

# The Voice

A STUDENT FORUM

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Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, North Carolina

October 2009

## Congressman David Price Visits, Applauds College

By Leanne Wolfe

Wake Tech is “living up to its mission.” That’s the assessment from U.S. Congressman David Price (D-Dist. 4), who visited Wake Tech’s Main Campus Aug. 27, touring the Automotive Department, as well as viewing a segment of a game created by students in the Simulation and Game Development (SGD) program and Virtual Heroes Inc.

Each program would receive \$200,000 to help them expand under the U.S. House of Representatives version of federal appropriations legislation.

During a pre-tour meeting with staff and faculty in Holding Hall, Price participated in discussions about the financial aspects of the college’s gaming program and how serious simulation games can be beneficial to Wake Tech, as well as other schools and businesses.

Butch Grove, dean of the Computer and Engineering Technologies Division (CET), explained how the money is being used and how future grant money will be used for this program.

Students in SGD typically are younger than other engineering majors, he said. They can use this degree to develop entertainment games or serious simulation games. Graduates also can work for large or small gaming companies and have fairly specific jobs, such as modeling, programming, and imaging.

SGD students have worked with the N.C. Biotech Center and want to make simulation games that will help advancements in biotechnology. Serious games can help with workplace training, as well as nursing programs, Grove said.

While visiting the Automotive Systems Technology Department (AST), Price learned about hybrid engines.

AST instructor Rich Cregar outlined what his students are learning, explaining that hybrid vehicles are designed to have all power unplugged with one cord.

Price encouraged students to finish their degrees, whether attending classes full or part-time.

Most of the available grant money is now in the bank, Price said, and another grant totaling \$400,000 has cleared the U.S. House of Representatives and is awaiting further approval.

Wake Tech President Stephen Scott noted that “Congressman Price supported a number of science and technology grants, and it is important for him to see how Wake Tech is using the money he supported.”

From top right to below: U.S. Congressman David Price (D-Dist. 4) gets a lesson in hybrid vehicles from Automotive Technologies instructor Rich Cregar, then conducts a TV interview as *The Voice* reporter Leanne Wolfe takes notes.



## Basketball!

By Chris Velona

With the start of a new school year at Wake Tech, there is a fresh buzz circulating campus. After years of waiting, there is finally a basketball team at Wake Tech.

The Wake Tech Eagles have a full schedule on their hands. The season starts at 7 p.m. Nov. 2, at Cape Fear Community College, in Wilmington.

This poses a test for the young Eagles. Cape Fear has been an exciting team in the past, boasting a couple of pre-season All-Americans.

The Eagles’ home games will be played at the Southeastern Baptist Seminary, in downtown Wake Forest (for directions, visit [www.sebts.edu](http://www.sebts.edu)). The first home game is at 7 p.m. Nov 4. The price for the games is in every college student’s budget: FREE! If you cannot make the first game, that is ok. The team has a long 27 game schedule, with 13 at home. Check out the Wake Tech website for the complete schedule.

A new team also means a new coach. Van Williams has been chosen as the right fit for the job. He played and then went on to coach at Shaw University in the

CIAA. He also coached at Cape Fear CC. According to Williams, Cape Fear set the standard in the league (Carolinas Junior College Conference) and could turn out to be the Eagles’ rival.

Tryouts have already been held and there are two walk-ons who made the team: small forwards Martin Ngong and Gabe Williams (no relation to Coach Williams). The other players on the team were recruited by Williams. Recruits were given partial scholarships, which paid for tuition and books.

The Eagles are a young team, but have three sophomores fans should keep an eye on: point guard/shooting guard Lance Beckwith, who played with Kentucky’s John Wall at Word of God, in Raleigh, shooting guard Trishtan Johnson, and small forward BJ Brock. All have Division 1 talent, according to Coach Williams. Some freshmen to remember are shooting guard/small forward Nelson Kirksey and forward/center Yobby Williams.

Students and faculty are ready for the new basketball team. Sophomore Networking Major Andrew Doering thinks the new team is “definitely a step forward for Wake Tech CC.” He added that it gave students the opportunity to interact with other students. This should bring the school together as a whole.



DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE *	TIME
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Sat., Oct. 17	Little Field Jamboree- GA (scrimmage)	Away	All day
Sat., Oct. 24	Cape Fear CC Jamboree (scrimmage)	Away	All day
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Mon., Nov. 2	Cape Fear Community College	Away	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 4	Brunswick Community College	Home	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 7	Central Carolina Community College	Away	3:00 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 11	Sandhills Community College	Away	5:00 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 16	Methodist University JV	Away	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Nov 18	Catawba Valley Community College	Home	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Nov 20	Brunswick Community College	Away	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 25	Sandhills Community College	Home	7:00 p.m.
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Wed., Dec. 2	Vance-Granville Community College	Away	7:00 p.m.

With the team roster set, it is time for the Eagles to get to work. That means practicing hard and getting mentally prepared for the first basketball game in Wake Tech history. Let’s go Eagles!!!

## Boycott Kanye West!

By Nicholas Bambach

Many people are rightfully angered over rapper Kanye West's behavior at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards, when he interrupted Country Music star Taylor Swift's acceptance speech and proclaimed that she did not deserve the Best Female Video award.

There is a major backlash for his classless behavior and many are calling for him to be boycotted. However, this is not the first time he has put on such an outrageous stunt and I believe people should boycott him for his disrespect for not only the lovely Swift, but to the entire music industry.

The controversy began when Swift was giving her speech; West was the presenter onstage. During her speech, he grabbed the microphone from her and voiced his opposition of her win.

"Taylor, I'm really happy for you. I'll let you finish, but Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time! One of the best videos of all time!"

Of course, a chorus of boos followed and almost everyone felt terrible for Swift. Later that the night, Beyonce Knowles, who won the prestigious Video of the Year Award, showed some class and allowed Swift to come back onstage to finish her speech. Beyonce was at least professional and allowed Swift the proper respect she deserved in the first place.

West has to remember that the audience voted for the award, not him. Who really cares what he thinks? If he disagreed with her win, he could have either kept it to himself or blogged about it after the show. There is absolutely no reason for such poor behavior and he might as well have given the middle finger to everyone for his interruption.

He obviously does not care of what the audience wants and I found his actions to be disgusting and immature, to say the least. There are numerous petitions online, and rightfully, many celebrities like Pink and Katy Perry have criticized West for his antics, calling him all sorts of names that I will not restate because they are too vulgar.

There are many rumors floating around that West drank heavily before going onstage, but that is no excuse for interrupting someone's acceptance speech. Maybe MTV should ban alcohol at next year's ceremony and make an example out of this.

In response to West's abrupt behavior, I call for everyone to boycott his music and anything associated with him. I used to be a fan of West's, but after this controversy, I will never buy another album of his, and I call for others to do the same.

West might have ruined his career for the same reason he became popular in the first place: Speaking his mind. Okay West, you can speak your mind, but from now on, I will turn a deaf ear and change the radio station when you're on.

## The sweet and terrible fruits of mediocrity

Corbie Hill

The nightmares have to stop. I can't sleep through the night; I wake up in a cold sweat.

It's horrible. Just last night, I saw early '90s socio-political incendiary Ice Cube reduced to starring in throwaway family comedies. I couldn't get back to sleep for fear the fart jokes would return.

It's worse than insomnia; it's worse than when I hallucinated that the headliners from this year's Downtown Live were chasing me through the woods. Who knew one-hit wonders could run so fast?

I finally did get back to sleep, and initially, I thought I was finally having a good dream. There was Pearl Jam and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, but then things got weird: Pearl Jam had signed a deal to release its latest record through Target, going against two decades of artistic integrity, and the Chili Peppers were hocking everything from AOL to NASCAR.

