

Names and Faces, compiled by John Dayberry



Shown (from left) are accompanist Freda Herrell, student Austin Medlin, faculty members Carolina Simyon and Kimberly Ray, and student Sylvester Stroud.

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CVCC faculty member presents at conference

Catawba Valley Community College math faculty member Luke T. Walsh recently presented at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Annual Conference in San Antonio.

Walsh and colleague James Martin from Wake Tech presented a precalculus and calculus session for college-level instructors who demonstrated how to utilize technology tools, such as Desmos, that offers opportunities for greater student engagement.

NCTM is the world's largest mathematics education organization, with 60,000 members and more than 230 affiliates throughout the United States and Canada.

Walsh has served on the mathematics faculty since 2007. He earned a bachelor's degree at Indiana University and a master's degree at Appalachian State University.



Walsh

Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory awards scholarship

At the June 15 meeting of the Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory, Rotarian Thomas Griffis announced the winner of the 2017 Service Above Self scholarship.



Abernathy

Darian Shekinah Abernathy is this year's recipient of the four-year college scholarship.

Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory recognizes the value of a good education. Since 2005, 33 students have received SAS scholarships, totaling more than \$217,000. SAS recipients have attended Appalachian State University, Davidson College, Duke University, East Carolina University, Furman University, Gardner Webb University, Lenoir-Rhyne University, University of Alabama, University of North Carolina, University of South Carolina, and Catawba Valley Community College, among others.

As the Service Above Self scholarship winner from Hickory High School's class of 2017, Abernathy will receive Rotary's financial aid toward her college tuition. Due to the continued financial success and popularity of Rotarian Idol, the SAS scholarship was increased in 2015 from \$10,000 to \$12,000. The increase allows the SAS scholarship recipient to receive \$3,000 per year for college costs. The total scholarship is now \$12,000, payable over four years.

Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory's Service Above Self scholarship rewards students who excel in the classroom, are recognized by teachers as leaders and who volunteer to serve others through community service, church activities and more.

To qualify for a Service Above Self scholarship, candidates must consistently demonstrate their service to others, be in the top 20 percent of their class and lead by example. During the candidate's interviews, students are evaluated on traditional scholarship standards: grades, overall grade point average and class rank. What sets the SAS scholarship apart from many others is that each honored student must demonstrate how they serve their community.

Abernathy's high school career has been an impressive mix of outstanding scholarship, leadership and service. She embodies Service Above Self, the Rotary International motto which underlies the life way for all Rotarians. During four years at Hickory High School, she served as secretary, vice president, and president of the Student Council. She

was elected as member-at-large of the scholastically oriented Beta Club. For three years, she was a member of the Interact Club, the Rotary Club for high school students. She was the founding chairperson of The Zen Den, a HHS organization that promotes health and wellness of students through yoga and meditation. She was a starter on the state championship women's basketball team, a cheerleader, and a lacrosse player. She attended Governor's School with a focus on choral music. It was not unusual to see her in school musicals. One of her teachers at Hickory High School said of her, "Darian doesn't seem wearied by her schedule, not ever. She's full of positive energy, always smiling, always ready to enjoy another's company, and always on the go."

In addition to her school activities, Abernathy's service to residents of Hickory and members of her church is extensive. She was a four-year participant with Leadership 2000... and Beyond, an internship program through which she served with Kid Connection and Safe Harbor Rescue Mission. She was a member of the Hickory City Youth Council for four years and participated in activities such as city park clean-ups, the Soup Kitchen and Frye Regional Medical Center holiday parties. She was a four-year member of Tomorrow's Road Leadership Program. Through this organization, she brought awareness to depression and suicide among youth and preventative programs. She was president of YAMS (Young Adults Ministry in Service), a member of the church choir, and the AMEZ (African Methodist Episcopal Zion church) executive council youth secretary. An active church member, she tended the church nursery, ushered, participated in holiday pageants, and Parents Night Out.

In her statement of service, required of all applicants, Abernathy wrote, "Everything that I do represents me and the person I strive to be. My biggest contribution to my school and community is being a positive role model and voice to and for those that feel discouraged and worthless."

Abernathy will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall, where she will study political science with an eye toward a legal or political career. Scholarship funding is made possible by the Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory's successful fundraising activities, including the annual Rotarian Idol competition.

CVCC singers qualify for semifinal competition

Two Catawba Valley Community College student singers recently advanced to the national semifinal round of the National Student Auditions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing to be held at the University of Colorado-Boulder in July.

Sylvester Stroud and Austin Medlin are among 14 of the singers nationwide to advance to the semifinal

round in their category of musical theatre-freshman and sophomore college men. These students are competing against students at top music schools in the nation.

To qualify, Stroud and Medlin were among only a handful of community college students competing last March against top music schools and conservatories from Maryland, Washington D.C., Virginia, North

Carolina and South Carolina in the Mid-Atlantic Division.

Stroud and Medlin have both been accepted at Campbell University and received nearly full scholarships for merit and musical talent.

