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## Shuler fills new leadership role

*Former principal is Associate Vice President of Development*



Dr. Hal Shuler comes to Richmond Community College from Rohanen Middle School, where he served as principal.

Education is very important to Dr. Hal Shuler, who has spent the last 33 years either in the classroom or on the sidelines of a football field. The former principal of Rohanen Middle School in Rockingham has joined the staff at Richmond Community College in the role of Associate Vice President of Development.

Shuler, of Rockingham, will work closely with the RichmondCC Foundation and its board to support student scholarship and alumni development.

"Hal has hit the ground running, and I know his experience and ideas will grow our Foundation and build a new alumni association our graduates will be proud to join," said Dr. Dale McInnis, president of RichmondCC.

Originally from Sumter, S.C., Shuler gradu-

See SHULER, p.4

## 22-year-old RCC graduate begins his lifelong career

Twenty-two-year-old Ryan Collins is five months into a lifelong career in the utility industry that he is absolutely loving. A 2016 graduate of the Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology program at Richmond Community College, Collins is living in central Florida and recently returned from a contract job in Iowa.

"Florida is like NASCAR.

Everything is really fast pace. I enjoyed Iowa because it reminded me of home," said Collins, who is used to the small town life of Hamlet. "I never expected to go this far away from Richmond County, but I love Florida. It's a beautiful place."

Collins is an associate field



See GRADUATE, p.4

Ryan Collins

**Welcome New Board of Trustee Members!**  
>>See Page 3



# Leading the Charge

Messages from the College President & Associate Vice President of Development

## 2015-16 record year for RichmondCC

Thanks to the leadership of our Board of Trustees, the hard work of our talented faculty and staff, and the support and trust from our communities, 2015-16 was a record year for RichmondCC. We enrolled the most students ever, and more importantly, graduated an all-time high number of students, awarding the most credentials ever in a single year.

Taking a step back puts our progress in perspective. Since 2010, our enrollment has grown 23%, second to only Wake Tech in our 58 college system, which actually declined in enrollment by 8% in the past six years. RichmondCC ranked 42 of 58 in total enrollment in 2010, but is now 29th. Our success is not measured by enrollment alone,



**Dr. Dale McInnis,**  
RichmondCC  
President

but by the fulfillment of our students' goals and dreams. In 2010, 265 students earned degrees, diplomas or certificates. In 2016, 762 students earned a life-changing credential and a ticket to a brighter future, and it's our college's future that I find so exciting.

As proud as we are of the past six years, we are even more enthusiastic about what the next few years will bring our college and our communities, thanks to the great relationships we enjoy with our partners and stakeholders. Soon, our college will look

very different than it does today.

Thanks to the vision and support of the City of Rockingham, the Cole Foundation, the Foundation for the Carolinas, and the Community Foundation, plans are underway to build a new School of Business and Information Technology in downtown Rockingham. This 40,000-square-foot facility will be our community's portal for new careers in business, accounting and IT, while providing the resources and expertise to start up new businesses and support those already in place. Changing the skyline of Rockingham will bring new opportunities for our students and new traffic to the city.

The Cole Foundation and Community Foundation are

also generously supporting the expansion and modernization of our main campus, supplementing our Connect NC bonds with additional funding to build our college's very first cafeteria. In addition to fresh food in a comfortable, collegiate setting, we will improve student and career services, add much needed classroom and lab space, and provide additional parking. With these enhancements, we will be prepared to continue to grow, to become the destination college for the people of Richmond and Scotland counties, as well as the surrounding region.

Last April, many of you joined us as we celebrated the success of the high school

See RECORD, p.8

## The 'Team Concept' is key to our continued success

RichmondCC is a bright spot in the world of North Carolina community colleges. We have surpassed our enrollment numbers again this fall with an approximate number of 2,685 students, and we are continually striving to reach new heights with our many programs and outstanding team of leaders and support personnel. Our president, Dr. Dale McInnis, and his team of vice presidents, Brent Barbee, Kevin Parsons, Sharon Goodman and Dr. Robbie Taylor, are leading RichmondCC to a bright future.

The RichmondCC Guarantee is in full force with the capacity to offer free college



**Dr. Hal Shuler**  
Associate Vice  
President for  
Development

to ambitious, hard-working students in Richmond and Scotland County. Our hope is to motivate students to work hard in high school and to take advantage of these dual enrollment courses and earn two years of free tuition and fees. The support of the RichmondCC Foundation and all of our donors and supporters make the Guarantee possible. We had 75 students who re-

ceived the Guarantee this fall semester. The teamwork and partnerships with our counties, local businesses and our local schools have made this a reality.

The Working Scholarship is growing and helping more and more students each semester. About 25% of RichmondCC students do not receive any sort of financial assistance. For many students, the lack of funds coupled with competing work and family responsibilities prolong their time in school or even cause them to drop out. This scholarship is available to individuals who work at least 10 hours per week and

attend RichmondCC. In 2014, this scholarship helped 58 students with college costs. It increased in 2015-16 by helping 126 students with a dollar amount of \$54,050. We have awarded, thus far, this fall semester \$22,250, which is helping 57 students afford college tuition.

