Cobras off to a strong start

CCC&TI men’s basketball team wins Christmas Classic

The Cobras of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute wrapped up first semester play taking the championship in the Central Carolina Christmas Tournament in December for the first time ever. A 104-96 victory over the Central Carolina Cougars put the Cobras on top after defeating Sampson Community College, 113-63, in first round action. CCC&TI’s Ty Horton and Zeke Mayes were named to the All Tournament Team.

Heading into the thick of conference play, the Cobras start off the new year with a 7-4 record. Swallowing only four narrow losses, the Cobras have gained much experience and great improvement against larger, Division I-II teams (Spartanburg Methodist, Oxford College and Truett McConnell). All but one loss came on the road.

CCC&TI racked up two wins earlier in the season against Sampson Community College of Clinton, NC. A 39-point victory over the Vikings in November had five Cobras scoring in double figures: C.J. Genwright, Ty Horton, Zeke Mayes, Marcus Perry and Brandon Thomas. James Watts led the team with eight rebounds while Thomas had six assists.

Though the second showdown with Sampson December 6 was mistake prone, CCC&TI rose to the occasion before a pumped-up crowd to defeat the Vikings at home, 117-72. Leaders for the Cobras were: Zeke Mayes with 16 points and nine rebounds, Ty Horton and James Watts with 15 points, Chris Whitson with 13 and Stephen Haynes with 12. Brandon Thomas led with six assists.

CCC&TI came from behind to pull off a hard fought victory against Pfeiffer University in November for a 91-77 win. The Cobras rallied late with an exciting 25-1 run in the last four minutes of the game. “We were all but done when our small lineup seemed to start gelling and playing outstanding defense,” said Head Coach Bill Payne. Zeke Mayes led with 20 points, Marcus Perry scored 19, Ty Horton added 14, while Tyler Dellinger and C.J. Genwright chipped in 11 each. Genwright led CCC&TI with 11 rebounds while Brandon Thomas added four assists.

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The life of noted author Jane Austen will be in the spotlight of the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center as popular humorist and storyteller, Dr. Elliot Engel, reveals the brilliant life and works of the English writer on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be Engel’s eighth appearance as part of the Performing Artist Series of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute.

Austen’s novels are highly prized not only for their light irony, humor, and depiction of contemporary English country life, but also for their underlying serious qualities. Well-known works include *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815), and *Persuasion* (1818).

Because Austen published her works anonymously, she became popular and was recognized as an author only after her death. Austen’s novels reflect the life she lived as a single woman in the late seventeen hundreds and early eighteen hundreds, making her one of the first feminists. Her novels are used still used today in many college literature courses.

“Because so many of Austen’s novels have been turned into movies and mini-series, hopefully audiences will want to learn more about the author behind these brilliant literary works,” said Crouch, coordinator of the college’s Performing Artist Series.

“It’s amazing that we are still influenced by Austen’s writings almost two hundred years after her death.”

Engel is a scholar and performer whose infectious enthusiasm and radiant wit create a delightfully imaginative presentation. Using anecdotes, analysis, and large doses of humor, he gives new insights into the backgrounds, accomplishments, and lives of the great masters of American and English literature. His lectures always place the authors within the context of both their countries and their literary periods.

“Engel is a wonderful storyteller because he has the ability to weave psychology, sociology and literary analysis into a captivating and
entertaining lecture,” added Crouch. He has been a frequent guest in our series.

Last year alone, Engel gave more than 270 lectures and public appearances throughout the United States, Asia, Australia, Europe, and New Zealand. He has also led 16 literary tours of England as well as tours to Australia, Egypt, Greece, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Russia, Scotland, Spain, and Turkey. For his lecture and leadership abroad, Engel received North Carolina State University’s Outreach Professorship.

A native of Indianapolis, Engel earned his bachelor’s degree at Indiana University and his master’s and Ph.D. as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at UCLA. While at UCLA, he won the university’s Outstanding Teacher Award. For his scholarship and teaching, he received North Carolina’s Adult Education Award.

Both American and British presses have published Engel’s six books, and his articles have appeared in numerous magazines, including Newsweek. PBS television stations throughout the country ran his mini-lecture series on Charles Dickens.

Tickets for Engel’s 7:30 p.m. performance on Jane Austen are $10 and may be purchased by contacting the civic center box office at 828.726.2407.

