

# 2015

## Outstanding Alumni

Danville Community College  
VPI—Danville Extension  
Danville Technical Institute



**Bennett Carlton Cockrell**  
Danville Technical Institute

**Bennett Carlton Cockrell** served over two years in the United States Army as a member of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, NC, and the 187th Airborne in Korea, during the Korean Conflict. He was retired from service after receiving gunshot wounds in Korea.

He attended DTI from 1955 through 1956, graduating in Printing. Employment began with the *Evening and Sunday Telegram* in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, as a linotype operator, working in that area from 1956 to 1970 when the newspaper went from hot type to cold type operation. He then moved up to foreman of the composing room, being responsible for page layout, makeup of the newspaper and darkroom camera operations. He also began reporting some special events and features.

After 30 years with the newspaper, downsizing began, so Cockrell retired at age 55 and joined the US Postal Service as a rural mail carrier, traveling 35 miles daily to a large number of customers. However, he continued his newspaper work as sports editor and writer for an area weekly newspaper. When George H.W. Bush came to Rocky Mount, Cockrell was given the assignment of covering Bush's visit, which was the lead story of the newspaper. Riding the press

bus, he was assigned to sit beside Bob Schieffer of CBS, whose conversation mainly centered around questions about Eastern North Carolina's barbecue.

Beyond his career duties, Cockrell is a voluntary member of the West Mount Ruritan Club, helping in fundraisers that provide scholarships and assistance to the needy and other special needs in the community. He is a licensed Baptist minister and for over 20 years has been functioning in churches when ministers were absent or without regular pastors. His service has included 10 to 12 churches with duties covering a week to three months. Beyond his church involvement, Cockrell enjoys visiting nursing homes where he meets and talks with the residents and also performs with others in singing with them. "I enjoy meeting and talking with those in the homes, hoping to make their days a little brighter and happier," Cockrell explains.

He coached Little League Baseball; on one occasion his team won the city championship. Cockrell also coached a local Christian High School baseball team from 1977-1983, supporting his son who was an important team member. The baseball team won the first athletic trophy for the school, finishing in second place in the conference. He later supported his daughter in cheerleading for the school. Cockrell and his wife celebrated their 56th anniversary in January 2015. They have four grandsons and one granddaughter.

In 2008, Cockrell became a member of the DCC Alumni Council, driving from Rocky Mount to the meetings on a continuous basis. He is responsible for further seeking the growth of the Alumni Scholarship fund through council members accepting his proposal that all who are able to do so, will yearly contribute \$100 toward the first scholarship's endowment.



## **Virginia Austin Nelson**

### **Danville Technical Institute-Danville Community College**

**Virginia Austin Nelson** holds three (3) degrees from DTI and DCC. In 1958 she studied in the Cosmetology Course at DTI, received a certificate and worked in the field. In 1969 she went to work at DRMC (The Memorial Hospital) in the Pathology lab, decided to start night classes at DCC to further her education in that field, and completed an Associate in Science degree. During years working in pathology, she was the newsletter editor of *The Scope*, which was published twice a month.

When the lab position was eliminated, she was asked to interview for a position as Continuing Education Coordinator, working under Dr. Michael Moore. Attaining that position, she worked with Dr. Moore until the position was eliminated in 2012.

Her duties required documentation of physicians' continuing education hours of training. All physicians must document hours of approved CME to maintain their licenses. The position required assuring that all standards were met, arranging for speakers, venues, travel, and hotels along with making sure the speakers were paid according to Medical Society of Virginia guidelines. When LifePoint became owner of DRMC, the hospital also cosponsored The Tumor Registry

for Bassett Hospital. Nelson maintained records of all meetings to make sure they met accreditation. When LifePoint had its annual meetings, the hospital cosponsored the CME portion of their meetings.

Nelson taught Sunday school, Bible School, helped in areas of church life, and worked with the Red Cross while her children were young. During employment years, she was heavily involved in March of Dimes, headed up the campaign with help, and worked with the MOD Telethon, answering phones and interviewing the MC for the media.

