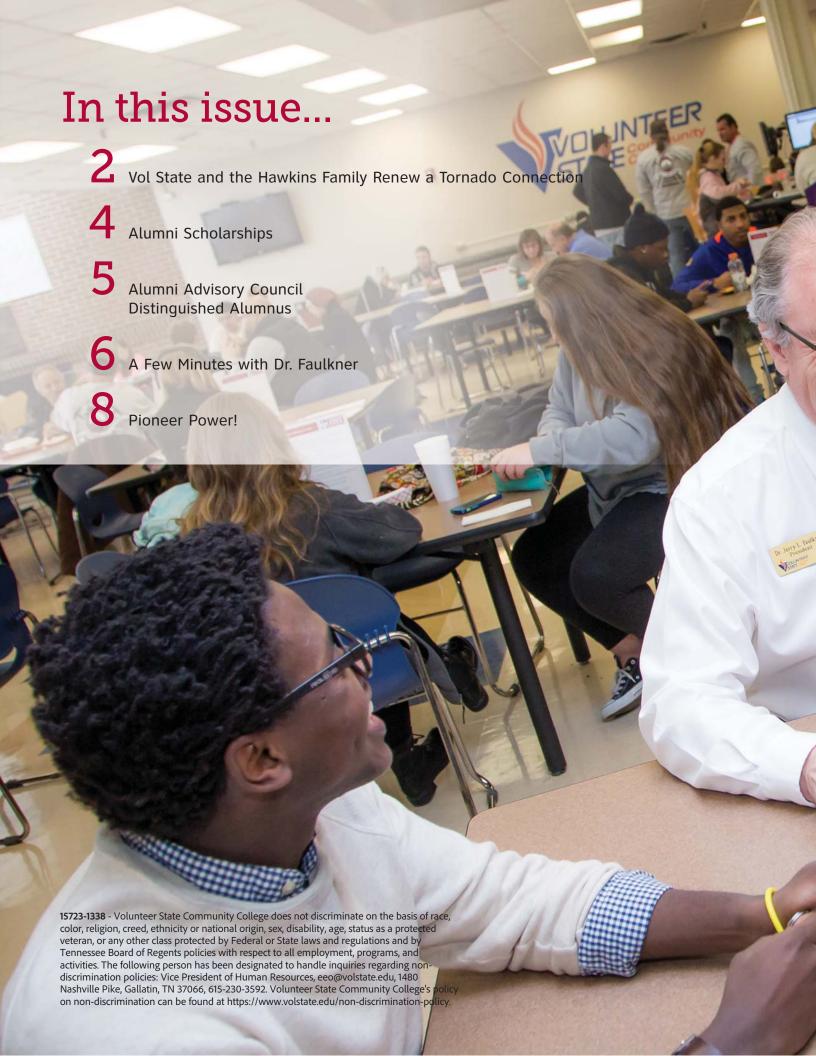


A Magazine for Alumni & Friends







#### Vol State and the Hawkins Family Renew a

# TORNADO By Eric Melcher Welcher

Many kids want to be firefighters. They may play rescue with their friends or push around toy fire engines. Jair Hawkins took it to a whole different level. "Every Halloween Jair dressed up as a firefighter," said his dad, Jerrod Hawkins. "Every year. When he was ten-years-old he would ask me questions when I got home from work. How many calls did you get? How long did it take you to get out of the bay? Really specific questions."

Jerrod has enjoyed a 20 year career as an EMT with the Brentwood Fire Department. He watched his son go from imagining fire scene responses as a child, to actively serving with a department.

"I begged him to let me be a volunteer firefighter. Finally, at age 15, he let me," said Jair.

Jair is now a student in the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic program at Volunteer State Community College. It's his first semester at the school. And it's here that the story takes on a new meaning. The family has a stormy connection with Vol State that goes back 12 years.

"I don't remember a whole lot from that day," Jair said. "We went down to the basement and the next thing I knew the whole house is coming in on me."

"I was working that day and I gave my wife a call to let her know about the storms," Jerrod said. "I was talking to Amy on the phone and she said 'I know it's here' and I lost the call. Ten minutes later I got a phone call from my neighbor. He said the boys were okay and were going to the hospital, but Amy was really hurt."

