

a newsletter for CTC students

CHIT CHATT



Have you ever heard of this? **Second Life (SL)** is a **virtual world** that was developed by Linden Lab in 2003. Users, called residents, interact via avatars. User accounts are free. Residents can explore, meet other residents, socialize, participate in activities, and create and trade virtual property and services. They can travel throughout the world. Residents can create limitless objects, but landowners are capped at 15,000 objects per "island." In this virtual world, residents may conduct financial transactions, shop, skydive, attend shows, and visit other centuries (this doesn't begin to list what can be done in **Second Life**). The imagination can truly run wild. Here at CTC, a faculty innovation grant has made all of this possible.

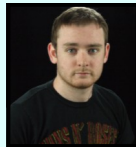
According to Visual Communications Instructor Glenn Reid, the grand opening in August of the **Virtual Island** and the **Annex Virtual Art Gallery** was "attended" by more than 200 visitors! The virtual gallery was designed as a vehicle for students and staff to exhibit artwork and to study work ethics. Four Visual Communications students heralded the Island's grand opening by exhibiting their artwork in the virtual gallery.

Here's some information about the student exhibitors...



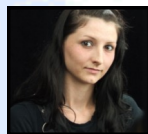
Dani Boone's artistic style is with computer-generated fractals. Presently, she is negotiating with a fashion magazine in Poland for usage of her fractal art. One of her art pieces is hanging in the lobby of a large music venue in Denver, Colorado. A mobile phone skin company in Europe has expressed interest in using her fractal designs in their product line.

Christopher Croasdale's exhibit consists of a dozen motorcycles, trikes, and speeders all built in Second Life. These beautiful, complex machines were built with prims, the basic building blocks used in virtual worlds. His machines are scripted so they can be ridden on the open roads of Second Life.



Jason Hill is the Visual Communications "new kid on the block" with a few core courses under his belt. His digital photo manipulations really bend reality and help us look at common subject matter in a truly different way.

Shannon King's artwork is a favorite among her peers. She blends traditional art skills with digital techniques in a unique mischievous style that makes her subjects appear to be looking back at you.



CTC faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to join **Second Life** and create a personal avatar. It's suggested that you access the site from your home computer. Go to www.secondlife.com. You'll be able to create an avatar, go through orientation, and then teleport to *Chattahoochee Tech Island*. See you there!

Second Life is perfectly suited for many high-tech instructional applications. For example, Humanities Instructor Ashley Strong-Green uses Second Life to make the material in her class more "hands on." **SL** provides a 3-D environment for her students to explore the heritage of humanity. Some of Ms. Strong-Green's students were able to "visit" Ancient Rome. They visited the Sistine Chapel, went on a scavenger hunt for Renaissance masterpieces, and explored architectural ruins of Ancient Mayan civilizations. Additionally, Ms. Strong-Green is aware of **SL** being applied to the Health Sciences by allowing students, as "sims" (simulated personalized virtual persons), to triage patients. And...Mr. Gene Freund's Marketing Management students are able to teleport directly to the Marketing building where Mr. Freund holds virtual office hours!

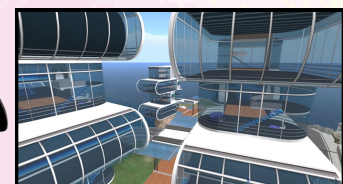
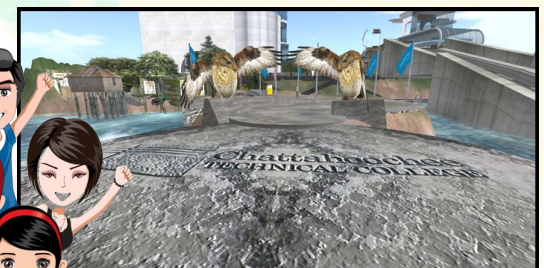
Actually, the instructional applications are only as limited as the imagination of the user!

In this issue...

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Please contact the editor at glargo@ChattahoocheeTech.edu with suggestions for topics you'd like to see in future issues of Chit Chatt.

