



## Kindley fitness trail to promote good health

Richmond Community College (RCC) students, faculty and staff looking to incorporate some exercise into their daily routine on campus will soon have access to the Mary Ellen Kindley Fitness Trail.

The future walking trail with fitness stations has been named in honor of the wife of longtime Rockingham Mayor G.R. Kindley, who has served as president of the RCC Foundation Board of Directors and co-chair of the steering committee for the Forte Building expansion. The walking trail will also be open to public use.



Kindley

“We wanted to provide a resource to our campus community as well as the general public that would encourage physical activity and overall health,” Dr. Dale McInnis, RCC president, said.

### Sponsor the Trail!

Donations to the fitness trail project can be mailed to the RCC Foundation, P.O. Box 1189, Hamlet, NC 28345. For more information, contact the RCC Foundation: (910) 410-1807 [bowebb@richmondcc.edu](mailto:bowebb@richmondcc.edu)

The Kindley family made a financial contribution to the trail, and they hope others will also support the establishment of the walking trail.

“We are looking for friends and supporters to help make this project a possibility,” said RCC President Dr. Dale McInnis. “We have a lead gift from the (G.R.) Kindley family, and Mr. Kindley has secured the RCC Foundation an in-kind donation from Vulcan Materials for the stone for the trail.”

Kindley is retired from 50 years in the construction business, but he has always been

See TRAIL, p.10



### New Wave of Student Ambassadors

RCC welcomes a new group of Students Ambassadors who assist faculty and staff with college events as part of a year-long scholarship and leadership program. Pictured from left, George Yandle, Thomas McDonald, Ashley Hancock, Jordin Norton, Amanda Kohl, Stephanie Smith, Rebecca Rainwater, Brandy Covington and Veronica Roberts. To learn about the new Student Ambassadors, go to PAGE 6.

### WORKING SCHOLARSHIP

## Wells Fargo Foundation issues grant challenge

The Wells Fargo Foundation has generously offered a challenge grant of \$5,000 in support of the Working Scholarship Program at Richmond Community College (RCC).

The Working Scholarship is designed to help RCC students who are working to pay their way through college and are not eligible for Federal Financial Aid.

“Twenty percent of Richmond Community College students are trying to make school work,” said RCC President Dr. Dale McInnis. “They juggle class, family job schedules throughout the year in an effort to stay in college.”

The Wells Fargo Foundation challenge grant requires

See CHALLENGE, p.8

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# Campus Views

Messages from RCC President & RCC Foundation Executive Director

## RCC becoming a 'first-choice' college

Many folks might think that we slow down here at our college during the summer, but despite having fewer classes, it is a busy time for all of us. As everyone here at RCC is working hard to get ready for fall, the summer gives us a chance to reflect on the past year and plan for a successful 2014-15.

In February, we gathered our friends, supporters and stakeholders for the grand re-opening of the remodeled Forte Building, housing all of our engineering and trades programs in the new Joseph Prischak Center for Engineering Technology. With all new equipment and 11,000 square feet of new space, this facility is a showcase for our faculty and demonstrates RCC's commitment to careers in manufacturing and engineering. Seeing the pride on the faces of our students and employees as they used the "new" building this spring made the project a complete success.

2013-14 was an historic year for our college, as we celebrated our 50th anniversary in April. As the pictures show, it was great fun and a beautiful way to celebrate 50 years of service to our communities. A few days earlier, we enjoyed having a reunion of retired employees and alumni. Based on the positive feedback,



Dr. Dale McInnis,  
RCC President

we plan to make both of these annual events.

In June, we received the great news that we were reaccredited without any follow up report

from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Occurring every 10 years, this comprehensive and intense three-year process reviews and analyzes all of our programs and services for students for compliance with regional and federal standards. Our success reflects the faculty and staff's hard work and commitment to each student and to our mission.

Working with the RCC Foundation, we started the Working Student campaign to support students and their families whose income makes them ineligible for financial aid but is not sufficient to pay for their education. Dozens of students have benefitted from this program in its first few months, and I believe it will open our doors to students who thought college was not an option.

Across the state, enrollment is down at other community colleges. Because of our many

partnerships across Richmond and Scotland counties and the efforts of our employees, we have avoided that trend and are continuing to grow. I believe that growth will continue into 2014-15, as we implement new programs and strategies to provide new opportunities and careers for our communities.

We listened to local employers about their needs, and developed two new programs that begin this fall. The Dialysis Technician diploma will prepare students for new jobs in the growing dialysis treatment field, providing a great start in health-care. Mechatronics Engineering Technology is a two-year degree that will prepare much needed automation and controls technicians for manufacturers throughout the region.

The new state wide articulation agreement between our community colleges and the UNC institutions will make our college transfer programs even stronger and more seamless for our students. The latest report from our system office showed 93 percent of our transfer students were successful as university juniors, and we will build on that to expand access to four-year degrees for our citizens in the upcoming year.

Listening to our students for

feedback, we have refocused our approach on their needs and their success. We are setting program level targets, not just for enrollment, but for retention and graduation as well. We are moving to an in depth, personalized advising process, in which we strive to build a relationship with each student and work together to craft their individual career plan. Exploring 21st Century jobs and careers, we will support and guide our students into their journey, strengthening our communities as we empower each student with hope and opportunity.