That was April 7, 2006. An F-3 tornado ripped across Middle Tennessee and blasted into the Hawkins family home in Hendersonville. Amy covered up the kids with her body. She was found beneath bricks and rubble from the wreckage of the house. Amy survived, but with major injuries.

"I just remember her being gone a long time, two or three months," said Jair. Amy had many surgeries and went through extensive rehabilitation. She was left paralyzed from the waist down.

The Sumner County community rallied around the Hawkins family. They were even stars on the ABC TV show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." The episode is often referred to as an audience favorite by the producers. The family received a brand new house during the show, a home especially designed for Amy and her wheelchair.

Former Vol State president, Warren Nichols, understood the devastation of that tornado. He was on campus when the twister moved north and hit Vol State that day, tearing up buildings, and causing seven million dollars in damage. That connection with the Hawkins family moved him to set up Vol State scholarships for the two boys, Jair and Cole, in 2006. Twelve years later, Jair is walking the Vol State campus as a new student

this fall. While he didn't need the tuition part of the scholarship, thanks to the TN Promise program, he did receive a book scholarship worth \$1000 each year.

"I didn't know how it would work after so long," Jerrod said. "So, I contacted Karen Mitchell in the College Foundation and she was wonderful."

Dad says that his son Cole will also be using the Vol State scholarship in a few years. "Right now he wants to go into the Air Force and be a pilot. He wants to do two years at Vol State and then transfer to MTSU for their Aviation program."

Amy is doing well, but still has pain from her injuries. Jair thinks back to that tragic day and said his mom did something special. "If she didn't do what she did, I wouldn't be here right now." And Jair adds that there are other ties from the past to the present. "A few of my buddies at the station where I volunteer have dads that worked at the station that day, and responded to help us."

Amy and the family recently took a vacation in Florida. It was the first time she had been in the ocean since the tornado. Jair wants to graduate, continue with Advanced EMT, and then complete the Paramedic program. He has already applied for paid positions at fire departments, including Portland and Murfreesboro. His goal is to eventually be a fire captain.

"I've known since he was two that Jair would be a fireman," Amy said. And as for how the tornado has changed their lives, she replied: "I look at challenges as a positive thing. We lived through this. It's a celebration of life we do each year."

For more information about the Vol State EMS program visit www.volstate.edu/EMS.



**Front left to right:** The boys are presented with the scholarships in 2006 by the Vol State College Foundation. (L to R - Warren Nichols, Buddy Shaw, Amy, Jerrod, Jair, Cole, Ed Mayberry and Stan Cole). Jair and Jerrod Hawkins on the Vol State campus in Gallatin. Amy and Jair Hawkins celebrate his graduation from Portland High School last spring.

The Volunteer State Community College Alumni scholarships are provided through the Vol State Alumni Advisory Council and are funded by alumni dollars. These scholarships vary in covering book scholarships to full-tuition for 1-academic year. To qualify for the scholarship, the recipient must be a relative of a VSCC alumni, have a minimum grade point average and complete an essay stating why the scholarship would be beneficial to them.

#### This year, the VSCC Alumni Advisory Council was able to award Alumni six deserving students a scholarship to assist with books or tuition. It is through the generosity of the Alumni Association that we are able to help make these students dreams come true.

## CHOLARSHIPS

"I would like to thank all the people who make this scholarship available to me and thank you for choosing me as the recipient. I am very excited about beginning this new chapter in my life and it is people like you who make the dream possible for people like me. This is truly a blessing for me and I thank you again! May God bless you all."

Sincerely, Olivia

"Thank you so much for the scholarship. I am currently enrolled in the PTA (Physical Therapist Assistant) Program at Vol State. This scholarship will help tremendously. I cannot explain how much I appreciate

your help. Thanks again!"

Sincerely, Lindsey

"I would like to start off by thanking you all for blessing me with this scholarship. I look forward to using the money to aid in my success academically and eventually in my

Sincerely Joseph Patrick

"I am very grateful for the scholarship I was awarded and hope to obtain more in the future! Since I have been awarded this scholarship, I have began telling fellow classmates and offering my help for them to apply for

scholarships."

Sincerely, Chris

"Thank you for the great privilege of honoring me with the Vol State Alumni Association Scholarship. My mother graduated from Vol State and my sister will take a final class this fall to finish her Associates Degree at Vol State. I am excited to follow in their footsteps.

