

Vol. 6, No. 1 } Winter 2013

Tech Quarterly

# TQ

The Magazine of Forsyth Technical Community College



# Our Lives In Their Hands

FORSYTH TECH'S HEALTH & EMERGENCY PROGRAMS KEEP THE COMMUNITY SAFE



*in this issue:*

**CONNECTED CLASSROOMS:**  
*Hands-On Technology*

**BENDING STEEL:**  
*Evolution of an Entrepreneur*

**SHABBY CHIC:**  
*You Can Do It*

**ForsythTech**

*More Than You Know*



From the President | *Safety First*

Dr. Gary M. Green



What makes a community a great place to live? I think most people would agree that a sense of safety and security are fundamental to quality of life. At Forsyth Tech, it is our privilege to train the majority of people who have the responsibility of keeping us safe in our community. As our cover story notes, some 8,000 public safety employees go through our certification and recertification programs every year.

The recent horrific massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut – and other tragic mass shootings – bring to mind the bravery and heroism that first responders dependably exhibit. Our law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians are well aware that any day can present them with violence, danger, suffering and grief. And as the cover story reminds us, their training must encompass more than technical skills, to include problem solving, conflict resolution and excellent communication.

The training of people who enforce the law and defuse emergencies requires ever more sophisticated facilities and equipment, as well as experienced program leaders and instructors. At Forsyth Tech we are fortunate to have some of the most advanced training facilities in the state, and career public safety professionals in key roles.

Another important element of our success is the collaboration of local police and sheriff departments, fire departments and EMS services with the college. The trend here is to make the training and certification

increasingly collaborative. As Winston-Salem Police Chief Scott Cunningham notes, the initiative to offer basic police academy training for prospective employees through Forsyth Tech benefits both the department and the college.

In every issue of *TQ Magazine* we like to highlight some of the people who work here and some who have gained the means to achieving their life's dreams here. In this issue I'd like to call your attention to one of the newer additions to our staff, and to my cabinet, Mamie McKinney Sutphin. Mamie has an MBA from Wake Forest; a history of success at one of our major nonprofits, the United Way; and a spirit of determination honed through playing basketball. That's the kind of broad perspective and focus on excellence that we strive for at Forsyth Tech, and we are happy to welcome Mamie aboard as Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Forsyth Tech Foundation.

I also encourage you to read about what Derek Duggins has made of the welding certification he acquired at Forsyth Tech in the 1970s. Everybody is aware that Forsyth Tech prepares people for jobs, but we sometimes don't emphasize that technical training often sets people up to be job creators. With two thriving and growing companies under one roof in Winston-Salem, Derek has created several dozen good jobs that are going to stay right here in the Triad.

I wish you a safe and prosperous year, and on behalf of the staff, faculty and students here, I thank you for your continued support of your community college. ☺

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Forsyth Tech is proud to be part of the North Carolina Community College System, with 58 institutions serving more than 800,000 students annually. North Carolina Community Colleges are creating success in our state by:

- Offering hope for a better future through vocational training and education
- Providing opportunity by making higher education available to all citizens
- Generating jobs by creating a skilled workforce for business and industry

For information about our "gainful employment" programs as defined by the Department of Education, please go to [www.forsythtech.edu/gainfulemployment](http://www.forsythtech.edu/gainfulemployment).

Forsyth Tech welcomes diversity and is dedicated to meeting the needs of students with disabilities, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact Sarah Hawks, Coordinator, Disabilities Services Office, at 336.734.7155 or [shawks@forsythtech.edu](mailto:shawks@forsythtech.edu).

Forsyth Technical Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees, diplomas and certificates. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1966 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 with questions about the accreditation of Forsyth Technical Community College. The commission can be contacted to file a third-party comment during the time of the college's decennial review or to file a complaint if there is evidence appearing to support the college's noncompliance with a requirement or standard. All other inquiries about the college should be addressed directly to the college.



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7 { On the Cover

They're here for us. Whether it's a health emergency, a crime scene or a house fire, Triad residents depend on local EMS, police and fire departments to step in—and those departments in turn depend on Forsyth Tech to provide the training they need.

18 { Robots Rule

Local organizations join forces to show Forsyth County middle schoolers how science, technology, engineering and math can be FUN!

26 { Campus Milestone

After a 14-month renovation, the Oak Grove Center brings new life to campus and new technology to the students of Forsyth Tech.

28 { Alumni Spotlight

Watching steel flow like water was one of Derek Duggins' early lessons in bringing about change and transformation. Technical training in welding was his springboard not only to business success but also to a full and adventurous life.

Not all mannequins just stand around.

Our mannequins are actually spelled "manikins." And these manikins are out to save lives by:

- > Helping firefighters learn to carry people safely out of burning buildings.
- > Showing first responders how to give lifesaving CPR.
- > Teaching nurses how to take care of newborns.
- > Giving nurses and medical assistants a better shot at giving better shots.

Your gift to Forsyth Tech helps ensure that our students are training on the right tools and technologies – manikins included. Thank you!

[www.ForsythTech.edu/support](http://www.ForsythTech.edu/support)



We're Listening!

If you'd like to comment on anything in this issue of *Tech Quarterly*, we'd love to hear about it. You can email us at [TQ@forsythtech.edu](mailto:TQ@forsythtech.edu).



## A Road Trip to Remember



In November, Research Triangle Park's "Pathways to Opportunity" Bus Tour, sponsored by the Research Triangle Foundation, made a stop at Forsyth Tech, one of 21 stops within the state. The Forsyth Tech stop featured a discussion of the new knowledge-based economy that is emerging within the Triad; the workforce training that is taking place through Forsyth Tech; and the innovative, high-tech economic development initiatives that are attracting new business to the region in general and the Piedmont Triad Research Park in particular. Participants in the discussion included Bob Geolas, president and CEO of the Research Triangle Foundation; Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green; Winston-Salem Business Inc. President Bob Leak; and Eric Tomlinson (pictured above), president of Piedmont Triad Research Park and chief innovation officer of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

## I Am Domestic Violence



To bring awareness to the crisis of domestic violence, Forsyth Tech's Shugart Women's and Student Success Centers hosted Wambui Bahati, a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker and domestic violence survivor, for a performance of *I Am Domestic Violence*. This one-woman play was created by Bahati, who portrays a variety of haunting characters in an effort to promote holistic mental health and domestic violence advocacy. More than 250 students, faculty, staff and community members attended.



## Deere in the Headlines

Deere-Hitachi announced in the fall that they will invest \$97 million over the next four years to expand their Kenersville plant, adding at least 340 full-time jobs. That's good news for Forsyth Tech welding students. Officials from Deere-Hitachi visited campus in December to talk with welding students about potential jobs, that offer starting salaries of around \$37,000.



## One Incredible Year So Far!

Forsyth Tech's new Student Veterans Association (SVA) chapter was awarded a grant to attend the 5th Annual SVA National Conference in Orlando in January. Forsyth Tech was the only community college invited to present, along with three four-year universities: Northeastern, Arizona



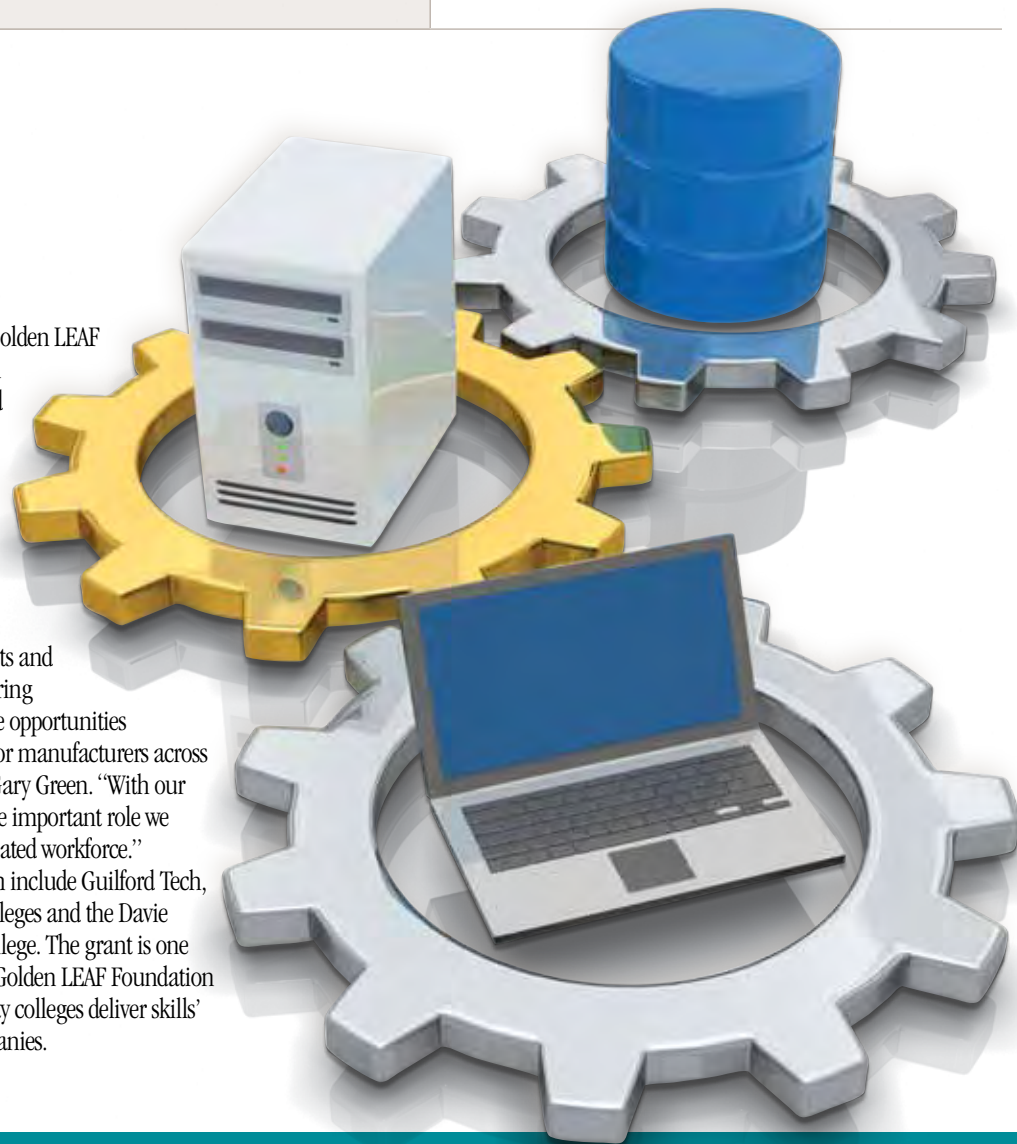
State and the University of South Florida. Roby Lovett, president of Forsyth Tech's SVA, attended the conference and presented to a panel of corporate executives, including executives from Google, GMAC, Bank of America, Prudential and the Bob Woodruff Foundation.