As we prepare to enter the 2014-15 academic year, we are excited to be addressing a long-standing need to support an initiative for healthy living on our campus. Thanks to a generous lead gift from the Kindley family and other donors, the Mary Ellen Kindley Fitness Trail will be established on RCC's campus for the public, as well as our students and employees.

We will strive to provide programs and services that lead to improved lives, with quality, value and convenience defining our focus on student success. Because of your faith and support, RCC is becoming a destination college, a college of choice for the people of our region.

## Scholarship recipient's letter to donor says it all

There are many things I would like to say to donors and friends of the RCC Foundation. You all do so much for our students that finding a way to say "thank you" is often overwhelming. Plus, this issue of The Ledger is packed! So I thought, this time, I might simply quote the words of one of last year's scholarship recipients. Here is a

direct excerpt of what she wrote to her scholarship donor:

"Never underestimate the personal effect of your generosity. Here is one



Olivia Webb,  
RCC Foundation  
Executive Director

instance where the results are clear. This semester, I will not need to worry about covering the costs of my classes and books. ***I will be able to go to class with academic worries instead of financial ones.*** You have made a huge difference in my life. Your scholarship allowed me to reduce my work schedule to 20 hours per week

in order to maintain my grades. I appreciate the resources that you have provided to me."

This month we are awarding 2014-2015 scholarships to a new group of more than 120 students. For all of you who give your time, talent and treasure to this college, thank you very much. Please do not hesitate to call if I can ever be of assistance.

## RCC TRUSTEE

## Ellerbe applauds Early College, certificate programs

RCC's Board of Trustees welcomed its newest member to the board this summer. Emma Ellerbe of Rockingham, who was appointed by the Richmond County Commission, has a passion for education despite not having a background as an educator.

"I've always been involved in education throughout my career as a social worker. Many of the clients I served were people who had not been to school or lacked job skills, so I acted as a liaison between the Department of Social Services and RCC to get people trained and get an education," Ellerbe said.

Ellerbe, who is originally from Lillington, has lived in Richmond County since 1985. She has a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science



**Emma Ellerbe**

from Johnson C. Smith University. She worked for AT&T and the Department of Social Services and is now retired.

"I accepted the offer to serve on the Board of Trustees because RCC has a great plan for this area, and this area defi-

nately needs what the college has to offer," Ellerbe said.

Ellerbe strongly supports the Early College and the Career and College Promise dual enrollment program, both of which allow high school students to begin taking college level classes while they are still in high school.

"These programs are advantageous for bright students who want to extend themselves beyond high school and begin thinking about their futures," Ellerbe said.

She also is passionate about seeing RCC continue to grow its certificate programs that teach students a craft or trade, giving them the credentials to begin an occupation.

"For someone who doesn't want to pursue a four-year college degree, or even a two-

year degree, they can earn a certificate that will give them the ability to go to work right away. Even if a student decides to pursue a collegiate life beyond getting a certificate, he or she will always have a trade to fall back on," Ellerbe said.

Ellerbe applauded RCC's president, Dr. Dale McInnis, for the job he is doing leading the College.

"I've only known Dr. McInnis for a few months, but he has a great vision and passion for RCC," she said.

Ellerbe and her husband, Azariah Ellerbe III, have five children and five grandchildren.

Outside of her civic duties, Ellerbe enjoys being involved with her church, gardening, reading, music, sewing and singing. She is a member of the Rockingham Community Choir.

## FOUNDATION MEMBER

## Howell proud to be part of team making a difference

Lee Howell is proud to be a part of a team that is making a difference in people's lives, and that team is the RCC Foundation.

"We are very fortunate to have RCC in our community," said Howell, vice president of the RCC Foundation Board of Directors. "We have people come to the Foundation board meetings and banquets and they talk about how getting an education has made a difference in their lives. Because they were able to get a degree at RCC, they were able to get a job and start a career, and I'm proud to be part of the team that supports the college and its programs."

Howell owns a business in Laurinburg, Scotland Motors, and has been a member of the



**Lee Howell**

RCC Foundation since 2011.

"RCC has done a great job customizing training for industries coming to town and asking them, 'What training can we help you with?'" Howell said. "But RCC is also getting

a step ahead by providing skills and trade training as early as high school. Education is important for recruiting business and industry into the area because these companies are going to be looking for a qualified workforce."

Howell applauds the recent partnership between RCC and Scotland High School that will give the college the bulk of the responsibility for the instruction of the high school's vocational and technical classes. Scotland High will go from offering one on-campus, college credit earning course — welding — to 25, in fields including accounting, business administration, information technology, and mechanical and electronics engineering.

"This is a great opportunity

for Scotland County students to get a jump on learning a skill or trade, and I hope to see this kind of partnership duplicated in Richmond County and other counties as well," Howell said.

Howell serves his community in a number of capacities. He is chair-elect of the Scotland County Chamber of Commerce, and he serves on the board of the Scotland County Concerned Citizens of the Homeless, the board of the Scotland Counseling Center and the board of the O'Neal School, a private school in Moore County. He is also a deacon at First Baptist Church in Laurinburg. He enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife, Teri, have two daughters: Sydney, 12 and Kristin, 10.