RHCP records continued to sell like mad, though I couldn't tell where Anthony Kiedis' actual lyrics stopped and the rhyming dictionary took over. My dream hooked a hairpin turn to chaos, and I saw U2

and Bruce Springsteen watered down to pale imitations of their initial glory. Next came Bob Dylan's dreadful post-*Time out of Mind* records make millions of dollars. I saw Paul McCartney tour with what amounts to a Beatles cover band . . . I may never sleep again.

The old model is badly broken and these bloated giants have been hogging the horizon for years. Not all the musicians of earlier eras sold their souls (Beck, Tom Waits, Q-Tip, Thom Yorke, Johnny Cash), but many of them are so blinded by profit that they've forgotten their roots. Nickelback and Taylor Swift records have the artistic integrity of a Whopper Jr., yet they still sell. Critics who fear their own weapon, critics terrified of being labeled "negative," are as much to blame for the success of these acts as the major labels that have been force-feeding the market for years.

No one's ever allowed out of the shark tank, not Dylan, not McCartney. If you're alive, if you're making music, your work is open to honest criticism. If someone tells you it's time to get out of the way, they might be right, and it's probably somebody else's turn in the spotlight.

*We're going to pass a health care plan written by a committee whose head says he doesn't understand it, passed by a Congress that hasn't read it but exempts themselves from it, signed by a president that also hasn't read it, and who smokes, with funding administered by a treasury chief who didn't pay his taxes, overseen by a surgeon general who is obese, and financed by a country that's nearly broke. What could possibly go wrong? —Unknown*

## "Public Option" Revokes Choice For Americans

By Chelsea Crowson

Fellow students, I encourage you to take a closer look at the controversial Healthcare Reform Bill and establish your own opinion rather than adopting and regurgitating partisan media statements. If you do, you will be surprised to see elements that President Obama has intentionally failed to articulate.

The leading disconnect is that the bill mandates all U.S. citizens to purchase health insurance or face a tax penalty. While it proposes a different insurance program run by the government, the irony of its dubbed name "public option" is evident when you realize you have no option.

The reported statistics regarding the uninsured rarely include that the majority of those people are young adults with the means to purchase insurance but who elect not to. Such citizens will be slapped with a tax penalty unless they purchase insurance.

While President Obama promises citizens the ability to keep their current insurance coverage, it would not be rational to conclude that any insurance companies can continue to conduct business. The Congressional Financial Committee estimates the "public option" to operate using \$880 billion in deficit spending beyond the receipt of participant premiums and tax revenue. It is not practical that any insurance business in the private sector, including non-profit entities, can compete with that level of irresponsible, exorbitant expenditure. It,

therefore, grants the government the statutory power to require all U.S. citizens to become customers of a potential monopoly or a government-selected cartel.

If you are approaching graduation and seeking employment, consider the effects on your prospective employers. By penalizing companies that choose not to provide health coverage for full and part-time employees, many of them will pass the expense to employees by cutting wages, making their health coverage dilemma more problematic.

Companies that follow the mandate will bear an equally considerable burden. Rightly identified by the Heritage Foundation, "The mandate increases the marginal cost of each additional worker, making it less likely that small businesses will hire new employees or give raises to existing ones in a weak economy."

Wouldn't it make more sense to step back and look at why everyone is so importunate about reforming healthcare? The rising cost of healthcare is by and large attributed to the declining health of Americans.

Common sense dictates that if Americans take advantage of preventative healthcare and are incentivized to be healthier, the need for medical assistance will decline and the cost of health coverage will inevitably become more affordable. In stark contrast to the proposed bill, the only sensible reform must focus entirely on improving American health.



Photo by Melody Brown-Peyton

### The Voice

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We welcome your news and views. Please sign your name to submissions and include a telephone number or email address where you can be reached.

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## Book Review: *Down River* by John Hart

By Alonzo Culzac

Authors such as Stephen King and John Grisham have dominated the American popular culture landscape with their vivid storytelling. Many fiction writers have tried to emulate them, and John Hart has successfully reached their level creatively with his page-turner *Down River*.

Set in Salisbury, N.C., *Down River* is a dark character-driven mystery/thriller that examines how people act when crippled with desperation. Every character is deeply affected in some way by another person's action, thus creating a cycle of dysfunction that ruins relationships—and even lives.