Another highlight of the chapter's first year was the November campus visit of Chaplain Major General Douglas Carver, a retired Army officer who served as the 22nd Army Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon. Major General Carver (pictured above) spoke to veterans and civilians about veterans' reintegration into civilian life and academia, including ways to make classrooms more veteran friendly. "The instructor should engage the veteran in conversation," Major General Carver said. "Get to know the veteran student."

*Forsyth Tech considers it an honor to serve those who have served our country.*

## Forsyth Tech Takes the Lead

Thanks to an \$825,000 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation, Forsyth Tech will lead a regional consortium of community colleges to expand the National Association of Manufacturers' Endorsed Skills Certification Program in Computer-Integrated Machining. The grant will allow the consortium to coordinate training for jobs in computer-controlled machining; promote adoption of industry-recognized, third-party credentials; and build career pathways to attract high school students and others into advanced manufacturing. "Acquiring third-party credentials will increase workforce opportunities for students and improve the hiring process for manufacturers across our region," said Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green. "With our community college partners, we recognize the important role we all have in providing employers with an educated workforce." The other colleges in the regional consortium include Guilford Tech, Randolph and Rockingham Community Colleges and the Davie Campus of Davidson County Community College. The grant is one of nine, totaling \$5,723,130, awarded by the Golden LEAF Foundation in December, aimed at helping 14 community colleges deliver skills' training in demand by North Carolina companies.



## GED® Changes on the Horizon

Each year, Forsyth Tech's GED® graduation ceremonies mark an educational milestone for hundreds of students, and for many it is also the first step to further educational achievement. In 2014, however, the GED testing procedure will change. On January 2 of that year, the five current paper-based tests will be replaced by four new tests that will be given only via computer. The new tests will also be more rigorous than the current tests, which were last updated in 2002. The cost is going up as well, from \$35 to take all five current tests to as much as \$24 for each of the new tests (or \$96 to take all four). Since there is no carryover to the new system, current students have only until the end of 2013 to pass their tests and earn their GED under the current system. Students who do not complete their GED by the end of this year will have to start over again under the new system in 2014.



## Model Leadership

Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green was named one of the Triad's Most Influential People by *The Business Journal* for the ninth year in a row. Citing Dr. Green's leadership, *The Business Journal* stated, "Dr. Green regularly hosts visits ranging from other community college officials to U.S. presidents who want to model Forsyth Tech's worker training and other initiatives such as its biotech and nanotech programs." The publication also praised Dr. Green for positioning Forsyth Tech as a key economic development asset for the Triad, helping to lure large projects, such as Caterpillar's axle factory.







## Better Leaders Make Better Programs

As part of the college's commitment to continuous learning for faculty and staff, Forsyth Tech participates in the Academies, a program hosted by the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium. The program focuses on training local college leaders to systematically enhance adult education programs by identifying the parts of the program that need to be improved, planning and implementing appropriate solutions, and evaluating the impact. The following Forsyth Tech staff members have recently completed the Academies program: Forrest Lineberry, director, Job Link/Human Resource Development; Pauline Morris, coordinator, Community and Workplace ESL; Julie Summers, instructional coordinator, Adult Literacy; Shannon Stanley, coordinator, Adult High School and ABS/GED. "The leaders of Forsyth Tech's adult education program regularly apply the real-life training techniques utilized by the Academies in order to strengthen our program," said Michael Harris, Forsyth Tech's dean of Adult Literacy and a 2010 Academies graduate.



## Striking Gold

Forsyth Tech has received five gold Medallion Awards – the highest award possible – in The National Council for Marketing & Public Relations District 2 competition recognizing excellence in marketing among community colleges. The competition included colleges from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the Bahamas. The Medallions were awarded for the college's program brochure series, *TQ Magazine*, invitation for the grand opening of the Transportation Technology Center, direct mail postcards and promotional video.



## A New Record of Giving



During its 2012 United Way campaign, Forsyth Tech pledged nearly 32% more than 2011's campaign, setting a new annual campaign record of \$25,000. "We all know someone who has been helped by a United Way agency," said Beth Agnello, coordinator of Cooperative Education and co-chair of Forsyth Tech's successful 2012 campaign. "United Way affects the lives of the people we work with, live with and care about." Co-chair Masonne Sawyer, academic advisor in the Student Success Center, agrees. "The dollars we give to United Way affect us right here at home," she said. Forsyth Tech has been supporting United Way's annual fundraising efforts for more than 20 years.

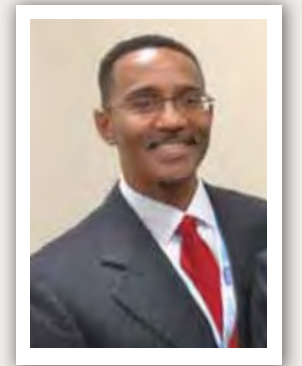


## Nursing Program Honors Former Trustee

The nursing program at Forsyth Tech has been named the Joyce E. Glass Associate Degree Nursing Program in recognition of former trustee Joyce Glass Sweeten.

Joyce was a member of the Forsyth Tech board of trustees for 25 years and has been a longtime supporter of the nursing program. In 2007, she established a nursing scholarship in honor of her late husband, Dr. Frederick W. Glass. In 2012, the board of trustees added her name to the scholarship, making it the Dr. Frederick W. & Joyce E. Glass Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship. She retired from her career in 2006 after 30 years as an operating room nurse.

"Joyce loves the [nursing] program and the students who come through it," said Ed Welch, chair of the board of trustees. "Naming it in her honor is a fitting tribute to someone who has devoted her life to nursing and to Forsyth Tech."



## Big News for the Small Business Center

The Small Business Center has a new leader: Allan Younger has joined Forsyth Tech as director of the Small Business Center, a newly formed position. In this role, Allan will be responsible for strengthening the college's Small Business Center operations and services in Forsyth and Stokes counties, enhancing support to small businesses in Stokes County and providing community advocacy. Allan, who holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and Sociology from UNC-Chapel Hill and an MBA from Winston-Salem State University, is a former instructor and facilitator for Forsyth Tech and president of GRACE Consulting. His professional experience includes work with the Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC), Republic Mortgage Insurance Company and GE Capital. "What makes Allan so valuable to us is his true passion for small business," said Jennifer Coulombe, dean of Business & Industry Services. "Allan's experience both as a small business owner and counselor with the SBTDC provide him with a unique perspective."

## Dr. Green Addresses National Forum

In February, Forsyth Tech President Gary Green traveled to Washington, D.C., to take part in a forum sponsored by *The Atlantic* magazine titled "Manufacturing's Next Chapter." The daylong event focused on all aspects of manufacturing and featured interviews and panels with industry leaders, top government officials and economic experts, including such luminaries as GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt and Senator John McCain of Arizona. Dr. Green participated in a panel discussion called "Revitalizing the Workforce: Education and Training that Matters." Others on the panel were David Arkless, president of Global Corporate and Government Affairs for ManpowerGroup; Jennifer McNelly, president of The Manufacturing Institute; and Natalie Schilling, vice president of Human Resources and Global Primary Products at Alcoa. Video of the panel is available online at [events.theatlantic.com/archive](http://events.theatlantic.com/archive).





# Taking Math to a Higher Power


Ask your average college student what an abacus is, and you'll likely get a blank stare. Similarly, the chalkboard and even the white board may be headed for extinction. Why? Because technology is a game changer. And Forsyth Tech is at the forefront.

Imagine a classroom filled with students who love to learn. They show up for class, engage with the instructor and share their enthusiasm with others. That's the scene in several math classes at Forsyth Tech, thanks to Classroom Connectivity Technology (CCT).

CCT is an approach to teaching and learning that takes into account that social media and technology have changed the educational landscape. Facilitating this process is the TI-Navigator, a handheld device that networks each student's graphing calculator to the instructor's computer. Students submit answers to math problems via the network. Those answers – without identifying a specific student – are then projected onto a screen in the classroom. And that's when the real learning begins.

"Traditional math is about right and wrong responses," says Dr. Sharilyn Owens, Mathematics department chair. "But in the real world, answers are not always well defined. Nor are questions. Success in life requires innovation, collective brainstorming, problem solving and critical thinking. With this technology, we address those issues. We talk about how we arrived at an answer or the factors that impacted our thinking."

The TI-Navigator came to Forsyth Tech in the summer of 2012. After just one semester, Sharilyn has seen results. "Last semester, my algebra class met two days a week in the computer lab and two days in the classroom using the Navigator. On Navigator days, attendance was vastly different. It was notable that students valued the classroom environment when using the Navigator."

Going forward, the college plans to leverage its investment in the software and professional development. "We hope to use the TI-Navigator in more classrooms as awareness of its effectiveness grows," says Sharilyn. "We want to make learning mathematics accessible to everyone." 

## The Road to Forsyth Tech

In 2005, Sharilyn Owens was a graduate student who got involved with The Ohio State University project in Classroom Connectivity Technology (CCT) in Math and Science. She was working closely with Dr. Stephen Pape, a professor and researcher whose work on CCT has appeared in more than 40 publications. He is currently a professor at Johns Hopkins University.

When Sharilyn came to Forsyth Tech in 2011, Michael Ayers, dean of the Math, Science and Technologies Division, read her dissertation and wanted to know more. "Dean Ayers was looking to implement effective learning strategies at Forsyth Tech," Sharilyn said. "CCT was being used in four-year universities but not in community colleges. It was an opportunity to differentiate Forsyth Tech from other community colleges."

# Our Lives in Their Hands

COLLEGE & COMMUNITY JOIN FORCES TO KEEP US SAFE

Maybe you broke down on Business 40 during rush hour. Maybe a family member had a sudden health emergency. A strange person was hanging out in your neighborhood. Someone wearing a uniform showed up to help you. Chances are that person was trained at Forsyth Tech.

"There's a 95 percent chance that one of the folks that arrived on the scene got their training here," says Wesley Hutchins, dean of Forsyth Tech's Workforce Development Health and Emergency programs.

Why? Because the college offers both credit programs, leading to degrees and certificates, and non-credit continuing education courses that help professionals keep their credentials current. In addition, students who successfully complete some non-credit certifications in continuing education programs can earn advanced standing in credit programs such as Emergency Medical Technology, Criminal Justice Technology and Fire Protection Technology. This offers students a seamless transition as they work to expand their education by earning a college degree.

From EMS workers to local sheriff departments, the college and the area's emergency services are closely intertwined. It's a kind of feedback loop: the college provides basic education for aspiring law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs and other emergency personnel, along with the recertification programs required for them to keep their skills sharp. Some of those classes happen at the high-tech Northwest Forsyth Center; many are offered in fire stations, sheriff's offices and out in the field.

(continued)





Each year, around 8,000 public safety employees go through college-sponsored certification and recertification courses, including 4,500 firefighters. Last fall, emergency responders in the Triad completed 15,752 hours in these classes.

At the same time, professionals from those services offer their experience to the college, acting as instructors and mentoring future colleagues.

