

SPARE

SPRING 2017

a magazine for bluefield college alumni and friends



ALUMNI JOSH CLINE AND JUSTIN HAMM:

Finding Joy and Success in the
Mountain State | 12

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a word from the president



Dear Alumni and Friends:

We have concluded another successful academic year – our 95th – of broadening minds and deepening souls as we develop transformational servant leaders to impact the world. We began the year with one of the largest traditional student enrollments we have had in decades. Combined with our online learners, we were just shy of 900 students pursuing their educational aspirations within our Christ-centered learning community.

Students are always our focus, for they are the reason we exist. We held our breathes as we learned our softball team was involved in a vehicular accident and lifted prayers of thanksgiving when we learned no one was seriously injured. We later cheered them on as they competed for a championship title in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) World Series and celebrated their most successful season of 28 wins as they finished runner-up in the tournament. We are proud of the other sports teams that made it to NCCAA national tournaments – men’s soccer, women’s basketball, and baseball. All of our student athletes work hard to be successful in their athletic and academic endeavors.

Other students modeled servant leadership as they spent their spring break on mission in Panama, where they shared the Gospel with the Kunas, the largest indigenous group in Panama, and interacted with young believers in an effort to help disciple them. In addition to serving, the students grew in knowledge and faith as they gained an appreciation for the culture and people of Panama.

We also are focused on the learning needs of our students and the majors and degrees they need to be productive

and successful in the workplace. As a result, the college launched its second master’s degree program, the master of science in nursing. The new online master’s degree in nursing comes just five years after the college began a bachelor’s degree program in nursing (RN-to-BSN). Two other master’s degree programs are in development: one a master of business administration (MBA) and the other in biomedical sciences.

Coming this fall will be a new concentration in cybersecurity, along with plans to develop the program into a major within the next few years. Additionally, alumnus Spencer Wood (‘98), who is a sports performance improvement specialist whose clients include the likes of NCAA Final Four and Olympic teams, will be teaching sports psychology courses this fall, as well as a one-hour special topics course designed for future and current coaches to improve their coaching skills.

These are exciting days in the life of Bluefield College, and we give thanks to God for the opportunity we have each day to work with students and invest ourselves into their lives as we seek to help them live up to their full potential as servant leaders. Further, we give thanks to you for your involvement with, and investment in, our students and our collective mission of transforming lives!

Partnering with you in faithful service,

David W. Olive
President



Alumna Beth McMillion Craig Uses Teaching to Change Lives

Bluefield College alumna Beth McMillion Craig, a 1992 graduate of the BC teacher education program, is enjoying a very successful career in teaching. But it's the ways in which she's using her gifts and talents to serve students on mission in Ethiopia that are giving her the most fulfillment in life.

A four-year student-athlete and frequent member of the Academic Dean's List while studying at Bluefield College, Craig is a first grade teacher at Ecoff Elementary School in

Chester, Virginia, where she was named Teacher of the Year in 2011 and received an REB Award from the Community Foundation of Richmond, Virginia, for "teacher excellence" and "inspiring classroom performance."

"Beth is one of the most naturally gifted teachers I have ever worked with," said one of Craig's co-workers at Ecoff. "Students in her classroom believe they can achieve anything, because their teacher believes this."

Craig acquired that inspirational attitude, she said, in part through the lessons she learned from professors at Bluefield College. In addition to developing a passion to teach at Bluefield, she said BC professors taught her how to be professional, to have a strong work ethic, and to believe in what she was doing. Most of all, she said, they instilled in her a desire to use her teaching gifts in service to others.

"BC professors cared about me as a person first," said Craig, whose 24 years of teaching also includes stints at Dudley Primary School in Bluefield and Falling Creek Elementary School in Richmond. "I developed so many relationships with them, and they made sure I knew that they cared."

It's that same sense of caring and servant leadership that inspired Craig to use her teaching skills outside of



Alumna and teacher Beth McMillion Craig provides hope to children of Ethiopia through the teaching of English and reading comprehension, vital skills they need to continue to have access to schooling.



the traditional classroom on mission with students who need it most in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. The mission trips are sponsored by Project Hope, a non-profit organization started by the Cornerstone Assembly of God in North Chesterfield, Virginia, for the purpose of bringing practical aid and the Gospel to the community of Dire Dawa. One particular aid provided by Project Hope: the teaching of English and reading comprehension – directly in the center of Craig's wheelhouse of gifts – to Ethiopian children who wouldn't be able to continue schooling without such skills.

"Right at that moment my heart leaped out of my chest," said Craig recalling how she learned about being a part of the Project Hope mission. "My heart was pounding, and I just heard God saying, 'you, you, you.'"

In fact, Craig has now travelled twice to Ethiopia for summer Project Hope missions, serving children in the village of Gendetsfa. While there, her team's primary focus is to teach English as a second language as it is necessary for the Ethiopian students to be able to continue their schooling, which in turn greatly impacts their future.

"We held an English camp," she said. "Students must pass a written exam in English to continue beyond eighth grade. So, we taught grades six through eight English and reading comprehension skills."

In addition to teaching the students, Craig's team hosted professional development sessions for local teachers where they shared successful teaching styles and practices for the classroom. Throughout the whole process and in the face of great odds, she said she learned to trust God even in ways that didn't seem possible and that a teacher can teach with just a small amount of supplies,

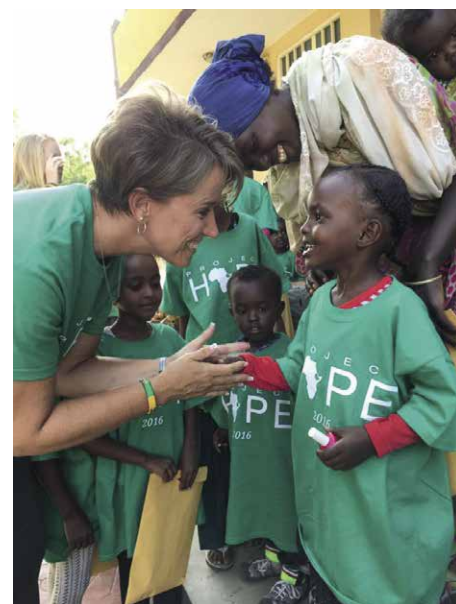
a classroom, and a barely useable chalkboard.

"Being in God's presence and seeing Him work on the front lines," Craig said was one of her favorite parts of the mission work. "It was miracle after miracle. I have never felt so close to Him. It was tangible. It is indescribable!"

Her love for what she does mixed with a love and desire to serve changed her life and forever changed the lives of those she teaches now at Ecoff and those she taught in Ethiopia.

"I learned more from those children than I taught them," said Craig. "I love those children. I love those families and teachers. My heart will be there forever."

Story by BC student marketing associate Whitney Browning.



Through her teaching mission trips abroad, alumna Beth McMillion Craig says she has developed a great love for the children of Ethiopia.

Students Use Spring Break to Serve on Mission in



In 1922, the Baptist General Association of Virginia founded Bluefield College in southwest Virginia with the hope that “young people who attend the institution be strengthened in their faith and trained for Christian service,” and that “earnest efforts be made by the school to bring the lost to Christ.”

Today, nearly a century later, Bluefield College remains committed to its relationship with the BGAV and the cause to advance God’s Kingdom, oftentimes demonstrated best in the mission efforts of BC students, including a Spring Break 2017 mission trip to the Central American country of Panama.

In fact, nine Bluefield College students, along with campus pastor Dr. Henry Clary, spent their Spring Break in March on mission in Panama in its northeast province of Kuna Yala serving and ministering to the indigenous people of the Kuna tribes.

Among the BC missionaries: seniors Whitney Browning, Rebekah Ivester and Gabrael Spencer; junior Ellen Johnson; sophomores Evan Abbey, Nicole Benedito, Allyson Carter and Sarah Westfall; and freshman Christalyn Doig. The team spent their time supporting the efforts of several churches in Kuna Yala, including First Kuna Baptist Church, Vista Alegre, and Nueva Antioquia Baptist Church. They worked alongside Kuna Baptist youth facilitating worship services and sharing their testimonies in the churches. They also participated in door-to-door ministry sharing their faith and distributing the Gospel of Mark to more than 100 households within two different Kuna reservations, where they also hosted Vacation Bible Schools.

“The most impactful part for me was doing street evangelism in the Kuna village,” said Carter. “We went out to share our stories of how Jesus has impacted our life, but one man in particular decided to share his story and was a great encouragement. He quoted scripture from memory, sharing how God’s power is made perfect in our weaknesses.”

Carter noted that the verse the man shared was a theme verse for her in the week leading up to the mission trip, “so it was neat that God would have this man recite that specific verse.” During the trip, Pastor Clary also preached five times at four different churches. The result of the team’s efforts: two rededications to Christ and six new professions of faith.

“The spiritual growth among the group during the week was palpable,” said Clary. “The first-hand contact between our students and believers in another country from a distinct people group was an occasion for both personal and spiritual growth.”

The mission team also spent time in public schools teaching English, playing games, singing songs and sharing the Gospel. Connecting with the Kuna children, they said, was an intricate part of their mission.

“The best part about the experience was spending time with the kids,” said Spencer. “I could not speak the same language as them, but just showing them that I cared about them was all they needed. They were so grateful to be able to play soccer and dance with us. Seeing their faces when we would walk into a room is something I will never forget.”

While ministering to the people of Kuna Yala, the BC team stayed on an island, where the men slept in hammocks in the church and the women in hammocks in a local pastor's house. There, they lived as the Kuna lived, sharing meals, taking boats from island to island, and learning about the Kuna lifestyle.

"It was a very humbling experience," said Spencer. "The Kuna people are so grateful for every breath they receive, every break of day they get to experience. They are not worried about what is going to be occurring in the next hour or next day or week. They are just grateful to be alive, living in a place that most United States citizens would not dare go."

The experience, the students said, provided them the opportunity to learn more about not only the Kuna culture, but also God and each other as they grew closer to one another throughout the week working toward the common goal of sharing the love of Christ. Each member of the team, they said, brought a different skill set to their ministry, and they were able to advance the kingdom of God, despite the language barrier.

"We were given so many opportunities to serve the Lord, develop and cultivate wonderful Christ-centered friendships, and really witness how big and inclusive the family of God really is," said Ivester. "It's kind of hard to grasp that God is the God of every person and every language, but truly seeing that in action, I don't think I could ever forget that."

And while the Spring Break mission trip is over, BC's work with the people of Kuna is not. Leaders of the association of Kuna Baptist churches have formed



The universal language of music and dance helped BC students overcome the language barrier to connect with the Kuna children.

a training institute to equip pastors, teachers and missionaries, and have asked visiting professors from Bluefield College to come alongside them to help train those leaders, which will begin first with Pastor Clary returning to lead short-term courses.

"I can honestly say that I experienced a new freedom in Christ while I was in Panama," said Johnson. "It is so easy to let the pressures and struggles of life tear you down and discourage you, but God offers an unexplainable peace through it all. God does not expect us to be perfect; he expects us to be willing. If we can take that first step, God will meet us where we are and use us even in our brokenness. It is through our weakness that God's strength shines through."

Story by BC student marketing associate Whitney Browning.



Kuna Baptist youth greet BC students as they begin their mission to share the Gospel in Panama.

Schalles Earns National Award for Community Service

Bluefield College seeks to graduate servant leaders who understand their life calling and transform the world. If alumnus Ryan Schalles is any evidence of that, then BC is doing a good job of fulfilling its mission.

In fact, Schalles, a 2002 BC graduate, was recently recognized by his employer, the Wendy's Corporation, with a community service award for his work with Always Believe, a non-profit foundation dedicated to creating a safe place for underserved and at-risk children of Charlotte, North Carolina, to learn and grow, primarily through the game of basketball.

Created by Muggsy Bogues – a former professional basketball player who enjoyed significant success in the game, despite being the shortest player to ever play in the NBA at 5'3" – Always Believe offers at-risk youth in the community the opportunity to be a part of Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball teams in order to develop and get exposure athletically and academically.

Schalles got involved with Always Believe through another part of his community service, Celebrities and Strikes, a fundraising bowling event designed to benefit the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Through his involvement with Celebrities and Strikes, he was invited to participate in Always Believe's annual basketball summer camp where he heard Bogues' story.

"Muggsy inspired me to continue to make a difference in our community," said Schalles, "and to appreciate a humble heart while holding leadership development, character building, mentoring, and team building to the highest standard."

Since joining the Always Believe cause, Schalles has helped the Bogues family plan several fundraisers. As part of his efforts, he invites local sports celebrities to give of their time to attend the fundraising events. He also assists with celebrity luncheons and with acquiring sponsorships for Always Believe fundraisers.

"I am blessed my company could support Muggsy and the Bogues family with Always Believe," said Schalles. "They are doing an excellent job changing children's lives one at a time."

In addition to planning fundraisers, Schalles gets to spend time with the youth who are a part of Always Believe, where he and others within the foundation teach the kids essential life lessons about character, leadership, and team building, all with the hope that the lessons will inspire the youth to reach their full potential as students and eventually adults.

"I believe our efforts are truly making a difference with at-risk youth," said Schalles, "because we are spending time with these individuals, which is needed so desperately to encourage positive behavior and to encourage growth and positive reinforcement. It is all about showing our at-risk youth that we care about them and they can reach their goals with determination and thinking outside the box."

Schalles credits Bluefield College for instilling in him the value of service. While a student at BC, he studied business management and exercise science. He was part of the Honors Program and a frequent member of the Dean's List. He was also a member of the men's varsity tennis and soccer teams and an active participant of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).



