The Wind in Our Sails

FORSYTH TECH’S FOUNDATION POWERS EXCELLENCE
From the President  Managing Growth
Dr. Gary M. Green

All business leaders know that while growth is devoted to be desired and pursued, managing growth is a challenge. It’s a challenge we at Forsyth Tech continue to grapple with, as enrollment increases each semester. I would like to commend our faculty and staff for how well they are accommodating the increased demands on them. Our people have been called upon to contribute more, and they have stepped up to the plate. The good and encouraging thing about this surge in enrollment is the amount we have been able to do to help people weather this prolonged recession. As several individuals commented in our cover story, The Wind in Our Sails, the silver lining in this economic downturn is the chance for thousands of people to learn the skills that will be needed in the 21st century. And as those business leaders have also noted, Forsyth Tech has been amazingly nimble in developing and staffing a number of training programs that lead to jobs that actually exist in this community. The 12 in 6—which stands for 12 training programs that can be completed in 6 months—quickly turned into something like 16 in 6, and those people are finding employment. We’re proud that Forsyth Tech is the state leader in short-term job training, through the federally funded JobsNOW initiative.

The Forsyth Tech Foundation, subject of our cover story, is a hero in our ability to manage rapid growth. More than ever, we are seeing students who simply can’t get the training they desperately need without scholarship assistance. In many cases, these students are adults, often parents, and are working one or more jobs while they go to school. Providing scholarships is a primary purpose of the Foundation.

The Foundation also helps us attract and retain the kind of instructors to attend conferences in their fields, and have the professional development and educational experiences that our students will be ready to work in their chosen fields.

Our first capital campaign, the Momentum Campaign, has been another success for the Foundation, exceeding its goal of $13 million. Much of this amount will go to expanding our purchases of technology and equipment that ensure our students will be ready to work in their chosen fields.

For 50 years, Forsyth Tech has been opening doors of opportunity for thousands of people in our community. Your support, through The Foundation of Forsyth Tech, maintains this vital mission.
May 13 at the Benton Convention Center. Wendy was recognized at a ceremony held Winston-Salem’s “Women of Vision” for 2010. Services, was chosen as one of the YWCA of Adult Literacy & ABE/GED. Paul Kindley, Stokes County Coordinator for direction of instructor Kristine Jonczak and the students sang patriotic favorites under the grounds of the State Capitol complex, and Day celebration. The event was held in July on performed at the Governor’s Independence Stokes Opportunity Center in Walnut Cove, at and conducted in partnership with the compensatory education program, located A group of students from the Forsyth Tech Performance A Command Ready for Anything Forsyth Tech senior nursing students participated in a disaster drill on April 7 at Forsyth Medical Center. The drill simulated a severe weather situation involving loss of power and extensive property damage, and was designed to prepare the students for dealing with such events by creating a realistic a scenario as possible. UNCG Award for Dr. Bonnie Pope The UNCG School of Education honored Dr. Bonnie Pope, Director of Nursing, with a 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award in the area of Outstanding Achievement. Bonnie Pope received her doctorate in educational leadership from the School of Education in 2008 after previously earning a master’s degree in nursing from UNCG. ADN Faculty Collaborate on Journal Article Dr. Marie Thomas, Lead Instructor, Associate Degree Nursing; Susan Baker, Instructor, Associate Degree Nursing; Dr. Bonnie Pope, Director, Nursing; Linda Latham, Program Coordinator, associate Degree Nursing; and Francoise Houenou Mededji, Instructor, Associate Degree Nursing, recently collaborated on an article that was published in the April 2010 issue of Teaching and Learning in Nursing. The article, titled “The focused client care experience: preparing for entry-level practice,” describes the development of an Associate Degree Nursing focused client care experience in the community college setting. Print Industry Picks Students in the Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology program recently won several awards in the Printing Industry of the Carolinas, Inc. (PICA) student competition. Jessica Burgess won two Best of Category awards, Jenna Paramore won a Best of Category and a Special Judges Award, and Jose Sosa won an Award of Excellence. Jenna was also awarded a PICA/Treadway Scholarship in the amount of $1,000. See What She Can Do Christina Ware, a student in the Business Administration program, was the winner of a contest to design a T-shirt for Forsyth Tech’s Spring Fling celebration in April. What makes this a truly amazing accomplishment is the fact that Christine is blind.
The Honor Roll

Thank You, Your Honor
This spring, Forsyth County Superior Court Judge L. Todd Burke visited Forsyth Tech to participate in a panel discussion on legal issues in Domestic Problems. The Student Voices Organization and the James A. Rousseau II Minority Male Mentoring Program hosted the event.

The Smoke Stops Here
Signs like these are informing visitors to all Forsyth Tech campus and center locations that smoking is no longer permitted in any building or on grounds owned or used by the college as of August 15. The goal of this new policy is to have healthier students, faculty and staff, resulting in lower health costs and less time away from class due to illness.

A Job Well Done
George McLendon retired in May as Director of Recruiting at Forsyth Tech after spending more than 40 years at the school. Before becoming Director of Recruiting, George was Director of Admissions, and before that a guidance counselor. He was also an adviser to the James A. Rousseau II Minority Male Mentoring Program for many years. The Forsyth Tech community thanks George for his many contributions to the college and wishes him a wonderful retirement!

WWII Vets Will Fly on Lemonade
Maryanna Richardson, Instructor, Communications & Humanities Department, helped raise more than $1,300 to support Triad Flight of Honor, which recognizes World War II veterans by providing them with day trips to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II memorial. Incredibly, Maryanna raised the money by operating a simple lemonade stand with her children and a few friends.

Transportation Is on the Move
Forsyth Tech’s transportation technology programs—Autobody Repair, Automotive Systems Technology, Heavy Equipment and Transport Technology, Recreational Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Technology, and Richard Childress Race Car Technology—are getting a new home. Construction on the new Transportation Center began in June, and classes are expected to begin there in January 2012. The new Transportation Center is located on Patterson Avenue at the former site of the Piedmont Shopping Center. The funds to purchase the shopping center and create the Transportation Center are part of a bond package approved by voters in 2006.

The future home of The Forsyth Tech Transportation Center and Richard Childress Race Car Technology Program

Bond Referendum Wins – Again!
In 2008, Forsyth Tech’s Bond Referendum marketing campaign convinced voters to give the school funds for a needed expansion. Now that campaign has won yet another set of votes. On March 10, the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCCPR) gave the campaign a Silver Paragon Award in the category of Government Relations or Community Relations Project. The Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges and is the only national competition of its kind.

Thank you for your vote of confidence
BondReferendum.com

Alumnus Steve Plemmons Is Honored
Steve Plemmons, owner of Bill Plemmons RV World, was named the Forsyth Tech Distinguished Alumni for 2010. Steve, who was profiled in the Summer 2008 issue of Tech Quarterly, graduated from Forsyth Tech with a degree in Automotive Systems Technology and has been a longtime supporter of the school. For many years he has allowed Forsyth Tech to use the facilities of Bill Plemmons RV World as a “campus” for the Recreational Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Technology program, which he helped found. He also serves on the school’s Alumni Association Board.
Four Paths to Success

Spring Graduations 2010

More than 1,700 students graduated from Forsyth Tech this spring in four separate ceremonies. These students leave Forsyth Tech having completed work in our credit, JobsNOW, GED/AHS or Associate Degree Nursing programs. Some will begin new careers, while others will continue their education. But whatever path they choose, they all have one thing in common—their Forsyth Tech degree will offer them the opportunity to succeed.

