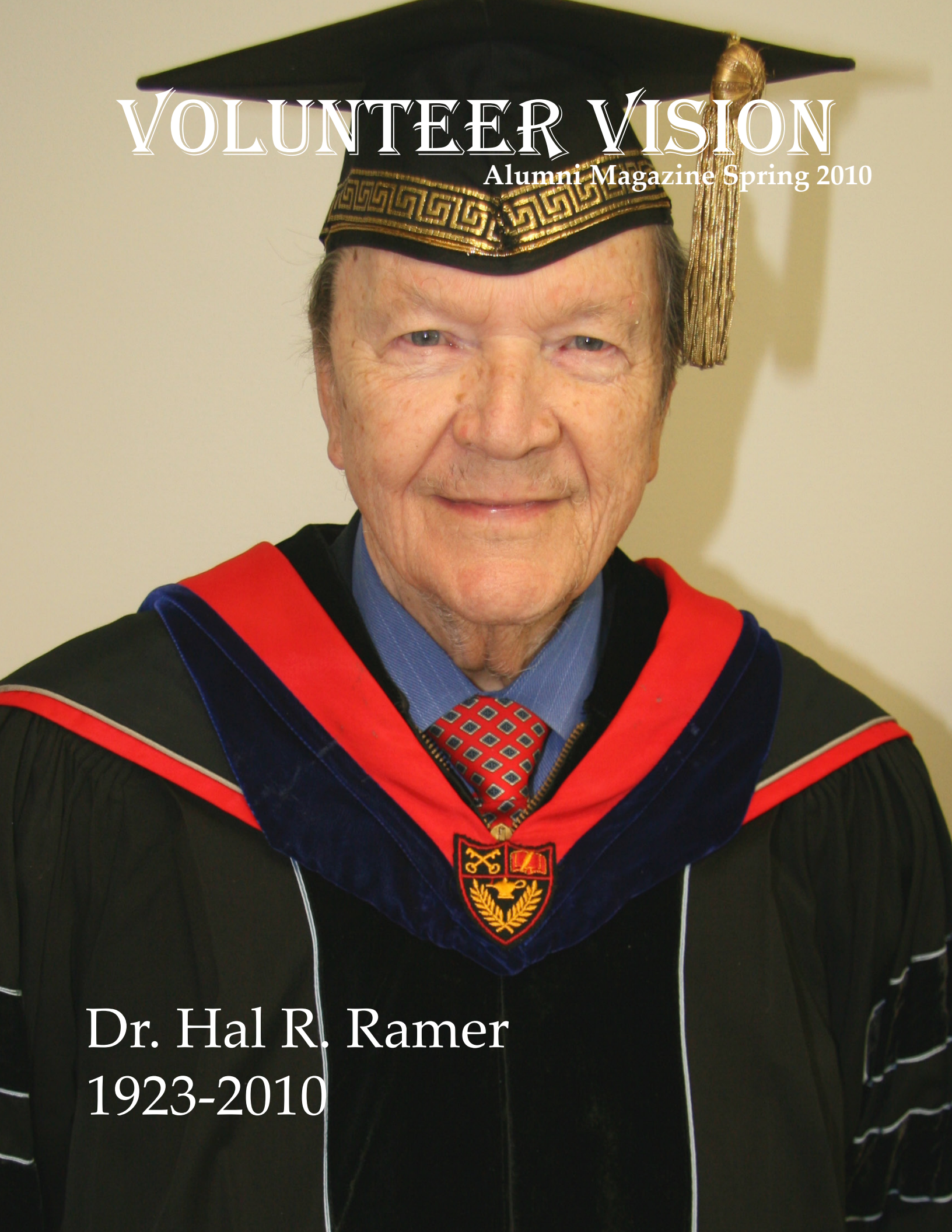


VOLUNTEER VISION

Alumni Magazine Spring 2010



Dr. Hal R. Ramer
1923-2010

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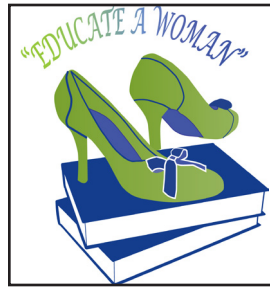
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The Spring 2010 edition of Volunteer Vision was designed by, and portions written by, Vol State journalism students: James Anderson, Samantha Hearn, Leslie Odom, Jesse Smith and Amy Webb.

