

# WCC Current

The Community Newsletter of Wytheville Community College

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Summer 2010

## Hightower named VP of Instruction at WCC

Dr. William H. Hightower, Jr. has been named WCC's Vice President of Instruction and Student Development. He replaces Dr. Ron Proffitt, who left WCC to become President of Virginia Highlands Community College.

Hightower, a former instructor and Dean of Instruction at Southside Virginia Community College, comes to WCC from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Office where he had served as Director of Educational Programs since 2006. Prior to joining the full-time faculty of Southside Virginia Community College in 1992, Hightower was an engineering designer for Future Developments, Inc. in San Diego, CA.

He is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, where he earned his bachelor's degree in biology; The Ohio State University, where he earned

his master's degree in zoology; and Old Dominion University, where he earned his Ph.D. in community college leadership. Hightower has served on numerous advisory boards and task forces, including the Virginia Tech Engineering Education Advisory Board, the VCCS Developmental Math Redesign Team, the VCCS Sustainability Task Force, and the Virginia Rural Health Resource Center Advisory Board.



Hightower

## WCC joins National Junior College Athletic Association

WCC is stepping up in the world of intercollegiate athletics.

The college has joined Region 10 of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) for men's basketball and women's volleyball.

The NJCAA is the governing body of the intercollegiate athletics for two-year colleges. As such, its programs are designed to meet the unique needs of a diverse group of student athletes who come from both traditional and non-traditional backgrounds. The mission of the NJCAA is to foster a national program of athletic participation in an environment that supports equitable opportunities consistent with the educational objectives of member colleges.

Wytheville Community College has offered a variety of intramural sports during its nearly 50-year

history, which has included football, basketball, baseball, and others. More recently, however, the college's men's basketball and women's volleyball programs have come to the forefront as popular sports at the college.

"Membership in the National Junior College Athletic Association will give WCC's sports programs a big boost," said Michael McHone, the college's Dean of Student Success and Academic Advancement and its athletic director. "NJCAA membership will make it possible for WCC to recruit some of the best student-athletes in the region."

McHone added that through the NJCAA the col-

See NJCAA, Page 3



A large group of WCC retirees and their spouses gathered at the college for a luncheon.

## Retirees gather for annual luncheon at WCC

Wytheville Community College hosted its annual luncheon for retirees with about forty former faculty, staff, administrators, and their spouses in attendance. The event was held in Galax Hall.

Among the retirees in attendance were: Phyllis Ashworth, Tom Barnes, Betty Bear, Haskell Broyles, Joe and Lillian Bryant, Joe Cockram, Eric Collins, Louise Compton, John DiYorio, Kay Fleming, Bill Dixon, Darlene Frye, Harriett Guadino, Dan Jones, Maynard Joyce, Ron Larson, Larry Liddle, John and Betty Matheny, Richard Perkins, Carolyn Porterfield,

### Snyder Auditorium progressing

Phase II of the Snyder Auditorium Project is progressing well. The foundation and structural walls are complete, and brickwork has begun on the exterior. Installation of steel beams on the roof structure has also begun. The project was originally scheduled for completion at the end of September. However, two months of winter weather extended the estimated completion date to the end of November. A special dedication ceremony will be held when the project is completed.

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Charles and Anna Ray Roberts, Nancy Sauls, Lisa Simmerman, Bill Snyder, Pam Vile, Gloria Wessinger, Dick Willard, Joy Wood, and Bobby Wymer.

The event was sponsored by the WCC Educational Foundation. WCC President Charlie White welcomed the retirees on behalf of the college.



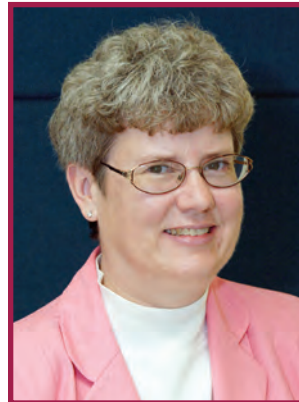
**WCC President Emeritus Bill Snyder (left) and current WCC President Charlie White were on hand recently for Carolyn S. Sanders' (seated) 80th birthday celebration held at the college. Many faculty, staff, and friends also attended the reception.**

## Catron-Wood promoted to Vice President at WCC

Dr. Rhonda K. Catron-Wood has been promoted to Vice President of College Development at Wytheville Community College.

