

# **VOLUNTEER** **VISION** Winter 2015

YOUR ALUMNI MAGAZINE



## **Entertainment Media**

### **VSCC's 2-year Degree**

Also in this issue:

Guatemala 2015

Allison Meyers Thanks Alumni



Alumnus Travels the Globe



Guests Enjoy the Chocolate & Wine Tasting Event in August



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Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient



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2015 Events

## 2015 EVENT SPONSORS



### EDUCATE A WOMAN LUNCHEON

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Hal R. Ramer Annual Dinner



## A Message From Our President

Dear Alumni and Friends:

When I speak about graduates from Volunteer State Community College in public, I am reminded that Vol State has a large group of alumni who are making a huge impact in the communities we serve!

When I speak one-on-one with Vol State alumni, I hear several phrases again and again:

- "I'm proud to have received my degree from Vol State."
- "I would not have been successful in furthering my education were it not for my time here on campus."
- "Vol State feels like family."
- "Professor \_\_\_\_\_ made a real impact on my life."

I know that loyalty is part of the reason these phrases resonate on this campus and beyond. Your loyalty and experience at Vol State have always been valued – no more so than now as we embark on the development of a new strategic plan. Over the past six weeks, you may have been aware that "Listening Sessions" were taking place on campus as well as eight other locations across our service area. I hope you were able to attend one of the sessions. We've started the process of methodically looking ahead in order to carefully utilize the resources afforded to us in the most effective way possible. If you were not able to attend a session, I encourage you to reach out and send your thoughts and ideas. A form to help capture that information may be found at [www.volstate.edu/strategicplan](http://www.volstate.edu/strategicplan). Our interest is to become a better and stronger college. With your input, our plan will allow us to act fast and seize opportunities, so we can be competitive, achieve our goals, and provide the most benefit to the communities we're proud to serve.

Volunteer State Community College is in the midst of exciting times. In addition to the transformative construction project of the Steinhauer-Rogan-Black Humanities Building, our campus has expanded class offerings to accommodate growth as we welcomed more than 1,400 Tennessee Promise students on campus this fall.

This is a pivotal time for Volunteer State Community College. It is an opportunity for us to rise to the occasion and impact the lives and families of thousands of students in north Middle Tennessee.

Thank you for keeping the Pioneer Spirit alive and well with your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Faulkner, Ph.D.



## A Message From Your Alumni Advisory Chair

Greetings alumni and friends!

On behalf of the Vol State Alumni Association, I'd like to thank all of you for your support of the college and the Vol State Foundation. There are so many positive changes taking shape on our campus. If you haven't visited the college in a while, we hope you'll take the time to see these changes firsthand. It's an exciting time at Vol State!

One of the biggest changes on the Vol State landscape is the addition of the new \$30-million Steinhauer-Rogan-Black Humanities Building that is expected to be completed in the summer of 2016. Along with the growth of our physical footprint, the college is also growing in number of students. With the implementation of the Tennessee Promise scholarship program, enrollment at the college has increased by 14 percent.

Just as the college is breaking ground on new buildings, the alumni association is breaking new ground of its own, trying to reach and engage with alumni in a variety of ways. This year marked our first-ever Chocolate & Wine Tasting – a free social event that was a huge hit with alumni and their guests. It's an event we hope to grow with your support.

Let us know how the association can better meet your needs; we welcome your feedback and suggestions on events and services you're interested in. We also welcome your donations so that we can award scholarships to students who otherwise could not afford college. (Remember: Not everyone qualifies for Tennessee Promise, so there's still a need for scholarships.) Those of us who benefited from a Vol State education know the positive impact it's had on our lives. We want to make that experience available to as many future alumni as possible. Every scholarship we award is another life changed for the better, and it wouldn't happen without your support.

We hope you'll stay in touch. Please like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/VolStateAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/VolStateAlumni)) and be sure to see our calendar of events (<http://volstate.edu/foundation/Events.php>) so that you can stay involved. If you're not on our email list, drop us a note ([volstate.edu/foundation/contact-us.php](mailto:volstate.edu/foundation/contact-us.php)) so that we can keep you up to date.