The Nth Degree
Dr. John McConnell, Chief Executive Officer of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, spoke to the college’s credit graduates at commencement on May 13. Dr. McConnell spoke of the American Dream and urged graduates to reach their highest potential. In all, 1,129 students earned degrees, diplomas and certificates in 2010, an increase of 6 percent over 2009. Graduation for credit students was held at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, and more than 4,000 friends and family—a 25 percent increase over last year’s non-student attendance—cheered the graduates on.

Rite of Spring
The speaker at this year’s Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony was Paul M. Wiles, CEO of Novant Health and the man for whom Forsyth Tech’s School of Nursing was named. The ceremony was held May 4 in Wait Chapel on the Wait Forest campus.

Ready to Work
Forsyth Tech’s second JobsNOW graduation was held May 26 in the school’s West Campus auditorium. Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System, delivered the commencement address. Approximately 700 students were eligible to receive certificates. Forsyth Tech continues to lead the state in the number of students enrolled in JobsNOW. Of the more than 17,900 students enrolled in JobsNOW programs throughout the state’s community college system, more than 1,400 of those are enrolled at Forsyth Tech. The 293 JobsNOW graduates received certificates from 11 different JobsNOW programs. Despite a challenging job market, 60 percent of this graduating class had already secured employment by the time they graduated.

Never Too Late
Forsyth Tech’s GED/AHS Adult High School graduation was held May 20 in Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University. The graduating class included 224 GED students, 33 of whom graduated with honors, and 69 Adult High School students. Winston-Salem Mayor Allen B. Covitz was named. The ceremony was held May 4 in Wait Chapel on the Wait Forest campus.

JobsNOW graduation was held May 26 in the school’s West Campus auditorium. Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System, delivered the commencement address. Approximately 700 students were eligible to receive certificates. Forsyth Tech continues to lead the state in the number of students enrolled in JobsNOW. Of the more than 17,900 students enrolled in JobsNOW programs throughout the state’s community college system, more than 1,400 of those are enrolled at Forsyth Tech. The 293 JobsNOW graduates received certificates from 11 different JobsNOW programs. Despite a challenging job market, 60 percent of this graduating class had already secured employment by the time they graduated.

The Nth Degree
Dr. John McConnell, Chief Executive Officer of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, spoke to the college’s credit graduates at commencement on May 13. Dr. McConnell spoke of the American Dream and urged graduates to reach their highest potential. In all, 1,129 students earned degrees, diplomas and certificates in 2010, an increase of 6 percent over 2009. Graduation for credit students was held at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, and more than 4,000 friends and family—a 25 percent increase over last year’s non-student attendance—cheered the graduates on.

Rite of Spring
The speaker at this year’s Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony was Paul M. Wiles, CEO of Novant Health and the man for whom Forsyth Tech’s School of Nursing was named. The ceremony was held May 4 in Wait Chapel on the Wait Forest campus.

Ready to Work
Forsyth Tech’s second JobsNOW graduation was held May 26 in the school’s West Campus auditorium. Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System, delivered the commencement address. Approximately 700 students were eligible to receive certificates. Forsyth Tech continues to lead the state in the number of students enrolled in JobsNOW. Of the more than 17,900 students enrolled in JobsNOW programs throughout the state’s community college system, more than 1,400 of those are enrolled at Forsyth Tech. The 293 JobsNOW graduates received certificates from 11 different JobsNOW programs. Despite a challenging job market, 60 percent of this graduating class had already secured employment by the time they graduated.

Never Too Late
Forsyth Tech’s GED/AHS Adult High School graduation was held May 20 in Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University. The graduating class included 224 GED students, 33 of whom graduated with honors, and 69 Adult High School students. Winston-Salem Mayor Allen B. Covitz was named. The ceremony was held May 4 in Wait Chapel on the Wait Forest campus.

JobsNOW graduation was held May 26 in the school’s West Campus auditorium. Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System, delivered the commencement address. Approximately 700 students were eligible to receive certificates. Forsyth Tech continues to lead the state in the number of students enrolled in JobsNOW. Of the more than 17,900 students enrolled in JobsNOW programs throughout the state’s community college system, more than 1,400 of those are enrolled at Forsyth Tech. The 293 JobsNOW graduates received certificates from 11 different JobsNOW programs. Despite a challenging job market, 60 percent of this graduating class had already secured employment by the time they graduated.

The Nth Degree
Dr. John McConnell, Chief Executive Officer of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, spoke to the college’s credit graduates at commencement on May 13. Dr. McConnell spoke of the American Dream and urged graduates to reach their highest potential. In all, 1,129 students earned degrees, diplomas and certificates in 2010, an increase of 6 percent over 2009. Graduation for credit students was held at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, and more than 4,000 friends and family—a 25 percent increase over last year’s non-student attendance—cheered the graduates on.

Rite of Spring
The speaker at this year’s Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony was Paul M. Wiles, CEO of Novant Health and the man for whom Forsyth Tech’s School of Nursing was named. The ceremony was held May 4 in Wait Chapel on the Wait Forest campus.

Ready to Work
Forsyth Tech’s second JobsNOW graduation was held May 26 in the school’s West Campus auditorium. Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System, delivered the commencement address. Approximately 700 students were eligible to receive certificates. Forsyth Tech continues to lead the state in the number of students enrolled in JobsNOW. Of the more than 17,900 students enrolled in JobsNOW programs throughout the state’s community college system, more than 1,400 of those are enrolled at Forsyth Tech. The 293 JobsNOW graduates received certificates from 11 different JobsNOW programs. Despite a challenging job market, 60 percent of this graduating class had already secured employment by the time they graduated.

Never Too Late
Forsyth Tech’s GED/AHS Adult High School graduation was held May 20 in Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University. The graduating class included 224 GED students, 33 of whom graduated with honors, and 69 Adult High School students. Winston-Salem Mayor Allen B. Covitz was named. The ceremony was held May 4 in Wait Chapel on the Wait Forest campus.

JobsNOW graduation was held May 26 in the school’s West Campus auditorium. Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System, delivered the commencement address. Approximately 700 students were eligible to receive certificates. Forsyth Tech continues to lead the state in the number of students enrolled in JobsNOW. Of the more than 17,900 students enrolled in JobsNOW programs throughout the state’s community college system, more than 1,400 of those are enrolled at Forsyth Tech. The 293 JobsNOW graduates received certificates from 11 different JobsNOW programs. Despite a challenging job market, 60 percent of this graduating class had already secured employment by the time they graduated.
Forsyth Tech kicked off its first capital campaign in 2005. The Momentum Campaign was one of the first community college capital campaigns in the state, and it set what many people considered an unrealistic goal—$13 million.

