Congratulations to the CCC&TI Cobras, the first team in the history of the college to win the NJCAA Region X Basketball Championship!! The Cobras will compete in the District #7 Tournament in Hagerstown, MD May 2-3 with a shot at advancing to Delhi, NY to compete for the national championship. See “The Cobra Den” for details.

Congratulations to new Student Government Association officers elected last week. These students will take office July 1, 2002.

President: Sammie Baumann
Vice President, Carrie Whisnant
Secretary: Jennifer Owen
Treasurer: Shane Bryant

Enrollment for the Adult High School Program at CCC&TI’s Watauga Campus continues through Feb. 28. Previous units earned in high school can be transferred into the program. Classes are free. For more information or to register for the AHS program, call (828)297-5253.

Don’t forget the next CCC&TI Book Club Meeting on the Caldwell Campus Thursday. Participants will discuss Julia Alvarez’s “How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents.” Ask your instructor about extra credit for attending!

On The College Connection this week, David Holman talks about his background and the responsibilities of the finance and administration areas; and John Burnett describes his various careers and discusses the changes coming to the Pharmacy program for 2002-2003. TCC airs daily on Caldwell Charter Cable channel 3 at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Plan now for the upcoming Ping Pong and Pool Tournament March 4-8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the student lounge of the Caldwell Campus. Cost is $2 per player; double elimination. The event is sponsored by Circle K. Proceeds will go toward cost of the group’s national convention in Orlando.

Attention: Transfer Students! College representatives will be available in the Student Lounge of the Caldwell Campus as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 28   Lenoir-Rhyne  11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday, March 20  Lenoir-Rhyne  11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday, March 27  Gardner Webb  11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 6:30 p.m.
The Watauga Campus of CCC&TI has scheduled Appalachian State University’s “Acceptance in a Day” on Mon., March 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 108 of the Instructional Facility. Appointments are required to meet with the admissions representative. For details, contact Judy Winebarger at 297-3811.

Need help paying for college? Stop by CCC&TI’s Financial Aid Office to learn more about new scholarships and financial aid information. New scholarship applications are arriving daily. One of the most recent ones, from the Coca-Cola Foundation, is geared toward individuals who have performed or who will have performed 100 hours of community service work by May 1. Gather information about student loans by visiting the www.gradfree.com website where students can register for free. Family and friends will then automatically be invited to visit GradFree in order to learn more about helping to pay off loan debts. To obtain information on a no fee loan, check out North Carolina Advantage at www.cfnc.org under “Paying for College.”

Congratulations to the winners of the 2001 Caldwell Literary Contest (Tonya B. Laws, Thomas Thielemann, Vivian Satterwhite, Betsy Humphreys, Shannon Brown and Cindi Rae Caron) and to Vae Hamilton, Jean Cline and Betsy Humphreys, recipients of the 2001 Branches Editors' Choice, who were all featured in the Tenth Anniversary of Branches, CCC&TI’s literary magazine. Art students and instructors featured in the magazine were Lori Nelson, Ashley Belk, Sandra Spach, Meredith Foster, David Pipes, Ashlee Wooldridge, David Hessell, Jan Martin, Carol McDaile, Andrea Sargent, Lynda Lea Bonkemeyer, Marti Kardol, Thomas Thielemann and Vivian Satterwhite. Writing students featured were Ashley Belk, Ashlee Wooldridge, Carol McDade, Andrea Sargent, Meredith Foster and Vivian Satterwhite.

Donations are needed for the MSPIP (Minton Student Professional Image) project to fill a new batch of bags for distribution to students. The Compensatory Education class fills the bags, but they are in need of toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, mouthwash, combs and/or brushes and razors (sample sizes. They currently have plenty of shampoo and lotion.

There are still are few more weeks left to catch David Pipes’ photographic display on the third floor of E-Building. The matted and framed prints are available for sale. See Pipes for more information.

Kudos to Career Center students who participated in the recent VICAcompetition held at the Caldwell County Agricultural Fairgrounds. Students winning awards were Jennifer Hughes, second place, Creed B; Heather Clark, Rebecca Owens, Kristy Wilson, Raymond Slate, Damon Penley, Ronnie Gosnell and Amber Presnell, first place, Opening & Closing; Ruby Scarberry, third place, Extemporaneous Speaking; Ashley Walker, first place, Job Interview; Daniel Craig, Josh Sanders, Josh Hartley and Chad Settlemyre, first, Team Build; and Keith Messer, third place, carpentry.

Attention, prospective graduates! The graduation application deadline for Spring 2002 graduation will be Friday, March 29 at 1 p.m. Applications are available at the receptionist desk in Student Services and should be turned into the Business Office with the appropriate fee by the deadline. Any students completing their course of study in the spring or summer are encouraged to complete this process early in order to obtain a check of their graduation readiness. Curriculum graduation ceremonies will be held May 31.

Need money for college? Many local scholarships are available at CCC&TI! Visit the CCC&TI Financial Aid Office to check out the latest opportunities on the scholarship bulletin board. Hurry! Time is limited.