She participated with the Heart Association as Team Leader from the lab, signed up members for the team and donations; she also participated in the Turkey Walk in the fall. Nelson participated in the Relay for Life (cancer) as a team leader, signed up members and secured pledges for the walk, participated in the Bridge to Bridge (Danville Cancer Association) walk and the Alzheimer's Walk for which she took pledges and walked.

Nelson reflected on her training in the two colleges, "I do believe that my being able to have great work relationships with Dr. Moore and Dr. Estevez stemmed from the exceptional training I received at DTI and DCC. Just seeing how caring the instructors and professors were was a lesson in and of itself. I saw at DTI how Larry Hill strove to have quality instructors, which I believe set the tone for the success for the community college. The professors at DCC were instrumental in any success that I have had. DCC is the best treasure in the city and certainly the best bargain in town."

Beyond the medical area, Nelson trained in the Master Gardeners Program through Virginia Polytechnic Institute's local extension division for five months, agreeing to give 45 volunteer hours to the community in gardening activities to pay for the training. She paid back hours working on their projects and serving as president for one year. Projects included plant and gardening clinics at Lowe's and K-Mart during planting seasons and helping customers with questions about plants and problems they were having.

Nelson became a member of the DCC Alumni Council six years ago where she is presently serving as secretary. She has helped with programs and photography for events.

Nelson and her husband have two sons. Jeff, the oldest, took welding classes at DCC while still in high school. He worked at Piedmont Precision until he was hired at Times Fiber in Chatham. Steve went to Gardner Webb College, then transferred to DCC where his major was marketing. He has been with Belk in marketing for his entire career, living in the Danville area. ◆



## **Thomas Neal Dodson**

### **VPI-Danville Extension**

**Thomas Neal Dodson** attended VPI-Danville Extension, then transferred to the Blacksburg Campus where he completed a B.S. degree in Business Education in 1962 followed by a Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia in 1965.

Previous to entering college, Dodson became a member in 1949 of the Virginia National Guard, then served in the U.S. Army in Japan from 1951 to 1953, returning to the Virginia National Guard from 1955 to 1953. In 1955 he returned to the Virginia National Guard to pursue a career with the guard that would not end until his retirement in 1979 as a Major. In 1980 he became a Lieutenant Colonel with the Virginia National Guard.

Military training included the Unit Supply course at Fort Lee, Virginia, in 1951; the Officer Basic course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1956; the Officer Career course at Fort Sill in 1966; the Combat Intelligence course at Fort Meade, Maryland, in 1968; the Civil Disturbance course at Fort Gordon, Georgia, in 1975; the National Defense seminar at Fort McNair, Washington, DC, in 1977; and the Command & General Staff college, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas in 1976.

After college graduation, Dodson began teaching business courses in the fall of 1962 at Dan River High School. In 1965 he was appointed Assistant Principal, a position he would hold until his appointment in the spring of 1973 as principal of the high school. That principal position would eventually lead to vocational education when, in 1981, he became principal of the Pittsylvania Vocational School. Eight years later, he was promoted to Director of Vocational Education for Pittsylvania County Schools, holding that position until retirement from the school system in 1996.

Beyond educational and military pursuits, Dodson served his community through civic responsibility. He is a life member of the Piedmont Sertoma Club, served on the West Piedmont Planning District board, the Criminal Justice committee, and the Pittsylvania County Red Cross Board. He has been a member of the Pittsylvania County Industrial Development Authority (IDA), the Dan River Ruritan Club, the Danville Jaycees and Ringgold Jaycees, the Danville-Pittsylvania County Mental Health Board-chapter 10, and was a continuous volunteer at Danville Regional Medical center from 2002 to 2014.

Dodson and his wife Linda reside in Ringgold where he is an active member of Kentuck Baptist Church. He has two sons, a daughter and two grandchildren. ◆



## **Charles Alexander “Zan” Womack Jr.** **VPI-Danville Extension**

Charles Alexander “Zan” Womack Jr. attended VPI- Danville Extension, then graduated from the Blacksburg campus of Virginia Polytechnic and State University in 1967 with a BA in history and political science. Shortly after graduation, he joined the family community newspaper company started by his late father, Charles Womack Sr.