**A sneak peek at
Chattahoochee Tech
Island**



CTC
Classroom
Buildings

Student Email: You don't know what you're missing!

When you think about it, there are at least five basic necessities in life: food, water, clothing, shelter and...EMAIL!



All students who are registered for courses are assigned a unique CTC email address. *Naming convention for student email:*
(your CTC computer login)@students.chattahoocheetech.edu

Check out the following *worldwide* email statistics for 2009:

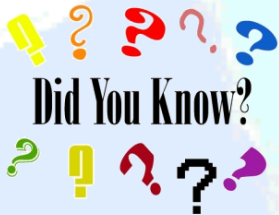
| | |
|---|-------------|
| Number of emails sent: | 90 trillion |
| Average number of email messages per day: | 247 billion |
| Number of email users: | 1.4 billion |
| Number of email users added in one year: | 100 million |

Statistics provided by Pingdom—an international internet, website, and server monitoring company based in Sweden.

Our point? Email has become a vital primary means through which we communicate all sorts of things on a daily basis. At Chattahoochee Tech, email is no less important; student email at CTC is actually a “**basic necessity**”! As a matter of fact, it’s usually the easiest, fastest, most reliable way for you to communicate with—and receive vital information from—faculty, staff, and other students.

Here’s just *some of the information* sent to the attention of *all* CTC students via student email...

- ✓ Pre-registration information
- ✓ Registration information
- ✓ Fee payment information
- ✓ Advising information
- ✓ Campus closings
- ✓ Campus Life events
- ✓ Emergency situations
- ✓ Sporting events
- ✓ Student newsletter (Chit Chatt)
- ✓ Messages from instructors and college staff



You can forward your CTC emails to the email Inbox that you check most frequently! That way, you'll make sure you don't miss a thing! Here's how to do it...

How do I find faculty and staff email addresses?

Click on **Visitors** (top of front web page), then click on **School Directory** (which is under **About the College**).

How to I get to my student email?

Go to **www.ChattahoocheeTech.edu**

Click on **Current Students**

Click on **Student Email** (under the *Student Resources* heading)

Some general facts about CTC email...

- ▶ No need to set up your email.
Your student email account has been set up if you're a current student.
- ▶ Less than 50% of current students are using CTC email address.
- ▶ 5GB of storage in email account; 25GB in SkyDrive.

For Technical Support issues:

HelpDesk@Students.ChattahoocheeTech.edu

Or call the Help Desk:

8 a.m.-5p.m. (M-Th) & 7a.m.-4p.m. (Fri) at 770-528-4444

Be sure to check your student email accounts often (a few times a day, if possible). *You have messages waiting for you RIGHT NOW! You won't know what you're missing...until you've missed it!* Don't let that happen to you.

Steps to Forward your College Email to your Personal Email Account

After you sign in to your college email account, click **Options**, then click **Organize E-Mail**, and then click **Inbox Rules**.

1. On the **Inbox Rules** tab, click **New**.
2. Under **When the message arrives**, select **Apply to all messages**.
3. Under **Do the following**, select **Redirect the message to**.
4. Select the address you want your mail sent to by double-clicking on it in the address book view.
If the address you want to redirect to doesn't appear, you can enter the e-mail address in the **To:** field.
5. Click **OK** to save your selections and return to the “new rule” window.
6. Click **Save** to save your rule and return to the **Inbox Rules** tab.



Visible Transformations!

Do you ever feel “blah” or just out of sorts? Sometimes all that’s needed is a little “pick me up” to make you feel like a “new person”! Our **Cosmetology** students are actually learning how to make a real and significant difference in people’s lives. After all, how do you feel when you like what you see in the mirror? Doesn’t it boost your self confidence and self esteem? Often, feeling good about yourself leads to other positive things in your life. People tend to gravitate toward you, take you more seriously and, yes, may even offer you that job you want so badly. In a job interview, it only takes *15 seconds* for the interviewer to “size you up” and determine if you are serious about finding a job!

Do you know how people evaluate you?

