

March 2007

CAMPUS Connections

Beaufort County Community College

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BCCC students find success

Taylor records children's CD

Jennifer Taylor's seven-year old daughter, Shana, loves to play with bubbles and sing silly songs when the child takes a bath.

When tasked with writing a poem as part of Jane McCotter's Language and Literacy Exploration class in the Early Childhood Teacher Associate Program at Beaufort County Community College, Taylor chose to write about her daughter's experiences in the bathtub.

Taylor, now a teacher's assistant at Eastern Elementary school, turned that poem into a song, "A Silly Song for the Bathtub," and, with the help of her family and friends, has compiled a compact disc of children's songs, Playtime.

A native of Bath, Taylor has roots that run deep in the musical community in eastern North Carolina.

SEE TAYLOR, Page 6



Jennifer Taylor



Gabe Grissom performs a front flip during a kneeboarding competition in North Carolina in 2006. Grissom, a student in BCCC's Mechanical Engineering/Drafting and Design program is the 2006 INT National Outlaw Kneeboard champion.

Grissom is 2006 INT National Kneeboard Outlaw Champion

Gabriel Grissom doesn't mind being called a river rat.

Known to his friends as "Gabe," Grissom, a student in Beaufort County Community College's Mechanical Engineering/Drafting and Design program, spent many of his weekends as a teenager on the Pamlico River.

"We would go every weekend – every Saturday and Sunday – and stay out on the river just as long as the gas would hold out or until it got dark," he said.

In October, all of those hours on the river paid off when he won the 2006 National Outlaw Kneeboarding Championship for the International Amateur Waterski, Wakeboard, Wakeskate & Kneeboard Tour.

Grissom learned to kneeboard and water ski at the age of 13 thanks to family friend Merrell Wallace, who regularly invited Grissom and groups of his friends out on his boat on the Pamlico River, where they would take turns learning a variety of water sports.

SEE GRISSOM, Page 4

GED is first step towards new career for Jones

Back in the early 1970s, Washington resident William Jones figured he did not need a high school diploma to get a good job.

So just shy of graduating from Washington High School, Jones quit school and entered the work force.

"I just got frustrated with school," he said. "And jobs back then didn't require a high school diploma."

So he went to work as a carpenter – working here and there and also making a little money doing odd jobs for folks around town. But over the years, he found it increasingly difficult to find any kind of work.

"Everywhere I went to apply for a job, they would tell me I needed a high school diploma or a GED," he said. "It's hard to find a job these days without it."

So Jones decided to do something to improve his chances of getting a good job and enrolled in GED, or General Educational Development classes through Beaufort County Community College. He attended classes at one of BCCC's off-campus classes, at Beaufort County JobLink and on the college campus.

He finished his coursework and earned his GED on December 18.

As a GED recipient, Jones, now 50, is eligible to attend BCCC graduation ceremonies in May but he hopes, instead, to be on the road in his new career as a truck driver. And in the future, he hopes to pursue a career in computers.

"I want to put that GED to work for me," he said. "It's a big load off of my mind to be able to look forward to a good future."

GED classes at BCCC are part of the college's Basic Skills program, the mission of which is to provide educational opportunities for adults 16 years or older who are out of school. The program strives to help adults who do not have a high school diploma or who lack sufficient mastery of reading, writing, mathematics and communication skills to enable them to function effectively in society.

Basic Skills includes five major programs, four of which are offered at BCCC: Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development, English as a Second Language and Compensatory Education. Classes are free of charge and are offered in a variety of settings and at convenient times.

In a recent interview, Jones cited a long list of individuals who helped him succeed – including BCCC and JobLink staff and Literacy Volunteers of Beaufort County. "I had been out of school for over 30 years. But it all came back to me gradually," he said. "And there were many people who helped me succeed."

Like many who return to school after a long absence, Jones said he found his math classes particularly challenging. He credits tutor Mike Sobel, a volunteer with the Literacy Volunteers of Beaufort County, who worked with him one-on-one, once or twice a week, helping him pass that portion of his studies.

And he credits Tony Taylor, Basic Skills director at BCCC, with helping him stay the course.