# RCC's 50th Anniversary Gala Sponsors



Pictured with Dr. Dale McInnis are Platinum and Gold Sponsors for RCC's 50th Anniversary Gala.



Pictured are the Corporate Sponsors for this memorable event for the College.

## Platinum

Follett Higher Education Group

## Gold

Wade S. Dunbar Insurance

## Corporate

John Hutchinson

Maness Tire Pros

Iron Horse Auction Company, Inc.

ECS Carolinas

Carolina Furnishing Plus Design

Kenneth & Claudia Robinette

G.R. Kindley

Sandhills Office Systems

Hoffman Building Technologies

Marks Creek Properties

Joe & Priscilla Kindley

Southern Educational Systems

Superior Cranes

Gryphon Group

Nic's Pic Kwik

Dale & Thomasa McInnis

Scotland Motors

Pam Easterling

First Bank

Z.V. Pate



The Cole Auditorium was transformed into a glamorous ball room for RCC's 50th Anniversary Gala, and a live band kept the crowd entertained well into the night.



# Goodmans thrilled by big city shows

Brian and Danielle Goodman of Rockingham joined the Director's Circle this season and were pleasantly surprised by the entertaining shows that hit the stage at the Cole Auditorium for the 2013-14 DeWitt Performing Arts Series.

"I love that the DeWitt Series has really high quality shows. I'm originally from Atlanta, and these are the type of shows that you would see downtown at the Fox Theater," Danielle said. "People from all over the country are coming to the Cole Auditorium to perform, and here we are living in Rockingham - we don't have to drive far to see them."

The young couple moved from Atlanta to Rockingham in 2009 to be closer to Brian's family as they began to raise their own family. They have a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old, so going to see a show is their way of getting out of the house and leaving the kids in the care of the grandparents.

"The DeWitt Series and the many functions held at the



**Director's Circle members Danielle and Brian Goodman enjoy getting dressed up and catching a show at the Cole Auditorium. Former residents of Atlanta, they were pleasantly surprised by the high quality acts of the DeWitt Performing Arts Series.**

Cole Auditorium are quality performances that you would see in a big city. We're lucky to have that right here in Richmond County, and we want to support the positive things happening like this in our community," Brian said.

Brian said his favorite performance from this past season was Neil Berg's "101 Years of Broadway," while Danielle really enjoyed David Cassidy's performance and getting to meet him prior to the show.

"You really get what you pay for when you join the Director's Circle. From meeting the performers to the dinner on stage at the end of the season,

you don't get that kind of treatment even in the big city," said Danielle. "It's just really cool to get dressed up and have this great escape in a small town, and we're happy to be a part of it."

Brian, who is originally from Rockingham, is an information technology security manager. Danielle is a stay-at-home mother.

"Everyone always complains there's nothing to do in Richmond County. But there's a lot to do in Richmond County. You just have to go!" Brian said. "People don't realize all the things that are happening at RCC, from the DeWitt Series to

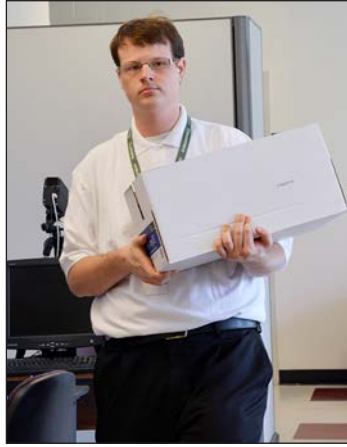
## Director's Circle 2013-14 Members

- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Robinette
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bayless
- Mr. & Mrs. Wade Dunbar, III
- Dr. & Mrs. John Stevenson
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Shea
- Dr. & Mrs. Al Covington
- Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Kindley
- Mr. & Mrs. Larry Weatherly
- Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie McCaskill
- Mr. & Mrs. Lee Howell
- Dr. & Mrs. Robert Street
- Mr. & Mrs. Duane Linker
- Mr. & Mrs. Joe Everett
- Mr. & Mrs. Brian Goodman
- Mr. & Mrs. Neal Cadieu
- Mr. & Mrs. Terry Lewis
- Mr. & Mrs. Russell Bennett
- Mr. & Mrs. Lazelle Marks
- Mr. & Mrs. Van Billingsley
- Mr. & Mrs. Thad Ussery
- Mr. & Mrs. Jim McCaskill
- Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Purcell
- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Savage
- Dr. & Mrs. David Arnold
- Mr. & Mrs. Ken Goodman
- Mr. & Mrs. David Wood
- Dr. & Mrs. Dale McInnis
- Mr. & Mrs. Tom McInnis
- Mr. & Mrs. Lynn McCaskill
- Mr. & Mrs. Dean Nichols
- Sen. & Mrs. Eugene McLaurin II
- Mr. & Mrs. Nick Sojka
- Ms. Jo D. Wilson
- Mr. & Mrs. William R. Webb

continuing education classes. We're always encouraging people to capitalize on these opportunities."



**Members of the Director's Circle were treated to a gourmet dinner served on stage at the Cole Auditorium to conclude the 2013-2014 DeWitt Performing Arts Series.**



Student Ambassadors work hard during their internship, providing assistance with many college events from graduation to registration.