Womack Publishing Company began in 1960 with the purchase of the Danville *Commercial Appeal* and added the *Caswell Messenger* in 1966 and *Star-Tribune* in 1969. Womack Publishing also launched the *Bull Mountain Bugle* in Stuart, Virginia, and purchased the *Clarksville Times*. It started the *Gretna Gazette* in 1974.

Zan Womack worked at the *Commercial Appeal* before purchasing the company in 1975. Womack Publishing continued to expand, purchasing additional community weeklies while successfully starting newspapers at Smith Mountain Lake and Lake Norman. In addition to the

*Star-Tribune*, Womack owned the *Altavista Journal*, *Times-Virginian* in Appomattox, *The Union-Star* in Brookneal, *Smith Mountain Eagle*, *South Hill Enterprise*, *Independent Messenger* in Emporia, *Brunswick Times-Gazette* in Lawrenceville, and *The News Progress* in Chase City, all in Virginia.

North Carolina papers included the *Caswell Messenger*, *Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer* in Littleton, *Mebane Enterprise*, *News of Orange* in Hillsborough, *Montgomery Herald* in Troy, and *Warren Record* in Warrenton.

Always a journalist at heart and one who gave many journalists their first positions in which to develop their crafts, Womack served on the board of directors of the Virginia Press Association and was a longtime member of the National Press Club.

He served one term on Danville City Council and is a former member of the German Club and Young Men's Club. He also was a member of the World Presidents' Organization and Chief Executive Officers' Organization.

The company Womack directed branched out over the years to a business that also publishes telephone directories, magazines, visitors' guides, and a number of other publications and has a printing operation in South Hill, Virginia.

Womack's wife, Bobbye Raye, is an integral part of Womack Publishing. The couple has two sons: Charles Womack III is a newspaper publisher in Greensboro, and Patrick Womack is a musician and writer in Hillsborough.

*From the Caswell Messenger of August 5, 2014.*

Charles A. "Zan" Womack Jr. will be remembered as a true newspaperman, who dedicated his life to small-town, community newspapers.

Womack, 71, who owned the *Caswell Messenger* and 14 other weekly newspapers in Virginia and North Carolina, died Monday, August 4, 2014, following a brief illness. His close-knit newspaper family, along with the Danville community where he spent his entire life, was stunned by his sudden loss.

"Mr. Womack loved newspapers, especially small-town newspapers, and always believed that a newspaper is the heart and soul of a community," said longtime *Star-Tribune* editor Tim Davis.

"His standard advice to reporters and editors was to get more faces and names in the paper. He always said that's what readers want and what sells newspapers," said Davis, who also serves as Womack Publishing's editorial director.

"He was kind and compassionate and a great leader. We will miss his wisdom and guidance, but will carry on his newspaper vision," Davis said.

Chad Harrison, director of operations for the Chatham-based newspaper company, said Womack spent his life building great relationships. "He connected with the communities our newspapers serve, and he connected with his employees. He was a true newspaperman and gentleman," Harrison said. "I lost a good friend."

Caswell Messenger editor and general manager Gerri Hunt has worked for Womack for the past four years. “We absolutely loved when he showed up at our office. We were lucky, being just down the road from him in Virginia; he stopped by any time he was passing through,” she said. “He was always quick to ask if we needed anything, and would truly listen. He really took care of everyone.”

Hunt said Womack was devoted to the communities where his newspapers were located. “He always wanted to know what was going on in Caswell County, but his interest was not just limited to asking us here at the newspaper. He was open to anyone in the community picking up the phone and calling him. He really was one in a million.”

Altavista Journal, Va. editor and general manager Mark Thomas said Womack was a great teacher. “Mr. Womack once told me, ‘We’re all local, all the time,’” said Thomas. “He cared deeply about serving the readers of his newspapers with the latest news and advertising information from their communities.

“He wanted his editorial and advertising staff members to know their communities and to be involved,” Thomas said. “I appreciate the opportunity I’ve had to learn a community journalism lesson from one of its strongest proponents.”

Marvin Hamlett, editor and general manager of another Womack paper, the Times-Virginian in Appomattox, Va. said Womack was a great listener, which made him able to make quick and wise decisions whenever he was faced with problems.

