

## Passport to a Broader Education

Tech students encounter pasta, Pompeii and a prince

Groups of students from two of Georgia's technical colleges recently added international experience to their résumés. A baker's dozen from Chattahoochee Technical College's Culinary Arts program (12 students plus one instructor) toured Italy for a crash course in that country's classic cuisine, while Atlanta Technical College sent 10 of its own to visit its sister technical college in Germany.

During the trip to Italy, Chattahoochee Tech Culinary Arts Instructor Michael Bologna led his students into the kitchens of Mami Camilla in Sorrento and Scuola di Cucina in Sienna, where students attended classes while webcasting their lessons back to classmates in the United States.

"We wanted the best cooking school in Italy," says Bologna, who coordinated and supervised the trip. "And that's what we got."

The language difference was not a barrier, says Chattahoochee Tech Culinary Arts student Rhonda Porta. "When somebody's cooking, you can learn without them having to say anything," she says. "Italians are so passionate; they put their heart and soul into cooking."

### One of a Kind

Since 1997, Atlanta Technical College has been the only one of Georgia's technical colleges to maintain a 'sister' college relationship with a technical college in Germany.

*Right: Chattahoochee Tech Culinary Arts students in Italy.*

Recently, 10 Atlanta Tech students had the chance to explore their areas of interest during a 15-day trek to Felix Fechenbach Berufskolleg.

Funded by Atlanta Tech's Foundation and the Atlanta Tech Student Government Association, the program paired Atlanta Tech students with German technical college students in similar programs. The students lived with German families while attending classes in Computer Information Systems, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Early Childhood Care and Education, and pursuing internships at German businesses.

"The opportunity to live in Germany, sharing social customs, and to study and work as interns in German companies served as an exhilarating lifetime experience for students from both institutions," says Atlanta Tech Curriculum Program Specialist Dr. Gladys Camp, who coordinated the trip.

"I was interested in technology and know that Germany is technology-oriented," says Atlanta Tech Student Government President and Computer Information



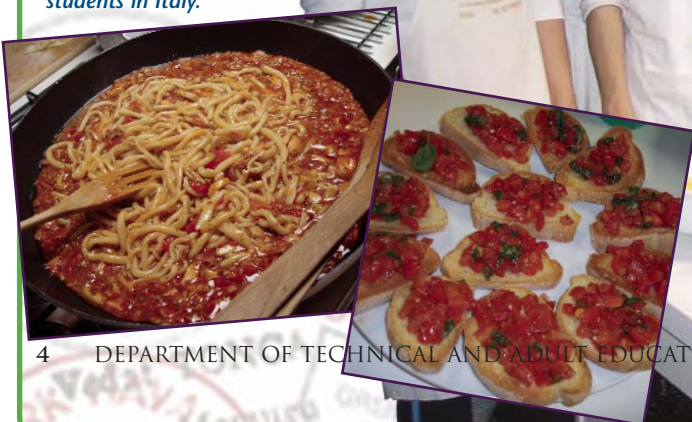
*Above: Derashay Worthen (right) greets the Prince and Princess of Lippe. Left: Deborah Johnson (left), Atlanta Tech institutional development specialist, sightseeing with her German host, Annette Radon.*



Systems major Derashay Worthen. During her internship at a telecommunications company, Worthen helped German students set up computer databases and Web sites.

Worthen also had the honor of presenting the Prince and Princess of Lippe with a book about Atlanta during a private reception held in honor of the American students at the Castle Detmold.

"It was an unforgettable experience," Worthen says. **R**



# Designed for Success

Gwinnett Technical College student makes it look easy

Sometimes, everything just falls into place. It happened for Gwinnett Technical College Interior Design student Chris Socci, but only after he made the right first choice by forgoing a scholarship at a private art school and picking Gwinnett Tech's program instead.

"I had been to a tech college before," says Socci, who earned a Graphic Design diploma from Columbus Technical College in 2000 and decided to return to school to pursue his first love, interior design. "And the program at Gwinnett Tech is a great fit. Everything I am learning is relevant."

Socci's schooling paid off when he was awarded a coveted internship with the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). "They contacted Gwinnett Tech about an internship and I interviewed for it," he says. After the internship, ASID hired Socci full-time.

Next came MTV2, which was developing a reality interior design show called

At right: Gwinnett Tech student Chris Socci relaxes in the newly remodeled environment.



Before

"Brand Spankin' New." Socci's boss at ASID recommended him for the show, and everything clicked.

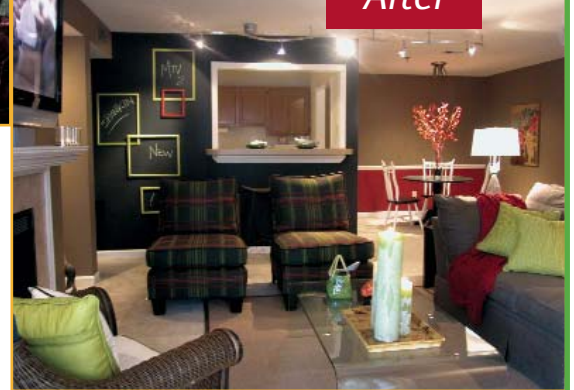
"I was hired over the phone," says Socci, who then spent two months remodeling the living room of two design-challenged college students in Atlanta.

"It was crazy," says Socci, of spending days meeting with the students to understand their needs, purchasing furniture, even working with an electrician and painters. Socci also coordinated the work of furniture makers, who designed custom pieces for the pair.

"It was very stressful, but it went well,"



After



he says. Although he was given a month to pull the design together, Socci had only two days to put everything into place.

Luckily, says Socci, using a phrase that could easily describe his recent fast-paced career moves, "It just all came together." **R**

## Textbook Answer

Two Central Georgia Technical College instructors take book matters into their own hands



Central Georgia Tech authors Rhonda Beck and Nick Arlov.

It's a common complaint of teachers: rather than piece together lesson plans from disparate texts and articles, why can't there be one perfect textbook? After hearing her husband, Nick, an instructor of English at Central Georgia Technical College, complain one time too many about inadequate texts, Pamela Arlov proposed a simple solution.

"She said to me, 'Why don't we write the book ourselves?'" Nick Arlov recalls. "So that's what we did."

A year and a half later, the Arlovs' book — she's also an English teacher at another local college — was published by Prentice Hall. Today, *Wordsmith: Essentials of College English*, is working just as the Arlovs hoped.

"We wrote it for English 101 students," says Nick, a former businessman who has been teaching at Central Georgia Tech since 1991. "They expect a no-nonsense type of English instruction and

that's what we've given them. Several of my students have said they enjoyed the book because it's understandable."

Coincidentally, the same frustration that motivated the Arlovs also inspired Central Georgia Tech instructor Rhonda Beck after she was asked by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons to write a new textbook. Beck, a 15-year medical care veteran, used the opportunity to create the kind of comprehensive textbook she always wished for as a full-time instructor.

She obviously wasn't the only one who felt the need for a new textbook. When instructors with the U.S. Army read early chapters of the book, they encouraged Beck to move up the deadline so they could use it for training to meet the intensifying challenges overseas. When it was published last fall, Beck's book became the first new EMT text adopted by the military in many years.

"In the past, instructors had to use three separate books," Beck says. "Now, they have one textbook that meets all their needs." **R**