Volunteer Vision is a publication of the Volunteer State Community College Foundation Office.



A Message From Our President

Dear Alumni and Friends:

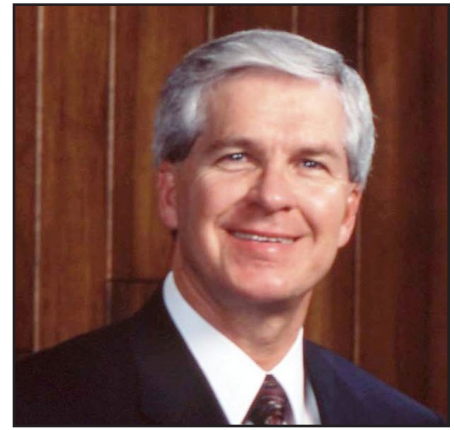
This is both a great time at Volunteer State Community College and a challenging time. Our spring enrollment is up 16%, with a head count of 8,128. There are 1,100 more students taking classes over this time last year. Due to the economy people are starting to understand the importance of community college and the education offered. I would like to share with you some other important achievements:

- We have begun a Criminal Justice program and our new Veterinary Technology Program has 50 students in the first semester of operation.
- We held the Livingston Ribbon cutting on January 28, 2010 to celebrate the completion of the new classrooms and faculty offices. The Livingston campus has gone from a capacity of 500 to 800 students.
- The Robertson County Springfield campus will hold a groundbreaking ceremony this spring and classes should begin in fall of 2011.
- Our International Travel Study Program continues to grow. We

have 29 students attending classes in 15 countries this year. Five of our faculty will be teaching in classes in the Netherlands. James Story with our music program will be taking a group to Europe, our Ophthalmic students will be going to Guatemala with the Hendersonville Rotary Club, there will be a group from Paralegal going to London, and a group from Allied Health will be going to Eastern Europe.

While we have much to look forward to, we have been saddened by the death of Dr. Hal R. Ramer, the founding President of the Volunteer State Community College who served the College for 32 years and retired in 2003. However, he continued to remain active in the Foundation events and fundraising activities. Dr. Ramer was truly a southern gentleman and will be missed greatly.

On a lighter note, I would like to commend the Alumni Advisory Council on their hard work toward fundraising for the Alumni Scholarships. They were able to award three scholarships to family members of Volunteer State Alumni. If



you are not already supporting this great cause, I challenge you to do so and help make a difference in the lives of students. Especially during these difficult economic times any amount you could give will make a difference.

We are excited about the many opportunities that lie ahead of us. I hope you will participate in some of our activities for the Alumni and Foundation as well. If you are not already a member, I encourage you to join the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association is an active organization and another great way to stay in touch with your Alma Mater
Sincerely,
Dr. Warren Nichols
President

A Message From Your Chair

Hello fellow alumni.

Inside this issue you will find interesting interviews and highlights of past events. You will also learn more about upcoming opportunities for fun and networking, as well as opportunities to help others.

Few of us have been completely untouched by our country's economic situation. Some people are stressed just trying to make ends meet and making charitable donations may seem impossible. But let's not forget the value of education. Any amount we give can help deserving individuals realize their dream of a college education.

I hope you will join me on April 24 for tailgating and a baseball game at 1 pm when our mighty Pioneers take on the Cleveland State Cougars.

Just as baseball is a team sport with each player adding to the success of the team, alumni events are also a team effort. Let's "Knock One Out of the Park" by bringing donations for the Alumni Scholarship fund. Dig out that change! Alumni, tailgating, baseball, and helping others is a winning combination.

My time as Chair of the Alumni Advisory Council is coming to a close. Let me say thank you to Karen Mitchell and Lori Johnson from the Vol State Foundation office for their continued efforts. To my fellow alum, it has been a rewarding experience to serve as the chair. I hope you will consider being an active part of the Vol State Alumni Association. Also, to the Alumni Advisory Council members, it has

been an honor to work with each of you. Your dedication to Vol State is inspirational. See you all in April!