**Gospel music sensation DVine sings to inspire**

DVine is the group’s name but its unique sound is also divine in more than one way. Composed of two sisters and a friend, the trio will sing a cappella and with accompaniment, sharing a gift of music that captures the heart, spirit, and soul. As a part of the Performing Artist Series of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, international gospel music sensation DVine will perform at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center on Friday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Georgia’s own world-class gospel and inspirational music group, DVine, has performed its sophisticated, richly harmonic sound around the world. Members of DVine include sisters, Pamela McGuire Deas and Paula McGuire Saunders and friend, Sheryl Denise Pollard.

The trio was formed over 13 years ago and has been performing together ever since. DVine performs over 150 concerts annually in addition to maintaining full-time jobs. They have managed to share their voices with standing room audiences during repeat tours world-wide in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Greece, Mexico and Spain, to name a few. DVine has performed at the White House, at the 53rd Presidential Inauguration and at the opening ceremony for the 1996 Olympics. They have also performed for former President Jimmy Carter, Bishop Desmond Tutu, sports legend, Hank Aaron, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

DVine recently released its third recording, Two Sisters & A Friend. The a cappella project is produced by Dove award winning gospel music artist and producer, Babbie Mason. The groups first recording project, Simply DVine was released in 1996 and sophomore project, Perfect Timing was released in 1999. Both CDs were produced by Grammy and Dove award winning producer and composer, Oliver Wells.

In an effort to fulfill many requests for the African American gospel music tradition, we have programmed this outstanding trio that has international recognition, said Kay Crouch, coordinator of CCC&TIs performing artist series. That their focus has been performing without instrumental accompaniment coupled with the fact that two are siblings, make their vocal blend without comparison, said Crouch.

DVine’s motto: Three women…three voices…one mission…to inspire.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance are $10 and may be purchased by contacting the Civic Center box office at (828) 726-2407.
Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute’s Visual Arts department recently hosted *A Fine Line*—a new art exhibit showcasing the work of students in this semester’s drawing, design and studio classes.

Instructors Thomas Thielemann and Jane Harrison headed up the exhibit. Thielemann said he and Harrison wanted the college community to see the types of work students can produce in drawing classes and to create more awareness of what the school has to offer in the visual arts realm.

Recent exhibits held at the Seila Gallery have featured a variety of what artists call “media,” which refers to the type of material used to produce a work, such as oil, water or acrylic paints, sculpture, photography, ceramics and charcoal, pen and graphic drawings. This exhibit, however, focused primarily on graphite drawings, which is a departure from previous drawing classes where charcoal has been the primary medium.

“Charcoal is more expressive,” Thielemann says. “It’s more like paint. Your marks can be more loose and subjective. It’s also more rapid.”

On the other hand, graphite requires students to be more detail oriented, Thielemann explains. “… the process takes longer and the mistakes are less forgiving.”

Pieces in the exhibit ranged from still lifes, to reproductions of book, magazine and album covers, to intricate pen and inks. Many of the pieces were produced using a technique called grid drawing, Thielemann says. When using this technique, students take a photograph or a book cover, for instance, and draw a grid on it. The original “gridded” image is then enlarged. Students then use the grid as a map to reproduce the original in a larger format.

Fifteen students took part in the exhibit, Thielemann says. Among them, drawing experience varies. Marjorie Campbell is a retiree who had little previous art experience before taking classes at CCC&TI. Drawing I was her first drawing class after completing Painting I and Painting...
II at the college. “Art helps you to visualize things that otherwise you would never see,” Campbell says. “Drawing is something I need to do as basis for improving my painting.”

“It’s been very satisfying to me,” she adds. After retirement, Campbell says she became depressed. “It must have helped,” Campbell says of her art classes. “My friends all say they’ve noticed a difference in my disposition since I started taking classes.” She is almost 100 percent positive she’ll return for Drawing II.

Phillip Abernathy is majoring in Visual Arts at CCC&TI. “I consider this class to be my fun class. It’s my free time,” he says. He prefers drawing to painting because “it’s not as messy. I ruined a really good pair of pants last semester.” Abernathy has taken art classes every year during high school, but the classes at CCC&TI are more structured. Where high school art classes allowed students to work pretty much on whatever they wanted, Abernathy finds the college courses require more discipline and project work. “Drawing and painting aren’t as easy as you think,” he says. “They require a little bit of effort.”

