

Outstanding Alumni 2014
Outstanding Alumni Ceremony
April 11, 2014
Oliver Hall, Temple Building
Danville Community College



Danville Technical Institute
Outstanding Alumni 2014



J. Richard Carter

Carter graduated from DTI/DCC 1969 in Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology. After graduation he started work at Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company as a mechanical machinery designer, designing HVAC systems for aircraft carriers (*USS NIMITZ*, *USS Carl Vinson*, *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower*). While at the Newport News facility, he designed the pare scope system and the floating antenna for the first nuclear attack submarines.

In 1974 Carter accepted a sales position with Noland Company in Birmingham, Alabama, selling HVAC equipment. Two years later, in 1976 he accepted a sales manager position with Rheem MFG. Company in Richmond, Virginia, covering the southeast United States.

In 1982 Carter founded Engineered Build Structures Of Virginia Inc., a general contractor company serving the commercial and residential markets. His company built numerous subdivisions in the Richmond Virginia area. He is serving as CEO at this time.

Carter spoke at DCC's Convocation three years ago and serves on the Alumni Council, the governing arm of the alumni organization. He organized the 41st year class reunion of the DTI/DCC/ class of 1969 in Heating and Air Conditioning, which was held in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, in March 2010.

Carter consistently promotes support for DCC with former classmates, he recommended at least eight individuals for various areas in volunteerism and honoree categories, came to the first Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony with two former classmates, drove over three hours again for third Sports Hall of Fame and Outstanding Alumni honoree programs.

Carter says, "This great institution started back in the 1800s. I feel very honored to be a part of its history. My adult career started on this campus. I remember the professors telling us to study hard and to learn as much as we possibly could. The world outside this campus would provide us

with many opportunities and challenges. The education that I received provided me with the tools I needed to achieve my goals and to make my dreams come true. I feel very privileged to serve on the Alumni Council and the Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Department Advisory Committee. I will continue to promote and support this great Institution.”

Carter resides in Charles City, Virginia, with his wife Sandra. They are owners of *Clearview Farm & Ranch* where they raise ALPACAS for breeding and for sale. They have a daughter, Tammy, who is deceased.



James (Jimmy) Wade

Wade attended DTI for a year before DTI became DCC in 1966, majoring in Computer programming. The second year, when DTI became DCC, issuing diplomas under DTI and DCC concurrently, he was elected the first student body president for DCC. While at DCC, he served on the committee that developed the motto (Dignity, Courage, Commitment) and designed the first class ring.

After leaving DCC, Wade worked for Daystrom Furniture until April 1966. At that time, he was drafted into the United States Army, serving from April 1966 to April 1968 in Vietnam. After graduation and army service, he was hired by Burlington Industries where he was employed for 38 years, rising to the level of Division Planning Manager. After Burlington closed, he started his own business, Fiberglass and Acrylic Repair. This was a very successful business until he had heart surgery in November 2004 and then brain tumor surgery the next March. Both of those surgeries were long recoveries but were successful.

He served on the first two years of the Alumni Council’s operation, coming to every campus event the organization held, both during the day, on the weekend and in the evenings, but resigned to train for work with Wounded Warriors.

Selected by two of the mental health doctors at McGuire hospital in Richmond to work with Veterans with mental or physical problems, he was away weekly for six months of training for working with the veterans locally in the Danville, Halifax, Pittsylvania County region.

Wade was trained to listen to veterans and be a supporting friend. If they need help with the VA system, he can advise them on how to handle problems that occur. His specialty is working with individuals who have or think they have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Wade’s involvement with softball led to him becoming well-known in Halifax County because he coached girls’ fast-pitch softball for 25 years. During that time, he was president of the league three different times. For the first nine years of his involvement, he coached his daughter. After she aged out, he coached 16 more years. During the 25 years of coaching, he managed and coached 11 teams to the Dixie Softball World Series leaving a legacy that continues to grow. He says, “Halifax has a very successful program, and I am proud that I was involved all those years. There are women in the community who now have children playing in the league.”

Wade and his wife reside in South Boston, Virginia.



