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Focus On Forsyth Tech



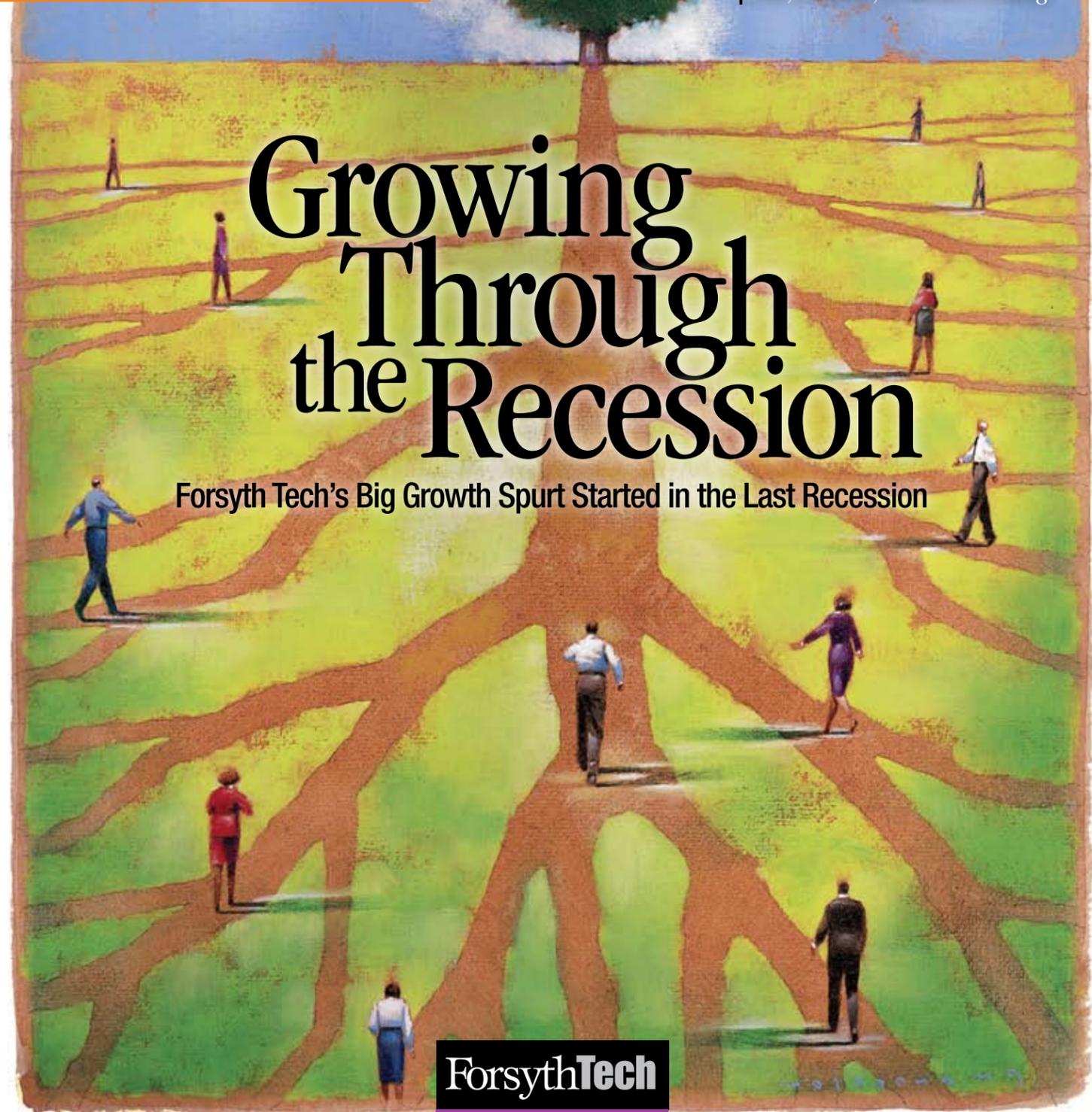
A Winter's Day. Student Government Association President **Marysue Antonucci** (*Who Goes Here, page 27*) was given a photo of an Arkansas barn by a friend. She liked the image so much that she wanted to make an oil painting of it, but she didn't yet know a technique for creating the effect of rusted tin. To be able to capture the look of the barn's roof, she bought a book on palette knife painting and followed the instructions. This beautiful piece of art is the result. 

in this issue:

RACING AHEAD
 | *The Richard Childress Connection*

STOKES HAS TALENT
 | *Meet the Star Catchers*

2009 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
 | *Fast, Flexible, Forward Looking*



Growing Through the Recession

Forsyth Tech's Big Growth Spurt Started in the Last Recession

be a Rainmaker



Never in its half century history has Forsyth Tech had a more crucial role to play

in the lives of our citizens and the vitality of our local economy. And never have the college's resources been as stretched as they are in this recession.

Your contribution, in any amount, will enable Forsyth Tech to continue to bring hope and opportunity to people whose livelihood depends on more education and new skills.

To become a rainmaker, go to www.forsythtech.edu/support.

The Foundation
of Forsyth Tech

From the President | *In the Spotlight*

Dr. Gary M. Green



You can hardly open a newspaper, turn on the radio or tune into the television news these days without hearing about the prominent role community colleges are playing in helping America work its way out of the recession. What has been a relatively low-profile segment of the educational spectrum is now center stage.

We welcome the spotlight, even as we are challenged by the major surge in enrollment we're seeing, in both credit and continuing education programs. All this attention broadens public understanding of how Forsyth Tech is uniquely able to serve our community in an economic downturn: as a cost-efficient and reliable way to embark on a bachelor's degree, as the means for those who have lost their jobs to gain the skills to find new employment, and as a way for people to create job security for themselves by adding to their knowledge and value.

And as more people in all stages and walks of life see for themselves what it's like to be a student here, there's a heightened understanding of what Forsyth Tech has to offer year in and year out. Just a few examples:

- > **Personal attention and support.** Find out why Teresa Ketner loves teaching evening courses at Forsyth Tech as much as she loves her day job as a member of the Greensboro Police Department's Forensic Team, in **A Case of Passionate Conviction**.
- > **Top-notch training for in-demand skills.** Learn how community support contributes to our ability to get programs up and running in the story of how Dr. Kenneth Sadler provided training facilities for dental hygienists, in **A Generous Partner Puts the Teeth into a New Program**.
- > **A chance to make a dream come true.** Read **Who Goes Here**, a profile of artist, grandmother and student government president Marysue Antonucci.

As our cover story details, Forsyth Tech is growing through this recession, in responsiveness and in our ability to make the most of our resources, as well as in enrollment, facilities and programs of study. 

Where Hope Springs Eternal

If you think of Forsyth Tech as a place where people learn to repair cars, clean teeth, program computers, install air conditioning and put out fires – you're right. But look just a little deeper and what you will see is a truly transformative institution.

Tech Quarterly gives us the opportunity to tell the stories of people for whom Forsyth Tech has provided life-changing encounters and experiences. In this issue alone, you'll learn about how the chance to become a Crime Scene Investigator helped Teresa Ketner overcome a deadly cancer and go on to excel in her new career. You'll read about how instructors in the GED program gave high school dropout Terah Bevill the confidence she needed not only to go to college, but to be chosen for a highly selective doctoral program at an Ivy League university. You'll be surprised at how a simple screening test and an even simpler treatment enables hundreds of students every year to succeed academically and in their work, after years of failure and disappointment caused by a common, undiagnosed perception problem.

And that's just the tip of an enormous iceberg. Your community college deserves your support because it is the catalyst, every year and every day, for individuals becoming the best that they can be.

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

- Offering hope for a better future through vocational training and education
- Providing opportunity by making higher education available to all citizens
- Generating jobs by creating a skilled workforce for business and industry

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 Michelle Bratton, Coordinator, Disabilities Services Office, at 336.734.7241 or mbratton@forsythtech.edu.



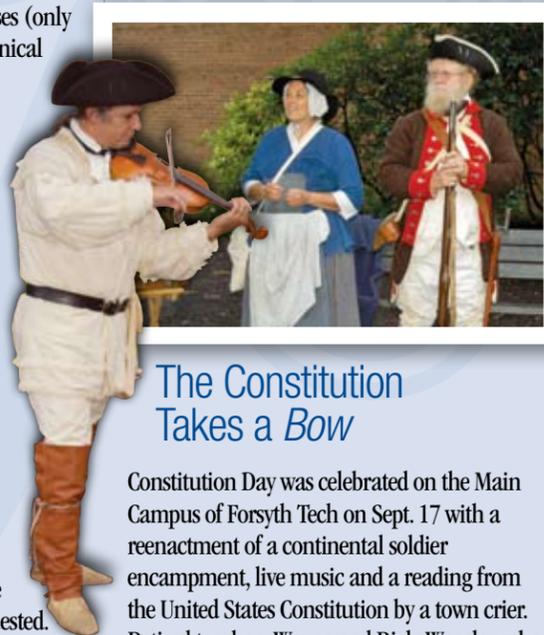
Project Skill-UP Gets a Leg Up

This past October, the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission made another contribution to Project Skill-UP, which provides financial aid to students enrolled in job training programs at Forsyth Tech. Sharon Anderson, Dean of Community and Economic Development Programs in Forsyth Tech's Division of Continuing and Corporate Education, said that awards of the scholarship funds are based on need and are provided to people who are unemployed or seeking to advance in their jobs. This latest contribution brings to \$116,000 the contributions the Tobacco Trust has made to Forsyth Tech since the project began in 2006, allowing about 80 people each year to receive funds for short-term occupational training in courses ranging from auto body repair to Certified Nursing Assistant.

What's the Deal with Dual Enrollment?

A side effect of the nation's economic crisis caused a problem at Forsyth Tech this fall, but ultimately it was resolved successfully. Dual Enrollment is a program that allows high school students to take college classes tuition free at their local community college. A lot of kids had signed up to take Dual Enrollment classes at Forsyth Tech this fall, but then the legislature cut funding for many classes (only math, science, vocational and/or technical courses were unaffected).

Instead of offering those Dual Enrollment classes, the state gave students the chance to take the same classes through the Learn and Earn program, in which classes are taken online. Anticipating such a move on the part of the legislature, Forsyth Tech had prepared a document that detailed all the options available to students and told them exactly what to do to get the classes they needed. There were a few frantic days in the office of Dr. Susan Phelps, Dean of Educational Partnerships at Forsyth Tech, but ultimately the students were able to take the courses they had requested.



The Constitution Takes a Bow

Constitution Day was celebrated on the Main Campus of Forsyth Tech on Sept. 17 with a reenactment of a continental soldier encampment, live music and a reading from the United States Constitution by a town crier. Retired teachers Wayne and Riely Woosley, who participate in 18th century reenactments, were featured, and Dean of Learning Resources Randy Candelaria performed fiddle music of the era.



Give Us a Kiosk

Forsyth Tech students can do a lot of things online these days. Through a service called WebAdvisor, they can check their grades, register for classes and so on. But for students without a computer, access to WebAdvisor wasn't always readily available. Until now, that is. This fall, a series of kiosks was placed around Main Campus, all in public spaces, and each kiosk contains a computer screen and keyboard that provide instant access to WebAdvisor for any student. It's just one more way Forsyth Tech is working to provide the best student experience possible – and using technology to do it.



