



FMTC

FORT MYERS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Student of the Year

by Debbie Krouse



Brian Mangan, Chad Oxford and Eric Seuffert

May 5, 2017—Chad Oxford, 40, a recent Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection & Repair graduate, was named FMTC's Student of the Year. According to his instructor, Mr. Eric Seuffert, "Chad is a role model, critical thinker, and true professional." Mr. Oxford, Vice President of National Technical Honor Society, took the

initiative to plan, design, and fabricate a balance beam for one of the program's turbine engines.

"Chad is a life-long learner," says Mr. Seuffert. "He consistently seeks and performs additional research as needed. Chad eagerly took on extra responsibilities, is dedicated to safety, has an outstanding rapport with his peers, is dedicated to safety in the workplace, and is a team leader."

Mr. Oxford was hired by Granite Services, an affiliate of General Electric, before he completed the program and has already worked on jobs in several states. He says the skills he learned at FMTC are directly relatable to his job and realizes the safety skills he learned have already protected him on the jobsite.



Upcoming Events

FMTC Informational Meetings
Every Tuesday at 9:30 A.M.

07/04/17

Independence Day
(School Closed)

07/12/17

Electronics/Mechatronics Start

07/26/17

Automotive Service
Technology, Cosmetology,
Electricity & Major
Appliance Start

08/10/17

Most Full-time Programs Start

08/15/17

Online Medical Coder/Biller
Starts; Lifelong Learning
(Evening) Classes Start

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Soaring Scene is a free
quarterly newsletter of FMTC

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FMTC Students Win at State Competitions

FMTC students won 4 medals at the Florida SkillsUSA competition held in Lakeland on April 23-26, 2017. Over 1,500 students enrolled in secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs at technical colleges and high schools located throughout the state participated in the annual event.

SkillsUSA is a nationwide career and technical education student organization serving more than 300,000 high school, college and postsecondary students—and

their instructors—in technical, skilled, and service occupation instructional programs.

The contests are planned by technical committees made up of national experts from labor and management; they are designed to test the skills needed for a successful entry-level performance in given occupational fields.



Carl Abbott, Taina Valentin, Jobelyn Nance, and Anthony Morrison

SILVER

Carl Abbott—Mechatronics
Anthony Morrison—Mechatronics

BRONZE

Jobelyn Nance—Customer Service
Taina Valentin—Cosmetology

FMTC students won 4 medals at the **Health Occupations Students of America** (HOSA) competition held in



Orlando, April 6-9, 2017. FMTC students placed in every contest in which they participated! HOSA is a student organization whose mission is to promote career opportunities in health care and to enhance the delivery

of quality health care to all people.

The **SILVER**-placed winners are Carissa Edilla—Extemporaneous Health Poster; Amy Finn and Teresa Woods (team)—CPR/First Aid; and Taeler Ott—Medical Math.



Pictured from left to right: Carissa Edilla, Teresa Woods, Amy Finn, and Taeler Ott



January 31, 2017—**Aaron Alfaro**, Mechanical Engineer, from the Sporlan Valve Division of Parker Hannifin Corporation, gave a presentation on the theory and operation of thermostatic expansion valves and filter-driers to the Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Technology students.



Director's Message

Brian Mangan

The 2016-17 School Year has drawn to a close for many of our programs. However, we do have a couple of programs that run into summer and our Practical Nursing program is a year-round affair. The start of the 2017-2018 school year will mark a change in the start and end times of more of our programs. Some will start as early as July 12, 2017, and some will end as late as June 19, 2018. This change is being implemented in order to produce workforce-ready employees sooner and is more philosophically aligned with the spirit of the "Career in a Year" motto. The benefits to the industries that we aim to serve is that we can provide future employees in a timely manner that have fully completed their training program. Our students benefit as they get started in their careers faster and are able to improve the lives of themselves and their families. Fort Myers Technical College benefits as we will be able to offer more program slots to future students and fulfill our obligation that is best encapsulated in our mission statement.

As we look to the future and celebrate our fiftieth anniversary, we are fully involved in preparing for our reaccreditation visit from the Council on Occupational Education. The Council on Occupational Education (COE), originally founded in 1971 as a regional accrediting agency of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is the successor to the Commission on Occupational Education Institutions (COEI). In 1995, the Council

The mission of Fort Myers Technical College is to provide high quality career and technical training, in order to prepare students for current and emerging industries, delivered by a professional and caring staff in a positive learning environment.

became a national accrediting agency. In 2006, the Council celebrated its 35th year of assuring quality and integrity in career and technical education.

