

# THE PCC POST

Volume IV • No. 2 Summer 2008

a newsletter published by Pitt Community College

## Calendar of Events

July 2-21  
Priority Registration

July 16  
New Student Orientation

August 12  
Convocation for Faculty and Staff

August 13-14  
Walk-In Registration

August 15  
Fall Classes Begin

August 30 - September 1  
Labor Day Holiday - Campus Closed

October 10, 13-14  
Faculty/Student Break

October 25  
PCC Open House, Alumni Event, House  
Auction, & Pitt County Home Builders  
High School Construction Competition



The PCC Post  
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Institutional Advancement

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## Foundation Launches Capital Campaign

*Project to Fund Simon Building, Scholarships, Technology & More*

PCC administrators recently announced that Greenville's JKF Architecture had been awarded the contract to build an addition to the school's health sciences facility.

At a cost of \$6.5 million, PCC is adding 34,000 square feet to the current home of its allied health programs, the William Fulford Building, in order to meet rising demand for health care training.

To pay for construction of the health sciences addition, which will be named in honor of PCC supporter

Herman Simon, the PCC Foundation launched an \$8 million capital campaign in February. Called *Futures First*, it is the first such endeavor in the college's 47-year history.

In June, Foundation officials reported that *Futures First* had met 78 percent of its objective through gifts and grants. Approximately \$5.8 million was raised before the campaign was publicly announced, the officials said.

Spearheading the public phase of *Futures First* is a committee of community leaders and PCC staff. Co-chairing the group are current PCC Trustee Walter Williams and former

Trustee Diane Murphrey.

Committee members are making personal phone calls and visits to generate support for *Futures First*. They are also hosting receptions throughout Pitt County to provide information about the fundraising endeavor, and Foundation representatives say there are numerous naming opportunities available throughout campus.

Williams, who called PCC an investment in the area's future, encouraged members of the

community to contribute to the college's capital campaign.

"The more money that is invested in Pitt Community College that is used wisely, the better qualified our graduates will be, the more money they will make,

and the more they will help make the county and region better economically and educationally," he said.

PCC administrators said groundbreaking for the Simon Building would take place in August.

Along with construction funding, *Futures First* revenue will be used to purchase new technology, create endowments for student scholarships and to fund training and professional development for college employees.



Rendering of Herman Simon Building



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer Session is underway and commencements concluded with our youngest graduates in the Preschool program. PCC serves a broad range of Pitt County residents through our curriculum and continuing education programs, but the graduations really exhibit the significant foundations for job preparation and further schooling that our faculty and staff provide.

In June we hosted our 5th PCC Leadership Institute, and 53 employees joined more than 200 Institute alumni in developing skills and connecting with campus colleagues. Professional and organization development is one of our Strategic Goals, an important investment in our future, and we will continue to seek ways to advance our personnel.

It is exciting to watch the Goess Student Center progress, and we are looking forward to breaking ground on the Herman Simon Building later this year. I invite everyone to invest in our future through financial pledges to the PCC Foundation Capital Campaign, which will support students, technology, and facilities.

At present, we have 4,284 Fall 2008 applications, 434 more than at the same point last year. We will be working not only to prepare for fall but to provide a high level of learning to our many Summer students. Thanks to all who continue to make PCC a vital and essential educational provider for Pitt County and Eastern NC.

G. Dennis Massey

## PCC Announces Naming of New Health Sciences Addition Center

PCC administrators announced during the spring semester that a \$6.5 million addition to the school's health sciences facility would be named for Herman Simon, a man who has worked diligently and without fanfare to ensure that students at the college succeed.

Simon, a financial consultant with Greenville's Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation, was instrumental in the creation of PCC's VISIONS Career Development and Scholarship Program in 2003 and the HORIZONS Program in 2006. The New Jersey native helped establish the programs to assist Pitt County teens in need of direction with making successful transitions into PCC curricula from high school and GED programs.

Through his role with the Smith Family Foundation, Simon has been a leader in allocating financial resources to PCC programs and students. For his support, Pitt administrators presented a Distinguished Service Award to Simon during graduation in May 2007—the same night Matt Brown became the first VISIONS student to complete an associate degree at PCC.

