

# SPARE

SPRING 2016

a magazine for bluefield college alumni and friends



## ALUMNA SARAH CORDILL JONES

A Teacher, a Fighter, a Hero to Her Students | 10

Spire is the official magazine for alumni and friends of Bluefield College, 3000 College Avenue, Bluefield, Virginia 24605. The magazine is published twice a year in the fall and spring seasons by the Office of Marketing and Public Relations. Available online at [bluefield.edu/magazine](http://bluefield.edu/magazine).

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

In case you didn't notice, the Bluefield College alumni magazine has a new look...and a new name. We simply thought it was time for a change, and thought bigger photos, more white space, larger fonts, and an overall more modern design would improve the publication. We hope you agree. The name, *Spire*, comes from BC's Harman Chapel and its steeple that has long symbolized a beacon on a hill, much like the light of Christ. As Bluefield College serves to be a light for students and alumni seeking to fulfill a calling or change the world through servant leadership, so may *Spire* serve as the voice that tells their stories.

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# a word from the president



Dear Alumni and Friends:

I have excellent news to share with you! We have heard from our accreditor (SACSCOC) that the College has been removed from probation. As I shared with you around this time last year, we had been sanctioned as a result of non-compliance in two standards related to institutional effectiveness. The two areas of concern related to how we assessed our (1) educational programs and student outcomes and (2) academic and student support services. The chairperson leading the Special Committee that visited campus in April commended us on providing demonstrable evidence of a "robust process" for ongoing assessments and improvements.

I never doubted we could demonstrate our compliance. We simply needed more time to collect additional data, assess it, and modify programs as needed to guide us in achieving our desired outcomes. Our faculty and staff worked diligently over the past year to ensure demonstration of our compliance with the two standards in question, and I am grateful for their tireless commitment to our students and the College's mission of developing transformational servant leaders.

Bluefield College continues to make great strides in academic program quality and development, as well. We are in the final stages of approval from SACSCOC to launch a new master's program in nursing. The MSN will be offered with two concentrations: (1) family nurse practitioner and (2) administration/education. The program will be offered online with several intensive clinical weekends at Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg.

One of the significant projects completed this past year was the renovation of Harman Chapel. In preparation of the chapel's 50th anniversary, the much-needed quarter million dollar restoration included new flooring and seating, a fresh coat of paint, high definition video, LED lighting and staging software, and concert level audio. It is quite spectacular, and if you haven't already done so, I hope you will make plans to visit campus and see the chapel upgrades firsthand.

In addition, we are in the final stages of securing resources to construct the Wellness Center that will sit adjacent to the Dome Gymnasium. If you haven't made a gift or pledge yet, you can be the one to help tip this important project from concept to reality. Our students need it, and the College can enhance its ability in offering a quality, comprehensive living and learning experience to our students.

Remember, Homecoming is October 21-23. Mark your calendar and make plans to see your college up close and enjoy visiting with classmates and former faculty as you cheer on the Rams to victory!

Most importantly, thank you for your continued prayers and advocacy for Bluefield College!

Partnering with you in faithful service,

David W. Olive  
President



Bluefield College biology professor Dr. Martin Offield (left) and BC students Rutger Allen (second from left) and Jarrett Garland (right) take part in a biology study trip in Brazil.

## Students Study Biology in the Amazon Forest

Students at Bluefield College are learning about the Amazon Forest and other tropical ecosystems, but not from textbooks or through lectures. Instead, BC biology majors are exploring the Amazon firsthand through the school's Global Education Program and partnerships for study abroad.

Most recently, the Global Education Program took Bluefield College biology majors Rutger Allen and Jarrett Garland to Brazil for a two-week study abroad project in the Amazon Forest and other environmental wonders along the Brazilian coast in Belem, the capital of Pará and a port city and gateway to Brazil's lower Amazon region.

This particular study abroad project occurred as a result of Bluefield College's partnership with the Federal University of Pará (UFPA)

in Belem — an agreement that calls for collaborative study between the two schools for the purpose of helping students from both organizations better understand one another's people, places and cultures.

"The Federal University of Pará sits at the mouth of the Amazon River and provides a wonderful laboratory for our students and faculty," said President David Olive. "We're excited about the opportunities that await our students and professors through this partnership with UFPA."

Taking advantage of the opportunities first: Allen and Garland, who signed up for a special topics course at BC, called Tropical Ecosystems, to qualify for the biology study trip. They spent two weeks at UFPA, fulfilling the lab portion of the Tropical Ecosystems class. And, after added

lectures back in Bluefield, they earned four credit hours toward graduation, but far more than that from their experiences in the Amazon.

“These students learned so much about the ecosystems of Brazil and about Brazilian culture and history,” said Dr. Martin Offield, a professor of biology who led the students on the study abroad. “We saw many interesting research projects that are being conducted at UFPA, both in ecological studies, as well as other biology research projects.”

And with his background, Dr. Offield is the most fitting professor to lead the BC students in their biology study. He holds a doctorate in cell biology from Vanderbilt University, where he also worked as a research scientist, studying the many aspects of embryological development and the creation of new technologies for studying growth. In fact, his work led to the discovery of one of the chief genes, PDX-1, that directs the growth of the pancreas and regulates insulin production. This work has been continued by others as a possible way to cure diabetes.

“The study of nature just shouts, ‘glory to God,’” said Dr. Offield, “especially in the area of biology. The more we look into it, the more we are struck by awe and wonder at what God has made.”

While in Belem, Allen and Garland toured biology labs at UFPA and spoke with researchers on campus about their work. Garland shadowed a physician at the university hospital, while Allen spent time in the school’s herpetology labs, examining reptiles and amphibians. But, it was their exploration outside of the UFPA classrooms and labs that left the most influential impression on the students. Both ventured into the jungles of the Amazon Forest with UFPA faculty to study its unique ecosystem.

“Going to Brazil was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Garland. “The Amazon culture has its own identity making it unique. I would like to go back when I receive my medical degree to make a difference in their medical field.”

Both Allen and Garland also explored the Amazon River and trekked inland to Bragança in northeastern Brazil for additional environmental studies. They toured museums and natural parks and even traveled to Gunma in the southern part of Pará for two days of study at the Gunma Ecologic Park. In addition to their biology studies, Allen and Garland took part in language and culture courses, earning certificates in those subjects from UFPA.

“This trip helped the students see the world from the perspective of a different culture and how the scientists of Brazil are tackling some of the questions addressed in the field of biology,” said Dr. Offield. “It also gave them the opportunity to see some of the unique animals and ecology of the Amazon region.”

The partnership with the Federal University of Pará was made possible through the assistance of Liaison America, a Bluefield, Virginia-based company that provides international education services and facilitates opportunities for study abroad for high school and college students. Founded by Sandra Lima Argo, a native of Brazil, Liaison America has arranged a variety of camps and visits to Bluefield College for Brazilian students and organized a number of study trips to Brazil for BC students — all designed to support the college’s overall Global Education initiative to promote a greater understanding of and appreciation for global cultures, languages, issues, and traditions.



Sandra Lima Argo (left), founder of Liaison America, with biology student Rutger Allen (second from left), biology professor Dr. Martin Offield (second from right), and biology student Jarrett Garland.

# MacDonald Lives Her Passion for Cancer Research



Alumna Amber MacDonald works with a team of graduate students at the University of Tennessee on cancer research.

After Bluefield College, alumna Amber MacDonald began pursuing her master's degree at the University of Tennessee. There, she became a lab manager and a graduate teaching assistant and soon began living her passion doing cancer research.

MacDonald came to Bluefield College from Beckley, West Virginia, in 2008. She was extremely involved as a student, serving as a senator and secretary for the Student Government Association and a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. She also competed in softball and cross-country and was named a National Christian College Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete. Off campus, she was a board member for the Windhorse Healing Arts Center.

"There were plenty of opportunities at Bluefield," said MacDonald. "The key was just to work hard. It was stressful, but in the end it was worth it, and I would never trade my time at Bluefield."

MacDonald studied exercise and sport science (ESS) at BC, serving as a student athletic trainer for four years and earning the ESS Most Outstanding Student Award. But, it was her participation in the Honors Program that she credits for her success during and after Bluefield. The Honors Program, she said, challenged her to start research that

interested her. She chose nutrition and cancer and fell in love with the idea of using a proper diet to prevent and treat the disease.

"Bluefield College was the place where I found my passion," said MacDonald. "Because of the passion I developed at Bluefield, God then led me to the University of Tennessee where I am actually getting to put my passion into action."

After earning her bachelor's degree from BC in 2012, MacDonald took her passion to UT to pursue a master's degree in cellular molecular nutrition. While serving as a lab manager and a graduate teaching assistant, she conducted cancer research. Her specific lab worked with Zyflamend, a poly-herbal supplement made from 10 herbs. Their goal: to determine how Zyflamend activates AMPK (adenosine monophosphate activated protein kinase).

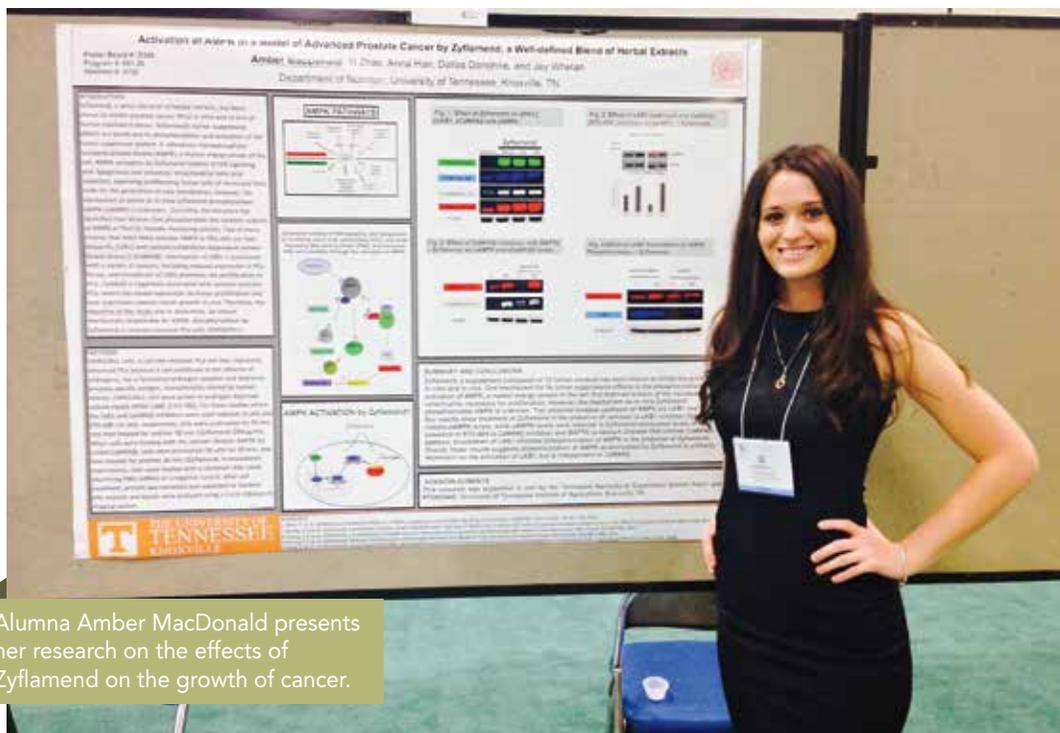
"The activation of AMPK is a very interesting and clever way of preventing the growth of cancer," said MacDonald. "By activating AMPK, you can essentially starve the tumor of making the nutrients it needs to grow."