55% body language and appearance

38% verbal tone

7% verbal content

(University of Illinois)



This program is exciting and fast paced. Students who are creative, hard working and service-oriented are the ones who will likely succeed in this dynamic program. You’ll also have some fun—in school and in your chosen career in the beauty industry!

The program at a glance...

- ◆ Learn the theory and practical applications for hair, skin, and nail care.
- ◆ Progress to the salon “lab.”
 - Perform services for the public at discounted rates.
- ◆ 1,500 hours required for board testing.
 - *Georgia State Board of Cosmetology*
- ◆ Graduates who pass the board are licensed as *Master Cosmetologists*.

Those who work in the field of *Cosmetology* (which includes hair, nails, makeup, and skin care) have the opportunity to help transform looks and lives on a daily basis. Chattahoochee Technical College offers the *Cosmetology* diploma program on three of its campuses: Appalachian, Marietta, and North Metro. Students must successfully complete four core classes before they are admitted into CTC’s *Cosmetology* program: Math 1012, English 1010, SCT 100, and EMP 1000.

Cosmetology Program gets a ‘MAKE-OVER’ to Semesters!

Students: Complete your 4 Core classes NOW, so you can enroll in the Fall 2011 program.

Real-life transformations!

Cosmetology students (Marietta Campus), Ken Perkins (top) and Kasey Barber, show results of class work where they learned how to choose and apply makeup!



An Employer’s Testimonial! *(This testimonial was unsolicited.)*

Ms. Amanda Pursel, General Manager of Supercuts for the entire Acworth/Kennesaw area, sent us the following email...

I would like to take the time to tell you what a “great find” one of your recent graduates has been for our organization. Her name is Jessi Griffin and she is an outstanding new cosmetologist. She has great work ethics and skills, which is so important for a stylist to be able to grow in the profession. I have been in the Cosmetology field for over 30 years and am currently the General Manager for all *Supercuts* salons in this area. Many of our seasoned stylists have come to me to express how much they like Jessi and enjoy working with her. They also appreciate her skills and the fact that she’s very open to learning. Good job in preparing Jessi for her new position!

Note: Jessi Griffin graduated from the Cosmetology program at the North Metro campus in November 2009.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Appalachian Campus (Salon phone #: 706-253-4511)

Rebecca Patterson

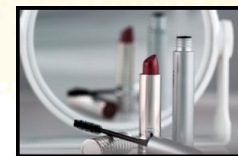
706-253-4566

rpatterson@ChattahoocheeTech.edu

Hours of Operation

Mon., Wed. 8:30 a.m. - noon

Tues. & Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Marietta Campus (Salon phone #: 770-528-4548)

Kathryn Smith

770-528-4481

ksmith@ChattahoocheeTech.edu

Linda Barrett

770-528-4541

lbarrett@ChattahoocheeTech.edu

Hours of Operation

Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Mon., Wed.

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

North Metro Campus (Salon phone #: 770-529-2377)

Colette Arp

770-975-4098

carp@ChattahoocheeTech.edu

Penny Cannon

770-975-4008

pcannon@ChattahoocheeTech.edu

Hours of Operation

Tues., Wed., Thurs.

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. &

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



A Key to the Future

Chattahoochee Technical College Provost, Ron Newcomb, was presented with a Kia “key to the future” during a special event that was held in July at the Kia Georgia Training Center in West Point, Georgia. Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia Inc. (KMMG) donated 20 new Kia Sorentos to the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). In turn, TCSG selected recipient colleges based on the size of enrollment in their automotive programs. Approximately 300 students are currently enrolled in CTC’s automotive programs.

During the event, KMMG President/CEO Byung Mo Ahn stated, “KMMG deeply appreciates the support we continue to receive from the State of Georgia, Governor Sonny Perdue, Commissioner Ron Jackson, and the entire Technical College System of Georgia. Our donation is just one expression of our deep appreciation for all that Georgia’s technical college system has done to support our success.” He added, “We consider the keys to these Kia Sorentos to also be the keys to the future for technical college students across the great state of Georgia.” TCSG Commissioner Jackson noted that “students across the state will have the opportunity to experience some of the most sophisticated automotive technology on the market today.” College President Chandler stated, “It is through community support and partnerships that we are better able to prepare a well trained and educated workforce. This donation will help to better prepare our students in the field of automotive technology through the use of state-of-the-art equipment.”

