



Shirley Fuller has not let the stroke she suffered in 2011 keep her from performing her duties as a member of Richmond Community College's Board of Trustees.

## RCC TRUSTEE

# Fuller proud to serve and walk

Shirley Fuller laughs at her toes a lot these days because two years ago she was asking the toes on her right foot, "Will you ever move again?" Not only do her toes move, but she can walk. She can drive. And she can continue to go and do.

Fuller was all set to go and do when she retired in 2010 from nearly 40 years as an educator. She was excited and honored to be appointed to Richmond Community College's Board of Trustees two months after her retirement so that she could still be involved with education.

A year later, however, Fuller suffered a stroke that left her right leg, foot and toes without feeling. Through faith in God and dedication to physical therapy, she is able to continue to be a steward to education and to the community.

"When you are a stroke victim, it tests your faith," Fuller said. "I knew my recovery was not totally in my hands. I knew I had to have trust in God."

Fuller, of Rockingham, is a widow and her only daughter, Shannah Stephens, lives in Charlotte, so she knew she

was going to have to learn to do things for herself.

She immediately began physical therapy doing exercises that helped restore her balance, mobility and stamina. She has a treadmill at home and often finds herself walking on it in the middle of the night when she can't sleep.

Fuller didn't stay home-bound for long. When she recovered enough to walk with a cane, she hired a driver to take her to all her board meetings and community events.

See FULLER, p.6



Jo DeWitt Wilson recently visited Richmond Community College. Her family has long supported the College and its mission to serve the people of Richmond and Scotland counties.

## FOUNDATION DONOR

# DeWitts have long history with college

For Jo DeWitt Wilson, inspiration often strikes in the oddest times and places – none more so than the notion to endow a performing arts series in her native Richmond County.

"I was in Charlotte one day walking down Tryon Street and saw an advertisement for an event at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center," said Wilson, "and I asked myself 'why can we not have some-

See DEWITT, p.7

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Rotary Club Establishes RCC Endowment Scholarship, Page 3
- Forte Building Scheduled to Open for Classes in January, Page 4
- RCC Hires New Instructor for Growing EUSRT Program, Page 8

# Campus Views

Messages from RCC President & RCC Foundation Director

## Great things are happening at RCC

This first edition of The Ledger is a great example of employees from across our campus working together to make great things happen. As president, I am fortunate to see this every day. The creativity and talents of Olivia Webb, Andy Cagle, and Wylie Bell have given us a new tool to share our news, activities, and future goals. As we prepare for future editions, I look forward to your ideas and suggestions, because the spotlight may shine on you as our featured supporter or stakeholder.

Here on campus, we are enjoying a very busy fall semester. Our enrollment has exceeded 2,600 students for the time, setting an all-time record for the fourth year in a row. Space is at a premium in all of our locations, making us all anxious for the opening of the renovated and expanded



**Dr. Dale McInnis,**  
RCC President

Forte Building in January. Construction is on schedule, and students and faculty are excited about moving all of our engineering and technical programs into a state-of-the-art facility, the Joseph Prischak Center for Engineering Technology. Thanks to the generosity of our Foundation and donors, we have the funds to make this a showcase for industry, manufacturing, and engineering that will become a great tool for economic development in our region.

The popularity of the Substation and Relay Technology Program, located adjacent to the Forte Building, has played a major role in our student growth. Enrollment in this program has tripled since its

beginning in 2011, and our graduates are all at work in very rewarding jobs in the utility industry. Duke Energy, a key partner and supporter, has expanded its summer intern program from nine to 30 students for 2014 based on the success of our students this year.

Our university transfer partnership are also expanding, as parents and students realize the value, quality and convenience our strengthened curricula offer. Working with universities such as UNC, NC State, Wingate, and UNC-G, we have more options and courses for transfer, ensuring students can make a smooth and successful transition toward a four-year degree. For the greatest value and convenience, UNC-P offers nine different bachelor of science degrees right on our Hamlet campus.

