



# Foundations

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Spring 2015



## Where are they now?

Although Jennifer Ashworth may not have always known what she wanted to do, she said she always knew she would need an education to get there.

“I didn’t have a definite goal growing up, which is something I’ve helped my children to develop,” she said, “but I’m very happy with where I’m at in my career at this time. It’s been a great journey to get here.”

Ashworth, 46, is employed at the Henry County Circuit Court clerk’s office as the lead deputy clerk, and she’s vying to be the new circuit court clerk. She announced her bid for office on March 6.

“I’ve always gravitated toward leadership positions, whether in my church or in other activities,” she said. “It’s just been my nature. I’m the lead deputy clerk, and you can only go so far. This is my chance to move forward in leadership. It’s something I always knew I would do in the Lord’s time if an opportunity became available.”

The journey of announcing her run and campaigning “has been a very positive experience,” Ashworth said. “The community has been very supportive, and I’m grateful for their encouragement. During this short period of campaigning, I’ve been able to find out many positive things about the community that I did not realize before.”

Ashworth graduated from PHCC in 1991, which also happened to be the year she was married. She admitted, it wasn’t always easy.

“I’m pretty sure my husband and I were the only married couple graduating together at that time,” she said. “I went to work at the courthouse in 1989, so in the process of planning my wedding, I was working and going to school full-time.”

Some of the professors who stand out to her at PHCC include Linda Gale and Toby Deal. She said she also took a few criminal justice courses when the program started to develop.

Ashworth grew up in Bassett in the Stones Dairy area, but has lived in Spencer for the past 24 years. She said she loves the beauty of Martinsville/Henry County and the potential of growth in the area.

Getting the position at the courthouse was happenstance for Ashworth. While she worked at Dominion Bank in Martinsville in 1989, she found out about a full-time job opening at the clerk’s



Jennifer Ashworth

office from one of the clerks who made deposits at the bank. There were more than 200 applicants for the job, “so I’m extremely blessed to have gotten the opportunity to go to work there 26 years ago. That was my first full-time job – my only full-time job.”

Starting off, Ashworth said her primary job consisted of jury management. She kept up with jury trials, handled jury selection and making sure they were paid. She also worked with statistics in the office and did some criminal work. Over the years, she gravitated completed toward the criminal side.

“You think you’ve seen just about everything in this job, but then the next case comes and you realize you can still be surprised,” she said. “I love my job, but sometimes it can be difficult – especially when children are the victims.”

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## 2015 Distinguished Alumni

Ten individuals were honored during the ninth annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, hosted by the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation, on May 8 at Chatmoss Country Club. The Distinguished Alumni award and dinner recognizes graduates for their professional or community achievements and successes. This year's awardees are Patsy Anderson-Rusmisl of Martinsville, Corbin Campbell of Ridgeway, Ernest Linwood Carter II of Forest, Va., Roxanne Collins of Martinsville, Cameron Cooper of Ridgeway, Sharon Gilbert of Martinsville, Alison Parker of Roanoke, Kevin Reynolds of Patrick Springs, Marcus Stone of Bassett and Seberina Tatum of Bassett.



*Patsy Anderson-Rusmisl*

**Anderson-Rusmisl** earned her associate degree from PHCC in education in 1982. She continued her education at the University of Virginia, earning a bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology, and a master's degree in counseling and student personnel supervision. She received her doctorate degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in curriculum and instruction in adult and higher education. She currently serves as

director of Student Support Services at PHCC. Anderson-Rusmisl is a member of the National Academic Advising Association and the Virginia Community Colleges Association. She also serves on the Virginia Community College System Task Force and Teacher Education Preparation and on the Virginia Community College System Transfer Counseling Task Force.