"William Jones is a great example of someone successfully fulfilling his dream," said Tony Taylor. "His goals were to complete the GED program and enroll in community college classes to improve the quality of his life."

With help from JobLink, Jones planned to enroll in BCCC's new Commercial Truck Driving School which began earlier this month.

After he completes those classes, he hopes to get a job as a truck driver and in a couple of years be able to drive locally so he can take night classes at BCCC. As time goes by, he'd like to take computer programming courses and get a job in the technology industry.

Jones said he would encourage others to earn their high school diplomas through GED classes.

Basic Skills classes are free of charge and are offered annually statewide on community college campuses, work sites, churches, public schools, community centers, libraries, prisons and other locations. For more information about locations and times for Basic Skills classes, contact Nikki Klapp at 940-6322.



William Jones

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Worsley is new BCCC cosmetology instructor

Velma Worsley, new cosmetology instructor at Beaufort County Community College, knows from experience how important it is to maintain a good working environment in a salon.

She and her co-workers have been together for 15 years at La Chic Boutique, a successful salon in Bethel, where Worsley is a co-owner.

She knows it's important to treat customers with respect, establish good work habits and always keep a positive outlook – even when you're having a bad day.

"In order to stay in the field you've got to love it," she said. "The public wants a good atmosphere in a salon. If you are having a bad day, you have to have discipline. You have to put on a good face and smile."

These are traits she hopes to instill in her students at BCCC where Worsley is an instructor for the college's high school and night cosmetology programs.

Worsley, a native of Greenville, has had a life-long interest in cosmetology. But after she graduated from North Pitt in 1979, she had to defer her dream and immediately go to work – often working three jobs at a time – to support herself and her young daughter.

She returned to school in 1983, enrolling in the first night cosmetology classes in Mitchell's Hairstyling Academy at Pitt Community College while continuing to work. She earned her diploma in cosmetology 1986 and opened a salon in Bethel.

Worsley, the youngest of eight children, credits her mother for instilling in her the discipline and positive attitude that have allowed her to succeed in life and in her profession. "Mom showed me how to live, how to be strong and how to be a survivor," she said. "If you have love in your heart and if you believe in yourself first, then the other things will fall into place."



Velma Worsley, right, new BCCC cosmetology instructor, teaches hair styling techniques to Brittany Midgette, a beginning cosmetology student attending BCCC and Washington High School.

Bill Polk, former BCCC educator, writes novel

Former Beaufort County Community College educator, William "Bill" Polk, has written a novel, *The Journey of Adro Knight: A Cap and Gown Mystery*, that is intended to address the dropout rate among black men. Polk and his book were the subject of a recent article in the Washington Daily News.

Polk worked in schools, providing counseling to students for over 50 years. He helped students deal with the desegregation of the McKeesport (Pa.) Area School District before retiring and moving to North Carolina in 1984. He served as director of Student Support Services at BCCC for many years before being named community resource coordinator, a post aimed at reducing the drop-out rate among local college students.

Since his retirement from BCCC last year, Polk has taught General Educational Development, or GED, preparation classes at Beaufort County JobLink.

Polk told the Daily news that with his experience in education, he became concerned about the dropout rate of black men in high school and college. Through research, he said, studies have verified "that few school districts in the nation with 10,000 or more black, male students have graduation rates at or above the national average for that group." In most school districts, black men have the highest rate of out-of-school suspension and account for almost 80 percent of the prison population, Polk told the Daily News.

Polk's book centers around the fictional life and experiences of one black youth in the education system in the United States.

He told the Daily News that he worked on the idea for the novel, which is mostly dialogue, for years but wrote it in one year. And he warns potential readers that some of the language in the book is graphic. "It's not language I would ordinarily use, but I wanted to talk like the people in the community," he said.

Polk recently attended a book signing at Sunflower Books in Washington as part of the store's observance of Black History Month. The signing was Polk's second at Sunflower Books. He is also the author of *Memoirs of an Oreo: A Social History*, the subject of a 2000 book signing at the store.



William "Bill" Polk

BCCC Job Ready sessions set for March 19, 20

Helping students go from the classroom to the workforce is the focus of two workshops scheduled for Monday, March 19, and Tuesday, March 20, at Beaufort County Community College.