While we focus on enroll-

ment, we never lose sight of the goal of our students: graduation. I am very proud to report that our graduation rate is rising even faster than our enrollment. This May, I was proud to award 377 degrees, 66 percent more than earned in 2009. Our faculty and staff are committed to supporting our students every step of their journey here, all the way to the steps of the Cole Auditorium.

These are just a few highlights of what we are doing every day at RCC. I urge you to continue your support for our students and to call me or Olivia. Visit us so you can see how you are making a difference for the people of Richmond and Scotland counties.

The future is bright at RCC, and our continued growth and expansion will depend on you and your investment in our future.

## Thanks for making The Ledger possible

I am so proud to be a part of this inaugural edition of The Ledger, and I want to thank the Marketing and Communications team for helping RCC Foundation members – near and far – to stay in touch.

I am especially drawn to this issue because the covergirls are two of my favorite ladies! Trustee Shirley Fuller was the first person waiting in Grimsley Room 102 last Thursday morning as faculty and staff gathered from across the college to listen in on our SACS Exit Conference. We have such



**Olivia Webb,**  
RCC Foundation  
Executive Director

an engaged Board of Trustees at this college and it shows! Mrs. Jo Wilson travels the world and never fails to spread the word – whenever it is at all possible – about the great things that are happening at her hometown community college. Like so many of our donors and founders who live just outside the

service area, she always keeps RCC in her heart.

In addition to knowing these fine women, I am proud to stand alongside Dr. McInnis, Foundation Board member David Wood and Trustee Jim McCaskill as a member of the Rockingham Rotary Club. RCC students will directly benefit from the years of hard work that all 67 members of that local organization have done to fund an impressive \$125,000 endowment with the RCC Foundation. Rotary Club members raised that money from

the Richmond County community, and this endowment, just like their grants program, gives the money directly back to the community.

For all of the people featured on these pages, and for all of the people who make our yet-unpublished success stories possible, know that we appreciate you very much. Thank you for reading, and please do not hesitate to contact us with feedback, suggestions or story ideas. We are your Foundation and we want to hear from you.

# Rotary Club endows RCC scholarship fund

Five students at Richmond Community College were selected to receive \$1,000 in scholarship money from the Rotary of Rockingham Endowment Scholarship to help them achieve their educational goals.

The scholarship was endowed as of June 4 with a corpus of \$125,000 on deposit with the Richmond Community College Foundation. The Rotary Club accumulated the funds for this endowment over the course of many years through its auction and barbecue fundraiser.

"We've always funded up to five scholarships, but this year we were able to endow the scholarship fund, allowing the club to give students this financial assistance for a long period of time," said Rotary President David Wood. "The Rotary Scholarship is something that we as an organization are proud to support."

"I appreciate the scholarship money I received from the Rotary Club very much because going to college is expensive, and this scholarship really helped me pay for books and other necessary supplies," said David Barton, one of the RCC students who received the Rotary scholarship.

Barton is a graduate of the Associate in Science program and is currently taking additional classes at RCC that will transfer to the University of North Carolina-Pembroke. He plans to further his education and earn a doctorate in physical therapy.

Another scholarship recipient, Hannah McLean, is enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing program to pursue a career in nursing. She would like to work in pediatric care or obstetrics and gynecology.



Pictured, from left, are RCC Trustee and Rotary Scholarship Committee member Jim McCaskill, RCC Foundation Executive Director Olivia Webb, Rotary President David Wood and RCC President Dr. Dale McInnis. The Rotary Club presented a check to the RCC Foundation to provide scholarships to five students.

*"The Rotary Club and its members recognize the value of education, and this was our way to support the effort of Richmond Community College to educate our local young people."* — **Trustee and Rotarian Jim McCaskill**

"The Rotary Scholarship has helped me tremendously to pay for books and tuition," McLean said. "I am very thankful for the financial assistance because it has given me the ability to go to college and further my education for me and my son."