With warmest regards,

Diane Hughes  
VSCC Alumni Advisory Council Chair



## Did You Know? Vol State has 2-year degrees in Entertainment Media

In the Fall of 2011 a new 2-year degree was developing at Vol State – Entertainment Media. That was when Steve Bishir, Director of Entertainment Media Production Programs, came to Vol State. By the Fall of 2012 the program was up and running. The projection for the program was 27 students; they had 51. Since then, the program has been tweaked in content and course offerings, and has doubled in three years to more than 100 students! With the new Humanities Building on the horizon, the program is expected to increase even more.

So what does a 2-year, terminal degree in Entertainment Media look like? A student starts with an “Introduction to Entertainment Business” course. From there, the student decides which pathway to pursue – audio production, video production, multi-media /web design, or music business. Along with general education classes, the student experiences a unique integration of the various aspects of entertainment media and plenty of hands-on time in the studio.

Throughout the last semester, students from all four pathways come together in a Capstone class where they work as a team to produce an Electronic Press Kit (EPK) for a recording artist. An EPK consists of 3–6 songs, a website, business plan and a video. The EPK is presented to music industry companies for critique, so the students experience real-life feedback. Students exit the program with portfolios of work they have done, plus the EPK, which is perfect for launching the student’s personal momentum into the music industry.

Steve Bishir came to Vol State with 25 years of experience as a music producer and engineer. Over the years Steve has recorded music in London and all over the United States. A 1988 graduate of Belmont University, Steve’s first paying job in the music industry was cutting weeds at a recording studio where he was interning! From there he became an assistant engineer and went on to become a producer and engineer. Steve has sold eight million records, has five Grammy Awards and has mixed over 100, No. 1 singles (a mixer makes the adjustments to a song that becomes the final product to which we listen). He uses this amazing background to impart knowledge to his students. Steve still works in the music industry to stay abreast of cutting-edge technology and techniques.

Vol State is currently developing a program in music touring management. When attending a concert, we don’t necessarily consider what logistics went into producing it. Essentially the artist is moving their world from place to place. Someone has to schedule: the semi-trucks that haul the equipment; the buses that transport all the people; hotel rooms; a caterer to provide three meals a day; engineers to construct the stage –



Grammy Award Winner, Steve Bishir, Director of Entertainment Media Industry Programs/Assistant Professor



Entertainment Media student works on a class project in the Vol State recording studio.

just to name a few tasks. A music touring manager does all of that safely and efficiently.

In essence, everything taught at Vol State can be incorporated into the music touring program – business/marketing, accounting, safety, graphic design, mechanical engineering (stage set-up), electrical engineering (lighting), logistics, etc. Today, artists are doing more tours because record sales have dropped, so there will be an increase in demand for touring managers. It is projected that by 2021 there will be a 34,000 job-to-body surplus in the entertainment industry, meaning for every one person there are 34,000 jobs. Vol State is in a prime spot to feed graduates into jobs.

On May 23–31 a team from Vol State joined with members of the Hendersonville Rotary club for a medical mission trip to Guatemala. The team consisted of six students from the Ophthalmic Technology program, Program Director Dr. Alisha Cornish, Faculty Member Jana Allen, and Dr. and Mrs. Faulkner.

**Jerry:** I had heard about the trip even before becoming President at Vol State. As a member of Rotary I had seen pictures from previous years. I really wanted to be part of the mission and to observe our students in action.

**Wanda:** I was a bit apprehensive about the safety in Guatemala as well as being concerned we would get in the way rather than being useful. After we had lunch with Dr. Cornish and Jana and talked about the trip, I felt like it would be a good trip and hoped to make a difference.

The Hendersonville Rotary works with Club Rotario Guatemala Las Americas to make the trip possible. The clinic was located on the grounds of the Casa Para Niños Aleluya Childrens' Home in Guatemala. In addition to ophthalmic services the mission trip provided medical, dental and psychological services.

**Jerry:** My job was as the doorman and photographer. As patients came to the clinic, they lined up on benches outside the clinic. Medical and ophthalmic were in the same building, so I determined which service the patients were seeking and brought them in the building as space was available.

**Wanda:** Once patients came into the ophthalmic clinic, my job was to direct them to the available students for

testing and to Dr. Cornish and Jana for additional exams or glasses. Before the end of the week I was also fitting patients with readers and sunglasses.