Randolph Wright Grigg

Grigg graduated from DTI in 1967 in Electronics Technology, coming to Danville from Emporia, Virginia, to study. During the time he was at DTI, Grigg encountered other students who were HAMS, radio operators, an interest he pursued from the age of 12. That led to involvement in DTI's HAM radio group.

After graduation, he served in the US Air Force for four years, being sent to South Carolina, New Mexico and Greece. Upon discharge, he was employed by C&P Telephone—Bell Atlantic, which became Verizon, retiring in 1997 after 31 years. That retirement led to contracted work as an engineer for Verizon for the next five years. When he was no longer working for Verizon, he was hired as a systems engineer for the Civil Air Patrol, covering the entire USA.

In his hours away from work or school, Grigg's love of music and performance has given him consistent pleasure. In high school, a band member showed him chords on an old Gibson guitar. That led to learning to play the instrument, forming a rock and roll band, *The Electras*, in the 60s, and playing with them during high school and college. Over the years, he played with a country band while in the Air Force and tried forming a band in the 80s that would play old and new country music, but that desire did not work well with the available musicians.

Then he sat in with a bluegrass band in the early 1990s, enjoying songs and the bluegrass sound from his childhood. In 1991, Bill (Doc) Russell, who originally formed the *Blades of Grass Band*, needed a guitar player, so Grigg was asked to audition. The audition and the chemistry with the band was so successful that Grigg played with *The Blades of Grass Band* until 2000. In 2001, he formed the *Flatland Bluegrass Band*, playing guitar and singing lead vocals and harmony. His band continues to perform throughout Virginia and beyond.

Presently Grigg says, "I volunteer at the Virginia Air and Space Center in Hampton, Virginia, operating the amateur radio station there and acting as a docent to the visitors and students that tour the facility. Also I am involved with the Amateur Radio Emergency Services group for Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and the local amateur radio club. In my spare time I enjoy operating my own amateur station, fishing, camping and spending time with my wife, Karen, and my dog, Dixie."

Grigg and his wife reside in Carrollton, Virginia. They have two children and one grandchild.

VPI – Danville Outstanding Alumni 2014



Irving Michael Blank

Blank attended VPI-Danville from September 1961 through the winter quarter of 1962, graduating from VPI-Blacksburg in 1966. He holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Virginia Tech and a law degree from the University of Richmond.

A personal injury attorney with Paris Blank LLP, Blank was president of the Virginia State Bar in 2010-2011, the agency that regulates more than 42,000 licensed attorneys. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, the Virginia Bar Association, and the Richmond Bar Association. Blank was first listed as a Virginia Super Lawyer in 2006, remaining on the list to the present.

Bar Admissions include Virginia, 1967; District of Columbia, 1978; U.S. District Court Eastern District of Virginia, 1967; U. S. Court of Military Appeals, 1972; U.S. Court of Appeals 4th Circuit, 1972; U.S. Supreme Court, 1972.

He was a member of the Virginia State Bar Select Commission on Professionalism from 2008-2009. He is the author of "Trial Tactics for Premise Liability Cases," published in *The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association*, Summer, 1994.

For the Virginia State Bar, he has served on the bar's governing council from 2003 to 2012 and on the VSB Executive Committee from 2006 to 2012. He is on the faculty for the bar's Professionalism Course that is required for all lawyers and was a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. He also is a liaison for the VSB committee that reviews candidates for Virginia judgeships.

Blank is a fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a member of the John Marshall Inn of Court, the Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys, and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. He was a member of the Virginia Bar Association commission that developed the Virginia Principles of Professionalism.

Military service includes the rank of Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Army Reserve for 1968 – 1974.

Involved in religious activities, Blank was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council in 1981-1984 and 1991-1994, a member of the National Council of AIPAC for 1982-1988 and 1992-1995, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia-Israel Commission for 1986-1988, and the Virginia-Israel Partnership for 1994-2012.

In civic activities, Blank began serving on the Board of Visitors for Averett University in 2010 and continues to serve. He is a member of the Central Virginia Legal Aid, Board of Directors, providing Pro Bono work with Virginia Legal Aid. He has received the highest awards from the

Richmond Jewish Community and the Jewish National Fund. He is a member of the *Ut Prosim* Society at Virginia Tech and the Hokie Club.



