

The Link—July 2010

Alumni news from

Danville Community College

for alumni from *Danville Technical Institute,*

VPI-Danville and Danville Community College

YOU are alumni of Danville Community College. Upon Passing one credit class at DCC or the former institutions—Danville Technical Institute and VPI-Danville, you became an alumni.

Danville Community College is yours for life.

You can exchange news, share stories, look up a friend or find a career possibility on the alumni web site.

As a member of the Danville Community College family, you are encouraged to stay connected with classmates, to sign up for a class, to investigate programs and to volunteer for campus or alumni initiatives.



Construction update

Student Center opens for fall semester 2010; construction program completes three buildings

“The new Student Center will be up and operating by August 23; the last weeks of July have seen finishing touches being made. New furniture has arrived and is being put together inside. Signage is on its way. It’s going to be beautiful and so needed, so needed. Everything is on go,” said Buddy Rawley, DCC Educational Foundation director, concerning the third construction project on the DCC campus in the past four years.

This center is one of only ten named centers on the 23 Virginia Community College campuses according to Jeff Kraus, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Public Relations at VCCS headquarters in Richmond. Stand alone centers at the community colleges are even less in number than ten.

The DCC Student Center houses food services, a conference room for students and clubs, a counselor’s office, study areas—one area with tables and chairs can seat 72; the second area with a fireplace, oriental rug, sofas, tables and chairs can seat 16; outside, under the permanent canopy, is seating for an additional 32.

Rawley explained, “This building is going to be such a positive for our campus. It’s the first building that’s just for students—we previously had some dayrooms with some minimum food service—but not a place dedicated just to students’ auxiliary needs. From now on, students will have an alternative to food vending machines. Most of all, it’s a great space for faculty, staff and students to mingle and get to know each other.

“Beyond that positive, the building is so important, because we’re a commuter campus—students coming from long distances can’t go home 50 to 60 miles between classes. In the library, they had to be quiet. Often they went and sat in their cars or in hallways. It was cold or it was hot. No comfort in the cars. Now they have a place to study or to get to know each other,” Rawley continued.

Counselor Jim Lindley, agreed with Rawley, “We are positive the new Student Center will give true meaning to “Community College.” He explained how the Student Center is being geared to improving on-campus life and creating “community.” “We’re planning many events and activities to help “connect” students and faculty and staff to each other and the college.” To kick off the year, the SGA is sponsoring a “party on the patio” on September 10. “We will be having a cookout and live bands to celebrate the Student Center opening.”

Every Wednesday afternoon there will be popcorn and Karaoke in the student center. “We have XBOX 360 and Wii’s as well as other games and activities,” Lindley continued. “We plan to offer Shag and other dance lessons throughout the year during the evening. Around the fireplace, we will be having ‘fireside chats’ with speakers talking to students about relevant issues (health, stress, etc). There is also a conference room where student clubs can conduct meetings, have study groups, create interclub exchanges.”

To encourage faculty and staff to become involved with students at the center, all faculty and staff members will receive a DCC Travel Mug that they can use for free coffee or drinks in the Student Center. Faculty and staff will also be receiving a “Reward Lunch” card. If a professor or staff member buys and eats five meals in the Student Center, Student Services will buy their sixth lunch.

Because student centers for community colleges are not funded through state funding, all funds had to be from private sources to bring DCC’s student center into existence.

The center, costing more than 1.5 million, was funded by individuals and organizations throughout the Danville, Pittsylvania County, Halifax County region. Principal donors included the Anna Ferrell Willeford Estate, the Kiwanis Club of Danville, Inc. Foundation and the Lions Foundation, Inc. Donors beyond these three are numerous with many rooms and areas in and outside the building adorned with plaques denoting citizens who helped make the sections of the building and grounds possible.