“He also knew how to talk to people, which is kind of a lost art these days,” Hamlett said. “But I think he would tell you that his greatest asset was his family, a family of which he was undoubtedly proud. He took that same love for family and put it toward his love for his community newspapers,” said Hamlett.

Editor and general manager Tammy McQueen-Dunn with the Montgomery Herald in Troy, said many small communities in North Carolina and Virginia benefited from Womack’s love for community newspapers.

“Mr. Womack saw the importance of providing local news to the community. His newspapers are filled with faces of the community and the stories that impact the people of the community,” McQueen-Dunn said. “With the passing of Zan Womack, the world of community newspapers lost a champion. He believed in the mission of these local institutions and gave his editors the flexibility to carry out this mission.”

Longtime Womack Publishing employee Leigh Ann Shields admired Womack’s compassion and heart for people. “It didn’t matter if you were family, friend or employee; if something was going on in your life, he was always concerned and would help any way he could,” she said.

“He was an excellent businessman,” said Charles Majors, executive chairman of American National Bank and Trust Company in Danville, Va. “He knew how to make community newspapers work for the community and as a business.”

Retired American National Bank president Jim Motley agreed. “He was a real entrepreneur,” said Motley. “He did an outstanding job acquiring newspapers and building them into a successful business.” Motley was a good friend and played golf with Womack the day he

became ill. “We had a great time playing golf,” he said, adding that both friends shared a keen interest in Danville’s history.

Lifelong friend Townes Lea Jr. grew up with Womack. “He will be dearly missed,” Lea said. “He was a fine person — always up front and honest.”

Retired Virginia state senator Charles Hawkins of Chatham, Va. said Womack understood the role of community newspapers. “He was unique in many ways, but what I admired most about him was his understanding that small towns need the kind of papers he produced. He was just a good guy,” Hawkins said.

Veteran Pittsylvania County, Va. Board of Supervisors member Coy Harville said Womack was always interested in the community. “He was quite unusual for a newspaper guy,” Harville said. “He was so open, and always interested in the growth of the county and what people were doing.”

James Snead, the Dan River District member on the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors, said Womack always had a friendly smile and was a good listener. “I’ve never known him to speak harsh words about anybody,” Snead said. “He was a great entrepreneur and a fine southern gentleman.”

Retired Reader’s Digest editor Henry Hurt of Chatham, Va. said Womack knew how to run a newspaper. “I’ll always be sorry he was thwarted in his attempt to buy the Danville Register & Bee when it was for sale in 1995,” Hurt said. “Had Zan prevailed in that fight — as opposed to the caretakers selling the paper to the out-of-town newspaper chain — it would have made a significant difference across our region in terms of economic vibrancy and quality of life. To succeed, a region needs a strong daily newspaper, and Zan had the courage and integrity required to run one.”

Indeed, Womack’s failed bid to buy the Danville newspaper — a deal that would have given the paper’s employees an ownership stake — was one of his biggest disappointments.

Womack will also be remembered for his commitment to the Womack Foundation, a philanthropic organization started by his parents, Charles and Estelle Womack. Over the years, the Womack Foundation supported a number of worthy causes, including parks and community centers, swimming lessons and summer camps for children from low-income neighborhoods and scholarships for deserving students. Womack became more active in the foundation following his father’s death in 2005 and served as vice chairman.

Bishop Lawrence Campbell Sr., who serves on the foundation’s board of directors, said Womack’s contributions were invaluable to the region. “What I admire most is the continuance of the dream and vision his father had to be philanthropic in giving back to the community,” said Campbell.

“He was a person who did not see race,” the minister said. “He really was humanitarian in that he made sure all people were included and treated fairly. He had a heart beat in him to help alleviate deficiencies in education and recreation. He will be sorely missed.”

Another foundation board member, John Gilstrap, said Womack had a soft spot for kids, especially children in poverty. “He was a wonderful man — very generous, very kind-hearted,” said Gilstrap, a member of Danville City Council. “He certainly did a lot to help the community.”

