

Vol. 3, Number 3 | Fall 2010

tech

QUARTERLY

The Magazine of Forsyth Technical Community College

in this issue:

ON WITH THE SHOW

~Adventures of Chef JJ

GETTING TO LITERACY

~The Road Can Be Steep

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

~Pushing the Envelope

OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT 50

Where Possibility and Success Meet

ForsythTech



The First Fifty YEARS
A Legacy of Learning

Many Happy Returns!

You're invited to visit Forsyth Tech's Fabulous 50th Anniversary Online Auction – and to return again and again between now and November 30.

All proceeds go to the Forsyth Tech Foundation to benefit student scholarships, faculty development, and instructional technology.

Bid on exciting experiences and gotta-have products, including:

An iPod

A Blu-ray DVD player

A Stay & Play package for your foursome at the new Ballyhack Golf Club in Virginia

An Alaskan fishing trip for two ...and much, much more.

The Foundation of Forsyth Tech

For more information, call Angela Reece at 336.734.7618.

www.ForsythTech.edu/onlineauction

From the President | *A Moment in Time*

Dr. Gary M. Green



What a rich history Forsyth Tech has to build on! Right from the start, we've had leaders with vision, instructors with dedication, and community partners who have helped with everything from letting us know just what skills are needed in the marketplace to financing new classrooms, labs, and shops.

In this 50th anniversary year, we salute all those people who have contributed to Forsyth Tech's steady, intelligent growth, and we celebrate the many thousands of individuals who have found just what they need here to better their own lives and to make a strong contribution to our local economy and quality of life.

But backward looking has never been our focus, and resting on our laurels has never been our way. The most exciting and important days are still ahead of us. At this moment in history we are in the midst of a transformation of similar magnitude to the Industrial Revolution.

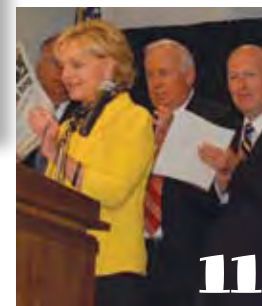
How people work and what they need to know to be able to function in this technologically advanced, information-loaded, increasingly globalized economy are central to this transformation. And now more than ever Forsyth Tech must be not only in step with our community but fully involved in shaping the future.

As we enter our second half century, Forsyth Tech is committed to the ongoing development of forward-looking technologies including biotechnology, nanotechnology, and comprehensive information technologies. We're committed to helping attract and support employees of such innovative organizations as the Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Targacept, and our newest corporate citizen, Caterpillar. And we are committed to building the highly skilled workforce that will be able to compete and succeed in the 21st century.

Bricks and Ardor Commuter colleges often don't have the wells and dells and bells that become gathering spots for students and fond memories for graduates on many campuses. The recently completed Alumni Oval on the Main Campus helps to remedy that gap at Forsyth Tech. Ten years in the making, it was designed by faculty member Herb Burns and was constructed with donations that honor faculty, staff, and students, past and present. Their names are inscribed on the bricks that make up the structure. The pillars of the structure acknowledge large donations from some of the pillars of the community – good corporate citizens. The Oval is a permanent reminder that Forsyth Tech changes lives and of how that happens – through the commitment and cooperation of individual people and community partners. And so it was fitting that the kickoff for Forsyth Tech's 50th anniversary celebration was a ceremony at the Alumni Oval, on September 14.



Contents



tech
QUARTERLY

Vol. 3, Number 2 | Fall 2010

4 { On the Cover

From a high school program built on the site of a landfill to a comprehensive, cutting-edge community college with locations throughout two counties, Forsyth Tech has come a long way its first 50 years. An emphasis on excellent teaching and strong relationships with area employers are keys to the ongoing success story.

18 { Taste for Life

Meet Forsyth Tech's splendid Chef JJ. Life has served him up an abundance of high-spirited adventures peppered with a plethora of high-profile characters. A read you'll relish!

28 { Special Effects

Education for the real world is Forsyth Tech's specialty. Students of Digital Effects and Animation recently got a shot at real-world competition, real-world deadlines, real-world client demands – and real success, for all the world to see.

2 Honor Roll

11 Report to the Community: An Exceptional Year

15 Why We Support Forsyth Tech: Mike Hauser

16 Who Works Here: Elizabeth Sprinkle

17 Who Goes Here: Charles Simmons

23 Take It From Tech: Adult Literacy Coordinator Paul Kindley

26 Alumna Spotlight: Ruth Oberg

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

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.

In Memoriam

Marvin L. Allen
April 11, 1939 – October 17, 2010

Marvin Allen joined Forsyth Tech in 1973 and retired in 2004 as vice president of Business Technologies. The newly named Marvin L. Allen Computer Lab at Forsyth Tech's Mazie S. Woodruff Center recognizes Marvin's dedication to providing Internet access to all in Forsyth County.

To contribute to the Marvin L. Allen Memorial Scholarship Fund, go to www.forsythtech.edu/support/giving-to-forsythtech or send a check to the Forsyth Tech Foundation.



Making the Comforts of Home a Little More Comfortable

A team of Forsyth Tech carpentry students teamed up with a group of advocates for the disabled to help create a fantasy giveaway at the Dixie Classic Fair. The students offered their skills to The Adaptables, Inc., and Rebuilding Together of Forsyth County to do the finishing work on the "Candy Cottage" project, a playhouse designed for disabled children. The cottage is fully equipped with electricity, double-paned windows, an access ramp, and a door specially sized for wheelchair use. The groups were trying to educate the public about the need for universal design and accessibility in building construction that allows the disabled to live more independently.



Dixie Classic Fair Fare

All that food on a stick at the Dixie Classic Fair isn't known for keeping you light on your feet, but Forsyth Tech offered fairgoers the chance to put themselves to the test. Hundreds of people tried their hands (feet, really) in the drag race reaction timer provided by SPEVCO of Winston-Salem and were able to check out the Forsyth Tech racecar as well as the many programs available at Forsyth Tech. Forsyth Tech was a lead sponsor of the Dixie Classic Fair this year as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations.

Higher Calling to a High Office

A Forsyth Tech faculty member was chosen as one of only 50 faculty and staff across the country to be part of the Interfaith Leadership Training Institute at the White House this fall. Rev. Chris Towles teaches humanities, philosophy, and religion at Forsyth Tech. He is also a college chaplain at Wake Forest University. "I've been working with students who want to be interfaith leaders," Towles said. "The leadership skills I gain from the training sessions will help those students be better leaders in their own communities." The Interfaith Leadership Institute works in partnership with the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in Washington, D.C.

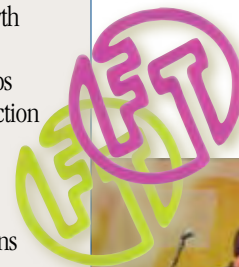


First Down to Lasting Honor

If you ever need someone to plow through a tough situation, Forsyth Tech Student Success Director Joe McIntosh is your man. In mid-October, Joe was inducted into the Davidson County Sports Hall of Fame in honor of his remarkable football career. Joe rushed for 4,000 yards and 50 touchdowns as a Lexington High School Yellow Jacket in the late 1970s. Later, as a player for the NC State Wolfpack, Joe rushed for more than 3,600 yards. He finished his college career second only to Ted Brown on the NC State all-time rushing list. Joe and five other inductees were honored at a ceremony at the J. Smith Young YMCA. The featured speaker was former Buffalo Bills wide receiver Perry Tuttle.

High Fives

Piedmont Federal Savings Bank honored Forsyth Tech's 50th anniversary year in a creative way: by donating fifty \$500 scholarships to eligible students. Forsyth Tech graduate and Piedmont Federal COO Mike Hauser says the scholarships are an indication of the strong connection between the two institutions. "It's a natural," Hauser said. "Piedmont and Forsyth Tech are both great local institutions. We're providing the means for customers to buy homes and develop the community. Forsyth Tech is developing students to give them the means to achieve their career goals." Learn more about Mike Hauser's Forsyth Tech connection in: *Why I Support Forsyth Tech.*



Consider the Block *Rocked*

Forsyth Tech helped rock the Winston-Salem downtown Saturday, September 18. Rock the Block event organizers say between 30,000 and 40,000 people attended the festival, which featured the Rock This! battle of the bands among high school music groups. Forsyth Tech was a presenting sponsor for the band competition and was able to connect with many high school students who might consider Forsyth Tech in the future. Hundreds of people enjoyed special "FT" Silly Bandz and the Forsyth Tech USB wristband raffle.



Yum! Forsyth Tech Instructor Cooks Up a Winner

Forsyth Tech English instructor Dr. Kristin Redfield certainly knows her way around the English language, and now, the nation recognizes her for knowing her way around the kitchen. Kristin's original dish, Lemon Artichoke Chicken, was chosen as the winner this fall in a national grocery chain recipe competition. "I actually never thought about sharing a recipe before; I just entered it on a whim," she said. "It's been a regular dish at home for the last four or five years." On its website, Food Lion each month asks for a variety of recipe entries, chooses 50 at random, and then prepares each of the 50 dishes for a panel of judges.



JobsNOW Gets a Boost

Bank of America has donated \$7,875 to our pace-setting JobsNOW program. This generosity will enable many in our community to receive skills training in six months or less to qualify for in-demand jobs with a bright future.



Setting the Curve in Adult Literacy

Forsyth Tech's Dean of Adult Literacy Michael Harris has been honored by the Leadership Excellence Academy with a first-of-its-kind national certification. Michael was named a Certified Manager in Program Improvement. The Academy recognized leaders from only nine states in the country. "I really appreciate it," Michael said. "Dealing with adult students takes more than just instruction. Adult students need a lot of support educationally, academically, and economically." The Program Improvement certification requires two years of training on research, best practices, and business judgment.

