Inside Gaston

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Visiting Writers’ Series to Host Local Authors

The Languages and Literature Department and Morris Library are sponsoring the 2011 Visiting Writers’ Series now through April.

The series’ events will take place at 11am, 2nd floor of the Morris Library, Dallas Campus. Novelist Cheris Hodges will do a discussion and book signing on Tuesday, February 15 followed by novelist and poet Alan Michael Parker on Wednesday, March 9 and Poet Laureate of North Carolina Cathy Smith Bowers on Tuesday, April 12.

The Writers’ Series is funded in part with a grant from the Charlotte Area Educational Consortium (CAEC) of which the College is a member.

For more information contact Alicia McCullough or check out the library’s website.

College Represented at 2010 Economic Development Conference

Pictured from left to right are Dr. Linda Greer, Doug Bradley, Diane Metcalfe, Don Huneycutt, Regional Director, Customized Training; Dr. Scott Ralls, President, NCCCS and Maureen Little, Associate V.P. Economic Development at the 2010 Economic Development Conference.
Congratulations To:

Kimberly Wyont, Director, Educational Partnerships and Lori Metcalf, Chair/Psychology Instructor, Applied Social Sciences who were chosen as semi-finalists in the overall NC Community College System award competitions.

Employees in Life Skills, Belinda Butler, Edwina Craig, Becky McLain, Carol Shehan, Lisa Woodall, Donna Blake, Laurel Morrow, and Vickie Smith, who have earned their NC Career Readiness Certification and Debra Hissom, and Leah Mackey, who have attained their Master of Arts degrees.

Dr. Melissa Armstrong, Ashley Hagler, Bill Burgin, and Heather Woodson, faculty in the Liberal Arts & Sciences Division, who were awarded funds by the Council for Undergraduate Research to attend the workshop, “Developing Undergraduate Research at Community Colleges: Tapping the Potential of All Students” as a part of a greater project to being independent student research to the arts and sciences at the College.

Did You Know?

The Gaston College Foundation plans to participate in the Community Foundation’s Run for the Money matching gift event this year. Every organization must be represented by a runner (5K) or walker (2K) on “Run Day” set for Saturday, April 16 at the Rotary Pavilion in downtown Gastonia. The 5K starts at 8:00am and the 2K shortly afterward. We are looking for runners or walkers to represent us during the event. There will also be food, healthy kids zone, great music, non-profit display booths and lots of awards! Gaston County citizens of all ages are encouraged to come. Funds raised will go to the Student Academic Emergency Fund. Registration and Donations begin on Monday, February 14. Please let Sylvia Bajorek know if you are interested or would like to make a donation.

The College’s online Scholarship Tracking and Review System (STARS) is available to students now thru March 31. STARS assists students in submitting their request for financial aid, identifies scholarships for eligible students, and notifies scholarship awards faster. Just under $100K has been awarded to the College from the Belk Foundation to fund a Writing Center that is scheduled to open spring 2011 in the new Robinson Classroom Building. The GNET Center, funded by a federal grant for student services, will also be located in the new building. A dedi-
Did You Know? (continued)

cation of the Robinson Classroom Building will be held March 25, at 2pm that will incorporate these two centers as part of the celebration of the entire facility.

The Mid-Winter Early Childhood Conference will be held February 26, on the Dallas Campus. Professional development workshops will be offered designed to upgrade the skills of early child educators in preschools, daycares or elementary education school settings. Community education units will be awarded to those attending conference workshops. For more information, contact Jackie Ammons.

The Morris Library is having its annual magazine and book sale in March. Items on sale are not limited to pleasure reading, but also for school projects, craft ideas, recipes, and more. For a listing of titles, visit the library’s website or for more information, contact Libby Stone.

The Dietetic Technician Program is offering Metabolic Testing for faculty and staff on Fridays from 8:30am until 12:30pm to provide information on how many calories your body is burning each day. The cost is $20. Also, the Therapeutic Massage students are offering Swedish full body massages each Friday during the spring semester. Cost is $25 for the general public, $20 for seniors/faculty/staff, and $15 for students. Contact Kandy Penley to make an appointment for either service.

Career Day, hosted by the Co-op/Student Employment Office is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, from 9am until 12pm in the Robinson Classroom Building, Room 126. Local businesses will be on campus to provide students with interview tips, requirements for employment, hiring practices, and qualities they look for in employees.

The 2011 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Event will be Friday, April 27 on the Dallas Campus. Lunch will be served from 11am until 12:45pm. There will be live entertainment and an awards ceremony where the Altrusa Award of Excellence will be announced as well as the Staff Excellence Award and Instructor of the Year, concluding the event around 2:15 pm. More details will be available in the coming months.