Shannon Hair said it was an honor to be named to the Womack Foundation's board of directors, and described Womack as a "true pioneer" and great role model. "Zan was a maverick of sorts who quietly advocated for those disadvantaged in our community," said Hair, vice president of institutional advancement and development at Danville Community College and executive director of the DCC Educational Foundation.

"Continuing his parents' legacy by serving on the family's foundation was of great importance to Zan, and he always welcomed and encouraged new ideas within the Womack Foundation that aligned with the desires of his late parents. Our community is a better place because of Zan Womack. He will be thought of often, because his legacy is what we will remember," Hair said.

Danville, Va. Mayor Sherman Saunders, who knew Womack for more than 40 years, said Womack was a successful businessman who was generous with his good fortune. "Like his father, he truly cared about his community and contributed much to those who were less fortunate," Saunders said.

The mayor noted that Womack was an active supporter of education, arts, science and history. "The city of Danville is better today because of Zan Womack," Saunders said. "He was a great example of a public servant. His business experience and overall concern for mankind contributed to the success of so many families in Danville and the region."

Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce President Laurie Moran, a former editor of The Gazette in Gretna, Va., said Womack had a strong commitment to the communities he served. "He encouraged his newspapers to focus on the most important component of our communities — its people," said Moran, who was fresh out of college when she was hired by Womack as a reporter.

"Through his vision, leadership, and support, Zan provided opportunities for many young journalists to gain the fundamental skills and discipline for successful careers," she said. "The legacy he has left is his commitment to serving others through his newspapers and through his personal life." ♦



## **Stuart Jennings**

**Danville Community College**

**Stuart Jennings** attended DCC from 1969 -1971, graduating with honors in Electrical/Electronics. Upon graduation from DCC, he worked at Dan River Mills Instrumentation for five weeks.

Because of impending draft induction into the armed services, Jennings joined the U. S. Air Force for four years where he was assigned to microwave communications, serving at bases in Mississippi and Georgia. Sent to Germany for two years, he then worked with NATO. Jennings was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant E-5 in 1975.



Jennings began his career after the military with Womack Electronics on Wilson Street where he worked for three and a half years as both counter salesman and an electronics repairman in consumer products.

He was then hired at Danville Community College in the Electronics Department as a lab technician responsible for maintaining all equipment in the Hill Building. Three years later, Jennings became an instructor, teaching digital electronics classes for three years in the same department from which he had graduated years earlier.

He continued after those years as an adjunct instructor at night while opening his business, Precision Electronics Services. He credits his experiences at DCC with providing many of the resources that led to growing a successful business. Teaching classes at DCC allowed him to befriend many people who worked within regional industries, many of whom became his initial customers.

Jennings had “always wanted to be in business,” he says. He started Precision Electronics in his home's den in 1985 with one employee, a DCC graduate, who is still in the business. The den was the home of the business for one and a half years; then the business moved to Lynn Street where the business operated for seven to eight years. It was then moved to the Industrial Park in a 5,000 square foot facility, later expanded to 10,000 square feet. The business has 13 to 14 employees, several DCC graduates, adding economic positives to employees, customers and the community.

As some local industries waned in recent years, Precision Electronics Services successfully turned to Internet marketing to increase its customer base. With over 25 years' experience in the control repair business, Jennings is proud that Precision employees have the knowledge, resources, and experience to provide customers with the highest quality and most affordable repairs in the industry.

Jennings sold the company in 2014 and is working part-time, under contract until June 2015, for the new owner. He made the decision to sell to benefit the employees long-term and make sure their jobs are secure. The new owner has already made positive decisions and commitments that will carry out Jennings's desire for security for his employees.

Jennings has been honored as an outstanding Entrepreneur by DCC in past years. George Turnbull, DCC Professor, commented, “Stuart Jennings is the most successful alumni we have ever had from the Electronics curriculum. He is an exemplary example to our students and the community, giving much back to our program and the region over the years.”

Jennings served on the Advisory Committee for the Electronics Department at DCC, serving as president for several years.

Beyond electronics, Jennings has been interested in music and performance since his early 20s, playing both mandolin and guitar. He plays bluegrass and rock music when there is an opportunity to perform beyond his home. With others he has performed music for the Alzheimer's Association at nursing homes throughout the region. “This is very rewarding as performances though hard to set up during business hours, because few musicians can leave work to perform,” he explained. “Music seems to bring the patients comfort and spark recognitions.” Jennings hopes he may be able to perform in such venues as total retirement approaches.