Eddie Franklin Hearp

Hearp was a member of the 1961-1963 classes at VPI-Danville. He graduated from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1965 and a master's in business administration 1966. He says of his days on the Danville campus, "The VPI–Danville Extension was a great way to begin my Virginia Tech experience; in fact my accounting professor at the VPI Danville Extension, Kenneth Neathery, was one of the best professors I experienced in undergrad or graduate school at Virginia Tech.

Hearp has been a resident of Roanoke since 1970, is CEO of National Financial Services, Inc., a firm specializing in personal and business insurance and retirement benefit planning. Hearp also served as an organizing director for Valley Bank in 1995, presently serving on the board of directors. In other banking areas, he also serves on the Valley Bank Executive Committee, the Directors Loan Committee, and the Audit Committee. Valley Bank now has over \$750 Million in assets with 8 locations in the Roanoke Valley.

As a financial advisor, Mr. Hearp's professional experience has focused on assisting clients in asset accumulation, retirement planning, estate planning, and wealth transfer. He is a Chartered Life Underwriter, a Chartered Financial Consultant and a member of the Society of financial Professionals, the International Association of Financial Planners, the Estate Planning Council and the National Association of Financial Advisors.

As part of his profession, Hearp also has served as president of the Roanoke Valley General Agents and Managers Association and the Roanoke Chapter of Chartered Life Underwriters. He is a member of the International Association of Financial Planners, the Roanoke Valley Estate Planning Council and Roanoke Valley Association of Life Underwriters.

Civic interests have led him to serve on the Estate Planning council for Ferrum College, the American Heart Association Board and the Renew Roanoke Campaign for Hotel Roanoke.

He is a past-director of the Virginia Tech Athletic Board and past-president of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, past director of the Science Museum of Western Virginia, and a member of the Smith Mountain Partnership.

Hearp is a Lifetime Golden Hokie, an Endowed Scholarship Participant, and a member of *Ut Prosim* and the Legacy Society. He was a member of the Alumni Center National Leadership Campaign, Foundation Board, Bowman Society, and Hokies for Higher Education. Hearp also served as co-chairman of the Roanoke Valley Campaign Committee, serving with his son, Todd, and daughter, Shelley, both Virginia Tech graduates, which raised more than \$34 million for the Virginia Tech Campaign for Excellence.

The Virginia Tech Alumni Association honored Eddie F. Hearp with its 2005 Alumni Distinguished Service Award during the university's Founders Day celebration May 13-14, 2005. In 2000-2001 he was the speaker for graduation ceremonies.

Eddie and his wife, Dawn's son Todd and his wife Anne have four children: Caroline, Kristin, Gregory and Richard. Daughter Shelley and husband Taz have three children: Abigail, Briggs, and Campbell. Eddie is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Early L. Hearp, also of Danville.



Carl Stanley Reynolds

Reynolds attended VPI-Danville from fall 1965 to spring 1967. He remembers, "One of my first English classes there involved creative writing. The teacher's name was Mr. Linkous (I don't recall his first name.). He was a real "Stickler" on punctuation, as he should, no doubt, have been. Whenever we turned a paper, he gave two grades—one for content and one for punctuation. The first several papers I turned in were graded "A" for content and "F" for punctuation. This really got my attention. For the rest of my time at Virginia Tech and over these many years, whenever I've turned in a paper, written a note, memo, e-mail, report, etc. I've never forgotten that experience."

Reynolds graduated with honors with a BS in Business Administration from VPI-Blacksburg in 1969, after working during summers while in college at Pulaski Furniture Company in Martinsville. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1972 in infantry and later in administration.

After college and military service, Reynolds worked for Bassett Walker, Inc. (now VF Corporation) from 1971 to 2003. At the company, he served in many capacities including: Manufacturing Trainee (unloading trucks), Planning and Scheduling Clerk, Department Manager, Plant Manager, Division Manager, Vice-President Manufacturing, Vice-President Quality Assurance, Vice-President Human Resources, and Member of VF Corporate Human Resource Council. He retired from VF in 2003.