Wesley is still chief of his hometown fire department in Walkertown. He's a lifelong firefighter, having started in high school at age 15. And he points out that all the faculty in his programs have similar backgrounds: years of practical experience overlaid with professional training. "Everybody in the program has served," Wesley says.

The benefits spread in two directions. Local agencies get to see potential recruits up close and evaluate them over the course of their instruction. And students get a chance to shine in front of potential employers.

## It's Not Like TV

As a recruiter with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, Master Trooper Eric Naylor helps to select the students who will go into the Highway Patrol's training academy. And as an instructor at Forsyth Tech, he gets to know the students and find promising prospects.

"I get to be a mentor," Trooper Naylor notes. "I work side by side with them; I get to form relationships with them. Eventually I'll say to myself, 'He'd be a good trooper;' or 'She'd be a good trooper.'" Over the years, Trooper Naylor has been impressed with the quality of the Forsyth Tech programs.

Winston-Salem Police Chief Scott Cunningham agrees. His department, in fact, has paid the highest compliment to the college. "WSPD has run its own basic academy for decades," he relates. "WSPD still runs its own academy, but now we do it through Forsyth Tech. This has reaped benefits for both entities, the students and the community.

"We've had a great experience with the Forsyth Tech program," he enthuses. "They do a wonderful job of training their students. It's a great arrangement."

The law enforcement programs do more than train future police officers. Students can also study for specialized skills such as Latent Evidence (crime scene investigation); graduates may end up working in juvenile justice or in various capacities in the courts. A specialized six-week certification course equips students to work as detention officers.

### Advances in Technology

As the program coordinator for the college's Criminal Justice programs, Theresa Hicks knows that law enforcement work is tough – but it's no longer enough to be a tough guy. "It's really not that glamorous," she says.

Law enforcement agencies are becoming more professional and more reliant on technology. To qualify to work as a sworn law enforcement officer, the minimum requirement is passing the Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) course. But it's hard to advance in a law enforcement career without further education.

Advances in technology demand that officers keep up. Theresa notes that the college has recently spent \$35,000 on equipment, including an AFIS (automated fingerprint ID system) and two self-contained fuming chambers. The fuming chambers are designed to highlight latent fingerprints (on a coffee mug,

*Forsyth Tech's program coordinator for Criminal Justice, Theresa Hicks, and Winston-Salem Chief of Police Scott Cunningham have each other's backs. Theresa knows how to train students for the tough work of law enforcement, and Chief Cunningham knows he can count on Forsyth Tech grads to be job-ready on day one.*

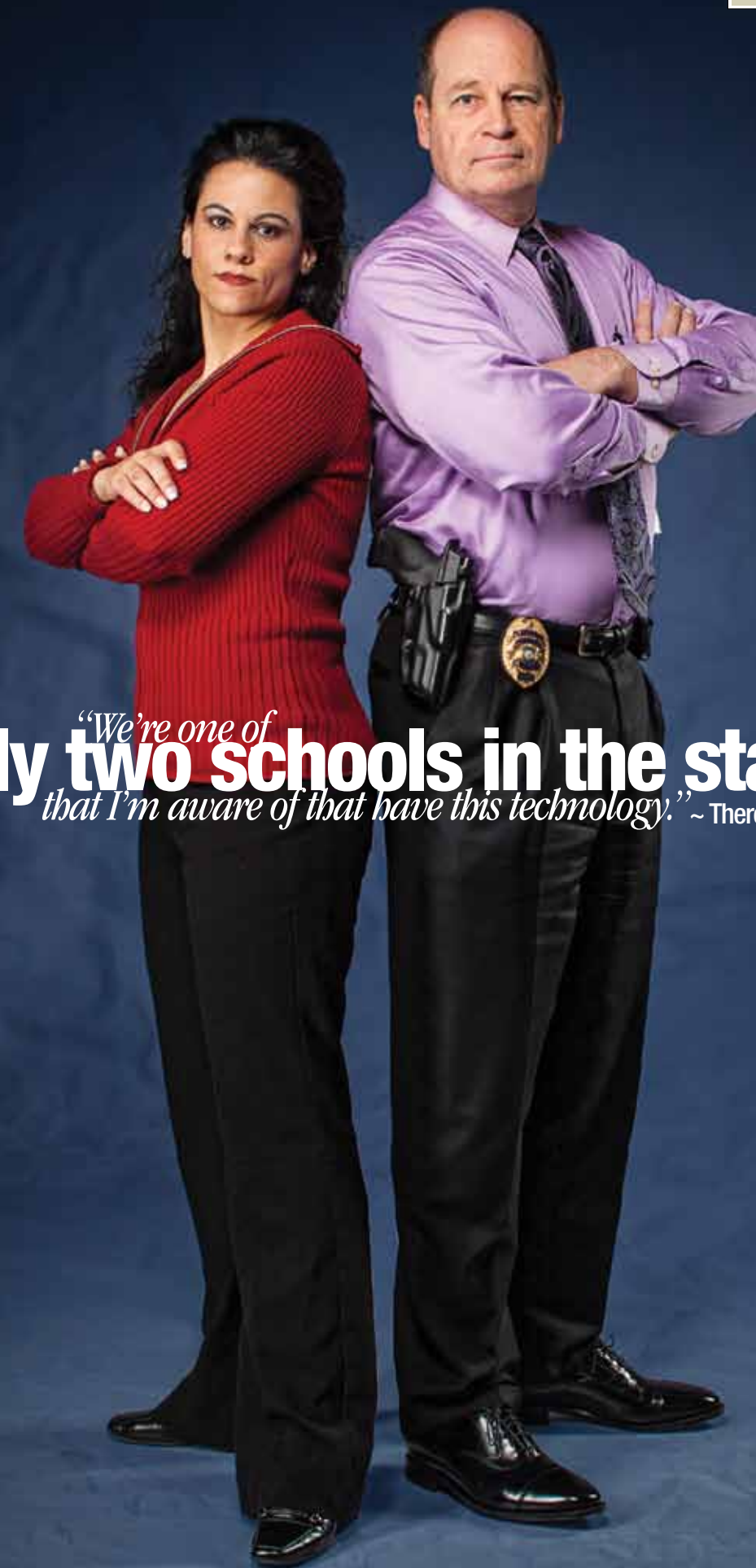


### Essential Partnership

*"Today's law enforcement professionals must be well-educated and well-trained. Our partnership with Forsyth Tech is essential for turning out candidates who are excellent decision-makers, critical thinkers, technicians and communicators."*

~ William T. Schatzman, Sheriff,  
Forsyth County

*"We're one of  
only two schools in the state  
that I'm aware of that have this technology."* ~ Theresa Hicks







*"There's  
nowhere else  
you need to go."* ~ Steven Roberson

for instance) that are not visible to the naked eye. "We're one of only two schools in the state that I'm aware of that have this technology for training purposes," Theresa asserts.

According to Chief Cunningham, these investments have paid off. "Forsyth Tech provides excellent preparation and training to enter the professional law enforcement workplace," he maintains. "The graduates are very well prepared, and beyond just the book-learning aspects."

In turn, his officers serve as instructors at the college. "Having WSPD members as part of the adjunct faculty is a benefit to everyone," he emphasizes. "Our personnel get experience teaching, and as they teach they learn more. The students get the practical knowledge and learn how to apply theory to real-world situations."

They also get to look at potential recruits. "Our teaching personnel do spot people that excel and would be a good addition to the agency," he notes. "We try to capitalize on that opportunity and encourage them to join us."

Winston-Salem's police officers also take advantage of the college's continuing education opportunities. "The training Forsyth Tech provides is excellent," Chief Cunningham says, "in that it includes a solid foundation of the materials and topics but also provides practical, real-world examples and connections. This enables the education to be timely and current."

## Fighting the Flames

Real-world education extends beyond the college's law enforcement programs. On a recent winter morning in Union Cross, south of Winston-Salem, a large, empty house is surrounded by fire trucks. Long abandoned, this sad building is about to perform its last useful function: continuing education for firefighters from six Triad fire departments.

Three guys perch on the roof. One wields a chainsaw, steadying a foot against an axe driven into the roof's steep pitch. Another firefighter braces against him. Carefully, he cuts a rectangular hole in the roof to vent the flames.

Forsyth Tech lead instructor Joe Ramsey, along with his team, has assessed the structure, estimating how it will burn and where. The men climb down the ladder.

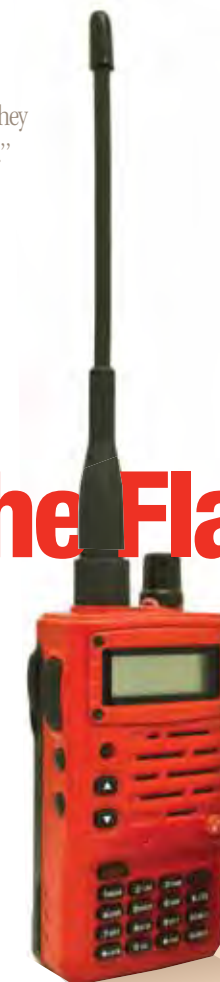
Suddenly flames shoot out the attic window. A team enters the house with one hose, while a backup team waits behind. Water bursts out the window, and the flames die in a billow of gray smoke. Over the course of the day, the process is repeated over and over. Each time a bit more of the old house is consumed until, in mid-afternoon, it goes up in a final blaze, reduced to a charred frame.

Years ago, this was the only way the college could teach aspiring firefighters how to deal with real-world situations. Burning these acquired structures — abandoned buildings headed for demolition — helps local firefighters fulfill their continuing education requirements and provides valuable experience. But now the college has its own facilities at the Northwest Forsyth Center, where students can also practice in purpose-built structures.

### *From Hurricanes to Terrorism*

David Peay, who coordinates the Fire Protection and Emergency Preparedness degree programs at Forsyth Tech, says it's increasingly important for firefighters and emergency responders to be well educated.

"It's not just about putting water on the fire anymore," he emphasizes. Many of his students study for dual degrees in fire and emergency preparedness. "That way, they know how to deal with situations from hurricanes to terrorist acts," he notes.



### Excellent Facilities

*"We use the Northwest Forsyth Center for our fire recruit school and training drills. It's a good partnership. We are grateful for the collaboration."*

*~ Anthony R. Farmer, Fire Chief,  
Winston-Salem Fire Department*



*Wesley Hutchins (right) is dean of the Workforce Development Health and Emergency programs at Forsyth Tech and chief of the Walkertown Fire Department. Fellow firefighter Steven Roberson (left), chief of the King Fire Department, hires Forsyth Tech's fire protection grads because of the real-world training they receive from instructors who are also working firefighters.*





Working firefighters can take advantage of the continuing education opportunities at the college tuition-free, and David says he'd like to see more of them coming through his doors. "It enhances their chances of getting promoted," he says. "It sets them apart from applicants for hundreds of jobs."

Fire departments in the area work closely with the college and often hire its graduates.

