**, **Carol Henry**, and **Julie Vernon**.

A routine doctor’s visit in 2012 inspired Practical Nursing instructor Julie Beard to make lifestyle changes that resulted in losing 70 pounds to date.

“I will be 40 this year, and my goal is to lose 85 pounds,” said Beard, whose doctor told her she was two years away from being diabetic. “It scared me,” said Beard, whose insulin levels and cholesterol levels were elevated.

She was an inspiration to fellow colleagues Julie Vernon, Practical Nursing program coordinator at the Easley Campus, and Carol Henry, who teaches at the Oconee Campus. Vernon has lost 35 pounds to date, and Carol has shed 45.

“Together the three of us have lost 150 pounds – I tell Lynn Lewis that we have lost an entire person in our department,” said Vernon.

Beard said she approached her weight loss routine with a mind-over-matter mindset. She joined the gym and engaged in a no-salt, no-sugar, no-fat diet that included exercise and lots of willpower.

Vernon and Carol also adopted her diet. “My husband says it’s the styrofoam and cardboard diet,” said Vernon, but it works. We began to share recipes and the diet became a way of life.”

Carol, who is recuperating from a second surgery on her ankle, started her weight loss routine last September through portion control and eating a low-carb diet that excludes bread, potatoes, white rice, pasta, and sugar.

“I read labels, look at the carbs, and try to keep them low. I shop on the outer perimeter of the grocery store, avoiding the processed foods in the middle. I use a crock pot, and I steam and saute lots of vegetables,” said Carol.

Beard says she plans weekly meals, makes lists and sticks to them. “It’s about planning ahead,” she said.

“I will read labels for life,” said Vernon.

Beard, who had gall bladder surgery March 4 of this year, is back in the gym and a doctor’s visit showed her insulin and cholesterol levels are now normal.

“I talked about my weight loss journey in class with students (class of 2012), who were my biggest cheerleaders. They saw me lose my first 50 pounds and were always cheering me on. This is a lifestyle changes that is permanent,” said Beard.

Rollout of New Matriculation Process Underway; Will Be Up and Running June 3

After a year of research, planning, and discussion – as well as blood, sweat, and even a few tears – the project team assigned to completely reconceptualize the College’s matriculation process has completed its work. The rollout of a new matriculation process is underway and the new process will be up and running June 3.

“We’ve designed a process focused entirely on student success,” said Dr. Brian Swords, Easley Campus director, who, along with Kevin Steele, director of Administrative Services, provided leadership to the project team. “The new process is designed like a program,” he added, describing how the flow begins with a pre-enrollment workshop, followed by a comprehensive assessment process, and then assignment to a success coach for counseling, admission, registration, and more. The relationship with the success coach continues as the student transitions through his or her college career at Tri-County.

According to Brian, the pre-enrollment workshop starts the whole process. Once prospective students express an interest in the College and/or submit an application, they are contacted to enroll in a one-hour pre-enrollment workshop, which introduces them to the College and the overall journey they will take through the enrollment process. They also learn about the College’s programs of study, the requirements for various majors, financial aid literacy, and more. “They get familiar with the services we offer, the campus they plan to attend, and even take a tour. This experience is all about getting students familiar with the College and clarifying their next steps,” he added.

Critical to the new process is the role of the newly-created Intake Program Generalist positions. Cross-trained to provide superior customer service in the areas of admission, financial aid, and student records, the Intake Program Generalists help to ‘pull’ prospective students through the matriculation process. “From the time the student first contacts the college, until they are assigned to a success coach, the Generalists are the ones who provide information to keep them on track,” said Brian. “Their role is critical to making sure students stay engaged throughout the process,” added Brian.

After completing the pre-enrollment workshop, the students’ next step is to complete the assessment process, including COMPASS and SmarterMeasure. The assessment results, along with the students’ high school transcript, GPA, and other

information, will be carefully analyzed as part of the next phase in the enrollment process – success coaching.

Each student is assigned to a Success Coach, who will contact the prospective student and arrange for a one-on-one meeting during which they will discuss career interests, assessment results, program fit, risk factors, and more. “The meeting between the prospective student and his or her Success Coach represents the heart of what we are trying to do to improve student success,” said Brian. “We sometimes term it ‘intrusive advising.’ We try to help them select a major that is a good fit based on their skills, interests, and lifestyle. Quite often, that requires us to be very honest and straight-forward with students. By talking to the students and helping them find their correct program fit, we feel they will be much more successful in their college careers and in their chosen fields,” added Brian.