This scholarship will be a great help due to my mother is a single mom and my sister and I are both full-time college students. I have signed to play basketball for Vol State. Therefore, I spend most of my time studying and improving my basketball skills.

I will represent you proudly and in my actions will prove how grateful and appreciative I am of this honor. Thank you again for selecting me."

Amanda

"I want to express my sincerest thanks to offering me a scholarship for the 2018-19 academic school year. This money will help further my education and in turn support my career goals of advancing my position with my current company.

I know you have a lot of choices when it comes to distributing the funds and I am grateful you selected me to participate in the VSCC scholarship program."

Thank you very much! Sheri

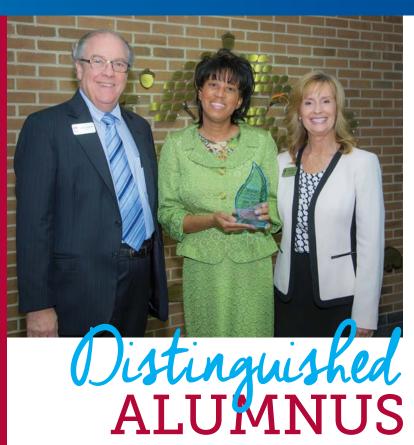
#### Alumni Advisory Council

Front Row: Shirlene Campbell (1993 and Area Manager, Mid-Cumberland Head Start @ Shalom Zone—Gallatin); Evelyn Hill (2000 and Senior Divisional Director, The Jason Foundation); Alison Muncy, Vol State Foundation Development Officer

Back Row: Dennis Powers (1973 and Attorney, McClellan, Powers, Ehmling & Rogers, P.C.); Drew Rowley (2010 and Director of Information Technology, Healthcare Provider Solutions, Inc.); Bobby Hudson (1979 and Vol State Athletic Director)

Not Pictured: Terri Crutcher (1995 and Director, Health Sciences Center of Emphasis, Vol State), Ed Mayberry (1973 and Councilman, City of Gallatin), Lisa Booker (1998 and Senior Mortgage Loan Originator, Mortgage Solutions Financial), Karen Mitchell (1988 and VP Resource Development, Vol State Community College), Keith Hatley (1998 and President, Sumner Bank & Trust)





The criteria for the Distinguished Alumnus Award is overall accomplishments and consistent support of Volunteer State College. The winner of the 2017-18 Award is Shirlene Campbell. Shirlene graduated from Vol State in 1993 with honors (Cum Laude) with a degree in General Business

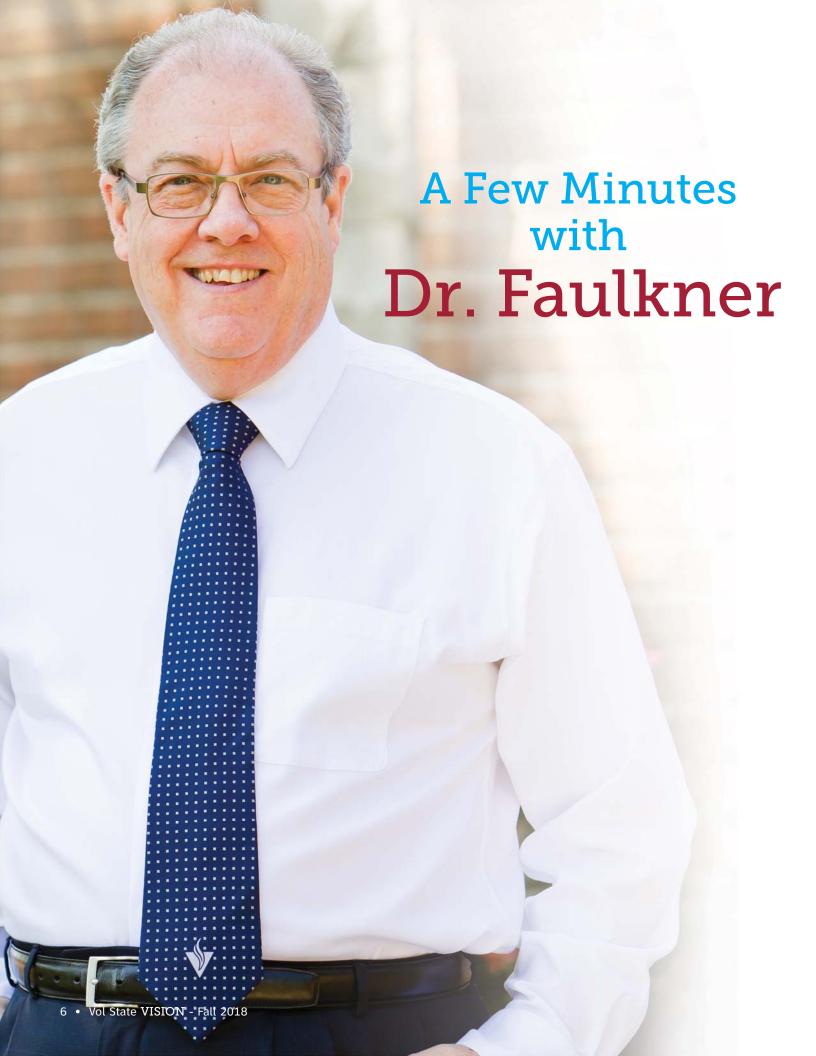
Administration. After graduating from Vol State, she was able to move forward in her education in 1994 when she was accepted into the Management and Human Relations program at Trevecca Nazarene University. In 1995 she received her Bachelor's degree from Trevecca Nazarene University and was recognized and honored by inclusion in the national academic publication, Who's Who among Students in America Colleges and Universities. In 1997 she was accepted into the Master's program at the University Of Tennessee College Of Social Work. Having a lot of determination and the encouragement of so many, she was able to make her dream a reality by receiving her Master's degree in 1999.

