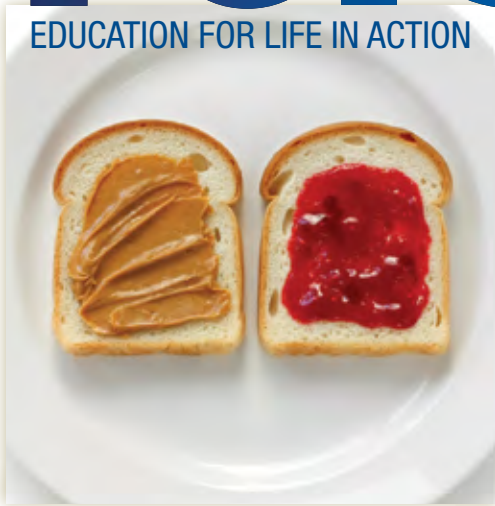


# ForsythTech

15  
SUMMER

EDUCATION FOR LIFE IN ACTION

magazine **FT**



HOW  
FORSYTH TECH  
CREATES  
THE  
**Best**  
Partnerships  
*(page 9)*



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**Taking The**  
**Next Step**  
2015



*Dr. Gary M. Green*

Forsyth Tech plays a unique role in our community. We serve as a gateway, providing students with flexible educational pathways that lead to jobs in the local economy. Our goal is to ensure our students are prepared to enter the workforce after they pass through our doors.

One way we accomplish this mission is by forming and sustaining deep partnerships with local companies and non-profit organizations. These collaborations increase our ability to teach students marketable job skills and often include opportunities for them to work on real-world projects.

Our feature story introduces you to unique strategic partnerships we have forged with leading businesses and organizations. From creating prototypes for an innovative medical device for Wake Forest Innovations, to learning to produce and edit radio broadcasts from IMG College professionals, to installing plumbing in newly built or renovated homes for Habitat for Humanity, our students receive invaluable work experience before stepping into the job market.

Another example of our commitment to high educational standards is the college's recent designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Defense Education. Awarded jointly by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, this recognition makes us one of the first community colleges in the state to earn the designation. After a rigorous, yearlong application and review process, we are proud to have qualified for this designation, which gives Forsyth Tech cybersecurity graduates the prestige of having trained in a program recognized by the top two national agencies overseeing information security.

We are also committed to providing campus facilities conducive to advanced learning. This spring, the second phase of the Oak Grove Center opened, adding 130,000 square feet of much-needed classroom and administrative space to our Main Campus. The building houses the Dewitt E. Rhoades Conference Center, named for a longtime Forsyth Tech board member. In Stokes County, we celebrated the groundbreaking of our new off-site facility, scheduled to open in 2016. This academic center will expand the number of programs available to local residents.

I am equally delighted to announce that our students garnered a record number of awards this spring, at the state and national levels. These honors, bestowed in a variety of spheres, confirm that our graduates are ready to meet the challenges of today's keenly competitive job market.



Interior of the newly-renovated Oak Grove Center

Computer-Integrated Machining students Nathanael Fatz (left) and Tristan Phelps helped create the prototype of a new medical training device.

## The Partnership Issue

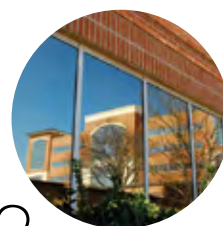
Forsyth Tech is proud to be part of the North Carolina Community College System, with 58 institutions serving more than 800,000 students annually. North Carolina Community Colleges are creating success in our state by:

- > 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](mailto:shawks@forsythtech.edu).

Forsyth Technical Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees, diplomas and certificates. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Forsyth Technical Community College.

**We're Listening!**  
If you'd like to comment on anything in this issue of *Forsyth Tech Magazine*, you can email us at [FTMagazine@ForsythTech.edu](mailto:FTMagazine@ForsythTech.edu).



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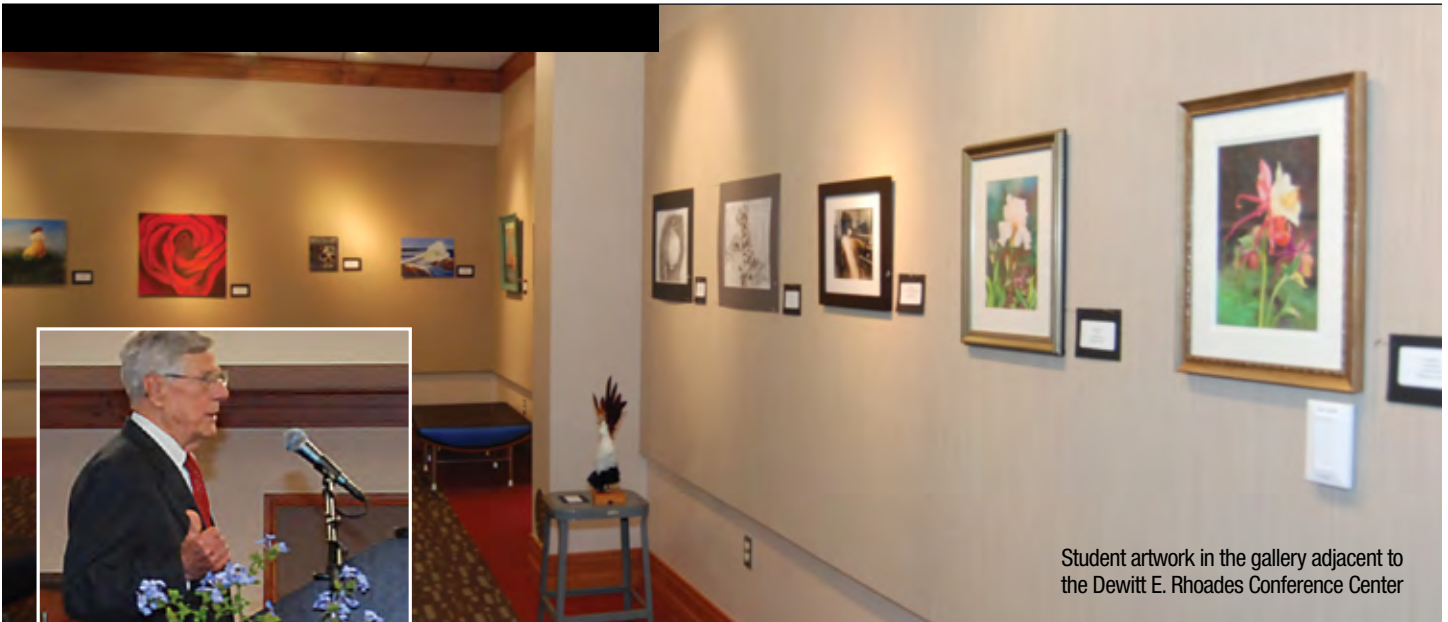
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### Our Foundation

News about gifts, scholarships and our gracious donors



*Tech Journal* is where we present the college's latest accomplishments – awards won, grants received, new programs and degrees offered, and honors bestowed on the college, faculty and staff – along with events on campus and other noteworthy items. It's a quick way to catch up on the news from Forsyth Tech.



Student artwork in the gallery adjacent to the Dewitt E. Rhoades Conference Center

Dewitt E. Rhoades

## Oak Grove Center Expansion Opens

It's been a long time coming, but well worth the wait. On June 1, Forsyth Tech held a grand opening for the Oak Grove Center, Phase Two, which adds 130,000 square feet of classroom, administrative and conference space to the college's Main Campus in Winston-Salem.

