

# **CONNECT**

Vol 1 Winter 2012 • ECPI University

Information • Education • Community



## **ECPI UNIVERSITY TEAMS UP WITH VIRGINIA MANUFACTURERS**

Learn How Partnership Promotes Job Growth and Economic Development

## **UNIVERSITY LEADERS CHART COURSE FOR THE FUTURE**

### **Happy New Year to all 2012 Students**

*As you begin a new year, commit yourself to developing the best skills and professionalism throughout your education. ECPI University has many dimensions to enhance your learning and I recommend that you take advantage of all of them.*

- *Experienced faculty can help you understand the real world and apply the skills you learn in the classroom.*
- *Obtain as many technology skills and certifications as you can.*
- *Communicate better in person and through your writing skills.*
- *Learn, in all environments, to include online as employers will want you to have this skill.*
- *Enhance your resume with work experience through externships or clinical sites.*
- *Be more professional in how you work with others and understand teamwork.*

*Your commitment to your education will propel you in the New Year. Make it your resolution to reach your goal of graduating on time with the best skills to help your career.*

*We, at ECPI, will make it our resolution to help you get there.*

*Sincerely,  
Mark Dreyfus*



## ALUMNI NEWS

# Graduate's First App a Hit in the Sports World



Last fall, eConnect introduced recent graduate Eric Richardson, who had just landed a great job at Willow Tree Apps in Charlottesville. Well, it didn't take long for him to make his mark. Eric has just released his first Android Application, *SB Nation – Sports News*. With more than 300 sports blogs covering every sport, every team and every league, SB Nation says it's the most comprehensive sports app ever developed.

In its first month on the market, the SB Nation App was downloaded more than 30,000 times and has already received an impressive 4.4 (out of 5) rating from Android Market. With more than 3 million users on the SB Nation website, the future for this app and its designer looks very promising.

Eric graduated from ECPI's Moorefield campus and credits his excellent education for giving him the skills to not only secure a job, but to enjoy success so early in his career. Congratulations Eric!



**SB NATION**  
Pro quality. Fan perspective.®

# Chris Lassiter – Making the Most of Each Day

If life is a gift, then Chris Lassiter demonstrates each and every day that he is possessed with an abundance of gratitude. He entered the Charlotte campus' network security program as a fresh high school graduate. When he arrived, he was typical of most traditional college students. To pay his way through school, he balanced a full time job at Wendy's with his class schedule and homework responsibilities.

Halfway through the program, Chris became very ill, was diagnosed with stage two cancer and was forced to withdraw from school. This experience would be terrifying for anyone but was especially so for someone so young. After a six month hiatus, Chris returned to class with a new found drive and maturity seldom found in people his age; and his performance during the last half of his program foreshadowed coming success.

After completing his externship in 2010, Chris interviewed for a position on campus, and it was quickly apparent to all concerned that he stood head and shoulders above all other candidates. "He has a fantastic combination of people skills, abilities and motivation," says Help Desk Administrator Supervisor Mike Martin. "He comes to my office and says 'hey Mike, I was thinking....,' and what follows is almost always a great idea for improving our operations or his own performance. Chris is truly an outstanding employee."

With a talent for troubleshooting, this help desk administrator is always searching for solutions. And with his "I want to do more" attitude, he is the personable face of IT that students

and faculty meet each day. Some of his duties include helping with password resets, phone support and software/hardware maintenance campus-wide. It is his enthusiasm for going beyond what is required, however, that makes him exceptional.

Quiet and understated, Chris becomes animated when discussing some of the money-saving work-overs he has implemented at the Charlotte campus, claiming he is just "tinkering here and there." One of his more notable projects is the configuration and installation of FOG, a program that can distribute and install software to all the school computers simultaneously and remotely. FOG eliminates the need to service each machine separately, saving time and money. For a campus that uses extensive technology in addition to computers, streamlining maintenance and troubleshooting service adds up fast.

Chris Lassiter is an example of the enthusiasm, dedication and pursuit of excellence that ECPI students bring with them. His advice to new students: Don't get behind and don't miss class!



