

Alumni news from Danville Community College for alumni from *Danville Technical Institute, VPI-Danville and Danville Community College*

*You are an 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.*

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## **Construction continues, Health Sciences Building completion looms; Student Center groundbreaking expected before 2009**

**Girders, the skeleton of the new Health Sciences Building, are in place**, interior walls are being formed and can be seen as drivers turn onto Kemper Road, exterior design brickwork on the front is evident as construction continues on schedule. “There’ll be no slowdown because of economic stagnation statewide; we are fortunate that all the building construction was funded by private funds,” explained Buddy Rawley, Foundation Director. “The wave wall of glass can be seen taking shape on the front. We expect a late, first quarter finish to the building. Then the furnishings must be purchased.”

While the Health Sciences Building rises, demolition of the maintenance building is only weeks away; paperwork for demolition is processing. Maintenance personnel are moving into the new maintenance building on the opposite side of the campus where they are finding facilities that meet their 21<sup>st</sup>-Century requirements, something the buildings from the 1940s could no longer supply.

In the center of campus, near the Whittington W. Clement Learning Resources Center, another site awaits bulldozers. Rawley has been in Richmond meeting with the BCOM Committee, the reviewer for the Student Center plans. Final okay on the plans from the overseer and the committee are imminent with bids going out in late October or early November. Thirty days from the beginning of the bid process, bids will be opened. Once the low bidder on construction is established, the state commits the firm to a contract within a week; then construction begins at once. Groundbreaking for the new Student Center is expected before Christmas, hopefully in November.  
DCC Board meets in special session

## **Present, future buildings, rooms receive new names**

**Health Sciences** will no longer be referred to in these columns by that name. The building has been named Foundation Hall, a name approved by the DCC Board in special session in recognition of the Danville Regional Foundation's \$9.7 million award, one of the largest gifts to a community college in the state.

**Dr. Carlyle Ramsey, DCC president, explained,** "This is the largest single gift ever received by the college. We want to recognize the generosity of the Danville Regional Foundation in providing DCC with the opportunity to expand educational access in allied health careers; strengthen the area's workforce; assist with economic development; and partner in community development to improve health care services for all citizens."

The auditorium housed in Foundation Hall was named the Herbert R. Silverman, M.D. Auditorium in honor of the late Dr. Silverman, a Danville native and longtime general surgeon as well as medical educator and mentor to interns in urology.

October 7, 2008, an 11 a.m. ceremony was held changing the name of the Estelle H. Womack Museum of Natural History to the Estelle H. Womack Hall. The History of Danville Community College contains a chapter section with multiple pictures showing the museum's moving in of its previous natural history collection which was moved in 2006 to the Danville Science Center. The museum was a generous gift in 1986 by Charles Womack in memory of his wife, Estelle.

In the September *Link* edition, we reported that the facility had been renovated with health equipment for use by faculty and staff and for eventual use by DCC's allied health programs through a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission.

DCC's library, part of the Whittington W. Clement Learning Resources Center was named for Mary Morton Barksdale, the college's first head of library services. Previous to the grant from the Danville Regional Foundation, Barksdale's bequest to the college upon her death was the largest monetary gift the college had received. Part of the bequest continued scholarships established before Barksdale's death including a study abroad award in honor of former DCC history professor Kinney Rorrer. Barksdale also left in her bequest funds to establish an college archive and publish a college history.

Two retired professors were honored for their contributions to Danville Technical Institute and Danville Community College with rooms named to indicate their outstanding influence in their instructional fields. The Wyatt Building houses the lab honoring George D. Rogers which was named the George D. Rogers Computer-Aided Drafting and Design Lab. The Hawkins Engineering and Industrial Technology Building houses the lab honoring James Meissner which is named the James R. Meissner Precision Machining Technology Lab.

