

Vol. 6, No. 2 } Spring/Summer 2013

Tech Quarterly

TQ

The Magazine of Forsyth Technical Community College



# A Second Chance to Soar

THE POWER OF BASIC SKILLS TO TRANSFORM LIVES

*in this issue:*

**TAKING CENTER STAGE:**  
*Our New Arts Program*

**7-UP:**  
*Women's Achievement Awards*

**MEDICINE CHEST:**  
*What Goes Into It*

**ForsythTech**

*More Than You Know*

From the President | *Second Chances*

Dr. Gary M. Green



As the faculty and staff of Forsyth Tech know, I've been a big fan of *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman for a long time. His bestseller, "*The World Is Flat*," shaped my understanding of globalization and its implications for the next generations of Americans. It made such a strong impression on me that I had asked my cabinet to read this book soon after it was published.

What a pleasure it was to run into Tom Friedman at an airport this past spring. We struck up a conversation about the ever-widening skills gap that exists in this country. He went on to write an article for his Sunday op-ed column in which he reinforced my conviction that, as a community college, Forsyth Tech must be focused on training students to help close the skills gap in order to make our country more competitive on a global scale.

Legislators and policymakers are stressing the necessity, for most people, of getting some college-level education. The reality is that jobs students once got based on experience in a high school shop class now require a two-year associate degree and sometimes nationally recognized skill certifications.

What doesn't get so much attention is the fact that many adults don't have a high school diploma or equivalency, let alone any higher education or college degree. As the need for skilled technicians across all sectors of the economy increases, those without this basic credential will increasingly find themselves locked into low-wage jobs – or chronic unemployment.


According to a recent report published by the American Association

of Community Colleges, in 1973 nearly three-quarters of employed Americans could get by in the job market with a high school diploma or less. By 2018, it is expected that only one-third of the workforce will be employable with that level of education.

Community colleges have an important role to play in this transition. You may be surprised to learn that every year 6,000 people in our community go through Forsyth Tech's basic skills and adult literacy programs. People come to us seeking a GED and other basic adult skills for a variety of reasons. Some drop out of high school because they don't fit the mold of a typical high school setting or aren't able to learn in traditional ways. Others come to us for their GED because they left high school early to support families. Some young people who have been home-schooled need a GED as proof of high school completion.

Forsyth Tech is filled with people who are living proof of the power of a second chance to finish high school. One is Arthur Saunders, whose story I encourage you to read in this issue. Arthur earned his GED while living at the Rescue Mission. Today, he is working on his associate degree in Radio & TV Broadcasting Technology and living independently in his own apartment.

Whatever the reason and whatever the need, Forsyth Tech meets people where they are and helps bring them to where they need to be. We have forged relationships with many community organizations that support us in our efforts to eradicate illiteracy, and provide the education and job training required to meet the demands of local employers and the demands of the global economy.

This will be a long-term transition, and Forsyth Tech is devoted to helping our community make that leap into the future. 

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Everyone deserves a second chance, and Forsyth Tech offers them. The college's adult basic skills and literacy programs offer fresh starts to thousands in our community every year.

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**Your Donations Support Educational Programs That Improve Lives.**  
*Yours and Theirs.*

When you support The Foundation of Forsyth Tech, you help our college provide educational opportunities at every level. Your contribution may help someone learn to read for the first time, finish a high school education, acquire new skills to return to the workforce or get a college degree that will lead to a successful career. And with every educational goal they attain, the people helped by your donation will become more self-sufficient, and greater contributors to our society and our economy. Ultimately, that benefits all of us.

Give to The Foundation of Forsyth Tech. Your contribution matters.

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



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

**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).

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.



## Latino Insights

Five Forsyth Tech students were honored with an invitation to participate in the Latin America and North Carolina Seminar held at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) this past spring. The students – Abigail Cruz, Dulce Moreno Rodriguez, Juan Ortega Ruiz, Salomon Pinargote and Omar Villarreal – led a session called “Rising through the NC Educational System: A Latino Experience.” Co-sponsored by the Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (at UNC-CH and Duke University) and The Jack and Mary McCall Foundation, the seminar offered insights into Latin America, and support for K-12 and community college educators working with the state’s growing immigrant student population.



## A Graceful Departure

Brenda Bodsford was hired by Forsyth Tech in 1970, and when she retired in June, she was the longest-term, full-time employee at the college. She took with her 43 years of memories and full dedication to her job as a marketing technician, graphic designer and college photographer. During her employment, she saw the college through three name changes and came to know all seven of Forsyth Tech’s presidents. She was a repository of information and the go-to person with questions about the chronology of the college’s history, since she experienced much of it firsthand. She touched the lives of countless faculty, staff and students with her creativity and warm collegiality.

“Forsyth Tech has always been like family to me. When I first started working here, the college was so small, we knew everybody and saw everybody on a daily basis,” she recalled.

Brenda’s longevity was honored in June when she was inducted into the Order of the Longleaf Pine by Gov. Pat McCrory, one of the highest honors given to North Carolina residents. This award recognizes state employees who have given at least 30 years of exemplary service.

Forsyth Tech also honored Brenda by dedicating an outdoor garden on Main Campus in her honor and donating a brick in her name to the Alumni Oval.

## Good ‘Car’ma



Forsyth Tech’s automotive technician training program has received certification from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), demonstrating that the college’s training meets the highest standards of accreditation in the U.S.

Forsyth Tech’s program received a 4.8 on a 5.0 scale. According to Leonard Kiser, dean of Forsyth Tech’s Engineering Technologies Division, NATEF rarely scores programs above a 4.2.

“This accreditation gives our program credibility, prestige and recognition,” said Leonard. “It will assure prospective students they are receiving a high-quality education, and it will let prospective employers know that our graduates have received the best training possible.”

## passed PERFECTION

The December 2012 graduates of the Paul M. Wiles School of Nursing at Forsyth Tech earned some bragging rights earlier this year when all 31 members of the Associate Degree Nursing class and all 44 members of the Practical Nursing class found out they passed their NCLEX, the national licensing exam for nurses. These exams test the knowledge, skills and abilities critical to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. With licenses in hand, these nursing grads are now job-ready. “We are so proud of our students and the amazing nursing faculty that prepared them so well,” said Linda Latham, director of Nursing.

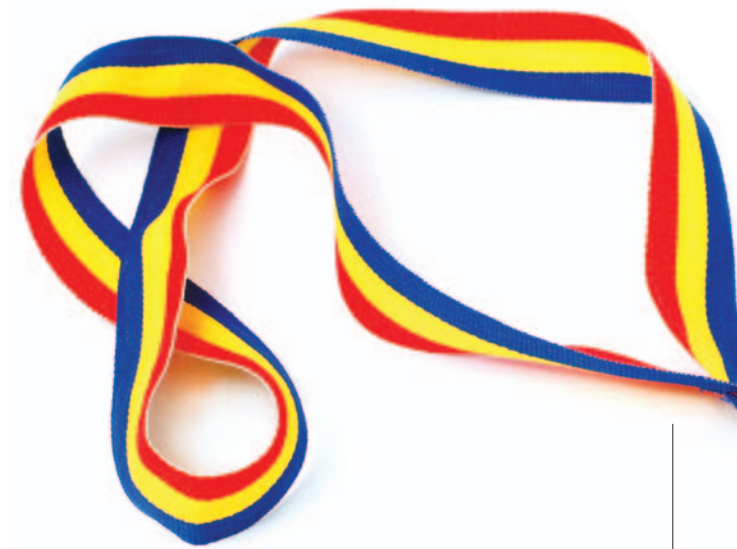


## Good as GOLD

Marketing materials produced by Forsyth Tech received three prestigious recognitions from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) 2012 Paragon Awards. The college received gold awards for its all-college video and direct mail postcard campaign that is sent to all households in Forsyth and Stokes counties. The college also received a silver award for its Viewzine.

According to Mamie Sutphin, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Forsyth Tech, “These distinctions from a jury of peers are indeed an honor. But what we are most proud of is how effective these materials have been in promoting the excellent educational opportunities available at Forsyth Tech.”

The Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievements in communications at community and technical colleges throughout the U.S.



## Approved Again!

In June, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) voted to approve the reaffirmation of Forsyth Tech’s accreditation for the next 10 years with no additional reports required. The reaffirmation confirms that Forsyth Tech has specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission, and appropriate to the degrees and programs offered.

“The Commission’s decision validates for us the continuing commitment we have made to ensuring student learning and success,” said Rachel Desmarais, vice president of Planning and Information Services, who led the college’s reaffirmation effort. “Every employee at Forsyth Tech contributed to this success by working diligently through a rigorous process that demonstrated our outstanding service to our students and community.”

Forsyth Tech’s next reaffirmation is scheduled to occur in 2023.

## HIGH FIVES

Therapeutic Massage program faculty members have always received well-deserved professional recognition, and now two more feathers can be added to their collective leadership cap.