The Job Ready workshops, sponsored by the college Career Center, are designed to help prepare BCCC students, recent graduates and members of the community to enter the work force.

The sessions will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in the multipurpose room of Building 10 on the college campus.

They will help participants develop correct interviewing skills, learn how to write an effective resume and get tips on projecting the right image when they meet with prospective employers, said Kelly Rouse, director of Career Services at BCCC.

The same material will be covered in each session so it will not be necessary to attend both sessions, she said.

Events like the Job Ready sessions are an important part of helping prepare graduates – both those entering the workforce for the first time and those who have acquired new skills - for the workplace, Rouse said.

“The more competitive we make our students, graduates and local citizens, the better it is not only for them but also for economic development in Beaufort County,” Rouse said.

The Job Ready Workshops are the first of two school-to-work events scheduled at BCCC this spring. The second, BCCC’s annual Job Fair, sponsored by the Career Center, Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society and Beaufort County JobLink, for BCCC students, graduates and job seekers in the school’s four-county service area is set for Tuesday, April 17.

For more information about the Job Ready Workshop or the upcoming Job Fair, contact BCCC’s Career Services Center 940-6353.

GRISSOM, from Page 1

It was kneeboarding that caught Grissom’s attention.

Grissom eventually purchased his own equipment and began to hone his skills – learning tricks by trial and error.

Last year at the age of 30, Grissom joined the Washington-based International Amateur Waterski, Wakeboard, Wakeskate and Kneeboard Tour, or INT, entered his first competitions and began winning.

Grissom was one of 33 North Carolinians who competed in the 2006 INT Championships held at Ski West Village in Bakersfield, Calif., in October.

In Grissom’s division, known as Outlaw, a competitor can receive 8,000 to 12,000 points for a single run. During his national championship run, Grissom earned 10,150 points, a personal best.

Grissom qualified for national competition by winning the North Carolina championship in Men’s Outlaw Kneeboarding earlier in the season.

In addition to kneeboarding, Grissom also rides a wakeboard – a piece of equipment similar to a snowboard. In national INT competition in the Advanced Division, Grissom finished in 22nd place, earning 7,125 points.

It’s not the thrill of competition and winning that keeps Grissom involved in kneeboarding, but the opportunity to spend time with his family doing something that everyone can enjoy.

Creating memories for his family is important part of the sport, Grissom said.

“It’s fun for the entire family,” he said. “That’s the main thing that keeps me in it.”

His eight-year-old son, Sam, competed this year in the INT Mini-Outlaw Kneeboarding Division, earning third place in state competition and in 2007 will probably move up to the next level of competition. And Grissom plans to slowly introduce his two-year old son, Emery, to the sport



Gabe Grissom, above, performs a trick on Graham-Mebane Lake during a kneeboarding competition in the summer of 2006. Grissom, at right, is studying Mechanical Engineering/Drafting and Design at BCCC.



this summer.

His wife, Jennifer, an apartment manager in Greenville, who oversees some 500 apartment units, also is involved in the sport – traveling with the family to various events.

“We’ve met a lot of nice people from all walks of life,” he said. “It’s given every member of the family the chance to have new experiences, to travel and meet interesting people.”

Rouse is new BCCC Director of Career Services

Kelly Rouse knows what it's like to be a student in search of direction. After graduating from high school, Rouse followed in her father's, Don Hubers,' footsteps, and enrolled in Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. Being uncertain of her future career interests, Rouse decided to study psychology.

Psychology, she said, is often seen as "a good major if you're not sure what you want to go into."

Today, as the newly-appointed Director of Career Services at Beaufort County Community College, Rouse is tasked with helping students find their direction in life – matching interests with possible careers and helping those students obtain the necessary skills for those careers. She directs Career Center activities and the Cooperative Education Program and is in charge of organizing the college's annual Job Fair, which is scheduled this year for April 17.

Rouse succeeds Rhunell Boyd who was promoted to registrar at BCCC late last year.