Our goal in the Foundation is to continue to grow this important scholarship that helps students who have the goal and dream of finishing college but must work to make ends meet. The teamwork and partnerships with local businesses, caring Richmond and

See TEAM, p.8

# Greene, Austin join the Board of Trustees

There will be two new faces at the October meeting for the Richmond Community College Board of Trustees. Jennifer S. Greene of Hamlet and Jerry L. Austin Jr. of Rockingham will be filling two vacant spots on the board.

“We are excited to have these two new members on the Board of Trustees and the knowledge and expertise they will be bringing to the board,” Dr. Dale McInnis, RichmondCC president, said. “They both have deep roots in our community and have a passion for serving. I look forward to working with them and growing the impact that Richmond Community College has on the communities it serves.”

## Jennifer Greene

Greene has been in the healthcare field for almost 30 years, but she said she looks forward to serving as a Trustee for the College and getting involved in education.

Greene is a pharmacist for Mabry Drug, which her father owns in downtown Hamlet.

“I wanted to get more involved in the community and I thought this was a good way for me to become involved in a new aspect of the community. I’ve been involved in the medical side of the community for many years, but I’ve never been involved in education in our county,” said Greene, who is a graduate of Richmond Senior High School. “I hope to contribute new ideas in areas of healthcare, such as with the nursing program or some of the new programs involving healthcare.”

She is also interested in the growth of the College’s dual enrollment program for high school students.

Greene graduated from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and worked as a pharmacist in Greenville for eight years before returning home to join her



**Jennifer Greene, pharmacist at Mabry Drug, was appointed to the RichmondCC Board of Trustees by the Richmond County Commissioners.**

father in his pharmacy business before he retired.

She and her husband, Jeff, have five children.

“I look forward to working with the current board members and the College’s president. I think we will all be able to accomplish great things working together — all coming from different aspects of the community,” Greene said.

Greene was appointed to the board by the Richmond County Commissioners.

## Jerry Austin

Austin said he looks forward to “being part of a team that understands the importance of maintaining a great college in our community.”

Austin, who serves as the director of Solid Waste/Recycling/Water Maintenance Departments for Richmond County, also begins his first term on the RichmondCC Board of Trustees this fall.



**Director of Solid Waste/Recycling/Water Maintenance Departments for Richmond County, Jerry Austin, was appointed to the board by the governor.**

“Workforce development programs are vital to the students’ career success and I’m excited to be a part of and contribute to the future growth of both students and RichmondCC,” he said.

Austin is a 1988 graduate of Richmond Senior High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1992.

Austin applauds the proactivity of the College’s leaders to grow and add programs that prepare students for today’s job market. He said this is vital for the continued success of the College.

“I feel as if the sky is the limit for RichmondCC, as student growth continues to expand as well as workforce development programs,” he added.

Austin and his wife of 18 years, Michelle, have two sons and a daughter.

Austin was appointed to the board by the governor.

## Board of Trustee Meeting Changes

The Richmond Community College Board of Trustees recently voted to change its meeting schedule.

The board meets at noon the first Tuesday of August, October, December, February, April and June.

Meetings are held in the Board Room in the DeWitt Building on the Main Campus in Hamlet.

## GRADUATE

CONTINUED FROM P.1

technician for North American Protection and Control, an independent provider of protection and control services to the electric utility industry throughout the United States. He was sent to Iowa to do contract work at a wind farm where power is generated by large wind turbines. Walking into the control room of this utility company, Collins said he was very familiar with the Doble Engineering equipment because it was the same equipment he used while in the classroom at RichmondCC.

Doble Engineering Company has been a key partner for RichmondCC's EUSRT program through annual donations of test equipment and software. Duke Energy has also been instrumental in the development of the EUSRT program, providing over a million dollars in funding and equipment since the program's inception in 2011.

The EUSRT program prepares students for careers in the electric utility industry and other industries that rely on complex control systems.

"It's hard to believe what all I learned in two years in the EUSRT program," Collins said. "I had no clue what I was getting into when I started the program. And it's still hard to believe the opportunities that



**Ryan Collins, 22, checks a transformer to make sure the complex control system is operating correctly.**

I now have after just two years of college."

In the utility industry, entry level technicians with two- or four-year degrees in electronics engineering require five years of training to be capable of maintaining and supporting substations and the relay equipment associated with

them. The EUSRT program, however, was crafted specifically to develop technicians with the training and skills to begin work immediately in the utility industry and cut the normal training time in half. Salaries for this two-year degree typically start around \$60,000 a year.

Collins received a sign-on bonus when he accepted the job with the Florida company, which helped him pay for his relocation from Hamlet to the Orlando area.

Collins went to the University of North Carolina-Pembroke after graduating Richmond Senior High School in 2012. He did well his first year in college and made the Chancellor's List, but he was unsure of his career plan with a four-year degree. That's when he heard about the EUSRT program and decided to enroll at RichmondCC.

"The EUSRT program is a great option for people who want to have a guaranteed career after two years of education with very little student debt," Collins said.