Kim Moore, program coordinator, was elected to represent the North Carolina chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) as a delegate for the House of Delegates at the AMTA’s National Convention in Fort Worth and Denver in September. Among other responsibilities, The House of Delegates addresses the value of massage for specific health issues.

Sandy Mason, clinical coordinator, has been invited to serve on the Ethics and Professional Practice Committee of the National Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB). The FSMTB works to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public in a safe and effective manner.



## A Literary Dignitary Visits

This past spring, Forsyth Tech was honored with a visit from North Carolina’s Poet Laureate Joseph Bathanti, a professor of creative writing at Appalachian State University. During his visit, Mr. Bathanti gave a lecture on writing, encouraging students to use poetry, as he does, to tell their stories in their own voice. His visit was part of Forsyth Tech’s ongoing Humanities Enrichment series. Mr. Bathanti is well-known for his work with helping inmates in the prison system learn to write.

## Teams Take TOP TWO Tiers

Two teams of architecture and interior design students placed first and second in the 2013 U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) North Carolina Chapter's Natural Talent Design Competition in Raleigh last April.

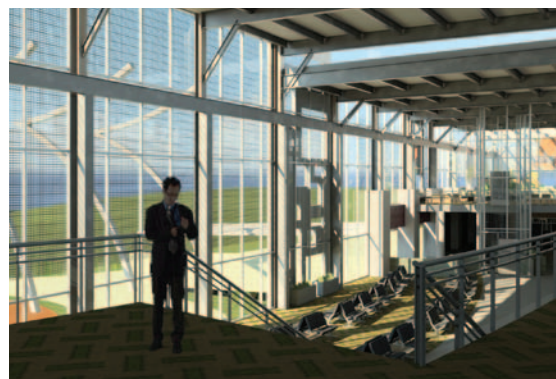
Forsyth Tech competed against teams from around the state, including Appalachian State, Duke University, Cape Fear Community College and Wake Tech.

The 2013 challenge involved the design of a new train station from an existing industrial structure in Raleigh that required the students to incorporate sustainability, accessibility, community engagement and green design.

The five members of Forsyth Tech's first-place team, Team "wYe" Transit, each won stipends to attend Greenbuild, the USGBC's International Conference and Expo that will be held in Philadelphia, Pa., in November.

Members of Team "wYe" Transit included interior design student Alena Perry and architecture students Lynn Furner, Kate Galantha, Jerry Marion and Balam Ray.

Members of Forsyth Tech's second-place team, "Team SEMAPHORE," were interior design students Juliana Gregory Barco and Louise Pickersgill, and architecture students Matthew Lucas, Brandon Semones and Cameron Whitley.



# Advanced Manufacturing Bits & Bites

Forsyth Tech is gaining an international reputation for its advanced manufacturing training and education. Following is a round-up of advanced manufacturing-related happenings that have taken place recently.

## Building a Better Future

One hundred curious middle school and high school students and parents participated in Forsyth Tech's first-ever Advanced Manufacturing Information Session earlier this year. Attendees learned about modern 21st century advanced manufacturing and the many high-paying jobs in the field. They toured the college's advanced manufacturing labs, and had a chance to meet with faculty and students as well as representatives from local manufacturers to learn more about the jobs of the future.

They also heard how Forsyth Tech has stepped up to the plate to meet the training needs of manufacturers in our area by investing \$800,000 in new equipment that will be installed by the start of the fall 2013 semester.



## Asian Influence

The advanced manufacturing training Forsyth Tech provides to develop a local skilled workforce caught the interest of Joshua Ogawa, Chief Correspondent for the business daily newspaper, *Nikkei*, Japan's equivalent of *The Wall Street Journal*. Mr. Ogawa met Forsyth Tech's president, Dr. Gary Green, at a forum on advanced manufacturing in Washington, D.C., and accepted an invitation to visit Winston-Salem to spend a day meeting with Dr. Green, touring the college's manufacturing labs and visiting with local manufacturers. The story that ran in *Nikkei* in May stressed that while the skills gaps that exist in the U.S. are barriers to employment growth here, industry, government and academia are teaming up to address the issue, with community colleges playing an essential role in meeting training needs.



## You Say You Want a Revolution

The advanced manufacturing skills gap and the 600,000 unfilled jobs in that sector across the U.S. were two topics addressed during a panel discussion in May. Sponsored by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce the event was called "Remaking How Things Are Made: The Manufacturing Revolution in Winston-Salem."

Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green was one of the panelists, along with representatives from Siemens, Deere-Hitachi and Foothills Brewery. Dr. Green emphasized that the traumatic losses of the textile, apparel and tobacco industries over the past 12 years have overshadowed the reality that manufacturing is once again an economic driver in our area – and it's not your "grandparents' manufacturing." "People are shocked to learn how high tech today's manufacturing environment is," said Dr. Green. "We've got to change the perception of manufacturing."

## When Art and Manufacturing Meet

Art, music and advanced manufacturing technology came together in an innovative and creative venture between the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Arts (SECCA), the Winston-Salem Symphony, Berlin-based data visualization artist Andreas Nicolas Fischer and Forsyth Tech.

At two symphony concerts in May, Mr. Fischer collected sound data from the first orchestral tunings at the beginning of each concert and created 3-D models. He sent the files to the program coordinator of Forsyth Tech's Mechanical Engineering department, Todd Bishop. Todd coordinated the development of computer code, which he fed into a CNC Milling Machine. Using indigenous North Carolina cedar wood from SECCA's grounds, the machine milled the pieces of wood into two unique 3-D sculptures. The sculptures were auctioned off as a benefit for SECCA and the Symphony, and have a fair market value of \$8,000 each.



## All in Good Times

A chance meeting at an airport was parlayed into national publicity for Forsyth Tech in a Sunday edition of *The New York Times* in April. Dr. Gary Green, Forsyth Tech's president, recognized *The Times* op-ed columnist, Thomas Friedman, who was waiting for a plane, and struck up a conversation about the skills gap in the advanced manufacturing sector. The following Sunday, Dr. Green found himself quoted in Mr. Friedman's column.

"We have a labor surplus in this country and a labor shortage at the same time," Dr. Green was quoted as saying in the column titled, "How to Put America Back Together Again." He pointed out that those who have lost jobs recently often do not have the skills needed to get a new job in certain technology-driven sectors, such as manufacturing, but that associate degrees can help narrow the gap.

## Welding 24/7

To help meet demand and provide as much flexibility as possible for those interested in training for a job in local manufacturing, Forsyth Tech is adding an overnight welding training class this fall. "This will help reduce our waiting list," says Todd Bishop, program coordinator for Mechanical Engineering Technology. "And, since manufacturing usually runs three shifts, we're basically adding a third shift to our schedule."



# Begin Again

## Finely Tuned Choices for Fresh Starts

**At 45, Arthur Saunders found himself homeless, and some might say, hopeless.**

**As a boy, he had lived with his grandmother in New York City. He attended the local high school, where he was a good reader but struggled with math. After he turned 16, his grandmother sat him down one day and told him she could no longer afford to care for him. She gave him two choices: Find a job or leave home. Arthur chose to drop out of high school and took a job. Not long after, he moved to Charlotte, N.C., to get a fresh start.**

In North Carolina, he worked as a brick mason and later at a manufacturing job. When his employer moved the work to Malaysia, Arthur was without an income, and soon, without a home. And without a high school diploma, his prospects did not look good.

A friend told him about the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission.

When the Rescue Mission's administrators learned that Arthur had not finished high school, they immediately enrolled him in a GED (General Education Development) program offered by Forsyth Tech. Over the course of a year, Arthur took and failed the GED practice test five times before he passed. When he took the actual tests, he passed all five tests on the first try, and in 2010, at the age of 47, Arthur received his GED at a ceremony held at Wait Chapel on Wake Forest University's campus.

"This was the first graduation I had ever been to. I was very proud that day," Arthur said.

And he had even more to be proud of: He was named class valedictorian.

After graduation, his instructors urged Arthur to move forward. "I didn't think I was college material," Arthur said.

"I never dreamed I could go to school at Forsyth Tech."

In the spring of 2011, Arthur started work on his associate degree and is now in the Radio and TV Broadcast Technology program.

"When I got involved with Forsyth Tech, the opportunities were so numerous, I didn't know what door to step through first," he said. "I didn't know this kind of world was possible. The people at Forsyth Tech saw things in me that I couldn't see in myself."

In March, Arthur moved from the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission into his own apartment across the street from Forsyth Tech's Main Campus.

"I didn't want to get too far away from my touchstone," he said with a smile.

When he graduates next year, he plans to get a job in radio or transfer to a four-year college to continue his education.

Arthur's story is emblematic of the work that goes on day and night through Forsyth Tech's Career & College Readiness and Adult Literacy programs. Every year, 6,000 adults in Forsyth and Stokes counties come to the college seeking high school equivalency, help with basic skills such as math and reading, and counseling for job and career placement.