“We worked with great fundraising counsel, and after the interviews for the feasibility study, Dr. Green went back to all 65 of those people,” said Dr. Shari Covitz, the Foundation’s Executive Director. In those talks, President Green talked about how integral Forsyth Tech is to the infrastructure of Forsyth and Stokes counties, and how important the school is to the future of our community. He pointed out that 75 percent of the school’s graduates stay and work here.

Ed Welch, President of I.L. Construction Co. and Dr. Donald deBethizy, founder and CEO of Targacept, were chosen to co-chair the campaign, which has exceeded its $13 million goal.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” said Don deBethizy. “I’d been selling a value proposition for a long time for my company, but here I would be asking for money for something I wasn’t as familiar with. I realized we needed to put together a value proposition. You have to do that whenever you raise money, and it was especially critical since this was the first-ever capital campaign for Forsyth Tech.”

He, President Green, Ed Welch and Shari Covitz worked very hard in crafting their message for their first call, which was on Steve Strawsburg, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility at Reynolds American.

“We determined that about 11,000 Reynolds American employees had received training at Forsyth Tech, and we estimated what the value of that was to the company,” Dr. deBethizy said. “When we reported that to Steve, he said, ‘My God, this is a business proposition, not a handout’.”

Raising money for Forsyth Tech is a little different than getting support for many of the established good causes in town, Dr deBethizy points out. “With traditional givers, most of them have not had personal experience with two-year colleges. And people who have had that experience often did not grow up in a philanthropic culture. We had to show them why a community college needs private dollars and what a valuable investment it is.”

“The other big selling feature is Dr Gary Green himself. Leaders like Gary Green only come along once in a while. You have to invest in them when they do come along because they can get so much done. All the people I talked to knew Gary, and have determined and visionary he is, so that was an easy sell.”

The Momentum Campaign will be wrapped up soon, and much of the money raised will go to creating a center for emerging technologies in Piedmont Triad Research Park in downtown Winston-Salem. Both Ed Welch and Don deBethizy now serve on the college’s Board of Trustees.
A Cause That Hits Home

Some of the most passionate advocates and effective fundraisers for Forsyth Tech are individuals who know intimately the power of education to transform a life.

One is Thomas Ingram, the immediate past president of the Foundation board, and Director of Facilities Planning and Construction for Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

Tom Ingram spent his early years in public housing in Newark, New Jersey. His mother had dropped out of high school. After she had borne four children, she went to a community college where she got her GED and took vocational courses. Then, the oldest child was in junior high when her mother was in school.

“It was a way out of the ghetto for our family, the means to a better way of life,” he said. “That education allowed my mother to get a better paying job and a better apartment, and it improved herself-worth.

With her newfound self-confidence, Mr. Ingram said, his mother became a leader in the neighborhood, the go-to person for many organizations and causes.

“Forsyth Tech is a door opener for a lot of people,” he said. “It provides a path for people who can’t afford further education. I don’t mind knocking on doors for Forsyth Tech. Who in their right mind can refuse you when you show them what Forsyth Tech is doing for our community?”

Don deBethizy, co-chair of the Momentum Campaign and now a Forsyth Tech trustee, is another whose personal experience informs his passion for drumming up support for the community college.

“I grew up very poor,” he said. “Both my father and his father were house painters. Every year my parents would take out a loan from Household Finance, at 18 percent interest, to pay for Christmas. I tried to take over the family budget when I was 9.

“There were people along the way who helped me and invested in me, and that’s all I want to do. I really believe that people who are trying to improve their lives through their own efforts deserve our attention.”

In its own way, he said, the current recession is turning out to be the means to a better life for many people in Forsyth and Stokes counties.

“People who are getting laid off from dead-end jobs are coming to Forsyth Tech in droves,” he said. “That exactly what you would hope for that people who are not skilled for our changing world are learning new and relevant skills. I am just so proud of Forsyth Tech’s ability to be responsive.”

I wish I had done this right out of high school.”

That’s a common sentiment among Forsyth Tech degree program students, where 29 is the average age. It’s a statement echoed by Kimberly Deal, a 32-year-old student in the medical sonography program, and Tammy Joy Ward, a 39-year-old recent graduate of the paralegal technology program.

These older students tend to be highly motivated and to have a clear understanding of why they want a college degree. And in many cases what allows them to pursue an associate’s degree is a scholarship.

Tammy Joy Ward had recently moved to North Carolina when she heard Sue Martinis, Vice President of the Division of Corporate and Continuing Education, speak at a small business seminar.

“She really inspired me,” Tammy Joy said. “I was new to the area, and she made me realize what a good school Forsyth Tech is.”

Tammy Joy had worked at a software development company in California for 10 years, and had considerable experience in office work and sales, but that didn’t allow her to find a job here.

“No one returns your phone calls when you have no education,” she said.

One reason she wanted to earn a degree was to set a good example for her sons, ages 5 and 10. Another was to be able to buy a nice home and car.

Tammy Joy received the Lucent Technologies Pioneers Scholarship, which goes primarily to single parents, and she also had a work-study assignment in the president’s office for two years. Getting her degree was difficult, at her stage of life, but she graduated on time and was proud to have her sons see her march across the stage.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal received the Pioneers Scholarship, which gives priority to single parents, and she also had a work-study assignment in the president’s office for two years. Getting her degree was difficult, at her stage of life, but she graduated on time and was proud to have her son see her march across the stage.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.

Kimberly Deal also said that working, going to school full time, and taking care of a family is challenging.

“Medical sonography is a very competitive and rigorous program. They only accept 10 students a year,” she said. “I really work hard to keep my grades up. I also work on weekends, as a phlebotomist at Forsyth Medical Center.”

Kimberly’s husband works two jobs, and their 7-year-old son is enrolled in a Christian school.
If you have never taken a class or a course or a degree program at Forsyth Tech, it’s a virtual certainty that someone in your family or on your block or at your workplace received training at our community college. And if you have been a patient in a local hospital, you can be sure that some of the people who cared for you are Forsyth Tech graduates.

“Forsyth Tech touches just about every person in the county,” said Nancy Dunn, a member and past president of the Foundation board. “I’ve taken Excel and CPR and things that I can’t even remember.”

“It’s interesting, the connections people have,” said President Gary Green. “So many people have taken continuing education classes here, and computer skills, or maybe had to go to traffic school. The connections are more widespread than people realize. For most people it’s true that at some time, in some way, Forsyth Tech has added value to them.”

Those connections are evident in the gifts and endowments made to Forsyth Tech’s Foundation. A recent major donation from V.B. Lougee is an example. Mr. Lougee chose to honor his wife and to support certified nursing assistant students through the Dorothy L. Lougee Nursing Assistant Program.

Mr. Lougee was born in Durham, and his wife, Dorthy, was born in Hickory. He spent much of his career in New York, and retired as CEO and President of American Brands, which is headquartered there. The couple then moved to Bermuda Run to be near their daughter.