Every student in the EUSRT program who graduated in May 2016 now has a job in the utility industry. In fact, one of those graduates, David Hardesty, is also working for the same company as Collins in Florida, and they're sharing an apartment.

"When I go to work, there's always a new task or a new problem that has to be solved. I'm not doing the same thing day in and day out and getting burned out," Collins said. "This job keeps me on my toes and I thrive on the challenges in this field of work."

Collins is a son of Shirley Collins and Ronald Collins, and a grandson of Bert and Barbara Unger of Hamlet.

## SHULER

CONTINUED FROM P.1

ated from Appalachian State University with a Bachelor of Science in physical education in 1981. In 1983, he earned a Master of Education in education administration from The Citadel. This past May, he completed his doctorate in education from N.C State University.

Shuler began his career in education coaching football at the college level. He coached at The Citadel, Lenoir Rhyne University, Wofford College, East Tennessee State University and N.C. State. In 1991, he became the head football coach of Richmond Senior High School and then went into administration after five years. He served as athletic director at RSHS, assistant principal at

various schools in Richmond County and for the past three years, principal at Rohanen Middle.

"I look forward to working at Richmond Community College and being a part of the fundraising arm that helps so many students afford college," Shuler said. "I am grateful to the College and Dr. Dale McInnis for this unique opportunity."

Education runs in the Shuler

family. His wife, Bess, is a beginning teacher coordinator for Richmond County Schools, and their son, Will, is an assistant football coach at North Greenville University, while their other son, Andy, coaches and teaches at RSHS.

"Education is the key to solving many issues and problems that communities face, and my hope is to continue to be a part of those efforts," Shuler said.

# Meet Recipients of *The Working Scholarship*

## Hunter Bowman

Hunter Bowman of Rockingham is paying his own way through college, so he must balance his schoolwork with his job at O'Reilly Auto Parts. This semester, the Richmond Community College student received the Working Scholarship, which helped him offset some of the costs of college.

"The scholarship helped me a lot since I'm having to pay out of pocket for my tuition and books," Bowman said.

He's enrolled in the Associate in Arts program and plans to transfer to the University of North Carolina-Pembroke when he graduates RichmondCC in 2018.

Bowman is a talented musician. Since the age of 13, he's been making music — beats and instrumentals. He plays guitar, drums, piano, saxophone and clarinet. He plans to be a music teacher.

Bowman said watching his mom work her way through college has had a big impact on him, but he's always wanted to make something out of himself and to follow his passion.

Bowman chose to start his college education at RichmondCC because it was close to home and he knew it was a really good college.

"The faculty and students are great, and there are a lot of different activities to get involved in like the Campus Crusade for Christians," he said. "I feel like RichmondCC is getting me ready for a four-year school. I'm getting a feel



**Hunter Bowman**

for the college work load and staying on task to get all my assignments and projects done."

## Brittany Deaver

Brittany Deaver of Hamlet said receiving the Working Scholarship helped her make the decision to stay in school this fall and to not take a semester off from Richmond Community College.

"The Working Scholarship helped me a lot because I don't receive financial aid. It was the deciding factor for me this fall semester," said Deaver, who works as a bank teller for CommunityOne Bank in Southern Pines. "I am thankful to the people who have donated to the Working Scholarship, because without it, many students wouldn't be able to go to college."

Deaver is enrolled in the Business Administration program and plans to graduate May 2017. She plans to contin-



**Brittany Deaver**

ue her education in financing at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke.

"Dr. Devon Hall, my advisor, has helped me any time I've had questions. He helped me with my academic plan and to figure out how to go to school this semester," Deaver said. "There's a great atmosphere at RichmondCC. The teachers really try to connect with you."

Deaver already has two certificates, one in accounting and one in business administration, which helped her get the bankteller job.

Working and going to college has helped Deaver learn time management and to not procrastinate. Working full time at the bank, she takes all her classes online and not in the traditional classroom setting.

"RichmondCC is helping me to further my education and get a job I really want. It's preparing me for a career," Deaver said.



**Isiah Brown**

## Isiah Brown

Isiah Brown of Rockingham is working his way through college as a server at Fatz Café. The Richmond Community College student is working toward a career as an emergency room doctor.

Brown is enrolled in a transfer program and will go to East Carolina University after graduating from RichmondCC.

Brown said working while going to college has not been difficult because he knows he's working toward something, so he stays focused on the end result.

"Receiving the Working Scholarship has really helped me to pay for college. I've never received any type of financial assistance before," he said.

Brown said his mother, who is a full-time nurse, has had a great influence on his educational and career goals.

## Working Scholarship Recipients ---



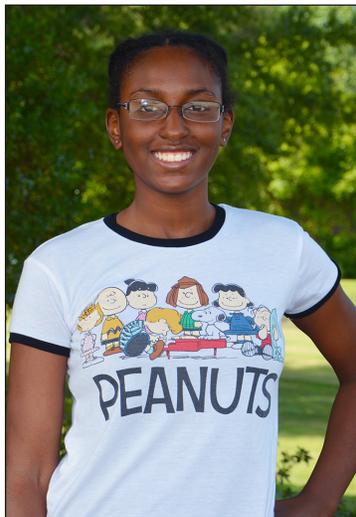
**Will Webb**

### Will Webb

Will Webb of Rockingham chose to come to Richmond Community College specifically for the Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology program, which holds the promise of high-paying, high-skilled job opportunities.

