

February 26, 2020

Section I

# • 2020 Horizons

A progress edition of The Clinton Chronicle

# The People of Laurens County



# Teacher of the Year Caroline Hunt

By Vic MacDonald

Editor

A teacher for 15 years, Caroline Hunt represented District 56 last year as the Teacher of the Year. She is a first grade teacher at Clinton Elementary School.

The district selects its TOYs "a year ahead of time" - so they can prepare for the extra work, meetings, appearances and time-away-from-family that a Teacher of the Year designation entails.

For her long-standing commitment to the children of District 56, and her willingness to always assist and advise a colleague, The Clinton Chronicle Horizon names Caroline Hunt as the 2020 Teacher of the Year.

"Caroline is an incredibly conscientious and detail-minded person. She has vision, and she has the ability to put that vision into action," District 56 Superintendent Dr. David O'Shields said. "Some people talk the talk; Caroline walks the talk. Her lessons are well-planned and she uses her time wisely. She meets students where they are and has the ability to take them, not where they want to be, but where she knows they need to be."

O'Shields recalled a time when Hunt left the district, and he and the staff had the chance to have her back. He said, "I was adamant that we find a position for her. She is a hometown girl."

The Superintendent said now that Hunt is on mid-career, she has options of where the future can take her. "She can go into administration. She can stay in the classroom - because it's all about the connections with students," O'Shields said. "She can work with teachers on instruction."

"She works within the framework of the district. She sees the big picture, and she does the little things," O'Shields said.

Caroline Hunt's CES on-line bio gives just a snap-shot: "I am certified in early childhood education from Lander University and have a masters degree in divergent learning from Columbia College. I am currently working to earn an educational specialist degree from Clemson University. I live in Laurens with my husband John and two children Samuel and Anna Carter. Both Samuel and Anna Carter attend school at Clinton Elementary School. During my free time, I enjoy shopping, reading, swimming and camping. If you ever have any concerns, please feel free to call. I look forward to working with you."

When she was called upon, in August 2019, to give the District 56 Opening Convocation Keynote Address - an opportunity afforded all district Teachers of the Year - Hunt acknowledged that she was experiencing "writer's block". So, she "modified and adjusted" - she went to something else.

That something else was unpacking.

Her family had spent the summer moving to a 90-acre homestead, and packing and unpacking boxes dominated their time. The convocation address obligation was always there, she knew that, but it was not the number one priority.

Until, it was!

That time came for Hunt, who was the 2019-20 District 56 Teacher of the Year, on Aug. 14. She turned to boxes labeled "Shoes."

Her husband had work shoes and dress shoes.

Her son had just one box.

Her daughter had some boxes including "cute shoes."

And Caroline herself had boxes of work, casual and miscellaneous shoes (free time, "shopping," remember).

That unpacking "reminded me of our work," she said.

"Are your work shoes too big? Do you think everyone wants a piece of you?" she asked. "Is it time for you to leverage the strength of those around you?"

Focusing on "our students," Hunt asked, "Are your shoes too small?" Her colleagues heard this message, "We have a golden opportunity - to be open to the people around you who have the skills to help you on your journey. ... I have had an amazing career, and I am not done. Work on relationships



- the person right in front of you right now." Hunt addressed the inevitability of change - "Our feet grow. How does your shoe fit, and what will be your next step to finding the best fit?"

**Torch passed**

After a year of putting on shoes a lot of times for a lot of meetings, and managing her classroom, Hunt was able to pass along her responsibilities to her successor - Elizabeth Crowder, special education teacher at Joanna Woodson Elementary School. (The District 56 Board of Education met Feb. 24 at JWES, part of what it does every year in traveling around the district. On Feb. 13, Superintendent Dr. David O'Shields accepted on Crowder's behalf, along with District 55 TOY Savannah Campbell, the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce's District Teachers of the Year award. Campbell was accompanied by the new D55 Superintendent, Dr. Ameca Thomas.)

Those who attended that summer's opening convocation will remember that O'Shields focused on the life-long contributions of retired teacher Sara Byars.

She attended the convocation at age 102.