At the core of the celebration was the dedication of the Center's new 856-seat conference room to the college's longest-serving board of trustee member, Dewitt E. Rhoades. Mr. Rhoades served the college for 38 years, from 1976-2014, and held the positions of board chairman and vice chairman. He told the audience that he is proud to have helped Forsyth Tech expand to Kernersville and King during his tenure.

Mr. Rhoades also served as a trustee for the N.C. Association of Community Colleges. In 1981, he was appointed to the National Small Business Advisory Council by President Ronald Reagan. Mr. Rhoades is the retired owner and president of DERA Inc. of Winston-Salem, an office equipment company.

As part of the dedication ceremony, Mr. Rhoades received the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, one of the most valued awards conferred by the Governor of

North Carolina, for his local, state and national leadership. State Representative Donny Lambeth, a former Forsyth Tech trustee, presented Mr. Rhoades with the award.

During his remarks, Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green indicated that the Dewitt E. Rhoades Conference Center has been designed to provide a venue for college events and additional space for student activities. It also represents an opportunity for the college to open its doors to local community-based groups and organizations.

The Oak Grove Center expansion houses some of Forsyth Tech's high-demand programs, including graphic arts, horticulture, HVAC, plumbing, electrical wiring and carpentry. The space also houses the early childhood lab and the science-skills learning lab. Other features of the newly renovated space include a simulated manufacturing area that trains students for employment at the Winston-Salem Caterpillar plant as well as a 788-square-foot art gallery to display artwork from local artists and students enrolled in the Associate of Fine Arts program and community enrichment classes.

## A Distinct Accomplishment

Forsyth Tech students and programs have earned many distinctions over the years. But they aren't all created equal.

Some, like the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Defense Education designation, are highly sought after. The CAE designation, awarded jointly by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is the most prestigious recognition for cybersecurity excellence a college can receive. And this year Forsyth Tech was selected as one of 44 two- and four-year colleges to receive the honor. "We are so excited about getting it," says Dr. Deanne Wesley, department chair, Davis iTEC Center. "It puts us among the top programs in the country."

The rating is not easy to come by. The rigorous application and review process takes a full year to complete. However, a degree from a qualified college makes job applicants' resumes more attractive in the eyes of employers. It also means they'll earn more than their counterparts from non-designated programs.



Displaying the CAE award are: (L-R) Dan Hutcherson; Dr. Deanne Wesley; Pamela Shortt; James Pierson

Moreover, graduates from CAE programs (Cyber Crime Technology and Information Systems Security at Forsyth Tech) are eligible to apply for Department of Defense scholarships to cover the costs of a four-year degree or graduate studies in the cybersecurity field. They can also apply for scholarships from the federal Scholarship for Service program, which offers two-year scholarships for a college degree in cybersecurity in exchange for agreeing to work for the Federal Cyber Service for two years.



Above: Sec. of Labor Thomas Perez (far left) and Rep. Virginia Foxx (far right) observe electrical lineman training in King. Below: Sec. Perez and Rep. Foxx speak with students in the new Science Skills Lab at the Oak Grove Center.



## Building Culture In Collaboration

On June 30 Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez and Representative Virginia A. Foxx visited Forsyth Tech to observe first-hand the type of innovative training programs the college is using to support regional workforce development.

During their visit, Sec. Perez and Rep. Foxx first went to the Northwest Forsyth Center in King. While there, they observed students in the Electrical Lineman Pre-Apprenticeship program, which gives students hands-on experience in the utility industry. Top regional employers, including Pike Electric and Duke Energy, regularly recruit graduates of the program.

After seeing demonstrations of general and emergency procedures that showed the students' advanced technical capabilities, Sec. Perez commented on the quality of the program, telling the students, "You all have a really bright future ahead; the sky is truly the limit."

The next stop on their visit to Forsyth Tech was the Oak Grove Center on Main Campus to view the college's new, high-tech Science Skills Lab. Funded by a \$15 million Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) grant awarded to Forsyth Tech by the U.S. Department of Labor, the lab is utilized by students in biology, chemistry and other science courses. Area companies such as Herbalife, Carolina Liquid Chemistries and the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine regularly employ graduates of these programs.

Following the lab tour, Sec. Perez and Rep. Foxx participated in a roundtable discussion of Forsyth Tech's current momentum and future with representatives from local employers, including Nanotech Labs, Inc., Cook Medical and Wake Forest Innovations. Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines was also in attendance.

At the conclusion of the roundtable discussion, Labor Secretary Perez commended participants saying, "You have built culture in your collaborations."

## A Recipe For Success

When 46-year-old Alice Torrence decided to go back to school, she gave up her job to earn her high school diploma. Then she realized, “Why stop now?” Her first accomplishment had whetted her appetite for more.

Her timing couldn't have been better. In February 2014, the college joined forces with Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina to create the Access Center program, which enables students in Forsyth Tech's Adult High School program to take professional Job Training and Certification courses.

She enrolled in Triad Community Kitchen, a 325-hour culinary skills-training program provided through Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina. It's one of a number of healthcare, business, computer information technology and technical programs the Access Center offers to nontraditional students like Alice.

What makes this innovative new program a standout?

- > Students take free online courses through Forsyth Tech's Adult High School program.
- > They can earn Job Training Certification and Continuing Education credits at the same time they work toward their high school diplomas.
- > Forsyth Tech instructors teach the skills classes, held at Goodwill's 2701 University Parkway location.
- > The Access Center's full-time career coach, Andrew Ward, gives students free one-on-one counseling to help them choose a path leading to a credential. He also assists with job placement.
- > Goodwill offers scholarships covering tuition costs for skills-training classes to students who qualify.

“I explain to students they should think of our program and the Access Center as a unit. The Center is one piece of the Adult High School program,” says Shannon Stanley, coordinator of the Adult High School and Transitional programs. She's excited about what it's achieved so far.

It's certainly helped Alice find the ingredients for success. She's now preparing to open an event-planning business that will allow her to show off her mouth-watering specialties, such as white wine cake and chicken marsala. “I would encourage students to take advantage of all the Access Center has to offer,” she recommends. “I'm forever grateful.”










## The Dean's (To-Do) List

Pamela Shortt started as Forsyth Tech's new dean of Business & Information Technology (BIT) with a blueprint. In her first months, she's already demonstrated her ability to build her division's future.

Her first step, shortly after starting in February, was to get to know the instructors and other staff members. She met all 35, one-on-one. Next, they worked together to define their mission. "We asked ourselves, 'What is our purpose?'" explains Pamela. The answer: "Preparing individuals for careers and a life of learning using innovative resources to achieve excellent results," she says.

Among her multiple priorities, a key responsibility is "making sure we feel the beat of the business community and that we stay in touch with their needs." For example, right now companies are looking for three things:

-  how to make information secure;
-  how to keep up with mobile technologies; and
-  how to analyze and compile information, otherwise known as Big Data.

So far, BIT is on the right track. The division offers programs in information security and cyber crime technology that address security issues. Additionally, Pamela says, "We're responding to the explosion in mobile technologies by creating two new certificates, one in mobile applications, the other in social media." And to provide specialists in business analytics, BIT's offerings include programs in healthcare informatics and database management.

Pamela's outreach to local businesses has an additional upside. Although 29 percent of Forsyth Tech work-based learning placements already come from BIT, she sees room for growth. She hopes to convince even more business owners to give students an opportunity to acquire on-the-job experience before they join the workforce.

That may sound like a packed agenda, but Pamela is energetic and optimistic. "I'm helping strengthen the division and build confidence," she reflects. Meanwhile, she hasn't lost sight of what it's all for: "Everything comes back to our students."