## **Swedwood locates in Danville; hires from DCC trainees in manufacturing; BBC news covers area employer**

**Training** for many of Swedwood's manufacturing technology employees begins at Danville Community College. At a time when Americans believe all jobs are outsourced from the USA, Swedwood, a Swedish firm, is in the process of expanding its workforce at its plant in Danville. A producer of Ikea furniture, Swedwood is one of DCC's Regional Center for Applied Technology and Training (RCATT) employers which consistently hires trainees certified from the training center or from other DCC curriculums. The British Broadcasting System (BBC) recently covered the transition of a Swedish firm to Southside Virginia. Follow the link to see how and why Swedwood chose Danville for relocation and was featured throughout Europe and the USA on the BBC.  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/world\\_news\\_america/7613388.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/world_news_america/7613388.stm)

## **Alumni News**

### **Class Reunion 1963 Auto Mechanics Class returns to Danville; tours facilities**

**Danville Technical Institute's 1963 graduates** from the auto mechanics curriculum gathered September 27 to renew friendships and remember the institution which started them on the road to success. Eleven of the original fifteen class members accompanied by spouses converged on Danville from towns across Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia for a reunion in a very different locality from the one they remembered from 45 years earlier.

**The eleven included Kenneth Latchum, Danville, Virginia;** Jimmy Mika, Disputanta, Virginia; Garland Hall, Stuart, Virginia; Tennis Weeks, Floyd, Virginia; Bobby Wallace, Pinetown, North Carolina; Pen Grove, Luray, Virginia; Jimmy Tomko, Disputanta, Virginia; Edward Caviness, Danville, Virginia; Jay Bryant, Buckhannon, West Virginia; Harold Johnson, Lanexa, Virginia; and Bill Watson, Cary, North Carolina.

**When the students arrived at DTI in the early 1960s,** they were dormitory students in the gothic structure known as The Castle, housed on the second and third floors. Those from beyond the city limits stayed throughout the weekends in their class building, which was demolished in the late 70s. Among the returnees, no one remembered Riverside Drive as anything but a name, nor had anyone imagined a campus now housing eight buildings and rapidly growing to eleven in the next two years. Today Riverside Drive is a major east-west thoroughfare bordered on both sides with hotels, restaurants and thriving businesses.

**Kenneth Latchum, one of two Danville class members,** drew the group together after much research through notes placed in newspapers and through Internet searches. Latchum explained that the process isn't impossible, "Within one day of placing a question in a column of a city newspaper, I had a telephone call from a friend of my classmate's son."

**After initial communication with all but one class member**, Latchum contacted the Danville Community College Alumni Coordinator for further help. But the final individual's location remains a mystery after Latchum making contacts with individuals with his same name, Gene Morgan, throughout the United States.

**At the beginning of the reunion, Buddy Rawley**, DCC Foundation Director and Danville City Council member, explained how dramatically the DCC campus has changed. He explained the ongoing building program, which they would see on an afternoon tour of the campus along with seeing the new auto mechanics building and its auto technology. Marie Harris, DCC Alumni Coordinator, explained the background and present programs for the DCC Alumni Association and how to become involved with the new Alumni web site and other initiatives.

**Class members heard from Bud Comer, DCC's auto mechanics instructor** who began teaching at DTI in 1950, that Danville Community College was formed in 1966 by act of the Virginia General Assembly with Danville Technical Institute opening in July of that year as DCC. Two years later, the local branch of Virginia Polytechnic Institute merged with the new college adding Arts and Sciences and Business Departments to the technology offerings in the new community college.

**Pen Grove, one of the attendees, said**, "There's no way in the world I could have been so successful without the training from teachers at DTI who taught me how machinery works." Grove went on to work as a director of maintenance for a freight company, an entrepreneur opening his own successful repair service and then being hired by a restoration shop because of his expertise in all auto mechanical areas. He still works in restoration.

**Jay Bryant from Buchanan, West Virginia**, didn't realize that he was learning more than just auto mechanics while at DTI until years later when he began a career teaching auto mechanics at the regional technical high school in Buckhannon. "I was hired when the instructor died suddenly. I had no background in instruction, so I relied a lot on the methods from my days at DTI that I saw instructors use. Once toward the end of my two years, I had been spending time staying out late, so I was really sleepy during class. I passed all tests with A's, but my grade at the end of the semester was a C. I asked Mr. Comer why and he said 'no evidence of class participation,' so I tell that story to my students and they get the message quickly."