Alumnus Ryan Schalles (pictured right) says he is blessed to be able to work with former NBA great Muggsy Bogues (pictured left) in providing at-risk youth access to basketball camps and competitions that teach valuable life lessons.



Always Believe camps for at-risk youth offer lessons in more than just basketball. The clinics teach kids essential life lessons about character, leadership, and team building.

After Bluefield, Schalles worked as a general manager for Chick-fil-A for 11 years, where he said he was taught to be a steward in the restaurant business and developed an even greater appreciation for the idea of giving back to the community. He later worked as an operations specialist for Kentucky Fried Chicken and YUM Brands, where he assisted in training and conducting corporate inspections.

Today, he's a customer experience manager for Wendy's, Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he said he's grown to embrace the five core values of the company that founder Dave Thomas used as the foundation of their culture: "Quality is our recipe, just be nice, always do the right thing, profit is not a dirty word, and give something back to the communities that take care of us."

"Dave founded Wendy's with messages about quality and respect, and they continue to shape me as a professional and individual each day," said Schalles. "Since working at Wendy's

I have learned and adhere to Dave's motto of 'support the community that supports you as it makes good business sense, and it's also the right thing to do.'"

And for doing the right thing, giving back to his community and transforming the world, Schalles was recently recognized as a Community Ambassador by Wendy's. Each year, as part of its Community Ambassador Grant Program, Wendy's selects 10 exemplary employees from across the company family to receive the distinction in honor of their "extraordinary community service efforts." Schalles was among the most recent group recognized for going "above and beyond in their efforts to better their communities."

Schalles is in his fifth year with Wendy's and fourth year with Always Believe. He and his wife, Lindsay, have a daughter, Kenna Claire.

Story by BC student marketing associate Whitney Browning.

Alumna Hannah Morris Fulfills Her Calling in Alaska

Bluefield College prides itself on helping students understand and fulfill their calling. Take, for example, 2002 graduate Hannah Morris who participated in a series of mission trips to Alaska while a student at BC that changed her life and ultimately led to her calling to minister as a teacher at Grace Christian School in Anchorage, Alaska.

Morris came to Bluefield College as a transfer student in the fall of 2000. She studied elementary education, played basketball, served on the Baptist Student Union, led a Bible study, was selected for Homecoming Court, participated in mission trips to Poland and Brazil, and graduated cum laude as the senior student-athlete with the highest grade point average.

But, it was her summer trips to Alaska that left the greatest impression on Morris when considering her calling in life. She had served as a summer missionary in Alaska the year before she transferred to Bluefield, and the subsequent trips she took while a student at BC confirmed what God was calling her to be.

"It was during that summer God called me to ministry in Alaska," said Morris. "I returned to work with teens and kids in camps, VBS, missions, and refereeing

basketball each summer until I graduated. Two weeks after graduation in 2002, I moved to Alaska."

Sure of her calling and the preparation she received at BC, Morris began teaching at Grace Christian School in Anchorage. Still there today, she teaches third grade and coaches track and field, cross-country, volleyball, and basketball. She also mentors high school seniors who want to become teachers. And knowing the impact missions had on her life, she chaperones high school mission trips.

"The fact that it is a Christian school gives me freedom to share and discuss Christ and the Bible with my students on a daily basis," said Morris. "Our school is small and in a rather remote part of the nation, so there is a unique family-like feel to the environment and culture at Grace. I am blessed that God loved me enough to give me a job and a ministry in a place where my heart is full and I see Him working on a daily basis."

Outside of school, Morris participates in a church group study for educators, coaches basketball at the local YMCA, and plays on two local women's hockey teams where she mentors young women. She said she's thankful for the ways in which she's been able to develop and use her gifts throughout a range of

ministries that reflect Christ and challenge her personally and spiritually. She added that she wouldn't be able to do that without the efforts Bluefield College made in helping her understand and fulfill her calling.

"Bluefield College was instrumental in developing my self-confidence in the gifts and talents God has given me, particularly in the areas of education and athletics," said Morris. "At Bluefield, I was able to be actively involved in missions, Bible study, and mentoring relationships. Those activities prepared me to pour into my school's junior high and high school sports and missions events with confidence and ability."

Story by BC student marketing associate Whitney Browning.

Alumna Hannah Morris: from Lady Rams basketball and BC student-teaching to using her gifts to mentor and minister to students at Grace Christian School in Alaska.



Helping students fulfill their calling



Professor Bonny Dillon models servant leadership for Bluefield College students.

Professor Bonny Dillon Counsels Crisis Victims

Part of the Bluefield College mission is to develop transformational servant leaders, but that purpose is not demonstrated only with students and not just in the Bluefield community.

Just ask BC professor Bonny Dillon, who traveled to

Florida this past summer to use her counseling skills to help the families and friends of the victims of the mass shooting in Orlando, where 49 people were killed and 53 wounded in a terrorist attack/hate crime inside a nightclub.

In a true act of servant leadership, Dr. Dillon traveled to Orlando as a member of the American Red Cross Spiritual Response Team. A professor of psychology at Bluefield College, Dr. Dillon has an extensive background in counseling. She has academic and clinical training in both theology and psychology. She also carries the credentials of Board Certified Chaplain from the Association of Professional Chaplains and Board Certified Professional Counselor and Board Certified Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Clinician from the American Psychotherapy Association.

In addition, Dr. Dillon has been a member of the American Red Cross Spiritual Response Team (SRT) since 2007 when she first deployed to Blacksburg, Virginia, to assist with the aftermath of the campus shootings at Virginia Tech. She decided to respond to the Orlando incident based on her commitment to SRT and because she was aware that her previous experience with the Virginia Tech shootings would give her greater insight for the survivors of the Orlando tragedy.

"My primary area of service in Orlando was in the Family Assistance Center (FAC), which was set up in Camping World Stadium," said Dr. Dillon. "My specific duties included supportive conversation with FAC agency representatives, employees of the stadium, survivors, and family members."

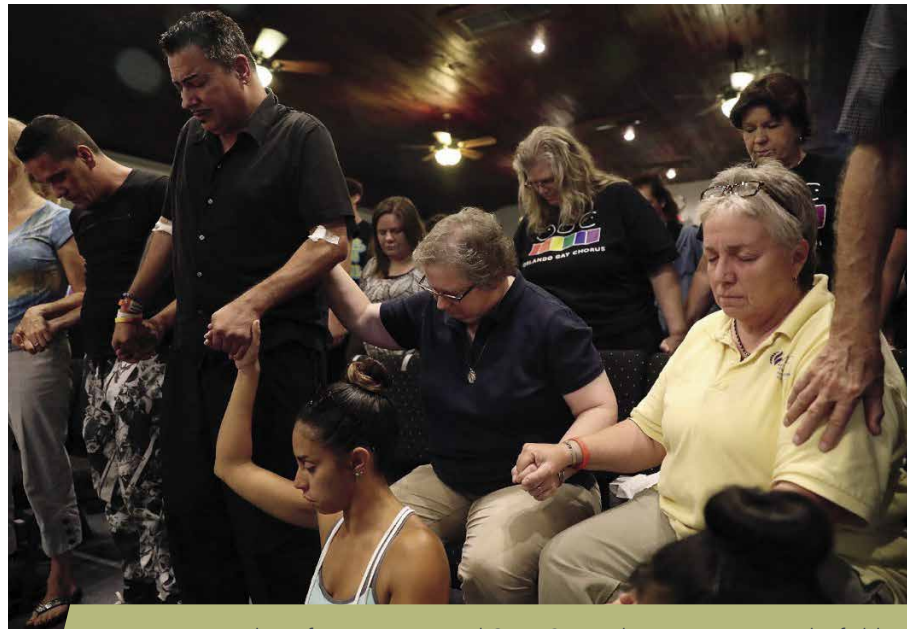
Dr. Dillon also provided ombudsman services to people navigating the complex array of agency booths in the Family Assistance Center. She helped provide a Red Cross presence at vigils and a benefit concert,

and she staffed the Red Cross booth in the Family Assistance Center, where she distributed blankets and tote bags and issued client assistance cards. At the end of the day, she played a key role in providing mental and spiritual health care through the services of the FAC to more than 750 individuals, representing 243 families.

"I came away from this experience with much more than I took to it," said Dr. Dillon. "I have a greater awe for the resilience of persons who have experienced disaster. Surely resilience is a God-given capability that goes beyond what can be learned or taught."

Dr. Dillon also said that those who came to know she was a Christian were moved by her compassionate response to such a disaster. She said she connected with people just by being there and by offering a person-to-person connection that is much needed after such a disaster. She said she could not have served in the ways in which she did without the prayers and support of her BC family. She described it as "a great comfort" to know that her Bluefield colleagues "had her back."

"I hope my actions conveyed the message of servant leadership," said Dr. Dillon, "better than any words I might say."



As a member of an American Red Cross Spiritual Response Team, Bluefield College's Dr. Bonny Dillon helped provide mental and spiritual health care to more than 750 individuals affected by the 2016 mass shooting in Orlando, Florida.



Bluefield College Grads LEADING THE WAY for GENERATION NEXT

Bluefield College takes pride in being able to offer students the opportunity to “know” and “be known.” Know the self-discovery that is nurtured when your professor becomes your mentor. Know the beauty of a Christ-centered community that encourages your passions. Know the excellence of a liberal arts education that lays the foundation for your life’s calling.

At the same time, be known by caring professors who want only to see you succeed. Be known as an engaged member of student organizations, sports teams or service activities. Be known by the difference you make and the contributions you provide as you fulfill your life’s calling after Bluefield College.

And it’s that last measure – to be known for the difference you make and the success and joy you achieve – that seems to be most evident in the lives of alumni Josh Cline (’09) and Justin Hamm (’01), two young BC graduates from Bluefield, West Virginia, who were recently recognized for service and leadership by *The State Journal* of West Virginia.

Cline, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, was inducted into *The State Journal*’s 2015 class of Generation Next: 40 Under 40, while Hamm, a successful entrepreneur, was named to the 2016 class of Generation Next, both for how well “known” they are in transforming the communities in which they live.

“The members of Generation Next: 40 Under 40 are people who have made commitments to West Virginia and the towns they call home,” said

Ann Ali, managing editor of *The State Journal*. “They are both native and adoptive West Virginians who are leaders in their own ways – whether it’s starting new businesses, pitching in to grow the family business, or volunteering time and talents to communities in every corner of West Virginia.”

The State Journal, a statewide weekly publication out of Charleston, West Virginia, that covers politics, business, law, government and more, has been recognizing and honoring young professionals from the Mountain State since 2006 – young men and women, the *Journal* says, “who prove every day that success and happiness can be found without leaving the state.” The yearly award, the editors say, was started as a way to annually highlight 40 people younger than age 40 “who are working and volunteering to make West Virginia a better place, amid rankings and statistics that try to paint a picture that does no justice to the talent and beauty tucked into the hills and mountains of the Mountain State.”

“The Generation Next winners show us the true Mountaineer spirit,” said Ali. “These are the people who wake up early and stay late, but still find the time to volunteer and give back.”

Cline gives back through his leadership with the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, an appointment he assumed in April of 2017 after serving the City of Bluefield, West Virginia, for four years as economic redevelopment director and later assistant city manager. All three of these positions, he said, have given him the opportunity to be known as a difference maker in his community and to work alongside the

"incredible people and organizations" of Greater Bluefield as together they seek to improve life in the area through commerce, healthcare, education, political work, and quality of life projects.

"I believe that life is good within this region, and we should celebrate it each day," said Cline. "A local business owner once told me that I was a 'Pollyanna.' A Pollyanna is someone who thinks good things will always happen and finds something good in everything. It is easy to be negative, be cynical, not get involved, and search for greener pastures in life. I think the world needs more Pollyannas, and my work allows me to be that for this region as I advocate for it."

A native of Tazewell County, Virginia, Cline also contributes to his alma mater, Bluefield College. After earning a bachelor's degree in business management from BC in 2009, he served the school one year as an advancement officer and three years as director of alumni relations. Now, he is a member of the BC Board of Trustees.

"I love Bluefield College for the people – the faculty and staff who invested in me when I was a student," said Cline. "They gave of themselves to educate me, make me a better person, and they truly cared about my growth as a unique individual. Lives are still being impacted and changed each day by the people of Bluefield College, and I want to be a part of that work."

Outside of his work and in the community, Cline is a member of the Rotary Club of Bluefield and the Improvement Council for Memorial Elementary School. He is also a deacon at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bluefield, all as part of his effort to be a difference maker.

"There is a desire among those of us that choose to live and work here that the existing, poor narrative describing life in West Virginia must change, because it is not always true," said Cline, who is currently pursuing a master's degree from Marshall University. "What is more exciting, though, is that this group of change-makers realizes it is within our power to change that narrative and write our own new storylines for West Virginia. I am proud to count myself as a part of this growing group of people."

A 2001 business administration and information technology graduate of Bluefield College, Hamm is becoming known as a leader of Generation Next as president and majority owner of Belt Tech in Bluefield, West Virginia, a conveyor belt vulcanizing company originally founded by his father, James Hamm, in 1981. In fact, after working first as a senior network administrator and then director of information services for Bluefield Regional Medical Center, Hamm joined the family business to save and revive it after the decline of the coal industry in southern West Virginia. The company is now growing and expanding as it services not only mining, but also aggregate and wood product industries with belting, belt installation and splicing services.

"This area is home, and instead of moving on I believed in staying here and investing here," said Hamm about his work with Belt Tech. "I decided to stay and help bring the family business back to profitability through process and operational improvements, market diversification, and by adding new lines of service."

