

## The Link — May 2008

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

*You are an alumni of Danville Community College. Upon passing one credit class at DCC or the former institutions—Danville Technical Institute and VPI- Danville, you became an alumni.*

*Danville Community College is yours for life. You can exchange news, share stories, look up a friend or find a career possibility on the alumni web site. As a member of the Danville Community College family, you are encouraged to stay connected with classmates, to sign up for a class, to investigate programs and to volunteer for campus or alumni initiatives.*

### **Alumni Association Development Continues**

**Creation of an Alumni Council**, the governing arm of the Alumni Association, is underway from which officers will be elected for the 2008-2009 operations. Council members will serve three-year staggered terms beginning July 1, 2008. Officers will include president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer and liaison to the Foundation Board. Standing committees underneath the direction of the Alumni Council and the Alumni Relations Coordinator include Bylaws, Membership, Nomination, Recognition and Scholarship, Communications, Finance, Resource Development and Special Events. The Council will meet twice yearly unless events dictate otherwise.

**Diverse membership on the Alumni Council** and in committees will assure a variety of ideas for organizational operations and initiatives. Your ideas and your presence in developing those ideas are important to your alumni association. The Council and committees should not have to meet more than twice yearly. This minimal meeting schedule means you, as an alumni, can add much to the alumni operation and its success without having immense amounts of individual time involved. If you are interested in being a part of the DCC Alumni Council or a member of an Alumni Committee, please notify the alumni relations coordinator at [alumni@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:alumni@dcc.vccs.edu) or call the Alumni phone line at 434-797-8499 and leave your name, phone number and message, so the coordinator can return your call.

**A core group of alumni met three times** during January, February and March to develop a vision, Bylaws, an Alumni Recognition proposal and a Three-Year Strategic Plan for the Alumni Association. **That group now needs an increased number of alumni to become involved to carry out the vision and provide an association that will function continuously over the years.**

**This is a productive way to give back to your institution where you began your educational path or added to your training. Join us in creating a successful alumni association.**

### **Alumni Association seeking nominees for Alumni Recognition awards**

The committee meeting to form the alumni association voted at the February 25 meeting to pursue plans to recognize outstanding alumni who have contributed to their professions and their communities after having studied at Danville Community College. Alumni from Danville Technical Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute-Danville and Danville Community College were recognized May 12. They are Debra Carlson, Danville attorney; Donald Merricks, Danville business owner and General Assembly delegate—both graduates of DCC—Randy Davis, Danville financial advisor and graduate of VPI-Danville and Wayne Foster, retired Project Engineer and mold designer for Corning Glass Works. Look for specific information on these four recipients in next month's e-mail communication. Alumni include all individuals who passed at least one credit class at any of the three institutions which now constitute Danville Community College.

**For the future, we intend to honor four individuals yearly. Your nominations** of worthy individuals, to be placed on file for 2009, will assure that those individuals selected exemplify the best attributes of outstanding alumni who have contributed unceasingly to improve their professions, to give personally and professionally to their communities and to be conscientious, concerned citizens.

**To nominate an individual** who attended any of the above three institutions, please notify Marie Harris, Alumni Relations Coordinator, at [alumni@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:alumni@dcc.vccs.edu) with the name, the reasons for nomination, your e-mail or your phone number. She will send you further nominations materials, if needed, and discuss the nominee's background with you to gather pertinent information. **Selection of the honorees will be completed yearly in early April, so nominations are needed by the end of February each year.** Why not send your nomination while you are reading this e-mail? This is the beginning of a continuous recognition program which will be further developed by the Alumni Recognitions Committee members during 2008-2009.

**If you are interested in serving on the Recognition Committee, please notify the alumni relations coordinator through the alumni e-mail address.**

### **Website operational**

**The Alumni Web Site launched in mid February** with multiple offerings. We encourage you to spread the word to your friends from DCC about registering on the web site as well as use the web site yourself and communicate with the Alumni Relations Coordinator at [alumni@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:alumni@dcc.vccs.edu) concerning services the office could seek and access for alumni. Such services can include specific classes or small seminars needs on specialized subjects, group travel rates, group insurance, week end meetings on special topics, reunions, etc. In early March, the Foundation Director and Administrative Assistant spend time in a workshop on *Crescendo*, a financial planning and financial legalities web site organization, that can provide much national, legal expertise to alumni in personal and professional financial matters.

Crescendo will be on the Foundation Board agenda for consideration in May. Further investigation will determine whether e-mail information from such organizations would be beneficial to our alumni.

*Crescendo* is just one example of how the alumni website and office can develop offerings that benefit alumni. **If you have needs or ideas, don't hesitate to send your comments and requests.**

**If you have not registered to use the web site** and its many opportunities for connecting and research, go to [Registration Link](#) or go to the DCC home page at [www.dcc.vccs.edu](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu), select *Foundation/Alumni* from the menu on the left side of the page and choose *Alumni*. The Alumni information window will then open to explain use of the web site and to direct you on how to access the alumni web site.