**Class members had all started using their training** in auto mechanics when they graduated from Danville Technical Institute but within a few years, many had taken that training into other professions including management at Goodyear Tire and Rubber, maintenance in the Air Force, maintenance of golf carts for campgrounds and golf courses, auto dealerships, glass manufacturers, DuPont Corporation, Sears and full service private auto shops.

**Many class members had restored vintage cars** including totally rebuilding the motors, others engaged in racing go carts and in competing with drag strip cars. Three had attained pilot's licenses and had flown private planes for years. Edward Caviness, after

a career with Goodyear and 35 years involvement with Boy Scouts had received a call from the director of the food bank. So, part time he drives a truck and provides maintenance for the food bank. "I'll drive the truck and remain in scouting until the grandson goes through scouting, about four more years," he explained.

**Various classmates had served in branches of the armed forces.** One had served in Viet Nam, two in Korea, others in the National Guard.

**Danville Community College provided copies of *The History of Danville Community College*** for alumni to examine, provided materials explaining DCC today and provided individuals to guide the class members while on the campus. Danny Rakes, present Auto Mechanics instructor, attended the meeting and provided entrance to the auto mechanics area on the DCC campus along with explanations of areas the group toured.

Danville Community College provides all groups interested in reunions with directions and explanations of how to proceed on the reunion process, services DCC and its Alumni Office provide through the DCC Alumni Association. Reunion committee members can request that the college provide tours and guidance on procedures for arranging specific area explanations from instructors. DCC personnel always attend any reunion to which they are invited to provide news coverage and explain DCC's offerings and progress.

**Any individuals interested in developing a meeting of specific alumni or developing a full class reunion, should contact the Alumni Association at [alumni@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:alumni@dcc.vccs.edu) or 434.797.8499. The Alumni Association, Alumni Coordinator and Foundation Director will seek to help reunion committees in their efforts to contact fellow classmates and coordinate their reunions.**

## **Sheriff's office taps first female captain, DCC Graduate promotes law enforcement**

Altavista Journal, Altavista, Virginia By HEATHER RORER/Altavista Journal Staff Writer  
(Reporter permission for reprinting granted 10-21-08)

**She grew up surrounded by law enforcement** with the dream of becoming a teacher. That's until she started going on ride-alongs with her older brother who was a police officer.

Capt. Cindy R. Caldwell made her mark in Campbell County history Aug. 1 as the first female to be promoted to the rank of captain in the sheriff's department. "I am very proud of myself because I am a hard worker and very dedicated and loyal to this agency," said the 48-year-old Caldwell. "I truly hope that my promotion will show young females that women can advance in this profession and that it is a viable profession for women," she said.

The entire department is proud of Caldwell's accomplishment. "I have watched Cindy grow since the day she was hired here," said Sheriff Terry E. Gaddy. "I am very proud of her and expect great things from her. She has worked very hard to help the department be as professional as it is today," Gaddy said. "She compliments the department very well in this position."

Caldwell knew she wanted to become a police officer at the age of 16. She followed in the footsteps of her parents, Glenn Reynolds and Milcie Arnold. "My father was a captain of one of the prison camps when I was born and my mother was a justice of the peace," said Caldwell. "There were always troopers and officers in and out of our home because that is where my mother's office was."

Both of Caldwell's brothers, Gary and Arnie, went into law enforcement as well. Once she turned 16, she began riding with her brother Gary Reynolds, who was a Lynchburg police officer. "After riding with him, I said this is it, this is what I want to do with my life," said Caldwell.

"It didn't take long to figure out that law enforcement was what I not only wanted to do but had to do, almost like a calling," said Caldwell. "I didn't really give teaching another thought."

