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The Alumnus

A quarterly alumni publication of Vermont Technical College

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ALUMNI HOMECOMING DAY 2009

Alumni are invited to return to campus October 3 to take part in the 2009 Alumni Homecoming Day celebration.

"Now is the time to contact your former classmates and make arrangements to meet on the Randolph campus and catch up on what has been going on in your lives," said Carrie Clement, Vermont Tech Alumni Coordinator. "Alumni Day activities are structured to give alums time to sit and visit with others, but also provide the opportunity to tour campus, view fall foliage, pick apples, visit with faculty, and enjoy a mid-day luncheon."

While most activities throughout the day are free to alumni and their families, there is a charge for the alumni luncheon. Tickets for the luncheon can be purchased for \$12 per person or \$20 per couple. To attend the luncheon, alumni must pre-

(story continued pg. 2)

This publication is provided to you by:
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SHIFTING INTO 'GIRL' GEAR

Alumna drives her dream into reality



When Demeny Pollitt walked into her first class in the automotive technology program at Vermont Tech, she was literally flying blind. She'd never been one to tinker with cars, and the extent of her skills, thanks to the patience of her father, was changing her own oil and fixing a flat tire.

"When I went to Vermont Tech, I didn't know the difference between a wrench and a socket," she said.

But thanks to a growing passion and an associate's degree in automotive technology, the 2006 graduate opened her own shop—Girlington Garage, LLC, in South Burlington, Vt.—in June. She joins a select group of female car-repair-shop owners in the state: Just two other women own shops in Montpelier and East Montpelier.

It was at Vermont Tech that Pollitt dreamed up the idea of an all-girl garage—a shop owned by women, with women mechanics servicing the cars of other women. Having been through years of car troubles herself, where she felt like mechanics treated her differently because she was a woman, she wanted to open a shop based

on respect for all her clients.

She gained some experience during summer breaks and after graduation, working as a technician at dealers like Saturn in South



Above, Demeny Pollitt, owner of Girlington Garage in South Burlington, shows off her new space. Check her out at www.girlingtongarage.com.

Burlington, Midstate Dodge and Hyundai, and Priority Express. But she really earned her chops working as a service advisor at a Berlin City dealership. She helped run the service center—scheduling appointments, dealing with client concerns and handling "angry, angry, angry customers."

"It was the toughest job I ever had," she says, "but possibly the best experience I ever had."

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register and pay by September 26.

During lunch, alumni will be entertained by a local band. Alums will also enjoy a history slide show with photographs of the school dating back to its inception.

Vermont Tech President Ty Handy will address alumni and give an update on the school at the annual meeting in the afternoon.

Like last year, we will have a special dinner reception for the 50th class reunion - the class of 1959. If you are a member of the class of '59, watch your mailbox for further information.

To register for the day's events, fill out the registration form on the back of this newsletter or print a copy from our website (www.vtc.edu) and send it to the Alumni Office. Prompt replies are appreciated as planning continues. The form can also be used to bring annual and lifetime dues payments up-to-date or make a

Preliminary

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9-11 a.m.	Registration in Campus Center
9 a.m.-5 p.m.	SHAPE Open for Use (Swimming, Raquetball, NEW Fitness Center)
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Meet & Greet with President
9:30-11 a.m.	Class Reunions for classes ending in 4 or 9
10 a.m.-Noon	Farm Tours
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Guided Campus Tours
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Hartness Library Open
10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Bookstore Open
10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Apple Picking in Orchard
11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Academic Presentations
11:30	Class Photos
Noon	Varsity Baseball Doubleheader
Noon-1 p.m.	Alumni Luncheon
1-2 p.m.	Annual Meeting
1 p.m.	Varsity Women's Soccer Game
3 p.m.	Alumni Soccer Game
4 p.m.	Class of 1959 Reception
4 p.m.	VAST Alumni Class Reunion

Please note that this is a tentative schedule of events; an updated schedule will be handed out at registration.

As always, the Alumni Office can provide names, addresses, and phone numbers for those who would like to contact members of their class.

contribution to the annual fund.

On Alumni Homecoming Day, alumni and their guests should report to the SHAPE Campus Center to sign in. Follow the signs to the back side of campus - near the apple orchard.