Go Pioneers!

Lori Stephens, Class of 2000



“Your Change Can Make a Change”

Alumni bash raises money for scholarships

By Jesse Smith
Class of 2010

Volunteer State Community College’s basketball homecoming took place on Nov. 21 and had its bittersweet moments.

The Vol State Pioneers took on the Motlow State Bucks from Tullahoma.

Fortunately for the Lady Pioneers, the Lady Bucks’ preparation wasn’t enough. The Lady Pioneers pulled out an impressive victory with a score of 93-52.

However, the Pioneers weren’t as fortunate. The final score for the men was 81-99, resulting in a loss for the Pioneers.

“The boys played a good, exciting game and it was down to the wire,” said Lori Johnson, Resource Development Specialist of the Volunteer State Community College Foundation.

Even though the Pioneers lost this time, they returned the favor and won when they faced the Bucks again in Tullahoma later in the season.

Before the game there was an alumni bash.

Dennis Powers and the Alumni Council helped put together “Your Change Can Make a Change,” which is a stepping stone to help develop more alumni scholarships.

At the beginning of the fall semester 2009, three alumni



A Pioneer player attempts to make a basket against the Motlow State Bucks.



Bobby Hudson and Dennis Powers represent the 70s at the alumni bash.

scholarships were given out, and Powers shared that he had every intention to help that number dramatically increase.

The idea was that with the help from the crowd, any and all donated change can help lead to more scholarships for students.

“If we can get people to come to one game, we think they will come back to more,” stated Bobby Hudson, Director of Athletics at Vol State.

Hudson said that he believes the families and crowd will have a good time and enjoy themselves. Plus, their monetary contributions to the Alumni Association will help significantly.

As a follow up to the basketball homecoming’s “Your Change Can Make a Change,” there will be a continuation of the campaign for the baseball game on April 24, called “Knock One Out of the Park.” In addition, there will also be an event at the new Lady Pioneer Softball Complex.

It will be an Alumni Tailgate Party that the Council will put together to pick up where they left off with the “Your Change Can Make a Change” basketball games.

Knock One Out of the Park!

Tailgate Party on April 24

Pioneers vs. Cleveland State 1 p.m.

Plus

An event at the NEW! Lady Pioneer complex

Please bring your change and drop it in the receptacle provided. This Tailgate Party is a continuation of the "Your Change Can Make a Change" Campaign.

The proceeds will benefit the Vol State Alumni Association Scholarship. Family members of Vol State Alumni (those who graduated and/or received a certificate from VSCC) are eligible for this scholarship.

If you feel you meet these qualifications and are interested in this scholarship, please visit our website at www.volstate.edu/Alumni and click on the Alumni Association Scholarship link.



Alumni spotlight: Joni and Phillip Worsham

By Amy Webb
Class of 2009

When Volunteer State Community College began in 1971, the concept of the community college was a relatively new one to the state of Tennessee.

The members of Vol State's very first freshman class had an opportunity unlike any other to build and shape what would eventually become a premiere community college.

Two of these trailblazers were Joni and Phillip Worsham.

Joni, now the principal of Hendersonville High School, was the first female to register for classes at Vol State.

"The buildings were not finished yet. Many of the buildings were in the middle of Gallatin. The main offices were in the Cordell Hull Hotel, P.E. classes were in the armory, some classes were held in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Our cafeteria was Dairy Queen," Joni recalled with a smile.

"The faculty was smaller," added Phillip. "There were only about 15 or 20 [students] in each class. Back then the campus operated on quarters rather than semesters. Tuition was \$65."

"Moving into the new building; being a part of the first graduating class - you realized you were making history," he continued.

"All of us had to learn the alma mater. I remember every word. We sang it at graduation," said Phillip as he burst loudly into the chorus. Joni chuckled at her husband and then good-naturedly joined him for the last verse.

