Events Calendar

**July 8-11:** Early Registration, Current Caldwell Students, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 5 to 7 p.m.

**July 8-18:** Early Registration, Current Watauga Students, by appointment only.

**July 9** Circle K Pizza Sale, Caldwell Campus Lounge, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**July 12** Foothills Bluegrass Gospel Celebration, Civic Ctr., 7 p.m.

**July 16** Early Bird Registration, Caldwell Campus, Orientation Sessions - 10 a.m. or 6 p.m., Gym

**July 18** Board of Trustees Meeting, Forlines Board Rm., 11:30 a.m.

Don’t see your event listed? Call the Marketing and Communications Dept. at 726-2257 or e-mail your news to Marla Christie, public information officer, at mchristie@caldwell.cc.nc.us or Kara Presnell, public information asst. at kprenell@caldwell.cc.nc.us.

**Happy Birthday**

Jessie Marley, Mary Kincaid, Anita Triplett, Cheryl Brown, Steve Firth, Lauren LePrevost, Chris Pressnell, Debbie Yount, George Kripner, Margaret Hampson, Judy Wineberger, Michelle Triplett and Tom Peterkin.

What’s Happening?

CCC&TI did it again!! The college was named a superior institution for the second consecutive year by the state of North Carolina. One of 26 state community colleges to receive this distinction, CCC&TI was one of only ten that met 6 of 6 performance measures to achieve the honor. Look for more details soon.

Attention current students! Early registration for fall semester begins today and runs through Thursday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Early registration for Watauga Campus students continues through July 18th by appointment only.

Early Bird registration for new students who have completed admissions requirements by July 11 will be held on July 16th. Remember, the early bird gets the class! Please encourage those interested to take advantage of this opportunity to reserve their seat now for fall. Orientation sessions are scheduled at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. in the gym on the Caldwell Campus. Call 726-2700 for more information.

Anyone interested in intercollegiate women’s volleyball or cheerleading should contact Coach Bill Payne at 726-2388.

Hungry? Members of the Circle K Club will be selling pizza on Tuesday, July 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the student lounge. One slice, drink and cookie are $2. Extra slices are $.50 each and drink refills are $.25. Members are raising money for their trip to the Circle K International Conference.

The next Pre-Job class begins today and concludes Aug. 9. This class meets Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room G-213. The class is free for those who qualify. Call Mandy Williams at 726-2274 or Greta Triplett 726-2275 for more information.

Bluegrass fans, don’t forget Friday’s performance of a “Foothills Bluegrass Gospel Celebration” at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center 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. The position is contingent upon funding. 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. Deadline for application is July 12. Contact Human Resources at 726-2499 for an application packet.

CCC&TI is looking for a Director and Instructor for its Landscape Gardening program, contingent upon funding. The individual should have four years of increasingly responsible experience in the horticulture/landscape gardening field. Experience in teaching and/or counseling at a post-secondary level is preferred. Bachelor’s degree in ornamental horticulture or related field is required; master’s degree preferred. Deadline for application is July 26. Contact Human Resources at 726-2499 for official application package.

CCC&TI Instructor Honored by Peers with Excellence in Teaching Award

The Scoop...

An instructor at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute who demonstrated concern for his students overall welfare and learning and a willingness to go the extra mile was recently awarded the college’s highest teaching honor, the Donald W. Lackey Award for Excellence in Teaching. Steve Robertson, a computer programming instructor at the institution for more than 27 years, was nominated and chosen by his peers to receive the prestigious award. Lorrie Willey, director/instructor of the college’s paralegal technology program, described her colleague as having made a significant contribution to the college and its students.

“(His) consistency and vast knowledge have given programming students a heads up in their field. He has made every effort to keep current with technologies, and has often addressed new technologies before other areas of the college. His relationship with his students has been beyond that of student and teacher,” Willey said. “He has, when called upon, provided transportation to and from the college to students who had no other way to make it to their classes.”

Students describe Robertson as “always available, helpful, considerate and understanding,” “e-mails us from home if we need help with our programs” and “both fun and professional.”

