Step out for Spring Fling this Thursday. Compete in the jalapeno pepper eating contest, the egg toss or the jello eating contest. Try your hand at balloon shaving or sign up for the Adrenaline Rush and Bungee Run. The Business Club will be selling snow cones and candy bars for $1 and candes for $6 (2 for $10). Browse for bargains at the SSS yard sale and visit other booths sponsored by clubs, including Circle K, the Varsity Club, Fine Arts, Blue Ridge Flying Eagles, Cosmetology, Nursing and Ebony Kinship. A DJ will be serving up music as well as some karaoke. Get a helping of free spaghetti or vegetarian lasagna with salad, drink and dessert.

Career Services is sponsoring Table Talk with Employers, Friday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Human Resource managers from local companies and agencies will be available to talk to students informally about resume writing and job seeking skills. Appointments are necessary. Sign up in Career Services, or call 726-2746 to make an appointment.

Phi Theta Kappa will hold a drawing for four prizes Friday, April 25. Tickets cost $1 and can be purchased through Friday morning from any PTK member, PTK advisor, or Sharon McCrary in the faculty office. The prizes are as follows: 1st: $50 Lowes Hardware gift card; 2nd: $30 Ruby Tuesday gift card; 3rd: Garden Basket (made by Melissa Davis and filled by PTK members); 4th: Stained Glass Stepping Stones (made by Sharon McCrary) If you are interested in participating in the raffle and cannot find a PTK member, call or email Melissa Davis at 726-2341 or mdavis@cccti.edu.

Foothills Performing Arts will be presenting “Daddy’s Dyin’ — Who’s Got the Will?” at the Studio Theater in B Building on the Caldwell campus. The show runs April 25 and 26 at 8 p.m.; April 27 at 3 p.m.; May 1-3 at 8 p.m and May 4 at 3 p.m.. The play is directed by Deb Abbey and is rated PG-13. Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for seniors and $5 for students. Call 726-2318 for reservations.

Adult High School is enrolling now through May 15. Contact Sally Lackey, 726-2231, for more information.

CCC&Ti’s Nursing Program is holding a car wash May 3 at the First Citizens Bank on Hwy. 321. Cars are $5. SUVs and large trucks are $7. Proceeds will go toward graduation expenses and help pay for board exams.
The Cobras celebrated another outstanding year at CCC&TI’s first annual athletics banquet held Tuesday, April 15, at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center. More than 100 basketball and volleyball players, cheerleaders, athletics volunteers, college officials, family and friends turned out for the evening.

Honoring the time and commitment of these students in building the college’s athletics programs, Athletic Director and Head Coach Bill Payne presented each athlete and volunteer with a certificate of appreciation. Trophies were awarded to the following individuals for their special skills and contributions:

**Women’s Volleyball:** Most Improved, Renee Williams; Coach’s Award, Anitra Harper; Most Valuable Player, Tracey Thompson.

**Cheerleading:** Most Improved, Crystal Payne; Coach’s Award, Jessica Martin; Most Valuable Player, Holly Gragg.

**Men’s Basketball:** Most Improved, C.J. Genwright; Coach’s Award, Doug Sherrard; Best Defender, Steve Heggins; Most Valuable Player, Jeff Spain.

Garrett Hinshaw, Dean of Student Services, commended the students for their achievements and cooperation in working together. He then presented CCC&TI President, Dr. Kenneth A. Boham, with a personal letter signed by the athletes, thanking him for his support and dedication to athletics. The evening concluded with a video salute to the teams looking back at photos and memories from the past year.

“We are proud of the accomplishments of these young men and women, and I’ve enjoyed getting to know them on and off the court,” said Payne. “I am excited as we move forward to make each of our athletics programs as successful as possible.”

Students at the Watauga campus celebrated their **SGA Spring Fling** April 17. The event was catered by Bandanas Barbeque. Activities included a plant sale sponsored by the Horticulture class, a Business Club raffle and a talent show. The winners of the talent show were: First, Chris Capozzoli (guitar); Second: Rudy Garceau (trombone); and third: Ryan Burns (keyboards).