The assessment results and discussion during the meeting

will form the basis of an individualized success plan for each student.

“Proper assessment and establishing a good program fit are paramount to the success of what we

are trying to accomplish with this new matriculation program,” he added.

Once the Success Coach and the student finish this discussion, the student is admitted to the College and registered for classes. The Success Coach also makes sure the student is on track to complete the Financial Aid process.

Shortly after the drop/add period of the first semester, the College will hold an event where new students are introduced to their faculty advisor. The faculty advisor will become the student’s key contact for academic issues, such as registering for classes for subsequent terms, and the Success Coach will continue as part of the student’s success team in a support role to provide assistance if the student has problems outside of the academic area.

“We are excited about the role of the Success Coaches,” said Brian. “Not only will they get the students off to a great start, they will bring continuity to the process and remain with them through the end of their college careers. By serving in that support role alongside the faculty advisor, the students each have a success team that will help guide them through their college careers,” he added.

Communications also are changing, with a goal of implementing streamlined electronic communications on a

(continued on page 17)

“What really distinguishes this new matriculation program is that we are slowing down a bit and taking more time with each student. We want to be sure they are a good fit for their chosen programs of study and are on a pathway that ensures their success.”

- Dr. Brian Swords

Smith Receives SCAV Award



Savannah Smith, of Cheraw, S.C., left, participated in the pinning ceremony held May 10 for Veterinary Technology graduates. Pictured with her is Veterinary Technology instructor **Christee Williams**, who presented her with the Leadership Award from the South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians.

Distinguished Alumna

(continued from page 12)

myself how I could give back and help the College.”

After accepting positions at both Orian Rugs and later Kendall (now Covidien), she maintained a close association with the College and served on advisory boards while she worked in the area. It was during this time that she was instrumental in establishing the Orian Scholarship through the College’s Foundation Office and went on to advocate for establishing Kendall’s scholarship, as well as the start-up of its tuition reimbursement program.

Gibby says one of her proudest career accomplishments was the establishment of these Tri-County Technical College scholarships because they have provided others with the opportunity to pursue an educational goal that may not have been possible otherwise. “Lifelong learning is a passion of mine. It’s a way to help people to bridge gaps. You can’t underestimate the power of education.”

Deborah Brock *(continued from page 1)*

facilities where our students are trained often praise Deborah’s abilities to exceptionally prepare the students for their clinical rotations,” she added.

Polly says that Deborah routinely makes herself available to students and is respected by the College community.

“She often stays after lab hours to guide students who are finishing lab activities and remains after class to clarify points and answer questions. She sets aside blocks of time for consultations when she is teaching a topic where students typically need extra attention,” said Polly.

“Deborah continually serves in roles that prove her dedication to achieving College goals and promoting the College philosophy,” said Polly.

Deborah continues her professional development by attending the Clinical Laboratory Educators conference annually. She also attends the Carolinas Clinical Connection each year and is often a presenter at both conferences.

In 2009 she was elected president of the SC Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences and represented the state at the national and regional levels. She also served as Area I Director and Student Forum Chair for the organization. She recently received the regional Omicron Sigma Award for Outstanding Service in the medical lab field. She attended the South Carolina Plugged In Online Teaching with Technology conference in Columbia this year and presented “Let the Games Begin: Competing for Attention in Your Classroom.” She also attended and presented this topic at the League for Innovation in Community Colleges in Dallas this year.

She attended the Learning College Summit for three years as part of the Tri-County team. She also works on developing and promoting service-learning opportunities at Tri-County. In her role as faculty liaison for professional development, Deborah is instrumental in coordinating faculty development at Tri-County. She manages professional development opportunities and coordinates workshops for faculty and staff. Last fall she worked with the College’s human resources department to coordinate a professional development day for all employees.

On campus she coordinates the South Carolina Medical Laboratory Technology Student Bowl, a state-wide competition between MLT students. She is a site visitor for the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, the accrediting body for MLT programs. She also authored the most recent MLT self study, an extensive document required for the reaccreditation process, which resulted in full reaffirmation with no deficiencies.