A computer programming enthusiast, Hamm is also sole owner and president of HP Auto, a franchise license holder for Meineke Total Car Care Center in Bluefield. The HP Auto business, Hamm said, is part of an overall effort to redevelop a commercial block in Bluefield, owned by his father, and to provide service to an underserved market in the city. A certified project management professional, Hamm's work experience also includes a stint with the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

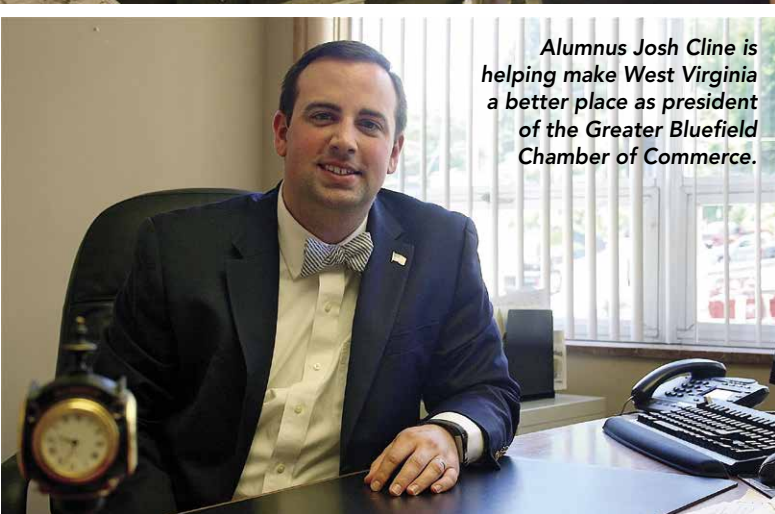
"I was on-site at a major mining complex when I received the call from *The State Journal*," said Hamm about receiving word of his Generation Next honor. "The induction was an unexpected honor, and I am not one for wanting attention. However, seeing my family's pride in my accomplishments was well worth any social anxieties of having the limelight."

A 2016 Bluefield College Distinguished Young Alumnus award recipient, Hamm also shares his time and talents in volunteer efforts to support the community. He is vice chair of the City of Bluefield's Planning Commission, where he recently worked with city officials to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for Bluefield. He is also a board member of the Bluefield Housing Authority and the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Rotary Club of Bluefield.

"I believe that if you have a talent in turning things around for the better, then you owe it to the Creator to lend your talent for a collective benefit," said Hamm, who also holds a master's degree in information systems from Marshall University. "The major problems of this region can be addressed with a consistent and prosperous economy. The only way to assist is to volunteer with local agencies that have a mission of economic development and diversifying this region's economy."



Alumnus Justin Hamm talks about the new services that are helping revive his family's business.



Alumnus Josh Cline is helping make West Virginia a better place as president of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce.

Professor Don Caudill Sees

Opportunity in Adversity

Bluefield College's New Opportunity School for Women (NOSW) is bringing newfound hope to disadvantaged women from Appalachia. In its fifth year of operation, the NOSW has helped dozens of women in poverty or some other financial or personal predicament confront their circumstances, overcome their conditions, and pave the way for a new and better life.

But, the New Opportunity School for Women could not function and the lives of these women would not have been changed without the support of NOSW donors like Dr. Donald W. Caudill.

"Don is a great example of service and mentorship," said Ruth Blankenship, vice president for advancement at Bluefield College and a member of the NOSW Board of Directors. "He's a strong Christian, a successful businessman, and a man of character.

He has a long history of supporting Bluefield College, and the New Opportunity School for Women is one of his most greatest passions."

A native of Norton, Virginia, who lived in Bluefield, Virginia, for 12 years, Dr. Caudill understands poverty, said Amanda Wood Williams, who worked with Dr. Caudill at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina, where he has taught since 2008. Born in the geographic center of the Appalachian Mountains to parents who worked long hours for minimum wage, Dr. Caudill was determined to be the first in his family to attend college.

"The only way out [of poverty] is education," said Dr. Caudill. "Because when you learn to do something, you can make money. You just have to be creative in how you apply your knowledge."

Having overcome obstacles to achieve success, himself, Dr. Don Caudill makes it possible for disadvantaged women from southwest Virginia to find hope through the New Opportunity School for Women at Bluefield College.



Dr. Caudill is also acquainted with adversity and adept at turning negatives into positives, quite similar to the mission of the New Opportunity School for Women at Bluefield College. For example, though he enjoyed academic success in high school, in addition to working afternoons and weekends at F.W. Woolworth's department store, as well as managing several entrepreneurial enterprises of his own, Dr. Caudill's guidance counselor discouraged him from pursuing a college preparatory track, placing him instead in vocational courses. Not letting that prevent him from pursuing his dream, Dr. Caudill took geometry and chemistry in place of his study halls and along with his general business vocational classes. The result: academic success, knowledge and skill in a variety of disciplines and the opportunity to attend college.

"This is typical Caudill style," said Williams. "He sees opportunity in adversity, and he is unafraid to go the extra mile to turn negative situations into successes." Much like the mission of the NOSW.

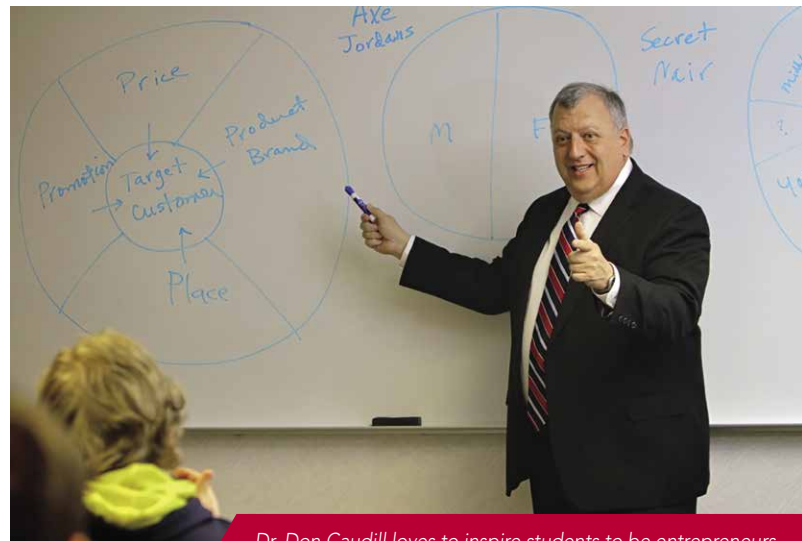
Dr. Caudill attended Berea College in Kentucky for his undergraduate degree. He went on to receive a master's degree in business administration from Morehead State University in Kentucky, a master's degree in marketing from the University of Memphis in Tennessee, and a doctorate from Virginia Tech. During his graduate studies he got the opportunity to teach, and while he always thought he'd be an entrepreneur, creating and growing businesses, he fell in love with working with students, and has been a teacher ever since.

He began his teaching career in 1981 as an instructor of marketing. From 2004 to 2008, he served as a professor of business at Bluefield College. He also chaired the organizational management and leadership portion of BC's adult degree completion program. In addition, he was faculty advisor for the school's chapters of Sigma Beta Delta, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE, now Enactus), and Phi Beta Lambda (PBL).

In addition to his commitment to educating students, Dr. Caudill has dedicated his life to giving, ever since he started tithing on his income from four businesses he operated as a teenager. In fact, in 2007 he established the Alfred and Shirley Wampler Caudill Scholarship Fund at Bluefield College in honor of his parents and in an effort to support adult education. While neither of his parents had more than an eighth-grade education, both held higher education in great esteem and made tremendous personal and financial sacrifices so that Dr. Caudill could earn a bachelor's degree (the first in many generations of his family), two master's degrees, and a doctorate.

"Mother's and Dad's sacrifices are honored," said Dr. Caudill. "It's totally about them. Every gift I make is given in honor of my parents, who taught me how to live."

He has also given gifts to Bluefield College in support of scholarships, communication students, and football, but most recently his passion is BC's New Opportunity School for Women.



Dr. Don Caudill loves to inspire students to be entrepreneurs and business leaders as a professor from 2004 to 2008 at Bluefield College and now at Gardner Webb University.

His gifts to the NOSW help allow the women who need the program most to attend for free. His generosity also helps provide day care for participants with children and allows the women to reside on campus for the program. In addition, Dr. Caudill is a member of the New Opportunity School's Advisory Council where he provides valuable insight and guidance for NOSW programming.

"I have been moved to tears by listening to the women speak about their lives before and after NOSW," said Dr. Caudill. "The return on investment is a dramatic improvement in the lives of NOSW participants. I am so very honored to support such a wonderful and life-changing program."

Dr. Caudill said his love for the New Opportunity School for Women developed not long after his sister graduated from the program at Berea College. Jane B. Stephenson founded the NOSW there in 1987 out of an urgent need to help women in Appalachia become better educated and employed. Designed to improve the educational, financial and personal circumstances of low-income, under-educated, middle-aged women in the Appalachian region, the NOSW expanded to a second site at Lees-McCrae College in North Carolina in 2005 and then to Bluefield College in 2013.

Now a professor of marketing and entrepreneurship at Gardner-Webb's Godbold School of Business, Dr. Caudill says that his success and his ability to give back is a direct result of not only his parents, but also God's guidance. Whether in the classroom or the community, his desire is to honor God and to make a difference.

"Every success I've ever had is by the grace of God," said Dr. Caudill. "Even if you only help one person, that's worth it. You can't put any kind of price on changing a life."

Excerpts provided by Amanda Wood Williams, owner of a marketing company in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bluefield College

You've seen the numbers; you've heard the reports: Americans are more burdened by student loan debt than ever before. In fact, seven out of 10 college students have accrued debt at an average of more than \$30,000 by graduation for a total of more than \$1.4 trillion nationwide.

In Virginia, six out of 10 college students graduate with debt, owing an average of about \$28,000 each. More than one million Virginia residents owe a combined \$30 billion in college loans. It's no wonder that amidst those harsh realities student debt has emerged as a prominent political issue, discussed often a year ago on the national scene by presidential candidates and the point of numerous bills introduced in the recent Virginia legislative session. In fact, Virginia lawmakers proposed nine student loan bills designed to provide relief and to protect students from overwhelming debt loads. All nine bills failed.

With the debt numbers climbing and no immediate relief in sight, Bluefield College is taking its own action to ease the debt burden for college graduates with a more generous approach to the awarding of financial aid and a unique half-price tuition program to students who can least afford higher education.

"The national discourse on higher education has been centered on concerns over the rising level of student debt, the rising costs of education, and whether the average American family can afford a college education," said President David Olive. "So we're responding with ways to help those who are desperately in need of an education to better their lives, but have little means to obtain their dreams."

For example, two years ago Bluefield launched a Pathways half-price tuition plan to "provide a 'pathway' to quality higher education for students from the lowest socio-economic level," said Dr. Olive. The plan, in essence, cut tuition in half for students who qualify for the federal Pell grant and live at home within 45 miles of the school. It also allowed these students to attend Bluefield with little to no direct out-of-pocket impact on their families.

"Due to stagnate and in some cases declining family income, students and their families from our region are struggling to afford a college education," said Dr. Olive, "but through the Pathways initiative we are doing all that we can to remain accessible to the students who can least afford the expense of a college education."

Thanks to Pathways, students in the program are projected to graduate with much less debt than the average college student. For example, students who qualify for the maximum Pell award and live in Virginia and qualify for the state's Tuition Assistance Grant could graduate with as little as \$20,000 in debt, which is much lower than the \$28,000 average for Virginia college graduates and the more than \$30,000 national average.

"Bluefield College recognizes there are families that desire a college education for their sons and daughters, yet they struggle to meet the financial obstacles," said Dr. Olive. "We want to make our quality higher education more affordable and accessible to those families and students. I can't imagine a better way to live out our Christian mission in serving the 'least of these' who live in our surrounding communities."

In addition, Bluefield is making an intentional effort to secure more institutional aid for its students and to award more financial aid dollars to an even greater number of students. In fact, 98 percent of Bluefield College students receive some form of financial aid, and the college awards an average of \$12,000 — more than half its annual tuition cost — to its students. The result of all these efforts: a college nationally recognized for its value and affordability and an average student debt load significantly lower than that of the average Virginia college graduate. At Bluefield, students overall are leaving with just more than an average of \$22,000 in debt, compared to the \$28,000 average for Virginia college graduates.

"As legislators, we have made many efforts to make higher education more accessible at our state institutions," said Will Morefield, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 3rd district in southwest Virginia. "It's exciting to see a private institution doing the same, because education is the key to our success. We're seeing a mass exodus of our young people in this area, and (Bluefield College) gives them the opportunity to get a quality education from a traditional university right here at home."

And Morefield is not the only one recognizing Bluefield's efforts. The college was just recently named among the top 50 Christian colleges in America for graduating students with low debt burden by Christian Universities Online, among the most affordable online colleges in America by College Choice, and among the nation's best values by *The Economist* magazine. And value and affordability are not the school's only distinctions as this past fall *U.S. News and World Report* listed Bluefield among its Top 50 Colleges in the South, the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) ranked Bluefield graduates among the highest earners in the state in its Wages Report for the Virginia Longitudinal Data System, *Virginia Living* magazine named Bluefield one of the top colleges in Virginia, and the American Council of Trustees and Alumni designated Bluefield as one of just 22 colleges nationwide to receive an "A" rating for quality core curriculum.