Originally slated to be operable by mid-April, the Student Center’s construction slowdown occurred because of a very cold, wet winter causing construction delays. A national economic recession added to construction problems, because construction materials

were hard to access quickly. “Companies cut back to bare inventories to stay operable; our windows had to be backordered instead of delivered within a few days of order—they came in six weeks late,” Rawley explained. But he noted, “The building is beautiful, absolutely beautiful, outstanding tile work in the bathrooms; and we know students are going to enjoy the covered outside seating areas plus enjoy the fireplace seating space. It’s a unique addition to the campus.”

The Student Center’s completion brings to a close the new construction of three buildings on campus—Foundation Hall, the Maintenance Building and the Student Center. Previous to these buildings being constructed or simultaneously during their construction, all existing buildings needing upgrades went through major renovations that closed sections or entire buildings for long periods—Wyatt was closed for almost two years. Womack Hall, once the Estelle H. Womack Natural History Museum, was renovated and is now part of the medical complex housing a workout center as part of physical therapy.

Rawley explained, “Alumni will find the campus transformed—it is a beautiful campus with state-of-the-art buildings—we hope they will come after August 23 to take a look. Foundation Hall, which anchors the corner of Kemper Road, is a flagship building—one as distinctive as the old Castle. And the new Student Center is just another piece of the picture of a vibrant community college.”

Community members and alumni can become a part of the center with the purchase of a brick on the honor walk to be engraved with member’s name, individual they wish to honor or other appropriate engraving. The honor walk already has bricks sold and engraving underway. If an alumni, faculty, staff or community member would like to participate in this unique, long-lasting addition to the student center, bricks are priced at \$100 each and can be purchased through the DCC Educational Foundation. Call Styphenia Reliford, DCC Foundation Administrative Assistant, at 434-797-8437 or Buddy Rawley, DCC Educational Foundation Director, at 434-797-8495 to reserve your memorial contribution to the Student Center.

With community support adding to state support, the college continues to offer the latest technology, sports and improved facilities. Flat screens are in all buildings for constant messages to students. Parking areas are being repaved. New tennis courts are now open behind Taylor building.



2010-2012 term

New officers assume leadership of DCC Alumni Council

New alumni officers were elected by the Alumni Council to serve two-year terms beginning June 2010 and continuing through April 2012. The officers are Shannon Hair, president;

Shelby Irving, president elect; Connie Wann, secretary; Styphenia Reliford, treasurer; and Debra Carlson, DCC Foundation Board liaison.

President Shannon Hair attended DCC to study General Engineering and Drafting and Design from 1996-1998 receiving a General Studies Diploma in 1999. He then enrolled in the Old Dominion University Teletechnet program, which allowed him to complete his four year degree through distance learning while also gainfully employed. He pursued his Civil Engineering degree from 2001-2005.

Hired at the Danville Office of Dewberry & Davis, Inc. in 1998 as an AutoCAD Technician, Hair has been with the firm on a continuous basis. He currently assists as Manager of Economic Development for the firm while also spending time with his two boys and pursuing his interest in community-driven civic responsibility.

Part of that civic responsibility is present in his service to the alumni association as a way “to give back to the institution that provided me numerous opportunities in education and in life lessons.”

Hair, a very strong supporter of Danville Community College, said, “Everyone should experience at least one semester at DCC to feel the home sweet home atmosphere, see how the professors really care about their students and to take part in the many recent changes on campus.”

As the Alumni Association President, Hair notes a need for alumni “to continue to supply feedback, both positive and negative, so that DCC can use it to better the institution, to further engage the community with the many success stories DCC continues to create in educating across the many ages (18 to 88), and to promote the advantage of a solid education while never having to leave your family, community and way of living.”

He explained, “We (the Alumni) plan on being active in the ShowBiz Chamber Event. We also will sit at any education roundtable discussing the direction of the Alumni Association and how every student present and past has gotten us here together.”

President-elect Shelby Irving graduated from Tunstall High School in Pittsylvania County, received her B.S. from Ferrum College in Recreational/Leisure Services, began employment locally and in 2005 completed her AAS Technical Studies Fire Science curriculum at DCC, graduating *Summa Cum Laude*.