A recipient of the Working Scholarship, Webb spent this past summer as an intern at Duke Energy doing substation maintenance work. He now works full-time at Precision Emergency Equipment installing and repairing lights, sirens and radios on emergency vehicles.

"I'm in class all day two days per week, so I have to make up for those two days I miss at work the rest of the week, which doesn't leave a whole lot of time for studying," Webb said.



**Lecie Griffin**

Webb will graduate from the EUSRT program in May 2017. He hopes his internship at Duke Energy will lead to a full-time job with the company.

"I appreciate this scholarship that has helped me pay for college. I also appreciate Dr. Dale McInnis for pushing me to come to Richmond Community College and try out this program," Webb said. "He has backed me 100 percent throughout. I have finally found a career I love."

When Webb has time for himself outside his work and studies, he enjoys playing softball and fishing.

### Lecie Griffin

Lecie Griffin of Hamlet attends her classes at Richmond Community College during the morning and then works as a shift manager at McDonald's



**Zachary Phillips**

in the afternoons. She does all her studying and homework when she gets off work.

"I'm thankful to receive the Working Scholarship because it helps students like me who don't receive financial aid," Griffin said. "It's helping take the financial burden off me and my mother."

Griffin said her mom has been a motivating factor in her pursuit of a college degree. Her mother went back to school several years ago and graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursing.

Griffin is enrolled in the Associate in Arts transfer program. She will graduate in May 2017, and she plans to further her education and get a degree in physical therapy.

"I chose to start my education at RichmondCC because it was close to home and I knew

it provided quality academics," Griffin said.

### Zachary Phillips

Zachary Phillips works 50 hours a week, but he's also a full-time student at Richmond Community College. An assistant service manager at Griffin Toyota, Phillips is completing his degree online, which allows him to study and take tests on lunch breaks and weekends.

"RichmondCC is allowing me to get a degree and work a full-time job at the same time. This is very important to me and my future," he said.

He is also thankful for receiving the Working Scholarship this fall semester.

"I very much appreciate the financial assistance of this scholarship. It allows me to continue my education without too much financial strain," Phillips said.

Phillips is enrolled in the Associate in Arts transfer program and plans to graduate next fall. He wants to complete a Bachelor of Arts in theology and a master's degree in counseling.

Going back to school after so many years in the work world has not always been easy, Phillips said.

"My wife has been the biggest supporter of me finishing school and keeps me focused when I may not want to be. She is a large part of my success," he said.

## Become A Donor

The Working Scholarship was created in response to working students and families who were being denied full state and federal financial aid options because they were earning a living. This scholarship is available to individuals who work at least 10 hours per week and attend RichmondCC. If you would like to help working students offset the costs of college, become a Working Scholarship donor by contacting Dr. Hal Shuler at (910) 410-1807 [whshuler@richmondcc.edu](mailto:whshuler@richmondcc.edu).

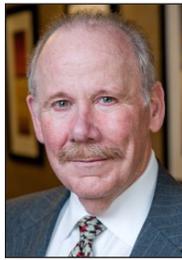
# Do well by doing good; now is the time

If you have an interest in supporting your favorite charity, today we consider a charitable, yet tax efficient, use of your IRA assets.

- Whether cash flow is needed or not, every IRA owner 70½ and older must take required minimum distributions (“RMDs”) from their IRAs each year, based on your life expectancy and the Jan. 1 value of all of your IRAs. This is not due to the IRS’s concern for our having adequate retirement cash flows to ensure a satisfying lifestyle, but rather a desire to collect current ordinary income tax from IRA distributions, rather than allowing the tax deferral to continue indefinitely.

- If you are fortunate enough not to need all of your RMDs to maintain your lifestyle, you have the opportunity to make a direct “Qualified Charitable Distribution (“QCD”)” from your IRA to any public charity of up to \$100,000 each year, without including such transfer in your adjusted gross income (“AGI”).

- QCDs may only be made unconditionally to public charities, and not “quid pro quo” donations (i.e., for better



**John Slayton**  
Managing  
Director, EVP  
Trust Company  
of N.C.

from SEP, SIMPLE or inherited IRAs. As distributions from Roth IRAs are income tax-free, they are likely not the best alternative.

**A QCD WILL SATISFY THE DONOR’S RMD**, without increasing AGI, so less income tax will be due and good will be done.

Having a higher AGI due to an IRA distribution can be detrimental to you for reasons unrelated to your IRA. Many expensive results derive from higher AGIs:

- Higher income taxes on social security.
- Limitations on itemized deductions and personal exemptions due to “haircuts” of such items for those with higher AGIs.

basketball tickets). The charity must be public, not a private foundation, donor-advised fund or supporting organization.

- QCDs may be made from IRAs or Roth IRAs, but not

- Limitations on annual charitable deductions (e.g., limited to 50% of AGI) could restrict deductions for your current-year contributions (although currently non-deductible contributions can be carried forward and deducted for a period of up to five years).