Today, Shirlene works as the Area Manager for the Sumner County Mid-**Cumberland Head Start** program an agency that offers research-based and age-appropriate curricula and learning activities for children ages six weeks to five years.

When asked why Shirlene loves Vol State, she stated that VSCC was a perfect fit as it allowed her to pursue her education as a nontraditional student, and continue to manage family life. She feels that VSCC lived up to its name, "community college."

Shirlene's advice to other alumni – get involved with the Alumni Association. Explore ways you can give back to the college in support of future students. Make the Alumni Association stronger through service as well as through monetary donations. Strive to make VSCC the best community college by seeking investments from our community.

Shirlene has been involved in the Volunteer State Alumni Advisory Council since 2011 and served as Chair 2017-18.





#### Tell us a little about Vol State this academic year?



This has been a banner year at Vol State. Due to improvements in our retention and graduation, Vol State was number one in the state outcomes funding formula. That means that not only did we exceed other community colleges, we were number one ahead of the six state universities and the UT system.

The first year of the Tennessee Reconnect program was 2018. We had over 2,000 adult students register on the state web-site and indicate a preference to attend Vol State. Because of the tireless efforts of our great team, more than 1,500 Reconnect eligible students are at Vol State this Fall. The TN Reconnect is like the TN Promise in that it is a last dollar scholarship for tuition. It doesn't cover other expenses like special class fees, text books, transportation, or childcare. In a survey of registering adult students when asked what their anticipated challenges in returning to college were, 66.7% indicated finances. That is why alumni giving to the foundation is still such an important effort.





With the influx of Reconnect students and continued strong participation by TN Promise students the college experienced a record enrollment of 9,156. We also set a record in FTE equivalency which is a measure of how many credits the college is delivering. Our Fall 2018 FTE was a record setting 6,206.



#### What are some future plans for Vol State?



We will be kicking off the Warf renovation project this month. By rearranging spaces and by adding some square footage, we will gain two new lab rooms, a classroom, and a computer lab. We will also be able to integrate some student study spaces. This project will also include the addition of a 6,000 square foot wing to the north east side of the building. This new space will house our growing mechatronics program.

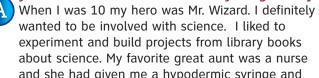


The college has also initiated the process to acquire 10 acres in Wilson County to be the location of a Wilson County campus. We are working with the TBR facilities office to finish up the acquisition paperwork. We are launching a fund raising campaign to cover the initial payment for the land.

And I am excited to report that we have a hired a Dean of Nursing. As we take the next steps to gain full approval for the new program, the new Dean will be very busy creating the curriculum and establishing clinical relationships with local health care providers. We will be seeking support to help with the startup costs of the new program.