The students on the trip were Emilie Fuqua, Katie Holland, Saige Wilkins, Chelsey Brown, Lauren Pool and Rex McCulloch. All the students in the ophthalmic program participated by testing, labeling and sorting hundreds of pairs of glasses donated by the Lion's Club.

**Jerry:** Dr. Cornish and Jana have participated in the trip for many years. They did an excellent job of setting up the location to maximize the number of patients we could serve. The students did a wonderful job working long hours without a break.

**Wanda:** I was very impressed with the students' skill level. They were very caring with the patients, and I think they fell in love with some of the little ones.

The first day, the team saw patients mainly from Casa Aleluya. The children's home serves children from infants through the equivalent of high school. On subsequent days vision exams were given to children from other orphanages and adults from the nearby city. During the four days of the clinic, the ophthalmic team saw almost 600 patients. Hundreds of pairs of glasses were dispensed.

**Jerry:** My favorite patients were the children. They were all giggles, and I'm sure were having some fun at the "old gringos" expense. I especially remember two little fellows that were good friends. Their picture (below) is one of my favorites.

**Wanda:** Of course the children tugged at our hearts. The adult seniors were so

thankful for the opportunity for testing and glasses when needed. More than once they would hug us and were so thankful for the improved vision because of the glasses they received.

Guatemala is a beautiful country with an emerging economy. It is a country of contrasts with much rural area but also large, crowded cities like the capital, Guatemala City. In addition to the clinical experience it was a great opportunity to be immersed in a different culture. There were familiar things like McDonald's, Dunkin Donuts, and Coke, but also uniquely Latin American experiences. There were evidences of significant wealth but also of great poverty.

**Jerry:** I had Spanish in fourth grade and one quarter in college. I had two years of Latin in high school, but all that was a long time ago. I was able to use a little Spanish but fortunately most people understood and spoke some English. Also, we were fortunate to have interpreters work with us in the clinic.

One of my strongest impressions occurred in Guatemala City. I remember seeing a Lexus dealer and on the hillside behind the gleaming autos was a row of tin shanties.

**Wanda:** I was struck by the wealth behind some of the walled compounds, but in the streets there were the chicken buses and all ages of people selling items just to survive.

**Jerry:** It was a tremendous experience and one that is highly valuable for our students. In four days, they probably saw more patients with a wider variety of needs that they would during several weeks in an American clinic.







## Around the World with Love

by Madison Mathews

Volunteer State Community College alumnus Paul Love was recently awarded a Newcombe Fellowship through the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Love, a University of Michigan doctoral candidate in Near Eastern studies, was one of 22 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellows for 2015. The Newcombe Fellowship is the nation's largest and most prestigious award in the humanities and social sciences addressing questions of ethical and religious values. Recipients get a 12-month award of \$25,000 to support their work.

*“... American history courses taught me to think critically about historical narratives ...”*

Love's dissertation, “Writing a Network, Constructing a Tradition: The Formation and Maintenance of Ibadi Muslim Intellectual Networks in Medieval North Africa,” focuses on networks of people and books

that created the idea of Ibadis, a Muslim minority community. Research has taken Love around the globe in order to document manuscripts in such varied places as France, Italy, Tunisia and the Sahara.

“The Newcombe Fellowship aims to support research in religious studies, and I felt like my topic fit well, so I went for it. They have supported some incredible researchers and projects over the years, so I am really honored that their fellowship committee decided that my own project merited support,” Love said.

It was Love's time at Vol State that helped fuel his interest in history, even if that was not the initial plan when he started taking classes in Gallatin. Love began his career at Vol State as a communications major, thinking he would move into a career in radio or music. After taking a history course with retired professor Dr. Robert Ruff, Love decided to switch to a history major.

“His American history courses taught me to think critically about historical narratives ... while his survey courses on World Civilization helped me learn to think about history on a global scale,” he said.

The biggest lesson Ruff gave Love was the notion that history is always relevant to the “here and now.”

“It is difficult to express the extent of my respect for him as a teacher, but suffice it to say that he continues to serve as a model for me every time I step in front of a group of students as an instructor. He not only made me want to study history, he made me want to teach,” he said.