It revolves around Adam Chase, who returns home to Salisbury from New York City after five years of self-imposed exile. Still upset over an incident that

he believes ruined his life, he decides to confront the family and friends he left behind. First he pays a special visit to his best friend Danny Faith, a man he has known for most of his life.

However, Chase's past catches up with him when he finds himself in the center of a mystery affecting his family and friends. Will he find out who is responsible before the worst that is possible occurs? And what terrible things will he uncover in the quest for justice?

A native North Carolinian and former lawyer, Hart applied both his personal and professional experiences to craft this work of art. With *Down River*, expect to hear a lot of John Hart's name for many years to come.



## OPINION

## Chaos in the Parking Lot

By Rebecca Lawler

As school started this fall, many Wake Tech students were eager to dive right into learning. There was just one problem: The parking is making it hard for students and faculty to make it to class on time.

This semester, Wake Tech enrolled more than 12,000 students between all of its campuses. Steve Gregory, security and safety manager, said that the Main campus, the Health Sciences campus, and the Northern campus have only about 4,500 parking spots available.

Because of the overflow of students, the Health Sciences campus had to limit its on-site parking to 300 students; others are taking a shuttle bus from Capital Boulevard to the campus.

The limited parking, especially on Main campus, has resulted in students parking illegally. Security was forced to tape off certain areas to prevent parking on the grass, resulting in many of the close to

3,500 parking citations issued each semester.

Between 9 a.m. and noon, parking on Main campus is horrific. Students are left searching for parking spots for at least 20 minutes.

Notes one student, who said it takes him at least 15 minutes to find a place to park, "You are left driving in circles till you are lucky enough to snag a spot from someone leaving!"

Another, a student in her first year, said others follow her as she is walking to her car just so they can get a spot to park.

With that said, Wake Tech is trying to address the parking problem: A new deck will be constructed in 2010 that will add more spaces at the Health Sciences campus.

Until something is addressed, the other two campuses that are suffering from parking problems, well, we will just have to grin and bare it!



Photos by Tim Morris

## Veterans' Services Now Available on Wake Tech Campus

By Elizabeth Burger

In trend with most colleges and universities around the state, Wake Tech has seen an increase in the enrollment of former and present military professionals. This should be no surprise, considering that an estimated 1.7 million men and women will be returning from military duty in Iraq and Afghanistan this year alone, according to the Center for Military Health Policy (CMHP).

The Raleigh Vet Center, a government-funded program that focuses solely on meeting the mental health care needs of returned military combat veterans and their families, offers counseling services at Wake Tech.

The out-station, an extension of a clinic on Old Louisburg Road in Raleigh, joins a network of 232 Vet Centers around the country specializing in "readjustment counseling"—a wide range of therapies

used to aid veterans in making a successful transition from military to civilian life.

In the medical world, the difficulty adjusting to normal environments after a traumatic event is generally referred to as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and is a condition that affects roughly one-fifth of all returning combat vets, notes the CMHP.

PTSD can be devastating to the lives of its victims—often damaging their relationships with spouses, co-workers, family, and friends, says social worker Jocelyn Cahall. Additionally, the full effects of PTSD may not appear for months or years after a soldier returns home.

"We see people here (at the center) that are still dealing with the Vietnam War," says Cahall, who specializes in readjustment counseling.

Full access to the center's services is also extended

to the spouses, parents, siblings, and children of veterans. Marriage and family therapy is provided, as is bereavement counseling for anyone who has lost a loved one in combat, she said.

Victims of military sex crimes are also highly encouraged to seek the Vet Center's assistance.

Cahall stresses that all services are highly confidential (the center keeps no electronic records), and offered free of charge to veterans and their families.

"They've already earned these benefits through military service," she explains. "We are here for them; their work is done."

Counseling is provided on from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays in the Student Services building on Main Campus.

For more information, contact the Vet Center at (919) 856-4616 or visit [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov).