"Perhaps more than ever before, education is key to enabling upward mobility in the workforce and producing an informed and engaged citizen," said Dr. Olive. "We are working hard to ensure students and their families have access to an affordable, values-driven education, and we will continue to do so in an effort to impact and transform as many lives as possible."

takes action

to **EASE** student

PERT





One hundred thirty-seven Bluefield College seniors accepted diplomas, May 6, during the school's 95th Annual Spring Commencement, which featured remarks from two distinguished graduates: Breanna Buterakos, a traditional English major from Bluefield, Virginia, and Amanda Heller, an online School of Education graduate student from Chesapeake, Virginia. The program also included a keynote address from Dr. John Yo Han Kim, pastor of Riverside Community Church in South Korea and station manager for the Far East Broadcasting Company. For complete coverage of Spring Commencement, including dozens of photos, speech audio clips and a list of graduates, visit bluefield.edu/spring17grads.



The Lady Rams softball team enjoyed its most successful season in school history, despite an unsettling auto accident near the end of the year. Returning from a doubleheader against Union College in Kentucky, one of the two vans transporting team members was struck by a truck. Nine players, an athletic trainer and head coach Shelley Newton were taken to a nearby hospital and treated for injuries, but all were released and later recovered to complete the historic season, which included a school record 28 wins, a National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Mid-east Regional Championship, and a runner-up finish in the NCCAA World Series. Read more at bluefield.edu/softball.



It was a great day for Bluefield College baseball, April 29, as former Rams baseball players returned to campus for an Alumni Baseball Reunion while current Rams took on nationally ranked Tennessee Wesleyan University at Bowen Field. Alumni, including many from the Glory Days of athletics (pictured), enjoyed a luncheon, games, prizes and lots of reminiscing as they watched the Rams secure an exciting come-from-behind 7-5 win over the Bulldogs. It was also Senior Day, and after the game head coach Mike White was recognized for his service and success with the team. View photos from the day at bluefield.edu/baseballreunion.



Bluefield College vice president for enrollment management Trent Argo passed away unexpectedly, April 24. Argo joined BC in 2011 and quickly grew enrollment four consecutive years to the second largest student population in school history in 2014. In 2015, in an effort to make Bluefield College more accessible to families, he spearheaded the creation of the Pathways tuition plan, which reduced tuition by nearly 50 percent for students at the lowest socio-economic level. Argo was 55 years of age. Help preserve his legacy with a gift to the Trent Argo Scholarship for International Students at bluefield.edu/argoscholarship.



It's a tradition like none other. It's Bluefield College's Mug Pig Day, and for the 39th year in a row, BC students took time out from classes and books to unwind and relax as they celebrated the culmination of another academic year, April 27, with the time-honored activities of Mud Pig Day. This year's event featured the ever-popular mud pit, the greasy waterslide (pictured), inflatable games, a mechanical bull, corn hole, a barbecue picnic, a lip sync competition, a bonfire, and another year of unforgettable memories for students. View dozens of photos from Mud Pig Day at bluefield.edu/mudpigday17.



The BC Board of Trustees gathered, April 21, for its annual spring meetings, and during the two-day session the group discussed the feasibility of a new capital campaign, named Gordon Grimes ('94) chair of the Board, elected new trustee David Kirk ('90), re-elected trustees Mike Harris ('97) and Chris Lawson ('01), approved faculty promotions for Charles Reese and Dr. Irene Rieger, and approved a preliminary budget for 2017-'18, which included new funds for cyber security faculty, wrestling and lacrosse coaches, and campus upgrades. During a fall 2016 session, the Board elected new trustee Terri Cole ('85) and recognized the longtime service of outgoing trustees Dr. David Bailey ('60) and Becky Beckett (both pictured).



For several weeks in March and April, 17 current Bluefield College students telephoned more than 3,000 former BC students soliciting gifts for the BC Fund for Scholarships, and as a result of their efforts nearly 350 alumni gave nearly \$36,000 in gifts and pledges to the school's 2017 Phonathon, a vital source of financial aid for BC students. If you missed the opportunity to give to this year's Phonathon, you can still contribute to help the college not only grow the BC Fund for Scholarships, but also increase its alumni giving rate from a year ago. Give now at bluefield.edu/phonathon17.



During a press conference on campus in January, the college welcomed Dewey Lusk as its new head football coach, the school's 10th coach overall and third since reviving the football program in 2012. Lusk comes to Bluefield from Webber International University in Florida where he served as offensive coordinator. From 2011 to 2015, he was head coach at the University of Virginia at Wise after serving the Cavaliers for five years as offensive coordinator. He also served as an offensive coordinator for 14 years at Emory and Henry College. Learn more about Coach Lusk at bluefield.edu/coachlusk.



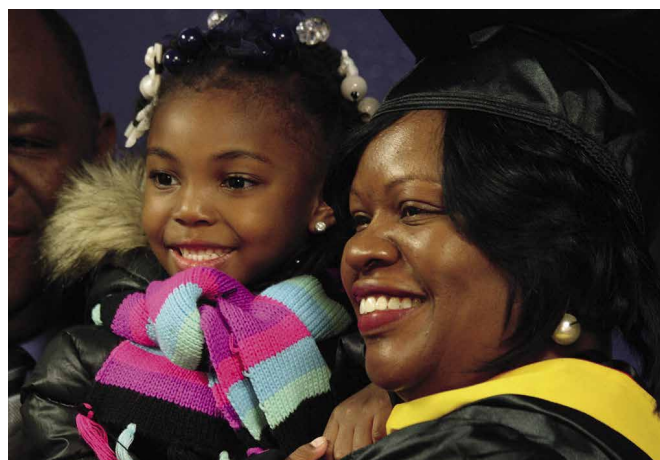
Continuing to expand its academic offerings to meet the needs of students, Bluefield College launched a new online master's degree program in nursing (MSN) in January. The new MSN comes just five years after the college began a bachelor's degree program in nursing (RN-to-BSN) and features concentrations in family nurse practitioner and leadership/education. Created for working registered nurses, the program is predominantly online with limited on campus study and time in a state-of-the-art simulation center at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg through a partnership with the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. Learn more about the MSN at bluefield.edu/msn.



Students are enjoying new classroom designs and technology improvements in Lansdell Hall and the Science Center. Two Lansdell classrooms were updated with SMART Board technology, including LED SMART Boards and mini computers that allow contributions from anywhere on any device further increasing interaction between students and teachers. In the Science Center (pictured), biology students are benefitting from the purchase of new microscopes, a digital camera for one of the scopes, and a flat panel screen to go with the camera to enhance the teaching and learning experience. The digital camera also allows students to take high definition pictures of microorganisms. Read more at bluefield.edu/classroomtech.



In December 2016, Bluefield College's Teacher Education Program received reaccreditation for seven years from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The CAEP accreditation is based on the quality principles of the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), which supports the preparation of competent, caring and qualified professional educators through an evidence-based accreditation process. This academic year, BC graduated six competent, caring student-teachers in the fall and eight (pictured) in the spring. Read more about the reaffirmation of accreditation at bluefield.edu/caep.



One hundred eleven Bluefield College seniors received diplomas during the school's 25th Annual Winter Commencement, December 10, including distinguished graduates John Crowder, an online criminal justice student from Christiansburg, Virginia, and Abigayle Peck, a traditional teacher education student from Jacksonville, North Carolina, who spoke on behalf of the class of 2016. The program also featured a keynote address from President David Olive who was honored with the dedication of a new ceremonial mace for his 10 years of service to BC. For complete coverage of Winter Commencement, including dozens of photos and a list of graduates, visit bluefield.edu/winter16grads.



Bluefield College students with a passion for church music now have access to more scholarship assistance, thanks to the creation of the Martha Louise Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was established in October 2016 to honor Martha Louise Martin, who served Eastland Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, as a pianist from 1957 to 1977 and organist from 1977 to 1990. Miss Martin was also a public school teacher and librarian. The scholarship was created by her sisters Dr. Mary Ruth Martin of Nashville and Dr. Joan Martin Bloomer (pictured center) and her husband, Jeff (pictured right), of Richmond, Virginia. To contribute to the Martin Scholarship, visit bluefield.edu/giving.



The college celebrated its highest number of new traditional students in school history when 242 traditional students enrolled for classes in the fall of 2016. Retention was also up, climbing from 86 percent in the fall of 2015 to 92 percent this past fall. Together, the new and returning traditional numbers totaled 539, the third highest total traditional student enrollment in BC history. And, while more new students are attending the college, more are also living on campus. In fact, 326 students chose to live on campus this year, the most in school history. More numbers at bluefield.edu/enrollmentfall16.



BC began the 2016-'17 academic year being named one of the Top Tier Colleges in the South by *U.S. News and World Report*. Among its other recent distinctions: one of just 22 colleges nationwide to receive an "A" rating for quality core curriculum by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni; among the top 50 Christian colleges in America for graduating students with low debt and the 11th most beautiful Christian college campus in America by Christian Universities Online; among the Top Military Friendly Schools by Victory Media; one of the top colleges in Virginia by *Virginia Living* magazine; and among the nation's best values by *The Economist* magazine. View more BC accolades at bluefield.edu/accolades.



When the 2016-'17 academic year began, Bluefield College, students, faculty and staff were missing a very familiar face, that of maintenance director Blair Taylor who retired after 32 years of service to BC. Taylor started as a member of BC's housekeeping crew in 1984 before working his way up to director of maintenance. During a retirement reception for Taylor, co-workers spoke of his positive attitude and tireless work ethic. "He's friendly, outgoing, and never gets upset," said Clayton Wagner, who worked alongside Taylor since the mid-1980s. "He's just a real nice guy to be around." Read more about Taylor's service to BC at bluefield.edu/taylor.



Wendy Beavers, assistant professor and chair of the Department of History, won the school's 2017 Distinguished Faculty Award. She also received a 20-year Service Award.

Dr. Paul Bennett joined the faculty as an assistant professor of economics.

Kelly Bittler, director of student activities and student counseling, departed BC after 11 years in Student Services.

Kevin Bowers was named head coach for men's and women's tennis after serving as an assistant coach.

Dr. Thomas Brewster joined the faculty as an associate professor of education after a more than 20-year career in secondary education.

Valerie Burrell became an admissions counselor for online students.

Dr. Henry Clary was named campus pastor and director of campus ministries after serving nine years as a missionary in Uruguay.

Dr. Bonny Dillon, professor of psychology, was awarded the prestigious Board Certified PTSD Clinician distinction from the American Psychotherapy Association.

Jordan Dillon became an administrative assistant for enrollment and finance.

Caroline Dixon, human resources specialist, took on added duties in accounts payable.

Jayson Everson joined the BC family as a recruiting coordinator and linebackers coach for football.



Bryan Frazier, manager of the Office of Enrollment Management and director of institutional research, earned BC's 2017 Distinguished Staff Award.

Lelia Fry joined the staff as director of student first-year experience and soon became director of student success and students in transition.

Tara Garland-Matthews, an instructor in BC's online human services program, was named a master addiction counselor by the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals.

Sara Goodson was named head coach of the BC cheerleading team.



Barbara Harris, a member of the food services staff, earned a 30-year Service Award.

Dr. Abigail Heiniger, assistant professor of English, served as a presenter at the annual meeting of The American Folklore Society and the International Society for Folk Narrative Research.

David Hite joined the BC faculty as an assistant professor of business.

Patricia Jacobs was named director of the New Opportunity School for Women and community service. She was also acknowledged as a contributor to the book *Fire is Water*.

Dino Kaklis came on staff as an associate head coach and defensive coordinator for football.

Hal Keene was named director of planned giving and major gifts after a career in the banking, insurance and financial services industry.

Carly Kestner, director of financial aid, departed BC after 12 years of service in Financial Aid.

Shelby Key was named assistant coach for women's basketball after a playing career with the Lady Rams.



Crystal Kieloch, instructor of English and director of BC's Quality Enhancement Plan, was named co-chair of the Board of Directors for the New Opportunity School for Women Foundation.

Markus Lawrence joined the staff as an offensive line coach for football.

Werner Lind, assistant director of library services, received a 25-year Service Award. His book review of *The Deathcats of Asa'ican* was also published in *The Ark*, a Roman Catholic magazine in Great Britain.

Dewey Lusk, a college football coach with nearly three decades of experience, was named head football coach for BC.

Dr. Rob Merritt, professor of English and dean of the College of Arts and Letters, led a poetry reading for the Mary Sue Dean Poet's Society. He was also selected by the Council of Independent Colleges to participate in an Information Fluency Workshop on the Arts in Louisiana.

Alex Marcus departed BC after three years as an admissions counselor and assistant director of traditional admissions.

Rebecca McCoy-Reese was selected by the Council of Independent Colleges to participate in an Information Fluency Workshop on the Arts in Louisiana.

Michael McGill joined the faculty as an associate professor of communication.

Dr. John-Scott Moir, a teacher, performer, singer and conductor with more than 25 years of experience in music, joined the faculty as an assistant professor of music and director of choirs and voice.

Ryan Moody returned to BC to serve as an assistant coach for men's basketball.

Carrie Mullins joined the BC staff as a Campus Store assistant.

Shirley Mutter was promoted from Business Office manager to controller.



Chase Neidig was promoted from head coach for men's soccer to director of soccer operations, responsible now for both men's and women's soccer.

Russell Norton was named defensive line and special teams coach for football. He will also serve as director of football operations.

Scott Polhamus joined the staff as a traditional admissions counselor.

Debbie Price, a student advocate in BC Central, left the college after four years of service.

