

## News Release – May 17, 2013 - Danville Community College

### By Marie R. Harris

Danville Community College's Alumni Association held its third annual Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony and following reception May 17 in the Silverman Auditorium in Foundation Hall on the DCC campus.

Inductees Jesse Meadows Jr., institutional merchandiser for Downtown Athletic; Dr. Ed Polhamus, retired DCC mathematics instructor as well as former Dean of Arts and Sciences were joined by the 1964-65 Danville Technical Institute basketball team. The team, a first induction for multiple individuals under one designation, included Dr. Harold Henry, athletic director; Dr. Grady Tuck, coach; Fred Butler, George (Buddy) Clayton, Bob Conner, Ray Dooley, Roger Hill, Jesse Meadows, Danny Ross, James Tate, Norman Tiglio, Curtis Tweedy, Albert Thomas and Jimmie Wood.

As the third honorees for the DCC Alumni Association's Sports Hall of Fame composed of individuals from Danville Technical Institute, VPI-Danville Extension, and Danville Community College, each individual possesses extensive sports background.

The first inductee, Jesse Meadows Jr., was honored individually previous to the induction of the 1964-65 team on which he played. His individual induction was based partly on his prowess on the basketball floor while playing for Danville Technical Institute. Meadows, in his first year on the team, was the number five player in the nation in two-year college basketball for points scored, averaging 27 points per game.

"Harold Henry recruited me; I had played baseball and basketball in high school in Danville. My first year, DTI played about 20 games," Meadows recalled. "Because I averaged 27 points my first year, the other team's coaches knew they had to do something.

"So, the following year, it was usual to have two opposing players guarding me throughout the games. I still averaged 20 points per game my second year, making the top ten listing nationally. The scores could have been higher if made today. I made a lot of shots outside the three-point range, but we didn't have the three-point rule at that time."

After finishing at DTI, Meadows returned to his love of baseball, a game he had excelled in at George Washington High School. For two years he played with the Staunton Braves baseball club, part of a baseball league, in the Shenandoah Valley.

Returning to Danville, Meadows continued to stay involved in sports, playing fast pitch softball with the Danville Allstars. The team won the Virginia State Fast Pitch Softball Championship four straight years while he was a player, making indelible memories for Meadows who played with the Allstars for ten years.

During those years, Meadows worked with sales and merchandising of sporting goods for colleges and high schools for Link-Watson in Danville. Fourteen years ago, he entered sales with Downtown Athletics, merchandising to all colleges and high schools from Danville to Virginia Beach.

The second inductee, Dr. Ed Polhamus, was a natural to approach when Danville Community College began to explore the possibility of hosting a sports team, since Polhamus was known throughout the campus for his love of baseball. "I was asked to participate with planning for a baseball team in 2001. That planning ultimately led to establishment of the DCC Knights baseball team.

"During the planning, I was looking for an opportunity to participate in some way with the team, thus I offered my services as their announcer at the games; since I had experience

announcing for little league.” Polhamus announced games from the team’s beginning in 2002 to 2010, earning the accolade, “the voice of the Knights.”

“Both my father and grandfather were semi and pro players. They loved baseball, transferring the love and excitement of the game to me. I always enjoyed the game and its history, so I always tried at the Knights game to pass along the love and history as I announced the action.”

Previous to Polhamus’s involvement with the Knights, he was always present when DCC faculty played students in intramural sports, whether basketball, softball or volleyball. A continuous player on the DCC Faculty Softball Team for ten years, he was playing when the team won the softball championship one year. “I was a left-handed slap hitter with good speed. Grady Tuck and I tried to get on base any way we could.”

As a parent of two sons, Winston and William, Polhamus coached T-ball as well as Little League for several years. “I enjoyed it so much that after my sons were too old to play Little League, I went back as League Commissioner, staying in that position for about eight years.”

Dr. Polhamus entered DCC as a math instructor in 1972, always teaching, even during the years that he was the Division Chairman for Arts and Sciences, a position he held for nine years. Retiring in 2006, Polhamus continued to teach math part-time until 2012. “I have had 40 years of interacting with students imparting my love of math.”

The third inductee, an entire team, is the 1964-65 Danville Technical Institute Basketball Team, a team to be reckoned with throughout junior college circuit. Team members include three previous Sports Hall of Fame inductees, Dr. Harold Henry, Dr. Grady Tuck and George (Buddy) Clayton.

Dr. Harold Henry was one of the first three to be inducted into the Hall in 2011 because of his efforts as DTI’s athletic director and first coach of a basketball team, a team not nearly as successful as the later one on which Meadows attained national ranking. Without Dr. Henry, Meadows’s team would not have existed. It was Dr. Henry who was responsible for initiating at DTI intramural sports, a traveling basketball team and developing a basketball conference with other junior colleges.