The Council's accreditation process is conducted on behalf of more than 360,000 students across the nation who pursue careers in a variety of technical fields. FMTC has been accredited since 1977; our goal is to present the visiting team with a complete, accurate and honest self-assessment of all aspects of our college. In doing so, we seek to reaffirm our accreditation status for another six years. The reaccreditation process is a serious endeavor and important to FMTC at

the core level as it validates our existence as a post-secondary provider of career and technical education. For our faculty and staff, this will be the culmination of over a year's worth of self-study; and for our current and future students, it will secure their confidence in choosing to attend FMTC.

On a personal note, I wanted to thank everyone who has made my first year as the Director of FMTC one of the best years I have had in my 24 years in The School District of Lee County. We have renovated multiple spaces on campus; seen our students win awards at regional, state and attend national competitions; have registered people to vote; recognized our veterans; and have awarded thousands of

dollars in scholarships. While the final numbers are still being tallied, we have had numerous industry certifications earned as well as state licenses earned. Most importantly, students have completed their programs and have been placed into careers in their industries. If the past is a prologue, the future of FMTC is very bright.

April 6, 2017—For the fifth year, members of the **Vietnam Brotherhood Bravo Company** awarded scholarships to military veterans at Fort Myers Technical College (FMTC). The money to support these scholarships is raised through dues and fundraisers. Bravo Company sponsors Honor Flights to Washington D.C. every year and the annual Pride and Patriotism program held at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

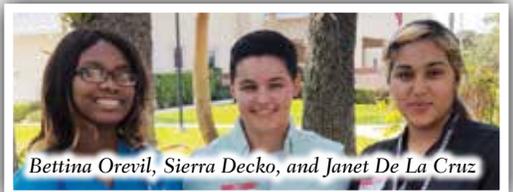
This year's scholarship recipients are Brandon James, US Army veteran, Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection & Repair student and Jacob Clark, US Army veteran, Electricity student. Mr. James completed three tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Germany. Mr. Clark served in Iraq, Germany, and Japan and completed his service to the country as an Army Recruiter.

Thank you to all the veterans for their service to our country!



March 2, 2017—FMTC's Tech Tots celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and National Education Association's Read Across America Day.

March 3, 2017—Bettina Orevil, Practical Nursing; Sierra Decko, Automotive Service Technology; and Janet De La Cruz, Welding Technology were awarded \$400 scholarships at a luncheon sponsored by the **Church Women United**. Each of the students shared stories about their life, faith, and future goals. For more information about scholarship opportunities at FMTC, please visit www.FortMyersTech.edu.



Bettina Orevil, Sierra Decko, and Janet De La Cruz

Nursing Assistant Graduates



March 30, 2017—Nancy Redenius, Health Science Department Chair; Rita Montiel; Brian Mangan, FMTC Director; Shelby Hickox; Dania Herrera Montufar; Olivia Howard; Marilyn Giesel, Nursing Assistant instructor; Norma Vidal; Hershell Roberts; Dawn Boren; Shaniah Austin; and Avery Naas.



May 31, 2017—Brian Mangan, Director; Nancy Redenius, Health Science Department Chair; Herby Myrtil; Santiana Michel; Marilyn Giesel, Nursing Assistant instructor; Wesley Ford; Erin Chime; Andres Lopez-Whitney; Kayla Franklin; and Paula Eisele.

Pictured from left to right: Dick "Teach" Kennedy (former teacher at FMTC), US Air Force veteran; Harry (Hip Trigger) Jordan, US Army veteran; John "Tooley" Perry, US Army veteran; Brandon James; Jacob Clark; J.D. "War Dog" Hill, US Army veteran; Starlett "Maude" Render; Donald "Render" Render, US Army veteran; Gary "Builder" LeBlanc, US Navy veteran

STUDENT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated for Student of the Year by their instructors.

Glen Button, 50, retired from the Coast Guard in 2007. He believes it is never too late to go back to school. Mr. Button completed the Major Appliance and Refrigeration Repair program in May and will start the Electricity program in July. "Glen is a model student," says his instructor, Mr. Armando Gomez. "He is extremely focused and disciplined and was always willing to mentor new students in the program."



