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PATRICK HENRY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALUMNI NEWS

PHNews

Gala opening for the Walker Fine Arts/Student Center, 1991

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PHNews Volume 15 Spring 2012

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PHCC Celebrates 50 Years

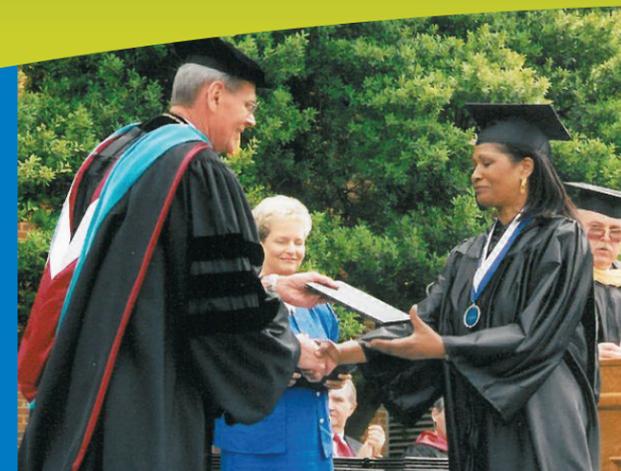
“Let’s get us a college!”

These words are immortal in the history of Patrick Henry Community College. They were spoken by local businessman Francis T. West to Senator William F. Stone in 1961, and they literally were the catalyst that formed PHCC as we know it today.

PHCC through the years. Throughout this newsletter, you will find photos and bits of information about PHCC’s past 50 years. Be sure to check out our anniversary pages on our website (www.ph.vccs.edu) and join us for an Open House on September 15, 2012.

1962:
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For 50 years, PHCC has had the same phone number!

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Leaving Home: Wingett to Retire from PHCC

By Johnny Buck

In the fall of 1978, gas cost 63 cents per gallon, *Grease* was popular in movie theatres and Dr. Max Wingett was the newly hired president of Patrick Henry Community College. The same year, Volkswagen was producing the last of its 20 million Beetle cars, and the Bee Gees’ “Staying Alive” dominated popular radio.

While most of those seem ancient history, one remains: Wingett still guides PHCC from the president’s office.

But that, too, is set to change. Wingett, who will turn 71 this summer, plans to retire June 30, making way for the third president in the school’s 50-year history.

The man who’s spent the past 34 years leading the area’s only community college sat down recently to discuss his time at PHCC. Read on for his take on how he came to Martinsville, the progress that’s been made by PHCC and the future of the school.

THE EARLY YEARS

Patrick Henry was founded in 1962 and operated as a two-year branch of the University of Virginia until 1971.

By the time the college was looking for its second president, PHCC had already joined the newly formed Virginia Community College System (VCCS). Then VCCS Chancellor Dr. Dana B. Hamel was looking for a president who would continue to mold PHCC into a true college for the community.

Chancellor Hamel wanted the next president to “make it a comprehensive community college, because being on the shirrtails of U.Va.,

it was simply a first-two-years-of-a-bachelor’s-degree program,” recalled Wingett. “We needed to implement some occupational and technical programs to make it a totally comprehensive community college. And that was my charge.”

A native of La Paz, Ind., Wingett had served four years as president at Southside Virginia Community College before coming to PHCC. He had a family in tow, and the strong reputation of Martinsville and Henry County’s public school systems were a big selling point.

Even so, Wingett didn’t arrive without a doubt or two.

“I came into it with my eyes wide open, but I wondered whether I could accomplish the task, because people were very upset,” he recalled. “Faculty didn’t trust administrators, so I had to overcome that. At first, I thought I’d give it five years and then move on, but I found a home.”

One of his first gestures – to remove the lockable gates that stood at PHCC’s entrance – has since found its place among the college’s most fabled events.

“I felt this was not a community college if you’re locking people out,” explained Wingett. “So the first thing I did was ask the maintenance crew to tear those gates down. We wanted to be welcoming to the community, not shutting them out. And we wanted to make sure that faculty had access to the building and their offices on weekends and nights, that sort of thing. Just open it up – that’s what it was all about.”

Over time, those types of gestures, as well as considerable time spent meeting with community and business leaders, began to pay off.

Please turn to page 2.



