

Vol. 4, Number 3 | Fall 2011

tech

QUARTERLY

The Magazine of Forsyth Technical Community College

Innovation by Design

FORSYTH TECH STUDENTS LEARN HOW
CREATIVE THINKING MAKES LIFE BETTER

in this issue:

50TH CELEBRATION ~ *The Anniversary Year*

NEVER DULL ~ *Inside the SGA Leader's World*

WIDE, WIDE WORLD ~ *Opportunities Abroad*

SO SMART? ~ *Making the Most of Your Phone*

ForsythTech

More Than You Know



Join us February 9, 2012
for a fundraising dinner at Embassy Suites Grand Pavilion
in Winston-Salem to honor past presidents
of the Foundation of Forsyth Tech:

- Charles Linville (1998-1999)*
- Katy Boles (1999-2000)
- Mike Wells (2000-2002)
- Steve Strawsburg (2002-2003)
- Lida Hayes-Calvert (2003-2004)
- Doug Maynard (2004-2005)
- Scott Bauer (2005-2006)
- Bob Vaughn (2006-2007)
- Christoph Nostitz (2007-2008)
- Nancy Dunn (2008-2009)
- Tom Ingram (2009-2010)
- Murray Greason (2010-2011)
- Penni Bradshaw (2011-2012)

**Deceased*

Reception: 6:30 pm — Dinner: 7:00 pm

Proceeds from the event will go to fund future Foundation programs, including scholarships for students and new technology.

Tickets are \$100 per person. Tables are available for \$750.

Corporate sponsorships are available.

To purchase, call 336.734.7513 or purchase online at www.forsythtech.edu/apresidentialcelebration

The
Foundation
of Forsyth Tech

From the President | *Moving Forward*

Dr. Gary M. Green



We could hardly have asked for a better 50th anniversary year at Forsyth Tech. The events we planned to celebrate our history and all the people who have contributed to the school's success were everything we had hoped they would be.

We also enjoyed being in the national spotlight, most notably with the visit by President Barack Obama and his references to our college in his State of the Union address. We realize that this favorable attention did not come about because of the efforts of any one person, but because of Forsyth Tech's overall solid record of achievement. Forsyth Tech has been hailed as a national leader in finding ways to train the workforce for the new, technologically advanced, globalized economy. The workers of today and tomorrow must be able to think creatively, solve problems and adjust to ever-changing realities, whether they enter newer fields such as nanotechnology and digital design or evolving older ones such as manufacturing and medicine.

The nation's attention was directed to our campus because Forsyth Tech listens to the employers in our area as well as those such as Caterpillar, that have an interest in moving into our community. We are showing others how a community college should move forward, making a difference locally and beyond.

And moving forward is what we're doing, with new initiatives such as the Transportation Technology Center, and more in the planning stages. As much as we enjoyed our anniversary celebrations, we were working all year to keep the momentum going and quality high.

All of this, of course, could not be done without the strong support of the community. And it could not be accomplished without the dedicated, inspired service of our faculty and staff who work to help our students succeed.

How fitting that, as we moved forward into our 51st year, someone gave all of our employees a nice surprise: a free gas card worth at least \$10. Some randomly selected full-time employees received gas cards ranging from \$25 to \$250. The donor chose to remain anonymous, wanting only to recognize the hard work of our staff and instructors, who have stepped up to take care of our students in challenging times. Quality Oil pitched in to make the gifts happen in a timely way. We have seen a 41 percent increase in enrollment over the last four years, while our employees have had no pay increases. The donor wanted to say "thank you" to these dedicated individuals. I would like to say thank you as well.

Half a century ago, when Forsyth Tech was in its infancy, people thought of technical schools as places where students learned to implement the ideas that other people dreamed up.

As we move forward in the 21st century, high-tech computerized capabilities and new understandings about how design and function are interrelated have revolutionized the way things are done in the workplace. On the campuses of Forsyth Tech, that revolution has made its way into the classrooms and labs. Forsyth Tech students are learning to think creatively for the long haul and to understand how good designs can lead to good jobs and a better world.



A robotic arm can open new possibilities in welding.

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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.

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.

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 for 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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6 { On the Cover

You see it in Mechanical Engineering Technology. You see it in Architectural Technology and Interior Design. It's always been a major factor in Digital Effects and Animation, where there are virtually no limits on imagination. And you see it even in Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology. Across the campus, innovative design is an integral part of the education that many Forsyth Tech students gain as they learn to play important roles on teams that relate form and function, concept and representation. They are learning to succeed in the workforce of the future.

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Forsyth Tech's 50th anniversary year was filled with good news, celebrations, progress and national recognition.

24 { Opening Doors

The dedication of the Marvin L. Allen Computer Lab at the Mazie F. Woodruff Center was the occasion for remembering all that Mr. Allen did to make technology available to everyone.

32 { Global View

China? Latin America? England? Africa? Forsyth Tech's partnerships and study-abroad opportunities offer students connections around the world.

We're Listening!

If you'd like to comment on anything in this issue of Tech Quarterly, email us at TQ@forsythtech.edu.



New York Discovers Forsyth Tech

Word about Forsyth Tech has made it to New York – and beyond. A September column in *The New York Times* about the state of manufacturing in America talked about the importance of being able to provide skilled workers to companies looking to build new plants. Citing Caterpillar's decision to build in Forsyth County, the columnist wrote, "In Winston-Salem, Forsyth Tech, a local community college, was involved in wooing Caterpillar and created a program, in cooperation with the company, to make sure its graduates have the machining skills the company needs."

Taking the Lead

In October, Sherri Weddle Bowen, who is the executive assistant to Forsyth Tech's president, Dr. Gary M. Green, took over as president of the Association of Community College Trustees' Professional Board Staff Network.



"I am honored to have served the PBSN in the capacity of Southern Region member-at-large, secretary and vice president and look forward to my year as president," Sherri said. "I will be filling the shoes of assistants before me who paved the way for the Professional Board Staff Network. Our motto is, 'It is what we do!'"

The Professional Board Staff Network is open to people whose responsibilities include arranging and developing agendas for board meetings and serving as liaison between boards and the community. "This organization has helped broaden my experiences when working with board members and how we do business professionally," Sherri said.

Sherri has worked for the college for 21 years – 18 of those full-time – and is an avid Forsyth Tech customer. She has an associate degree in Administrative Office Technology (1991), diploma in Automotive Systems Technology (1999) and EMT training (2003). In 2004, she earned a bachelor's degree with an Associate in Applied Science-Business Administration from Winston-Salem State University and is working on her master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Emergency Management.

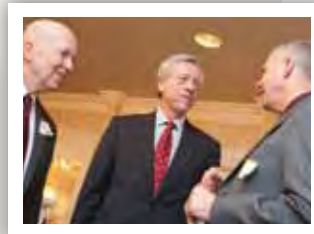


Hobnobbing with Caterpillar

Forsyth Tech has been credited with helping to bring Caterpillar to Forsyth County, and, in September, the college sponsored a breakfast to thank community leaders for their support and to introduce them to Rusty Davis, the operations manager for Caterpillar in Winston-Salem, and other Caterpillar employees. During the breakfast, Caterpillar officials gave a recap of how company officials decided to come here. They made it clear that Forsyth Tech was a big part of that decision.

Guests included Gayle Anderson, the president and CEO of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce; Bob Leak, the president of Winston-Salem Business Inc.; Peggy Carter, the vice president of the Forsyth Medical Center Foundation; and Alan Seeba, the president and CEO of Deere-Hitachi in Kernersville.

Mr. Davis is working hard to nurture his relationship with Forsyth Tech. In December, he will join the board of the Foundation of Forsyth Tech.



The Awards Keep Coming

In October, the Construction Trades Council was recognized by the National Association for Tech Prep Leadership for the Construction Trades Fair and Promotions that the council has been sponsoring biennially since 2005. The award was presented in Orlando at the association's Tech Prep Conference.

With the support of Forsyth Tech, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, the council was established to make more middle school and high school students aware of career possibilities in construction trades. The council wants to encourage students to attend career and technical classes in high school and to continue their education at such colleges as Forsyth Tech.

At the 2011 fair, held in the spring for three days at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, 1,783 students came from 21 high schools in Forsyth and surrounding counties. More than 35 participating businesses gave students a hands-on taste of such skills as crane operating, grader operating, surveying, welding, painting, wiring, connecting pipes and building brick walls.



Money, Money, Money

Forsyth Tech students are receiving more than \$37 million of financial assistance during the 2011-2012 school year. Almost two-thirds of students – 6,662 of 10,622 – are receiving some form of financial assistance.

If you don't count loans (which the college started offering only this year), Forsyth Tech had a 56 percent increase in financial aid for the year. Finance officials attribute the increase both to getting the word out about the college and its financial-aid opportunities and to more students needing assistance because of the poor economy.

More than 600 students received benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs and/or loans, and about 6,000 students received some other form of assistance. With tuition at Forsyth Tech about \$2,600 a year, many students receive enough aid to enable them to pay for books, supplies and fees.

Not incidentally, enrollment this fall is up, too, by about 8 percent compared to last fall.



The Wheels Start Rolling (Soon)

Come Jan. 9, the Forsyth Tech Transportation Technology Center will open the doors to a 122,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, the only one of its kind in the Southeast.

The center will be home to Automotive Systems Technology; Heavy Equipment and Transport Technology; Recreational Vehicle Maintenance and Repair; Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology; Motorcycle Maintenance and Repair; and the Richard Childress Race Car Technology Program.