He and his wife Dolores have a daughter, Elizabeth, and a grandson, Graham. ◆



## **Sylvia A. Josey**

### **Danville Community College**

**Sylvia A. Josey** attended DCC from 1979-81, graduating with an Associate in Applied Science in Merchandising Management. In 1993 she opened Kids' Stuff Consignment Boutique. Josey soon found the need to open a second store as her own family was outgrowing the children's store. The year 2002 marked the opening of Your Stuff Consignment Boutique, offering adult consignments. To date, Your Stuff & Kids' Stuff have given over \$1 million back to Danville's economy through consignment sales and over \$1 million through employee payroll. The two businesses have promoted thousands of dollars being saved by savvy shoppers, who are not sending items to landfills or constantly buying from big retailers where the income does not stay in the community.

The consignment idea began in a Danville Community College class. Sylvia had a final project in her sophomore English class in which she was required to research and create a business she could begin. She created a consignment store for children's offerings with no intention of actually pursuing a small business career.

Twelve years and three children later, in 1993, she opened the business Kids' Stuff on Piney Forest Road when she determined that the need for such an establishment actually existed. At that time her children, who grew up with the business, were 10 months, three years and six years of age. Today they are 22, 24 and 27 year olds with college degrees.

Josey, when the business opened, supplied the first merchandise from her children's apparel and was the sole employee. Today, there are ten employees. "We cannot always keep up with the fast inventory coming in to the store," Josey explained. "We are very conscious of choosing only inventory that is quality, so there is much to sell and much to choose from. We are finicky and selective"

The opening of the first store was accomplished after hunting for a location, looking at several, finding the present location, which had a chiropractic practice that did not have a doctor and closed. The individual holding the lease allowed her to pay a portion of the lease's monthly rental instead of the full rental, so he could have a tenant, which gave her a window of opportunity to establish Kids' Stuff. Fixtures that held clothing and other childhood items were recycled business supplies located because of her research years previously and because of occasionally driving by an establishment in Greensboro that sold such items.

Josey is community oriented, environmentally conscious and focused on helping local families. "Often those who consign leave the money with us as Christmas clubs or Vacation clubs, picking up their payouts for sales at those times. We are their money tree," she says.

Josey is known for her organizational standards that make the business run itself. Everyone who works there is cross trained on all operations, every operation has check lists, every procedure has a set of specific explanations, so when operations are intense, no one truly has to stop

to answer a new employee's questions: the printed material is available to be followed. If someone is out sick, the boutiques can still operate. Josey says, "If a small business operates this way, it will continue to operate and not burden the owners." The test of the statement occurred five years ago when Josey had Lyme disease and was absent from the business site for an extended period. The operation continued without a slowdown.

Josey is a member of the National Association of Retail Professionals. She was a speaker at their national meeting in 2002 on Consignment businesses and in 2013 when she spoke on "Work on your business, not in it."

She is a member of the Barkhouser Free Enterprise Board at Danville Community College, DCC Business Administration Committee, the Business Network International, which has a local branch in which local business owners pass referrals to each other and to their customers, and joined the DCC Alumni Council as a new member in 2015.

The boutiques help support Kentuck Baptist Church's Clothes Closet and the House of Hope Homeless Shelter. There is a Customer Program in which anyone donating a minimum \$10 to House of Hope every six months may take five percent off their purchases. ◆



## **Fred K. Webb Jr.**

### **Danville Community College**

**Fred K. Webb Jr.** completed an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration at Danville Community College in 1980. He then transferred to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg where he attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting in 1982. In 1996, he participated and completed the Program for Management Development at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A year later, in 1997, he participated in *Securing the Future*, United Guaranty Corporation's internal management training program, a first such program for the company with Webb being among the first group selected to train in the concepts.