"We were the first group to do civic promotions," continued Joni. "I was the first editor of 'The Settler' and Phillip was the first editor of the yearbook. Back then we typed on typewriters and physically cut and pasted. Because the school was so



Phillip and Joni Worsham, now and then, were the first editors of the Vol State yearbook and student newspaper (The Settler).

small, we were each others' staff."

Spending so much time together on the college's publications did more than just unite the pair as friends.

It united them romantically as well.

Although they originally met at Sumner County Elementary School (now Gene W. Brown Elementary School) in the fourth grade, the pair was separated for a brief time when Phillip moved away in seventh grade.

Then, when Vol State opened, both Joni and Phillip began to run within the same circle.

Before long, a relationship blossomed out of the friendship.

Later down the road, Phillip and Joni were married and started a family of their own.

While they were at Vol State though, the students and faculty were family enough for the young couple.

"The faculty and president made it family. It was like you built a house," said Phillip. "Everyone was

moving their own furniture in. We walked on wooden planks. Everyone decided it was their home and helped move in."

"You felt like you belonged. You were needed," added Joni.

The family-like atmosphere at Vol State was largely due to its founding president, the late Dr. Hal Reed Ramer.

"It was just home. He wanted everyone to feel as though they were part of his family. He's the most kindhearted person I've ever known," said Phillip fondly.

"Dr. Ramer felt like even the faculty was part of his family," added Joni.

"You come from elementary school, middle school and high school thinking you never want to be around the principal. With Dr. Ramer you never felt uncomfortable walking into his office," recalled Joni with a smile.

"He felt like everyone was making a contribution. He treated every-

Continued on Page Seven

Faculty Spotlight: James Story

By Leslie Odom
Class of 2010

Many stories tell of greatness, but few can claim to have been a "Story" their entire lives! One such accomplished individual is James Story, Chairman of the Music, Theater and Visual Arts Departments of Volunteer State Community College.

Story, who hails from East Tennessee, has come to love middle Tennessee, having now called it home for more than half his life.

While he thrives at Volunteer State, Story himself received his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Tech, then went on to attain his master's degree from Austin Peay.

While student teaching at Gallatin High School, Story was told by the principal that some day he would come back to teach on the staff.

After a few years at White House High School, Story did in fact take a position with Gallatin High School.

Story remained at Gallatin until 13 years ago when he was asked to help in the development of a Recording and Music Industry Program for Vol State.

Story jumped at the chance, and



James Story is the Chairman of the Music, Theater and Visual Arts Departments at Vol State.

the rest is history.

Under Story's direction, the students have had the opportunity to act and sing in many wonderful productions through the years.

Story notes that his favorites were "Tennessee Roots," which he both wrote and produced, and "Fiddler on the Roof."

Story is particularly proud of the

"Tennessee Roots" story, as it tells of his family, the Appalachians and also contains some wonderful African-American Spirituals.

Through the years at Vol State, Story has seen many students pass through.

When asked what he thinks his students think of him, Story laughed and replied, "I'm known as being direct and honest in my assessment of their talent!"

And, while that may sound a little tough, Story finishes the thought by saying he tells them all to dream big, practice, be disciplined, have stick-tuitiveness, and, again, dream big!

Many of Story's students have gone on to fill some fascinating positions in the music industry. Two of these include Holly Rittenberry and Nathan Eddy, who both served on cruise ships.

When away from Vol State, Story stays busy in the community and in his church, First Methodist of Gallatin, Tenn., where he is the adult choir director.

Story says one of his favorite things to get to do is direct a full choir and orchestra for special events such as Christmas programs.

Worsham

Continued from Page Six

one like they were making a million-dollar contribution," Phillip said.

"Vol State will miss Dr. Ramer," Joni added quietly.

"When I think of Vol State I only see Dr. Ramer. He dreamed it, he achieved it, he lived it. He knew we could do things we didn't know we could," said Phillip.

It was such an attitude that quickly turned Vol State into a "leader in community colleges across the country," according to Phillip.

"They were trying to make it the best community college in the state, and they did it. It is the finest," said

Phillip proudly.

"They took pride in it. They made you want to buy into it," he added.

"They motivated you. Typically community colleges get students other colleges won't accept. They have open doors and give everyone an opportunity," added Phillip.