In fact, MacDonald and the graduate students in her lab determined that Zyflamend activates AMPK in a model of advanced or late stage prostate cancer. She traveled to San Diego, California, in

April to present her research at Experimental Biology, a national research conference. Soon after, she graduated from UT, and now she said she plans to pursue a Ph.D. and continue her cancer research.

"There is no doubt I would not be in this position today if it were not for the outstanding faculty at Bluefield College who encouraged me to follow my passion and, most importantly, what God has planned for my life," said MacDonald. "Not only are the teachers experts in their fields, but they are also Christian leaders. I was always encouraged to pursue the plan God had for my life, and the ESS Department was the beginning of developing my passion for cancer research."

Story by BC student marketing associate Whitney Browning



Alumna Amber MacDonald presents her research on the effects of Zyflamend on the growth of cancer.



The beautiful city of Alicante, Spain, the classroom setting for a semester of study for BC student Adriana Moreno.

# Climbing Castles IN SPAIN

Learning experiences at Bluefield College can be “amazing,” “life fulfilling” and “a dream come true.” Just ask BC student Adriana Moreno, who just recently completed a study trip abroad to Spain, where she not only had an “amazing” time learning, but also developed a keen appetite for global adventure.

Originally seeking to simply fulfill a BC general education requirement of one year of intermediate study of a foreign language, Moreno ended up completing a once-in-a-lifetime adventure with a semester of study in Alicante, Spain.

“My semester abroad felt like one long wonderful dream — a dream that consisted of nothing but the happiest of times,” said Moreno, “exploring magical places that I thought only existed in fairytales.”

As is often the case at Bluefield College, Moreno’s “magical” learning experience occurred outside the classroom in study abroad, thanks to BC’s Global Education Program and its many partnerships that provide students the opportunity to learn in Brazil, England, Ireland, Italy, Australia, China, India, Costa Rica, Uganda, Jordan, Lithuania, Lebanon, Greece, Argentina, and Spain.

In Moreno’s case, Bluefield’s partnership with the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) allowed her to travel to Spain where, in her own words, she didn’t just read history; she lived it through a tour of the Coliseum. She didn’t learn a second language from a textbook, but through friendly conversations with locals. And, she didn’t just listen to lectures about other cultures and places; she experienced them.

“Study halls became plane rides, and tests turned into navigating back to your hostel without getting completely lost,” said Moreno. “Lunch in the caf turned into lunch by the canal. And study plans turned into weekend trips and soccer matches.”

In addition to studying intermediate Spanish, Moreno studied Spanish and contemporary European societies through a wide selection of academic courses at her host school, the University of Alicante. She also explored Spanish composition and dance.

“Adriana had a fabulous time in every way,” said Dr. Cindy Bascom, a BC faculty advisor who facilitated Moreno’s study trip, “expanding her Spanish skills, experiencing other cultures’ traditions, visiting beautiful, magical places, appreciating history, forming lifelong friendships, and in short, developing an appetite for global adventure.”

Her host city, Alicante, located on the Mediterranean Sea, boasts magnificent sandy beaches, blue waters, rich history, and beautiful monuments. People in Alicante live most of their life outdoors as part of the Mediterranean lifestyle, featuring busy cafés, vibrant nightlife, street markets, and local festivals. The University of Alicante features lovely gardens, fountains, palm trees, and modern architecture, all of which created a great learning and social atmosphere for Moreno.

But, Moreno’s adventures were not confined to Alicante. In fact, during her six-months stay, she visited 20 cities in eight different countries, including Spain, Italy, Greece, England, France, Holland, Ireland and Germany — each, Moreno said, with its own history to learn, transportation to master, dishes to taste, and new adventures to find. Her adventures included sitting in the grass under the Eiffel tower, skipping stones in the Mediterranean Sea, riding bikes under windmills in Amsterdam, swimming in crystal clear waters in Italy, and climbing castles in Spain.

“I met the most amazing people from all over the world,” she said, “and truly enjoyed some of the happiest moments in my life. There were times when I would just sit and think about how my life couldn’t get any better than this exact moment. Spain was everything I had hoped for and more.”



Bluefield College senior Karen Sutherland (right) accepts her diploma from President David Olive, one last step in her efforts to fulfill her calling to be a teacher.

# Her Calling through Bluefield College

Recent Bluefield College graduate Karen Sutherland has a passion for teaching. It's a calling she didn't realize early in life and one she later doubted would come to fruition. But now, thanks to the Online Degree Program and the School of Education at Bluefield College, Sutherland is set to live her passion and fulfill her calling as an elementary school teacher.

After graduating from Grundy High School in 1991, Sutherland earned a financial services and bookkeeping certificate from Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) that enabled her to begin working at Grundy National Bank. She spent 10 years in banking before taking time off from her career to be a stay-at-home mom for her son, Cade. After Cade's formative years, Sutherland decided to go back to college in 2009, this time for teacher education.

"It wasn't until I began substitute teaching and became a paraprofessional that I decided to major in education," said Sutherland about finding her calling. "In 2013, I earned an associate of arts and sciences degree with a major in education from SWCC."

Unsure of where to go to earn the bachelor's degree she needed to fulfill her calling, Sutherland learned that Virginia Intermont, a Virginia Baptist college in Bristol, Virginia, would be bringing its teacher education program to her hometown. She enrolled, but just one semester into her baccalaureate studies, VI announced its closure in the spring of 2014 as a result of longstanding financial woes and the loss of accreditation.

"I really didn't know how I was going to continue to earn my bachelor's degree," said Sutherland. "Then Bluefield College offered to help the Virginia Intermont students get the courses they needed to complete their teacher licensure and degree in the shortest possible time."

After learning about the demise of VI, Bluefield College quickly developed a teach-out plan with the sister Virginia Baptist school, offering automatic transfer admission and the necessary courses and training needed for interested VI students to finish their baccalaureate degree.

"We were saddened by the news that Virginia Intermont was ceasing to offer classes," said President David Olive. "We were grateful for the opportunity to have a teach-out plan for VI students, a plan that would enable interested students to complete their programs at Bluefield College."

Thanks to the teach-out plan, Sutherland enrolled in the BC Teacher Education Program in the fall of 2014. She chose to complete her studies through the college's

Online Degree Program, which allowed her the more convenient, flexible option of taking her courses from her home in Vansant, which she said enabled her to earn her degree in the shortest possible time.

"The administrative staff and instructors worked closely with me to make sure that I met all of the requirements for my degree in a timely manner," said Sutherland. "I learned in my classes that one of the most important attributes of teaching is caring about students. With the instruction, feedback and guidance that I was given, I can definitely say that my instructors genuinely cared about my academic success."

Sutherland graduated with her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies in May and a license to teach kindergarten through sixth grade. Fulfilling that calling she said would not have been possible without Bluefield College and the lessons she learned in the Teacher Education Program.

"Bluefield College has prepared me to become a teacher by providing me with as many real life teaching experiences as possible," said Sutherland. "The college has prepared me to be the best educator that I can be, and I look forward to using what I have learned to provide my students with new learning opportunities so they can accomplish significant things."



Ron Hall (right), president of the Virginia Baptist Foundation (VBF), presents Karen Sutherland with the VBF's Barbara L. Hobgood Legacy Scholarship to help her finish her teacher education studies at Bluefield College. Established in 2001 by the late Maude Hobgood, who served the Virginia Baptist Mission Board for more than 30 years, in memory of her daughter, who preceded her in death in 2003, the Barbara L. Hobgood Legacy Scholarship, Hall said, is designed to recognize students for "academic excellence" and a "commitment to Christ."

*Helping students fulfill their calling*



# OVERCOMING CANCER

*to fulfill a passion to teach*

**R**ecent Bluefield College alumna Sarah Cordill Jones has a passion for teaching – a passion she was living and loving in her seventh year with Tazewell County Schools until the day she learned she had cancer and found herself out of the classroom and in a battle for her life.

Being a teacher is something Jones said she always knew she wanted to do from the time she was a child.

“I just always enjoyed passing on what I had learned and seeing the excitement of others learning or figuring out something new,” said Jones. “I do feel God called me to teach. I get such a fulfillment from teaching.”

A graduate of nearby Princeton Senior High School, she chose Bluefield College to explore and nurture her passion, earning a degree in interdisciplinary studies with teacher licensure in 2008. While a student at BC, she was a member of the Student Virginia Education Association, Alpha Chi National Honor Society and Phi Delta Kappa, a premier professional association for educators. She was also a Virginia Collegium Scholar and named a Teacher of Promise.

“My experience at Bluefield College was wonderful,” said Jones. “I really think the BC Education Department is the best. It wasn’t just school; it was a family. They went above and beyond to prepare us for the classroom.”

Jones began her career part-time in 2009 as a tutor for Tazewell County Schools. A year later, she became a full-time reading instructor at Dudley Primary School. Three years later, she got her own classroom as a third grade teacher at Graham

Intermediate School (GIS). And today, she is a fourth grade teacher at GIS, where in 2011 she started having pain in her back. After months of being told by doctors that nothing was wrong, Jones recalls, physicians eventually found a tumor wrapped around her sciatic nerve near her spinal cord. It was cancer.

Diagnosed in December 2011, she was forced out of the classroom she so loves to begin treatment. For nearly a year, February 2012 to January 2013, she endured four months of chemotherapy, which allowed surgeons to remove the tumor, two months of radiation, and another six months of additional chemo. Finally getting back in the classroom, she said, was exciting and emotional.



*Sarah Cordill Jones (right) accepts her Teacher of the Year Award.*

“It was wonderful to be back where I felt God wanted me,” said Jones. “My kids, parents, and co-workers made me feel so loved and welcome. The love and support I received was overwhelming and humbling. The support and prayers provided a much needed strength and gave me a boost when I needed it.”

Cancer free, Jones returned to the classroom in January 2013. She said she missed the lessons and the actual teaching, but more than anything the social interaction with her students, hearing about their day, talking about new movies, or discussing comic books.

“I don’t have children of my own, so my students are my children,” she said. “I love each one, even the ones that test my patience. I love teaching the academics and finding fun ways to do so, but one thing that the BC Education Department always talked about was wayside teaching, and I think that it can sometimes make a bigger difference than the academic success.

Without that emotional and social support, some students would never pay attention to the academic part.”

But in 2015, just two years after returning to teaching, Jones received more devastating news. The cancer had returned, this time as a spot on her left lung. Finding it early in its growth, doctors were able to remove it, after which Jones had to undergo six months of chemotherapy treatments.

“The second diagnosis was crushing,” she said. “However, I learned so much from the first time around, I just thought there was something else I needed to do or learn. I truly believe God is in control and has a plan for me. My prayer is that I use my second shot to do what God wants me to do.”

And taking full advantage of her second chance is exactly what Jones is doing. In fact, as a result of her courageous battle with cancer, her remarkable return to the classroom, and above all the impact she has on her students, who now call her “a fighter” and “a hero,” Jones was recently named the 2016 Teacher of the Year for southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia. Dozens of teachers from secondary schools across the region were nominated for the prestigious award, sponsored by the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph* and Cole Chevrolet of Bluefield, West Virginia. Two Bluefield College grads, Jones and 2012 BC alumnus Ethan Lewis, another fourth grade teacher at Graham Intermediate School, were among the finalists for the honor, but Jones stood out as the most deserving.