A man of few words, Robertson said he was honored when he learned he was the recipient of this year’s award, which was named in honor of Lackey, a Caldwell County veterinarian and a former college trustee. “I was excited, honored and very pleased,” he said, noting that the fact that his fellow faculty members selected him as the honoree was touching. “It really feels good to know that other faculty members feel that way about you and what you’ve done.”

Robertson first came to CCC&TI as a student after serving a six-year stint in the U.S. Navy as a computer repairman. After completing his two years at the community college, Robertson transferred to Appalachian State University to continue his education. Upon graduation, he returned to CCC&TI in 1975 as a part-time instructor. In 1979, he received a full-time position. Robertson noted that there have been extraordinary advancements in computer technology since he first arrived at the college. “When we first started our program here, we had a mainframe terminal in Raleigh where we sent our students programs. The students would type the program on punched cards, and then we sent them to Raleigh over our terminal here. It could take days for the students to find out if the programs were workable or not,” he remembered. “Now each student has his own PC to use as a work station. When he completes a program, the computer lets him know almost immediately whether or not it works.”

Robertson said he doesn’t remember having a lifelong dream of becoming a teacher, but he is thankful things have worked out that way. “I have no regrets. I have not doubted for a second that I have chosen the right path,” he remarked. “If I could do it over again, I would do the same thing. I enjoy what I do. I don’t dread going to work each day. I look forward to it.”

His philosophy on teaching is simple. “I enjoy seeing students be successful both in class and after graduation. It’s exciting to watch them complete a program and see the excitement they have when they get things working the right way,” he said. “This has been the right place for me all along.”

Shelda Aultman, associate dean of business, said that Robertson has made his mark on the college. “The contributions that Steve Robertson has made (and continues to make) to his students, colleagues and society are too numerous to mention. He never brags about his accomplishments or gives an air of superiority. He is perfectly content to work in the background and avoid the limelight,” she wrote in her award nomination form. “When I think of Steve in his classroom, I’m reminded of the children’s fairy tale about the tortoise and the hare. In his quiet and unassuming way, Steve keeps his eye on the goal, persistently works to get to the finish line and always has a smile on his face and confidence in his heart…a living example of ‘Excellence in Teaching.’”

Robertson plans to retire in December and will continue to pursue hobbies such as woodcarving, working with gems and stones and constructing a second home as well as spending time with his wife and their two sons.

CCC&TI Employee Honored as Man of the Year
by Chamber of Commerce

Spending 32 years employed by one institution is not the only thing of which a Lenoir man has to be proud. Tony Deal, who has worked in various capacities for more than three decades at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, was recently awarded the Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce’s L.A. Dysart Man of the Year Award. The award, named for Dysart who served as the first president of First Union National Bank (formerly First National Bank) in Lenoir, is given each year to a man and a woman in recognition of outstanding citizenship and community service. Deal was recognized for his commitment to the community college and his involvement with Habitat for Humanity, Caldwell Pathways, Caldwell County Hospice and other organizations.

Deal said he is honored to be chosen as a recipient. “All you have to do is look at the list of winners of this award to know what an honor it is to receive it,” he said. “It’s a very distinguished group of people, and I’m just glad to be included in that group—that in itself is an honor.”

Deal said he wasn’t aware he had been nominated as man of the year until he arrived at the awards banquet and was asked if he wanted to take his daughter’s nametag as well as his own. His daughter lives in Atlanta. “That’s when I knew there was something up,” he said, adding that he then saw a number of his friends and neighbors at the event as well.

Although he does feel honored to receive the award, Deal said there is some guilt involved as well. “There are so many people who are equally as deserving of this award as I am,” he said, “and a part of you wants them to be honored as well.”

One of those people, according to Deal, is his wife Jennie whom he credits with his involvement with Habitat for Humanity. “She was president of Habitat for two years and when your wife is president, you are involved no matter what,” he said. Deal served as a grant writer and helped with the organization’s correspondence.

A 14-year board member and volunteer with Caldwell County Hospice, Deal credits a sister who passed away after a battle with leukemia and his association with CCC&TT’s first Board of Trustees Chairman John Forlines and his wife Julia with his participation in that organization. Watching his sister suffer with the disease and then die at a hospital was a trying experience for Deal and his family. “It was a terrible way to end one’s life. I didn’t know anything at the time about Hospice. We hadn’t heard about it, and didn’t know there was a place like this for people to die with respect and dignity,” he said.