## **Building program begins with Health Sciences Building; two more buildings to be constructed**

**Where once there were tennis courts** at the corner of South Main Street and Kemper Road, there are now bulldozers, construction personnel and grading underway for the \$9.7 million Health-Sciences Building, a building with Twenty-first Century design that will become a local landmark in its exterior design and a beacon for the community in the quality of medical offerings. In early March, Danville Regional Foundation signed an agreement with Danville Community College Educational Foundation for funding for the building which will expand nursing training and other offerings in multiple medical fields. Groundbreaking was held February 29. A Powerpoint presentation of the groundbreaking ceremony can be accessed at <http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/special/HealthSciences.html>, or this URL may be accessed through the Danville Community College home page at [www.dcc.vccs.edu](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu)

**A maintenance building and a Student Center** will be under construction in the near future. Fund raising for the Student Center has been underway for approximately two years and is nearing completion for the \$1.5 million center to be located adjacent to the learning resources center. All funds for the center must come from private donations since the state of Virginia Community College System is not allowed to expend funds for student centers. If you know of an organization that would be interested in hearing more about the Student Center, please contact the Danville Community College Foundation Director, Buddy Rawley at 434.797.8495 or send a message to [brawley@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:brawley@dcc.vccs.edu). Students are in need of a center where they can study, meet and where there can be facilities for clubs, organizations and a cafeteria. More than 60 percent of DCC students stay on campus for periods up to three hours between classes with few places to work in study groups or few areas to use labs. The Student Center will become a vital educational area on campus. If you would like to see the projected Student center, go to the URL below and click on DCC Student Center link. It will play in windows media player. <http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/Departments/B&EIT/Programs/DRAFTING/CHIEF.HTM>

**The monthly DCC Alumni Update e-mail** will continue to unfold the construction story. For further information, check the *News* on the DCC home page.

Alumni Career Opportunities available, expanding **Job postings** in the Danville/Pittsylvania/Halifax region for alumni can be viewed at [http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/careercenter/Employers/Business-jobs/bus\\_jobs.html](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/careercenter/Employers/Business-jobs/bus_jobs.html).

Other job postings, nationally and statewide through college career sites, can be accessed through the DCC Alumni web site

**Eighteen students finished the new Manufacturing Technician Certificate Program** and a second class began in early January. The program is a partnership of DCC, the Danville-Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce and ten area industries which proactively seeks to address the skills gaps for advanced manufacturing jobs through the Regional Center for Advanced Technology (RCATT), an integral part of DCC and its expanding offerings. Part of the program's focus is on increasing public awareness through information about availability of manufacturing jobs in the region, skills required for those jobs and training opportunities that are currently available. Interested individuals can contact the DCC Admissions Office for further information at 797-2222.

## **Alumni promote DCC for high school graduates, job training needs**

**When you are talking with a high school student** who is interested in manufacturing skills, specialized technical training, technology knowledge, business training or liberal arts, remember your positive experiences at Danville Community College and encourage the young person to seek information and actively consider attending DCC. For friends, neighbors, family beyond high school, DCC also offers the same training whether in a full curriculum or individual classes.

**Further, Danville Community College's tuition continues to be affordable**, giving local students and community members access to quality education through the \$76.65 cost per credit hour for in-state students with a system wide technology fee of \$3.50 per credit hour and a \$1 per hour student activity fee. A full-time Virginia student taking 30 credit hours over two semesters at Danville Community College will pay a total of \$2,434.50 in tuition and mandatory fees. Financial aid is available for both full-time and part-time students.

Our alumni can tell the DCC story effectively and continue the success of the institution's instruction for local citizens.

## **Where are former professors/staff?**

**Do you wonder** what your past professors or staff members you knew are doing—are they still at DCC? are they retired? If so, what are they involved in presently? Let us

know through [alumni@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:alumni@dcc.vccs.edu) who you'd like an update on and why and we will follow up in the upcoming issues of a new e-magazine from you alumni web site. We are already planning coverage on professors from Danville Technical Institute, VPI-Danville and Danville Community College for the June issue.

**Before the launch of the e-magazine, we are seeking a name for the three-time a year publication. Send us your thoughts for a name and reason for the name to [alumni@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:alumni@dcc.vccs.edu) . If you submit the chosen name, you'll receive a copy of the Danville Community College History described below.**

## **Danville Community College History Issued**

**Are you aware that there is history of your institution, a 398-page presentation of the story of education on this site on South Main and Kemper Road since 1890?**

- Did you know the college began as a military school?
  - Did you know there are links for the institution all the way back to 1811 in education locally?
  - Did you know the Virginia General Assembly battled for three months over establishment of the community college system, a battle that pitted locals against each other and left ramifications on campus for over ten years?
  - Did you know there have been only four presidents for the institution since it became a community college?
  - Did you know that DTI began in 1938 and VPI-Danville in 1948 and DCC in 1968 setting up three distinct anniversaries for those connected to the institution?
- Read much more in a book filled with pictures—over 200—from the past and the present and much that presents the world of students past and present. The book, *The History of Danville Community College—a Link to the Past, a Bridge to the Future*, is available through the College Bookstore or the Danville Community College Foundation Office for \$38.95 hardback or \$28.95 soft cover plus \$5.00 shipping or you may pick it up either place on campus. Further information is available through the college web site under *News* concerning the book and the author.

[Forward to a friend](#)