“I really did find a home.”

Wingett talks about how PHCC has grown during his tenure.

Wingett - from page 1.

“After three years, we were speaking to one another and having a good time, and things got better,” he said of the atmosphere between faculty, staff and the president’s office. “I really did find a home.

“Everybody was so friendly and easy to get along with. And the community itself welcomed my family. We just felt a part of it. It was a good place to raise your kids.”

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

It wasn’t long before Wingett began to turn his eye to the future. The college was adding technical and occupational programs, but the school still lacked a fundraising arm to help with the inevitable state-budget shortfalls.

When Wingett arrived, the school did have a scholarship fund, but he recognized the need for a different kind of financial assistance. In fact, he said the lack of a capital campaign fund was the biggest challenge he’s faced during his tenure.

“State funding, if you look over the years, is very cyclical. It’s up, then it’s down. It’s up, then it’s down. So I realized the need to have more stability in our revenue,” he said. “So I felt that it was very important that we raise money from the private sector to have an endowment.”

In 1981, the Patrick Henry Community College Educational Foundation was established. Its initial assets totaled just \$2,000, but by 2011, the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation, as it’s now called, had assets totaling \$12.5 million.

“It’s been a big success and helped us in down times significantly. It was very important to the institution, and we were the first community college in Virginia to establish a foundation,” said Wingett.

“The community has been very generous to the college. ...Two buildings have been built totally with private money, so add another \$5 million or so on top of that \$12 million. So we’ve been probably the most successful community college in private fundraising in the state,” he explained.

Wingett has also been a key player in the creation of the PHCC Motorsports program and the college’s National Junior College Athletic Association athletic programs, among other accomplishments.

“With motorsports, I saw that as being a very unique program. We have a race

track right here in town. The Southside area is motorsports all the way through, and I just felt there were jobs out there for the students. High-paying jobs,” he said. “We went into the business end of motorsports, the car-building end of motorsports and the engine-building part of motorsports so that you had three options, and it’s paid off. We’re going to have a building built (on campus) soon. I won’t be here when it’s finished. There will be other programs in there, but it will primarily be motorsports.”

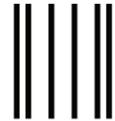
“The community has been very generous to the college...Two buildings have been built...”

Meanwhile, the athletic program has become a “capstone student activity” at PHCC, Wingett said.

During the 2011-12 school year, all four of PHCC’s athletic teams were ranked in the national top 25 at some point.

“We have about 125 full-time student-athletes now, and there will be more added when we get into soccer next year,” he said. “So I just thought it was very good for the college — good publicity for us. And it has simply brought students in from all parts of the state and surrounding states.”

Please turn to page 7.



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Wingett - from page 2

A LOOK AT THE PAST AND FUTURE

Since arriving at PHCC, Wingett has seen the college’s enrollment grow from 1,200 students to 3,500. He’s also witnessed a severe downturn in the local, state and national economies, though he feels the worst of that has passed.

Wingett said he’s most proud of the role he played in transitioning PHCC from a two-year branch of U.Va. to a fully functioning community college with more than 85 programs of study. His favorite part of the job is attending graduation ceremonies, where he gets to see the hard work of so many students rewarded with diplomas.

Wingett is very upbeat when discussing PHCC’s future. He said the college is well-positioned by its partnerships with the New College Institute and Old Dominion University, among others. He also said there’s a chance the state’s General Assembly may vote to allow community colleges such as PHCC to offer four-year bachelor’s degrees on site.

In his newfound spare time, Wingett plans to do more fishing and traveling with his wife. With four children and nine grandchildren, he’s also looking forward to spending additional time with his growing family.

When asked about advice he might offer to his successor, Wingett stressed the importance of community input.

“Be a good listener for the first part of your tenure,” he advised. “Don’t try to make sweeping changes until you’ve had a chance to listen to the people in the institution, because many of the folks that have been here, have been here a long time, and they have some good ideas. If changes are to be made, they need to lead them. But listening is so important — listen to what they have to say.”

The search for Wingett’s successor is currently under way. The college’s third president is expected to start the job in July.



Good Morning America visited PHCC in 1991.



