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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.

Annual Foundation Dinner Highlights Donors

The South Georgia Technical College (SGTC) Foundation hosted its Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner utilizing the theme, "You make the Magic," on March 14th, in the John M. Pope Industrial Technology Center. The festivities included a reception, dinner and awards ceremony recognizing donors for 2005.

Sparky Reeves, SGTC President, welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation to contributors for their support. Christopher Weaver, SGTC 2006 GOAL Winner and Avionics student, provided the invocation.

Dinner followed with a special menu planned and prepared by Culinary Arts students under the direction of David Finley, Culinary Arts Instructor. Ben Dupree, vice-chairman of the Foundation, highlighted the 2005 Foundation accomplishments.

"During this past year alone, the Foundation provided SGTC with services valued at approximately \$400,000," said Dupree.

Projects funded during the year include but are not limited to: raising approximately \$225,000 for TechForce 2005 and awarding 50 foundation scholarships. The Foundation also purchased state-of-the-art equipment for Aviation Maintenance, Business Office Technology, Electronics, Practical Nursing, and Industrial Electrical Technology, hosted the Annual Griffin B. Bell Convocation, and purchased real estate on the corner of Highway 49 and South Georgia Tech Parkway for a new directional sign for the college.

President Reeves and Su Ann Bird, director of Resource Development and Marketing, presided over the awards ceremony. Individuals and businesses who made substantial contributions to the Foundation during 2005 were recognized.



(L to R) Liza and Roy Parker, and Jean and Wes Wheeler accepted framed certificates from SGTC President Sparky Reeves recognizing the scholarship endowment provided by the Wheeler's in honor of Jean's parents, the Parker's.

Caterpillar Foundation, Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund, Crisp County Power Commission, Crisp Regional Hospital, and Lockheed Martin Assembly Services, received the Silver Club award; Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. was recognized for the Bronze Club level, and Andrea and Russell Thomas, Jr. and Wes and Jean Wheeler were highlighted for the Scholar's Club.

Twenty individuals, businesses, and organizations were awarded the President's Club recognition for their annual giving. These donors included: Aramark, Caterpillar Foundation, Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund, Inc., Cooper Industries Foundation, Crisp County Board of Commissioners, Crisp County Power Commission, Crisp Regional Hospital, Inc., Development Authority of Crisp County, Flint Energies Foundation, Georgia Power, Ruth Jones, Lockheed Martin Assembly Service, Norbord, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lee Smith, Sumter Electric Membership Corporation, Synovus Financial, Andrea and Russell Thomas, Tyson Foods, and Mr. and Mrs. Wes Wheeler.

In addition, three new endowed scholarships were initiated in 2005. Reeves presented Andrea and Russell Thomas, Wes and

Jean Wheeler, and Ruth Jones with framed certificates in recognition of the new scholarships.

Reeves also recognized Don Tucker, a charter member of the Foundation Board of Trustees, for his distinguished service to the Foundation. Tucker has helped the Foundation raise approximately \$450,000 in Crisp County.

Another outstanding individual, R.E. Brake of Yancey Brothers in Albany, was singled out for his service to South Georgia Tech. Brake was one of the instrumental forces in bringing the Caterpillar Think BIG program to Georgia and it has been said that he was the determining factor for the group of Caterpillar dealers choosing South Georgia Technical College.

In addition to Brake, eleven other Caterpillar dealers were recognized for their support of the Diesel Equipment Technology and the Caterpillar Think Big program at SGTC. The dealers represented included: Thompson Tractor of Birmingham, AL; Yancey Brothers in Austell and Albany, GA; Ring Power in St. Augustine, FL; Kelly Tractor in Miami, FL; Thompson Machinery in Lavergne, TN; and Puckett Machinery in Jackson, MS.

For the evening's entertainment, pianist Tom Wheeler of Americus performed.

Betty Pope Endows Construction Scholarship at SGTC

Americus' Betty Pope has established a new scholarship fund at South Georgia Technical College in memory and in honor of her late husband, John M. Pope.

The Pope Construction Scholarship Fund was endowed with a gift of \$50,000 to the SGTC Foundation by Pope recently. SGTC President Sparky Reeves accepted the donation.

The Pope Construction Scholarship fund will provide annual \$500 scholarships to students participating in the construction trades programs at SGTC.

