

## Kent Scarborough Graduates with Top Honors

Kent Lowell Scarborough, son of Al and Mickey Scarborough of Polkton, graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on May 11 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree. Scarborough, a 2007 graduate of Anson High School, first obtained his associates degree from South Piedmont Community College in May of 2009. He decided to pursue a degree in civil engineering after working in the construction industry for Lowery Construction in Wadesboro. In August 2011 Scarborough moved to Sanford, NC to participate in a semester-long co-op program where he worked as a project engineer with Crowder Construction Company, an industrial construction company based out of Charlotte. He spent the summer of 2012 in Greenville, SC working with Crowder again as a project manager on the construction of several wastewater treatment plants.

In the fall of 2012 Scarborough was selected by engineering professors at UNCC to represent the school in a competition against top engineering students from Duke University, North Carolina State University and three other schools to receive the North Carolina Scholarship of Distinction Award, funded by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This award is given to one engineering student in the state each year. After several rounds of submissions and interviews Scarborough won the award based on his advanced level of applicable experience and superior academic record.

Scarborough went on to pass the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam in October 2012, which is the first of two exams that are required to become a professional engineer.

In the spring of 2013 Scarborough capped off his educational accomplishments by completing a senior project on subsurface exploration and foundation design of multi-story structures. On May 2 he presented his project to local engineers, fellow colleagues and professors at the Senior Design Expo which takes place at the Halton Arena on UNCC's campus each year. Scarborough's project was selected out of nine projects and awarded a blue ribbon for its project concept of engineering concepts.

Scarborough is now renovating his first home in Marshville and working for B&F Plumbing while exploring options in the engineering field.

## Extension Notes FDIC Tips for Mobile Banking

Using a smartphone, "tablet" computer or other mobile device to manage your finances can be convenient and help you monitor your money from practically anywhere. At the same time, it is important to take steps to protect your account information.

Be proactive in securing the mobile device itself. Depending on what security options are available on your device, create a "strong" password (consisting of unusual combinations of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols) and PIN (with random numbers instead of, say, 1234 or the last four digits of your Social Security number) and periodically change it.

According to FDIC Consumer News online, here are some tips to keep in mind.

- Always secure the device with a strong password or PIN in case it falls into the wrong hands. Do not give that password or PIN to anyone or write it down anywhere.
- Also, never leave your mobile device unattended, and make sure you enable the "time-out" or "auto-lock" feature that secures your mobile device when it is left unused for a certain period of time.
- Be careful about where and how you conduct transactions. Do not use an unsecured Wi-Fi network, such as those found at coffee shops, because fraud artists might be able to access the information you are transmitting or viewing.
- Also, do not send account numbers or other sensitive information through regular emails or text messages because those are not necessarily secure. Take additional precautions in case your device is lost or stolen.
- Check with your wireless provider in advance to find out about features that enable you to remotely erase content or turn off access to your device or account if you lose your phone. Quickly contact your financial providers to let them know about the loss or theft of your device. Notifying your bank quickly will help prevent or resolve problems with unauthorized transactions.

• Research any application ("app") before downloading it. Just because the name of an app resembles the name of your bank - or of another company you are familiar with - do not assume that it is the official one of that bank or company. It could be a fraudulent app designed to trick users into believing that the service is legitimate.

The best business to download an app is from the official website of the bank or company that you are doing business with or from a legitimate app store. Note that the business will often direct you to an app store.

• Also, if possible, be sure to protect your financial data, ideally with a password that is different from the password for your device. Be on guard against unsolicited emails or text messages appearing to link to a financial institution's website. Those could be "phishing" messages urging you to provide some sort of urgent request (such as a warning that you need to "verify" bank account or other personal information) or an amazing offer (one that is "too good to be true") designed to lead you to a fake website controlled by thieves. The concern is that on that fraudulent site you may provide sensitive information while believing you are providing the information to your bank or another trusted party. By Janine Rywak, County Extension Director

## Letter to the Editor

### Thank You to Volunteer Firemen

Dear Editor,

We would like to say to all the volunteer firemen of Peachland, Polkton, Marshville and Burnsville: We appreciate your dedication to fighting fires, and give you many thanks for showing up early Sunday morning, July 14 at our chicken farm. Because of you we only lost one chicken house out of six.

God bless each of you and may God bless each of you and may He keep you safe. Sherry and Mert Austin

## South Piedmont Community College

SPCC has the following position available:

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SPCC is seeking applications for Mathematics Instructor for the Arts and Sciences Department. This is a 9-month, full-time position.

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Position will be open until filled, with a preferred start date of August 7, 2013. For a job description and an SPCC application, visit our website [www.spcc.edu](http://www.spcc.edu)

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