Minority Access, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization which administers internships for federal agencies, is accepting applications from qualified college students, undergraduates and graduates, for paid full-time internships throughout the nation for summer 2002. To be eligible, students must be U.S. citizens enrolled full-time with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The deadline is March 1, 2002. Those interested should see Dan Cline in F-108 for details.

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol will hold a community meeting Wednesday, March 13 in R-Bldg. beginning at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and discuss public issues related to law enforcement.

Computer Aided Education: Distance Learning and other online academic assistance will be the topic of the next WISE UP Workshop to be held Mar. 21 at noon in Room A-208. Other topics to be discussed this semester include Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention- April 16, A-208 and Finals Blast!- April 18, E-120.

Free professional development opportunities for CCC&TI faculty and staff this week include the following workshops: Mon., Feb. 18, Hoaxes and Viruses, F219, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Dellinger; Wed., Feb. 20, Blackboard in a Seated Class, F219, 10 a.m. to noon, Dellinger; Fri., Feb. 22, Blackboard, Watauga Campus, Rm. 102, 2 to 4 p.m., Canterbury; Fri., Feb. 22, Open Lab, F218, noon to 3 p.m. Contact Myra Moore at 726-2701 for details.
Cobras Strike Back To Defeat Surry CC, Win Regional Championship!

For the first time in college history, the men’s basketball team of CCC&TI celebrated a major victory as champions of the NJCAA Region X Basketball Tournament!! The Cobras now advance to the District 7 Tournament in Hagerstown, MD March 2-3 with a shot at advancing to Delhi, NY to compete for the national championship.

CCC&TI routed Central Carolina Community College (Sanford, NC), 111-67, in Friday night’s semi-final action, bringing Caldwell’s record to 18-10. Leaders for the Cobras were Curtis Jones with 22, Trae Smith with 19, Antwan Little with 18, and Stephen Heggins with 16. C.J. (Curtis Jones) also led the Cobras with 14 rebounds and 7 assists.

Saturday’s final round of the Region X Tournament brought Western Tarheel Conference co-champs, Surry CC and CCC&TI, back to the courts after Surry’s win over Forsyth Tech. Friday. In a close game, CCC&TI downed defending Surry champions, 91-87. The win brings CCC&TI’s record to 19-10, earning the college a berth in the District 7 Tournament in Hagerstown, Md. and a chance to play for the National Championship in Junior College, Division III. Earning the #1 seed in the tournament, the Cobras will play Saturday at 2 p.m. against an undetermined opponent. Leaders for the Cobras Saturday were Trae Smith with 28 points and Curtis Jones with 14. Brandon Robinson and Menyel Flowers had 13 each while Antwan Little added 12 and Stephen Heggins finished with 11. C.J. was CCC&TI’s leading rebounder with 11 while Brandon Robinson led the team with 7 assists.

"This is wonderful," said Coach Payne following the tournament. "I’m tremendously proud of the players. They really pulled together to play as individuals and win as a team. It’s a heck of a good feeling. We appreciate the solid support from the administration, faculty and staff, students, friends, families and fans. You could really feel the energy in the crowd. This is wonderful for the college."

Congratulations to Coach Bill Payne, named Region X Coach of the Year. CCC&TI Cobras, Drew King and Trae Smith, were also recognized for their efforts and contributions to the team. Special thanks also goes to the Chorus of Covenant Fellowship School who sang Saturday’s national anthem.

"This season established us as a legitimate NJCAA program," said Garrett Hinshaw, athletic director and dean of student services. "We appreciate the support of the students, faculty, staff and especially our president, Dr. Ken Boham. We are also proud we didn’t lose one player due to eligibility requirements which goes back to success and quality both in the classroom and on the court. As we continue to instill pride into the Cobra program, we are excited about what the future holds and look forward to being competitive at the national level."

Check out more photos coming soon to the CCC&TI website! Log onto www.cccti.edu
For more information on CCC&TI basketball or other athletic opportunities, contact Head Basketball Coach Bill Payne at 726-2388.
Woman Completes CCC&TI Carpentry Class To Aid in African Mission Trip

“Survivor Africa” may be a distant memory for many, but for a Watauga County woman and her 9-year-old daughter, it’s about to become a reality. Patricia Huffman and daughter Avey will be moving to Nigeria in May where Patricia will run the Baptist Center, a small hotel for Baptist missionaries. Huffman, whose husband Floyd died in 1998, said she is looking forward to the opportunity. “After my husband passed away, I was looking for a new purpose, a new interest in life,” she explained. “I feel led to do this.”

Huffman said she knows the experience will be a challenge as she will be responsible for the care of the facilities as well as the missionaries who stay at the hotel after returning from mission trips in the African bushland. “I’ll be handling the grounds, cooking, cleaning the rooms, registering the missionaries— all the things that go with the running of a hotel,” she said.

