



Trail open to foot traffic



Andy Cagle, director of Marketing and Communications, and Scotty Mabe, director of Facility Services, were among the many faculty and staff who volunteered to help clean up debris and set up fitness stations along the Mary Ellen Kindley Fitness Trail. A dedication ceremony for the trail was held Dec. 10. See more photos, Page 9.

Working Scholarship Balancing act of work and college pays off

Thirty-two Richmond Community College students received a Working Scholarship this fall semester thanks to the generous donors who contributed to the scholarship fund.

Because these students are working their way through school, they are not eligible for financial aid. For many, this disadvantage will prolong their time in school or even cause them to drop out. The Working Scholarship is designed to meet the needs of those students.

Meet some of RCC's students who received the Working Scholarship, **Pages 3-4**.



Thirty-two RCC students received a Working Scholarship this fall.

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Campus Views

Message from RCC Foundation Executive Director

Let's continue our tradition of giving in 2015

By the time you read these words, we here at the RCC Foundation will have awarded more than \$20,000 in Working Scholarships, with more waiting in the wings. We will have dedicated our beautiful new fitness trail to the kind and gracious Mrs. Mary Ellen Kindley. We will be preparing to hand out service awards to our hard-working faculty and staff. We will be in the midst of another fun and successful Director's

Circle season. We will be gearing up for our February Scholarship banquet and our Annual Gala in April.

We have much to be proud of and even more to be thankful for.

As you wind down 2014,



Olivia Webb,
RCC Foundation
Executive Director

please know that the RCC Foundation Board of Directors, Dr. Dale McInnis and I remain deeply grateful for your kind words, helpful actions and generous gifts. If you have not already, please consider making your tax deductible donation to the RCC Foundation for the 2014 year. As you can see in the pages of this Ledger, our focus on the Working Scholarship remains strong and the need to build that fund is still pressing.

There are plenty of ways to give to the Foundation, and plenty of places where those funds will make an impact. If you would like to know more about how to make your year-end gift and where you might request that it be used, please do not hesitate to contact me, (910) 410-1807 or bowebb@richmondcc.edu.

Thank you so much for your support. Have a joyous holiday season, and we'll see you in the new year!



Happy Holidays

It's starting to look a lot like Christmas at RCC, and President Dr. Dale McInnis, along with our Student Ambassadors, wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Working Scholarship Students



Matthew Pettitt is enrolled in the Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology program at RCC. He works on the weekends for the City of Rockingham.

Matthew Pettitt

Matthew Pettitt of Rockingham has taken on the challenging Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology (EUSRT) program at Richmond Community College. The 2014 graduate of Richmond Senior High School enrolled in the program this fall semester, and he hopes to eventually work for Duke Energy, even if it means relocating for a job in the power industry.

Pettitt is currently working on the weekends doing land-

scaping and other tasks for the City of Rockingham. Like many RCC students, he is working while going to college. Pettitt received the Working Scholarship this semester, which helped pay for his books and tuition.

Pettitt is on track to graduate in spring 2016. He said he's glad to be enrolled in a program unique to RCC that will prepare him for a lifelong career in utility industry.

Hayley White

Hayley White of Ellerbe is among the many Richmond Community College students who are working to pay for their college education, so she was very appreciative to receive the Working Scholarship this semester.

"The scholarship money helped pay for my books and my tuition, so I was very thankful to receive it," White said.

Enrolled in the Medical Assisting program, White works on the weekends at Food King! in Ellerbe. She said the biggest struggle with working while going to school is wanting to work more hours so she can make more money, but she doesn't want to compromise her grades by not having enough time to study and complete

assignments. For White, it's definitely a balancing act. When she does have time to herself, she likes to cook, and she sews.

When White graduates in spring of 2016, she hopes to be able to find a job at a local medical facility. She eventually wants to come back to RCC so she can become a licensed practical nurse.

"I'm only three credits short from completing the Practical Nursing program, so that is my career goal," she said.

White said RCC has helped her learn to be responsible, and it has helped her define her career path in health-care.