Ruff's inspiration coupled with Love's relationship with his father, who died last year, laid the ground work for his exploration into the history of the Arabic and Islamic cultures now serving as the basis of his studies. After graduation from Vol State in 2005, Love graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in history and religious studies, culminating in a Fulbright scholarship in 2007. He cites his time at Vol State as an integral part of his life, helping transition him into his current academic career.

“Vol State provided me with both the academic freedom and the support to decide what I really wanted to do. If I had launched myself straight into a four-year program elsewhere, I really doubt I would have had the same amount of success in my academic life or passion for my research that I have today,” he said. “My experience at Vol State not only led me to study what I do now, it helped me realize what I wanted to do with my life.”





# SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

## chocolate & wine tasting

August 6, 2015, was an evening to remember for Alumni! A Chocolate & Wine tasting event was held at Country Hills Golf Course in Hendersonville. Bill Sinks, owner of Bluegrass Beverages, provided fascinating information to the crowd about the wine that was paired with chocolates from around the world.

At right, Wanda and Jerry Faulkner enjoying the Chocolate & Wine Tasting event in August.

Below, a few other of the many attendees at the Chocolate & Wine Tasting event.



## Jerry Kirkman - Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient

The criteria for the Distinguished Alumnus Award are overall accomplishments (professional achievements and community service) and consistent support of the College (through financial and/or volunteer efforts).

The winner of the 2015–16 Award is Jerry Kirkman who graduated from Volunteer State Community College in 1989 and also met his wife (Jacquelyn), in the Great Hall!

Jerry and Jacquelyn have been financial supporters of Vol State since 1998 and started their own scholarship in 2000. They wanted to give back to their Alma Mater and make a difference in the lives of students because they believe in the old adage, "It is better to give than to receive."

Jerry has been a member of the Rotary Club, is a graduate of Leadership Sumner and Leadership Upper Cumberland. He has served Westmoreland as a City Councilman, City Commissioner, and is currently the Mayor of Westmoreland.



(L to R) Jerry Kirkman, Debra Daugherty, Karen Mitchell, Dr. Jerry Faulkner





# 2015 EVENTS



## 2015 Educate A Woman Luncheon

Over 400 guests enjoyed lunch and entertainment on Friday, April 24, 2015, at First Baptist Church in Hendersonville. For 2016 sponsorship opportunities, please contact Debra Daugherty at 615-230-3526 or [debra.daugherty@volstate.edu](mailto:debra.daugherty@volstate.edu).

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## 2015 Vol State Cycling Classic

175 riders faced the Metric Century Tour, the Half Metric Tour or the Fitness Tour through Sumner County on May 2, 2015.



## 2015 Vol E Ball Event

Friday, May 8, 2015, was a beautiful evening in Livingston for the attendees of Vol E Ball.





# 2015 EVENTS

## GOLF TOURNAMENT



### 2015 The Volunteer State Athletic Association Annual Golf Classic And Volunteer State Bank Corporate Cup

The hottest tournament in town held true to its claim. August 3rd was a scorcher, but golfers had a spectacular day at Fairvue Plantation in Gallatin.



### 2015 Harvest Moon Soiree

Guests at the Harvest Moon Soirée, held Friday, September 11, 2015, at Bluegrass Country Club, had an evening filled with wonderful food, humorous entertainment and an amazing silent auction. For 2016 sponsorship opportunities, please contact Debra Daugherty at 615-230-3526 or [debra.daugherty@volstate.edu](mailto:debra.daugherty@volstate.edu).



#### Other sponsors include:

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## 2015 Regents' Awards for Excellence in Philanthropy

Dr. David and U.S. Congressman Diane Black were awarded the 2015 Regents' Award for Excellence in Philanthropy. The Blacks were the first to step up to the plate with a \$1,000,000 pledge to the Volunteer State College Foundation's Capital Campaign for the Humanities Building. They have been a Ramer Society member since 2011.

## Construction Update - Humanities Building

The three-story structure is officially named the Steinhauer-Rogan-Black Humanities Building. Construction is due to be completed in summer of 2016. If everything goes as planned, classes will be held in the building in fall of 2016. When finished, the 88,000-square-foot facility will have 44 classrooms and labs, 56 faculty offices, a recording studio, music practice rooms, and an art gallery.



