

# Connection

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## Partnership with CMT Creates Videos to Inspire High School Students

# Changing Lives with a Conversation about College

Witnessing someone recount his or her personal educational journey and the different pathways that led to enrolling in college has the ability to inspire an audience and ultimately change lives.

Three Tri-County students—all first in their families to attend college—did just that as they shared their stories, powerfully reinforcing that college doesn't have to be an impossibility. At a special event hosted by Country Music Television (CMT) for high school junior and seniors, students and graduates gathered before the Bluegrass under the Stars concert to view videos of these Tri-County students who later participated in a panel discussion with CMT Manager of Public Affairs Sarah Gaffney.

Nikki Giba and Selena Valdizon, both University Transfer majors, and Sidney Davis, an Industrial Electronics Technology major, participated in the discussion. Videos of



*Sarah Gaffney, manager of public affairs for CMT, left, moderated a panel discussion with students, Nikki Giba, Selena Valdizon, and Sidney Davis.*

*(continued on page 10)*



The American Association of Community Colleges, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and CMT are engaged in a long-term partnership to raise awareness about their available resources and abilities to connect their local community members to training and education. The CMT EMPOWERING EDUCATION initiative is one way to encourage individuals to pursue post-secondary education.

Representatives from CMT, AACC, and ARC join Dr. Booth at the pre-concert event as well as the concert. From left are Sarah Gaffney, manager of public affairs, CMT, Dr. Booth, Scott Hamilton, executive director of ARC, Lucia Folke, vice president of public affairs, CMT, and Jeff Schwartz, education program manager for ARC.

*Passionate people* TRANSFORMING LIVES  
AND BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.



# Connection

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Tri-County Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Tri-County Technical College.

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

## One Size Does Not Fit All

I recently attended a showcase of senior projects by our General Engineering Technology students. The level of creativity and technical expertise that went into the creation of each project was readily apparent, as was the enthusiasm of the students who created them. All were quick to share the details of their projects, and their pride in their work was obvious and well-deserved.

These students displayed no shortage of creativity in applying the engineering principles they learned in classes and labs to the creation of new and innovative products. Some examples include a 3D printed drone, a programmable drink mixer, and a synthetic bubble machine, as well as a charcoal grill for tailgating that creates enough electricity to charge a cell phone.

At Tri-County, our primary responsibility is to deliver a well-educated workforce to local business and industry, and after seeing these projects and talking to the students, I am even more convinced we are doing a great job. All of the showcase participants will receive associate degrees on May 8 and all are in the final stages of their job search, have jobs waiting for them, or are ready to transfer into a bachelor's program in engineering.

We need more graduates just like these to meet the growing demands of local industry. In order to meet that need, we must recruit, enroll, and graduate students of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences. It is our responsibility to meet students where they are and take them to where they want to be.

One size does not fit all when it comes to the delivery of our programs. Looking back over the past year, I am proud of all we have accomplished in reinventing our offerings to adapt to the needs of a diverse population of students and an ever-changing workplace.

One of our greatest successes has been expanding our highly successful dual credit program to include technical career pathways, which allows high school students to earn a Tri-County certificate, or higher, in a technical field before they graduate from high school. These students are equipped to go directly into the workforce and/or continue in college with a tremendous head start in completing an associate degree.

On the other end of the spectrum, we have older, non-traditional students who work, have families, and great demands on their time. Often, these students start college but drop out before earning a credential. To address this issue, we have organized the curricula in some of our technical programs into what we term "stackable credentials." This model allows students to achieve incremental goals on their path to an associate degree and gives them the flexibility they need to manage their lives and responsibilities.

Students like the General Engineering Technology students I met, some just a few years out of high school and others much older who have returned to school to pursue a better life, are well on their way to successful careers. Great news for them – and great news for us because each and every one of them will make a contribution to the prosperity and economic development of the communities we serve.



**Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President





## Spotlight on...



The College's Veterinary Technology program is ranked as one of the top 10 veterinary technology programs in the nation. "But we want to be number one," said Ashley Brady, department head. "Because we have outgrown our facilities, a newly planned animal housing/ learning facility, coupled with the retrofitting of the existing Halbert Hall, can help us get there. This new expansion will help us reach our goal of being the best Veterinary Technology teaching facility in the nation."

The Veterinary Technology Department and the Foundation office are hosting a groundbreaking and campaign kick-off celebration, called Extreme Makeover Animal House Addition, May 21 from 5-7 p.m. at Halbert Hall. Faculty and staff, the College Commission and Foundation Board, local veterinarians and community partners are invited as College officials break ground on the new facility and launch a campaign to raise funds for scholarships, equipment and animals' medical needs.