A Fine Line runs through January. Gallery hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

CCC&TI offers drawing and painting courses year round in addition to a 2-year degree in Fine Arts. For more information about art classes, contact director Jean Cauthen at 828-7262331 or e-mail jcauthen@cccti.edu.
Behind the racks of second-hand clothes, furniture and toys, there’s a small room in the back of Lenoir’s Goodwill Retail Store called the Human Resource Development Training Center. Like the store’s other offerings, the space is an old thing remade into something new: a wireless, computer capable classroom where people like William Alexander can go to learn new skills that can help them transition out of unemployment and into either a job or additional education. Goodwill Industries provided the space. Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute supplied the computers, technologic infrastructure, instructors and courses. Like the HRD courses offered on CCC&TI’s Caldwell and Watauga campuses, the courses taught at the HRD Training Center are free to those who qualify.

“IThink the training room is beautiful,” Alexander says. “It’s a great environment. I wish I came here sooner.” The Lenoir resident recently completed a course called Computers in the World of Work, a course traditionally taught at CCC&TI’s Caldwell and Watauga campuses that emphasizes the role of information technology in the workforce and teaches basic computer literacy skills to those with little or no experience with computers. “Before, I didn’t care too much about computers. Now the skills seem more worthwhile,” he says. Alexander hopes to pick up more classes at the center, specifically more computer courses. “The hours are all convenient. The class [environment] was comfortable.” He laughs, “Sometimes I didn’t want to leave.”

The idea is that the off-campus classroom helps reach out to a group who might be intimidated by the idea of enrolling for classes at the community college. At the HRD Training Center, students can enroll by simply attending the first class, says Donna Bean, director of CCC&TI’s Small Business Center. Students also can enroll the traditional way, at the college’s Continuing Education Office on Tuesdays between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.; however, the simplified enrollment method is one more way CCC&TI and Goodwill are working to provide what Bean calls a “safe first step” into workforce retraining or re-introduction into the education system. This first step is an important one in the road to Caldwell County’s economic recovery. Nationwide, the service industry has performed better during the economic downturn than manufacturing. If the county is to attract more service-related businesses and reap some of the growth in that area, it has to supply a workforce that can support those businesses.

The HRD Training Center offers courses in computers, medical terminology and keyboarding. However, both organizations hope to make more courses available in the near future including resume writing and employability skills.

Bean says Goodwill approached the college with the idea last year with the offer of classroom space. Though most people know about Goodwill’s retail stores, the organization’s primary mission is to help people gain the skills they need to succeed in the workforce. Proceeds from the stores help, in part, to pay for employment and training programs such as this training center. Goodwill’s mission dovetails with CCC&TI’s institutional mission to support economic development “through comprehensive resources to business, industry and agencies’ and to offer “diverse services and opportunities that improve the quality of life” in Caldwell and Watauga counties.

“Colleges can’t be all things to all people,” says Dr. Kenneth Boham, CCC&TI’s president. “That’s why partnerships like these are so important.”

“We are very excited about our partnership with Caldwell Community College,” says Sherry Carpenter, vice president of Employment and Training Services for Goodwill. “These classes have great potential to provide individuals in the Lenoir area with the tools they need to build their resumes and improve their skill set and qualifications for employment.”

For more information about classes offered at the HRD Training Center, contact Donna Bean at 828.726.2383 or e-mail dbean@cccti.edu.
And Then There Were… 600!

Educational Talent Search Recognizes New Wave of Students

One hundred students were recognized recently at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center and were welcomed as the newest participants in the Educational Talent Search program. These middle- and high-school students from Caldwell County Public Schools bring to 600 the number of participants in the ETS program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute.

A federally-funded TRIO program, ETS was launched in Caldwell County last January after CCC&TI secured a five-year, one million dollar grant.

Garrett Hinshaw, CCC&TI vice president of student services, spoke to the audience of over 300 and described the vision ten years ago that secured CCC&TI’s first TRIO program, Student Support Services. SSS is an academic network for college students to ensure their success in post-secondary studies.

“The success of SSS demonstrated the value of TRIO programs in Caldwell County and persuaded us to compete for the ETS award. Now we’re reaching down into middle school to help academically talented students prepare for college.”