One of his current projects involves Caldwell County Pathways. The organization hopes to create a 10-foot wide multipurpose pathway leading from one end of the Lenoir to the other. The pathway would cross under U.S. 321. Noting that the group needs to secure a $34,000 matching grant to begin the project, Deal said, “I know it will come…This pathway will make a real community out of Lenoir.”

When Deal began his association with the college in 1970, he met the Forlines whose family was one of the first in the county to utilize Hospice services. That led to his introduction to Hospice and eventual involvement with the organization. “Just knowing that there is an organization that provides services to families who so desperately need them is a great feeling,” he said.

Deal currently assists Hospice as a trainer for the volunteer program.

In addition to his volunteer services, Deal, who officially retired from the college two years ago, has continued to serve the institution in a part-time capacity as an assistant to the college’s president. He will be ending his official association with the college on June 30 wrapping up a lifetime career as an instructor, dean of student services and executive vice president. Deal says he has mixed feelings about the move. “I’ve been here for 32 years. Most of my friends are here. There is a real sense of community and family here for me,” he said. “But after all this time, it’s hard to know where you begin and the job ends. When are you not being a college employee?”

One of the hardest acts of leaving the college for Deal will be handing in his keys. “I’ve had these keys for so many years, and I’ve been able to come and go as I please. It’s really going to be a hard thing to do,” he said, adding that he has promised himself he will stay away from the college for at least six months. “I have to separate myself from my work and that’s the best way I can think of to do it.”

As he reflected on his accomplishments and sense of civic duty following his recognition as man of the year, Deal concluded that his mother had a profound effect on his life. “She sent four children to college on a third-shift textile weaver’s salary. She bailed her son out of troublesome situations in which he involved himself, and she stood patiently by as her son hopped the peace and love bus of the 60s. The Dysart Award has verified to this lady that her efforts were not in vain and that her son eventually got off the bus and came home,” Deal wrote in an e-mail to friends.

Deal is not the only person affiliated with the college to receive the Dysart Award. In fact, 18 other individuals have been awarded the honor, including Clarence Beach, Dr. Edwin Beam, Dr. Robert S. Belk, Dr. Verne Blackwelder, Peg Broyhill, Dr. Eugene Carpenter, Alvin Daughtridge, Barbara Deverick, E.M. Dudley, John A. Forlines Jr., Barbara Freiman, Sonny Hines, Inez C. Jones, Dr. Donald Lackey, Joyce Lawing, Ed McGimpsey, Joan G. Rogers and Boyd Wilson.

Deal plans to continue his volunteer activities following his June 30 retirement.

Learn to Paint with Acrylics in Three-Day Class
Explore the developmental and practical aspects of learning to paint with acrylics in a You Can Paint class being offered by the Continuing Education Department of the Watauga Campus of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. Well-known artist and local resident Maryrose Carroll will teach the class. According to Carroll, there are numerous benefits to painting, particularly using acrylic paints. "Anyone can do it. There is no odor with acrylic paints and cleanup is easy. Plus, you have the enjoyment and satisfaction derived from the creation of your very own art," she said.

During the class, which will be held Wednesday, July 17 through Friday, July 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., students will learn to create a painting and will explore the physical and emotional benefits of painting. In addition, discussion of methods of applying paint and techniques of painting will be used to lead students in learning how to finish background painting, how to layout objects in the foreground, as well as techniques that may be used to finish the detail work on the painting.

Carroll has been an artist for 35 years. She earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Illinois and a master of sculpture from Illinois State. Her sculptures are on public display in Charlotte, Chicago and San Diego as well as other cities. Her drawings and paintings, formerly preparations for sculpture, have now become the main focus of her work. Locally, her paintings are on display at the Wildwood Gallery on Poplar Grove Road.

The class will be held at the Student Support Center on U.S. 421 and the N.C. 105 Bypass. Contact CCC&TI’s Continuing Education Department at 828-265-5370 for additional information.