At age 49, Arthur Saunders has a future filled with promise, thanks to Forsyth Tech. In his 30s, he learned bricklaying as a trade and was prevented from progressing in his career because he lacked a high school diploma. The GED he earned at Forsyth Tech turned the tide, and he looks forward to graduating in the spring of 2014 with a degree in Radio & TV Broadcast Technology.

“People don’t drop out of high school because they aren’t smart. Life comes along and knocks people out.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 16 percent of the adult population – or approximately one in six people – in North Carolina does not have a high school diploma or equivalency. In Forsyth County, that percentage is lower at 13 percent; in Stokes County, it’s higher at 20 percent.

Back when North Carolina was an agricultural state and later a manufacturing state, people often dropped out of high school to go directly to work on the farm or in the factory. As traditional industries started to disappear, people without a high school equivalency found themselves out of work. With technological advances, these workers found it difficult to get new jobs because they didn’t have a high school degree or diploma.

## A Pervasive Problem, A Robust Response

Forsyth Tech helps to fill this gap by offering myriad adult basic skills and literacy programs designed, at a minimum, to ensure students can function at a high school level and are prepared to head into the workforce or toward new educational opportunities.

“In our society, we consider the GED or high school diploma as the first standard of workplace competency,” says Michael Harris, dean of Forsyth Tech’s Career & College Readiness (formerly known as Basic Skills) programs. “Today, you need a GED to get into the military, and it’s a minimum requirement for most 21st century jobs, including working in a local elementary school cafeteria.”

Forsyth Tech offers class instruction in an adult college setting. Students are treated with dignity and compassion, with a strong dose of tough love thrown in, to reduce the stigma that is often attached to those who never completed high school or who cannot read or write. Approximately 400 students graduate from Forsyth Tech’s GED program every year.

“People misjudge those who don’t have a GED,” Michael explains. “People don’t drop out of high school because they aren’t smart. Life comes along and knocks people out. There are many barriers . . . children, finances, single parenthood. Our program does more than give people a GED – it gives people pride and respect. It gives people a second chance.”

Lois Caudill’s family understands second chances.

“I dropped out of school at 16 because my grandmother was sick, and I was taking care of her,” says Lois. Last September, at 54, she passed her GED and is now enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant I class at Forsyth Tech’s West Campus. Lois’ daughter, Melanie, age 32, received her GED in May 2012, four months earlier than Lois, and is now taking pre-nursing classes on Forsyth Tech’s Main Campus.

## Online, Off-Site Or With The Family – It’s All Good

Forsyth Tech extends itself into the community in a number of ways to support adult basic skills and literacy programs.

The college’s Adult High School (AHS) program, which serves 120 students each year, is the only 100 percent virtual AHS program in the North Carolina Community College System. An alternative to a traditional educational setting, AHS is available entirely online. It is an option for students who need the flexibility of 24/7 access to their courses or who may be homebound or suffering from a health condition that prevents them from participating in a classroom setting.

Forsyth Tech also provides family literacy classes held in partnership with the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System and Quality Education Schools, a charter school.

Literacy instructors from Forsyth Tech – Pamela Glenn, Pauline Morris and Shannon Stanley – work with liaisons at various elementary schools to offer a family literacy program known as Parent and Child Together. The instructors coordinate with each school to teach parents how to help their children with their weekly homework assignments, which can be a wonderful opportunity for engagement between parent and child, Pamela says. “We meet twice a week with our community partners and parents,” she says.

“We serve anyone in our community with a reading and math deficiency below ninth grade who needs intensive support,” adds Shannon.

According to Michael Harris, dean of Forsyth Tech’s Career and College Readiness programs, all 6,000 students who take basic skills and literacy programs each year receive extensive testing when they first arrive to help place them on the right educational and career tracks.



## IT TAKES A CITY TO RAISE LITERACY

Adult literacy programs at any community college cannot stand alone without the support of committed community partnerships. Forsyth Tech works with many organizations throughout Forsyth and Stokes counties that contribute time, space and equipment to provide needed education, training and other support services. These critical partnerships include:

- > City of Winston-Salem
- > Department of Social Services
- > Employment Security Commission
- > Enrichment Center
- > Experiment in Self-Reliance
- > Faith communities in Forsyth and Stokes counties
- > Forsyth County Library
- > Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina, Inc.
- > Piedmont Triad Regional Council
- > Quality Education Schools
- > Rescue Mission
- > Stokes County Library
- > Stokes County School System
- > United Way of Forsyth County
- > Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce
- > Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System
- > Winston-Salem Urban League
- > YMCA Literacy Initiative



Each year, members of Forsyth Tech's Adult Literacy Department help 6,000 adult students transition to post-secondary education and/or a career. Pictured here are the college's Adult Literacy team members: (back row, l to r): Veronica Valenti, Julie Summers, Michael Glontz and Amy Quesenberry; (middle row, l to r): Eusebio Velez, Michael Harris, Shannon Stanley and Cynthia Hanna; (front row, l to r): Pamela Glenn, Juanita Murphy and Pauline Morris.

The college is starting to see more adults age 25 or older who already have a high school diploma coming to Forsyth Tech for remediation in math, reading and writing because they are not performing at an acceptable level in the workforce. This change is being driven by high-level skills demanded by today's job requirements, according to the college's adult literacy staff.

## Where There's A Will And A Way


In addition to educational support, Forsyth Tech also offers short-term training programs to help people move into or return to the workforce as quickly as possible through strategic partnerships with numerous community organizations.

A partnership that has gained national attention is the 20-plus-year relationship Forsyth Tech has with Goodwill Industries of NWC. In 1993, then Forsyth Tech President Dr. Bob Greene sat on the board of directors for Goodwill. He spotted an opportunity to extend Forsyth Tech into the community by creating an "off-site" skills training environment for students who were not comfortable attending classes on a college campus.

What developed from this was a partnership based on a resource-sharing model. Forsyth Tech provided the instructors, materials and some equipment. Goodwill provided the facilities, additional equipment and support services such as assessment, case management and job placement.

This was the first Goodwill-community college partnership of its kind in North Carolina and one of the first in the U.S.

The partnership has been successful and has grown quickly. "We've expanded to eight other community colleges in northwest North Carolina," says Art Gibel, CEO of Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina. "But our relationship with Forsyth Tech is the broadest and deepest."

"We meet people where they are and move them to where they want to go," says Michael Harris. "Our mission is to help transition adults to a post-secondary education or a career where they can be a productive worker." 

# The Many Facets Of Adult EDUCATION



## Doing Themselves Proud

Forsyth Tech's GED/Adult High School (AHS) graduation was held on June 6 at Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University. The graduation class included 262 GED and 52 AHS grads. Jewel Cherry, vice president of Student Services at Forsyth Tech, delivered the keynote address and stressed that people with a GED earn \$300,000 more over the course of their lifetime than those without a GED.

## BASIC SKILLS BY THE NUMBERS

- 6,000** Adults in Forsyth and Stokes counties who come to Forsyth Tech each year for basic adult education
- 3,000** Basic adult education students at Forsyth Tech who score high for Irlen Syndrome each year
- 3,000** Adults (age 16 and older) who enroll in Forsyth Tech's GED programs each year
- 400** Adults who graduate from Forsyth Tech's GED programs each year
- 16%** Adults over age 25 in North Carolina without a high school equivalency\*
- 20%** Adults over age 25 in Stokes County without a high school equivalency\*
- 13%** Adults over age 25 in Forsyth County without a high school equivalency\*
- 75%** Employed Americans who could get by with a high school diploma or less in 1973\*\*
- 30%** Employed Americans expected to get by with a high school diploma or less in 2018\*\*

\* 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

\*\*From "Reclaiming the American Dream: Community Colleges and the Nation's Future" published by the American Association of Community Colleges

## A GED Who's Who

Dropping out of high school doesn't have to be the end of the line. People fail to finish high school for all kinds of reasons. And many of them go on to earn their GED as their first step to launching successful careers. Here is a short list of standouts:

- > Bill Cosby (Actor and Comedian)
- > Michael J. Fox (Actor)
- > Dave Thomas (Founder of Wendy's)
- > Mary Lou Retton (Olympic Gold Medalist)
- > Chris Rock (Comedian and Actor)
- > Richard Carmona (Physician and 17th Surgeon General of the United States)
- > Wally Amos (Founder of "Famous Amos" Cookie Company)
- > Peter Jennings (Journalist and Anchor of ABC's World News Tonight)

## Clearing Up Reading Problems

All the GED, adult literacy and basic skills students who come to Forsyth Tech each year are screened for a common but little-known visual perceptual disorder called Irlen Syndrome ([www.irlen.com](http://www.irlen.com)). The brains of people with this condition misinterpret black print against a white page, causing the words to "dance," jump off a page and/or look blurry. As a result, those with this condition are prevented from reading effectively and efficiently and are often misdiagnosed as learning disabled.