Our Community College at 50:

Where Possibility



Dr. Harley P. Affeldt

On a summer day in 1960, six flatbed trucks rolled into Winston-Salem on Interstate-40. They carried about three-quarters of a million dollars worth of machine tools, on loan from the federal government, and bound for a new school that was slated to open in September – the Industrial Education Center.



and Success Meet

“It was bigger equipment than I had ever seen,” remembers Dr. Harley P. Affeldt, one of the first employees of the Industrial Education Center (IEC), which was run as a program of the Winston-Salem school system. When the equipment arrived there was nowhere to store it at the site that had been selected – land that had once been the city dump – on Link Road. The first two buildings were under construction.

When the school opened on September 6, it replaced the very limited vocational training that had been offered at Winston-Salem’s three white high schools and its black high school. Students were bused in from their home high schools for three hours of instruction each day – an early attempt at school desegregation. All the students were male.

Adults could attend classes at the IEC at night, and many people who went to work at the big companies in town, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco and Western Electric, learned their vocation there.

In the next few years the city and county school systems merged, North Carolina started a state community college system, and the Industrial Education Center expanded and saw its first female students, in business and secretarial programs.

What started out as a high school trade training program became Forsyth Technical Institute, and later Forsyth Technical Community College. The main campus, landlocked because it was never envisioned as a college campus, grew in place but is rarely described as being on Link Road. Instead it takes its affectionate nickname, the University of Silas Creek, from the major thoroughfare it overlooks.

Auto repair was one of the original programs.



It's quite possible that some of those original machine tools are still in use. What's more certain is that the acquisition of that equipment set the tone and the pace for what was to come.

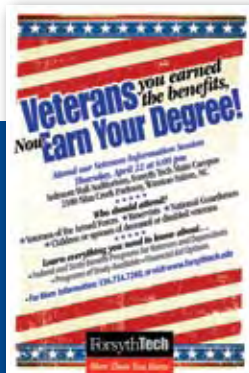
As Harley Affeldt, who was the counselor-coordinator of the IEC and who served as Forsyth Tech’s president from 1971 to 1981 and as dean of engineering for the next decade, recalls, “The National Industrial Equipment Reserve was a new program aimed at putting more vocational education in high schools. Two leaders from RJR and Western Electric heard about the program and traveled around the country looking for machine tools for the IEC. We were the first school in the country to get these tools; we got the first big bite.

We had the best-equipped school machine shop in the nation, with the most up-to-date equipment. That gave us the foundation to move ahead.”

The September 6, 1960, issue of The Twin City Sentinel, announced the opening of the Industrial Education Center.



Growing Up ~ From Trade School to Technical College



The return of veterans from World War II and the Korean War was a major impetus for the creation of technical and community colleges throughout

the United States. Instructors from the early years of Forsyth Tech remember that many of their students were war veterans. Since then, Forsyth Tech has helped veterans of the Vietnam War gain the skills to thrive in civilian life and work. And now another wave of veterans is looking to Forsyth Tech for education to enhance employment options – soldiers who have served in the Middle East conflicts.

Forsyth Tech AKA...

"In the early years, as far as the professional community was concerned, this was the **Dirty Hands School**, the **College of Last Resort**. But our students were recruited nationally from big organizations like the Los Alamos nuclear program. Our electronic technicians were in high demand, and our graduates have been successful. The community has always accepted Forsyth Tech – the fact that all the bond issues have passed is an indication of that."

~ Dr. Harley Affeldt, President, 1971–1981

"This has always been an excellent school. Now everybody knows about Forsyth Tech, but for years we were **The Best Kept Secret in Town**."

~ Dr. Susan Allred, Forsyth Tech's first female Vice President

"We made ourselves **The Community's College**."

~ Dr. Desna Wallin, President, 1995–2001

Are Technicians People? was the title of a paper written by Dr. Dallas Herring in 1962. Herring was an early proponent of the idea that bringing industry to North Carolina and providing an educated workforce would be the best way to improve the standard of living for everyone in the state. As a member of the State Board of Education under Governor Luther Hodges, he was instrumental in the creation of the Industrial Education Centers that were approved by the General Assembly in 1957.

But as the title of his 1962 paper implied, Herring had long believed that vocational students needed a general education in addition to their technical training.

"We do not need and we do not want a society of technicians who have no sense of values in the realm of the humanities,"

he wrote. "We do not want a society of specialists who are unaware in a meaningful way of their larger responsibility to humanity, the State and themselves."

Under Governor Terry Sanford, who was elected in 1960, Dr. Herring's vision became a reality. A comprehensive community college system was created by the Omnibus Higher Education Act of 1963, which brought together the existing Industrial Education Centers and junior colleges into a system that has grown to comprise 58 community colleges.

As one of the state Industrial Education Centers, Forsyth Tech was given two years to phase out its high school students. General education and continuing education courses were added to what had been essentially a trade school. Degree, diploma, and certificate programs multiplied to almost 200. Enrollment, which had started with a few hundred students in the early '60s, topped 10,000 students in credit programs in 2010. The number of employees expanded from 40 people to over 1,100.

Forsyth Tech is one of a small number of colleges in the system that has kept the "technical" in community college.

"We have preserved the word 'Technical' in our name," said Dr. Gary Green, the current president of Forsyth Tech. "That has been a conscious decision of our board. We don't want to lose that technical connection."

The Presidential Suite: Headed in the Right Direction

Here are the people who have had their hands on the helm since Forsyth Tech's beginnings as an Industrial Education Center:



Mr. Albert S. Johnson
1960 – 1963



Dr. Ernest B. Parry
1963 – 1971



Mr. Ray Cates
1967 – 1968
Acting President while Dr. Parry attended graduate school



Dr. Harley P. Affeldt
1971 – 1981



Dr. Bob H. Greene
1981 – 1995



Mr. T. Glen Fleeman Jr.
June 1995



Dr. Desna L. Wallin
1995 – 2001



Dr. Gary M. Green
2001 – Present



The Soft Heart of Technical Education ~ Wonderful, Caring Teachers

“The instructors really made it come alive for me.”

“The teachers really care about the students.”

“The teachers were excellent.”

With all the changes 50 years have brought, there's considerable consistency to what students of every decade have to say about Forsyth Tech. They remember and praise their fine instructors.

Top-notch teaching has been a priority right from the start. Harley Affeldt, who spent 26 years in various administrative capacities, including president, says the emphasis has always been more on teachers who were competent and could relate to students, and less on academic credentials. And with technical training, that difference could be quite obvious.

“It's easier to see results when you're working on an automobile,” he said. “We worked hard at getting good instructors, people who could really help people.”

The same skill and dedication apply to teachers in the arts and sciences, according to Traci Rutledge. She was an adjunct science teacher at Forsyth Tech for 15 years and has been a full-time faculty member since 2005. This year she became the first full-time science teacher at the new Stokes County center, where she will teach both chemistry and biology.

Like a great many Forsyth Tech instructors over the years, Traci's association with the college began when she was a student. She'd already earned her bachelor's degree in biology, and she went to Forsyth Tech to get a degree in paralegal technology.

“Forsyth Tech cares about students,” she said. “Since we don't have a research function, like the universities, the people who teach at community colleges are there to teach.”

Bill Wilder, who came to Forsyth from Virginia as an auto mechanics student in 1964, went on to teach auto mechanics at Forsyth Tech for 30 years, and founded what is now the Richard Childress Race Car Technology Program, expresses the way so many Forsyth Tech instructors over the years have understood their role and purpose:

“My footprint and my legacy will be the students I had in class.”





Hand in Hand ~ The College and the Community

Almost as soon as Harley Affeldt became president of Forsyth Tech in 1971, he started getting calls from the leaders of the two big hospitals in town, N.C. Baptist Hospital and Forsyth Memorial Hospital. They wanted the young technical institute to start a nursing education program.

“I told them we couldn’t do it with the financing we had,” Dr. Affeldt remembers. “The three big charitable foundations in town gave us \$450,000 to help us get started. Both hospitals made a commitment, and we used their facilities for training.”

Since then, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center and Forsyth Medical Center have become among the region’s largest employers, and the Associate Degree in Nursing and Allied Health programs at Forsyth Tech, along with continuing education courses for healthcare workers, have become the largest community college healthcare training program in the state.


It’s a virtual certainty that any patient in our local hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes will receive care from nurses, x-ray technicians, phlebotomists, respiratory therapists, and many more healthcare specialists who received their training at Forsyth Tech. And so it goes through our police and fire departments; our manufacturing, marketing, and distribution companies; our construction companies; and the cutting-edge biotech, nanotech, and medical research initiatives that we look to for thousands more jobs in the future.

Forsyth Tech works directly with more than 600 businesses in the community. Those relationships take many forms, from computer and management training at employer sites, to co-op education and internships for students, to the community advisory boards that guide the development of each new degree program.

Since 1989, Bob Leak has been the president of Winston-Salem Business, Inc., which has the responsibility of recruiting new business. Labor and training are key to every project that comes his way, he said.

An advantage both to companies newly arrived here and to our existing businesses is Forsyth Tech’s capability of providing technical training with more sophisticated offerings in leadership, management, and advanced IT programs, he said.

“Here businesses can get it all in one place,” he said. “To compete, you’ve got to be on the cutting edge and to see where the next opportunity is. Forsyth Tech does a real good job of that.”

The special niche of the technical community college is to educate and prepare people for work, and the history of Forsyth Tech is the history of how the skills needed for employment have changed and evolved over the past 50 years. The crowning achievement of Forsyth Tech is how finely attuned the college has been, and is, to those evolving needs and to developing the programs of study to build the highly skilled workforce that is needed to keep our economy healthy and growing. 