Stroud is the student of CVCC Music Faculty member Kimberly Ray, and Medlin is the student of Music Program Director Caroline Simyon.

College presents Community Partnership Awards

Each year, Catawba Valley Community College recognizes organizations that have excelled in supporting college programming in each of its three schools.

CVCC's School of Academics, Education & Fine Art presented Catawba County Department of Social Services with its Community Partnership Award. Karen Harrington, director of Catawba County Social Services, accepted the award. Catawba County Social Services collaborated with CVCC this year to increase awareness of the foster care system through a collaboration on the college's Interdisciplinary Read of "Walk to Beautiful," by Jimmy Wayne. The joint efforts also helped increase students' awareness of the effects of poverty and homelessness.

The School of Business, Industry and Technology recognized three initiatives that developed industry driven training programs for specialty industries. The Alexander Furniture Academy was launched a year ago at the request of local furniture manufacturers that were having difficulty hiring qualified employees with skills in sewing and upholstery. The college partnered with three founding partners to develop the Alexander Furniture Academy: Craftmaster Furniture, Kincaid Furniture and Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams. Efforts have resulted in training nearly 50 students with a waiting list of applicants. Craftmaster President Roy Calcagne and Vice President Roy Bearden accepted the award on behalf of the Academy partners.

The second initiative recognized by the School of Business, Industry and Technology was Apprenticeship Catawba. The partnership of advanced manufacturers provides



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gar Atchison (left), CEO of Frye Regional Medical Center, accepts award from Robin Ross, dean of Catawba Valley Community College's School of Health & Public Service.

high school students a full scholarship to earn a college degree while earning a paycheck. Partners are Aptar, Continental, GKN Driveline, Poppmann Plastics, Sarstedt, Technibilt, Tenowo and ZF Chassis Components. Helmuth Salmen, production manager for Sarstedt, accepted the award on behalf of the Apprenticeship Catawba group of employers.

The third initiative recognized by the School of Business, Industry and Technology was the Manufacturing Academy. A local industry summit that brought attention to the need for advanced skills in today's sophisticated manufacturing environment. CVCC helped a founding group of companies develop the Manufacturing Academy to prepared job seekers with

a broad skill set common to all manufacturers. Since the academy was launched in 2015, graduates have experienced a 98 percent job placement rate. Industry partners are Advance Pierre Foods, CommScope, Fibrix, GKN Driveline, Hickory Printing Solutions, HSM Solutions, Manpower, Performance Foodservice, Sarstedt, WestRock and ZF Chassis Components. Joe Lutz, one of the chief organizers of the initiative, accepted the award on behalf of the entire group of employers.

The School of Health & Public Service recognized Frye Regional Medical Center's commitment to providing clinical educational training sites for many of the college's allied health programs. For more than 50 years, Frye Regional has partnered with CVCC by serving on numerous allied health program advisory committees, donating supplies and equipment, and serving as a clinical training site for allied health programs such as nursing, radiography, surgical technology, EMS, respiratory therapy, polysomnography and electroneurodiagnostics. In addition to providing hospital-based clinical rotations, physician practices affiliated with Frye Regional Medical Center also accept health care management technology, medical office administration, and health care information technology students into their practices for clinical training as well. For more than 10 years, Frye Regional Medical Center and CVCC have co-sponsored Camp Air Adventure, a weeklong summer camp for children with asthma.

Gar Atchison, CEO of Frye Regional Medical Center, accepted the award on behalf of FRMC.

LRU announces endowed faculty chair in psychology

Lenoir-Rhyne University recently announced Richard "Dick" Warren Morse signed an agreement to create an endowed faculty chair in psychology.

The gift is being given in memory of Clarence M. Cooke and Grace Bowman Cooke, parents of Dick's late wife, Walena Cooke Morse. Both Clarence and Grace graduated from LR in 1929 and instilled in their children the value of education along with a strong work ethic.

"Walena's parents came from modest means and graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College," Dick said. "Armed with their LR educations, they had long



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Shown (from left) are the Rev. Robert E. Allen, executive director of advancement relations; Fred Whitt, Lenoir-Rhyne University president; Richard "Dick" Warren Morse.

and rewarding careers and wanted the same or better for their children."

Walena graduated from Duke University and earned a Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College before pursuing a career as a professor of psychology at West Chester University, where she taught for 40 years. Dick's idea to

bequeath an endowed chair was birthed through Walena's life's work in the field of psychology. Upon the death of Dick, the endowed faculty chair in psychology will be established.

University President Fred Whitt and the Rev. Robert E. Allen, executive director of advancement relations,

visited Dick in Colfax to sign the official agreement. During this visit, Dick noted, "This is the fulfillment of a very long wish for me and Walena."

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Dick attended Purdue University and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering. He spent 40 years working for a mechanical contractor in Wilmington, Del., which is where he met his wife.

"We extend our gratitude to the Morses for their example of profound stewardship by memorializing Walena's parents with their gift," Whitt said. "In time, their gift will establish a chair in LR's psychology department."