Catron-Wood joined the faculty of WCC in 1990 as an English instructor and rose to the academic rank of Associate Professor before becoming Director of College Development for the Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc. in 1999.

“WCC is very pleased to recognize Dr. Catron-Wood with this promotion,” said Dr. Charlie White, President of the college. “Under her leadership, the WCC Educational Foundation undertook its first capital campaign—which raised more than \$3 million for the enhancement of academic programs and campus construction projects—as well as seeking scholarship funds for students from non-traditional sources outside



**Catron-Wood**

the college. Dr. Catron-Wood deserves this promotion to Vice President based on her considerable accomplishments and it is also very much in keeping with the emphasis on the importance of resource development by Chancellor Glenn DuBois of the Virginia Community College System as part of his ‘Achieve 2015’ initiative.”

In her capacity as the

administrative leader of the Foundation, Catron-Wood

**See Promotion, Page 8**

## •NJCAA

### Continued from Page 1

lege’s men’s basketball and women’s volleyball teams will be able to play a wider variety of teams and have an entire schedule of playoffs and championships open to them.



**The Wytheville Community College men’s basketball team is shown here playing the Oak Hill Academy “B” team last year at George Wythe High School.**

“The NJCAA is a class act,” added McHone. “You have to be a student athlete to participate and consequently, WCC’s decision to join was based as much on academic issues as it was on athletic issues.” McHone explained that the NJCAA requires games and matches be filmed and security must be provided for the events, which makes for a safer environment for the players.

Since WCC has joined Division III, a non-scholarship division of the NJCAA, the college may not offer athletes scholarships to play sports. “The athletes in these sports programs won’t be playing just to be playing,” said McHone. “They have to be full-time students who are meeting the academic standards of the college.”

Joining the National Junior College Athletic Association may even save on travel costs for the team, said McHone, since “WCC is closer to other Region 10 teams in Virginia and North Carolina than we are to, say, Northern Virginia Community College, which is a four-hour drive from Wytheville.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity for WCC,” said Dr. Charlie White, President. “We have some great talent among the student athletes who participate in our sports programs and NJCAA membership will really open some doors for them.”

The National Junior College Athletic Association was founded in 1938 in California, with its initial sports activities including track and field. In 1963, the NJCAA became a member of the United States Olympic Committee and was granted representation on the Board of Directors. In 1975, a major change occurred in the NJCAA’s structure with the approval of a women’s division. By 2007-08, the organization’s membership increased to a total of 523 member colleges.

## Dalton and Thompson appointed to WCC Board

Richard Dalton of Fancy Gap and Roger D. Thompson of Bland have been appointed to the WCC Board. Dalton represents Carroll County and replaces Carolyn Phillips, who has served on the College Board for the past four years. Thompson represents Bland County and replaces Clinton B. Kegley, who served on the board for the last eight years.

Dalton is a graduate of the University of Vermont, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in communications. He also earned a master's degree in applied linguistics from St. Michael's College in Vermont. He also attended the University of Michigan's Linguistics Institute.

Dalton's career has spanned diverse areas from higher education (he served as dean of students and faculty at Vermont Technical College); to journalism (he worked at the West Palm Beach Evening Times and White River Valley Herald); to corporate public relations (he has worked for several aerospace companies). He was an employee of The Boeing Company, having worked in the company's Government Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., and also in International Trade Communications and Air Traffic Management for Boeing. He also worked for Rolls-Royce, Rohr Inc. and Pratt and Whitney.

Dalton's community activities include volunteering at the Crossroads Institute and associated regional economic development agencies. He also serves as a Board Member of the Twin County United Way.

Roger D. Thompson, who was a member of the first graduating class at Wytheville Community College, was the principal of Bland High School for nearly 25 years. He was also a Bland High School teacher for a decade and served as the school's golf

and baseball coach. Additionally, Thompson has served as an adjunct biology instructor at WCC.

His community activities have included membership in Bland Masonic Lodge #206, the Bland Ruritan Club, the Bland Lions Club, and the Bland Democratic Party, having served eight terms as chairman of the latter organization. He is a member of the Bland Methodist Church.

Thompson earned his bachelor's degree in animal science from Virginia Tech and his master's degree in science education/administration from Radford University. He is married to the former Dolores Shockley and the couple has two children and two grandchildren. Thompson has been the owner/operator of his family's beef cattle farm in Bland County for 45 years.