Terrence in the Linux Den

Yet another Forsyth Tech faculty member has become a published author. Terrence Lillard, an instructor in the Thomas H. Davis iTEC Center, spent the summer co-authoring the CompTIA Linux+ Certification Study Guide, which was published this past October. The study guide covers everything the student needs to pass the Linux+ Certification exam as well as maintain, troubleshoot and install Linux on workstations and servers. Mr. Lillard developed three chapters of the study guide and produced all the Linux How-To Exercise Videos and Linux+ Exam Study Questions.



Early College x2

Early College of Forsyth, a program that allows high school students to earn an associate's degree tuition free, is entering its second year on the campus of Forsyth Tech with a sophomore class of 60 students and a freshman class of 63 students. Because all students must enter as freshmen, classes are entering one at a time, so next year there will be three classes and the following year all four will be attending.

Meanwhile, a second Early College, under the auspices of Forsyth Tech, began this year. Stokes Early College High School is meeting at the Northwest Forsyth Center and has a freshman class of 48 students (shown above).

More Than You Know

Local Agencies REACT to Unemployment Woes

A rise in unemployment has increased the need for worker training, and Forsyth Tech is meeting that need.

Last August, Vice President of Continuing Education Sue Marion, along with other school officials, participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for REACT, the Regional Employment and Advancement Career Training Center, located above the Employment Security Commission at 450 W. Hanes Mill Road in Winston-Salem. The nearly 30,000-square-foot center will offer advice and resources to unemployed, underemployed and downsized workers in the area. Funded by federal stimulus money and operated locally by the Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board, REACT is a collaboration of several Forsyth County agencies



Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines speaks at the opening of the REACT Center.

including Forsyth Tech, the Employment Security Commission, Vocational Rehab, Job Corps, Department of Social Services, Faith Based Community, Experiment in Self Reliance, Urban League, Consumer Credit Counseling and Goodwill. Forsyth Tech will offer classes at the new facility under the state's "12 in 6" jobs training program, which offers skills courses that can be completed in six months or less in a variety of trades, construction and healthcare categories.



That's One Attractive Tractor!

Alan Doub, an adjunct instructor in Forsyth Tech's Heavy Equipment and Transport Technology department, won a blue ribbon at the 35th Annual Stokes Stomp Festival on the Dan in Stokes County in September. Mr. Doub was awarded Best of Show in the Antique Vehicle category for his 1953 Ford tractor.

All the Evidence Points to

TERESA KETNER'S DREAM JOB

Once again, Teresa Ketner was in the hospital, fighting for her life. After four days in a semicomatose state, she opened her eyes to see her family and a good friend standing beside the bed. "You're not going to believe this," her friend said, "but Forsyth Tech is offering forensics classes."



"That gave me another reason to win this battle," Teresa remembers.

Teresa always knew what she wanted to be when she grew up, though she didn't see much hope of actually achieving it. As a kid she loved playing Clue, working puzzles and anything that involved gathering evidence to clear up a mystery. It was not until she was in her mid 30's, married with two children, that she decided to go to college and learn how to apply science to solving crimes.

The problem was that no colleges in the vicinity of her home in Germanton were teaching forensics. Disappointed, she applied to the nursing program at Forsyth Tech, thinking that career would encompass her love of science and her strong desire to help people. Before she had taken her first nursing class, however, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

"I was in and out of the hospital and intensive care for the next year," she said. Her first chemo treatment threw her into cardiac

arrest. And it got worse from there, as each subsequent treatment left her weaker and in terrible pain. Ultimately, she was rushed to the emergency room, no longer able to move any part of her body and no longer feeling any will to live. The events of her life passed through her mind before she drifted into unconsciousness. And it was after that near-death experience that she woke up to hear that Forsyth Tech was offering forensics courses.

They Called Her Mama T

"Of course I was bald and my immune system was weak, and I had two more chemotherapy treatments to go, but I wanted to start forensics right away," Teresa said. "Bald, weak and frail, I went over and talked to Kristie Baity, who was the program director. She encouraged and supported me. I just couldn't wait to get started."

Against her doctor's advice, she went to classes, sitting in the back so she would be less likely to pick up any colds or viruses from her classmates. Most of them were recent high school graduates, and they were enormously supportive of her.

"They called me Mama T. They threw me a big party when I got the chemo port removed from my arm," Teresa remembers.

Teresa found she had to relearn how to study and prepare for classes. And she was fearful about her ability, since she had been an

average student in high school.

But love for the subject trumped everything else.

"I didn't just want to be an A student. I wanted high honors," she said.

"I basically lived in books for two years. It did not come easy to me, but I loved school and I had fabulous instructors. I couldn't wait until the next class. I couldn't get enough of it."

As a student, Teresa was president of Sigma Theta Kappa, the criminal justice fraternity, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society. She interned with the Crime Scene Unit of the Greensboro Police Department.

In 2002, Teresa graduated with high honors and earned two associate degrees, one in Criminal Justice and one in Latent Evidence Technology.

And even before graduation, she heard from a friend about an opening in the Crime Scene Unit in Greensboro, where she had done her internship.

Not As Seen on TV

Thousands of young people dream of a career as a Crime Scene Investigator. When Teresa Ketner applied for a job with the Greensboro Police Department seven years ago, there were approximately 200 applicants for the position.

As a kid she loved anything that involved gathering evidence.



A Case of Passionate Conviction

Teresa Ketner received Forsyth Tech's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Her connection with her alma mater now is stronger than ever. For the past four years, she has been an adjunct instructor, teaching one course each semester, one evening a week. So far, she has taught courses in Footwear and Tire Impressions, Crime Scene Processing, and Criminalistics, which is learning about criminal behavior.

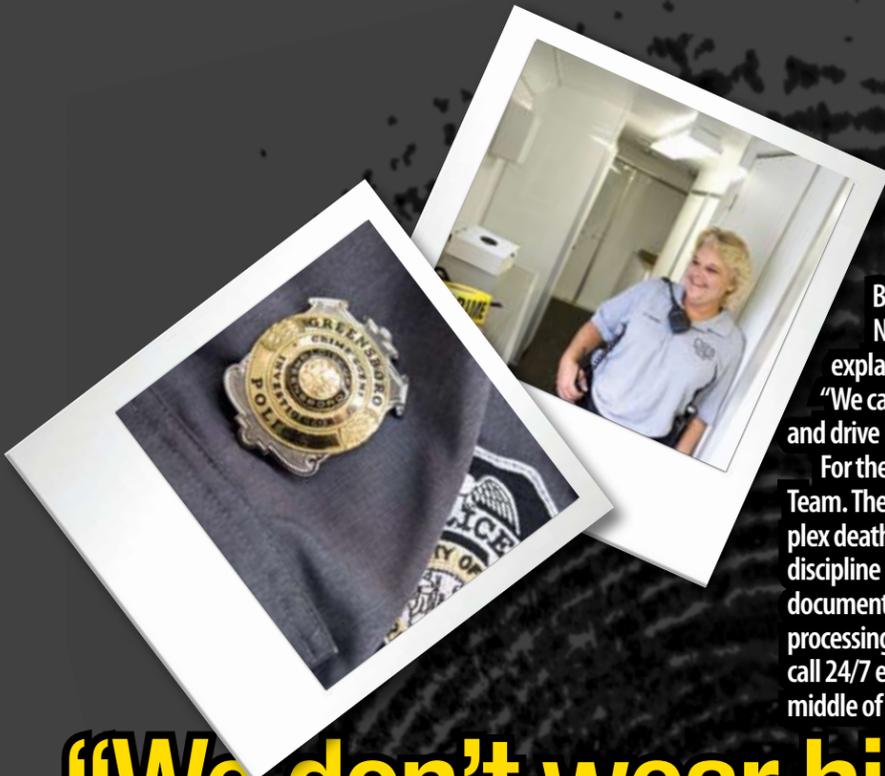
She finds she loves being a teacher as much as she loves being a CSI.

More Than You Know

"I love Forsyth Tech. Anything I can give back is a blessing beyond words," she said.

After a brush with her own death, Teresa feels enormous gratitude for how her life has turned out. As of January, she will have been free of cancer for 10 years. Last month, she celebrated 25 years of marriage to her husband, Gray.

"I couldn't do any of this without my husband's love and support," she said. "My main goal is to encourage other people to follow their dream. If I can do it, anybody can."



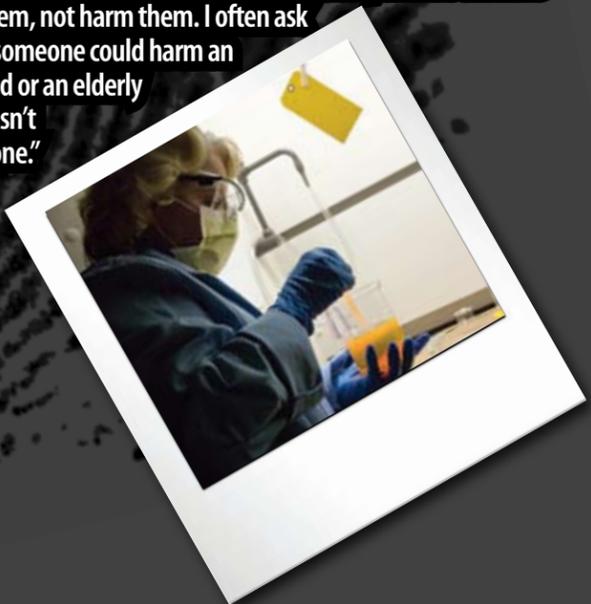
Being chosen, she said, was "truly a dream come true." Nevertheless, it's not what you see on TV, as Teresa often explains to jurors.

"We can't solve a crime in 30 minutes. We don't wear high heels and drive Hummers. Often, it's long hours and very stressful," she said.

For the past five years, Teresa has been a member of the Forensic Team. They are responsible for processing homicides and other complex death investigations. They must maintain advance training and discipline in crime scene investigation analysis, chemical processing, documentation, crime scene reconstruction and laboratory evidence processing techniques. Needless to say, it's not a 9-5 job. She's on call 24/7 every few weeks, and getting called to a crime scene in the middle of the night is not an uncommon occurrence.

"We don't wear high heels and drive Hummers."

"Nothing can prepare you for the sights and smells of a homicide scene," she said. "This is not a career for everybody. It's got to be a passion deep in your soul. After seven years, I still cannot believe what human beings can do to other human beings. I will never be able to wrap my brain around this. Most crimes revolve around drugs, gangs or emotions. It is always so sad to work a case that involves children. Children are a blessing from God, and we are here to protect them, not harm them. I often ask myself how someone could harm an innocent child or an elderly person who isn't hurting anyone."



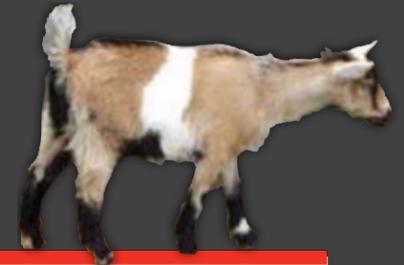
"The decisions criminals make not only change their life forever but will change their own family's lives, the victim's life and the victim's family's lives. Sometimes, these cases change the lives of the dispatcher, police, CSI, firefighters and EMS workers who respond to these calls. It can bring down the strongest person," Teresa said.

"I want my victims to always know that I put my heart and soul into every case. I leave no stone unturned. I want my victims' families to know that I will be the voice for their loved one. I want the innocent and guilty to know that I speak for truth and justice. It doesn't matter to me who they are, what they do for a living, where they live or what they believe in.