## Topping Off Ceremony

The signatures of Vol State faculty, staff and donors are now a permanent part of the new \$30 million Humanities Building, currently under construction on the Gallatin campus. The beam was then raised by a crane and put into place.



## College Foundation Hires New Director of Development

Debra Daugherty began work as the Director of Development for the VSCC Foundation in April 2015. She comes most recently from the 15th Judicial District Child Advocacy Center in Lebanon where she was executive director. She also has extensive event coordination experience at companies including Sumner Regional Health Systems.

In her role as director of Development at Vol State, Daugherty will organize college fundraisers and Foundation events. She will also manage the College Alumni Association.





# VOL STATE FOUNDATION HONORED FOR FUNDRAISING

The Volunteer State College Foundation has been recognized for its fundraising program by an international education organization. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) picked 11 community colleges in the nation for the 2015 Educational Fundraising Award. The honor highlights colleges that have shown overall performance or improvement in fundraising. Each year the Volunteer

State College Foundation provides nearly \$300,000 in student scholarships and support for major building projects, including \$1.7 million for the new Humanities building, currently under construction on the Gallatin campus. In the last 25 years, the College Foundation has awarded more than 3,700 scholarships and raised more than \$10 million.

"Our College Foundation has a wonderful Board of Trustees and an active and engaged Executive Committee. They're integral in our fundraising efforts," said Karen Mitchell, vice president for Resource Development. "The trustees, combined with the contributions of donors, alumni and business groups, give us important connections to the community."

"This is just one more sign of the commitment of our donors and supporters in moving Vol State forward with new educational opportunities for our students," said Jerry Faulkner, Vol State president. "I would like to congratulate our Foundation staff and the Board of Trustees on this honor. Their hard work makes a real difference."

For more information about the Volunteer State College Foundation visit [www.volstate.edu/foundation](http://www.volstate.edu/foundation).



(L to R) Rebecca McKinney, Scholarship Coordinator; Teresa Williams, Resource Development Coordinator; Lynn Jones, Administrative Assistant; Debra Daugherty, Development Director and Karen Mitchell, Vice President of Resource Development.

## Hal R. Ramer Society Annual Dinner



David Gregory, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Facilities, Tennessee Board of Regents' presenting Matt Ricker with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy.

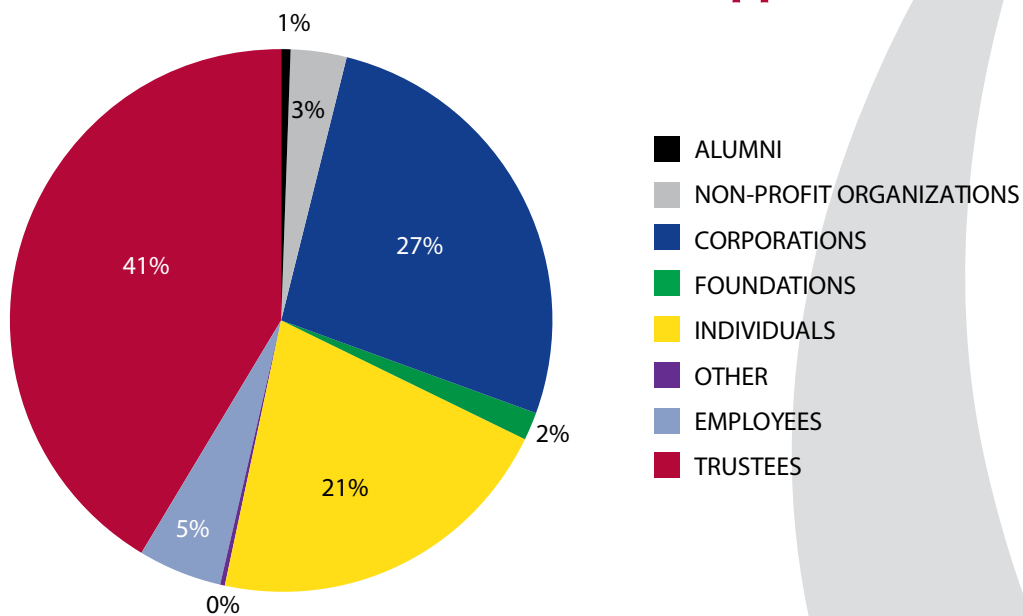


Members who moved up to the Fellow Level – (left to right) Karen Mitchell, Vice President of Resource Development, Wade & Mary Beth Powers, Brenda Payne, Malinda Williams for Friends of Sumner Regional Medical Center, Pam Ogden, Dr. Jerry Faulkner, Vol State President