"I get to view potential job candidates," says Steven Roberson, chief of the King Fire Department, which covers 33 square miles in Stokes and northwest Forsyth counties. "We have hired several people who have come through the programs," he notes. "The college does a very professional job of preparing students for going into emergency services. They have the equipment and all the training props. There's nowhere else you need to go."

## Feeling Needed

Sarah Ritchie had a good job as a tax accountant. After 10 years on the job, she was a supervisor with a large tax-preparation company. "Math was always my thing," she recalls. "When I got the job, I thought, 'This is perfect.'"

But as time went on, she got a little restless. "I wasn't sure I wanted to spend the rest of my life behind a desk."

Sarah's mom worked in an emergency room, and Sarah found herself attracted to that world. She went through Forsyth Tech's Certified Nursing Assistant program. She decided she wanted a degree, and along the way she met Page Chandler, the program coordinator for the college's Emergency Medical Science program. She enrolled in 2010; now, with her EMT Basic Certificate in hand, she's two semesters away from her degree. Along the way, she has worked for a private convalescent transport company, and last May she was hired by Forsyth County's Emergency Medical Services department.

The world of Emergency Medical Services has changed dramatically since the 1980s, and the training and technological know-how required have expanded, says Page. The Emergency Medical Science program at Forsyth Tech is tough. Required classes such as anatomy and physiology, cardiology, and pharmacology can be surprisingly rigorous, he notes.

The six-semester program includes a heavy dose of practical training, starting with the college's high-fidelity manikins, which allow students to use defibrillators, watching the chest rise and fall, and external pacemakers. "Rescue Randy" weighs 170 pounds, and students have to be fit enough to lift him and perform lifesaving techniques.

"It does take focus and a lot of time. The rigor in those classes helps them see this is college. People's lives are in their hands; they really have to know what they're doing," he asserts.

### *"Don't let me die."*

That's what Sarah likes about it. Her student experience now includes working with a team responding to medical emergencies. "I love the aspect of critical thinking, along with helping people and problem solving," she says.

Like the other public safety programs, the Emergency Medical programs engage students with instructors from the various emergency services in the area. Students must work six to 10 hours a



### Innovative Training

*"In the past, we've hired people who*

*are green. Forsyth Tech's emergency management program is now giving us a pool of candidates who speak our language."*

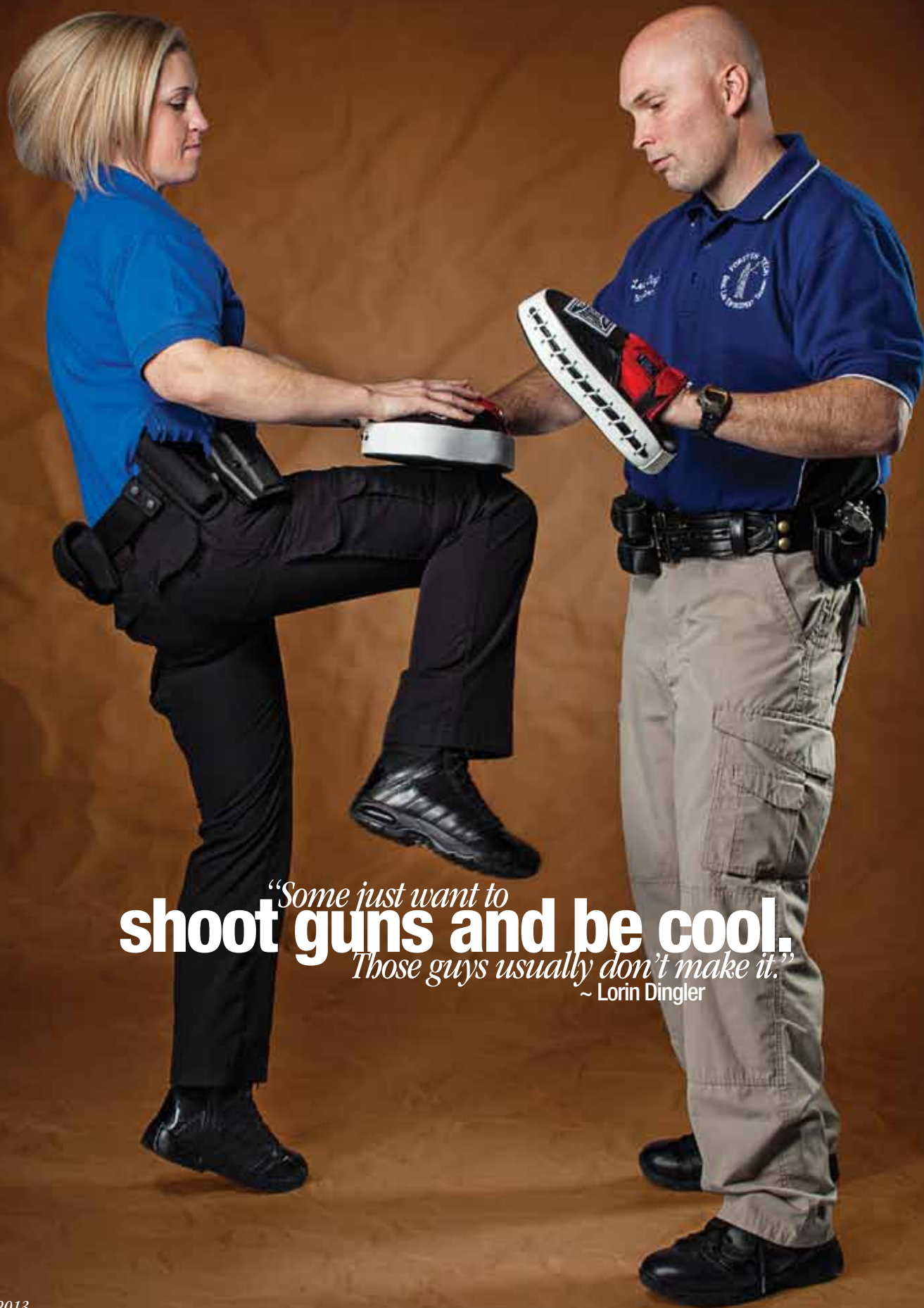
*~ Melton Sadler,  
Director of Emergency Management  
for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County*



*"People's lives are in their hands; they really have to know what they're doing." ~ Page Chandler*

Page Chandler (left), Forsyth Tech Emergency Medical Science program coordinator, provides students with intense training. Under Forsyth County Emergency Medical Services director Dan Ozimek (right), Forsyth Tech students get real-life experience.





*“Some just want to shoot guns and be cool. Those guys usually don’t make it.”*  
 ~ Lorin Dingler

week in an emergency room setting, in addition to training in ambulances during the course of their clinical experience.

Sarah remembers one call that brought home the seriousness of her new career. “We had a call for someone with a breathing problem,” she recalls. “This woman was suffering from congestive heart failure, and when we arrived, her lungs were almost silent. She looked up at me and said, ‘Don’t let me die.’”

“All our training tells us that when a person has that feeling of impending doom, you take it seriously.” Thanks to the hi-tech CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) technology on the ambulance, which forces air into the lungs and fluid out of them, Sarah and her team were able to stabilize the patient. “By the time we got to the hospital, she had calmed down,” Sarah reports. “I’ll never forget that look on her face.”

These situations allow emergency personnel to see how the college’s students function under pressure. For those students, “Every day is a job interview,” Page points out. Those “interviews” pay off: Out of a group of 15 new hires, says Col. Dan Ozimek, director of Forsyth County’s Emergency Medical Services, “almost half were from the Forsyth Tech program.”

“We hire a lot of them,” says Col. Ozimek. “All students in the degree program do their clinical work with us. It gives us a good pool of employees to choose from.”

## The Right Stuff



“BLET comes at you fast,” says Lorin Dingler. He’s not kidding. The intensive 16-week Basic Law Enforcement Training program is rigorous. For some, it is just too hard.

Lorin is the department chair of Public Safety Technologies at Forsyth Tech, and he oversees the program that’s a state requirement for any sworn officer at the many law enforcement agencies in the Triad.


More than 300 applicants vie for 24 places in each BLET class. Many don’t make it through the preliminary background check.

Once into the program, there are more challenges. “There are 36 classes with 36 written tests,” Lorin explains, “and half of them also have practical exams. If they fail five tests, they’re out.”

Many roll up having watched cop shows on TV, Lorin observes, and they may have an unrealistic picture of police training. “We try to evaluate them. Some just want to shoot guns and be cool. Those guys usually don’t make it.”

To graduate, all students must pass the “POPAT,” or Police Officer Physical Abilities Test, a rigorous test of fitness, stamina and physical skills (see page 16 for test requirements). “We can lose up to 50 percent of a class due to physical fitness,” Lorin laments.

But the rigor pays off. Forsyth Tech’s BLET program, according to Winston-Salem Police Chief Scott Cunningham, is “one of the best in the state.” For an aspiring law enforcement officer, simply surviving the program is evidence of toughness and resilience.

Among the recent graduates is Wendy Oberst, a 31-year-old mother of five kids. “I really wanted an opportunity to serve a community,” Wendy explains. “My husband has just retired out of the Marine Corps following five combat tours in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. He’s ready to let me do my thing now.” She’s being sponsored by the Forsyth County sheriff’s office and hopes to work there. “I never wanted a desk job,” Wendy asserts. “I’ve always been interested in law – I just really felt like this was what I was supposed to do – this was my calling.” 

### Justice Served

*Forsyth Tech’s law enforcement programs are part of the Robert F. Joyce School of Justice, named for Robert Joyce, college trustee from 1980 to 2011.*



*Public Safety Department Chair Lorin Dingler (right) knows that Forsyth Tech’s Basic Law Enforcement Training program is extremely rigorous. Only the most promising students survive – such as Wendy Oberst (left), a recent grad and mother of five.*





## Test of Strength for Law Enforcement Candidates

### The rigorous POPAT test requires:

- > A 200-yard sprint
- > Removal of a 150-pound seat belt-fastened "victim" from a vehicle, then "body dragging" the subject 50 feet
- > Scaling a 10-step staircase (up and down) three times
- > Pushing through a door with 50 pounds of resistance
- > Performing 20 military style push-ups followed by 20 sit-ups
- > Scaling and circling the same staircase (up and down) three times
- > Crawling on hands and knees completely through a 40-foot enclosed culvert from one end to the other
- > Performing another 20 military-style push-ups followed by 20 sit-ups
- > Sprinting another 200 yards
- > Dragging a 150-pound "victim" 50 feet
- > Reciting two street names that have been provided at the beginning of the test, precisely in the order they were given

**And... the course must be completed in 7:20 (seven minutes, 20 seconds) or less to receive a passing score.**



# A Center of Excellence

## Northwest Forsyth Center

"We waited a long time for this," says Wesley Hutchins. He gestures out the window of his office, set in the midst of a 53-acre campus, surrounded by trees and farmland.