The 22-year veteran of the Campbell County Sheriff's Office started her career at the age of 19 as a deputy in Henry County. "I couldn't even buy my own ammunition. Back then, in 1979, you had to supply your own gun, ammunition and gun belt. My mother had to buy my ammo and my father bought me my gun," Caldwell said.

Caldwell graduated from Laurel Park High School in Martinsville and later earned her associate degree from Danville Community College and her bachelor's in sociology with a minor in law enforcement from Averett University.

"I like helping people," said Caldwell of going into law enforcement. "I truly believe that we are public servants." Caldwell stayed with the Henry County Sheriff's Office for two years and married a Lynchburg police officer in 1980, who had been a deputy there. At that point, no county agency in the area would hire a female. The Lynchburg Police Department was her only option. "I didn't want to go there because my brother and my husband were both officers there."

Caldwell went to work for the Virginia Department of Corrections at Camp 9 in Rustburg where she stayed until 1986 when she was hired in Campbell County. She started in courtroom security, doing transports and working the field.

In September 1988, she was named the county's second Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer. "That was definitely one of the most rewarding parts of my career, even today," said Caldwell, who was known as Deputy Brown at the time.

Caldwell taught the 17-week program to fifth graders across the county. Her dedication made a lasting impact on her students. It was like the best of both worlds for her since she had previously dreamed of becoming a teacher. "It was like heaven. I was able to combine the two things that I wanted to do. I was teaching as a law enforcement officer." She stayed in the position until January 1997.

"Then other day, one young man came in and saw me through the front office window and said, 'Hey, aren't you Deputy Brown? You taught me D.A.R.E. didn't you,'" said a smiling Caldwell. "Some of them still remember me and that makes me feel good."

Caldwell also worked on the Virginia State Police Training Team where she got to travel up and down the East Coast training D.A.R.E. officers. "I got to travel to most of the northern states like New Jersey, New York, Maine and Vermont," said Caldwell of the experience.

"Many moms used to tell me when I was teaching D.A.R.E. that they were glad their daughters were able to see me (a female) as a deputy and know that the career path was there for them if they so chose it," Caldwell said.

While working toward her master's degree, Caldwell suffered heartache in 1996, when her husband, Geoffrey Brown, passed away. "I stopped so that I could be with my son. That was much more important."

She later married a co-worker, Lt. Tony Caldwell, in 2001. He retired from the department after more than 32 years in October 2007. "I married my best friend and co-worker," said Caldwell.

In 1997, Caldwell became the county's first county enforcement officer, which at the time was a newly created position. "I dealt with junk cars, overgrown grass and weeds, and county ordinances," said Caldwell. "Trying to clean up the county.

She was promoted to sergeant on Nov. 1, 1998. It was then that Caldwell switched to the administrative division and took over crime prevention, Neighborhood Watch, school resource officers, the D.A.R.E. program and the accreditation process.

"The sheriff wanted to become accredited which meant rewriting the policy manual," said Caldwell. "It was a big undertaking. We have a big policy manual." Rewriting the manuals was something Caldwell had already been working on before it became one of her daily duties.

"It was a joint effort with the command staff," said Caldwell. "At the time, there were 187 standards that needed to be met; now there are 180. Then the polices had to be implemented and people trained in them."

Caldwell was promoted to lieutenant Jan. 1, 2004. "I kept the exact same job duties, but added grants," said Caldwell.

Caldwell has also been a negotiator since 1992. With her willingness to listen and calmly talk through situations, she has been lead negotiator for several years. "I have called quite a few people out. It has been a very rewarding part of my career. It takes someone who likes to not only talk, but be a good listener."

The only division that Caldwell has not worked in is investigations. Being promoted to captain of administrative services was more than a career move for her; it was an honor. "You feel like you are rewarded for your hard work," said Caldwell. "Someone recognizes that you are trying to do a good job."

Now Caldwell has 15 people working under her, including two lieutenants and two sergeants, making her division the second largest in the agency. "I will be in charge of evidence, civil process, court security, maintaining the fleet, training for the entire department, school resource programs, crime prevention, accreditation, grants and a few other areas," said Caldwell.