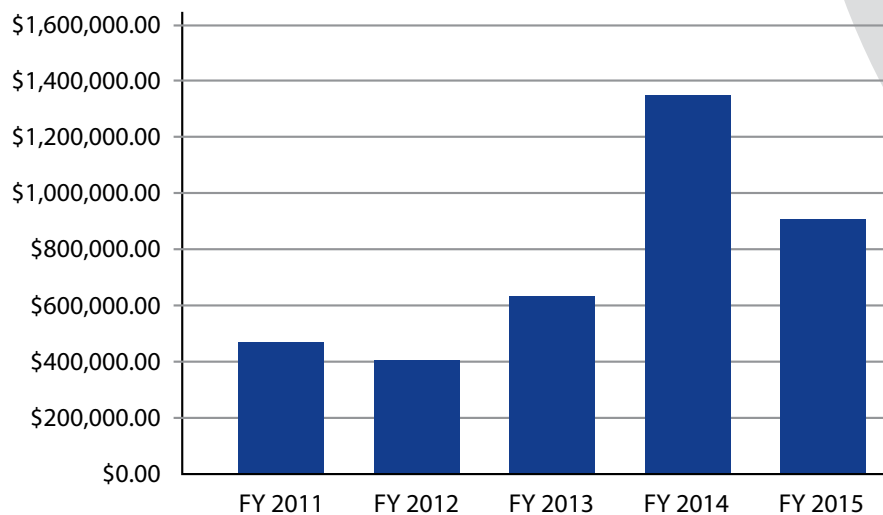


New inductees at the Partner Level – (left to right) Karen Mitchell, Vice President of Resource Development, Gwen Schaffer with Mid Cumberland Area Development Corporation, Joanne & Roy Walker, Cindy Pryor with Dollar General, Dr. Jerry Faulkner, Vol State President

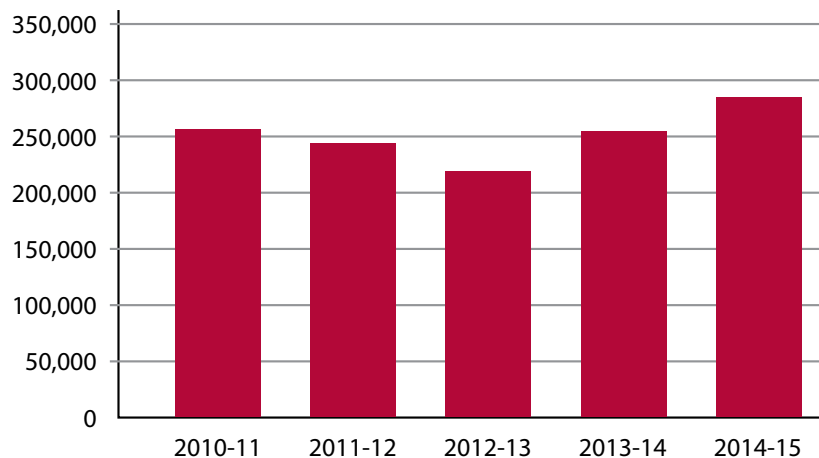
## 2014–2015 Sources of Support



## 5-Year Contribution



## Scholarship Amounts Awarded






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SENIORS

TENNESSEE  
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 **NOT** books & fees which can add up to **\$1,000** per yr.

Last year the Foundation had **788** applicants who qualified for our scholarships.



We only had money for

**193**

That's an average of

**1** out of **4**



This year **797** applications were received.

