

Board of Trustees

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Mission

The mission of the SGTC Foundation Board of Trustees is to support the mission of the college; to promote the college within the designated counties in the service area and the state at large; to serve as advisors in the advancement of the college; and to plan and implement resource development activities.

Foundation hosts Donor Appreciation Dinner

The South Georgia Technical College (SGTC) Foundation hosted its Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner March 1, in the John M. Pope Industrial Technology Center. The festivities included a reception, dinner, awards ceremony, and entertainment provided by the Albany Symphony Orchestra.

SGTC President Sparky Reeves welcomed guests and expressed his appreciation to contributors for their support to SGTC and the students the College serves. Mike English, president of the Skills USA-VICA club and a Criminal Justice student, provided the invocation.

Dinner followed with a special menu planned and prepared by the Culinary Arts students under the direction of David Finley, Culinary Arts Instructor. Roy Parker, III, past chairman of the Foundation, highlighted the Foundation's 2004 accomplishments and financial impact of the Foundation on the College over the past year.

"During this past year alone, the Foundation provided SGTC with services valued at over \$373,000," he said.

Projects funded during the year include, but are not limited to: raising over \$200,000 for TechForce 2004, awarding 22 scholarships, issuing two Cooper Lighting Co-op Machine Tool Scholarships, providing four Caterpillar scholarships, purchasing state-of-the-art equipment for Drafting, Machine Tool,

Welding and Joining, and the Crisp County Center's Business Office Technology programs, assisted eight Crisp County Center students in purchasing textbooks, and assisted with expenses to send two students to the state Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education (EAGLE) competition.

Michael A. Cheokas, Foundation chairman and State Representative, and Carla Turner, director of Resource Development, presided over the awards ceremony presenting awards to individuals and companies who made substantial contributions to the Foundation during 2004. Caterpillar Foundation, Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund, Crisp County Power Commission, Crisp Regional Hospital, and Lockheed Martin, were presented Silver Club awards and Roy Lee and Susan Smith were presented the Bronze Club awards.

Cheokas also recognized Roy Parker for his outstanding leadership as Chairman for 2003 and 2004 and John Gill as a newly elected Emeritus



Left to right: Mike Cheokas, Chairman of the SGTC Foundation; Roy Parker, III, Past Chairman; Sparky Reeves, SGTC President; and Jean Myers Ivis and Mrs. and Mr. Frank Myers, III

trustee. Special gratitude was also given to Robert Evans, Art Hall, Anna Skrobecki and Blake Sullivan who recently retired as trustees.

Also during the awards ceremony, President Reeves honored the Myers family with a commemoration of J. Frank Myers and presented Frank Myers, III and Jean Myers Ivis with tokens of appreciation for their father's support and commitment to SGTC.

"Frank was an emeritus trustee and vital contributor to the Foundation. His establishment of the Hyliard Bryant Williams and Servetus Allen Williams Scholarship will continue to impact our students lives," said Reeves. "At a critical point in our history when our school faced being closed, Frank and other community leaders met with state officials, which led to our continuation. We are forever thankful for his support of South Georgia Tech."

Foundation Trustees select new leadership

During the January trustee meeting, new leadership for the next two years was determined by unanimous vote.

New officers include Mike Cheokas, chair; Ben Dupree, III, vice chair; and Rick Whaley, treasurer. Other trustees that will join these individuals on the Executive Committee include John Argo, Jr., chair of the Development Committee, Mike Donnelly, chair of the Business and Industry Committee and Roy Parker, III, immediate past chair.

During the next two years, the Business and Industry Committee will be focused on creating an awareness of services offered at South Georgia Tech among business and industry in the College's six county service area, as well as what is needed to provide a qualified workforce. Trustees serving with Donnelly on this committee include Jon

Coogle and Sonny Shealy of Macon County, Joe Hooks and Judge George Peagler of Sumter County and Monica Simmons and Ray Rambo of Crisp County.

Through the service of the Development Committee members, future TechForce initiatives and other friend raising and fundraising activities will be planned and administered. Along with Argo, these members include Sharad Patel, Roy Parker, III, Mike Cheokas and Randy Jones of Sumter County; Don Tucker and Steve Bridges of Crisp County and Joy Nelson of Macon County.

With unified committee work and a common mission, the Board of Trustees offer a successful future helping SGTC students change their lives and improve their quality of life.