"Honestly, my parents didn't know what to do [after I completed high school]," said Joni.

"I couldn't afford school," Phillip piped in.

"I applied but it was like 'now what do I do?' I didn't know the first thing," said Joni.

"I originally thought it's got to be better than not going. It was wonder-

ful," Phillip said with a broad smile.

"We loved it so much we took summer classes! University students would come and realize it's not a breeze. It's more difficult," Joni added.

"Vol State gave us the foundation to move on. It's as good or better education than anyplace else. The teachers cared," she said.

In one word Vol State was "worthwhile," said Joni.

"Hope," added Phillip. "VSCC provided it for us and many people."

Support your College.
Support your Foundation.

Founding President Ramer Remembered

Hal R. Ramer, founding president of Volunteer State Community College, died at the age of 86 on February 14, 2010. Dr. Ramer served the College for 32 years, from his appointment as president on July 1, 1970, until his retirement on January 31, 2003. He is remembered as an innovative leader in higher education, an energetic and involved member of the community, and a friend to many.

"Dr. Ramer was always a devoted advocate for Vol State and our students, and was a personal friend and confidant to me," said Vol State President Dr. Warren Nichols. "Even after his retirement from the College, Dr. Ramer invested his time, energy, and resources to ensure that the college he loved continued to serve the needs of our students and our community."

"Hal Ramer had been with the Tennessee Board of Regents since our very beginning and was the longest-serving president in the history of the system," said Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning. "After his retirement, he remained a willing and wise advisor. His lifelong commitment to education served the people of Tennessee well, and all those who have attended a TBR community college owe him a debt of gratitude."

Dr. Ramer, as assistant state commissioner for higher education, was



closely involved in plans to build a new community college in Gallatin. The promotion of the idea was the cooperative work of many civic leaders and citizens of Sumner County, as well as state officials. The first classes began in October of 1971 in churches, secondary schools and a National Guard Armory. The administration of the college was initially operated out of buildings in downtown Gallatin, including a dusty, old hotel.

From those humble beginnings, Dr. Ramer led Vol State to become a full-service higher education institution offering 70 programs with an enrollment of more than 8,000 students a semester. The main campus now comprises 16 buildings, and the Vol State at Livingston campus has

added a new building and classrooms. From its 1971 inception more than 100,000 persons have attended the College.

Dr. Ramer continued his dedicated service to Vol State after retirement through close work with the College Foundation.

The Hal R. Ramer Society honors the generous donors who make student scholarships and college advancement possible. Dr. Ramer continued to stay in touch with the life of the college, attending events and visiting friends. The Ramer Oratorical Contest is held each year to showcase students who excel in speech and communication.

Dr. Ramer was honored as the first recipient of the Lifetime Service Award from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in 2003, and as the first recipient of the Masonic Lodge of Gallatin's Community Service Award in 2005.

He served as a member of the Administrative Board of Belmont United Methodist Church in Nashville, the Tennessee Academy of Science, the Tennessee Historical Society, the Knights of Pythias, and the Sumner County Historical Society. In 2006 he was named Stellar Tribute Honoree by the Sumner Foundation.

True to Vol State spirit, Dr. Ramer was a Pioneer in the field of education.



During the 2008 Harvest Moon Soiree, Dr. Ramer visited with Van Conder, Betty Zuccarello and Karen Mitchell of the Foundation.

"EDUCATE A WOMAN"



Volunteer State College Foundation's ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Friday, April 30, 2010

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Bluegrass Country Club

Hendersonville, TN

A fundraising opportunity with
ALL proceeds benefitting
women's scholarships.

RSVP or for sponsorship opportunities contact Lori Johnson at
615.230.3526.

Space is limited...reserve your place now! An opportunity to
make a pledge or donation will be extended (minimum sug-
gested donation \$35) during the lunch.

Lisa Smartt, Speaker/Author

Public Speaking is Lisa's passion. She has spoken to groups around
the country on subjects like "Contentment in a Discontent World."
Lisa believes laughter is a gift and LOVES to share her personal weak-
nesses, struggles, and the sheer JOY of daily living. She is the author
of "The Smartt View: Life, Love, and Cluttered Closets."