“My wife has been in a nursing home for three years, and CNAs have been very important to her care,” Mr. Lougee said. “She’s as sharp as when we got married, and if new CNAs need help, she helps them.”

Mrs. Lougee was a registered nurse herself and trained at the old Watts Hospital in Durham. Mr. Lougee’s mother was also a nurse who was trained at Watts, which had the first nurses training program in the state.

“That was a pretty good reason for endowing a nursing program,” he said. And he had a very good reason for choosing to fund the entry-level program.

“A lot of people don’t have enough money to start on their education,” he said. “If they can get a scholarship to start, then they can get a job and make enough money to go to the next level, if they want to and have the dedication. If somebody is motivated, they can do it, if they are given a start.”
Like many of her students, Dr. Kristin Redfield didn’t like the English courses she took in high school, and didn’t see much point in them. “I’m a math and science person,” she says. Nevertheless, she’s been teaching English at Forsyth Tech for a dozen years, and she’s very good at it. She’s a recipient of the David C. Kepple Memorial Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, and she’s been a finalist in the college’s annual Excellence in Teaching Award.

And there’s no doubt she brings something extra to such courses as Expository Writing, Professional Research and Reporting, and British Literature. That something extra is the streamed video lectures she creates for the use of her students—both in online courses and in traditional classrooms.

Forsyth Tech has been a state leader in the number of online courses offered, and Kristin Redfield has been one of the pioneers. She received support from the Forsyth Tech Foundation when she pursued doctoral studies in distance learning, and for traveling to conferences on the subject. Most recently, she received a Foundation grant to obtain the technology needed to teach using iPod Touch and the associated peripherals. That project came in under budget, and she returned the unused funds to the Foundation.

What difference does it make to her students? For online courses, it means they can get to know the teacher. “A large number of students have something they can play videos on,” she said. “Students want to see the teacher, and what they get is a video alternating between PowerPoint slides and me, like a news show. My students can carry me around in their back pocket.”

And whether they are taking a class online or on campus, students have the advantage of being able to listen to the material over and over again, until they have really absorbed it. “I have seen an improvement in grades,” said Kristin, who is known for being open to new ideas that will improve learning and comprehension, and enable students to succeed.

At Forsyth Tech, as at virtually all colleges, many students are not really prepared for college-level work, she said. “Without helping them, there is something we can do to help pull them along, as we should do it. I think students need this, and it’s the kind of thing that will keep Forsyth Tech in the forefront. This is part of what it means to be learner focused.”

Dr. Sharon B. Covitz, known throughout the community as Shari, holds dual positions at Forsyth Tech. She is Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation. She’s not only responsible for all fundraising activities, but also oversees community relations, marketing, and public relations, alumni relations, special events, grants and the Momentum Campaign. And like all good development professionals, she takes a leadership role in many community organizations, including Leadership Winston-Salem, the Stratford Rotary Club, the YWCA, and both the Women’s Fund and the Women’s Council, among others.

No wonder the Triad Business Journal presented her with a Women in Business Award this year.

Characteristically, Shari gives the credit for the $30 million raised since she took on the challenge of reactivating Forsyth Tech’s Foundation to donors and the people who serve on the Foundation board. “When you get concerned people like that working with community leaders, you can do anything,” she said.

Those donors and leaders, however, are extravagant in their praise for the Foundation head who is known for writing personal thank-you notes to individuals who contribute to the Foundation, in any way, in any amount.

“Shari is such a wonderful lady,” said V.B. Lougee, a major donor. “She takes you on a tour, and she knows all the instructors and a lot of the students.”

“In recruiting board members, it helps that the Foundation is extremely well run,” said Nancy Dunn, a member of the board. “Very few funds raised are used for administration. Shari and the other staff members make it easy to serve on the board.”
Yoga is thousands and thousands of years old, and refreshed. When I got back from the conference with a friend, and I took a yoga class there.

When did yoga originate?

It was a profound experience. I felt so different when I got back from the conference with a friend, and I took a yoga class there.

So teaching yoga is a second career for you?

Yes. I was hired as a cadet by the Winston-Salem Police Department while I was a student, and I retired as a captain in narcotics and vice in 2003, after 29 years on the force.

Teresa, how did you discover yoga?

I was interested in a career in criminal justice, and I thought about becoming a police officer, but I didn’t really think it was possible. There were not many women officers then.

Where did yoga originate?

Yoga is a Hindu practice. Over the years it evolved. I hear some people say they won’t take yoga because they think it is a religion. It isn’t, but it can be described as moving meditation.

What made that first experience of yoga so profound for you?

It’s hard to put into words, but something happens within your body. Not everybody experiences it in the first class. To do yoga, you need to let go of comparison and competition, with your neighbors and with yourself. You get into your body.

Is that why people take your classes, to learn to meditate?

Some know it as a way to meditate, but people usually start for the physical benefits. It’s a great way to stretch, build strength, relax and learn how to breathe. We Americans breathe totally incorrectly, in our upper chests. Our bodies are designed to breath into the belly. Very few people I start working with have healthy breathing patterns.

What are the benefits of breathing correctly?

Your body functions better when you get enough oxygen. All your blood cells need oxygen to operate at an optimal level. Just paying attention to your breath takes you into your body and takes you into the moment. It’s an exercise in being present, because you have to think about what you are doing. You have to be present in the body.

Your body functions better when you get enough oxygen. All your blood cells need oxygen to operate at an optimal level. Just paying attention to your breath takes you into your body and takes you into the moment. It’s an exercise in being present, because you have to think about what you are doing. You have to be present in the body.

What kind do you teach?

I heard many people say that yoga is much more than a physical exercise.

A Yoga works on the physical, emotional and spiritual levels. That’s the wonderful thing about it. It brings up your energy level. I’ve had people who had a powerful emotional release doing yoga. It opens the heart. If that is what happens, that’s what needs to happen. Where does it happen? I take special care of that person, so they can let the stuff come out that they don’t need anymore.

Where did yoga originate?

Yoga is a Hindu practice. Over the years it evolved. I hear some people say they won’t take yoga because they think it is a religion. It isn’t, but it can be described as moving meditation.

What were the benefits of breathing correctly?

Some know it as a way to meditate, but people usually start for the physical benefits. It’s a great way to stretch, build strength, relax and learn how to breathe. We Americans breathe totally incorrectly, in our upper chests. Our bodies are designed to breath into the belly. Very few people I start working with have healthy breathing patterns.

How does breathing affect your body?

Your body functions better when you get enough oxygen. All your blood cells need oxygen to operate at an optimal level. Just paying attention to your breath takes you into your body and takes you into the moment. It’s an exercise in being present, because you have to think about what you are doing. You have to be present in the body.

What are the benefits of breathing correctly?

Your body functions better when you get enough oxygen. All your blood cells need oxygen to operate at an optimal level. Just paying attention to your breath takes you into your body and takes you into the moment. It’s an exercise in being present, because you have to think about what you are doing. You have to be present in the body.

What kind do you teach?

I’ve heard of all these different types of yoga. What kind do you teach?

I’ve heard of all these different types of yoga. What kind do you teach?

I’ve heard of all these different types of yoga. What kind do you teach?