“This year, ETS students have visited 17 college campuses in three states. Eighty percent of the ETS seniors who graduated last May are now enrolled in college, and all of them received financial aid.”

Current ETS seniors were given applications for the G. Lewis Bernhardt Scholarship, which covers tuition at CCC&TI. Its creation at CCC&TI last March is a testament, according to Hinshaw, to Mr. Bernhardt’s generosity and to the potential for ETS in Caldwell County.

Hinshaw reminded the new ETS students that they are expected to go to college. “As ETS participants, all of you have committed to going to college. Don’t let anything stop you. Don’t let anyone tell you it can’t happen. And we will help you along the way.”

A highlight was the address by Andrea Powell, a 2003 West Caldwell High graduate and a former ETS student. Powell currently studies at CCC&TI, where she participates in SSS, carries the G. Lewis Bernhardt Scholarship, and is a Dream Scholar.

After introducing each ETS participant, Hinshaw recognized the group as “future college students.” The audience’s response? A standing ovation!

ETS at a glance

ETS offers students information helpful to their learning about and preparing for post-secondary study. Through ETS, students gain access to academic coaching/tutoring, mentoring, counseling, information on financial aid for college, assistance with preparing for college entrance exams, and with completing college applications, field trips to college campuses, and cultural events.
Another 77-66 win over St. Andrews College in Laurinburg, NC, proved CCC&TI’s best team effort this year, according to Payne. "We had three players out, two of them starters, but we still played well enough to win," said Payne. Mayes racked up 25 points and 12 rebounds, his second double double. James Watts had 16 points, Perry scored 14 and Thomas added 10. Genwright led with five assists. The win marked Payne’s 400th NJCAA victory. At the beginning of the season, Payne was recognized as the 33rd most winningest active coach in the NJCAA.

CCC&TI suffered two losses to Division I, Spartanburg Methodist College. The first matchup in S.C. early Nov. was evident after too many turnovers to the Pioneers. "We out-rebounded SMC, but the costly mistakes doomed us," said Payne. Mayes and Watts led the team with 15 points while Horton contributed 12. Mayes and Watts also added six rebounds each while Genwright led with three assists.

The Cobras struck back, taking a close and frustrating 65-61 loss to Spartanburg Methodist College, the closest margin ever, at home Nov. 22. "If we continue to play this hard, we will be a challenger for the Tarheel Conference Championship," said Payne of the team’s improvement. Mayes led CCC&TI with 20 points and nine rebounds. Leading in assists were C.J. Genwright and Brandon Thomas with three each.

Mistakes led to missed opportunities on the road for CCC&TI early in the season. The Cobras’ only other two losses fell in Georgia with a disappointing 84-52 dive against Truett McConnell College of Cleveland followed by a more narrow loss to Oxford College, 66-57.

With 14 regular season games remaining, the Cobras return to action Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Mayland Community College. CCC&TI sets out to be Catawba Valley Jan. 21 and returns home Jan. 22 to face Central Carolina. Tipoff is at 3 p.m.

Can the Cobras do it again?

Clinching the District 7 Championship to finish sixth in the nation in 2002, the Cobras rode into January with a 7-7 record that year. "What a ride," said Coach Payne. Mostly a sophomore team, the players became friends and understood the importance of working together to get the job done. Two All-Americans would later come out of the Cinderella team.

"It’s not just about talent and experience, but true teamwork and knowing how to put it all together," said Payne. "We have the potential to challenge for another championship, but we still have work to do," he added cautiously. "I’m pleased with our progress. Only time - and commitment - will tell."

Remaining Home Games

- Sat., Jan. 10 Oxford College 3 p.m. Win (88-70)
- Sat., Jan. 22 Central Carolina CC 3 p.m.
- Sat., Jan. 24 Surry CC 3 p.m.
- Wed., Jan. 28 Forsyth CC 7 p.m.
- Wed., Feb. 4 Catawba Valley CC 7 p.m.
- Wed., Feb. 11 Mayland CC 7 p.m.

Pre-job takes first prize in SGA Door Deco contest

The Pre-job department took top place in SGA’s Christmas Door Decoration contest, earning $100 for their efforts. Second place and $75 went to the Business Department. Third place and $50 went to the Circle K club.

Congratulations!

First place: Pre-job
Second place: Business Dept.
Third place: Circle K