"I have often been asked, 'how do you handle the things you see and deal with?' For me, I know I couldn't prevent what has happened,

I can't give them their loved one back. If I allow myself to start thinking this is someone's mom, dad, child, brother or sister; I would be an emotional wreck. What makes a person who they are is the twinkle in their eyes, the smile on their face and the love in their heart. Once they take that last breath, I have to look at it as a body, not someone's family member. Don't get me wrong, I know this is a person who is loved and will be missed. But if I let my thoughts go in that direction, there is no way I could do this job. I always try to investigate my cases and respect the victim in the way I would want someone to investigate a case if that was my loved one.

"I am very fortunate to work with some of the best investigators I know," Teresa said. "The citizens of Greensboro are in good hands!"



More Than You Know

Teresa Ketner is no stranger to hard work.

Growing up on a tobacco farm, she had little time for extracurricular activities or hanging out with friends. She and her brother spent long, hot days getting the crop in. At 14, she got her first paid job, working in a drugstore. She used her wages to save for her first car, a 1974 yellow Vega.

Teresa still doesn't have much leisure time. A day at the beach is her favorite getaway, but it doesn't happen often enough. She makes do with a beach room that she and her husband built onto their house, where she displays the seashells she collects.

She also enjoys scrapbooking, target shooting and quilt making.

And then there are the kids. Laci and Lucy, twin Nigerian dwarf goats, are so nice to come home to.

"They love to snuggle in your lap," Teresa said. "I can sit and watch them play for hours."



Growing Through the Recession

Forsyth Tech's Big Growth Spurt Started in the Last Recession



It's hard to remember now, but eight years ago the United States was in a recession. The event everyone remembers from the fall of 2001 was the terrorist attacks. But also in the first year of the new century the economy was dipping, after a solid decade of expansion.

That fall, Dr. Gary M. Green was serving his first months as president of Forsyth Technical Community College. Here in our area, the effects of the recession were easy enough to see: factory closings, layoffs and outsourcing of jobs to other countries, particularly in the historically strong textile and furniture industries.

"We asked, where will the jobs be now," Dr. Green remembers. The answer was in health care, in biotechnology, in nanotechnology, which would be embedded in a wide range of projects. Information technology was also becoming more important, and more specialized, in every industry. And logistics was taking on a dominant role, as moving and storing materials and finished products became a prime area in which American companies could cut costs to become more competitive globally.

Forsyth Tech set about creating new degree programs in all those disciplines, some of them on a fast track. And the programs thrived, as people who had been displaced in the recession enrolled and learned the skills that would help them find new jobs.

So, at the opening convocation of the 2009-10 school year, when Dr. Green talked to Forsyth Tech's faculty and staff about growing through recession, he was thinking of a longer timeline, a larger horizon than the current economy. *Forsyth Tech's extended growth spurt started in the last recession.* It began with educational programs. As the programs thrived, more facilities were needed, and growth has taken the form of added classrooms, labs and shops, and major new buildings.

As a result of the current recession, the worst and most prolonged economic downturn since the Great Depression, virtually all community colleges have seen double-digit enrollment increases. Forsyth Tech's enrollment in degree programs grew 16 percent this fall over last fall, and enrollment in adult literacy classes and other continuing education courses is on the rise too.

But unlike many other community colleges, Forsyth Tech has grown dramatically over the past eight years, and has been building up its facilities over those years to meet ongoing and projected growth.

"We continued to grow where others declined," Dr. Green said. "The growth in this recession has been dramatic. We've done a better job in the last few years of getting the message out and marketing."

Today, much of the focus of people enrolling at Forsyth Tech is on jobs that can't be outsourced to Asia, and work that will always be essential, recession or not. Some of those program areas are nursing and allied health occupations, and business applications pertaining to health careers, such as project management. Others are welding, plumbing, automobile technology and skilled construction trades.

In this economy, as in previous downturns, people turn to community colleges when they have been laid off, when they are attempting to hang on to their employment by upgrading their skills, and when they aspire to a bachelor's degree and need to start their higher education in an affordable way.

And there's an even more fundamental shift going on, which becomes amplified in a recession.

"We have two issues," Dr. Green said. "There's a labor surplus, with people losing their jobs. And there's a labor shortage in highly skilled areas. The role of the community college is to provide the bridge between those two."

taking it to the limit

While most organizations today are struggling with the challenges of contraction, Forsyth Tech is mustering its ingenuity to serve a much larger student population with limited space, staff and budget.

"We are challenged in our budget," said President Gary M. Green. "We are having to shift resources to manage the growth in enrollment."

Some of the steps taken to handle the heavy enrollment are these:

Class size limits have been increased, and more sections of classes have been added. Faculty members now have more students to get to know and to encourage, more tests, papers and projects to grade.

Additional counselors and advisors could not be hired, and these people, whose roles are critical in a community college, are overloaded.

Classroom space is filled. More classes are now being offered at off-campus locations throughout Forsyth and Stokes counties.

More online courses have been added to the hundreds already offered, and most of these classes are at capacity.

Parking, always a constraint, has had to go off campus. A shuttle service from nearby Hanes Mall eased the overload on the Main Campus in the first weeks of the school year, but is having to give way to heavy Christmas shopping traffic at the Mall.

The solutions aren't perfect, Dr. Green acknowledges.

"We are stretched thin in our support services. Students may have to wait longer for services like counseling and financial aid," he said. "We are focusing on our core mission."

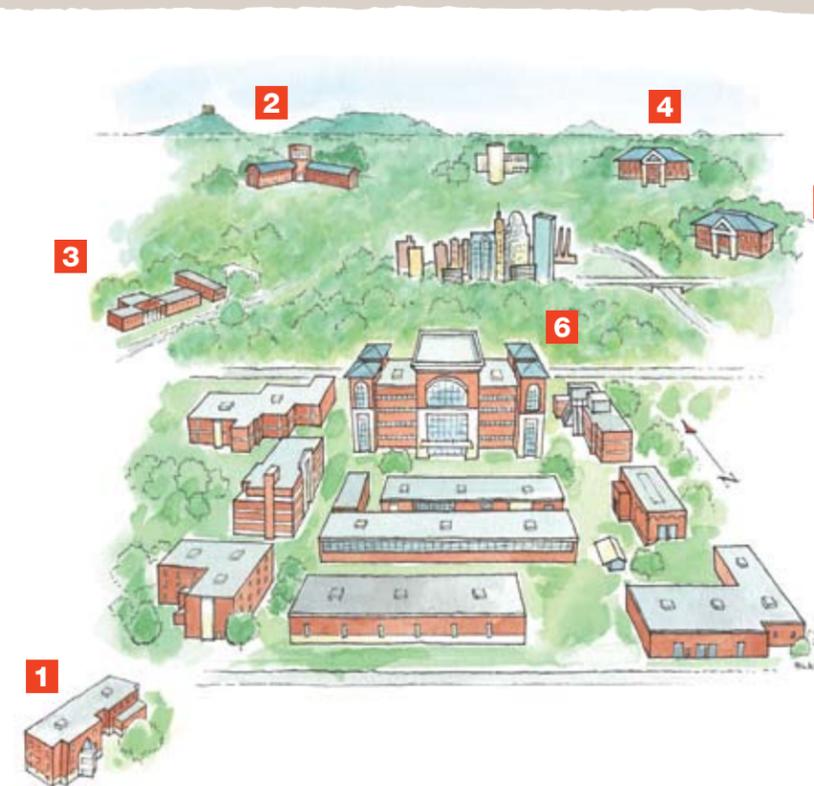
What's encouraging he said, is that people across the college have stepped up to the plate, taking on heavier workloads and putting in more time to make sure that students get the personal attention that is a hallmark of Forsyth Tech.

bricks and mortar

In the 21st century, Forsyth Tech's buildings and grounds have expanded steadily to meet the needs of new programs and much larger enrollment. At a glance, here's where the growth in facilities stands:

- 1 Bob Greene Hall**, home of the Nursing and Allied Health programs on the Main Campus, began this academic year with 20,000 more square feet of space, a much needed expansion for these in-demand programs.
- 2 Northwest Forsyth Center** in King opened in 2008, providing state-of-the-art training facilities for the Criminal Justice, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Science programs. Additionally, this center gives students in Stokes County and the northwest part of Forsyth a convenient location for curriculum and continuing education courses. The Fire Training Center, which is currently under construction, will be complete in January 2010, and will feature a burn building, fire tower and burn pits to support the training needs of area firefighters.
- 3 West Campus** has been upfitted with air conditioning to offer students, faculty and staff a more comfortable environment in which to work and study. New windows, which are currently being installed, will contribute to this campus' energy efficiency.
- 4 Mazie S. Woodruff Center** in eastern Winston-Salem, home to Early Childhood Education, Human Services Technology and Continuing Education programs, is in the middle of an 11,000-square-foot expansion project that will be complete in time for the 2010 summer semester.
- 5 Grady P. Swisher Center** in Kernersville is also undergoing an 11,000-square-foot expansion that will be complete by the summer of 2010. The expansion will help accommodate overcrowding in the College Transfer, Therapeutic Massage, Global Logistics and Certified Nursing Assistant programs.
- 6 The Technology Building** put a handsome, contemporary face on the Main Campus when it opened in 2006. It houses the Thomas H. Davis iTEC Center, the bookstore and student activities spaces, as well as classrooms, labs, and offices.

"We are committed to serving all the additional people we are seeing, both traditional and older students. We are committed to providing what they need," Dr. Green said. "If the community college isn't there for them, they have nowhere else to turn."



on the horizon

- > **Emerging Technologies Building**, which will be located in Winston-Salem's Piedmont Triad Research Park, is under design by a local architectural firm and is expected to be complete by 2013.
- > **Transportation Technology Center** on Patterson Avenue will become home to Forsyth Tech's autobody repair, auto systems technology, race car technology, heavy equipment and transport technology, and recreational vehicle maintenance and technology programs, once the renovation of the Pinebrook Shopping Center is completed in the fall of 2011. Purchased in 2008, this 115,000-square-foot facility will provide classroom and shop space outfitted with auto lifts, paint booths and other technical equipment.
- > **Career Center Renovation**, made possible by the passage of the 2008 bond referendum, will add over 300,000 square feet of much needed classroom space to Forsyth Tech's overcrowded and landlocked Main Campus when it opens in 2013.
- > **Danbury** is being considered as a possible location for a new Forsyth Tech campus designed to meet the growing needs of residents in Stokes County.

other locations

- Forsyth Tech's Corporate and Continuing Education (CCE) division keeps its finger on the pulse of the workforce and job training needs of the local community. CCE's flexibility and responsiveness is unmatched, thanks to the many partnerships it has formed with organizations throughout Forsyth and Stokes counties that enable needed training programs to be offered where and when they are needed. Partnerships with the following organizations help extend Forsyth Tech's reach throughout our community:
- > **Sertoma 4-H Center**, located in Westfield in Stokes County, opened its doors in the summer of 2009 to Forsyth Tech job training programs, including carpentry and welding.
 - > **Regional Employment and Advancement Career Training (REACT) Center** opened in the summer of 2009 in the same facility that houses the state Employment Security

Commission in Winston-Salem. REACT will provide another level of employment assistance and job training to area workers, including the JobsNOW initiative that is being administered by Forsyth Tech.