## Music Review: The Best of Torche

By Corbie Hill

*Torche: metal for people who hate metal.*

*iPod essentials: "Across the Shields," "Amnesian"*

*Locals in a similar vein: Caltrop, the Curtains of Night*

Miami band Torche created a surprising crossover record in its 2008 masterpiece, *Meanderthal*. Torche is commonly identified as a metal band, but its influence extends far beyond the borders of the genre.

The album's success is most likely owed to the presence of well-composed pop melodies, hooks included, throughout *Meanderthal*. Listeners who don't care for the overblown screaming endemic to many metal acts are finally given a heavy—and coherent—album that begs repeat listens.

Metalheads get a record inhabiting the little-explored middle ground between speed and doom metal. Musicians and music nerds appreciate the undeniable technicality of the band's rollercoaster approach, including dual guitars like hunting falcons atop sympathetic bass, and an occasional angular bedrock of precision drumming.

Sadly, guitarist Juan Montoya left the band following this album, reducing its fantastic dual guitar lines to a live impossibility.

The defining track of this record, "Across

the Shields," is a rock and roll triumph, a driving three-minute epic, and ultimately a love song delivered through the unlikely metaphor of medieval combat.

"I am your armor," guitarist Steve Brooks belts out in his rich baritone over the steady '70s metal drums and unstoppable riff . . . it's total hero metal. It's nerdy, it's a guilty pleasure, and it's timeless.

Torche could just as easily have been contemporaries with Sleep and Kyuss, with Sabbath (yeah, I went there), as with actual contemporaries Mastodon and Pelican.

The only song this album could have done without is the eponymous closer track. Don't get me wrong. It's a great song, but it belongs on a completely different record. A plodding instrumental using downtuned guitars as percussion, it hails to their sludge metal and stoner rock roots, yet holds no common thread with the rest of the record.

If *Meanderthal*—the album—had instead ended with the thunderous winding down of "Amnesian," it would have been a perfect record.



## Work on The Voice

*The Voice* is always looking for students interested in writing and taking photographs. If you have an interest, contact the advisor at [vsbarile@waketech.edu](mailto:vsbarile@waketech.edu).

Staff meetings are at 11 a.m. Mondays in Rm. 114 of Howell Library on Main campus.

Visit the <http://studentactivities.waketech.edu/clubs/studentvoice/> for online copies of this newspaper and additional stories.



## Briefs

### Spring Pastry Show a Treat

Culinary students and professional chefs went head-to-head in April at Wake Tech's Annual Pastry Show and Competition, sponsored by U.S. Foodservice and Time Warner Cable.

For the first time, the event was held at the Raleigh Convention Center and was open to the public. About 1,400 food lovers watched a live cake decorating competition and viewed award-winning pastries and cold foods.

The evening ended with a reception sponsored by many of the Triangle's top restaurants and caterers, and included an auction of the spectacular cake creations.

"The Pastry Show gets better each year," said Dr. Stephen Scott, president of Wake Tech. "This show lets Wake Tech and other culinary students shine and be recognized for the skills they've worked so hard to acquire."

The first Pastry Show was held in 1994 and culminates months of instruction in the art and science of baking for culinary students in the second year of the associate's degree program.

### CNN Arrives in Raleigh

Wake Tech was featured on "Lou Dobbs Tonight" on CNN in a story about JobsNow! A photographer visited a BioWork class and two students were interviewed, as was President Scott.

### Business Students Win Honors

Business students represented Wake Tech well in recent competitions, winning at the Phi Beta Lambda's State Leadership Conference in Charlotte and the national competition in Anaheim, Calif.

State first-place winners were: Jamie Centers, Business Law; Franklin Jacobs, Microeconomics; Jim Meyer, Project Management; Aaron Holloway, Sports Management and Marketing; James Scarcella, Networking Concepts; Noah Harris, Information Management; Mike Grace, Economic Analysis and Decision Making; Brandon Ford, Financial Concepts; Hank Cox, Future Business Teacher; and Kristin Page, E-Business.