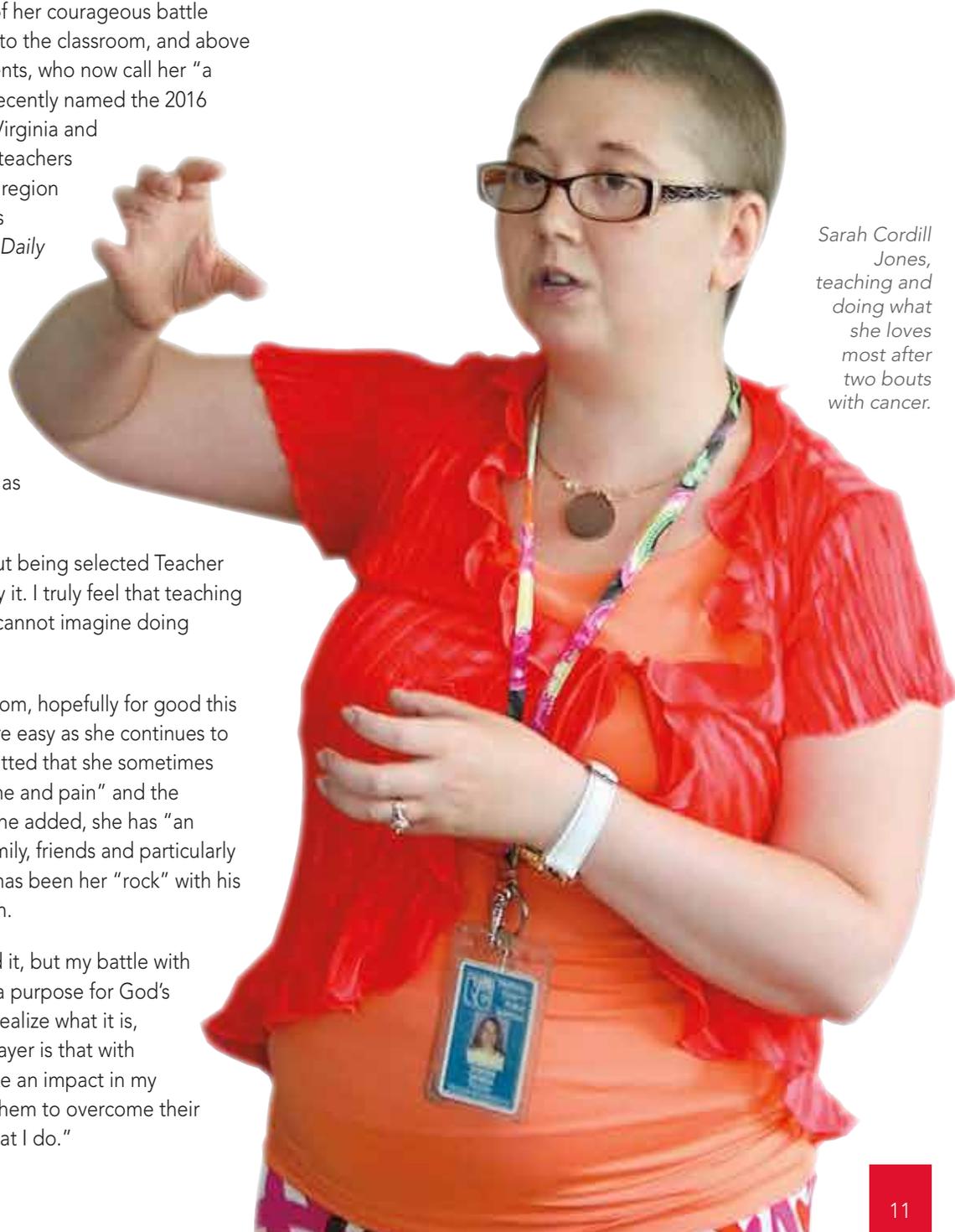
“I feel very blessed,” she said about being selected Teacher of the Year. “I love teaching. I enjoy it. I truly feel that teaching is what I have been called to do. I cannot imagine doing anything else with my life.”

Cancer free and back in the classroom, hopefully for good this time, Jones said that not all days are easy as she continues to recover from the disease. She admitted that she sometimes gets nervous about “every little ache and pain” and the possibility of a reoccurrence. But, she added, she has “an amazing support system” in her family, friends and particularly her husband, Jamie, who she said has been her “rock” with his optimism, encouragement and faith.

“Somehow, and I don’t understand it, but my battle with cancer and my overcoming it, has a purpose for God’s glory,” said Jones. “I might never realize what it is, but I know there is a reason. My prayer is that with my second chance at life I can make an impact in my students’ lives. I hope I can teach them to overcome their struggles and see God’s love in what I do.”

“Somehow... my battle with cancer and my overcoming it has a purpose for God’s glory.”

-Sarah Cordill Jones



Sarah Cordill Jones, teaching and doing what she loves most after two bouts with cancer.

**“Bluefield College was the place where my heart belonged.”**

—Dr. Wayne Massey

When the 2015-2016 academic year began at Bluefield College, it did so without a vital “beacon of academic excellence.” When faculty and staff returned to campus, they did so in the absence of “a beloved friend,” who “inspired [them] to be a better teacher.” And when students walked back in the classroom, they did so without the professor most devoted to their academic success, Dr. Wayne Massey, who retired from BC after 27 years of service.

A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Dr. Massey came to Bluefield College first as a student in 1957. He studied business administration, while serving as a member of Future Business Leaders of America and a sports reporter for the student newspaper.

“My preparation in business courses was quite good and prepared me well for my further studies at Virginia Tech,” said Dr. Massey. “Mostly, however, long-term, even life-long friendships were formed right here at BC, and the foundation for Christian living was made firm through Bluefield College, where Christ is pre-eminent.”

After earning an associate’s degree from Bluefield in 1959 and a bachelor’s degree in business from Virginia Tech, Dr. Massey decided to study English. He earned a master’s degree in English from Western Carolina University and a Ph.D. in English from Ball

State University, and the rest, as they say, is history as Dr. Massey embarked upon an impressive and influential calling to teach that lasted 54 years.

“Teaching is all about helping others learn,” said Dr. Massey about the profession he dedicated more than half a century to. “When I served wisely and willingly, the glory went to God, and for this I am grateful. In all things, to Him be the glory.”

He taught first at Woodlawn Academy, a private school in Chatham, Virginia, where he also served 12 years as headmaster. From there, he spent three years teaching English at Danville, Martinsville and Lynchburg community colleges in Virginia, before returning to his alma mater in 1988.

“Bluefield College was the place where my heart belonged,” said Dr. Massey about coming back to BC to teach, “and when I was allowed to return in 1988, I realized that I had come full circle. God brought me to the place where I most needed to be when He brought me to Bluefield and to the profession where I could best serve Him.”

During his 27 years on faculty at Bluefield, Dr. Massey served as an assistant professor, then associate professor, and finally professor of English. Outside of the classroom, he was director of

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# Beacon for Bluefield College Students for 27 years



International Programs and faculty advisor for the student newspaper, *The Rampage*.

During his time at Bluefield College, Dr. Massey also published two books: *Understanding Grammar* and *Christian Worldview*.

"More than anything, I took great pride in students' successes, especially seeing their minds expand over the four-year academic experience," said Dr. Massey. "My personal goal was always to develop my students to a place beyond my own when I was the same age and at the same level of learning."

In addition to expanding students' minds and watching "their ever-growing mental and spiritual maturity," Dr. Massey said he enjoyed the "personal closeness" that Bluefield College offered its employees and the "fulfilling, ongoing" friendships he developed.

"This school has meant everything to me," he said. "From those earliest days as a student to the present, memories flood my mind. It's a love story that is still unfolding. I love the people here. I have seen their dedication, their work ethic, and their commitment to teaching and to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ."

Not long after his retirement at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year, the BC Board of Trustees honored Dr. Massey with a formal resolution and the distinction of professor emeritus, recognizing him as "a model to the Bluefield College community for years to come." At that time, his colleagues spoke of his keen understanding of the value of personal attention to students and the "innumerable hours" he spent with them in "one-on-one conversations." They also acknowledged the ways in which Dr. Massey "modeled Christian behavior through many unsung acts of kindness" and "unashamedly shared the Word at the college and in the community."

"Dr. Massey demonstrated to his students by example how a reverence for the wonder of language is the foundation for a fruitful life in the classroom and beyond," said Dr. Rob Merritt, who served alongside Dr. Massey on faculty for 25 years. "He was a driving force as a scholar and a professor of language and literature in the Department of English."

As far as life after Bluefield College is concerned, Dr. Massey said he is "looking into ways to meet God's calling." He plans to tutor, volunteer at BC, work with homeschoolers, get involved in Christian ministries, help with Hospice, and spend time with grandchildren.

"The only prayer I know to utter to such a loving and faithful God is to allow me to know His will for how I might serve Him throughout the remainder of the time He grants," said Dr. Massey. "Go wherever, do whatever, be whatever, as He decrees."



Spending personal time with students – one of Dr. Wayne Massey's greatest joys.



The college hosted its fourth annual New Opportunity School for Women (NOSW) this spring to help disadvantaged women from Appalachia improve their educational, financial and personal circumstances. A life-changing program for the women involved, the NOSW is a three-week residential experience featuring training in leadership, self-esteem, computer basics, math, finance, self-defense, creative writing, stress management, and Appalachian culture. The women also participate in internships with local businesses, all in an effort to help them improve their lives and become more self-sufficient. Read more at [bluefield.edu/nosw16](http://bluefield.edu/nosw16).



One hundred fifty-one Bluefield College seniors accepted diplomas, May 7, during the school's 94th Annual Spring Commencement. The program featured a keynote address from The Honorable Morgan Griffith, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who also received an Honorary Doctorate degree. Distinguished graduates Tanja Allen, an online nursing student, and Hannah Mayo, a traditional teacher education student, offered student speeches. For complete coverage of Spring Commencement, including dozens of photos and a list of graduates, visit [bluefield.edu/spring16grads](http://bluefield.edu/spring16grads).



For the third year in a row, Bluefield College has earned an "A" rating from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) for its outstanding core curriculum — a prestigious recognition reserved for a mere 22 colleges in the nation. The ACTA surveyed more than 1,100 schools to evaluate whether they require seven key subjects in their general education curriculum. Only two percent, including BC, met the standard. To read the full story about BC's ACTA rating, visit [bluefield.edu/arating](http://bluefield.edu/arating).



BC's Board of Trustees met on campus in April, and during the spring session approved an art business major and a Teachers of Chemistry Certificate Program. The group also passed the school's 2016-'17 budget, featuring funding for seven new faculty and staff positions and \$700,000 for campus upgrades. The spring session also included formal recognition for trustee Wistar Trent, who died April 13; approval of four faculty promotions for Dr. Bonny Dillon, Dr. Emily Lambert, Werner Lind and Dr. Charles Priest; the renewal of terms for trustees Gordon Grimes and Sarah Reid; and the addition of Tom Scott to a new trustee term. More details at [bluefield.edu/spring16trustees](http://bluefield.edu/spring16trustees).



Bluefield College alumni took time away from their work and family to invest in the lives of current BC students during a spring Ram-2-Ram Alumni Career Seminar on campus. The former students gave career advice, discussed topics related to life after college and in the work place, and answered questions asked by current BC students. Among the alumni participating: Caleb Bittler ('13), Casey Palmer Taylor ('12), Kyle Neal ('11), and Katie Warren Waugh ('11). Read more or sign up for the next Ram-2-Ram at [bluefield.edu/ram2ram](http://bluefield.edu/ram2ram).