Save the Date . . .

"EDUCATE A WOMAN"



Educate A Woman Luncheon,
Friday, April 30,
Bluegrass Country Club,
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.,
Special Guest Speaker:
Lisa Smartt



Annual Donor Celebration,
Thursday, September 9,
Volunteer State College
Carpeted Dining Room,
6 p.m.



Commencement,
Saturday, May 8,
Jim Moore Gymnasium,
Pickel Building, 10 a.m



Athletic Association Golf
Tournament,
Monday, August 2.
Bluegrass Country Club,
Shotgun Start Noon



Harvest Moon Soiree,
Friday, October 15,
Bluegrass Country Club,
6 p.m. Cocktail Hour,
7 p.m. Dinner

Seen and Heard

1970s

Vicky Durham McVey '76, Major: Mathematics. She is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at VSCC.

Rebecca Sue Hawkins Pedigo '77, Major: Business. She has been an employee of VSCC's Financial Aid Department for the past 38 years. She has two children Jennifer Pedigo Moore, high school math teacher and James Lorin Pedigo, minister in the United Methodist Church, both graduates of VSCC, grandmother of 5, wife of Larry who is also a minister for the TN Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Sandra Snow Milliken '77, Major: Human Services. She received her BA with a concentration in Human Resource Development and Training at Vermont College, and then her Masters of Social Work in 1998 at University of South Carolina. Her most recent position was as Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc. in Richmond, VA.

Sherie Edwards '79, Major: Journalism/Business Management. She graduated magna cum laude and was Vice-President of the Student Government Association, Associate Editor of *The Settler*, and a member of the 1979 Homecoming Court. Sherie took a few years off to have her children (Andrew, Sarah, and Victoria), then resumed her formal education at Trevecca Nazarene University (MHR '91) and Nashville School of Law ('96). She is a senior attorney and government relations manager for State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company, and a member of the Vol State Alumni Advisory Board and

the Career Alumni Network.

1980s

Teresa Diel Brown '80, Major: Business and Commerce. She completed her BBA at Middle Tennessee University and her Masters at UT Knoxville. She has worked at her alma mater, Volunteer State, since 1983 where she won the Outstanding Staff Award in 1994 and 2003. Teresa is currently the Director of the Testing Center. She has been married to Mark Brown for 22 years, who also works at Volunteer State as the Audio Visual department coordinator.

Deborah L (Newberry) Craighead, '87, Major: A.A.S (Associate of Applied Science), General Business Administration with concentration in Accounting. She completed her B.S. degree at Austin Peay State University in 2008 in Professional Studies with concentration in Management. Deborah married in 1989 to Ricky Craighead and has two sons, Ryan and Austin. She is employed by Volunteer State Community College since 1990 and received Outstanding Staff Award in 2005.

Scott Hilgadiack, '88, He is an Advisor/Counselor at Volunteer State Community College. Scott recently completed his MDiv degree at Asbury Theological Seminary and is currently volunteering for the Cumberland District of the United Methodist Church as the editor of the *Cumberland District Review*.

1990s

Elvis Brandon '97, Major: Physical Therapist Assistant. Physical Therapist Assistant Program Academic Coordinator of Clinical

Education from 2001-2007. He received Outstanding Faculty Award in 2006, and was appointed Dean of Allied Health Division in 2007 at Volunteer State Community College.

2000s

Andrew Finney, '00, Major: Pre-medical/Pre-pharmacy. He graduated magna-cum-laude, and received a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, College of Pharmacy, May 2005. He currently serves as President-elect of the Gallatin Rotary Club. Andrew owns/practices independent community pharmacy in Gallatin. He is married and has 3 young boys. He currently serves on the Vol State Alumni Advisory Board.

Lori Stephens '00, Major: Communication. She belong to Phi Theta Kappa and graduated Summa Cum Laude. She works for the TN Board of Regents, Regents Online Degree Programs as the Coordinator for Nursing & Allied Health Education. Lori became adjunct faculty at VSCC fall 2009. She currently serves as chair of the Vol State Alumni Advisory Board.