Tom Price left BC after four years as head coach for women's soccer and assistant coach for men's soccer.

Charles Reese was promoted from associate professor to full professor of theatre. He was also selected by the Council of Independent Colleges to participate in an Information Fluency Workshop on the Arts in Louisiana.

Dr. Irene Reiger was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of English.

Will Robinson moved from director of Campus Safety to a role with the maintenance staff.

Gary Ruth was named director of Campus Safety after 22 years in law enforcement.

Elizabeth Stanton was named director of maintenance and facilities manager after Blair Taylor retired from the position after 32 years of service to Bluefield College.

Meagan Stroud became director of student activities and summer programs.

Beth Walker, a health and wellness counselor, bid farewell to the college.

Ordell Walker, head coach for football, stepped down after three years as mentor of the Rams.



Mike White was named athletic director after serving more than a year as interim AD. White has also served BC as head coach for baseball for 10 years.

Rod White was named recruiting coordinator and defensive backs coach for football.

Hannah Whited, director of registration services, bid farewell to Bluefield College.

Emily Wingfield, director of residence life and summer programs, departed BC.

Brenda Workman, assistant director of the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), became director of academic support and the ACE.

there's no place like

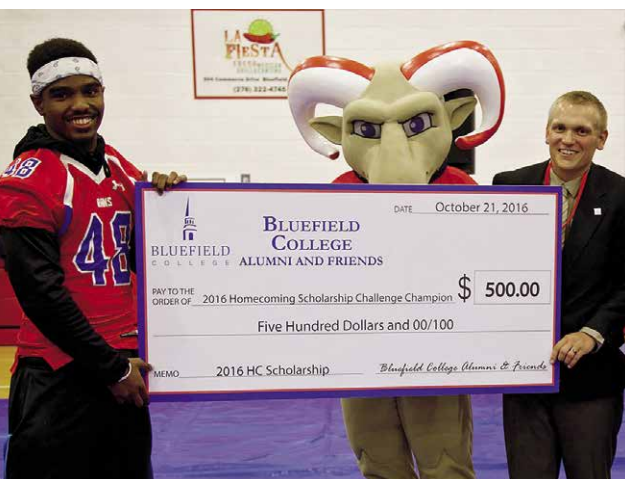
HOMECOMING

'16

alumni

Hundreds of Bluefield College alumni from as far as Georgia and as near as Bluefield came back to campus, October 21-23, to celebrate Homecoming 2016, featuring special reunions, career counseling for current students, a fireworks show, theatre, a live auction, campus tours, tailgating, football, dancing, alumni awards, the crowning of a queen and king, and praise and worship.

Alumni Director Josh Grubb welcomed the BC graduates back to campus. "We hope your time this weekend is filled with joy and good memories of your experiences here," he told a group of 1966 grads who helped kick off the festivities with a Golden Graduate Society Dinner on day one. Three members from the class of 1966 were inducted this year, including Tom Childress of Pocahontas, Virginia, Vicki Tinsley Haymes of Waynesboro, Virginia, and Richard B. Jones of Bluefield, Virginia. Forty-three alumni and friends in all returned to watch the golden graduates be inducted into the prestigious group, created in 2009 to honor and preserve the legacy of alumni from the Golden Anniversary era. *(continued on page 24)*



Top: Golden Graduates (from left) Tom Childress ('66), Vicki Tinsley Haymes ('66), Doug Hawks ('57), Rev. Rod Hale ('60), Rev. Jack Marcom ('62), Fran Webb Louthan ('60), Dr. David Bailey ('60), Barbara Asbury Custalow ('61), Jim Jenkins ('60) and Farley Wolford ('54).

Middle: Former Bluefield College students (back) share career advice with current BC students during the Homecoming Ram-2-Ram Alumni Career Seminar.

Bottom: Student Malik Barlow (left), winner of the Homecoming Scholarship Challenge.

Right: Newly elected members of the BC Alumni Association Board of Directors: (from left) Sammy Poindexter ('86), Sara English Rutherford ('96), Matt Moore ('13), Rev. Brent Brown ('78), Tim Mann ('88), Robert Ratcliffe ('09), and Tom Childress ('66). New Board members not pictured: Derek Kitts ('14) and Courtney Robertson Tucker ('10).

Seven other alumni helped kick off the weekend by participating in a Homecoming Ram-2-Ram Alumni Career Seminar, which featured former students sharing their advice with current students on how to prepare for life after college. The alumni – Zach Smith ('08), an attorney from Pearisburg, Virginia; Lauren Pillow ('13), a hazardous waste inspector from Lynchburg, Virginia; Jamie Parsell Null ('02), a freelance writer and executive director of the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau from Princeton, West Virginia; Lesley Gray Clark ('08), a high school counselor from Madison Heights, Virginia; Jennifer Mitchell ('08), an administrator for family ministry at Hope Church in Richmond, Virginia; Sara English Rutherford ('96), a senior consultant for Aon Hewitt in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Katie Warren Waugh ('11), a counselor at Forsyth Technical Community College in Statesville, North Carolina – spoke about the quality of their BC education, the value of internships, what they enjoy most and least about their work, challenges on the job, and Christianity in the workplace.

Day one of Homecoming concluded with a women's soccer match, a BC Theatre presentation of *You Can't Take It With You*, and a pep rally, featuring games, cornhole, music, the introduction of the Rams football team, motivational speeches, and the first-ever Homecoming Scholarship Challenge in which students competed for scholarship dollars in a football throwing accuracy contest. This year's Scholarship Challenge winner: Malik Barlow, a freshman football player from Columbus, Ohio.

Day two of Homecoming 2016 began with the annual Alumni Association Meeting and the election of nine new alumni to the Association's Board of Directors, including Sammy Poindexter ('86) of Dublin, Virginia; Sara English Rutherford ('96) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Matt Moore ('13) of Max Meadows, Virginia; Rev. Brent Brown ('78) of Bluefield, West Virginia; Tim Mann ('88) of Greensboro, North Carolina; Robert Ratcliffe ('09) of Christiansburg, Virginia; Tom Childress ('66) of Pocahontas, Virginia; Derek Kitts ('14) of Christiansburg, Virginia; and Courtney Robertson Tucker ('10) of Gretna, Virginia.

The Alumni Association also recognized outgoing Board members Sharon Knick ('72) of Buena Vista, Virginia, and Isabel Agnew Lovitt ('71) of Pilot, Virginia, along with Jennifer Mitchell ('08) of Richmond, Virginia, who completed her term as Board president.

Day two of Homecoming weekend also included the traditional Scholarship Auction, a lively, entertaining affair that saw alumni bid on



dozens of donated items. Under the direction of local auctioneer Eric Crawford of Twin City Auctions, alumni and friends offered up live bids and purchased vacations, arts and crafts, retail gifts, restaurant giveaways, sports memorabilia, tickets to performing arts and sporting events, passes to outdoor excursions, and other quality merchandise to the tune of \$8,300 – all for the BC Fund for Scholarships.

After the auction, alumni took part in campus tours, some seeing for the first time BC's new Bluestone Commons apartment complex and a recently renovated Harman Chapel, among other facilities. Later in the day, alumni made their way to Mitchell Stadium for tailgating and Rams football, a new mainstay event for Homecoming. The tailgating fun included music, cornhole, food and, of course, the Fourth Annual Homecoming Tailgate Challenge, sponsored by Walmart of Bluefield. The winner of this year's coveted championship banner as the best Homecoming tailgate: BC's Christian Studies Department.

After tailgating, alumni and friends watched the Rams football team secure a Homecoming victory, 21-7, over Cincinnati Christian University. During the game, current BC students crowned the 2016 Homecoming Court. Seniors Whitney Browning of Bluefield, West Virginia, and Gabe Spencer of Riner, Virginia, were selected by BC students as Homecoming Queen and King, respectively. Students also chose Jacquelyn Chick as Junior Princess, Kyle Findlay as Junior Prince, Ally Carter as Sophomore Princess, Dagoberto De Jesus Acevedo as Sophomore Prince, Sarah Westfall as Freshman Princess, and Andre Cardamone as Freshman Prince.

During the evening of day two, alumni and friends took part in the annual Alumni Awards Dinner where five of BC's most distinguished graduates were honored with alumni awards, including Rev. Rodney Hale ('60) of Richmond, Virginia, who received the Primitivo Delgado Christian Service Award; Sheriff Brian Hieatt ('99) of Tazewell, Virginia, who was named Alumnus of the Year; Justin



Top: Members of the Bluefield College Christian Studies Department, winners of the Homecoming Tailgate Challenge.

Bottom: Homecoming Queen Whitney Browning (left) and Homecoming King Gabe Spencer.

Hamm ('01) of Bluefield, West Virginia, who was named Young Alumnus of the Year; Fred Phillips ('88) of Richlands, Virginia, who was inducted into the BC Athletic Hall of Fame; and Rev. Jack Marcom ('62) of Fredericksburg, Virginia, who was inducted into the BC Hall of Distinguished Graduates.

Day two finished with a fireworks show and the traditional Homecoming Dance where winners of the Homecoming Court were recognized again. The overall three-day Homecoming weekend concluded with a Campus/Community Worship Service, featuring music and worship provided by the newly planted campus

church, Highlands Fellowship. A special Sunday lunch followed worship in the BC dining hall. Homecoming 2017 has been set for the weekend of October 21 (see pages 26-27).



Rev. Rodney Hale ('60): Primitivo Delgado Christian Service Award.



Sheriff Brian Hieatt ('99): Alumnus of the Year.



Justin Hamm ('01): Young Alumnus of the Year.



Fred Phillips ('88): Athletic Hall of Fame.



Rev. Jack Marcom ('62): Hall of Distinguished Graduates.

For more detailed coverage of Homecoming 2016, including dozens of photos, visit bluefield.edu/homecoming.



BLUEFIELD
COLLEGE

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND



October 20-22
2017

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

10:00 AM	Ram-2-Ram Alumni Career Seminar	Student Activities Center
12:00 PM	Check-In/Registration	Harman Chapel
12:00 PM	Homecoming and Family Weekend Luncheon	Shott Hall
2:00 PM	Silent Auction Opens	Shott Hall
5:00 PM	Golden Graduate Reception	Harman Chapel
6:30 PM	BC Dinner Theatre: <i>Steel Magnolias</i>	Harman Chapel
9:00 PM	Homecoming Dance	Shott Hall
9:00 PM	Silent Auction Closes	Shott Hall

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:00 AM	BC Community Breakfast	Shott Hall
9:00 AM	Campus Tours	Easley Library
9:00 AM	Silent Auction Opens	Shott Hall
10:30 AM	Alumni Association Meeting	Shott Hall
12:00 PM	Alumni Awards Luncheon	Shott Hall
12:00 PM	Football Tailgating Opens	Mitchell Stadium Lot
2:00 PM	#new2BC Photo Contest Gala	Lansdell Hall
2:00 PM	Silent Auction Check-out, Payment, and Pick-up	Shott Hall
5:00 PM	Homecoming Tailgate Dinner	Bluefield Auditorium (near Mitchell Stadium)
6:00 PM	Rams Football vs. University of the Cumberlands	Mitchell Stadium
6:30 PM	BC Dinner Theatre: <i>Steel Magnolias</i>	Harman Chapel
9:00 PM	Fireworks (after football game)	Mitchell Stadium

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

10:00 AM	Homecoming Worship with Highlands Fellowship	Harman Chapel
11:30 AM	Sunday Lunch	Shott Hall

REGISTRATION

(three ways to register)

Online: Visit bluefield.edu/homecoming and follow the link to online registration.

Mail: Homecoming invitations with registration forms will be mailed this summer. Complete the registration form and mail it back to BC using the return envelope provided with the invitation.

Phone: 276-326-4208

For updates and additional details, check bluefield.edu/homecoming

2017 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



Erin Johnson DeHart ('03): Young Alumna of the Year

A native of Bland, Virginia, Erin DeHart earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bluefield College for the purpose of building a career in law enforcement. Little did she know she would exceed even her own expectations with a seat on the bench as a judge. DeHart attributes her career ascension to the training she received at BC. In addition to classroom instruction, she was required to complete an internship with the Bluefield (WV) Police Department, which not only exposed her to law enforcement firsthand, but also led to her first employment in the field. She graduated from the Appalachian School of Law in 2006 while working for a law firm in Wytheville, Virginia. After passing the bar exam on her first attempt she became an assistant Commonwealth's attorney for Wythe County from 2006 to 2008. Later, she worked for the Pulaski County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, before being named the Commonwealth's attorney for Bland County in 2011. Four years later, after much success in the courtroom, DeHart was elected to serve as judge for Virginia's 27th Judicial District Court.



Jeremy Hardy ('08): Delgado Christian Service Award

A Chesapeake, Virginia, native and a graphic communication major at Bluefield College, Jeremy Hardy is the executive director of Vigilant Hope in Wilmington, North Carolina, whose mission is to equip, educate and empower the church to properly serve the homeless and impoverished communities. Founded in 2006, Vigilant Hope provides urban outreach, relief ministry, and educational programs, all for the purpose of not only serving the disadvantaged, but leading them to Christ. One particular ministry that is new and thriving is the offering of free showers in a shower trailer four times a week to the homeless. Hardy says that if they can get them to take a shower, they might just restore their dignity and consequently convince them to complete job training and other educational programs that will eventually lead them out of homelessness. Prior to his service with Vigilant Hope, Hardy was director of student activities at Bluefield College and director of communication at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bluefield, West Virginia. He also serves part-time on staff at Life Community Church as a graphic designer and is a member of the church's Worship Team.