Reading Mrs. Byars' biography - she began her career in 1940 - O'Shields also called on Joanna Woodson Principal Eddie Marshall - a student of Mrs. Byars' in the first grade - and "Joanna Boy" Buddy Bridges for their personal remarks. O'Shields said, "And now, can't you see clearer now why #the-experiencematters? Where else can the most noble of professions run three generations deep with countless lives formed and shaped ... Teaching in general and teaching here in District 56 is when 'The Experience Matters' the most ... you never know what you will do to alter a child's life, to correct a child's direction, and leave a lasting impression."

Also during the opening convocation, District 56 provided these special recognitions:

**2019 Support Staff of the Year**

- Reese Copeland - MSB
- Courtney Lyda - CES and District Support Staff of the Year
- Marsha Gann - EES
- Idella Boyd- JWES
- Tina Fulmer - CMS
- Jo Webb - CHS Faculty Choice
- Lois Booker - District Office Choice

**2019 Rookie of the Year**

- Elizabeth Myers - EES
- 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year**
- Dana Harwell - MSB
  - Edith Ann Grant - CES
  - Katie Tyson - EES
  - Elizabeth Crowder - JWES and District Teacher of the Year
  - Carrie Thomas - CMS
  - Joanne Hoppenhauer - CHS.

(MSB = MS Bailey Child Development Center; CES = Clinton Elementary School; EES = Eastside Elementary School; JWES = Joanna Woodson Elementary School; CMS = Clinton Middle School; CHS = Clinton High School.)



Caroline Hunt addresses the assembled District 56 faculty during one of obligations as the district's Teacher of the Year - the Opening Convocation in the Clinton High School auditorium.



When Caroline Hunt gave her District 56 Opening Convocation address, she needed - and received - the assistance of colleagues. They lined up all different kinds of shoes on the Clinton High School Auditorium stage. The collaboration fit right in with Hunt's message to all the District 56 faculty and staff that morning -- "Are your work shoes too big? Do you think everyone wants a piece of you? Is it time for you to leverage the strength of those around you?" Focusing on "our students," Hunt asked, "Are your shoes too small?" Chronicle Photos



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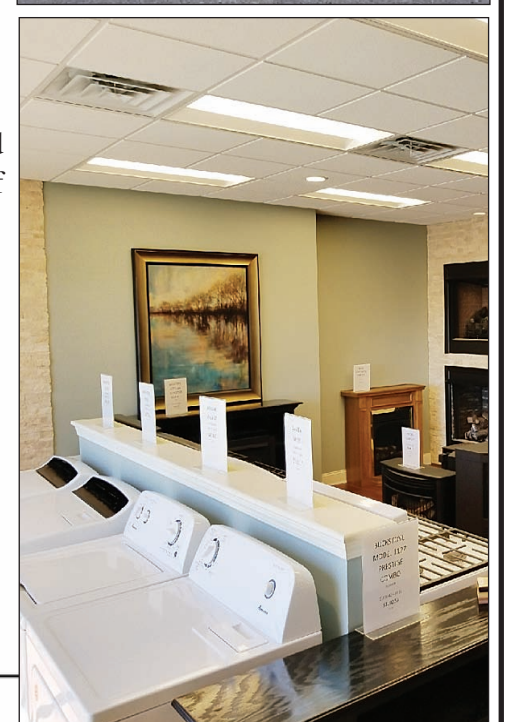
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# Teacher of the Year

## Classical education offered in Clinton

By Vic MacDonald

Editor

We have a first in Clinton. Summit Classical Charter School is the first charter school in the state of SC to have the Classical Education model as the basis for its charter. It's tucked away behind the former Florida Street School, where the District 56 office used to be before it moved uptown. Guests can park in the lot off Jones Street; faculty parks in a lot accessible to Florida Street. For their willingness to take on all challenges, and their potential for being a model for others, the faculty of Summit Classical School are the 2020 Clinton Chronicle Horizon Teachers of the Year.