**Dalton**



**Thompson**

### Upcoming Events

**Sept. 6**--WCC, the Library, the Bookstore, and the Child Dev. Center Closed for Labor Day.

**Sept. 17**--"Access WCC" radio program airs on WVBX, 95.3 FM, WWWJ, 1360 AM, and WHHV, 1400 AM.

**Sept. 18**--Bluegrass and Old-Time Jamboree, George Wythe High School Auditorium, 7 p.m.

# Magyar receives \$3,000 Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship to attend WCC

Samantha Magyar of Bland is this year's recipient of the Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship in honor of Counts Drug, Inc. The scholarship provides up to \$3,000 toward tuition, books, and fees at Wytheville Community College for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Students selected for the Commonwealth Legacy Scholarships have demonstrated academic excellence during high school, as well as a commitment to developing their leadership skills. They will become mentors to future Legacy scholars as they move through their academic programs.

Magyar graduated as valedictorian from Bland High School in June 2010. During high school, Magyar completed dual enrollment courses through Wytheville Community College and the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School. At Bland County High School, Magyar served as Vice President of the Senior Beta Club, and was an active member of the National Honor Society, the 4-H Club, Future Business Leaders of America, and FCCLA. She also served on the yearbook staff and the 2009 Prom Committee. Throughout her high school career, Magyar also held numerous class offices. She attended the Virginia High School League Leadership Conference in 2007.

Magyar plans to complete an Associate's Degree in General Studies at Wytheville Community College and then transfer to a four-year college or university, possibly to pursue a bachelor's degree in Marketing or Public Health.

The Commonwealth Legacy Scholars will be honored on November 16, 2010, in Charlottesville. "The Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program was established through the generosity of private donors to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE)," says Dr. Jennifer Sager Gentry, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement for the Virginia Community College System. "This program designates scholarship recipients who in each successive year will become mentors to a new class of Scholars – providing a legacy for years to come of community college graduates extending opportunity to future students. What better way to honor the history – and the future – of Virginia's community colleges and



**Pictured from left to right are: WCC President Charlie White, Reed Counts, Samantha Magyar, Bill Weisiger, and Dennis Counts. Reed Counts and Bill Weisiger are co-owners of Counts Drug, Inc. Dennis Counts is Vice President of Counts Drug, Inc.**

the students and families they serve."

This year's Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship at Wytheville Community College is given in honor of Counts Drug, Inc. Counts Drug was WCC's recipient of the "2010 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy."

"Counts Drug, Inc. is one of Wytheville Community College's most generous supporters," said Dr. Charlie White, WCC President. During the college's recent "Forging Futures Capital Campaign," Counts Drug, Inc., co-owned by Reed Counts and Bill Weisiger, made a major donation toward the William F. Snyder Auditorium Project. In addition to support of the Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, Reed Counts is a charter member of the WCC Concert Band, a community band that presents at least two annual community concerts and has performed in many local and regional venues. "We are extremely grateful to Counts Drug for its tremendous support of WCC, and we are pleased to be able to award the Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship in honor of Counts Drug to Ms. Magyar."

## WCC Alumni Gather for Picnic in Hillsville



WCC alumni, faculty, and staff gathered at the Carter Pines Picnic Shelter in Hillsville on July 30. At top left, Bill Reeves (Truck Driving instructor) and his wife, Sharon, are pictured with WCC graduate Terry Webb. Above, picnic attendees enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship at the shelter. Pictured at top right is the White Top Band, which provided music for the event. Below the photo of the band, WCC Board Member Mava Vass visits with Jim Branscome of Glen Allen, who was one of the original five instructors at WCC. At right, WCC President Charlie White presents roses to Mava Vass and Carolyn Alderman (left) for their assistance in planning the event. Additional alumni picnics are being planned for other areas of the WCC service region.

Wytheville Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or any other non-merit factors in admissions, access, treatment, or employment in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Crystal Cregger, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, 217 Bland Hall, 1000 East Main Street, Wytheville VA 24382, 276-223-4762. For further information, call 1-800-421-3481 for the address and phone number of the OCR enforcement office that serves your area.