At registration, alumni will be given an up-to-date schedule of events and refreshments. Class notes and yearbooks will be available for perusal.

"As always, we can provide alumni names, addresses, and phone numbers for those who would like to contact other members of their class" said Clement. "This step can help guarantee a good turn-out for the event."

Alumni Homecoming Day coincides with Vermont's foliage season and local accommodations are often booked weeks in advance. For a listing of local accommodations, alums should contact the Alumni & Development office.

Also, October 3 is the college's fall open house. Alumni are invited to participate in the campus tours and to visit with faculty about their academic programs.



ALUMNUS/A OF THE YEAR Nominations Sought!

The Alumni Association Executive Board is now accepting nominations for the **2009 Alumnus/a of the Year**. A nominee must be a graduate of VSA, VATI, or VTC and must be at least 10 years from graduation. Nominees should have contributed something significant to their profession, community or college. Send your letter of nomination to the Alumni Office via snail mail or email.

**Deadline is
August 31, 2009**

ALUMNI NEWSBRIEFS

Are You a Member of the Alumni Association?

For just \$25 a year you can become a part of the Vermont Tech Alumni Association -- \$150 for lifetime dues. Your dues go toward funding the annual Alumni Day events, this newsletter, and upkeep on the web site. Contact us by phone or email for more information.

Gift to Endowment Fund for Vet Tech Students

Mrs. Ethel T. Pierce, widow of Edward A. Pierce, Class of 1923, passed away in 2007. Mrs. Pierce bequeathed the college the remainder of an annuity valued at over \$110,000. The bequest was for The Edward A. Pierce Memorial Scholarship Fund for the benefit of Veterinary Technology students. Vermont Tech is most grateful for this gift.



MORRILL ADDITION RENAMED

At its June 4 meeting the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees approved a resolution renaming the addition to Vermont Technical College's Morrill Hall "Robert G. Clarke Hall," in honor of retiring VSC Chancellor and former VTC President Robert G. Clarke.

Vermont Tech President Ty Handy recommended naming the addition to Morrill Hall on the Randolph campus "Robert G. Clarke Hall" in recognition of Clarke's outstanding service, and on behalf of the staff, students and faculty of Vermont Technical College.

Clarke was President of Vermont Technical College from July 1984 through November 1999. During his tenure as Vermont Tech president Clarke oversaw the creation of many successful collaborations between Vermont Tech, the VSC and the State of Vermont, including Vermont Interactive Television, the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center, the Vermont Small Business Development Center, the Vermont Tech Enterprise Center, the Technology Extension Division and the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology.

Clarke became Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges in November 1999. Throughout his tenure as leader of the system, the VSC experienced strong growth and increased financial stability. Full-time equivalent enrollment at the colleges grew over forty percent. Clarke oversaw numerous organizational improvements across the five schools, including an unprecedented implementation of a single administrative information system, course catalog and transcript; consolidation of key functional areas to increase efficiency and effectiveness; implementation of system-wide performance indicators, graduation standards and other accountability measures; greatly expanded web-based programs and services for students and employees; and improved labor and employee relations.

In recognition of Clarke's exemplary leadership and dedication to Vermont Technical College and the Vermont State College system during his twenty-four years of service, the VSC Board of Trustees approved renaming the addition to Morrill Hall "Robert G. Clarke Hall," effective July 1, 2009.



Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Clarke at the re-naming ceremony June 4.

(Pollitt story continued, pg. 1)

After a few years working for others, she finally turned her sights to opening a business of her own. "I felt relatively well-prepared," she says. "I did take a couple business courses at Vermont Tech that were very helpful, and I absolutely went back to my books and referred to them." She also went through the Women's Small Business Program in Burlington.

After seeing just how few female mechanics are actually working in Vermont, though, Pollitt said she had to let go of the dream of a garage run exclusively by women.

"But I didn't let go of the idea of having a different kind of shop," she said, "a shop that was really designed for women and really catered to them specifically."

What's so different about Girlington Garage? For starters, the waiting area feels more like a spa than a garage, with colorful walls, comfy plush couches, and fun magazines instead of *Car and Driver* and *Motorhead*. There are fresh flowers in vases, free-trade organic coffee and baked treats for customers, and even Wi-Fi. The shop goes the extra mile by leaving a sweet treat in every customer's car.