## Meet RCC's 2014-15 Student Ambassadors

### Thomas Lee McDonald Jr.

Thomas Lee McDonald Jr. of Rockingham is pursuing an Associate of Arts and wants to go into education. He will graduate in May 2015.

In addition to his classwork, Thomas works 12-hour shifts at Cascades while also raising his six children. He applied to be a Student Ambassador in order to teach his kids by example that actions are stronger than words. He credits RCC with being an environment that has taught him professionalism.

Thomas enjoys playing with his children, writing poetry and producing music with his brother, Duke. He is also an ordained elder at his church.

### George P. Yandle Jr.

George P. Yandle Jr. of Rockingham is pursuing an Associate of Arts and will graduate in May 2016. He hopes to one day work in radio or television.

Along with being a full-time student, George works in RCC's library and volunteers at his church, where he assists with media projects such as video recording services and editing video for church programs that air weekly on Time Warner Cable.

An admittedly shy person, George said joining the Student Ambassador program is one of his biggest accomplishments

because it has helped build self confidence and improve his communication skills.

George enjoys singing karaoke with his grandmother and listening to music.

### Jordin Norton

Jordin Norton of Rockingham is pursuing an Associate of Arts while awaiting admittance into RCC's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program. She is on track to receive the Associate of Arts degree in 2015 and would complete the ADN program in 2017.

Jordin is a certified nursing assistant who is balancing work and school responsibilities. She applied to become a Student Ambassador in order to give back to the College that has given so much to her. Jordin credits RCC for providing her with an excellent educational foundation.

Jordin enjoys spending time with her family, reading and drawing.

### Stephanie Smith

Stephanie Smith of Hamlet is pursuing an Associate in Criminal Justice Technology and will graduate in May 2015.

When not focusing on her studies, Stephanie helps her mother tend to her siblings.

Stephanie was nominated for the Student Ambassador program by her advisor, who felt Stephanie would be an

asset to the program. Stephanie has been very pleased about her time spent at RCC and the role the College has played in her goal of getting a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

She enjoys playing PlayStation 3, reading or drawing

### Brandy Covington

Brandy Covington of Richmond County is pursuing an Associate in Criminal Justice Technology and will graduate in May 2015.

A mother of two girls ages 15 and 10, Brandy finds being a full-time student and mom stressful at times, but she manages to handle it all. She chose to apply to be a Student Ambassador in order to improve her people skills and meet prospective employers. She also viewed it as a chance to help the College. She credits RCC with providing her an opportunity for becoming what she's always wanted to be and helping her manage her life better.

In her spare time, Brandy enjoys reading and keeping up with friends on Facebook.

### Katie Williams

Katie Williams of Rockingham is pursuing an Associate of Arts and will graduate in May 2015.

Along with being a full-time student, Katie also works at Smithfield's. Hard work and determination helps her balance

her responsibilities to school and work.

She chose to apply to become a Student Ambassador because she wanted to help the College and better herself. She credits RCC with helping her jumpstart her college education.

Katie enjoys reading, swimming, hanging out with friends and going to church.

### Amanda Kohl

Amanda Kohl of Rockingham is pursuing an Associate in Human Services Technology and will graduate in May 2015.

A mother of four, Amanda credits her husband with being very supportive of her education and helping her maintain a home and taking their kids to various sporting events.

She feels being allowed to represent RCC as a Student Ambassador is a great honor and she chose to apply in order to give back to the College. She credits RCC with increasing her self-confidence and teaching her to step out and try new things.

Amanda enjoys spending time with her family, especially at the beach or watching her children play sports.

### Ashley Hancock

Ashley Hancock of Hamlet is pursuing an Associate in Criminal Justice Technology and will

# Summer classes offer mix of skills training

There's been no summer slow-down for Richmond Community College's Workforce and Economic Development (WED) division. A variety of classes, from cooking to computers, have been on WED's summer course schedule.

Enrichment courses being held this summer include, Basic Yeast Breads and Small Pastries, Cupcakes and Cake Pops, Cooking with Wine, Ceramic Tile, Foreign Foods, Bartending 101 and Notary Public.

For the second year in a row, the WED division is offering Energy Venture, a summer camp for rising sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. The kids hone their science skills by learning about energy through hands-on experiments and a



**Teena Parsons, RCC's executive assistant to the president, was rolling in the dough in the Basic Yeast Breads and Small Pastries class.**

tour of the Duke Energy plant in Hamlet. They also learn how RCC can prepare them for successful careers in the utility industry.

"Our educational partners

like Pee Dee Electric Cooperative and Duke Energy have helped make this camp a great success," WED Vice President Robbie Taylor said. "The kids have a lot of fun build-

ing solar powered cars and homemade flashlights, among other things. It also gets them thinking about science related careers at an early age."

Another class being offered this summer that has generated interest is Couponing 101, which teaches students the ins and outs of using coupons, such as where to find the best coupons, what stores carry the best deals and when certain products go on sale.