**Required Distance Learning Orientation:** Students must attend an Instructor Orientation Session for each distance learning course they take. During these sessions, the students meet with their instructors and learn about course requirements, policies and assignments. Two orientation sessions are scheduled for each campus. Watauga Campus orientation is May 16 from 6 to 7 p.m. and from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m. Caldwell Campus orientation is May 2 from 6 to 7 p.m. and 7:10 to 8:10 p.m. Students who have not attended orientation or made other arrangements for orientation with their instructor within the first week of classes will be dropped from the course roll. Question and Answer sessions also are scheduled prior to orientation sessions at 5:30 p.m. on both campuses.

This week on The College Connection, 2003 **Great Teacher Joanne Johnson** talks about teaching, accounting, and new certificate programs. **Matt Connor covers Compensatory Education.** The show airs daily on Caldwell County cable channel 3 at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Your ideas for features or guest spots are welcome.

The **Caldwell Chronicle** is a weekly, electronic publication for CCC&TI friends and family. Items for inclusion should be submitted to the Marketing and Communications Department by noon Thursday. Call 726-2264 or e-mail your news to mchristie@cccti.edu or dwagner@cccti.edu. We welcome your suggestions and contributions. CCC&TI is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
CCC&TI Ophthalmic Students Screen for Glaucoma

Six students from the Ophthalmic Medical Assistant (OMA) program at Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute screened 50 people for glaucoma Tuesday, April 15, at the Caldwell Senior Center in Lenoir.

The screenings were part of a health fair sponsored by the Caldwell County Retired School Personnel. Pat Carlton, President, said the CCC&TI students did "a fantastic job" and the organization hopes to make the fair an annual event. The fair also featured a massage therapist, blood pressure tests and blood screenings.

"I always appreciate when people ask us to participate in health screenings," said Barbara Harris, Director of the OMA program at CCC&TI. Events such as the health fair give her students an opportunity to get outside of the classroom and perform a service for the community.

The OMA students conducted screenings at the Watauga campus a couple of weeks ago and did detect signs of glaucoma in one attendant, Harris said. They instructed that individual to see an ophthalmologist as soon as possible.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can cause blindness by damaging cells in the optic nerve, which is located behind the eye and is responsible for sending information to the brain about what the eye sees. Glaucoma usually is associated with increased pressure in the eye, often referred to as intraocular pressure (IOP). The condition often affects peripheral vision first, but left untreated, can cause total blindness.

Because glaucoma produces no symptoms in the early stages, it is often called the “sneak thief of sight.” People over the age of 40 or those with a family history of glaucoma are more likely to develop the disease. Treatment in the form of eye drops or laser procedures is highly successful in preventing damage to the optic nerve; however, any damage that occurred before treatments cannot be repaired. According to the Cleveland Clinic, one of the leading U.S. health centers, about three million adults suffer from glaucoma, making it the second leading cause of blindness in this country.

CCC&TI's OMA students used a noncontact tonometer, donated by North Carolina chapter of Prevent Blindness America, to measure pressure in their patients' eyes. To do this, the OMA has the patient rest his or her chin in a support and stare into the instrument. The OMA shines a light into their patient's eye to align the instrument and then shoots the eye with a puff of air. The tonometer estimates the pressure in the eye based on the change in the light reflected off the cornea as the puff of air indents it.

Pauline Bolick, State Chairman of Community Participation for the CCRSP, said a number of people did discover they had issues they needed to talk about with their personal ophthalmologists.

Mary Huffman, one of the students who performed the screenings, said she got started in this field during her military career where she trained as an optician and cross-trained as an OMA. After she left the military, she worked in fiber optics, but was hit by the layoffs. She decided to enter CCC&TI's OMA program to formalize her military training and get her certification.

Huffman said what she enjoys most is the patient interaction: “It’s mostly seniors and they’re just wonderful. They have a lot to share with you.”