- Medicare insurance premiums and Medicare surcharges increase.

Because QCDs do not increase AGI, they do not exacerbate these adverse results.

The QCD is not taxable income, so it is not deductible.

- QCDs allow the approximately two-thirds of taxpayers who take the standard deduction, without deducting charitable gifts, to now get the equivalent of a deduction.

**• Not being taxed on income is the equivalent of a tax deduction.**

Making a QCD is painless:

- Simply contact the charity to determine the proper payee name for the check.

- Then instruct your IRA custodian or trustee to make a transfer from the IRA directly to the charity. Most custodians already have forms and procedures in place to make this transfer.

- The check cannot be made payable to you, it must be to the charity. It cannot flow through a non-IRA account of yours as an intermediate step.

- The check must go directly to the charity, which must then issue you a letter of acknowledgement.

Your assets flow in one of three directions during life and at death:

I. Your family, friends and designees, or

II. Charities of your choice, or

III. The Government.

Why not choose who gets your assets, rather than defaulting them to the Government?

The QCD is a user-friendly and effective way to further the good works of the Richmond Community College Foundation. You really can do good while doing well on your tax planning! Please contact the RichmondCC Foundation staff or myself if you would like to discuss this further.

*John Slayton can be reached by emailing [jslayton@trust-companync.com](mailto:jslayton@trust-companync.com) or calling (919) 557-4593.*

## There Are Many Ways to Give

If you’ve been positively impacted as a student or community member by Richmond Community College, we have plenty of opportunities for you to give back to our school by donating to the Foundation:

- Endowed Scholarships • Annual Gift Scholarships • Cash • Securities • Bequest
- Charitable Gift Annuity • Charitable Remainder Trust • Charitable Lead Trust

The end of 2016 is fast approaching and now is the time to make those charitable donations for your tax deductions.

Contact Dr. Hal Shuler at (910) 410-1807 or [whshuler@richmondcc.edu](mailto:whshuler@richmondcc.edu)

to learn how you can become a Richmond Community College donor.

## RECORD

CONTINUED FROM P.2

students from Richmond and Scotland counties who qualified for the new RichmondCC Guarantee. Graduating with a 3.0 GPA and successfully completing two or more of our college courses, these students earned two years of free tuition and fees at our college. I am happy to report the first year of the Guarantee has been a success. Seventy-three students applied and met the criteria and have begun the first steps of their journey to great career. Based on the increased enrollment in our dual enrollment courses and the tremendous response

from our great school partners, parents and students, I am confident we will soon see many more students take advantage of this opportunity.

As we look forward, it really is all about those two words: students and opportunity. With the support of our Foundation and the generous people who support it, we can expand the guarantee, and insure that every child in Richmond and Scotland counties knows they can go to college, and they can have a great job. With your help and support, we are working to make that hope and dream an expectation, that education doesn't end with high school, and that they will be prepared for the future they deserve.



**Fall Semester began Aug. 17 with a record number of students enrolled at RichmondCC, with more signing up for late-start classes that began in September.**

## TEAM

CONTINUED FROM P.2

Scotland county citizens, and our staff at RichmondCC has fulfilled a real need for many going through college.

The DeWitt Performing Arts series kicked off the 2016-17 season with "FAME: The Musical," and I enjoyed meeting all the members of the Foundation's Director's Circle at the reception before the show. The headlining act for this season is country music singer Jennifer Nettles — of Sugarland fame — on Dec. 16.

It looks as if we will have the largest group of members in the Director's Circle for the 2016-17 year with approximately 66 members, or 33 couples. Joey Bennett and his staff at the Cole do a tremendous job organizing and trying to meet everyone's needs with these events.

The teamwork of the Cole Auditorium and the generosity of the many who join the Director's Circle make it possible for our Foundation to operate and do the many



**New Director's Circle members Ken and Jill Hartley talk to cast members of "FAME: The Musical" the night of the performance at the Cole Auditorium.**

things we do each year.

The RichmondCC Foundation has also begun its first alumni association. We are in the beginning stages and have decided to first look to our nursing alumni for advice and data as we start this program. Our nursing graduates have been our shining light for many years, and they are a very prestigious group throughout the Sandhills and

in the state of North Carolina. We have begun with a survey that will be mailed to all nursing graduates that will compile some data on the best practices to develop an alumni association here at RichmondCC. Our hope is to begin to raise scholarship dollars through the nursing alumni and grow from there. The teamwork of our alumni and our Foundation will make this

a reality in the near future.

In closing, this is my favorite time of the year. I love the fall and I love the game of football. It unifies all different types of people together with one purpose into one team like no other. Our success at RichmondCC is about all the parts of our team working together for the success of our students.

I want to thank all of those who have helped and are presently helping raise dollars for the many programs and opportunities for our students. I also want to put in a plug for anyone considering becoming a donor. We are entering the time of year when many make year-end decisions about charitable giving. Whether through an annual or endowed scholarship, a Working Scholarship, the Director's Circle, an alumni gift, or an unrestricted special gift, give the gift that gives back to your community through your hometown community college.