**NAME:** Donna Hildreth  
**TITLE/DEPT:** English  
 Instructor, Arts and Sciences  
**CAMPUS:** Charlotte, North  
 Carolina  
**DATE OF HIRE:** August 2008



**FAVORITE BOOK:** *A Soldier of the Great War*, by Mark Helprin

**BIGGEST LANGUAGE PET PEEVE?:** Saying "I graduated college" (rather than graduated from college); a couple days later (instead of a couple of days later)

**FAVORITE PERSON TO VISIT: DENTIST, DOCTOR OR TAX ACCOUNTANT (AND WHY?)?** This is a "lesser of three evils" question. I would choose the tax accountant, because even if it's bad news, it's better than bad news from the other two.

**WHAT DO YOU DO TO STAY HEALTHY?** I have three Labrador retrievers

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?** Homemade bread

# Famous Food Writer Visits Culinary Institute of Virginia

At the Culinary Institute of Virginia (CIV), you never know who will walk through the doors next. The school has certainly entertained many a famous chef. However, this fall, famed food journalist Michael Ruhlman honored students and faculty alike with his presence.

A former culinary student and writer who has chronicled the careers of some very famous chefs, Ruhlman served up some solid advice to CIV's talented students:

- **Show Up** – Attendance is top priority. No matter how bad the weather is, how tired you feel, or how unprepared you are for class, the best thing you can do in culinary school is show up to demonstrate your commitment and dedication. "It doesn't matter how we clear a consommé or make a béchamel, what matters most is that we are there."
- **Work with What You've Got** – As a journalist, Ruhlman does not believe in writer's block. As a student at the Culinary Institute of America, he learned that chefs, regardless of circumstances, must be prepared to serve on time no matter what. He says it's amazing what you can accomplish when you have no other choice. "You make it work with the ingredients, the knowledge and the time that you have."
- **Cooking is About Life** – Sharing the wisdom passed along to him by Thomas Keller, executive chef and owner of the French Laundry, he says that culinary is a very gracious industry and cooking is all about life. "It's about the life of the

animal that died, the farmer that raised it and the cook that prepared it. Chefs and cooks should honor those lives that contributed to the meal they are preparing."

After answering a few questions from chefs and students, Ruhlman stayed to autograph copies of his new book, *Ruhlman's Twenty*. Before departing, he offered up one last piece of advice: "All the little details are where it all begins. When you're a cook, try to act like the chef and that's what you will become one day."



## Students Go Hands on at North Carolina Corning Plant

Greensboro students taking ECPI's Optical Fiber Communications class recently toured the Corning Plant in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, one of the world's leading manufacturers of single mode optical fibers. They started out in the color coating department, where they were able to observe spools of fiber entering a coloring machine that uses ultra violet light to bake the color into the glass fiber.

Then it was on to the buffering department, where a spool feeder pushes fiber bundles through a series of guiding pulleys that funnel them into a hot liquid buffer composed of two chemicals. From there, they proceeded to the cooling tank where the material is transformed into a hard plastic. As the fiber leaves the tank, there are a series of instruments that take measurements to ensure the correct diameter.

Students then learned about the strength member process. The strength member of a cable takes all of the stress when being installed to ensure that the fiber doesn't break or fracture. Country or customer specifications determine which

strength member is used. Australia, for instance, uses a coated Kevlar strength member to deter termites from biting through the cables. The group then studied the jacketing process – the jacket on the buffered optical fiber is what protects the fiber from weather and animal damage.

Last stop: the final testing department, where each reel of finished fiber cable is examined with an OTDR (Optical Time Domain Reflectometer) to test the fiber for breaks and fault tolerance.

All in all, a great experience, but a very common one. "At ECPI University, we always talk about the many opportunities for hands-on instruction," says Greensboro Campus President Tammie Land. "This type of learning shows why our students emerge from ECPI so very well-prepared. Plus, it highlights the strong business and manufacturing partnerships that are so important to our success."

# VMA and ECPI University Launch Statewide Manufacturing Technology Initiative

## Program Designed to Close Skills Gap, Boost Economic Development

Once again, ECPI University has proven its worth as a strong business partner and catalyst for economic development. The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) has announced it has chosen ECPI as its exclusive academic partner to increase accessibility to advanced technology industry training and credentials. ECPI will serve as the premiere provider of the association's industry-endorsed manufacturing technology (MT) training to prepare individuals for employment in critical occupations and to pursue further academic credentials. Initial offerings will include the Level 1 Manufacturing Technician and Manufacturing Specialist programs. This partnership will elevate the level of technical expertise in the Commonwealth, leading to greater employment opportunities in the growing manufacturing technology profession.



