

The Community College Connection

A Publication of the North Carolina Community College System

Summer 2004 ♦ Vol. 7, No. 1

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI TAKE THE LEAD

By Peggy Beach, System Office, Public Affairs

Three community college alumni have recently hit the top in their fields.

In June, Governor Mike Easley appointed **William Fletcher Clay Jr.** as the next Colonel of the North



Clay

Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP). A resident of Raleigh, Clay is a graduate of Davidson County Community College and of North Carolina State University. He has served with the NCSHP since 1979 when he was first assigned to Troop C, District III, Raleigh. Clay replaces Colonel Richard W. Holden Sr., who retired on June 30. Also appointed in June was Cecil Eugene Lockley at Lt. Colonel. Clay and Lockley will lead the NCSHP, which now has 1,449 Troopers and 365 Motor Carrier Officers to cover more than 78,000 miles of North Carolina roadways.

Beginning August 2, **Douglas Scot Brooks** will be the new director of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Moore County. Brooks, a graduate of Guilford Technical Community College, was previously EMS director

at Central Carolina Hospital in Lee County. He is a registered critical care emergency medical transport para-



Brooks

medic and also a nationally registered emergency medical technician paramedic.

Tim Thomas, a graduate of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, served as a chef to President Bush and to the U.S. delegation to the G-8 summit in June.

Thomas, the executive chef at the Ocean Forest Golf Club on Sea Island, Georgia, told the *Asheville Citizen-Times* that the event "was pretty cool. Cooking for the president was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The experience was not without some pressure, Thomas said. He began developing the menu about a month before and worked with a staff of six. Thomas and the staff fed hundreds of people including U.S. Secret Service agents, translators, and advisers. A number of U.S. Secret Service agents and two agents from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration remained in the kitchen at all times, Thomas said. "We really had to plan," he said. "Every-

thing had to be exact. You couldn't just run to another kitchen if something went wrong. For security reasons, that kind of sudden movement just wasn't allowed."

A native of Durham, Thomas said that his training at A-B Tech helped



Thomas

him land his job at Sea Island. "I am a firm believer in the community college system," he told the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. "I've even started teaching at our local community college myself, to give back some of the knowledge I got from the system."

With more than 800,000 people entering the open doors of the North Carolina Community College System each year, students have ample opportunity to learn how to take the lead in their profession.

Editor's Note: Do you know an outstanding graduate of a community college in North Carolina? Send your suggestions to Peggy Beach at beachm@ncccs.cc.nc.us or call 919-807-6964.

NEWS BRIEFS

The Orange County Commissioners unanimously agreed in June to purchase a 20-acre tract in the Waterstone development in Chapel Hill for a satellite campus of **Durham Technical Community College**. The county will pay \$1.25 million to buy the land from the Florida-based Trump Group. Durham Tech's Board of Trustees and the State Board of Community Colleges must give final approval... FedEx donated a retired Boeing 727-100 to **Guilford Technical Community College** in June. The college will use the airplane in its aviation program based at Piedmont Triad International Airport. With a wingspan of 108 feet and a length of 113 feet, the 727 is the largest plane in the college's fleet. Guilford Tech has 10 Pipers, Cessnas and other single- and twin-engine commuter and general aviation planes that carry six or fewer people ... **Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College**, the University of North Carolina at Asheville and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte received a \$600,000 grant in May. The grant will be used to develop programs to more accurately predict the region's weather. The grant will allow the three institutions to expand their computer sciences curricula and to develop applications related to environmental science that officials use to predict the weather... Carolina Sunrock Corporation of Butner donated a concrete mixer truck to **Vance-Granville Community College** in June for the commercial's driver's course at the college. Included in the instruction are driver safety, transporting cargo and passengers, air brakes, combination vehicles and handling hazardous materials. The first class finished in June and the second one is scheduled to begin in August... **Forsyth Technical Community College** earned two awards in the Sir Walter Raleigh Awards for Excellence in Communications competition. The college earned a silver award in the annual or special report category for its 2002-2003 annual report. Forsyth Tech also earned an honorable mention award in the brochure category for its biotechnology brochure. The Raleigh Public Relations Society presented the awards in June... This summer, more than 60 students at **Western Piedmont Community College** are

assisting Dr. David Moore with his excavation of a site of a 16th century Spanish fort in Burke County. Moore received a \$20,000 grant from the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration to support the archaeological project. Students from Western Piedmont have assisted with the project before (see *Students Help Excavate Spanish Fort, August/September 2002, Vol. 5, No. 1*) ... **Randolph Community College** will dedicate its new radiography program energized lab in August. The lab is housed in the health and science building on the main campus in Asheboro... In July, **Johnston Community College's** preschool was chosen as one of nine statewide winners of the North Carolina Early Childhood Professional Development Award... **Central Piedmont Community College** is partnering with academic and public libraries from across North Carolina to provide live reference assistance through the Internet via NCKnows. North Carolina residents can receive library research assistance any time of the day. The State Library of North Carolina is the project coordinator. To access NCKnows, visit the Central Piedmont web site at ... **Gaston College** will offer 10 undergraduate degrees online beginning this fall in cooperation with Franklin University of Columbus, Ohio. The major areas offered in this program include business administration, computer science, digital communication, accounting and health care management... **South Piedmont Community College**, the Charlotte Area Health Care Center (AHEC) and GEAR UP North Carolina collaborated to host the first summer medical academy for Anson High School students interest in medical careers. In June, 15 students spent three days touring the college, Anson Community Hospital, Union Regional Medical Center, Union EMS, Leavitt Funeral Home and the Anson Medical Museum in downtown Wadesboro. Plans are underway for the academy to become an annual event... **Carteret Community College** plans to open two new classroom buildings this fall. The Wayne West Building will provide space for basic skills training, health care, business technologies and occupational trades. The new Marine Training and Education Center (MARTEC) will provide training in