Students took time out from classes and books to celebrate the culmination of another academic year with the school's 38th Annual Mud Pig Day, April 28. The 2016 version featured the traditional mud pit and waterslide, along with inflatable games, mechanical bull riding, corn hole, and a Mud Pig Day first, a color throw, where students gathered in mass to throw colored powder in the air, creating air art and as it fell body art. View hundreds of Mud Pig Day photos, even videos at [bluefield.edu/mpd16](http://bluefield.edu/mpd16).



For a month this spring, 22 current students telephoned more than 3,000 former students soliciting \$43,000 in gifts and pledges to the 2016 Phonathon and the BC Fund for Scholarships. Among the students who called: Jean-Emmanuel Ahouman, Lee Harris-Brown, Victoria Doyle, Daniel Griffin, Eli Hairfield, Allie Higgins, Tyra Jackson, Cobie Marotske, Patrik Martin, Cade Mullins, Scott Murray, Courtney Oxford, Janan Perkins, MyKenzie Roach, Garrett Schilling, Darius Scott, Benjy Slator, Alexis Thompson, Haley Thompson, Olivia Thompson, Mark Winstone, and Brady Womble. More details at [bluefield.edu/phonathon16](http://bluefield.edu/phonathon16).



Bluefield College celebrated the history, people, music, food and traditions of Appalachia with its annual Appalachian Festival, April 9, featuring daylong old-time music, along with local craft and food vendors with handmade and homemade goods. The festival also included storytelling, lectures, local authors selling and signing books, a writing contest, and historic tours. View dozens of photos and videos from the event at [bluefield.edu/appalachia](http://bluefield.edu/appalachia).



Bluefield College recently partnered with Just Compassion, Inc. to help provide dental care to low-income children and families in Southwest Virginia. A non-profit organization with a mission to provide dental care to underserved residents in rural Appalachia, Just Compassion uses mobile units and volunteer dentists and hygienists to provide its free services. To help fulfill its mission, Just Compassion partners with schools, like Bluefield, to provide easy-access locations for its services. Read the full story at [bluefield.edu/compassion](http://bluefield.edu/compassion).



Henry and Tasha Clary, international missionaries from Uruguay, spent the 2015-'16 academic year on campus enjoying a sabbatical from their work while sharing the Gospel and the value of missions with students. On campus as part of the college's Missionary in Residence (MIR) program, a venture the college has proudly hosted for nearly 15 years, the Clarys taught classes, led group studies, opened their home to students, spoke in churches, and formed a Spanish Club. Read the full story at [bluefield.edu/mir](http://bluefield.edu/mir).



Bluefield College has been ranked among the nation's "best values" by *The Economist* magazine based on the earnings of its alumni. Utilizing data from the Department of Education, *The Economist* compared students' loan applications to their subsequent tax returns. BC students were projected to earn \$35,769 had they attended college elsewhere, compared to the school's alumni earnings median of \$42,800. That \$7,031 positive difference placed BC 44th nationwide and among the top 96 percent of the 1,275 colleges evaluated. Read the full story at [bluefield.edu/value](http://bluefield.edu/value).



More than 100 alumni and friends, including 17 former BC music students, took part in a Music Alumni Reunion in February, which featured an alumni concert directed by former music student and professor Debbie Burton ('83). Among the BC grads joining Burton for the reunion: Donna Berry Barnum ('86), Billy Burton ('92), Cameron Botts Burton ('95), David Calfee ('93), Elizabeth Decker ('15), Carrie Laughlin Greene ('93), Josh Grubb ('07), Laura Whiteed Grubb ('08), Rebecca Bentley Hall ('86), Adam Lowe ('10), Adam McAllister ('08), Joe Newton ('63), Alex Payne ('95), Jennifer Rutledge Payne ('95), Tracy Shelton ('94), Heather Musick Shockley ('97), Jonathan Shockley ('96), Amy Bray Short ('94), Kimbra Nash Stenson ('84), and Carla Barr Thomas ('98). Photos at [bluefield.edu/musicreunion16](http://bluefield.edu/musicreunion16).



Twenty-nine BC students participated in a day of service, January 14, as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service and Remembrance. The annual MLK Day of Service is a day set aside for communities to come together to change the status quo by lending a helping hand and volunteering in the community. Toward that end, BC students served at the Bluefield Union Mission, Wade Center, Salvation Army, Second Chance Cats, Open Heart Ministries, and New Opportunity School for Women. Read the full story at [bluefield.edu/mlk16](http://bluefield.edu/mlk16).



One hundred ten seniors accepted diplomas during the school's 24th Annual Winter Commencement, December 12, in a program that featured a keynote address from Dr. Thomas Brewster, superintendent of Pulaski County Schools and former chair of the BC Board of Trustees. The event also included remarks from President David Olive, greetings from trustee Becky Beckett, and special music by alumna Elizabeth Decker. For complete coverage of Winter Commencement, including dozens of photos and a list of graduates, visit [bluefield.edu/winter15grads](http://bluefield.edu/winter15grads).



A former officer with the Bluefield Police Department whose career helped inspire the Netflix series "Narcos" spoke on the campus of Bluefield College in November about the hunt for narco-terrorist Pablo Escobar. Retired Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officer Steve Murphy and his partner in Colombia, Javier Peña, shared their experiences with dismantling the Medellin Drug Cartel and ending the career of Escobar, the world's first narco-terrorist. Read the full story at [bluefield.edu/dea](http://bluefield.edu/dea).



More than 30 BC students, faculty, staff and friends gave back to the local community in September during a day of service called Operation Bluefield, a fall outreach program that took the BC family to the Wade Center to paint, the Bluefield Union Mission to serve meals, and the City of Bluefield's Mitchell Stadium to clean. View photos and videos from the day of service at [bluefield.edu/operationbluefield15](http://bluefield.edu/operationbluefield15).



Fifty-six runners and walkers took part in BC's Eighth Annual Jason Elswick Memorial Scholarship 5K Challenge, September 19, with Josh Wolfe of Pearisburg, Virginia, earning the overall best time of the day at 20:19. Sponsored by David and Pam Elswick of Tazewell, Virginia, the event is designed to pay tribute to their son, Jason, who died in a car accident in October 2005 while a student at BC. The 5K also generates funds for the Elswick Scholarship, which provides assistance to students seeking a degree in math education just like Jason. Read more at [bluefield.edu/elswick15](http://bluefield.edu/elswick15).



Bluefield College has been ranked among the Top Tier Colleges in the South in *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Colleges: 2016." Only 74 colleges in the South region made *U.S. News'* Top Tier list. Bluefield ranked 49th among the Top Tier schools out of nearly 100 evaluated from 12 Southern states based on its strong scores in the areas of small class sizes, graduation rates, financial aid packages, and limited debt of graduates. Read more at [bluefield.edu/usnews](http://bluefield.edu/usnews).



Four Chinese students spent part of the fall 2015 semester at Bluefield College to learn more about the American way of life while sharing their knowledge of the people, culture, history and language of the People's Republic with BC students. Their visit was part of the college's ongoing academic and cultural exchange with Jiangsu Second Normal University in Nanjing, China, that brings Chinese students to BC every fall and sends Bluefield students to China each spring. Read more at [bluefield.edu/chinafall15](http://bluefield.edu/chinafall15).



Harman Chapel's auditorium has a brand new look, thanks to the completion of a quarter-million-dollar renovation project on the facility this past fall, which included the installation of new flooring, new seating, a new high definition video system, new stage lighting, automation software, and a concert level audio system. The project also included a fresh coat of interior paint. Read more details and view more photos at [bluefield.edu/newharman](http://bluefield.edu/newharman).

# faculty-staff update

**Susan Allen**, instructor of music and director of Praise Singers, retired from the Music Department after 15 years of service.

**Trent Argo**, vice president for enrollment management, took on added duties as VP for student services.

**Drew Bailey** joined the BC staff full time as head coach for cross country, pitching coach for baseball, and director of the Rams Booster Club.

**Valerie Burrell** became an admissions counselor for online degree programs.

**Nikki Byrd** joined the BC family as an admissions counselor for online degree students.

**Ruth Blankenship**, vice president for advancement, took on the added duties of VP for finance and administration.

**Chris Catron** joined the BC family as director of development.

**Elizabeth Decker** joined the BC staff as an admissions counselor for traditional students.

**Dr. Bonny Dillon** was promoted from associate professor to full professor of psychology.

**Kevin Downer**, assistant professor of exercise science and director of BC's sports management program, was a featured expert for an article on the finances of the Super Bowl on WalletHub.com.

**Jason Everson** joined the BC team as an assistant coach for football.

**Dr. Kim Farmer**, professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, took on the added responsibilities of Title IX coordinator to ensure the college's compliance with federal regulations that protect students against sexual discrimination.

**Buddy Gallemore** came to BC to serve as head coach for men's and women's volleyball.



**Dr. Abigail Heiniger**, assistant professor of English, published a book titled *Jane Eyre's Fairytale Legacy at Home and Abroad*. She joined the BC faculty in the fall of 2015.

**Yvonne Harris**, adjunct instructor for education and a student teaching supervisor, was appointed to the Board of Ordained Ministries of the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**Alex Holliday** joined the BC staff as an admissions counselor for online degree programs.

**Jennifer Lamb**, assistant registrar and assessment counselor, was promoted to registrar.

**Dr. Emily Lambert** was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of biology.

**Andrew Lawrence**, director of online programs, was promoted to associate vice president for online and distance education.

**Jon Leftwich** joined the BC staff as a campus safety officer.

**Abbey Le Roy** became a traditional admissions counselor.

**Eric Lester** joined the BC family as a support and systems analyst for Information Systems and Technology.



**Wener Lind** was promoted from assistant librarian to full librarian. In addition, his review of Shane Joseph's novel *In the Shadow of the Conquistador* was published in the December 2015 issue of *The Sri Lankan Anchoorman*.

**Alex Marcus**, an admissions counselor for traditional students, was promoted to assistant director of traditional admissions.

**Eric Mason** came on staff to serve as an administrative assistant for Academic Affairs.

**Dr. Tara Matthews**, instructor of human services and licensed professional counselor, earned a Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision.

**Burma McChesney** joined the college as director of the Fine Arts Community School (FACS).

**Mimi Merritt**, director of institutional effectiveness, received a 20-year Service Award from BC.



**Dr. Rob Merritt**, professor and dean of the College of Arts and Letters, presented two workshops at the National Association for Poetry Therapy Annual Conference. He was also selected by the Council of Independent Colleges to participate in a summer seminar on Teaching Interfaith Understanding.

**Sherelle Morgan** joined the BC family as director of online admissions.

**Shelley Newton** became head coach for women's softball.

**Deanna Odum** joined the BC staff full time as division manager for Athletics.

**Dr. Sharon Perot**, dean of the College of Professional Programs and chair of the Department of Business, served as a featured expert in an article on auto financing on WalletHub.com.

**Rachel Price** joined the BC family as an administrative assistant for the School of Nursing.

**Dr. Charles Priest** was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of music.

**Meg Quinn** became the director of community service and the New Opportunity School for Women — the first NOSW graduate to become director of the program.