David Kessler ('85): Athletic Hall of Fame

David Kessler played both basketball and baseball at Bluefield College before becoming an assistant coach for Rams basketball in 1984-'85, the same year the team finished runner-up in the National Little College Athletic Association National Championship. After BC, he studied teacher education at Georgia State University before earning a master's degree in coaching and athletic administration from Concordia University-Irvine. He returned to coaching as an associate head coach at South Gwinnett High School in Georgia, where he helped lead the team to the 2004 Georgia State Championship. He continued his high school coaching career at North Atlanta High School, Prince Avenue Christian School, Schley County High School, and finally Brandon Hall School, where he led that team to its first-ever state tournament appearance. Today,

Kessler is most recognized as the owner, founder and head coach of the Atlanta Show, a minor league professional basketball team in the North American Basketball League (NABL). In its first season ever, the Show completed a perfect 17-0 record and won the NABL championship. As a result, Kessler was named NABL Coach of the Year.



Omar "Juice" Reed ('10): Athletic Hall of Fame

A native of nearby Tazewell, Virginia, Omar Reed was a four-year starter on the Bluefield College men's basketball team. He scored 1,760 points and grabbed 1,079 rebounds during his career as a Ram, averaging 13.8 points and 8.4 rebounds per game, including a double-double average of 16.2 points and 11.1 rebounds during his senior season. That same year, 2009-2010, he was named Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) Player of the Year and AAC Defensive Player of the Year. He also earned a spot on the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic (NAIA) Third Team All-America squad. A proven winner, Reed led the Rams to 89 wins – 22.2 per season – during his four-year career, winning the AAC championship during his freshman, junior and senior seasons, including an unblemished 18-0 conference mark in 2008-2009. Reed began his professional basketball career in 2010 in the English Basketball League, before playing two years in the National Basketball Association Development League (NBA-DL) with the Austin Toros (affiliate of the San Antonio Spurs) and the Maine Red Claws (affiliate of the Boston Celtics). His pro career also includes two years of play in Japan, a year in Argentina and Panama, and a year in the Dominican Republic where he is currently a starter for Indios de San Francisco of the Liga Nacional de Baloncesto. Living in Houston, Texas, Reed returns to Bluefield and Tazewell every year to host basketball camps and other events in the community for the purpose of serving as a role model to local kids. In fact, he and his wife, Jelicia, are the founders of LIFE (Leadership In Full Effect), a non-profit organization which provides service and support to communities in Houston, Tazewell and Bluefield.



Rev. Roger Roller ('81): Alumnus of the Year

After graduating from Bluefield College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Roger Roller pastored Calvary Baptist Church in Floyd, Virginia, from 1984 to 1986 and Rustburg Baptist Church in Virginia from 1986 to 1993, before he and his wife, Ester, created the Roger Roller Evangelistic Association. Now in his 25th year as a full-time evangelist in Forest, Virginia, Roller leads about 26 revivals each year, having conducted nearly 650 revivals altogether. He has preached overseas on mission trips in Hungary, Cuba, Panama, the San Blas Islands, India, Brazil, Honduras, South Africa, and Ghana. His evangelistic association has also provided the funds to help build seven churches overseas and through partnerships with other ministries build training centers in Uganda and Honduras. In addition, the association employs and supports an associate evangelist in Honduras and two other evangelists in Ghana. Furthering its cause, the Roger Roller Evangelistic Association provides grants to college and seminary students going into full-time Christian service. In fact, 52 Bluefield College students have benefitted from the grants since 2003.

Alumni Reunions at the Gentry Farm:

THE END OF AN ERA

Last summer, a longtime beloved Bluefield College tradition came to an end. For 30 years, former BC students had been gathering for a time of reunion in Charlottesville, Virginia, and for most of those years at the home of alumni Bobby ('58) and Joyce Mullikin ('58) Gentry. On July 9, 2016, the Gentrys hosted their last reunion, but not before strengthening the bonds of hundreds of BC alumni across several generations.

"The BC reunion at the Gentry farm has been a highlight in my life for over 20 years," said alumnus Rod Hale ('60) of Midlothian, Virginia. "It was a grand tradition important enough for folks to travel as far as 300 miles. Alas, the time has come for the Gentrys to retire, but what a wonderful ride it has been."

The Gentry reunion started as a gathering of Bluefield College classmates from 1958, but as the years passed Bobby and Joyce graciously invited other classes to become a part of the tradition.

"Never one to miss a chance at being with fellow alum and a picnic, I invited myself to it," said alumna Shirley Chapman Meador ('73) about her first Gentry reunion. "How exciting to hear all the reminiscing. There is no better way to brighten your day than to hear of the adventures then. It is wonderful to know the couples who met at BC, like the Gentrys, are still married."

The reunion grew into an event as traditional as Bluefield College's Sadie Hawkins Day, sledding down Rish Hall hill and Mud Pig Day, featuring reminiscing, storytelling, a picnic lunch in the Gentry barn, homemade peach ice cream for dessert, and hayrides around the farm.

"Bobby (Tex) and Joyce were wonderful hosts," said Rev. Hale. "The farm setting was ideal for informal visiting, sharing precious memories about our BC days, enjoying delicious food, and especially Tex's homemade ice cream. His great delight was to provide the hayrides. He loves to drive his tractor."

As much as Bobby did enjoy providing rides around the farm on his tractor, he and Joyce said they equally enjoyed getting to see former classmates and other BC friends every summer.

"So often we lose touch and never hear from friends," said Joyce, "but this gathering helped us stay connected. It was always good to see people again and catch up with everyone, where they were and what they were doing. It was fun. We enjoyed it a lot."

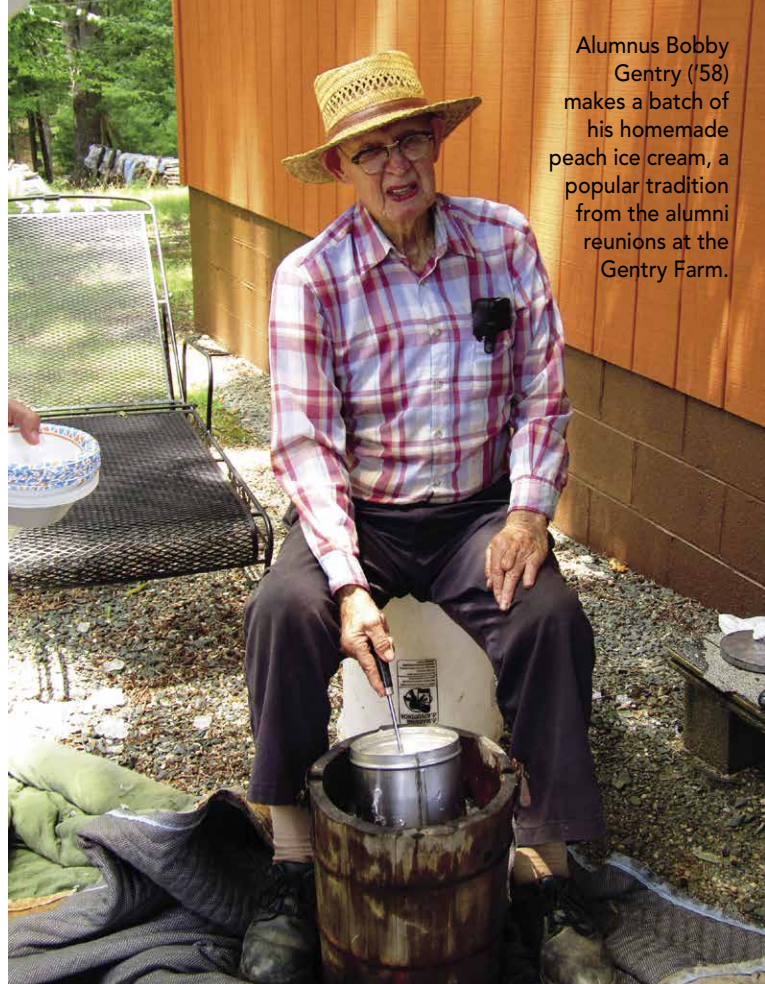
Register for the
July 15 reunion at
bluefield.edu/reunions

Bobby studied engineering at BC from 1956 to 1958 before beginning a long career in agriculture. He worked from 1966 to 1982 as manager of agricultural operations for Meadow Farm in Caroline County, Virginia, where Triple Crown winner Secretariat, one of the greatest racehorses of all time, was born and raised. In fact, in 2010 Bobby contributed and was featured in the book *Secretariat's Meadow: The Land, the Family, the Legend*, which presents the little known story of Meadow Farm, the place where the Virginia-born thoroughbred stallion grew into a legend.

Joyce studied religion at BC, also from 1956 to 1958. She spent her career working in churches and public school systems. She also served her alma mater as an officer on the Alumni Council. Both she and Bobby are charter members of the BC Golden Graduate Society and are retired.

"I appreciate Joyce and Tex for opening their home and the hospitality given to our alumni all these years," said alumna Sharon Knick ('72), who originally met Joyce serving on the BC Alumni Council. "I loved attending the reunions, because it was so interesting to hear stories of their days at Bluefield. They also enjoyed our sharing, as well. I have so many fond memories."

Alumnus and new BC alumni director Josh Grubb ('07), who attended his first Gentry reunion in the summer of 2016 with his family, said his kids enjoyed the tractor rides and the farm tour. Most of all, he said he admires the dedication of the Gentrys and those who were faithful to attend the event over the past 30 years.



Alumnus Bobby Gentry ('58) makes a batch of his homemade peach ice cream, a popular tradition from the alumni reunions at the Gentry Farm.



Alumni Bobby (far right) and Joyce Mullikin (far left) Gentry pass the 30-year tradition of hosting Central Virginia alumni reunions to alumna Peggy Emert Bickford (left) and her husband, Steve (right), an honorary alumnus.

"I really enjoyed the rich tradition that this group of alumni created over the past few decades," said Grubb. "It takes hard work to get together with friends for that many years, and they certainly put in the work. I have a group of classmates and friends who share a bond through BC, and I just hope that we will carry on a tradition like the Gentrys. We appreciate Bobby and Joyce and the hard work they put in to this event each year. Many fond memories have been formed at the Gentry farm."

Now 88 (Bobby) and 80 (Joyce) years of age, the Gentrys will no longer host the Charlottesville gathering, but instead pass the torch to alumna Peggy Emert Bickford ('71) and her husband, Steve, an honorary BC

alumnus, who will begin hosting the reunion at their home in New Canton, Virginia, on July 15, 2017.

"We were so impressed with the Gentrys' hospitality. They always made everyone feel so welcomed," said Peggy. "We decided to begin hosting this gathering out of respect for the tradition and wanting to see the event continue and because of the love we have for Bluefield College and our fellow alumni."

The Bickfords home in New Canton is centrally located in Virginia, which they say they hope draws additional alumni to "come out to the country and enjoy time together." The event at the Bickfords will include a meal, fellowship, a short tour of a 1926 Rosenwald Schoolhouse on their property, and an update on BC.

"Most importantly, we want everyone to enjoy themselves in a very casual atmosphere," said Peggy. "We are looking forward to seeing old friends, making new ones, sharing memories of days spent at BC, and continuing the tradition established by Mr. and Mrs. Gentry 30 years ago."

Grubb said he's thankful the Bickfords have agreed to carry on the Charlottesville reunion tradition. He and many others are looking forward to more years of reminiscing with the group.

"As this meeting place comes to an end, a new tradition begins at Peggy and Steve's house," said Meador. "I have missed very few of the picnics, and I intend to keep sharing in this rich tradition. See you in July friends."

Bluefield College School of Education Produces Award-winning Teachers



Teacher of the Year Emily Reynolds ('13).

Bluefield College's Teacher Education Program has produced another award-winning teacher. Emily Reynolds, a 2013 graduate of BC's School of Education, was recently named Teacher of the Year at Eastern Elementary and Middle School in Pembroke, Virginia.

Reynolds has been a fifth grade reading and language arts teacher at Eastern since 2014. She also serves as a facilitator for the school's Language Arts Committee, which brings teachers together to discuss schoolwide goals and programs related to reading, grammar, composition and spelling. She helps plan family reading nights, volunteers with after school events, and works with struggling students in after school remediation.

"What I enjoy most about teaching is seeing students succeed and grow often in ways they didn't feel were possible," said Reynolds, who worked as a reading workshop aid at Dudley Primary School in Bluefield, Virginia, before moving to Eastern. "I want my students to leave my classroom knowing they are capable of doing whatever they set their minds to. The staff at Eastern is like one big family, and I feel very honored to have been chosen as Teacher of the Year by my colleagues. I am inspired and encouraged every day by the hard work and dedication of the teachers around me, and I am thankful that they can see that same commitment to our students from me."

A native of Falls Mills, Virginia, Reynolds said she enjoyed that same sense of family while a student at Bluefield College, where professors, she said, demonstrated genuine care for her, took time to get to know who she was, and challenged her to be a better person and to make the world a better place.

"I love using reading as a way to help students become better people and to learn empathy for others," said Reynolds about the core values she took from Bluefield College. "I want to teach my students what they need to know not only for fifth grade language arts, but also to be productive, caring human beings."

Reynolds said her time spent in observation and student teaching with mentor teachers helped inspire and guide her into becoming the teacher she is today. The professors at Bluefield College, like Phyllis Owens, Dr. Donna Watson, Tamara Williams and Dr. April Workman, she added, ensured that she and her classmates were prepared to deliver quality instruction, manage a classroom, and create a productive learning environment. She said they gave her a valuable understanding of instructional technology and how it can be incorporated into the classroom, but more importantly challenged her to go above and beyond what is required.