There will be remarks by Dr. Booth, Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee Chair Dr. Jim Mullikin, and Campaign Chair Dr. Keith Allen of Upstate Veterinary Specialists.

"Faculty, staff, companies, and area veterinarians have always supported us through donations and supplies. We couldn't do it without them," said Ashley. While the structures will be funded with capital reserve funds, the College is reaching out to the community, and especially animal lovers, to help, she said.

The College recently obtained all of the necessary State-level approvals to proceed with Phase I, the construction of a 5,500 square foot structure that will replace the aging kennel next to Halbert Hall with an expanded housing and learning facility. The new facility will be built behind the current facility and will have 33 indoor/outdoor canine runs and the capability to house 28 cats, food storage, bathing areas, laundry, and storage rooms. The highlight will be an isolation ward that will meet AVMA accreditation standards.

Phase II will be the re-purposing of Halbert Hall for class space and labs, said Ashley.

"This facility will help us to produce even better graduates," said Ashley. "We're already lauded by area veterinarians and other colleges for housing live animals 24-7. We have the capability to take animals from the shelter on day one and throughout the semester, administer health care to them until their adoption. This hands-on experience is invaluable. I always tell our students, 'the only way to learn how to handle a feral cat is to handle a feral cat,'" she said.

"This new facility will mean the world to our animals and their health care, as well as the graduates, who, over the past five years, have had a 96 percent job placement rate. When

employers see Tri-County grads, they know they are qualified and have had an experience that mimics what they will do in the field," she said.

Dr. Keith Allen, of Upstate Veterinary Specialists, who is serving as the campaign chair, said, "Tri-County 's Veterinary Technology program is renowned for graduating highly qualified and dedicated veterinary technicians. For this reason Upstate Veterinary Specialists employs a high percentage of graduates (27 of its 31 veterinary technicians are alumni). Supporting this campaign will help the College to carry out its mission to continue providing veterinarians with one of the most valuable assets in their practice."

For more information about giving opportunities, contact the Foundation Office at 646-1348.

### Ways to Give

- Scholarship Gifts
- Medical Fund (covers treatment and surgery expenses)
- Memorial Gifts (a way to honor a beloved companion)
- Equipment Needs
- Brick Paver Fund (support the campaign with a gift of \$100 or more that buys you a personalized brick which will be part of the animal house garden that will be created between the two facilities)
- In-Kind Gifts (such as pressure washers, generators, shelving, animal crates, transport trailer, cat cages, portable kennels, towels, blankets)



*The Veterinary Technology program holds adoption days several times each year to find homes for shelter animals that are cared for as part of students' training.*

# Tri-County's Top Students Honored at Awards Ceremony

Dr. Booth began his remarks to the College's 2015 outstanding students by directing them and their guests to the back page of the event program which outlined the College's Mission, Vision, and Values Statements, the College's guiding principles.

Although not a requirement to publish them in an awards program, Dr. Booth said it was by choice. The Mission Statement reads: "Tri-County Technical College, a public community college, focuses on teaching, learning, and helping students reach their goals." The Vision Statement is "Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time."

"They are an outline of why the College is in existence – to assist students to get from where they are to where they need to be in life. It's appropriate to include them here because it directs us in what we do. These statements matter to us. It's why we do what we do," he said.

"Building strong communities is our job. We are here to help you reach your goals and to make the community better," he said.

"Develop Mission, Vision, and Values Statements of your own. They serve as a purpose and a plan for your life," he advised the students. "It's important for every one of you to have a personal mission statement and well-articulated values in your lives," he told the group being honored as the College's top students.

It's equally important to develop a Vision Statement, he said. "What will your life look like?" he asked.

"Our Values Statement outlines how we do business. An example is 'Integrity: to be our ideal selves, doing right, and upholding and demonstrating high ethical standards at all times.'"

"Goals are different for everyone in life," he said. "It's easy to get lost in the big stuff. Use your statements as a reminder of what you can take control of in your lives and fine tune who you will be. It's important to find your place in life. Figure out what matters to you."



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth



Following remarks by Dr. Booth, the Outstanding Student Awards were presented. **William Tyler Swaney**, of Townville, right, received the Outstanding Automotive Technology Student Award. Tyler graduated from the Connect to College program in 2013. Presenting the plaque is **Trent Hulehan**, Automotive Technology program coordinator.

## Duke Energy Funds Curriculum Development

Duke Energy made a \$25,000 check presentation to the College's Foundation to fund curriculum development and targeted marketing and recruitment of students for a series of free courses the College will offer to a segment of the SC population (ages 25–44) that is unemployed, underemployed, and underserved.