WED also offered several new courses this summer to improve or advance workforce skills. Motor Controls/Motor Wiring was developed to provide a new option to help licensed electrical contractors meet their required continuing

See WED, p.8

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

# Donors give generously to deserving students

## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Estella A. Flynt-Lina Flynt Bauersfeld Memorial Scholarship  
 Annie L. Brooks Beam Memorial Scholarships  
 Joseph D. Beam Memorial Scholarships  
 Russell E. Bennett, III Memorial Scholarship  
 Ruth McFarland Bynum Memorial Scholarship  
 Emma Lou Daniels Brown Memorial Scholarship  
 Harry T. & George W. Brown Craftsman's Continuing Education Scholarship  
 Wyndie Brown Hayes Memorial Scholarship  
 David & Sandra Burns Scholarship  
 Gene & Alice Burrell Scholarship  
 J. Neal Cadieu, Sr. Memorial Scholarships  
 Carolyn Wilson Carter Memorial Nursing Scholarship  
 Dorothy King Chisholm Memorial Nursing Scholarship  
 Robert L. Cole Memorial Scholarship  
 CSX Transportation Scholarship  
 Barbara S. Conder Basic Skills Scholarship  
 Abbie G. Covington Scholarship  
 Daniel Robert Currie Memorial Scholarship  
 Lindsey Guy DeWitt Memorial Scholarships  
 Eleanor & Sairfax Dockery Memorial Scholarship  
 Mary E. & Nicholas West Dockery, Sr. Memorial Scholarship  
 Rhonda Warlick Dunlap Memorial Scholarship  
 Earl G. Dunn Memorial Scholarship



**RCC Class of 2014 graduate Daniel Coates received the Paul H. Many award for his superior performance in the Electrical Electronics Technology program. The award was provided by Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Kindley and Southern Builders Inc. Coates is pictured with RCC President Dr. Dale McInnis, left, and Mr. G.R. Kindley, right.**

Dr. George A. Ferre' Memorial Scholarship  
 Neill Graham Excellence in Business Memorial Scholarship  
 Joseph W. Grimsley Memorial Scholarships  
 Melva W. Hamilton Memorial Scholarship  
 J. Robert (Bob) Harrison Memorial Scholarship  
 Florence Ledbetter Hunter Scholarship  
 Thomas B. Hunter Memorial Scholarship

See SCHOLARSHIPS, p.12

## LEADERS

CONTINUED FROM P.6

graduate in May 2015.

A mother of three children, Ashley also volunteers at the Hamlet Food Mart. In her free time, she enjoys writing poetry, reading and gardening.

Ashley said she chose to apply to become a Student Ambassador to gain professional experience involving work and student responsibilities. She credits RCC with teaching her determination, time management, friendship and dependability.

Stephanie's favorite RCC instructor is Traci Ethridge, who shared with her these words of wisdom: "Knowledge is power to succeed."

### Rebecca Rainwater

Rebecca Rainwater of Hamlet is pursuing an Associate of Arts while awaiting admittance into the ADN program. She is on track to graduate in



**Student Ambassadors must be nominated by faculty or staff and submit an application for the program.**

May 2015 with the Associate of Arts and in 2017 from the nursing program.

Rebecca applied to become a Student Ambassador because she loves helping others and the program is a way for her to give back to RCC. She credits the College with teaching her responsibility and putting her on a pathway to the job she wants.

Rebecca is busy with summer classes and plans to take 19 hours in the fall with hopes of getting into nursing as soon as possible. In her spare time, she enjoys running or going

out to eat.

### Veronica Lyles Roberts

Veronica Lyles Roberts of Hamlet is pursuing an Associate in Human Services Technology and will graduate in May 2015.

The mother of two also works 12 hours on third shift at New Horizon Domestic Violence Shelter and is a member of the Dobbins Heights' building committee. She is also vice president of the Missionary Auxiliary at her church. In her spare time, Veronica enjoys reading, listen-

ing to gospel music, gardening and writing poetry.

Veronica applied to become a Student Ambassador in order to give back to the College and let others know that the individualized approach you receive at small colleges is as rewarding as the approach used on larger campuses. She said RCC has made her realize her potential and allowed her to challenge herself to become a better person. It has given her a sense of growth and pride she will carry for the rest of her life.

## CHALLENGE

CONTINUED FROM P.1

the RCC Foundation to match the \$5,000 donation.

Through July, the Working Scholarship Program has raised more than \$17,000 to aid students. Most of the funds were raised through sponsorships for RCC's 50th Anniversary Gala. Thus far, more than \$7,000 has been awarded to 18 students for the fall semester.

"We have \$3,500 left to continue rolling awards this fall and that is going fast," said RCC Foundation Executive Director Olivia Webb. "Five new applications came in just today and the Financial Aid Committee will be faced with some difficult decisions very soon. With the challenge grant in place, we will sustain fall awards into spring for students who still qualify; we will increase new awards

next semester once donors reach out to match those challenge funds.

"The generosity of the Wells Fargo Foundation and all Working Scholarship donors is greatly appreciated; it directly helps these students get through college and go on to lead productive and fulfilling lives."

To help RCC Foundation meet the \$5,000 Challenge from Wells Fargo Foundation, make a donation to the Working Scholarship before Sept. 1. All donations received during the 2014 calendar year will be listed by gift level on a special donor plaque to be unveiled at RCC's 51st Anniversary Celebration.