Krista Thompson

Krista Thompson is getting hands on experience working in the medical field while attending Richmond Community College as a nursing student.

Thompson is enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing program. She has been working since February at Scotia Village, a retirement community in her hometown of Laurinburg. She received the Working Scholarship this fall semester.

"It's been a very good experience learning first hand to care for people," said Thompson, who aspires to work in labor and delivery once she completes her education.

Thompson said she's always wanted to work in the medical field, having already obtained a degree in biology from the University of North Carolina-Pembroke. Unable to get into UNC-P's nursing school, Thompson said she went into education but found that wasn't the right career path for her.

"In hindsight I wish I had started at RCC," Thompson said.

Thompson said balancing



An Associate Degree Nursing student at RCC and a mother of two children, Krista Thompson is working at Scotia Village, a retirement community in Laurinburg.

work and studies is challenging, especially as a mom to two small children.

"There are lots of late nights studying," she said.

She said she's thankful for the Working Scholarship and the difference it has made in the cost of getting her education.



Hayley White, a Medical Assisting student at RCC, works weekends at the Food King! in Ellerbe.

Working Scholarship Students

Ryanne McEachin

Ryanne McEachin of Rockingham has a lot on her plate these days. She's a mother, a student and a cashier at Lowe's.

McEachin, who has a 4-year-old son, enrolled in the Health Information Technology program at Richmond Community College this fall semester. She was thrilled when she found out she had received the Working Scholarship.

"It was a blessing. It helped a lot because I was not able to receive financial aid," she said.

McEachin works four hours most every day at Lowe's, but she also has to balance being a mother and a student, so those

three things keep her pretty busy.

"In my down time, I love spending time with my son, of course. I like working outside with my dad," she said. "I also love to cook. I love to make homemade soup."

McEachin has a bachelor's degree in healthcare management. However, when she couldn't find a job, she moved back home and decided to enroll at RCC to get a two-year degree that would give her a specific skill that would help her get a job.

"I feel like I'm getting more one-on-one attention from



Ryanne McEachin, a Health Information Technology student at RCC, works at Lowe's in Rockingham while going to college full time.

my teachers at RCC. I'm also getting exposure to our local healthcare community, so I think this two-year degree

will really help me find a job in medical records at a hospital or some type of medical facility," she said.



RCC student Matthew Phillips, who is interested in a law career, works part time at General McArthur's in Laurinburg

Matthew Phillips

Matthew Phillips of Laurinburg is attending Richmond Community College in hopes of beginning a career in law.

"I've been interested in that profession since I was young," said Phillips, who has yet decided where he would like to attend law school.

With assistance from the Working Scholarship, along with other financial assistance, Phillips has been able to attend his first semester at RCC at no cost. He is pursuing

an Associate in Arts degree.

Phillips works part time at General McArthur's in Laurinburg, a position he's held for a year and a half. He balances work and school by completing his major course projects on Mondays and Tuesdays when the restaurant is closed.

A graduate of Scotland High School, Phillips said going to RCC has been a positive experience due to the personalized attention he's received from faculty and staff.

Katherine Goodwin

Katherine Goodwin of Rockingham is a Working Scholarship student with two part-time jobs who is pursuing an Associate in Science degree.

The 2014 graduate of Richmond Senior High School said she hopes to obtain a bachelor's degree in biology by 2018 and eventually become a surgeon. She said she chose to begin her college career at Richmond Community College because she knew it would be more cost efficient than a four-year university and felt the small class sizes would be more conducive to learning.

"Here at RCC, you really get the sense that the teachers are there for you and want you to succeed," Goodwin said.

To help pay her way through school, Goodwin works at two local eateries. She's been a server at Captain George Seafood Restaurant for about a year and she recently began working at Dairy Queen.

"I always work weekends when it's busiest, but I usually have a day or two off during the



Katherine Goodwin is working two jobs while going to college.

week when I can focus entirely on my studies," Goodwin said.

She said she also uses the most of her time between classes to complete her homework and study for courses.