AN exceptional YEAR

As Forsyth Tech celebrates 50 years of service to individuals, employers, and the whole community, the credit belongs – as it always has – to the exceptionally dedicated people who work here.



exceptional GROWTH

New degree and continuing education programs, new locations, and more than 10,000 students enrolled in credit programs – 2010 has been a year of extraordinary expansion.

One long-awaited expansion was the Emergency Services Training Center on the campus of the Northwest Forsyth Center in King, which was unveiled in April. The facility will be used to train fire, police, and emergency medical technicians from a wide area, and is expected to quickly become a southeast regional training center.

exceptional QUALITY

A concerted focus on excellence was reflected in the announcement that Forsyth Tech had met or exceeded the 2010 state standards for Exceptional Institutional Performance. Forsyth Tech was one of only 11 of the 58 state community colleges to achieve this distinction, which was based on rigorous performance standards. The designation is a tribute to the employees of Forsyth Tech, who were facing the added challenge of the unprecedented increase in student enrollment as they strove to maintain and improve the quality of education.

exceptional LEADERSHIP

“Dr. Green is a treasure for our community. He works so well with community leaders, and he reaches out to legislators to keep us informed,” said State Senator Linda Garrou.

The highly positive perception of Forsyth Tech’s president is widespread. Dr. Gary M. Green was named one of the Triad’s Most Influential People by *The Triad Business Journal*. 



SIGNS OF THE TIMES. AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN A MAINSTAY OF FORSYTH TECH SINCE DAY ONE. THE TECHNOLOGY HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE YEARS, AND THE PROGRAM HAS GROWN WITH SPECIALTIES INCLUDING RACE CARS AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES. A NEW TRAINING CENTER FOR THE PROGRAMS IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFF U.S. 52 AT THE FORMER PINEBROOK SHOPPING CENTER AND IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN 2012.

More Than You Know

WHAT'S IN A NAME

How better to distinguish some of our most groundbreaking, popular, and successful programs than to name them for some groundbreaking, popular, and successful local heroes? From now on, please call it:

The Paul M. Wiles School of Nursing

Paul Wiles began his career with Forsyth Memorial Hospital in 1974 and went on to serve as CEO of Carolina Medcorp and Forsyth Memorial Hospital. He has been president and CEO of Novant Health since 1997.

The Len B. Preslar, Jr. School of Allied Health

Len Preslar is the retired CEO of N.C. Baptist Hospitals, Inc., an institution he served for 38 years. He is now executive director of the Health Management Program of Wake Forest University Schools of Business.

Richard Childress Race Car Technology at Forsyth Tech

Richard Childress is president and CEO of Richard Childress Racing. The company has a long-standing relationship with the college and employs many Forsyth Tech graduates.

PULLING UP STOKES



Forsyth Tech is the designated community college for two of North Carolina's 100 counties: Forsyth and Stokes. Making classes and other services more accessible to residents of Stokes County is a priority for the college, and the past several months have seen exciting developments.

In September, Forsyth Tech marked the opening of its first permanent location in the county. The Stokes County Center in Walnut Cove, right in the middle of the county, is a modest eight-room pod for now, but it's filled with learners day and night.

During the day it is home to Stokes Early College, a program of the Stokes County Schools and Forsyth Tech, in which high school students can simultaneously earn their high school diploma and an associate's degree in five years. The Early College started in 2009 at the Northwest Forsyth Center and moved to the Walnut Cove location in August, where it now has over 100 students. Principal Kimberly Marion says the nontraditional learning environment "challenges teachers to teach differently and encourages students to think differently about how to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in our information- and technology-driven 21st century world." A great advantage to these motivated young people is that they pay no tuition for their college courses.

Adult classes are held in the evenings at the same location.

ForsythTech
More Than You Know

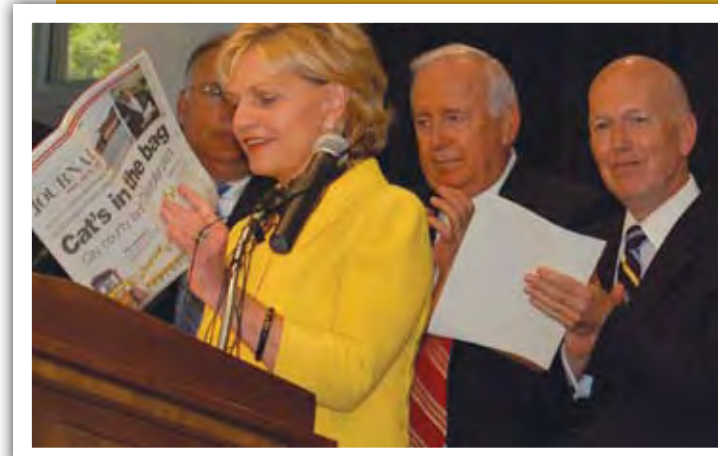
Park & Ride Shuttle Service Pick Up/Drop Off Here

7:00 am – 2:00 pm
Monday – Friday
(shuttle runs every 20 minutes)
Last Drop off: 2:00 pm

Provided by WSTA and Forsyth Tech

SIGNS OF THE TIMES. FORSYTH TECH ALUMNI OF ANY DECADE WILL TELL YOU THERE WAS ALWAYS A PARKING PROBLEM ON CAMPUS. THIS YEAR, WITH ENROLLMENT AT RECORD HIGHS, THE COLLEGE ONCE AGAIN HAD TO RENT SPACE AT HANES MALL TO MAKE ROOM FOR STUDENTS' CARS.

VIP Visitors: It Was All About Jobs



August 18, 2010: Senator Kay Hagan

"It's all about jobs, jobs, jobs. We've got to turn this economy around," U.S. Senator Kay R. Hagan (D-NC) said when she came to Forsyth Tech to tour the college's welding and machinery classes. Those classes are part of a job training and certification program endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers. Forsyth Tech is one of only four colleges in the United States selected to participate in the program. Students enrolled in advanced credit programs in Machining Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Welding, and Industrial Systems Technology are eligible to receive nationally recognized credentials, which contribute to their employability. Since November 2009, more than 100 Forsyth Tech students have been issued these certifications. After touring the manufacturing programs, Senator Hagan also met with the heads of advanced technology programs, including Biotechnology and Nanotechnology.

July 30, 2010: Governor Bev Perdue

Governor Bev Perdue chose Forsyth Tech's Tech Building lobby as the place to break the news everyone had been hoping and waiting for. She announced that Caterpillar Inc. had chosen to open a \$426 million manufacturing plant in Winston-Salem that will employ over 500 people.

Governor Perdue gave Dr. Gary Green credit for persuading Caterpillar that it would find a well-trained workforce here, during a March visit when a company representative spent several hours on campus.

"When he kept Caterpillar here all day, he didn't offer them wine and cheese. He offered them good business training and promises of good education for its employees," the governor said.

Caterpillar's Michael Murphy commented on the college's flexibility in training and said, "We're looking at Forsyth Tech to help us train a quality workforce."

October 14, 2010: Assistant Secretary Jane Oates

"Most importantly what I saw was a real partnership that's going to help this area get people that want jobs into those good jobs," said Jane Oates, assistant secretary of Employment and Training Administration for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Assistant Secretary Oates was in Winston-Salem to tour the JobsNOW program, a partnership between Forsyth Tech and Goodwill Industries. Forsyth Tech leads the state in the number of people enrolled in these short-term job training classes, with more than 1,600 people enrolled. In May, 700 graduates received certificates in 11 different vocational fields, from Electrician Helper to Medical Unit Secretary. By graduation day, 60% of them had found jobs. And there is a connection with the Department of Labor – the JobsNOW program was expanded with federal stimulus funds.

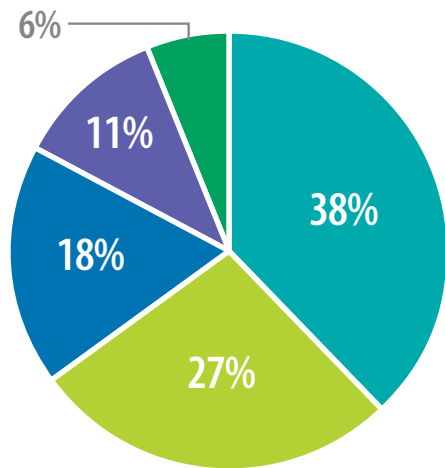
Students Without Borders Mille Venning Hansen (second from left), pictured here with Meridian Realty's President Mark Fulk, Bernie Yevin, David Miner, and Renee Rogers, is a student at Niels Brock Business College in Copenhagen. In her home country of Denmark, she's also an agent for the country's largest residential real estate company. As an exchange student at Forsyth Tech, Mille has had the chance to learn about commercial real estate at the hands of some local experts and to participate in a "real life" project, the marketing of a large tract in Clemmons that has been zoned for development as a retail village. Forsyth Tech has had a relationship with the Danish business college for five years.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES. EVERYBODY HAD PLENTY OF NOTICE, AND ON AUGUST 15 THE "NO SMOKING" POLICY WENT INTO EFFECT IN FORSYTH TECH BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS. THE INTENT IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE ENTIRE COLLEGE COMMUNITY AND TO MODEL HEALTHY BEHAVIORS FOR GRADUATES ENTERING THE WORKFORCE.