Simon, who grew up during The Depression and worked his way through New York University, has dedicated much of his life to education and training young people to become productive citizens.



*Herman Simon is congratulated by VISIONS coordinator Debby Gray.*

He explained his commitment to educational causes, saying: "I came from a small town in New Jersey, and I had never seen a college until I started at NYU. I saw what all of those people before me did to help people like me who had nothing. That stayed with me all of my life."

## PCC Celebrates Success of Class of 2008

Approximately 400 of the 610 members of the Class of 2008 took part in PCC's Spring Commencement, which was held in ECU's Williams Arena on Mother's Day.

Susanne D. Sartelle, president of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce, delivered this year's commencement address.

Quoting from Jim Collins' book "Good to Great" Sartelle told graduates that greatness is a matter of choice, not chance. She cited vision, passion and faith as keys to greatness and overcoming inevitable hardships.

PCC President G. Dennis Massey asked graduates to remember where they came from. "I urge you to be one of the proud alumni of (PCC) and take the opportunity to thank those faculty who coached you to this victory," he said. "And please stay connected to

PCC. We are a college on the move and hope you will return to see our new Goess Student Center and many other new developments in the years to come."

The graduates' response speaker was SGA President Derek Combs. A University Transfer student, Combs



*2008 Graduate Crystal Elks.*

reminded his fellow graduates that commencement was not the end of their journey but rather the beginning.

A total of 440 associate degrees were conferred to 433 students from the Class of 2008. Another 76 students received diplomas while 101 more received a total of 115 certificates.

## Ralls Helps Kick Off Leadership Institute

*New NCCCS President Stresses Role of Community Colleges*

Dr. Scott Ralls, newly-elected president of the N.C. Community College System, was the featured speaker as Pitt Community College kicked off its annual Leadership Institute at the Greenville Hilton.

Ralls, who replaced retired NCCCS



*Dr. Scott Ralls*

President H. Martin Lancaster in May, told Leadership Institute participants that there has never been a more

important time than now for community colleges and for leadership within those institutions.

The former Craven Community College president cited several factors in support of his assessment, including a rapidly increasing number of retirements among Baby Boomers, which has produced workforce shortages nationwide, particularly in the area of health care.

Ralls said increasing international competition is also placing emphasis on the educational services provided by the state's 58 community colleges. He said foreign countries, such as China and Singapore, are "focused on education like a laser."

But at a time when America must recognize the importance of developing a skilled workforce by "stepping on the gas educationally," Ralls said the country was, instead, "sputtering."

Opportunities for individuals to achieve middle class status with less than a high school education are nearly extinct, the 43-year-old Ralls said, adding that for the first time in American history, today's youth would be less educated collectively than their parents' generation.

Though stiff tests lie ahead for

educators across the country, Ralls said North Carolina community colleges can take steps now to meet future challenges by helping their employees develop effective leadership qualities.

He said PCC's Leadership Institute and programs like it play a pivotal role in helping community college personnel develop the competence, inspiration, forward thinking and integrity necessary to "walk the walk and lead by example."

Ultimately, Ralls said, community college leaders must constantly ask themselves one question. "If you say, 'What's in the best interest of your students?' you'll always be on the right side."

Developed four years ago, PCC's Leadership Institute encourages employees to consider ways they can contribute their leadership qualities to the college's educational mission. The three-day program features seminars and team-oriented activities designed to foster interaction among participants while helping them grow personally and professionally.

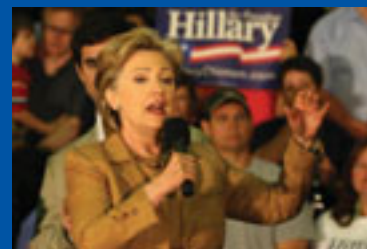
"The philosophy behind the Institute is that leadership is measured by contribution not position," said Dr. Brian Miller, who helps coordinate the event as Pitt's Assistant to the President and Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

"The program is also about forming professional relationships and friendships," Miller said.

Leadership Institute participants apply to the program and are chosen by a selection committee at the college.