This course will teach participants who have a high school diploma, but have not earned a college degree, how to succeed by preparing for specific Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers. Students will learn about regional STEM-related job opportunities, how to formulate personal career goals, assess their STEM career-readiness, and how to access educational programs to achieve career goals.

**Scott Miller**, district manager for Duke Energy, second from left, made the presentation to Foundation Executive Director **Grayson Kelly**, third from left. Also pictured are **Courtney White**, director of development, left, and **Tammy Fiske**, director of annual giving.





# Students Inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society



**Herm Allen**, Educational Talent Search program coordinator, was the keynote speaker at the College's ceremony for students inducted into Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB), a chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Herm shared with the students one of his favorite quotes, by author Russell W. Gough, from the book *Character Is Destiny*: "No matter who you are or what your circumstances are, the power of your example simply cannot be underestimated."

As they go along life's pathway, guest speaker Herm Allen urged the College's honor society inductees to think about four important elements that will contribute to paving the road to their futures—passion, attitude, values, and enthusiasm.

Herm, who has more than 20 years of student development experience, serves as the College's Educational Talent Search program coordinator. He also is owner/president of Herm Allen Coaching and the author of *F.O.C.U.S. on Your Future: Five Simple Principles to Reach Your Goals*. He spoke to the 36 students being inducted into Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB), a chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Initiates into the Alpha Zeta Beta chapter must have completed at least 12 hours of college work leading toward an associate degree and have attained a grade point ratio of 3.5 or better. Initiates also must be judged of good moral character and possess demonstrated qualities of good citizenship and service.

The first element to consider is passion, Herm said. "Working hard at a job you don't care about is stress. Working hard for something you love is called passion.

**Ashley Clayton**, of Anderson, an Early Childhood Development major, right, was one of 36 Tri-County students inducted recently into Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB), a chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Presenting her with a certificate is **Matt Randall**, AZB president.



Love it Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday—every day."

Attitude is equally as important, he said. "Attitude is a difference maker. It says a lot about who you are. And attitude dictates how you get through the day," he said. "For success, attitude is equally as important as ability. Attitude will pave the way for you to be successful. Don't just rely on ability."

Your values also play a critical role in your job, he said. "What do you value? I encourage you to do a values assessment. Use work as a reflection of your values. Don't take it lightly, and be mindful that your values follow you when you change careers," he said.

Lastly, enthusiasm is a motivator, he said. "When you are passionate, enthusiasm will follow."

## Spring Concert Features Chorus, Jazz Band

Original scores and arrangements by Jeff Christmas, music instructor, and Cory Dodgens, accompanist, were among the musical works performed by the Tri-County Jazz Band before a near-capacity crowd during the Spring Concert held April 17 in the Marshall Parker Auditorium on the Pendleton Campus. The Tri-County Chorus also performed several numbers, including Palestrina's *Adoramus Te*, which fulfilled a goal set by Jeff during his first year at Tri-County, which was to teach the chorus to successfully perform this difficult piece.



ABOVE: A near capacity crowd enjoyed a performance by the Tri-County Jazz Band at the Spring Concert.

ABOVE: The Tri-County Chorus performs at the Spring Concert held April 17 in the Marshall Parker Auditorium.

# Our College Family

*excellence through service*



Tom Lawrence

Public Services Department Head **Tom Lawrence's** paper, "Global Leadership Communication: A Strategic Proposal" has been accepted for publication in the Creighton Journal of Interdisciplinary Leadership (CJIL). CJIL is a double-blind, peer-reviewed publication dedicated to leadership issues in education, business, and the public sector.



Dr. Amoena Norcross

**Dr. Amoena Norcross** and **Sarah Shumpert** developed, and Amoena delivered, a presentation titled "Walk the Talk: Modeling Successful Behaviors to Develop Leadership" at the 2015 On Course National Conference held in Anaheim, CA, April 16-18. Their presentation focused on the application of personal responsibility and interdependence (two behaviors of successful students) to the strengthening of leadership skills among members of the President's Advisory Council.



Sarah Shumpert

**Sharon Homer-Drummond**, science department lecturer, recently attended the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) annual

meeting and presented a paper entitled "Snapshot Assessment of Reproductive Endocrine Status in Free-Ranging Atlantic bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) by High Performance Liquid Chromatography."

Marketing Director **Gayle Arries**, along with Koolfix partners Clark Smith and Tim Angevine, were co-presenters at the National Council on Marketing and Public Relations conference in Portland, Oregon. The title of the presentation was "Student Engagement through Marketing and Multi Media." Later, Gayle was asked to write an article for a future issue of NCMPR's magazine, Counsel, about the effectiveness of using videos in student recruiting.