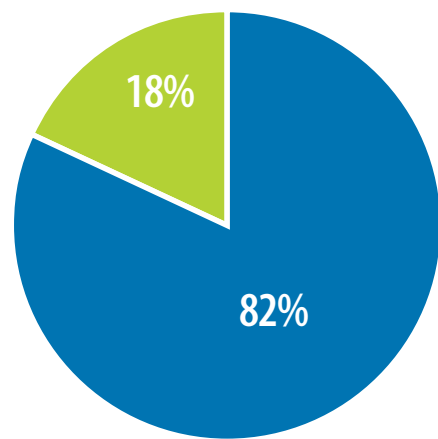
The Year in Numbers

Forsyth Tech Community College
Revenues & Expenditures
for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

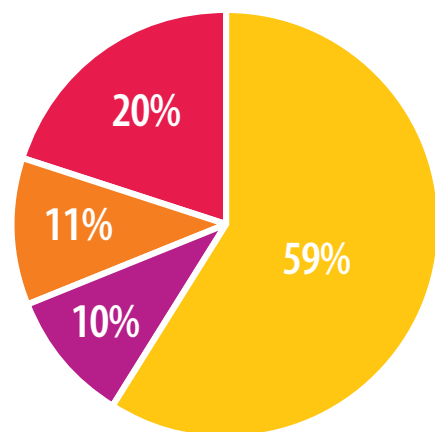


Revenues	Dollar Amount	%
State	28,742,589	38%
Tuition	8,439,879	11%
County	13,890,710	18%
Grants	20,290,737	27%
Other	4,333,602	6%
Total Operating Revenues	75,697,517	100%

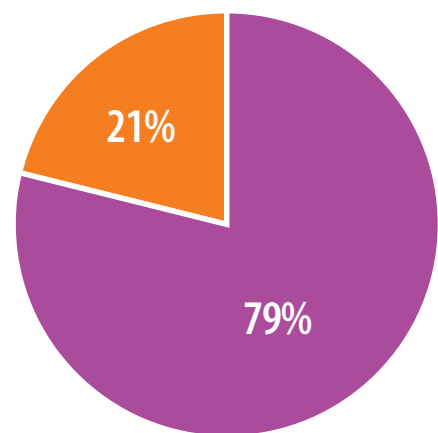
Forsyth Tech Foundation
Revenues & Expenditures
for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010



Revenues and Other Sources	Dollar Amount	%
Contributions	1,267,415	82%
Interest & Gains on Investments	286,695	18%
Total Revenues & Other Sources	1,554,110	100%



Expenses	Dollar Amount	%
Instruction and Support	40,832,986	59%
Auxiliary Enterprises	6,629,083	10%
Physical Plant Operations	7,296,573	11%
Student Services & Financial Aid	13,440,989	20%
Total Operating Expenses	68,199,631	100%



Expenses	Dollar Amount	%
Scholarships/Contributions to Forsyth Tech	889,960	79%
Other Supporting Services	235,580	21%
Total Expenses	1,125,540	100%

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Why We Support Forsyth Tech



“Coming out of high school, I had no clue about my future,” said Mike Hauser. Forsyth Tech helped solidify his career.

Not many experienced professionals over 40 these days can say that the job they have today is with their first and only employer. Piedmont Federal Savings Bank COO Mike Hauser can say that and proudly credits that fact to his education at Forsyth Tech. “It’s my first and only full-time job,” he said.

After Mr. Hauser graduated from Forsyth Tech’s data processing program in 1974, Piedmont Federal came looking for experts in what was then a young but rapidly growing computer field. Mr. Hauser raised his hand and never looked back. “I don’t know if it was an official job placement, but it worked,” he said.

Today, Forsyth Tech and Piedmont Federal are more closely linked than ever. Over the years, Mr. Hauser has built an entire IT department at Piedmont from the ground up, and Forsyth Tech played a major role. “Our entire IT staff has had classes there, and many of them are Tech graduates. Corporately, our entire staff was

taking a class every month at Tech, learning about everything from stress factors to dealing with customers and their personalities.”

Mr. Hauser has gone back to campus on occasion himself to take classes to stay on top of the latest in technology. “As I go back, I hire people,” he recalls. In one case, he hired his classroom lab partner, Doug Stewart, who later came to lead the Piedmont Federal IT department.

Piedmont Federal is proud to be a sponsor of Forsyth Tech’s 50th anniversary and has established a series of scholarships. In honor of the benefit Piedmont Federal has received over the years from Forsyth Tech, the bank has designated 50 IT department scholarships of \$500 each to qualified students.

“My interest in Forsyth Tech is both personal and professional,” Mr. Hauser said. “Every time I return, I see something new. I’m always impressed with Forsyth Tech’s commitment to a well-trained workforce for our community.”

How You Can Support Forsyth Tech

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

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

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

Your Gift Creates a Strong College and a Strong Community

Choose your level of support:

- President’s Club \$10,000 and up
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Give online: Use your credit card to make a secure donation at www.forsythtech.edu/support/giving-to-forsyth-tech.

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

Get more information: Learn about gifts you can make in honor of or in memory of individuals, matching gifts, charitable trusts and bequests, and gifts of stocks and property. Call Dr. Sharon B. Covitz, Executive Director, The Foundation of Forsyth Tech at 336.734.7520 or email scovitz@forsythtech.edu.





Who Works Here

Fire and Ice

In her off-hours, Elizabeth Sprinkle is a study in contrasts. She and her husband are big fans of jazz musician Chris Botte. "I just love that smooth jazz sound," she said with a smile. She and her husband will actively seek out Botte tickets if they happen to learn that he's playing anywhere in the Carolinas.

On the other end of the excitement spectrum, Elizabeth is a fanatic for Carolina Hurricanes hockey and St. Louis Cardinals baseball. "Hockey is just so fast-paced!" she said with a wide grin. She says the best sports year she enjoyed in a long time was 2006. The Cards won the National League Central Division as well as the World Series and the 'Canes won the Stanley Cup that year.

"It was just meant to be!"

elizabeth sprinkle

Program Coordinator, Medical Transcription

Elizabeth Sprinkle wanted to be a dancer. Back in her high school days at Wade Hampton High School in Taylors, S.C., she playfully thought MTV looked like a great career choice. But soon after graduation, MTV wasn't waiting for her, and unfortunately neither was college.

A chance meeting with Forsyth Tech vice president for Institutional Advancement, Dr. Shari Covitz, at a local hospice led to six years of learning everything from databases to medical

records. It was the turning point that led Elizabeth to learn more about healthcare. It also led her back to school.

She admits her first step through the doors at Forsyth Tech was intimidating. "It was the first classroom I'd been in in 17 years," she said. As it turned out, the grade Elizabeth earned in that chemistry class was the boost she needed. "If I can get a 'B' in that class, I can do anything."

The self-confidence made all the difference. Elizabeth's drive to work more directly with patients led to a career as a medical transcriptionist and eventually as Forsyth Tech's Medical Transcription program coordinator.

Transcriptionists these days are often called "medical language specialists." They translate a doctor's notes to create a record of the patient's care. Elizabeth admits

technology has changed her profession over the years, but she bristles at the thought that transcriptionists are a vanishing breed. "We've transcended and adapted to the technology," she said. "Some people thought the job is going away. That's just not true." It's clear Elizabeth is a champion for her students, both in person and online. This year, she was honored with the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award. She says it's a reflection of how much her students mean to her.

"I love them very much," she said. "I'm kind of a touchy-feely kind of instructor, so it's hard to teach online. But there are some new technologies that can help."

"I love seeing the end product," Elizabeth said. Seeing her students graduate with a job in healthcare is what it's all about. ☺

Who Goes Here

It's hard to miss Charles Simmons on campus. While other students are dressed like, well, students, you'll often see Charles in a coat and tie. "I like the idea of always being presentable. I think it helps other people around me polish up their act too."

It's no surprise that he's considered a positive influence on the people around him. His easy manner and his smile are infectious.

He's also a trailblazer. Charles is Forsyth Tech's first dual admissions student as part of an agreement with Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). Under the agreement,

students submit a single application for both schools. Once started at Forsyth Tech, students automatically qualify for later admission to WSSU. In this case, Charles will finish his classwork at Forsyth Tech this spring and then have to spend only one year at WSSU, where he can earn his B.A. in business administration in 2012. It's a lot of work, but it's no obstacle.

"I like pressure," he said with a smile. "It pushes me. I have a thirst for that. My dad always says 'To be lucky, you've got to be prepared.'"

For a young man wise beyond his years and busier than most, Charles shows the world many sides of himself. Namely, he's a poet. "I discovered I had a passion for it while pursuing a young lady's attention a few years back," he chuckled. The relationship never blossomed, but the poetry did. Today, he has enough material for a couple of books. He's exploring

ways to get *Life and Love* published. "It's all inspired by nature and the people around you," he said.

If that wasn't enough, Charles has also been a working fashion model since he was approached by a recruiter in 2007. "At the time, I didn't want to do it, but then I got good at it." Some of the more challenging work happens with a local group called "House of Legends" that specializes in live mannequins who stand motionless for minutes at a time. For someone with so much energy, that's a challenge.

It's a challenge also recognized by his father, a retired Marine. Charles quotes him often. "He'd say, 'Son, you've got to slow down. You'll miss something if you're not paying attention.'"