marine and construction trades... U.S. Representative Cass Ballenger (R-NC) announced in July that the Caldwell Teaching Center's Teacher Education Project will receive nearly \$250,000 in federal funds. The project is a joint effort of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and Appalachian State University. The center is designed to address shortages of certified classroom teachers and provide training for displaced workers.

REMINDER

The State Board of Community Colleges will host its annual Day of Recognition Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 19, at noon at the RBC Center in Raleigh.

For more information about the luncheon, contact Peggy Beach, coordinator of the luncheon at beachm@ncccs.cc.nc.us. or at 919-807-6964.

The Community College Connection
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The Community College Connection is an information and idea exchange for employees and friends of the North Carolina Community College System. The ideas and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policy or view of the State Board of Community Colleges or of the Community College System.

Submissions should be addressed to the following:

External Affairs
North Carolina Community College System
5001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-5001
or call 919-807-6964

James J. Woody, Jr., Chair
State Board of Community Colleges

H. Martin Lancaster, President
North Carolina Community College System



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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

STATE BOARD WELCOMES NEW STUDENT MEMBER

At its July meeting, the State Board of Community Colleges welcomed its newest member, student representative Billy Acosta.

Acosta, a student at Central Piedmont Community College, is president of the Student Government Association there and also president of the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA).



Acosta

Judge Wanda Bryant of the North Carolina Court of Appeals administered the oath of office to the father of two, who will serve for one year. Acosta succeeds Carole Davis, who was honored with a resolution.

Born in Fullerton, California and raised in Silver City, New Mexico, Acosta is a former pipe fitter who worked primarily in refineries and power plants. He and his family moved to Charlotte in 2002 where his wife, Lisa, works for Bank of America. They have two daughters, Kristin and Camille. In addition to student government, Acosta is active in Model United Nations and has served on the Hispanic Advisory Board for U.S. Representative Mel Watt (D-NC). He has also served as a volunteer/intern coordinator for U.S. Senator John Edwards (D-NC) and as a volunteer for the Mint Museum in Charlotte.

Acosta plans to transfer to UNC-Charlotte to complete his undergraduate studies in construction engineering technology after which he will also pursue a master's degree in construction management.

NORTH CAROLINA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES EARN TOP GRADES FOR PERFORMANCE

By Audrey Bailey, System Office, Public Affairs

According to a report released in June by the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS), all 58 of its comprehensive community colleges last year met or exceeded the state's rigorous standards for employment of graduates, employer satisfaction and business and industry satisfaction with customized training.

These are three of the 12 standards described in the annual *Critical Success Factors Report*, which documents each community college's performance as part of strict accountability requirements of the General Assembly. This year's report shows impressive gains in several areas.

For the past four years, community colleges have had the opportunity to earn the designation of "superior" based on their results. The first year, five of the 58 comprehensive community colleges earned "superior" rankings. Twenty-six did so the second year, and 31 colleges achieved that rank last year.

This year, the total is 36 colleges with a "superior" ranking. The rankings are based on the 2002-2003 academic year. (Full listing included below).

"This report on how our colleges rated on *Critical Success Factors* is our 'report card' to the General Assembly and the people of North Carolina," said H. Martin Lancaster, System President. "By any standard our colleges deserve an 'A' on their performance. Legislators and citizens can take great pride in how well their community colleges have responded to record enrollment with slightly declining net funding. Once again we've done more with less and done it well!"

Five community colleges received a perfect score by meeting or exceeding all 12 measures: Blue Ridge Community College; Coastal Carolina Community College; Fayetteville Technical Community College; Rockingham Community College; and Sandhills Community College.

Blue Ridge Community College and Tri-County Community College have earned superior rankings in each of the four years the report has been generated.

"Our colleges are wholeheartedly committed to providing the programs and services that support the economic

needs of North Carolina," said Keith Brown, NCCCS Associate Vice President for Planning, Accountability, Research and Evaluation. "This report validates their dedication." Brown added the reports are made possible and more reliable by steadily improving data collection methods.

Examples of 2002-2003 results include:

Business/Industry Satisfaction with Customized Training: Every business and industry client registered satisfaction with services provided by community colleges, earning all 58 community colleges and the system as a whole a 100 percent average, compared to the statewide standard of 90 percent.

Employment of Graduates: The statewide average for 2002-03 was 99.5% with all community colleges meeting or exceeding the performance standard of 95%.

Employer Satisfaction With Graduates: The statewide average for 2002-03 was 94% with all community colleges meeting or exceeding the performance standard of 85%.