When asked what she enjoys doing when she's not working or studying, Goodwin said, "Sleep."

Goodwin said she's very thankful to have received the Working Scholarship, adding that it cut the cost of her monthly tuition payment in half.

Gifts to the Foundation

Only through the generosity of our donors can the RCC Foundation support the College's initiatives, assist in meeting its emerging needs, and provide the scholarships that give so many students the opportunity to obtain a college education.

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See **BENCH SPONSORS AND MORE**, p.9

Citizen of the Year Banquet

Foundation honors long-time member

The annual update of Richmond Community College and the RCC Foundation were presented Monday during a banquet honoring the Foundation's Citizen of the Year, John Garner.

Dr. Dale McInnis, RCC president, provided the State of the College to the Foundation Board Directors.

"I am proud to say that in large part because of your continuous support, Richmond Community College is strong and vibrant," McInnis said.

McInnis focused on six highlights from the past fiscal year, including the College celebrating its 50th anniversary and renovating the Forte Building on RCC's main campus in Hamlet.

"The Forte Building expansion and modernization has given the college a showcase for our engineering, technical and trades programs," said McInnis. "Response from the faculty and students has been tremendous."

McInnis reported a record number of more than 300 graduates receiving diplomas last May, which resulted in the College having to host two separate ceremonies for the first time. The president also pointed out that 96 percent of nursing students educated at RCC passed the state licensing exam on first attempt.

Another highlight for RCC in terms of economic development included the College providing more than \$125,000 of state-funded customized industrial training to 1,236 employees at 13 Richmond and Scotland County companies.

Looking ahead to the current school year, McInnis spoke of



Dr. Dale McInnis gives a positive report about the state of Richmond Community College.

the wide range of new programs being offered this fall, including a one-year diploma in Dialysis Technology; a two-year degree in Mechatronics Engineering Technology; an eight-week truck driver training program in conjunction with Caldwell Community College; and short-term pharmacy technician, plumbing and electrical certificates.

Due to the growing success of RCC's Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology program, the College has added additional faculty and are drawing students from as far away as Virginia.

In addition to technical and vocational programs putting graduates directly into jobs, RCC is also working to make bachelor's degrees more affordable and attainable through transfer options.

"The new articulation agreement with the University of North Carolina system and private universities, combined with the wide range of sophomore level courses we are delivering, will insure our students can save time and thousands of dollars without



Richmond County Commission Vice Chairman John Garner, second from right, is presented the RCC Foundation Citizen of the Year plaque by Foundation President Lee Howell, far right. Also shown, from left, is RCC Foundation Executive Director Olivia Webb, RCC President Dr. Dale McInnis and RCC Foundation Past President GR Kindley.



RCC Foundation Citizen of the Year John Garner stands with his family who attended the awards banquet. Pictured are, from left, daughter-in-law Leslie Garner, son Brent Garner, Garner, and wife Kathy Garner.

sacrificing quality," McInnis said.

RCC's present partnerships with the University of North Carolina-Pembroke and Gardner-Webb University allow students to obtain a bachelor's degree in 13 majors without leaving the main campus in Hamlet.

RCC's partnership with Richmond and Scotland County schools is also paying huge dividends. RCC's Career and College Promise program,

which provides free college classes to high school students, has nearly tripled in student enrollment during the last two years.

"Working together, we are putting more students in the pipeline for success in college and for well-paying careers in healthcare, engineering and energy," McInnis said.