"The only guarantee in life is change," Charles said, as only a poet could. ☺

charles simmons

Dual Admissions Student, Business Administration

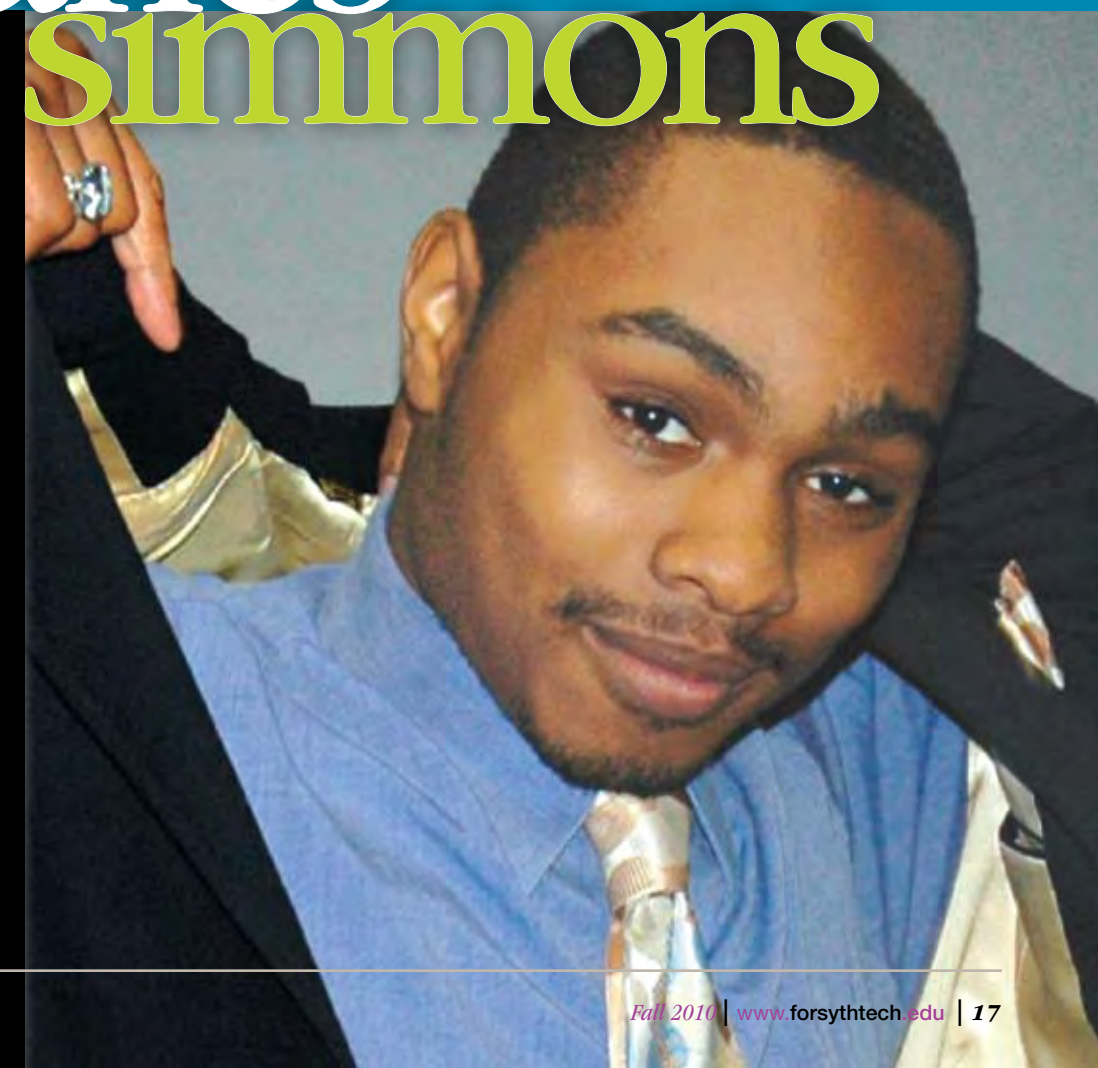
Some Perspective on Perspective

How does a young man with so much going on in his life keep everything in balance?

Meditation. Charles regularly tries to find time to be alone with his thoughts.

"It allows a clear release of your mind," he said. "If I can't get to my favorite place near the Sawtooth Center waterfall, I'll just try to find someplace else for some isolation."

"I just focus and listen to nature. If more people would do this, there'd be a lot less stress in the world. All stress is going to do is kill you."



A Life to Be Savored

“Live! That’s the message. Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death.”

—Rosalind Russell, *Auntie Mame*, 1958

Joseph Jacobson has been catering events and private parties for the Forsyth Tech community for over 20 years. Today, Chef JJ serves as the college’s executive chef and manager of Food Services in charge of The Grill and Bytes & Beans – the campus coffee shop. His résumé in the hospitality industry is exhaustive, spanning 50 years – a real “soup to nuts” list of caterers, restaurants, and country clubs.



When Chef wasn’t working the kitchen, he was off performing in musical theater or summer stock, amassing a list of shows to his credit that ranged from Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *The King and I* to *Godspell* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He shared in three Tony Awards as a silent partner in a small production company on his way to leading a Forrest Gump-like existence when it came to the people he met along the way.

He was there when Yul Brynner shaved his head in the ’50s, found favor with the Rat Pack in the ’60s, and hung out with James Taylor and his own “holy host of others” in the ’70s.

Far from anything “cooked up,” the following is a sampling of stories of a man who truly has had an appetite for life.

“An Empty Belly Is the Best Cook”
Grandmother *Bubby Jacobson*

“I grew up in a Jewish ghetto in the South Bronx,” says Chef. “Let’s just say it was challenging. As a famous comedian once said, my family’s menu had two choices: take it or leave it.”

As poor as Chef’s family was back then, he still remembers with great fondness some of the favorite foods of his childhood.

“There was my grandmother Bubby’s latkas, my mother’s wonderful noodle kugel, and one of my very favorites: my father’s matzoh brei (fried matzoh). Oooh, it was so good,” he says with a warm smile.

Still, life is full of ironies, and poverty has its part to play, like an appetizer in a seven-course meal; it can stimulate the appetite for more.

“Do you remember Rosalind Russell in *Mame?*” Chef continues. “That was my Aunt Betty – eccentric, strong personality, very persuasive. She’s the one who got me into acting.”

A psychiatrist with a successful practice in Greenwich Village during the ‘40s and ‘50s, Aunt Betty was on the frontline of Freudian psychology, helping aspiring young actors wrestle with their demons. In her precocious nephew, she saw something special.

“I was 4 when I started acting professionally with a children’s touring company out of New York,” Chef says. “It helped us get out of the ghetto.”

Chef suddenly straightened up in his chair and launched into a Shakespearian-like soliloquy: “Be gone and never show your face but in these walls again,” he bellowed, and then, just as suddenly, he relaxed. “That’s the only line I can remember.”

“Please sir, I want some more.”

Oliver Twist in Oliver, 1968

By the age of 6, Chef was working with Yul Brynner on a Broadway Bus ‘n’ Truck Tour of *The King and I*. It was 1957, the same year Brynner won an Oscar for Best Actor in the film version of the musical. Chef was playing Brynner’s royal son. The Hollywood legend took a shine to the boy instantly.

“I walked into Uncle Y’s dressing room once unannounced as he was about to shave his head – I never could say Yul without giggling. Anyway, there he sat all lathered up with a straight razor that looked like a knife to me. It never dawned on me that he shaved his head; literally scared me to death.”



Back home, his manager and close friend of Aunt Betty, Stuart Silver, was busy buying up majority shares in restaurants, catering businesses, and country clubs with the young boy’s earnings. When Chef finally took a break from the road, he turned his attentions to his mounting portfolio of “silent partnerships” and went to work closer to home.

“My parents decided they wanted me home, so, being a smart-a** 9-year-old, I walked into my manager’s office and told him ‘Stuart, if I own it I want to work it.’ He agreed, providing I do it his way. I expected him to put me in a tuxedo so I could be the boss.” Chef nodded his head with a smile. “For two years I washed dishes.”

“Food, Glorious Food”

Oliver, 1968

It turned out to be Chef’s first non-theater job: dishwasher at the Cold Springs Harbor Country Club. Located in the renovated stables of a grand French country-style estate on Long Island, the 5,000-square-foot kitchen was a veritable beehive, albeit a quiet one. While the dishwashing area was separated from the kitchen to minimize noise and heat, Chef took every opportunity to stick his head in and watch “the show.”

“It was a real European-style kitchen,” Chef remembers. The kitchen, jam-packed with dozens of cooks, reminded him of the energy of the theater, each nightly performance directed and produced by the executive chef.

“There were working chefs and their sous

chefs, the pastry chefs, the *chefs de partie*, and a *garde manger*,” recounts Chef. “About 35 in all, working in silence. No one spoke unless they were spoken to by the executive chef. And even then, all you said was ‘Thank you, Chef.’ He was absolutely God in the kitchen.”

At 12, Chef was chosen by “God” to be his new kitchen boy. It was quite the honor. Executive Chef Charles was a former teacher at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris and had come to Cold Springs from the United Nations. At 5-foot nothing, Chef Charles was still a powerhouse of a man in his 70s, presiding over his kitchen from an elevated judge’s chair in its center; his voice booming from on high, constantly enlisting the help of his energetic assistant.

“‘Jacobson, bring me from Willie!’ He would thunder. And I would run over to Willie, my favorite cook, and bring him back a spoon of whatever it was Willie was cooking so he could taste it. Then he’d throw the spoon back at Willie and yell it needs more of this or more of that.”

When Chef Charles finally retired, he presented his young protégée with the same set of knives he’d been given years before at the end of his apprenticeship.

“I was too young to realize it then, but he was saying ‘I have hopes for you,’” says Chef.



Ingredients

- 3 large eggs
- ½ stick of unsalted real butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar, divided
- ¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 2½ cups applesauce
- 1 package (12 oz) wide egg noodles

Preparation

~Preheat oven to 425° F with rack in center or just above center of oven. Butter a large but shallow baking dish.

~Whisk together eggs, butter, 7 tablespoons of sugar and spices in a large bowl until combined well, then stir in applesauce.

~Cook noodles in a large pot of salted water until it is al dente (very firm but not crunchy), about 5 minutes. Drain noodles, then toss well with the apple and egg mixture. Spread in baking dish and sprinkle remaining tablespoon of sugar.

~Bake kugel until top is golden, about 30 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes to allow it to set up.