Progress of Basic Skills Students: The statewide average for 2002-03 was 79% with 51 community colleges meeting or exceeding the performance standard of 75%. Basic skills services include literacy, ESL, and other non-curriculum or certificate resources.

The following community colleges earned superior rankings: Alamance, Beaufort County, Bladen, Blue Ridge, Central Piedmont, Cleveland, Coastal Carolina, College of The Albemarle, Craven, Davidson County, Durham Technical, Edgecombe, Fayetteville Technical, Gaston, Guilford Technical, Halifax, Haywood, Lenoir, Mayland, McDowell Technical, Mitchell, Nash, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Sandhills, Southwestern, Stanly, Surry, Tri County, Vance-Granville, Wake Technical, Wayne, Western Piedmont and Wilson Technical.

The complete 2004 *Critical Success Factors Report* is available on the NCCCS Web page at <http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/Publications/docs/Publications/csf2004.pdf> Summary tables begin on page 45.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF THE HISPANIC/LATINO COMMUNITY

During the past several months, the Hispanic/Latino Initiative of the North Carolina Community College System has identified community colleges offering unique programs that focus on the needs of their local Hispanic/Latino community. Due to space limitation, the article below is a summary of what the colleges are doing. These and other reports will be posted on the Initiative web page currently in development. For more information on the Initiative, contact Helga Mattei, System Office, at 919-807-7101.

WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The High School Equivalency Program (HEP) is made possible by a U.S. Department of Education Migrant Education Division grant to Wake Technical Community College. The grant provides resources for a wide-ranging approach to improving the lives of students through education. With the grant, the HEP staff serves migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families. It provides them with the necessary training to obtain a GED. In addition to intensive instruction, books, classroom supplies and test preparation materials, HEP is able to offer cultural activities such as museum visits as well as counseling services for students as they pursue their goals beyond graduation from the program.

The program is making tremendous impact according to the students involved. "I came to understand that I would not get a better life without first getting a good education," said

Hector Neri, who is now a tutor in the program.

"What really sets the staff of the HEP program apart is the intense connection that the staff develops with their students, both in-and-out of the classroom," said Helga Mattei, director of the Hispanic/Latino Initiative at the System Office. "The bond is not lost after graduation. Students are encouraged to maintain contact, to ask for assistance and to share all their accomplishments. It is a relationship with the community that is mutually beneficial and deeply rewarding to all involved."

BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The college's program, "Learning Together: A Family Centered Literacy Program" received 2004 National Bellwether Award for Outstanding Instructional Programs and Services. This award, sponsored by the University of Florida's Community College Futures Assembly, annually recognizes

outstanding and innovative programs at community colleges and four-year institutions around the nation.

Blue Ridge received the award for its Family-Centered Literacy Program. The program was initiated in 1999 at Hillandale and has been replicated at five other schools. Plans are underway to open an additional facility next year. Since its inception, the program has served more than 200 families and 300 adults. In addition, three out of five participating Hispanic adults have been able to obtain a GED and of those GED recipients, three quarters of them have enrolled at the Blue Ridge.

For more information on these programs, contact the following:

Wake Technical Community College
Steve Duncan, Director HEP Program
(919) 461-9408

Blue Ridge Community College
Nancy Bulow, ESOL Coordinator
(828) 694-1700

COMMUNITY COLLEGES LOSE A LONG TIME FRIEND

Wallace Gee, former president of the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees, long-time trustee of Alamance Community College and a 1983 recipient of the I.E. Ready Award, died in Burlington on August 11 at 86.

A native of Burlington, Gee was a well-known philanthropist, volunteer, leader and retired businessman. A member of the Salvation Army's board of directors, Gee was involved with the Burlington Civitan Club, Allied Churches, Meals on Wheels, Boy Scouts, Loaves and Fishes and many other organizations. He was a lifelong member of Macedonian Lutheran Church. The *Burlington*



Gee

Times News reported that in July, Gee received the most recent of many honors, the Salvation Army's Lifetime Achievement Award for his 35 years of giving to and working with the charity.

"He seemed to have a passion for doing more than what one person should do for his community," said his friend of 65 years, Frank Bennett.

"If you needed a favor, Wallace Gee would do it for you."

Gee said that one of his proudest accomplishments was his work with the North Carolina Community College System. From 1977 to 1980, Gee served as president of the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees. "He was one of the founders of our association," said Helen Dowdy, executive director of the association. "He also was one of the people who lobbied the legislature for the creation of the North Carolina Community College System in 1963." For his efforts, Gee received the I.E. Ready Award, the highest awarded

given by the State Board of Community Colleges, in 1983. Gee also served on the board of trustees for Alamance Community College and its forerunners, beginning in 1960.

A train engineer during World War II, Gee was one of the engineers who transported President Franklin D. Roosevelt's body to New York after his death in 1945. In 1950, Gee left his job at The Pennsylvania Railroad Company for his health and returned to Burlington.

Gee became one of the biggest car dealers in Alamance County with AMC Jeep Inc. In 1981, Gee was appointed to finish Frank Warren's term on the Alamance County Board of Commissioners. After he retired from his business in 1983, he ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the General Assembly.

Gee's wife of 63 years, Edna Pearl Gee, died at 84 in 2002. The couple had four sons, Charles, James, William and John.

