

With This Resource, Watch Out For Developments!

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
If the warmth, the liveliness and the profound intelligence of Glenn Barefoot can't boost the resources of Brunswick Community College, it just can't be done. That, at least, is the impression one gets from meeting this new resource development director. After one month on the job, the 47-year-old Barefoot, bursting

with enthusiasm, said, "What I love about the job is that it challenges every inch of me. I'm in a position that needs everything I have."

What she has is considerable: people skills, successful experience with procuring grants, business acumen and all the drama and persuasiveness of a good teacher.

The Virginia native became an "adopted Tar Heel" in 1968 when she began teaching English at North Carolina State University. In 1972 she went to Randolph Community College in Asheboro, where grant writing was added to teaching assignments.

"I got a National Endowment for the Humanities grant," she recalled, "and money for the first battered women's shelter program in the county."

After marriage, two children and a divorce, Barefoot came to Wilmington in 1981, where she met and married Abram Barefoot whose furniture store in downtown Wilmington became her bailiwick.

"I worked in the store for 18 months and learned about business," she said, "then began teaching English part time at Cape Fear Community College."

All these experiences, she believes, are helpful in her present efforts at BCC.

"I have an advantage here in that I can identify with the faculty who don't have enough money, and I can also relate to the business office of the college, which doesn't know where the money's coming from," she said.

There are three avenues through which she promotes the institution: the Ambassador program, which attracts students to represent BCC around the county and on campus at special events; grant management, requiring her to seek outside sources of money for the college; and the Brunswick Foundation, a group of county residents that is building an endowment to give the college stability over time.

This foundation is presently renovating the Southport campus, she said. "The endowment it raises comes from individuals who want to support education," she explained. "Jesse Frances, for example, is a

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—Glenn Barefoot,
Brunswick Community College
Resource Development Director.



STAFF PHOTO BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

GLENN BAREFOOT flashes a happy smile as she describes her new job at Brunswick Community College.

Southport retiree who gave \$10,000 to invest. Only the interest from this is used."

Barefoot is actively involved in all three of these promotional endeavors. Patting a stack of papers in her "in" basket, she laughed with relief after a young woman came in to add one. "These are Ambassador applications," Barefoot said, "and yesterday this basket was empty, with the deadline tomorrow." Five students are chosen each year to receive scholarships as Ambassadors and to perform as a speaker's bureau, talking about the college.

The grant writing is already under way. "I've sent three out since I've been here," Barefoot laughed. "I'm not sure when we'll begin hearing from them."

Foundation matters are frequently on her schedule, with individual conferences, meetings and fund-raising projects that claim her attention.

She works alone, without a staff, in an office in the

administrative building, but feels the support of other college personnel.

"It's like a family here," she said. "We all pitch in. I've worked a lot of places but never felt the sense of camaraderie that I find here."

This is a lady who loves variety, and it is constant in this job.

"You never know on any day what will land on your desk," she said.

The future of this particular institution, Barefoot believes, with characteristic optimism, is brighter than most.

"Enrollment across the state is not increasing," she said, "but we are a county that's growing, and the school reflects this growth."

Part of the future growth at BCC will certainly be attributed to the smiling new face on staff, that energetic lady in charge of resource development. Glenn Barefoot may well be the skyrocket this institution needs to insure a golden future.

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