The Gaston College Study Tours will be headed on an exciting Spring Tour to Campania and Sicily on May 15-24. For more information visit the Study Tours webpage under Quicklinks/Study Tours.

Friends of Gaston College

2010/2011 annual giving campaign has received over $8,436 so far. Gifts allow the College to help students address needs as they arise and plan for future opportunities. Currently, $17K has been used to serve 125 students. Any donations to this fund will be appreciated. Payroll Deduction is also available to college employees and can be set up through the Foundation. Thank you to all donors who have given to this new initiative.

Congratulations to:

Donna Blake, Shane Caughey, and Josh Crisp, employees in the Economic and Workforce Development Department, who passed the Certified Program Planners (CPP) exam.
**Human Resources Update**

*December 1, 2010 - February 1, 2011*

**New Staff Members:**
- **Bill Faust**, Instructor-EMS Education, Full-Time Temporary (12/15/10)
- **Adam Secrest**, Instructor-Biology, Full-Time Temporary (1/3/11)
- **John Withers**, Instructor-English, Full-Time Temporary (1/3/11)

**New Staff Members:**
- **Joy Armour**, Secretary-Persistence and Retention, Full-Time Temporary (1/3/11)
- **Kelley Bellin**, Advisor-TRIO Program, Full-Time Temporary Grant-Funded (1/3/11)
- **Misty Brackett**, Secretary-Student Services (12/1/10)
- **Randy Clemmer**, Student Services Specialist-Lincoln Campus, Part-Time Permanent (12/1/10)
- **Carol Faust**, Administrative Assistant-Dean of Continuing Education and Public Safety (1/24/11)

**Submission deadline for the next Inside Gaston publication is Monday, March 21, 2011. Please submit all information to: Emily Dalton, Box 3, extension 6513, dalton.emily@gaston.edu.**

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**Upcoming Events!**

- **February 9** - Student Club Day, 9am-3pm, MC Cafeteria
- **February 11** - Board of Trustees Annual Retreat
- **February 14** - Registration & Donations begin for Run for the Money
- **February 15** - Visiting Writers’ Series, Novelist, Cheris Hodges, 11am, Morris Library
- **February 22** - SGA/American Red Cross Blood Drive, 9-1:30pm, Dallas Campus
- **February 26** - Mid-Winter Early Childhood Conference
- **February 28-March 4** - Faculty/Student Break (college closes at 4pm)
- **March 4-5** - NC State Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting hosted by BioEd Center, Dallas Campus
- **March 7** - Faculty/Staff General Meeting, 2pm, MCA
- **March 8** - President’s Cabinet, 2pm, DBC 170
- **March 9** - Visiting Writers’ Series, Novelist & Poet, Alan Michael Parker, 11am, Morris Library
- **March 9** - Co-op/Student Employment Office Career Day, 9am-12pm, Robinson Classroom Building, Room 126
- **March 11** - AHS/GED Graduation, 7pm, Myers Center Auditorium
- **March 21** - Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting, 3pm, MC Board Room
- **March 23** - GC Foundation Board Meeting, 12 noon, Robinson Classroom Building
- **March 25** - Robinson Classroom Building Dedication, 2pm
- **March 28** - Board of Trustees Meeting, 4pm, MC Board Room
- **March 31** - Deadline to submit scholarship applications thru STARS

**Human Resources Update (continued)**

- **Alyson Jordan**, Receptionist-Liberal Arts and Sciences, Full-Time Temporary (1/3/11)
- **Beverly Murphy**, Distance Education Assistant, Part-Time Permanent (1/3/11)
- **Christian Smith**, Administrative Assistant-TRIO Program, Full-Time Temporary Grant-Funded (12/1/10)
- **Renee Zullo**, Project Coordinator-TRIO Program, Full-Time Temporary Grant-Funded (1/3/11)

**Position Change:**
- **Mary Ellen Dillon**, Executive Administrative Assistant-President’s Office (1/3/11)
- **Sylvia Dixon**, Executive Administrative Assistant-President’s Office and Board of Trustees (1/3/11)

**Retirements:**
- **Evelyn Standley**, Executive Administrative Assistant-President’s Office and Board of Trustees (1/1/11)

**Announcements:**
- **February 28-March 4** – Faculty/Student Break (College closes at 4 p.m.)
- **March 30** – Sixth Annual Employee Benefits Fair
- **April 21-25** – College closed for Holiday
- **April 21-26** – Faculty/Student Break (College closes at 4 p.m. on April 26)