The center was made possible by Forsyth County voters, who approved a bond package for the college in 2006. The site on North Patterson Avenue near Germanton Road was once home to the Pinebrook Shopping Center. Forsyth Tech spent about \$2 million to buy the 13-acre property and has spent about \$12 million making it ready for the 200 or so students who will use it.



Give a Little, Give a Lot



Edyce Hall Elworth has joined Forsyth Tech as the new director of major gifts and planned giving.

“I am excited to be taking on this challenge.”

Edyce said. “The work we do at Forsyth Tech is important on many levels to citizens throughout our community. When people give to Forsyth Tech, they know their donations will have a real impact. That makes this job both fulfilling and relatively simple – I just have to tell our story well.”

Edyce, who has a bachelor’s degree in advertising design from the University of South Carolina and is enrolled in the Duke University certificate program in nonprofit management, knows this community well. She has spent much of the past 15 years working in institutional development for such organizations as Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina, Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries, Community Care Center of Forsyth County and, most recently, Davidson County Community College, where she worked for the college’s Foundation and Office of Alumni Affairs.

Edyce will be working closely with Shari Covitz, the vice president of institutional advancement and executive director of the Foundation of Forsyth Tech. “I’m delighted to have someone of Edyce’s experience working on our behalf,” Shari said. “She brings a level of enthusiasm and expertise to this role that will be of great benefit to us.”

Gifts to the Foundation support student scholarships, faculty development and the purchase of needed equipment.

Joining the Top 100

Marie Thomas, the lead instructor for Associate Degree Nursing, has been named to the 2011 class of North Carolina’s Great 100 Nurses.



“Being chosen for the Great 100 is a tremendous honor,” said Marie. “It is rewarding to have 20 years of service as a nurse educator recognized.”

According to the organization’s website, “the Great 100 is a grass-roots organization whose mission is: ‘to positively impact the image of nursing by recognizing nursing excellence and providing scholarships for nursing education in North Carolina.’” Each year it recognizes 100 nurses in the state for nursing excellence. A colleague nominated Marie for her contributions to nursing education.

Marie earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University and a master’s degree in nursing and a doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She joined Forsyth Tech part-time in 1988 and has been full-time since 1999.



Rock This! – The Fabulous Sequel

For the second year, Forsyth Tech sponsored Rock This!, a rock-band competition for teenagers at Rock the Block, an annual end-of-summer party for the community in downtown Winston-Salem. Yes, it was rainy and unseasonably cool that day. Even so, more people than last year supported the event, in which nine bands competed for a \$500 prize.

The event gave Forsyth Tech a way to continue spreading the word to high school students – and their parents – about all it has to offer. The college also took the opportunity to launch a new mobile

version of its website. Getting to the website was easy for people. Volunteers were wearing T-shirts with those matrix designs known as QR (for Quick Response) codes. Scanning those took visitors right to the site.



Exceptional Metalworking Training

The National Institute for Metalworking Skills has recognized the excellence of the Computer-Integrated Machining Program by awarding it accreditation – the college’s first from the Institute.

The college applied for accreditation in 2009, and, this July, a team from the Institute came to the campus for an on-site evaluation that included inspection of equipment and in-depth interviews. In its report, the team praised the program’s clear goals and the “solid foundation and support” it receives from the college’s administration.

And the Winner Is



Daniel Merritt, a student in the Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology Program, won a gold medal in screen printing at the SkillsUSA National Competition this summer in Kansas City, MO. The medal came with a \$1,000 certificate for screen printing supplies.

“Danny is a determined guy,” said Garry Day, the department chair for Commercial Production/Computer and Electronics Technologies. “Once he saw the potential, he really put in the effort. We are really proud of him.”

Other Forsyth Tech competitors were Holly Eudy; Taylor Calloway; Austin Kiger, fourth place Air Bag Presentation in Automotive Tech Prep; Christopher Vest, ninth place, Plumbing; Daniel Harvey; Joshua White; and Kelvin Dearmon, 15th place, Welding Fabrication.

Instructors Amos Ferguson, Jeff Sutton and Steven Mathews accompanied the students. Forsyth Tech has participated in SkillsUSA programs for more than 20 years, serving as host for state competitions about 15 times.

Job Fair Draws Hundreds



More than 1,000 people came to the “Claim Your Career” business and career fair that the Winston-Salem Urban League, in partnership with Forsyth Tech, held in September at the Forsyth Tech West campus. That was double the participants at last year’s event, held at the Urban League’s headquarters downtown.

Representatives from 70 businesses and organizations in such areas as finance, healthcare, retail, utilities, and city and county government were on hand, as well as groups to help people wanting to start small businesses or become entrepreneurs.

Winston-Salem State University
Forsyth Technical Community College

DUAL ADMISSION PROGRAM

A Partnership Between WSSU and Forsyth Tech

Double Your Possibilities

The Dual Admissions Program to Forsyth Tech and Winston-Salem State University – introduced in fall of 2010 – now has 60 students.

In 2009, Dr. Gary M. Green, the president of Forsyth Tech, and Dr. Donald J. Reavis, the chancellor of WSSU, had a great idea – improve the potential for students’ long-term success by enabling them to enroll in both institutions simultaneously. At Forsyth Tech, students can get up to speed in any academic areas where they are weak, and, after earning an associate degree, they go on to earn a bachelor’s degree at WSSU.

Innovation by Design



At Forsyth Tech, the old boundaries between dreaming up innovative designs and manufacturing new products are history. Across the campus, in engineering technology classes and interior design studios, in gaming classes and print shops – and a host of other classrooms and studios – the people who come up with creative ideas and the people who put those ideas to work are one and the same.

Ask Todd Bishop to discuss the relationship between design and what Forsyth Tech mechanical engineering technology students learn, and you realize you have the wrong question.

“In mechanical engineering technology,” Todd answers, “the word *design* is carried across the board from concept to manufacture of the product. Every person along the way participates in design.”

David Dinkins, who teaches in the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program that Todd coordinates, agrees. “From our perspective, when we talk about the design process in regard to engineering, we are talking about the whole product lifecycle,” David said. “Because of design software, no longer is the design process necessarily creating a two-dimensional print, but rather creating a three-dimensional solid model where you can emulate the physical world and actually run virtual tests on parts, as well as taking the model into a manufacturing environment. That in itself is a design innovation.”

Forsyth Tech mechanical engineering technology students learn the latest computer software and techniques. When they enter the workplace, they will be ready to be part of a creative team that can evaluate ideas and figure out how to make them work – or whether they can work.

That means the students are learning not only the latest software, but also how that software fits into broader, innovative processes. For example, there’s product lifecycle management (PLM), which Todd describes as “the whole concept of start to finish, from an idea to product, carried all the way through. You can come up with the new idea for a product, but that doesn’t mean you have the facilities and what you need to make it.”

PLM software is the generic term for high-end software that helps mechanical engineers evaluate a proposed innovation in any industry. Mechanical engineers no longer have to design parts of a new product one by one. Software enables them to design all the components, put them together in virtual form and run simulations. “Our students learn how to see whether something is going to work,” David said.

They also learn rapid prototyping, in which they can design something and use rapid prototyping machines to make less-expensive test models out of a material such as plastic or plaster. And they learn how to program the computer numerical control (CNC) machines – controlled by computers rather than directly by hand – that have revolutionized most facets of manufacturing in the United States.

“All this ties into design,” Todd said, “because if your design is not feasibly capable of being made economically, it’s a poor design. If you’ve worked with CNC manufacturing, you have more insight when a guy dreams up a part as to whether it’s virtually impossible or too expensive to make.”



DAVID DINKINS SAYS
DESIGN SOFTWARE
HELPS STUDENTS JUDGE
WHETHER A NEW PRODUCT
WILL WORK.

The related fields of architectural technology and interior design also deal with big-picture, creative thinking as well as precise representations of designs.

“Architecture is a very creative field,” says Todd Shoaf, Architectural Technology program coordinator. “It’s the most exciting field. Our students learn that we can really shape our environment culturally and socially, and we also have the opportunity to impact it sustainably in a responsible way – all through architecture.”

Gisele Taylor-Wells, Todd’s counterpart in the Interior Design Program, could give him a good argument about whose is the more exciting field. But she’d rather talk about how closely tied architecture and interior design are. “In interior design, we’re planning spaces so that they work well, are attractive and pleasant, healthy – in terms of air quality and so on – and sustainable, using materials that can be recycled and reused. Some people think we’re just decorators, but we are designers,” she said.

“We work closely with the architects,” she said. “The most successful projects are the ones where everybody is at the table from the beginning.”

In architectural technology as in interior design, students learn the old basics before moving on to the latest technology. That process enables them to understand and work with design for the long haul, no matter what new computer software someone devises.

“Our goal is to create lifelong learners,” Gisele said. “You never stop learning. It’s a constantly evolving field, with new trends, new information and new technology. If you don’t evolve and change, then you will not be successful in this field.”

Todd describes those who work in the architectural fields as “inventors” who work with “the most inspiring marriage between mathematics and art.” In both disciplines, students in their first of five semesters find themselves doing old-fashioned drawing, sketching and drafting by hand. “That’s still the quickest way to develop more solutions and get more ideas down on paper at an earlier phase of a project,” Todd said. “The most valuable tools are still a roll of tracing paper and a Sharpie® marker.”

But the days when someone with a two-year degree in architecture “just” did drafting are long gone. “Drafting is not architecture,” Todd said. “Drafting is the means by which we represent our solutions, our ideas. What we are doing is creative problem solving.”

Similarly, design students still draw, and they learn to create physical “color board” models of rooms using real fabrics, so clients can get a real sense of texture and feel.