Gayle Arries



Ross Hughes

Two from our Financial Aid Office were co-presenters at the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference. **Ross Hughes** and **Catherine DuRant** gave a presentation titled, "Get Ready for Your Close up: How to Develop, Implement, and Maintain a Successful Social Media Program."



Catherine DuRant

## brag and share

*Mandy Orzechowski, department head for Engineering Technology, sent this note of appreciation to **Doug Allen**, Industrial Technology department head:*

I would like to take a moment to tell you how much I appreciate the service the Welding Department provides to ALL our students. The GET students working on the "Flogo" machine (our floating bubbles) needed an aluminum frame welded together for their final product. The students and I ran up to ITC one day last week. The entire department was so helpful. We picked up the completed frame, and it is absolutely perfect. I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate their attitude and support."

*Mandy also sent this note as an example of service excellence:*

I was returning to campus in the late afternoon, and **Trent Hulehan** (Automotive Technology program coordinator) was flagging down a faculty member from another division. Evidently, she had her oil changed by automotive at some point. Her oil was dangerously low at that point. Trent remembered. He went out of his way to ask, "Have you checked your oil lately?" She had not, so he checked it for her. This is a great example of service excellence—even to our internal customers (co-workers). I appreciate his servant's heart.

Congratulations to Early Childhood Development instructor **Gary Lynch**, who was recently naturalized as a U.S. Citizen on March 27.





## Administrative Professionals Day Focuses on Leadership

*Influential Leadership for Administrative Professionals* was the title of the 13th Annual Administrative Professionals Day program hosted by the Corporate and Community Education Division April 22. **Mary Ann Craft**, standing, recently retired human resources manager at U.S. Engine Valve and longtime supporter of the College, spoke to a capacity crowd about how to develop key leadership skills and attitudes, identify leadership opportunities, and use your natural strengths to take on important leadership roles.

## Commission Elects Officers

The College's Commission, its governing board, recently elected officers for the 2015–16 academic year.

Leon (Butch) Harris, III, of Anderson, was re-elected Chairman. He has been a member of the Commission since 2008 and previously served as Vice Chair. John Powell, of Walhalla, was re-elected Vice Chairman. He was appointed to the Board in 2010. Milton Ponder, III, of Dacusville, a member of the Board since 2010, was elected Secretary. They took office April 1.



Leon (Butch) Harris, III



John Powell



Milton Ponder, III

## In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of longtime College family member Elaine Foster, who passed away April 27 following an extended illness. Elaine joined the College in 1990 as an Administrative Specialist for the Special Schools program (now readySC) and later worked in curriculum development until she took the position of Training Coordinator in the Healthcare Department of the Corporate and Community Education Division (CCE). Elaine coordinated the delivery of the Certified Nurse Aide, Phlebotomy, EKG, Pharmacy Technician, and Medical Coding and Billing programs and other healthcare professional opportunities.



Elaine Foster

"We all have heavy hearts with the passing of Elaine," said Janelle Hicks, retired healthcare program manager, who worked with Elaine for more than 15 years. "She was a good friend to so many," said Janelle. "She made so many valuable contributions to the department and was dedicated to student success. She was there for our adjunct instructors and students alike. You could always rely on Elaine. She was a great team member. Those of us who were privileged to know and work with her witnessed her commitment on a daily basis."

"She was essential in ensuring that new healthcare students were aware of the importance of discipline and personal accountability in their new careers and confirmed they had completed all of their prerequisites for beginning their training program. Beyond program entry, Elaine was there for students who needed help along the way," said Rick Cothran, dean of CCE.

In addition to her direct assistance to new students, Elaine also provided some curriculum delivery in several of the courses and coordinated the many professional healthcare conferences that the CCE Division delivers. "Like all of us, she did her share of the recordkeeping and course maintenance, equipment and supplies purchasing, and the hundreds of tasks that are completely behind the scenes of training and education—and yet totally essential to creating the best learning experience for the student. Elaine was a faithful cheerleader for her students and her co-workers. She always had a smile and was ready to offer words of encouragement when needed. And Elaine did all of this so well. We will all miss her," added Rick.



*Humming House*

### CMT Sponsors Headliner Humming House

## Bluegrass under the Stars Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Tri-County Technical College's 10th Annual Bluegrass under the Stars concert was held Saturday, April 4, at the Pendleton Campus.

The free concert and fireworks event for the family is held annually in conjunction with the town of Pendleton's annual Spring Jubilee celebration. Featured artists included award-winning veteran performers, as well as up-and-coming bluegrass artists. Country Music Television (CMT) provided the

concert headliner, Nashville-based quintet Humming House. In addition to Humming House, the concert featured fan favorites Volume Five, Mountain Faith, and Last Road. The Sweet Potato Pie Kids opened the show.