Interested in learning more about these exciting programs?

Email: dgeis@ChattahoocheeTech.edu



Pictured (left to right): Byung Mo Ahn, KMMG President & CEO; Ron Newcomb, CTC College Provost; Diane Geis, Automotive Technology Instructor; Ron Jackson, Technical College System of Georgia Commissioner.

The beautiful new Kia Sorento will be used for instructional purposes (in all aspects of automotive repair training, from engines and electronics to transmissions) in Chattahoochee Tech’s Automotive Technology degree, diploma, and certificate programs.

Here’s a list of programs...

Automotive Technology Applied Science Degree

Automotive Technology Diploma
Automotive Fundamentals Diploma

Automotive Certificates:

- ◆ Automatic Transmission/Transaxle Technician
- ◆ Brake Technician
- ◆ Electrical/Electronic Systems Technician
- ◆ Engine Performance Technician
- ◆ Engine Repair Technician
- ◆ Heating & Air Conditioning Technician
- ◆ Manual Drivetrain & Axle Repair Technician
- ◆ Suspension & Steering Technician

FALL QUARTER GRADUATION...

Friday, December 10, 2010

10 a.m. at Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

BE THERE BY 8:30 A.M.— MANDATORY MEETING!



For important information, go to www.ChattahoocheeTech.edu and click on *Current Students*. Then click on *Graduation 2010* (left side of screen).

Winter Q
application deadline:
December 3



The **Success Center** at the **Appalachian** campus has moved to a much more convenient location in the main building, **Room 215**. **NOTE:** Tutoring has been expanded to include accounting, anatomy & physiology, math, English, and writing. Contact **Nancy Allain** at **706-253-4519** or nallain@ChattahoocheeTech.edu for more information.

Record Fall Q Enrollment: **13,334**

Canton Campus Opening Soon!

Chattahoochee Technical College is growing again. We currently have seven campuses located in our six-county service area: Bartow, Cherokee, Cobb, Gilmer, Paulding, and Pickens. Early in 2011, our *eighth campus* is scheduled to open—in **Canton** in *The Bluffs* off Riverstone Parkway.

Here's a full list of CTC campuses:



Appalachian Campus
Austell Campus
Canton Campus
Marietta Campus
Mountain View Campus
North Metro Campus
Paulding Campus
Woodstock Campus



In line with the college's stated mission, Chattahoochee Tech's abundant program opportunities will become even more *accessible* to those living/working in and around the Canton area!

The Canton Campus will be one of our largest campuses with 62,500 square feet of space located on 25 acres. In addition to traditional classrooms, there will be a library; computer, medical, science, Allied Health, and technology labs (total # of labs: 14); a

bookstore; a student center; and an 85-seat tiered lecture hall. Faculty and administrative offices, a business office, and a student affairs/financial aid center will also be on campus.

Initially (winter 2011), plans are to offer English, sociology, math, history, biology, psychology, and drafting. HVAC and select courses in accounting, business administrative technology, management & supervisory development, and marketing management may be added for fall 2011.

These are very exciting times for the college as we continue to respond to the educational needs of our students and the communities we serve. College President Chandler confidently

notes, "Canton is an emergent city with many career, practicum, and internship possibilities for our students. The new campus will be a convenient choice for students living in Bartow and Cherokee counties."



2010 Career & College Fair

The 2010 **Career & College Fair** will be held at the North Metro campus on Tuesday, October 26, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., Bldg. D, Room 400. **Students from all campuses are encouraged to attend and bring copies of your resumes.** Admissions representatives from local four-year colleges and universities will be on hand to discuss transfer opportunities. You can check out the list of **employers and colleges** that will attend the fair by going to <http://ctc.experience.com>.



Remember to Dress for Success!