**Bob Redd** came on staff as sports information director.

**Evan Sherman**, an admissions counselor for traditional students, was promoted to director of traditional admissions.

**Walter Shroyer**, professor and chair of the Art Department, received a 25-year Service Award.

**Kelley St. Clair**, controller, was promoted to director of finance and administration.

**Dr. Ben Thorburn**, assistant professor of music and director of Variations and Masterworks Chorale, departed BC after four years of service.

**Amy Walker**, a traditional admissions counselor, bid farewell to BC.



**Dr. Donna Watson**, professor and dean of the School of Education, received BC's 2016 Distinguished Faculty Award. She also received a 20-year Service Award.

**Laura White** retired after two years as vice president for finance and administration.

**Hannah Whited** joined the BC family as director of registration services and coordinator of BC Central.

**April Workman**, adjunct instructor for teacher education, earned her Ph.D. in education: curriculum and instruction, specializing in special education.



**Brenda Workman**, was promoted from assistant director to director of student success and retention. She also received BC's 2016 Distinguished Staff Award.

**Jay Wright** joined the faculty as a professor of accounting and health care management.



**Dr. Maria Zalduondo**, associate professor of languages, received a grant from the Appalachian College Association to research the golden age of journals edited and produced by Mexican women. She was also one of only 15 college professors worldwide to be selected for a National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to study Latin American theatre.

**Sharon Ziegler**, an instructor of music, retired from the Music Department after eight years of service.



## There's a New Sheriff's Association President in Town

There's a new Virginia Sheriff's Association president in town, and he's a Bluefield College graduate, Sheriff Richard Vaughan.

A gentle man of 46 from Fries, Virginia, Vaughan's career in law enforcement spans 21 years, including stints as a conservation officer, a sheriff's deputy and an investigator. Since 2007, a year after he earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice through Bluefield College's online degree program, he has served as sheriff of Grayson County.

Now in his second term as sheriff, Vaughan has reached another professional milestone. He has been elected president of the Virginia Sheriff's Association (VSA), an organization of 8,900 members that represents the interests and serves as the primary voice for law enforcement and sheriffs' offices in the Virginia General Assembly.

But Vaughan's career as sheriff didn't begin as pleasant as most recent years. In fact, it began with significant drama with a triple homicide case involving suspect Freddie Hammer. Killers don't come much colder than Hammer, who is serving eight life sentences in state prison. He has admitted to more than a dozen murders, and may have committed up to 17. But before all that, Vaughan, the new sheriff in town, was sitting at the suspect's kitchen table, staring at this alleged serial killer. Known as a "mind-gamer," Hammer was smart, and at this moment, pleasant and

joyful. Just like any self-respecting con man, he was calmly detailing his alibi.

Unlucky for Hammer, Vaughan had completed excellent training at two community colleges, earned his criminal justice degree at Bluefield College, and trained at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Academy. He knew how to conduct an effective investigation, collect evidence, and follow it all the way to conviction. Or, should we say, in this case, multiple convictions. Hammer's eventual total was seven counts of capital murder.

After an initiation like that, one would expect to meet a sheriff who is gruff and jaded. Not so. Instead, Vaughan is cheerful and grounded and possesses the confidence that is expected from someone in law enforcement. He is also a religious man. He and his wife, Amy, and their two children are very active at Fries Pentecostal Holiness Church.

And while Freddie Hammer may have been a very dangerous criminal, he wasn't the last Vaughan would encounter. If there is a silver lining to the story, it is that Vaughan and his colleagues are up to the challenge of keeping Virginians safe, bringing the guilty to justice, watching the backs of their own, and keeping their life in balance as they do it.

*Original article by Bonnie Atwood for Capitol Connections, VCCQM.org.*



BC Sports Hall of Famers (from left) Howard Mayo ('88), Coach Mark Blevins, Lamont Woods ('92), and Dan Brown ('85).

alumni celebrate  
**HOMECOMING**  
 '15

**H**undreds of Bluefield College alumni came back to campus, October 23-25, to celebrate Homecoming 2015.

Graduates from 1965 and beyond gathered on day one of Homecoming weekend to celebrate induction into the Golden Graduates Society. In fact, 18 Golden Grads were recognized during the special reunion event, including the latest inductee James A. Gray, Jr. ('65). Joining Gray in celebrating Homecoming 2015 as members of the prestigious Golden Graduates Society: David Armbrister ('54), David Bailey ('60), James Dunn ('59), Rodney Hale ('60), Doug Hawks ('57), Jim Jenkins ('60), Alice Mays Lane ('64), Fran Webb Louthan ('60), Jack Marcom ('62), Wayne Massey ('59), John Ragland ('60), Loretta Hawks Ragland ('59), Jessie Shifflett ('60), Bill Tuck ('55), Margaret Orrock Watkins ('60), Farley Wolford ('54), and Carlene Walters Woolwine ('60). Another 39 alumni, a total of 66 guests in all, joined them for the celebration, which also included the wit and charm of Mark Twain in a program presented by alumnus David Bailey ('60). *(continued on page 22)*

# HOMECOMING '15

(continued from page 21) Nine other alumni helped kick off the weekend by participating in Homecoming's first ever Ram-2-Ram Alumni Career Seminar, which featured former students sharing advice with current students on how to prepare for life after college. The alumni — Donnie Bales ('10), Joshua Cline ('09), Emily Sears Cook ('12), Jerry Frech ('10), Jeremy Hardy ('08), Celia Jones ('12), Christian Ruark ('10), Beth Tinsley ('12) and Rev. Brad Turner ('08) — spoke about what they enjoy most and least about their work, challenges on the job, internships, and Christianity in the workplace.

Day one of Homecoming concluded with a BC Theatre presentation of *The Three Musketeers*, a women's volleyball conference win over Union University, and a pep rally, featuring games, cornhole, s'mores, music by the Ram Band, the introduction of the Rams football team, motivational speeches and videos, and a first for Homecoming, a brilliant fireworks show, made possible by the Town of Bluefield.

Day two began with the Annual Alumni Association Meeting and the election of six new alumni to the

Dr. Tim Sharp ('74), the latest inductee into the BC Hall of Distinguished Graduates.



Dr. Wayne Massey ('59), recipient of the Primitivo Delgado Christian Service Award.



Alumna of the Year Dr. Jennifer Jones Powell ('93).



Honorary Alumnus Steve Bickford.



**Top:** Alumnus James Gray ('65) (left), the latest inductee into the Golden Graduates Society. **Bottom:** Former students (background) share career advice with current students (foreground) during the Homecoming Ram-2-Ram Career Seminar.

For more detailed coverage of Homecoming 2015, including dozens of photos, visit [bluefield.edu/homecoming](http://bluefield.edu/homecoming).



**Top:** Homecoming Queen Delaini Middlebrooks (right) and Homecoming King David White. **Middle:** The new Alumni Board: (back, left to right) Morgan Lloyd ('13), Zachary Smith ('08), Howard Mayo ('88), (front, left to right) LeAnn Lane Montgomery ('05), and Rebecca Bentley Hall ('86). *Not pictured:* Sarah Wheeler ('93). **Bottom:** Alumnus Kris Hardy ('07) (second from left), the 2015 Homecoming Tailgate Champion.

Association's Board of Directors, including Rebecca Bentley Hall ('86), Morgan Lloyd ('13), Howard Mayo ('88), LeAnn Lane Montgomery ('05), Zachary Smith ('08), and Sarah Wheeler ('93). The Alumni Board also thanked departing members Violet Meade ('53) and Daniel Schroeder ('10) for their service. In addition, the Board acknowledged outgoing alumni director Mark Hipes ('03) for his work for the school and introduced incoming alumni director Josh Grubb ('07).

Day two of Homecoming weekend also included the traditional Scholarship Auction. Under the direction of local auctioneer Eric Crawford of Twin City Auctions, alumni and friends offered up live bids and purchased 122 donated items to the tune of \$11,107 — all for the BC Fund for Scholarships.

After the auction, alumni took part in campus tours, 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 featured the Third Annual Homecoming Tailgate Challenge, sponsored by Food City of Bluefield. The winner of this year's coveted championship banner as the best Homecoming tailgate: alumnus Kris Hardy ('07).

After tailgating, alumni and friends watched the Rams football team make history with a 17-6 Homecoming victory over the Apprentice School, the first home win since BC revived its football program in 2012 after a 70-year hiatus. During the game, current BC students crowned the 2015 Homecoming Court, including Delaini Middlebrooks as Homecoming Queen, David White as Homecoming King, Whitney Browning as Junior Princess, Alexandra Mocarski as Sophomore Princess, and Channel Flores as Freshman Princess.

Day two concluded with a Student Homecoming Dance and an Alumni Awards Dinner-Dance where Dr. Tim Sharp ('74) received a BC Hall of Distinguished Graduates distinction, Dr. Jennifer Jones Powell ('93) was named Alumna of the Year, Dr. Wayne Massey ('59) took home the Primitivo Delgado Christian Service Award, and BC friend Steve Bickford was named an Honorary Alumnus. In addition, longtime men's basketball and baseball coach Mark Blevins and three of his former men's basketball players, Dan Brown ('85), Howard Mayo ('88), and Lamont Woods ('92) were all inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame.

The three-day Homecoming weekend concluded with a Campus/Community Worship Service, featuring music and worship provided by the newly planted campus church, Highlands Fellowship.



# HOME COMING 2016



## FRIDAY

10:00 am	Ram-2-Ram Alumni Career Seminar	Student Activities Center
12:00 pm	Check-In/Registration	Harman Chapel
5:00 pm	Golden Graduates Dinner	Shott Hall
7:30 pm	Pep Rally	Dome

7:30 pm	BC Theatre Presents: <i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Harman Chapel
10:00 pm	Fireworks	Quad

## SATURDAY

8:00 am	Alumni Association Meeting & Breakfast	Shott Hall
9:00 am	Live Scholarship Auction	Harman Chapel
9:00 am	Reunion Hospitality Room Open	Shott Hall
10:30 am	BC Baseball Reunion Game	Bowen Field
11:00 am	Campus Tours	Easley Library
12:00 pm	Luncheon on Campus	Shott Hall
12:00 pm	Tailgating	Mitchell Stadium

# 2016 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



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

Rev. Marcom is a retired minister who served more than 40 years as a pastor and 30 years as a military chaplain. He now serves as a chaplain for the THEOS ministry at Fredericksburg (VA) Baptist Church and is a member of the Bluefield College Board of Trustees and the school's campaign planning committee. The winner of BC's Primitivo Delgado Christian Service Award in 2007, Rev. Marcom has shown guidance and governance for the college with originality and moral strength of character, and has spent countless hours working tirelessly to further the mission of Bluefield College.



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

Hieatt is the Sheriff of Tazewell County in Virginia. He holds many state-wide honors and was one of 45 members of a state-wide task force appointed by the governor of Virginia on School and Campus Safety. In addition, Hieatt has served as a school resource officer and an officer for Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE).



## Distinguished Young Alumnus: Justin Hamm ('01)

Hamm is currently the president of Belt Tech, Inc. and HP Auto, LLC in Bluefield, West Virginia. He was featured in *The State Journal's* 2016 class of "Generation Next: 40 Under 40," a program designed to "highlight the incredible things professionals under age 40 are doing throughout

the state of West Virginia." Hamm is also dedicated to serving the community in which he lives. He is a member of various city and civic committees to help identify and find solutions for local problems. He also serves on Bluefield's Planning Commission and is a director with the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce.