Share your blessings by helping another reach his or her dream of a college degree.

# Yates family establishes scholarship in honor of father's community service

Sept. 20 was a big day for the family of Leroy W. Yates. Yates, 88, received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine from Sen. Tom McInnis, and an endowed scholarship at Richmond Community College was established in Yates' honor by his family.

The highest civilian award conferred by the governor of North Carolina, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is awarded to persons for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and which has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina.

"My father is a life-long resident of Richmond County, and he has spent his life as a most unselfish volunteer and advocate for the impoverished," said Yates' son, Denny E. Yates. "Throughout his life, he has exhibited tremendous integrity and has always been willing to contribute to those less fortunate than himself."

By trade, Yates was an electrical and HVAC contractor for about 25 years, after which he pursued a profession as a realtor based in Richmond County.

In the 1980s, Yates began a chapter of MADD in Richmond County and oversaw its operation for many years. He led the charge to start a Christian Ministry at Morrison Correctional Institution, which is still in place today.

"My father devoted nearly 25 years of his life attending almost every Sunday to mentor, minister and provide an opportunity for Christian enrichment to the inmates of that facility," Denny said.

A lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Rockingham, Yates also conceived, designed, developed and constructed



Leroy W. Yates recently received The Order of Long Leaf Pine and was honored by his family with the establishment of an endowed scholarship at Richmond Community College. Pictured at the reception at the Cole Auditorium are, from left to right, Kay Yates, wife of Yates' son Denny; Yates' daughter, Carol Day; Yates; and Yates' son, Denny Yates.

the first disaster relief vehicle for the Baptist Men of North Carolina. His concept was used for many years for disaster relief from hurricanes along the coast, flooding in the mountains and other areas in the state where hardship struck.

He also participated in the design, development and construction of many churches throughout the state.

"I cannot think of a more deserving individual for such a prestigious award. To serve one's community for 25 years is truly an outstanding achievement," McInnis said as he presented the award to Yates. "You and your family should be very proud, as is the State of North Carolina, of all you have accomplished.

You are truly an inspiration to man."

In addition to the award announcement, the family of Yates also announced the establishment of the Leroy W. Yates Scholarship for Community Service and Volunteerism, an endowed scholarship to benefit RichmondCC students who exhibit a desire and commitment to serve their community through volunteer work.

"Mr. Yates is a great man, and we are proud to continue his legacy of service to the community through this scholarship," Dr. Dale McInnis, president of RichmondCC, said. "It is because of scholarships like this that our students are able to afford college and better their lives."

"We are happy to be establishing in our father's honor this scholarship that will benefit others, and we think it is a proper way to honor a man who spent so much of his life working to the benefit of other people," Denny said.

Dr. Hal Shuler, Associate Vice President of Development at RichmondCC, worked with the Yates family in setting up the scholarship.

"On behalf of the Richmond-CC Foundation, I want to thank the Yates family for such a generous gift to our students and for honoring the many years of selfless service of Mr. Leroy Yates with a scholarship that will continue to give back to others for many years to come," Shuler said.

# 5K race proceeds supporting education

Duke and Melissa Smith, organizers of the Seaboard Festival 5K Run/Walk, decided to use a portion of this year's race proceeds toward a scholarship at Richmond Community College.

The Seaboard Festival 5K Scholarship Fund will award one student \$500 for the fall semester of 2017 and \$500 for spring semester of 2018.

"Right now, we've set it up to be awarded to one student — but if there are more funds in the future, we will have more scholarships in the same dollar amount," Duke said.

Duke said with the theme of this year's 5K including a school supply drive, establishing a scholarship seemed appropriate.

"Going forward, we feel education is the right direction for the race," he said. "The Seaboard Festival committee has always just let us choose after the 5K where we wanted to donate our proceeds. We just decided on our own which charities to sponsor. A scholarship is a good way to use the money."

To qualify for the scholarship, the applicant must be a Richmond County resident, maintain a 3.0 grade-point average, and be a full-time student."



Pictured after signing off on a new scholarship are Dr. Hal Shuler, Associate Vice President of Development; Missy and Duke Smith, supporters of the Seaboard Festival 5K Walk/Run; and Dr. Dale McInnis, president of Richmond Community College.

"The Richmond Community College Foundation appreciates the generous work of Duke and Melissa Smith for their development of the Seaboard Festival 5K Scholarship," said Dr. Hal Shuler, Associate Vice President of Development. "We look forward to being able to offer this scholarship in fall 2017 that will help our stu-

dents offset the cost of college and pursue their educational and career goals."

Dr. Dale McInnis, college president, said he hopes the scholarship will inspire others to follow the example of its founders.

"On behalf of the college and our board of trustees, I want to thank the organizers

of the Seaboard Festival 5K who used this annual event as an opportunity to support higher education within our community," McInnis said. "We encourage other groups to look into the many ways our foundation has for giving and helping our students who are bettering their lives through a college education."