In civic activities, he is a past member of the Danville/Pittsylvania County United Way Board of Directors, a Charter member of Callands Volunteer Fire and Rescue where he served as Firefighter, first responder and EMT for 10+ years. Reynolds is a current member of the Callands Fire and Rescue Board of Directors (20+ years in various capacities—chairman, secretary, etc.)

A past member of the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation Board of Directors, Reynolds is also a past member of the Martinsville/Henry County Manufacturers Association and a past member of the Martinsville/Henry County Managed Health Care Committee. He has worked with Callands "Churches in Action" on various projects including two mission trips to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Reynolds currently lives on and manages a 300 acre farm in Callands, Virginia, having returned to the farming life he was born into in the Callands community. After retiring, he turned to a favorite endeavor—writing, leading to publishing four books. Born in Danville in 1947, he and his wife Kathy have two children and four grandchildren.

Danville Community College Outstanding Alumni 2014



Rick J. Barker

Rick Barker explains, “I left DCC over 25 years ago to work with my Dad at Danville Office Supply where I decided what I enjoyed most is selling. This began fifteen years of employment as a sales representative for International Paper, where I learned many aspects of the paper and packaging business. In 2007, I quit my comfortable job for the risks of creating my own packaging company, to focus on high-service oriented accounts.”

Today, Supply Resources with multiple locations, www.sripackaging.com, and our affiliated brands, SRI Global, Lynchburg Public Warehouse and Rick Barker Properties provide employment for 50 people.

We have developed a platform to create a positive impact throughout our region. One of the cornerstones of the SRI philosophy is that not even one of us accomplishes a great deal, without the help of a good many others. This principle, whether personally or professionally, drives me toward my sense of community.”

Barker believes that he has been the beneficiary of other’s generosity, thus he considers it his responsibility, when able, to give back to the community. He is a Current Advisory Board Member for Danville Regional Foundation and the DCC Educational Foundation.

Beyond these two responsibilities, he and his partners in River Partnership LLC donated a portion of the land on which the new Danville Family YMCA is being constructed. Barker is a Former Board Member, Chair of Program and Exhibitions of the Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History, and a Founding Board Member of The North Theater.

He is the former Vice President of the Dan River Alliance for Art & Culture, former president of the Danville Historical Society and an Ex-Officio Board Member of Langhorne House. He is a co-founding member of *Evince* magazine, which originally had an arts and entertainment format. These activities emphasize that “I am committed to the revitalization of Downtown Danville and Danville’s River District,” Barker explains. “Among my personal passions are traveling, studying art and architecture, and being an advocate for historic preservation.”

Concerning Danville Community College, Barker notes, “DCC holds a special place in my heart because it was there that my life changed for the better. Before I arrived at DCC, I was not an especially good student, had no focus, and was not known for any achievement. When I left DCC, I was sufficiently inspired to imagine that with my introduction to business, I could do



Don C. Moon

Don Moon graduated from Danville Community College in 1975, transferring to Virginia Tech where he graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, focusing on Finance. Today Moon is the Chief Financial Officer of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and a Pittsylvania County School Board elected member.

“My family has lived for generations in the Pittsylvania County area. We were tobacco farmers all the way back to the Civil War era, but that really began to change in the 1970s as tobacco growing became more and more out of acceptance with the general public,” said Moon. “My family and I thought it smarter for me to get a good education and become part of managing businesses instead of planting tobacco. That’s when I went to work for Jerry Falwell and his *Old Time Gospel Hour* as his finance person,” he added.

Several years later, he took on the growing Liberty University financial management challenges, including managing all investments. Moon manages up to 10 direct reports and 200 employees within 10 finance and investments’ related departments. Revenues have risen more than 900% in the past 12 years.