Once students in both programs have worked on their freehand skills, they move on to learn various computer techniques. Long-established software programs such as AutoCAD (computer-aided drafting) are part of the curriculum, along with a number of newer and higher-tech programs.

Three-dimensional software is increasingly important in architecture and interior design. Software such as Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Google’s SketchUp enable students to create intricate 3-D models of entire buildings or individual rooms.

BIM software is so sophisticated that students can re-create an entire building, including its setting anywhere in the world, Todd said. Then they can determine how to situate the building to take advantage of such things as the sun’s path and heat gain and loss. They can determine various factors about a prospective building with “incredible accuracy” and use their creativity to design solutions to potential problems.

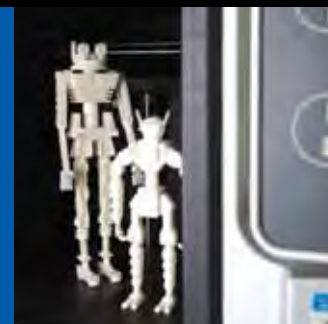
Architectural technology and interior design collaborate on some projects. Together, they have created designs to enter in the annual North Carolina Sustainable Building design competition in Raleigh.



IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY
AND INTERIOR DESIGN,
TODD SHOAF AND
GISELE TAYLOR-WELLS
SOMETIMES COLLABORATE.



IN DIGITAL EFFECTS AND ANIMATION,
JOHN KELLY LEADS STUDENTS
IN REAL-WORLD PROJECTS.



Competing against teams from four-year colleges as well as from other community colleges, Forsyth Tech students have won a second place, two third places and several honorable mentions.

Todd likes the contest not only because his students do well, but also because it's an ideal way to teach them to think creatively about responsible sustainable design and architecture.

For similar reasons, Gisele encourages her students to take on projects in the community. Every fall, a team of her students designs a 12-by-12-foot room in Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Space fundraising event. Her students also take on projects for local nonprofits, such as helping the congregation of a church turn its old sanctuary into a multiuse room. And they've helped Old Salem with such projects as redesigning part of the Moravian Book & Gift Shop and making changes to the Visitors Center.

About half of the program's graduates go on to four-year programs, Gisele said. But others find jobs as junior designers or design assistants. The program teaches students to think creatively and to "be exceptional," she said. Those who finish the program are prepared to design for a variety of spaces – furniture showrooms, museums, senior living facilities, hotels. As long as graduates remain "lifelong learners," they have tremendous possibilities, she said.

Similarly, architecture technology students can go on to further education and become licensed architects. But if they want to go right to work, they can find jobs with architecture firms or construction companies, or they can even start their own architecture services companies. "They have the skills to become a real part of a design team," Todd said.

The Game's the Thing

One of Forsyth Tech's newest programs, Digital Effects and Animation (DEA), has never had boundaries between coming up with ideas and putting them into play. By the time Forsyth Tech started its DEA program two-and-a-half years ago, computer technology had made it easy to give creativity free rein.

"Our students really have to be multitalented," says Herb Burns, the department chair. "To stimulate their critical thinking, they have to be excellent writers, they have to be able to manipulate digital data in a computer two-dimensionally and three-dimensionally, they have to be able to draw, and they have to be able to sculpt."

The DEA program crosses many disciplines, often incorporating elements of architecture, interior design and other fields. For example, Herb said, "if you go to a movie that has some special effects in it, there is architecture in a design landscape setting. It involves how social movements interact in the environment, and the story behind the animation. That all gets stitched together in particular projects."

His students who are working toward the gaming certification create non-digital games – old-fashioned board games, card games or exercise games – before they make animated games. They must research genres of games; invent a game, develop the rules, and make the game pieces and – if it's a board game – the board. Then they have to let their classmates play the game to see how well it works.

"Critical thinking is involved throughout that whole project," Herb said.

DEA students also get involved in real-world design projects. Each student has to find a real client – often a faculty member – for whom they create a custom artwork, logo or animation.

This fall, students in a class taught by John Kelly, instructor in Digital Effects and Animation, have been finishing an animation called "Opportunities in Energy," about sustainable energy technologies. The project arose when the Central N.C. Section of the American Chemical Society wanted help with an animation to encourage the study of science in high school and beyond.

John helped the students set up the project as if it were a real business. They've also developed a Russian-language version of the animation, which they hope will be distributed in Russia and Belarus.

DEA students put their creativity to the test when making animations and videos. Recently, students needed a particular weapon for a video, so they drew it, modeled it and printed the model out with a 3-D printer. Problem solved.

The program, which always has a waiting list, sends students into a variety of jobs – cartooning, gaming, museums, ad agencies, websites, commercials, films or any project that needs 3-D models or animations.

“It's a competitive marketplace, and we're a relatively new program,” Herb said. “But we get a lot of good feedback. We can grow if we have the space to grow into.”



Design has also found its way into one of Forsyth Tech's most venerable programs: Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology, more commonly known as printing.


Garry Day, the department chair, says that contrary to what some people might think, printing is alive and well. In fact, he says, it's one of the top five industries in the country. “People still like to have something they can hold in their hands,” he says. “People enjoy the comfort of a printed brochure.”

People make good use of labels, stickers and all sorts of packaging, too, which have to be printed. They like to have screen-printed clothing and other textiles. They want banners, posters and wraps. Direct mail, especially the kind that makes use of variable-data software to target specific customers, is also widely used. And Forsyth Tech has the specialized prepress equipment, printers and presses (including digital), stitchers, cutters, folders and software to make all those products.

While a graduate may find a good job that involves operating just one type of specialized press, Garry said, the program makes sure that students understand the design involved in all the processes. “While our students are not in a design program as such, I want them to understand how something is going to be reproduced. They need to know how to design for the particular reproduction method they will be using. They need to know how something is designed so that it works when it gets to its destination.

“Somebody comes to us with something they want, and we make it happen,” he said. Often, he said, that can mean tweaking someone else's design so that the end result is the best possible product.

“If somebody goes through our program and wants a job, there are jobs out there,” he said. “And our students are ready for them.”

In printing and a range of other fields, Forsyth Tech's curriculum matches today's reality that the old divisions between innovative design and implementation, between dreaming and making, are gone. Forsyth Tech is educating students to be integral parts of the creative, problem-solving design teams demanded by the workplace of today and tomorrow. 



GARY DAY SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND HOW DESIGNS ARE REPRODUCED.



A Bridge to “The Other Side”


DeEtta Famiano is a 28-year-old former construction worker. She also is a partner in her own architectural services business, Famiano Design Group. And she's a graduate of Forsyth Tech's two-year Architectural Technology Program, which is what bridged the gap between her previous life and her current one. She's living proof that a two-year architecture degree can lead to a good career.

At 21, DeEtta started working for her brother, building houses. “My brother hired me because he felt bad for me,” she said. “I was actually using nail guns and stuff. It was pretty intense. I also worked at Home Depot for a while, in the specialty millwork department. When I decided to go to school and started at Forsyth Tech, I thought I would become a general contractor with the architectural degree, but the economy changed while I was there.”

At Forsyth Tech, DeEtta realized that her years building houses and working with building materials had been worthwhile. “I thought I had been wasting time, but it was great,” she said. “The folks at Forsyth Tech have a great way of pointing out what knowledge you bring to the table, what you need to grow, and how you can succeed.”

After graduation, DeEtta was working with local architects. “But the economy being the way it was, and having an entrepreneurial spirit, I decided that I wanted to go into business for myself.”

Things really came together after she met David Norman, who became her business partner in Famiano Design Group. The two of them took advantage of the resources at the Center for Design Innovation in downtown Winston-Salem, where Forsyth Tech partners with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Winston-Salem State University to foster design-oriented research. There they learned to use a laser scanner, a high-tech device that collects highly accurate data about objects – buildings, pieces of furniture, you name it – and turns that into three-dimensional models.

The scanner is expensive – “it costs as much as a small house,” DeEtta says – and few local companies own one. So Famiano Design Group moved into the niche, making laser scanning the heart of its business. Today, the business has two full-time employees in addition to the two partners. Both of those employees are graduates of the Forsyth Tech Architectural Technology Program. 

The 50th Anniversary Year Was a Very Good Year

Honoring the Past, Leading into the Future. Forsyth Tech celebrated 50 years of service in style. There were occasions to honor all who have worked together – faculty, staff, leaders, community partners – to make Forsyth Tech outstanding, not just as one of the leading community colleges in the state and nation, but also as an essential resource in its home community. And there were occasions to celebrate individuals whose lives have been shaped by their studies here.

But the busy activities of the anniversary year focused as much on the future as on the past. That's fitting, because Forsyth Tech is an innovative, forward-looking college dedicated to preparing the workforce that will keep the United States competitive in the global economy.