The treatment is simple, according to Ronnie Valenti, Adult Literacy testing coordinator. Placing color overlays over the page or wearing glasses with tinted lenses immediately corrects the messages received by the brain and "quiets" the words.

"Fifty percent of Forsyth Tech's adult literacy students – 3,000 of 6,000 students – are determined to have Irlen Syndrome each year, which explains why many students drop out of high school," says Ronnie, who first introduced this test at Forsyth Tech in 2000, making it the first community college in the state to offer it. Now most community colleges screen for this condition.

"There is a correlation between reading problems, and educational and societal successes. Eighty percent of prisoners in jail score high for Irlen," Ronnie adds.

"Diagnosing students with this condition and getting them treatment for their reading problems can open up doors. It can help them get their GED and find a job more easily and at a higher level," she points out.



*Commencement Speaker to Grads: Seize the American Dream*

# TRUE GRIT

On the evening of May 9, Forsyth Tech graduated its largest class in the college's history – approximately 1,400 students earned degrees, diplomas and certificates during a spirited ceremony at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum in Winston-Salem.

More than 7,000 supporters attended the ceremony and heard Dr. Scott Ralls, president of the North Carolina Community College System and this year's commencement speaker, commend the graduates for their grit and perseverance in overcoming multiple obstacles and challenges that could have derailed them from achieving their graduation milestone.

"Grit is the foundational stuff, the mortar if you will, of the American Dream. American dreams are made when grit is combined with opportunity," Dr. Ralls said, highlighting the opportunities made available to the grads at Forsyth Tech.

"Tomorrow, begin the newest chapter of your life with focused passion, a dogged persistence to overcome obstacles that will try to block your path, and consistent determination to round out your weaknesses," he continued. "The flame of the American Dream is tonight alive and well. Its future now rests in your hands."

**'Great Moments Are Born from Great Opportunity'**


Among the graduates launching their pursuit of the American dream were 26 members of the first graduating class of the innovative Stokes Early College, which allows students in Stokes County to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree from Forsyth Tech in five years. This class earned both in just four years.

Earlier in the day, the 26 students received their high school diploma at a ceremony held at Calvary Baptist Church in King. "You are a part of history forever in Stokes County," Stokes County Schools Superintendent Ronnie Mendenhall told the graduates and the more than 300 family and friends who came to support them. "You are trailblazers, eager to make your mark in the world. You've made a mark in Stokes County that will be remembered forever.

"Great moments are born from great opportunity," he added.

The 26 newly minted high school grads attended their second graduation of the day at the Coliseum where they received their associate degrees. Each is planning to attend a four-year college in North Carolina, Virginia or Tennessee this fall with help from more than \$300,000 in college grants and scholarships their class earned.

**The Next Leg of the Journey**

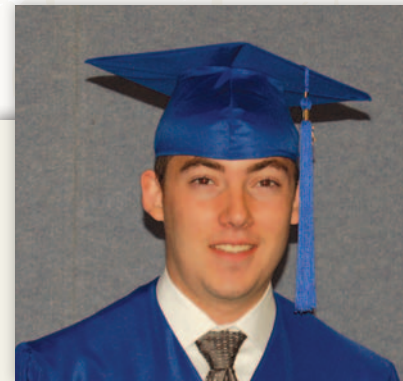
Forsyth Tech graduations are a time of great celebration. Each graduate has a unique story to tell about the difference Forsyth Tech made in his or her lives. Five of those stories are highlighted here. 



**Driving Miss Brittany.** Brittany Devasure, a graduate of Early College of Forsyth, will attend Appalachian State in the fall on a full scholarship. The day before graduation, Brittany was in Washington, D.C., to be recognized as the winner of a national safe-driving video competition and receive the prize of a \$5,000 college scholarship. "If it wasn't for my Early College teachers encouraging us to do video projects for class assignments, I wouldn't have discovered my passion for video," Brittany enthuses.



**Leading the Way.** Willie Byrd, a member of the pioneering Stokes Early College class, is going to Western Carolina in the fall, where he plans to major in physical therapy. A self-taught musician, he wrote and performed the Stokes Early College graduation song. "I chose to go to Early College to make my family proud. I wanted to show them I could make a difference, that I could rise up and make something of myself. I'm the first kid in my family to go to college," he adds proudly.



**Racing into the Future.** With his degree in Race Car Technology in hand, 21-year-old Corbin Heist is on the fast track to achieving his career goal of becoming a race car engineer. He was accepted into a four-year motorsports engineering program at Oxford Brooks University in Oxford, England, beginning this fall. "Forsyth Tech gave me the practical skills of working on race cars," Corbin asserts. "I want to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans as an engineer. I feel like my journey is about to start."



**Setting the World on Fire.** Johnna Harding received her diploma in welding and already has a job waiting for her at Deere-Hitachi in Kernersville. The only woman in the welding program this past year, Johnna earned a reputation as one of the best student welders the college has seen. "I love all of my Forsyth Tech instructors," she says. "If they weren't there, I couldn't be as good a welder as I am now. My Forsyth Tech certifications helped me get the job at Deere-Hitachi. And, when Forsyth Tech starts offering a two-year program in welding, I'll be back."



**A Born Leader.** Sonia Yancey's journey following high school graduation was full of challenges. As a young mother of two, she struggled, entering the welfare system, living in Section 8 housing and using food stamps. But she turned her life around. This fall, she will enter the criminal justice program at Appalachian State. "At one point, I took my age, multiplied it by two and realized this wasn't a dress rehearsal," Sonia says. "I came to Forsyth Tech one person and left another."



## JOE MCINTOSH

Director of the Student Success Center

As Director of the Student Success Center, Joe McIntosh considers himself somewhat of a coach. Forsyth Tech is his training camp and the students are his players. Like a coach, Joe would do anything to see his players succeed.

"The Student Success Center makes sure students have the proper resources to propel them toward success," says Joe. It provides mandatory new student orientation, academic advising, personal counseling, career and disability services.

Joe isn't alone; he manages a staff of 16 employees, including academic counselors at the off-campus centers.

Since receiving a bachelor's degree from NC State and a master's from NC A&T University — and a brief stint in the National Football League — Joe has worked a total of 26 years in student services roles at Davidson County Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, Guilford Tech and Forsyth Tech. He came to Forsyth Tech in 2003.


Joe agrees that helping students succeed isn't always easy. "One of the toughest things is helping students deal with frustration and disappointment," he says. "When I got drafted into the NFL, I prayed that it would be God's will for my life, but it wasn't. I used that to push me toward the next step in my life. I share that with students to show them how disappointment can be used as a catalyst."

Students have come to appreciate the encouragement and practical advice they get from Joe. "I tell kids, 'Have fun while you're here. Work hard, play hard and make memories that will last a lifetime.'"