**Campbell** earned his degree from PHCC in general studies/performing arts in 1999. He continued his education at Averett University with a bachelor's degree in theater arts and at Radford University earning a master of arts in educational leadership. He is employed by Henry County Schools where he has held several positions as a teacher and assistant principal. He now serves as the principal at



*Corbin Campbell*

Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School. He also is the artistic director for TheatreWorks Community Players, and is a member of the SCOPE 9 Cohort through the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the University of Virginia.

**Carter** earned an associate degree in business administration in 1992 at PHCC. He continued his education at Averett University earning a bachelor's degree in business administration, and

at Liberty University earning a master's degree in religion with a specialization in pastoral counseling. He is currently seeking a certified sports event executive certification. Carter is employed as an athletic external event coordinator at Liberty University where he is responsible for facilitating all external athletics events taking place on campus, as well as bringing new events to the university. He also is an active member at Thomas Road Baptist Church, and leads a team annually in the Ford Mays Liberty University Athletics Golf Tournament.



*Roxanne Collins*

**Collins** earned her associate degree at PHCC in arts and sciences in 1995. She continued her education at Longwood University earning a bachelor's degree in liberal studies. She had a 22-year career in banking with Patrick Henry National Bank and Carter Bank and Trust, but decided to return to school in 2007 to pursue a lifelong dream of teaching. Collins is currently employed by Martinsville City Public Schools at Patrick Henry Elementary School as a third grade teacher. She serves as lead

mentor and on the Superintendent's Advisory Council, and Collins was named Teacher of the Year in 2013-14 for Patrick Henry Elementary and Martinsville City Schools.

**Cooper** earned her associate degree from PHCC in 2005 in general studies. She continued her education at Old Dominion University with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, and earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Averett University. She is employed by Martinsville City Public Schools as the instructional coordinator at Patrick Henry Elementary School. Cooper also serves as president of the Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary, she's active in 4H as a judge and camp volunteer, and she's a member of Rich Acres Christian Church. She is an active board member with the Charity League of Martinsville and Henry County. Cooper has been recognized as the 2014-15 Teacher of the Year for Martinsville City Public Schools, and the same year, she was recognized as Teacher of the



*Cameron Cooper*



*Ernest Linwood Carter II*

# 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards *Continued from page 2*

Year for Patrick Henry Elementary School.

**Gilbert** earned her associate degree in general studies from PHCC in 1991. She continued her education at Ferrum College earning a bachelor's degree in public administration. She also attended Virginia Tech earning a master's degree in counselor education, and went on to earn a certificate of advanced graduate studies in liberal studies from Hollins University. Gilbert is employed as an associate professor of sociology, human services and psychology at PHCC. Gilbert currently serves as a member of the American Psychological Association Society for the Psychology of



*Sharon Gilbert*

Women; Virginia Community College System Psychology, Sociology and Distance Education Peer Groups; and the Virginia Community College Association. In addition to her work at the college, Gilbert participated in a mission trip to Guatemala last year and is planning an upcoming trip to work in an impoverished region of Appalachia.

**Parker** graduated from PHCC in 2009 with an associate of arts and sciences degree through the Piedmont Governor's School for Math, Science and Technology. She continued her



*Alison Parker*

education at James Madison University where she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism. She now works as a television journalist for WDBJ7 News in Roanoke. Before starting at WDBJ7, Parker was the bureau chief for WCTI TV 12 and FOX 8/14 in Jacksonville, N.C. She also is an annual volunteer for Richard's Dinner in Martinsville, and she's volunteered with the SPCA in Harrisonburg and was part of a telethon to raise money for cystic fibrosis in Jacksonville.

**Reynolds** received his bookkeeping certificate from PHCC in 1979 and followed with his associate degree in accounting in 1980. He continued his education at Radford University earning a bachelor's degree in accounting and then graduated from the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management at the University of Virginia. Reynolds is employed as the assistant controller of River Community Bank N.A. in Martinsville. He is an active member of



*Kevin Reynolds*

Mt. Nebo Holiness Church, and he's been involved with the Boy Scouts for almost 20 years, now serving as assistant scoutmaster for Troop 69 in Patrick Springs. Reynolds also is an active member of the Patrick Springs Ruritan Club, serving in a number of leadership roles including president.

