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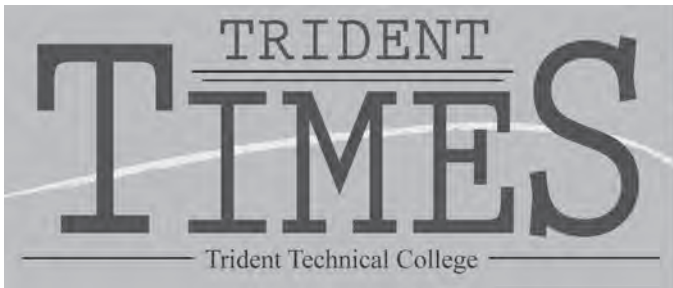
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December 2008 – January 2009

www.tridenttech.edu

TTC'S INTERNET RADIO STATION HITS THE GLOBAL BANDWIDTH

Grand launch makes it official

Press Release Compilation

TTC went global with the Grand Launch of TTC's Internet Radio Station on October 22. Held in the lobby of the 410 Bldg, the audiotape cutting by TTC President Dr. Mary Thornley officially opened the internet airwaves for our own radio station. The radio station's main purpose is to offer students in TTC's Radio, Television and Film program an opportunity to use the skills learned in media courses in a real-life, hands-on application.

"Before the Internet radio station," says instructor Marcia Warnock, "I'd tell my students,

'Let's pretend we're writing a public service announcement for a radio station.' Now it's no more pretending. We're really being heard all over the world."

Students in the Radio certificate program create most of the programming and playlists for the station. The radio format is neo-eclectic. "This is not your typical college station," explains Warnock. "Our format is like the weather – if you don't like what you're hearing, just wait a few minutes and it will change."

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TTC'S INTERNET RADIO STATION, YOUR VERY OWN RADIO STATION

By Marcia Warnock, Station Director

What do an aircraft engineer, an English professor, a veterinarian, an expert in the Mideast, and a broadcasting student have in common, besides the obvious involvement at Trident Technical College? They are all heard on the air around the world on Trident Tech's latest achievement, a professional Internet radio sta-

tion. I doubt if there's anything like it out there. You have to listen, really listen, to appreciate our station. Our format is like the weather: if you don't like what you're hearing, just wait a few minutes, and it'll change. If you can learn to listen, I think you'll be rewarded," Warnock said. But, she adds quickly with a twinkle,

"Don't assume we're stodgy. Some of my students' work cracks me up, over and over, after hearing them time after time. We prove we can be hilarious using creativity without stooping to vulgarity."

TTC Internet Radio strives to provide an alternative to con-

ventional radio by presenting informative and entertaining programming in a format akin to National Public Radio's blended with a diverse musical play list. Although the station is capable of going live, and hopes to more in the future, most of the pieces you'll hear are well written,

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continued from pg 6 - Advisor Spotlight Patti Newman

Asheville. "Getting to meet Dr. Jane was incredible," says Ms. Newman, "It is hard to explain the effect that her presence has, but it is truly awe-inspiring. She emits a palpable sense of peace all around her. I'll never forget the look in the eyes of one of our members that day, when she told me that meeting Dr. Jane was on her list of top ten things that she'd wanted to accomplish in her life, and that she couldn't believe that she'd actually done it! She was positively beaming- it just doesn't get any better than this!"

Ms. Newman states that the TTC group welcomes new members, and she suggests that anyone interested should look at the R&S website, rootsandshoots.org, to get an idea of the organization's philosophy and mission. As Dr. Jane says, "every individual matters, every individual has a role to play, every individual makes a difference."

continued from pg 6 - Snapshot of Student Organization

Provide training for student organization officers; coordinate the booking of rooms for club meetings and meetings of the Student Cabinet and Unified Club Council. Host the Awards Day presentations and manage the Who's Who in Two-Year Colleges nominations.

continued from pg 2 - Post Election Blues

the challenges that confront it and by default the challenges faced by the world. With the election over, President-elect Obama will have the opportunity to initiate much needed changes in the direction that this country and indeed, the rest of the world is heading.

continued from pg 2 - Clemente Caberet

Student members of the Society of Student Leaders and Roots and Shoots, campus student organizations, provided volunteers for reception and greeting duties. Advisors and students from the Society of Broadcasters ran the sound and lighting and filmed the event.