**195** may have qualified for TN Promise. **602** would not.



**17** of the scholarships in 2015-16 went to graduating seniors.



The Foundation recognizes that with the increase of high-tech industry moving into our area, there is a greater need for post-high school education. You can help meet these needs with your investment in the Volunteer State College Foundation. For more information contact the Foundation Office at 615-230-3506 or email [foundation@volstate.edu](mailto:foundation@volstate.edu).



# ASK ME WHY

Matt Ricker received the 2015 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy and was named Distinguished Alumnus in 2014. Matt has been an active member of the Volunteer State College Foundation Board of Trustees since 2007 when he led the capital campaign for the humanities building. As President and CEO of Volunteer State Bank, Matt established the bank as the title sponsor for Vol State's annual Golf Classic. Each year the bank also gives a full scholarship in memory of a beloved coworker.

When asked about his support of Vol State, Matt replied as follows:

## 1. Why do you love Volunteer State Community College?

Several reasons. Most important, Vol State Community College started my career. Going to school there was convenient, affordable and supportive. All my classes transferred to David Lipscomb University where I majored in accounting. Day one I was up to speed with my classmates, proving to me the quality of education I received from VSCC. I always wonder where I'd be if it weren't for VSCC. The experience I had at Vol State was great!

## 2. Why do you support VSCC and the VSCC Foundation?

It's the right thing to do – giving back to a school that helped me become who I am today. I am very grateful to Vol State.

## 3. What advice would you give to other alumni and donors?

Please give if you can. VSCC changes lives. It did mine. I see Vol State changing lives of students all the time. To hear some of their stories is awesome! It makes you feel good knowing that you are directly helping people better themselves. You can't put a price tag on education and what it means to the person and community. I love our community and Vol State is one of our biggest and best assets we have in our community.







After 10 years of working as a certified medical assistant, I realized that I was at a dead-end and would have to return to school to better myself and excel in a healthcare career. I decided to return to school to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing. I started out working full-time, being a full-time student at Vol State and caring for a family while managing to maintain a 4.0 GPA, but it was a bit overwhelming. To push through school and maintain a high GPA, I had to cut back to part-time employment, which put a financial burden on my family. That is why I applied for the Alumni Scholarship.

Receiving the Alumni Scholarship has opened up so many opportunities. I was selected as a Supplemental Instructor for Vol State's Chemistry Department, something I could not have done if I had to work full-time. I could also attend SGA meetings and was elected vice-president for SGA. I recently attended the SGA National Leadership Conference in St. Louis where I expanded my knowledge in leadership, which I will utilize in my nursing career.

Working as a medical assistant allowed me to see the importance of good medical management in patient care. I plan to obtain my bachelor's degree in nursing and go on to pursue a master's degree, so I may get into the management area of nursing where I can make a difference in the treatment of patients. These are lofty goals, but I am willing to work hard. A nursing degree requires a high GPA, but with my scholarship relieving financial strain, I can concentrate on excelling. I have received so much support from my husband and daughter, for which I am truly thankful. I hope I am providing a good role model to my daughter, as I encourage her to pursue a college degree directly after high school.

I want to thank the Alumni Association from the bottom of my heart for this awesome opportunity. I understand the value of every dollar, so I appreciate everyone who has donated to this scholarship. I never thought I would have the chance to do what I'm doing. Vol State has provided a strong start to my nursing career that will enable me to give back to Vol State and society, as I serve people in the medical field.



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## Alumni Association

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[www.volstate.edu/Alumni](http://www.volstate.edu/Alumni)

## Alumni Advisory Council Members 2015-2016



Alumni Association

### Officers:

Diane Hughes, Chair  
Tony Willett, Past Chair  
Dr. Rick Parrent, Consultant

### Members:

Shirlene Campbell	Bobby Hudson
Kristin Clark	Ed Mayberry
Terri Crutcher	Dennis Powers
Keith Hatley	Drew Rowley
Evelyn Hill	Lori Stephens

For additional information regarding the Alumni Association, please contact Debra Daugherty at 615-230-3526 or by email at [debra.daugherty@volstate.edu](mailto:debra.daugherty@volstate.edu).

If you would like to receive occasional eNewsletters, email blasts, and other email communications from the Alumni Association, please email Debra Daugherty at [debra.daugherty@volstate.edu](mailto:debra.daugherty@volstate.edu).

Like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VolStateAlumni>

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