Dr. Jenny Song evaluates student performance.

In 2010, VMA and ECPI partnered to establish certified assessment centers for the Virginia Council on Advanced Technology Skills' (VCATS) at all six Virginia campus locations. With the opportunity to provide VCATS-endorsed Manufacturing Technology curriculum, ECPI is uniquely positioned to assist Virginia's workforce through targeted instruction designed to close skill gaps and provide key credentials sought by the world's leading manufacturers.

"ECPI University's commitment to offering programs aligned with employment and career advancement opportunities makes it an ideal partner in our efforts to build a 21st century workforce," said Katherine DeRose, VMA's Director of Workforce Development. "Our industry research consistently shows there is a middle skills gap for qualified workers to meet our current and projected employment needs in Virginia. We are pleased ECPI has accepted this opportunity to lead the state, and ultimately the nation, in positioning education as an engine for industry retention and expansion."

"ECPI University is excited to be a part of this effort to help drive the development and training of industry-certified



Students program a robotic arm in ECPI's Mechatronics Lab.

workers within Virginia", said ECPI Virginia Beach Campus President Kevin Paveglio. "The academic initiative is going to lead to a 'real-world' outcome that will improve expansion for manufacturing in Virginia. Providing employment-relevant education is what ECPI has been doing for more than 45 years, so this is a natural fit for us."

ECPI will adopt VMA's workforce development model which includes providing onsite customized MT training to employers in addition to courses offered at each campus. This blended approach is a proven strategy to retain the existing workforce while recruiting qualified individuals who are interested in advanced technology, engineering and mechatronics.

Based upon the Skilled Trades Gap Analysis commissioned by the VMA in 2007, industry leaders developed a vision for creating a skills pipeline by: establishing statewide competency-based and employer-validated standards for critical occupations; developing a competency-based training program designed by employers; creating an advanced technology career pathway; and, identifying an expert training and development institution to deliver industry-driven training and assessment. VMA leaders announced that they achieved this goal in December, crediting ECPI University for its vital role in this important strategic initiative.



**ECPI University's commitment to offering programs aligned with employment and career advancement opportunities makes it an ideal partner in our efforts to build a 21st century workforce.**



# ECPI Students and Faculty Share

While winter may bring with it cold weather, there are certainly plenty of warm hearts across all of ECPI University's campuses. During the holiday season, students and faculty worked together to provide much needed relief to those in need.

## North Carolina

Charlotte – held three events in November and December to provide donations to Toys for Tots and the Charlotte Food Bank, as well as approximately 140 pounds of winter clothing for the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

Charlotte/Concord – collected enough toys to help more than 1,800 families through Toys for Tots.

Greensboro – the Spanish Club held a book drive for the local children's hospital; the American Criminal Justice Association Club sponsored a Coats for Kids drive; Phi Beta Lambda spent an afternoon doing holiday crafts with residents at a nursing home; the Information Systems Security Association Club sponsored a family for the holidays; and the newly formed

Alumni Association conducted a food drive for the Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank. And, when thieves broke into a student's home taking all her children's presents, the campus rallied, collecting more than \$500 to replace everything!

Raleigh – students, staff, clubs and organizations adopted 36 ECPI children who were going to receive little or nothing under their tree this year. They also collected 32 grocery store gift cards and gave each family a delicious Thanksgiving and Christmas meal. They capped it all off by donating four large boxes of food to NC Food Relief.

## South Carolina

Greenville – collected enough non-perishable food items and cash to provide more than 1,400 meals to those struggling to put food on their tables.

Columbia – teamed up with the Salvation Army for its Stuff-A-Bus event. Faculty, staff and students volunteered their time to help collect toys and food for local families to help make their Christmas special. The events took place December 2 and 9 at

Melanie Colson, advisor for the Professional Nurses Club and Amanda Parker director of LPN Program help fill up the Charlotte Food Bank's truck.



Northern Virginia Students Mica Stramel, Nippon Viriya and Jami Blackmon are greeted by a House of Mercy volunteer as they drop off donations.