The BCCC Career Center helps students plan their careers, explore career options and develop job-seeking skills such as resumé preparation. Cooperative education at BCCC is designed to allow students to earn college credit for working on a job related to the curriculum in which they are enrolled. As co-op director, Rouse

works with local businesses and industry to help interested students secure a job that meets co-op eligibility.

Rouse said she was drawn to the field because she enjoys working with people to help them achieve their goals.

Rouse graduated from Terra Ceia Christian School in Pantego, where she was class valedictorian. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Dordt College.



Kelly Rouse, new head of BCCC's Career Center and Co-operative Work Experience Program in the new career center offices in Building 9.

Job Fair is set for April 17

Helping students transition from the classroom to the work force is the focus of the annual Job Fair to be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of Building 10 at Beaufort County Community College on Tuesday, April 17.

This event is co-sponsored by the BCCC Career Center, Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society and the Beaufort County JobLink Center.

Job Fair 2006 is open to BCCC graduates, students and job seekers in BCCC's four-county service area of Beaufort, Hyde, Washington and Tyrrell counties.

Watch for more information in the April edition of *Campus Connections* about Job Fair 2007!

In 2003, she completed one semester of post-graduate work in clinical psychology at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., before returning to North Carolina and entering the local job market.

In 2004, she served as a community based services professional for Life, Incorporated in Washington and, from 2004 until 2007, worked for the Beaufort County JobLink Center, most recently as a lead employment specialist for the center.

One of Rouse's immediate plans for BCCC's Career Center is to update the content of the center's web page to include more job postings and more information for students. Her goal is for students to be able to use the Career Center's resources even if they can't visit the center.

Nine mini-term classes to begin March 19

Beaufort County Community College will offer nine courses during the spring semester in a mini-term format that will begin Monday, March 19, and end Wednesday, May 9. The classes that will be available in the mini-term format include ACA 111/22 College Student Success, CIS 110/22 Introduction to Computers, CIS 111/03 Basic PC Literacy, ENG 080/03 Writing Foundation, MAT 050/04 Basic Math Skills, MAT 080/02 Intermediate Algebra, OST 131/41 Keyboarding, and PSY 150/22 General Psychology, PSY 241/22 Developmental Psychology.

Six of the classes – College Student Success, Introduction to Computers, Basic PC Literacy, Keyboarding, General Psychology and Developmental Psychology – will be taught in full or in part online.

Registration begins March 1 and will continue until the first class meeting.

New students should contact the College Admissions Office at 252-940-6233 for information about enrolling in these classes. Current students should contact their advisor to complete a Drop/Add form.

Regular charges for tuition and fees will apply. Students enrolled full-time for Spring 2007 may be able to enroll in these courses without an additional charge.

For more information on these classes, contact BCCC's Registrar's Office at 252-940-6281.

Foundation Golf Tournament is set for May 18

The 14th annual Beaufort County Community College Foundation Golf Tournament will be held Friday, May 18, at the Washington Yacht and Country Club.

Normally held in the fall, the event was moved to the spring this year because of work schedule for the summer and fall on the golf course at the Washington Yacht and Country Club, the usual venue for the event, according to Judy Meier Jennette, executive director of the BCCC Foundation.

"Spring is a pleasant time of year for golfers and we hope the golfing and business community will continue to support the foundation golf tournament on this new date," she said.

The tournament, sponsored by PCS Phosphate, is held each year to raise money for scholarships to BCCC.

The tournament format will be the same as in previous years – a four-person super ball with teams pre-flighted based on each golfer's handicap. The entry fee is \$70 per player, which includes lunch, cart rental, greens fee and a gift bag.

The largest single annual fund-raising event for the college, the tournament typically raises more than \$10,000 for scholarships and programs supported by the BCCC Foundation.

Following the tournament, a trophy will be awarded to each member of the first place team in each of the tournament's four flights. A prize package for "closest to the pin" shots will also be awarded.

Team and hole sponsorships are now being accepted.

For more information or to register to participate in the tournament, contact Marcia Norwood at 940-6218.



Golfers practice their putting at last year's Foundation Golf tournament at the Washington Yacht and Country Club. This year's tournament will be held Friday, May 18. Normally held in the fall, the tournament was moved forward to accommodate work on the WY&CC golf course.