In 2000, the university’s operations budget was \$53 million; it had approximately \$5 million in cash assets, employed about 1,800 total employees, and had around 5,100 resident students and 3,500 online students. In 2013, the university’s operations budget has grown to \$500 million. It now has \$1.1 billion in net worth, has about 7,000 total employees, and its student populations are 13,300 residential students and 93,000 online students. It has become the largest attended Christian University in the world, the fifth largest non-profit university in the nation, and the most attended university in Virginia.

Standard and Poor’s now rates Liberty University’s bonds at AA, which places the university in their top 1% bond-rated colleges in America. Moody rates Liberty University’s bonds at Aa3, which also places the university in their top 1% in America.

Moon, who resides with his family near Hurt, Virginia, is midway through his fourth consecutive four-year term as an elected member of the Pittsylvania County School Board. “I’ve always thought you should give back to your community and be an example for others,” says Moon.



Dr. Percy Richardson

Dr. Percy Richardson graduated from Danville Community College in Business Management. Since graduating from DCC, he has obtained two Master's degrees and a doctorate. Currently employed as a Professor of Business/Coordinator of International education for Southside Community College at Keysville, Virginia, he resides in Halifax, Virginia.

“My educational success,” Dr. Richardson emphasizes, “comes from the positive and supportive experience I had at DCC. The education I received from DCC has been the hallmark of my academic achievement. I owe special "Thanks" to great educators like Dr. Wayne McCubbins, Mrs. Sharon Scott, Mr. Russell Scruggs, Mr. Joseph (Joe) Carr, Mr. Wayne Martin and Ms. Allen, and the late Mr. Fred Lloyd. These individuals gave me a sense of confidence that I can do anything that is humanly possible.”

After leaving DCC, Dr. Richardson received his BS in Management Science from Averett University, his MSA in General Administration from Central Michigan University, his Master of Business Administration from Pfeiffer University and his DA in Community College Education with a concentration in Public Management from George Mason University.

Dr. Richardson instructs and advises 150 students per year at Southside Virginia Community College in Keysville, Virginia, in business management, human resources, and international business through in-class and on-line instruction. He directs the business graduates seminar and project while marketing and recruiting for the college's Global Education Program. He has served as the Honors Program Advisor and taught in the Correctional Education Program.

Dr. Richardson promotes Southside Virginia Community College abroad to potential foreign students while working with college departments to support foreign students. He is assigned to lead the instruction of MBA and MLS graduate students.

From 2001-2005, Dr. Richardson was adjunct Professor of Business at Bluefield College in Bluefield, Virginia. He has been published twice in *The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges* concerning teaching with a global perspective and international travel and learning from a community college perspective.

Dr. Richardson is Co-chair of the Southside Virginia Community College Golf Tournament held to raise scholarship money for the college's endowment and for students to study abroad. He also helps raise money for SVCC's Study Abroad Program for scholarships by including community citizens in the study abroad program.

He was a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps from 1976 to 1979. After military service, Dr. Richardson aided his church, White Oak Fork Baptist Church in helping those less fortunate. He regularly helps collect and distribute toiletry items for the residents of Berry Hill Nursing Home.

Dr. Richardson is *the 2013 VCCA Showcase winner for Outstanding Faculty* on the John H. Daniel Campus. He was nominated in May 2010 for the Virginia's Community Colleges

Community Services Award, the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Training and Instruction.

He is the father of one daughter and grandfather to three grandchildren.



A. Benjamin Rippe

Ben Rippe began Danville Community College in the summer of 1973, transferring some credits from other institutions; finished in spring of 1974 graduating *Magna Cum laude* with an Associate in Science; was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and constantly engaged in SGA activities. He entered VPI-Blacksburg in the fall of 1974, receiving a science degree in agronomy in five quarters in December 1976.

Already working as a consultant for land management for European buyers of Northern Virginia properties, he was hired as a farm manager working on farm business plans and other areas. He returned to VPI as a graduate student in Agricultural Economics while also joining the faculty in research pursuing federal land grant programs and policies. While Rippe was traveling in 1978, he and his father accidentally encountered each other. During their conversation, his father emphasized that the local Rippe's business was going to need a manager.