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

Rev. Hale retired after serving 30 years with the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) in Richmond. Prior to his service with the BGAV, he was a minister of music and youth at Cosby Memorial Church in Richmond, pastor of College Hill Church in Lynchburg, and a deacon at Huguenot Road Church in Richmond. Rev. Hale received the Virginia Distinguished Christian Educator Award in 1996 and is listed in Outstanding Young Men in America and Who's Who in Religion.



## Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee: Fred Phillips ('88)

Phillips played on four Bluefield College men's basketball teams that played in the National Little College Athletic Association (NLCAA) National Tournament and compiled a 105-47 win-loss record from 1983 to 1987. He was also a member of the NLCAA All-American team in 1988, which allowed him to play competitively in Russia, Norway and Sweden. His love for sports and basketball has continued after BC as he has been the recreation director for the Town of Richlands, Virginia, head coach for girls' basketball at Richlands High School, and now head coach for boys' basketball at Richlands.

# OCTOBER 21-23

1:30 pm	BC Rams Football vs Cincinnati Christian	Mitchell Stadium
6:30 pm	Alumni Awards Dinner	Quad
8:30 pm	Homecoming Dance	Shott Hall

## SUNDAY

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

## REUNION CELEBRATIONS

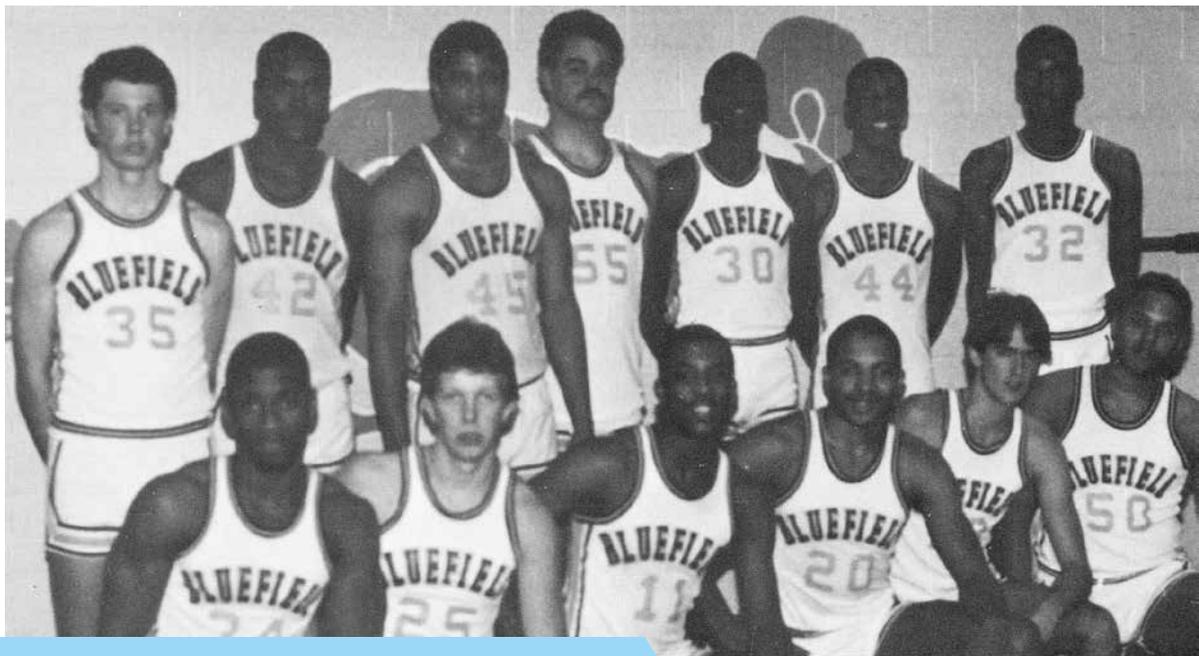
will be held for the following classes:

**1961, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991, 1996, & 2006**

The class of 1966 celebrating its golden anniversary will be inducted into the Golden Graduates Society on Friday, October 21. Class members will be individually recognized and will receive their golden graduate medallion and lapel pin.



Check [bluefield.edu/homecoming](http://bluefield.edu/homecoming) for updates and additional details.



Members of Bluefield College's 1985 national runner-up men's basketball squad, one of the many teams that made 1984 to 1992 the "glory days" for BC athletics.

## Preserving the Glory Days

The years 1984 to 1992 have often been dubbed the "glory days" for Bluefield College athletics. During that era, the men's basketball team averaged 24 wins per season and earned three national runner-up distinctions. The baseball team averaged 23 wins a season and claimed the first ever Tennessee-Virginia Athletic Conference championship. In addition, the men's golf team won a national championship.

These teams and other BC squads accomplished their success despite fewer scholarship dollars than their competitors, limited travel and recruiting funds, and other budgetary limitations.

"When you look at what these athletic programs accomplished, it truly is amazing," said former BC alumni director Mark Hipes. "We didn't have a lot of resources back then, and athletic scholarships were small and numbered. What our program didn't have in resources it made up for in grit, heart and determination. These athletes sacrificed a lot to represent Bluefield College."

Then how fitting it is that Bluefield College, through the encouragement of alumni and friends, establish the Glory Days Scholarship as a tribute to the heroics of the athletes from 1984 to 1992 and as a means to provide vital financial aid to future BC student-athletes hoping to achieve the same greatness of those from the "glory days."

Spearheaded by Coach Mark Blevins, who led the men's basketball and baseball teams from 1984 to 1992 and who envisioned and made the seed gift, the Glory Days Scholarship will not only preserve the heroics of the "glory days" athletes, but also provide additional funds to support current and future Rams.

As part of the overall BC Fund for Scholarships, the Glory Days Scholarship will help underwrite the cost of athletic scholarships at Bluefield College.

"I hope this scholarship fund grows for the 'glory days' era," said Coach Blevins, now retired after eight years with BC and another 22 years at Bearden High School in Knoxville, Tennessee. "Hopefully donations will build into a substantial foundation for the college."

In fact, additional gifts are encouraged to endow the Glory Days Scholarship so that it remains as a tribute and a source of financial aid in perpetuity. Scholarship funds at Bluefield College that reach a seed amount of \$10,000 in gifts are deemed endowed and destined to last forever. To give to the Glory Days Scholarship, visit [bluefield.edu/giving](http://bluefield.edu/giving) or call 276-326-4211.



Members of BC's 1985 men's basketball team during a 30-year reunion on campus in the spring of 2015.

## 1959

**Dr. Wayne Massey** of Bluefield, Virginia, retired as a professor of English at Bluefield College after 27 years of service. See page 12 of this issue of *Spire* for a full feature on Wayne.

## 1963



After 54 years without being connected, **John Turner** of Suffolk, Virginia, found and reunited with his BC freshman roommate, **Phillip Carr ('63)** of Pinedale, Wyoming, in July 2015.

## 1970

**Stephen Moles** of Kingsport, Tennessee, recently completed a studio fellowship and a year as an assistant instructor at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine.

## 1971

**Darrel Reid** of Waldorf, Maryland, retired after 25 years as the chief information officer for Technical Specialties. He remains a consultant for the company, but is spending more time with family and fishing.

## 1984

**Steven Lindsey** of Farmville, Virginia, retired after 29 years as a senior special agent with the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. He is now serving as director of security for The Woodland in Farmville.

## 1988

**Howard Mayo** was recently inducted into the Carroll County (VA) High School Sports Hall of Fame for his coaching achievements with both their boys' and girls' varsity basketball programs, which include numerous state tournament appearances and several record-setting seasons. Howard has more than 350 career coaching victories with CCHS, Mt. Airy (NC) High School, and now Galax (VA) High School.

**Fred Phillips** of Cedar Bluff, Virginia, was named head coach of the boys' varsity basketball team at Richlands (VA) High School. He brings 26 years of coaching experience to the position. He is also a recreation director for the Town of Richlands.

## 1989

**Ricky Ewing** of Lynchburg, Virginia, celebrated 25 years of marriage to his wife, Tammy. Ricky is pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Lynchburg. He and Tammy have a son, Andrew, and a daughter, Kristin, both of whom are current students at Bluefield College.

## 1992

**Beth McMillion-Craig** of Chester, Virginia, recently took part in a mission trip to Ethiopia where she taught 140 students English vocabulary, a critical component of an English test eighth grade Ethiopian students must pass to continue in school.

## 1995

**Sheila Ingram** of North Tazewell, Virginia, recently received the Conservation Teacher of the Year Award from the Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District. Sheila is a gifted resource teacher for Tazewell County Public Schools and has been employed there for 14 years. She and her husband, Jeff, have two children, Aaron and Carlee.

## 1999



**Brian Maynard** and his wife, Rachel, of Springfield, Virginia, celebrated the birth of a daughter on August 18, 2015. Phoebe Joanna joins big sister, Madeline. Brian is in his second year as assistant varsity boys' basketball coach at Oakton High School in Vienna, Virginia.

## 2000

**Gloria Smith** of Blacksburg, Virginia, a retired supervisor of the Human Resources Service Center at Virginia Tech (VT), recently received a VT Staff Career Achievement Award for exemplary performance and service during her career. Smith, who retired in 2014, had served the university for 30 years.

## 2001

**Tammy B. Allison** of Tazewell, Virginia, won a November 2015 election for clerk of the Tazewell County Court.

**Justin Hamm** of Bluefield, West Virginia, was featured in *The State Journal's* 2016 class of Generation Next: 40 Under 40, a program designed to "highlight the incredible things professionals under age 40 are doing throughout West Virginia." Justin is president of Belt Tech and HP Auto. He also serves on the City of Bluefield's Planning Commission and is a member of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors. In addition, he is engaged to Christie Stacy.

**Travis Roberts** of North Tazewell, Virginia, a weekend weather anchor and multimedia journalist for WVVA-TV, recently won Best Weathercast at the 13th Annual West Virginia Excellence in Broadcasting Awards Banquet. He also received a Conservation Education Media Award from the Tazewell Soil and Water Conversation District. Travis is currently pursuing a meteorology degree from Mississippi State University.

## 2002

**Ryan Schalles**, a customer experience manager for Wendy's, was recently honored by his employer for extraordinary community service efforts. The Waxhaw, North Carolina, resident was one of just 10 employees honored by Wendy's through its Community Ambassador Grant Program.

## 2003

**Kelly Somers Bittler** and her husband, **Caleb ('13)**, of Bluefield, West Virginia, celebrated the birth of their second child, Kathryn Grace, January 28, 2016. Kathryn joins big brother, Jeremiah.

**Jeremy Carper** of Verona, Virginia, recently received the Crime Scene Officer of the Year award from the Virginia Forensic Science Academy (VFSA) for his excellence in the field of crime scene technology. Jeremy is a detective for the Charlottesville Police Department's Forensic Unit and a 2010 graduate of the VFSA.



**Sarah McCloud Clevenger** and her husband, Josh, of Big Stone Gap, Virginia, celebrated the birth of their third daughter, Ashlynn Hope, born August 5, 2015.

## 2004

**Emily McLaughlin Fitzgerald** and her husband, Paul, of Forest, Virginia, welcomed a new daughter, Lily Grace, to the family, June 24, 2015.

**Erin Losey Moehlen** and her husband, Patrick, of Farragut, Tennessee, celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Lucille Rose, July 6, 2015.

## 2005

**Andy Berry** and his wife, Sarah, of North Chesterfield, Virginia, welcomed a son, Noah Adams, to the family, June 23, 2015.