Donations may be mailed to RCC Foundation, PO Box 1189, Hamlet, NC 28345.

To inquire about making a donation to the Working Scholarship, call Olivia Webb at (910) 410-1807, or email bowebb@richmondcc.edu.

## WED

CONTINUED FROM P.7

education units. MS Office Integration was a class offered on Microsoft Office applications, and Excel Macros with Basic Application provided a foundation in computer programming.

Construction Math and Project Estimation will provide refresher and practice instruction on math concepts commonly used in the construction industry. Students will also practice estimating construction projects, gaining skills to help yield precise estimations and increase project profitability.

WED has also customized several training classes to meet specific needs of local companies including Cascades Tissue Group, Lumber

River, Plastek Industries and Murphy Brown LLC.

"We want companies and businesses to think about

RCC first when they think about training," Taylor said. "We have the resources to develop very specific pro-

grams or classes that align with their training needs, whether it's advancing current employees skills or training a new workforce."

Taylor was named the new vice president for the WED division with the retirement of Steve Smith in May.

Taylor had served as a director in the WED division for about three years.



**Taylor**



# Two new academic pathways added

## *Mechatronics program will train graduates for high-demand careers*

Richmond Community College is enrolling students for the first time in its Mechatronics Engineering Technology program.

Mechatronics is a course of study that prepares students to use basic engineering principles and technical skills to solve technical problems in various types of industry. The curriculum includes courses in safety, math, physics, electricity, engineering technology, and technology-specific specialty areas. Mechatronics engineering technology graduates will be qualified for employment in industrial maintenance and manufacturing including assembly, testing, startup, troubleshooting, repair, process improvement, and control systems.

"We feel that mechatronics is a great fit with our other engineering and industrial programs," said RCC President Dr. Dale McInnis.

"Mechatronics is a multidisciplinary program," said RCC's Engineering Department Chair Amir Niczad. "It combines aspects of mechanical, computer and electrical engineering with our industrial systems degree program. It really is a marriage of mechanical and electronics."

### **Industry Need**

According to McInnis, the decision to add mechatronics to RCC's course offerings came from listening to business partners in the community.

"This degree will allow our students to become automation and instrumentation technicians in a manufacturing or industrial setting," McInnis said. "Our corporate partners in Richmond and

Scotland counties, including Cascades and Pilkington, have identified these skills sets as a need, and we paid attention to their feedback."

Anthony Nessel, a Senior Process Engineer at Cascades Tissue Group, sees great value in the skills the graduates will gain through the degree program.

"We rely heavily here on our employees being multi-skilled," Nessel said. "Having folks coming to us who can do more than a little of each – mechanical and electrical – will be very beneficial to our operation. We are moving more toward automated process and programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and need people who can work on those systems."

Cascades' maintenance director Jake Elder agreed.

"PLCs are controlling more and more of our process," said Elder, "and, quite honestly, it's our weakest link from a maintenance standpoint. Not that our folks aren't great, they are. They are just limited because they don't have the education like what RCC is now offering."

### **Expanded Capabilities**

RCC was awarded \$474,000 from Golden LEAF last December for the purchase of equipment to enhance the College's technical training capabilities with a focus on manufacturing automation and programmable logic controllers (PLCs). The equipment includes PLC simulator trainers that will be used to teach installation, maintenance, programming and

## *Dialysis Technology program will produce quality healthcare workers*

Richmond Community College instructor Renea Craven experienced firsthand the need for skilled and motivated healthcare workers when her husband was diagnosed two years ago with kidney cancer that resulted in his being dependent on dialysis treatment.

"Dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment, and you want a healthcare provider who is not only knowledgeable but also empathetic because you're going to be seeing them not just one time but several times a week for several hours at a time," said Craven, who is Allied Health chair and lead instructor for the Medical Assisting program at RCC.

Craven has spearheaded a new diploma program called Dialysis Technology that RCC will begin offering this fall semester. The program, which can be completed in one year, will train technicians to work in dialysis centers, hospitals and other healthcare settings that offer dialysis treatment.

"This new diploma program at RCC will provide the skill set and training for technicians to serve as support staff for physicians treating dialysis patients. It will also teach them how to be advocates for their patients," Craven said. "The majority of people who are on dialysis are chronically ill, and some will be on dialysis the remainder of their lives after kidney failure. You don't want a caregiver who hooks a patient up to a machine and then walks away. You need someone who is concerned for that patient's other needs such as diet and nutrition, family or work issues, problems with insurance, depression or fatigue and their overall care plan."

### **Better Prepared Technicians**

Craven's husband, Barry, started hemodialysis, which is the most common type of treatment for kidney failure, through DaVita Kidney Care. A leading provider of dialysis services in the United States, DaVita jumped on board when RCC approached the company about starting the Dialysis Technology program. DaVita has worked closely with RCC to develop the curriculum for the program and has donated equipment to be used in the classroom.

"Davita has served as an advisor to RCC for the development of this program because this is an initiative that has been talked about across the country," said Tim Brown, who is a group administrator for Davita in the southeast region of North Carolina. "Dialysis treatment used to be cleaning the blood, removing fluid that the kidneys can no longer remove and letting the patient go, but patient care is moving up to another level that includes patient education and supporting superior clinical outcomes. Where we are having to educate our teammates at a deeper level, graduates of this program will have a better understanding and more knowledge of what's going on when they go to work at a dialysis center on day one."