"That mentality has driven the work I do each day in my classroom," said Reynolds. "I am very thankful for my career preparation at Bluefield College. It was a privilege to learn from instructors who were as dedicated to mentoring new teachers as they were to the students they taught throughout their own careers."

While a student at Bluefield College, Reynolds was the recipient of the school's Gerald Clay Scholar Award, Teachers of Promise Award, Delta Kappa Gamma Education Award, and Student Virginia Education Association (SVEA) Service Award. She was also named a Virginia Collegium Scholar by the Beazley Foundation and served as president of SVEA, a senator for Student Government, and a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society and Pi Lambda Theta National Honor Society.

"I have no doubt that my time in the BC education program prepared me above and beyond to hit the ground running as a teacher," said Reynolds. "I think most teachers would agree we went into this career to better the lives and futures of our students, because we felt called to meet this crucial position in society. I feel honored to have been chosen as a representative of this profession and the work teachers do day in and out for students."

Story by BC student marketing associate Whitney Browning.

1948

Victor Friend, 91, and his wife, **Betty Culler ('49)**, 87, of Bristol, Tennessee, have four children, 12 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Victor is a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. His brother, **Robert Friend**, and Betty's brother, **Bob Culler ('56)**, also attended BC.

1954

Dr. David Armbrister was recognized with a Membership Key Award from Lions Clubs International for his efforts in cultivating new members.

1955

Dr. William "Bill" Tuck of Midlothian, Virginia, received the 2016 Wayne Oates Award from the Oates Institute in Louisville, Kentucky. A writer, Bill's published works include *Star Throwers: A Pastor's Handbook*; *A Revolutionary Gospel: Salvation in the Theology of Walter Rauschenbusch*; *A Positive Word for Christian Lamenting*; and *The Forgotten Beatitude: Worshiping through Stewardship*.

1966

Samuel Johnson of Honaker, Virginia, retired from Russell County (VA) Public Schools in 2004 with 35 years of service as both a teacher and guidance counselor. He worked an additional eight years as an insurance agent with Allstate before retiring again in 2012. Samuel and his wife, Shelby, have two sons and three grandchildren.

1967

Phyllis Atkinson Robinson of Fort Mill, South Carolina, is enjoying retirement after a rewarding career with the South Carolina Department of Social Services in children and family services, as a counselor for addictions, and as a hospice social worker. Today, she helps care for her grandchildren, volunteers for a Christian adoption agency, and attends Elevation Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Charlie Warren of Lenoir City, Tennessee, is retired after a long career as publications coordinator for the Baptist Publishing

House in Zambia, Africa; senior editor of news for the International Mission Board; and editor of LifeWay Christian Resources' *HomeLife* magazine. Charlie and his wife, Sandy, have three children and six grandchildren.



David Zurek of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is retired from The Artisan Building Group, a commercial construction company

he founded that built more than 150 7-Eleven stores, numerous banks, restaurants, shopping centers, and churches, including Kings Grant Baptist Church, where David serves in various roles, including with the men's group that builds churches around the country. Now enjoying his hobby as a woodturner, he is a member and former president of the Tidewater Woodturners Club. He and his wife, Kathryn, have two grown children: Amy, an interior architect, and Stephen, a landscape architect.

1973

Dr. Robert Putt, senior pastor of West Lynchburg (VA) Baptist Church, and **Roger Roller ('81)**, founder of the Roller Evangelistic Association of Forest, Virginia, are leading efforts with the Lynchburg Baptist Association to help provide a mobile food pantry in the "food deserts" of Lynchburg, where access to fresh produce and affordable food is difficult for residents on government assistance.

1982

Thomas "Tom" Baynham, Jr. of Ruther Glen, Virginia, received his master of sacred theology degree from the Boston University School of Theology in 2015. He recently completed an interim position as pastor for worship, music and arts at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Virginia.

1985

David Kessler of Windsor, Georgia, is the owner, founder, head coach and general manager of the Atlanta Show, a minor league professional basketball team in the North American Basketball League (NABL). In its first season ever, the Show completed a perfect 17-0 record en route to winning the NABL championship. As a result, David was named NABL Coach of the Year. He also just recently signed fellow BC alumnus **Darius Scott ('16)** to join the team.

1989

Teresa Richardson Holston of Wytheville, Virginia, received a master's degree in education. After nearly 13 years as a child protective services worker with the Virginia Department of Social Services, she is beginning a new career as a youth counselor at Mt. Rogers Youth Services. Teresa is also a Sunday school teacher and youth leader at Evergreen United Methodist Church. She and her husband, Wayne, have two daughters, Brandi, 22, and Terri, 19.

1991

Patricia Spence Handley of Lenoir, North Carolina, is pursuing a doctor of physical therapy degree. She has three children, three stepchildren, and four grandchildren.

2000

Grat Slade and his wife, LeAnn, of Bluefield, Virginia, welcomed twin baby boys into the family on September 19, 2016. Zachary Joseph and Zander Gratton join big sisters Addy, 6, and Macie, 19 months. Grat is an adult probation officer for Mercer County, West Virginia.

2001

Justin Hamm of Bluefield, West Virginia, recently married Christie Ellis. They also celebrated the birth of their first child, Alivia Michelle, in May 2017.

Travis Roberts of North Tazewell, Virginia, was promoted to chief meteorologist at WVA-TV in Bluefield, West Virginia.



2002

Paul Wilkinson and his wife, **Charla Kitts ('03)**, of Bluefield, Virginia, celebrated the birth of their third child, Ezra Zane,

March 3, 2016. Ezra joins big brother, Eli, and sister, Callie.

2005

Jaime Bennett Bowman of Rocky Gap, Virginia, was named head coach of the girls' volleyball team at Graham Middle School in Bluefield, Virginia.

Caroline Desplaines Dixon and her husband, Matthew, of Bluefield, West Virginia, celebrated the birth of their third child, Ethan Matthew, November 6, 2016.

Meghan Garrett Hardy and her husband, **Jeremy ('08)**, of Wilmington, North Carolina, welcomed their third daughter, Alayna Micah, to the family, October 28, 2016.

LeAnn Lane Montgomery gave birth to a baby boy, Aaron Thompson, September 26, 2016. LeAnn, her husband, John, and the family reside in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

2007

Tyler Fridley of Lynchburg, Virginia, was recognized for his outstanding law enforcement efforts by Vinton, Virginia's Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Sara Hubble of Mechanicsville, Virginia, earned a master of divinity degree from the Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond, Virginia.

2008

Justin Spracher was elected president of the Lion's Club of Bluefield, West Virginia, making him a third generation of Sprachers to serve as president of the organization.

2009

Valerie Burrell and her husband, **Benny ('17)**, of Richmond, Virginia, are facilitating sessions on the challenges of relationships at New Creation Ministries in Cobbs Creek, Virginia. Valerie is an online admissions counselor at BC.

Joshua Cline and his wife, Peyton, of Bluefield, West Virginia, celebrated the birth of their first child, Crawford Lee, February 18, 2017. Josh was also named president and chief executive officer of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce after serving as assistant city manager of Bluefield.

Robert Ratcliffe of Christiansburg, Virginia, was named principal of Indian Valley Elementary School in Floyd County after eight years of service to Pulaski County Schools as a teacher, instructional technology resource teacher, and building administrator.

2010



Peery Heldreth of Daleville, Virginia, was named chief executive officer of Farm Credit of the Virginias (FCV) after 11 years of leading the organization's operations, lending, technology and compliance functions. He began his career in the financial lending industry in 1997 with Colonial Farm Credit.

Daniel Schroeder and his wife, Monica, of Christiansburg, Virginia, welcomed a new baby girl, Avery Claire, into the family on November 27, 2016.

2011

Jacob Woodrum married Allie Tallman, May 9, 2015. Jacob is an associate financial planner for Hobart Financial Group in Charlotte, North Carolina.

2012

Andrew Jarvis married **Allyson Armbruster ('13)** on September 5, 2015. Andrew is a deputy for the Tazewell County (VA) Sheriff's Office.

Bethany Liddle (MAEd '16) married Ryan Handy, June 18, 2016. They live in Independence, Virginia, where Bethany is a teacher for Grayson County Public Schools.

2013

Josh King and his wife, **Danielle Preservati ('14)**, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, celebrated the birth of their son, Kaden, born March 7, 2017.

Emily Reynolds of Falls Mills, Virginia, was named the 2017 Teacher of the Year at Eastern Elementary/Middle School in Giles County, where she teaches fifth grade language arts.

2014

Alandra Blume married **Nick Hinkle ('16)** in May 2016. They have made their home in Princeton, West Virginia. Nick is a band director at Bluefield (WV) High School. Alandra is a music accompanist at Bluefield College and a youth leader and worship director for two local churches.



Chelsea Hardy Snow and her husband, **Tyler ('15)**, celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Josie Ellen, on August 24, 2016.

2015

Ariel Goins of Bland, Virginia, is a special education teacher for Bland County Public Schools.

Ben Rosado of Sterling, Virginia, was named recreation director for the Town of Tazewell, Virginia.

2016

Kali Furry of Bluefield, West Virginia, is pursuing a graduate degree in occupational therapy from Emory and Henry College.

Rebecca Richardson of Portsmouth, Virginia, is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Old Dominion University, where she also received a graduate teaching assistantship.

in memory

1935

Henry S. Surface, Jr. of Tazewell, Virginia, passed away June 7, 2015 at the age of 100. He was a retired district mechanical engineer with more than 40 years of service to US Steel in Gary, West Virginia. He also worked in experimental development and the testing of ballistic propellants for the military. He was a deacon and taught Sunday School for Tazewell Baptist Church for more than 20 years.

1936

Howard H. Hale, 97, of Bluefield, West Virginia, died March 4, 2015. A staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, he worked 45 years for Bluefield Supply Company. He was also

a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, the Bluefield Civitan Club, and the American Legion.

1938

Rev. Griffin C. Callahan of Bluefield, Virginia, died October 25, 2013. Rev. Callahan served as a rector and priest for parishes throughout West Virginia and Pennsylvania for 30 years. He also helped establish the Peterkin Conference Center in Romney, West Virginia, a youth camp and retreat center for the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia. Outside of his professional ministry, he was chaplain to the Civil Air Patrol in Beckley, West Virginia, and supervisor of the Little Kanawha Soil and Water Conservation District.

1940

Charles R. Scott, 92, of Bluefield, West Virginia, passed away May 5, 2013. A retired lieutenant commander of the U.S. Naval Reserve who served the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II, Charlie worked at the Feuchtenberger Bakery in Bluefield for 43 years. He was also an elder and deacon for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bluefield.

Eugene "Bud" Stowers, Jr., 94, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died July 7, 2016. A World War II veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who also served in the reserves until 1958, Bud worked in the automobile and truck industry, becoming the principle owner of Stowers Motors. He was also president of Stowers Machinery Corporation and a member of Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville and its Board of Stewards.

1941

Mary "Maggie" Parcell Barton of Palm Harbor, Florida, passed away September 22, 2015.

Creighton D. Lilly, 94, of Encinitas, California, died January 5, 2016. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a retired Navy officer, Creighton received the Bronze Star with Combat V, the Meritorious Service Medal, and more than a dozen decorations and campaign medals. He taught mechanical engineering at the Naval Academy and later at Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He served as junior and senior warden on the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Walter Taylor Moore, 93, of Bluefield, West Virginia, died September 30, 2016. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Taylor was a business owner and realtor in southern West Virginia and a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and the Bluefield Lions Club for more than 50 years, where he served as president and received the Leonard Jarrett Award for 29 years of perfect attendance.

1945

Betty Crowell Ireson of Hernando, Florida, died May 11, 2014. She retired in 1994 after teaching at Bluefield College and Graham High School in Bluefield, Virginia. Her affiliations include the Hernando United Methodist Church; Beta Sigma Phi sorority; and the Order of the Eastern Star.

1946

Anne Coleman Groton Currie of Lovingston, Virginia, passed away August 30, 2015. She was a nursing supervisor at Waynesboro (VA) Community Hospital and later director of nursing at Lovingston Health Care Center.

1947

Robert T. French of Martinsville, Virginia, died September 23, 2014. He was a retired captain for the U.S. Navy.

John P. Oblinger of Wytheville, Virginia, passed away April 24, 2017. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he was the owner of Blizzard Industrial Supply of Bluefield, Virginia, and part of a long legacy of Oblinger alumni who attended BC, including his late wife of 66 years, **Jacquelyn Pero Oblinger ('48)**, son **Mark Oblinger ('86)**, son **Michael Oblinger (honorary alumnus)**, late daughter-in-law **Martha Addington Oblinger ('81)**, and granddaughter **Emily Oblinger ('08)**.

1948

Juanita King Callahan of Thelma, Kentucky, died January 31, 2013. Juanita was a business manager at Lees College in Jackson, Kentucky, a volunteer for the Presbytery of Transylvania, and a longtime member of Guerrant Memorial Presbyterian Church in Jackson.

Earl B. Manning, 91, died February 26, 2015. Earl was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II who received the Legion d'honneur from the president of France for his participation in the D-Day invasion. He was also a retired manager for Burlington Industries and a member of St. John's United Methodist Church.

William "Bill" M. Robertson, 92, of Graham, North Carolina, passed away September 8, 2015. Bill played minor league baseball, worked as a farmer and carpenter, and retired from the fabric industry with Culp, Inc. He was also a lifelong member of Mt. Hermon United Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School for more than 40 years.