# Academic Accolades

So far, 2015 has been a banner year for students at Forsyth Tech. Congratulations to the college's most recent crop of award winners, proving once again that Forsyth Tech has the best and the brightest.

**> COLLISION REPAIR & REFINISHING TECHNOLOGY** student Julian Rorie was chosen as one of the winners of the 2015 3M Hire Our Heroes Veteran Tool Grant. The award, sponsored by the Collision Repair Education Foundation, provides \$3,000 in tools to U.S. military veterans pursuing a career in collision repair and refinishing. This is the second year a Transportation Technology Department student has received this honor.

**> STUDENTS FROM FORSYTH TECH'S MEDICAL ASSISTING** program triumphed at the North Carolina Society of Medical Assistants College Quiz Bowl. The competition pitted eight teams of medical assisting students and graduates against each other in three rounds of trivia. Three students, Rebecca Wages and Ariel Brinkley from the college's fall 2013 cohort and Mia Mabe from the spring 2014 cohort, took the prize. For the second year in a row, Forsyth Tech students have reigned supreme.

**> THE COLLEGE'S ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN** students came through with flying colors at the 2015 Natural Talent Design Competition. Ten teams from seven U.S. and Canadian universities competed in the event, held by the North Carolina Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. Their challenge was to design a visitor's center for Lake James State Park in accordance with standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Forsyth Tech scored two major successes at the competition. Denise Hickman, Luke Marot and Ronnie Summers, of team ENCOMPASS Design Group, earned first place. And team NEW LEAF STUDIOS, made up of Forsyth Tech students Shauna Chandler, Steve Jayson, Morgan Rhoney and Salem Wendling, was declared a finalist among all competitors at the state level.

**> FORSYTH TECH MATH STUDENTS SCORED BIG** at this year's Student Math League competition, sponsored by the Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. Michael Carpenter placed first at Forsyth Tech, first in North Carolina and third in the Southeast. Thomas Stirewalt achieved second place at Forsyth Tech, second in North Carolina and seventh in the Southeast. Jake Gigliotti placed third at Forsyth Tech. All three students attended the Early College program. Together, Forsyth Tech's students placed first in the state and fourth in the Southeast.



The teachers become the students in a recent faculty training session.

## Faculty Training: In A Class Of Its Own

Providing our students with the best possible education has always been the primary objective at Forsyth Tech. So when the college received a \$2.5 million Title III grant in 2014 from the U.S. Department of Education, it immediately launched a program to improve academic success for students.

Dr. Torry Reynolds, an educator with experience in academic support and developmental education, has joined Forsyth Tech as the Title III grant coordinator. "Our goal is to support one of Forsyth Tech's greatest assets: our faculty," she says.

The first step: Establish a Center for Transformative Learning (CTL). This initiative will offer training in new and innovative teaching methods to all Forsyth Tech faculty. Many of these teaching methods and strategies will be useful to faculty whether they teach face-to-face or online classes. "Many of our instructors are experts in their fields, and we want to give them opportunities to learn instructional methods to deliver information to students in the most effective way," explains James Cook, dean, Learning Technologies. The Center will also hire an instructional designer and director to assist in faculty development.

Grant funds were also used to purchase software that will give faculty a way to identify students struggling in key gateway courses. Student Services will partner with the Center to train instructors to coach these at-risk students and refer them for tutoring and other campus support services.

In addition, the grant will pay for the installation of wireless networks at the college's five off-campus centers, cover costs for faculty media/training rooms, and allow for creation of a collaborative space in the Oak Grove Center where students can work on joint assignments.

## 20,000 Reasons To Celebrate The Shugart Women's Center

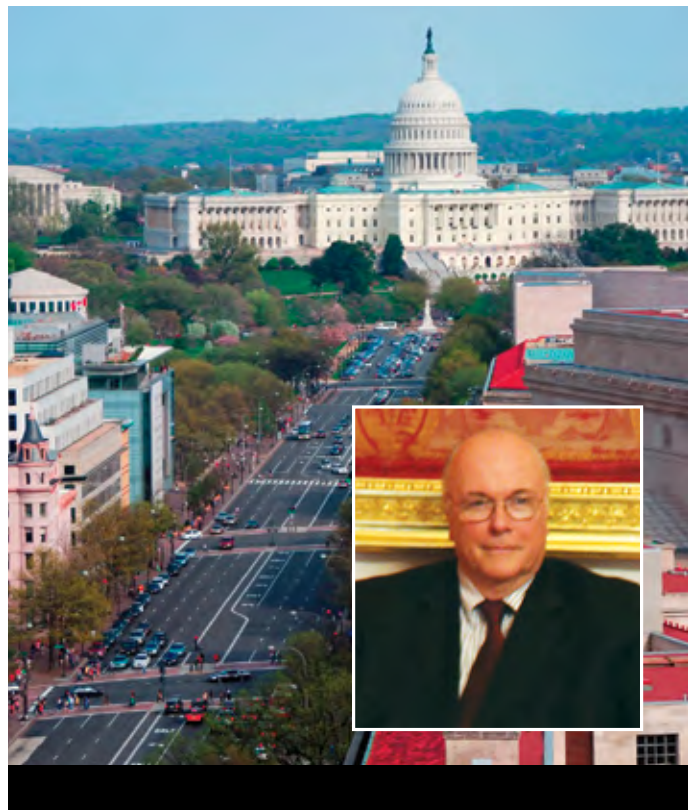
What do women want? Well, if they're Forsyth Tech students, a lot – beginning with empowerment opportunities, help locating childcare, and counseling when the going gets rough. The Shugart Women's Center at Forsyth Tech is a place where they can find advocacy, referrals to local agencies and information to help them reach their goals.

Started in 1998, the Women's Resource Center has evolved into the Shugart Women's Center (renamed for local businessman Grover F. Shugart, CEO of Shugart Enterprises, LLC). The Center offers a variety of services. If you're a female student or staff member looking for opportunities to learn leadership skills, network or find a mentor, this is the place. "We offer a safe space for women to cry, celebrate and vent. The Center is about service: We're transforming lives," says Director Sherraine McLean.

In 2002, Mr. Shugart, who attended Forsyth Tech at various times during his career, created an endowment to provide the Center with ongoing financing. "I've always said Forsyth Tech is one of the biggest assets Forsyth County's got," he observes. "I wanted to do something for women and families. If mothers want to attend classes to help them get a better job, they shouldn't have problems obtaining funds or anything else they need," he explains.

Staff and supporters came together for the Center's 15th anniversary on March 11, 2015 at the Oak Grove Center on the college's main campus. They have much to celebrate, especially the 20,000 women they've assisted since opening. That's right, twenty t-h-o-u-s-a-n-d.

While they applauded the clients they have helped over the years, we celebrate them – administrators, staff and the Center's benefactor, Mr. Shugart – for making this "haven" a permanent campus resource. Happy Anniversary!



## Herb Burns Joins Fulbright Committee

In April of this year, Herb Burns, Forsyth Tech's chair of Design Technologies and program coordinator for Digital Effects & Animation, visited Washington, D.C., at the request of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Herb was among an elite group of 14 Fulbright Scholar alums who were extended an invitation to attend an evaluative workshop about their trip to Russia the previous year as part of a Community College Administrative Seminar (CCAS). The alumni provided feedback on the program's goals, its design and pre-trip preparation, and discussed ways to promote post-trip interaction with Russian administrators.

While in Russia, the scholars talked with their Russian counterparts about how the U.S. community college system can work with Russian education administrators and government officials who are rethinking how to deliver secondary and higher education.