- > **Goodwill Industries** on University Parkway in Winston-Salem provides another satellite training site for Forsyth Tech, where individuals can receive job training to become a data entry specialist, banquet server, HVAC service technician or pharmacy assistant.
- > **Small Business Center**, located at the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce Building, provides free one-on-one confidential business counseling services for new and existing businesses to support small-business development in our area.
- > **International Center** at the 5th Street Library in downtown Winston-Salem supports the unique needs of the local international community and Forsyth Tech students through education, guidance and mediation. 

From High School Drop-Out to Ivy League Doctoral Student

Terah Bevill found the encouragement she needed at Forsyth Tech.

It's not always at first you don't succeed... your community college could help turn your life around.

That's what happened to Terah Bevill. Like many teenagers, she found high school a struggle, even though her aptitude for academics was excellent. Her life felt even more chaotic after her family moved to Winston-Salem from Pennsylvania, and she dropped out of high school at age 17.

Now, 10 years later, Terah is a student in a Ph.D. program at Brown University. She plans to become a college professor.

Terah doesn't like looking back to all that was going on in her life when she dropped out of school, but she remembers that she had the intention of getting her high school diploma, one way or another.

"My greatest aspiration was to make over \$10 an hour and to get an apartment of my own. Survival was my only aspiration," she said.

As soon as she was eligible, she enrolled in the adult high school program at Forsyth Tech, taking evening classes and working at low-paying jobs during the day. Many of her classmates were struggling with the same long odds as she was.

"We started out with 24 people, and at the end of the semester there were seven of us left. You get to know people, and they drop out. It is very discouraging to see your comrades falling by the wayside," Terah said.

What helped her to stick with the program were the instructors.

"The teachers were from such diverse backgrounds that they seemed glamorous. They hinted at the possibility of a life beyond what we had, and they went out of their way to get to know each of us individually.

"One teacher pulled me aside and said, 'You need to go to college. You have a future.'"

Terah got her high school diploma and began to take college classes at Forsyth Tech, one course per semester, little by little discovering what her real interests were. She went on to take evening courses at High Point University. Being in college suited her so well that she literally couldn't get enough in night school.

"I wanted to debate subjects," she said. "They have to cram too much into those few evening hours. I really wanted to go to UNC-Chapel Hill. I decided to apply to just that one school, and if they didn't accept me, I would stay at High Point."

She was accepted, and she graduated in 2008, planning to go to graduate school.

"I took a year off and did a lot of work in the community. Along the way, a lot of people stepped in to encourage me," she said. "I want to do that for other people."

During that year, she loaded up her credit cards to apply to 10 highly competitive graduate programs. At Brown University, she is studying United States history, with a focus on the social and political upheavals in the South from the 1950s through the Reagan presidency.

It's an investment of about \$300,000 on Brown's part, she noted, including annual tuition of approximately \$50,000 plus living expenses. Learning that graduate school is often free to the student was a revelation for Terah. She had assumed it would be beyond her means.

"As a high school dropout, I always felt the strong possibility of bad things happening, and all I wanted was the security of knowing I wouldn't have to be on the streets. Now I have found my security, and my life is about bigger stuff than money," Terah said.

Shortly before heading for Rhode Island and the next chapter in her life, she took time to express her gratitude to the people who believed in her and helped her become the first person in her family to go to college.

"Forsyth Tech gave me a reason to believe, a reason to hope," she said. "People there told me I was worth something and could accomplish something. That planted a seed. That laid a foundation in my mind about what I could become." 





OF THE
times

One foot in the future is where Forsyth Tech always likes to be positioned, and the past year abundantly showed this inclination to be forward looking, forward thinking, prepared to leap to the next level.



ENROLLMENT GROWTH

was the biggest trend,

and a challenge to prepare for. Since Forsyth Tech is entirely a commuter college the challenge was not just to accommodate students in seats, but cars on campus. Before the 2009 fall semester started, the college was prepared to handle the overflow. All the details had been worked out to shuttle students to the Main Campus from a parking lot at nearby Hanes Mall. 

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 ETS and Forsyth Tech



A college that puts the emphasis on know-how should be using state-of-the-art technology in its own Internet presence, and that was achieved this past year. We launched a brand-new, user-friendly website, which includes a searchable course catalog. Adhering to a “best practice,” we tested this site with people of all ages and many walks of life – the diversity of individuals who would be interested in Forsyth Tech’s offerings – before it went live. At the same time, we launched an intranet, whereby students, faculty and staff can easily communicate with each other. Keep up with the news at www.forsythtech.edu. 

More Than You Know

Our People Do Us Proud

Keana Walker, a Therapeutic Massage student, was Co-op Student of the Year for her work with Hospice Home of High Point. Her work helped introduce therapeutic massage as an effective complementary therapy, and benefited patients, staff and caregivers.

Longtime faculty member **Alice Sineath**, Chair of the Department of Accounting and Business Administration, received the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Kayla Hall and **Linda Burnette** were first-and second-place winners in a partnership between Forsyth Tech and Truliant Federal Credit Union. The students were challenged to create an innovative product or service for the credit union, and were awarded cash prizes for their ideas.

Cheri Silverman, Coordinator of Program Development and Audit in the Instructional Services Division, was named Staff Member of the Year.

Teresa Ketner (see feature story page 6) received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

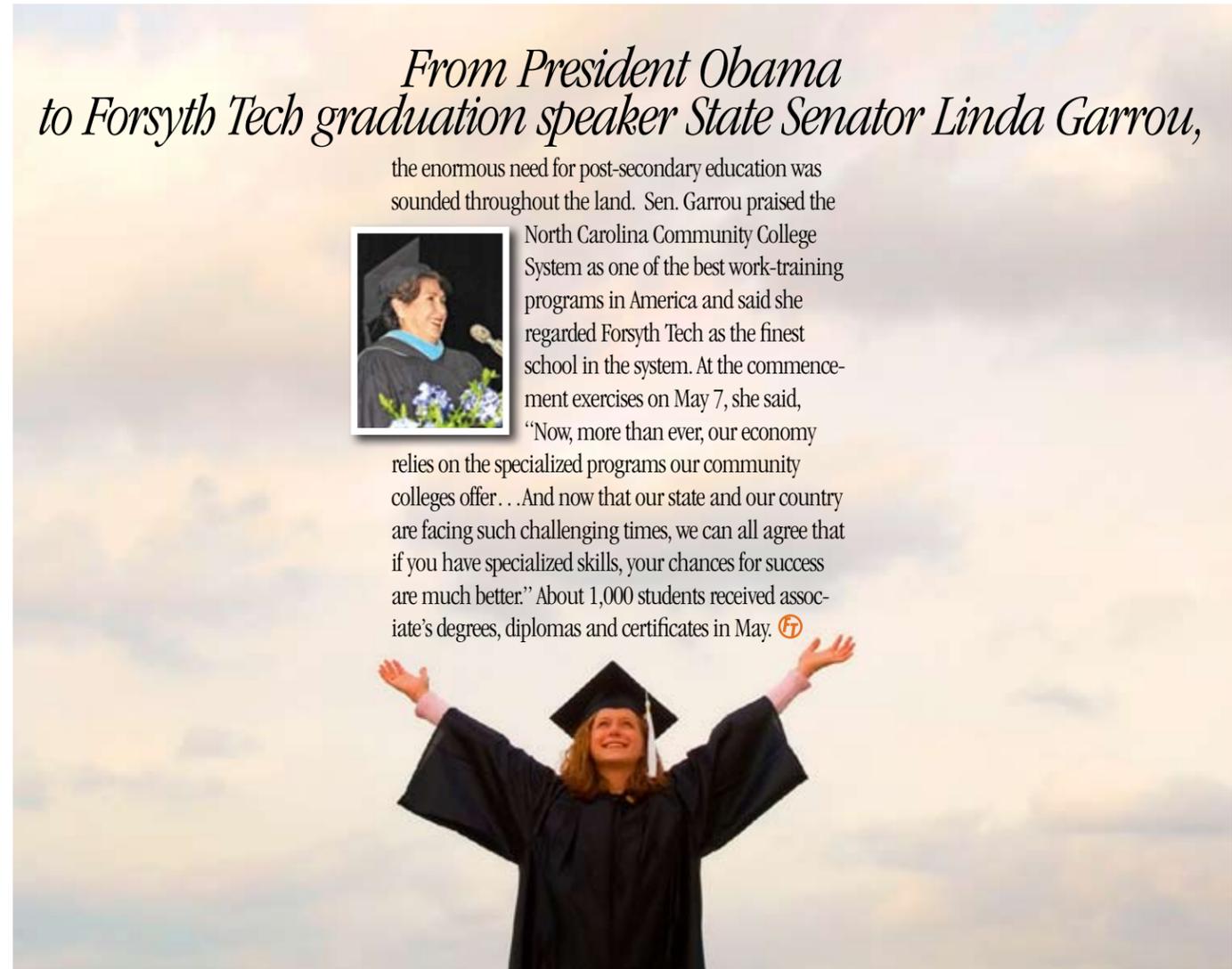
Pauline Morris was honored with the Hanesbrands Hispanic Leadership award by the Hispanic League of the Piedmont Triad. Pauline is the Coordinator of Community and Workplace ESL in the Adult Literacy Department.

Sherri Bowen, Executive Assistant to the President, was reelected to the ACCT Professional Board Staff Network Executive Committee.

Alston Pearson, a student in the Race Car Technology program, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship established by the family of Brian Pack in memory of the 34-year-old Bowman Gray track driver who died in a motorcycle accident in 2008.

Dr. Gary M. Green was named by *The Business Journal* as one of the Piedmont Triad's most influential people of the year. Ⓣ

Our Division of Corporate and Continuing Education responded to the increased demand for short-term skills training courses with several initiatives at a range of locations. One was "12 in 6," a group of workforce development programs in 12 different career paths, designed to be completed in six months or less. Courses are offered in Auto Body Repair, Carpentry, Electrician Helper, Electrician Lineman, HVAC Service Tech, Masonry, Plumbing Helper, Welding, Medical Billing, Medical Terminology and Coding, Medical Unit Secretary, Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy and Pharmacy Assistant. New certification programs in Administrative Assistant, Culinary Arts and Advance Manufacturing were also added. Ⓣ



From President Obama to Forsyth Tech graduation speaker State Senator Linda Garrou,



the enormous need for post-secondary education was sounded throughout the land. Sen. Garrou praised the North Carolina Community College System as one of the best work-training programs in America and said she regarded Forsyth Tech as the finest school in the system. At the commencement exercises on May 7, she said, "Now, more than ever, our economy relies on the specialized programs our community colleges offer. . . And now that our state and our country are facing such challenging times, we can all agree that if you have specialized skills, your chances for success are much better." About 1,000 students received associate's degrees, diplomas and certificates in May. Ⓣ

And once again

Forsyth Tech's recruiting materials caught the notice of people well beyond the college's two-county footprint. Our 2008 recruitment campaign, including billboards, radio and TV spots, viewbook, and Kaleidoscope, which was mailed to all households in Forsyth and Stokes counties, all came in for national honors. They made the cut at both the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations and The Communicator Awards program. All of these communications were developed in collaboration with The Bloom Agency of Winston-Salem. Ⓣ



Forsyth Tech Educational Bonds

thank you
for your vote of confidence

By voting "YES" for the Educational Facilities Bonds on Nov. 4, Forsyth County residents have insured that Forsyth Tech will be able to add the classroom, shop and laboratory space we will need in coming years to meet the demands of our students. The success of the referendum indicates the value the people of Forsyth County place upon their community college, and we sincerely thank you for all your support.

PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF FORSYTH TECH'S NEED TO GROW – EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD ENTAIL A SMALL TAX INCREASE – WAS AMPLY CONFIRMED IN THE NOVEMBER 2008 ELECTION. THE EDUCATIONAL BOND REFERENDUM THAT WILL ENABLE THE COLLEGE TO TAKE OVER THE PROPERTY THAT NOW HOUSES THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS' ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND CAREER CENTER PASSED BY A MARGIN OF CLOSE TO 2:1. ALMOST 100,000 VOTERS SAID YES TO THE BONDS. Ⓣ

The college and its leadership garnered national attention this year too. Forsyth Tech was

one of four

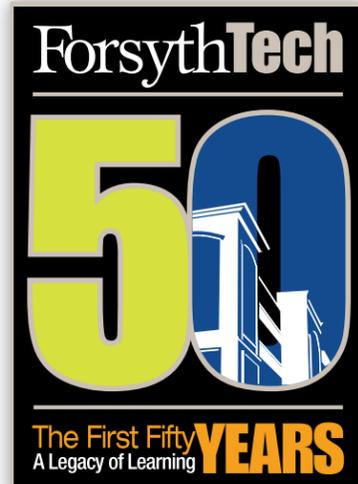
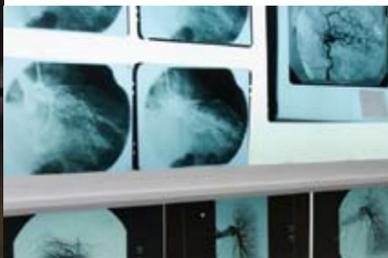
community colleges nationally to be selected to receive a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant through the National Association of Manufacturers. The grant will enable Forsyth Tech to develop a program for certifying job skills in the manufacturing arena.

President Gary M. Green was chosen to serve on the Educational Council of the Manufacturing Institute. He was one of 25 educators from across the country selected to help the Institute develop initiatives to close the skills gap that is developing as Baby Boom generation workers retire, to help young people and career changers find careers in manufacturing, and to assure that U.S. manufacturers can lead the world in innovation, productivity and excellence. 



something new for Forsyth Tech this year

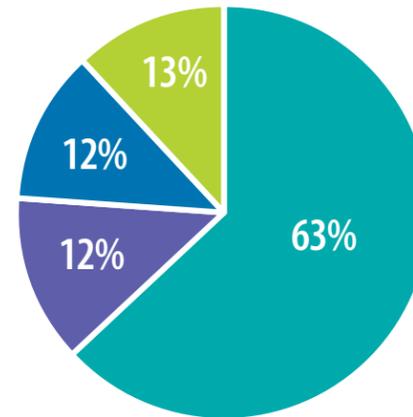
has been the naming of programs of study for heroes associated with those particular specialties. So now we have the *Richard Childress Race Car Technology* program, the *Paul M. Wiles School of Nursing* and the *Len B. Preslar, Jr. School of Allied Health*. These are three of our most distinguished programs, as well as being among the degree programs that are always in high demand among students. It's a pleasure to have the names of three individuals who have long been recognized for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields associated with three flagship programs: Richard Childress for his legendary performance in NASCAR, Paul Wiles for his leadership at Novant Health and Len Preslar for his visionary guidance of the growth of Baptist Hospital. 



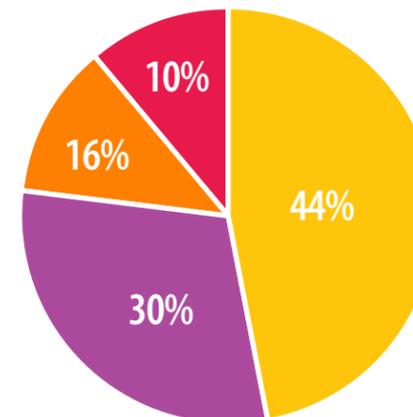
AS WE GO TO PRESS, WE'RE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR, WHEN FORSYTH TECH WILL CELEBRATE A HALF CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. AS MUCH AS ANYTHING, OUR HISTORY IS THE STORY OF THE CHANGING ECONOMY OF THIS REGION, AND AN EVER-EVOLVING VISION OF THE FUTURE. AND WE'RE POSITIONED TO MAKE THAT A GRAND YEARLONG SERIES OF OBSERVANCES WITH A TASK FORCE THAT IS ALREADY AT WORK, AND A SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO ALREADY DESIGNED AND ADOPTED. 

Forsyth Tech Community College Revenues & Expenditures For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009

Total Budgets	Dollar Amount
Revenues	55,265,585
Capital	10,120,655
Total Budgets	65,386,240

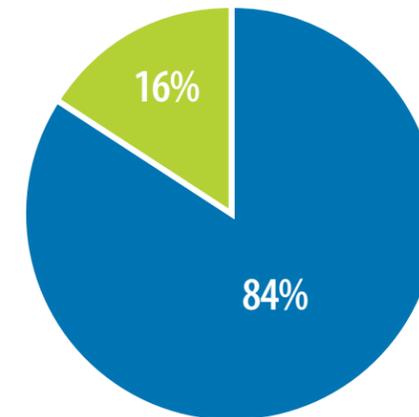


Revenues	Dollar Amount	%
State	34,717,985	63%
Tuition	6,685,873	12%
County	6,738,045	12%
Other	7,123,682	13%
Total Operating Revenues	55,265,585	100%

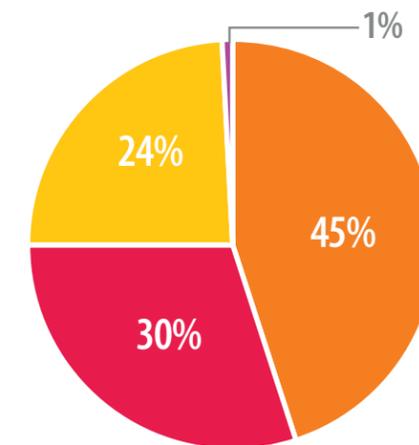


Expenses	Dollar Amount	%
Instruction	26,591,352	44%
Instructional Support	17,891,732	30%
Physical Plant	9,318,158	16%
Student Services	6,155,277	10%
Total Operating Expenses	59,956,520	100%

Forsyth Tech Foundation Revenues & Expenditures For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009



Revenues and Other Sources	Dollar Amount	%
Contributions	1,076,675	84%
Interest Income	197,938	16%
Total Revenues	1,274,612	100%



Expenses	Dollar Amount	%
Scholarships/Contributions to Forsyth Tech	573,312	30%
Supporting Services	856,683	45%
Loss on Investments	461,549	24%
Other Expenses	27,333	1%
Total Expenses	1,918,832	100%

Forsyth Technical Community College Board of Trustees 2008-2009 Membership Roster

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- Joyce E. Glass
- Gordon B. Hughes
- Robert F. Joyce
- Andrea D. Kepple
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- Dewitt E. Rhoades
- Kenneth M. Sadler, DDS
- Edwin L. Welch, Jr., Vice Chair
- Marysue Antonucci, Ex Officio Member, SGA President

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- Paul Wiles, Director Emeritus

Sharon B. Covitz, Ph.D., Executive Director

Why I Support Forsyth Tech

Dan & Helen Barrow

Maybe it was the house his carpentry class built out on Shallowford Road, the one with a sod roof. Or maybe it was his teacher, a man named Odell Grose, and the chance to use his hands and work outdoors.

Whatever it was, Brad Barrow found his calling at Forsyth Technical Community College, and now, some 20 years later, his parents are giving thanks by endowing a scholarship in their son's name for students in carpentry, plumbing and other building trades.

"Brad found his niche is what I would say," said Helen Barrow. "He looks at something, and he visualizes the whole project."

Helen, a retired elementary school teacher, and Dan Barrow both graduated from Guilford College and have always valued education. When their daughter graduated with an MBA from Wake Forest University, they decided to endow a scholarship there. And then they thought back to how much Forsyth Tech had meant to their son. Why not start a scholarship there, too, they thought?

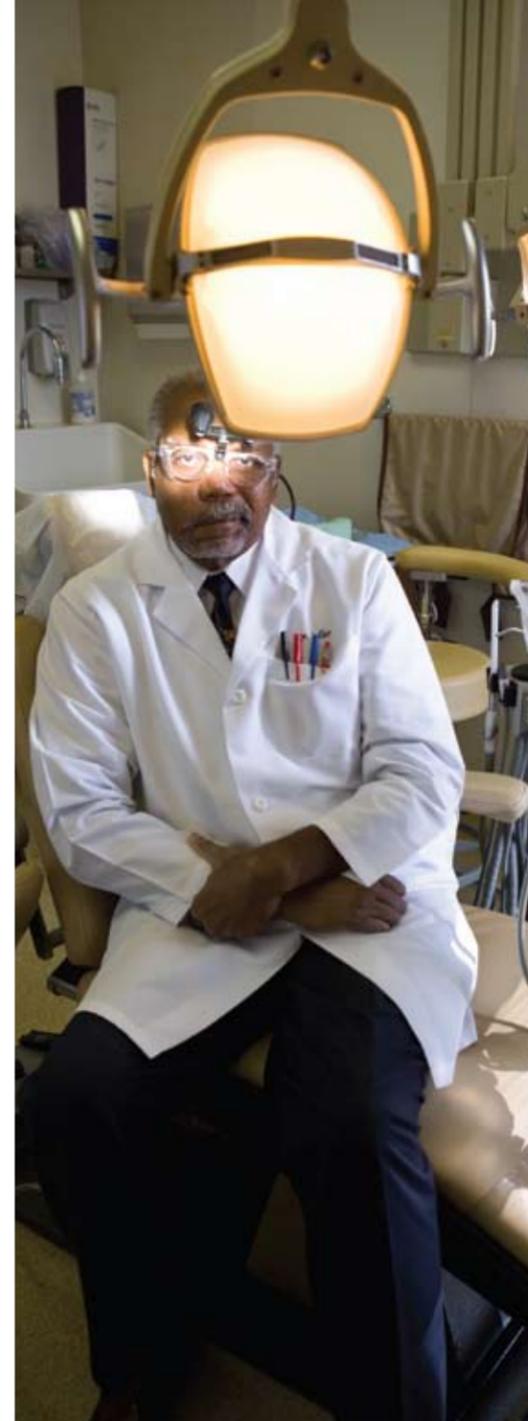
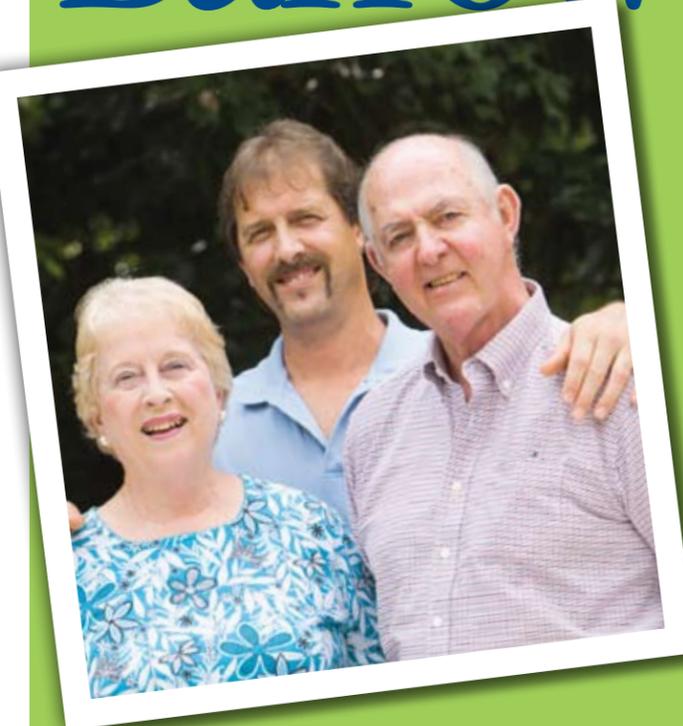
"You don't hear that much about people establishing scholarships at community colleges, but I think that's where a good majority of young people are going," said Dan Barrow. "I just felt that someone needed to support the community colleges."