Opened in 2010 near the city of King, the Northwest Forsyth Center fulfills most of the training needs of the Public Safety programs. As the college's dean of Health and Emergency Programs, Wesley is proud of the facility and gives a visitor an enthusiastic tour.

The tour begins with the 62-foot, five-story tower where students can practice various rescue techniques. There's an open elevator shaft, balconies and a narrow, steep industrial staircase of the type found in many factories. Students recover dummies, carrying them up and down the staircase, as well as rappelling up and down the walls of the tower.

"This facility allows us a whole different level of training," Wesley points out. "It has put our programs into a different dimension."

The next stop is the burn building. While exercises are still conducted off-campus with buildings slated for demolition, this structure is specifically designed to allow instructors to set fires over and over again. The dark rooms are lined with special material that can withstand high temperatures. The walls and ceilings are blackened from innumerable conflagrations.

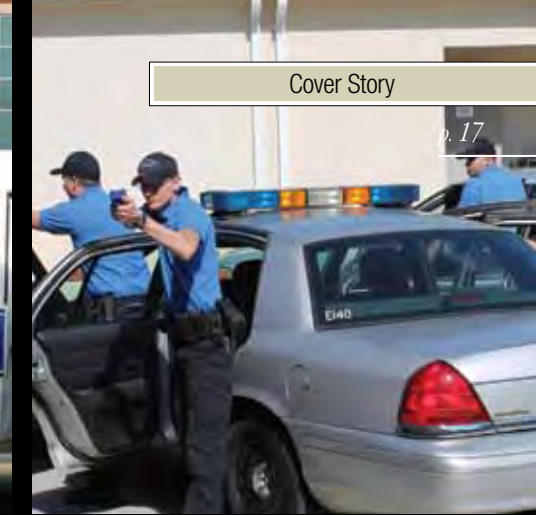
One room is set up as a bedroom, with dummies in beds. Students must fight through flames and smoke to "rescue" them. Another is set up as a kitchen, with a "stove" at one end. A computer in an adjoining room controls the flames that mimic a kitchen fire; temperatures in here reach 900 degrees Fahrenheit.

On the top floor is a special room set up as a maze that students must negotiate in the dark, wearing breathing apparatus, crawling through confined spaces. From the roof they can practice working with ladders and simulating rescues.

Back on the ground, Wesley points out a group of smashed-up cars used to practice vehicle extractions. A small storage building holds rescue tools: cutters, spreaders ("Jaws of Life<sup>TM</sup>"), saws and a generator. There's a forklift and a compressor to fill the air tanks for firefighters' breathing apparatus.

Steven Roberson, chief of the nearby King Fire Department, says he appreciates having this facility nearby as a resource for continuing education. "Before we had this, we had to rely on videos and simulation," he points out. "Now we can get dirty."

Wesley says he'd like to see the center used more by members of local emergency services. The continuing education courses are tuition-free for local volunteer fire departments and rescue squads, he observes, and completing them helps with career advancement and protecting the communities they serve. "We have open enrollment," he explains. "Volunteer Departments in Forsyth and Stokes counties can come at any time." 📍





# Robots Rule



Through a partnership that has become a national model, a consortium of Winston-Salem organizations is working together to show Forsyth County middle-school students that science, technology, engineering and math can be fun.

Nearly two years ago, the Technology Council of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce was charged with finding ways to build interest in STEM careers (science, technology, engineering and math) among Forsyth County middle schoolers. One of the Council's first orders of business was to form the STEM Committee, which serves as part of the Forsyth Career Pathways Consortium. This partnership of educational, public and private organizations – including Forsyth Tech – was tasked to brainstorm and develop strategies for reaching young people with the message that science, technology, engineering and math can be fun.

The Robot Run is a product of that Committee's efforts. The Forsyth County Invitational Robot Run is now an annual event that challenges teams of Forsyth County middle-school students to design, build and program robots that then compete against other teams in a series of challenges.

In November, the second annual Forsyth County Invitational Robot Run attracted nearly 300 middle- and elementary-school students from 17 Forsyth County schools. The event took place at Forsyth Tech's West Campus Gymnasium. Teams were judged in four categories: design, performance, project presentations and teamwork.

"The Robot Run is a shining example of how collaboration should work," says Susan Phelps, dean of Educational Partnerships at Forsyth Tech and a member of the Core STEM Committee. "We started with a roundtable of people from a wide range of industries and education, and we ended up with an event that generates excitement for careers in STEM that will benefit students and our community. And the kids were wild about it!"

Because of the success of the Robot Run, the Core Committee has become a national model for corporate partnership and collaboration and has won a national award for partnership.

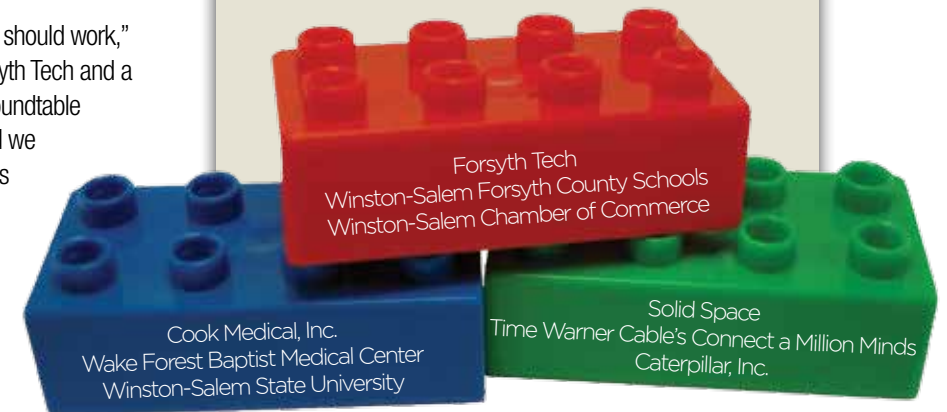
The National Association for Career Pathways Leadership (NACPL) promotes the networking of educational leaders, workforce representatives, businesses and other interested parties to help students become college and career ready. Each year, they award five honors that recognize excellence in educational leadership and advocacy.

Acknowledging the unique partnership behind the Robot Run, the NACPL named the Forsyth Career Pathways Consortium and STEM Committee of the Technology Council recipients of the 2012 Employer Partnership Recognition National Award. The award honors exceptional commitment, dedication and involvement in Career Pathways.

The third annual Robot Run is currently in planning stages and will be held at Forsyth Tech later this year. [f](#)

## THANK YOU

Support, planning and execution of the Robot Run is critical to its success. Members of the Robot Run subcommittee of the STEM committee include:



Declining interest in science, technology, engineering and math careers among U.S. students is creating a crisis in American competitiveness. The Robot Run offers a solution.



Nearly 300 Forsyth County students teamed up to compete in the annual Robot Run in November, earning points as their robot navigated a complex obstacle course.



## MAMIE McKINNEY SUTPHIN

*Vice President of Institutional Advancement  
Executive Director, Forsyth Tech Foundation*

Mamie McKinney Sutphin, a self-described hometown girl, came to Forsyth Tech in November to oversee fundraising and grants for the Foundation and marketing for the college. Broad fundraising experience and a passion for philanthropy make her a perfect match for the role.

"I was raised to understand the importance of giving," says Mamie. "Ten percent of my birthday money went into the Sunday collection plate. When I got my first job, my father's comment was, 'How much are you giving to church?' I sometimes joke that I graduated from the Brent & Brenda McKinney School of Philanthropy."

Serving others was also part of Mamie's upbringing. As a teenager, she taught Vacation Bible School to underprivileged children during mission trips, which led to the realization that philanthropy was her calling.

Having learned the value of philanthropy and service, Mamie knew she needed a working knowledge of business. She pursued a degree in Business Administration at Meredith College, followed by an MBA from Wake Forest.

For the past decade, Mamie worked at United Way of Forsyth County, most recently as VP of Resource Development. There, she established relationships with community leaders and stakeholders that will help in her new role. Her goals include building strong connections with alumni, students and the corporate community.

Mamie is excited to be part of something she considers special. "Forsyth Tech has a sterling reputation," she says. "It's a great place for students preparing for a four-year school, and our Workforce Development programs prepare students for jobs with local employers. Our supporters know that when they invest in education, they invest in someone's future. I'm honored to be part of something that affects our community at so many levels."

### *That Championship Season*

Mamie McKinney Sutphin doesn't like to lose. Standing 5' 11", she played basketball at Meredith College, and the statistics speak for themselves: 79-12.

Her love of competitive sports has not waned since college. Mamie plays in a women's basketball league in Mt. Airy. Off the court, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Ron, and their five-year-old son, Sid, who is in his second season of little league basketball. "I'm very much a family person," says Mamie. 🏀

WHO  
**works**  
HERE



## SALOMON PINARGOTE

*Student, Biochemistry*

"Just because you have less than someone else doesn't mean they are better, happier or more successful than you." These words from Salomon Pinargote's parents have inspired their ambitious son to attempt – and accomplish – some amazing things.

Salomon is recognized nearly anywhere on campus. He is a student ambassador, student representative on the Forsyth Tech Foundation board and president of the Hispanic Student Association. He is a member of the International Club, the Philosophical Society and the Math, Science and Technologies Student Network. He volunteers at the YMCA, SciWorks and Crisis Control Ministry. In short, Salomon is everywhere.

Born into a modest family in Ecuador, Salomon grew up without the luxuries that American children take for granted. One thing that intrigued him was the occasional team of doctors who – working through local churches – came to his neighborhood to provide free healthcare to lower-income families. This, he says, opened his eyes to the medical profession.

By the time his family moved to Florida in search of a better life, Salomon knew he wanted to be a doctor. The family eventually found its way to North Carolina, and Salomon found Forsyth Tech.

"Forsyth Tech has been the right place for me. I learned the importance of networking, community service and taking advantage of opportunities. I grew as a leader and a person. I learned how to work on a team and how to make my voice heard. I am much more comfortable about my future. Seeing what I have accomplished so far, I can only imagine the things I will accomplish when I set my mind to it."

What his mind is set on now is med school. "My parents worked hard to give us what we needed. I want to prove that their sacrifice was not in vain. I want them to be proud."

WHO  
**goes**  
HERE

### *Rhythm Rules*

"Latin American music is a big part of my life," says Salomon. "I enjoy dancing the bachata, merengue, cumbia and salsa. Whether at a family get-together or going out with friends on the weekend, dancing and listening to music are usually part of the fun." When not warming up the dance floor, Salomon enjoys playing soccer, trying new foods and cooking. 🍴



# Shabby

NOT TOO

## Interior Design Students Share Some Award-Winning Ideas

Students in the Interior Design program at Forsyth Tech love a challenge, and the Habitat ReStore provides a creativity contest each year. In 2012, the second-year Interior Design students came home with a trifecta. The innovative bedroom they created for this annual exhibit and competition — using secondhand and salvaged materials almost exclusively — won the People's Choice, Community Choice and Judges' Choice awards.