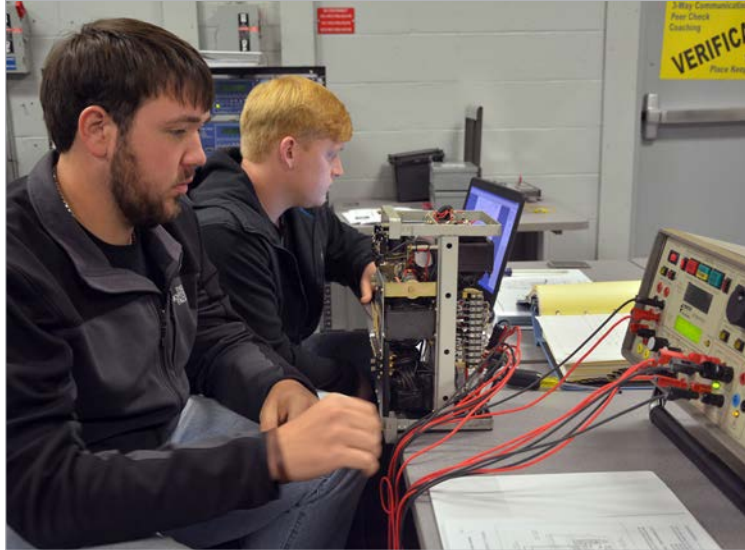
Over the past three years, the free classes from RCC have

EUSRT accepting new students for spring semester

Due to increased demand, Richmond Community College (RCC) will be admitting new students into its popular Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology (EUSRT) program for the spring 2015 semester. Traditionally, the introductory classes for the program had only been offered in the fall semester.

"We have had so many students interested in the program that we wanted to create a constant admission process and didn't want any students to miss out on getting started because they missed the fall semester," said Amir Niczad, RCC's Engineering Department Chair. "By offering the first level EUSRT classes in the spring, we are creating a spring/summer sequence to complement the fall/spring sequence and serve more students in the program."

The current school year is the fourth year of the EUSRT program at RCC. The two-year associates degree program prepares students for high-wage, high-demand careers in the electric utility transmission industry. Graduates have found employment with utility companies, primarily Duke Energy, with whom RCC partners to provide numerous internships for students, electric



Students in the Electric Utility Substation and Relay Technology program learn to troubleshoot and test on actual equipment and transformers used globally by the power industry. Because of the skills they are learning in this program, there is a very high demand in the power industry for RCC EUSRT graduates.

transmission contractors and electrical utility equipment manufacturers.

"Duke Energy has hired a number of our former students, many of whom were offered jobs during their internship, nearly a full year before they completed their degrees," said Steve Lampley, the program's lead instructor.

But Duke isn't the only company with eyes for the EUSRT graduates. The program has attracted attention from major utility companies from Virgin-

ia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

"There is a very high demand in the industry for RCC EUSRT graduates," said Lampley. "In fact, in the last three weeks, we have had visits from three major out of state electric utility companies who are interested in RCC grads and have several more visits scheduled over the next few weeks."

RCC has recently added new faculty to meet the demand of students for the program and

is currently looking for another instructor to offer more classes.

About EUSRT

Started at RCC, this unique curriculum provides students the skills to maintain high voltage equipment and protective systems for the electric utility transmission system. Training in operation and maintenance of critical infrastructure associated with the electric transmission grid is included.

Courses will develop an understanding of maintenance and troubleshooting of transmission equipment. Courses include theory in three-phase power, protective relaying, power transformers, voltage regulators, capacitors and power circuit breakers. These skills apply to the electric utility industry and numerous other industries.

Graduates qualify for entry-level employment in the electric utility industry and industrial power facilities. Employment opportunities include: control systems, instrumentation and control in general industry, electric utility industry, green energy markets, or positions working with equipment related to power transmission.

BANQUET

CONTINUED FROM P.7

saved the parents of Scotland and Richmond County children more than \$1.3 million in tuition and fees alone.

State of the Foundation

Foundation Executive Director Olivia Webb provided the State of the Foundation address, giving a positive report.

Webb said the Director's

Circle, which is a fund-raising arm of the annual DeWitt Performing Arts Series, continues to exceed expectations with around 30 couples paying a little extra to enjoy the many perks associated with the group. The Foundation also collected around \$15,000 for the Working Scholarship through RCC's 50th Anniversary Gala last year, which will now become an annual event for the College in the spring.

Through the efforts of the Foundation, RCC is able to

provide more than \$100,000 in merit and need-based financial aid to over 110 students each year in the form of donor-funded endowed and annual scholarships.