1949

William H. Martin, Sr. of Culpeper, Virginia, died August 23, 2016, after a long career in electrical engineering, which included participation in the construction of the North Anna Nuclear Power Station in Louisa, Virginia. A lifelong member of Culpeper Baptist Church, he and his wife of 60 years, Rose Marie, were named grand marshals of the 2007 Culpeper Independence Day Parade for their combined years of community service to more than 50 local and statewide initiatives.

1950

Maxine Richardson Cardwell of Waycross, Georgia, died January 8, 2014. Retired in 1994, Maxine served more than 20 years as an employee

and ultimately director of development records for Mercer University.

1952

Dr. John M. Appling of Cleveland, Tennessee, passed away June 23, 2016 after more than 40 years of service in pediatrics, which included the founding of Child Shelter Home in Cleveland and community recognition for his work against child abuse. Dr. Appling also taught Sunday School at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Edward M. Gills of Morganton, North Carolina, died January 2, 2017. Ed was a retired school teacher, coach and guidance counselor. He attended Morganton First Church of God where he sang in the choir. He was also a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Dr. Richard "Dick" Neel of Huntersville, North Carolina, died August 28, 2016. Dick worked as a professor and administrator in higher education in Ohio, Virginia, Florida, and Georgia, including serving as dean of the Belk College of Business Administration at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for 15 years. He also chaired and served on accreditation committees for institutions of higher education.

1953

Elgene "Whitey" Comer of North Chesterfield, Virginia, died January 4, 2017. A U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, Whitey was retired from American Inks and Coatings and was an ordained Baptist deacon.

Kenneth J. Mulkey, Sr. of North Tazewell, Virginia, passed away August 25, 2016. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, a retired engineer from Norfolk and Western Railroad, and a member of Tazewell Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

1954

Richard "Dick" Bailey of Caldwell, Ohio, died June 21, 2016. Dick was a retired coal purchaser for American Electric Power. He was also a volunteer fire fighter and a deacon, choir director, and Sunday school teacher at First Church of Christ in Caldwell.

Charles F. Bostian of Waldorf, Maryland, died August 16, 2016.

Jack H. Hayes of Yorktown, Virginia, passed away July 14, 2009.

1955

Samuel A. Nixon, Sr. of Midlothian, Virginia, died April 27, 2017, after a long career in library and media services. He was co-author of the book, *A Guide to Virginia's Literary Heritage*. He also served as minister of education

at churches in North Carolina and Virginia and was an active member of River Road Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia.

1956

Peggy Williams Lowe of Greenville, North Carolina, passed away in January 2015 after a more than 30-year career with public schools in Georgia and North Carolina. After retiring, she continued to teach and tutor with Sylvan Learning. She also led Bible studies and taught Sunday School for 50 years at Murfreesboro (NC) Baptist Church.



Margaret "Betty" Bailey Rackley of Gladys, Virginia, passed away February 7, 2017. She was a retired school teacher with more than 30 years of service who also worked alongside her

late husband, Joel, in each of his pastorates, oftentimes as a pianist and choir director. Together, they also served on mission in Africa, Panama, Virginia, and Kentucky. She leaves behind a long legacy of Baileys who attended Bluefield College, including her late father **Rev. David L. Bailey, Sr. ('25)** and brothers **Dr. David L. Bailey, Jr. ('60)** and **Dr. Robert W. Bailey ('62)**. Gifts in memory of Betty may be made to the BC scholarship named in memory of her parents, the David and Katheryn Bailey Scholarship Fund at bluefield.edu/giving.

1958

Macon Haskins Coleman, III, 85, of Staunton, Virginia, died April 21, 2017. A retired schoolteacher and historian, Haskins was the great-grandson of the late James Barbour, the governor of Virginia during the War of 1812. In fact, in 2000 Haskins donated to Bluefield College the personal library of the former Virginia governor, more than 300 publications from the early 1800s, many of which are the only known copies in existence.

Derwood R. Jefferson of Hanover, Virginia, passed away May 3, 2017. Derwood enjoyed bluegrass music, traveling, and serving the Shriners of Richmond, Virginia.

1960

Rev. William "Tom" Wood of Portsmouth, Virginia, died December 23, 2016, after 39 years in ministry, including 23 years at Westhaven Baptist Church in Portsmouth. Tom was also active with his community, the Portsmouth Baptist Association, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and the Religious Herald Publishing Association.

1961

Roger L. Hayes of Front Royal, Virginia, passed away March 14, 2014. He was a retired educator and administrator who also operated his own antiques business for nearly 50 years. In addition to buying, selling and refinishing antiques, he shared his knowledge and expertise of antiques with others through seminars, auctions, and appraisals.

1962

Suzanne Cooke Blaylock of Princeton, West Virginia, died September 5, 2014. Suzie was a homemaker, charter member of Nemours (WV) Ruritan, and lifelong member of First United Methodist Church.

Rev. George L. Bulson, Jr. of Sandwich, Illinois, passed away April 14, 2015. A retired electronic technician of the U.S. Navy and veteran of the Korean War, George pastored churches in West Virginia, Michigan, and Illinois. He also served as director of missions for the south western and south central associations of Michigan for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Charles A. Pettit of Columbia, South Carolina, died January 6, 2016. A U.S. Navy veteran, Charles was owner and broker-in-charge of the Pettit Company and a member, senator and past president of the Columbia Jaycees.

1963

Presley "Andy" L. Hayes, III of Charlottesville, Virginia, died March 2, 2016. He taught high school physical education and served as a counselor and tennis coach at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware. He also owned and operated two Mister Donut franchises in Charlottesville for 19 years before returning to education as a teacher, admissions officer, and coach.

1964

Roy R. Collins of West Point, Virginia, passed away January 27, 2016. Roy was employed by General Motors before starting his own automotive shop in Richmond, Virginia, and then opening a used car lot in West Point.

1966

Thomas B. Childress of Pocahontas, Virginia, died December 17, 2016. A former medical clerk for the U.S. Army, Tom was an instructor at Southwest Virginia Community College. He was also well known for his efforts on many boards and committees to preserve and restore the Town of Pocahontas. In addition, he was a member of First United Methodist Church of Pocahontas and the Board of Directors for BC's Alumni Association.

Richard "Dick" Mills of Cocoa, Florida, passed away October 7, 2016. He spent his career supporting the U.S. space program at Bendix, Lockheed, Lockheed-Martin, and United Space Alliance, involved in the Apollo mission to the moon, the International Space Station, and the Shuttle program.

1967

Frederick C. Creasy, Jr. of Culpeper, Virginia, died April 4, 2015, after a 46-year career with Culpeper County Schools. Fred also taught at Germanna Community College and was a deacon and assistant Sunday school director at Culpeper Baptist Church. In addition, he was a 35-year member and past president of the Lignum (VA) Ruritan Club and a member of the Virginia Association of Science Teachers and Virginia Instructors of Physics.

Samuel E. Gibbs of Norfolk, Virginia, died August 21, 2010, after 43 years as an operations supervisor for Dominion Virginia Power. Sam was also a member and elder of Rock Church in Virginia Beach.

Betty Pasley Hash of Bluefield, Virginia, died August 18, 2014. She was a member of First United Methodist Church, the Martha Circle of the United Methodist Women, and a longtime treasurer of the Virginia Garden Club.

Johnny Powers, Jr. of Chamblissburg, Virginia, passed away February 28, 2015. Johnny was a cattle farmer and partner in Powers Tractor and Farm Equipment. He was a longtime member and treasurer of the Chamblissburg Rescue Squad and served for many years in the Virginia National Guard.

1968

Lenora Sharon Umberger of Daleville, Virginia, died August 25, 2016. She worked for the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, for 28 years. She attended Daleville Baptist Church and was a member, assistant Sunday school director, co-director of Vacation Bible School, newsletter editor, and administrative ministry assistant of Germantown (MD) Baptist Church.

1995

Mark A. Udell, 57, of Wytheville, Virginia, died May 20, 2014. He was a plant manager with Textron and a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

1999

James "Jim" E. Bradley of Yorktown, Virginia, died May 14, 2017. He was a retired chief petty officer for the U.S. Coast Guard and a retired deputy chief knowledge officer for the Department of the Army with more than 36 years of service. After retirement, he became the cross country and track and field coach at York High School.

2003

Pasquale "Pazzi" Cerbo of Rockledge, Florida, died October 18, 2014, after a career with Northrop Grumman and later as a manager in the restaurant industry.

2007

Larry C. Chapman of Roanoke, Virginia, died April 10, 2016. He was a longtime member of High Street Baptist Church in Roanoke.

2010

Chadwick "Chad" W. Amburgey of Courtland, Virginia, died May 11, 2016 after a lengthy battle with cancer. A graduate of the Virginia State Police Academy, he was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force during the Iraq War.

Myrtle E. Evans of Farmville, Virginia, died August 13, 2012.

2013

Lacie M. Helms of Charlotte, North Carolina, passed away November 18, 2016. Her short career included a stint as an online admissions counselor at Bluefield College.

Friends

R. Trent Argo, BC's vice president for enrollment management and student services, passed away April 24, 2017. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he worked nearly 30 years in higher education, including six years at BC. Within the community, he was a den leader for Boy Scouts of America and a member of Rotary International, Kiwanis International, and First Baptist Church of Princeton, West Virginia.

Kenneth W. Bailey, a former BC trustee from Abingdon, Virginia, died August 16, 2016. Kenneth was a New York Life agent for 48 years and an active member of Abingdon Baptist Church, Kiwanis Club of Abingdon, Abingdon Masonic Lodge No. 48, and the Kazim Shriners Club of Roanoke, Virginia.

A.A. "Al" Modena, a BC honorary alumnus and trustee emeritus from Midlothian, Virginia, died March 8, 2017. A U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a member of the Virginia State Bar, Al was a retired president of Flat Top National Bank in Bluefield, West Virginia, serving 45 years on the bank's Board. He also served as chairman of the West Virginia Bankers Association and was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bluefield and attended St. Gabriel Catholic Church since moving to Midlothian in 2011.

Editor's Note: Bluefield College reserves the right to edit class notes or other content submitted for publication in the alumni magazine based on space, grammar, style, content, and other formatting standards. The college also may edit or not include submissions that promote beliefs contrary to the values and mission of the school.

what's new?

Have news you would like to share in class notes?

Submit your class note online by scanning this QR code or visiting bluefield.edu/class-notes. Even view expanded notes and additional photos from other classmates. You may also email your name, address, class year, and your news to bcnews@bluefield.edu, or mail the information to Bluefield College, Public Relations, 3000 College Avenue, Bluefield, VA 24605.



the last word

Greetings Alumni and Friends:

My name is Hal Keene, and I am a proud 1984 graduate of Bluefield College. As an alumnus, I feel both honored and blessed to have been called to come home to BC as your director of planned giving and major gifts.



I am a native of nearby Tazewell, Virginia, where I still reside with my wife, Becky, and son Braeden. I have been privileged to be involved in many community organizations over the years. Youth league coaching, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, and scouting have provided many wonderful memories.

In fact, I currently serve as scoutmaster of Tazewell Boy Scouts Troop 93 and as finance chairman for the Mountain Dominion District of Boy Scouts of America. I believe it is important for us to give our time and resources back to others when we can. We all have an opportunity and responsibility as Christians to help make the world a better place.

Growing up in the beautiful mountains of Virginia, I became an avid outdoorsman. I enjoy golfing, hunting, fishing, and working on the family farm. I am so thankful for the countless hours my late father spent with me in the great outdoors passing down his skills, wisdom, and life lessons. I aspire to continue that legacy with my son as well as all of my "scout sons."

Professionally, I have spent my entire career in the banking, insurance, and financial services industries. I look forward to putting that experience to work for you and the college by showing our community, alumni and friends how we can all work together to reach our goals.

Bluefield College has had a long and storied history of providing students with academic excellence. We all take pride in the strong moral and ethical Christian values on which this institution was established. Nearly 100 years since our founding in 1922, we remain steadfastly committed to passing those timeless values on to future generations.

As we prepare for the next 100 years at Bluefield College, it is clear we must move forward together. Alumni, faculty, staff, students, and the community can achieve great things working together in harmony. As we reflect on and give thanks to those who gave along the way to provide an opportunity for us to succeed, may we begin to understand that now is our time to give in order to help others succeed.

There are many planned giving options available, and I encourage you to visit the Bluefield College web site at bluefield.edu/giving or contact me anytime by email at vkeene@bluefield.edu or by phone at 276-326-4209 to arrange a private consultation for any questions you may have. I look forward to working with you to discover how you can help others succeed at Bluefield College for the next 100 years!

Sincerely,

Hal Keene

Hal Keene
Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts



July 15

Central Virginia Alumni Reunion at the home of alumna Peggy Emert Bickford ('71) in Buckingham County.

July 20, 24, 25 and August 1, 8

BC at the Ballpark alumni reunions: Bluefield Blue Jays (July 20), Norfolk Tides (July 24), Richmond Squirrels (July 25), Pulaski Yankees (August 1), and Salem Red Sox (August 8).

July 22

New River Valley Potluck Alumni Reunion at the home of alumna Fran Webb Louthan ('71) in Dublin.

October 21-22

Homecoming 2017, featuring reunions, Rams football, dinner theatre, fireworks, worship, and alumni awards.

November 14

Hampton Roads Alumni Reunion, Embassy Suites, Hampton

VISIT BLUEFIELD.EDU/REUNIONS TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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