Austin McDonagh, 18, a dual-enrolled high school student, came to the Welding Technology program with 5 years of welding experience. Mr. McDonagh's father owns a welding business and Austin worked part-time for him throughout the school year. Both of his Welding Technology instructors, Mr. Bill Bluhm and Mr. Michael Landrum, say that Mr. McDonagh took a leadership role and helped other students learn specific welding techniques. He participated in SkillsUSA and won the gold medal in the high school division of the Welding competition at the regional level.



Mr. McDonagh graduated from both high school and FMTC in May and is working full-time for his father on a government project to

expand the watershed from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades.

With no other family in the area, **Ethlyn O'Shea** came to the United States from Jamaica as a single mother of 3 small children. She earned her GED after arriving and worked several jobs to support her children. Ms. O'Shea enrolled in the Practical Nursing program several years ago but dropped out so that her daughter could pursue higher education. Now that her children are grown, she is enrolled in the part-time Practical Nursing program which meets two days per week so she can continue working as a nursing assistant and home health aide.



Mrs. Denise Patak says there is only one word to describe Ms. O'Shea, "devotion." She is devoted to her faith, family, education, and work. "Ethlyn is a great role model for the younger students," says Mrs. Patak. "Her sense of humor helps us all!"

"**Logan Nelson** has proven himself to be an exemplary student by completing two programs within one year: Technology Support Services and Applied Cybersecurity," says Dr. Renée Rawe, instructor of both programs. He has earned CompTia A+ certification and is working toward Security+ certification. Mr. Nelson helped set up the classroom's network and mentored other students. He is now working full-time in the Information Technology Department at the Lee County Public Defenders Office.



Welcome New Members

by Gail Rieckhoff

April 6, 2017 - An elite group of FMTC's finest was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. A brief history of NTHS; its goals, mission, vision, colors, emblem, insignia, and motto; and the lighting of the candles were all part of the ceremony. New members are Carl Abbott, Electronics; Estefania Alonso Medina, Child Care; Ethlyn O'Shea, Practical Nursing; Ian Rice, Web Development; and Barbara Talley, Practical Nursing.



(top) Barbara Talley, Ethlyn O'Shea, Estefania Alonso Medina (right) Carl Abbott, and Ian Rice

FMTC GRADUATE HELPS TURN TRASH INTO POWER

By Chad Oxford, Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection & Repair Graduate

Robert West, an FMTC graduate, is the lead power plant operator of Aria Energy, a power generation station. It is located in the area's largest landfill in Sarasota. Mr. West graduated from FMTC's Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection & Repair program in 2014. He has since traveled as a turbine repair technician for companies such as Alstom, Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inc., and Granite Services. The skills and experience gained through FMTC as well as working as a traveling mechanic has made him a perfect fit for his current position as a lead power plant operator at the Aria facility.

It is often said, one man's trash is another man's treasure, or in this case its power. It's the trash at the landfill that turns methane gas into fuel to power the generators.

The Sarasota County landfill is a relatively quiet place, unless you're standing in the building that houses three enormous generators that produce sustainable energy. As lead power plant operator Mr. West is tasked with keeping the plant producing electricity in a safe and efficient manner. He performs scheduled and as-needed maintenance on the facility's three 2200

horsepower Caterpillar engines. The engines burn 500 standard cubic feet per minute (SCFM) of methane that is harvested from the natural decomposition of organic waste that is placed in the landfill. Before Aria built this power plant in 2010, the gas produced by the landfill would be burned off, which environmentalists claim is contributing to climate change. Now it's being converted into power to run the generators. This once under-utilized methane now produces enough electricity to power 2,800 homes daily.

When asked how his time at FMTC helped prepare him for his career, Mr. West said that the hands-on experience he gained in class from being able to disassemble an actual turbine and using specialized tools like a plasma cutter, helped prepare him for working out in the industry. Perhaps the most important benefit he received from the program was exposure and introduction to the industry through the program's industry advisors. Mr. West said that he tried to get into the power industry without attending the Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection & Repair program but each time



Robert West, center, conducts a tour of Aria Energy's power generator station for FMTC students

it was recommended that he attend first then reapply. Mr. West said, "Where else can you go and spend only \$6,000 on tuition and have the opportunity to earn up to \$100,000 within a year?"

Mr. West stated his most memorable experience while working as a traveling turbine mechanic was driving to California for an assignment to work on a power plant in Bakerfield. He enjoyed the scenery, the food, the people, and just the adventure of it all. He said the best advice he could give to perspective students was to show up and be on time. He said that power outages cost millions of dollars and every minute is costly. Be on time and be safe!

