Attention! Current students are urged to plan their schedules now for upcoming early registration. Classes are expected to fill quickly this year, so **students are strongly encouraged to reserve their seats early before registration opens to the public**!! Fall curriculum schedules are now available on campus or online at www.cccti.edu. Early registration dates are as follows: Caldwell Campus - July 8 - 11; Watauga Campus - July 8 - 18, by appointment only. Contact your advisor for details.

Know someone interested in attending CCC&TI this fall? New prospective students should apply before July 11th for fall semester to be eligible for a special **Early Bird Registration on the Caldwell Campus July 16th**. Please help spread the word to those serious about attending college. Students should call 726-2700 today to start the admissions process and take advantage of this special opportunity. Orientation sessions for new students will be held on July 16th at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. in the gym.

Unemployed? Out of work? CCC&TI’s next **Pre-Job class** is set for July 8 - August 9. Free to those who qualify, the 5-week class meets Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room G213. For more information, call Mandy Williams at 726-2274 or Greta Triplet 726-2275.

Tune into **The College Connection** this week as Matt Connor discusses GED/ESL classes and tours the Family Resource Center; Tom Crouse and Dawn Sullivan share information on CCC&TI’s aviation program. The show airs daily at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Caldwell Co. Cable Ch. 3.

Interested in coaching **women's volleyball** this fall? Contact Bill Payne at 726-2388.

Bluegrass fans, take note: a **“Foothills Bluegrass Gospel Celebration”** will be held at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center on Friday, July 12 beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are $12.50 in advance and $15 at the door. The event will feature three top bluegrass gospel groups: The Rarely Herd, Jerry & Tammy Sullivan and The Cockman Family. Seating is general admission and tickets are currently only available at the Broyhill Civic Center Box Office. Tickets can be ordered by calling the civic center box office at 726-2407.

CCC&TI is seeking an **Early Childhood instructor**. Two years of increasingly responsible experience in the academic field is required as well as a master’s degree from an accredited college or university and 18 graduate semester hours in the discipline. The position is contingent upon funding. Deadline for application is July 12. Contact Human Resources at 726-2499 for an application packet.
CCC&TI Student Enjoys Graduation Festivities After Securing Job

While graduation is an exciting time for aspiring graduates, it can also be a scary experience as students contemplate where they go from here. For at least one Lenoir woman who graduated recently with an associate’s degree in accounting from CCC&TI, the future wasn’t quite so scary after all. Brenda Harris learned she had a job at a local certified public accounting firm before graduation ceremonies at the end of May. That knowledge added to her enjoyment of the festivities surrounding graduation. “It’s a dream come true,” said Harris, a former manufacturing employee. “It was then that I knew that I was going to have a job that I would enjoy.”

Harris learned of the job through several of her CCC&TI instructors and submitted her resume. Following an interview and a round of tests, including aptitude, personality and IQ, she was offered the job. “I had always wanted to do (accounting)- since I was in high school,” she said. “I just never took the time to do it.”

A 1988 graduate of Hibriten High School and the mother of two sons, ages 11 and 3, Harris said her family couldn’t afford to send her to college and she was unaware of the types of financial assistance available. She feels she made a good decision when she decided to enroll at the community college two years ago- a decision prompted by her father’s death. “About a week after he passed away, when things had returned to normal as they do after something like this, I knew I had to make some changes,” she explained. “I wanted to do something I would enjoy. If I was going to have to work, I wanted to do something I would enjoy and not be miserable for the rest of my life.”

Though her family wholeheartedly supported her desire to return to school, it wasn’t all a bed of roses. “I worked full-time, sometimes part-time, and went to school full-time. My husband drives a truck, and he was gone a lot during the week. My 3-year-old thought I should be at home with him playing all the time rather than going to school or working, but we made it through,” she reflected. “My older son, Daniel, and I really got closer during this,” she said. “We would compare our grades on tests and in our classes and do our homework together. It was fun because we were sort of in competition with each other, and we also encouraged and supported each other.”

Harris also credited her CCC&TI instructors with seeing her through the difficult times. “When you were at the end of your rope and didn’t think you could do it anymore, they were always really encouraging. They made sure you knew you could do it,” she said.

Having already begun her new job, Harris said she feels like her future is wide open. “I’m really glad I did this,” she said. “I know that I made a good decision.”

For more information on CCC&TI’s business programs, contact Dr. Shelda Aultman, associate dean/instructor of business, at 726-2362.

CCC&TI Graduates Make Good with Education

It’s not your typical fairy tale, but a chance meeting between a man and woman at CCC&TI has led to happily ever after for one couple. Rosie Balgord and Lee Bolin met at the college in 1991 after both were chosen to represent the student body as senators on the Student Government Association. Lee graduated in 1992, and Rosie followed in 1993. The couple married the day after Rosie completed classes at the community college and moved to the Raleigh area where Rosie enrolled at the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill to study journalism while Lee studied in N.C. State University’s School of Engineering. “If it hadn’t been for (CCC&TI), we never would have met,” said a laughing Rosie as she reflected on her time at the college.