In 1987 she became the first female employed by the Danville Fire Department. Irving functions today as the Fire Marshal/Battalion Chief for the department.

She explained that she chose to work with the Alumni Association because “I knew that I received a quality education from the college, which played a very important role in my appointment to Fire Marshal for the City of Danville. I had already served on the Alumni Board at Fer-

rum College for a number of years. I feel that my experience there gives me background that helps with the opportunity to assist the DCC Association.”

When not promoting alumni engaging in “letting us hear from them if they have ideas as to what we can do to make the association stronger” or helping plan alumni events, Irving is involved in shopping, golfing and spending time with family, church and friends.

Connie Wann, DCC Alumni Association Secretary, completed a Certificate in Stenography in 1971 and an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Administrative Support Technology in 2003. Wann began her career at Memorial Hospital’s Business Office as a legal secretary and then went to Dan River Mills’s Designing Department as a secretary. Since 1978 she has been Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academic and Students Services at DCC. She chose to serve the DCC Alumni Association because “I believe in what DCC does for students and the community and am proud to be an alumni.”

She hopes that over the years the Alumni Association can help alumni with job placements, a need that can never be worked on enough by any college. Wann who has watched DCC grow, change and expand, explained of her job, “For me, DCC is truly the place to be. I love what I do, where I work and the people I work with.” When not working, Wann enjoys golf, reading and puzzles.

Styphenia Reliford, DCC Alumni Association treasurer completed Office Information Processing at DCC in 1998 and in 2008 completed her Associate degree in Applied Science in Administrative Support Technology. Reliford has worked for Danville Community College as the Financial & Administrative Specialist for the Office of Institutional Advancement/Educational Foundation since completing her initial degree.

Her work behind the scenes for the association includes myriad tasks related to meetings, funding and activities. Whenever an alumni activity is underway, Reliford is helping plan and organize. Beyond the position with the college and her work with the Alumni Association, Reliford enjoys church activities.

Debra Carlson, the first DCC Alumni President and present Foundation Board Liaison, received both an Associate in Liberal Arts and an Associate in Business Administration from DCC in 1984. She then transferred to the College of William and Mary where she received a B.A. in Government in 1986. After receiving her B.A. degree she studied law, graduating from Mississippi College School of Law in 1989 with a Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) and from the University of Denver School of Law with an LL.M (Masters of Law in Taxation) in 1990. Carlson practiced law until 2008, has taught business and legal courses at Averett University and still does, and joined American National Bank in 2009. She currently works in the Trust Department at ANB.

Carlson explained, “I recently completed two years as president of the Alumni Council and chose to serve to give back to an institution that has meant so much to me for almost 30 years now. I was a smart kid in high school and was accepted at several prestigious

colleges, but I knew that I needed to save money and, at that time, was not ready to leave home for a campus with thousands of students. I chose to attend DCC and have never regretted that decision—I received a great education and met great educators and friends that I still know today. The administration and staff made me feel welcome and cared about me as a person, not as a number.” Carlson was honored as an *Outstanding Alumni* for 2008 in ceremonies held in April of that year.

Upon constitution of the first Alumni Council in July of 2008, the first Council chose Carlson as Alumni Association President. “As an association, as President, my goal was to get the word out that the alumni have an association to come to for friendships, networking, career opportunities. We need the alumni to know that we exist and are here for them –it is their organization.”

Carlson spends leisure hours “flying with my husband (who has a private pilot’s license), being a Mom to a 10 year old daughter and 13 year old son and currently trying to talk my husband out of his new hobby idea of buying a sailboat and learning to sail together—(and I thought flying was expensive)...”