In addition to hearing from the new NCCCS president, this year's Leadership Institute class will benefit from the wisdom of several of their PCC colleagues and Dr. Richard E. Eakin, former chancellor of East Carolina University.

## CLINTON CAMPAIGN MAKES STOP AT PCC



Seeking support from N.C. Democrats in a bid to become her party's presidential nominee, Sen. Hillary Clinton held a campaign rally at PCC the day before the state's May 6 primary election.

Gov. Mike Easley and his son, Michael Easley Jr., accompanied the former First Lady at her PCC stop. Clinton spoke less than an hour in the Coburn Center, her remarks touching on a variety of issues.

"The problems that the next president is going to have to solve are some of the most serious that any president has had to deal with in decades," she said.

With soaring gas prices, Clinton stressed the need to develop alternative energy sources, adding that North Carolina could play a significant role in that process.

Clinton also emphasized the need to improve the country's health care system. Under her plan, she said, Americans would receive the same health care benefits U.S. Congress members and federal employees currently receive.

"(Gov. Easley) told me that Pitt Community College has one of the largest nursing programs in the State of North Carolina," Clinton said. "I am so proud that the American Nurses Association endorsed me, because nurses get it—they know we have to have quality and affordable health care for every single American."

## ECSU CHANCELLOR URGES MINORITY MALES TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION

Elizabeth City State University Chancellor Willie Gilchrist, was the featured speaker during an event held to encourage Pitt County minority males to pursue higher education.

Called "College Bound – Here We Come," the program featured seniors from each of the county's six high schools touring the PCC campus, interacting with Pitt mentors, and receiving candid advice from Gilchrist.

With 90 percent of the fastest-growing jobs in America requiring post-secondary instruction, Gilchrist told the teens they would need a college education to find a job paying more than minimum wage. Simple math, he said, reveals that \$6.15 per hour isn't even enough to cover life's essentials.

"Do you get where I'm coming from?" Gilchrist asked. "You have no choice; you have to make it to the next level [of education]."

Gilchrist stressed the importance of maintaining a professional appearance, avoiding crime, and making the most of opportunities. "Failure is not an option, unless you select it for yourself," he said.

Dr. Don Spell, VP of Student Development Services, said College Bound is part of Pitt's Minority Males on Campus Initiative.



*Dr. Willie Gilchrist*

## Pitt Adult High School Students Travel to Washington, D.C. to See History Firsthand

Adult High School (AHS) students in Samantha Mansfield's "Exploring the Holocaust" course put their books aside for a day and traveled to Washington, D.C., to see firsthand what they had been studying during the spring semester.

Mansfield, her students and AHS English instructor Clay Brown visited the nation's capital in March for a private tour of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which includes artifacts from Nazi concentration camps and footage and stories of the atrocities that took place at them. The group had two tour guides: one an Auschwitz survivor, the other a child of Holocaust survivors.

"Those who toured with the (Auschwitz) survivor were in awe of him," Mansfield said. "They could not believe that he could relive this part of his history for them."

Mansfield said the students were also struck by the historic artifacts they were able to see and touch, including a cattle car used to transport Holocaust victims.

"As we were touring the museum, we saw actual shoes of the victims," said student Derek Edwards. "You could smell the leather and mildew. I got angry, especially when I saw the children's shoes."

In addition to touring the Holocaust Museum, the PCC contingent also visited several national landmarks, including the White House and the Vietnam Memorial, where one of the students, Blake McKinney, was able to make a rubbing of his uncle's name. McKinney planned to give the rubbing to his grandmother who has never seen her son's name among the more than 58,000 on the black granite wall.

"Seeing the museum and monuments made everything real for me, much more than just reading a book," said student Taylor Collins.

In order to prepare for teaching the Holocaust course at PCC, Mansfield underwent extensive training in Washington, D.C. While there, she made Holocaust Museum contacts who arranged for her students' private tour.



## Instructor Never Leaves NC to Teach in NJ

It's not everyday an N.C. instructor lectures a N.J. class without ever leaving the Tar Heel State.

But that was the case this spring as modern technology enabled PCC biology instructor Tammy Atchison to share her knowledge of the field with a general microbiology class at Bergen Community College in Paramus, N.J.