TAYLOR, from Page 1

In her spare time, Taylor sings in a gospel group, *Double Portion*, with Paula Sherman and Robert J. Wilkins. The trio has performed together for more than six years, starting out singing locally before branching out to other southeastern states. To date, the group has performed in Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia and Kentucky and has produced five compact discs of songs.

Taylor's father, James L. Marslender, and mother, Betty Gurganus, met while performing in a local gospel music group.

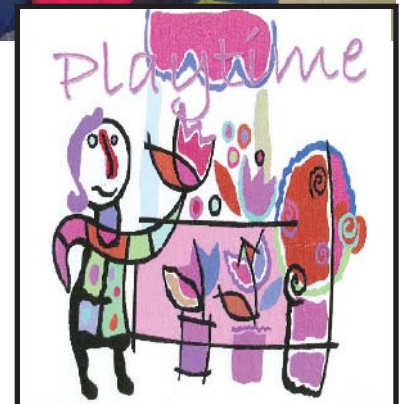
Marslender should be familiar to many eastern North Carolina Baby Boomers. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he played in a musical group, The Matadors, which performed at high school functions throughout the region. In 1969 the group even won a statewide Battle of the Bands competition (Today, The Matadors are probably most famous for being the starting point for Washington native Craig Woolard, who went on to become a member of one of North Carolina's most recognizable beach music groups, the Embers).

In addition to the bathtub song, *Playtime* includes eight others written by Taylor and her friend, Jennifer Jarvis, also of Bath, who writes children's poems. The songs are designed to teach children manners, build self esteem and help them explore the world around them.

Playtime is available for purchase at Brooks Store and Enchanted Gardens in Bath and Playdate in Washington. A song from Taylor's CD, is scheduled to be posted on BCCC's website at www.beaufortccc.edu.



*Pictured above, Jennifer Taylor leads children in Jenna Tyson's class at Eastern Elementary School in song. Poems written by Taylor in Jane McCotter's classroom were the inspiration for Taylor's new collection of children's music, *Playtime*. The CD cover is pictured at right.*



Click here for a sample of the song "A silly song for the bathtub"

Millie House joins BCCC nursing school staff

After graduating from Beaufort County Community College's Associate Degree Nursing program in 1975, Millie House returned to campus from time to time to recruit BCCC nursing school graduates to work in one of the hospitals where she served as an administrator.

But in December, House returned to the school full-time when she joined the BCCC nursing school faculty as a clinical instructor in the ADN program.

"It's exciting to see how the campus has grown and it brings back a lot of memories," she said. "It's a pleasure to be on staff with such a talented faculty. I look forward to learning from everyone and hope that I can contribute to the already existing high standards and quality of nursing education."

House's duties include classroom lectures and overseeing clinical work done by students. She is one of the instructors joining the BCCC Nursing School faculty as part of the nursing school's expansion.

A native of Martin County, House was drawn to nursing when she worked as a nurse's assistant while she was still in high school in Robersonville.

After graduating from Robersonville High School in 1973, House earned her associate's degree in nursing from BCCC in 1975. In 1981, she graduated from N.C. Wesleyan College with a bachelor's degree in nursing and earned a master's in adult education from East Carolina University in 1987.

During her 31-year nursing career, House has held a variety of nursing posts – from direct patient care at the beginning of her career to various management and administrative roles within University Health Systems. Her nursing experience includes 20 years at Pitt Memorial Hospital, about four years at Bertie Memorial Hospital in Windsor and, for the last eight years, service as Vice President for Patient Care Services/ Chief Nursing Officer at Heritage Hospital in Tarboro.

House and her husband, Ronnie, owner of H & L Builders, live in Pitt County and have two children – daughter Lindsey, an ECU accounting student, and son, Lee, a 10th grade student at North Pitt High School.

In her spare time, she enjoys shopping and spending time with her family, her church community and her pets. She also enjoys watching sports – particularly NASCAR and college basketball.