Golden Eagles Club Football Team Schedule

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Monday, October 18, 6 p.m. | Valdosta JV | Away |
| Sunday, October 24, 4:30 p.m. | South Alabama Club Team | Home* |
| Sunday, November 7, 2:30 p.m. | Clemson Club Team | Home* |

*All home games are played at Wheeler H.S. — 375 Holt Road, Marietta

Come on out and root for the home team!

Want information? Coach Tim Freeman coachfreeman68@yahoo.com 770-256-8053



To keep up with the latest news about all sports at CTC, go to www.ctcsports.org

Newest Sports Teams

During the summer, two new intramural club teams were formed: **baseball and women's softball.** Last spring, healthcare student Yvon Germeus, and Public Speaking instructor Shari Szalwinski, worked on assembling these new teams; both teams have been entered into local leagues this fall! To date, CTC has three intercollegiate sports (men's basketball, track & field, cross country)



in addition to other club sports (men's and women's basketball, cheerleading, football). Athletics Coordinator David Archer noted, "We're proud to report that CTC is leading the way among all 26 Technical College System of Georgia colleges for developing an accessible and well-rounded sports program for students." Intramural sports that may be added in the future include volleyball, soccer, cricket, and bowling.



CTC and WSB-TV Become Partners

Chattahoochee Tech and Channel 2 WSB-TV have formed an exclusive partnership that will provide students with a daily “working lab” in the digital media world. This joint venture will expose students to “real” experiences, so they will be better equipped to function in the new digital media era.

WSB-TV will provide...

- ★ Quarterly internship program
- ★ Training in digital storytelling
- ★ Annual symposium with station experts in a Q&A panel for Television Production Technology students

In return, CTC will provide...

- ★ Production support for various station projects

Sounds like a “win-win” situation!

Reactions to the new partnership...

According to Art Rogers, Channel 2’s director of local programming, “It all started as a simple internship program. We were pleasantly surprised with the level of experience these students already had through CTC. They walked in our door far more specialized and trained than any interns we’d had in the technical field. We ramped up the rate of exposing them to daily projects we undertake. Within a year, we hired several CTC

students full time with the station.” Vice president and general manager for WSB-TV, Bill Hoffman, noted, “Chattahoochee Tech has done a fantastic job of preparing students by giving them the latest equipment and resources along with instruction on how to best use it.” We provide a way for the school to have a ‘real world’ laboratory with all the local programming being produced out of our digital facility.” Dr. Chandler added, “This unprecedented partnership between one of the top five broadcast stations in the United States and our TV production program will provide new and outstanding opportunities for our students.” Television Production Lead Instructor, Ian Feinberg, concluded, “The exposure to major market operations directly addresses our mission of providing real world experience for our students.”

For information about the **Television Production Technology** degree program at Chattahoochee Tech, contact:

Ian Feinberg ifeinberg@ChattahoocheeTech.edu
James Townley jtownley@ChattahoocheeTech.edu



CTC-WSB Partnership in Action!

The unique partnership that was recently formed between Channel 2 WSB-TV and Chattahoochee Tech is already providing Television Production Technology students with “real world” instruction and experience. As part of their **Advanced Directing** class, **Paul Bean, Jes Burns, Vinny Gandolfi, Jason Hatter, Natalie Leopard, Michika McClinton, Jon Parish, Timea Talian, and Casey Ward** functioned as the **television studio crew** on August 30 for the latest **Clark Howard Primetime Special** that aired on **September 14 from 8-9 p.m.** (on WSB, of course)!