"We are very appreciative of Betty Pope and her willingness to partner with South Georgia Tech," said Reeves. "The Pope's have been special friends to South Georgia Tech and this is just one more example of how their generous gifts have impacted education here and in our community."

Pope's late husband, John, dedicated his life to the construction business and loved to help others to become master craftsmen.

"There is a need for trained construction professionals and craftsmen in our area and I can think of no better way to honor John's memory than by helping young people who are interested in the construction business," said Pope.

Students enrolled in Industrial Electrical or Drafting classes are eligible for the scholarship.

Students enrolled at SGTC for at least one quarter in any construction field area will be eligible to apply for the scholarship. Students must fill out a short application



Su Ann Bird (left) accepts the donation as SGTC President Sparky Reeves presents Pope with a framed certificate in recognition of her endowment.

and be recommended by their instructors. Awards will be based on achievements, dedication and interest in pursuing a career in the construction field as well as attendance, work ethics, and financial circumstances.

Don Tucker Recognized by South Georgia Tech Foundation

Don Tucker, long-time resident of Crisp County and charter trustee for the SGTC Foundation, received the Distinguished Excellence Award for Outstanding service from the SGTC Foundation at the annual Donor Appreciation Banquet held recently.

Tucker received this award not only because of his dedication to his community, but also to the mission of technical education. He has personally helped to raise over \$450,000 for the SGTC Foundation in his 16 years of service.

At the banquet, SGTC President Sparky Reeves lauded Tucker for his tireless effort and dedication.

"Don Tucker is the epitome of community leadership," Reeves said. "He has been devoted to the betterment of our college for many years. To South Georgia Tech and all who know him, he is truly a friend, a professional, and a gentleman."



In addition to his service to SGTC, he has also been a member of the Crisp County Power Commission since 1973 and has served as chairman for 18 years. He also provides his time and talent to a number of community and business Boards of Directors and has been influential in almost every endeavor promoting the betterment of Cordele and Crisp County for the past 40 years.

As a member of the SGTC Foundation and Chairman of the Crisp County Power Commission. Tucker was very instrumental in helping secure a local facility in Crisp County to allow citizens to attend classes offered by South Georgia Technical College. As enrollment grew and credit classes increased, Tucker and others recognized the need for a permanent facility in Crisp County. With community support, the SGTC Board of Trustees raised over \$500,000 towards this endeavor, reinforcing the fact that the Crisp County Community supported the need for a technical education facility.

Through his involvement with the Industrial Development Council and SGTC, he has helped bring new businesses to Crisp County as well as assist existing businesses grow and expand.

He and his wife, Connie, have one daughter, Robin. They have a grandson, Cliff, and a granddaughter, Jenna, who both attend the University of Georgia.



SGTC Foundation Purchases Land

The South Georgia Technical College Foundation recently finalized the purchase of a piece of land to place another directional landmark sign for the College. The parcel of land at the corner of South Georgia Tech Parkway and Highway 19 was purchased from Sue Statham and was made possible by a generous donation to the SGTC Foundation by Roy Parker, III. Parker is pictured making the agreement final by signing the sales contract.

South Georgia Technical College will place a directional sign on this piece of land similar to the one at the corner of Highway 49 and South Georgia Tech Parkway. In addition, a replica of an F-22 Raptor will also be built for this sign by students and faculty in the Aircraft Structural Department. The South Georgia Technical College Foundation thanks the Parker's for their continued support and generosity.

**In Loving Memory of SGTC Foundation Trustee Roy Parker, III
October 17, 1927 - July 4, 2006**

South Georgia Technical College lost a friend recently when Mr. Roy L. Parker, III, passed away at his home following several months of declining health. This issue of the South Georgia Technical College Foundation Tech Advocate newsletter was printed prior to his passing. As you can see from this edition, he was very active in all aspects of the Foundation. We dedicate this newsletter to the memory of "Mr. Roy" and his family.

"Mr. Roy" was a member of the first graduating class at South Georgia Tech in 1949 and was a faithful supporter of his Alma Mater. He was a charter member of the SGTC Foundation and served on the board continuously until his death. He served as Chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees in 2003 and 2004. He was also named Georgia Volunteer of the Year in 2003 by the state Technical College Foundation Association for embodying the ideals of philanthropy, leadership and volunteerism.

"Mr. Roy" was a true ambassador for technical education and South Georgia Technical College. He will be greatly missed!