Snapshot of Student Organization

ROOTS AND SHOOTS —Student group has lots of enthusiasm

By David Spears

Focused on issues related to the environment, humanity and animal welfare this active group is a chapter of the international Roots & Shoots organization, an offshoot of the Jane Goodall Institute. Dr. Jane Goodall is the widely acclaimed pioneer into the research of chimpanzee behavior and champion of wildlife conservation.

Their mission statement: To foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, animals and the environment.

Members plan and participate in a variety of environmental projects some of which have included removing trash and rebuilding portions of the Palmetto Trail as well as trash pickup on Beach Sweeps and Keep America Beautiful campaigns.

Humanitarian efforts have involved sponsoring presentations for Invisible Children and raising money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization. Earlier this year the group provided labor to make

repairs to a cabin at a local Girl Scout camp. They also cleared weeds and planted flowers at a historic cemetery at the camp. Raising funds through bake sales enabled the group to participate in supporting the work of Tony Liu, "Tiger Tony" in his efforts to save Siberian tigers in China. Reportedly, there are less than 500 Siberian tigers remaining in the wild in China.

Club members served as volunteers for the last two Clemente Caberet productions where they served as ushers and greeters. They have also supported the Keepers of the Wild wildlife rescue center in St. George, where they built otter pens and repaired wild animal enclosures.

TTC's Roots and Shoots members have travelled to such far-flung locales as China (Trident Times April-May 2008). Earlier this year several participants drove to Asheville, North Carolina, where they listened to a presentation by Jane Goodall and more recently they attended a Peace Day event at Huntington Beach State Park in Murrells Inlet.

POST ELECTION BLUES

WHITHER DO WE GO NOW

by: Editor David Spears (Op-ed)

I voted. As an independent, I define my political leanings as those that will best serve, in my opinion, my country and the world. Both Senators Obama and McCain had platforms that I was generally comfortable with, in as much as I realize and expect those promises to evaporate as soon as the winner is sworn in as president. As a result, I was among the undecided until Senator McCain announced Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate.

While I can understand the reasoning behind his choice, I felt that she brought to the table the same level of governmental experience that the incumbent President Bush had when he was elected. At least with President Bush we had VP Dick Cheney as the backup. She proved to be an interesting side note to the election, adding moments of humor and controversy to the final months of the campaign.

Having finally joined the ranks of the candidate committed, I found myself compelled to keep track of the daily doings of the campaigns. My goodness! There was such a wealth of coverage from so many sources. I finally found out who Anderson Cooper is and figured out for myself, I think, what the "360°" in the title of his show means. There did seem to be at least a two-sided dialogue amongst the commentators.

Amongst the various, "political experts" chosen to expound their views, I found the views of guest commentators, Ben Stein and Roland S. Martin, were well reasoned and lacking in the overt animosity apparent in

CLEMENTE CABARET: AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

Great Acts, Great Fun and a Great Cause

by David Spears



Photo courtesy of Liz Remus, Host of Clemente Cabaret Kim Delaney (left) with Liz Remus volunteer (right)

the analysis provided by some of the other experts presenting their views on the candidates. David Gergen, a senior political analyst for CNN, also maintained a balanced and reasoned commentary of the campaign. For the most part, I found the campaign coverage dull and repetitive, yet I found myself drawn to it perhaps because of the historical possibilities this election represented.

When I was a kid, when asked what I wanted to be when I grew up my answer was that I wanted to be President of the World. It seemed far-fetched and amusing to others at the time. To me the world already seemed to be a very small place and a lot of time and energy was being expended on the many wars that dotted the globe. Not much has changed it seems, except that it has become apparent, at least to me, that the president of the United States is, in the eyes of much of the rest of the planet, the President for the World.

This country for all of its faults and internal conflicts has always held the promise of conquering

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Actor Kim Delaney was the gracious host for the gala presentation of the Clemente Cabaret at TTC's College Center, Saturday, October 11. In its

fourth consecutive year, this event featured acts and solo performers from the Charleston area, which ranged from the comic to the operatic.

Stirring renditions of classic southern spirituals by the vibrantly attired "Plantation Singers" began the evening's entertainment and primed the audience. Musical performances included a blues set by the Bradford Station Band, gospel songs by the Collins Sisters and operatic selections from Porgy and Bess, sung by Richard Blakeney with piano accompaniment by TTC adjunct professor Matthew Parker. Storyteller Minerva King captivated the audience with her folktales and closing out the evening was a vocal performance by students currently enrolled in the Clemente Course.