Herb stresses the importance of these discussions.

"Their economy is evolving rapidly, yet they're not prepared to train people and put them in the workforce quickly," he explains. "They have no community colleges, only technical universities that take four years."

Already, Herb has taken action. He has specifically reached out to the polytechnical university in St. Petersburg. "I sent a letter describing program similarities between our institutions. Our technology is a good match for what they want to learn. Manufacturing, electronics, transportation, design – those are things Forsyth Tech does very well," he observes.

His goal is to someday host a Russian delegation at Forsyth Tech and vice versa. Thanks to his follow-up efforts, faculty and students may want to start brushing up on their Russian.

## Community colleges have become collaborative organizations,

reaching out and connecting in a deeper way with employers through a complex network of two-way relationships.

We provide skilled, job-ready graduates with AAS degrees who can move swiftly into the workforce. Meanwhile, our partners play a key role, offering students experience in the work environment and the opportunity to learn from professionals acting as teachers and mentors. This dynamic exchange of ideas, information, skills and learning has transformed the way we educate students. **DR. GARY M. GREEN**



Dr. Joshua Nitsche trains Medical Sonography students Tiffany Allman (left) and Hillary Fernandez to use the device he developed in collaboration with Forsyth Tech.

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### **BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

How Forsyth Tech is giving students real-life job experience.

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### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Forsyth Tech reaches out to farmers in Stokes County.

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### **PERSONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

For this family, Forsyth Tech is always a first choice.

All roads lead to work at Forsyth Tech. Partnerships with local employers and community organizations are key tools the college uses to provide students with the most productive educational experience possible that will usher them into the workforce.

Students learn hands-on skills from instructors who work or have worked in their fields. Professionals guest-lecture on campus. Students visit workplaces to observe the jobs they're preparing for. Some employers offer internships to give students on-the-job experience. Others sit on college advisory committees to help faculty stay attuned to what's happening in the marketplace. "We want to be so engaged with companies that we anticipate where they're going before or as they move forward," explains Forsyth Tech's President, Dr. Gary Green. The following examples of "living learning" partnerships are just a few of the many ways the college connects with businesses in the community for students' benefits.

### Tapping Students' Creativity

Partner: Wake Forest Innovations

When David Dinkins and Mohammad Albanna met at a social gathering in 2014, they quickly realized their common professional interests. David, a Forsyth Tech Mechanical Engineering Technology instructor, is always scouting for opportunities for his students to gain real-world work experience. Mr. Albanna, an Innovation Associate at Wake Forest Innovations, helps turn physician-generated ideas into marketable products. What if they collaborated to bring a prototype into the world?

Dr. Joshua Nitsche, a Wake Forest Baptist Maternal-Fetal Medicine physician, had a concept for a device that would help medical residents and post-graduate fellows in Maternal-Fetal Medicine (a subspecialty of obstetrics and gynecology) learn to perform ultrasound-guided amniocentesis on patients. The ultrasound device teaches physicians to pinpoint where to insert the needle safely.

In addition, the prototype, known as an "ultrasound-guided invasive procedure trainer," can be adjusted to carry out other medical procedures requiring good hand-eye coordination, such as introducing a central line into the jugular vein. "It can help clinicians, even those who are doing it for the first time, gain competence, experience and confidence," says Dr. Nitsche.

Dr. Nitsche built the initial prototype in his garage with materials from a home-improvement store. He brought it to Mr. Albanna who recognized its commercial potential and began searching for a partner to refine the design and build a more sophisticated prototype. Enter Forsyth Tech's Mechanical Engineering Technology and Computer-Integrated Machining students.

Three mechanical engineering students demonstrated a keen interest in the project. Working as a team, they originated ideas, extrapolating from Dr. Nitsche's original concept, who was impressed. "They brought a couple different designs and permutations for each. And they had ideas for materials I hadn't thought of," he recalls.

Once the students got the green light for a design, they wrote specifications. "We proposed using silicone, and Dr. Nitsche was reluctant to use it at first," says mechanical engineering student Joshua

# PARTNER



Mechanical Engineering students (left to right) James "JD" McNoldy, Joshua Shannon and James Zanzarella



Forsyth Tech and Wake Forest Innovations staff present the device that resulted from their collaboration.

# SHIPS WITH A PURPOSE



Computer-Integrated Machining students Zachary Belton (left) and Casey Gunter created the first finished prototype of the new medical training device.

Shannon. “But we brought samples we found locally. When he tried them, he was on board,” he adds, illustrating the collaborative give and take they experienced.

The program’s computer-integrated machining students took charge of fabrication. “Most projects we do in class have set specifications, similar to those in manufacturing,” says machining student Casey Gunter. “But on the prototype, dimensions and tolerances changed, since we were involved in the design process.” Working on the device gave three machining students exposure to research and development.

In February, Dr. Nitsche asked physicians to evaluate the device at a workshop he taught in San Diego. “I was hoping for a positive response, but it exceeded what I expected,” he says. “I wasn’t expecting practitioners to ask if they could buy one or if I could come to their university to show them how the trainer can be used.” When Dr. Nitsche returned, he says, “We tinkered with things and made a few improvements.”

Then, on May 19, after months of work, Forsyth Tech and Wake Forest Innovations jointly introduced the ultrasound device at a press event held at the college. The next step for Wake Forest Innovations is to work with a company to license and manufacture the training simulator and to market it to hospitals.

Todd Bishop, department chair of Integrated Manufacturing at Forsyth Tech, is upbeat about future collaborations: “David and I have had a great relationship with people from Wake Forest, working on a variety of successful projects over the last 10 years. We look forward to more.”

### **The Community College That Could**

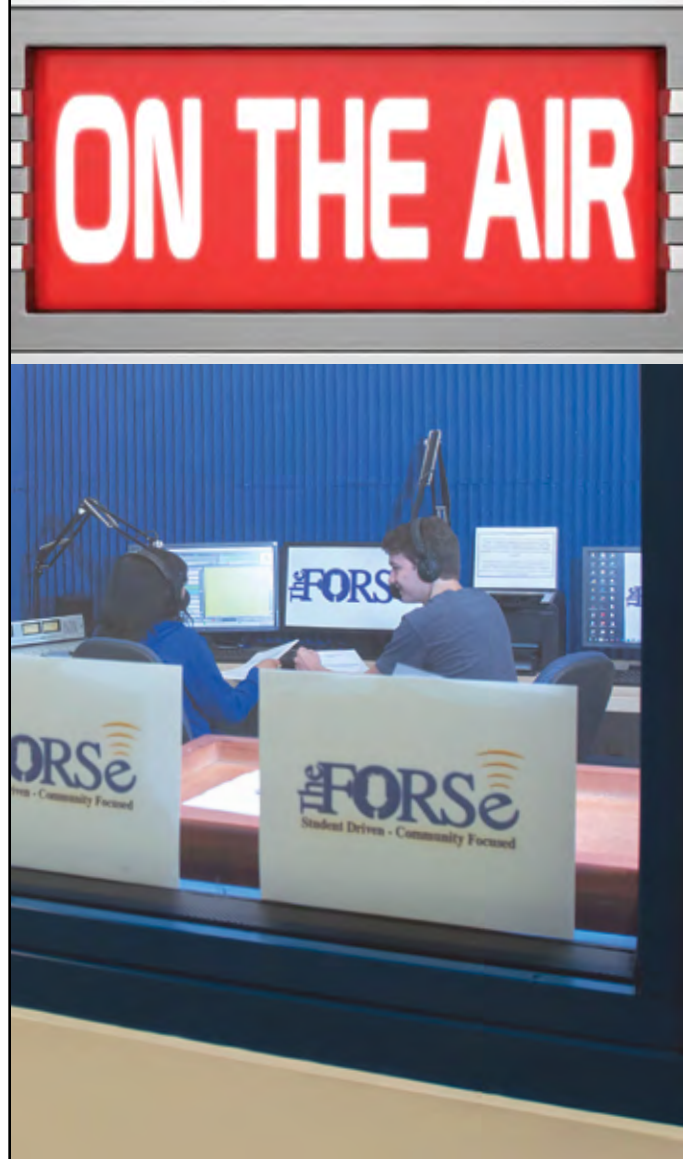
Partner: IMG College

Forsyth Tech’s Broadcasting and Production Technology department exists today in part because of IMG College. The company – the biggest collegiate sports-marketing firm in the country – maintains a large audio broadcasting operation in Winston-Salem, contributing to the local economy.