They were in Community Baptist Church and negotiated a little longer stay than they anticipated. When the building was not finished to start this school year, everything just stayed put, with the blessing of the folks at Community Baptist, and finally with January came the go-ahead to move it. All was not easy, however. They wanted to have a ribbon-cutting on Feb. 6, but there blew up a big storm and roads-flooding; they practiced "monitor and adjust" and moved the event to the next afternoon, a Friday.

It was "absolutely no less than a miracle" for Principal Terrie Hall to find her way to this now completed, brand spanking new school building. She knows our little corner of South Carolina, having grown up in Calhoun Falls. "I interviewed in December, 2018, and came in January, 2019. Starting a charter school is not for the faint of heart," Hall said. She receives invaluable help from Caitlin Broadwater, operations manager, and the faculty, staff and parents. They're all here, because they want to be here.

"We know the nuances of a charter, because we've lived the nuances," Hall said. In just 12 months, they went from a budget to a building, with a plan to add grades.

"We show our passion and compassion. We educate and love our children. This will have an impact for generations to come."

Summit teachers instruct with "a whole heart," Hall says.

They are now 5K through 3rd grade. They expanded even before they really got rolling because Hall says there was just an amazing amount of interest shown in 3rd grade. Next year, 4th grade comes on-board, adding a grade each year through 8th. Should our school families show enough interest to continue through 12th grade, we will petition to have our charter amended to include high school.



The faculty of Summit Classical Charter School, led by Principal Terrie Hall (left in photo at left), experiences "monitor and adjust" by participating in a Feb. 7 ribbon-cutting to officially open the school building. Bad weather forces the event from a Thursday to that Friday afternoon.



All along the way, the students will be immersed in the classics. Instead of reading "The Odyssey" cold in 9th grade, the students will have seen the classic as a picture book in K-1st, projects in 3rd and 4th, and as literature in 7th-8th. Classical instruction first establishes a curiosity about learning, then the inquiry methods, then research and finally creative interpretation. Along the way, Hall says, "They know we love them."

Parents are attracted to the method as a different experience. Hall says, "Some of our current students come from a homeschool setting and some

from traditional public schools. Our educational model accommodates for any prior learning setting. We teach classical literature and virtues."

Some parents are attracted because "their needs have not been met; here, parents have school choice," the principal says. Some parents live an hour away from the school - willing to make that drive to have their children immersed in the "Trivium". In the beginning, students are exposed to many different subject areas, to develop background knowledge. By 2nd grade, they are re-introduced to these topics and, this time, it's not new information - they are led to "dig deeper".

In the final grades, they delve deeply into subjects - thinking and learning - it is a mid- to high-level of development. By middle school, Summit Classical students will "learn to argue in a respectful way; argumentative debate," Hall said. In an integrated learning environment, the current 2nd graders learn about Ancient China. As they move to STEM the assignment is to build The Great Wall. All manner of science and technology is employed to demonstrate how performing this task would be difficult today - even more difficult, but not impossible, in the ancient world. Students work with catapults, and by 3rd grade they are building Viking ships. In reading, they tackle fiction and non-fiction; they read for understanding in science and social studies. The songs they are exposed to relate to the

time they are studying - the artwork is from the same time-period.

"It is exciting to us," Hall said. "Children love coming to school. We are making a big impact."

The school is intentionally keeping enrollment small in Kindergarten, to focus on a small class size. "The parents have made a choice," Hall said. "They buy in. They are here for a reason."

Teachers closely watch behavior - it can be a symptom of another area of concern; "we minister to their needs - one little worry can keep them from having their best day."

"We have our own school board for our own demographic," Hall said. "We are back to basics, reading skills, math skills. This is a curriculum."

The board comes from all areas: business, facilities management, fireman, minister, working with children and foster care, higher education, a nurse - "They make sure the community has a school that serves children differently," Hall said. "It is a wonderful educational opportunity for everyone, not just for the affluent. We are open to anyone in the state who can get to us; we do not provide transportation. The students bring their lunches. We have cutting edge technology, but it is a tool. The teachers teach the curriculum," said Hall.

Terrie Hall, M.Ed, Principal, Summit Classical School, 864-982-0798. The School, 600 East Florida St., Clinton SC 29325, 864-547-2018.