Bubby’s Noodle Kugel Recipe

Noodle kugel is a traditional dish that is common to Jews from Eastern Europe. It can be a side dish, or if you add a little more sugar, a dessert. It is quick and easy to do. This recipe makes around 10 to 12 servings.

L’Chaim and enjoy!

“I’ll fix your favorite dishes.”

Cab Calloway, “Everybody Eats When They Come to My House”

The late ‘60s and ‘70s were crazy times for the free-spirited Chef. Living a double life, he continued performing in musical theater while learning to manage nightclubs. He joined the cast of the counter-culture’s experimental musical *Godspell* and worked at Danny Mazuer’s Supper Club – an old-style nightclub with headliners like Cab Calloway.

If he wasn’t bumping into sports legends like Joe Namath and Mickey Mantle at the club, he was attending parties with theater icons and entertainers like Neil Simon and the Rat Pack. He even played a joke on Dean Martin once.

“I replaced his glass on the set with a glass of ginger ale,” Chef remembers. “He never knew the difference. That’s when I knew his whole drunk thing was an act.”

When Chef finally left the New York nightlife, he headed for Franconia College in New Hampshire to study theater arts while he waited for a spot to open up in Yale University’s drama department. As luck would have it, the great Zero Mostel had agreed to direct the local summer stock’s production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, in which Chef landed the leading role of Pseudolus. When Mostel died the following fall, Chef traveled to New York to pay his respects to the family. At the funeral, Zero’s son, Josh, leaned into Chef as he was expressing how sorry he was and said “your performance killed my father.”

“He was joking of course, but it devastated me,” Chef says.

“A bottle of red, a bottle of white”

Billy Joel, “Scenes From an Italian Restaurant”
When Chef finally returned to New York for good, he went straight to see his godfather, Angelo Mantione. Angelo was a longtime union man and offered his godson a unique job looking into the union’s catering interests.

“He basically wanted me to gather information and make sure the caterers weren’t hiring outside the union,” says Chef. “I remember it drove Stuart crazy that year, 54 W-2s from 54 individual caterers.”

The following year, Chef became a partner in Continental Caterers, the largest gypsy catering company in the country. Like the Bus ‘n’ Truck tours of his youth, Continental took the show on the road, catering parties for the rich and famous like Kirk Douglas and President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter. They also catered huge public events like the opening party for the USS Aircraft Carrier Intrepid’s Sea, Air & Space Museum on New York’s Hudson River.

“We served nearly 50,000 people on that long weekend with a staff of 1,000,” Chef remembers. “I spent three days in the galley and never saw the ship; slept there, too. You know what I learned from that experience? Never cater a party for that many people again!”

By the end of the go-go ‘80s, Chef was looking to slow down. In his late ‘30s, he surrendered to the overtures of the Stouffer’s Hotel in downtown Winston-Salem and accepted a position as their restaurant manager. Five years later they closed. But by then, Chef had become a Southern convert. Out of a job, he returned to the one thing he knew best – gypsy catering – and formed J. Breton’s Catering out of Kernersville. It was time to take his show on the road again.

Not surprisingly, J. Breton’s thrived. Chef JJ became a familiar face at corporate and special events across the Piedmont, appearing on WXII in a series of cooking segments.

“I might demonstrate a Bananas Foster recipe and talk about the benefits of potassium for chemotherapy patients,” Chef says.

The segments were well received, and WXII offered Chef something more regular. “I wasn’t really interested in putting myself out there in front of the public like that anymore. I guess I felt I’d done that already in my life.” He certainly didn’t need the publicity.

“Before 9/11 business was great,” Chef says. “I went from 15 to 20 employees to 2 until I closed the business a year later.”





Forsyth Friends Meeting, Winston-Salem, N.C.



“...to follow Thee more nearly...”

Godspell, 1970

As the country mourned over the tragedy of 9/11, Chef took a leave of absence from the culinary world and entered seminary school to become an ordained interfaith pastor. Today, he continues those studies with plans to become a recorded Quaker minister.

“Oh, I’m proud of my Jewish heritage,” Chef points out. “I just wanted something more: an opportunity to reach out and touch people.”

“I remember when Rabbi Ettin first came to visit me here at the meeting house,” Chef recalls with a smile. “We were co-officiates for a wedding. He walked in and said, ‘Joseph, when did this happen?’”

Chef estimates that in his lifetime, between his work as a caterer and an officiate pastor, he has served tens of thousands of people at weddings alone. Setting aside the money he receives for


his services — “I take no money for myself” — Chef uses the funds to feed those he feels are in need back on campus.

At Forsyth Tech, Chef is looking forward to the holidays. With a multitude of parties in the offering, he would agree, “‘Tis the season to be catering.”

“Dr. Green’s annual holiday party for faculty and staff is always something to look forward to,” says Chef. “It’s real catering, something I don’t get to do much of these days.” A pretty lavish affair, Chef says that past menus have included Nova Scotia salmon, shrimp-laden salads, artichoke-and-crab-stuffed mushroom caps, and Greek

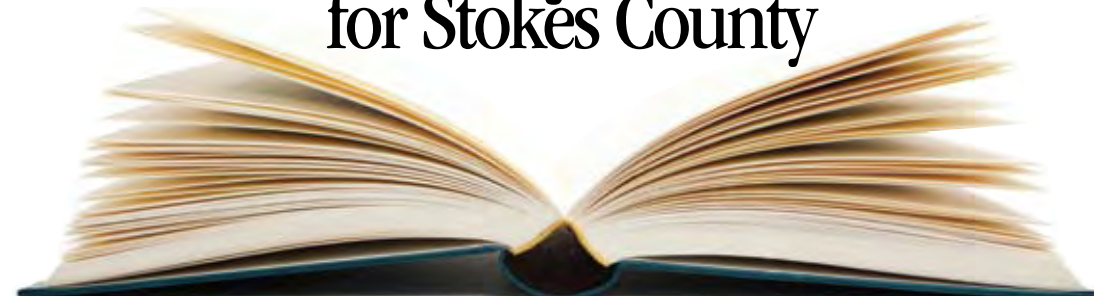
spinach pies. “We might even carve some prime rib this year. You never know.”

Chef isn’t singing or dancing anymore these days, but he says there is one more role he’d like to try. “Tevya from *Fiddler on the Roof*,” he says with a smile. “Now that’s a part I’ve always wanted to play.”

He has lived a full life as both showman and chef, and whether or not he ever gets the chance to sing “If I Were a Rich Man,” Chef is content with things the way they are. “I’m a lucky man,” he says, “and one of the best dishwashers you’ll ever meet.” 

An Interview with Paul Kindley

Adult Literacy Coordinator for Stokes County



Q Paul, you helped start one of the first cell phone companies in America, and you helped build one of the first fiber-optic networks in America. You’ve lived all over the country, and you’ve traveled all over the world. What brought you to Stokes County?

A I decided in midlife to take some time off to do the things most of us talk about doing if we could. I also decided that I wanted to return to North Carolina to live. I wound up in Stokes County only by happenstance. The brother of one of the parents of my sister’s next-door neighbor called me to say that he had a place at Hanging Rock he wanted to sell. I bought it and began my sabbatical years. I traveled, studied art, studied music, learned to play classical guitar, and did lots of volunteer work. I lived the life of a want-a-be Renaissance man.

Q And how did you connect with Forsyth Tech?

A I saw an ad for an introduction to the Internet course Forsyth Tech was offering in Stokes County. I enrolled in the class and did well. My background was in technology, and I had worked for Wang Labs in the early days. I took a couple more computer classes. One thing led to another, and I was offered an opportunity to teach. Not long afterward John Hartman, who was a friend of mine from the contra dance community, asked me to teach a GED class. Ronnie Valenti



And nationally there are studies that show that half of students who do graduate don’t have high school level skills.

Q When they come to your program, their goal is usually to get the GED, the General Equivalency Diploma?

A Yes. If the student dropped out of school in the latter grades of high school and they have good aptitude and good basic skills, they can often breeze through the process. However, that is not my typical student.

Q How would you describe your more typical student?

A My most typical students dropped out in middle school. They dropped out because they felt they did not fit in. Imagine what your life would be like if you dropped out of school in the eighth grade. In addition, they often were already disengaged from the process, and their skills stopped growing long before they dropped out. My students often struggle to read for understanding. They don’t connect written words with the meaning of the words. They also struggle with the written and spoken word. It is difficult to master 10th grade English if you didn’t go to the 10th grade. They struggle most of all with math.

Q What motivates them to enroll in the basic education program?

also offered me a chance to work in the GED testing center. A full-time position opened in Stokes. John and I changed roles, and I’ve been the Adult Literacy Coordinator for Stokes County for the past seven years.

Q Tell me a little bit about the student population.

A My students range in age from 16 to their mid-80s. Typically they are not illiterate; they just have low skills. My students have mid- to low-level basic skills in reading, math, and language.

Q What is the high school dropout rate in Stokes County?

A One out of four students drop out in each year of high school.



A Life sends them to GED. It is a real struggle to get by without a high school education. Many come to improve their job opportunities. Many come to set an example for their children. Many in Stokes come from the legal system. A judge orders them to improve their education as part of their corrections program. For many of my students, hope is a rare commodity. If you dropped out of school in the 8th grade, and you now have a felony conviction, you probably have no job, no car, no income, and very little way to find the path to becoming a productive citizen.

Q But others have better prospects?

A Yes, but the mountain can be high. Committing to the GED process can be compared to making a New Year's resolution to join the health club. We all have great intentions. In January the gym is full, but by March the machines are often empty. High school consists of nearly 5,000 hours of classroom instruction. I encourage my students to be patient and to be fair to themselves. Depending on the level of their skills, it can be a lengthy process.