PHNews is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement, Patrick Henry Community College, 645 Patriot Ave., Martinsville, Virginia 24112. Address your inquiries or comments to: Kris Landrum, Public Relations & Marketing Manager, at the address above or by calling (276) 656-0259, or e-mailing klandrum@ph.vccs.edu. Patrick Henry Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policy: Affirmative Action Coordinator, Francis T. West Hall, room 148, (276) 656-0212.

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A Little Nostalgia



Hanging out upstairs in the Learning Resource Center, 1971.



Fun and exercise: Flag football, 1983.



The PHCC Bookstore was basically a closet with a counter until 1991.



The Christmas Craft Fair was a holiday standard for many years.



Building trust in Dr. McIntosh's class, 1986.



DONOR NOTES

Smiths Earn Chancellor's Award for Philanthropy

Mystical Riders Donate Scholarships

The late Floyd and Marietta Smith of Martinsville have earned the 2012 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The Smiths were nominated for the award by the PHCC Foundation. The award was given at a luncheon ceremony at the Country Club of Virginia last month. Accepting on behalf of the Smiths were Katherine Shires, sister of the late Marietta Smith, and her husband, Edd Shires.

The PHCC Foundation was the recipient of a bequest of more than \$550,000 from the estate of Floyd Smith, who died in November of 2011 at the age of 96. His wife, Marietta Warren Smith, died in 2009 at the age of 92. The PHCC Foundation has used the bequest to establish the Floyd and Marietta Smith Memorial Fund for Internationalization Opportunities.

The Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy luncheon is hosted by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) to honor the leading philanthropists from each of Virginia's 23 community colleges as well as the statewide foundation. This marks the seventh year the awards have been given.

This year's class of distinguished philanthropy leaders has contributed a combined total of more than \$48 million to Virginia's Community Colleges.

The honored philanthropists will have a scholarship named after them, which will be awarded in the fall to a student attending their community college. The one-year scholarships are funded by Wells Fargo and Dominion. ■

PHCC Foundation Chairman Gary Collins accepts a donation from Steven Galloway on behalf of Mystical Riders Motorcycle Org.

A \$7,673 donation to PHCC by the Mystical Riders Motorcycle Organization will fund scholarships for students to attend college.

"We wanted to stay within our community; that was the focal point, being part of our community and making a difference in our community with our local college," said group President Steven Galloway. "Our struggling economy here in Martinsville and Henry County meant that we could really use some more support as far as scholarships, so students would have a better chance of getting their education." ■

Mystical Riders, a non-profit group, has donated to the fund since 2005. Ten scholarships of \$500 each have been awarded so far. Including this donation, the group has given more than \$12,400 to PHCC in the past six years.



The Mystical Riders group raised the money through several area fundraisers, most notably a yearly dance that drew members of more than 60 motorcycle organizations from the East Coast. The group is disbanding, however, and the donation equaled its remaining treasury balance.

Students applying for the \$500 scholarship, which is awarded twice each school year, must have a minimum 2.0 GPA, demonstrated financial need and a letter of recommendation from a PHCC faculty member. Applicants are also required to submit an essay titled "How to Improve Your Community." ■



PHCC Grad Keeps On Diggin' at NASCAR

By Kris Landrum

As Drew Ramsey reflects on how he got where he is today, he has a message to share: set goals, follow your dream, work hard, accept help, and don't let a little thing like a serious car accident derail you.

Now just 22 years old and a K&N Pro Series East Official with NASCAR, Ramsey claims he was "born racing." With an uncle and cousin who raced, he always wanted to be behind the wheel. As an adolescent, he and his dad started go-kart racing just for fun, and it soon morphed into competition.

"While other kids were hanging out at the mall, I was getting dirty behind the wheel of a go-kart," he said.

At age 12, he was advised by his father that if he wanted to continue, he would have to get his own sponsors. He did that by approaching family and friends and one day on a return trip from the WKA (World Karting Association) World Nationals in Daytona, he hit pay dirt. On the plane, a stranger noticed his WKA ball cap and struck up a conversation with Ramsey and his father. This stranger soon became a benefactor and over time supplied tires, a chassis, and even an engine to the

young driver. As Ramsey says, he was "beatin' and bangin' on a go-kart track" before he earned his driver's license.