"She earned this position. It wasn't given to her," said Gaddy. "She was ready to fill the shoes as the division captain and has earned every bit of it."

"There is a lot of responsibility that goes with the position of division captain," said Gaddy. "She sees that the priorities and initiatives that we have set forth in the department are followed on a day-to-day basis."

When she is not in uniform, Caldwell enjoys spending time with her family. She is the proud mother of Bedford County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Brown. "I didn't want Chris to follow suit, but he followed in the footsteps of his mother, father, step-father and both uncles," said Caldwell.

She also has four grandchildren: Geoffrey Hunter Brown, Hayden Brown, Destiney Caldwell and Taylor Caldwell. "Hunter wants to be a deputy and is now 6 years old. Not sure if he'll go to Campbell County like me-maw or Bedford County like dad," said Caldwell.

Caldwell is a member of Bethany United Methodist Church, where she is active and teaches Sunday school. "I love my church," said Caldwell. "I am very active in my church."

Caldwell attributes her career path and much of the success she has seen to her faith and loving family. "I am proud of my family and the way my mom and dad raised me. They were public servants," said Caldwell. "I am very proud of my brothers and my son."

### **From Board Room to Math Classroom Former DCC Board Chairman: a lesson in caring, dedication**

**Jim Sutherland**, experiencing early retirement from C.M. Offray and Son, manufacturer of medical equipment and other items, involved in mission and disaster relief volunteerism, attended a Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History function five years ago. Gail Neal, DCC math instructor, was present. She approached him during the event with conversation about his present activities, then made a request for his help as a tutor in Title III, a five-year grant she was co-chairing at DCC, a college she knew Sutherland loved. "I said I'll get back with you. That was the last I thought about it. But she was persistent. She called. So I thought, 'I'll give it a try.'"

**Sutherland, who chaired the DCC Board for five of his six years of service** on the Board during the middle to late 1980s, knew he liked to teach and loved math, but didn't

know whether mentoring would be a route that would hold his attention or be worth the time. His work with students began. Attention held.

**He found he was engaged with students' needs emotionally**, especially the older students, as well as seeking to help them with their math frustrations. They were often afraid of trying in math. He learned in one-on-one conversations that they hated math, felt they couldn't survive the courses, but the program worked that was underway in Title III—its modules required mastery level attainment at each step.

**Sutherland became convinced that the pacing and the expectations worked.** So he told his students, "Leave your 'I can't do math' attitudes at the door; you can pick them up when you leave if you still want them; somebody in your early years embarrassed you over math and you decided you didn't like it, couldn't do it; I can show you that you can do math." He saw students begin to excel, to graduate, students who had been barely literate in math when they began the program. They finished the program, they finished college math classes with expertise, often making top grades.

**Then a new vision unfolded for Sutherland.** Energized by possibilities, by student concerns and student successes, he decided he needed to approach instruction from an educational perspective. Working with the full spectrum of ages from high school to middle age to approaching retirement, he wanted to know how to effectively reach all students even though he already had seen that the program was definitely developing math skills.

**That desire meant entering college himself while continuing to work** as a math tutor. "There were a lot of educational terms I constantly heard at DCC that I didn't understand. I felt the need to know how to teach; I had never taught in an educational institution even though math was always my favorite subject. I would work algebra problems in my spare time. I needed to know how to teach my skills effectively and correctly the first time I introduced a math concept."

**He enrolled in Liberty University, commuting to Lynchburg** as well as working through online classes for 15 months. "I didn't know how well I could do as an older student. Would I be able to keep up with the younger students? Yes, I learned I could keep up; I just had to study harder than younger students, but I had a business background; I had questions."

**Successful in the college classroom as a student, Sutherland found he held keys** for others while they held keys for him. The professors and the students often sought his explanation for how the material taught in the classroom was applied in the business context. In May 2007 he received his Master of Arts in Education degree. But for him the developmental student had become a challenge that had to be met.