The Online Campus at the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia.



Arbe Arbelaez-Marine Corps Toys for Tots Coordinator (Rowan County); Wayne Lear- Network Security Student; Alicia Muhammad- Director of Education; Frank Mazzaro- Criminal Justice Student; Pamela Smith- Medical Assisting Student and Mike Fritz-Campus Provost.



# Well Done... We A

# are the Reason for the Season

multiple Wal-Mart locations throughout Columbia and received extensive local television coverage.

Charleston – participated in the annual Debi's Kids Toy Drive to provide presents to children in need within Charleston's Tri-County area. Students and faculty collected enough toys to help more than 100 young people.

## Virginia

Virginia Beach – healthcare administration students held a food drive for Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, collecting emergency supplies as well. The school's Business Cents Club held two drives, one for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the other aimed at delivering toys to First Step, Inc., a local organization that helps victims of domestic violence. ECPI staff and students also "adopted" 50 children through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree.

Newport News – healthcare administration and dental assisting programs teamed up to wrap presents donated to the Be a Santa to a Senior program, and the Business Club sponsored

an Angel Tree to bring Christmas to children in need. Richmond/Innsbrook – faculty and staff sponsored nine student families as a part of its annual Angel Tree campaign. In addition to donations made by staff and faculty, each family received two large gift baskets that included every item on their wish list plus a \$100 food basket from Martin's Food Market.

Richmond/Moorefield – as part of the Toys for Tots campaign, the Web Club held a fundraising luncheon and used proceeds to purchase four bicycles and 68 other toys. Plus, the ECPI and Medical Careers Institute campuses pulled together to collect 520 pounds of food for the food bank.

Northern Virginia – criminal justice students joined the American Criminal Justice Association in collecting food, clothing and gifts for neighbors in need. Career Services also held a toy drive and provided 54 toys to the Ronald McDonald House located just outside of INOVA Fairfax Hospital.

Online Campus – Nearly 20 students and faculty donated several hours to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia sorting more than a ton of food for distribution.



Garrik and Kyler Wills, sons of Krista Wills, MCI Moorefield Campus President with Dwayne Fleming and Leslie Fleming, Student Records Coordinator, delivering toys.



Newport News ECPI students and faculty celebrate the season by helping children through Angel Tree.



Newport News Dental Students Ja'Shawn Hunter and Angela Mabry wrapping presents.



# Are Proud of You!

# Students Volunteer to Provide Dental Care to People in Need

For most people, going to the dentist is really not a choice. While they may not enjoy the experience, they know it's necessary. Unfortunately for some, it's just not an option. Lacking insurance, money, or both, they allow small problems to become big ones over time. Fortunately, there is a group of

caring people who come to the rescue. In Suffolk, Virginia this winter, dozens of dentists, hygienists and assistants, including many from ECPI's Medical Careers Institute, donated their time at Dental Access Days to help provide desperately needed care to those in need.



With limited time for each patient, treatment was confined to cleaning, fillings and extractions, with some patients receiving flippers, which are acrylic partial dentures used to replace a few missing teeth. Aside from pain relief and cosmetic value, these treatments did more than simply make people feel better. Many times, they show up in the emergency room with serious dental problems, but hospitals can do little more than give them antibiotics and painkillers.

Dental Access Days gave nearly 150 of those underserved patients a chance to improve their quality of life. Plus, this day of service reminded everyone involved that it's not just what you get, but what you give that makes all the difference.

MCI students Michelle Dalyrmples, Erica Day, Taylor Jensen, Rae' Ann Ali and Katrina McBride provide compassionate care to patients at Dental Access Days.

## MAKING THEIR MARK

# MCI Student Ricki Furlong Receives Healthcare Administrators of Tidewater Award

Congratulations to Medical Careers Institute (MCI) student Ricki Furlong for receiving the Healthcare Administrators of Tidewater (HCAT) Student Volunteerism Award. She was the organization's official photographer and attended every HCAT event during the past year.

Ricki also served at monthly board meetings and the annual strategic planning event, providing valuable input as the Hampton Roads Student Body Representative. In addition, she always provides plenty of assistance at all MCI Campus Discovery Days. Way to go Ricki, we're proud of you!