Funds raised by the event benefit the "Charleston Clemente Course, a free college-level humanities course offered to disadvantaged people in the Charleston area ... The course is based on the premise that the study of philosophy, art and history can offer a way out of poverty." *continued on pg 8*

Call for SUBMISSIONS

The Trident Times encourages students, staff, and faculty of TTC to submit items for review and possible inclusion in the paper. Submissions from student organizations about upcoming events and notices of awards and achievements are also sought. Due to deadlines, some time sensitive material may not be published. We also welcome submissions such as illustrations, photos and original art.

For further information, please email **trident.times@ttc.mailcruiser.com** or contact us at 843.574.6347. Our office is located in room 130 F, building 410.

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Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Palmer Campus Culinary

Culinary Institute of Charleston at Trident Technical College expands to downtown Charleston

by David D. Hansen,
TTC Marketing

The Culinary Institute of Charleston at Trident Technical College unveiled a new facility in downtown Charleston Monday, Oct. 6, with a celebratory event for local chefs, restaurateurs, community leaders and elected officials.

This second site allows the CIC to offer advanced culinary and hospitality training for local industry professionals. The 23,500-square-foot facility on the college's Palmer Campus features a 50-seat dining room, 100-seat amphitheater and demonstration kitchen, beverage operations lab, and four specialized training kitchens: an international production kitchen, a nutritional/research and development lab, an artisanal baking lab and a general teaching kitchen.

"The purpose of the Culinary Institute of Charleston's second location is to allow students to stay in Charleston and continue

studying in their chosen career," said Michael Saboe, dean of the CIC. "The culinary and hospitality industry faces a tremendous labor shortage everywhere in the United States, and the CIC is positioned to provide needed support to Charleston with five new advanced certificate programs. These certificates add depth and specialized training to our fundamental classes and provide excellent training opportunities to professionals already working in the industry."

The new advanced certificate programs offered at Palmer Campus are Culinary Arts, Advanced Culinary Arts, Advanced Baking and Pastry, Hotel Operations, and Event Management. The programs were developed using feedback from area restaurant and hotel professionals to address the need for advanced training in these areas.

In 2005, the S.C. General Assembly approved \$7 million in funding for the \$9.5 million expansion after Johnson and

Wales announced it would leave Charleston for Charlotte. TTC later contributed the additional \$2.5 million needed to complete the project. Construction began in the spring of 2007.

"Our legislative delegations quickly recognized the importance of TTC's efforts to meet the work force needs of the hospitality and tourism industry," said TTC President Mary Thornley. "After Johnson and Wales announced it would leave Charleston, we worked closely with our legislators to develop facilities and programs to ensure Charleston's continued growth as a premier tourism and culinary destination. We are thrilled to be able to celebrate the opening of this facility, and I want to thank our delegation for their foresight and strong support of the Culinary Institute of Charleston at TTC."

Food- and hospitality-related continuing education courses will also be offered on the Palmer Campus starting in January.

Course topics include Asian and Italian cuisine, the catering business, the art of entertaining, wine and cocktails, international breads, and the art of creating wedding cakes.

The CIC's 77,000-square-foot facility on TTC's Main Campus in North Charleston will continue to offer associate degree and certificate programs in baking and pastry, culinary arts, and hospitality and tourism management, as well as continuing education courses.

The new culinary and hospitality programs complement the array of other courses offered at Palmer Campus including Massage Therapy, Ophthalmic Clinical Assistant, Nail Technology, Esthetics, Emergency Medical Technology, Criminal Justice, Paralegal, Associate in Arts and Associate in Science.

For information about the CIC's academic and continuing education offerings on both campuses, visit www.CulinaryInstituteofCharleston.com or call (843) 820-5090.

TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE OPENED ST. PAUL'S PARISH SITE IN JUNE

by: By Beth Hicks, TTC Marketing

Trident Technical College opened a St. Paul's Parish site in June.

"We are excited to better serve the southern half of Charleston County with this new site," says Dr. Mary Thornley, TTC president.

The St. Paul's Parish site, located at 5231 Highway 165 in Hollywood, serves residents of James and John's Island, Hollywood, Meggett, Yonges Island, Ravenel, Rantowles, Adam's Run, Green Pond and Edisto.