Throughout the upcoming year, we will introduce you to the other members of the Alumni Council, so you will know the leadership of the Alumni Association. We encourage you to become active through membership on a committee that meets only once to twice a year by sending us a note stating your willingness to serve. Contact at alumni@dcc.vccs.edu



Joe Stendig – 1927–2010

A life of service to DCC, community, nation

For DCC Alumni who remember the establishment of Danville Community College from Danville Technical Institute and Virginia Polytechnic Institute-Danville in 1968, you also remember Holiday Inn on Riverside Drive, the premiere establishment for lodging and dining, located on the roadway where so many local high school and college students “cruised,” and you also remember the proprietor, Joe Stendig. Stendig and his wife Eileen, who is a charter member of the DCC Foundation Board, are “adopted alumni”; for no alumni could have served the college so ardently in promoting local education, in seeing that deserving students could pursue college educations and in helping provide a major gift for the construction of the new DCC Student Center.

He and his wife are examples of giving to others in numerous ways; all of their actions have been tributes from concerned hearts and positive motives. They established an endowed scholarship which is awarded each year, one of their many actions to promote education at DCC. Joe Stendig’s death July 13 meant that we have lost an avid educational supporter. At his death, his family again remembered the DCC Foundation concerning

gifts in his memory. We salute his dedication to excellence, his accomplishments, his memory as we honor his family with the information from his obituary.

DANVILLE - Joe Stendig passed away on Tuesday 7/13/10 after a heroic battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

Well known in the community as the owner/operator and developer of The Stratford/Holiday Inn and Holiday Village, his legacy spans well beyond his numerous businesses and entrepreneurial undertakings. He was known by many for his fighting spirit and was a champion for civil rights.

Joe Stendig was born on August 2, 1927 in the Bronx, N.Y. He was the son of Sophie Golub Stendig and Hershel Matmidy Stendig.

In January of 1945, at age 17, he eagerly enlisted in the US Maritime Service during WW II. Joe served on an oil tanker, supplying Allied troops with urgently needed fuel. During his tour of duty, his ship traversed mine infested waters to get supplies to American allies in Europe. The young sailor entertained his peers with his harmonica playing which often moved them to tears.

A strong believer in education, Joe used to say "knowledge is power", and he had a scientific approach to life's problems and mysteries. After completing his duty in the maritime service, he was accepted at Boston University where he earned a B.A. in Sociology. He went on to earn a Masters Degree in Industrial Relations at the University of Chicago and a Doctor of Laws degree from Columbia University Law School in 1955. His love of education led him and his wife, Eileen, to fund numerous scholarships at Danville Community College and for area students who are college-bound.

Joe's education served him well; he went on to become a highly successful businessman. He was a visionary and became one of the first Holiday Inn franchisees. A strong leader, he was savvy, generous, and fair. He inspired loyalty among his employees, many of whom stayed with him for over 30 years. His dedication to excellence made his hotel and restaurant a landmark in the community and Holiday Village an award winning housing complex for the elderly.

Joe also took a stand for civil rights in the early 1960's long before it was popular to do so. When segregation was still widely practiced, he welcomed African Americans into his restaurant despite the risk it could pose to his business.

In 1964, he ran for city council on a platform that included civil rights.

Joe remained a trailblazer late in life - in 2003 he became the oldest lung transplant recipient on record. He broke the glass ceiling that prohibited seniors from receiving this life saving surgery. He was 76 years old when he received his transplant at a time when the age limit was 62. He was unwilling to give up and together with his family fought a battle for his life. The success of his transplant surpassed all expectations. He lived almost seven additional years, well above the average for transplant patients. As a result of his success, Duke University Medical Center Transplant Division removed all age limits, as did the medical center at the University of San Antonio that performed the transplant.



In keeping with his fighting spirit, Joe received notable recognition for his fight against a drug company that was withholding a potentially lifesaving drug for pulmonary fibrosis. He and his family together raised national awareness about the difficulty of the terminally ill to gain access to experimental medicines. As a result of their efforts, the company was forced to give terminal patients access to a promising drug.

