

Technically Speaking

SPRING 2011 SPECIAL EDITION



Fifty Years and Thirty Miles

By: Tommy Guastafarro

Fifty years ago on February 1, 1960, four students from North Carolina A&T University performed a sit-in at a “whites only” lunch counter inside a Woolworth department store in Greensboro, NC. Half a century later and thirty miles west of that ground-breaking civil rights movement, the first African-American president spoke at Forsyth Technical Community College.

On December 6, 2010, President Barack Obama toured biotechnology classes and gave an attention-grabbing speech on the West Campus to students, faculty, business leaders, and dignitaries from around North Carolina. Among those in attendance were Senators Kay Hagen and Richard Burr, Governor Bev Perdue, and Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. Many of Winston-Salem’s county commissioners were also present, joining Winston-Salem Mayor Alan Joines.

The 41-minute speech covered the job crisis, the economy, and education. President Obama incorporated all three of the subjects into how they affect the lives of everyone in the room. At times it seemed as if the president were speaking to each of us personally.

ships that you’re building with advanced manufacturing and biotechnology firms will ensure that the businesses of the future locate here, they come here, they stay here, they hire right here in Winston-Salem,” said the president.

Aside from the aforementioned civil rights moment that happened fifty years ago, President Obama brought up the Sputnik satellite launched into space by the former Soviet Union. It was at that moment the United States became focused and driven in order to beat the Soviet Union in the space race.

President Obama brought this Sputnik moment up during his speech, believing America is on the brink of another “Sputnik moment”:

“So 50 years later, our generation’s Sputnik moment is back. This is our moment. If the recession has taught us anything, it’s that we cannot go back to an economy



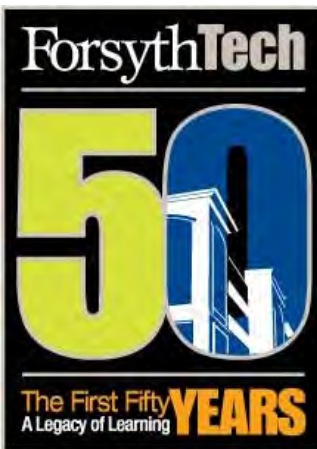
“I came to Forsyth today because you’ve shown what this future can look like. Half a century later, you’re still giving students the skills and training they need to get good jobs, but of course... but courses in machine shop and car mechanics have now broadened to degrees in mechanical engineering technology and nanotechnology and biotechnology. And meanwhile, your unique partner-

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This commemorative edition of *Technically Speaking* was only able to happen with the help of Student Activities and The Foundation of Forsyth Tech



Fifty Years and Thirty Miles cont.

that's driven by too much spending, too much borrowing, running up credit cards, taking out a lot of home equity loans, paper profits that are built on financial speculation. We've got to rebuild on a new and stronger foundation for economic growth."

Forsyth Tech President Dr. Green, who invited President Obama to the college about six months ago, believes that the president's visit was a monumental event for the students and faculty of Forsyth Tech: "Having all eyes on our school today is a huge event. This is a great day for all of us."

Forsyth County Commissioner

David Plyler summed up President Obama's visit in one simple sen-



tence, "It means everything." As many Forsyth Tech students have been going through their own tough time in regard to the economy and high unemployment,

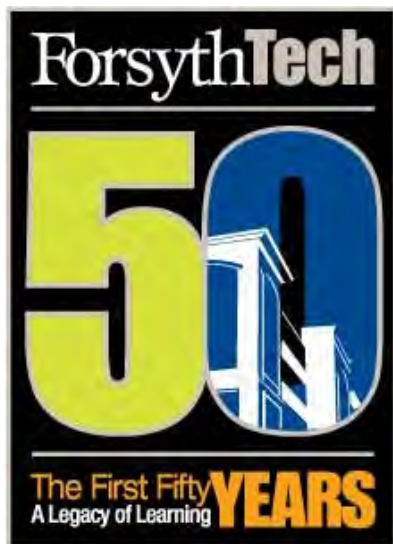
having President Obama to remind us in person that it is time to rise to the occasion as Americans gives the students of Forsyth Tech something that is much needed in these times... hope. After all, isn't that what this president has been so great at?