The site was made available by the Corbin family of Yonges Island. The building where training takes place is named in honor of James Edward "Ted" Corbin, who was the founder of Metal Trades, Inc., a metal fabrication company located in the area.

TTC offers credit courses at the site that can apply toward a certificate, diploma or associate degree. Course offerings include Introduction to Computers, Fundamentals of Building Construction, Small Business Management, Introduction to Early Childhood, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, and

Developmental Reading and Mathematics. Financial aid, including lottery-funded tuition assistance, is available for those who qualify.

The St. Paul's Parish site also offers continuing education courses. Continuing education is training for adults, regardless of education. These courses include Flux Core/Stick Welding, Facility Maintenance Technician, Pre-employment Manufacturing, Professional Small Engine Mechanic Certification, Home Inspector, Introductory Carpentry, and Electrical Trades Training. Workforce Investment

Act funding is available for those who qualify.

Students learn in the computer lab with continuing education online courses in health care, interior design, travel agent certification and more.

For more information, call 843.323.3800 or visit www.tridenttech.edu.

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thought-out and highly-produced. Students are encouraged to be as creative with sound as their imaginations can muster.

Airtime with production assistance is available to anyone on all campuses. Coaching and production advice is offered. Those interested are taught the technical mechanics of radio production so they can work at their own home digital audio workstations. Submissions of innovative uses of audio from the Charleston community and greater area listening audience are welcomed.

Without the constraints of advertisers or ratings, TTC Internet radio station's sound can appeal to the general listener while still having a special focus on TTC's campuses. Radio students' works, including inventive uses of audio, play regularly along with commentary and essays from professors and staff. TTC Internet radio blends school news, study tips, opinions, interviews and information, ranging in subjects as diverse as expected from a technical college that teaches everything from robotic welding and animation to cosmetology and calculus.

Thought-provoking locally-originated programming is interspersed among the best classical, rock, hip-hop, jazz, blues, folk, reggae, country, new age and other exotic genres of music. "The variety of music is an education in itself to young people who've had little exposure to the great music of the past, and to the older generation who needs to keep up with what the current generation is listening to," Warnock adds.

The Internet radio station's main purpose is to offer students in TTC's Radio, Television and Film program an opportunity to use the skills learned from courses in radio and other media in a real life, "hands-on" application.

"Before the Internet radio station," recounts Warnock, "I'd tell my students, 'Let's pretend we're writing a commercial for a radio station.' Now it's no more pretending. We are really being heard, all over the world. I know, because we can track that sort of information."

In developing a format for Tech, she decided the first priority would be her radio students, then Trident Tech, followed by Charleston, then South Carolina, the United States, and finally, the world! People from foreign countries are listening, according to the server's statistics. "It's another way to get the name Trident Technical College out there," Warnock adds. "All of our local, original segments are preceded and followed by the tag, 'Trident Technical College Internet Radio in Charleston, South Carolina'".

Warnock has been an adjunct teacher of radio courses at Tech since 1991. Previously her career was with the Charleston Public Radio station, WSCI-FM. She strives for conciseness by teaching her students that every element in a radio piece must move the story forward. She disdains blathering DJs who just like to hear themselves talk. She prefers to call her on air contributors, 'producers,' instead of DJs. Her students call her "old school", which she takes as a compliment.

Students in the Radio Certificate program create most of the programming and play lists. Faculty is regarded as a vast reservoir of knowledge and experience. "If I haven't contacted you or your division yet, I will", warns Warnock. "There are so many people with stories at Tech. I have a lot of airtime that needs original programming and I have room for anything that's in good taste. It's just a lack of time and people power slowing us down."

Currently, the Trident Tech contributor vignettes, student projects and musical play lists

are rotated on a regular basis, but the programming is still far short of a 24 hour/ 7 days a week schedule of new material. The station is on the air 24/7 but until everyone begins contributing, some programming is repeated. For listeners' convenience, contributors' commentaries will be downloadable as pod casts in the near future.

Paid staff of the radio station consists of 15 hours a week for three people—the director and two assistants. Currently, Radio 2 student Christopher Stone controls the scheduling of programming, recording and editing contributors' work, and communication with the server, Live 365. Warnock adds, "He's also a wonderful writer and actor of radio drama, a skill that is encouraged in my radio classes. We'll be hearing his space drama soon."