August 1, 1978, Ben Rippe began employment at the family-owned business. During the ensuing years, he pursued an MBA at the Fuquay School of Business at Duke University in the Weekend MBA program. In January 1992, Rippe bought the business from his parents, believing that "when you find a good niche, explore it well." The family had always sold furs; this area he expanded. The growth in sportswear, casual clothing, took off and now has grown 60 percent to 80 percent. In 2000, Rippe closed the bridal department and opened the shoe department, eventually buying the building adjoining Rippe's Shoes. Rippe had a walking connector constructed to seamlessly blend both buildings, so customers could easily move from one area to the other while shopping. The change was a positive. Rippe's Shoes now offers 35 brands in the inventory.

A member of Riverview Rotary, Rippe sees the civic club as a way to participate in numerous worthwhile community projects. His focus beyond his business and his synagogue, Temple Beth Shalom, is always on education and the arts throughout the local region.

Rippe established the endowed *Rippe's Scholarship for Women* at DCC, the *Rippe's Scholarship* at Averett, and the *Rippe's Scholarship* for Carlyle School—all for area students. He underwrote the eventual *DCC Alumni Scholarship*, still in the fundraising stages, with a \$1,000 gift to start the process.

Rippe supported the major gifts campaign by appearing in the following ad:

As a business owner and community member, I have witnessed Danville Community College's energizing of regional companies with employee training and innovation. Whenever there is need for technological training, economic tools or adaptive strategies, DCC has been the instructional leader, an asset to individuals and to business sustainability.

*I am one of those individuals who gained educationally at Danville Community College. My first semester, I was unsure, unfocused, unclear about my curriculum or my future. All of the uncertainty evaporated with exceptional, passionate teachers leading me to find my direction and explore my interests. I became motivated, finished my requirements, transferred to Virginia Tech where I was accepted in the Biological Honor Society and graduated with an Agronomy degree. **DCC was the best money ever spent on education.***

It is also the best money that can be spent by each alumni, community member, business member when you dig deep into your pockets and give to the college that helps provide regional viability and sustainability. I returned to Danville with a belief in the region, purchased my family's business, Rippe's, and expanded it.

Rippe regularly contributes to the Danville Concert Association and other areas related to the arts. He has served on the Goodwill Board, the YMCA Board, the Chamber of Commerce for five years, Temple Beth Shalom, the Danville Cancer Association where over \$50,000 was raised for breast cancer patients, and the Downtown Association Board for many years.

Rippe's son is a freshman at Virginia Tech majoring in business and history.



Amie M. Teague

Amie Teague graduated from Danville Community College in 1997, eventually completing her Master's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2001, graduating *Magna Cum Laude*.

In 2006, she opened Piedmont Regional Feeding & Oral-Motor Clinic, LLC, where she is the Executive Director and a Speech/Language Pathologist. The clinic provides assessment and treatment of feeding disorders and swallowing disorders from birth throughout adulthood. Through the establishment of the clinic, Teague has brought 26 new jobs to Danville with a goal of continuing to create employment opportunities in the region.

She is active as a mentor for future speech/language pathologists, as well as for budding entrepreneurs. "I am proud to have grown up in Danville and to have returned here after my college years and to be able to help those in my hometown community," she explains.

Before establishment of the clinic, Teague practiced at private clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and with school systems to provide speech/language and swallowing therapy to children and adults.

Teague received the 2012-2013 *University of North Carolina at Greensboro Alumni Award* from the School of Health and Human Services. The department noted in the nomination that "*Amie has remained closely connected with the CSD Department by coming to speak to current students and supervising externship experiences. She has become certified in several specialty therapy techniques in order to best serve clients in her community. She sponsors many outreach programs from her private practice.*"

Teague is the mother of three children; her husband is deceased. She is an active member of the Riverview Rotary Club in Danville and an active member of New Life Community Church in Blairs.



The Johnson Family of Gretna, Virginia

Raymond Bruce Johnson - April 15, 1921- August 21, 2013

Raymond Bruce Johnson returned to the Gretna, Virginia, region in the spring of 1946 from Army deployment in World War II where he was trained in the Signal Corps. Upon his return, he entered Danville Technical Institute to study Electrical Electronics. That training provided the basis for beginning his electrical firm in Gretna.