It has been fifty years from the sit-ins at the Greensboro Woolworth store that paved the way for this president to come and speak at Forsyth Tech. Imagine where we can be in another fifty years if our generation realizes this "Sputnik moment" and puts forth the work and ambition to overcome this new set of obstacles.



**January 26, 2011, 4 p.m.
Ardmore Auditorium**

As part of our SciTech Lecture Series, Dr. Anthony Atala, Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, will speak on the topic of "Regenerative Medicine: New Approaches to Healthcare."

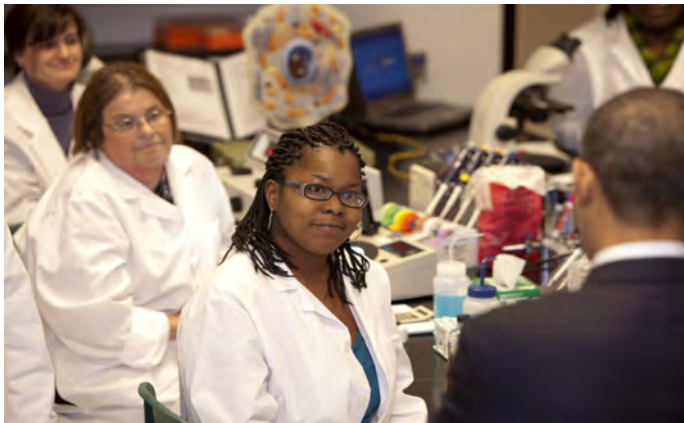


**February 24, 2011, 4 p.m.
Ardmore Auditorium**

Our SciTech Lecture Series continues in the new year with Dr. Frank Carver, Coordinator, Environmental Sciences, Forsyth Tech, addressing "Environmental Health Science Curriculum Development in Liberia, West Africa."

First Visit

Forsyth Tech Welcomes President Barack Obama



From the Desk of the Student Body President



Happy New Year Forsyth Tech,

The black limo with the American flags rolls up to the front doors of West Campus, and the excitement ripples across the estimated crowd of 300. The President of the United States steps out and into the West Campus auditorium. Less than 4 days ago we had no idea that we would be within minutes of shaking the President's hand. Within seconds he was standing right in front of me.

The minute I looked up at him I felt different. I guess I didn't know what I would feel at that moment, but what I felt from him was peace. He was a down-to-earth person, not just a political personality. He felt like a member of the family.

Then the words rolled out of my mouth: "Hi sir. My name is Marysue Antonucci, and I am the student body president at Forsyth Tech. I was elected in the same year you were, and I will have served two terms in 2011." He smiled and laughed slightly, and then he said, "Can I do anything for you?" I said, "No sir, but I would like to encourage you. God put you where you are, and we are standing behind you and praying for you." The President smiled and said, "Thank you. Please continue to pray for me and my family." He turned to leave and my last response was: "Sir, please tell your wife and children we said, hello." Wow, what an experience.

~Mary Sue Antonucci, SGA President



From the Desk of the Editor

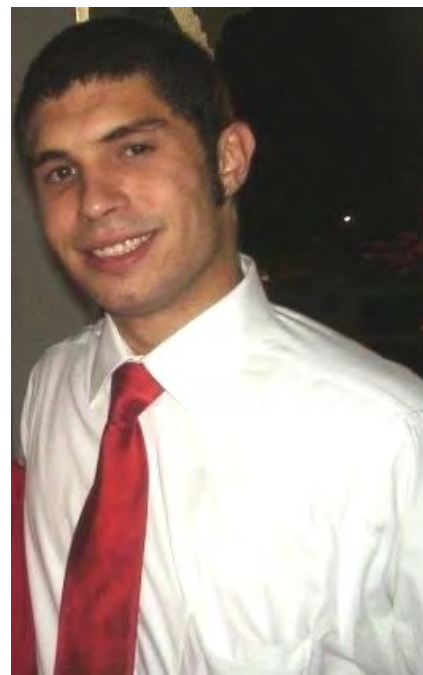
Hello Forsyth Tech Students!