Dr. Grady Tuck took over from Dr. Henry, coaching both the 1964-65 and 1965-66 DTI basketball teams to major accomplishments. Tuck began the intramural program at DCC operating softball for five years, handling scheduling, umpiring, every needed item.

George Clayton was involved with campus intramural sports: flag football, softball, basketball, and faculty teams. He also taught classes in golf. Grady and Clayton played city softball and basketball, participating for at least 25 years.”

The other 11 members of the 1964-65 team include Fred Butler, Bob Conner, Ray Dooley, Roger Hill, Jesse Meadows, Danny Ross, James Tate, Norman Tiglio, Curtis Tweedy, Albert Thomas and Jimmie Wood.

One day in the fall of 1964, one of my classmates at DTI, Jesse Meadows, talked me into going down town to the “Y” to shoot some basketball after classes. It became a daily routine, playing one-on-one in our spare time at the “Y”. After a few of weeks of this, he talked me into going out for the basketball team, which was definitely not a part of my original plans at DTI. I had no transportation, and walked from my Aunt Bea’s house on Confederate Avenue (over a mile) to and from classes each day. I depended on a friend to get me home to Altavista on the weekends. Jesse Meadows insisted on taking me to and from practices, if I would play on the team. This stands out as one of the fond memories about playing basketball at DTI.

1. What stands out in my memory about playing basketball at DTI?

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My memories about our games are that we competed against some strong teams with good players, many of which I’m sure went on to play beyond the Junior College level, and we still managed to win a lot of games.

I have memories of Coach Tuck and all the teammates and staff, and I can say today that I am proud and honored to have been a part of this team at DTI. (Again, thanks to Jesse Meadows for prodding me).

## 2. What sports activities have you participated in since you left DTI, whether participant or supporter?

Luckily, I have been able to keep active in sports over the years; including basketball, bowling, softball, running, hunting, fishing, coaching little league baseball, and golf. Today, I mostly stick to golf.

## 3. What has been your profession over the years?

I graduated from DTI on July 30, 1965, and got married to Bernice on July 31, 1965. We have three children, all are married, and now each has given us a grandchild, (5, 2, and 1).

With a certificate in “Drafting And Design Technology” from DTI, it has never seemed very difficult to find employment in this field. Early on, I worked for several different manufacturing companies as a mechanical designer. In the mid 70’s I began a career with Babcock & Wilcox, now AREVA, in Lynchburg, VA, as a tooling engineer and designer. This job was challenging and enjoyable, and I traveled to many interesting places around the US while in this position. I have been retired from there for several years.

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### BACKGROUND IF NEEDED

PLAYED BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL AT GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

PLAYED BASEBALL 2 YEARS WITH STAUNTON BRAVES BASEBALL CLUB IN SHENNADOAH VALLEY  
BASEBALL LEAGUE

HAVE BEEN IN INSTITUTIONAL SPORTING GOODS BUSINESS FOR 44 YEARS INVOLVING COLLEGES  
AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Jesse Meadows Jr

Ed Polhamus

I am a member of the Danville School Board, currently the Vice-Chairman, initially appointed in 2004 by City Council, then elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012. If you can work that in, I would appreciate it.

hi marie, my experience playing basketball at d.t.i was filled with a lot of good memories. the guys i played with, i considered goodfriends. i am looking forward to seeing them! the school had, i think it was a 1956 mercury, for travel to away games!! some of the guys had cars and we would create a caravan and head on down through the carolina's or where ever to play the games! after i left dti i married a danville girl, whom i'm still married to for 47 years, i moved back to richmond,va. i worked for the dupont co. for 38 years and retired june 2005. i have 3 children, two girls and a boy. as a young man i coached little league basketball, baseball, and girls softball. most of my adult life i've played golf. we have 4 grandchildren whom we love dearly!!! thanks marie, i look forward to meeting you!

hi marie, i worked as an electrician for 25 yrs. and after that transferred to the PROCESS COMPUTER MAINTENANCE GROUP for the last 13 yrs. of service. I was 62 yrs. old when i decided it was time to play golf!!!! don't ever think that the more golf you play the better you get, cause every year i play my scores are approaching my bowling scores HA! I still love it though i enjoy the walk, the beauty of the course, and all GODS little creatures along the way! marie, always keep your eyes on the ball, the ball meaning everything thats really important, not that little white thing that flies off the end of the golf club!!!  
love fred

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Fred Butler

1. The basketball fact that we were playing in a league with more established programs and on a Jr. college level.

2. Since leaving DTI I got drafted into the Army and played intramural basketball in Germany against other Army and Air Force teams.

After the Army I played slow pitch softball for many years for several different teams. I now enjoy playing golf as often as possible.

3. I was hired by Dupont as an electrician right out of DTI. I retired in 2007 after 41 years there and now work 1 day a week as a starter at a golf course.

Jimmie Wood

Dr. Grady Tuck

Buddy Clayton

Harold Henry

Danny Ross

Albert Thomas