**Stone** graduated from PHCC in 2009 with an associate degree in nursing. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology/premed from Bridgewater College and is working toward a master of business



*Marcus Stone*

administration at Liberty University. He now works as the director of emergency services for Memorial Hospital of Martinsville Henry County. In addition to his work at the hospital, he also is an EMT (emergency medical technician), a CPR instructor, a scuba diver, a member of Bassett Church of the Brethren where he's chairman of the Stewardship Committee, and a lifetime member of the Bassett Fire Department. He's involved in a number of professional organizations including the Lifepoint Hospital Emergency Department Council, Piedmont Regional Crisis Intervention Team Advisory Council and as parliamentarian of the Bassett Rescue Squad. In 2014, he was presented with the CARES Award from Memorial Hospital.



*Seberina Tatum*

**Tatum** earned her associate degree in general studies from PHCC in 2008. She continued her education at Averett University and at Old Dominion University earning a bachelor's degree in human services. She also graduated from Liberty University with a master's degree in marriage and family counseling.

Tatum works as a college success coach, adjunct instructor and Dream Keepers coordinator at PHCC. She also is an active member of Trinity Church of the Living God in Stuart, where she is

involved in many activities including two choirs, the usher board, and serving as secretary for State Council.

## 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

More than 130 guests attended this year's Distinguished Alumni Dinner. PHCC Foundation Chair Ron Haley and Kris Landrum, public relations and marketing manager, emceed the program. Proceeds from the event will benefit the students and programs of Patrick Henry Community College.

# Foundation News: Art show awards



The PHCC Foundation presented nine students with awards on April 30 for their achievements in the 21st Annual Student Art Show, now on display in the Walker Fine Arts Gallery. Pictured on the back row (from left) are Dr. Kristen Westover, Karen Conner, Jess Edwards, Dr. Angeline Godwin, Joshua Amos, Christopher Parker, Gerry Bannan and Ashley Chaney. Pictured on the front row are Briana Amos, John Christian and Courtney Baity.

Students winning \$25 Honorable Mention awards include Axton resident Victor Caro for “Dream,” Ridgeway resident Courtney Baity for “Blooming Dream,” Bassett resident Ashley Chaney for “Still Life,” and Bassett resident Briana Amos for “Dream Kiss.”

Award of Excellence winners who received a \$50 prize include Collinsville resident Roslyn Wingett for “Study of Georgia O’Keefe’s ‘Red Canna,’” Martinsville resident Jess Edwards for “Frozen in Summer,” and Collinsville resident Karen Conner for “Study of Ruisadael’s Sunrise in the Wood.”

Martinsville resident John Christian won a \$100 Best-In-Show award for his piece “Butterfly Wings,” and Bassett resident Joshua Amos won the \$150 Purchase Prize for “Glistening Porcelain.”

The 21st annual Student Art Show will be available to view until May 16 and features works by 22 student artists at PHCC.

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Her favorite part of going to work every day is the working with the public. “I love working with people,” Ashworth said. Even though most of the public I work with are the criminals of Henry County, it’s fulfilling. And my job is never the same on any given day. It’s something different and new, and it constantly keeps my interest. There’s never a dull moment in the criminal department.”

Education is the key to future success, according to Ashworth. “I think now more than ever, we have to pursue higher education than a high school diploma. I would tell everyone to set their goals high, never give up and to work hard. Hard work always pays off.”

## DONATE NOW

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The Patrick Henry Community College Foundation is a not-for profit organization that is fiscally and organizationally separate from the college. Its goal is to enhance community awareness of Patrick Henry Community College; to secure contributions, bequests and donations; and to account for, manage and help appreciate monies or property submitted to the Foundation.

Our goal is to help students gain access to affordable, quality education. Help us make that dream a reality by contributing to the PHCC Foundation.

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