I’ve heard of all these different types of yoga. What kind do you teach?

I’ve heard of all these different types of yoga. What kind do you teach?

I’ve heard of all these different types of yoga. What kind do you teach?
Aiming High

Off campus, Chief Earl is on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and is the Vice Chair of the Human Relations Commission for Winston-Salem.

His ability to see and value the big picture is one of the reasons he succeeds in keeping his department on the cutting edge. He is now entering department accreditation by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. "We would be the first community college in North Carolina to do this. I’m not a wait-and-see kind of guy. I want to make a mark for Forsyth Tech campus police, getting a standard of excellence," Renarde said.

He balances this broader view with attention to what he considers the foundation of his success: his family. He points out the picture of his wife, Teresa, and his 5-year-old daughter, Rhyan, tacked to his door. "I carry them with me everywhere. When you manage to bring the professional and the personal together, that’s when you get the best results," he said.

In 2007, his department received the first Department of the Month award. "My job is to make sure all the campuses are safe as possible. It’s not easy, but we strive to do it every day. We have a great department, and I would put us up against any other campus police agency. I try to send out something each week to thank my staff for the things they do, not just for the things they are expected to do, yes, but also the small things. I notice they do just because they have pride in their jobs." He balances this broader view with attention to what he considers the foundation of his success: his family. He points out the picture of his wife, Teresa, and his 5-year-old daughter, Rhyan, tacked to his door. "I carry them with me everywhere. When you manage to bring the professional and the personal together, that’s when you get the best results," he said.

As a man who is always looking ahead, he realized that his ultimate goal was to manage and run his own department. Soon Forsyth Tech provided him with the opportunity, and for the last 7 1/2 years, Renarde has lived that reality.

His ability to see and value the big picture is one of the reasons he succeeds in keeping his department on the cutting edge. He is now entering department accreditation by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. "We would be the first community college in North Carolina to do this. I’m not a wait-and-see kind of guy. I want to make a mark for Forsyth Tech campus police, getting a standard of excellence," Renarde said.

He balances this broader view with attention to what he considers the foundation of his success: his family. He points out the picture of his wife, Teresa, and his 5-year-old daughter, Rhyan, tacked to his door. "I carry them with me everywhere. When you manage to bring the professional and the personal together, that’s when you get the best results," he said.

In 2007, his department received the first Department of the Month award. "My job is to make sure all the campuses are safe as possible. It’s not easy, but we strive to do it every day. We have a great department, and I would put us up against any other campus police agency. I try to send out something each week to thank my staff for the things they do, not just for the things they are expected to do, yes, but also the small things. I notice they do just because they have pride in their jobs." He balances this broader view with attention to what he considers the foundation of his success: his family. He points out the picture of his wife, Teresa, and his 5-year-old daughter, Rhyan, tacked to his door. "I carry them with me everywhere. When you manage to bring the professional and the personal together, that’s when you get the best results," he said.

In 2007, his department received the first Department of the Month award. "My job is to make sure all the campuses are safe as possible. It’s not easy, but we strive to do it every day. We have a great department, and I would put us up against any other campus police agency. I try to send out something each week to thank my staff for the things they do, not just for the things they are expected to do, yes, but also the small things. I notice they do just because they have pride in their jobs." He balances this broader view with attention to what he considers the foundation of his success: his family. He points out the picture of his wife, Teresa, and his 5-year-old daughter, Rhyan, tacked to his door. "I carry them with me everywhere. When you manage to bring the professional and the personal together, that’s when you get the best results," he said.

In 2007, his department received the first Department of the Month award. "My job is to make sure all the campuses are safe as possible. It’s not easy, but we strive to do it every day. We have a great department, and I would put us up against any other campus police agency. I try to send out something each week to thank my staff for the things they do, not just for the things they are expected to do, yes, but also the small things. I notice they do just because they have pride in their jobs." He balances this broader view with attention to what he considers the foundation of his success: his family. He points out the picture of his wife, Teresa, and his 5-year-old daughter, Rhyan, tacked to his door. "I carry them with me everywhere. When you manage to bring the professional and the personal together, that’s when you get the best results," he said.

In 2007, his department received the first Department of the Month award. "My job is to make sure all the campuses are safe as possible. It’s not easy, but we strive to do it every day. We have a great department, and I would put us up against any other campus police agency. I try to send out something each week to thank my staff for the things they do, not just for the things they are expected to do, yes, but also the small things. I notice they do just because they have pride in their jobs." He balances this broader view with attention to what he considers the foundation of his success: his family. He points out the picture of his wife, Teresa, and his 5-year-old daughter, Rhyan, tacked to his door. "I carry them with me everywhere. When you manage to bring the professional and the personal together, that’s when you get the best results," he said.
Well Rounded:

You might expect an institution that is the embodiment of a commitment to lifelong learning to extend that commitment to its own employees—and you would be exactly right. All full-time staff and faculty at Forsyth Tech have had three days of the year devoted to professional development, and this year such training will be offered on four days of the year. In recent years, training has ranged from personal wellness classes in cooking, Zumba, meditation and weight loss to technical and job-related training in Second Life, Twitter, Word 2007 and Dealing with Difficult People, to all-school sessions in such subjects as Interaction Skills for Success.

Increasingly, faculty and staff are asking for training that will help them do their jobs better, and President Green is intentionally connecting development training to the strategic goals that have been set forth for the college after an intense

Following pages

Conversation Pieces: Don’t Shoot the Messenger

Life Sciences Instructor Andy Salandy used to ask his students for feedback, and what he would often get was, “I really hate biology.”

“For them it was the lesser of three evils,” he said. “They had to take either Physics, Chemistry or Biology to meet the requirements for a degree.”

Last year he took a professional development class called Conversation Pieces: Don’t Shoot the Messenger.

“As instructors, I see us as messengers,” he said. "Sometimes the message gets misconstrued because it is challenging, and sometimes students think it’s a matter of the teacher being difficult. Of course, if I’m talking about photosynthesis, students need to understand the concept. For some of them, that seems too complicated, and too much to remember.”

The solution, he said, is to put the subject matter in the context of things that interest and matter to the students. The solution is to keep the classes interactive and interesting, and when the subject is biology—the science of life—there are a lot of things to which he can relate the subject matter.

Since taking the class, he said, “I’m more aware of my audience. I’ve always been a question asker, and now I pose my questions in terms of what the students are interested in. And I’m a better listener, more mindful of my audience.”

Forsyth Tech Employees Never Stop Learning

Inclusivity: Opportunities for Building Alliances and Community Among Students and Faculty

A Rude Awakening

Greg Chase spent 27 years in the U.S. air force. That didn’t prepare him for being the Human Resources Director at Forsyth Tech. In comparison to an organization in which everybody operates out of the same field manual and abides by the same set of rules, he said, a community college is wide open in terms of what people perceive as right and appropriate language and behavior.

In his position, he often hears concerns, complaints and even grievances from faculty, staff and students. When people of different generations, who come from vastly different backgrounds and who act out of different beliefs and assumptions, try to communicate, a certain amount of conflict is inevitable.