"Each scholarship is unique in its criteria and requirements, and the sense of achievement that an applicant feels when he or she earns one of these scholarships is tremendous," said Webb.

Another Foundation project expected to be completed this year is the new Mary Ellen

Kindley Fitness Trail, which will be located near the Forte Building and amphitheatre on RCC's main campus in Hamlet.

"This new trail will provide much-needed health and recreational opportunities for our students, faculty, staff and entire community," said Webb. "The outpouring of support for this project has been proportional to this community's true affection for its name-sake, and we cannot wait to unveil the end result in the next month or so."



Volunteers help spruce up walking trail

RCC faculty and staff worked up a sweat on a very brisk November morning as they helped spruce up the landscape along the Mary Ellen Kindley Fitness Trail that will open to walkers and joggers this month. A dedication ceremony was held for the trail Dec. 10.



Gifts to the Fitness Trail

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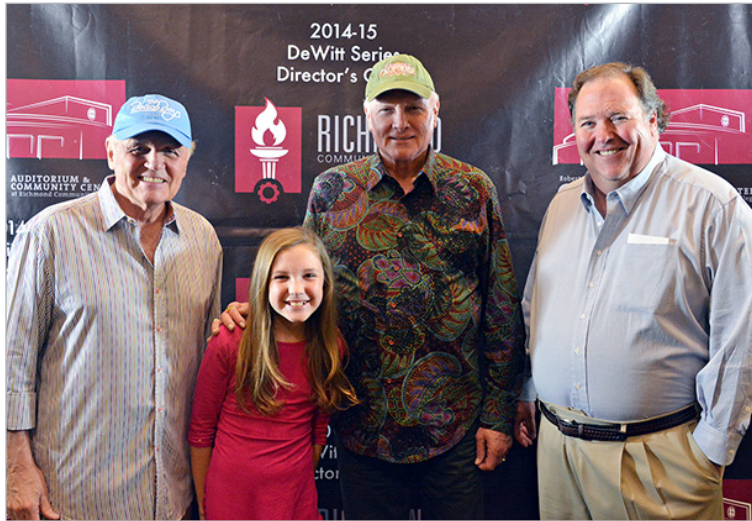
Director's Circle enjoys 'good vibrations' with



Fans of "America's Band" packed the Cole Auditorium for The Beach Boys performance on Nov. 5. Members of the Director's Circle got a special treat before the show when original Beach Boy Mike Love and long-time member Bruce Johnston joined them during the pre-show reception.

Love and Johnston chatted with their fans and posed for pictures.

The Beach Boys, who have sold more than 100 million records worldwide, have performed more shows than any other major rock group – having not taken a summer off since the 1960s.



Lee Howell attended the Beach Boys concert performance with his daughter, Kristin. Kristin said she was excited to see the Beach Boys because she had recently seen the band on a rerun of "Full House."



David Arnold poses for a picture with the Beach Boys.



Janice and Tom McInnis pose for a picture with the Beach Boys.



Danielle Goodman attended the Beach Boys concert performance with her father.



Candy and Dean Nichols pose for a picture with the Beach Boys.



Diana and Joe Everett pose for a picture with the Beach Boys.



Janet Smith and Greg Wood pose for a picture with the Beach Boys.



Carol and Duane Linker pose for a picture with the Beach Boys.



Brenda Purcell and Jan Seagraves pose with the Beach Boys.



Melissa and Van Billingsley pose with the Beach Boys.



Tanya and Lee Wallace pose with the Beach Boys.

Movers and shakers on campus

RCC student clubs inspiring, raising awareness, completing service projects

Members of L.A.M.P., RCC's Mentoring And Leadership Program, (pictured right) held Operation Graduation, an event where a number of guest speakers delivered encouraging messages to students on how to be successful and stay on course. Other active student clubs on campus include the Human Services Club (below left), which held rallies at the flagpole against bullying and domestic violence, as well as donated winter clothing and supplies to a local homeless shelter, and the HVAC Club (below right), which collected food items for needy families, donated gloves to elementary students and cleaned the condenser coils on air conditioning units at several local fire departments.