DAY PROGRAMS

- Administrative Office Specialist
- Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology
- Applied Cybersecurity
- Automotive Collision Technology Technician
- Automotive Service Technology (A.S.E.-Based Technician)
- Carpentry
- Commercial Foods & Culinary Arts
- Correctional Officer
- Cosmetology
- Crossover Correctional Officer to Law Enforcement Officer
- Crossover Law Enforcement Officer to Correctional Officer
- Early Childhood Education
- Electricity
- Electronic Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician-ATD
- Fire Fighter
- Fire Fighter/Emergency Medical Technician-Combined
- Florida Law Enforcement Officer
- IV Therapy
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Major Appliance & Refrigeration Technician
- Marine Service Technologies
- Mechatronics Technology
- Medical Administrative Specialist
- Medical Coder/ Biller (online)
- .NET Application Development & Programming
- Nursing Assistant-Articulated
- Nursing Assistant-Long-term Care
- Plumbing Technology
- Technology Support Services
- Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection and Repair
- Web Application Development & Programming
- Welding Technology

For registration information call (239) 334-4544

The School District of Lee County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy, or genetic information in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to: Sandy Shimp, Equity Coordinator, Fort Myers Technical College, 3800 Michigan Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33916, (Voice/TDD): (239) 334-4544, SandraLSH@leeschools.net.

Lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation. The district may assess each student's ability to benefit from specific programs through placement tests and counseling, and, if necessary, will provide services or referrals to better prepare students for successful participation.

MISSION: The mission of Fort Myers Technical College is to provide high quality career and technical training, in order to prepare students for current and emerging industries, delivered by a professional and caring staff in a positive learning environment.

VISION: All students enrolled in vocational/technical programs will obtain workforce credentials through certificate programs and, where applicable, industry certification and/or licensure.



Over 13,000 people are employed by Lee Health throughout Southwest Florida. On March 21, 2017, representatives spoke to students in the building trades about employment opportunities at their numerous facilities.

Mr. Rod Allen, System Director of Plant Operations, graduated from the air-conditioning apprenticeship program at FMTC in the 1980's. Today, he oversees operations that control temperature, humidity, pressurization, generators, and fire prevention along with building renovations and maintenance – all the operations that are essential to the health, comfort, and safety of employees and patients at four acute care hospitals as well as numerous outpatient facilities. In May, Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida opened and Lee Health has many other projects in the works including an emergency room in Estero and expansion of both Gulf Coast Hospital and Regional Cancer Center.

According to Gary Ayotte, Plant



Gary Ayotte, Lindsay Tesniarz, and Rod Allen

Operations Director at Gulf Coast Medical Center, there are over 100 employees in their division with many nearing retirement. Lee Health offers opportunities for advanced training to its employees and opportunities for advancement.

Qualities that Lee Health's recruiters are looking for in future employees include attitude, appearance, customer care, communication skills, and peer relationships. Ms. Lindsay Tesniarz, Human Resources Business Partner Project Specialist, encourages FMTC graduates to check out the employment opportunities and benefits offered at Lee Health on their website: www.leehealth.org. They have positions for almost every career area offered at FMTC.

ASHRAE President Visits FMTC *by Debbie Krouse*



Tim Wentz, center, with the Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Technology students

January 18, 2017 – Mr. Tim Wentz, president of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), spoke to FMTC's Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Technology students about the future of the industry. He talked about his personal history of moving from a slide rule in his early college days to a hand-held calculator and now a computer or Smartphone as an example of the challenges and opportunities inherent in adapting to new technology.

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 55,000 members worldwide focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration, and sustainability. ASHRAE is a technical society and sets standards in the industry through research-based design guidelines.

There are over 1.3 million people employed in the HVACR industry in the United States and Canada. As the population and number of buildings grow, so does the demand for residential, commercial, and industrial

climate-control systems. Residential HVACR systems generally need replacement after 10 to 15 years; the large number of homes built in recent years will enter this replacement timeframe by 2018.

The future of the industry is technology.

People can now control their home air conditioner from their cell phone. The increased complexity of HVACR systems, which increases the possibility that equipment may malfunction also, will create opportunities for service technicians.

Mr. Wentz said technicians entering the field today will see more change than any other generation, therefore, life-long learning will be necessary to keep current with technology.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, the median hourly wage for an HVAC technician in the United States in 2015 was \$21.69. Mr. Wentz says as baby boomers retire, the need for qualified technicians is tremendous. In Florida, the industry will grow 33% between 2014 and 2024; and employers prefer to hire those who have completed technical school training or a formal apprenticeship.