When ISP Sports approached Forsyth Tech in 2009, the company needed an increasing number of qualified, part-time employees to produce broadcasts. They offered to collaborate with the college to create a broadcasting program. Soon after, IMG acquired ISP and decided to move all collegiate broadcast operations to Winston-Salem. After the acquisition, the company, which needed even more qualified candidates than ISP had previously, moved forward with the Forsyth Tech partnership to help fill the gap.

The college met the challenge, and in 2010 went into high gear, creating the Broadcasting and Production Technology program to provide skilled local talent to IMG, local radio and TV stations, and other content producers. Program coordinator Amy Davis-Moore, a broadcast industry veteran with more than 20 years experience in all aspects of radio production, marketing, sales and management, was tasked with getting the program off the ground.

From the very beginning, IMG collaborated with the college in significant ways. “They were very involved and very invested in our program,” Amy recalls. Several of the company’s employees served as adjunct instructors, and because Forsyth Tech’s broadcasting and





Broadcasting and Production Technology students Katherine Needham (left) and Nathan Rumley, broadcasting a show on the FORSe, Forsyth Tech's new radio station.

production technology facilities were still in the planning stages, technical courses were held at IMG's studios on Trade Street, using the company's studios, editing equipment and software.

Today, more than five years after its debut, the Forsyth Tech program has its own state-of-the-art studios, equipment, software and labs in the Oak Grove Center and has just launched its own radio station, the FORSe (105.1 FM, WFOZ). IMG is still involved. "We now have IMG adjunct instructors who teach on campus," explains Amy. The company also has two seats on the program's advisory committee, bringing an industry perspective to the curriculum.

"From the college's point of view, the relationship has been win-win," she contends. "We have industry professionals teaching skills and, most importantly, application of those skills to our students." Plus, the skills-based curriculum makes graduates highly employable. "We say: Here's a checklist of skills you need to have when you graduate. When students leave, there should be a check in every box," she emphasizes.

For its part, IMG is happy with the caliber of students emerging from the program. "We produce 35,000 hours of audio programming annually, and we continue to look for qualified people," says David Shumate, director of Audio Operations for IMG. "We've hired one or two Forsyth Tech students or graduates every year for part-time positions. We now have 11 students or graduates working for us." Students, too, view the arrangement positively, according to Randall Maynard, a 2014 graduate of the program.

Although he has settled on television as his medium (he's now a videographer and video editor at WXII television, Channel 12), he appreciates the hands-on audio training he received from IMG instructors. "They taught us to be really precise with audio editing. You become a better editor than a lot of people in the field with bachelor's degrees, because you've had more hands-on training," maintains the alumnus, who is well on his way to a broadcasting career a year after graduation. Amy concurs, "The bottom line is that our students find jobs because they can say yes to a lot of skill sets."

### The Real Thing

Partner: Habitat for Humanity

Forsyth Tech's long-standing partnership with Habitat for Humanity, which began more than 15 years ago, was a natural fit from the start. It has also been one of its most gratifying. The organization's job sites not only serve as an ideal training ground for students in the carpentry and plumbing programs, they also provide new homes for individuals in the community.

Plumbing Program Coordinator Matthew Beverly has adapted his teaching method to maximize the amount of time students spend at Habitat construction sites. He teaches skills that students immediately apply to a house under construction. "I can only simulate so much in the classroom," he says. "But on-site, students take a brand new home and run a water line in and a sewer line out. They put in brand new plumbing throughout the house, call to get it inspected and meet with inspectors. They're getting real-life experience."

A crew of plumbing students can spend a total of two to three weeks on a house. "Because of the nature of what we do, our students







Forsyth Tech Plumbing students help build a Habitat for Humanity house.



can work on a number of houses throughout the year,” he observes. For carpentry students, who frame the entire structure, it’s a much longer process that can take months.

Bradley Parcell, owner of Piedmont Performance Plumbing, who attended Forsyth Tech over 10 years ago, says his on-the-job training while working on Habitat homes radically changed his job prospects. “After being laid off from a factory job, I went from unemployed to highly employable because of my trade skills,” he recalls. He also credits the program with giving him the confidence and ability to run a successful plumbing business. “As a traditional student, I took advantage of every opportunity to learn,” he says. He’s now come full circle: He’s able to hire Forsyth Tech graduates. “My advice is go into the program with resolve and absorb everything you can. I did, and I’ve never regretted it.”

### **A Committed Partnership That Keeps On Giving**

Partner: Liberty Hardware


Ask a 10-year-old what she wants to do when she grows up and she probably won’t say, “work in global logistics.” But if Demetria Ledbetter has her way, that’s going to change. She wants to convince every high school, middle school and college student she meets that a career in global logistics is awesome.

The energetic program coordinator for Forsyth Tech’s Global Logistics Technology program is committed to deepening her program’s relationship with Liberty Hardware, a large distributor of bathroom fixtures and hardware. In addition, she strives to introduce students in the program, and high schoolers she hopes will soon enter the program, to the company’s complex system of transporting, distributing, tracking and warehousing goods.

To wrap your mind around global logistics, think sophisticated software systems for companies like Amazon, FedEx and Netflix that speed packages to your door overnight or within days, and send you computer-generated updates and recorded voice messages telling you when your order has shipped and estimating when you’ll receive it. Now transpose that scenario to a big retailer like Home Depot, linked to Liberty Hardware’s distribution system software so they can check on orders 24 hours a day. “Think of Liberty Hardware as a big hardware store for the commercial side,” Demetria suggests.

The program coordinator has encouraging moments, such as finding a partner like Liberty Hardware who is excited about giving students an understanding of global logistics like she is. Or when a high school girl who’s just toured Liberty Hardware with her class announces she no longer wants to study culinary arts, but Global Logistics Technology.

By broadening the definition of partnership to include outreach to high schools and middle schools, Forsyth Tech ensures students will continue to enter this behind-the-scenes field that drives our economy.

For the college overall, Dr. Green is a proponent of bureaucracy-free collaborations. He wants faculty and administrators to be able to take the initiative and respond to outreach from businesses and community members without getting bogged down in centralized reporting. “The free-flowing exchange of ideas and collaboration has worked well,” he says. “Let’s keep it that way.” 



Well-trained logistics professionals are vital to Liberty Hardware’s business.

# A NEW CROP

Forsyth Tech is creating interest and opportunity for the next generation of Stokes County farmers.



A controlled tractor rollover (center) was part of Forsyth Tech's Farm Health and Safety Institute Day in Stokes County.

## A hay dummy wrapped in white plastic – proxy for a farm worker – gets shredded in an instant by a spinning power takeoff shaft

transferring power from a tractor to another piece of equipment. A few minutes later, the ground rumbles when a tractor is tipped over, crushing a hay dummy sitting behind the steering wheel.