RCC student Angela Williams, who is enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program, also received the Rotary scholarship. She is on track to finish her four-year degree in School Age Education through RCC's partnership with the University of North Carolina-Pembroke in 2015. She plans to become a kinder-

garten teacher.

"I work a full-time job and I work extra jobs on the side, but I still decided to apply for a scholarship because it all helps in order for me to achieve my goal, which is to become a teacher and give back to the community," Williams said.

## The endowment

According to Jim McCaskill, RCC Trustee and Rotary Scholarship Committee member, the Rotary Club managed to save \$150,000 over the more than 50 years the club has been holding its annual fundraiser. The club agreed to commit \$125,000 of that savings to endow its schol-

arship fund for RCC.

"The Rotary Club and its members recognize the value of education, and this was our way to support the effort of Richmond Community College to educate our local young people," McCaskill said. "Because of this endowment, we will be able forever award scholarships on an annual basis to five RCC students."

The RCC Foundation selects students for the scholarships based on criteria established by the Rotary Club.

"We appreciate the trust the Rockingham Rotary Club has placed in the college, our Foundation and our students," Dr. Dale McInnis, RCC president said. "This endowment represents a huge investment, and we will work to make sure it is wisely used to help our students make their dreams come true."

# Forte on schedule to open for classes in January

The renovation of the Forte Building, home of the Joseph Prischak Center for Engineering Technology, is nearly complete, and classes will be held this spring semester in the new facility on Richmond Community College's main campus in Hamlet.

According to RCC Executive Vice President Brent Barbee, the construction of the Forte Building should be finished by the end of November, as scheduled, despite the extremely wet conditions the construction crews faced this summer.

"I have to commend Brent for his work on this project," said RCC Trustee Joe Kindley. "We have had very few change orders for a renovation of this



Despite an extremely wet summer, the weather did not delay the renovation of the Forte Building. This state-of-the-art facility, home of the Joseph Prischak Center for Engineering Technology, will be open for classes this spring.

magnitude. It's a testament to Brent's hard work. He has kept open lines of communication with the contractor and the architect that have led to a very smooth project."

Barbee said the change orders for the project fall in one of two categories: They were necessary due to unknown conditions that presented themselves once construction started or they were improvements that will assist with the overall function of the building.

Total budgeted for the project was \$3,458,016.13. According to figures provided by Barbee on Sept. 20,

See FORTE, p.8

## Forte Building Donors

The renovation of the Forte Building, home of the Joseph Prischak Center for Engineering Technology, was made possible by these generous donors.

### PLATINUM SPONSOR

\$50,000+

The Plastek Group/Mr. Joseph Prischak

The Cole Foundation

### GOLD SPONSOR

\$25,000 - \$49,000

Mr. & Mrs. Thad Ussery

Cascades Industries

Pee Dee Electric

### GRANTS RECOGNITION

Golden LEAF Foundation

Economic Development Administration

### SILVER SPONSOR

\$10,000 - \$24,999

SLIP Management DBA McDonald's/Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Davis

Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Kindley

Therafirm, a Division of Knit-Rite

Dr. and Mrs. Dale McInnis

Rotary of Rockingham

Richmond Community Foundation

### BRONZE SPONSOR

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mr. & Mrs. Neal Cadieu

Dr. & Mrs. Al Covington

Meritor, Inc.

Z.V. Pate

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Robinette

Mr. Walter R. Stancil†

Mr. & Mrs. Brett Webb

### BENEFACTOR

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Mr. & Mrs. Brent Barbee

Mr. & Mrs. Russell E. Bennett, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. David Burns

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Chappell

Sen. & Mrs. J. Richard Conder

Mr. & Mrs. Wade S. Dunbar, III

Mrs. Shirley Fuller

Mr. & Mrs. John Garner

Dr. William L. Haltiwanger, Jr.