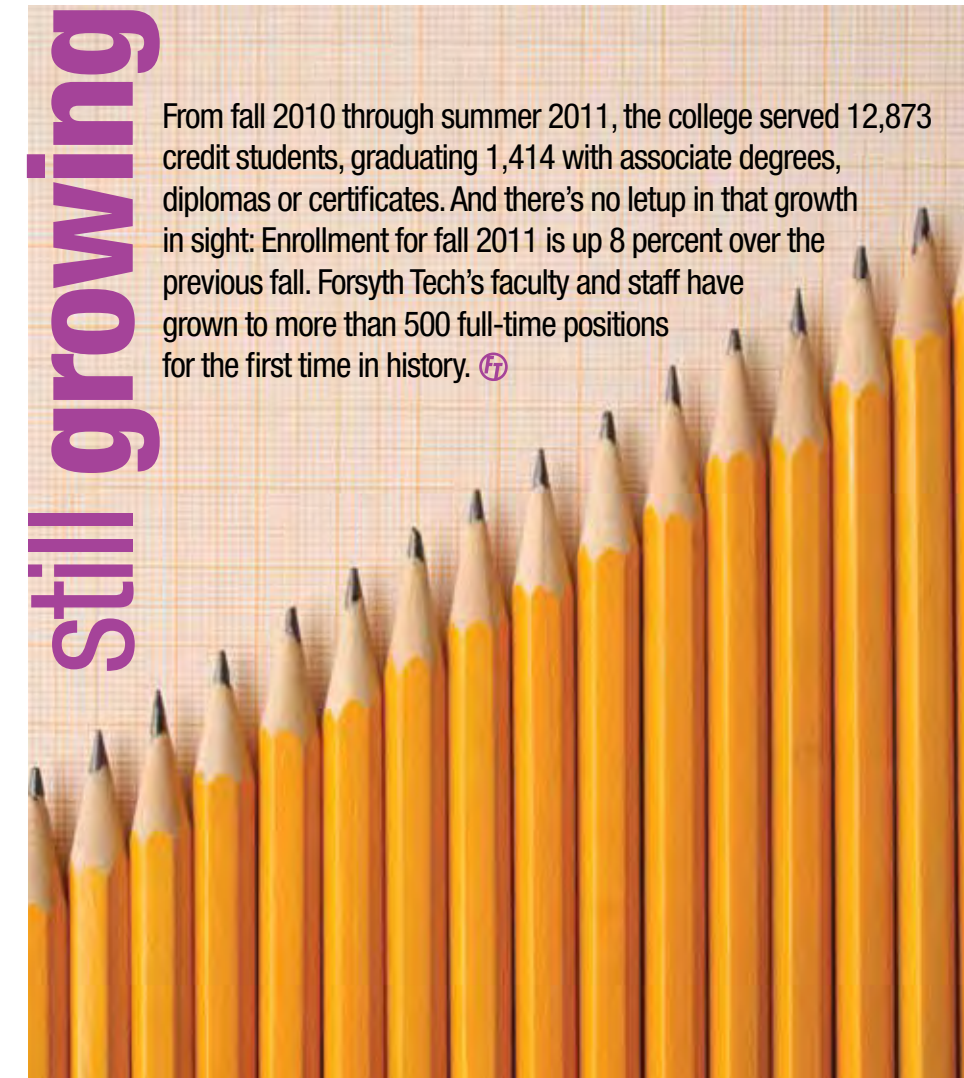


DRIVING FORCE

On a chilly night in January, more than 300 people turned out at the Richard Childress Racing complex in Welcome, N.C. for a dinner honoring Mr. Childress, the famed NASCAR owner. The Foundation of Forsyth Tech staged the dinner in recognition of the man for whom the college's Race Car Technology Program is named. Proceeds from the dinner helped support the Foundation's scholarships and faculty development efforts.

still growing

From fall 2010 through summer 2011, the college served 12,873 credit students, graduating 1,414 with associate degrees, diplomas or certificates. And there's no letup in that growth in sight: Enrollment for fall 2011 is up 8 percent over the previous fall. Forsyth Tech's faculty and staff have grown to more than 500 full-time positions for the first time in history.



A Year in Transition

In July, the Forsyth Tech community mourned the death of Dr. Bob Greene, who served as college president from 1981 to 1995. Earlier in the year, Dr. Greene had been given the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges' highest honor, the I.E. Ready Award, for his leadership during a time of rapid growth and progress.

Robert Joyce, a trustee since 1980, chose not to seek reappointment to Forsyth Tech's board of directors. He was instrumental in the development of the Allman Center, the Swisher Center, the Northwest Forsyth Center in Stokes County and the new Transportation Center. He was honored in July by the naming of the Robert F. Joyce School of Justice at the Northwest Forsyth Center.

More Than You Know

Going, Going...


The 50th Anniversary online auction, held in November, raised more than

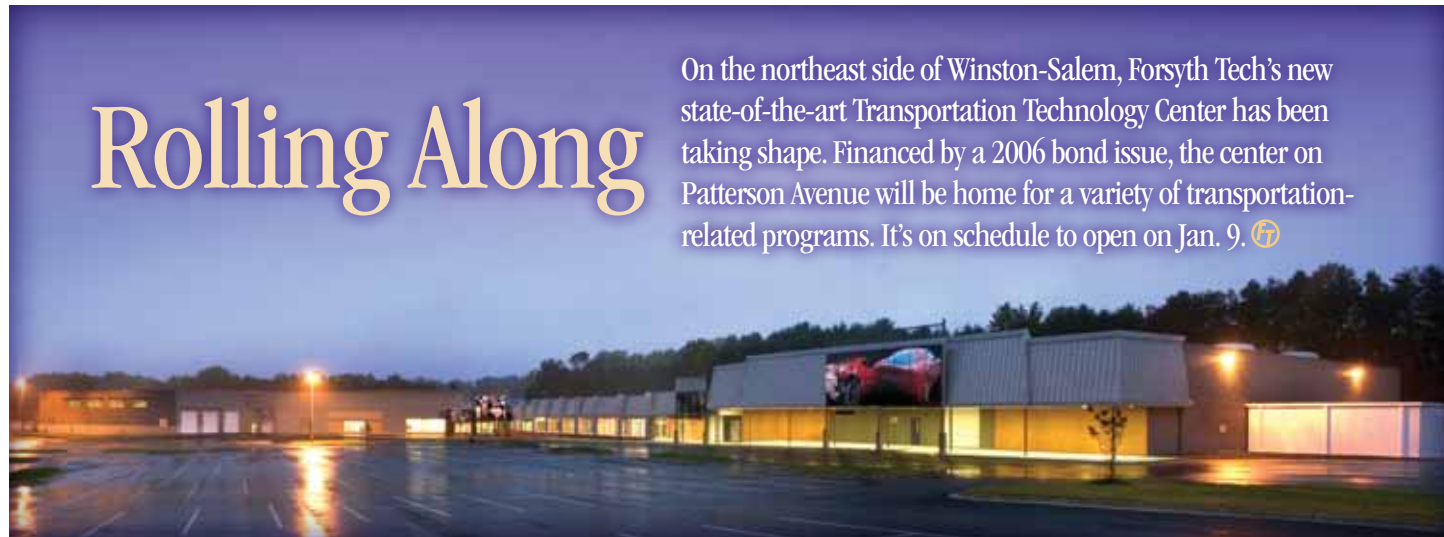
\$11,000

on 63 items for The Foundation of Forsyth Tech to use toward scholarship and faculty development.


IT'S ABOUT JOBS. FORSYTH TECH'S JOBSNOW PROGRAM CONTINUED TO HAVE MARKED SUCCESS AT PLACING PEOPLE IN JOBS. JOBSNOW STARTED WITH FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY, DESIGNED TO TRAIN PEOPLE IN SIX MONTHS OR LESS TO STEP INTO JOBS IN FIELDS THAT ARE HIRING. FORSYTH TECH HAS BEEN A LEADER IN THE STATE IN NUMBERS OF STUDENTS IN JOBSNOW – MORE THAN 1,680 STUDENTS HAVE GRADUATED. THE PROGRAM HAS CONTINUED WITH THE HELP OF DONATIONS SUCH AS THAT FROM THE DATAMAX FOUNDATION, WHICH GAVE FORSYTH TECH A \$50,000 GRANT FOR JOBSNOW SCHOLARSHIPS.

Rolling Along

On the northeast side of Winston-Salem, Forsyth Tech's new state-of-the-art Transportation Technology Center has been taking shape. Financed by a 2006 bond issue, the center on Patterson Avenue will be home for a variety of transportation-related programs. It's on schedule to open on Jan. 9. 




GROWTH IN STOKES. NOVEMBER SAW ANOTHER MILESTONE IN FORSYTH TECH'S SERVICE IN STOKES COUNTY. IN NOVEMBER 2010, THE STOKES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTED TO ALLOCATE \$6 MILLION FOR FORSYTH TECH TO BUILD

A PERMANENT HOME FOR THE STOKES COUNTY CENTER, WITH CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 2013. IN THE MEANTIME, IN SEPTEMBER 2011, A SECOND TEMPORARY EIGHT-ROOM POD WAS BEING INSTALLED TO ACCOMMODATE THE CENTER'S GROWING ENROLLMENT IN ITS EARLY COLLEGE AND REGULAR COLLEGE AND GED CLASSES. 



Caterpillar *swings into action*

Watching Forsyth Tech's partnership with Caterpillar Inc. blossom was one of this year's highlights. Forsyth Tech faculty and staff have been busy helping Caterpillar hire people and helping local people secure jobs. Forsyth Tech staged a job fair that drew 2,500 people. With support from Duke Energy, the Golden Leaf Foundation and the N.C. Community College System, the school developed a center in Kernersville to train workers for jobs in Caterpillar's new parts-manufacturing plant. 

OVAL OF HONOR

The Alumni Oval, dedicated at the kickoff of the yearlong celebration, quickly met the vision of becoming a gathering place for students on Main Campus. Bricks in the oval honor faculty, staff and students of today and years past.



A Year in the Spotlight

You might have expected Forsyth Tech to get some media attention during its 50th anniversary year. There would, after all, be celebrations and events. And Forsyth Tech, with its innovations in such fields as biotechnology and nanotechnology complementing its long history of success in more traditional areas such as manufacturing and medical technologies, had already garnered considerable favorable publicity.