Dan Barrow is retired from ExxonMobil Corp., which matched the couple's gifts over three years to the Foundation of Forsyth Tech for a total endowment for the Brad Barrow Scholarship of \$50,000. The scholarships can be used to pay for tuition, which runs between \$1,600 and \$2,000 for courses in the building trades, and books. The Barrows know that even that modest tuition keeps many students from pursuing their dreams.

"I just don't think the general public is as much aware of the needs of the community colleges as they are of the needs of the four-year colleges," Dan Barrow said.

Brad Barrow graduated from West Forsyth High School, where he was senior class president, and he always loved music, tennis and the outdoors. He enrolled at Guilford College but after two years realized a life spent indoors with books was not for him. He studied carpentry and plumbing at Forsyth Tech, and now owns Brad Barrow Plumbing and General Contracting in Lewisville.

His parents think Brad inherited a gift for building and design from his grandfather, a noted landscape architect. Forsyth Tech nurtured that talent in their son, and they hope their gift nurtures others. 



Community Support

a generous partner puts the Teeth into a new program

Setting up a dental clinic can cost more than \$1 million – no small feat for a community college.

So, when Forsyth Technical Community College decided to start a program to train dental hygienists and dental assistants, it looked outside its campus, as it often does, for a partner.

The school would need a dental practice with space for more than 40 students, chairs for patients, X-ray machines and equipment for sterilizing instruments. In other words, the school needed a partner larger than the average dental practice, and, as importantly, it needed a partner interested in helping the community college and its students. It found that partner on its board of trustees in Dr. Ken Sadler, a board member since 1992 and the managing partner at Winston-Salem Dental Care.

"Someone asked if we would be willing to host the program in its early years," Dr. Sadler said recently.

And the answer was easy.

"We've got a big place."

Forsyth Tech recruited dental faculty who could oversee the students' work. The school also recruited patients, mostly those without insurance who appreciated the sliding fee scale and didn't mind having students clean their teeth. Winston-Salem Dental Care provided the rest – exam rooms, X-ray equipment and equipment for sterilizing instruments.

"It was just something we could do," Dr. Sadler said. "We saw it as being good corporate citizens."

The program opened in the fall of 2002 with 20 dental assistant students. In 2003, 12 Dental Hygiene students were added. "We would not have been able to start our programs when we did if Dr. Sadler and his practice had not loaned us the space," said Dr. Jannette Whisenhunt, the Department Chair of Dental Education.

Dr. Sadler had moved to Winston-Salem in 1978 after three years as an Army dentist to take a job at Winston-Salem Dental Care just as the practice was getting started. In those days, the R.J.

Reynolds Tobacco Co. owned the practice as part of its HMO. Sadler and the other dentists in the practice have owned it since 2000.

Recruiting dental hygienists was always a challenge. The nearest training program was at Guilford Tech, and most of those graduates found jobs in Greensboro and other communities in Guilford County.

It was clear to Dr. Sadler and other dentists in town that a local degree program was needed. The Forsyth Dental Society raised \$150,000 to help get the program started, with thanks going to Drs. Chandler and Rickabaugh. When the school asked for help, Dr. Sadler didn't hesitate.

"To be honest with you, this place is so big and there's so much stuff going on another 30 people wouldn't be noticed," Sadler said.

Forsyth Tech only expected to need the borrowed space for the first two years while it renovated the old bookstore on campus for a clinic. But construction took longer than expected, and what began as a two-year agreement lasted for four years.

"They were very generous in letting us stay twice as long as we originally planned," Dr. Whisenhunt said.

Altogether, about 180 students trained at Winston-Salem Dental Care. Today, the program operates on campus in a clinic with space for 45 students. Fourteen dental hygiene students enroll now each year and spend two years earning an associate degree. The school also trains 20 dental assistant students each year, and they earn a diploma degree. Dental assistants are trained to work with dentists, taking x-rays, assisting the dentist with fillings and other work.

Sadler said that the dental program relied on a community partner, much like other programs Forsyth Tech sets up to train and retrain workers for the local employers.

"It's a pretty agile institution," he said.

Especially with the right partner. 

More Than You Know

How You Can Support Forsyth Tech

Forsyth Technical Community College serves more than 50,000 students annually in degree, diploma and certificate programs, and 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

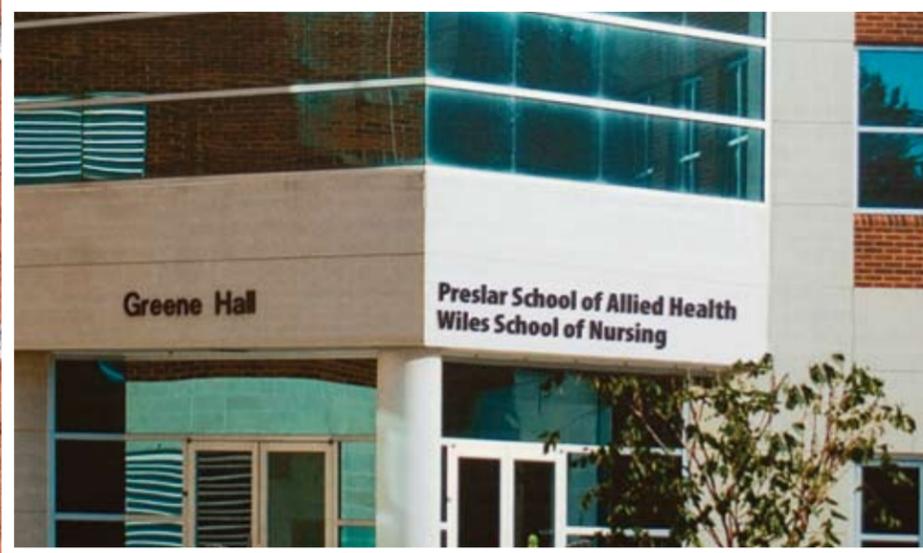
Choose your level of support:

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

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, 336.734.7520 or email scovitz@forsythtech.edu.



Bob Greene Hall with the names of its two schools unveiled. Jeffrey McFadden, Chair of the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees, gave credit to Len Preslar and Paul Wiles for the exceptional growth of the Allied Health and Nursing programs. "Because of their leadership and vision," he said, "we have one of the largest health technology programs among all the community colleges in this state, and we can be proud of that."



Who better to honor than two community leaders who guided the support for the building and the expansion of Bob Greene Hall? The Paul M. Wiles School of Nursing was named for Mr. Wiles (left), CEO of Novant Health since 1997, and former CEO of Carolina Medicorp and Forsyth Memorial Hospital. The Len B. Preslar, Jr. School of Allied Health recognizes Mr. Preslar (right), the recently retired chief executive of N.C. Baptist Hospital, where he served for 38 years. He is now executive director of the Health Management Program at Wake Forest University Schools of Business.

a vision realized, two visionary hospital administrators recognized



President Gary M. Green (left), pictured here with Paul Wiles, Len Preslar, former Forsyth Tech President Bob Greene, and Jeffrey McFadden, noted that Bob Greene Hall, which opened in 1991, was the result of a collaboration between N.C. Baptist Hospital, Forsyth Medical Center, Forsyth County and Forsyth Tech. The two hospitals have also provided funding for hiring new faculty and for professional development training.

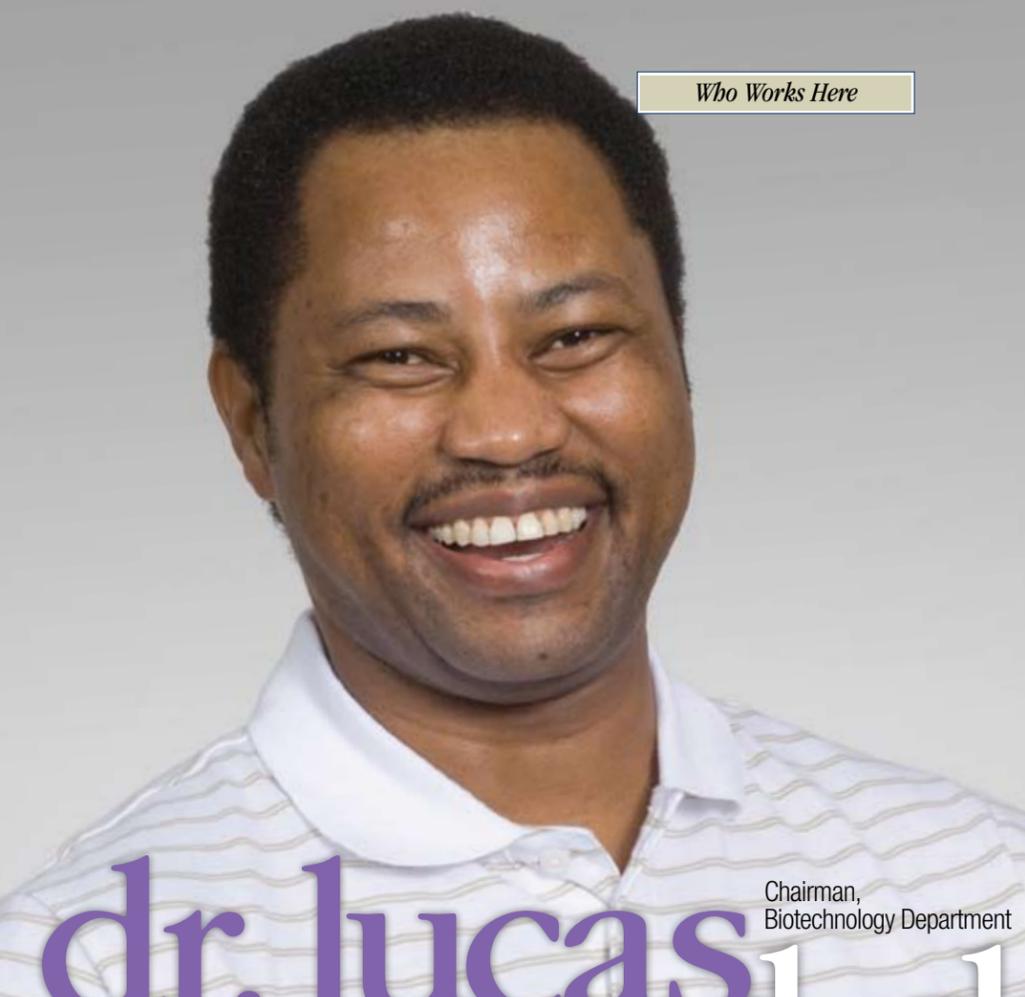
A big pair of scissors for the ribbon-cutting that marked a major expansion – the addition of 20,000 square feet to Bob Greene Hall, home of the Nursing and Allied Health programs on the Main Campus. The official opening on Sept. 24 included a naming ceremony.



Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines said, "This expansion is welcome news to us here in the city of Winston-Salem as we are rebuilding our economy." Noting the importance of the medical, biomedical and biotech industries to the local economy he said, "Forsyth Tech plays an extraordinary role in the rebuilding of our community. I tout it every day when we're talking to potential clients or existing clients."



Healthcare students will prepare for their careers in state-of-the-art classrooms and labs in the new addition. Paul Wiles paid tribute to nurses at the ceremony. "I believe nurses go each day and represent the finest of the human spirit," he said. "Lives have been saved because of the excellent training at Forsyth Tech," said Len Preslar.



Who Works Here

Chairman,
Biotechnology Department

dr. lucas d. shallua

Dr. Lucas D. Shallua isn't just an instructor in and Chairman of the Biotechnology Department at Forsyth Tech, he's also the person who brought it to life.

Originally hired in the Life Sciences Department in 2002, Dr. Shallua soon found himself in a different role. "When there was a need to develop and establish a biotechnology curriculum, I was asked to take that task," he recalls. "That's what made me move from teaching general life sciences to biotechnology-related courses."

Since that time, he's seen the program go through some major growth spurts. "We started with five students," he says, "and then it grew to 16, then 35, then 70, and then it went up to 144 students. We were basically doubling every semester." Now, while the biotechnology industry in this area is still growing, the program has

leveled off at 70 to 80 students, and that's just how he likes it. "We purposely want it to be between 70 and 80 students," he says, "spread between first and second year, so that once they graduate they will be able to be absorbed locally."

To Dr. Shallua, being able to provide jobs for his graduates is important, and so is producing graduates who can do those jobs. "We are very proud that employers tell us our students are both mature and easily trainable," he says. He adds that employers often use the term "plug and play" to describe Forsyth Tech graduates, meaning they come into the workforce with the skills they need. "If it takes six months to train a four-year college student, it will take two to three weeks to train our student," he says. "We've heard that from many, many biotech companies where we have placed our students."

He understands that the program is demand-driven, and says it's a chicken-or-the-egg scenario. "Do we create a skilled workforce pool that attracts the companies, or should the companies come and attract more students to create a skilled

Viral Marketing

Originally from Tanzania, each summer Dr. Shallua travels back to East Africa, as well as to Europe, to teach others about teaching biotechnology.

"I speak at universities about the biotechnology training in America," he explains, "and what training third world countries can adopt from a first world country like the United States. I talk about alternative training that can be cost effective, such as online training and distance education, the way to establish new curriculums that are demand driven, and things like that."

These presentations have also led him to dabble in the hospitality industry. "I'm building a resort in Tanzania," he says, but adds that it's not primarily for tourists – it's for educators. "It will cater to those who want to come as visiting professors and researchers in Tanzania. They can have a place to stay, and they can tour the area." Whether on the campus of Forsyth Tech or on a campus 8,000 miles away, Dr. Shallua is always looking for new ways to spread the word about biotechnology.

labor force? We have to balance the two."

Meanwhile, he says, it's important to keep the program responsive to the current needs of the employers. "A company says, for instance, 'We want to relocate, and we need Forsyth Tech to give us graduates who are trained in tissue engineering.' We should be able to do exactly that. That is our goal – to have the ability to meet the demands in the market."

Of course, that's Dr. Lucas Shallua the Chairman of the Biotechnology Department talking, thinking in terms of the "big picture." For Dr. Lucas Shallua the Biotechnology instructor, the rewards are a little more personal. "Seeing students go from being in textiles or manufacturing to getting a highly skilled job in science, that is a joy for me," he says. "Somebody comes in and tells you, 'I'm an English major.' Then after two years, he's talking of cutting-edge research science, working at Wake Forest Medical School with technologies and equipment that most people, even seasoned scientists, are not working on. That is very fulfilling." 

Like many gifted people, Marysue Antonucci grew up not realizing that she was an artist. She always liked to draw and write poems, but it wasn't until she was an adult and a mother that she took a couple of art classes, a watercolor class in Oklahoma, then later, an oil painting class at an art supply store in Greenville, SC.

"I fell in love with paintbrushes," she said. "I could sit and paint for eight hours at a time. It's a wonderful feeling."

marysue antonucci

Student,
President of Student Government Association



Marysue Antonucci is President of the Student Government Association at Forsyth Tech.

What inspired a grandmother of six with a busy life and a commute from Pilot Mountain to take on this added responsibility?

"I've always helped people. It's just something I do," she said. "I figured I might as well run for president since I was already doing it."

Besides the community service and social aspects of involvement in student government, Marysue says being president involves critical thinking, problem solving and team skills – all valuable in the "real world" and all abilities that a mature student can bring to the position.

Another thing a mature student can offer is some good advice. "Younger students often think that their time will come when they leave school. They don't realize that this is their life," she said. "Students need to communicate with their teachers and fight for what they want. I tell them it may be rocky, but don't give up."

Who Goes Here

And it wasn't until she was a grandmother that Marysue got serious about her art and decided to pursue the academic credentials associated with being a professional artist. By then the world was giving her some encouragement. She sold a portrait of three children that she had drawn. Her teacher at a summer session at Penland School of Crafts singled her out as the best student in the class, and gave her not only an A+ grade but one of his signed works.

It took three years for Marysue to arrange her life so that she could start on her path to a bachelor's degree in fine arts without too much stress. That path starts with earning an associate's degree in arts and sciences from Forsyth Tech. To contain expenses and to help her family, Marysue stays with one of her daughters and three of her grandchildren.

"All of us are students," she said. Her daughter works two jobs and plans to attend graduate school in the spring. Her other daughter attends Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, N.C. Marysue

helps with the grandchildren when they come home from school and attends Forsyth Tech. And everyone pitches in on the housework.

Starting college in midlife was scary for Marysue. "I remember how out of place I felt at the beginning. It had been so long, I wasn't sure I could do it," she said.

But she found plenty of support at Forsyth Tech, and it soon became evident that her academic abilities were well up to the challenge. Now, working in painting, drawing and photography, she feels she is on her way to being what she is meant to be.

"I never would have dreamed that this would be my destiny," she said. "I gave up everything to do this, even my car. I live very frugally. The talent I have is God-given, and I realized I can do this." 

Meet The Star Catchers

There are amazing things happening at an out-of-the-way building in Walnut Cove called The Stokes Opportunity Center. Hidden talents are being discovered. New doors are being opened. And a group of people who could easily be overlooked are being recognized for the unique gifts they can give the world through performance and the arts.

The people are members of the Forsyth Tech Compensatory Education classes that are held at the Center three days a week. Through the efforts of Paul Kindley, coordinator of Forsyth Tech's Stokes County programs, and Kris Jonzcak, the Compensatory Education instructor, these "beautifully, uniquely abled" folks (as Paul and Kris describe them) are finding ways to express themselves, build self-confidence, develop new skills, see places and things they never could before and have a whole lot of fun doing it.



Paul Kindley

Lifelong Compensatory Education has long been available for those with learning difficulties, offering a chance to develop reading, oral communication, employability and life skills. But Paul thought the program could do more. "The curriculum was very fixed," he recalls. "We'd bring them into the classroom and every day we'd talk about, 'Is the shirt this size? Is the iron turned on or turned off?' And after years and years of that, it's still meaningful, but it wasn't fresh. That's what got us to step out of bounds a little bit and start looking at ways to expand the arts-based education." He saw it as a way to expand their sense of accomplishment, their sense of pride and their sense of fitting into the mainstream, he says.

He asked the Forsyth Tech Foundation for a grant and was given \$1,000. That got them off to a good start. He then had the idea of having some of the students perform the song "I Believe I Can Fly" at the Stokes Stomp, an annual music festival held in Stokes County. He asked Kris if she thought they could do it, and Kris said yes. Then she made it happen. "I give Kris a huge amount of credit," Paul says, adding that her enthusiasm and effort are what really drive the program.

The students performed for the first time at the Stokes Stomp in 2006 as The Stokes Opportunity Singers. And that was just the beginning.

Thanks to two \$10,000 grants from the Lemma M. Apple & Ben R. Apple Foundation, and the Foundation's director, Ben Vernon, Paul and Kris have been able to greatly expand the program since that time. There are now three areas of focus: the performing arts, the visual arts and arts-based educational trips.

The performing arts area has grown the most. In addition to the Stokes Opportunity Singers — or The Star Catchers, as the students recently renamed themselves — the program also has a drumming ensemble and a handbell choir. But the students do more than make music. A performing arts ensemble, The SCAMPS, puts on a theater show featuring classic songs and folk tales. These groups have performed across the state at schools, senior centers, patriotic celebrations and festivals of all kinds, including one show for over 900 people at the Adult Basic Skills Conference in Raleigh where, as Paul says,



Kris Jonzcak

“They brought the house down.”

In the area of the visual arts, the program has used the Apple Foundation grants to buy supplies and bring in professional artists for lessons in painting, pottery, jewelry making and so on. The students have had their work shown at the Stokes County Arts Council gallery, and Paul is currently talking with the city of Walnut Cove about doing a mural on the side of a building in the town.

The students have also been able to go on many educational trips. In some cases, they have gone as performers, while in other cases they have gone to see performances, such as their annual trip to the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival in High Point. But their trips haven't

been confined to North Carolina. They have also been able to go to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. And Paul and Kris make sure that all the students get to do some traveling. "We try to rotate it around so that everyone who's capable of going gets to go on a trip," Paul says. "We also do some other local activities for people with lesser mobility, like going to the symphony. We try to mix it up and make sure everyone gets to go to a lot of different things."

And what has all this meant for the students? Gail Davenport, the mother of student Kelly Vanhoy, explains it this way: "I like to say that it opens doors. Not so everybody's light can shine in, but it's opened the door so Kelly's light can shine out. I didn't know Kelly was an artist. Now I do. He has talents that this program has allowed him the freedom to express. For him to actually do an art piece, it astounded me. And if it hadn't been for this program, it would never have happened."

Kris has seen the same thing happen with other students. In discussing a painting by a student named James Joyce, she describes how it opened up a new side of him. "James is autistic," she says, "and everything he does is very linear, very exact. But when we did this art show, he was able to be creative with his art piece and have some curves in it, and some designs that he had never done before."

For Paul, seeing the students become the center of attention is the best reward, especially

after a live performance. "At the end of our shows, we always ask people in the audience to come up for a hug or a handshake, and the students really are superstars at that moment. People gather around the stage, and we have them come down and work them through a reception line. It's really amazing."

That feeling of self-worth is something Kris tries to impart to all the students. "I try to find something for everyone," she says, "because everyone cannot be in the play, and everyone can't do a painting like James or Kelly, but even Roland, who is low functioning, painted a rock and put a sign on it. So that's the strength of the program, that everyone is able to do something and feel successful."

And, as we said, they have a whole lot of fun



Kelly Vanhoy's artistic talent surprised even his mother.

doing it. Walk into their classroom on any given day and you might find the students working on a mural, singing a song or, very likely, dancing. "They love to dance," Kris says, and they're pretty good at it. Whether it's old favorites like the hokeypokey or the Cupid shuffle, or something they're learning for the first time, you can see the joy on their faces as they move and groove to the music."

Yes, there are amazing things happening in that out-of-the-way building in Walnut Cove. Songs are being sung. Smiles are being created. And every day, in very real ways, lives are being changed. ♡

More Than You Know

"It's wonderful. It's wonderful."