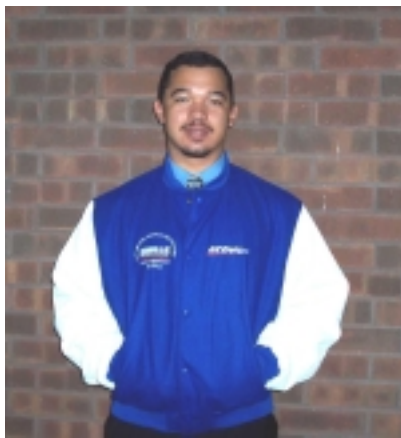
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PEOPLE

Dr. Matthew Garrett became president of Central Carolina Commu-



Garrett (left) and Parker

nity College on August 1. Garrett has been at Central Carolina since 1987 and was most recently the executive vice president and chief academic officer. He has spent 25 years in education, including time as an instructor at Martin Community College...**George R. "Randy" Parker** will be the new president at Vance-Granville Community College, beginning September 1. Parker began his higher education career at Lenoir Community College and will receive his doctorate in education from North Carolina State University this fall. He is presently the vice president for instruction and student services at Lenoir...**Devane Burnette**, a student at Guilford Technical Community



Burnette

College, took top honors in July in Automotive Systems Technology technical skills at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Burnette, a second year student, had won the state championship twice. His prizes include a work

station, tools, gift certificates worth over \$2000 and a \$2000 scholarship from Daimler Chrysler...**Julie Stocks**, vice president of student development services at Southeastern Community College, received the Marsha Riddle Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Carolina Association of Volunteer Administration... In May, three Randolph Community College students competed in the Sandhills' branch of the English-Speaking Union's 2004 International Public Speaking Competition. The students were **Andrea Cavallier, Byron Gladden and Kandace Landers**, all college transfer students from Asheboro. Landers was chosen as the first alternate and received a cash prize... Students in the Phi Beta Lambda chapter at South Piedmont Community College participated in competitions at the state conference in April. **Nadine Shaw** of Polkton came in first place and **Ophia Liles** of Polkton came in third place in the telecommunications competition. Liles and her partner, **Linda Little** of Wadesboro came in second place in the multimedia presentation competition. Other winners include **Katrina Blackwell** of Monroe, second place, impromptu speaking; **Cassandra Bumpous** of Marshville, fourth place, visual basic programming; **Edgar Lee** of Ansonville and **Casonja Crowder** of Wadesboro, seventh place, desktop publishing; **Margaret Sellers** of Wadesboro, eighth place, networking concepts... In May, Gaston College presented retired radio personality **Pat McSwain** with the first WSGE Broadcasting Hall of Fame Award. McSwain, a former broadcaster and the owner of WGNC radio, was honored at a dinner on the college campus in Dallas. WSGE is Gaston College's radio station... **Ray Gora**, an alumnus of Catawba Valley Community College and an award-winning photographer, held an exhibit of his photographs at the Newton-Conover Civic and Performance Place in May and June. His brother, **Adam Gora**, is a welding student at Catawba Valley, and displayed some of his metal sculptures alongside his brother's photographs during the exhibit... **Dr. Tony Zeiss**, president of Central Piedmont Community College, received the Chief Executive Officer Award in June from the Southern Region of the Association of the Community College Trustees... Nearly 40 public relations and

marketing officers from the community colleges attended the annual PRIMA (North Carolina Public Relations, Information and Marketing Association) professional development conference in Hendersonville. Officers were named for the 2004-2005 year. They are president, **Mary Miller**, Catawba Valley Community College; vice president, **Shannon Kennedy**, Cleveland Community College; treasurer, **Lou Anne Kincaid**, Catawba Valley Community College; secretary, **Bonnie Davis**, Piedmont Community College; western district representative, **Marla Christie**, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, and eastern district representative, **Tim Moore**, Wilson Technical Community College... Rowan-Cabarrus Community College recognized three college employees in July for their recent stints with the U.S. Army Reserves. Dr. Richard Brownell, college president, presented certificates of appreciation to **Major David Edward Cox**, an instructor and head of the Business Administration program, **Command Sergeant Major John Robert Szakal**, dean of the Workforce Development program and **E5 Sergeant Barbara J. Taylor**, a mathematics instructor... **Rhonda Davis**, a business sciences instructor for 23 years at Isothermal Community College, is the 2004 recipient of the Robert Wendell Eaves Distinguished Teaching Award. Davis, who received the award in May, coordinates the college's annual awards day program and chairs the college's professional development for staff committee... In June, **Alan Albright**, long time chair of the Gaston College Board of Trustees, was recognized by the college for his service to the board. Albright served on the board for 12 years and served two terms as chairman... **Buddy and Julia Womack** of Clayton have donated money to the Johnston Community College Arboretum Project in memory of their son, **David**, a former county tax collector. David's widow, **Karen**, works at the college's arboretum... **Bill Christian** of Morehead City donated \$100,000 to Carteret Community College to support the college's new nursing program.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Alamance Community College Graham

- ◆ Alamance broke another enrollment record with 4,466 students in the spring 2004 semester, an increase of 416 students from spring 2003. The record-breaking enrollment for fall 2003 was 4,623. The college continues to accommodate all students.
- ◆ Alamance has been certified as a Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Center, with the first session of classes scheduled to begin in September 2004.
- ◆ The two-year Biotechnology program received a \$50,000 grant from Golden LEAF to produce six "fast track" instructional modules through the college's continuing education department, designed to assist biotechnology students in improving skills and gaining certification in techniques new to the field.