Graduating from go-kart to race car, Ramsey logged some time in 2008 and 2009 as a crew member with Taylor Brothers Motorsports out of Madison, Virginia. In that job he worked with tires, race car preparation and repair in the shop, and other common race track duties.

But racing is extremely competitive, and Ramsey opted next to enroll in general education courses with an eye to go into the emergency medical services program at Central Virginia Community College (CVCC). Recognizing that his heart was really on the track instead of the back of an ambulance, Ramsey gave up his seat in the paramedic classroom and instead enrolled at the University of Northwestern Ohio in the High Performance Engine program.

Unused to the frigid temperatures and all the snow, Ramsey soon discovered that he would have to take regular mechanic classes for one year before he was ever allowed to touch a race car. That's when a family friend said, "Why aren't you at Patrick Henry Community College in

Martinsville? They work on NASCAR Late Models and are right beside a truck series team. That's where you need to be."

After learning about PHCC's pull-down rig, shock dynameters and telemetry system, Ramsey determined that PHCC was where he could learn more about the technical set-up aspect of the race car and expand his knowledge.

He enrolled in PHCC's motorsports program in fall 2009, and because his instructor Talmage Thomas knew about his past experience with Taylor Brothers, he was turning wrenches on a brand-new race car on his first day.

In the second year of the program, students study under Lou LaRosa, known in racing circles for his work as engine builder for Dale Earnhardt and Cale Yarborough.

Racing engines were new to Ramsey, and he would come out of class each night with a headache. LaRosa made the students think so much they would be "steaming," Ramsey said, but he is proud to be able to say that Lou LaRosa taught him everything he knows about a racing engine.

Please turn to page 5.

A Little History

PHCC is one of 23 community colleges in Virginia. It was founded in 1962 as a two-year branch of the University of Virginia's School of General Studies and became an autonomous two-year college of the university two years later. The college enrolled its first students in the old Northside Elementary School in Martinsville and moved to its present campus in 1969 with the completion of the administration building.



The Learning Resource Center was completed in the spring of 1971, and the college became part of the Virginia Community College System on July 1, 1971. William F. Stone Hall, the health, physical education and wellness center, was completed in the spring of 1974 and dedicated to the memory of the late Senator William F. Stone.



In 1985, A. L. Philpott Hall was completed in order to better serve growing programs to train a competent workforce. An addition was completed in the fall of 1995.



The Walker Fine Arts/Student Center was completed in 1990 and dedicated to the memory of Robert Lee Walker and Samuel Stanhope Walker. In 1999, the administration building was named Francis T. West Hall, and the J. Burness Frith Economic Development Center was completed and dedicated to the memory of the late J. Burness Frith. Both West Hall and the Learning Resource Center have been recently renovated to update infrastructure and provide a student-centered learning environment.

In Memoriam

PHCC has attempted to acknowledge students, staff and alumni who passed away since the last issue of *PHNews*. We apologize if we have missed anyone.

- **Harry B. Byrd**, 9/28/11, Career Studies Certificate - General Business, 1990
- **Ruby S. Callaway**, 12/29/11, AAS - Information Systems Technology, 2005
- **Karen B. Case**, 12/16/11, AAS - Microcomputer Specialist, 1999
- **David T. Coleman**, 9/4/11, AA/S - General Studies, 2007; AA/S - Business Administration, 2010
- **Gary W. Draper**, 9/16/11, AAS - Management, Career Studies Certificates - Computer Machine Operation & General Business, 1982
- **Sandra M. Estes**, 10/10/11, AAS - Nursing, 1990
- **John R. Everett**, 9/7/11, AA/S - General Studies, 2005
- **Barbara M. Ferguson**, 7/14/11, Career Studies Certificate - Nurse Aide Training, 2008
- **Diana Goodhart**, 12/10/11, Professor of English, 1971-2001
- **Michael C. Hodges**, 8/2/11, Career Studies Certificates - Residential, Commercial, Industrial Electrician; Industrial Controls; Industrial Maintenance Electrician, 2001; AAS - Industrial Electronics Technology, 2008
- **Janice M. Huppert**, September 11, 2011, AA/S - Business Administration, 1975
- **George Marlowe**, 4/17/12, PHCC Maintenance, 2000-2012
- **Gary D. McKenzie**, 11/3/11, Career Studies Certificate - Microcomputer Application Technician, 2003
- **Bruce W. McKinney**, 10/2/11, AAS - Information Systems Technology, 2001
- **David L. Ross**, 2/29/12, AAS - Motorsports Technology, 2009
- **Gregory C. Secret**, 2/17/12, AAS - Management, 2010
- **Regina B. Stowe**, 4/3/12, Career Studies Certificate - Medical Transcription, 2004; Certificate - Clerical Studies, Career Studies Certificate - Office Assisting, 2005; AAS - Medical Office, 2006
- **David A. Swanson**, 10/28/11, AAS - Management, 1991
- **Sharon L. West**, 2/14/12, Certificate - Clerical Studies, 1993; AAS - Office Systems Technology, 1994
- **Charles D. Williams**, 3/1/12, Career Studies Certificate - Welding; 1990
- **Nancy E. Wood**, 9/30/11, Certificate - General Business, 1994; AAS - Management, 1995
- **Claudine Woody**, 12/20/11, Certificate - Early Childhood Education, 1994