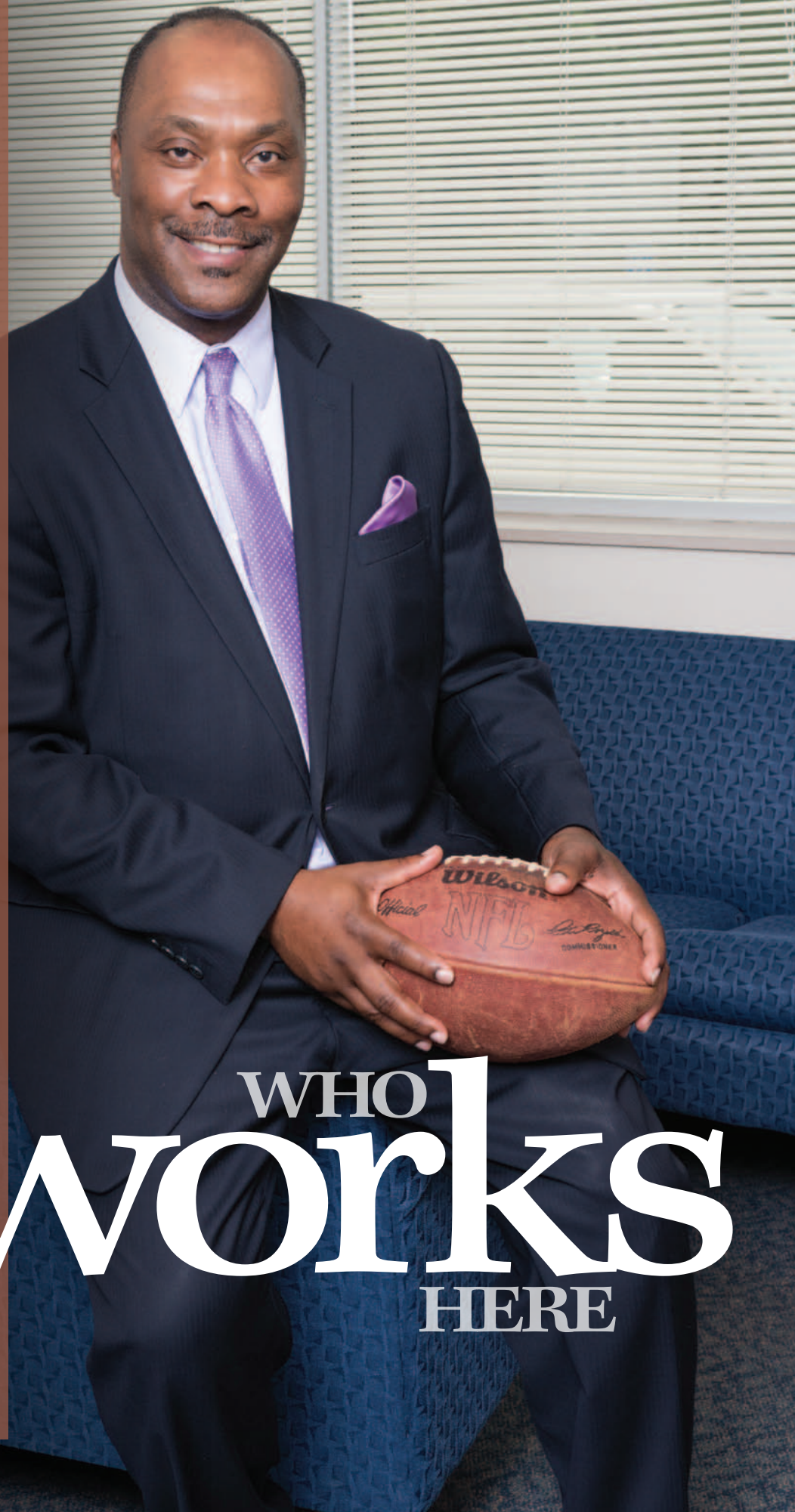
### A Childhood Dream Realized

When Joe was named ACC Rookie of the year in 1981 and then ACC Player of the Year in 1983 while attending NC State, it seemed his dream of playing professional football might come true. As a standout running back with 1,190 yards rushing in his senior year, rumors swirled of a first-round NFL draft selection. During a game against Clemson, however, a collision with an intimidating opponent broke a bone in Joe's foot. That opponent was William "The Refrigerator" Perry.

After much rehabilitation, Joe was drafted in the fifth round by the Detroit Lions but released after training camp. He then tried out for the San Francisco 49ers and Atlanta Falcons, but fell short of making the final roster.

Today, Joe focuses on being a great dad to his son Evan — a junior who ranks number one in his class at Lexington High School. Joe is still NC State's second all-time leading rusher behind Ted Brown. 

WHO  
**works**  
HERE



## KATIE JENNINGS

Student, Radiation Therapy Technology

Radiation wasn't something that ever concerned Katie Jennings — not until the Army decided it should.

As a teenager, Katie didn't know what she wanted to do with her life. In 2006, she was a single mother, partying too much and making poor decisions. "I was wild," says Katie. "I needed direction."

When her daughter was 14 months old, Katie joined the Army. After basic training, she worked full time until enrolling at Forsyth Tech in 2010.

Later that year, Katie left school to deploy with the U.S. Army Reserves and went to Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Although her title was Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Specialist, Katie drove a mine-resistant ambush-protective vehicle to move high-ranking officers around Iraq.

"It was dangerous," says Katie. "I drove 6,000 miles through a country where many people don't value human life. I felt like a target every day."

In January 2012 — after 17 months of active duty — Katie came home. She reenrolled at Forsyth Tech that fall.

Today, she is no longer a self-professed "wild child." "The Army taught me structure and discipline," Katie says. "I'll need those qualities when I start radiation therapy classes in August."


Katie will have plenty of support when classes start. "My grandmother is a cancer survivor who received radiation therapy. Watching her go through that opened my eyes to the importance of positive support for people getting radiation. And my mother received some of her nursing training at Forsyth Tech. Between the two of them, I'll have the best support system a student could have."

### Love Brings a Soldier Home

Being a single mom in a military "hot zone" may be one of the toughest jobs on the planet. At least, that's how Katie feels about it.

"I kept a picture of Lilly over my heart every day," Katie says. "I came home to prove I could be a better mom than I was before I left." Lilly was just 5 years old when Katie returned from Iraq.

"We have so much fun together now. We sing in the car, we act silly together, we go everywhere together."

As for Lilly, the feeling seems to be mutual. "She calls me her 'best friend,'" says Katie. "And she brags to her friends that her mom looks like Pink!" 

WHO  
**goes**  
HERE



# Rx for Safety

*An Interview with Sarah Clement,  
Program Coordinator, Pharmacy Technology*



**I**n her more than 10 years of working as a certified pharmacy technician in hospital, retail and family-owned pharmacies, Sarah Clement has consulted with many patients about the safe use of their prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. Here, Sarah shares some tips on how to use and store medications to reduce the possibility of medicine-related emergencies.



**Let's start with some basic information. What over-the-counter medications should every household medicine cabinet have in case of illness or injury?**



First of all, many home medicine cabinets are located in a bathroom. The bathroom is the last place you should keep medicine. Most drugs, unless otherwise indicated, need to be kept at room temperature. The higher temperature and humidity from showers and baths can cause medications to "cake" and deteriorate, which can affect how the drugs work.



**Even if the medication is kept inside a tightly capped bottle?**



Yes. Another environmental condition that can affect the effectiveness of drugs is light – medications come in amber bottles to keep the sunlight out. *Always keep medicines out of direct sunlight.*



**OK, back to the first question – what over-the-counter medications should every home have on hand?**



I would recommend acetaminophen for pain and fever control, chewable aspirin in case someone has a heart attack, a triple antibiotic cream to prevent infection of a wound, an antihistamine to treat symptoms of allergies, allergic reactions and a cold, and cough medicine. People who have high blood pressure should be careful when using cough medicine, though – some cough medicines can actually raise blood pressure.



**What about supplements, such as vitamins – what do you recommend?**



Pharmacists and pharmacy techs can't consult patients on vitamins, because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) doesn't regulate them.



**What advice do you have for those of us who keep old or unused prescriptions around the house?**



Check the expiration dates on all the bottles on a regular basis. There's a one-year shelf life for prescription drugs – after one year, get rid of them. You need to pay extra-special attention to the expiration dates on antibiotics. Tetracycline is a big one – it's toxic if you use it out of date.



**Should people get rid of unused or outdated medicines by flushing them down the drain?**



No – never put medication down the drain. It gets into our water and sewer systems. Some drugs, such as those used in chemotherapy, are cytotoxic – that means they're deadly to the cells. You don't want to be drinking water contaminated with toxic drugs.



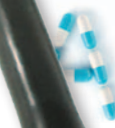
**So, how should people properly dispose of drugs?**



Different retail pharmacies around town have "Medication Take-back Day." On those days, you can turn your medications in – no questions asked. The pharmacies then dispose of the medication in a safe way. You can also grind or crush your meds or dissolve them in water and throw them away in the trash. Medicine bottles are recyclable – just take the labels off before you recycle. If a family member is being treated at home and passes away, the home health agency involved or pharmacy may be willing to dispose of unused drugs.