Pictured above are (seated, left to right): Stacey Jones, Rita Klimas, Elaine Smith, Cynthia Kincer, Patsy Muncy, and Donna Buck; (standing, left to right) Martha Holder, Crystal Goad, Donald Linzey, Keith Costello, Gayle Lanter, George Mattis, Rhonda Catron-Wood, Denita Burnett, Colene Kilgore, and Julie Jackson-King. Not pictured is Sabrina Terry.

## Seventeen recognized for long service to WCC

Seventeen employees of Wytheville Community College were recently recognized for their years of continued service to WCC and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Recognized for five years of service were: Denita I. Burnett, Administrative and Office Specialist III; Julia S. Jackson-King, Assistant Professor, Physical Therapist Assistant Program; Colene Kilgore, Assistant Professor of Accounting; Cynthia J. Kincer, Instructor of Biology; Patsy B. Muncy, Assistant Professor of Nursing; and Sabrina J. Terry, Administrative and Office Specialist III.

Receiving ten-year awards were: Keith P. Costello, Professor of Computer Information Systems Technology; Martha M. Holder, Assistant Professor of English; Stacey R. Jones, Educational Support Specialist III; Rita S. Klimas, Associate Professor and Program Head, Nursing; and Elaine G. Smith, Assistant Professor and Program Head, Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting.

Receiving a fifteen-year award was Crystal J. Goad, Professor and Program Head, Practical Nursing.

Recognized for twenty years of service was Dr. Rhonda K. Catron-Wood, Vice President of College Development.

Receiving a twenty-five-year award were: Donna M. Buck, Administrative and Office Specialist II; and Donald W. Linzey, Professor of Biology.

Recognized with a thirty-year service award was George E. Mattis, Assistant Librarian.

Receiving a thirty-five-year award was Gayle U. Lanter, Library Specialist I.

## Truck Driving program graduates Smyth class

Wytheville Community College's Truck Driver Training Program held its summer graduation on Thursday, August 5, at the Smyth County Education Center in Atkins. Robbie Doyle, Wytheville Community College Board member representing Smyth County, served as graduation speaker.

Five students earned program completion certificates. They were Curtis Robbins, Ben Gullion, Jason Green, David Sheets, and Jeff Powers.

In order to complete the Truck Driver Training Program, students must successfully complete 18 credit hours of study while maintaining a "C" or better

## •Promotion

### Continued from Page 3

assisted with implementation of the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation Scholarship Program, a program that provides free tuition to all qualified residents of Wythe and Bland County students beginning with the class of 2007; coordinated annual fund campaigns averaging \$300,000; and assisted with successful grant applications totaling more than \$1.6 million.

Catron-Wood is a graduate of the 20/20 Rural Community College Leadership Academy (September 2007-July 2008). Her other professional activities include: member and past secretary, Virginia Organization of Resource Development; member, Council of Resource Development; member, Delta Kappa Gamma; Editorial Board member, Inquiry: The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges; and member, Assembly on the Literature and Culture of Appalachia.

Her community activities include membership in the Wytheville Rotary Club; chair of the Chautauqua Creative Writing Committee; past membership in the Galax-Carroll-Grayson Chamber of Commerce; and membership in West Galax United Methodist Church.

Catron-Wood earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in English from Radford University in 1987 and her Master of Arts in English from Radford University in 1989. She earned her Doctor of Education (Curriculum and Instruction) Degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in May of 2001. As a member of the WCC faculty, Catron-Wood received the NISOD award for teaching excellence in 1996 and 1998, and she was the recipient of the "Outstanding Faculty Award" in 1997 from the Virginia Community Colleges Association.



**Pictured above at the Smyth County Truck Driving graduation are: (row one, left to right): Mark Nuckolls, Assistant Instructor; Curtis Robbins; Bill Reeves, Instructor; and Ben Gullion. (Row two, left to right:) Mark Farmer, Assistant Instructor; Jason Green, David Sheets, and Jeff Powers.**

## •Graduation

### Continued from Page 7

average. In addition to achieving program completion, the students earned Entry-Level Driver certification and took their Commercial Driver's License certification administered by the Division of Motor Vehicles. All graduates passed certification and are now Class A Licensed Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators.

Jason Green received the Student Achievement Award. This award goes to the student who achieves the highest average grade in all five courses and maintains exceptional attendance.

For additional information on the program contact Bill Reeves at 276.744.4980 or [wcreevb@wcc.vccs.edu](mailto:wcreevb@wcc.vccs.edu).

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