She is an Area III Director of the South Carolina State Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, an associate member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and a member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.

Her publications have appeared in *Advance* and the ASCLS newsletter, *Clinical Laboratory Science and Laboratory Medicine*. She also has written and illustrated a children’s book titled *The Adventures of the Lab Explorers: Sometimes When You Feel Bad* (2005).

She and her husband, Greg, live in Anderson and have one adult daughter.

She holds B.S. and B.A. degrees in chemistry from Texas Woman’s University, a Medical Technologist certificate from Baptist Medical Center in San Antonio, and a master of Health Sciences degree – Advanced Generalist in Medical Technology – from the Medical University of South Carolina.

SWU to Offer Evening Baccalaureate Classes at Easley Campus



Dr. Booth, left, and Southern Wesleyan University President **Todd Voss** signed an agreement May 1 that will provide baccalaureate opportunities for Easley residents by offering SWU evening classes on Tri-County's Easley Campus.

A partnership between Tri-County and Southern Wesleyan University will provide baccalaureate opportunities for Easley residents by offering evening classes on Tri-County's Easley Campus.

Southern Wesleyan University President Todd Voss and Dr. Booth signed an agreement May 1 that will bring four-year degree programs to the Easley community.

"The whole point of putting these campuses out in our communities is to take the college to where the people are," said Dr. Brian Swords, director of Tri-County's Easley Campus. "Now we're bringing a four-year presence to the community." The Easley Campus is located on Powdersville Road.

The bachelor of science in Human Services program is projected to start this September, followed by the bachelor of science in Business Administration program in January 2014. Students can complete each program in two-and-one-half years.

"Our university transfer students, who are taking classes at the Easley Campus, can apply to the program and complete their four-year degree and never leave the Easley community," said Dr. Booth. One third of Tri-County's students are enrolled in the University Transfer programs and many transfer to SWU.

This also can be a smooth transition for someone who already has an associate degree. "It creates a clear path if the goal is earning a baccalaureate degree," said Dr. Booth. "Now we can say to our students, you can start here and stay here. At the end of the day, the student wins."

The future of higher education, according to Dr. Voss, involves "rich, student-focused collaborations."

"Both institutions' goals align wonderfully to support students in their quest for accessible high quality education, and it is our hope that this will begin a journey of even more creative partnerships for students in the coming years," Dr. Voss said.

Being able to complete a four-year degree at one place has its advantages, according to Jim Shelton, regional director for Southern Wesleyan's Adult and Graduate Studies program in Central.

"By having the opportunity to complete a four-year degree on Tri-County's Easley campus, students can avoid long drives and other costs associated with college expenses," Shelton said.

Matriculation

(continued from page 15)

timely and consistent basis throughout the enrollment process. "We are developing personalized URLs, call PURLS, improving the public website, and planning to take advantage of Regroup, a new communications system that allows students to self-select how they receive communications from the College – texts, emails, or voicemails – or all of the above," said Brian.

Not all the new touch points are electronic. Highly personalized contacts and engagement points with prospective students during the transition to college are also in the works. For example, upon acceptance to the college, a student's contact information will be given to a member of the President's Advisory Council (PAC). PAC members will call the student, welcome him or her to the Tri-County family, and ask how things are progressing during the enrollment process. "Small gestures like this will separate Tri-County from other colleges. When an administrator takes the time to call a new student, it can mean the world to that student – and it will go a long way in letting the student know how much he or she is valued by the College," said Brian.

"What really distinguishes this new matriculation program is that we are slowing down a bit and taking more time with each student. We want to be sure they are a good fit for their chosen programs of study and are on a pathway that ensures his or her success," said Brian.

"It all boils down to proper assessment, ensuring correct program fit, registration for the right courses during their first semester, and a support system that is in place to help the student throughout his or her college career," he added.

Many thanks to those who served on the Matriculation Project Team: Kevin Steele (Co-Chair), Dr. Brian Swords (Co-Chair), Renae Frazier, Gayle Arries, Lou Ann Martin, Lynn Smith, Carol Watts, Rob Massey, Sarah Dow, and Scott Harvey.