The four young women who comprise the second-year class are Jessica Ballard, Allison Carithers, Julie Gregory and Veronica Nielsen. What they have learned about using free or inexpensive objects and materials in interior design isn't all about saving money. It's all about creating a personal, comfortable and welcoming home.



**Q** When you want to decorate a space, where do you start?

**a** **Allison** We find images in magazines and online. That helps you decide what direction you want to take. Pinterest is awesome — it takes you everywhere. Or you can Google a theme you're interested in, like "rustic furniture."

**Jessica** Some of the design magazines I like are *House Beautiful*, *Elle Décor*, *Dwell* and *Architectural Digest*.

**Veronica** If you don't have an idea to start with, it's going to turn into a hot mess. I like to start with the big pieces and work down. Or you can paint the walls to start with, and go from there.

**Q** What was the big idea for the room you did at the ReStore?

**a** **Allison** We all found separate images, and the idea that emerged was rustic romantic, the contrast of metal and wood, the contrast of raw and refined. We made a wall of reclaimed wood we found at the ReStore, and we made a metal headboard for the bed.



Julie



Veronica



Allison



Jessica

**Q**

**What are good sources for salvaged and used materials?**

**Jessica** Our room is 98 percent Habitat ReStore.

**a**

**Allison** The ReStore is a great place to look, and so are yard sales, thrift stores, the Goodwill stores, and flea markets.

**Q**

**And then what?**

**Julie** Go for what you like, not what's trendy. Start from what you like, with what stands out to you.

**a**

**Jessica** Use your own personality, the way you would in shopping for clothes. You know what suits you, and if you apply that to your living spaces, you will feel more welcome in your own home.

**Allison** And when you see something you like, think outside the box. Think about how you could use the item in a different way. Think about what else it could be.

**Q**

**You transformed a lot of objects in your Habitat space. What were some of the changes and embellishments you made?**

**a**

**Jessica** We found two vintage suitcases that were not the most attractive. I found legs and made them into a table. Then we covered the corners of the suitcases with lace and put a good coat of paint on the legs. For the dresser, we decoupage pages of magazines on to it and added round door knockers.

**Allison** I like to mix modern with antique. All the layers and textures we incorporated in the Habitat room add depth and make the space look lived in.





Q

**And yet a lot of houses and rooms that people really do live in fail to achieve that comfortable, livable look. What's going on there?**

a

**Allison** People find it more convenient to try to get everything at one store.

**Jessica** When you buy stuff from the big stores, everything matches. When you mix things from a lot of different sources, it all comes together on its own.

**Allison** I think people get caught up on having to match things exactly. You can create more comfortable rooms if you don't try for exact matches.

Q

**What are some easy, inexpensive projects you've incorporated in your own personal spaces?**

a

**Veronica** I bought a dresser for \$15 and painted it with blue milk paint. I also reupholstered a headboard I got at Goodwill. I didn't even take the old fabric off. I put the new fabric right over it. It took me about 10 minutes with a staple gun.

**Allison** I took a tire that I got for free and turned it into an ottoman with burlap and a piece of plywood.

Q

**Some of the things you're doing create a shabby chic look. Why do you think that look is so popular right now?**

a

**Julie** This is the green era. People like the idea of reusing and recycling stuff. And you can make old things your own. They become one-of-a-kind items, and there is satisfaction in that.

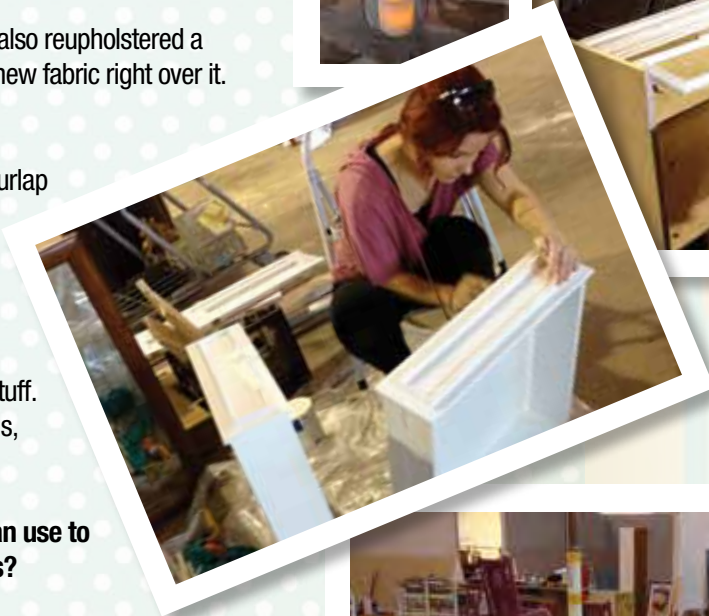
Q

**Can you recommend some fairly simple projects that our readers can use to get started with reusing and renewing old furniture and accessories?**

a

**Veronica** You could take an old bookcase and paint it a bright color, like yellow. Then you could do something interesting with the back, between the shelves. You could put wallpaper there, or you could decoupage pages from books or sheet music onto it. And you don't have to use the bookcase just for books. You could use it to display vases, photographs or other things.

**Allison** You could take some old clipboards and paint them and hang them on the wall in rows. Then you can clip in new pieces of art, or use them as jewelry organizers. Or you could collect old picture frames and spray-paint them, and maybe add some vintage hardware, and make a wall of frames.



**Julie** It's easy to transform an old lamp by spray-painting the base and painting or attaching fabric to the shade.

**Allison** You might find a side table or nightstand that is not the color you want. You can sand it down and paint it. Painting is the cheapest and easiest way to change a look. And if you don't like the way it turns out, just paint over it.

**Jessica** You can also give it that distressed look. When the paint is very, very dry, use sandpaper on the corners and edges. Or you can use a sponge to whitewash the piece with some paint thinner. Local stores often have classes in these techniques.

**Veronica** And think about wallpaper. People are scared of wallpaper, but it's easy to apply to lampshades and furniture. They even make paintable wallpaper now, that you can use to create a textured, embossed look.

**Jessica** A good way to start is to get a small piece and just play around with it. Even experienced people sometimes don't get it right the first time.

Q

**What do you think makes a house a home?**

a

**Julie** A mixture of color and accessories.

**Veronica** And lighting.


**Allison** Having flowers or a plant or some living thing in each room.

**Jessica** Younger people, especially, often go for a clean, minimized look. Personal touches, like framed photographs, are good. Having layers in each area—furniture, accessories, things hanging on the wall—make a house a home.

Q

**And what's the reward for creating some of these effects yourself?**

a

**Julie** It helps you to enjoy every room in your house, and to make your guests and friends feel welcome and comfortable. 

## Good Looking

*If you have a room or a project of your own in mind, help is at hand. Here's a look at some of the many places you can find ideas, images and even instructions.*

### Pinterest:

[www.pinterest.com/ForsythTechID](http://www.pinterest.com/ForsythTechID) — The spot to follow collections from Allison, Veronica, Jessica and Julie. . . and even a board for the Habitat ReStore. In addition, look for tons of great DIY ideas, tips, how-tos and inspiration.

### Websites:

[www.bhg.com](http://www.bhg.com) — Clever decorating and craft ideas from the pros at *Better Homes & Gardens* and *Do It Yourself* magazines.

[www.houzz.com](http://www.houzz.com) — Thousands of "shabby chic" photos and ideas for real people, from real people; includes links to tools and resources to help you get creative.

[www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com) — They're selling stuff here, but this site is THE super creative inspiration resource for furniture, jewelry, "shabby chic" ideas and much, much more.

### Television:

**DIY Network** — Projects, how-tos and expert advice; shows include *Kitchen Crashers* and *Salvage Dawgs*.

**HGTV** — Step-by-step instructions and smart makeover solutions; shows include *Color Splash* and *Candice Tells All*.

**"American Pickers" on History Channel** — Professionals search the back roads of America for found objects to reclaim and restore.



# everything old is new again

## Former Career Center Transformed

On a crisp and sunny afternoon in January, 150 students, supporters, community leaders and friends gathered to celebrate a milestone in the life of Forsyth Tech...the opening of the Oak Grove Center.

**“This is an important day for Forsyth Tech,” said Dr. Gary Green, president of Forsyth Tech. “This expansion of Main Campus provides much-needed technology and classroom space. We are making the most of the resources provided to us by the voters of Forsyth County.”**

Constructed in 1976, the building formerly known as the Career Center belonged to Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WSFCS). Thanks to a 2008 bond referendum, WSFCS moved its operations out of the building in 2011 and into a new home along U.S. 52, and Forsyth Tech took ownership of the empty building.

In 2011, a 14-month renovation of 90,000 square feet of the building began – called “Phase One” – that saw the building gutted down to its shell structure. “Every system in this building was removed and replaced,” said David Appleyard, principal at Ersoy Brake Appleyard Architects and lead architect of the renovation project, noting that the new center was designed to be upgradable as technology and curriculum change. “This building is one big digital media-teaching facility,” he said. “This is a smart, savvy and high-tech place in which to teach and to learn.”


Phase One of the Oak Grove Center now provides 33 classrooms, 32 offices, a 170-seat auditorium, a bookstore and five student alcoves with LCD flat-panel digital event boards. Other technology includes smart boards and wide-screen high-definition projectors, interactive LCDs and video conferencing equipment.

### “Live...from Forsyth Tech!”

One highlight of the Oak Grove Center is the new home it provides for the Broadcasting and Production Technology program. The facilities feature a state-of-the-art TV studio and TV control room, a radio studio that houses the online college radio station and several private multimedia production suites. It also features a classroom and lab for TV and another for radio.

“As students pursue jobs at broadcast facilities around the world, the equipment they learned on at Forsyth Tech will be equal to or better than what they’ll be using on the job,” said Amy Davis-Moore, program coordinator of the Broadcasting and Production Technology program. “Our goal is to provide hands-on, advanced-technology training that provides students with employable skills.”

The broadcast suite includes a TV studio equipped with two sets, three HD cameras with teleprompters, a professional lighting system, a TV control room with switcher for live TV, character generator, audio board, digital postproduction facilities and a host of other multimedia technology.