Dr. Carl D. Howald

Mr. & Mrs. H. Lee Howell, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. John I. Kester

Mr. Hugh A. Lee†

Mr. & Mrs. Wiley Mabe

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Nichols

Mr. & Mrs. S. Hewitt Fulton, III

### FRIEND

\$1- \$999

Mrs. Nancy DeWitt Daugherty

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Davis

Mr. & Mrs. Butch Farrah

Hasty Realty Company

Mr. & Mrs. Wade E. Jackson

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kindley

Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Lamm

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Liles

Mr. & Mrs. Jim McCaskill

Mr. & Mrs. Robert McDow

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Unger

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Vinson

Dr. Wingate Williamson

2012-2013 RCC Student Government Association

# 'The Circle' offers best seats in the house

Meeting country music singer and the most recent "Dancing With the Stars" winner Kellie Pickler was definitely a memorable moment for G.R. Kindley and his wife, Mary, charter members of the Richmond Community College Foundation's Director Circle. The Kindleys have supported this fundraising initiative since its inception in the fall of 2010, allowing them once-in-a-lifetime opportunities such as meeting Ms. Pickler.

"People who become members of the Director's Circle are endorsing Richmond Community College and the foundation and recognizing the benefits it provides students and the community as a whole," Mr. Kindley said. "Membership in the Director's Circle is money well spent."

Initial membership in the Director's Circle began with the 2010-2011 season kickoff of the DeWitt Series for performing arts at the Cole Auditorium. Members of the Director's Circle get priority seating, reserved parking, admission to a private, pre-show reception, opportunities to meet the performers and an end-of-the-season performance and gourmet dinner on stage at the Cole



**Country music singer Kellie Pickler takes a picture with Mary and G.R. Kindley before she performs at the Cole Auditorium. Meeting the stars of the show is one benefit of joining the Director's Circle.**

Auditorium. All revenue from the Director's Circle membership goes to support the work of the RCC Foundation.

"I see membership in the Director's Circle growing each year. As with most good things, they start small but quickly grow into something big," Mr. Kindley said. "There have been a lot of good shows in the past and there will be a lot of good shows in the future. Cole Auditorium Director Joey

Bennett does an excellent job lining up exciting shows and performances for the season, which is not an easy thing because you have to appeal to a broad audience."

Mr. Kindley, who is retired from more than 50 years in the construction business, says he enjoys a variety of music, from classical to symphony to country. He commended the season

See **CIRCLE**, p.8

## Now Showing!

The 2013-2014 DeWitt Performing Arts Season at the Cole Auditorium is underway! This is the 14th season of the series that features professional touring productions.

- **Tuesday, Dec. 3:** American Big Band "Home for the Holiday" - Dance, sing, and shake the start of the Christmas season with a live band.

- **Thursday, Jan. 16:** The Glenn Miller Orchestra - With its unique jazz sound, this group is considered one of the greatest bands of all time.

- **Monday, Feb. 24:** Man of La Mancha - The Broadway interpretation of the world's first modern novel. The story of Don Quixote.

- **Thursday, March 27:** 101 Years of Broadway - Five Broadway veterans perform the music they have sung in classic and current musicals.

- **Monday, April 28:** David Cassidy - "The Partridge Family" star performs favorites such as "I Think I Love You."

*For more information, call the Cole Box Office, (910) 410-1691.*

## Director's Circle Members

We applaud these members of the Director's Circle for the 2013-2014 DeWitt Performing Arts Season!

Dr. & Mrs. David Arnold

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bayless

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Bennett

Mr. & Mrs. Van Billingsley

Mr. & Mrs. Neal Cadieu

Dr. & Mrs. Al Covington

Mr. & Mrs. Wade Dunbar, III

Ellerbe Pharmacy

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Everett

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Goodman

Rep. & Mrs. Ken Goodman

Mr. & Mrs. Lee Howell

Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Kindley

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Lewis

Mr. & Mrs. Duane Linker

Mr. & Mrs. Lazelle Marks

Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie McCaskill

Mr. & Mrs. Jim McCaskill

Dr. & Mrs. Dale McInnis

Mr. Tom McInnis & Guest

Sen. & Mrs. Gene McLaurin

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Nichols

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Purcell

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Robinette

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Savage

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Shea

Dr. & Mrs. John Stevenson

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Street

Mr. & Mrs. Thad Ussery

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Weatherly

Mr. & Mrs. David Wood

# Roberts enjoys serving as Student Ambassador

Hannah Roberts has met a lot of people and made many new friends by being a Student Ambassador at Richmond Community College.