Q But the GED is so often the credential for getting any kind of job.

A That's true. Studies show that on average getting your GED will increase your earnings power nearly \$10,000 per year. In truth, there are very few jobs for the typical candidate without a GED.

Q Sounds like most of your students have had bad experiences with school in the past and may see it as a punishment.

A Yes, their experience was generally not positive. However, most don't see GED as a punishment. Most see it as a hurdle. Most regret that they made the decision to drop out. Hindsight can be a cruel teacher. Our job is to find ways to connect with them and

what they know and what interests them and then to build on that.

Q Can you give me an example?

A Yes. I love to read, but it means very little for me to tell my students that reading is one of the great pleasures of life. We have to find ways to show them. For example, I will often visit my classes and do a module on poetry. I'll ask how many of them like poetry. Not a single hand goes up. Then I'll ask how many like music. Nearly every hand goes up. I get them to name a song, any song, be it rap to country. We pull up the lyrics on the screen. What do you know? They are looking at poetry. I build on that to introduce a few classics and some that are simply entertaining. Before long, we are laughing and crying to the power of the written and spoken word.

Q That's great. Does it work for math, too?

A Yes. Recently I suggested to my class that we talk about the Gulf oil spill. We started out by trying to find a way to relate to the volume of oil that was spilling per day. We called a few local gas stations to determine the rate of flow at a typical pump – it is 10 gallons per minute. Then we estimated the total number of pumps in Stokes County. The flow was roughly equal to all the pumps in the county, plus 50% more, lying on the ground and running 24 hours per day every day. The millions of gallons mean nothing until you break it down to something relatable in their lives. Next we talked about how the spill was affecting the people living in that area. I gave every person in the class an identity – a fishing boat owner, the owner of a small waterfront hotel, a cook in a seafood restaurant, a shareholder in BP, etc. We computed what the recovery fund owed us for our losses. Experiencing misery and needing help is not foreign to my students. We had a ball, and they didn't realize they were doing math.

Q It must be tough to be a teacher under these conditions.

A It takes effort. I ask my instructors who were the three most influential people in their life. In nearly every case, at least one of the three will be a former teacher. I remind them that for many of our students "you may be the last instructor they will ever see." It is a huge responsibility and also a great opportunity. If you open the door to lifelong learning, think of the gift you will have given them.

Q What's different about trying to get a basic education as an adult?

A What's different is that you are your own Superintendent of Public Instruction. There is no school bus and there is no truant officer. You are free to attend as much, or as little, as you choose. You are free to stop attending anytime you choose. Also, adult life is fraught with distractions if one is willing to be distracted. There are babies, divorces, financial crises, legal issues, and more.

Q You've described a tough and persistent societal problem. What do you see as the solution?

A The solution is to successfully impact one student at a time. I liken it to an inheritance. If we open the door to learning to learn, think how we changed that student's life. If we open the door to loving to learn, think how we changed that student's future. And, think of the impact going forward for our student's children and children's children. Think of the impact if our student is able to get a job or a better job. Think of the impact if our student is the first in the family to attend college. Think of the upgrade in expectations and quality of life in the household for our student. And, think of the improved intellectual inheritance passed forward. We solve this one student at a time.

A Student Not Unlike Ours: An Open Letter to Basic Education Instructors

By Paul Kindley

Let me tell you the story of a student not unlike most of our students. This student was the third child born into a family who lived in a slum area called "hog eye" located in a mill town here in the Piedmont. His parents were first generation off the farm. Neither parent finished more than a few grades in school. He was the first child on either side of his family to be born in a hospital. His father worked in the mill, and his mom stayed home in the tradition of the time. To use the language of the ladies at the church, the family was "poor but clean." The dad worked 16 hours a day plus 10 hours on Saturday and often half days on Sunday. The dad continued at this pace for over 17 years.

The home had no insulation. In fact, you could see through the boards to the outside. In winter, our student slept under layers of quilts so heavy that he could not roll over. There was no indoor plumbing.

The mom worked hard. There were three cooked meals every day, although often a full meal consisted of cornbread and milk. When the family could afford pinto beans, that was a three-course meal. As an infant, our student's diet was built around a "rag soaked in sugar and water."

Our student's family was racked with dysfunction. Both the mother and the father were alcoholics. In our student's home, the Saturday Night Fights was not a TV show.

As time went by, it turned out that our student was dealt a couple of good cards. He was bright, and he was athletic. Given the family profile, there was no way he was given educational support or instruction in the home. In junior high, he began to meet the marginal players in society as he hung out on the playgrounds after school. However, fate was kind. At the same time he was close to becoming "president" of detention hall, he was chosen president of his class. You can see that his future direction was hanging by a thread

between productive citizen and juvenile delinquent.

Fortunately for our student, a keen mind kept him in academic good graces and gifted athletic ability kept him in school. Now we come to the point of this tale. In high school, this student adrift in a sea of non-direction found the beginnings of a sense of direction. How did this happen? The answer is simple: contact with committed, involved teachers.


Foremost among these was his 10th-grade English teacher, Mrs. Geneva Highfill. Mrs. Highfill spotted his competitive nature and somehow inspired him to be the first student in the history of her teaching to achieve a perfect score on her "drills." When all was said and done, she gave him the gift of speaking properly, a gift that would open many doors otherwise closed. Years later, our student was a featured speaker at her funeral.

Then came Mrs. Joseph, who spotted an innate curiosity for travel and inspired a love of learning Spanish through readings in *The Man of La Mancha*. Lastly came Mrs. Roberts, his chemistry teacher. More significantly, she was his debate coach. Our student never learned a thing about chemistry even though he earned an "A" in the class. However, he did receive the Degree of Merit and even the Degree of Honor from the National Forensic League for excellence in public speaking and debate.

The combined influences of these three teachers set a course for life. Our student was the first in his family to ever attend college. Our student earned a scholarship to a prestigious state university. However, he turned the scholarship back to the school because he could earn more working days and nights and paying his own way.

Following college and graduate school, our student entered the business world. In time, he went on to create not one, but two of the most prestigious companies in America. In the early '90s, he was named to the Who's Who list of the most influential business leaders in the world. He retired at age 45.

As the fates would require, our student now works in education with the lowest level of learners.

My point is not to tell you my story, although I am the student in question. My point is to share with you from my personal experience how important you are in the lives of our students, many of whom have the same socioeconomic black marks of the student described above. As I have said many times, please try to remember that you may be the last instructor many of our students will ever see. If you are able to open a door to learning, you can dramatically change the opportunity for a better life, as evidenced in this tale of a student not unlike ours. 



Only the Beginning

Ruth Oberg is well aware of the definition of “quit,” but you’ll never hear it pass her lips.

Ruth Oberg is the kind of nurse you want in your corner. She never gives up.

Ruth’s dream of becoming a nurse came true this year. After graduating with high honors from the Forsyth Tech nursing program, she was hired at Lutheran Home in Winston-Salem this summer. Becoming an LPN naturally takes a tremendous amount of work and dedication, but for Ruth, it also meant overcoming a series of life-changing obstacles.

Her drive to serve others started while growing up with her grandparents in Lewistown, Montana. Service was part of daily life. “Sometimes I’d catch one of our chickens and visit our neighbor who had chickens years before but was homebound due to illness,” she said. Ruth recalls hours with her cousins catching frogs and skipping rocks at the creek that ran through her grandparent’s property. “It was a great place to grow up.”

Life of a Pastor’s Wife

Her nursing education began in 1981 at Montana State University at Bozeman. After completing three years of a four-year program, life circumstances would not allow her to finish. When she and husband Jerry married in 1993, Jerry’s 20-year career as a pastor for Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ moved them to congregations from South Dakota to Iowa to Oklahoma. The moves put her nursing dreams on hold, but they never stopped her habit of service. Over the years, she worked with special needs children and as a bereavement chaplain for an Oklahoma hospice.

As 2006 began to unfold, Ruth’s daughter, Katie, was entering her senior year at Duke University. Ruth and Jerry decided it was a great opportunity to be closer to Katie and pursued another line of service nearby. They became “teaching-parents” at the Rainbow Center for Children, a group home in Wilkesboro, N.C. The year 2006 was full of promise at that point, but it became a year that had the potential to damage not only her dreams of nursing but her deep faith as well.

One Step Back

Jerry had been dealing with diabetes reasonably well for years. But that spring, he developed a foot infection so severe he had to be admitted to Duke Hospital. He was eventually able to receive IV treatment at home. Ruth was allowed three hours during the day to go home from the Rainbow Center to take care of Jerry’s IV.



Ruth’s hospital stowaway Belle, all decked out as a ladybug. Below: Ruth and daughter Katie on a beach trip.



Her life had become a whirlwind of taking care of Jerry, taking care of the group home residents, and still pursuing a master’s degree in pastoral counseling. “My ultimate goal was to combine my nursing diploma with counseling and work in palliative care or oncology,” she said. “God tells us He’s got a purpose for us, and nursing and counseling are my purpose.”

At the time, she had no idea how closely those goals would apply to the personal challenges to come.

In September of that year, with Jerry still needing care, Ruth was facing surgery to remove her appendix. The surgery went well, but afterward, her doctors knew something wasn’t right. She soon found herself being examined by a team of mystified specialists. After three weeks of medical detective work, the diagnosis was peritoneal cancer so rare that only 500 cases are reported in the United States each year. It is treated in only two hospitals in the country: one in Ohio, and Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem.

“Shake and Bake” Surgery

“The Lord brought us here to Winston-Salem so I could be treated for cancer,” she said.