Johnson went back to DTI for further courses leading to his Master Electrician certification. Over the years, Johnson added services in heating, air conditioning and plumbing to the firm's service offerings, regularly employing five or more service technicians.

The father of four children, Johnson's three sons, Barry, Sam, and Johnny, followed his example as they began their college careers, attending one of the three institutions now comprising Danville Community College. At the age of 85, Johnson decided to retire after 60+ years of business operation.



Dr. Johnny R. Johnson

Dr. Johnny R. Johnson attended VPI-Danville after which he transferred to the Blacksburg campus receiving his BA, MA and Ph.D in **Accounting**_____. Over the years, Dr. Johnson.....



Samuel Edward Johnson, CPA

After graduating from high school in 1971, Samuel Johnson attended DCC for approximately two years gaining credits, not a final diploma. He remembers with gratitude Jeff Beck, Accounting Professor, who "was so knowledgeable teaching areas I'm afraid students don't get today that are very specific needs for accounting. Also, I remember Donald Campbell, Economics Professor, who made Economics so very, very interesting.

"I chose DCC because my brother had gone there, making me aware of offerings; I could live at home—it was the place where I transitioned from a not-so-good high school student to a mature college student who eventually gained multiple degrees. I always seemed to know I wanted to be an accountant, maybe because my mother had been a bookkeeper; and I was naturally aware of that field."

Upon leaving DCC, Johnson transferred to Virginia Tech, then put the degree on hold and went to Campbell University in North Carolina, graduating with a Business Administration and Economics degree in 1975. He returned to Virginia Tech in 1978-79, graduating with a B.S. degree in Accounting in 1980. In 2010 Johnson finished an MA in Tax Law at Virginia Commonwealth University.

After graduating from Virginia Tech, he worked for Coopers and Lybrand, the predecessor to Price Waterhouse Coopers. After a period of employment, he left the firm and went to Reddy and Associates in Lynchburg, Virginia. Lynchburg became his home beginning in 1980 with a period of three years in Richmond from 2005-2008. In 1997 Johnson became a partner in Cherry Bekaert CPAs & Advisors in Lynchburg, which has branches throughout the nation.

In his profession, Johnson is a former member of the Virginia Peer Review Committee of the Virginia Accountants Association. Presently, he is a member of the Oversight Committee for the State Board of Accountants in Virginia for Peer Review.

In civic involvement, Johnson is currently finishing a six-year term on the Board of the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce and is a past volunteer for United Way.



Dr. Barry Wayne Johnson

Dr. Barry Johnson entered Danville Community College in 1976 and subsequently transferred to the University of Virginia where he received his B.S.E.E. in 1979. He completed his M.E.E.E. in 1980 and three years later, in 1983, he received his Ph.D E.E. From 1982 to 1984 he was an Associate Principal Engineer for Harris Corporation.

In 1984, Dr. Johnson joined the University of Virginia faculty as an Assistant Professor being promoted to Associate Professor in 1989. From 1994 to the present he has held the position of Professor. He founded and became Director of the Center for Safety-Critical Systems in 1998.

In 2006 he was promoted to Senior Associate Dean and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Virginia School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS). Dr. Johnson has published more than 150 technical articles and has received national and international awards, including the Frederick Emmons Terman Award, the C. Holmes MacDonald Award, and the Alan Berman Research Publications Award.

The University of Virginia awarded him the Alumni Board of Trustees and University of Virginia Endowment Fund Young Teacher Award. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia also awarded him its Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. Johnson was named a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for his contributions to fault-tolerant computing.

Dr. Johnson's research focuses on techniques for designing and analyzing safety-critical systems. The research focuses on architectures and algorithms to ensure the safety of hardware/software systems. In addition, the research is developing techniques for modeling, analyzing, and predicting the safety of these types of systems.

The research results have been applied to many industrial systems including most recently the Copenhagen Metro system and a nuclear digital control system. Research activities have been funded by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Union Switch and Signal, Electricite de France, and NASA Langley Research Center among others.