The 2012 graduate of Richmond Senior High School is beginning her second year at RCC. She is enrolled in the Associate in Science program and plans to transfer to the University of North Carolina-Wilmington to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology. She would like to become a guidance counselor and do mission work during the summers when school is not in

session.

As a Student Ambassador, Hannah has assisted with the College's registration sessions, working nearly 12-hour days during final registration for the fall semester. She has also assisted with RCC's graduation ceremonies.

Hannah is also a working student. She works at Wrenn's Jewelers in Rockingham. Outside of class and work, she enjoys running and participates in 5K runs as often as she can.

Hannah is the daughter of Kimberly and Sean Roberts of Rockingham.



**RCC Student Ambassador Hannah Roberts has met many new people and made new friends by joining the student association.**

## FULLER

CONTINUED FROM P.1

"I didn't stop going to my meetings because I didn't want people to think I wasn't going to be able to function on the board," she said.

Currently, Fuller serves on the Department of Social Services Board of Directors, Leak Street Community Center Board of Directors, FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital Foundation Board, Board of Directors for the Samaritan Colony of Rockingham, RCC's Board of Trustees and the Association of Community College Trustees. From 2003 to 2009, she was a member of the Rockingham City Council and was the first woman elected to serve on the council. She is the national first vice president of her sorority, Alpha Pi Chi, and will most likely be the next national president for the sorority. She is a member of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Rockingham.

"This is how I get my satis-

faction: helping others," Fuller said.

For 38 years, she helped students get an education. She has taught in both North and South Carolina, and she has taught overseas in Germany.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," Fuller said. "When we would visit family members and friends, I would always take my coloring books, crayons and chalkboard. If there were any children there, I would teach them."

Education was very important in her family. While her parents, Bernice and Bill Smith, did not have the opportunity or resources to go to college, they put all three of their children through college.

Fuller graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Winston-Salem State College. She has three master's degrees from North Carolina A&T State University in elementary education, school supervision and principalship.

She has been a teacher for

R.B. Dean School in Maxton, Vass Lakeview Elementary School in Vass, Bennettsville and McColl primary schools in Marlboro County, S.C., Rohanen Primary School in Rockingham and Monroe Avenue School in Hamlet. When she and her former husband, who served in the Army, were stationed near Frankfurt, Germany, she taught the American children on post.

She made the switch to the administrative side of education when she was hired to be the Title I supervisor for Richmond County School System. She was soon named principal of the newly formed Leak Street Alternative School. From there, she went on to be a principal of Hoffman Elementary School, West Rockingham Elementary School and Rockingham Middle School, from which she retired.

When she left education, Fuller was feeling a void in her life, but she was soon appointed by the Richmond County Commissioners to serve on the RCC Board of Trustees. She

had worked as an Adult Basic Education evening instructor at RCC and always had an appreciation for the College.

"When I see young people, I ask them, 'Are you in school?' When they say, 'Yes, I go to RCC,' I give them two thumbs up," Fuller said. "The College is really growing, and the educational opportunities are numerous. People have an appreciation for what is offered here at the college level."

Fuller said the College would continue to grow because of the strong leadership provided by the president, Dr. Dale McInnis, faculty and staff, who are making sure the needs of students and the community are being met.

"People know that this is a facility where they have educational opportunities that will help them improve their quality of life," Fuller said. "As a stroke victim who did not know if these toes would ever move again, it is very important to appreciate the quality of life we have been blessed with."