Both “accidents” were simulated demonstrations that took place during Forsyth Tech's first-ever Farm Health and Safety Institute Day. The one-day workshop, held in February at the Stokes County Center in Walnut Cove, featured sessions for more than 30 area farmers on large animal safety, emergency preparedness, personal protection and farm equipment safety.

### Risky Business

Adapting to farmers' needs, Forsyth Tech brought in front-line agricultural experts from across the state for the day-long event. “We designed this workshop – the first of a series on a variety of topics – to bring together local farmers. Our objectives were to help increase safety awareness and provide advice,” says Ann Watts, senior director of Forsyth Tech's Off-Campus Centers. “Over the long run, we want to build relationships with farmers, listen to what they need and offer them the training they seek.”

Safety is a constant concern in farming, which, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), is the country's most dangerous occupation. To complicate matters, North Carolina has many small farms with 10 or fewer employees. Exempt from national safety standards set by OSHA, they're more dangerous than large, regulated farms.

According to Stokes County resident Karen Hill who, along with her husband Benny, owns and operates BD Hill Farms, a small beef-cattle operation, small farmers need support.

“Benny and I attended Forsyth Tech's Farm Institute Day in February,” says Ms. Hill. “It's good to be reminded of safety, especially when it comes to the proper use of pesticides and safe handling of equipment. We know many people who have been injured in tractor rollovers and other farm machinery accidents,” she adds.

Another major issue facing the state's agricultural sector is its aging workforce. The average age of a farmer in North Carolina is now 59, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, compounded by the fact that the number of farmers overall is dwindling. Forsyth Tech would like to help fill the gap

# THE AVERAGE AGE OF A FARMER

by training future farmers. “As a community college, we’re nimble,” Ann points out. “We have the ability to respond quickly to the economic development needs of our community and get new continuing education classes up and running in very short order.”

### Growing Interest

High-school students in Stokes County already demonstrate an interest in agriculture as a career. “About 250 high school students each year take some type of agriculture course, such as horticulture, greenhouse farming, small animal production or crop production,” emphasizes Ann. To attract them, Forsyth Tech is seeking funds to create an Agriculture Training Center in Stokes County.

In the interim, Forsyth Tech will continue to respond to local farmers’ needs with informational workshops. “We received great feedback from the farmers who attended our Farm Institute Day,” Ann says. “Based on its success, we’ve already started developing some of the classes farmers have requested.”

In April, the college offered a Goat Forages Seminar to capitalize on the growing interest in goat farming. These animals are more susceptible to disease than other farm animals, so the class was geared toward introducing prospective and current goat farmers to preventive care. Later this year, the college will offer a hands-on farm equipment repair class.

Both classes are examples of continuing education curricula Forsyth Tech is developing to prepare a new generation of farmers. 

## FIELD OF DREAMS

Forsyth Tech’s Farm Health and Safety Institute Day was part of a longer-term vision for developing an Agriculture Training Center at the college’s Stokes County campus. The February workshop was the first step in developing a comprehensive, state-of-the-art agricultural continuing education curriculum.

To aid in financing the Center, the college is seeking funding from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund, which helps tobacco farmers diversify. Courses will range from crop diversification, greenhouse farming and small-acreage farming to classes on marketing, recordkeeping and developing multiple agricultural revenue streams. Forsyth Tech is working closely with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Agencies in both Forsyth and Stokes counties to provide training opportunities that are not currently offered by the N.C. Extension services.

By training farmers in the latest agricultural techniques and providing them with business skills, Forsyth Tech will give them the tools they need to produce more for less – the formula for success in today’s agricultural economy. According to Stokes County farmer Karen Hill, “If young people don’t have a parent or grandparent who is already running a farm, it’s hard to get started. Young farmers need all the support they can get.” The hope is that the Agriculture Training Center will increase interest in the field and develop a continuing source of income for the residents of Stokes and the surrounding counties.



**IN NORTH CAROLINA IS NOW 59.**

# All in the Family

Tim Lasley has spent a large part of his life studying and teaching at Forsyth Tech. Now his sons are starting their own careers here.



Forsyth Tech alumni (left to right) Jim Lasley, Paul Lasley and Tim Lasley with other members of the staff at Wilson's Garage in Pfafftown.



**W**hen Tim Lasley was in high school, he worked part time at Wilson's Garage in Pfafftown and became a volunteer firefighter at Pfafftown's Vienna Fire Department. Little did he know that both workplaces would lead him to Forsyth Tech and that all three places would occupy a central role in his life.

Tim is the embodiment of a lifelong learner: In his early twenties, at an age when many people are finishing their education, he was just getting started. In 1978, he graduated from Forsyth Tech with a vocational degree in automotive mechanics. He then earned a degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering at N.C. State. "Forsyth Tech gave me the boost I needed to pursue a four-year degree," he says.

By then he'd developed an unquenchable thirst for learning new skills. "During the time I was at N.C. State, I took continuing education classes at Forsyth Tech whenever there was an opportunity," he recalls. "I was often dual enrolled." Shortly after he and his wife, Roberta, were married, they purchased Wilson's Garage, which they still operate today. He is also the volunteer fire chief at the Vienna Fire Department. "I basically have two full-time jobs," he says.

In the years since graduation, Tim has returned to the college often, both as a student and as an instructor. Through Forsyth Tech, he studied to become a certified Emergency Medical Technician. Those skills have proven invaluable when he's helping others. Tim has also shared his knowledge of the fire service as a part-time instructor at the college since 1986.

Sons Jim, 22, and Paul, 20, share many of their dad's interests. Having spent countless hours at the garage and the fire station while growing up, both boys have learned auto mechanics and earned their firefighter's certification. At 16, Jim recounts, he began going on "fire calls," fetching tools and equipment behind-the-scenes for firefighters.

After high school graduation, he earned his associate's degree in collision repair and refinishing at Forsyth Tech. He now works for the family business full time. "I'm a technical, hands-on guy. My brother has more of an analytical mind," he observes.

His younger sibling, Paul, has taken a different path. After two years at Forsyth Tech, he is transferring to N.C. State in the fall to study Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology Sciences. For now, when his schedule permits, he works part time at the garage.

Tim has passed on his belief that nothing you learn is ever wasted. "Education expands your mind and improves your interpersonal skills," he says. "Even if you don't realize it, you apply everything you learn to your daily life, much more than you think."

Not a bad legacy for his children. 🍌



Gov. Pat McCrory

# Stepping Up To The Future





The crowd can barely suppress their excitement as Forsyth Tech's class of 2015 enters Winston-Salem's LJV Coliseum on May 7, 2015. Five hundred graduates in royal blue gowns and mortarboards make their way, single file, to reserved seating on the Coliseum floor. They're bursting with anticipation, but also with pride, joy, satisfaction and even a touch of trepidation. But like the spectators, they're mostly excited. Noise evaporates into stillness among the grads, family and friends, faculty, staff, administrators and VIPs in the room when commencement starts. Later, guest speaker Governor Pat McCrory comments on the buoyant mood lifting everyone's spirits: "I have never seen so many smiles at one time. Your parents, your brothers and sisters, your sons and daughters, and your neighbors are so proud of you," he tells the graduates, beaming himself. Then he repeats what his father told him when the future governor graduated from Jamestown's Ragsdale High School in 1974: "Now, I want you to fulfill your potential."



There's no doubt they will. Bravo class of 2015. May the future smile on them as brightly as the crowd in the Coliseum. They've earned it.