**Rev. Joseph Giles, Jr.** and his wife, Tiffany, of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Rebekah Faith, born May 19, 2015. Joey serves as pastor of Berkeley Baptist Church.



**David Hobbs** and his wife, Katie, of Weyers Cave, Virginia, welcomed their third child, Owen James, born September 9, 2015. Owen joins older brother, Alex, and sister, Evie. David is a seventh grade math teacher at Stewart (VA) Middle School. (continued on page 28)

## BC Bids Farewell to Staffer Mark Hipes



Bluefield College bid farewell in October 2015 to longtime staffer **Mark Hipes**, whose most influential accomplishments on campus during his nine-year career came in the areas of traditional admissions and alumni relations.

Hipes joined the BC staff in 2006 as an admissions counselor, not long after graduating from the school in 2003. He eventually worked his way up to director of traditional admissions, and in 2010 led the school to its largest enrollment of traditional students since 2004.

A recipient of BC's Distinguished Staff Award, Hipes shifted his focus from prospective students to former students in 2013 when he became director of alumni relations. During his two years in this position, he launched a variety of new alumni giving initiatives, including BC Giving Day and the Bluefield College-Bluefield State College Alumni Challenge. He also spearheaded the most fruitful phonathon in school history and implemented new data-driven strategies in alumni fundraising.

"My greatest accomplishment was meeting our alumni and helping them reconnect with their alma mater," said Hipes. "I'm proud to have my name associated with those that have served our alumni — like Doc Sutherland, Greg Sink, Teresa Stanley, Josh Cline and Josh Grubb."

Hipes is now the director of athletic development for Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.

## Grubb Named New Alumni Director



Bluefield College welcomed a new director of alumni relations in October 2015, a familiar face to the BC family in **Josh Grubb**, a 2007 Bluefield College graduate and member of the BC staff since 2014.

Grubb began his career with Suntrust Bank in Williamsburg, Virginia. A year later, he moved to Everest College in Newport News, Virginia, where he worked five years as a student financial planner, then director of student finance, and finally academic dean. He left Everest in 2014 to rejoin his alma mater, this time as registrar. Soon after, he took on the added responsibilities of coordinator of BC Central. Now, Grubb says, he's looking forward to being director of alumni relations.

"While there are big shoes to fill following the tenures of several great alumni directors, I feel like I have skill sets in management, organization and planning that will transfer well into this role," said Grubb. "I love the fact that I get to interact with alumni for a living. The stories and experiences that have already been shared with me continue to prove what a transformational place Bluefield College is."

Grubb said he hopes to revive regional alumni chapters, engage alumni in volunteer opportunities in their communities, and create a student alumni association. He is married to **Laura Whiteed**, a 2008 Bluefield College graduate who he met while a student at BC. They have two sons, Gavin, 6, and Renly, 3, and one daughter, Eloise, 1.

**Kristi Seipp Jenness** and her husband, Rob, of Corpus Christi, Texas, celebrated the birth of a daughter, October 30, 2015. After working for the Corpus Christi Hooks, a minor league affiliate of the Houston Astros, and as a chiropractic assistant, Kristi is now a stay-at-home mom and a personal trainer.

### 2006

**Kellie Morris** of Pearisburg, Virginia, was recently named assistant director of development for the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech.

**Richard Vaughan** of Fries, Virginia, and sheriff of Grayson County, Virginia, was elected president of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. See page 20 of this issue of *Spire* for more on Richard.

### 2007

**Gina Adkins Vaughan** and her husband, **Marcus ('08)**, of Tappahannock, Virginia, celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Caroline Elizabeth, May 28, 2015.

**Lisa Robinson Yost** of Pearisburg, Virginia, has been admitted into the Ph.D. program in the Department of Sociology at Virginia Tech. She and husband, Joseph, are also the proud parents of a new baby girl, Virginia Ann, born June 6, 2016.

### 2009

**Seth Jones**, a physician's assistant with Central Virginia Family Physicians in Lynchburg, Virginia, was recognized for his bedside manner with an Honorable Mention distinction in *Our Health Lynchburg and Southside* magazine's Eighth Annual Best Beside Manner Awards issue.

### 2010

**Michelle Neel Fox** and her husband, Nathan, of Tazewell, Virginia, are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Jacob William, born April 4, 2016.

**Matt Snodgrass** of Chilhowie, Virginia, completed his fourth season as head coach for boys' basketball at Chilhowie High School. At 28 years old, he is one of the youngest high school coaches in Southwest Virginia. Before Chilhowie, Matt served as an assistant basketball coach at Bluefield College and Graham Middle School in Bluefield, Virginia.

### 2011

**Le'Andra Sabatino** of Parksley, Virginia, recently completed her fourth year as head coach for volleyball at her high school alma mater, Nandua High School in Onley, Virginia.

### 2012

**Nicole Ayoub** of Bluefield, West Virginia, is manager of The Railyard eatery in the heart of the Depot District in historic downtown Bluefield.

**Amber MacDonald**, a graduate student studying cellular molecular nutrition and conducting cancer research at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, recently presented research at Experimental Biology, a multidisciplinary, scientific meeting for life sciences in San Diego, California. See page six of this issue of *Spire* for more about Amber.

**Casey Palmer** married **J.D. Taylor ('15)** on October 10, 2015. Casey is employed by the Virginia State Police as a program development coordinator for Youth of Virginia Speak Out. J.D. is a financial services officer for Blue Eagle Credit Union. They live in Roanoke, Virginia.

**John Venuti** of Richmond, Virginia, a six-year chief of the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department, was recently named Director of the Year by *Campus Safety* magazine at the 2015 Campus Safety National Forum in Washington, DC.

### 2014

**Chelsea Hardy** married **Tyler Snow ('15)** on November 7, 2015. Chelsea is a teacher for Patrick County (VA) Schools.

**Tony** and **Jackie ('12) Puglisi** recently moved from Bluefield, Virginia, to Winchester, Virginia, not long after celebrating the birth of their first son, Michael Joseph, born August 4, 2015.

**Natasha Corell Simpkins** and her husband, Patrick, of Tazewell, Virginia, welcomed a daughter, Sophia Grace, to the family, November 24, 2014. Natasha is an employee of Tazewell County Public Schools.

## Friends

After 22 years as head coach for boys' basketball at Bearden (TN) High School, former Bluefield College men's basketball coach and BC Sports Hall of Fame member **Mark Blevins** of Knoxville, Tennessee, retired from coaching and teaching. At BC, Coach Blevins led the men's basketball team to 130 wins, more than any other basketball team in the state of Virginia from 1984 to 1989. During his 22 years at Bearden, the boys' basketball team was the winningest among all Class AAA teams in Tennessee.

## inmemory

### 1936

**George P. Schrader, Jr.**, 98, of Littleton, Colorado, passed away June 4, 2014. George worked as an engineer for Union Carbide in Charleston, West Virginia, before moving to Boston, Massachusetts, to work at Stone & Webster Engineering. He retired from Stone & Webster in Colorado in 1983.

### 1937

**Lt. General Walter J. Woolwine**, 96, of Melbourne, Florida, died August 30, 2015.

After BC, he attended the United States Military Academy and later Harvard University. An unsung hero of the post World War II-era, Walter orchestrated the logistics of getting the United States military out of Vietnam. Upon the request of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, he completed a survey of the temporary graves along Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, after World War II, and ultimately developed the vision for the Normandy-American Cemetery.

### 1938

**Dr. Joseph "Jay" Rodgin**, 96, of Bluefield, West Virginia, died April 2, 2016. He served as a staff sergeant in the 29th General Hospital (Yale Hospital Unit) of the U.S. Army during World War II, earning both the Victory Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. After the Army, Jay went on to practice optometry in Bluefield for more than 70 years.

### 1940

**Lt. Colonel Worth W. Boisture** of Hendersonville, North Carolina, passed away January 3, 2013. Worth served in the U.S. Marine Corp during World War II, earning the Bronze Star for his valor on Iwo Jima. He retired from the Marines in 1953. He taught at BC and in the Chemical Engineering Department at Virginia Tech before beginning a 35-year career with the Exxon Corporation.

**Dr. William M. Bruch**, 95, of Henrico, Virginia, died March 2, 2016. William established The Children's Clinic in Bluefield, West Virginia, where he practiced pediatrics for 21 years before retiring from the Medical College of Virginia as an associate professor of pediatrics.

### 1947

**Charles S. Carlton**, 94, of Bluefield, West Virginia, passed away April 4, 2016. Charles was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army Air Corp. He was a teacher in both Tazewell (VA) County and Halifax (VA) County public schools for 25 years before serving as zoning administrator for the Town of Bluefield (VA).

**Cabell M. Payne, Jr.** of Bloomingdale, Illinois, died October 28, 2014. Cabell was a World War II veteran who retired from the U.S. Army in 1966.

### 1948

**Gene D. Whitlow** of Roanoke, Virginia, passed away January 22, 2016. Gene served in the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945. He worked as a mortgage banker in Roanoke from 1951 until his retirement as a senior vice president in commercial real estate from First Union Bank in 1993.

### 1949

**David W. Brown** of Sebastian, Florida, passed away April 10, 2013. David served the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater, and after the Navy he enjoyed a three-decade award-winning career in coaching and education at Pulaski (VA) County High School.

**Beverly J. Hall** of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died September 17, 2011.

**William "Bill" Yost, Jr.** of Roanoke, Virginia, died May 30, 2016. Bill served as a sergeant in the Signal Corps during World War II. Later, he worked 46 years with Norfolk & Western Railway, retiring as a chief engineer.

### 1950

**John W. Barna** of St. Albans, West Virginia, passed away March 25, 2015. He was a World War II veteran having served in the Army Corp of Engineers in the Panama Canal zone. Later, he was a longtime employee of Union Carbide Corporation.

**Edward M. Davis, Jr.** of Martinsville, Virginia, died April 8, 2012. Edward was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, where he also played baseball before joining the minor leagues. He owned Davis Oil Company in Martinsville and continued serving as a consultant in the gas and oil industry after retiring in 1990.

**Nancy Cawthorne French** of Richmond, Virginia, died May 11, 2016.

### 1951

**Janet Lee Hall** of Annandale, Virginia, passed away June 1, 2015. Janet was a professor of English for more than 40 years at Bluefield (WV) State College and Northern Virginia Community College.

### 1952

**James "Jug" Payne, Jr.** of Richmond, Virginia, died April 8, 2012. Jug was a master craftsman photographer and owner of Picture Perfect Studios and Negative Systems Company.

### 1954

**George R. Blaylock** of Bristol, Virginia, passed away May 28, 2015. He was a highly renowned minister of music for several different Baptist churches in the Southeast.

**Franklin "Ed" Cleland** of Sterling, Virginia, died November 6, 2015.

**Robert "Bob" Kinser** of Statesville, North Carolina, died August 9, 2015. Bob was a U.S. Army veteran and retired regional sales manager with Southern States Cooperative.

### 1956

**William "Bill" Atwell, Jr.** of Morgantown, West Virginia, passed away October 23, 2015. A professional structural engineer, Bill started his career with Alex B. Mahood Architects in Bluefield in 1959. He later became the co-founder and vice president of Alpha Associates, where he worked until his retirement in 2009.

**Daniel "Dan" Koch** of Warrenton, Virginia, passed away October 12, 2015. Dan retired from AT&T as a supervisor after 38 years.