CTC student Joe Warner setting up a shot during rehearsal



WSB audience and CTC students, Timea Talian & Joe Warner



Left to right: CTC student Timea Talian, CTC graduate and WSB-TV employee Joe Warner, Clark Howard

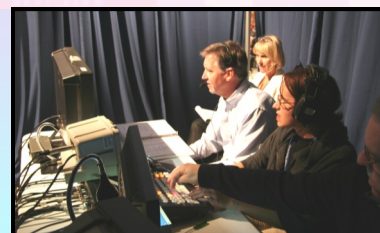


Foreground: WSB Radio Audio Engineer
 Background: CTC student Paul Bean, Video Playback

CTC Instructor Ian Feinberg operating a camera crane

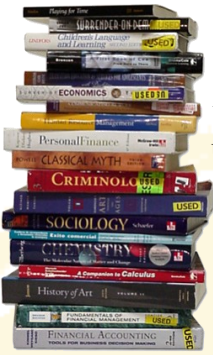


CTC Instructor James Townley watching camera levels during show



CTC student, Jes Burns, operating video switcher (front) & WSB Director Art Rogers

Textbooks for Rent



Great news! Beginning fall quarter, CTC campus bookstores began participating in a book rental program offered by Nebraska Book Company to save students up to 50% on 20-30% of CTC's required books. Students will pay a one-time rental fee in order to use a book for the entire quarter.

Approximately 15,000 titles are currently listed as part of the rental program.

Bookstore General Manager, Kathy

Weathersby, has informed us that they "hope to include as many titles as possible in the rental program." She adds, "This is only our first quarter using the program, so I'm sure the list of available titles will expand as the program grows." There are specific guidelines for determining which books are kept on—or added to—the list of books; e.g., book must be the latest published edition, instructors must plan to use the book beyond the current quarter. Factors that will preclude the placement of a book on the rental list include the addition

of special internet access, study guides, custom books, or a pending new edition.

Additional information...

- ✓ Books for rent will be marked with special stickers.
- ✓ Students will pay a percentage of a new book's retail price (usually 50%). Typically, a \$100 book would rent for \$50.
- ✓ Students must provide credit or debit card number + valid email address.
- ✓ Students may not use HigherOne card.
- ✓ Students may keep books for one quarter; books are due back on the *last day of final exams*.
- ✓ Students who decide to keep a book or fail to return it, will be charged the *difference* between the rental fee and the book's retail price + a 10% restocking fee.

For bookstore information, including store hours on each campus, go to www.chattahoocheetechbookstore.com.

American Marketing Association Meetings

General meetings of the North Metro Collegiate Chapter of the *American Marketing Association (AMA)* are held on the *first Wednesday* of each month in **Room 223 at 8 a.m.** Non-members are welcome! Please visit amanorthmetro.host56.com for more information. Gene Freund, Marketing Management instructor and AMA club advisor, has informed us that the club chapter is *open to students in all programs*...not just marketing students! Have questions? Email gfreund@ChattahoocheeTech.edu.



PTA Students Serve & Learn (and have fun too!)

Dr. Stephanie Puffer, Instructor and Clinical Coordinator for the Physical Therapist Assistant program, sent us these great photos along with the following explanation...

Each summer quarter, the *Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)* students engage in a **service learning experience** as part of the pediatric component of the curriculum. This summer, they were given the opportunity to gain hands-on experience that enriched their understanding of the course material while fulfilling a need in the community. The students participated in a pirate-themed summer camp for children with special needs through FOCUS (Families of Children Under Stress).

Second-year PTA students Scott Abston and Shelby Whitmore commented on the rewards of volunteering with children who have disabilities (and who don't always get to participate in activities with their peers). Scott reports, "The most satisfying moment of the day was the look on one child's face while we were playing a game of duck, duck, goose. Seeing how much he enjoyed those few minutes playing made it worth the whole trip." Shelby was moved by the unexpected effect that working with these "sweet and unique children" had on her. "All I can hope is that I may have left an impression on their lives the way they have on mine."

All of the students were asked to reflect on how this experience broadened their perspective of diversity and enhanced their critical-thinking skills. Dr. Puffer notes that many students in the PTA program feel compelled to use their newly learned skills to give back to the community. For information about the PTA program, see the CTC website under *Academics > Programs of Study*. For additional information, contact kbombery@ChattahoocheeTech.edu, cportee@ChattahoocheeTech.edu, or spuffer@ChattahoocheeTech.edu.



Second-year PTA students:
Paul DeShane & Brittany Hertzog



Can you “teach an old dog new tricks”?

Four-Point-Oh yes you can!