Utilizing specialized equipment at the BioNetwork Bioprocessing Center, Atchison was able to communicate with the New Jersey students.

Atchison said she enjoyed her guest lecturing experience and explained it is a recurring favor to longtime friend

Marty Lowe, a former PCC science instructor who now teaches at Bergen.

"Marty's microbiology specialty is immunology and mine is virology...," Atchison said. "So, in the spring, when our schedules allow, she has me lecture to her class about viruses and some of my clinical experiences."

Atchison said she felt the Bergen students benefited from the realization that students from other schools are learning the same information.

"They aren't isolated," she said. "This is not just a requirement to get through their program; this is a worldwide topic we all deal with."

## PCC Kicks Off Program to Help Minority Males Reach the 'Next Level'



*Andre Gregory*

PCC launched the "Next Level Minority Male Mentoring Program" during spring semester to help minority males on campus excel academically, personally and professionally. During the kickoff, PCC President G. Dennis Massey called the program an integral part of the college's plans to make education more accessible and enhance student success.

Andre Gregory has been hired to coordinate *Next Level* services. He said the program would offer the support necessary to succeed at the college – everything from peer

tutoring to career shadowing.

To help *Next Level* participants get started on the right foot, Gregory invited Randy Williams to speak during the program's kickoff. Williams, assistant dean of students at the College of William and Mary, told students they had "arrived" at a point in their lives in which they could choose to be leaders. He encouraged them to take advantage of the opportunity to receive a quality education and reminded them that it was the result of sacrifices made by previous generations.

Fewer than 10 percent of the 461 students to graduate from PCC during the 2007 summer and fall semesters were minority males. Pitt administrators are optimistic *Next Level* will help that situation improve.

## College Holds Employee Appreciation Evening at Rock Springs Center

PCC honored its employees and celebrated their achievements this spring, during the school's 25th Annual Employee Appreciation and Recognition Event at Rock Springs Center.

During the program, the college recognized Matt Smith as the 2008 Joan and Ed Warren Staff Employee of the Year. Smith, PCC's research coordinator, was one of five Staff Excellence Award recipients this year along with Gretchen Baugh, Betty Foreman, Karen LeMoine and Stephanie Robertson.

Admissions and Records Specialist Ella Atkinson received the 2008 Student Development Services Award for Outstanding Customer Service, and Scott Clinefelter, director of the Nuclear Medicine Technology program, was presented the inaugural Innovations Award.

As part of this year's event, PCC Trustees gave special recognition to

longtime board member and former Trustees chairman Raymond Reddick. The college also presented service awards to employees who have been with the school for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years.



*Ella Atkinson (c) receives the Customer Service Award from Dr. Massey (l) and Dr. Donald Spell (r).*



*Matt Smith (c) receives Staff Employee of the Year Award from Dr. Massey (l) and Susan Nobles (r).*

## CLARK NAMED 2008 'WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE'



*Susan Everett, Vice President of Administrative Services (l) presents the 2008 WOS Award to Kathy Clark.*

PCC celebrated Women's History Month in March with an event underscoring the importance of art, creativity and the ability to freely express oneself.

The program — "Women's Art ... Women's Vision - Express Yourself!" — featured belly dancing and yoga demonstrations by PCC's Amy Campbell and Vandana Srivastava, respectively, poetry by Pitt instructor Regina Garcia, and the presentation of this year's Woman of Substance Award to Office Systems Technology Coordinator Kathy Clark.

As part of PCC's Women's History celebration, the school recognizes a female employee for outstanding campus and community involvement, attitude of service, commitment and caring, and willingness to 'go the extra mile.'

Individuals who nominated Clark for the Woman of Substance Award cited her "tremendous level of energy," her love and concern for students, and her focus on student success. Clark said she was grateful for the award. "It's truly an honor, especially when I look at the other names on the list," she said.

In addition to the Woman of Substance Award, the women's history program featured remarks by Dr. Vivian Mott, a professor in ECU's College of Education.

## INDIANS MAKE CHISENHALL 1ST ROUND PICK

Following a season in which he batted .410 and helped PCC reach the NJCAA Eastern District Championship, the Cleveland Indians made Lonnie Chisenhall the 29th pick of the MLB Draft.