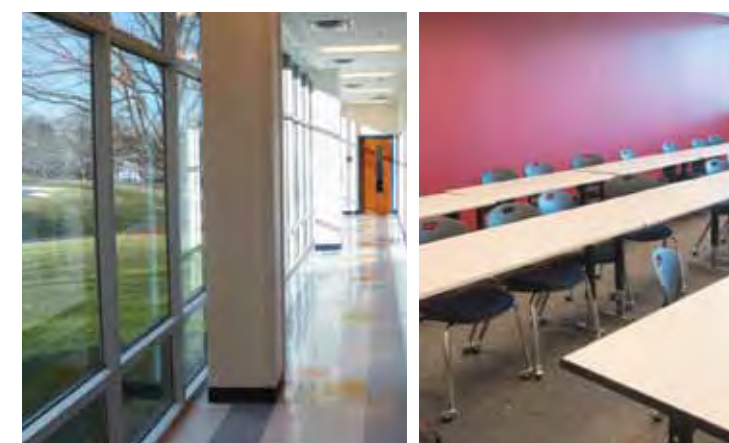
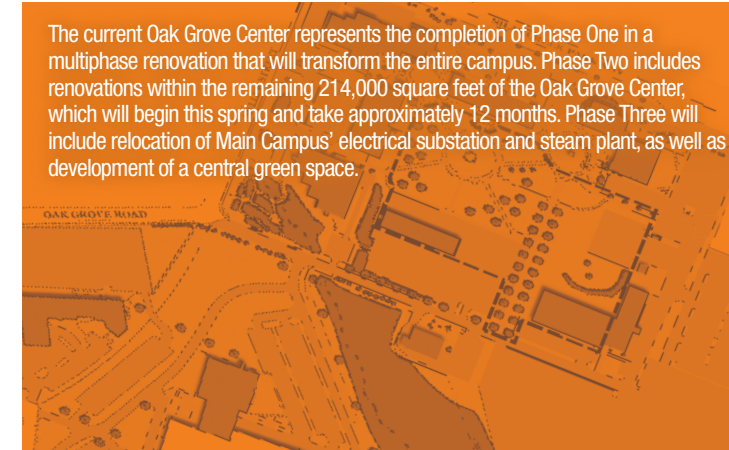
For the past 35 years, the former Career Center served the high school students of Forsyth County. With the comprehensive renovations and opening of Phase One of the Oak Grove Center, students at Forsyth Tech can look forward to at least 35 more. 



**Nestled behind Forsyth Tech’s Main Campus on the south end of Miller Street stands a building that has, for the past two years, stood empty. Thanks to the voters of Forsyth County, the new Oak Grove Center now bustles with energy, bringing essential space and cutting-edge technology to the students of Forsyth Tech.**



Prior to the opening of Phase One of the Oak Grove Center, Main Campus provided approximately 300,000 square feet of usable space. When the building’s renovations are complete, Main Campus will double in size to approximately 600,000 square feet.



The current Oak Grove Center represents the completion of Phase One in a multiphase renovation that will transform the entire campus. Phase Two includes renovations within the remaining 214,000 square feet of the Oak Grove Center, which will begin this spring and take approximately 12 months. Phase Three will include relocation of Main Campus’ electrical substation and steam plant, as well as development of a central green space.

**“This program is hands-on from day one,”**

said Amy Davis-Moore, program coordinator of the Broadcasting and Production Technology program, noting that students learn on the same equipment being used at any top-tier broadcast station in the country.





Derek Duggins

# STEEL CRAZY

*After All These Years*

Some people cherish childhood memories of birthday parties, fireworks displays or new puppies. Derek Duggins fondly remembers watching welding.

As a young boy, he would sometimes ride with his grandfather to Charlie Edwards' welding shop in Rural Hall, where Derek could watch as repairs were made to his grandfather's farm equipment. **The sheer strength of how metal could bend and bond made a strong impression on him.**

At South Stokes High School, he elected to take welding as a shop class. "I would put the helmet on and see steel flowing like water," he remembers. When he graduated in 1977, he went straight to Forsyth Tech, where he enrolled in a one-year welding program.

"My intention was to become a certified welder and go to Louisiana and work on one of the big oil wells off the coast," he said. In 1978, he recalls, underwater welders were making \$50 an hour.

"That paid the most money of anything I knew of," he said. "I expected to be able to retire at an early age."

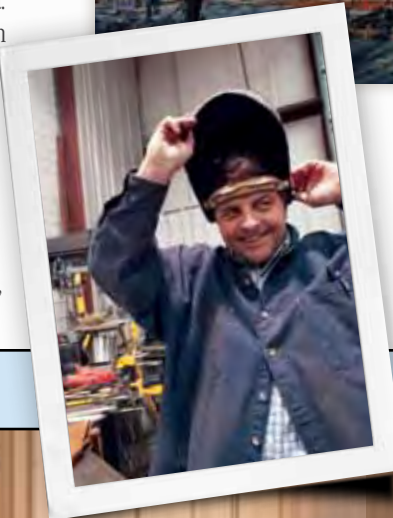
As luck would have it, Derek's dreams of a fast fortune were foiled. Legislation was passed that prohibited the drilling of any new holes in the ocean floor.

"Maybe God had a different plan for me," Derek said. He went into the construction trade instead, worked at many of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's locations, and added ironwork and crane operating to his skills.

"In 1986, I was working at Whitaker Park," he recalls. "An independent welder came in one day. That night I went home and told my wife that I'd like to buy a welding truck and work for myself."



*A recent construction project at Wake Forest University (above and far left) demonstrates how successfully Derek Duggins has built on his technical training. The welding setup in the Duggins shop (below) is a twin to the work station he learned on at Forsyth Tech.*



## *A Teacher's Legacy*

Like many Forsyth Tech graduates, Derek has unlimited admiration for his primary teacher – in his case, the late Norman White.

"Mr. White made a lasting impression on me," he said. "He was the best welder I have ever seen and the best teacher I ever had. He wore a white shop coat and a tie, and he was always neat, clean and well-groomed. He was also a metallurgist, and NASA would call and ask for his opinion. He had been a welder for big companies, but he knew he had a gift for teaching. He was a great representative for the welding industry."

For years after he graduated, Derek would go back to Forsyth Tech to visit Mr. White.

"He'd stop the class when I came by and introduce me to the students. He was a little bit proud of me."





His wife was supportive, and Derek went out on his own, writing letters to all the major construction companies in Winston-Salem and Greensboro.

"It was hard to get in on new construction, but I pushed hard," he said. "I started meeting face-to-face with those companies." His first break was some work at Piedmont Airlines, in the airplane hangars.

That led to more sizable jobs, and pretty soon Derek needed to hire his first employee, and then his second and third. As the business grew, Derek rented a warehouse to store his equipment. By 1998, he was having to take equipment to mechanics all over the county for repair, and he made what turned out to be a fateful decision.

"I wanted to bring it all in-house, so we started doing our own maintenance," he said. He hired a full-time mechanic, but he also decided to hire a painter. He'd noticed that most independent welders drove around in scruffy-looking trucks and worked with beat-up equipment.

"I wanted to make our truck look like new. I wanted our equipment to shine. That says a lot about your business," he said.

**Presenting a spick-and-span appearance turned out to be not just a smart marketing tactic,** but the ticket to a whole new line of business. It started when he met Steve Harris, who owned a mobile marketing company.

"Steve had five NASCAR show cars on trucks, and he asked me to do maintenance on the trucks and trailer," Derek said. "Then he banged up a race car one day, and we fixed and painted it. His client was Dr Pepper", and when the company changed its colors, we were asked to paint one of the show cars. A guy at Childress Racing saw our work, and we started growing in painting race cars."

The result is that there are now two companies owned and operated by Derek Duggins – Duggins Welding and Muddy Creek Motorsports.

Duggins Welding is the only certified steel erection company in the Winston-Salem area. It employs 25 to 30 people at any given time, and Derek intends to keep it that size.


Muddy Creek Motorsports is still actively growing and so far has required three additions to the original building where it was housed. It merged with the company owned by Steve Harris, who is now a partner in Muddy Creek. The company not only does bodywork and painting on cars, trucks and trailers, but also provides a full line of mobile marketing and event hospitality services for clients including Jacuzzi, DeWalt, Richard Childress Racing, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Kwikset and Richard Petty Motorsports.

Derek has also maintained his ties to Forsyth Tech, and he served on the board of trustees from 1999 to 2005. He's passionate about the college's mission.

"I'm a firm believer that everybody doesn't need a four-year degree," he said. "In school, I didn't enjoy the books, but I enjoyed working with my hands. A lot of kids would enjoy shop classes."

He thinks that those skills would give more people the kind of security he has always had. "I can go anywhere in the world and find a job," he said. "I can find work anywhere, any time."

All his learning about how to be a company owner and a manager has occurred on the job. His priorities are safety first, quality workmanship and honesty. His philosophy of being a boss can be summed up this way: **"I don't ask my employees to do anything I haven't done myself,** from estimating 200 pages of blueprints to welding on top of a building."

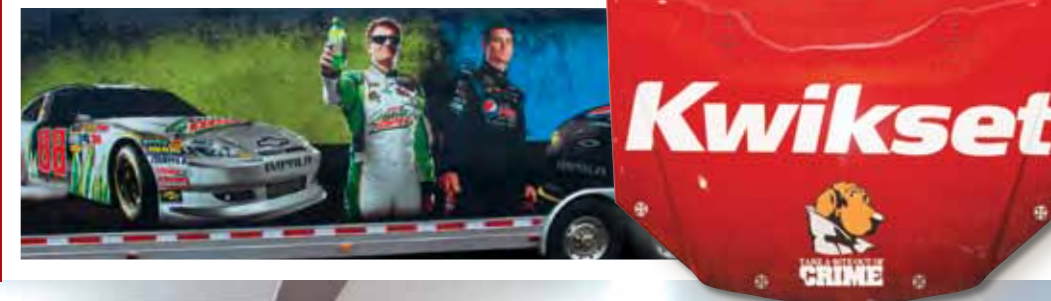
And unlike the young high school graduate who had his mind set on early retirement, Derek Duggins enjoys his businesses and intends to keep working for a long, long time. If and when he does retire, he and his wife would like to be volunteers for a humanitarian cause. 



### Close Connections

Derek's wife, Tammy, handles the accounting for the Duggins companies. Daughter Ali has worked full-time for Muddy Creek Motorsports since graduating from college. And there will be room for daughter Taylor if she is interested when she graduates.

At right, Derek confers with Randy Campbell, operations manager for Muddy Creek – and Derek's close friend since seventh grade.



### If It's Adventurous, He's Game

It's not just welding. Derek Duggins has taken quite a few of his boyhood enthusiasms and built them into large and permanent parts of his adult life.

Like cars. "I'm a car nut," he said. His pride and joy is his 1969 Camaro, which was restored in the company shop. And since then, restoring vintage cars has become a subspecialty of Muddy Creek Motorsports.

Or take motorcycles. Derek has ridden and raced them most of his life and got his professional license at age 16. He owns several and has a couple of them mounted in the shop area. He often rides a motorcycle to work and enjoys short rides with several of his employees.

And then there's hunting. Derek grew up hunting rabbits, birds and deer with his father. Now he's after bigger game. He goes to Wyoming every October to hunt elk and antelope. There's a bear in his office, and he admits to several mounts in his man cave at home. "I still want a moose and a grizzly," he said. "In 2014, they're going to allow grizzly hunting in Yellowstone Park, and I'll be there on opening day with my hunting buddy, Lewis Sapp."