In the early 1970s Joe worked with his father-in-law to enable the emigration of Jewish cousins in the Soviet Union by appealing directly to the Soviet leader, Brezhnev. These cousins were the first to be allowed to leave in a movement to free Soviet Jewry. He was an active member of Temple Beth Shalom and served as congregation President for several terms. He supported many causes that helped impoverished or politically oppressed Jews around the world and helped to break through barriers of religious prejudice. He was a longstanding member of the Rotary Club and also a member of the Danville Golf Club.

He met his lifelong companion, Eileen Miller in 1952 and they were married the following year. This May marked their 57th anniversary. His family was extremely important to him and he was a devoted husband and father. He made sure all his children got a good education, and did all he could to nourish their careers.

He is survived by his wife Eileen, five children, Betsy Cook, Lenny Stendig, Dan Stendig, Sarah Wood, and Lisa Stendig; six grandchildren, Charlie Cook, Sophie Cook, Gil Stendig, Shelley Stendig, Eli Stendig and Lily Stendig; two step-grandchildren, Samantha and Elizabeth Wood; his sister, Lola Lea; a niece, Jennie Clegg; and two grand nieces, Rachel and Zelda Clegg.

He was a beloved member of the community and his family and will be greatly missed. He will be remembered for his love of life and for his sense of humor. Never short of a joke, he brought smiles to many.

There was a memorial service on Thursday, July 15, at 4 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom on Sutherlin Ave in Danville. The burial followed at Green Hill Cemetery.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the DCC Educational Foundation and The Community Foundation.

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Alumni Scholarship Effort continues

During April the Alumni Council members and officers contributed to the Alumni Scholarship fund and then alumni added contributions during Homecoming 2010, May 10, adding another \$1,000.

Have you sent your contribution to help a student as you once were helped? If not, why not help us create an endowed alumni scholarship with a contribution of any amount. Mark your tax deductible contribution “Alumni Scholarship” and send to

**Styphenia Reliford, DCC Foundation Office-Room
211, Foundation Hall, 1008 South Main Street,
Danville, Virginia 24541**

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Now is the time to nominate alumni for 2011 Outstanding Alumni honors

To nominate a deserving alumni from Danville Community College, VPI-Danville or Danville Technical Institute, just send the individual's name, information about him or her concerning career, community involvement, honors, etc. and contact information to alumni@dcc.vccs.edu

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Have YOU registered on the alumni website?

To register on the website, go to the [Registration Link](#) or go to DCC home page at [www.http://dcc.vccs.edu](http://dcc.vccs.edu), select *Foundation/Alumni* from the menu on the left side of the page and choose *Alumni*. The Alumni information window will then open to explain use of the web site and to direct you as to how to access the alumni web site or go to [www.https://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/](https://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/) to access the website.

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Alumni Association has presence on Facebook

*Danville Community College's site can be accessed
whenever you open Facebook.*

If you do not have a personal page, you will need to register with Facebook, which is quite easy; just follow their simple windows and create your page typing in normal login requirements whether you intend to contact anyone or not. Once you have registered, whenever you open Facebook, you will probably be taken to the "Home" page of your personal site. From there you need to type in "Danville Community College" and find us in your list of choice. Click on the link to go to the DCC page and become a fan.

Once registered, each time you open your home page, you can navigate to the left to the listing titled "Pages" and click on that link. Danville Community College should be listed with its link. Click on the hyperlink which will navigate you to the DCC page. There we hope you will register as a DCC fan and give us some information about your career and family. If you want to take a look at the DCC page before registering, paste in the following link in your browser <http://www.facebook.com/n/?pages/Danville-VA/Danville-Community-College>.

Another communication site for DCC information is Flickr. Numerous photos from the Foundation Hall dedication (as well as other recent DCC events) are available online. Prints can be downloaded at the DCC Flickr account (www.flickr.com/dccpr). Check it out.



Be sure to check out DCC's latest News Releases!

Online Newsroom: <http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/News/index.html>



FEEDBACK? Comments, questions, requests concerning alumni operations or *The Link* can be directed to alumni relations coordinator, at alumni@dcc.vccs.edu