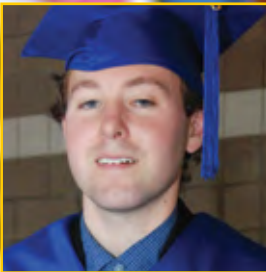


# What An Experience!



**REYNA HERBA**  
AAS, Elementary Education

"After studying at Forsyth Tech, I can say that I've grown, and I'm more vocal than I was in the past. My classes helped me realize that teaching is the right career path for me and prepared me for the next step toward my goal. I plan to go to Salem College in the fall to study education."



**ADRIAN GOODWIN**  
Diploma, Nanotechnology

"One of the most important things I learned was how to work with multiple people on a team. I worked with teams on final class projects, and I had an internship with a research group conducting experiments at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, which is a collaboration of UNCG and N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro. I was responsible for writing down the procedures and keeping everybody focused on the experiments. Both those experiences taught me skills that I can use on the job in the real world."



**ELLEN LINVILLE**  
AAS, Paralegal Technology

"It hasn't been a straight shot from beginning to end. Like a lot of people, I've had to put classes on hold and come back. It was a little discouraging, but I would tell other students in a similar situation, 'Just stick it out!' What kept me motivated was wanting a career as opposed to a job, wanting something better for myself. I was lucky to have people around me – friends, fellow students and teachers – who encouraged me to keep going. I recommend talking to people who can support you if you hit a momentary road block."



**ANGELA TOURNAY**  
AAS, Architectural Technology  
North Carolina Community College Academic Excellence Award  
Finalist, 2015 Bienenstock Furniture and Interior Design Competition

"One of the most important things I learned was time management. I understood it from having been in the corporate workforce. But in college, time management is crucial to achieve what you need to, both at school and at home. The instructors emphasized it, but it isn't something they can teach you – you have to find your way, find what works for you. Some students make it hard on themselves by not preparing for the worst-case scenario or thinking how procrastination will affect the quality of their work. You need good time management skills to succeed."



Our alumni are an important part of who we are – they are our ambassadors in business, public service, the sciences, healthcare, teaching and all the other professions we prepare students to enter. *The Alumni Oval* is a place to celebrate those alumni. Here you'll read profiles of past graduates, get a chance to find out what our alumni are up to and learn about local businesses our alumni have started.



**THRIVING IN AN ERA OF CHANGE** Rhonda Carson expected to spend the bulk of her career at a local bank. The Forsyth Tech alumna, who earned an AAS degree with high honors in Information Systems in 1998, was convinced that the bank – where she had already begun working the year before – offered a range of opportunities she could build her career on.

Rhonda's upbeat personality and people skills were an asset in a position procuring hardware and software as well as performing a range of other tasks. While working full time, she managed to complete a four-year degree with DeVry University. "At the time, I was a single mom of a young child, so I decided to pursue my studies online," she says. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Technical Management and graduated magna cum laude.

In 2010, she had risen to a position as a senior desktop support analyst when she learned that she, along with hundreds of other employees, had been reorganized out of a job.

Unexpectedly, she found that change can be good, despite throwing your life into turmoil. After dusting off her resume, Rhonda landed a temporary position at Volvo, developing training programs and conducting training sessions. She discovered she loved training.

Fortunately, her next and most recent position at Honda Aircraft Company, a manufacturer of light jets in Greensboro, combined both IT and training. Rhonda assists external contractors, suppliers, federal agencies and Honda employees with Sharepoint, a complex document, content and workflow management application. She also conducts software training.

Despite work demands and being mom to a teenager, the IT specialist still makes time for extracurricular activities. She's an image consultant for Dress for Success, a nonprofit that helps women who are job hunting by supplying them with clothing for interviews and styling advice. Once they're hired, the job candidates receive a week's worth of clothing appropriate for work.

She also recently launched a small business, GIRLZ on F.I.R.E., a women's-only firearms safety training company. Rhonda believes that by empowering other women, she also empowers herself. Not to mention that it's also a great way to give back to the community.



**ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER** The path to success doesn't always follow a straight line. Sometimes you have to take a detour or stop at a crossroads. At least that's been Kati Maas' experience.

Fresh out of high school in 2007, Kati knew she wanted to work in healthcare. She just wasn't sure which career to choose. After applying to a few different programs, she was accepted into nursing at another college and Forsyth Tech's program for radiology technologists. She decided to go with radiology.

"I really liked studying radiology. It was a good program," she recalls. "But it exposed us to other career options within the field, and I became really interested in sonography at that point," she says. "With sonography, you're in the room with the patient and spend more time – up to 20 or 30 minutes – one-on-one. You take images but also evaluate abnormal versus normal pathology and write up your findings," she explains. The findings and images are sent to the radiologist to help with diagnosis.

During her second year, she applied to pursue a second AAS degree in ultrasound technology once she finished her radiology program. With the help of a sympathetic supervisor who was flexible about her hours, Kati worked full time as a radiologic tech at the VA Medical Center in Salisbury while she pursued the ultrasound program. "I worked the second shift, so I could take classes during the day," she recalls.

Now a full-time ultrasound technologist at an imaging center in Winston-Salem, Kati couldn't be happier. She knows she made the right choice, and radiology led her there.

## Alumni Notes

**1990s** **Sean Brittain, 1991, AAS** in Architectural Technology, went on to earn his B.S.E.T. in Civil Engineering at UNC Charlotte. He is now employed as the Assistant Director of Space Management for Wake Forest University.

**2000s** **Andrea "Andi" Herman, RDH, 2009, AAS** in Applied Science with a concentration in Dental Hygiene, is employed as the Clinical Care Coordinator for the Department of Oral Medicine at Carolinas Healthcare System in Charlotte, N.C. Recently, she has been featured as the spotlight hygienist on the cover of *RDH* magazine, was awarded American Academy of Oral Medicine Fellowship status, and has co-authored book chapters and magazines relating to oral hygiene.

**DeEtta Famiano, 2009, AAS** in Architectural Technologies with an accreditation in LEED, has become the Director of Virtual Design and Construction at Weaver Cooke Construction in Greensboro, N.C. She has also recently served as an Adjunct Professor in Forsyth Tech's Architecture Department for the 2014-15 school year.

**2010s** **Jessica Young, 2015, Course Completion** in Customer Relations Management in a Call Center Environment, is now a Contact Center Representative at a rapidly growing company in downtown Winston-Salem.

## Alumni Marketplace

Over the years, many of our alumni have started successful businesses here in the Piedmont Triad. In Alumni Marketplace, we give those alumni the opportunity to tell the world about those businesses. If you're an alumnus with a business you'd like to have listed here, please send the following information to [alumni@forsythtech.edu](mailto:alumni@forsythtech.edu):

- > Business name
- > Your name and year of graduation
- > Brief (40 words or less) description of the product or service your business provides
- > Contact information (phone number, website)

**Capital JAE Corporation**  
*Dwight Jennings, Jr., Class of 1995*



1001 South Marshall St., Ste. 154  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Capital JAE is comprised of multiple business divisions such as snack and beverage vending services, health-based commercial cleaning, and environmental management services.

336.776.0152 | [capitaljaecorp.com](http://capitaljaecorp.com)  
Email: [dfj\\_enterprises@yahoo.com](mailto:dfj_enterprises@yahoo.com)

**Muddy Creek Motorsports**  
*Derek Duggins, Class of 1979*



195 Altay Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Muddy Creek Motorsports works with clients nationwide to provide NASCAR-related mobile marketing and hospitality/event staging and collector car restoration.