New Trustees Appointed to SGTC Foundation

The Board of Trustees for the South Georgia Technical College (SGTC) Foundation appointed three new members at their quarterly meeting held in January. New trustees include Steve Bridges of Cordele, Jon L. Coogle of Oglethorpe, and Sharad Patel of Americus.

As a trustee, they will serve as ambassadors for the College and help with raising friends and resources for advancement opportunities.

Bridges is Senior Vice President with Planters First Bank in Cordele. He is a 1971 graduate of Crisp County High School, a 1989 graduate of the Georgia Banking School.



Bridges

Actively involved in the community, he is a member of First United Methodist Church of Cordele, member of the Cordele Kiwanis Club, Commissioner for Cordele Housing Authority and board member for several organizations.

Coogle is an attorney in private practice in Oglethorpe since 1982. In 1976 he received his A.B. Degree from University of Georgia, cum laude and Juris Doctorate from Walter F. George School of Law in 1980. He has served as Municipal Court Judge for Oglethorpe and County Attorney for Macon and Schley counties. He is currently the city attorney for



Coogle

Oglethorpe and Montezuma. Coogle is a member of the Mt. Zion-St. Luke Lutheran Church, member of the Oglethorpe Lions Club, and a member of the Oglethorpe Better Home Town.

Patel is the current owner of Ramada Inn and the Historic Windsor Hotel in Americus. He graduated from high school in India in 1974 and the S.P. University in 1975. He is a member of the Americus Sumter Tourism Board, the Historic Trust, Friends of the Rylander, and served on the 2004 Governor's New Georgia Tourism Task Force.



Patel

Su Ann Bird named to lead Foundation

Sparky Reeves, president of South Georgia Technical College, has announced that Su Ann Bird has been named Director of Resource Development and Marketing at South Georgia Technical College, and will also assume responsibilities as Executive Director of the SGTC Foundation.

Bird holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism with an emphasis in public relations and business from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. She has over 25 years of marketing and public relations experience and has been serving as President and CEO of Bird and Associates, a marketing communications firm, in Americus.

"We are very pleased to have Su Ann Bird join our staff," said Reeves. "We believe that she will be an asset to the college and to the foundation. She has developed strong and valuable relationships with both the citizens and community leaders in this area."

In her new position, Bird will be responsible for planning, organizing, and controlling the fundraising and marketing activities of the college as well as overseeing the daily activities of the Foundation such as organizing and managing Board of Trustee meetings, activities, committees, and annual drives.

Su Ann Bird is married to Mike Bird and they are the parents of Kelly and Chris Bird of Americus.



Foundation scholarships awarded

Fall 2004

Fisher Crum Book Scholarship

DeQuirra Cutts
Christie Cape
William Brake
Charles Peacock
Katrina Watson
Jessie Tipton
Derrick Reese
Patsy Johnson

Civitan Nursing Scholarship

Angie McIlrath
Kim Lloyd

Supervised Probation Criminal Justice Scholarship

Estell Lusane

J. Frank Myers

Michael Wright
Kristy Collins
Erika Taylor

Elizabeth Duke Redmond Memorial Scholarship

Cathy Summers

Cooper Lighting Co-op Scholarship

Jeffrey Eshmann

Winter 2005

Fisher Crum Book Scholarship

Wanda Etheridge
Holly Ellison
Angela Brown
Joy McClendon
Leigh Ann Jones

Civitan Nursing Scholarship

Trizah Duncan
Yolanda Ball

Magnolia District & Sumter County Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship

Tracy Hammond
Reba Platt

Crisp County High School Class of '65 Scholarship

Michael Patrick

Larry & Jane Comer Scholarship

William Kelly

Roy Lee & Susan Smith Scholarship

Kyle Turner
Christie Brinson
Bridget Swain
Kathleen Roberts

TechForce raises over \$200,000

Thanks to the Trustees and volunteers that made TechForce 2004 a huge success! With funds raised, state-of-the-art equipment will be used to purchase:

- Trainers to begin commercial refrigeration courses for **Air Conditioning Technology**.
- Trainers for fuel and emission, engine and transmission instruction, and Digital Ohm Volt Meters for the **Automotive Technology** program.
- Digital welders and a hydraulic press break for **Welding and Joining Technology**.
- To set up a "Classroom for the Future" for **Computer Information Systems** at the Crisp County Center.

Thank You!

to all friends, volunteers, donors and contributors for helping us fulfill our mission!