# FOLK MUSIC RENAISSANCE

If you think you've never heard a dulcimer, think again. Big-name musicians Joni Mitchell, Cyndi Lauper, the Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin, Nine Inch Nails and Def Leppard have all plucked the strings of this simple folk instrument. And while the 12 students in Forsyth Tech's dulcimer course may not qualify as rock stars, they are taking a class that is being replicated by four-year colleges, such as the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Offered through Forsyth Tech's Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) division, the dulcimer class attracts students from as far away as Davie, Surry and Guilford counties and from southern Virginia. To date, it is the only dulcimer course of its kind within a five-state radius of North Carolina.

During the six-week course, students not only learn how to play the dulcimer, they also learn how to perform as a group. Unofficially known as the "Triad Dulcimer Players," the current class has performed at several venues throughout the Triad, including festivals, churches, retirement homes and even as a "warmup band" for a Nashville recording artist. They also performed at the Thanksgiving luncheon for Forsyth Tech's EWD division.

Judy House, who has taught the class since 2010, is a retired elementary school teacher, former computer teacher and longtime musician who is impressed with the enthusiasm shown by her novice pupils. "Most of the students in this class have never played a note of music in their lives," says Judy. "They really want to learn, so they just jump in and soak it up like a sponge!"

That enthusiasm spills out into the community in unexpected ways. One student plays for patients at the VA Hospital in Salisbury; another for geriatric patients at Forsyth Medical Center; another offers background music for a yoga class at Sunrise Yoga in Clemmons.

What's next for the dulcimer program? "If requests for performances continue coming in," Judy says with a smile, "we might need a tour bus."



While not exactly a mainstream musical instrument, the Appalachian dulcimer is seeing a resurgence in popularity. Students come from several North Carolina counties and from southern Virginia to strum this simple folk instrument as part of a class offered by Forsyth Tech's Economic and Workforce Development division.

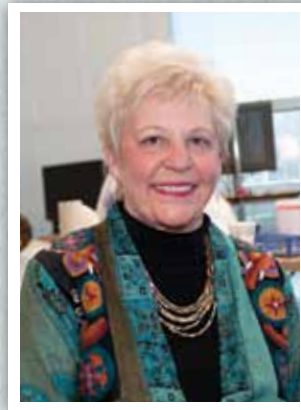


Students of Judy House (front right) from Forsyth Tech's dulcimer class leverage their love of music to impact their communities. They share their new skills by performing at local retirement homes, churches, festivals and even a yoga class. Here, the class plays Christmas music as part of a service at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem.

## Plucking Right Along

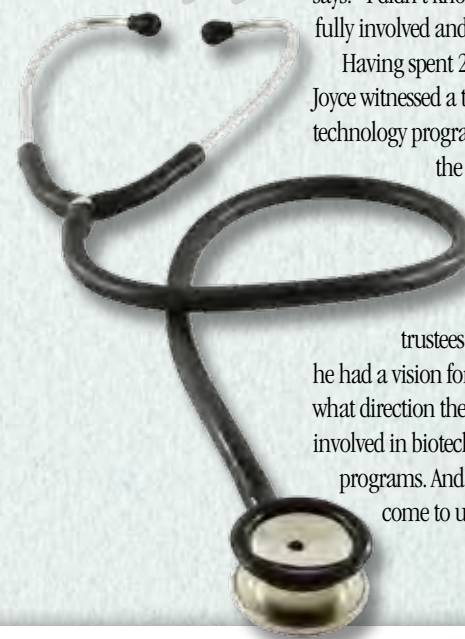
The Appalachian dulcimer is a flat, hour-glass shaped, stringed instrument that is played in the lap and is generally considered one of the easiest stringed instruments to play. It first appeared in the early 19th century in Scottish-Irish immigrant communities in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Experts speculate that early settlers, unable to make the more complex violin because of the lack of tools and time, instead crafted the dulcimer.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT MERRITT



## Joyce Glass Sweeten Why I Support Forsyth Tech

By supporting the nursing program at Forsyth Tech, I feel like I'm supporting my community.



"No matter where I go in this town for medical care, nine out of 10 times, the nurse graduated from Forsyth Tech," says Joyce Glass Sweeten. "By supporting the nursing program at Forsyth Tech, I feel like I'm supporting my community."

Joyce is no stranger to nursing or to philanthropy. She began nursing school in 1957 in a three-year program. She went on to get her RN in 1970 at a two-year program similar to the one at Forsyth Tech. After working a few years in Florida and Ohio, she moved to North Carolina, where she worked in operating rooms around Winston-Salem for the next 30 years.

In 1987, Governor Jim Martin appointed Joyce to the Forsyth Tech board of trustees. "My first impression was that the school was a well-kept secret," Joyce says. "I didn't know what it was all about, but I got fully involved and started supporting right away."


Having spent 25 years on the board of trustees, Joyce witnessed a transformation from trade and technology programs to transfer programs. She said the board realized that in order to address a growing global interest in technology, Forsyth Tech needed to concentrate more on its technical programs. "The trustees hired Dr. Green because we saw he had a vision for what Forsyth Tech could be and what direction the economy was going. He got us involved in biotech, nanotech and all the high-tech programs. And he didn't wait for companies to come to us; he went out and met with

companies to find out how we could engage with them."

Joyce was married for 35 years to Dr. Frederick W. Glass, who wrote the Emergency Room training program for Wake Forest University School of Medicine. When he passed away in 2007, the family established a nursing scholarship in his honor at Forsyth Tech. In 2012, the Forsyth Tech board added Joyce's name to the scholarship, making it the Dr. Frederick W. & Joyce E. Glass Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship.

When she retired later in the same year, the Board announced that the college's Associate Degree Nursing program would be named after Joyce in honor of her dedication and service. "It's very humbling," she says. "I feel like I have a lot to live up to."

When asked what advice she might give someone considering whether to support Forsyth Tech, Joyce was clear: "We provide an open door for anyone who wants to learn," she said. "We bring positive change to our community. People simply need to look around the community and see how many areas have been touched by this school. The decision should be obvious."

In addition to the titles "nurse" and "philanthropist," Joyce recently embraced a new title: newlywed. She married Frank Sweeten in September; together they have three daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. "People say they don't know how they'll stay busy after retirement," Joyce laughed. "I'm busier now than ever." 

The Foundation  
of Forsyth Tech

### How You Can Help

The Foundation of Forsyth Tech, a nonprofit organization, is the fundraising arm of the college and depends on private contributions from people like you to support:

- > Scholarships for deserving students
- > Technology for classrooms, labs and shops
- > Professional development grants for faculty and staff

Give online @ [www.forsythtech.edu/support/giving-to-forsyth-tech](http://www.forsythtech.edu/support/giving-to-forsyth-tech).

Send a check payable to Forsyth Tech Foundation at 2100 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC 27103-5197.

Learn more about the many giving opportunities available.

Call: Mamie McKinney Sutphin, Executive Director of the Forsyth Tech Foundation, at 336.734.7520 or email [msutphin@forsythtech.edu](mailto:msutphin@forsythtech.edu).

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Champions	\$100 – \$249
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*Your gift creates a strong college and a strong community.*



# ForsythTech

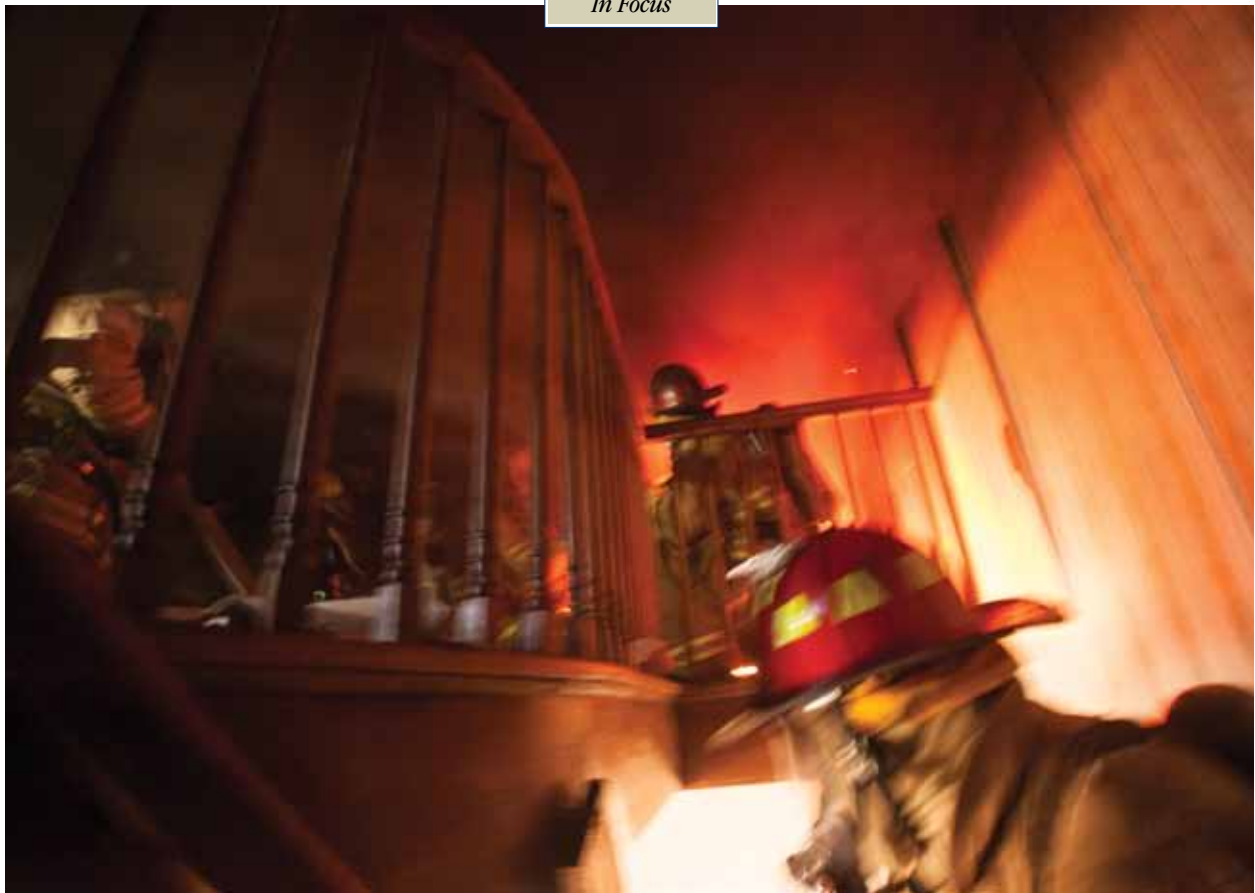
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*In Focus*



**A Red-Hot Experience.** Abandoned structures around Forsyth County that are scheduled for demolition become real-life training grounds for Forsyth Tech fire protection students as well as local firefighters looking to fulfill their continuing education requirements. In this photo, new and experienced firefighters gain practical experience dealing with a stairwell fire in a training exercise coordinated by Fire Chief Dean Mabe of the Union Cross Fire Department. 