336.924.5492 | [muddycreekmotorsports.com](http://muddycreekmotorsports.com)  
Email: [derek@muddycreekms.com](mailto:derek@muddycreekms.com)

Her classroom experience allowed her to excel in her job training and pick up on key skills quickly.

**Michael Burke, 2014, AFA** went on to become the On Air Host of “All Things Considered” for the Piedmont’s NPR station, 88.5 WFDD. When he’s not on the air entertaining the Triad, Michael dedicates his time to local theatre. Most recently, he played the role of Mr. Bennett in the Twin City Stage production of Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice” in February of 2015.

**Cameron Whitley, 2013, Certificate** in Sustainable Design Technology, is now a Designer at STITCH Design Shop. He has had a large role in the opening of Bailey Park in the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter and in the opening of ARTivity on the Green in the Winston-Salem Downtown Arts District. Cameron has also recently been featured in *Winston-Salem Monthly*, *YES! Weekly*, and the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

**Mason Callahan, 2012, Certificate** in Auto Body, has recently accepted a new position at Caterpillar, Inc. in Winston-Salem, N.C., as a Team Leader for its Paint Department. Mason is also engaged to be married in October 2015 to Haley Ryanne Walsh and has purchased his first house at the age of 21.



**HANDS THAT SEE** As a young boy growing up in Plymouth, England, Chris Soothill imagined joining the army or navy someday. Those dreams were dashed after he was diagnosed with a visual impairment. But life had other plans.

He came to the U.S. in 1999 at age 27 to marry an American woman. He landed a job, first in customer service and then in finance, for the Winston-Salem office of a global consulting firm. In 2007, Chris started exploring options for a second career, in addition to his daytime job.

Around that time, he took an Introduction to Massage Therapy class offered by Forsyth Tech. He was hooked instantly. Massage therapy required using his brain in new and totally different ways from his numbers-driven, 9-to-5 position. After enrolling in the program part-time in fall 2007, he continued to work full time. And in May 2009, he received his license.

One of Chris’ courses at Forsyth Tech was a Swedish and sports massage class with instructor David Black, who became Chris’ mentor. David taught Chris that massage therapy is not just a “fluff and buff” spa experience but a treatment designed to figure out a physical problem and fix it. His instructor’s passion for the profession rubbed off on Chris.

“If I can reduce or take away someone’s pain, I’ve improved that person’s quality of life,” says Chris. Massage therapy has given him a new way to see the world. “I sometimes work with my eyes closed,” he says. “I like to see what my hands are telling me.”

## What’s Happening With You?

Would you like to tell everyone about a significant event or achievement in your life, such as getting a new job or promotion, getting married, receiving an honor or award, or earning a new degree?

If you have something you would like to share, please send the following information to alumni@forsythtech.edu\*:

- > Your name
- > The year you graduated and your degree
- > The event or accomplishment you would like noted
- > Any other information you would like included in the listing

\*Submissions may be edited for brevity. Solicitations, advertisements or editorial statements will not be used.

Please help us spread the word about Alumni Notes by telling anyone you know who is a Forsyth Tech alumnus to submit his or her update today!

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Alan Shelton, Class of 2015



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Winston-Salem MIXXER, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that is creating a makerspace for the Winston-Salem/Triad area. MIXXER is a membership-driven studio/workshop open to people that wish to share tools, ideas and more.

wsmixer.com  
Email: alan@wsmixer.org



The Foundation of Forsyth Tech offers alumni, friends, corporations and others a way to show their support for the work we do through financial and other types of gifts. *Our Foundation* is a place where we can recognize our supporters.



When you buy a brick in the Forsyth Tech Alumni Oval for only \$50, you're funding scholarships and other educational opportunities that help our students succeed. And you can use the three-line inscription on your brick to show your pride as a graduate, honor a faculty or staff member, commemorate a loved one or just express a thoughtful message.

*Help us help more students succeed ~  
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## Make A Real Difference ~ Give To Forsyth Tech

Education changes lives, and your gift to Forsyth Tech can help provide an opportunity for deserving students to receive an education that would otherwise be out of reach. Tuition costs continue to rise, and even the smallest gift helps. Your gift helps pay for:

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

Give online at [Foundation.ForsythTech.edu](http://Foundation.ForsythTech.edu) or send a check, payable to **Forsyth Tech Foundation**, to 2100 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC 27103-5197.

To have an even bigger impact, establish a scholarship in your or your company's name, or honor someone who has touched your life in a profound way. To learn about other giving opportunities, call Mamie Sutphin, executive director of the Foundation, at 336.734.7520 or email her at [msutphin@forsythtech.edu](mailto:msutphin@forsythtech.edu).

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Champion	\$100 – \$249
Friend	Up to \$99

## Driving Business Success

What does it take to run a successful manufacturing operation? Companies that embrace innovation, shift operational models to keep pace with change and invest in ongoing employee development are likely to stay ahead of the pack.

That's the enviable position 140-year-old R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company (RJRT) in Winston-Salem finds itself in, thanks in part to its long-standing partnership with Forsyth Tech. The company credits the college with helping it achieve those three essentials for success, bolstering its status as the second-largest tobacco company in the U.S.

### Training Is Key

Continuous training is one of the keys to both employees' and the company's success. "We help our manufacturing employees succeed through continuous skill-gap analysis, technical training and employee development," says Nancy Hawley, senior vice president of operations at RJRT.

She's effusive about the many ways Forsyth Tech supports RJRT's employee training. "Forsyth Tech is a huge strategic partner for us," states Ms. Hawley, who also serves as chair of the board of directors for the Forsyth Tech Foundation. "The college has been so flexible. As our business has changed, they've changed their training models to incorporate new technology, and they've adjusted their training schedules to meet our employees' alternative work schedules."

### Staying Ahead Of The Curve

The college develops customized content and provides instruction tailored to the company's needs. Customized workforce development programs and testing modules include training that enables employees to regularly renew their professional licenses and to test for higher-level positions. For example, it trains for MultiSkill positions (requiring several disciplines: Pipefitting, Sheet Metal, Millwright and Electrician). The college also provides instruction in blueprint reading, hydraulics and pneumatics, and mechanical skills.

As RJRT adds new products to its manufacturing lineup, the college adapts by training employees for new equipment and processes. Forsyth Tech recently added a Flexible Manufacturing Simulator to its Industrial Systems Technology program to train employees for production of VUSE e-cigarette, which RJRT contract manufactures for another subsidiary of parent company Reynolds American, Inc.



"Forsyth Tech is a huge strategic partner for us."

~ Nancy Hawley  
Senior Vice President, Operations  
R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company

In her previous position as vice president of manufacturing at RJRT, Ms. Hawley saw firsthand Forsyth Tech's success in educating, as well as in training. The company hires many Forsyth Tech graduates who enter the job market with the proficiency they need to perform today's highly skilled manufacturing jobs. The quality of Forsyth Tech candidates has helped make her one of the college's biggest cheerleaders.

"I'm a big supporter of Forsyth Tech. The college offers something for everyone. It's an investment in the future of our community," she says. "Forsyth Tech helps so many people better their lives and contributes to making businesses profitable. It's fantastic."

**ForsythTech**

*Education For Life*

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## **Preview Of Coming Attractions**

The result of a partnership with local government, which provided key funding, Forsyth Tech's new Stokes County Center will offer area residents expanded educational opportunities and help the county attract businesses that require a well-educated workforce. Help the Center fulfill its mission with a gift to the Foundation of Forsyth Tech to support scholarships, equipment and faculty training. *See page 28 to find out how you can help make Education For Life a reality.*