Anderson Mayor Challenges Grads to Take Risks, Give Back to Their Communities

Anderson Mayor Terence Roberts challenged the College's Class of 2013 to take risks, make goals a priority, and to give back to their communities.

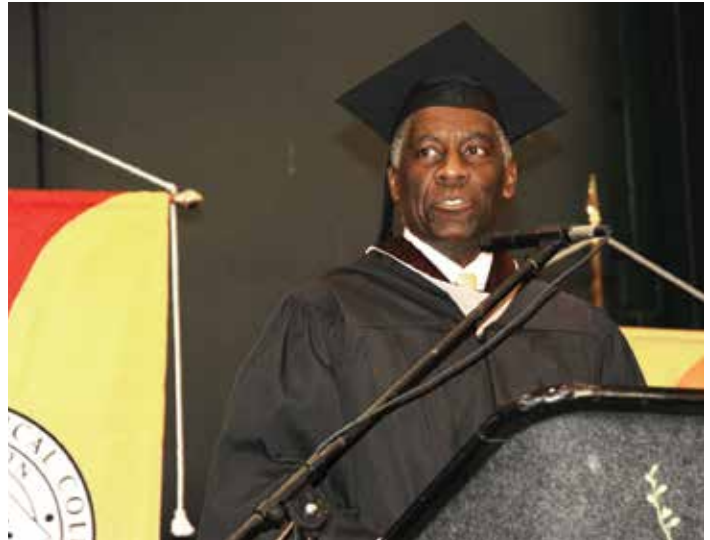
Five hundred-and-thirty-two students were awarded degrees, diplomas, and/or certificates during the College's spring commencement held May 10 at the Anderson Civic Center.

"You must set goals and develop a personal mission statement and abide by it," said Mayor Roberts, who became the first African American mayor of Anderson when he was elected in 2006.

"Form good work habits, ask questions, take risks. You want the right job, but if you have to take the 'right-now job,' don't give up. Keep reaching for your goals. Don't give up," said Mayor Roberts, who has owned his insurance agency for more than 21 years.

He encouraged the graduates to volunteer in their communities. "It's our obligation to give back to the society that has nurtured us. An excellent way to give back is to volunteer, to be a mentor. Promise yourself you'll be of service to your community and your fellow man," said Mayor Roberts who has been recognized for his leadership, community service, and a passion for education, particularly during the school readiness years.

He concluded by saying, "I challenge you to make goals a priority, embrace hard work, take chances, be daring and give back by serving your fellow man."



Mayor Terence Roberts addressed the graduates.



Angel Webb, of Anderson, left, and Jenae Jackson, of Iva, both received degrees. Angel received an Accounting degree and Jenae received an Early Childhood Development degree.



*Mother and daughter Accounting graduates **Niki Wright**, left, and daughter, **Britini Wright**, of Anderson, post for a photo.*



*Members of the College's Chorus sang The National Anthem. From left are **Ashley Green**, **Amanda Groves**, and Music instructor and chorus leader **Jeff Christmas**.*

Seven Graduate from Connect to College

Spring 2013 high school graduates through the Connect to College program are pictured here, from left to right, **Ashley “Nicole” Kelly** (Belton Honca Path High School), **Trey Hall** (T.L. Hanna High School), **Layne Kelley** (T.L. Hanna High School), **Nicole Holinko** (Seneca High School), **Brittany Long** (Seneca High School), **Lyndsay Bailey** (D.W. Daniel High School), and **Matthew “Dillon” Simmons** (Pickens High School).

The program’s purpose is to serve academically capable youth age 17 to 20 who, for various reasons, have not been successful in a traditional high school environment but who have career goals that require postsecondary education. Using a dual credit model, students earn both high school and college credit and may simultaneously complete both the high school diploma (meeting all requirements of the South Carolina Department of Education) and a postsecondary credential (meeting all requirements of Tri-County Technical College).



Dr. Booth, left, presented a plaque to **Sen. Thomas Alexander**, center, in appreciation for his long-time support of the Connect to College program and the College Foundation. Also pictured is **Jim Evers**, Regional Director for AT&T.