Catawba Valley Community College Hickory

- ◆ This fall, the college will break ground on a new five-story facility that will include classrooms, science and computer laboratories, a new learning resource center, telecommunications center and learning assistance center. Funded by 2000 Higher Education Bond Referendum combined with county funding, the entire project will cost just under \$14 million. Pending final state approval, ground breaking is expected to take place in September.
- ◆ Due to the unusually large number of graduates this past spring, the college had to split its commencement into two ceremonies. Four hundred students—the largest in the college's 44-year history—could choose to participate in either a 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. service. The college's Multipurpose Complex, which seats 2,800, was filled to capacity during both ceremonies.
- ◆ This fall, both male and female students will be able to participate in National Junior College Athletic Association Division III athletics at the college. Women will compete for the first time this year as full members of the Tarheel Conference. The men's basketball team will also compete in the same conference against teams from Mayland

Community College, Surry Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Forsyth Technical Community College and Sampson Community College.

- ◆ Two individuals were recognized during the college's annual Celebration of Black History Month this past February. Rev. Webster E. Lytle of Hickory and social science instructor Fred Bryson received awards for outstanding contributions to the black community.
- ◆ The college has received two grants from Golden LEAF which provided the seed money to launch the Homegrown Teaching Scholars program. The program aims to identify and support students who will ultimately become teachers in the college's service area of Catawba and Alexander counties.

Cleveland Community College Shelby

- ◆ Cleveland has raised more than \$6.5 million for the construction of an Allied Health and Science Center and the LeGrand Family Conference Center. The Jack Hunt Campus Center was named in honor of former legislator Jack Hunt, a longtime college supporter.
- ◆ Cleveland has been designated an Advanced EMS Education Institution. The college is active in training fire, rescue, and law enforcement personnel. Each September, Cleveland hosts the Cleveland County Fire & Rescue College. More than 500 participants enroll in the program.
- ◆ Cleveland has formed a partnership with Isothermal Community College and McDowell Technical Community College to offer a regional surgical technology diploma program. Cleveland received a \$198,974 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to initiate the program, set to begin in August.

Edgecombe Community College Tarboro

- ◆ On June 24, about 275 area residents were on hand to celebrate the dedication of the college's new Arts, Civic and Technology Center. Opened in time for summer classes, the 70,000-square-foot, two-story facility provides much-needed space

for teaching and learning, with about 75 percent of the space utilized for academic purposes. Computer Studies, Cooperative Education, Continuing Education, Business & Industry, and the Small Business Center are housed in the new building. Also, a 1,029-seat auditorium, spacious lobby, and conference rooms are available to the public for concerts, plays, cultural arts productions, exhibits, and business and social events. Of the total \$11 million price tag, \$6.8 was provided by state bond funds, and \$1 million was provided by Edgecombe County. The balance was funded through private donations.

- ◆ Alan Stephenson, Science Department Chair/Instructor, recently discovered a new oncogene, a potential cancer-causing gene. As part of his Ph.D. research at the East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine, Stephenson has been studying pathways that lead cells to become malignant. More on Stephenson's research in an upcoming edition of *Connection*.
- ◆ Linda Harrison, Coordinator/Instructor of Surgical Technology, has received the first Educator of the Year Award from the Association of Surgical Technologists. The national award recognizes educators who have made a significant contribution to the education of surgical technologists and to the profession of surgical technology.

Fayetteville Technical Community College Fayetteville

- ◆ Dominique Bettis, a graduate of Pine Forest High School, is the first recipient of the Future Seekers Scholarship. In 1999, President Larry Norris started the Future Seekers Career Exploration Project as a dropout prevention program and a partnership with Ramsey Street Alternative Middle School. The purpose of the program is to intervene with children who are at risk by providing motivation, inspiration, career options and educational experience. From January to April, 24 students visit Fayetteville Tech once a month. To date, 108 students from the Ramsey Street Alternative Middle School have participated in the program.

Campus Highlights continued

Haywood Community College Clyde

- ◆ Enrollment has continued to rise at Haywood with a record enrollment of 2037 students recorded for fall semester 2003.
- ◆ Pulp and Paper Technology was recently added to Haywood's program offerings. The program will begin in the fall 2004 semester.
- ◆ The college's foundation received a grant of \$250,000 from the Janirve Foundation for the Regional Model Child Development Center. Construction of the facility is slated to begin later this year.
- ◆ The Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters is ranked second in the nation in recruiting new members.
- ◆ Haywood's Volunteers Club, established in the fall of 2003, is a campus-wide club comprised of students, faculty and staff. The main focus of the group is cleaning up areas in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park but the club's goal is to get people involved in volunteer work in the community.
- ◆ Haywood is an active member of CraftNet, a partnership of community colleges from across the nation, working to foster regional economic development through creative enterprises involving arts and/or crafts.
- ◆ Haywood formed a partnership with Southwestern Community College and Tri-County Community College. This partnership was selected to be part of a national Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI) demonstration project funded by the Ford Foundation. The RCCI brings colleges together to pursue an active leadership role in civic engagement, economic development, and educational access in the areas that they serve.