In Ruth’s case, the treatment was equally rare. The doctors call it “shake and bake” surgery. Since the cancer cells had attacked the fluid surrounding her internal organs, surgeons had to literally remove the organs, remove any cancer they saw, put everything back in place, and then slosh a heated chemotherapy solution in her body cavity. She’s been cancer-free ever since.

The surgery and recovery were not easy, but Ruth says it paid off in more ways than one. After her diagnosis, she pleaded with her husband for a new family dog. Soon after, a shelter puppy named Belle joined the

Charting Her Own Course

Ruth Oberg might be one of the best-educated nurses you’ll ever meet. In addition to her LPN degree from Forsyth Tech, she has earned a bachelor’s degree in theology and both a master’s and doctorate degree in biblical counseling from Tyndale Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. “The more education, the better,” she said. “Just give me a class and let me go!”



clan and was whisked away to visit mom in the hospital. Ruth beams when talking about her daughter. “Katie smuggled Belle into the hospital for a visit when I had the shake and bake surgery,” she giggles.

Today, Ruth still helps take care of Jerry, who is expected to begin dialysis this year. Katie graduated from Duke University with a biology degree and is now working in the Wake Forest regenerative biology department. As a new healthcare professional, Ruth is able to share plenty of animated conversations with Katie about their profession.

At Lutheran Home, nursing supervisor Ann Corns says Ruth seems right at home. “She’s very mature and easygoing. She just comes across so confidently.” Corns says she thinks Ruth’s performance is an illustration of the quality of nursing instruction at Forsyth Tech. “They’ve really brought in some great students here.”

Ruth says it’s also an illustration of the quality of her background. “My grandmother was always a constant source of encouragement,” Ruth said. “She’d be proud of me today.” Her daughter is, too. “Mom, you’re my hero,” Katie smiled. “You never give up.”

The Story of: "The Story of You at Forsyth Tech"

How do you tell people about all the amazing opportunities for educational and personal growth at Forsyth Tech in less than two minutes? It sounds impossible, but a class of Digital Effects and Animation (DEA) students recently took on that task, and the result is a video that's now on the Forsyth Tech website, www.ForsythTech.edu. It's called "The Story of You at Forsyth Tech," and this is the story of how it came to be.



It started with Herb Burns, the DEA Department Chair. Only three North Carolina community colleges have DEA programs, and Forsyth Tech has the newest one – it's only three years old. To raise awareness of the program, Herb wanted to add videos the students had produced to the program's page on the Forsyth Tech website. Art Bloom, president of Forsyth Tech's marketing partner, The Bloom Agency, took Herb's idea and expanded on it. He asked Herb if the DEA students could produce a video specifically for the website – a video to introduce people to Forsyth Tech in a fun and engaging way.



1 Open on Herb Burns and John Kelly, DEA instructor, in Herb's office.

HERB: "We realized we could use this as a real work environment like the students are going to find when they graduate."

SFX: Light switch pull chain.

Animated lightbulbs appear over their heads.

VO: voice over SFX: sound effects



2 Shot of DEA students Adonna Irwin, John Flinchum, Catherine Kepins, and Suzie Keifer preparing storyboards.

VO: A script was written by The Bloom Agency, and a class of 10 DEA students took two weeks to prepare concepts.

Close-up of animated clock spinning wildly.



3 Shot of DEA students Nelson Ricardo, Doug Randolph, and John Platt, who developed a distinctive type style that was used in the final video.

VO: The class was divided into three teams, and each had their own unique take on the script.

Animated pie chart divided into three pieces. The pieces each sprout legs and run in separate directions.



4 Shot of DEA students Chris May, Terrance Duncan, Jr., and Charlie Boger working on their storyboards on the way to the presentation.

VO: The students worked on their ideas right up to the last moment to get them ready for the big presentation.

SFX: Music plays "Ta dah!" as animated curtain rises.



5 Shot of Terrance and Charlie presenting their idea.

VO: On June 10, the students presented their concepts to The Bloom Agency. Art Bloom was impressed with their ideas as well as their presentation skills.

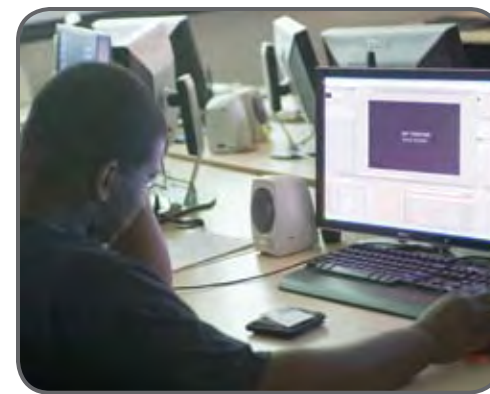
Cut to Art speaking to the camera.

ART: "The way they presented to us was just terrific. We were just blown away."



6 Shot of Nelson and Adonna presenting revised storyboards.

VO: On June 22, revised storyboards were presented, incorporating ideas from all three concepts. Adonna Irwin was chosen to direct the video, while Nelson Ricardo served as the assistant director.



7 Shot of Terrance at work editing the video.

VO: Completing the video took over 500 working hours, much of it outside the students' normal class time. But they all felt the sacrifice was worthwhile, as did their instructor, John Kelly.



8 Fade to John Kelly speaking to the camera.

JOHN: This is the best experience they can have. What they will learn doing this project will stick with them. It carries with it lessons of how to interact with a client and how to prepare for and how to finish the work.



9 **VO:** The finished video was presented to Forsyth Tech's staff and faculty on August 19 at convocation and earned a standing ovation. That's pretty amazing for a project that was completed in six weeks by a class of just 10 students. To see the finished product, go to www.ForsythTech.edu. We think you'll be impressed.

SFX: Applause and cheers



to be continued...

ForsythTech

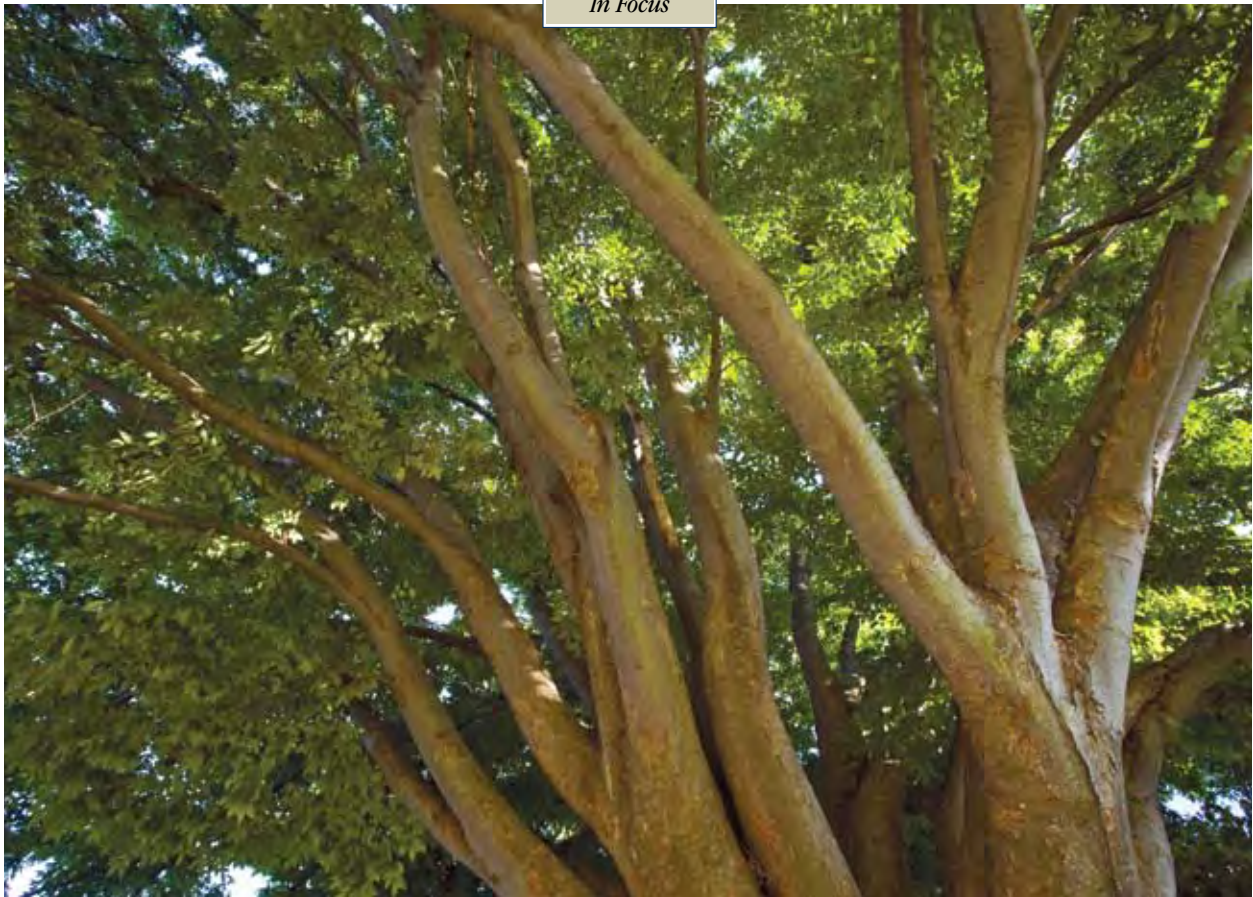
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In Focus



A Shady Past. If the enormous Japanese Zelkova tree located in front of the Tech Building on Forsyth Tech's Main Campus could speak, what a story it could tell! Not only has this tree served as a silent and stately witness to the college's growth over the past 50 years, this particular tree has been recognized as the oldest living variety of its kind in North Carolina. But, because Zelkovas are not indigenous to this area, the state's Division of Forest Resources is unable to officially assign it an historical designation. 