Bill Paulsen, CTC graduate and *IT Operations Lead Network Administrator* for Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services in Kennesaw, had 15 years of Information Technology experience “under his belt” before he decided to become a Chattahoochee Tech student in 2006. Why would someone with that kind of background opt to subject himself to the schedules, exams, homework, and other challenges that are inherently part of college life? Our curiosity led us to a *very interesting conversation with Mr. Paulsen*. We think you’ll agree!

When did you come to CTC? Why did you go back to school?

I enrolled at Chattahoochee Tech in the fall of 2006 after moving from Oklahoma to Marietta. I wanted to live closer to my family, but I also intended to further my career. Oklahoma is a wonderful place to live (I spent 23 years there), but I found that employment opportunities were limited. After interviewing with several potential employers in the Atlanta area, I realized I was being held back because I didn’t have a college degree. With 15 years of Information Technology experience, at the age of 36, I decided to return to school full time. After some investigation, I chose CTC for its scheduling flexibility, its convenient campuses, and the programs it offered.

What was your program of study?

Since I’d been working in the IT field for some years, I decided to pursue a Computer Information System (CIS) degree. In 2007, I earned a *CISCO Specialist* certificate. In 2008, I graduated with an *Information Security Specialist* diploma and AAS degree plus a *Networking Specialist* diploma and AAS degree.

Did you have to overcome any challenges in order to successfully complete your courses?

I did face a significant personal challenge during my time at CTC. Since it had been 20 years since I last stepped into a classroom, returning to school full time among folks almost half my age was probably the biggest challenge for me. I actually had to change the way I thought about things, and I constantly had to “psych myself up” in order to maintain the discipline that was necessary to do well in class. I had to remind myself that I was in school for self improvement and that I should stop worrying about little things like being too old to go to school. Once I got over that personal issue, classes were more enjoyable, and I was able to meet all of my goals. I graduated from CTC in August of 2008.

Were you able to get a job after you graduated?

During my last quarter in school, I began to actively look for employment in the Atlanta area. I interviewed with some companies and also signed up with a consulting firm. I didn’t want to limit my options. The consulting firm helped me locate a position in Kennesaw with a \$1.6 billion company that provides industrial services for refineries, chemical plants, power plants, and construction projects. I am still employed by that company today. Initially, Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services hired me as a consultant on a “contract-to-hire” basis; I began working for

them one week prior to graduation! I was hired as an IT Operations Network Administrator and have since been promoted to IT Operations Lead Network Administrator. I serve in many capacities, including network design/engineering, configuration, troubleshooting, maintenance, and planning for future needs. I’m responsible for all networking and network security for the company’s data center and 100+ remote sites.

How well do you think CTC prepared you for your job?

Some might assume that my 15+ years of experience would have been all the preparation I needed to perform well in my current position. That’s not quite true.

My experience is certainly valuable, but CTC helped fill in the gaps in my knowledge...and *that* has helped me enormously. Being familiar with material that was covered in my classes (from my years of experience) actually allowed me to focus on areas in which I most needed to improve. I’d say that, overall, I am very thankful to CTC for “teaching an old dog new tricks” (*his exact words*)! It wasn’t easy to achieve my 4.0 GPA, but it was definitely worth all of the time and effort that was required.

Is there anything else you’d like to tell us?

Actually, yes. My employer has made it clear to me that I am appreciated for my expertise, my professionalism, and my organizational skills. I want to point out that when they speak to my skills, they are really commenting on the sharpened skills that I acquired at Chattahoochee Tech. I’m sure of it. Here’s what I would like CTC students to know (whether they’re fresh out of high school or returning to school after 20+ years): It’s important to complete your program of study. Make the instructor your friend and follow directions closely. I noticed that students who dropped out of class did so because they didn’t follow the teacher’s rules. It’s really not that hard. You should worry less about what others think of you and more about how much you can benefit by performing well! Aiming for a high GPA demonstrates dedication, perseverance, and a solid work ethic—which usually impresses the hiring manager!



Bill Paulsen in front of his employer’s local networking equipment