But the most important difference about Girlington Garage is the way Pollitt interacts with her clients.

"I try in every interaction to be as transparent as possible," she says. "It's really important that any questions a customer may have are answered clearly and completely, and it's important that they feel comfortable asking whatever questions they might have."

Pollitt was quite literal with her desire to be transparent; one of the walls in the waiting room is all glass, so clients can actually watch the technicians servicing their cars.

They can even stroll into the service area and speak with the mechanic directly.

"It's a really open, welcoming environment, which I think is very different from many, many shops," she said.

She also plans to host car-care clinics geared toward women to cover the basics of changing the oil or a tire and examining the brakes. Car owners will learn how to ask the right questions and avoid being taken advantage of at a garage. While most of her customers are women, some men have found their way to the shop as well, lured no doubt by the excellent service and friendly environs.

"It's really important that any questions a customer may have are answered clearly and completely..."

The fledgling business is staffed with Pollitt's mother, who handles the marketing and accounting, one male technician, and Pollitt herself, who splits her time between car repairs and managing the shop. While most new business owners are strumming their fingers, waiting for the next customer to walk in the door, Girlington Garage has been swamped since it opened.

"We are way more popular than we thought we'd be," Pollitt said. "We're overwhelmed by work...we can't keep up with it."

And so, in addition to her other responsibilities, she is searching for a new employee whose philosophy, if not anatomy, matches the garage's mission.

"We're starving for another mechanic," she said.

By Kelly Collar



Greetings from Construction Central – that is the hilltop formerly known as Randolph Center! A very busy summer is underway as the college is investing in its future by working on a number of renovation projects that promise to improve the functionality and beauty of what is already one of the prettiest campuses in New England. We are currently adding 105 parking spaces, completing a "Ring Road" around campus, replacing all of the brick sidewalks, renovating Old Dorm lounge, Judd Gym, the Red School House, Green Hall, the Allen House, and in Williston we are renovating our newly acquired building. In addition to all of this we renamed the Morrill Addition to reflect the impact that the President of Vermont Tech from 1984 to 1999 had of the growth of the college. Take a peek at the article to the left.

All of this investment is being made to position the college for continued growth and success in the coming years. Of course, we want you to be a part of this excitement because your relationship with the college is a part of the foundation upon which this college thrives. We have numerous naming opportunities as a result of the construction efforts and would love to talk to anyone that may wish to contribute to the future success of Vermont Tech!

Ty Handy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

ALUMNI HOMECOMING DAY 2009 REGISTRATION FORM

- ☐ Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ ticket(s) to the Alumni luncheon at \$12 each, \$20 per couple.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$25 for my annual dues.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$150 for my lifetime dues.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$ _____ for the annual fund.
- ☐ I am handicapped and would like assistance on Alumni Day.

Name: _____

Major & Year: _____

Address: _____

Guest's Name: _____

Clip and send to: Alumni & Development Office, Vermont Technical College, PO Box 500, Randolph Center, VT 05061

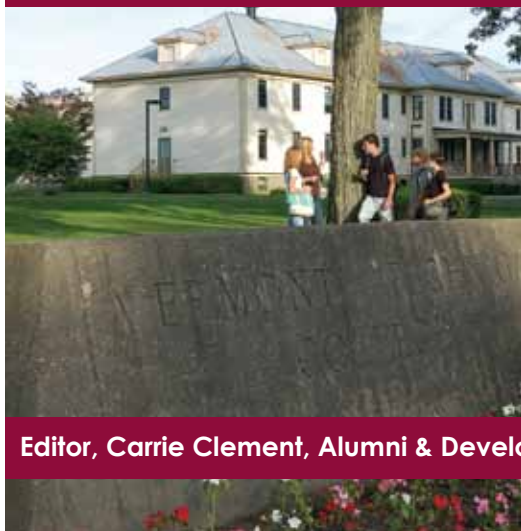


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Are you a family member of an alumnus/a? If a VTC alumnus/a is no longer at this address, please pass this newsletter along and share their new address with us. Thank you!



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