Whoa! What a historic event for our school! For one day all of the world's eyes were on Forsyth Tech.

Events like this are what makes Forsyth Tech such a special learning environment for all students, faculty, staff and administrators involved. This truly has been a remarkable 50th Anniversary celebration for our school.

As we begin the next fifty years, remember, it all starts with the students. Without the students there is no President Obama visit and there is no Forsyth Tech. To you new students starting this semester and you seasoned students getting ready to graduate, make every day one our school will be proud of.

Visits from the president may not happen every day, but long-term recognition is what will make this school a model for others around the country and the world. As President Obama referred to in his speech, Forsyth Tech is an example of when funding education goes right.



Keep up the great work,

Thomas Guastaferrro, General Editor, *Technically Speaking*

As always, we at *Technically Speaking* love to hear your article ideas, comments, and anything else you might want to say. Drop us an e-mail at technicallyspeaking@forsythtech.edu.

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Peculiar

By: Tony Sanders

On December 6, 2010, President Barack Obama visited Forsyth Tech to help us celebrate our 50th birthday. The President toured the school's Biotechnology classrooms and met several Biotech students and instructors. He then spoke to a gathering of students, staff, faculty and local business leaders on the importance Forsyth Tech and other community colleges play in "giving students the skills and training they need to get good jobs."
www.forsythtech.edu/president-obama

December 1, 2010

There is a 1% chance of anything remarkable happening. When I entered the Tech Building that morning, I couldn't quite put my finger on the change. Entering the Student Activities office, instead of seeing students inside playing cards and laughing, two people in suits sat across from each other, papers strewn on the table.

Peculiar.

They were much too well dressed to be new administrators. The people remaining inside were in "the know," surely.

President Barack Obama was visiting the West Campus to make remarks on the standing of America in the race for our "Sputnik moment." A little more asking and digging showed me that only a select few were going to see the President, let alone attend his speaking event. West Campus's gymnasium can fit around 300 people, which, apparently, was enough for the county commissioners, senators, biotech students and a few other select people.

Silent men and women with suits and without names patrolled the Tech Building; we speculated that morning that they were doing a thorough job in whatever they were doing preceding the arrival of President Obama.

December 2, 2010

The day was nearing for me as I, like many of you, prepared for my bittersweet student duties. All of my classes were talking about President Obama's arrival. I decided on attempting to attend this event

"Why is he coming to Forsyth Tech?"

Because Forsyth Tech is one of the fastest growing community colleges in the nation! We have an estimated 10,000 + curriculum students, 10% average enrollment growth per year, and a large health and biotechnology degree program.

Puh-lease.

The truth is the pride that we have in this college to maintain such a standard must have caught his eye and consisted of something he wanted to speak on. We should be proud to have regard from a world leader.

Friday December 3, 2010

It was the beginning of a bold move.

I sat in the SGA Office listening to my good friend Charles Simmons. His reasoning and its similarity with mine at that moment was convenient. It was akin to two scientists coming up with the same

theory. If the students cannot see him, then the Student Government Council should at least have this opportunity, among other programs and reputable groups.

"If we can get to the President, think of the possibilities!" Charles said. "This is major!" Finally the possibility of something remarkable happening increased for my entire week.

We made a major move by going to the Allman Center and writing a letter to the school administration, requesting that ALL SGA members and associates attend this event. We left the letter with the secretary and waited for a call that very well would not have come had it not been for initiative.

And it did; we were lucky enough to get to attend President Obama's speech.