Webb is Executive Director of the J. T. – Minnie Maude Charitable Trust, a position he assumed in August 2007. He manages the day-to-day operations of the Trust, making all investment decisions. During the months of August and September of 2007, Webb worked with staff to establish the office and to develop a scholarship program and a format for grant applications. In October 2007, the Trust made its public announcement and started investing the \$50 million James T. Emerson left it.

Webb explained, "J. T. was a self-made man who did his own investment research. The Trustees decided to honor James's legacy by handling our own investment portfolio. I was involved with Mr. Emerson for over twenty years with his investing strategies and decisions, though I am more conservative than he was during his life. I have thirty years of experience in investing, but I also have access to Investment Professionals at several firms when and if needed. I have been very cautious on the way down and during the recovery; as of February 19, 2015, the Trust's assets were \$56.5 million after meeting our payout requirements.

From June 2005 to August 2007, Webb assisted the Executrix in the administration of the Estate of James T. Emerson including the management of assets because Emerson held a majority

stake in Wellco Enterprises, Inc., a publicly traded company. During that time, he was also a director with Wellco.

Starting in June 2005, Webb led the successful search for a new CEO of Wellco, who started in March 2006. He was part of the team that dismissed the previous CEO and negotiated the employment agreement with the new CEO. Webb served as Acting President for five weeks during this transitional period. He worked closely with all Board Members, especially the CEO and legal team, to complete the sale of the company in May 2007.

From July 2005 to August 2007 as Vice President at Wellco, Webb worked in areas of Cost Control and Budgeting, Personnel, Special Projects and Plant Supervision. He started in cost control and budgeting, analyzed expenditures and created a budget format for the company where none had existed before. When the CEO change was made, he became a Special Projects person but also spent time working in Personnel, since the company had no one to fill that role.

In December 2006, the company hired a full-time Personnel Director, which led to Webb's involvement in full-time project management during the sale process. Webb finished this time period working in plant supervision, substituting for the Assistant Plant Manager on second shift because of his illness. From February 2006 until August 2007, Webb worked in the areas of Purchasing, Scheduling and Shipping functions.

From August 1998 to July 2005, Webb was Vice President of Sales as well as a Director. To augment military sales, the company was moving into retail sales, both direct via the Internet and wholesaling to retailers. He helped expand the business outside the U.S. to New Zealand, England, and Central and South America. During that time period, the company launched a new product group and opened a retail outlet in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Webb represented the company at all Trade Shows and certain military functions.

Earlier in Webb's career, he led accounting teams and had been senior accountant for several companies previous to his employment with Wellco.

Locally, Webb is member and treasurer of Good Home Primitive Baptist Church at Axton, Virginia. When living in Greensboro, he worked with Red Cross blood drives and was a consistent donor

Because of Webb's unique position with a Charitable Trust handling requests from organizations throughout Danville and Pittsylvania County, he has chosen not to participate in civic organizations, which may become applicants for grants funds. There is a potential for a conflict of interest situation he tries to avoid.

Webb consistently promotes opportunity for groups seeking grant funding to explore avenues of collaboration and other funding sources whether or not the charitable trust he handles carries out the funding request. He also takes every opportunity to promote other scholarship programs in the area when discussing the Trust's program.

This is a way of helping community members beyond the areas specified in the J.T. - Minnie Maude Charitable Trust guidelines, a goal of J. T. Emerson, who was adamant that service to individuals and organizations throughout Danville and Pittsylvania County be the major priority. The Trust makes community service a requirement to renew scholarships. It is also Webb's involvement in civic responsibility behind the scenes when he cannot participate personally in civic organizations.

**“Through the J. T. and Minnie Maude Charitable Trust, we have helped fund grants in the range of \$300,000 for DCC, particularly related to the Student Success Center and the Precision Machining Program and another \$100,000 in scholarships for students attending DCC,” Webb explained. “My mother and I have funded the Fred Webb Welding Scholarship honoring my father, who was a local self-employed welder and who managed to get four children through DCC.**

**“DCC is an excellent opportunity if four years is not “your cup of tea” or if the student is trying to find the right degree program to pursue. The cost structure allows for a course correction without breaking the bank. A student can acquire a high paying, marketable skill in two years. The options are huge. DCC has been and will be a major player in economic development for the area.”** ♦