A video about the program called "The Star Catchers" is now on YouTube. To see it, simply go to www.youtube.com and search for "star catchers stokes county." It only takes about six minutes to watch, but it's something you'll never forget. And when you see what these dedicated Forsyth Tech folks have accomplished, we think you'll agree with Kelly's mother, Gail, who simply said, "It's wonderful. It's wonderful." ▲

Yes, there are amazing things happening in that out-of-the-way building in Walnut Cove. Songs are being sung. Smiles are being created. And every day, in very real ways, lives are being changed.



Painting has allowed James Joyce to express himself in new ways. The hokeypokey is a favorite dance that gets everybody moving!



A Fairway to Share

The 10th Annual Forsyth Tech Foundation Golf Tournament was held October 7, 2009, at Bermuda Run West Golf Club near Clemmons. It was a beautiful day for golf, and the tournament and concurrent online auction raised over \$38,000 to support the college.



"I am a big fan of Forsyth Tech and what they're doing," said WXII news anchor Cameron Kent. "I think Forsyth Tech and the community college system are the lynchpins in the area in terms of economic recovery." ▲

"I was here when Forsyth Tech was first built," said Forsyth County Commissioner Dave Plyler. "I knew the first president of Forsyth Tech, and I know the current president." >



Ken Reese of First Tennessee accidentally broke a teammate's club. "That's what happens when a right-handed man uses a left-handed club," his friend commented. >



Overheard on the course: "Is there a max to the number of Mulligans we can purchase?" >



More Than You Know

Thanks to the Sponsors

The Title Sponsor of the event was I. L. Long Construction Co., and the Honorary Chair was the company's president, Edwin Welch. Rob Welch, the company's vice president, was on hand and talked about how proud the company was to support the Foundation and Forsyth Tech.

Other Tournament Sponsors were:

- Club Pro Sponsor** – Reynolds American
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motion

Irlen Syndrome Makes It Hard to Pin Down the Words

In 2000, Ronnie Valenti, the coordinator of adult literacy at Forsyth Technical Community College, began testing students for a little-known perceptual disability that makes words dance on the page. Now, nearly 10 years later, she believes that diagnosis and treatment for Irlen Syndrome has helped thousands of students pass their GED and go on to pursue college work and successful careers.

The syndrome, often unchecked until students find their way to Ronnie's literacy program, interferes with the way the brain interprets black print against a white page. The treatment is simple – a colorful \$3 plastic sheet placed over the printed page corrects the messages received by the brain. Suddenly the blurred and bouncing letters are still, and the student can read without distraction. *Tech Quarterly* spent a morning with Ronnie and her students. Here's what we learned.



Ronnie Valenti

- Q** Ronnie, what is the Irlen Syndrome?
- a** The light reflecting off of white paper is a combination of all colors of the spectrum. When your brain is interpreting, some of the colors travel at the wrong speed. That causes the words to move, to rise off the page and look blurred.
- Q** How do the overlays work? It seems so simple.
- a** It is. That's why it amazes me that it's not more widespread. When you put color over the page, everything is getting to the brain at the same time.
- Q** How many students at Forsyth Tech are affected?
- a** We prescreen all of the 4,000 GED and Adult High School candidates with a reading strategies questionnaire. We do a full screening of students who score high for Irlen on the questionnaire. In 2008, we screened 2,177 and 93 percent needed the overlay. In 2009, it's 97 percent. In the regular credit programs, about 15 percent have the syndrome. In the adult literacy program, it's about 45 percent. That makes sense. We're working with highschool dropouts in that program, and they dropped out for a reason.
- Q** Can you show me an example of a student's test scores before treatment?
- a** This student is college level in math but his reading is at a sixth-grade level. That's because in math he's reading very short sentences. He only has to stabilize one or two lines. But when he's doing a whole page, and the words are moving and jumping off the page, and he has to keep rereading, he's putting so much energy into stabilizing – that's when he loses the comprehension.
- Q** Does treatment help all of your students who have trouble reading?
- a** For some of them, it's a piece of the puzzle. It's not the whole story. But for some, it's the whole story.
- Q** Tell me about some of your success stories.
- a** I had one student who tried for 10 years to get his GED. He worked at Sara Lee. He was always within a couple of points of passing. After a couple of years, I asked if we'd ever screened him. Do the words move? 'Yes', he said. Do they jump off the page? 'Yes', he said. He always said, 'if only I had more time for the test' – but he never described these symptoms. The next day, he

commotion



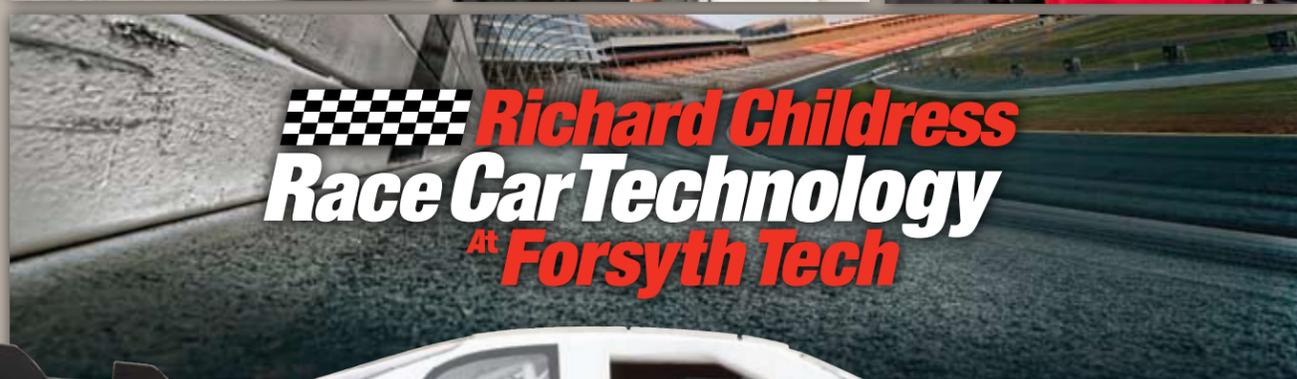
Johnny Peak, 34, uses a turquoise overlay as he works toward his GED so that he can start coursework in auto mechanics and body work in January: "All it takes is a simple color to ease the pain. I figure if they had this back in high school, everything would have been better."

took the test with the overlays, and he finished and passed. He came in that day knowing he was about to be downsized. There was a supervisor's job open, but he needed his GED. I could download his scores right away, and he got his GED. That afternoon he called me. He got the supervisor's job.

- Q** Any other success stories that stick with you?
- a** I remember one young woman. She had two little kids, and her husband had died. She was in her 20s. And her family didn't believe she could do this, but she wanted to for her husband and her children, and she did.
- Q** The Forsyth Tech Foundation provides funding for the overlays and part-time people to screen your students. Is it worth the cost?
- a** Absolutely. Some of these people would not get a GED without it. Out of 400 to 500 people getting a GED each year, about a third are using overlays. If you're a student who has this, and the words are moving around on the page, and you're not making progress, you're going to drop out. So, I think it really helps with our retention.
- Q** Why is it so important to your students to get treatment for their reading problems?
- a** A lot of them can't find a job without a GED, especially in today's economy. People who worked at Reynolds and Sara Lee, they worked there 20, 25 years when you didn't need a high school diploma, but in today's job market, that's a minimum.
- Q** It's clear from the way you work with students that you love your work. Tell me why it means so much to you.
- a** I would do this as a volunteer. It is so worthwhile to really be able to help people move on. A lot of students are physically transformed after they get that GED. I really see a change. I just think it gives them confidence. I have found if you teach them to believe in themselves, then it works.
- Q** Why isn't the syndrome more widely known?
- a** In the beginning, there wasn't a lot of research. But now, there's a lot of research to back up the treatment. I see the results, and I know it works.
- Q** You've studied the test scores from your students and students at other community colleges in North Carolina. What have you learned?
- a** The average increase is three grade levels, just by stabilizing what they see. That's the thing with these students. It helps them really move on with their lives.
- Q** I understand that you have been busy spreading the word to other community colleges across the state by speaking at workshops and conferences.
- a** We were the first community college to do this. Every opportunity we have, we give presentations at adult literacy conferences. Now it's 50 out of 58 colleges that have someone screening. It's wonderful.
- Q** Can Irlen be diagnosed and treated in school-age children?
- a** Usually you can detect this in third grade. We always ask our students, do you have children and do your children have trouble reading? They say that 33 percent of people with ADHD have it, and 40 percent of people with learning disabilities. One girl came in, she was failing fourth grade. She needed the overlays. In fifth grade, she was an honor student, and she did a science project on Irlen. ☺

Forsyth Tech Partners With a NASCAR Legend

On October 27, a ceremony was held to officially name the Richard Childress Race Car Technology Program at Forsyth Tech. Mr. Childress, who grew up in Winston-Salem, is one of the most successful owners in NASCAR history, having won six Sprint Cup Series championships with driver Dale Earnhardt, as well as five championships in the Nationwide Series and one in the Truck Series. Over the years, Richard Childress Racing has accumulated nearly 200 victories in NASCAR competition.



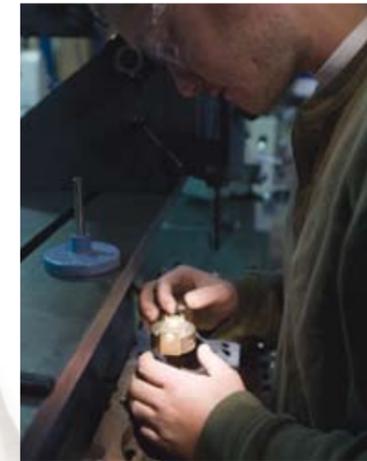
City and county officials, members of the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees, and well over 100 students and faculty attended the ceremony. The speakers included Board of Trustees member Joyce Glass, who called the occasion "a milestone in Forsyth Tech history." Dave Plyler, chairman of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, also spoke, and praised Mr. Childress' generosity. "Richard Childress doesn't just take and keep for himself," Mr. Plyler said. "He shares with the community. That's why we're here today."

In his remarks, Mr. Childress said that he was honored to be associated with Forsyth Tech.

"The instructors, many of whom I have known for years, bring real-world knowledge and experience to the program, which only makes the students' experience that much better."

In closing, Mr. Childress advised the students in attendance,

"Hard work and a dream will get you where you want to be, so keep up with your dreams."



Students in Richard Childress Race Car Technology at Forsyth Tech are trained to work on every type of racing vehicle – NASCAR, American Le Mans, NHRA, SCCA, P2 and more. Course work includes racing engine assembly, racing engine preparation, chassis fabrication, sheet metal fabrication, blueprint reading, welding, race car setup, record keeping of race car performance and other topics related to race car technology.

More Than You Know

The Forsyth Tech Car of Tomorrow

The event also included the unveiling of the Forsyth Tech Car of Tomorrow, a NASCAR show car that will feature the Richard Childress Race Car Technology



logo and be displayed at local racetracks and other venues.

The car, built from the ground up by Forsyth Tech students, was cited by Mr. Childress as an example of the quality of the instruction available at Forsyth Tech. "If you look at the workmanship, the kinds of employees that can put out this quality of work are what all of the race teams, not just RCR,

are looking for," he said. "You should be proud of it. I'm proud to have my name on it."

Through the Richard Childress Race Car Technology Program, Forsyth Tech currently offers the only Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Race Car Technology available in the North Carolina Community College system.