



## Faculty Highlights . . .

### Carpentry Instructor Receives Rick Perkins Award



*William Pickett, Carpentry Instructor and Griffin Tech 2007 Rick Perkins winner.*

William Pickett, Program Coordinator and instructor in the Carpentry Program at Griffin Technical College, recently received the **2007 Rick Perkins Award of Excellence in Technical Education**. The Rick Perkins Award is the equivalent to being named Teacher of the Year at Griffin Tech.

Pickett stated, "I am extremely honored to be named the Rick Perkins winner, although I share this honor with all of the dedicated instructors at the college."

Pickett was nominated for the Rick Perkins Award by his fellow instructors at Griffin Tech.

Pickett has been teaching at GTC since 1999 after owning a construction business.

He has also worked as a supervisor at Dundee Mills.

He received his Bachelor of Applied Science degree from Mercer University and has studied at Southern Polytechnic State University and Auburn University.

Pickett is an ordained minister. He has been married to his wife, Robin, for 23 years, and has four children.



## Meet An Alum . . .

GTC graduate, Edva Smith, has come a long way in her education. She was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and married at the age of 16. At 18 she was pregnant with her first child when her husband was brutally murdered. A missionary church helped move Edva and her child to the United States. She knew very little English.

Edva enrolled in Griffin Tech's adult literacy program and began working on her GED and learning English. She wanted to pursue an education in criminal investigation.

At this point, Edva Smith began to accomplish great things. She was nominated for the EAGLE award while in adult literacy. She received the President's Award of Excellence in 2003 and was one of four finalists for the Griffin Tech Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) in 2005. She completed her associate's degree in criminal justice at Griffin Tech in June of 2005 and graduated from the police academy that August. Edva went on to receive a Bachelor of Applied Science degree from Mercer University in 2007. She has been employed as a criminal investigator for the DeKalb County Solicitor-General's Office for almost two years.

Edva Smith credits Griffin Technical College with giving her an opportunity to succeed at a point in her life when she needed a positive change.



*Edva Smith  
Criminal Justice, '05*

"Through Griffin Tech's unified system of technical education, I learned English. I completed my GED, and I attained a diploma and a degree in Criminal Justice. GTC showed me a better future. GTC showed me a new direction for my life. And, above all, I learned to never relinquish, no matter what." ###

*"GTC showed me a better future. GTC showed me a new direction for my life."*

## GTC Foundation Hosts...

### *Red Carpet Gala 2007*

The Griffin Technical College Foundation's second annual Red Carpet Gala, held on August 25, 2007, at the College, received well over 300 guests who enjoyed an evening of fine dining, music, and fundraising. The guests eagerly demonstrated support for Griffin Technical College through their lively participation in a reverse raffle, and by generously bidding during both a silent and a live auction.

Jack Smith, GTC Foundation Trustee and current

chairman of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, enlivened the crowd as the event's emcee. Fellow Foundation Trustee Randy Howell and The Party Time Band provided the evening's entertainment, playing a variety of musical selections which encouraged the guests to dance.

Those in attendance, comprised of representatives from twenty-two area businesses as corporate sponsors and dozens of other faithful friends of the

College, had an opportunity to bid on approximately two hundred silent and live auction items and in-kind services which were donated from individuals and businesses. Silent auction items ranged from jewelry, vacation trips, handmade pieces, to home décor items, artwork, computers, fine dining coupons, and dozens of other items and services. A Snapper riding lawnmower, three pieces of original artwork, a Winchester shotgun, a handmade chess set, and an eight-day African Safari trip generated much excitement during the live auction.



*GTC Foundation Trustee Todd Feltman, Melanie Feltman, Heather Pettis, Chris Pettis*

The Griffin Technical College Foundation expressed its great appreciation when chair Otis Blake, Jr., stated, "Tonight is a grand night for Griffin Technical College. The campus has never looked so elegant, and the eager participation of our guests truly overwhelms us. We could not have asked for a more impressive turn-out. The College deserves the very best we can offer in our support, and this community has surely risen to the occasion with their attendance and their donations. We are very thankful for their generosity."



*The Party Time Band provided great entertainment at this year's Red Carpet Gala.*

### *Red Carpet Gala . . .* **. . . Fundraising success!**

**Proceeds from the Gala will go toward the campus expansion efforts at Griffin Technical College.**

*Dancing the night away*





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*Leave a legacy of education. Support the Griffin Technical College Foundation.*

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## Career Tips . . . Keeping that job once you get it!

**Congratulations!** You completed your degree and got a great job. Are you home free? Not quite. Now you need to *keep* that job.

When managers hire employees, they take a big risk. Sure, *you* know you are a qualified and conscientious employee, but they don't know for sure until they see you in action.

Take a moment to think like a manager and read through this list of a manager's biggest fears about new hires:

- That, if hired, you'll need too much time to get your feet on the ground, become productive, and pull your own weight.

- That you won't put in an honest day's work.
- That you're sloppy and you'll constantly need someone to check your work.
- That you'll be lazy, give only the minimum effort, and have to be told when to do everything.
- That you'll frequently call in sick, arrive late, leave early, refuse overtime, and constantly ask for raises.
- That you're a quitter and you'll walk out when they need you most.
- That you're a chronic complainer or a braggart.
- That you would let others pay for your mistakes, blunders, sloppy work, or forgetfulness.
- That you're arrogant, conceited, rude, pushy, antagonistic, or moody.
- That you'd show no pride in your work, appearance, or behavior.
- That you'd steal, lie, or cheat.
- That you'd disgrace the company, the department, the manager, or your fellow workers.

The bottom line is that we can never take our jobs for granted. Managers know that a disgruntled or incompetent employee can cause a well-oiled business machine to break down. Re-hiring and training someone new is a costly solution for managers.

We can quickly alleviate these fears from the people who hire us by performing our jobs to the best of our ability everyday. Good work ethics never go out of style. And, showing your manager that he or she can count on you day-in and day-out demonstrates that you, for one, were worth the risk!



# ALUMNI NEWS

*Alumni Staying Connected to Griffin Technical College*

## GRIFFIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE proudly announces formation of GTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

### Advisory Board Launches New Alumni Association

WELCOME to the Griffin Technical College Alumni Association! The Association was officially launched in April with the formation of the Alumni Advisory Board (AAB).

The eight-member Board met to develop goals and objectives to help graduates stay connected to their GTC friends and former classmates, learn what is new and changing at Griffin Tech, and stay in touch with favorite instructors.

The first order of business was to build awareness of the Alumni Association by offering the 2007 graduates free membership for one year! Graduates were also given a new GTC Alumni Association lapel pin as they stepped off the stage after receiving their diploma at graduation.



*GTC Alumni Advisory Board members (front) Trish Ashmore, Cynthia Elrod; (back, l to r) Susan Mullis, Lois Hancock, Milinda Flanders, Ron Bradford; Absent: Sammie Yevick, Darlene Barge*

The AAB will meet again in November to launch this newsletter and to continue building membership. Plans are underway to extend services and plan activities to help graduates continue to receive support and friendship from the Griffin Technical College family.

Membership to the GTC Alumni Association is currently free and open to anyone who has attended Griffin Tech!



*GTC Alumni Lapel Pin*

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*Students receive Alumni lapel pins at Graduation Ceremony.*

**JOIN the Griffin Technical College Alumni Association** today and receive FREE Membership for the first year!

To JOIN, go to [www.griffintech.edu](http://www.griffintech.edu) and select the **Alumni Association** link.

\*Download the Enrollment Form and mail it in.

\*OR, use the new Online Form and submit it electronically.