Isothermal Community College Spindale

- ◆ Andrew and Flora Major of New York City, former residents of Rutherford County, North Carolina, attended the opening of the Isothermal art exhibit. The exhibit featured dozens of donated paintings and other art pieces from the couple, representing art works from France, Jamaica, Hungary and Africa's

Ivory Coast. The artwork is now permanently displayed at the college library.

- ◆ The Inaugural Isothermal Film Festival and Symposium included films portraying both modern and antebellum life in Southern Appalachia. The event, sponsored by the college's cultural events committee, included film screenings and discussions with film directors, historians, anthropologists, literary scholars and southern storytellers.
- ◆ The college's first writers workshop, called Writers in Residence, featured six of the South's top authors. Appearing were Dr. Kathy Ackerman and Tom Tucker, coordinators of the event as well as Linda Annas Ferguson, Tommy Hays, Susan Meyers and Rosa Shand. The college plans to make the workshop an annual event.

Lenoir Community College Kinston

- ◆ Lenoir experienced record enrollment of 2,607 students in the Fall 2003.
- ◆ Omicron Rho Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recognized regionally with Five Star status, the highest it can achieve. The chapter captured 16 awards. Adviser Carolyn Crossland was named to the Carolina's Regional Advisory Board. She was also received the Continued Excellence Award for Advisors at the 2004 Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Minnesota.
- ◆ The college's Lancer Baseball Team won the District Tournament and headed to the Junior College World Series where the team placed fifth in the nation.
- ◆ Phi Beta Lambda members won a place in the final top eight of their competitive events. Member Carlos Dodd was inducted in the North Carolina PBL Who's Who organization.
- ◆ Lancer Flight Squadron Flight Team won top honors at the NIFA's Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON) in Tennessee. The team competed with 31 university and college aviation programs in the country.

Montgomery Community College Troy

- ◆ The college foundation's annual fund drive raised over \$110,000 this spring with 100 percent employee

and board participation. Employees contributed \$12,214 to that total. In April, the Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament raised \$22,369 and last fall, the Foundation's reverse raffle raised over \$22,000.

- ◆ The Professional Crafts/Clay program displayed students' work at the North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove in May and June.
- ◆ In June, the North Carolina Department of Commerce presented to the JobLink Montgomery Career Center the Sampson Model Status.
- ◆ Also in June, Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue visited the campus. She met faculty and staff and toured the divisions, speaking to several students about job layoffs and the training they are receiving at Montgomery.
- ◆ Montgomery was approved to offer the Human Services Technology curriculum this fall. A feasibility study is currently being conducted to add Office Systems Technology at Southern Correctional Institution, which will convert to an all-female population by the fall.

Pamlico Community College Oriental

- ◆ Pamlico's collaboration with local business and firefighters has brought new training facilities and access to the county. Pamlico now provides the facilities and instructors for the 5th day of the internationally required Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers. As a result of the cooperation, the local Firefighters' Association now has access through the college to live burn experience and training.
- ◆ The Environmental Science students are making a difference in the community through their role as "River Keepers." The students test one of the local waterways weekly and participate in the "Oyster Gardening" project.
- ◆ The Compensatory Education students have planted a garden on campus complete with sunflowers, melons, vegetables, and herbs.
- ◆ After missing last year due to Hurricane Isabel, Pamlico will again join with Camp Seafarer to offer "History Comes Alive on the Carolina Coast" as an Elderhostel program.

Campus Highlights continued

North Carolina Center for Applied Textile Technology Belmont

- ◆ U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) visited the Textile Center on March 16 to meet with area textile leaders and industry suppliers.
- ◆ The Textile Center hosted customs officials from Singapore. The officials received an overview of the textile industry and then toured Parkdale Mills facility.
- ◆ The Textile Center served as the facilitator for a six-month Development Dimensions International (DDI) leadership-training program. Ninety-six employees from Pharr Yarns participated in the program.
- ◆ The Textile Center continues its partnership with Belmont Abbey College. Upon receiving a federal grant for an international business program, the Textile Center will combine efforts to train and educate the U.S. industry and professionals.
- ◆ Visitors from Cambodia, India and Turkey traveled to the Textile Center to learn about the impact of trade policies on the U.S. textile industry. The visitors were part of the International Visitor Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Dr. Jim Lemons, President of Textile Center, taught the course.

Richmond Community College Hamlet

- ◆ The Medical Assisting Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), on recommendation of the Curriculum Review Board of the American Association of Medical Assistants' Endowment (AAMAE).
- ◆ The Criminal Justice curriculum became one of 16 post-secondary institutions in the state to receive state certification from the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.
- ◆ Richmond celebrated its 40th anniversary with an open house on March 31 and a convocation on April 2, the anniversary of the college's charter signing.
- ◆ The college completed a 12-month HVAC renovation project, thanks to coordination efforts between administration, faculty, students and general contractors. The \$890,000

project was funded by the 2000 Higher Education Bond Referendum. Some of the college's HVAC systems were more than 30 years old.