# DEWITT

CONTINUED FROM P.1

thing like this in Richmond County?”

Out of that thought came the DeWitt Series at the Robert L. and Elizabeth S. Cole Auditorium on the campus of Richmond Community College (RCC). For nearly 15 years, the DeWitt Series has brought musical and theatrical performances to people in Richmond and surrounding counties.

“It is important that people have something to do to enrich their lives and so many people here in Richmond County do not have the opportunities to travel to see many of the things that we have been able to bring to them,” said Wilson.

“Without the support of the DeWitt family, we would not be able to offer so many great shows at such affordable prices,” said Olivia Webb, director of the RCC Foundation. “Thanks to their generosity, we have been able to bring a greater degree of cultural literacy to the community.”

## A history of support

“In our house growing up, education was valued,” said Wilson. “In his business, my father dealt with many people who did not have extensive formal educations and he felt that it was important to help them gain further knowledge and skills so they could get along better in their jobs and lives.”

Wilson’s father was shipping magnate L.G. DeWitt of Ellerbe. DeWitt and his wife, Carrie, became staunch supporters of the College that began in Hamlet in 1964 as Richmond Technical Institute. Mr. DeWitt served on the College’s Board of Trustees and one of the longest standing and largest scholarship funds at RCC is the L.G. DeWitt Endowment. The L.G. Dewitt Endowed Chair



**Jo DeWitt Wilson’s father was shipping magnate L.G. DeWitt of Ellerbe. DeWitt and his wife, Carrie, became staunch supporters of the College that began in Hamlet in 1964 as Richmond Technical Institute. She is pictured here next to the administrative office building named in honor of her family. Wilson was instrumental in getting the annual musical and theatrical performances known as the DeWitt Series started at the Cole Auditorium.**

supports professional development at the College.

“We were very lucky in Richmond County that we had men like Hugh Lee, Richard Conder and my father who saw that changes were coming and were able to lead through, and adapt to, those changes,” said Wilson. “They understood that just because there were jobs in the area at the time, those jobs were not always going to be here and people were going to need new skills and training to support their families.

“That was the impetus to create this College and to continue to support it as it grew.”

## Coming home and giving back

After high school, Wilson attended Queens University in Charlotte, an institution that she later served as member of the board of trustees. From

there she made a career in the fashion industry, travelling for Belk as a buyer and designer for 10 years. She then spent 17 years living in Atlanta working at the Merchandise Mart and Apparel Mart.

“I learned a tremendous amount about negotiation in those early days travelling that helped me later on and is still helping me,” said Wilson.

Due to her extensive business experience, Wilson received a call in 1994 to move back to the area to take over one of her father’s other business interests: the North Carolina Motor Speedway.

“I was honestly not interested in leaving Atlanta at that time,” Wilson said. “I had made it my home, I had friends there, and I wanted to stay. However, I knew how much the race track meant to my family and the people in Richmond County.”

She served as president and CEO of the speedway from 1994 until 2002, overseeing the track’s purchase by Roger Penske in 1997 and subsequent upgrades, then its transition to ownership by International Speedway Corporation.

Since leaving the speedway, Wilson has returned to Charlotte, where she currently resides. However, she is still active in numerous philanthropic ventures in her home county. She played a key role in bringing Discovery Place Kids to Rockingham and remains active with the DeWitt advisory board that oversees the series at the Cole Auditorium.

“Richmond County has been fortunate with a great number of people who have chosen to share their time, talent and resources to help improve the community,” Wilson said. “I am blessed that I have had the opportunity to be a part of it.”

## MEET RCC'S FACULTY

## Second instructor hired for substation program

Richmond Community College hired a new instructor to meet the growing demands of the quickly expanding Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology program. Morteza Talebi, an electrical engineer from Iran, began teaching classes at RCC this fall.

