

# CAMPUS

## Connections

Beaufort County Community College



### BCCC looks to health-care future

For three decades in the Pamlico area, Beaufort County Community College has been working to meet the demand for nurses with a program that leads to an associate in applied



science degree in nursing whose graduates can become licensed as registered nurses. In addition, the college offers a shorter program that leads to licensure as a practical nurse. Laura Bliley, director of the BCCC nursing program since July, believes the program is growing and will continue to meet the increasing need for professional nurses. In the United States, nursing is the largest health care profession, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. More than 2 million registered nurses are actively employed and nursing comprises the largest single component of hospital staff. Despite of those statistics, a nationwide nursing shortage exists. Bliley feels that fewer women are choosing nursing as a career because so many more options are available to them

than in previous decades. By the same token, she believes that men represent a great potential pool of students for meeting the nursing shortage and that those who choose the career would find it an exceptionally rewarding one. BCCC's current nursing program grew out of a bond referendum in 1967 that established a practical nursing program at then Beaufort County Technical Institute. The ADN program was established four years later. To read the entire article about BCCC's nursing program by Robert S. Hackney, visit the Washington Daily News website at [www.wdnweb.com](http://www.wdnweb.com).

### BCCC student, Patricia Cox has twin callings: the ministry and writing

The Rev. Patricia Cox closes herself in two rooms of her parsonage in Belhaven on a recent afternoon in December. Isolated in her study, where the electric heater is running, and the adjoining parlor, Cox is trying to keep warm. Lately, the minister has been pulling double duty. She's serving as pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Belhaven and pastor at Hebron Church in Pantego while also trying her hand at being a student. Last fall she enrolled in an English class at Beaufort County Community College taught by Bryan Oesterreich, a regular

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## Chocowinity couple finds jewelry-making a new interest

When Shirley Padgett was five years old and living in Rutherfordton, N.C., she contracted Scarlet Fever and was confined to her bed for several weeks.

To keep Shirley occupied, her mother gave the little girl jars of buttons to play with along with needles and thread. Little Shirley spent the long days turning the jars of buttons into bracelets, necklaces, rings and other pieces of jewelry. She enjoyed this so much that she promised herself that, one day, she would learn to make jewelry. Today, Shirley Padgett and her husband, Cam, are avid jewelry craftsmen who credit Beaufort County Community College with helping Shirley's dream come true. "I have always liked jewelry and I've always said that some day I'm going to make jewelry," she said. "I have always liked jewelry and I've always said that some day I'm going to make jewelry," she said. The couple moved to Washington in 1972 with their two sons, Rick, a fifth grader and Chris, a second grader, after Cam Padgett completed his studies in optometry school in Philadelphia, Pa. Padgett established his optometry practice here with his wife overseeing the office staff. As a busy working mother of two active boys, Shirley Padgett did not have the time to devote to jewelry making. "I was always so busy raising two boys, working in Cam's office," she said. "I never had the time." Over the years, the couple took a variety of continuing education classes – together and individually - offered at the community college and by other groups – computer classes, photography, art and drawing, beadwork, and ground school, which Cam took while earning his private pilot's license. And they maintained a lively interest in the arts over the years. But in late 2002, their lives changed dramatically when Cam Padgett retired from Family Eye Care, now Doctors Vision Center, followed by Shirley Padgett a few months later.

Read more about the Padgetts and their jewelry making experiences at the News & Events page at [www.beaufort.cc.nc.us](http://www.beaufort.cc.nc.us).



*Cam Padgett at work in his shop.*



*Shirley Padgett models her handiwork.*

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contributor to "Our State" magazine. Oesterreich asked the class for suggestions for the December 2004 issue, the theme being "Joy to the World." Cox suggested "Operation Christmas Child: The Shoebox Project." And with Oesterreich's encouragement and support, Cox pitched her idea through email to the magazine's editor.

Read more of Eugene L. Tinklepaugh's article on BCCC student Patricia Cox, which appeared in the January 4, 2004 edition of the *Washington Daily News*.

## First injection molding courses underway at BCCC

Beaufort County Community College is offering injection molding classes this semester on Monday and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The class is the first offered under the college's new Plastics Technology Certificate program. It will be offered through BCCC's Industrial Technology Division. The Plastics Technology Certificate will provide training in the plastics processing industry through a series of five courses and/or a cooperative work experience with a local manufacturer. Courses in the plastics program will include an introduction to plastics, injection molding, manufacturing materials, hydraulics and pneumatics and blueprint reading. Graduates of the program should be prepared for employment in a plastics-based industry after learning the latest technologies in plastic materials and injection molding processes. "Injection molding manufacturing is a growth component within both the U.S. and Beaufort County economies. The recent location of PrettlNoma has brought publicity to the industry locally, but area

employers like Coeur Inc. and Maxwell Industries also need employees trained in injection molding. We are pleased to be able to provide this type of skilled training at the college," said BCCC Dean of Instruction Wesley Beddard.