A mother of four, Huffman is well prepared for the cooking and cleaning duties but admits her knowledge of such tasks as carpentry was limited, so she tackled that problem head on by enrolling in a basic carpentry class through continuing education at the Watauga Campus of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. The course incorporates “Wheels of Learning,” a hands-on competency-based curriculum that takes an individual through four levels of training. The nationally recognized program focuses on training individuals in carpentry, masonry, electrical, heating, air conditioning and sheet metal.

“It’s one of the best things I’ve ever done,” said Huffman, who took the class with her daughter Heather, 29. “I felt like there were a lot of basic things, like working with tools, that I needed to be familiar with. Now I can do some repair work around the hotel. Plus, Heather and I wanted to do something together before I leave.”

One thing Huffman said she enjoyed most about the class was the flexibility of the curriculum. “B.J. (Hodges, course instructor) really works with each individual. He lets you go in the direction you want to go and helps guide you along the way so that the things you are learning are the things you’re really interested in,” she said.

Hodges said Huffman was an enthusiastic student. “She was really interested in learning and wanted to understand completely how to do something,” he said. “I admire her spirit and her desire to go to Africa.”

While the facilities are limited (there is only one sink for the entire compound that can be used for drinking water), Huffman said the ruggedness and remoteness of the compound (located about a five-hour drive from the Nigerian capital) haven’t caused her to change her mind about her trip, which will last two years. “I really believe we’ve been led to do this. I feel like God has brought this into my life to give it meaning and purpose again. I’m not blind to the fact that there will be problems, but I have not doubt that with God’s help I’ll be able to handle it,” she stated.

Huffman and Avey, who has Down’s syndrome and who Huffman plans to include in developing a Bible Club for African children, plan to leave in May. “I think of this as an opportunity, and I think people should always take advantage of the opportunities God gives them to live life,” she said. “Don’t let life pass you by.”

For information on CCC&TI’s Wheels of Learning program, contact CCC&TI’s Industrial Department at (828)726-2380.

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CCC&TI’s BLET Students Committed To Patriotism and Duty

In the years since its 1995 inception, students enrolled in the Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute have not lacked in spirit, enthusiasm or patriotism. CCC&TI’s BLET Director Andrew J. Burgess Jr. said that of the more than 200 students who have graduated the program, there has not been one in whom he did not sense a commitment to the profession and the principles of the United States. “God, country and community,” he said. “The people I’ve encountered through this academy have held those ideals and values in common. I have no doubt of that.”
Burgess noted that the men and women who graduate the academy and go on to careers in law enforcement pledge to uphold the very values on which the United States was founded. “It’s in their oath. It’s part of their commitment to protect and serve the people of this country,” he said recently as he displayed a framed copy of the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor, which reads “On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always uphold the constitution and community I serve.

“It’s what they do. They protect and serve the communities of which they are a part, and they uphold the constitution of this country and their communities,” Burgess reiterated.

He and BLET administrative assistant Nancy Setzer said they have observed changes in the country since the Sept. 11 attacks and a greater dedication in the students who have enrolled in the college’s 16-week BLET Academy. “Not long after the attacks, I remember hearing a couple of students in our last academy say that not only did they not regret deciding to become police officers but that this made them even more proud of their decision,” Setzer stated. “None of them felt like it was a deterrent to them.”

A self-professed flag-waver big on patriotism, Burgess said he has noticed some positives since the terrorist attacks. “What happened on Sept. 11, in my opinion, is that the people of America have revalued the men and women in law enforcement, and, where previously they took them for granted, they now hold them to a higher esteem. The American people have learned how truly heroic our police officers, firefighters and medics are,” he concluded.

Burgess said those who decide to pursue law enforcement as a career aren’t motivated by money or prestige. “Why do they do what they do? It’s not the money. It certainly isn’t the money. They do it because they believe in it. Anyone who is willing to lay down his life for another- what greater sacrifice can you ask than that? And yet people in public service do it everyday, and the students in this academy know that it might be asked of them someday,” he said. “They have a calling to a career of service.”

A 23-year military veteran, Burgess noted that the military and public service have much in common including a similar rank structure, dedication and camaraderie. “I loved it, Burgess said as he reflected on his days in the military. “I miss the people so much. There is not a day that goes by that I don’t miss it. The friends I made and the relationships I developed have been some of the most important in my life. Law enforcement is like that, too.”

With the fifteenth BLET Academy well underway at CCC&TI, Burgess said he expects no more or less of the aspiring law enforcement officers following the Sept. 11 attacks than he did of those who have come before and those who will come after. “I wouldn’t expect them to react any differently to that (terrorism) threat than they would to any other threat to a community, an individual or themselves,” he stated unequivocally. “They have a job to do, and they have sworn to do it whether it is an assault by an individual against an individual or by a group of terrorists against the entire country. They will uphold the law.”

CCC&TI’s next BLET Academy begins in August. Applicants must be at least 20 years of age or turn 20 during the course, have a clean criminal history, and have a high school diploma or GED. For more information on CCC&TI’s BLET program, contact Setzer at (828)726-2751 or Burgess at (828)726-2253.

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