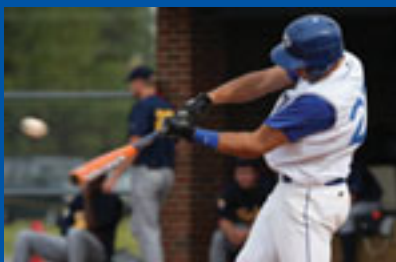
PCC Baseball Coach Tommy Eason said he was almost at a loss for words knowing Chisenhall had been chosen in the first round. "There's only 30 first-round draft picks and for him to be one was phenomenal," he said.

In Chisenhall, the Indians get a sensational left-handed hitter with a tremendous eye at the plate. The 6-foot-1, 200-pounder posted a .528 on-base percentage and was named NJCAA All-District and All-Region X First Team.

In 53 games, the Newport native went 68-for-166, notched 68 runs batted in, scored 58 runs, drew 38 walks and struck out just eight times. Of his 68 hits, 27 went for doubles, four were triples and eight left the yard altogether.

"Lonnie's well-deserving of all of the accolades," Eason said. "He's worked hard at it, and I'm sure he's going to continue to work hard at it to live up to the expectations of a first-round draft pick."

Chisenhall signed with the Indians June 14 and reported to Class A Mahoning Valley the next day.



*Lonnie Chisenhall*

## Baseball Falls Just Short of World Series; Several Sophs Sign with 4-Year Schools



*Jake Brown*

PCC Baseball wrapped up a successful 2008 campaign at 41-15 overall. With a 7-3 loss to Hagerstown Community College (Md.) in the decisive third game of the Eastern District Championship, the Bulldogs finished the season one win shy of a trip to the NJCAA World Series.

Pitt earned the right to play for the Eastern District title with a spectacular run through the Region X Tournament. After losing the first game, PCC reeled off six straight wins to take the championship and extend the season.

Several players from this year's squad were honored for their outstanding play in 2008. Sophomores Lonnie Chisenhall and Jake Brown were selected to the NJCAA's All-Eastern District Team in addition to being named First Team All-Region X. Sophomore Lucas Martin was named Second Team All-Region X.

In addition to post-season honors, several sophomores will continue their playing careers at 4-year schools. Brown has signed with Georgia Southern University while Martin will play at Montreat College. Chip Wall and Logan Isaacs have signed with Wingate University.

## Whitfield Stresses Value of Sports and the Need to Support Bulldog Athletics

George Whitfield, the man credited with bringing baseball to PCC in 1995, was the featured speaker at this year's PCC Athletics Banquet.

A baseball coaching legend, Whitfield could have used the spotlight to discuss his extensive baseball knowledge or the many honors he's received over the years or his induction into the N.C. Sports Hall of Fame. Instead, the classy 71-year-old Goldsboro resident displayed the selfless, caring attitude that has endeared him to his players. He focused on how sports helped him overcome the loss of his parents at age 12 and how it continues to remain a positive force for many athletes.

Whitfield's prep and American Legion teams won 954 games and eight state championships. His impressive résumé also includes assistant coaching stints at PCC, Mississippi State University and ECU.

But none of those accomplishments made it into Whitfield's speech. One of the most ardent supporters of PCC

Athletics took the opportunity to encourage others to contribute to Pitt's athletics program.

He urged parents to support their children by watching them play and asked the student-athletes in attendance to give back to their school upon graduation so that future Bulldog athletes would have the same opportunity to compete collegiately while earning an education.

"Coach Whitfield is a class act who knows firsthand how important student and community support are in making our athletics program successful," said PCC Athletics

Director Junior Bailey. "I enjoyed his message tonight, and I am certain our student-athletes did as well."



*George Whitfield*

## Academic Excellence Program Pays Tribute to PCC's Top Students

PCC paid tribute in April to 50 top students during the annual Academic Excellence Awards Luncheon sponsored by the PCC Foundation.

Advertising and Graphic Design student Heather Moore was the guest speaker. She recalled being a shy high school student before enrolling at PCC, where she has gained the confidence and direction needed to succeed in higher education.