**Because Liberty University did not offer a doctorate in Developmental Education**, he enrolled in Appalachian State's program at Boone, North Carolina, aiming toward an Educational Specialist Degree which would place him halfway toward his doctorate.

While a student at Appalachian, he was accepted in the Kellogg Institute, a very selective institute that has accepted not only Sutherland but Neal, Donald Pippin, and Laura Powell, all DCC instructors. The institute focuses on the developmental learner, a learner at the lower levels of achievement in math, English or composition.

**And while traveling to Appalachian's satellite campus at Hickory, North Carolina,** he became a full-time math instructor at Danville Community College. Sutherland commuted, used distance learning and stayed during the summer in a dormitory at Appalachian State. He is waiting for the announcement of which college in Texas will be granted permission this year to offer a doctorate in Developmental Education. He will enter that college in fall 2009.

**The basis for Sutherland's doctoral dissertation is the instructional method** being developed, redefined, and then modified in the five-year Title III program at DCC. Because the success rate has been so well documented at DCC, 13 math instructors from the Kellogg Institute will visit DCC to observe and seek answers for their programs based on the modules used locally. Those math modules, lasting four weeks, require a student to achieve a grade of 80 or above on numerous assessments throughout the modules. Students repeat the module or sections within the module if their scores do not reach 80.

**"The students are the reasons we are here. We can make a difference in people's** lives. We can convince them that they can do math. We can see them graduate. There's a great deal of pride in that. We see results—students who come to us who can't add two plus three—they end up doing algebra. The successes far outweigh the disappointments. That's why I would encourage older adults, retirees, to consider returning to the classroom," Sutherland concluded.

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**Online News Room:** <http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/News/index.html>  
**Be sure to check out DCC's latest News Releases**

### ***Check Career Opportunities on college web site; post resume***

Job postings in the Danville/Pittsylvania/Halifax region for alumni can be viewed at [http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/careercenter/Employers/Business-jobs/bus\\_jobs.html](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/careercenter/Employers/Business-jobs/bus_jobs.html). Other job postings, nationally and statewide through college career sites, can be accessed through the DCC Alumni web site. Register and post your resume for opportunities nationally and locally by going to [www.https://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/](http://www.https://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/) or go to the DCC home page at [www.dcc.vccs.edu](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu), select *Foundation/Alumni* from the menu on the left side of the page and choose *Alumni*.

Christy Yaple, DCC's director of Tech Prep and Career Placement, receives numerous requests for resumes from employers seeking candidates for job openings. To post a resume on the DCC home page site:

- Go to [www.dcc.vccs.edu](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu)
- Click on Student Services
- Click on Career Center
- Click on Student/Alumni tab
- Click on Submit a Resume
- Complete Resume Template
- Click Post Resume

*If you have any questions, contact Christy at [cyaple@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:cyaple@dcc.vccs.edu)*

## **Alumni web site offers connectivity: job, networking opportunities**

**If you have not registered to use the alumni web site** and its many opportunities for connecting and research, go to [www.https://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/](http://www.https://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/) or go to the DCC home page at [www.dcc.vccs.edu](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu), select *Alumni/Friends* from the menu on the top of the page and choose *Alumni*. The Alumni page will open and contains links to register and find other info.

We encourage you to spread the word to your friends from DCC about registering on the web site. The web site allows you to post information as well as access information.

You may also communicate with the Alumni Relations Coordinator at [alumni@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:alumni@dcc.vccs.edu) concerning services the office could seek and access for alumni. Such services can include specific classes or small seminars needed on specialized subjects, group travel rates, group insurance, week end meetings on special topics, reunions, etc.

**If you have needs or ideas, don't hesitate to send your comments and requests.**

## **Feedback?**

We hope you as a DCC, DTI or VPI-Danville alumni find information provided monthly from Danville Community College to be informative and helpful.

Comments, questions, requests concerning alumni operations or *The Link* can be directed to Marie Harris, alumni relations coordinator, at [alumni@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:alumni@dcc.vccs.edu)  
Registration Link