But a year earlier, who would have predicted that in January 2011 Forsyth Tech would be mentioned favorably twice in President Barack Obama's State of the Union address? No community college has ever been mentioned by name in a State of the Union address before.

But President Obama did name Forsyth Tech, and that meant people across the nation and around the world heard him praise the school for its role as a national leader in the teaching of new high-tech fields. And, as those who watched know, that also meant that one special Forsyth Tech student, 55-year-old Kathy Proctor, also was very much in the limelight. President Obama singled out Proctor, who was sitting in First Lady Michelle Obama's box, for recognition because she is a single mom who enrolled in Forsyth Tech's Biotechnology Program to make a better life for herself and set an example for her daughters. (Kathy met President Obama again this October, when the White House invited her



to attend his speech in Greensboro.)


Obama's mentions of Forsyth Tech and Kathy Proctor's trip to the State of the Union grew out of his visit to campus in December 2010. He chose Forsyth Tech as the site for a major speech about global competitiveness because of the college's reputation as a leader in preparing the workforce for the future. Joining President Obama on his tour of Forsyth Tech were Gov. Bev Perdue, U.S. Senators Kay Hagan and Richard Burr, and Rep. Mel Watt.


Media coverage of the speech focused a favorable spotlight on Forsyth Tech during its anniversary celebration.

Forsyth Tech's prominence continued as the year progressed. On June 7, Dr. Gary Green, Forsyth Tech's president, could be heard on National Public Radio's Diane Rehm Show, talking with Byron Auguste of McKinsey and Co., a global consulting firm, and Emily DeRocco, the president of the Manufacturing Institute, about preparing

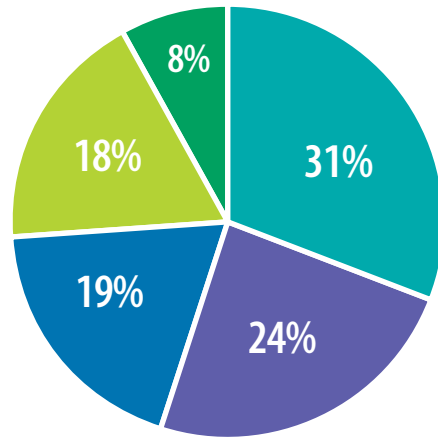
workers for the new economy's manufacturing jobs. The next day, Dr. Green was a guest of the White House when President Obama traveled to Northern Virginia Community College to announce an initiative with the Manufacturing Institute to make community colleges more receptive to the needs of employers.

And in July, Mark McSweeney, a 34-year-old recent graduate of Forsyth Tech's Mechanical Engineering Technology Program, was featured in a story and video on *The New York Times'* website. The video showed how Forsyth Tech helped teach Mark the skills and job-search techniques he needed to land a job at TE Connectivity.

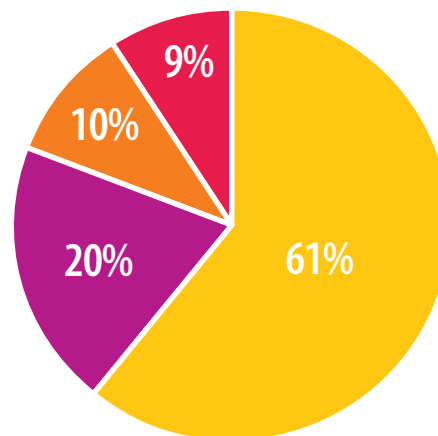
As the 50th anniversary year wound down, the Forsyth Tech community was building on the successes that won all that national attention. 

Defining the Mission. During 2011, the Forsyth Tech Foundation, which does so much to help students and faculty year in and year out, honed its mission statement. That statement is: "The Forsyth Tech Foundation raises, receives and administers gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations and associations, and manages assets that support the mission and goals of the College." 

Forsyth Tech Community College
Revenues & Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011

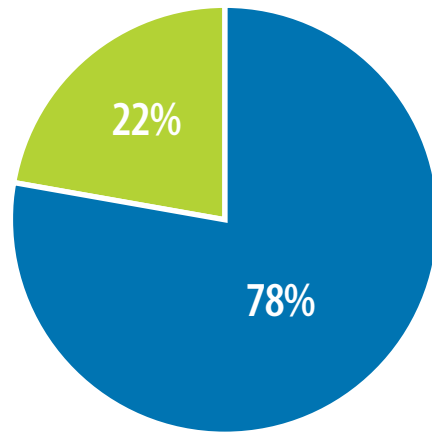


Revenues	Dollar Amount	%
State	32,545,175	31%
Tuition	8,740,849	8%
County	18,971,152	18%
Grants	25,329,613	24%
Other	20,611,772	19%
Total Operating Revenues	106,198,561	100%

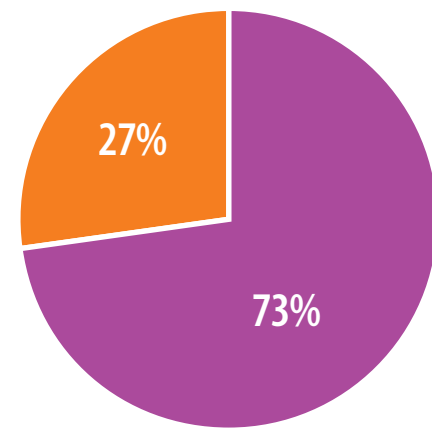


Expenses	Dollar Amount	%
Instruction and Support	46,977,091	61%
Auxiliary Enterprises	7,105,715	9%
Physical Plant Operations	7,272,902	10%
Student Service & Financial Aid	15,406,620	20%
Total Operating Expenses	76,762,328	100%

Forsyth Tech Foundation
Revenues & Expenditures
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011



Revenues and Other Sources	Dollar Amount	%
Contributions	1,121,756	78%
Interest & Gains on Investments	322,505	22%
Total Revenues & Other Sources	1,444,261	100%



Expenses	Dollar Amount	%
Scholarships/Contributions to Forsyth Tech	858,175	73%
Other Supporting Services	316,891	27%
Total Expenses	1,175,066	100%

Forsyth Technical Community College Board of Trustees
2010-2011 Membership Roster

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Amy Ballard, Ex-Officio, SGA President

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Why I Support Forsyth Tech

In 1987, **Tommy Hickman** went to work for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. as a quality engineer. With computers becoming a more important part of life, Hickman soon decided the time had come to stop hunting and pecking and to learn to type properly. So he headed over to Forsyth Tech to take a touch typing class in the Continuing Education department.

At the time, it struck him that Forsyth Tech was “a sleeping giant.” “It was doing so much more for the community than I was aware of,” Hickman said.

Today, Hickman is the senior vice president for operations at Reynolds. Over the years, as he has assumed ever greater responsibilities at Reynolds, he has taken an active role in helping that giant wake up and grow and had the satisfaction of watching it assume an essential role in the community’s success.

In his early years with Reynolds, Hickman worked with the college on such needs as training and testing, something that the company and college had long worked on together.

“Somewhere along the line I got appointed to the board of Forsyth Tech by Gov. (Jim) Hunt,” Hickman said. “I was on the board when Dr. Gary Green was brought into Winston.”

He and other board members liked that Green had experience working with business and industry. Hickman thinks that, since Green became president of Forsyth Tech in 2001, he has done an excellent job of making the larger community aware of what the college has to offer.

“He has been the glue that has connected the community to what Forsyth Tech is,” Hickman said.

Hickman served a four-year term from 1997 to 2001, and, when Gov. Mike Easley came into office in 2001, Hickman received a “thank you for your services” letter. In the years since, he has supported Forsyth Tech with his checkbook during the college’s first capital campaign and through a strong relationship with Dr. Green.

“Even though I am not on the board, I feel like I have a responsibility to help Forsyth Tech in any way that I can,” Hickman said.

Hickman, a native of Conway, S.C., earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of South Carolina. Hickman hasn’t taken any more classes at Forsyth Tech since he took typing. He thinks he might one day, though.

“Probably when I retire, I will go over there and take a welding class,” he said.

In the meantime, Hickman plans to continue to support the college in whatever way he can.

“I plan to be a supporter as long as I am in Winston-Salem, which is probably going to be the rest of my life.”

How You Can Support Forsyth Tech

Forsyth Technical Community College serves more than 50,000 students annually in degree, diploma and certificate programs, as well as continuing education courses. To make educational opportunities widely available, and to meet the needs for a well-educated, skilled workforce, Forsyth Tech depends on private contributions from people like you.

The Foundation of Forsyth Tech, a nonprofit organization, is the fundraising arm of the College. Your gift to Forsyth Tech through the Foundation will support:

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

Your Gift Creates a Strong College and a Strong Community

Choose your level of support:

- President’s Club** \$10,000 and up
- Pinnacle Club** \$5,000 – \$9,999
- Dean’s Club** \$2,500-\$4,999
- Pacesetter’s Club** \$1,000 – \$2,499
- Directors** \$500 – \$999
- Leaders** \$250 – \$499
- Champions** \$100 – \$249
- Friends** Up to \$99

Give online: Use your credit card to make a secure donation at www.forsythtech.edu/support/giving-to-forsyth-tech.

Send a check: Make your check payable to Forsyth Tech Foundation. Mail to The Foundation of Forsyth Tech, 2100 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC 27103-5197.

Get more information: Learn about gifts you can make in honor of or in memory of individuals, matching gifts, charitable trusts and bequests, and gifts of stocks and property. Call Edyce Elworth, director of major gifts and planned giving, The Foundation of Forsyth Tech, at 336.734.7296 or email scovitz@forsythtech.edu.