To be able to manage these difficult encounters better, Greg took a professional development course called Inclusivity: Opportunities for Building Alliances and Community Among Students and Faculty.

The class was very helpful, he said. Instead of seeing some remark or situation as simply out of line, he now sees an opportunity to engage with a person in a constructive way. If a student has come out with some offensive language, he said, a community college is wide open in terms of what people perceive as right and appropriate language and behavior.

Among Students and Faculty.

The class was very helpful, he said. Instead of seeing some remark or situation as simply out of line, he now sees an opportunity to engage with a person in a constructive way. If a student has come out with some offensive language, he said, a community college is wide open in terms of what people perceive as right and appropriate language and behavior.

To be able to manage these difficult encounters better, Greg took a professional development course called Inclusivity: Opportunities for Building Alliances and Community Among Students and Faculty.

The class was very helpful, he said. Instead of seeing some remark or situation as simply out of line, he now sees an opportunity to engage with a person in a constructive way. If a student has come out with some offensive language, he said, a community college is wide open in terms of what people perceive as right and appropriate language and behavior.

To be able to manage these difficult encounters better, Greg took a professional development course called Inclusivity: Opportunities for Building Alliances and Community Among Students and Faculty.

The class was very helpful, he said. Instead of seeing some remark or situation as simply out of line, he now sees an opportunity to engage with a person in a constructive way. If a student has come out with some offensive language, he said, a community college is wide open in terms of what people perceive as right and appropriate language and behavior.

To be able to manage these difficult encounters better, Greg took a professional development course called Inclusivity: Opportunities for Building Alliances and Community Among Students and Faculty.

The class was very helpful, he said. Instead of seeing some remark or situation as simply out of line, he now sees an opportunity to engage with a person in a constructive way. If a student has come out with some offensive language, he said, a community college is wide open in terms of what people perceive as right and appropriate language and behavior.

To be able to manage these difficult encounters better, Greg took a professional development course called Inclusivity: Opportunities for Building Alliances and Community Among Students and Faculty.

The class was very helpful, he said. Instead of seeing some remark or situation as simply out of line, he now sees an opportunity to engage with a person in a constructive way. If a student has come out with some offensive language, he said, a community college is wide open in terms of what people perceive as right and appropriate language and behavior.
The Cardboard Boat Regatta has been a Forsyth Tech tradition for more than 30 years. Mechanical Engineering Technology students apply what they have learned in their program of study to designing, engineering and building craft that can withstand a quarter-mile water course. The only materials permitted are single-ply cardboard, duct tape, liquid nail adhesive and waterproof paint. This year’s Regatta was held on April 23 at Belews Lake.

Duct tape Won’t Fix That! The Locomotive Train, built by the Tom and Jerry Construction Company, consisting of Jerry Tucker and Tom Atkinson, had the look of a winner. But a funny thing happened on the way to the Regatta. The wind blew up and took the top right off the boat. Even so, the maimed craft made it out to the buoy and back, completing the course.

That Hope-y Change-y Thing. Jeffrey Hauser Jr., Tyler McKinney Jr. and Louis Aiello originally called their boat Hopeless. But after they had incorporated 35 sheets of cardboard and four rolls of duct tape, and spent a handsome $197, they seem to have had a change of heart, and the Hopeless became the Hopeful. And in spite of its rather plain appearance, the Hopeful proved to be one of the most seaworthy entries in the Regatta.

Welcome to the Fold. The secret of Angular, the entry of Rei Kawamura and Doug Sellars, is the ancient art of origami. The students used these paper-folding techniques to avoid using small pieces of cardboard. That, in turn, made the craft easier to waterproof.

It’s a Bird, It’s a Plane… It’s a Boat! Students Wally Wallace and Rodney Clark both have aeronautical backgrounds, so they designed their boat to look like an airplane. Todd Bishop, who is both the Strength of Materials course instructor and the coordinator of the Mechanical Engineering Technology program, noted that they used cardboard in just the way aircraft engineers would use metal in their intricate design.

The Whoopee on the Boat Go Round and Round. One of the most striking designs among the nine boats that competed was The Wheel Boat, by Team Tinker Tank, with Jose Cruz and Bill Moore.
This Is Where You Come In…

What do you remember about the early years of Forsyth Tech? A dynamic instructor? A life-changing course? Some now-obsolete equipment? A fashion trend? An unforgettable menu item? Share your memories and photographs (with identifying information) with Tech Quarterly. We'll choose many of them for a special commemorative issue of the magazine in Fall 2010 and in a special section on the college website. Send stories and pictures to Martha Murphy, The Bloom Agency, 939-A Burke Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 or email to Martha@thebloomagency.com.

2010-2011

A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

A HALFCENTURY

of Service to Our Community

Like everything at Forsyth Tech, the completion of the Alumni Oval on the Main Campus was accomplished with the support of dozens of people in the college community and the business community. It is only fitting that this new gathering spot has been chosen for the kickoff of a year of events and celebrations to mark Forsyth Tech’s 50th anniversary.

The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. on September 14, and will include a proclamation by Councilman Dan Besse, music and refreshments. Y’all come!

THE STARTING LINEUP

Bookmark www.ForsythTech.edu for more events that celebrate Forsyth Tech’s first 50 years. And be sure to check out the special 50th anniversary section of the site, where we will be adding video reminiscences from Forsyth Tech alumni and retirees, historic photographs, a list of 50 Facts about Forsyth Tech and a few surprises.

2011

ONLINE AUCTION

You’re sure to find something you want at the online auction to raise funds for The Foundation of Forsyth Tech. Check out the items and place your bids all through the month at www.ForsythTech.edu.

MARCH

SCITECH LECTURE: DR. J. DONALD DEBETHIZY

Dr. J. Donald DeBethizy, CEO of Targacept, will speak on “The Targacept Story: From the Bench to the Clinic.”

APRIL

BENEFACTORS PLAQUE DEDICATION

New additions to the Benefactors Plaque in Ardmore Hall will be unveiled in a public ceremony.

SCITECH LECTURE: LIFE AFTER TECH

Graduates of Forsyth Tech’s Biotechnology program will speak on “Tech Life Post Graduation.”

This Was Then

A picture of Forsyth Tech in any year, from 1960 to 2010, is always a reflection of what skills are in demand in the local job market, what technology is current (and what hair styles are in fashion).

This Is Now

Like everything at Forsyth Tech, the completion of the Alumni Oval on the Main Campus was accomplished with the support of dozens of people in the college community and the business community. It is only fitting that this new gathering spot has been chosen for the kickoff of a year of events and celebrations to mark Forsyth Tech’s 50th anniversary.

The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. on September 14, and will include a proclamation by Councilman Dan Besse, music and refreshments. Y’all come!

THE STARTING LINEUP

Bookmark www.ForsythTech.edu for more events that celebrate Forsyth Tech’s first 50 years. And be sure to check out the special 50th anniversary section of the site, where we will be adding video reminiscences from Forsyth Tech alumni and retirees, historic photographs, a list of 50 Facts about Forsyth Tech and a few surprises.