- ◆ Judith Mann is the college's new vice president of instruction. The former director of the program services at the System Office replaced Dr. Bill Williams, who retired in June.
- ◆ John Forte of Ellerbe, an original member of the board of trustees, retired in September after 39 years.

Southeastern Community College Whiteville

- ◆ Dr. Deborah Lamm, vice president of curriculum instruction, traveled to China in April with representatives of UNC-Pembroke to sign an agreement with the North China Institute of Science and Technology. The program, to begin in fall 2004, will permit 30 students to obtain an AAS degree in Business Administration with a concentration in e-commerce through a combination of face-to-face and distance learning deliveries.
- ◆ Southeastern has partnered with the Watson School of Education at UNC-Wilmington to place an academic advisor at the college to assist with recruiting students who want to become teachers.
- ◆ Southeastern co-hosted a workshop presented by the Sirolli Institute that seeks to share techniques for economic and community development in rural communities.
- ◆ Southeastern was awarded three grants totaling \$858,233 by the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board to serve Workforce Investment Act (WIA) eligible adults, dislocated workers and out-of-school youth during 2004-2005 with employment and training services.
- ◆ Several campus renovation projects are nearing completion. The Science Building renovations were completed in March. Renovations to the college's auditorium and administration building are scheduled for completion later this summer.
- ◆ A major guaranteed energy savings project is currently underway at the college that is designed to save the college money while being more energy efficient. It involves installation of lighting upgrades, new control systems, and replacement of many heating and air conditioning systems throughout campus.
- ◆ Plans are underway for the construction of a Technology/Classroom

Building on 20 acres of land adjacent to the college that was donated by the James Allen Cartrette family. The 2000 Higher Education Bond Referendum will pay for the project.

- ◆ Southeastern is partnering with City and Islington College in London to provide faculty and student exchanges in the science field.

Tri-County Community College Murphy

- ◆ Tri-County celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with a number of events planned including a full week of celebration in November. The college's official date of establishment is November 5, 1964.
- ◆ The college will open a permanent on-campus site for its TeleCenter/ Small Business Center. The TeleCenter was established in 2002, with a grant from the Rural Internet Access Authority. The permanent site will be housed in what used to be the college's auto body repair shop. At its June meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to name the new building in honor of Jane Smith Patterson.
- ◆ Two Tri-County students have received honors recently. Tena Cody, an Adult Basic Skills student, composed a winning essay in April for the Race 4 Literacy West writing competition. She read her work at a conference held in Asheville that month. William Lambert, a dual enrollment welding student from Franklin High School, captured first place in the North Carolina welding competition, both regionally and statewide. He competed in the Skills USA national high school competition in late June.
- ◆ The college has recently established a "Paramedic to R.N." bridge program in conjunction with Winston-Salem State University. Tri-County students who earn an A.A.S. in Emergency Medical Science can enroll in the B.S.N. program through Winston-Salem State and attend most of the required classes in Murphy.
- ◆ Plans are in process for a three-phase campus renovation project using funds available from the 2000 Higher Education Bond Referendum. The initial element will create teaching and office space for its business technology program, eventually allowing room to expand its health and science program areas.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 2004



"Our best conference ever." That was the sentiment of many at this year's Community College Student Leadership Institute (SLI). In June, students from community colleges across North Carolina participated in SLI on the campus of Peace College in Raleigh. Karen Yerby, System Office and Joan McLendon, Johnston Community College serve as co-directors. Yerby said that 27 students from 21 community colleges attended this year's event. Participants worked in four groups developing workshops of interest to community college students. Topics included business etiquette, leadership, communication, marketing and ethics. The students visited the General Assembly and talked with their hometown legislators. The North Carolina Community College Presidents Association sponsors SLI.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES 34

Thirty-four participants graduated from the North Carolina Community College Leadership Program (NCCCLP) in April. The graduation culminated seven months of leadership training.

NCCCLP was established in 1989 to provide leadership training to faculty and staff from the 59 institutions in the North Carolina Community College System as well as the System Office in Raleigh.

This year's graduates include **Alma Thompson**, Alamance Community College; **Kimberly Jones**, Brunswick Community College; **Kim Hinton** and **Kimberly Turk**, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute; **Timothy Braden** and **Anthony Johnson**, Cape Fear Community College; **Juanita Cooper** and **Maha**

Gingrich, Central Piedmont Community College; **Altovise Martin** and **Connie Mizelle**, College of The Albemarle; **Gerry Boucher**, Craven Community College; **Tracy Constantine**, Durham Technical Community College; **Barbara Bradley-Hasty**, Halifax Community College; **Kay Lanier**, Johnston Community College; **Tammy Buck**, Lenoir Community College; **Robert Branch**, Mayland Community College; **Joy Przeworski**, McDowell Technical Community College; **Frances Ryan**, Montgomery Community College; **James Hartsell**, Nash Community College; **Samuel Buff**, North Carolina Center for Applied Textile Technology; **Jennifer Frazelle**, System Office; **Susan Scaggs**, Piedmont Community College; **Jaime Espinosa** and **Donald**

King, Pitt Community College; **Linda Pridgen**, Richmond Community College; **Juliette Jackson**, Rockingham Community College; **Randy Gunter**, Randolph Community College; **Shelley Harper**, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College; **Sandra Huntley**, South Piedmont Community College; **Meredith Merrill**, Southeastern Community College; **Barbara Putman**, South Piedmont Community College; **Gregory Flippin Smith**, Surry Community College; **John Saparilas**, Wake Technical Community College; **Tara Humphries**, Wayne Community College.