Amy Ballard, Forsyth Tech's 2011-12 Student Government Association (SGA) president, is an expert at filling what Kipling calls "the unforgiving minute." In addition to her duties leading the SGA, where her goal is to increase student involvement in both on- and off-campus activities, she's also a college-transfer student who is working to pay her way through school. For most people that would be enough – but for Amy that's only the beginning.

Just reading a list of all her activities is exhausting. To start with, she's a violinist, and has been most of her life. "It's always been something I've loved to do," she says, then adds, "and I'd like to teach other people." That's why, after she's finished at Forsyth Tech, she plans to transfer to UNC Greensboro and pursue a bachelor's degree in Music Education. (Or does she? Originally from Wrightsville Beach, she also has an abiding love of the ocean and a passion for marine biology. So it may turn out that she will instead transfer to UNC Wilmington to pursue that career.)

Participating in student government and taking classes are only a part of what Amy does on the Forsyth Tech campus. She is also an avid participant at Philosophical Society meetings. "Last year I was the co-president," she says, "and it is, I think, one of the most exciting clubs on campus. Our discussions always have

time well spent

Meet Amy Ballard,
SGA President


a topic, but they usually go elsewhere, and that's the exciting part. It's opened my eyes to a lot of things."

She's a member of the Journalism Club, too, which produces the school paper, *Technically Speaking*. But she's a member only by chance, she says. "I actually just walked into a meeting by accident one time, and I know one of the advisors, Mr. Brincefield, and he said, 'You need to come to the meetings.' So journalism is something I'll be a lot more active in this year."

Off campus she's just as busy. She's helped out with environmental cleanup through North Carolina Clean Waterways and run 5k races to support local charities (including March of Dimes, March for Babies and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina).

She also participates in the Big Sister program, something Amy finds especially rewarding. Amy says that spending time with her "little sister," a fourth grader, has taught her a great deal, especially since the girl is "getting a lot more comfortable with letting me in her life." Overall, Amy says, "It's a very, very enriching experience."

Something else that Amy finds enriching is the experience of attending Forsyth Tech, primarily because of the eclectic nature of the student body. She came to Forsyth Tech after graduating from West Forsyth and working for a few years. Now, in her early 20s, she enjoys getting many different points of view. "You have people there who are 18; you have people there who are 50; and you get to hear each walk of life, their personal experiences, and see how they interact and see things through their eyes," she says. "And that's just one of the best experiences, and one that you don't get on a regular, traditional campus."

Whether Amy Ballard goes on to become a music teacher or a marine biologist or to follow a path she hasn't discovered yet, it's a good bet she'll find a way to fill those "unforgiving minutes" with passion, curiosity and drive. She knows the value of time, and she doesn't plan to waste a second of it. 



Who Works Here

New Man in Town

Alan Murdock was born in Vietnam, where his parents met and married while his father was working for IBM. Even after work brought the family to the United States, they kept moving. "Being an IBM baby, you are accustomed to getting up and moving every few years," Alan said.

As the new kid in town time and again, Alan developed a taste for science-fiction novels in which an underdog overcomes obstacles to come out on top. "I think I like it because I have typically been the underdog," he said.

He also learned to adapt to whatever comes up, a skill that has come in handy during his travels as an adult to such places as Costa Rica, Greece and China.

"I'm a great traveler," he said. "I roll with the punches."

alan murdock

Vice President, Economic & Workforce Development

Alan Murdock took the job as vice president of Economic & Workforce Development because he wants to make a difference in people's lives. "I want to make sure I have an opportunity to make an impact in the community. Through Forsyth Tech and our partners, you can see how we can work together to help change someone's life for the better."

For Alan, who joined Forsyth Tech on Aug. 1, the desire to make a difference came into focus eight years ago while he was working for Central Piedmont Community

College in Charlotte. Wanting to do something special for students in a job-skills class, he organized a graduation ceremony followed by a job fair. Seeing how excited everyone was that day surprised and touched him. "This was a big deal for a lot of these folks," Alan said. "At that point, I realized, 'I'm making a difference in these people's lives.'"

Alan was living in New Jersey when he graduated from high school. Heading south, he earned a degree in Communications from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1997. He later earned an MBA in Negotiation and Conflict Management at Jones International University in Colorado. Alan spent 12 years at Central Piedmont. After six years of responsibilities that included customer service, computer training, small business, middle markets and sales, Alan became director of economic recruitment and career readiness. During that time, he traveled to Sweden, where he helped recruit ABB, a Swiss company,

bringing more than 100 jobs and \$92 million in capital investment to Charlotte. He also was active in the recruitment and/or expansion of such companies as Siemens Energy, Shutterfly Inc. and Electrolux.

At Forsyth Tech, his responsibilities include overseeing training programs for people going to work for Caterpillar, as well as programs that help people at different stages in life. This includes teenagers working on a GED and middle-aged college graduates displaced by a changing job market. "We're touching people at every age," he said. "We are developing a talent pipeline for people and companies to create a workforce that breeds prosperity."

His goals include broadening Forsyth Tech's connections with the community. "We already have some great relationships with Goodwill Industries of Northwest NC, Winston-Salem Urban League and many others," he said. "Developing additional relationships will only make this community stronger."

Who Goes Here

John Platt loves to tell stories through his art.

The Digital Effects and Animation Program is giving him the skills to do that in new ways. Before coming to Forsyth Tech, John was creating all of his art by hand, and his experience with computers was limited. "I couldn't even use a flash drive when I started," he said.

Now, he can draw a picture with a pencil, scan it into a computer and color it using

Photoshop. He can create animated screen apps. His app for Peter Guren's online comic strip Ask Shagg can be downloaded from iTunes. Visitors to the Forsyth Tech website can see an animated short called "The Story of You at Forsyth Tech" that he made with other members of the program. Working with a recent Forsyth Tech graduate, he has created an online comic book that will be available soon.

After graduating from high school in Buffalo, N.Y., John, who is 23, took a while to find his path. Seeing that working in a pizza place was going nowhere, he moved here, where he had an uncle and close friend. He built log houses – which he enjoyed and which paid well – until the economy tanked. Then he started waiting tables.

John had long enjoyed drawing – "I like to draw stuff right out of my mind" – and,

looking for the deeper, long-term satisfactions that making art professionally could provide, he enrolled at Forsyth Tech in 2009. In addition to teaching him about the technical side of things, Forsyth Tech taught him about working in a team and helped him grow as an artist. John feels as if he has a talent for depicting the human body. "Once you can do that, you can do just about anything."

He is thinking about going to UNC Asheville to earn a bachelor's degree after he graduates from Forsyth Tech. He appreciates the artists, such as the late fantasy artist Frank Frazetta, who have had a positive impact on his life, and one day he would like to do the same for others through animated movies.

"Through a story, you can influence someone's life," he said.

john platt

Student, Digital Effects & Animation

Creative Play

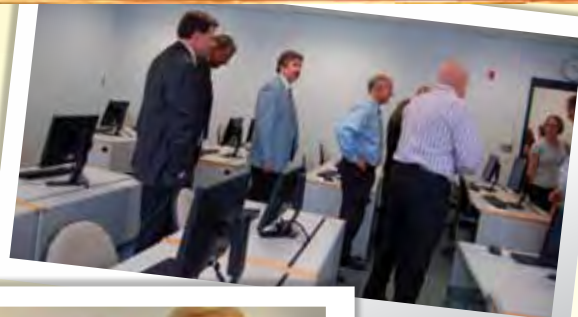
After a day of classes, John Platt likes to put on his rollerblades and play hockey in the street outside his house.

"I have always been an athlete," he said.

John grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., where winters were cold and hockey was king. He played center for his high school team, and when he headed south he brought his hockey equipment with him. Skating on ice requires finding a rink. Day to day, he has found that playing a little street hockey or zipping through the streets of Winston-Salem on his rollerblades does the trick just fine.

Both playing hockey and making art refresh him. "Hockey and drawing clear your mind," John said.





< The new computer lab contains 21 state-of-the-art computers with Internet access. The lab was paid for through a U.S. Commerce Department Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant, which Marvin Allen was instrumental in securing. The grant was given to WinstonNet, and Forsyth Tech is a recipient as a partner institution. The funds will allow the school to open this and five other computer labs, making computers available for students and the general public across the community.



< Sandy Allen, Mr. Allen's widow, talked about her husband's love of Forsyth Tech and said that being able to provide computer labs such as this one, open to anyone in need, was one of his proudest achievements. "For him it was the opportunities that it provided for young adults who needed opportunities desperately," she said, "and that's the purpose of Forsyth Tech."



> Dr. Green had this to say about Mr. Allen: "It was Marvin's commitment to make technology available to everyone. To make it available to our entire community through WinstonNet. To make it available to all of our students through the many labs and the many rooms that he opened – and he opened many labs such as this. So it's only fitting that we name this lab the Marvin L. Allen Computer Lab, so our students and everyone who uses it will know Marvin's commitment to them and to our community."



< John Boehme, chairman of WinstonNet, said that Mr. Allen prodded community leaders to bring the WinstonNet concept together because he knew it was important. "This lab will continue


to support computer-based learning and business skills for all residents of our community, which was very, very important to Marvin," he said.



< Rachel Desmarais, vice president of planning and information services at Forsyth Tech, spoke about first meeting Mr. Allen in 1996, when she was a student. He subsequently hired her as a teacher, beginning her career at the school. "Marvin gave people chances," she said. "He would see the potential of someone and take a chance on them."