Tri-County's academic departments offered information and fun activities for concert-goers. The concert ended with a fireworks extravaganza.



*ABOVE: Science instructor **Zach Vollrath** shows **Michelle Faber**, of Anderson, how to use a telescope to view the sky at the Science Department display.*

*RIGHT: An estimated 2,000 people attended the 10th Annual Bluegrass under the Stars concert.*







Many thanks to **Amanda Blanton**, director of high school engagement and outreach, and her son, **Brightin**, a sophomore at Furman University, who volunteered to assist headliner band Humming House during the day and evening activities.



Two faithful concert attendees each year are Pendleton Mayor **Frank Crenshaw**, left, and United Way Director **Carol Burdette**. The concert is always held in conjunction with the Town's Spring Jubilee and this year was part of the Town of Pendleton's 225th Anniversary Celebration. They are pictured with **Dr. Booth**.



Associate in Arts students **Hailey Thrasher**, of Anderson, and **Anna Sullivan**, of Easley, sketched anatomic designs at the Arts and Sciences Division table.



**Volume Five** released a new album, *Voices*, in January and in 2014 the band garnered two IBMA nominations for IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year and IBMA Gospel Recorded Performance of the Year for "The Day We Learn To Fly."



Crowd favorite Mountain Faith (lead singer **Summer McMahan** seen here) was back this year due to popular demand. Mountain Faith was among the finalists for Album of the Year, Song of the Year, and Band of the Year at the 2015 National Bluegrass Music Awards event held February 5–8 in Nashville, Tennessee, and hosted by the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America.



Frequent bluegrass concert performers **Last Road** kicked off the show. Many thanks to concert partner **Dave Snyder**, second from left, for his help in selecting bands and providing sound and technical support for the concert since its inception in 2005.



## CMT for Empowering Education Campaign

Tri-County was one of 14 community colleges nationwide selected to participate as a partner in Country Music Television’s Empowering Education campaign. The comprehensive campaign provides outreach events and an online resource, CMTempoweringEducation.com, to aid viewers in overcoming commonly perceived obstacles to furthering their education.

Last year CMT hosted the first educational event at Hazard Community and Technical College in Kentucky. It featured video presentations, a college Q & A session and a community concert by a CMT artist. “Afterward, they watched their technical classes fill up with coal miners, their targeted population,” said Gaffney. “This was the first tangible evidence of the direct impact of the students’ stories featured in the CMT videos. But the true evidence is the traction into the admissions offices and if viewers feel connected to the college and are eager to check it out for themselves.”



## Thank You!

Many thanks to our community sponsors who supported our 10th annual Bluegrass Under the Stars Concert and Fireworks

- American Services
- Clemson Area Transit
- Duke Energy
- Michelin
- Anderson Independent Mail
- Thrift Brothers

- Ann and Jim Herbert
- Carolina Beer
- Clemson Downs
- Coca Cola of Anderson
- Dr. Arthur Bruce
- Growler Haus
- Subway of Pendleton
- Town of Pendleton
- Villages at Town Creek

## Changing Lives

(continued from page 1)

their stories will be posted on CMT’s Empowering Education website, [www.cmtempoweringeducation.com](http://www.cmtempoweringeducation.com). In addition, Mechatronics graduate Quin Magee; Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing graduate Lindsey Montjoy; Connect to College graduate Carly Heventhal, who took University Transfer classes and is now a BSN student at Clemson; and ADN graduate Stormie Moore will be featured. (You can read their individual stories in their entirety on the College’s News Release at [tctc.edu/news](http://tctc.edu/news).)

“The students featured, both on and off the stage, chose Tri-County as the best path toward their future.

While attending school, they each have worked hard, balancing several jobs, as well as outside demands. Their inspiring stories are a testament to why we believe community colleges are the best resources for our viewers in their communities and how we aim to encourage our viewers to further their education.” said Gaffney.

And it is working.



### Nikki Giba

Nikki was one of 30 seniors who graduated from Cherokee High School in 2013. “I can count on both hands those who went on to college,” she said. For most of them, it was the University of North Alabama, located in Florence, just 30 minutes from Cherokee where most of her friends plan to make their homes and settle into careers after graduation. “They don’t want to leave,” she said. “But I did. I wanted more.”

Nikki was the only graduate who moved out of state to go to college. Two years later, in her last semester as a University Transfer student at Tri-County, she is preparing applications to three South Carolina universities, with Clemson University at the top of the list.

“It’s been a learning experience. I’ve grown up a lot,” says



Following the pre-concert event, high school students participated in a career fair hosted by the Admissions and Recruiting Office. Recruiter **Tiffany Blackwell**, pictured here, spearheaded the recruiting efforts for the event which included phone calls, social media, and high school visits.