Shane Tanner, who is in the first semester radio class, began assisting Warnock and Stone at the beginning of the fall semester. He's a home-schooled high

school student who took a few advanced courses at TTC and caught Warnock's eye. "Shane is good with computers, and showed a special creative spark in another audio class I taught him," Warnock said.

The initial idea for a TTC Internet Radio station came in 2002 from television instructor Glenn Seale, the 'voice' of Trident Technical College who's locally renowned for his radio sports announcing. Warnock was excited about the idea for her students. Broadcast Engineer Jerry Walthall, and Radio, Television and Film Department head, John Wilson, kept the idea alive until monies were allotted for a server and a staff person to manage the station. RTV's new division head, Dean Pat Fox, wholeheartedly supported the plan. Warnock was asked to begin the project in early 2007. Her background in teaching radio, producing audio and managing a public radio station was suited perfectly for creating a format that's especially designed for a diverse college like Trident Tech, while still



being engaging to the general public.

In 2006, Jerry Walthall got the station on the air with music from its server, Live365.com. It wasn't until 2007 that Trident Technical College began broadcasting original programming from its radio studios in the 500 building. Digital Engineer Tony Sheppard developed the first web site, and (title) Eric Chandler designed the logo featuring a set of headphones and the Trident Tech swoosh.

In the beginning, Warnock faced the enormous task of finding suitable programming to fill up a schedule. In September 2007, she began to ask students and faculty to help her create programming.

Distance Learning Producer/Director Jim Haskell offered initial guidance and encouragement. He introduced her to Dr. Lester Pittman, who was then dean of the History, Humanities and Political Science department. He became the first contributor of expert commentary in a series called History Matters about what's going on in the Mideast today and how it got that way, based on what he's personally experienced in his travels and studies.

"By heartily agreeing to help, Dr. Pittman gave us enough clout to ask others, such as English professor, Dr. Richard Hartnett, who turned out to be our most faithful volunteer, to contribute. In his segment, Sound and Sense, he'll read a poem, by Bob Dylan, for example, and then explain and analyze it. Then Frank Morea of Counseling and Career Development, and manager of the Band, Fire Apes, came on board with a series of practical Study Tips. He also agreed to host a program featuring local musicians and bands.

And so it went, slowly, as Warnock called various campus folks and explained what she was trying to do for the campus community. Not all the people she tried

to contact called her back.

"So I called on old friends from my public radio days. Years ago, I gave Osei Terry Chandler a job at WSCI, which led to his producing the longest running reggae program in the southeast. He gladly came on board from the Palmer campus with spots on the Educational Opportunity Center, where he is director. Worth Waring agreed to do a music program, similar to his long running public radio show, Jazz 'n Jive, but with different genres of music. Others in the Charleston community, such as Harriet McDougal, former President of the Poetry Society of South Carolina and editor/widow of fantasy writer, Robert Jordan, allowed us to air her readings of her original poetry.

To date, four semesters worth of radio students' work and almost 50 faculty and staff members have contributed their views and wisdom. Most are currently being heard regularly over the airwaves. "That's just a drop in the bucket of what we could be doing, given more time and resources. So far I've just been working on word of mouth for finding interesting contributors, and I haven't made it halfway through that list yet," said Warnock.

"I've felt I've been part of a great, big, wonderful underground secret that we've been working on for six years," Warnock confided. "We couldn't really announce the station until we had some programming. Now we have some, and it's uncommonly good. It's better than a respectable beginning. But for Trident Tech's Internet radio to soar, everyone must come on board. It could be interactive media at its best."

The station reaches out into the community when it can. It covered the 2008 Spoleto Festival USA, affording students and faculty an international arts reporting experience. Interviews



with performers are currently airing. "The Clemente Project's production of Dracula Forbidden Fruit is scheduled to air on Halloween. Lectures and speeches from visiting guests are recorded for broadcast when possible.

"We're just slowly working our way through the campuses for ideas. I predict when the Internet radio becomes more accessible to the public, say, in three years or less, Trident Tech radio will be on top of the curve. There's already a mobile device one can buy that can be carried around like an Ipod that airs Internet radio."