Currently, most technicians are trained on the job. A technician must take a certification test after 18 months and 3,000 clinical hours. Brown said almost half of the technicians who have already



G.R. Kindley and his wife, Mary Ellen, arrive for the season finale event for members of the Director's Circle. The Mary Ellen Kindley Fitness Trail was established in her honor by her family.

## TRAIL

CONTINUED FROM P.1

actively involved in political and civic endeavors as well.

"Throughout my business and political careers, Mary Ellen has always been my best supporter and campaigner," Kindley said. "She never meets a stranger and has been great in public relations and as a campaigner for me. Naming this walking trail in her honor is a tribute to her steadfast support in all my public service."

The two-thirds mile trail will be dotted with 10 fitness stations that will allow users to do crunches, pull ups and other exercises. The track will wind through the wooded area behind the Forte Building on RCC's main campus in Hamlet.

"The Kindley family has been a great partner and supporter of the College for a number of years," said McInnis. "We are humbled to have the opportunity to work with them on this worthwhile project that will honor Mrs. Kindley."

## MECHATRONICS

CONTINUED FROM P.9

troubleshooting, and computer-integrated manufacturing work-cell trainers that will allow students opportunities to become familiar with the configuration, programming, optimization, and troubleshooting of a manufacturing processes.

This equipment will be used in the mechatronics program in addition to other engineering and industrial programs at the College.

"Automation and systems integration training is critical to the success of our next-generation workforce of the manufacturing industry," said Niczad. "The equipment purchased through this project will ensure that the RCC continues to be capable of providing quality training for careers in advanced manufacturing.

"Any machine controlled by a computer, our mechatronics grads will be able to operate, maintain, troubleshoot and repair."

### Available Jobs

Mechatronics Engineering Technology graduates will be eligible for myriad jobs in industrial environments upon completion of the two-year degree.

"The list of jobs is very long," said Niczad. "It in-

cludes automation and instrumentation technicians, robot installers and technicians and control technicians."

According to Elder, he has trouble finding qualified candidates to fill these positions.

"The last time we hired an electronics and instrumentation technician, we had a 600-mile search radius," Elder said. "We found one candidate."

For Elder, experience in industrial environments is not essential; actually he prefers to hire employees fresh out of school.

"They have fewer bad habits," Elder said.

Nessel sees value in having mechatronics grads working in production.

"This is a good degree for folks operating our machines because they will know how to troubleshoot our equipment," said Nessel, "even if there aren't any maintenance jobs at the time."

According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, electro-mechanical technicians have a median salary of approximately \$25 per hour. According to Elder, entry-level positions in the field at Cascades pay \$20 to \$21 per hour.



RCC instructor Brian Terry talks to kids in the Energy Venture camp about automation and robotics, which is the root of the Mechatronics Technology program.

# RCC partners with Rostra to advance employees' skills

Richmond Community College has signed an agreement with Rostra Precision Controls, Inc. of Laurinburg to provide a customized training program for the company's associates.

The program, put together by Rostra and RCC's Director of Customized Training Lee Eller, offers instruction in safety, management and supervision, simulated work environments (SWE), CNC machining and logistics.

"This type of training is crucial for us to increase the capabilities of our associates," said Rostra's Vice President of Operations Richard Smith. "With many of our processes becoming more automated, there is a gap in skills of our workforce. Working with RCC is a great way for us to address that gap.

"It helps us be more productive and grow and adapt to

changes."

According to Smith, Rostra has recently added an assembly line and new manufacturing equipment from a plant in Mexico. The company is looking to bring in more automated lines in their Scotland County facility, making the training that RCC is offering more important.

"While there are some training elements that we have offered before – like safety and Green Belt – this program with Rostra has allowed us to do some new things," said Eller. "We are excited to see the results from this round, especially with the SWE and how it helps Rostra's production."

The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) provides money for each of the 58 community colleges to provide customized training for business and industry throughout the state. The goals



Rostra Vice President of Operations Richard Smith talks to Dr. Dale McInnis (center), president of RCC, about the manufacturing process. Also pictured is RCC's Director of Customized Training Lee Eller (left) and RCC's Workforce and Economic Development Vice President Robbie Taylor.

of customized training are job growth, technology investment and productivity enhancement.

"I am proud of our efforts with customized training," said RCC President Dr. Dale McInnis. "We have been able to provide valuable instruction to our industry partners and this program with Rostra is another example of that. As long as the state is offering this investment for customized training, we are going to take advantage of it to help businesses in Richmond and Scotland counties grow."

NCCCS is providing \$23,500

for the current training program with Rostra.

## About Rostra

Rostra Precision Controls is a high mix/low volume manufacturer that specializes in powertrain parts (primarily gearbox valve assemblies) and accessories for the automotive industry.

They also distribute parts to suppliers to auto manufacturers and the automotive aftermarket from their Laurinburg facility. Rostra employs 103 people in Scotland County.

## DIALYSIS

CONTINUED FROM P.9

invested 18 months on the job do not pass the challenging certification test and have to be terminated.