2010-2011

A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

A HALFCENTURY

of Service to Our Community

Like everything at Forsyth Tech, the completion of the Alumni Oval on the Main Campus was accomplished with the support of dozens of people in the college community and the business community. It is only fitting that this new gathering spot has been chosen for the kickoff of a year of events and celebrations to mark Forsyth Tech’s 50th anniversary.

The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. on September 14, and will include a proclamation by Councilman Dan Besse, music and refreshments. Y’all come!

THE STARTING LINEUP

Bookmark www.ForsythTech.edu for more events that celebrate Forsyth Tech’s first 50 years. And be sure to check out the special 50th anniversary section of the site, where we will be adding video reminiscences from Forsyth Tech alumni and retirees, historic photographs, a list of 50 Facts about Forsyth Tech and a few surprises.

2011

ONLINE AUCTION

You’re sure to find something you want at the online auction to raise funds for The Foundation of Forsyth Tech. Check out the items and place your bids all through the month at www.ForsythTech.edu.

MARCH

SCITECH LECTURE: DR. J. DONALD DEBETHIZY

Dr. J. Donald DeBethizy, CEO of Targacept, will speak on “The Targacept Story: From the Bench to the Clinic.”

APRIL

BENEFACTORS PLAQUE DEDICATION

New additions to the Benefactors Plaque in Ardmore Hall will be unveiled in a public ceremony.

SCITECH LECTURE: LIFE AFTER TECH

Graduates of Forsyth Tech’s Biotechnology program will speak on “Tech Life Post Graduation.”

This Was Then

A picture of Forsyth Tech in any year, from 1960 to 2010, is always a reflection of what skills are in demand in the local job market, what technology is current (and what hair styles are in fashion).

This Is Now

Like everything at Forsyth Tech, the completion of the Alumni Oval on the Main Campus was accomplished with the support of dozens of people in the college community and the business community. It is only fitting that this new gathering spot has been chosen for the kickoff of a year of events and celebrations to mark Forsyth Tech’s 50th anniversary.

The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. on September 14, and will include a proclamation by Councilman Dan Besse, music and refreshments. Y’all come!

THE STARTING LINEUP

Bookmark www.ForsythTech.edu for more events that celebrate Forsyth Tech’s first 50 years. And be sure to check out the special 50th anniversary section of the site, where we will be adding video reminiscences from Forsyth Tech alumni and retirees, historic photographs, a list of 50 Facts about Forsyth Tech and a few surprises.

2010-2011

A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

A HALFCENTURY

of Service to Our Community

Like everything at Forsyth Tech, the completion of the Alumni Oval on the Main Campus was accomplished with the support of dozens of people in the college community and the business community. It is only fitting that this new gathering spot has been chosen for the kickoff of a year of events and celebrations to mark Forsyth Tech’s 50th anniversary.

The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. on September 14, and will include a proclamation by Councilman Dan Besse, music and refreshments. Y’all come!

THE STARTING LINEUP

Bookmark www.ForsythTech.edu for more events that celebrate Forsyth Tech’s first 50 years. And be sure to check out the special 50th anniversary section of the site, where we will be adding video reminiscences from Forsyth Tech alumni and retirees, historic photographs, a list of 50 Facts about Forsyth Tech and a few surprises.

2011

ONLINE AUCTION

You’re sure to find something you want at the online auction to raise funds for The Foundation of Forsyth Tech. Check out the items and place your bids all through the month at www.ForsythTech.edu.

MARCH

SCITECH LECTURE: DR. J. DONALD DEBETHIZY

Dr. J. Donald DeBethizy, CEO of Targacept, will speak on “The Targacept Story: From the Bench to the Clinic.”

APRIL

BENEFACTORS PLAQUE DEDICATION

New additions to the Benefactors Plaque in Ardmore Hall will be unveiled in a public ceremony.

SCITECH LECTURE: LIFE AFTER TECH

Graduates of Forsyth Tech’s Biotechnology program will speak on “Tech Life Post Graduation.”
When Wesley Hutchins, Dean of Health and Emergency Services at Forsyth Tech, assumed his current position 14 years ago, his predecessor’s parting words were, “You know, the number one goal for the future is a state-of-the-art firefighting training center.” Wesley took those words to heart, and the torch was passed to him.

For many years, Forsyth Tech was a strong player in the educational component of all types of emergency training, but any hands-on firefighting training had to be done off-site in one of the region’s existing training centers. Six years after Wesley took the helm, he was given the go-ahead to form a committee to study the best practices and ideas of training centers around the region, including Surry, Gaston, Guilford, and Central Piedmont community college firefighting programs.

Although there is a bit of good-natured rivalry among the regional firefighting training centers staff, there is also a brotherhood. Existing centers stepped up to share lessons learned, good and bad, with the Forsyth Tech committee. In April, after months of planning and hard work, the Emergency Services Training Center (ESTC) was unveiled at the Northwest Forsyth Center. A five-story Drill Tower and six-story Burn Building are key components of the ESTC complex. The Burn Building is a maze of rooms where instructors can set fires under controlled situations.

The Drill Tower is designed for practice with sprinklers, standpipe operation and rappelling. In one of the rooms, Wesley Hutchins teaches students from a real-world perspective. He has been a member of the Walkertown Fire Department for 35 years and its Chief for the past seven years.

Wesley Hutchins teaches students from a real-world perspective. He has been a member of the Walkertown Fire Department for 35 years and its Chief for the past seven years.

First Responders Now Have a First-Rate Training Center

Where 911 Goes to Learn

“An apartment’s on fire and there’s somebody in there!” This situation won’t be new to students who train at ESTC. Students will experience negotiating multiple flights of stairs and smoke-filled rooms with blocked entrances and exits. Full-scale kitchen props, bales of hay and wooden pallets set on fire in one of the burn rooms.

The Drill Tower is designed for practice with sprinklers, standpipe operation and rappelling.

Wildfires and other types of fires can be set on fire at the Drill Tower.

The drill tower is equipped with a vehicle extraction pad for practice in rescuing a victim from a car crash.

The training uses are limited only by the imagination.

If you can’t stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen. In one room of the Burn Building, the computerized kitchen prop allows trainees to observe a fire centered on a stove from its start-up to five minutes out. It doesn’t take long after your ears begin to burn to figure out that the coolest air is on the floor!
When you are involved in a traffic accident, what are the odds that your car will land upright, and rescuers will be able to open your door and assist you? In serious accidents, the chances are high that something will block rescuers from treating you or getting you out. Thankfully, today’s responders have piston rod hydraulic tools such as cutters, spreaders and rams to get access to victims. These tools are also used in other disaster events like earthquakes where there is widespread collapse of all kinds of structures. They provide the strength to get jobs done and get them done quickly when time is of the essence.

On the vehicle extrication pad at the ESTC, instructors can create a car accident victim extrication scenario by pushing a wrecked car against the guardrail and instructing students on using the Holmatro extrication tool, similar to the Jaws of Life, to free the victim—in this case a crash dummy. The Holmatro tool has been chosen by the Secret Service to travel with President Obama’s motorcade.