## Industrial Partnership Continues to Grow

Dr. Dale McInnis visited the FCC plant in Laurel Hill recently to sign off on another round of customized training the College will be providing at no cost to the local manufacturer. FCC Administration Manager Wayne Cromartie credited the partnership with the College for the plant's steady growth and success.

# Scholarship honors long-time educator

Another scholarship has been made available to Richmond Community College students, thanks to former teacher Sandy Bryant who established the Bobbie Sue Ormsby Annual Scholarship in honor of another fellow educator.

"I believe learning is lifelong. I don't believe you should ever stop learning or furthering your education," said Bryant, who taught English at Richmond Senior High School for 30 years.

"Bobbie Sue (Ormsby) has served in so many capacities in education in this county, and I admire her both personally and professionally," Bryant said. "She is very loved by many teachers and children who came through her schools."

Ormsby served in education for 37 and a half years. The Rockingham native started as a second-grade teacher at LJ Bell Elementary School in 1976. After 12 years in the classroom, she became assistant principal and then principal of LJ Bell.

Ormsby was elected to the Richmond County School Board in July 2014 and now serves as vice chair of the board. She has also served on the RichmondCC Foundation Board of Directors for four years.

"I've always loved education,



Dr. Dale McInnis, president of Richmond Community College, sits with Bobbie Sue Ormsby, center, and Sandy Bryant, right, as they go over the criteria for the Bobbie Sue Ormsby Annual Scholarship that will benefit RichmondCC students. Bryant established the scholarship in Ormsby's honor.

## Let Your Donation Support This Scholarship

To support the Bobbie Sue Ormsby Scholarship through a donation, contact Dr. Hal Shuler, Associate Vice President of Development, at (910) 410-1807 or [whshuler@richmondcc.edu](mailto:whshuler@richmondcc.edu).

and I've always loved children," Ormsby said. "It sounds like a cliché, but I always knew I wanted to be a teacher."

Education has always been very important to both Ormsby and her late husband, Ed, who also was a teacher, principal and school board member in Richmond County.

"I'm very attached to Richmond County, and we're very fortunate to have Richmond Community College here. I was

overwhelmed when Sandy told me about the scholarship," said Ormsby, who described the feeling of having the scholarship established in her name like "a thousand children hugging me."

Bryant said she and Ormsby both share a desire to see children succeed and to understand there is more after high school.

"The bragging point used to be: 'I was the first to get a high

school degree in my family.' I'd rather hear: 'I was the first to get a college degree in my family,'" Bryant said.

Dr. Dale McInnis, president of RichmondCC, said it is because of scholarships such as this one that many students are able to attend college.

"I want to thank Mrs. Bryant and Mrs. Ormsby for their dedication to higher education and for making this scholarship available to our students so they can better their lives," McInnis said. "This is a great opportunity for Mrs. Ormsby's students, teachers and colleagues to join in and honor her career while supporting our students through this scholarship."



## Practical Nursing Class Passes with Perfection

Congratulations to the members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2016 on their 100% passage rate on the licensing exam. They all worked very hard to prepare for this state examination and are now Licensed Practical Nurses!

# Country music's Nettles coming to Hamlet

Grammy award-winning country superstar Jennifer Nettles will be the headlining act for the 2016-17 DeWitt Performing Arts Series at the Cole Auditorium. Lead vocalist for international duo Sugarland, Nettles will be performing solo Friday, Dec. 16.

Leading with her powerhouse vocals and vivacious energy, Nettles is nothing short of a country music superstar. She exploded onto the country scene as a part of the duo, Sugarland, earning eight No. 1 singles, over 22 million in worldwide record sales and racked up numerous awards from the Grammys, American Music Awards, the Academy of Country Music, The Country Music Association and CMT Music Awards.

Two solo albums later (with a third soon to come), Nettles has made a name for herself. Her last release, "Playing with Fire" was released in May and peaked at No. 2 on the Top Country Albums charts.

"We are excited to have such a talented country music star coming to the Cole Auditorium for the DeWitt Performing Arts series," Cole Auditorium Director Joey Bennett said. "We've known for a while that Jennifer Nettles was going to be our big headlining act this season, but we wanted to make sure the 'ink was dry' on the signed contract."

Nettles has won five ASCAP awards for her songwriting abilities and received a Grammy Award, ACM Award and CMA Award for penning the emotionally charged, No. 1 platinum hit, "Stay." At the 2009 ACM Awards, Nettles was honored with the "Crystal Milestone Award" for being the first female artist to be the solo songwriter on an ACM "Song of the Year" winner since 1972.

Nettles continues to be one of the most admired sing-



**Grammy award-winning country music superstar Jennifer Nettles will be the headlining act for the 2016-17 DeWitt Performing Arts Series at the Cole Auditorium.**

er-songwriters in music today and even set Broadway on fire in 2015 with her debut as Roxy Hart in Chicago.

## "The Nutcracker"

Getting the holiday season underway will be "The Nutcracker" presented by the Columbia City Ballet on Nov. 29. The Columbia City Ballet offers audiences the highest quality ballet and provides dancers with some of the finest professional dance training.

Set to Tchaikovsky's iconic score, this fairy tale ballet captures the awe and expectation of the night before Christmas when a mysterious gift sparks a wondrous adventure into the Land of Enchantment with dances from faraway lands.