Remarkable things can happen. Through calculated results the minor successes are achieved. You should never let inner feelings ruin new opportunities in your life. Possibility is only the default measure, but boldness and initiative can work miracles.



Biotechnology: A Community

By: Mary Sue Antonucci and Anthony Oakes

A Teacher's Perspective:

A few years ago, Forsyth Tech received federal funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to buy equipment for a Bio-technology program. This, along with Forsyth Tech's President Green's invitation to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary, prompted a visit from U.S. President Barack Obama.

Among other things, President Obama visited the students participating in the Biotechnology program.

Alan Beard, Biotechnology Instructor, feels as though the president's visit gave the biotech students an identity and sense of community. Beard observed that the President really cared about the back story of the students. "The President asked every student what their story was and why they were at Forsyth Tech."

What is Biotechnology? Biotechnology is the science of using living organisms that help make products to benefit humans. It can be used to make beer, bread, and pickles. It can also be used to make insulin for diabetics. Beard views the visit as a propel-

lant that may increase the enrollment in the program. "In a time when we have lost the textile and furniture industries, we are re-training the students."

Those who finish the program can look forward to jobs in biological pharmaceutical manufacturing or become research technicians. They may also find jobs working



with Wake Forest University in regenerative medicine.

The program can be a catalyst for the future of America. "Instead of 'made in America' being a television, it can be a new drug that saves lives," says Beard.

A Student's Perspective:

Ricky Allen, a student in the Biotechnology program, reflects on

President Barack Obama's visit and what it means to be a biology major. Allen said, "Bio means life, and *logy*" means the study of life through technology."

When asked how he thought the President's visit will affect Forsyth Tech and the surrounding community he said, "I believe the visit will give the exposure needed to show potential students Forsyth Tech has a lot to offer." He also said, "I believe enrollment will increase in the next year or so due to the visit of the President."






Allen added, "It was an awesome moment for me. The President was a calm, gentle person with a great personality, and in his visit he took a sincere interest in the students of the Biotechnology program."



Lucien Houenou— Biotechnology Instructor

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Forsyth Technical Community College or of the students of Forsyth Tech. Comments, questions or concerns? Just e-mail technicallyspeaking@forsythtech.edu or call 336.734.7383. Enjoy!

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>WF vs. GU 1 p.m.</p>	<p>January 3 Winter Holiday College Closed</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Faculty Work Days No Classes</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Bubble Bath Day </p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Back to School Bash TEC Lobby 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Drop/Add 8 a.m.-7 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Drop/Add 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Journalism Club Tec 130 2 p.m. SGC Meeting TEC 130 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Philosophical Society TEC 542 2 p.m.</p>	<p></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Creative Writing Club ALL 164 11 a.m.</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>SGC Beverly Lewis blewis@forsythtech.edu</p>	<p></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Back to School Bash Woodruff Center 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Career Assessment TEC 544 10 a.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration ARD Aud. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Back to School Bash Northwest Forsyth Tech Center 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Creative Writing Club ALL 164 11 a.m.</p>	<p></p>
<p>24</p> <p>Journalism Club Elaine Hage ehage@forsythtech.edu Philosophical Society Jim Fortuna jfortuna@forsythtech.edu</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Disability Accommodation Due Journalism Club Tec 130 2 p.m. SGC Meeting TEC 130 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Philosophical Society TEC 542 2 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Brandon Styles Vocal Impressionist Ardmore Auditorium 12 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Creative Writing Club ALL 164 11 a.m.</p>	<p>WF vs. W 4 p.m.</p>	
<p>31</p> <p>Transitions Club Mary Wall mwall@forsythtech.edu Creative Writing/International Club Eliza Murphy emurphy@forsythtech.edu</p>	<p>February 1 Career Assessment TEC 544 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Happy Groundhog Day! </p>	<p>3</p> <p>Constructing a Resume Workshop TEC 130 10 a.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Intent to Graduate Form Due for May/June Graduates Shugart Women's Center Wear Red Day</p>	<p>5</p>	