Nikki, who holds down two part-time jobs as a full-time student to support herself financially.

“I’ve seen what no education does,” said Nikki. “I’ve spent the past two years at Tri-County creating a career plan.” She was chosen for an agricultural communications internship in Kentucky this summer.



### Sidney Davis

Sidney never even considered Tri-County when he was a high school senior making decisions about college. “I didn’t want to go to college near my home,” said the Westminster resident, so he headed to

Spartanburg Methodist where he received an associate degree in science. He went on to USC-Upstate where he planned to study communications. “I wanted to work in broadcast journalism but I discovered I’m not a writer,” he said. He came home after a year and began looking for work—and training for a career.

“Looking back, if I knew what I do now, Tri-County would have been my first choice,” said Sidney, who is now enrolled in the Industrial Electronics Technology program and working as a co-op position at Electrolux in Anderson. “If I had, I’d be 21, with a degree and working in a good job in industry. It should have been the route I took. I just didn’t know what a Tri-County degree can do for me.” Sidney will graduate this summer, thanks to the 2014 David A. Harvey Memorial Scholarship he received last year.



### Selena Valdizon

As a senior at Walhalla High School, Selena began considering college options, but admits she didn’t know where to begin at first. Like many first-generation college-bound students, she had no roadmap. Her parents had no experience to guide her in admissions and financial aid procedures so she was on her own to navigate this

sometimes daunting process. “My parents completely supported me but couldn’t actually help me with applications and the FAFSA. I had to figure it out on my own. I was overwhelmed with details about applying for college. But luckily my high school counselor was extremely helpful. I learned to ask for help, and when you have the opportunity, you learn to grab it,” she said.

“Attending the first two years of college is financially smart and the perfect route for someone like me who prefers small



CMT’s concert headliner, Nashville-based quintet **Humming House**, mugging for the camera, performed a cappella at the pre-concert event and later were filmed by MTA major Eliab Martinez and interviewed by Nikki Giba. MTA students shot footage and conducted interviews with the bands during the evening for a student documentary project about the concert.

class sizes and one-on-one interaction with instructors,” she said. With the LIFE scholarship, a Foundation-sponsored Ruby Hicks scholarship, and Pell grant, all expenses were covered, excluding a few textbooks. Selena will graduate debt free.

Being free of financial burdens gives her the chance to really focus on academics and getting involved in extracurricular activities.

She is on the Dean’s List and a member of the Alpha Zeta Beta honor society, where she serves as secretary. She was elected president of the Student Government Association (SGA) last year and was involved as a Student Ambassador and a member of the Choir and the Spanish Club. She also works as a certified nurse aide on weekends.



Winner of the iPad was **Ashley Merck**, a senior at Easley High School, middle, who attended the pre-event with her mother, Michelle. Ashley plans to enroll this fall as a University Transfer major. She is pictured with **Jenni Creamer**, dean of College Transitions, left, and **Christina Houck**, recruiter.

## Welding Students Exceed Competitors in Winning Awards



Tri-County Welding students garnered six awards at the 33rd Annual South Carolina Technical College State-wide Welding Competition hosted by Tri-County April 23–24. Tri-County students won more awards than any of the ten technical colleges that participated in the State-wide competition held at the Industrial Technology Center. Pictured from left to right are **Blake Volrath**, **Andrew Jackson**, **Ty Nettles**, **Dakota Phillips**, **Harrison Oliver**, and **Christopher Chapman**.

## SI Reaches Out to Reduce Exam Stress

Supplemental Instruction (SI) program peer instructors hosted a “Stress Relief” table outside the Student Center during Spring Semester exams. **Kassie Kinnicutt**, a University Transfer major, left, and **Emily O’Connor**, a Clemson University student, passed out bags of popcorn and provided art supplies for students to color and paint as a way to clear their minds and relieve stress. SI, a best practice in higher education, is peer-led instruction that includes reviewing class materials and helping students prepare for exams. It is proven to improve retention, persistence, and grades in traditionally difficult courses. SI leaders are Tri-County and Clemson students who earned an A in the class and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.



Southern Stories was the brainchild of English instructor **Lane Hudson**, left, who also planned and coordinated the event. He is pictured with the evening’s performers **Tara Lenertz**, **Tim Lowry**, and **Billy Boggs**.

## Southern Stories Event Draws All Ages

Nationally known storyteller Tim Lowry headlined the Southern Stories event held the evening before the Bluegrass concert.

The event, sponsored by the College’s Enrichment Series, was free and open to the public.