1978

Debra Harold Stowe of Jamestown, NC (Associate of Applied Science in Nursing) continued her education, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1994 from Gardner-Webb University. She is certified as a CNRN and is employed by Cone Health in Greensboro, NC.

1987

Barbara A. Helmick of Axton (Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology - Management) earned a Bachelor of Science in Management through Averett University's ACE program. She is retired from Pittsylvania County as a CPMP Administrator and now works part-time as a grant writer for the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Her daughter, Dawn Helmick McCrickard, graduated from PHCC in 1989 and is attending Averett's program through New College Institute. Her son, Dan, earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Virginia Tech and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.

2000

Patsy H. Baliles of Stuart (Associate of Arts and Science in General Studies) earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Gardner-Webb University with a Teacher's Licensure, ESL endorsement. She works as a substitute teacher for Henry County Schools. Her son, Benji Baliles, earned a Master of Science in Education from Liberty University and is currently a teacher at Patrick County High School.

2009

Amanda Washburn of Martinsville (Associate of Arts and Science in General Studies) earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the College of William and Mary and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Human Services with a specialization in Marriage and Family Counseling through Liberty University.

Casey Washburn of Martinsville (Associate of Arts and Science in General Studies) earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the College of William and Mary and is currently pursuing a MAT in Elementary Education from Liberty University.

Jessica L. Alderman of Bassett (Associate of Arts and Science in Business Administration) continued her education, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration.

2010

Benjamin Anthony Amos of Vinton (Associate of Arts and Science in General Studies) presently attends Roanoke College, where he plays shortstop on the baseball team.



CLASS NOTES

Scan this QR Code with your smart phone and fill out the alumni survey! Or fill out the paper version on the last page of this newsletter.



Class Notes are compiled from information submitted by PHCC alumni.

2011 Lee Cohen Award Recipient

PHCC alumnus Lavoy Bray, Jr. ('77) has been named the 2011 Lee Cohen Member of the Year. Each year, the American Assembly for Men in Nursing Board of Directors bestows this award to a member who has made an exceptional contribution to the organization. This year the award was conferred to Bray, RN, M.Ed., at the 36th Annual AAMN Conference recently held in Lexington, Ky. Formerly known as Member of the Year, the award was renamed to honor the contributions and memory of AAMN's former President, Lee Cohen.

Bray holds the position of Dean of Quality Enhancement Services at Southside Regional Medical Center Professional Schools in Petersburg. He was a founding member and first President of the Central Virginia Chapter of the AAMN. He sits on the AAMN Board and serves as the national Chair of Membership and Chapter Committee. Bray, formerly a resident of Patrick County, currently resides in Chesterfield County with his family.

The purpose of the AAMN is to promote an avenue in which males in nursing can assemble together for mutual support, education, networking, advocacy, and the promotion of nursing as a profession for males.

Ramsey - from page 3

Just as he was getting a good start in the program, Ramsey – who had always wanted to be behind the wheel — fell asleep behind it on his way to class in his second semester. He woke up sitting in the middle of the road. He was airlifted out and en route to the hospital but couldn't help but worry: "Will I walk again? Live? My dream is shattered."