Millie House

Nikki Klapp is new BCCC Basic Skills recruiter

Nikki Klapp of Belhaven has joined the full time staff of Beaufort County Community College as a Basic Skills assessment assistant and recruiter. Her duties at BCCC will include making contacts within the college's service area to encourage adults to attend classes, helping assess students who enter BCCC's Basic Skills program, keeping track of students' progress, test scores, and helping with special events.



Nikki Klapp

Klapp graduated from Northside High School in 1999 and earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from East Carolina University in 2003. Prior to accepting the position, Klapp worked as an assistant manager for AVA Formals in Washington and was also working part time as a member of the BCCC Basic Skills faculty.

Klapp enjoys learning on all levels but is primarily interested in adult education, thanks, in large part, to her mother, Darleen Smith, a librarian at Northeast Elementary School in Belhaven. Smith set an example for her daughter by teaching adult education classes at night.

"I always wanted to be in education," Klapp said "That's why I'm so happy to have a full-time job in the Continuing Education Division at BCCC."

The Basic Skills Program provides educational opportunities for adults to improve their reading, writing, mathematics and communication skills through four major programs offered at BCCC: Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development,

English as a Second Language and Compensatory Education.

Generally, basic skills students are adults. Klapp understands her clients. She said, "As adults, these students are making a conscious choice to be in class. They are already aimed in a direction when they start. It's my job to guide them in the right direction."

Carver contributes to Clayton Endowment

Carver Machine Works Inc. recently made the first contribution to a planned endowment at Beaufort County Community College honoring welding Instructor Ted Clayton.

The endowment was established with \$2,000 awarded to BCCC last year by the N.C. Community College System when Clayton received the Excellence in Teaching Award, an annual award given to a faculty member at one of the state's 58 community colleges.

Clayton began teaching for BCCC as a part time instructor in 1996 and joined the faculty as a full time instructor in January 1998.

The BCCC Foundation hopes to establish an endowment that will perpetually fund a scholarship for a welding student at the college in Clayton's honor and plans a campaign to raise funds for the endowment. The contribution from Carver Machine Works is the first in that campaign.

Carver Machine Works, Inc. is an employee-owned corporation founded in 1976 by Leroy and David Carver with sales primarily in the eastern United States. The company began operations as a family-owned and operated general machine shop which grew to include several employees, primarily operating as a rebuild facility for one major local customer in the mining and chemical processing industry.

"The BCCC Foundation is delighted to accept this contribution from Carver Machine Works and hopes other local industries will follow Carver's lead," said Foundation Director Judy Meier Jennette. "The welding program at BCCC has long been recognized as a leader in producing graduates who are ready for the work force in our region and Instructor Ted Clayton is largely responsible for that."

For more information on donating funds to the Clayton Endowment, contact the BCCC Foundation at 940-6326.



Pictured above, left to right, Lindsey A. Crisp, president and chief executive officer of Carver Machine Works, Inc., and Melissa Simons, Carver human resources manager, present a check to BCCC Welding Instructor Ted Clayton and BCCC Foundation Director Judy Jennette as a contribution to an endowment honoring Clayton.

Upcoming Events

To March 30- Nominations accepted for BCCC Ambassador. For more information, contact Marcia Norwood at 940-6218.

March 6 - Gamma Beta Phi meeting, noon. For more information, contact Mandy Jones at 940-6242.

March 9-11 - North Carolina Student Government Association Spring Conference in Raleigh. For more information, contact Rebecca Spain at 940-6259.

March 11 - Daylight Savings Time begins.

March 12-16 - Student/Faculty Vacation.

March 19 - 20 - Job Ready Workshop, noon to 2 p.m., Multipurpose Room, Building 10. For more information, contact Kelly Rouse at 940-6353.

March 20 - BCANS meeting, noon, room 116, Building 3. Lunch will be served at a small cost. For more information, contact Sherry Glover at 940-6265.

March 20 - Hope Club, noon, room 27, building 11. For more information, contact Gregg Allinson at 940-6361.

March 23 - Gamma Beta Phi induction ceremony.

March 23 - Bloodmobile visit.

Students, faculty and staff: Publicize your campus-based fundraiser and/or other event in this column monthly. Contact the public relations staff no later than the 15th of the month in order to list your event in the next edition of Campus Connections. Please e-mail your announcements to Betty Gray.