"In my opinion, dialysis technicians with a diploma from RCC would be well prepared to take the certification test and pass on the first attempt," Brown said.

### Staff Needed

Davita operates 10 dialysis centers within a 50-mile radius of Richmond County and has 64 centers within the state of North Carolina. At a

national level, DaVita operates or provides administrative services at 2,098 outpatient dialysis centers and serves about 165,000 patients.

Fresenius Medical Care is another leading dialysis provider that operates about 20 regional facilities and 2,261 nationwide.

Dr. John Shepherd, a nephrologist with Pinehurst Nephrology Associates, said there is a growing need for staffing at dialysis centers.

"One of the problems we run into at the unit is we have chairs available, but sometimes we don't have the staffing available – be it nurses, technicians, social workers or

dieticians. To have a conduit of trained technicians from the college would be helpful to get patients in and out more smoothly," said Shepherd.

Shepherd said the medical economy is going to continue to grow, so a technician program such as the one being offered at RCC this fall is a great starting place for students who want to pursue a career in health care.

"I've known a lot of technicians who started in a dialysis center and ended up going into medical school," Shepherd said.

### Altering Healthcare

"As with all RCC's programs, the College is in tune with

what would better serve our community," Dr. Dale McInnis, RCC president, said. "Unfortunately, the need for more dialysis technicians is real and is not going away. This program is our opportunity to alter healthcare and provide chronically ill patients with the very best in specialized care."

For Craven, this program represents a lifeline for many, including her husband, who suffer from kidney failure.

"When you are dealing with dialysis, you are dealing with someone's life. This new Allied Health program will give people the skill set to be excellent caregivers in our communities and beyond."

# SCHOLARSHIPS

CONTINUED FROM P.7

Johnson-Shepherd Memorial Scholarship  
 Faye Wilson Jordan Memorial Scholarship  
 G.R. & Mary Ellen Kindley Scholarship  
 Kiwanis Golden "K" Club Scholarships  
 Annie Louise Lackey Memorial Scholarship  
 Leadership Richmond Scholarship  
 Tom & May Burch MacCallum Scholarship  
 Alton L. McAuley Memorial Scholarship  
 Woodrow & Mary McInnis Educational Scholarship  
 Harris McKinnon McRae Memorial Scholarships  
 Angus D. & Mary T. Phillips Memorial Scholarship  
 Meg C. Queen Memorial Scholarship  
 RCC Trustees Basic Skills Scholarship  
 Vera Anderson Rose Memorial Scholarship  
 Rotary of Rockingham Endowed Scholarships  
 Warner H. Shew Merit Scholarships  
 Lou Ann Smith Singleton Memorial Scholarship  
 Jean & John B. Smith, Jr. Memorial Scholarship  
 Emma M. Stancil & Captain Walter R. Stancil, Jr. Memorial Scholarship  
 Dr. Robert D. Street Scholarship  
 Suisie B. Thrift Memorial Scholarship  
 Thad & Mary Jane Ussery Scholarship  
 D. D. & Esta C. Wicker Memorial Scholarship  
 Dr. B. Wingate Williamson Scholarship

## RESTRICTED SCHOLARSHIPS

Bennett Family Memorial Scholarship  
 Polly Brown Memorial Scholarship  
 BlueScope N.A. Foundation Scholarships  
 Christian Closet Merit Scholarship  
 Carolina Farm Credit Poultry Science Scholarship  
 Cascades Industrial Innovation Scholarship  
 Jackson L. Dawkins, Jr. Scholarship  
 Cynthia Gibson Memorial Nursing Scholarship  
 Tim & Nicole Hayden Scholarship  
 Kiwanis Club of Laurinburg Bookship  
 Phyllis D. Long Memorial Nursing Scholarship  
 Suzanne M. McInnis, R.N. Nursing Scholarship  
 Kimberly C. Melton Memorial Scholarship  
 Morrison Correctional Institution Scholarship  
 Veronica Scholl Newton Memorial Scholarship  
 OrthoCarolina Foundation Scholarship  
 Margaret Ussery & Robert Franklin Pence, Jr. Memorial Scholarship  
 Race for Literacy Scholarship  
 RCC Human Services Club Memorial Scholarship  
 Richmond Community College Foundation Scholarships  
 Riggins Family Nursing Scholarship  
 Rockingham Civitan Club Basic Skills Scholarship  
 John T. Robich Human Services Scholarship  
 Richard Thorpe Memorial Scholarship  
 Unimin Corporation Scholarship  
 Vulcan Materials Company-D. Gray Kimel, Jr. Scholarship  
 Woman's Club of Hamlet Susie B. Powers Memorial Nursing Scholarship  
 Working Scholarships



Pictured are Karen McIntyre and Cynthia Carrillo receiving the Kimberly S. Melton Memorial Scholarship during the annual RCC Foundation scholarship banquet, which allows scholarship recipients to meet and personally thank donors. Dr. Dale McInnis, RCC president, and Patrick Chappell, RCC Foundation president, congratulated all the scholarship recipients.



Joe Kindley Jr. received the Russell E. Bennett III Memorial Scholarship during the annual scholarship banquet.



Maxine Poole received the Dr. B. Wingate Williamson Scholarship during the annual scholarship banquet.