**Is there an advantage to going to one pharmacy to get your prescriptions filled?**



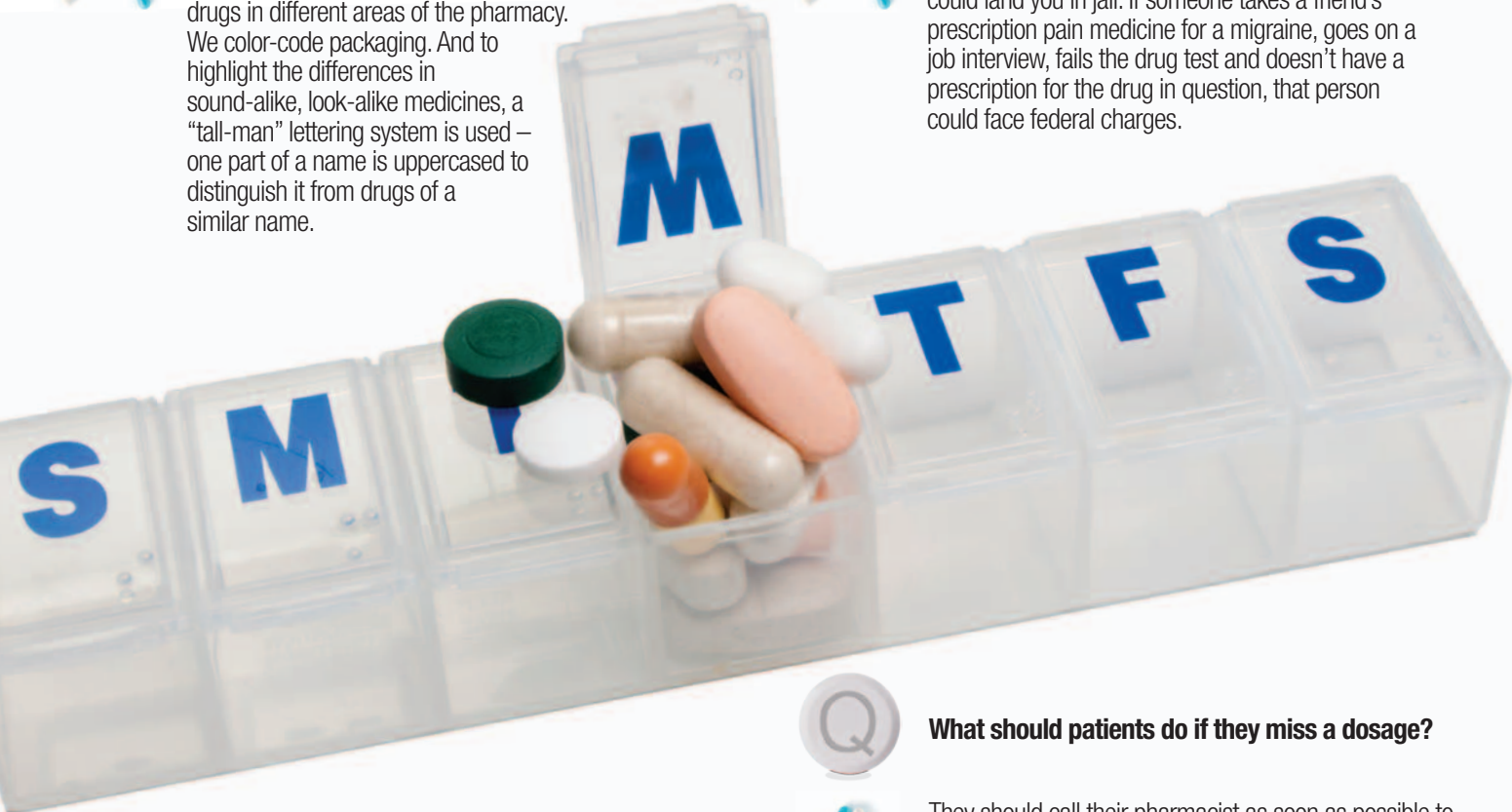
Definitely. It's safest to get all your meds at one pharmacy, because the pharmacist and pharmacy techs have access to your history and current prescriptions, and can accurately advise you on possible drug interactions.



**What safeguards do pharmacies take to ensure that the right prescription gets filled and given to the right patient?**



We scan the bottles the drugs come in from the pharmaceutical companies against the label that goes on the patient's medicine bottle. We hold similarly named drugs in different areas of the pharmacy. We color-code packaging. And to highlight the differences in sound-alike, look-alike medicines, a "tall-man" lettering system is used – one part of a name is uppercased to distinguish it from drugs of a similar name.



**Do you have any advice for how patients can make sure their medications work as effectively as possible?**



Don't take medicines out of their original containers or mix them together, because you might not remember which drug is which, when to take them and the dosage. Pharmacies are putting more information on labels to help you remember when and how frequently you should take each prescription. If you forget what a particular medicine is for, you can call the pharmacy at the number listed on the label. Be sure to take prescriptions for the time recommended by your physician. If you stop taking antibiotics early, for example, the infection is not truly gone. The infection can rally back with a vengeance, and bacteria can become resistant to the prescribed medicine.



**People share prescriptions all the time – one person might give a friend a pain pill for the sudden onset of a migraine. Is this OK to do once in a while?**



No. First of all, it's dangerous. The person receiving someone else's prescription could have a serious reaction to that medicine. Plus, it's illegal to share prescriptions and could land you in jail. If someone takes a friend's prescription pain medicine for a migraine, goes on a job interview, fails the drug test and doesn't have a prescription for the drug in question, that person could face federal charges.



**What should patients do if they miss a dosage?**



They should call their pharmacist as soon as possible to ask how to make it up. Also, many insurance companies have a nurse on call, even at night. It's important to have a constant level of drug in your blood system. You don't want big jumps in doses, because it could affect your organs, especially the liver and kidney.



**The elderly often have trouble remembering when to take their medications and what to take. Any advice for them or their caretakers?**



First of all, you don't have to be elderly to need a reminder about when to take your medicine! I recommend that patients taking multiple prescriptions create a chart using these three column headings: Name of Medication, How Often It Should Be Taken and When, and the Dosage. Post the completed chart in an obvious place – maybe on a refrigerator or cabinet door. I'd also recommend using a pill box – they come in a variety of options, such as a seven-day morning and afternoon pack, and a 30-day organizer.



**What about patients who are visually impaired – any advice for how they can tell one prescription from another?**



They can put meds in different-sized bottles. In fact, pharmacy techs can code the bottle size of recurring medications in the computer, so when these patients fill prescriptions, the meds are directed into the appropriate-size bottle for consistency.



**Do you have any other ideas that can help patients manage multiple prescriptions?**



Actually, there is something new out there. It's called the "Intelligent Bottle Cap." It's a bottle top that fits most standard-size medicine bottles. There's a tiny battery-powered wireless computer built into the top that reminds you when to take your medicine. It can send reports to your doctor's office so he or she can track compliance. The downside is that you have to pay a monthly wireless service fee. Many people might not be able to afford it. But, if insurance companies start covering this service, it could help with patient compliance and cut down on drug and insurance costs.



**What other advice do you have for patients to help them avoid problems with their medications?**



Don't be afraid to ask questions of your doctor before coming to the pharmacy. If your doctor doesn't have time, pharmacists can answer your questions. Always keep a list of medications in your purse or wallet or with your medications. Be sure you also keep a list of things you're allergic to, including medications.



**Anything else you'd like to add?**



Be sure you use childproof bottles, if possible, and keep your medications stored in a safe place away from children – and pets. Every year, more than 67,000 children are seen in emergency rooms for medicine poisoning, and medication mishaps and fatalities are on the rise with household pets. *Finally, don't keep tubes of medicine ointments or creams next to your toothbrush!*

## TAKING CHARGE

When you have a nonemergency question about a prescription or over-the-counter (OTC) medication, help is only a click away. Here's a list of a few available resources where you can learn more about what your doctor ordered:

- > **Safe Kids Worldwide | [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)**  
The place to go for information about medication safety tips for babies through big kids.
- > **Mayo Clinic | [www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org)**  
This site lets you search for prescription and OTC drugs by name, and provides a range of information about each one, such as proper use, precautions and side effects.
- > **WebMD | [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)**  
This site features the Pill Identification Tool that identifies medication based on shape, color or imprint of prescription or OTC drugs.
- > **PocketPharmacist | [www.danike.com/pocketpharmacist](http://www.danike.com/pocketpharmacist)**  
This is a downloadable app for iPhones, iPads and Android mobile devices that provides drug information, an interaction checker and a medication organizer.

# Spotlight On WORTHY WOMEN

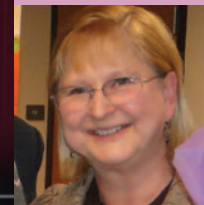
The Forsyth Tech Women's Achievement Awards began as the vision of Tamara Lowery. Tamara was a pre-nursing student at Forsyth Tech – a forward thinker who took action and acknowledged other women who did the same. She has since transferred to Gardner-Webb University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Nursing, but her legacy lives on through the annual Women's Achievement Awards.



The 3rd Annual Women's Achievement Awards recently honored seven Forsyth Tech women for their commitment to service and their passion for impacting the lives of others. The event was highlighted by a special address by Sandra Hughes, a veteran television broadcaster with more than 38 years of service on WFMY News 2 and the first African-American woman in the Piedmont Triad to host her own daily television talk show.



Donna Reynolds turned a personal tragedy into a blessing for others. In 2009, she was hit by a passenger truck while crossing Silas Creek Parkway at the same location where city buses regularly made an unauthorized stop to drop off Forsyth Tech students. Understanding the danger, she began a tireless campaign to get students dropped off at a safer location. In 2011, her request was granted by the city of Winston-Salem. Since then, Donna has earned an Associate Degree in Paralegal Technology and will soon graduate with a second Associate Degree in Criminal Justice Technology.



Cecelia Davis has dedicated her life to advocating for veterans. Before coming to Forsyth Tech, she worked as a counseling psychologist for the US Department of Veterans Affairs, providing rehabilitation counseling to disabled veterans. At Forsyth Tech, she was a counselor in the Student Success Center and a staff advisor for the Student Veterans Association of Forsyth Tech (SVAFT). As an Army veteran herself, Cecelia's passion has raised awareness of the issues affecting veterans, their dependents and those still serving our country.



