April 3, 2008 marked a milestone in Cape Fear Community College’s history—fifty years of world-class workforce training, education and service in the community. To honor numerous supporters who have contributed to the success of the College, President Eric McKeithan hosted a riverfront gala showcasing the talents of CFCC students in the culinary arts program and in the jazz band. Guests included board members, legislators, former administrators, generous donors and other friends of the College.

Juan Gonzalez worked in the oil industry in Venezuela until 1982, when he won a national scholarship from the government to study instrumentation technology in the U.S. He chose to attend CFCC. After graduating in 1985, he returned to his native country to pursue a B.S. in electrical engineering. He currently works as an instrumentation reliability engineer at a major oil upgrader complex in Eastern Venezuela.

Juan says that what he most appreciated about his Cape Fear experience was the quality of the education and the kindness of the students and faculty. He discovered the new Alumni Association because he often tours our website to recall memories from his time at CFCC. He advises future alums to “enjoy your time at this prestigious school and get ready to face life with an excellent tool: a degree from CFCC.”
Generous Community Partners Support CFCC Students

On January 17, Sandy Cyphers (middle) and Donna Worrell (right) of Riverfest of Wilmington presented a gift of $10,000 to Foundation Board Chair Zander Guy (left), to provide scholarship funding for deserving CFCC students who plan careers in the marine sciences.

On February 25, Bob McCall, Regional Vice President of Progress Energy (right), presented President Eric McKeithan (left) with $15,000 to provide full scholarships to new or current CFCC students pursuing degrees in Electronics Engineering Technology and Electrical Technology.

On March 8, a ceremony was held to remember and honor the life of Clint B. Robertson, a former Cape Fear Community College student, and to celebrate the establishment of an endowed scholarship in Robertson’s name for students in the college transfer program.

Robertson was killed two years prior when a vehicle pulled out in front of his motorcycle. He was driving home from the Scotts Hill Baptist church following a performance by the Detour Praise Band in which he played keyboards.

In order to keep Clint’s memory alive, Warren Kennedy, City of Wilmington police sergeant and father of one of Robertson’s close friends, has dedicated the last two years hosting fundraisers to establish the scholarship in Robertson’s name. Fundraisers have included a memorial motorcycle ride, a sports trading card and comic show, and a Trot Nixon autograph session.

Endowed scholarships are permanent, named funds. The funds are invested and a portion of the income generated each year is used to fund scholarship awards. The recommended amount needed to initiate an endowed fund is $10,000 - 15,000. Donors may add to these funds at any time, and have up to three years to establish their scholarship. Endowed scholarships are a wonderful way to establish a legacy at the college, and a meaningful way to honor or memorialize a family member or friend.

Robertson Scholarship Honors
Former CFCC Student

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Left to right: CFCC President Eric McKeithan, Heather Robertson (Clint B. Robertson’s sister), Beverly Meshaw (Clint’s mother), Eddie Meshaw and Warren Kennedy.

On February 19, Wilmington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Chair Macy McRae (second from right) on February 19. With this $15,000 gift, the WHA established an endowed scholarship to assist CFCC student residents of WHA or Section 8 housing.

CFCC President Dr. Eric McKeithan, CFCC Foundation Vice Chair Wilma Daniels (left) and Margaret Robison, Foundation Executive Director (right) accept a check from Wilmington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Chair Macy McRae (second from right) on February 19. With this $15,000 gift, the WHA established an endowed scholarship to assist CFCC student residents of WHA or Section 8 housing.

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Foundation Hosts “Downtown Partners” Luncheon

On February 13, the Foundation was pleased to host individuals from over 40 downtown businesses, representing diverse professional fields and areas of industry. The special luncheon was hosted at Our Place, the College’s hotel-restaurant management and culinary arts student dining room. The purpose of the event was to introduce local professionals to some of the many ways that CFCC impacts the Wilmington community and for the Foundation to learn how to best collaborate with local business and industry. CFCC President Eric McKeithan spoke briefly to attendees about the latest initiatives of the College and Foundation Board Chair Zander Guy (pictured above) introduced the student staff who prepared and served the meal. Many participants expressed interest in specific aspects of the college such as learning more about various academic programs, connecting with students as potential employees or establishing scholarships.

Support Our Students

Give the Gift of Education. Gifts to the CFCC Foundation are used to support our students and further the work of the college and are deeply appreciated. Over 200 scholarships are awarded each semester to deserving students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to improve their lives. A gift of $1,000 will provide most CFCC students with tuition, fees and books for one semester.

To help meet the needs of the fastest-growing community college in North Carolina,

☐ I enclose $___________

☐ I pledge $________ payable by _______________________

☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX Contact 362-7207 for credit card gifts.

☐ I would like to make this gift in honor/memory (circle one) of: _____________________________

☐ Please notify _____________________________ of this gift.

☐ Please send information about planned giving opportunities.

Please make your check payable to Cape Fear Community College Foundation, Inc., 411 North Front Street, Wilmington, NC 28401. Gifts to the CFCC Foundation are tax deductible.

Contact 362-7207 for credit card gifts. For more information, please call the Foundation at 362-7207 or visit www.cfcc.edu/foundation.

Lauren Clarke, Merit Scholar

Lauren Clarke, a 2007-08 CFCC Merit Scholar, graduated from Topsail High School with an impressive 3.9 GPA. Now as Lauren nears the end of her freshman year at CFCC, she often returns to volunteer at Topsail High School, speaking with prospective students about CFCC.

Lauren says that the Merit Scholarship has helped her tremendously. Because she is taking a full course load and tending to her mother who is recovering from surgery, Lauren doesn’t have time to work. “It is a blessing,” Lauren says, and expresses her greatest thanks to the CFCC Foundation and all its donors. Lauren also received the M.I.K.E. Scholarship, established by Congressman Mike McIntyre for students who demonstrate “moral force of character, leadership, superior academic performance, and exemplary citizenship.”

In her spare time, Lauren enjoys singing, theater, sailing, and anything else to do with the water.

CFCC awards merit scholarships annually to deserving seniors from New Hanover and Pender Counties.
Mark your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

CFCC May Commencement: Friday, May 9
College Transfer ceremony at 4:30 pm; Vocational/Technical ceremony at 7:00 pm
Schwartz Center, CFCC Downtown Campus

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CFCC Gift of Education Fund-Raising Luncheon: Thursday, May 22
11:30 - 1 pm, Schwartz Center, CFCC Downtown Campus
Reserve your seat today by calling 910-362-7207

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CFCC Foundation Donor Appreciation Event: Thursday, June 26
6 - 8 pm, MKeithan Center, CFCC North Campus
Rock around the clock at a special 1950’s theme party recognizing our wonderful donors!

411 North Front Street
Wilmington, NC 28401-3933

If you would prefer to receive this publication by email, please call 910.362.7207 or email dward@cfcc.edu.