The Bolins, who reside in Raleigh, don’t just attribute their successful romance to the college, though. According to the two, the education they received at CCC&TI has led to happily ever after for one couple. Rosie Balgord and Lee Bolin met at the college in 1991 after both were chosen to represent the student body as senators on the Student Government Association. Lee graduated in 1992, and Rosie followed in 1993. The couple married the day after Rosie completed classes at the community college and moved to the Raleigh area where Rosie enrolled at the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill to study journalism while Lee studied in N.C. State University’s School of Engineering. “If it hadn’t been for (CCC&TI), we never would have met,” said a laughing Rosie as she reflected on her time at the college.

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The Bolins agree that electing to attend a community college before transferring to a four-year institution was a good decision. “If I could go back and change things and go to Harvard or Princeton or some place like that, I don’t think I would,” said Rosie. “Going to the community college for the first two years really gave me the foundation I needed to succeed at a higher level. You get something at the community college level that is really difficult to get somewhere else. At four-year schools, the classes are so much bigger and it’s harder to get time with your instructors. At Caldwell, if you have questions or concerns, the instructors are always willing to work with you.”

“When you’ve completed your program at the community college, you feel more prepared to face the challenges at the four-year level,” Lee added.

Rosie directed words of praise toward a number of her former CCC&TI instructors who she feels provided her with the knowledge and instruction to be successful. “When I think back on my days at Caldwell, there are many instructors I found inspiring and supportive...including Christina Toy, Vale Biddix and Teena McRary,” she said, adding that she found instructor Camille Annas to be one of the most influential. “Camille was, and I’m certain still is, an excellent writing teacher. I credit her high standards with providing me the discipline necessary to take my first steps as a professional writer.”

The Bolins have also utilized their education to homeschool their four children. In fact, Rosie and daughter Liza became involved with a homeschool project about two years ago that led to the writing of a book on the importance of finding role models. “My daughter and I interviewed some of the most successful women of our time, including a Nobel Peace Prize winner, a Pulitzer Prize winner, an Olympic medalist, Barbara Bush, Sherry Lansing, chief executive officer and president of Paramount and Elizabeth Dole,” said Rosie, who created the research project after viewing a television program about teens’ role models and questioning her daughter about her role models. “She couldn’t name one, and I started thinking about how important role models are for teens.”

Assigning her daughter the task of interviewing successful women who could be considered role models, Rosie said she noticed a change not only in her daughter’s attitude toward role models but in her behavior. “This was a girl who was so shy before she started this project that she couldn’t place an order at (a restaurant) without crying,” she reflected.

As the project evolved, Rosie said her daughter began to focus more on successful women who were less well known than the current celebrities whom her daughter originally targeted. “It was a really moving experience for both of us, and I think it had a profound effect on her,” she said. “She is much more secure in herself and has a greater understanding of what success means to her than she did before.”

As the Bolins continue to live out their hopes and dreams for themselves and their children, they agree that they have a firm foundation on which to build. “You can’t put a price on it,” said Rosie of her time at CCC&TI, noting that her experience at the college put her on the path to a writing career. “After all, I got two writing jobs while I was there (one in the college’s public information department and the other as a play reviewer with the News Topic) and that is what brought me to where I am today.”

For more information on CCC&TI’s college transfer program, rated among the top eight programs in the state in 2001 by the North Carolina Community College System, contact Student Services at (828)726-2700.

**Accounting Student Receives Scholarships to Continue Education**

An accounting student at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute recently received more than $1,000 in scholarships to continue his education at Lenoir-Rhyne College in the fall. Robert Meador of Lenoir will graduate from CCC&TI with honors at the end of May and plans to attend Lenoir-Rhyne beginning in August. An employee of Merchants Distributors Inc., Meador is a member of CCC&TI’s honor society, Phi Theta Kappa.

Meador received a $500 scholarship from the Catawba Valley Chapter of the N.C. Association of Certified Public Accountants and a $500 scholarship from the Catawba Valley Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants, which also awarded him a scholarship to cover the cost of the Certified Management Accountant and Certified Financial Manager exams. Meador, who began pursuing an accounting degree after injuring his back, said he has enjoyed the program. “It’s been fun and challenging. I’ve always enjoyed working with numbers so this seemed like the perfect thing for me,” he said.

For more information on CCC&TI’s business programs, contact Shelda Aultman, associate dean, at (828)726-2362.

**Bookbag Donations To Benefit Public School Students**

Employees and students from CCC&TI recently purchased and donated a number of new bookbags for Caldwell County public school students. The bookbags will be disseminated to needy areas identified by school social workers. The project was a joint effort of the college’s Student Services, Institutional Effectiveness and the Student Government Association.