Warnock dreams big when it comes to future plans for the station. She'd like to see the radio link on everything TTC

publishes, including the Home page of Trident Tech's Website.t She envisions a new use of the campus Clock Tower as a place on campus where students can pause to listen through outdoor speakers to what is airing on the station. She heard from students that it was too quiet in the new bookstore; another potential site for continual airplay. She'd like to see every department and division participate on and listen to the station, realizing its potential as another way to help serve students. Warnock would especially like for the student body to embrace the station as their station, use it as their voice, and regard it as an engaging tool to help them better understand campus life, thus enriching their experience at Trident Technical College.●

ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT: MS. PATRICIA NEWMAN

Editor's note: Student organization advisors at TTC provide guidance and act as liaisons with the college. They are the roots that anchor their groups through the ever-changing tide of members that come and go with each semester. Our focus this month is on Ms. Patricia Newman, an advisor to the prestigious, national foreign language honor society, Alpha Mu Gamma and Roots and Shoots, a group dedicated to supporting animal, human interest and environmental causes.



Roots and Shoots Advisor Patti Newman (right) with President Liz Remus (center) and Secretary Cosima Frenke (left). photo by David Spears.

by John Newman

Patti Newman, French instructor at TTC, is passionate about the work of the student service organization of which she is the principal advisor--Roots and Shoots. No, it's not a gardening club, or even an environmentalist group, as some have said, though environmental projects are part of the club's mission. The brainchild of famous scientist and humanitarian Dr. Jane Goodall, this organization has more than 8,000 groups in 100 countries, working, as Dr. Goodall states, "to improve our world through service learning projects that promote care and concern for animals, the environment, and human community".

Ms. Newman started the TTC chapter about six years ago, after learning about it while surfing the Internet. Why does a full-time instructor devote so much time being an unpaid advisor to not just one, but two student clubs? For Ms. Newman is also an advisor to Alpha Mu Gamma, a national honor society for foreign languages.

"I love working with students outside the classroom," says Ms. Newman. "I started Alpha Mu Gamma here because I felt that our foreign language students deserved to be recognized for their achievement. What we didn't realize at the time was how difficult it is for students

to qualify for admission to Alpha Mu Gamma. Each year, fewer than twenty students actually qualify. So they are truly an elite group, and should be very proud of themselves."

As for Roots & Shoots, Ms. Newman says, "This is my real passion. Roots & Shoots allows me to take action to improve the world around me in a tangible way. It's very rewarding to offer opportunities to students to get involved in hands-on service projects, and to see how passionate the students themselves become, knowing that they are making a real difference, and that they are a part of something much bigger than themselves."

So, what has this club done? The list of accomplishments is long: They have built an otter pen and other facilities at Keepers of the Wild, a wildlife rescue shelter; helped with Special Olympics bowling; celebrated Peace Day with Girl Scouts; worked with Habitat for Humanity; collected and sorted items for the local Food Bank; built fences to protect sand dunes; done litter clean-up in North Charleston and at the annual Beach Sweep on area beaches; adopted a group of endangered mountain gorillas; raised money for orphaned chimpanzees; repaired buildings at Camp Lowcountry Girl Scout facility...and perhaps changed a few lives.

Ms. Newman avows that, "I know that Roots & Shoots has inspired our members, and even totally changed the lives of others." This sentiment is confirmed by the club's president, Brittney Tallent, who had the life-changing opportunity last year of joining a small group of American R&S students for a trip to China, where they worked on projects with Chinese R&S members. Because of the contacts made by Ms. Tallent, the TTC group was able to help fund the work of "Tiger Tony," a Chinese activist working to save endangered Asian tigers in his country.

Last October, the TTC members were able to meet the Great Woman herself, Dr. Goodall, at a small conference at the Biltmore Estate in

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE: COMMAND CENTRAL



Ann Welty (left) and Lucille Logan (right) at Welcome Students event. photo by David Spears.

by David Spears

A major role of the Student Activities Office is to provide support to student organizations, and to make available to students opportunities for personal growth and enrichment. Supported in their endeavors by a dedicated and friendly staff comprised of work-study students, the dynamic and always

helpful team of Ann Welty and Lucille Logan lead this department within the Division of Student Services. For many students their only direct contact with the Student Activities Office (SA) will be a visit to get their student ID card. If this is the case, then they might be miss-

ing opportunities for involvement that will enrich their scholastic and personal lives. Located in room 130, at the end of an obscure corridor in the 410 building, this office is a vital component in promoting student development at TTC.