## Five Irish Tenors

Following the great response from "Rhythm of the Dance," the DeWitt Series presents another great performance with Celtic flair. The Five Irish Tenors presents a sensational program of the most famously beloved Irish songs, fusing Irish wit and boisterous charm with lyricism, dramatic flair and operatic style, in combinations of tenor solos, duets,

## Purchasing Season Tickets Can Put You in the Director's Circle, Where You Meet the Stars!

Cole staff members are still taking requests from those interested in purchasing season tickets, and great seats are still available! Those requests are fulfilled in the order in which they are received, so patrons are encouraged to call soon for the best seats.

Season tickets holders from 2015-16 have the opportunity to renew and upgrade their seats from the past season. Season ticket prices range from \$115 to \$145 per seat and include reserved-seating tickets for the five remaining shows. Although individual show tickets may be available, purchasing season tickets affords patrons a large cost savings and guarantees seats for the shows. Season ticket prices are cheaper than what you will find for comparable season line-ups in other cities in large part thanks to the support of the Carrie B. DeWitt family, who has help with financial support since the facility opened in 1999.

Patrons who purchase season tickets have the opportunity to join The Director's Circle. This optional membership-giving program supports the RichmondCC Foundation and offers special privileges for members, including a reception before each show and the possibility to meet and greet performers. **Cost to join the Director's Circle is \$1,000 per couple; \$600 individual.**

A full season brochure can be viewed on the auditorium's website at [www.richmondcc.edu/cole-auditorium](http://www.richmondcc.edu/cole-auditorium).

The box office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can also call the box office at (910) 410-1691. Information is also available on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

trios and other combinations.

The Five Irish Tenors' "Salute to Ireland" will kick off the new year on Jan. 26.

## "Barefoot in the Park"

On March 9, Cole show-goers will be treated to one of Neil Simon's classic plays, "Barefoot in the Park." This warm and hysterical comedy, beloved by critics and audiences alike, will be presented by the same theatre company, Montana Repertory Theatre, that performed "Steel Magnolias" in 2005.

## The Hit Men

Wrapping up the DeWitt Series will be five brilliant musicians and singers performing together on one stage on April 6.

You may not know their names, but you went to their concerts, heard them on the radio, watched them on TV, and bought their records throughout the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s. The Hit Men toured and recorded with some of the biggest names in the music business - huge stars from Frankie Valli and Carly Simon, to Tommy James, Carole King, Cat Stevens, Jim Croce, The Critters, Elton John, Paul McCartney, Barry Manilow, Bon Jovi, Rod Stewart, Celine Dion, and many more.

The Hit Men are not a tribute act. They are not the former cast of a Broadway musical. They are the actual artists who helped rocket so many songs to the top of the Billboard charts.

## FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING

# Wood passes gavel to incoming president

Foundation Board of Directors President David Wood passed the gavel to incoming President Joyce McDow at the board's meeting on Sept. 27 at the Cole Auditorium. Foundation presidents serve three-year terms. Mrs. McDow said she was looking forward to working with Richmond Community College's leaders to achieve her goal of supporting, educating and preparing students. Pictured with Mr. Wood and Mrs. McDow is the Associate Vice President of Development, Dr. Hal Shuler.



# Nursing grads starting point for Alumni program



Two graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing program were invited to speak at the Foundation board meeting on Sept. 27. Pictured are above left, ADN Class of 2015 graduate Kezzy Tolo, and above right, ADN Class of 2015 graduate Lauren McDonald. The RichmondCC Foundation has started laying the groundwork for its first Alumni program. We will be looking to our nursing alumni for advice and data as we start this program. Our nursing graduates have been our shining light for many years and are a very prestigious group throughout the Sandhills region and in the state of North Carolina. We have begun with a survey that will be mailed to all nursing graduates that will compile some data on the best practices to develop Alumni at RichmondCC. Our hope is to begin raising scholarship funds through the nursing alumni and grow from there.

# Employee Appreciation Day

Richmond Community College celebrated the hard work of its faculty and staff by treating them to a day of food, fun and fellowship. Employee Appreciation Day was held on Sept. 22 at the Cole Auditorium. Employees competed in a very lively lip sync battle and then enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Brent Barbee and his team that included Dr. Dale McInnis, Dr. Hal Shuler, Sharon Goodman, Clayton Dial, Mitchell Lowery, Debbie Cashwell, Kevin Parsons and Dr. Robbie Taylor. The afternoon was spent competing in games like corn hole, basketball and armchair volleyball. There was also a cookie bakeoff, ice cream break and free massages.



Special Events Chair Patsy Stanley referees the chair volleyball games that often get pretty rowdy.



Lance Barber tosses a few bags as he warms up before the start of the corn hole tournament.



John Kester takes a couple practice shots before the start of the three-point shoot out.



Ronnie Caulder consoles Arlinda Billingsley after he and Tug Gainey knocked her and Crystal Shaw out of the corn hole tournament.



Dr. McInnis congratulates the winning corn hole team of Scotty Mabe and Leighton Bell.