Before enrolling at Forsyth Tech, Katie Jennings served in the United States Army Reserves as a specialist in Chemical Biological Nuclear Weapons Warfare. During her five years of service, she spent 15 months in Iraq, where she became a member of an elite protective-services team that escorted high-ranking officers through Iraq. Currently, she is a full-time student pursuing a degree in Radiation Therapy Technology and is a mom to her five-year-old daughter, Lilly.



Inspiring students to embrace learning and to express themselves is Carol Hayes' calling. She is an instructor of American Women Studies and Communications at Forsyth Tech, as well as a co-advisor for the International Club. Carol's students say that she "is one of the best role models a girl could ask for." Another commented that "Mrs. Hayes has the ability to make public speaking fun."



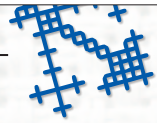
Currently pursuing an Associate Degree in Nursing, Ashley Williams wants to make the world a better place by working with either geriatric or oncology patients. In addition to her education, she also works two part-time jobs and is a primary caregiver for her grandparents, both of whom are battling life-threatening illnesses. Ashley's classmates say she goes above and beyond to help anyone in need, and always has a smile on her face.



Pauline Morris' life centers around helping international students who want to make the United States their home. As Director of the International Center of Forsyth Tech and Coordinator of the English as a Second Language program, she helps non-English-speaking students with any issues that arise, from language skills to credit building to small-business start-ups. She also found private funding to provide GED classes in Spanish. In her own words, she's "just an African with a Spanish heart and an American passport."



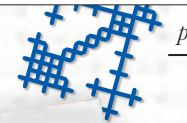
A "fierce advocate of students" is one way to describe Dr. Deborah Pritchard. Before being appointed Coordinator of BioNetwork in the Economic and Workforce Development Division, Deborah was a full-time Chemistry instructor at Forsyth Tech for eight years. She stays active in promoting student involvement, encouraging students to find their passion and finding ways to make a difference. As one student said, "Dr. Pritchard strives to awaken the curiosity and academic ambition of her students. Her support and encouragement increases her students' confidence in the pursuit of academic achievement."



Forsyth Tech alumni can be found in every one of the United States and in practically every country around the globe. These alumni have taken the skills and education they received here to make great contributions to the world.

There's also a very special group of alumni – 150, to be exact – who have chosen to make their contributions right here at home as staff and faculty of Forsyth Tech.

Following are five pairs of people – 10 alumni who not only work here, but who also share their workplace with a family member.



*Barbara Fuller & April Paradis*

There's no sibling rivalry between sisters Barbara Fuller and April Paradis. Both earned Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees from Forsyth Tech, both earned bachelor's degrees from Fort Hays State University and now they both work at Forsyth Tech.

Barbara is an administrative assistant in Humanities & Social Sciences. She enrolled at Forsyth Tech as a college transfer student and worked as a peer tutor. She also worked as a peer advisor, secretary in the president's office and advisor in the testing center. In 2009, she took a job in Admissions working with her sister. She moved to her current role in 2011.

April has worked in the Admissions Department for the past 10 years. While attending classes in the Paralegal program, she worked in the Purchasing Department and then in Student Services. After graduating, she took a full-time job as an admissions processor and was ultimately promoted to admissions counselor a year ago.

"We've had our own paths," says Barbara. "I'm as proud of hers as I am of mine."



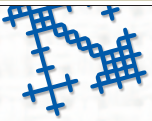
*Teresa Smith & Lee Smith*

Mother and son Teresa and Lee Smith share a passion for technology – his in the arts and hers in the sciences.

Teresa is the clinical education coordinator in Nuclear Medicine Technology and will celebrate 35 years in that role next April. She earned an A.A.S. degree from Forsyth Tech, a bachelor's degree from Greensboro College and a master's degree from North Carolina A&T University. In her role here, she teaches Intro and Overview to Nuclear Medicine, and coordinates clinical education experiences for students of the program.

Lee has loved art since he was a kid. When he was introduced to screen printing during high school, he knew his career would involve art. He earned an A.A.S. degree from Forsyth Tech and a bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University. He worked as a graphic supervisor during his last year at Forsyth Tech and while at Appalachian. Today, he is a full-time instructor in Graphic Arts & Imaging Technology.





“WE’VE  
MADE  
A LOT OF  
MEMORIES  
HERE.”

~ Scot Quesenberg ~



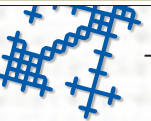
### Vickie and Danny Cranford

Vickie Cranford calls herself a Forsyth Tech “pusher.” Along with her husband Danny, Vickie encourages everyone to enroll at Forsyth Tech. “Even strangers,” she says. “It’s a great place to learn and it’s less expensive than a four-year school.”

Vickie was a stay-at-home mom after several years in the corporate world and found her computer skills insufficient for getting a job. So she enrolled at Forsyth Tech and began balancing a part-time job, part-time school and full time motherhood. She graduated in 1991 from the Administrative Office Technology program and began working full time as a secretary in Continuing Education. She is now administrative assistant to the dean of Health Technologies.

Danny has always loved engineering. After the Westinghouse plant at which he had worked for 30 years closed down, he enrolled at Forsyth Tech and graduated in 2005 from the Manufacturing Engineering Technology program. He now teaches part time in Forsyth Tech’s Economic and Workforce Development Division during the summer and is a full-time, nine-month faculty member at another community college.

The couple’s oldest son, Aaron, graduated in May with a certificate in Paralegal and plans to continue his education in the Associate Degree program at Forsyth Tech this fall. The couple’s daughter-in-law, Tina Anselmo Cranford – who is married to their other son Derek – graduated in May from the Pharmacy Technology program.



### Amy & Scot Quesenberg

It was 1995 and Amy Smith was a student at Forsyth Tech. While writing a story for the student newspaper, *Technically Speaking*, about a fire that had destroyed a building on campus, she interviewed an employee who had been displaced by the fire; it was Scot Quesenberg. The couple married in 1997.

Amy holds an A.A.S. degree from Forsyth Tech and a bachelor’s degree from Salem College. She has worked in the Business Office, in Finance Services and is now staff assistant in Adult Literacy.

Scot enrolled at Forsyth Tech in 1981 and earned diplomas in Electrical Installation and HVAC. He was hired as a maintenance mechanic in 1983, became supervisor of Buildings & Grounds in 1992 and, after a brief stint at a public school system, returned to Forsyth Tech in 2000 as director of the Physical Plant.

“We’ve been at Forsyth Tech a long time,” says Scot. “We’ve made a lot of memories here.”



### Chris Pearce & Elsie Pearce

When Chris Pearce decided to enroll at Forsyth Tech, he did something few people ever do – he asked his mother to join him. And while she had already earned a bachelor’s degree from East Carolina University, Elsie Pearce hadn’t been in a classroom for 35 years. With Chris’ encouragement, they enrolled in the same program and registered for the same classes.

They were part-time students and part-time employees for a few years, and completed A.A.S. degrees in Information Systems in 1998.

Elsie then took a job elsewhere, but came back a year later. She has served in several roles at Forsyth Tech over the past 15 years – all of them computer related. Today, she is an academic computer support coordinator under Learning Technologies.

After graduation, Chris worked in the computer lab and taught classes, while taking online classes at ECU toward his bachelor’s degree. In 2008, he took the job as web services manager and was promoted to assistant director of Information Services in 2009. He completed his bachelor’s degree in 2012.

Through it all, these two have stuck together. “It’s nice to have a cheerleader,” says Chris. Elsie agrees, adding, “We champion each other.”



Michael Burke ably takes on the persona of schizophrenic Robert in a scene from "Proof" during the first-ever Fine Arts Showcase.

# GETTING TO THE Art OF THE MATTER

# Art

One evening this past spring, in Forsyth Tech's West Campus auditorium, 13 students were caught in the act – of acting.

That's because the City of Arts and Innovation now has another source for arts education and training: the new Associate of Fine Arts program at Forsyth Tech. The students, from the Acting I class, were participating in the college's first-ever Fine Arts Showcase, along with students from the Drawing I and Two-Dimension Design classes who had their work on display in the hall outside the auditorium.

The drama students acted out six scenes from four plays – "Proof," "A Raisin in the Sun," "The Whipping Man" and "True West" – and received standing ovations from an appreciative audience, a testament to the quality of their performances.

Forsyth Tech's Fine Arts program was first introduced in fall 2012 to help prepare students to transfer to a four-year college to study visual art, drama or music, or to obtain a two-year degree and directly enter the workforce.


"We want to offer students the opportunity to receive either intensive arts training or dabble in the arts, even if they are obtaining a degree in a different subject area," says Marshall Botvinick, program coordinator for Fine Arts Drama/Theater.

"We are the only community college in the state that allows students to apply coursework in art, drama, music and film toward all degree requirements," he adds.

Forsyth Tech's program is interdisciplinary. Students interested in more than one art form can take classes in the forms they like the most. "The various art forms need to exist in conversation with each other," Marshall explains. "Skills in the visual arts have an application in theater, and vice versa. One form informs the other. We are creating well-rounded artists here."