John Noblitt Wins NCBA Professional of the Year Award

John Noblitt, Director of CCC&TI's Biomedical Equipment Technology Department, has been awarded the 2003 NCBA Professional of the Year award.

The North Carolina Biomedical Association created the annual award in conjunction with Hill-Rom, a manufacturer of health care-related products and a division of Hillenbrand Industry, to recognize outstanding professional achievement, community contributions and service to the biomedical industry. Winners receive $1,000 and a plaque.

“I was pretty shocked and quite honored because I’ve worked with a lot of the people in the NCBA.” Noblitt says. “It’s really a very impressive group.”

Noblitt earned his AAS in Biomedical Equipment Technology from the Technical College of Alamance and his BS in Education from Western Carolina University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. A 17-year veteran of the biomedical technology industry, Noblitt began his career with SunHealth Inc, servicing multiple hospital accounts in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and North Carolina. He later worked for Corometrics Medical Systems as a Field Service Engineer.
One Good Turn: CCC&TI Potter Aids Physical Therapy Research

John Saunders, CCC&TI’s Pottery Instructor, skillfully morphs two six-pound blocks of clay into a pitcher and washbowl set that will eventually boast a deep blue glaze.

Saunders, who has been spinning pottery for 25 years, turned out the pitcher and bowl set in about 20 minutes.

The pieces will be donated to the Foundation for Physical Therapy’s Dinner Dance and Silent Auction to be held June 19 in Washington D.C., during the American Physical Therapy Association’s annual conference. The proceeds of the auction will be used to fund physical therapy research.

Martha Zimmerman, Director of CCC&TI’s Physical Therapy Assistant program, will be representing the state annual conference this year.

Noblitt Named Professional of the Year

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Engineer covering North Carolina and half of South Carolina. Corometrics awarded him the company’s Outstanding Service Support Award; he was one of only four engineers nationally to win the award.

The son of two community college veterans, his transition to teaching was “almost by default,” Noblitt says. “I was basically raised in the community college system.” His dad taught at Wilkes Community College and his mother has just retired from Stanley Community College as Vice President of Instruction.

When Noblitt’s wife saw an ad for a Biomed Instructor’s position at CCC&TI 10 years ago, he decided to go for the job. “It was just really a natural progression. I think I’m a good technician,” Noblitt says, “but I think I’m a much better teacher.”

Since then, Noblitt worked four years as an instructor and six as the BMET Program Director. Chad Taylor, one of two former students who nominated Noblitt, told the NCBA Board of Directors that Noblitt “maintains open communication and a ‘family feeling’ in the classroom.”

In addition to his director’s duties, Noblitt performs inspections, maintenance and repairs on the clinical equipment used by the Physical Therapy, Ophthalmic and Sonography programs at the college; he established the Biomedical Students Association (BMSA) at CCC&TI and helped students raise more than $12,000 for training at the Diagnostic Imaging Technical Education Center (DITEC) and other extra-curricular education; and he has taught BMET certification classes for the NCBA.

Noblitt is also active with the NCBA organization. He has served on the organization’s board, edited its newsletter and served as Treasurer. He was recently elected to serve on the board again for 2003 through 2005.

What Noblitt enjoys most about the industry is that it presents “new challenges all the time. You really have to keep up with the technology,” Noblitt says. Since much of today’s biomedical equipment integrates into other information systems, technicians need to continually research a variety of software and hardware systems to effectively troubleshoot problems.

Some of the new technology, Noblitt explains, includes devices that can analyze blood samples, allowing some types of blood work to be performed in the doctor’s office instead of sending the samples to a lab, and filmless radiology.

When he isn’t immersed in biomedical equipment or teaching, Noblitt volunteers each week with Help with Homework, a tutoring program sponsored by the Catawba County Department of Social Services that aids first through sixth graders in low-income housing in Hickory. He also keeps the clock for the CCC&TI Cobra Men’s Basketball team. He has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and he currently coaches girls’ softball and volleyball. He is an active member of Bethany Lutheran Church.