The event opened with a performance by Tara Lenertz, a University Transfer student who won a first-place trophy in the Storytelling category in January at the 2015 South Carolina Speech & Theatre College Festival Competition. The next performance was by Billy Boggs, popular regional storyteller and a member of Clemson Area Storytelling Guild.



Tim Lowry



Tara Lenertz



## Special Emphasis on Veterans to Fill Law Enforcement Jobs

# Vendors Call Criminal Justice Fair Best Ever

Program Coordinator Dr. Chris McFarlin says this year's Criminal Justice Career Fair was the biggest ever in terms of numbers and successful job connections.

The annual event, held April 15 in the Cafe, was open to the public, with a special emphasis on helping veterans find jobs in law enforcement.

Local, state, and federal agencies were represented. Also, four agencies conducted preliminary job screenings—Spartanburg City Public Safety, Pickens County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Army Reserves, and the S.C. Highway Patrol.

"Our vendors, many of whom were first-time participants, said it was the best career fair they have ever been to. It was well run, and students were prepared. It's an excellent way to get good applicants. We were successful in getting the word out to our area veterans who were in good attendance," said Chris. "I know the U.S. Marshals were specifically looking to hire veterans," he added.

"When area agencies are looking to fill positions, they always ask us if we have veterans in our program because the crossover from military life to the criminal justice world is a natural progression," said Chris. "A lot of the military skills transfer over to law enforcement, making for a smooth transition."

The career fair was an opportunity for folks to find out how to position themselves to be competitive and to help them get a job with specific agencies, Chris said.

"The jobs are out there, ranging from full- and part-time positions, to internship and volunteer opportunities," said Chris. "This event benefited our students, our military veterans, and the community while helping law enforcement agencies fill positions. There is a huge job demand, and employers are looking for good people to fill these positions."

Additionally, current law enforcement and corrections officers who are certified should check out the College's portfolio program whereby students can receive up to 15 credit hours based on training and experience in the field, said Chris.

"This career fair is our signature event. We've had this event for several years, and it's always been good. We've grown it every year. This is a win-win for everyone involved—the students, our military veterans, the general public, and area employers," he said.



**Caleb Brock**, a dual enrollment student from Crescent High School, left, attended the fair. In addition to taking Introduction to Criminology, Caleb will have earned a total of 18 credit hours by the time he graduates from high school and enters the Criminal Justice program this fall. He is pictured talking with SLED Special Agent **Jeremy Benjamin**.



CRJ students **Kenneth Davis**, of Westminster; left, and **Buford Chadwick McDowell**, second from left, talk with Army Staff Sergeant **Louie Valdez**.



**Rosheika Curry**, of Anderson, talks with Detective **Tanya Joy**, of the Greenville County Sheriff's Department.



# Alumni Spring Open Tournament Raises More Than \$9,000

Seventy-nine players participated in the 28th Annual Alumni Association (Spring Open) tournament held April 23 at Falcons Lair in Walhalla. The event raised \$9,273, and proceeds will go towards the student scholarship fund.

## Tournament Sponsors

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Many thanks to Itron, who was the Eagle Sponsor of the tournament.



LEFT: A score of 51 won the Blue Ridge Bank team the first-place prize. The foursome, all Walhalla High School students, are, from left, **Jackson Pappalardo**, **Tommy Craig**, **Kevin Gasque**, and **Seth Rogener**.

RIGHT: **Jimmy Edmonds**, a 1967 alumnus and former Alumni Association president, has played in all 28 Alumni Association golf tournaments. He is pictured with Alumni Director **Mary Johnston**.



ABOVE LEFT: **Morris Keasler**, a Tri-County retiree and loyal supporter of the tournament, travels from Florence to play and see old friends.

ABOVE RIGHT: Maintenance Staff members played on a team with former Maintenance Supervisor **Mike McCuen**, second from left, who, with his wife, Colleen, who also played in the tournament, drove more than 400 miles to participate. From left are **Terry Tuorila**, **Terry Heg**, and retiree **Horace Perkins**.

RIGHT: Alumnus **Larry Barnes**, network systems manager in our IT Department and a regular player in the Spring Open, right, arrives at the tournament with **Frank McGill**.





# Celebrate Armed Forces Day at Patriot Run and Freedom Ride



It's not too late to sign up for the Patriot Run & Freedom Ride set for Saturday, May 16. The event will be held at the Anderson Campus located at 511 Michelin Boulevard. All proceeds support scholarships for student veterans at Tri-County Technical College. The 5K begins at 9 a.m.; the one mile events begin at 9:05 a.m.