**To read more about BCCC's new plastics curriculum, go to the News and Events page at [www.beaufort.cc.nc.us](http://www.beaufort.cc.nc.us) and click on "News Articles."**

## BCCC churns out another published writer!

BCCC student, Steven Wilson of Washington (one of Bryan Oesterreich's creative writing students from last semester) has had his essay on slave poet George Moses Horton accepted for publication in *Our State Magazine*. Congratulations Steve on this impressive accomplishment!

## Perry recognized for teaching innovation at BCCC

Lenora Perry, computer instructor in BCCC's Continuing Education Division,

recently received an honorable mention award for innovation in teaching during the N.C. Community College Adult Educators Association Conference. Perry was inspired when she noticed that BCCC computer students had trouble meeting their computer training goals and objectives and dropped out of classes too frequently. In response, she developed a 36-hour beginning class called "Computer Basics I," designed for students with no computer training. Her students, mostly senior citizens, were less intimidated by the slower-paced class and wanted to continue their computer training. Perry also developed a book/tutorial for the class.

**To read more about Lenora Perry's innovative beginning computer classes go to the News and Events page at [www.beaufort.cc.nc.us](http://www.beaufort.cc.nc.us) and click on "People in the News." For more information about computer classes available through BCCC's Division of Continuing Education, contact Perry at 940-6324.**

## Holden is BCCC's new special populations coordinator

Dawn Holden's work is all about the art of the possible. As the new special populations coordinator for Beaufort County Community College, Holden is charged with ensuring that some 70 special needs students at BCCC have the help they need to enable them to attend school and be successful in their studies. For some students this may mean that Holden must arrange for sign language interpreters. For other students, Holden must schedule someone to read a test to them. And for yet others, she must arrange for someone to take notes for a student in class.

"My job is to give someone a reasonable opportunity to complete his or her studies," she said. "And every student has their own needs." In her work, two federal laws - the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, guide Holden. Holden does not believe that complying with these two federal laws is a hardship but instead sees these laws as opening the door for people who had long been excluded from the opportunities available to others.

**Read more about Dawn Holden and her work with special populations at BCCC at the News and Events page at [www.beaufort.cc.nc.us](http://www.beaufort.cc.nc.us). Click on "People in the News."**



## Burbage's "Pamlico Pecans" featured in East Carolina Farm Credit magazine

Pamlico Pecans, a pecan orchard, owned by BCCC Director of Admissions and Recruitment Gary Burbage and his wife, Donna, was featured in Issue 4 of East Carolina



*Pictured above is Gary Burbage's great-grandfather, Beuron Roper, who started the family pecan orchard back in the early 1900s. This picture was taken in 1959 on Mr. Roper's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Gary is standing on the left and his cousin Jamey Roper is on the right.*

Farm Credit's magazine. The Burbages, along with his mother, Lucretia, and sister, Michelle Leigh, are tending the same orchard planted by Gary's great-grandfather, Beuron Roper, on his Ransomville farm in the early 1900s. After harvesting, usually from late October to mid-December, most of Burbage's pecans are shelled. Burbage also uses his equipment to operate a pecan cracking and shelling service for local growers. Pamlico Pecans, was recently featured by the Washington Tourism Development Authority in an exhibit showcasing eastern North Carolina and Beaufort County products. Pamlico Pecans has qualified for acceptance in the Goodness Grows in North Carolina sponsored by the N.C. Department of Agriculture. Additionally, the Burbages are members of the N.C. Pecan Growers Association.



To read more about the Burbage family pecan farm, go to [www.farmcredit.org](http://www.farmcredit.org) and click on "In the News" to view the latest Farm Credit Leader magazine. For more information about the Burbages' pecans contact Pamlico Pecans at 964-6199 or by email at [pamlicopecans@gotricounty.com](mailto:pamlicopecans@gotricounty.com).

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## Mandy Jones first to receive "The Superior IQ Award"

The Beaufort County Community College Staff Association announced in December that Mandy Jones had been selected to receive the first "Superior IQ Award." The award was recently established by the Staff Association to recognize and reward exemplary behavior in creating an "inviting" environment at the College. The Superior IQ (Invitational Quotient) Award recognizes and rewards a staff member who puts the principles of invitational education into action in their interactions with self and others.

Invitational education is about relationships and attitudes. It supports the concepts that "everyone is important," and that "everyone and everything adds to or takes away from the total college atmosphere." Invitational education recognizes that our "attitudes and beliefs affect our actions, and that our attitudes and actions affect others." It is a belief that "optimistic and pessimistic attitudes are both contagious."

Jones was selected from among several nominees. Staff Association members made the nominations in writing and gave examples of how the nominee demonstrates the principles of invitational education. She was awarded a framed certificate, a dinner out (up to a \$50.00 value), and a monetary award in the amount of \$100.00. In keeping with the spirit of the award, Jones immediately donated the cash award back to the staff association. Congratulations Mandy!