Kristin (Clark) Clark, '01, Major: Communications. She received the Outstanding Student Leader Award while attending Vol State for her work as the editor of *The Settler*, as well as the Mary C. Nicholas award upon graduation on 2001. She furthered her education at Belmont University, and now is entering her second year there as a Database Manager for CCSA, the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad. Kristin has been married for three years, and recently purchased a home in the West-Nashville area. She currently serves on the Vol State Alumni Advisory Board.

If you have added to your family, made a career change, completed your degree, or just want to share a note with your fellow alum, and would like to be included in future editions of "Seen and Heard", please email your notes to lori.johnson@volstate.edu.



Bob Jankiewicz expanding Workforce Development

By James Anderson
Class of 2010

Volunteer State Community College's Continuing Education and Economic Development Department offers many opportunities for businesses to fulfill their training needs through its Workforce Development program. Workforce Development is built upon helping your business achieve its goals through training and development programs.

Bob Jankiewicz, the Director of the Business and Industry Institute at Vol State, started with the College six years ago. His role is to promote marketing and sell to the industry the continuing education and workforce development customized trainings, workshops and seminars that Vol State offers.

Workforce Development has added online programs to further competitiveness. Recently, programs have been added that have been designed by major institutions.

"We are one of the first community colleges in the country to get



Electrolux employees received their AMA certificates.

under the umbrella of the University Alliance and offer these programs through them," Jankiewicz said.

One of Jankiewicz's biggest additions to the Workforce Development program is the Six Sigma Program. He developed a relationship early on at the College with an adjunct professor that was a Six Sigma master black belt. Jankiewicz saw the need to bring the program to Vol State, and has offered it for the past six years.

"It fits a niche and a need in industry that just wasn't here," he said.

Jankiewicz sees Vol State's Workforce Development fitting an ever expanding function to provide opportunities for people to stay current in their chosen profession, to gain continuing education credit units and to prepare for licensing exams. "Especially now as the workplace continues to shrink, as jobs begin to shrink, the credentialing of individuals is becoming more and more important for them to be competitive in the job market," said Jankiewicz.

For more information, visit <http://www.volstate.edu/Workforce/>

Continuing Education program developing steadily

By James Anderson
Class of 2010

There are many reasons to continue your education. Some do it for their job, but others simply do it for their own personal growth. Vol-

unteer State Community College's Continuing Education and Economic Development Department offers classes that fit both needs to provide lifelong learning opportunities for a diverse community.

Lisa Haley, Vol State's Director of

Non-Credit Instruction in the Continuing Education Department, deals primarily with the personal enrichment courses offered by the college.

While most continuing education classes are held on Vol State's main campus, the college does offer many classes online, and has seen enrollment in those offerings soar. Haley helps find faculty that are a best fit for the classes offered. Most often the staff is certified and experts in their fields.

There is a wide range of personal enrichment courses that the school offers. Courses can range anywhere between arts and crafts to dog training to swing dancing. A complete list of courses can be found in the Continuing Education Course Schedule available online through the department's website located at: <http://www.volstate.edu/ContinuingEd/>



Dancing is among the many classes offered by Continuing Education.

Contact us...



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Phone: 615-230-3526
Fax: 615-230-3508
www.volstate.edu/alumni



The Vol State at Livingston expansion project is complete, and more than a hundred people turned out for an open house and ribbon cutting to celebrate the occasion. The college facility is a partnership between Volunteer State Community College, the City of Livingston, Overton County, and the generous donors who realized the importance of expanding student facilities and opportunities in the Upper Cumberland area. On hand to celebrate were, front row, left to right, Greg McDonald, Director of Business Development, Livingston-Overton Chamber of Commerce; State Sen. Diane Black; Rita Reagan, Director of Marketing and Tourism, Livingston-Overton Chamber of Commerce; Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes; Dr. Warren Nichols, President of Volunteer State Community College; J.J. Oakley, major donor; Julia Bishop and Budd Bishop, major donors. Back row, David Gregory, Vice-Chancellor of Administration and Facilities Development, Tennessee Board of Regents; Overton County Mayor Kenneth Copeland; Dr. Steve Copeland, Regent; Michael Powell, Director of Vol State at Livingston.