**Loretta Peters Oakley** of Ripplemead, Virginia, died September 23, 2015. Loretta was a preschool teacher for 56 years. (continued on page 30)

## Lambros Publishes War Novel



Bluefield College alumnus **Nicholas "Nick" Lambros** of Monkton, Maryland, recently published a book titled *To End All War*, an historical account of World War I.

Before his author days, Lambros served on a U.S. Army guided missile site that protected New York City in the early 1960s during the Cold War. He later earned an associate's degree from BC in 1964 and a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College.

"I still remember the quality of the instruction I received at Bluefield," said Lambros, "and I often quote some of the expressions of my professors, which I believe are some of the best I've ever heard."

After college, Lambros became a high school English teacher for Baltimore County Public Schools in Maryland. As a result of some research, he determined "The Great War" was "highly underrated in American history, in general, and in history classrooms, in particular." As a teacher, he was intent on doing more research to develop a thorough chronology of 1914 to 1919.

"That chronology allowed me to place real and fictional characters in the right places at the right times, thus creating a work that was suitable for use in classes as an alternate source for learning about the war," said Lambros.

Lambros, who recently retired as an adjunct instructor from Baltimore County Community College, spent roughly 20 years in his research, writing and editing. The result: *To End All War*, "a work that delivers a strong moral viewpoint about the costs of battle," according to reviews. The book is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and iUniverse.

## BC Mourns Loss of Teresa Stanley



Longtime Bluefield College staffer **Teresa Croy Stanley**, who served most of her BC years as director of alumni relations, passed away June 9, 2016.

Stanley, 63, came to Bluefield first as a student in 1994. A pastor's wife at the time, she was looking for a fresh start after losing her husband, Ernie Croy, in a tragic accident. She earned a bachelor's degree from BC in 1997 and soon after joined the BC staff as an accounts payable clerk and a receptionist in the Business Office. Later, she became an administrative assistant to the dean of students, before serving in the same role for the Department of Athletics.

In 2001, Stanley, who also influenced both her sons, Andy and Jason, to attend Bluefield College, became BC's director of alumni relations, and during her eight years in that role, she revived regional alumni chapters, created an on-campus Ministers' Conference, helped develop a Scholarship Auction, and created the Delgado Christian Service Award for alumni.

The 1998 recipient of BC's Distinguished Staff Award, Stanley also spearheaded the publication of a new Alumni Directory in 2005, developed a President's Graduation Dinner, and before retiring in 2009 created the Golden Graduates Society. She committed her life after retirement to the ministry of her second husband, Pastor Jim Stanley, and to her grandchildren.

"She loved engaging with people and was an excellent representative of Bluefield College," said BC's Crystal Kieloch. "She was dedicated to the mission of the college because she was an ardent follower of Christ, and it truly showed in her life."

**1957**

**Dr. James "Jim" Baumgardner** of Talbott, Tennessee, died August 13, 2015. With 51 years of service, Jim was the longest tenured professor and recipient of many honors and awards at Carson-Newman University. He was also pastor of Pond Grove Baptist Church in Rockwood, Tennessee.

**Elmer Ralph Patsel, Jr.** of Concord, Virginia, formerly of Bluefield, Virginia, passed away April 22, 2016. He began his career in alumni relations at Bluefield College, but retired as registrar from neighboring Bluefield (WV) State College. Ralph was the husband of the late **Jane Wells Patsel ('51)**, a former BC business instructor.

**Dr. C. Ray Wingrove** of Richmond, Virginia, passed away June 3, 2016. Ray taught at the University of Georgia from 1964 to 1971 and the University of Richmond from 1971 until his retirement in 2002 as an award-winning professor emeritus. Most of his career was devoted to gerontology. He also co-authored a book and established the C. Ray and Jane Wingrove Endowed Scholarship for students at Bluefield College. To give in his memory, visit [bluefield.edu/giving](http://bluefield.edu/giving).

**James "Jim" Wyatt, Jr.** of Martinsville, Virginia, died December 29, 2015.

**1960**

**Richard "Dick" Alford** of Richmond, Virginia, passed away September 23, 2015 after a determined battle against cancer.

**James "Beryl" Boswell** of Chesterfield, Virginia, died March 3, 2016. Beryl served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was a Korean War veteran. A dedicated pastor, he proudly served as a Southern Baptist missionary in Peru for 30 years, en route to more than 55 years in the ministry and the planting of nearly 40 churches. Beryl also authored five books, earned his doctor of ministry degree, and taught English and Spanish in the Chesterfield adult education program.

**Donald W. Hankley, Sr.** of Blanchardville, Wisconsin, died January 18, 2016. Don began his 32-year career with the Department of Defense in Alexandria, Virginia. An innovator, he earned a patent for his design work with small boats and pioneered the early years of information technology for many Navy activities.

**1967**

**William "Bill" Smith** of Elliston, Virginia, passed away August 16, 2015. Bill was a minister for nearly 40 years with Midway Baptist Church.

**1968**

**Wistar H. Trent** of Richmond, Virginia, died April 13, 2016 after a courageous battle with cancer. Wistar retired after more than 40 years of experience in banking and commercial finance with Bank of America, the CIT Corporation, SunTrust Bank, and his own consulting firm. He was active with

the Boy Scouts of America, Little League baseball and softball, the Junior Achievement Program, First Baptist Church of Lynchburg, Virginia, and the Bluefield College Board of Trustees.

**1969**

**Fred W. Lester** of Tazewell, Virginia, died September 28, 2015. Fred was a U.S. Navy veteran and retired New York Life agent.

**1985**

**Cathy King Linebrink** of Scottsville, Virginia, passed away October 16, 2015 after a courageous battle with cancer and a long career as a teacher and legal support professional.

**1992**

**Dr. Steven B. O'Saile** of Bluefield, Virginia, died August 24, 2015. He was an orthopedic surgeon for Princeton (WV) Community Hospital.

**1993**

**Stephen H. Newberry** of Ceres, Virginia, passed away January 3, 2016. Stephen held various leadership positions at ABB in Bland, Virginia, where he worked for nearly 40 years.

**1999**

**Sabrina D. Sleeper** of Danville, Virginia, died December 26, 2015. She taught at Halifax Christian School and designed her own line of jewelry, Flair. Sabrina worshiped at Mercy Crossings in Martinsville, Virginia, where she hosted events, taught small groups, and served on the praise and worship team.

**FRIENDS**

**Russell E. Bridges** of Nicholasville, Kentucky, died April 4, 2016. Russell served as director of development at Bluefield College during the early 1990s.

**Omer M. Bunn** of Abingdon, Virginia, a former Bluefield College trustee, passed away October 28, 2015. Omer was a World War II veteran, holding five battle stars for his participation in the fighting across Europe. He was inducted into the West Virginia Coal Miners Hall of Fame in 2005 for his 55 years of service as a coal operator in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

**Gayle S. Carroll** of Knoxville, Tennessee, and formerly of Princeton, West Virginia, died January 29, 2016. Gayle served as the president's assistant at

Bluefield College under the late **Dr. Roy A. Dobyns**.

**Audrey A. Clay**, wife of BC professor emeritus **Dr. Gerald Clay**, of Florence, Kentucky, died December 31, 2015. Audrey was a retired financial aid director for Bluefield (WV) State College.

**Robert E. "Bobby" English, Sr.** of Kernersville, North Carolina, formerly of Emporia, Virginia, passed away July 15, 2015. Bobby spent his entire life as an educator, including his final 13 years as an instructor of business communication in the Bluefield College Online Degree Program. Surviving loved ones include his daughter **Sara English Rutherford ('96)** and her husband **Mike Rutherford ('98)** of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; son **Robert English, Jr. ('99)** also of Kernersville; and brother-in-law **D. Wayne Pate ('73)** of Stockbridge, Georgia.

**Lloyd Gochenour** of Edinburg, Virginia, a former member of BC's Board of Advisors, passed away September 14, 2015. Lloyd owned and operated radio stations across the Commonwealth, fulfilling his passions for both broadcasting and preaching. He also founded Peoples Baptist Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

**Betty Sanders Gordon**, a longtime Bluefield College supporter and wife of BC professor emeritus **Dr. Will Gordon**, of Bluefield, West Virginia, passed away December 5, 2015. Betty was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and a longtime delegate at the United Methodist West Virginia Annual Conference. She was preceded in death by her son **William D. Gordon ('70)** and is survived by Dr. Gordon and son **Mark Gordon ('80)**, among other family.

**Patty Jo Harman** of Bluefield, Virginia, died April 25, 2016. Patty was the daughter-in-law of late BC president **Dr. Charles Harman**. She is survived by her husband, **John Roger Harman ('59)**.

**Vallie V. Thomas** of Nederland, Texas, died October 26, 2015. She served BC for nearly a decade as a counselor and dean of women during the 1960s and early 1970s.

*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](http://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](mailto:bcnews@bluefield.edu), or mail the information to Bluefield College, Public Relations, 3000 College Avenue, Bluefield, VA 24605.





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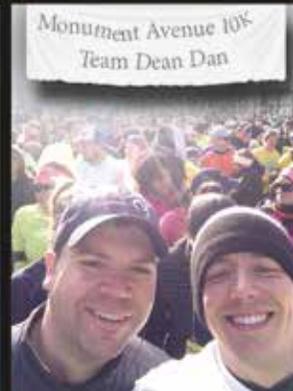
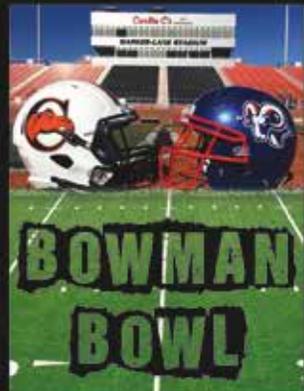
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**August 2, 4, 11 & 26**

BC at the Ballpark alumni reunions: Norfolk Tides (August 2), Bluefield Blue Jays (August 4), Richmond Squirrels (August 11), Salem Red Sox (August 26).

**August 15**

15th Annual Golfers' Challenge, Fincastle on the Mountain. To register, email ccatron@bluefield.edu.

**August 27**

New River Valley Alumni Reunion, Nelly's Cave Park. Details and registration at bluefield.edu/reunions.

**September 17**

Ninth Annual Jason Elswick Memorial Scholarship 5K. Run, walk, give. Details at bluefield.edu/elswick5k.

**October 21-23**

Homecoming 2016, featuring reunions, Rams football, alumni baseball, fireworks, worship, and alumni awards. See page 24.

VISIT [BLUEFIELD.EDU/NEWSANDEVENTS](http://BLUEFIELD.EDU/NEWSANDEVENTS) FOR MORE DETAILS AND OTHER BC EVENTS.

*mark your calendar*

**The benefits of being a Bluefield College alum just got better,**

thanks to a variety of new reward programs added to the Alumni Association.

**Enjoy...**

Discounts on auto insurance with Nationwide.

Increasing your BC giving by shopping on Amazon.

Savings on hotels by using Hotel Storm.

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There just isn't enough room in the alumni magazine to share all that's happening at Bluefield College, not to mention the photos and videos we just can't print. That's why we post all our news on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+, YouTube and the BC web site.

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For more extensive coverage of BC news, including in-depth articles, photo galleries and video news, visit the BC web site or check us out on social media.



**Save the Date**  
**15th Annual Golfers' Challenge**

**Monday, August 15**  
Fincastle on the Mountain  
Bluefield, Virginia

For more information, please contact Chris Catron by email at [ccatron@bluefield.edu](mailto:ccatron@bluefield.edu) or by phone at 276.326.4211.

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