While not every student has the time or inclination to become involved in the many activities available to students at TTC, for those who do, the efforts of SA provide opportunity and support. The name of the office belies the value of their hard work in supporting the efforts of student organizations.

Among the myriad responsibilities of this office, their duties include: Arranging for TTC students to attend regional conferences where they interact with students from other colleges and participate in discussions about issues affecting students such as campus safety. Sponsor a free course for development of leadership skills and fun functions such as the Big Band Concert, the Spring Carnival and the Welcome Students events, among others.

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ROOTS AND SHOOTS: A VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

Opportunities for participation abound with this student group



By David Spears

I joined R&S at the recommendation of a friend who told me that this group could use my talents. I had been an active member of another group for about three years and during that time, the opportunities for involvement in projects had declined in part due to my schedule and in part because of the evolution of the group itself. My friend was right; there have been many opportunities to participate and utilize my talents since I joined.



Top Picture: Roots and Shoots Team at Peaqce Day 2008 - Huntington Beach State Park. photo courtesy of Liz Remus.

Bottom Picture: Patti Newman (right) and David Spears (left) pose beside rescue van at keepers of the wild. photo courtesy of David Spears.

Many of the projects are outdoor activities. Some have an environmental purpose. Something as simple and seemingly unrewarding as collecting trash can be a very spiritually satisfying experience. On the last Keep America Beautiful campaign that I worked on, we were assigned to pick up trash around TTC's main campus where we teamed up with several members of Phi Theta Kappa and the International Club student organizations. It was a gorgeous spring day when we donned our orange safety vests, received our allotment of trash bags, paired up, and headed to our assigned trash routes.

I was fortunate to be assigned to the stretch of campus alongside Rivers Ave. where there was a plethora of cigarette butts and other debris. I wished for a shop vacuum. There were thousands of them; I found piles of them clustered like ants at a picnic. Notwithstanding the thoughts I harbored about people who throw trash out of their cars onto the roadside, the simplicity of the effort combined with the beauty of the day generated a state of Zen-like bliss. Good exercise, if you approach it as such. Stretch and bend, twist and rotate, work that lower back. A word of warning: do not reach into a mound of fire ants after a stray butt. Let them keep it. It may be trash to us, but to them it may be a work of art or an important part of the structure of their mound. Ouch.

More rewarding than the removal of garbage from the landscape was the conversation I enjoyed with my fellow team member. As I made my way around the campus area, I noticed that the same dynamic was evident among the other volunteers. Who would believe that picking up trash could be so enjoyable? Aside from the camaraderie, there was the added benefit in seeing a cleaner campus as a reward for our efforts.

We had a bake sale in which I participated. I tried out a new cookie recipe for this event. I made the cookies on the evening prior to the sale and I did not have enough baking pans for the volume of cookies I was making. I thought I had allowed sufficient time for the cookies to cool before stacking them into the foil containers for transport to the sale. Sadly, the next morning I found that the cookies had melded into piles resembling molten lava. In a way, this was very appropriate, as the name of the cookie is Russian Rocks. I brought them to the bake sale where they were judged to be very delicious and of unique design. For the next bake sale, I acquired more pans and began baking my cookies a few days in advance. In addition to the opportunity to test a new recipe, and I am always trying new recipes, I was able to take part in a project that raised funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Working on the animal pens at the Keepers of the Wild compound in St George, was especially rewarding. Serving the rehabilitation needs of a variety of small animals, this wildlife rescue center has nurseries, cages and pens designed to support the animals in their care until returned to the wild. One of our projects there was the construction of a pen designed to house otters for a short-term stay. We fabricated the pen on a concrete apron that had drainage and it contained several sturdy plastic pools for the otters to play in. Organizations such as these rely heavily on the support of volunteers to maintain the level of services that they provide. As with most projects, there was a feeling of satisfaction from participation and the camaraderie of others working towards a common goal.

Collectively, the efforts of student groups at TTC provide thousands of hours of volunteer participation throughout our community. Part of the fulfillment that comes from involvement in student organizations is the feeling that comes from reaching outside of self, through the giving of personal resources to provide a benefit to other living beings in need.



Roots and Shoots President Lis Remus at Student Organization Fair. photo by David Spears.