Kelly Brown (Healthcare Administrators of Tidewater's President) and Virginia Beach student Ricki Furlong





# Joshua Plata – From No Skills to No Limits

Five years ago, Joshua Plata found himself sitting in a Greenville, South Carolina homeless shelter weighing his options. They seemed few and far between. "All I knew was that something had to change," says Joshua. "I had no skills and without an education, it seemed like I had nothing but low-paying jobs to look forward to."

Then, Joshua saw an ad for ECPI University. "I had always liked computers, but only knew how to use a PC," he says. In February 2007, he set out to change the course of his life and enrolled at ECPI to begin studying computer networking.

"I had no idea what I was getting into," says Joshua. "Right off the bat, I was amazed. It was like there was this whole world that I didn't know existed...all this knowledge. Up until then, I guess I just didn't know what I didn't know!"



Going to school and working full-time, Joshua received his Associate's degree in 2010, as well as his A+, Network+ and Cisco CCNA certifications. He quickly landed a job at internet service provider Windstream Communications. Interestingly enough, he says there was just one question during the interview that threw him off. "They asked me where I saw myself in five years. That was hard to answer, because five years before I was sitting in a homeless shelter and I never would have imagined that I could be where I am now."

Joshua's outlook has changed dramatically. He's back at ECPI working on his Bachelor's degree and has no doubt that he will finish up very soon because, as he puts it, "the only way you can fail at ECPI is if you stop trying. They believed in me before I was sure I believed in myself. Now I know I can do whatever I put my mind to."



## MCI Moorefield Recognized for Community Service

Congratulations to Medical Careers Institute's Moorefield Campus for being selected as an honorable mention winner for the 2012 Community Service Recognition Award by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). This award epitomizes ECPI's commitment to not only better the lives of our students, but also those within the community as well.



# Core Values in Action: 2011

Excellence, Commitment, Professionalism and Innovation – the core values of ECPI University – were on full display at the recent faculty conference. The event included extensive training and professional development opportunities as well as the long-held, annual tradition, the faculty awards dinner, at which ECPI spotlights those faculty members whose work over the past year exemplifies the University’s core values in action.

The 2011 Faculty Conference opened with a day-long, keynote program delivered by Dr. Mark Taylor. An internationally recognized educator, speaker and consultant dedicated to helping colleges and universities better understand and serve their students in the 21st Century, Dr. Taylor presented *Meeting Generation NeXt*. Faculty members were treated to an expansive analysis of the make-up and mindset of today’s post-secondary students from around the world who, according to Dr. Taylor, “are frequently the products of a technology rich, consumer driven culture.”

In his presentation, *Made for Learning*, Dr. Barry Adams, Education Technology Consultant at Apple, Inc., exposed the faculty to the powerfully innovative forces of new technologies in the classroom. Break-out sessions covered such topics as future curriculum development, the use of virtualization in the classroom and best practices in classroom Moodle management, as well as a broad variety of technology demonstrations provided by Apple, Cengage Learning, EMC, TeamUp and Turning Technologies.

Throughout the conference, special sessions were held to honor faculty members for key contributions.

## Community Service of the Year Award

This award honors those faculty members who best promote community service and involvement. The selected individuals truly exemplify the University’s strong and long-standing commitment to community service values.



*Excellence, Commitment,*



# ECPI University Faculty Conference

## Classroom Innovator of the Year Award

This award recognizes the faculty members who embrace an entrepreneurial spirit and push the envelope with new creative approaches and/or technology in the classroom.



## Curriculum Development of the Year Award

This award honors the educators who best support the university's effort to design responsive curriculum that fosters inquiry, research, analysis and critical thinking. These educators share knowledge and expertise to assist the University in keeping the curriculum content relevant and responsive to employer needs and academia.



*Professionalism and Innovation*  
– the core values of ECPI University



# MCI Students Receive VIP Treatment at Hospital



Students and faculty from Medical Careers Institute in Newport News and Virginia Beach gathered with other members of the Healthcare Administrators of Tidewater in December to visit the new Sentara Princess Anne Hospital in Virginia Beach. The facility is a joint-venture between the two largest healthcare providers in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia. Pictured above, they are joined by Michael Kerner (far left), CEO of Bon Secours Hampton Roads and Steve Porter (far right), President of Sentara Princess Anne Hospital.

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