Marshall, who has been acting since he was 8 years old, has an undergraduate degree in Theater Studies from Duke University and a Master in Fine Arts from the A.R.T. Institute at Harvard University. Mostly, though, he has a passion for directing and teaching. "I'm a much better director than I am an actor," Marshall states. "I love being in the classroom. I love my students."

And, if the students who participated in the first Fine Arts Showcase are an indication, the feeling is mutual.

"Mr. B is a powerhouse of energy. He is fun and intense. He shares his enthusiasm with us, and age doesn't make a difference," says 58-year-old Fine Arts student Michael Burke. 



Marshall Botvinick, or "Mr. B" as his students affectionately call him, is program coordinator for Forsyth Tech's Fine Arts Drama/Theater degree. A self-described "dramaturg," Marshall believes that the future of arts in the 21st century will be written by well-rounded artists who are business and accounting savvy.



Tamika Stewart portrays the pragmatic character, Ruth, from "A Raisin in the Sun," about a family in post-WWII Chicago trying to pursue the American Dream.



In his role as Hal in "Proof," Luke Phillips challenges the authenticity of a proof written by a member of a family of mentally unstable mathematical geniuses.



Alex Thompson relaxes before his performance as manipulative Hollywood producer Saul in a scene from "True West," a dark comedy about Hollywood, blood wars and the mythic American West.

# A SALUTE } to success }

Forsyth Tech has been the catalyst for many success stories about students, alumni, instructors and staff members. These stories of strength, perseverance and creativity often encourage others to reach higher and achieve even more in their own lives. We thank those who serve as examples of success that others may follow.

## Tim Reynolds

As a young boy, Tim Reynolds loved rainy days; they meant staying inside to draw. "I've drawn since I was old enough to hold a crayon," says Tim, a 2006 graduate of the Architectural Technology program at Forsyth Tech.

Born and raised in Winston-Salem, Tim spent a couple of years taking general education courses at Appalachian State University. But when he realized most of his classes were art classes – and that he was ignoring all of his "required" classes – he packed up and headed home.

That's when he found his place at Forsyth Tech. "I enrolled in the Architectural Technology program and was soon introduced to 3-D software," says Tim. "I knew I'd found what I wanted to do. Building and moving stuff around in 3-D space was like a dream come true."

After graduating with an Associate of Applied Science degree, Tim went to work for a local architecture firm, but soon felt the need for something new. So, in 2008, he did something drastic. "I sold everything I owned, and decided to drive cross-country and start over someplace new. I hopped in my car with an iMac, a box of clothes and a snowboard, and headed for Denver."

Tim lived briefly in Denver and then in Atlanta before landing a full-time job as a senior designer with a marketing firm in Milwaukee. He's been there for nearly four years, and moonlights as a freelance 3-D illustrator with a variety of startups, agencies and magazines.

Like the kid with the crayon, Tim hasn't stopped creating. "A couple of years ago, I began experimenting with interpreting organic shapes found in nature into stripped-down geometric designs. The more I dug into the process, the more intrigued I became. I developed a unique style. It's rewarding to develop a new style that inspires other designers."

While Tim's path to success may have taken a detour or two, he's clear about his advice to young people interested in a creative field. "Make work," he says. "Make lots of work. Make the kind of work you want to get paid to make. Make work that you love. Make work that challenges you, that you care about, that you're proud to show. Then do just that – make it and show it."



## Irina Paolillo

Irina Paolillo's "American Dream" has taken several twists and turns. Born in Yekaterinburg, Russia, Irina earned a degree in sociology and political science from Ural State University in Russia. While in school, she met a young American exchange student. They fell in love, married, moved to the U.S. and began a family.

They were in the process of renovating their Massachusetts home when the roof collapsed, seriously injuring Irina's husband. After recuperating in Russia for a year, they flew to California, spent \$500 on an old car and began the long drive back to Massachusetts. However, as they approached the Clemmonsville exit on I-40 in North Carolina, their car broke down. With barely

enough money for a hotel room, they decided that Irina would get a job to pay for the car repairs. Since she had no car, she found two jobs within walking distance of their home.

When it was determined that their old car couldn't be fixed, the family decided to call North Carolina their home. Irina continued working both jobs for the next three years, while trying to care for her family. Tragically, she got a call one day that her father, a cardiologist in Russia, had died of a heart attack. Not only was the family struggling financially, but the emotional burden was nearly overwhelming. "My father and I were very close, but my family needed me," said Irina, "so I woke up every morning and put one foot in front of the other."

Hoping to create a better life for her family, she began looking at educational options. What she found was the nursing program at Forsyth Tech. "My husband took care of the kids while I was in school and working two jobs," Irina says. "I would run home between classes just to see my family for a few minutes."

This past May, their sacrifice paid off when Irina graduated with a nursing degree, as well as an award from the faculty for excellence in nursing. "Getting my nursing degree is a huge step, but it's just one step," says Irina. "I plan to attend UNC Greensboro this fall to get my BSN degree. Then I'll get a doctorate. In seven years, I'll be a nurse practitioner in cardiology, focusing on preventive care."

Clearly, Irina isn't deterred by a challenge. "As long as I have health, nothing else matters," she says. "Some people may look at my life and see only the struggle. I look at my life and see the possibilities."

Dr. Tom Shown:

## Why I Support Forsyth Tech



Tom Shown is not only committed to helping students get the education they need, he asks those students for a favor in return. He asks them to "Pay It Forward."

"Paying it forward is an age-old concept that could still change the world," says Tom, a semi-retired urologist and supporter of the nursing program at Forsyth Tech.

Born and raised in Kentucky, Tom got his undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky and then finished his medical degree at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Next came 9½ years in the Army – attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before deciding it was time to put his training to work in the civilian world.

After a job in Denver fell through, Tom launched a job-seeking trip through the south. While visiting a friend in Winston-Salem, he had several job interviews and ultimately joined two urologists in a practice here. Tom practiced there for 30 years and retired in 2000.


However, retirement wasn't the end of his career. Within a year, Tom got a call from a urologist in Vermont who was looking for someone to cover his practice so he could go on vacation. "I became a traveling physician that day," Tom says. "I now work about 50 days per year, filling in so that other urologists can go to medical conventions or take a vacation. It keeps me

involved with patients, and necessitates some reading and medical meetings to help me stay current."

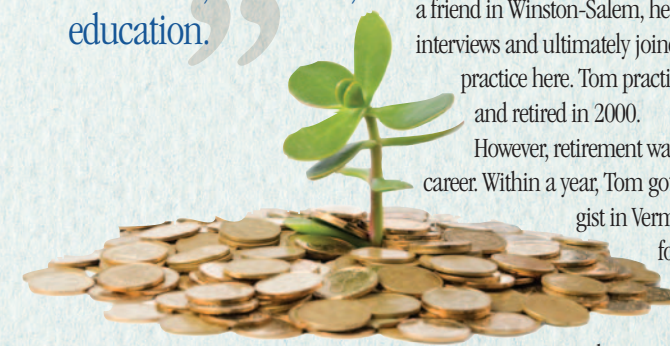
Tom is also passionate about education. "This country's educational standards are decreasing in comparison to other countries," he says. "If we want our young people to be able to compete on a global scale, there are only three ways to do that – education, education, education."

But he's also quick to point out the challenges. "The Federal Reserve Bank of New York recently reported that student loan debt in this country is over \$1 trillion," he says. "Keeping education affordable must be a priority, and incorporating the Internet will ultimately be a big part of offering affordable education to many more students."

Toward that end, Tom has supported the nursing program at Forsyth Tech for several years. His generous support provides scholarships – called the PAY IT FORWARD Scholarships – that continue to encourage and support nursing students at Forsyth Tech.

"When a student receives one of my scholarships, they also get a note from me asking them to pay it forward when they are able," Tom says. "It doesn't have to be in the form of a financial gift. Helping others in any number of ways can keep the Pay It Forward movement going. Even if they don't follow through, if my small contribution allows someone to get an education without accumulating debt, then I've done my part to make the world a better place. And it just makes me feel good." 

"If we want our young people to be able to compete on a global scale, there are only three ways to do that – education, education, education."



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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*Your gift creates a strong college and a strong community.*



36,000 copies of this document were printed at a cost of \$0.63 per copy.

*In Focus*



**Manifesting Sound into 3-D.** This past spring, Forsyth Tech collaborated with the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Arts (SECCA), the Winston-Salem Symphony and German visualization artist, Andreas Nicholas Fischer, on a unique project. Using computer code based on sound data recorded by the artist, the college's Computer-Integrated Machining Department milled cedar wood into two 3-D sculptures. The result? Two works of original art approximately 12" x 14" x 4" each that resemble sharply eroded mountain ranges. *(To read more about this project, turn to page 5)* 