Fulfilling Our Purpose

The New Marvin L. Allen Computer Lab Provides Access and Opportunities to Those in Need

On Sept. 19, a dedication ceremony was held at the Mazie S. Woodruff Center for the new Marvin L. Allen Computer Lab. Mr. Allen, who died in 2010, was Forsyth Tech's dean of business information technologies from 1973 until 2004 and was a founding member of WinstonNet, a nonprofit organization focused on providing computer technology skills to the disadvantaged. He was also, in the words of Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green, "one of the people over the last 10 years who has moved Forsyth Tech ahead and has moved the Winston-Salem community ahead in terms of the application of technology to learning and to bringing our entire community together." 



What's Up with the Apps?

Take It From Tech

app:[ap] — *NOUN* an application, typically a small, specialized program downloaded onto mobile devices.

An Interview with Game Developer Blake Leftwich

Q Blake, we hear so much about apps. What are they?

A Apps are just small programs – little applications – for smartphones. What makes them stand apart from other programs is that apps are small and designed for one purpose. They could be a game or a calculator, for example, or a way to look up what times movies are playing.

Q Are apps just for smartphones?

A Today, apps are mostly for smartphones – various brands of cell phones with more capabilities than your basic phone's calling and texting. But in the future, we'll probably see something similar for computers, little applications with just one function.

Q Are they here to stay, or just a fad?

A Apps are here to stay. The concept is that you have one small application that doesn't take up a lot of space and doesn't require a lot to run. Apps won't replace robust, big versatile applications like Photoshop – the popular photography manipulation software – and things like that, but they are here to stay.

Q Are apps useful?

A They are popular right now because of entertainment apps, especially games like Angry Birds. But they are also useful, for finding movies and restaurants, for example. There are also productivity apps that help you manage datebooks, and there are calculators. There are apps that let you access your computer from your smartphone and look at fields on your computer.

Photography apps are really popular – you can take a picture with your smartphone and use the app to put special effects on it, maybe an Old West look.

Q OK, you mentioned Angry Birds. What's Angry Birds?

A Angry Birds is a really popular game consistently in the top 25 paid apps in the app store. It started as an iPhone app but has been adapted for some other systems. You slingshot birds into buildings, and your goal is to knock the buildings on top of the little green pigs that live in the buildings. I think it's so popular because it's physics-based — for example, the buildings crumble realistically when you hit them. Also, the slingshots are really easy to understand. Features like these are why apps are so successful: It's really easy to use with very little explanation, and it works the way you would expect it to. The simplicity and low barrier to entry are why apps are so popular.

Q Before we get too far into apps: Does everybody need a smartphone?

A That's a tough question. It depends on what you use your phone for. If you're the kind of person who is not on Facebook and does not use a computer regularly, then you probably don't need a smartphone. A smartphone is really just a small computer in your pocket or purse. If all you use your phone for is calling or texting, you don't need a smartphone.

Q So that sort of person doesn't need to know anything about apps?

A Don't be so sure. I think that, going forward, all phones are going to become smartphones with apps. All phones are going to evolve into smartphones. You will stop being able to buy just basic phones.

Q So we might as well learn how to get the most out of our phones? What if I have a smartphone, but other than calling and texting, I use it for checking email, checking the Internet, posting comments and pictures on Facebook and

maybe playing a game to pass the time. If I don't even know half of what my phone can do, should I learn more?

A Don't feel any pressures, no guilt. Your phone is for you. The bottom line is just keep what you need on your phone. Use the apps that work for you. Don't worry about the rest. If you use your phone for Facebook and email and have a game or two to pass the time, maybe use Twitter, that's all most people do. Your phone is still a telephone, a convenience device, and that is what it should be.

Q Do we all need to go out and buy another phone every time something new comes out?

A I don't think so. Admittedly, the coolest apps, the newest apps, will always run best on the newest devices. If you're really into technology, maybe you'll always want the newest devices. I like my BlackBerry; I'm comfortable with it, and as long as it does everything I want to do, I'll stick with it.

Q Is one smartphone clearly better than the others?

A That's a matter of dispute, and of personal preference.

Q Can a creative, entrepreneurial person make a fortune with a good app?

A I think so. Some people would say the market for apps is flooded, but I've noticed, at least for the last six months, the same ones keep appearing in the top 25. That tells me that if someone created an innovative idea, he or she could still make a lot of money out of it.

Q Is it hard to develop an app?

A The development experience has become really simple. You can pay \$99 a year to join Apple's developer program and get what you need to develop and publish apps with an iPhone or iPad. There's a lot of potential for

an upstart company or even an individual. In fact, I have a free app out for iPhone. It's called Smart Mouth, and it's a code-breaker game. I am working on a new app — a game — that I hope will be out soon.

Q Do people have to be careful about what apps they add to their phones? I read about a scam in which thousands of phone users paid for apps that were supposed to cure acne if you held your phone up to your face.

A I don't like the idea of people being deceitful and selling something under false pretenses. Part of the problem may be people buying something without reading the fine print. The iPhone, BlackBerry and Android app stores online post reviews. It's a good idea to read other people's reviews before you buy an app.

Q Are there places to buy apps other than the official stores?

A For the Android phones, you can buy apps from random websites, where there is less quality control. My advice would be to read reviews and look at ratings before you purchase any app. That's become the norm with most shopping online for any item or service. Most reputable websites have ratings systems and reviews.

Q You said you think basic phones will become obsolete. Is that true of computers also?

A I don't think the smartphone will ever replace the computer, but you will see computers with app-like interfaces, almost like a touch-screen interface. Microsoft's Windows 8 system, which should be coming out next fall, has a smartphone-like interface replacing the traditional desktop. It will even have its own "app store." One thing you can be sure of: Computers will continue to evolve.

Even Forsyth Tech Has an App (kind of)



When is an app not an app? When it's a mobile website like the one Forsyth Tech launched in September. Optimized for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, this mobile version of the college website allows users to access key information about the school without going through a web browser to our full website. "More and more people are accessing our site through a mobile device,"

said Shari Covitz, vice president, institutional advancement, "so developing a mobile site really became a necessity." The mobile site contains news and events, admission and registration information, descriptions of credit programs, a map showing Forsyth Tech locations, links to myTechLink and Blackboard, and other features. But it isn't an app of the kind you download from an app store.

Instead, to access this mobile site on your smartphone or tablet, simply go to www.forsythtech.edu in the device's web browser. You will automatically be directed to the mobile site and asked if you want to install an icon, so in the future you can go immediately to the mobile site with one touch — just like using an app!

More Than You Know

App Survival Kit Necessities

Seven "must haves" if you're ever stranded on a desert island.



Expedia (travel): Book flights, hotels, cruises and more. Handy before your battery dies.



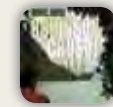
Facebook (social networking): You never know who you'll run across.



Solar Panel Installer (how-to): Learn to produce power for comfort and convenience.



NFL 2011 (sports): For Green Bay Packers fans only; post-solar panel installation.



Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe (literature): Light reading for your "downtime," great ideas, too.



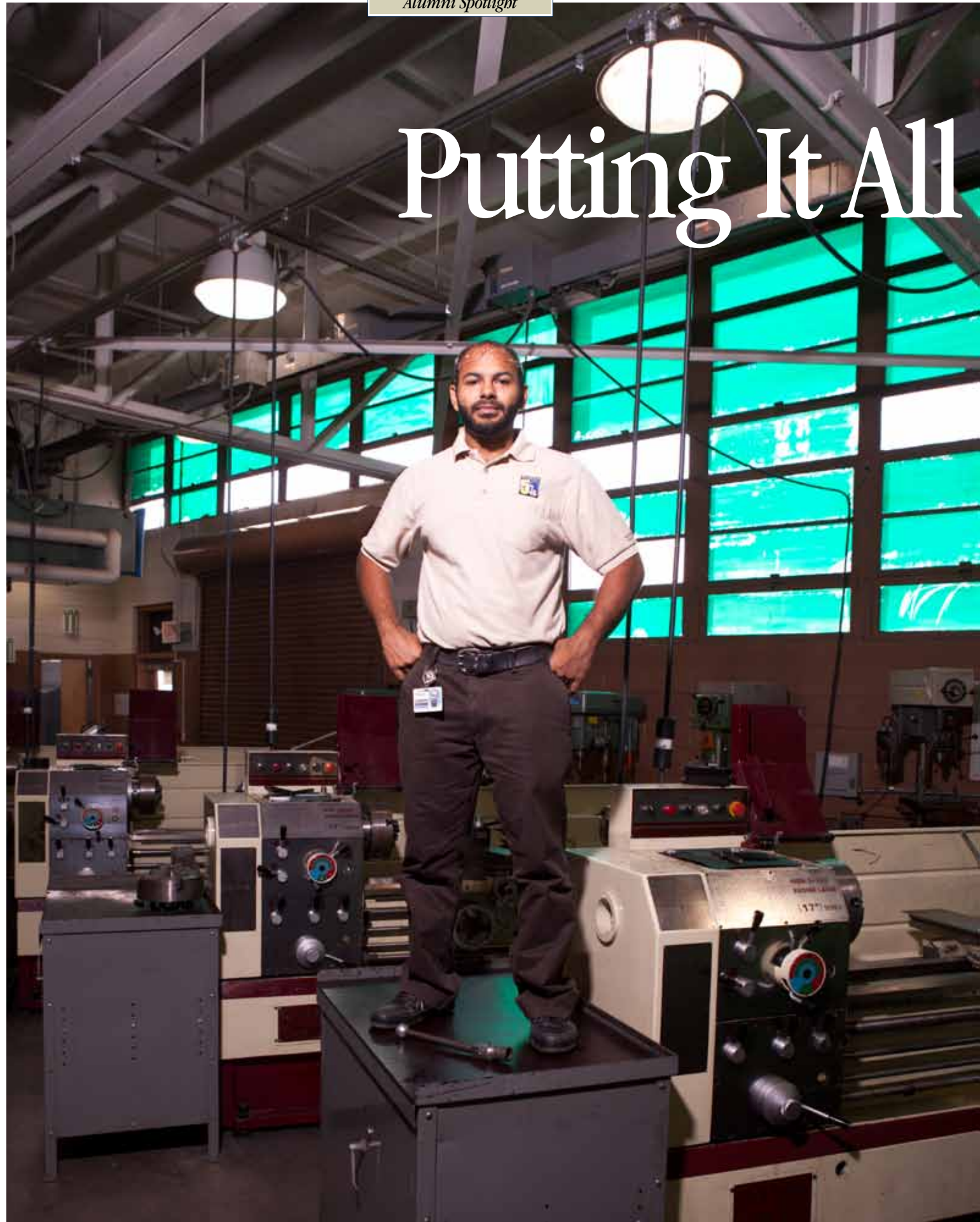
Angry Birds (game): Because it's the most popular game in the history of app-dom.