The Tri-County Freedom Ride is a new motorcycle Poker Run featuring stops that highlight veteran or active service military themes. Bikes will go out, parade style, at 10:05 a.m. and will be back by 12:15 p.m. The ride will start and end at the Anderson Campus—just one mile from the Anderson County Airport—and will last approximately two hours. There will be many awards and prizes with each event, along with lots of activities, music, food vendors and more. For more information or to register, go to [www.tctc.edu/RunRide](http://www.tctc.edu/RunRide).

## Galadriel Finds New Home with Bowen Brood

The animals outnumber the humans at Criminal Justice instructor Brad Bowen's house.

The family menagerie consists of an eight-year-old Pit Bull Terrier, a four-year-old male Persian cat, a rabbit, who lives in an indoor cage, an outdoor two-hundred-pound pig, as well as a red-eared slider turtle, two Asian Forest scorpions, a Vietnamese centipede, and a colony of hissing cockroaches, all of whom live in tanks indoors. The latest addition to the brood is Galadriel, a Pit Bull mix, who underwent surgery to correct Bilateral Entropion prior to being adopted at a recent Veterinary Technology adoption day.



*This is what Galadriel's eyes looked like, pre-surgery.*



"Entropion is a congenital disease or malformation of the eyelid in which it rolls inward against the cornea of the eye, causing a great deal of discomfort," said Dr. Elizabeth Bryan, part-time lecturer/veterinarian who performed the surgery on both of Galadriel's eyes. "Specifically, the eyelid folds inward, and the eyelashes and skin rub against the cornea of the eye, causing watery eyes, inflammation, discomfort, irritation, and sometimes pain. It also can impair sight if left untreated," she noted. Dr. Bryan, assisted by Veterinary Technology students, spayed Galadriel the same day as the surgery. "She could open her eyes right after the surgery. We were hoping to place her in a good home, and she found it," said Dr. Bryan.

"We've always had a house full of animals. They run the house. Everything pretty much revolves around them," Brad said, half joking.

Brad said they weren't looking for another pet to add to the brood, but the family was mourning the loss of a beloved German shepherd. Stephanie Brown (Veterinary Technology instructor) told me there was a German shepherd up for adoption so we went down there to meet her. We decided to look at the book of animals available for adoption and saw Galadriel. She was scared at first, but after a few minutes of 'army crawling' on her belly, she was licking my face," he said.

They chose her immediately.

"She made herself at home with the other animals and now sleeps with the other Pit Bull Terrier mix. We have a soft spot for animals," said Brad. "But this is it—the house is full," he said.

*FAR LEFT: Dr. Elizabeth Bryan, right, performs surgery to correct Bilateral Entropion.*

*LEFT: Galadriel and the family's other Pit Bull Terrier mix became fast friends with Brad's family. Note Galadriel's eyes, post surgery.*

# Spring Semester Wraps Up with Safe Summer Party



*Andrew Scarborough, part of the K-9 Operations Unit of the Anderson County Sheriff's Department, explained how dogs like Gizmo are trained to assist police officers in subduing violent criminals. The demonstration was part of the Safe Summer Party hosted by the Office of Student Development and the Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee. Students also enjoyed free food, games, information, and giveaways at the event.*

*Kristin Wood and Abbey Wiles, both University Transfer students, enjoyed visiting with Duke, a human tracking dog with the K-9 unit of the Anderson County Sheriff's Department. Duke and his handler, Allen Creamer, were participants in the Safe Summer Party hosted by the Office of Student Development and the Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee.*



*Student Ambassadors assisted with the Safe Summer Party held April 23 to promote awareness about alcohol and drug abuse. From left are James Kern, Fadhri Farfan, and Selena Valdizon, all University Transfer students; Croslena Johnson, director of Student Life and Counseling Services; Ashley Israel, student success coach at the Easley Campus; and Holli Seaborn, also a University Transfer major.*

## Executive Staff Summary

- **COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES REDESIGN PROPOSAL:** Building on the success of the Express Track and Fast Track pilot programs, the Comprehensive Studies Department will proceed with redesigning the department to fully implement these new delivery methods for developmental classes.
- **ORIENTATION REDESIGN:** A new group orientation model is now in place and includes information on how to be successful in college, eTC resources, and financial aid, as well as breakout sessions by academic division to help students develop a sense of belonging and learn strategies for success. The same model is being used at the community campuses.
- **EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION PROJECT:** Debbie Thrasher, administrative specialist in the Health Education Division, will lead a project to identify ways to celebrate and recognize employees and cultivate relationship building among College units. The group also will examine supervisors' roles in promoting employee engagement and develop activities to assist supervisors in engaging their direct reports.
- **OTHER:** Preparations for SACS reaffirmation; County Council budget presentations; strategic planning; Student Success Center pre-design study; policies and procedures updates.