Talebi comes to RCC from Winter Park, Fla., where he was working as a research assistant while completing his Ph.D. in electrical engineering at the University of Central Florida. He worked as an electrical engineer at Ehdos Control Company in Iran prior to coming to the United States.

Talebi received a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Gilan University in Rasht, Iran, and a Master of Science in electrical engineering from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. He has completed internships at Glacier Bay Technology in Union City, Calif., and Brady Trane Services in Greensboro.

Talebi said he enjoys teaching because it provides him with the opportunity to convey knowledge. "Teaching is crucial and magnificent. It is rewarding to watch the students learn and grow and see the fruits of your labor," he said. "I encourage all my students to realize the hard work, commitment and sacrifice required in achieving a successful college career."

Talebi's academic background, leadership skills and work experience in the power industry are a great addition to the EUSRT program.

"It is my goal to combine my range of experience with my ability to be a compassionate, enthusiastic, intelligent instructor who will make a



**Morteza Talebi, an electrical engineer from Iran, joined RCC's faculty this fall semester.**

positive contribution to RCC," Talebi said.

He and his wife, Mehrsa Jafari, live in Pinehurst with their 4-year-old German Shepherd-Siberian Husky mix named Cubby. Outside of work, Talebi enjoys playing soccer, reading books and watching movies.

### One of RCC's Fastest Growing Programs

In the fall of 2011, the first class of 19 students enrolled in Richmond Community College's Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology (EUSRT) program. This fall, the program enrolled 77 students, which is a growth of 305 percent in two years!

RCC is one of only six colleges in the country to offer a program of this kind. It prepares students for jobs in the electric utility industry and other industries that rely on complex control systems. Graduates are nearly guaranteed employment.

## FORTE

CONTINUED FROM P.4

\$311,359.70 remains in contingency and reserve.

The expansion and renovation of the Forte Building provides much-needed classroom and lab space for the College's engineering, energy, and technical programs. The need for skilled technicians in the company's local workforce fueled the need for growing the facility and these programs offered by the College.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the project was held Dec. 13, 2012. The ceremony also marked the completion of a capital campaign that locally raised over \$366,000.

The Cole Foundation and the Richmond Community College Foundation provided competitive grant awards totaling \$90,000 for renovation and expansion of the facility. The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration provided \$2,038,000 for the project, and the Golden LEAF Foundation provided \$500,000 that served as a

foundation for the entire campaign.

The Cole Foundation will have a wing and a training lab named after it. A training lab will be named after the Pee Dee Electric Cooperative. The new computer lab will be named after the RCC Foundation.

Classrooms are named after Jerome and Hattie Davis and SLIP Management, Knit-Rite/Therafirm, Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Kindley, Dr. and Mrs. Dale McInnis, and Rotary of Rockingham.

Programs also bear the name of donors: the Thad and Mary Jane Ussery Welding Technology program, Cascades Industrial Systems Technology program, and Duke Energy Electrical Utility Substation Technology program.

"We strive to perfect our students' educational experiences and to show prospective and existing industries that the workforce in RCC's service area is well-prepared for 21st century jobs," McInnis added. "We rely on the dedicated, proactive philanthropy of great organizations and private donors to help us accomplish our mission."

## CIRCLE

CONTINUED FROM P.5

opening show of Delbert McClinton, who has a long history in the music industry as a singer and songwriter. His music crosses over into many genres, including progressive country, blues, R&B and rock.

"I've never seen Delbert McClinton in person, but I've seen his performances on television, and they're always lively, so this will be a good way to kick off the season," Mr. Kindley said.

Mr. Kindley encourages

others to join the Director's Circle and support the college and the theater.

"The Director's Circle is a great way to raise additional funds for the Richmond Community College Foundation, but it is also a great opportunity to enjoy good fellowship and socialize with other fellow ticket holders," Mr. Kindley said.

Season membership is \$600 for an individual and \$1,000 per couple. To join "The Circle," call Joey Bennett at (910) 410-1690, or visit the box office in the Cole Auditorium during the college's normal business hours.