#### When you were growing up, what did 10year old self want to be when you grew up?



and she had given me a hypodermic syringe and needle. (Pause for a collective gasp of horror.) I killed some of my Mom's favorite roses by injecting them with different substances to determine the effect.



#### What is a bucket list item that you have been able to check off?



This summer Wanda and I were able to travel to Tanzania. As a botanist / ecologist by training I have always wanted to visit the African savannah. The trip was wonderful. It was like living in a National Geographic special for 9 days.



# FOLLIEN.

For more information on the Vol State Pioneers and game schedules, visit www.volstatepioneers.com

Vol State Pioneers Coaching Staff, Left to Right: Johnny Lynn, Softball Head Coach; Ryan Hunt, Baseball Head Coach; Bobby Hudson, Athletic Director; Rusty Melvin, Men's Basketball Head Coach; Otis Key, Women's Basketball Head Coach



GEORGE STANBERRY

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#### 2018 Foundation Events







VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Golf Classic August 6, 2018



Swine & Dine September 20, 2018



Volunteer State Community College has more than 48 years of excellence in education. Private philanthropy continues to be what transforms a good college into an extraordinary one. Whatever contribution you choose to make, your investment will be gratefully received as you join the Volunteer State College Foundation in our important work. Together, we are able to provide assistance for our students to complete their dreams of earning a degree.

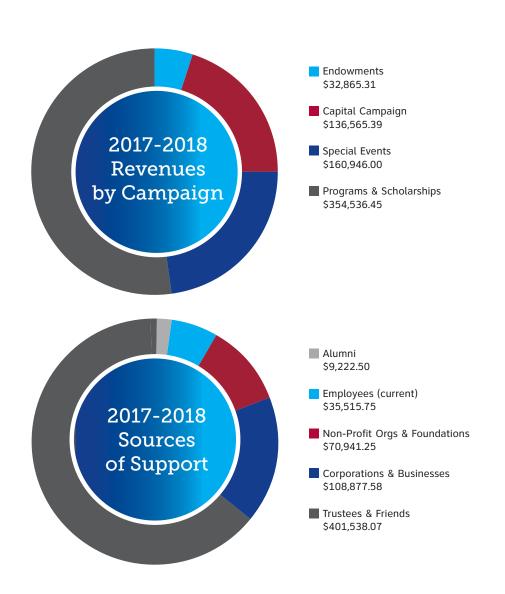
#### 2017-2018 Academic Year



\$291,021

Scholarships awarded

Volunteer State College Foundation is fortunate that the college covers all administrative overhead. The charts below reflect the revenues by campaign and the sources of support.



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#### In Memorian

#### **Betty Coley Neal**

Betty Coley Neal graduated from Gallatin High School where she was elected both Homecoming Queen and Lady of the Green and Gold. As a mother and grandmother, she served many



years as a Girl Scout Troop leader, Sunday School teacher, and school room mother. She was a charter member of the Sumner County Republican Women and served as Past President of the Board of Directors of Gallatin CARES. She was active in the lives of her family and friends as well as her community. She and her husband Tom were strong advocates for education and the Educate a Woman Scholarship at Volunteer State Community College was near and dear to her heart. The Honors Classroom at Vol State is named the Tom and Betty Neal Honors Classroom. They are in the Scholar level within the Hal R. Ramer Society, winning the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy in 2018. Mrs. Betty's heart of gold and tender spirit will be missed.

#### **Betty Zuccarello**

Mrs. Betty Zuccarello graduated from Vanderbilt University and taught in the Metropolitan Nashville Public School System, retiring after 35 years of service. After retirement, she served on



many boards; the Historic Cragfont Board, Gallatin Arts Council Board, and The Sumner County Historical Society Board. Betty served as chairman and member of Col. Jethro Sumner Chapter of the DAR. Mrs. Zuccarello also taught Sunday School for many years at First United Methodist Church in Gallatin. She served on the Board of Trustees for Volunteer State College Foundation since 1999 and worked on our Harvest Moon Soiree Committee. She was inducted to the Hal R. Ramer Society in 2013. Her beautiful smile and encouraging spirit will be missed.

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For more information about the Volunteer State Alumni Association or other foundation activities, please contact:

Alison Muncy Development Officer alison.muncy@volstate.edu 615 230-3526





Alumni Association

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