It turned out that his physical injuries were not as serious as he feared, although they did keep him bedridden and wheelchair-bound for some time. What didn't happen was the loss of classroom time, thanks to Thomas, who showed up at Ramsey's bedside to give him lesson plans he could work on from home.

"He kept saying, 'When are you coming back? We want ya, we need ya to come back'," Ramsey said. And so he did — wheelchair, crutches and all. It's not easy poking around in a race car from a wheelchair, and Ramsey's classmates offered lots of support, after dubbing him "Bootie Barker" after the Sprint Cup series crew chief in a wheelchair, and "Lieutenant Dan" after the character in the *Forrest Gump* movie.

"I couldn't have asked for a better place to be . . . to have that kind of thing happen, and to be fortunate

enough to come back. When I got back, I picked right up and kept diggin'."

Ramsey earned his Associate in Applied Science in Technical Studies - Motorsports Technology in May 2011. A friend of a friend who happened to be a NASCAR official suggested that he put his name in for a job at NASCAR. A bit skeptical ("What are my chances of

ever landing a job at NASCAR?"), Ramsey procrastinated for a few months until he was urged again to fill out an application.

When invited for an interview, Ramsey – who had never had a job interview before – found himself in a chance face-to-face encounter with Mike Helton, president of NASCAR, when he opened the door and wished him a good morning. "That was kind of an 'Oh boy' moment," Ramsey marvels.

After a series of interviews and multiple nerve-wracking trips in

ensuing months to the mailbox looking for a job offer, Ramsey finally landed his position in the K&N Pro Series. Working with the NASCAR family is a dream come true, he says. Not only is he employed by the largest sanctioning body of stock car racing in the United States, he gets to travel from track to track throughout the season, from March through November.

As for others who may be seeking a job in the racing industry – or following a dream of any kind, for that matter – Ramsey has this advice: Never give up. Always work harder than the next guy. Believe in yourself. Learn the work ethic.

These are things that Lou LaRosa taught him, he said, along with: "Always be doing something and never stand around with your hands in your pockets. If you are 15 minutes early, you are late."

And this from Drew himself: "Don't do only what's required. Work harder and exceed expectations. If you work your butt off, you can accomplish anything."



Faculty & Staff Focus

• Sabena Carter retired after 34 years of service to PHCC. She started working as a switchboard operator and finished her career as professor of business technology.

• Jean Wilson, coordinator of Alliance for Excellence at PHCC, was honored as the longest serving member of the Martinsville Planning Commission with 15 years of service.

• Scott Guebert, disability coordinator, was named Disability Services Person of the Year by the Association on Higher Education Disability.

• Bronte Miller, associate professor of developmental math, is one of six people in the nation to receive the



American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Teaching Excellence Award.

• Randy Ferguson and Kenny Webster won awards for the Public Relations office from the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations.

• Chris Parker was named Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

• Dr. Roderick Neal published a textbook through Pearson Learning Solutions: *Crime and Social Inequality: From the Lower Class to Prison*.

Alumni Donors

The following alumni have given to the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation during the 2011-2012 academic year. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges their generosity.

- Pamela J. Allen
- Stephen C. Brinegar
- Michael B. Bryant
- Carolyn Byrd
- Kara M. Carter-Hundley
- Patsy D. Chitwood
- Crystal H. Clowers
- Keith L. Coe
- Gary W. Collins
- Eldred Davis
- Betty W. Dooley
- Jody C. Duncan
- Madeline (Libby) R. Durham
- Dira N. Ensminger
- Gloria J. Foley
- Pamela V. Foley
- Robert W. Foster
- Elizabeth R. Frith
- Sharon C. Gilbert
- Joe N. Gravely
- Tammy W. Hampton
- Jackie D. Harris
- Thomas D. Hodges
- Lillian D. Holland
- Aaron D. Hughes
- Virginia B. Jessup
- Amanda D. Joyce
- Luke Joyce
- Bradford M. Kendrick
- Kristin M. Landrum
- Rebecca R. Lovell
- Diana H. Martin
- Letitia P. Martin
- Steven R. Martin
- Lula M. Massey
- Barry Nelson
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- Susan W. Shively
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- Roger L. Spencer
- Joyce C. Staples
- Gina L. Varner
- Stephanie R. Wagoner
- Elizabeth A. Wallace