Flare Gun (utility): 'Nuf said.

Blake Leftwich, an independent game developer, works as a teaching assistant and lab technician in Forsyth Tech's Digital Effects and Animation program.

Putting It All Together



Donovan McBride has found the perfect balance of career, family and fun.

Donovan McBride knows he is a lucky guy – he met the woman he loves in high school and found a career he expects to engage him for life at Forsyth Tech. “Very, very lucky,” he said “I’m very aware of that.”

Donovan, 27, is both a Forsyth Tech alumnus and a Forsyth Tech instructor. He is also a newlywed. When he was offered a full-time job teaching computer-integrated machining, Donovan said he would take it with the understanding that he would be on his honeymoon the second week in October.

Not a problem— that would be fall break, said Todd Bishop, the program coordinator for mechanical engineering/drafting and design.



A few years ago, Donovan McBride didn't know what “machining” meant. Now he teaches others what he learned about this useful trade.



Donovan stayed connected to Forsyth Tech after graduating in the spring of 2008. He was working for TurboCare, a company in Rural Hall that makes components for power-generation turbines, when he was invited to teach a class in the fall of 2008 for an instructor who was ill. As it turned out, he continued to teach classes part-time while he continued to work at TurboCare, first as a machinist and then as an engineer.

“In some sense, I never left,” he said.



“I could do this for the rest of my life”

Donovan is an upbeat guy who smiles a lot when he talks. “I try to surround myself with people who make me feel good, and I hope I can make other people feel the same.”

He was born in Montana. When he was 13, his father died of cancer. His mother, Sue, had friends in Winston-Salem, and, at their urging, she eventually decided to move here. When Donovan graduated from Reynolds High School, he had no idea that machining would become a passion. If the word “machinist” had come up, he said, his response would have been “What the heck is a machinist?”

He was working at a home-improvement store when a friend who had become a machinist invited him to the machine shop where he worked. “When I saw him cutting metal, I thought, ‘I could do this for the rest of my life.’ You can take a raw piece of material – something of no use to somebody – and turn it into something useful.”

Love and support make all the difference

In the fall of 2005, he enrolled in the Machining Program at Forsyth Tech. Donovan continued to work while going to school, and, after a while, he began looking for a job as a machinist so that both work and school would be advancing his goals. He found that job at Aigis Mechtronics, a company that makes internal components for cameras, and came to classes at night. As if that didn’t keep him busy enough, he later added a part-time co-op job for class credit at TurboCare. Add all that together, and he estimates that he was spending – one way or another – 70 hours a week in the world of machining. What made that possible, he said, is the support of the woman who became his wife.

“Without her love and support, I don’t think I could have gotten through all the hours of working and studying,” Donovan said.



Donovan has been challenging himself to new heights for years. He took up BMX stunt riding while in high school.

“I feel like I’m giving back”

He met Molly Markey, now a marketing coordinator for Wake Forest University’s Office of Career and Professional Development, when both were students at Reynolds. They have been together ever since. Now that the wedding and honeymoon are behind him, he plans to enroll at East Carolina University to work online on a bachelor’s degree.

Donovan likes the job at Forsyth Tech a lot. He likes working with people, and he likes that the college gives people the skills to find work. “I feel like I’m giving back,” he said. “I still have to remind myself this is a job – I really do.”




More Than You Know

“There is nothing else like it.”

Donovan took up doing stunts on a BMX bike when he was growing up in Montana. “Everybody said, ‘You’ll quit when you get a driver’s license.’ That never happened.”

When he moved here before his junior year in high school, he was delighted to be much closer to Greenville, N.C., a major center for BMX biking. “The people I saw on TV in Montana, I could go ride with in Greenville.”

Since an accident led to knee surgery a few years ago, he has toned down the adrenaline-producing side of the sport. But he still has plenty of fun.

“There is nothing else like it,” he said. 



GLOBAL Travel, GLOBAL View

One gray afternoon in late September, a van pulled up to the front of the Technology Building on Main Campus, and six officials from the Yang Pu District in Shanghai, China, stepped out. After greetings all around, they followed Bernie Yevin, the dean of Forsyth Tech's Business & Information Technologies Division, inside. The Chinese men and women looked curiously around as they passed groups of students chatting in the lobby.

Elsewhere on campus, Danish students from Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College were going about their business just like anyone else. Three students from that college in Denmark are spending the fall semester studying business at Forsyth Tech.

While Bernie was waiting in the lobby for the Chinese delegation, he talked with Barry Lawing, a history instructor, about taking students to Europe next summer. Lawing had spent part of July and August leading students on an educational trip to Rome, Florence, Paris and London. That had been his first experience with international education, an opportunity that came up unexpectedly when another faculty member fell ill. Now he's eager to take another group abroad.

Players in the Global Economy

That busy day was just a typical Thursday at Forsyth Tech, where educating people to be part of the modern competitive workplace means giving them a global education. "We live in the world," Bernie said. "We live in a global economy. Part of the community college mission is to train people to be globally competitive."

"These days," he said, "you'd be awfully hard-pressed to find a product that doesn't have raw materials or resources from some other country, or that wasn't assembled somewhere else in the world."

"The fact that we have 24/7 news access means that the effect of what happens in one part of the world on the rest of the world is speeded up and more important. It's important for our students to understand how the United States fits into the global economy and how the global economy affects the United States. In the future, our students will probably be dealing with suppliers or other people from other countries, and it's important that they understand other cultures," Bernie said.

It's human nature for people to think that the rest of the world is just like their own society, Bernie said. That's why it's important for Forsyth Tech to "help eliminate the barriers and take off the blinders."



Nurturing Relationships

Toward that end, Forsyth Tech has partnerships and other types of relationships with at least 10 colleges and universities in countries including England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Belarus, Mexico, Denmark, Canada, the Netherlands and China. In Liberia, Forsyth Tech is helping Grand Bassa Community College, a relatively new school in Buchanan City, develop its curriculum and choose textbooks, equipment and software.

The idea is to find schools overseas that offer similar programs to Forsyth Tech's so that it is easy to transfer credits. Some of these relationships allow Forsyth Tech students to spend as much as a semester studying in another country while working toward their degree, or to pursue another degree there after finishing two years of college-transfer work at Forsyth Tech. Some bring people such as the Danish business students here to study, which provides yet another way for Forsyth Tech students to learn about other cultures. Laura Hortal, a Spanish instructor, has organized study-abroad trips to Costa Rica and Spain. Those and programs in Ecuador and other Latin American countries let students learn more about Spanish language and culture. Other programs involve overseas for-credit tours, like the one Barry Lawing led during the summer, lasting from a few days to a few weeks.

The Chinese delegation that visited in September was part of a relationship that's in its early stages, growing out of Bernie's involvement in the Sister Cities International Program. The officials from Yang Pu district wanted to investigate possible education and economic development partnerships for schools in their area with Forsyth Tech.

Forsyth Tech has such an educational partnership with Zilang Vocational and Technical College in Nantong, China, which grew out of contacts with the Sister Cities Program and the Twin City Alliance. Dr. Zhenlin Zheng, a research associate at the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center who's from that region, learned that the college was looking for an American partner and recommended Forsyth Tech. Officials at Zilang contacted Forsyth Tech's president, Dr. Gary Green, who encouraged Bernie to investigate. After corresponding via email, Bernie visited Zilang College in May to close the deal. In October, Zilang's president and other administrators paid a visit to Forsyth Tech, in turn. While here, they signed an agreement that will enable Chinese students to take Forsyth Tech classes online or come to Forsyth Tech to study for one or two years.



"Feet on the Ground"

"Only about 6 percent of all college students study abroad in any given year," Bernie said. "We believe that anyone who wants to do well in the future probably needs to know about other cultures. When someone learns another language, that really broadens his or her cultural sensitivity. But if someone can go to another country, put their feet on the ground there, meet the people, eat the food, see how they live . . . that teaches them even more. We establish these relationships and programs so that we know good-quality schools where we can send our students should they want to go abroad."



ForsythTech

More Than You Know

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In Focus



Barn, Reborn. This barn on Todd Shoaf's family farm in Davidson County once sheltered cattle. Now, with a little innovative redesign, it's seeing new life as a drying barn for burley tobacco. Todd, who is Forsyth Tech's Architectural Technology program coordinator, couldn't pass up this photo. It shows a down-to-earth example of how creativity can give a solidly built old structure a new purpose. 📷 We're looking for transportation-themed photos for the next issue of Tech Quarterly. Have a favorite? Send it to TQ@forsythtech.edu.