On the national level, 14 Wake Tech students were national winners and four were double national winners. President John Harrison was chair of the Parliamentary Procedure team that placed 7th, winning the Dorothy L. Travis Award, the most prestigious of the team events.

Northern campus Vice President Jamie Centers placed 5th in Business Law, the highest a community college student has ever placed in that category. Main campus Vice President James Scarcella was third in Networking Concepts. He and teammate Mike Schmitz, the immediate past chapter president, were also third in Network Design.

Franklin Jacobs was 10th in Macroeconomics and Microeconomics; Hank Cox, 5th in Future Business Teacher; Mike Grace, 10th in Economic Analysis and Decision Making; Kristin Page, 5th in E-business; Jim Meyer, 7th in Project Management; Noah Harris, 10th in Information Management; and Aaron Holloway, 10th in Sports Management and Marketing.

Also representing Wake Tech were Joey Barbour, Daunita Adesuyi, Melissa Moyer, Ly Mai Nguyen, India Gause, Brandon Ford, Matt Korff, and Kym Shepard.



Photo by Sherree Ward

Norma Miller works on prize-winning cake with assistant Barbara Coleman at Wake Tech's Annual Pastry Show and Competition; see *Briefs* for more about this event.

## Maness Guides Students To Higher Reading Skills

By Melody Brown-Peyton

Pre-Curriculum's reading instructor Deborah Maness has been at Wake Tech for eight years after spending several years teaching science at nearby West Lake Middle School.

One of the joys she finds in teaching on the college level is helping her students reach their career goals. However, she does admit her challenge has been working with students who have had unsuccessful educational experiences. One of the ways that she works through this is by giving them guidance in study habits.

Inspired by her fourth grade teacher, Maness found her love for teaching. The advice she gives for students planning to become teachers is that they must love their subject matter and students.

Teaching is a gift, she says. In teaching reading, she focuses on helping students learn to read for meaning. The first step is to understand the vocabulary.

Her own favorite reading includes *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Red Tent*, and *The Book Thief*, though currently she's reading *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*.

Maness is a graduate of UNC-Greensboro and NC State.

## Wake Tech Thinking to the Future

By Tim Stephens

A new Wake Tech initiative, SunTrust Center for Strategic Futures at Wake Tech, kicked off its first event Sept. 2 with an on-campus lecture by DaVinci Institute futurist Thomas Frey and aimed at encouraging future thinkers who can interact with a future-thinking community, business or workforce.

The lecture titled, "The Future of Money: Trends and Transactions," focused on personal and social concepts and technology that Frey believes will be important this century.

"The SunTrust Center for Strategic Futures ... will provide a speakers forum hosting future thinking leaders ... for the exchange of ideas related to the nature of education, workforce development, and economic development," said Wake Tech President Stephen Scott.

## 10 Insider Tips for Success at Wake Tech

By Chelsea Crowson and Nicholas Bambach

Among the more obvious tips for being a successful student, here are a few that can make a BIG difference:

1. Treat it like the job you want and it will change your mindset and attitude.
2. Show up early and sit in the front of the classroom. The closer you are to the front, the fewer possible distractions you will have.
3. Set "work" hours outside of school. If you have finished all your assignments, hit the books and study.
4. Do homework in a clear, well-lit environment. It provides for better brain function and increased productivity.
5. Eat breakfast before your morning classes. Your brain works better on a full stomach.
6. Use campus resources like the ILC. They are made just for you, so utilize them.
7. If you start a class, finish it or drop it ON TIME! Dropping late can hurt your GPA.
8. Don't do your English paper the night before it is due.
9. Come early, so you can find a parking space, especially with so many new students.
10. Form a study group, because those who do typically make the best grades.

*Best of Luck this semester!*

### Calendar

October 8-13	Fall Break
October 26	Pre-registration for Spring Term opens
November 2	Fall Festival on Health Sciences campus
November 4	Fall Festival on Main campus
November 6	Fall Festival on North campus
November 26-29	Thanksgiving Holiday
November 11	No classes for Day Students
November 30	Pre-registration for Spring Term ends
December 10	Exams begin