AOT Grad Credits Internship with Opening Doors

Internships give students a leg up in terms of employability and often turn into full time jobs after graduation. During her last semester in the Administrative Office Technology program, **Frances Clinkscales** of Belton, left, pictured with **Mary Johnston**, administrative assistant in the Economic and Institutional Advancement Division, secured an internship at Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM). “I loved going to the internship because it was a place that focused on helping others. AIM is very team oriented and everyone is compassionate and has the same goal – to assist those in need. AIM was equally as pleased with Clinkscales’ willingness to take on any challenge, as well as her professionalism, and offered her full-time work in its VISTA program. “A two-year degree is key,” said Clinkscales. “Education has changed my life and is the key to success,” she said. “My Tri-County degree, my internship at AIM, and other community service made my resume stand out and has opened doors for me,” she said.



Couple Starts New Career Path Together

Graduates included longtime local employees who were laid off from their jobs and repositioned themselves for new careers by enrolling at Tri-County. Husband and wife Medical Laboratory Technology graduates **Michael** and **Amy Byrd** of Anderson enrolled at Tri-County several years ago after being laid off from a local textile plant. Michael, now 34, worked there from age 18 through 30; Amy, 33, had been there for nine years. In 2009 they both decided to go back to school and they both chose the MLT program. “We wanted a rewarding, secure job,” said Michael. “We both had a shared goal -- to do well academically and find a job. We had a purpose and we never missed class.” It has paid off. Michael, who dropped out of high school and didn’t earn his GED until he was 30, graduated with a 4.0 as the MLT Outstanding Graduate. Amy wasn’t far behind with a 3.96, making only one B during her tenure at Tri-County. Both received Abney Scholarships through the College’s Foundation, along with Pell grants and student loans. Both took the national registry exam May 9 and are interviewing for jobs.



Evan Bryson Awarded Summer Internship at Presbyterian College's School of Pharmacy

When Science Department Head Suzanne Ellenberger heard about the summer internship opportunities at Presbyterian College's (PC) School of Pharmacy, Evan Bryson was the first student who came to her mind.

"I immediately thought of him because he fits the profile of the kind of students Presbyterian is looking for," said Suzanne. "He is a serious, straight-A student who is dedicated to his studies and who is always looking for a new challenge."

PC agrees – Evan was offered one of six internship positions this summer at the Clinton-based college. He was among the 20 who applied and competed for the internships. Three were awarded to PC students and three to non-PC students.

He received an e-mail May 1 notifying him that he was accepted. "It made my day," the Easley resident said.

"I am so honored," said Evan, who begins the eight-week full-time paid internship June 3. "The day after I heard about the internship, I attended Presbyterian's Open House and I looked up Dr. Sara Sweitzer (associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of research) to talk about the program. What she told me sounded like a tremendous opportunity to get practical experience in pharmacy, as well as to strengthen my pharmacy school application," he said.



Evan Bryson

Next fall he will be back at Tri-County, completing the requirements for a degree in Pre-Pharmacy.

Like many, he says he always assumed a four-year degree was needed to apply to pharmacy school until he learned of Tri-County's program that gives students the same opportunities to apply to enter the School of Pharmacy that a four-year college or university would – at a fraction of the time and cost.

"The word is out to students in the Upstate that an academically qualified student can come to Tri-County and gain entry into pharmacy school at a fraction of the cost of a university. Tri-County Pre-Pharmacy students realize and appreciate the economic and educational advantage of smaller class sizes for rigorous courses with comparable chances for acceptance to pharmacy school," said Suzanne.

"The program is academically challenging," said Evan, who is preparing to take the PCAT (pharmacy college admission test) next year.

"I didn't expect these opportunities when I enrolled at Tri-County," he said. "Everything is really coming together."

"This is an important opportunity for Evan," said Suzanne, "and will be very helpful toward his admittance to pharmacy school. It shows he is head and shoulders above many of the students he is competing against."



Welding Students Take Home State Awards

The College's Welding students took home one first-place, two second-place, and two third-place awards at the State Welding competition earlier this month.

Winners are pictured from left to right: **Tom Ward**, second place, category 2; **Dillon Shelton**, third place, category 4; **Tyler Carroll**, first place, category 6; **Austin McConnell**, second place, category 3; **Joseph Atkinson**, third place, category 5; and **Travis Otto**.