In nominating her for an Academic Excellence Award, instructors cited Moore's positive attitude and dedication to her studies (she has a 3.9 GPA).

Moore (Construction and Industrial Technology) received a PCC Division Award along with Robert Baker (Business), Bethany Crawford (Arts and Sciences), Martha Tatum (Health Sciences) and Brandon Ruth (Legal Science/Public Services).

Several special awards were also presented, including the President's

Scholarship for outstanding academics, leadership, volunteerism and service to the college. This year's recipient was Cynthia Archbell, an Occupational Therapy Assistant student, with a 4.0 GPA. Outside the classroom, she has helped raise funds for Katrina victims and the Hope for the Warriors effort.

This year's President's Award went to SGA President Derek Combs, a University Transfer student with a 3.7 GPA and services to the American Red Cross and Greenville's Hope Lodge.

Combs and Archbell also represented PCC at the NC Community College Academic Awards Luncheon in Raleigh.

PCC administrators also announced during the luncheon that Laquan Black, Rena Kelly and Sharon Ashe would receive the inaugural Developmental Studies Award. The awards were presented by Dr. James Bearden.



2008 Academic Excellence Student Recipients

## Basketball Set to Return to PCC Campus

*New Era of Bulldog Hoops to start this fall season*

PCC's effort to bring intercollegiate basketball to campus this fall hit full stride earlier this year. The college hired former ECU assistant Chad Reynolds to lead its hoops program and held a press conference to introduce the coach's first recruiting class, which includes Greenville's Adonte McCarter, Kinston's Akeem Sutton, Havelock's Johnny Godette and Fayetteville's Chris Ward.

PCC's most recent attempt to bring college hoops to campus is its fourth such effort in the school's 47 years. The college fielded a team in 1969 before ending the program six years later. Basketball briefly returned for the 1980 season before Charles Coburn led the Bulldogs to 169 wins from 1982-1994.

## CAREER FAIR PROVIDES PCC STUDENTS CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH EMPLOYERS



2008 PCC Career Fair

More than 50 employers visited the PCC campus this spring to meet with students about potential job opportunities as part of a career fair the school hosted in the Charles Coburn Center.

Representatives from a variety of career fields, including health care, education, retail sales, automotive repair and construction, were on hand for the event, which organizers hoped would result in employment offers for students who graduated in May.

One of those students, Judy Langley, said she was thankful for the opportunity to speak with area employers. "I was impressed with most every booth," she said. "I handed out three or four résumés and hope there is a job in my future because of this event."

The career fair was also promoted to Pitt's first-year students in the hopes of making them aware of career opportunities available in Eastern North Carolina while encouraging them to complete their programs of study.

In addition to the potential employment opportunities the fair presented, event organizers hoped it would help students at the college further develop their job-hunting skills.

## Goess Center Construction on Schedule



Construction of the new Craig F. Goess Student Center, which is scheduled to open in early 2009, is progressing.

According to Guerry Barbee, PCC's construction project manager, work on the \$5.7-million facility is approximately 45 percent complete, which is right on schedule. Barbee said in June that drywall and insulation were being installed, and that offices, conference rooms, work rooms and work areas were "really beginning to take shape" along with the center's dining room and multipurpose room.

The roof of the 33,698-square foot facility was almost complete, Barbee said, adding that windows would be installed later in the month. Brick walls around the building were being installed in June and that work, he said, would continue into July.



### **Pitt Community College**

PO Drawer 7007

Greenville, North Carolina 27835-7007

**Return Service Requested**

## **PCC Foundation**

### **Staff & Faculty Fund Drive**

September 2 - 12, 2008

### **Fall Golf Classic**

Greenville Golf & Country Club  
October 2

### **Down East Holiday Show**

Greenville Convention Center  
November 7 - 9

### **PCC Alumni**

We are planning an alumni event to be held on the PCC campus on Saturday, October 25. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend. Details will be announced soon. Call 252-493-7287 for information.

Send us your email address or home address for news about our new PCC Alumni Association.

[lelmore@email.pittcc.edu](mailto:lelmore@email.pittcc.edu)

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