Applications for the 2004-2005 class will be available in early fall. For more information, contact Dawn McAvoy, co-director of NCCCLP, at 252-335-0821, ext. 2255.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH, PAY RAISES, NEW EQUIPMENT MONEY TOP \$891 MILLION BUDGET FOR 04-05

By Chancy Kapp, System Office, Public Affairs

"The General Assembly has a long history of support of community colleges, but this year's session has been one of the best in our 41-year history in terms of budget and policy support."

So said H. Martin Lancaster, President of the North Carolina Community College System, when the General Assembly passed an expansion budget with more than \$88.2 million in new funds for community colleges in July.

"The budget passed by the General Assembly is by far the largest that our System has ever received. The role that community colleges play in educating and training North Carolina's workforce is a vital part of rebuilding our economy. The General Assembly recognizes that role and has provided funds to enable our community colleges to help unemployed and underemployed individuals find and retain jobs," said Lancaster.

At their August meeting, members of the State Board of Community Colleges also praised the General Assembly and the Governor for providing expansion funds in difficult economic days. The State Board also established policies for fund distribution in August.

Including the expansion funds, the operating budget for FY 2004-2005 totals \$891 million. Most of the new funds come through the systemwide Formula Allocation, which distrib-

utes money for instruction based on the number of students enrolled. This year's allocation is \$78.5 million more than last year's, an increase of 10.5 percent. The formula includes \$23.4 million to help cover the tremendous enrollment growth of recent years. Budgeted enrollment growth increased overall by 8,047 full-time equivalent (FTE) students, an increase of 4.5 percent over 2003-04. Enrollment grew in curriculum (4.7 percent), occupational continuing education (4.4 percent), and basic skills (2.6 percent).

The statewide formula allocation also includes salary increases for community college staff and faculty. In addition to raises for all state employees, the General Assembly appropriated additional funds for faculty and professional staff in the community colleges and wrote into the law a commitment to move salaries toward national averages over the next five years.

The State Board approved salary rules that provide a minimum salary increase of 4.5% for all full-time faculty and professional staff, allocate \$1.2 million to boost the pay of the most poorly paid full-time faculty to an established minimum; tie budget flexibility to improving average curriculum salaries and require adjunct faculty salaries to be increased comparably to full-time faculty and to reflect class preparation time and other work outside the classroom.

For the first time in many years, the

General Assembly increased the recurring appropriation for instructional equipment. Total recurring funding grew by \$6.0 million, from \$15.3 to \$21.3 million, an increase of 39 percent.

Colleges with multiple campuses received full funding for their request for \$6.9 million in new dollars, while off-campus centers received the first state funding ever, \$1.4 million. These State Board-approved entities guarantee convenient access to working adults, while avoiding the cost of building additional colleges. The State Board directed staff to collect detailed expenditures for each multi-campus college and off-campus center.

The budget also includes \$6.1 million in new money for training for new, expanding and existing industry and several special items for individual colleges.

The General Assembly increased tuition for FY 04-05. In-state students will pay \$38 per semester credit hours up to a maximum of \$608 per semester; out of state rates are \$211 per semester hour to a maximum of \$3,376. State-funded financial aid increases as well.

"The North Carolina Community College System is the most capable institution in the state to turn our economy around," said Lancaster. "Thanks to the support of the General Assembly, this budget gives us resources to fulfill that mission."

MORE NEWS BRIEFS

As *Connection* went to press, the following items crossed the news desk.

- ♦ Residents in eastern North Carolina began to cope with the aftermath of Hurricane Charley. Community colleges reported minimal damage to buildings but a lot of rain. "We had quite a bit of rain on Saturday and even more on Sunday," said Tish Scott, public information officer for Wilson Technical Community College. "So other than a miserable weekend for being outside, it has not created any problems for the college." Lenoir Community College and several other campuses opened a shelter for resi-

dents in preparation for the storm. College officials breathed a sigh of relief that damage was minimal and expressed hope for a quieter hurricane season.

- ♦ Attendance at the 2004 MerleFest at Wilkes Community College totaled a record high of 81,592. According to the MerleFest 2004 Economic Impact Report released on August 12, the direct economic impact on Wilkes County alone was \$7.3 million, an increase of more than \$800,000 from 2003. The total economic impact for the region was more than \$13 million, exceeding the 2003 figure by more than \$1.5 million. MerleFest 2005 will be held April 28-May 1.

- ♦ Suzanne Stafford, international programs officer for Forsyth Technical Community College, has been selected as a full member of The Russian Academy of Science. The award is given to those who have outstanding results in scientific research in social science, economy, management and marketing. Stafford has studied Russian economic development for a number of years. She has helped Russian leaders learn Western banking systems and has coordinated various humanitarian efforts between Russia and the United States.