The centralized location of the Northwest Forsyth Center has been a stimulus for working together and the pooling of resources, which works to the advantage of all departments. Often firefighters, law enforcement and EMS professionals work together in the field, and now they can practice the coordination needed to react quickly in emergencies where interaction is beneficial. Each branch of emergency services can see the other responders in action and see how they get things done. These networking opportunities give everyone a better grasp of the big picture, which inevitably leads to a better outcome.

At the Northwest Forsyth Center, there is a palpable sense of unity among the staff, and you get the feeling that this campus is in the right hands. They see their mission as one of leadership with quality results in all areas of emergency training. It has been a long time coming for many, but the bottom line is that this campus, with its new ESTC component, is a win-win for Forsyth Tech students and staff, nearby communities and the entire region.
As a professor of Spanish and Teacher Education at Salem College, Krishauna Hines-Gaither loves teaching. But she would be the first person to tell you that not all learning happens in schools. She got some of her own best lessons from her mother, who was 16 years old and single when Krishauna was born. When Krishauna remembers her early years growing up in public housing in Winston-Salem, she doesn’t think of hunger or crime or anything people might naturally associate with poverty, she says. She thinks of what her mother taught her about work and faith.

“I knew things were difficult for my mother, I knew it was a struggle for her,” Krishauna said. “She would explain those struggles. She would say, ‘I want to have a family portrait made, but I don’t have the money, so we’ll have to take a Polaroid.’ She would relate that to not having an education and to having children when you’re young. She was galactic, and she connected the dots beautifully.”

Krishauna watched as her mother, Tangela Hines Jones, worked two jobs at nursing homes, got her GED at Forsyth Tech and earned Certified Nursing Assistant credentials. She was a member of the wedding party at her mother’s marriage to Walter Jones, when Krishauna was 10. The family came to include not only a young cousin of Krishauna’s, but a new son for her mother and stepfather, and three adopted children, siblings who would have been separated otherwise. Around the age of 10, Krishauna reestablished a relationship with her biological father, Kacie Moore Jr., who, along with her stepfather, became a positive male role model for her.

“My mother has a deep, faith-based strength,” Krishauna said. “She has always believed that struggle is okay because that’s what enables you to improve your lot in life.”

As Krishauna grew up, her mother began to entertain the idea that her daughter should go to college, though no one in the family had done so.

“She was around college-educated people for the first time, and that opened up an entirely different world to her. She would tell me about a nurse who bought her own condo or a doctor who went on vacation to Jamaica. That was inspiring to me. She believed that if you had children, you should expose them to things,” Krishauna said. “And my grandmother was a housekeeper for 25 years. I would go to work with her in Buena Vista where the doctors she worked for lived, and I grew up seeing that way of living.”

Nevertheless, when Krishauna finished high school, she wasn’t interested in going to college. She got a waitress job instead.

“One day a woman came in who told me she was a recruiter for USAir. She asked me if I had thought about becoming a flight attendant,” Krishauna remembers. “Naturally I had not thought about that, but the recruiter encouraged her, told her what steps to take, and suggested that she take some foreign language courses, as that could be the means to a higher income with an airline.”

“When I enrolled at Forsyth Tech, my goal was to be a flight attendant,” she said.

That changed almost immediately. In Susan Keener’s Spanish class, Krishauna had her transformative moment.
"When I enrolled at Forsyth Tech, my goal was to be a flight attendant," she said.

"I thought, this it! I loved it so much I never wanted to leave the classroom. After a class or two, I told Mrs. Keener I wanted to be a teacher. When she looked at my high school transcript, she said, 'Whoa! You never planned to go to college, did you?' She was very honest with me. She told me it was going to take some time. At first I had to take some developmental courses."

"Saice (as she now calls Mrs. Keener) knew the real and ability were there. She's a very spiritual woman, like my mother. She wasn't doing anything, she was just being."

Mrs. Keener was very patient with her, she said, showing her the ropes, since the whole college experience was new to her. Her new mentor eventually gave her an opportunity to assist her in a lower-level Spanish class. She told her about programs available to her in Spanish-speaking countries, and, over breakfast at the K&W, walked her through the process of getting a passport. Eventually she helped her select a college where she could earn her bachelor's degree after receiving her associate's degree from Forsyth Tech. Krishuna chose Salem College, and after getting her degree there, she went on to earn a master's degree in Spanish Education from Wake Forest. She is now a doctoral candidate in the Cultural Studies program at UNC-Greensboro. She taught Spanish at Forsyth Tech for five years, before joining the faculty of Salem College five years ago.

"I try to make my classroom memorable," she said. "I see what cultural groups are represented in the class, and I try to make the learning more personal for them, by bringing in some of their background. If a student is from China, I might talk about a Chinatown in Cuba. Or if someone tells me she is an only child, I'll remember and find a way to bring in a family element she can relate to.

"I don't have to be the authority. Students come in with valuable resources, and I never want mine to be the only voice. I incorporate other voices, from the community, from guest speakers, from films, from literature. I want to make it memorable and personal."

"That's partly because education wasn't memorable or personal for her until she got to Forsyth Tech. And it's partly because of the way she's always carries with her the voice of her mother and her mentor."

**Education Was the Passport**

Krishuna Hine-Gaither's world has been widening ever since she took that introductory Spanish course. During the years she taught at Forsyth Tech, she regularly took study trips to Mexico for summer school programs. She has traveled to Cuba to research Cuban culture for the Salem College curriculum. And, in conjunction with her French studies, she has visited Paris, London and Montenegro.

She's working to make sure that other African-Americans will think of teaching foreign languages as a possible career choice. With fellow linguist Tamari Jenkins, she founded an advocacy group called the Organization of African-American Linguists. One of the organization's first initiatives was to establish a scholarship fund for college students majoring or minoring in a foreign language. To date, eight $1,600 scholarships have been awarded. She also serves as president of the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina, which promotes opportunities for students at all educational levels to develop a high level of confidence in at least one language in addition to their own. She received her first college scholarship from this organization, and her service to it now is one way she is doing her part to see that minority students have access to opportunities to learn world languages.

The Look of Love

With learning Spanish, it was love at first sight. Recognizing her future husband took a little longer. Several years ago, Krishuna was a frequent visitor at Agape Faith Church, a truly multicultural church in Clemmons. It's a place where there are always classes being held, for all ages and on a wide variety of subjects. A member asked if she would be willing to serve as an interpreter for the Hispanic members of one of those classes. It wasn't long before she joined the church, and it wasn't long before she struck up a friendship with a teacher of the class, Julian Gaither.

"I didn't see him romantically. He was a nice friend," she said. He did see her romantically, right from the start, and she said, "After two years it just blossomed." They have been married for almost three years.
Daisy, Daisy, Give Me Your Answer Do. This gorgeous pink gerbera daisy was captured in all its glory by Beth Hyland, secretary in the Paul M. Wiles School of Nursing at Forsyth Tech. Beth came across the plant at L.A. Reynolds Garden Showcase in Winston-Salem.