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# Citizen of the Year

## Elton Pollock: 300 wins and counting

Hal Milam

For The Chronicle

“Taking it one game at a time” is the benign platitude loathed by sportswriters, tolerated by fans, and embraced by coaches and players as the most fundamental of fundamental sports truths. Of course, it’s true that no team or individual wins or loses more than a single contest at a time. But the underlying and essential principle that guides players and coaches is focus — intense commitment to the task at hand.

Such was the mindset of Presbyterian College head baseball coach Elton Pollock ‘95 in early April as he kept his attention and that of his squad on each opponent to come. His many friends and supporters, however, couldn’t stay as focused as Pollock as he approached a significant career milestone. Excitement on campus and on social media grew significantly as the 300-win mark approached and was met with a 6-2 win on April 6 against UNC-Asheville.

“It blew me away that so many people knew about it,” Pollock said. “Three hundred wins just means I’ve been here a while and for that, I’m fortunate and very blessed to be the coach at PC.”

In other words, on to the next season.

Blue Hose fans still have the memory of a 30-win season to savor, including big wins against Alabama, Pittsburgh and Clemson. Pollock, on the other hand, looks back mostly to the many people who helped him along the way — mentors like former coaches Tim Corbin and Doug Kovash — and former athletic director Bee Carlton, who put the program in his hands in 2005. Leaders like PC presidents Dr. John Griffith and Bob Staton and wise counsel from his parents and professors like Dr. Booker Ingram.

Fans can always look along the left-field line for Pollock’s father, who keeps score and is credited for teaching the coach to be a man first.

It’s very simple to coaches like Elton Pollock. Three-hundred wins on a baseball field can’t be earned by one person.

“Coach Kovash and Coach Corbin really laid the foundation for me as both a player and as a young coach,” he said. “And I have to thank all of my assistant coaches. You can’t (win) without great assistants — the ones who have helped mold and shape this program.”

He looks back on all the players he has coached and marvels not only on what they achieved on the



**Citizen of the Year:** Elton Pollock, baseball head coach at Presbyterian College, points from the dugout on a “let’s play two” sunny afternoon at the PC on-campus baseball diamond. His Blue Hose teams have amassed more than 300 wins.

diamond but also — and most importantly — what they achieved in the classroom and in life.

“We’ve created a culture based on a strong work ethic among our players,” he said. “I’ve watched them over the years develop into strong leaders who mentor each other. I’ve seen it correlate into their academic careers and in wins and losses.”

Pollock gives credit for his success to an unwavering faith in God and a very supportive wife, Dr. Karen Pollock — both empowering him to serve others as a coach, as a friend and colleague, and as a husband and father of four.

He sees himself how most of us see ourselves — as a work in progress — but continues to aim high at the things that will benefit him as a human being and as a coach in a sport where seasons are long and grueling.

“I always try to demonstrate good time management,” he said. “When we practice, there is always a purpose for what we do. Everything is intentional. I try to bring consistency to the way I come to work — keeping a positive outlook. I try to be very present with my players and work with them directly.”

It is also important, he said, to treat his players like men and to expect them to act accordingly.

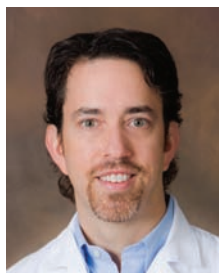
Still, there is only so much looking back a coach can do before he sets his sights on the next goals to focus on — a new academic year and the 2020 season.

“I’m excited to have players back on campus,” Pollock said. “It’s good to be present with them every day. That is what’s most fun for me — teaching players and helping them develop.” One practice, one day, one game at a time.

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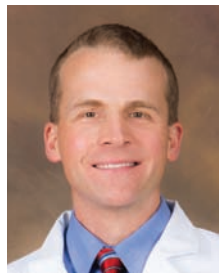
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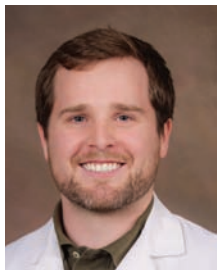


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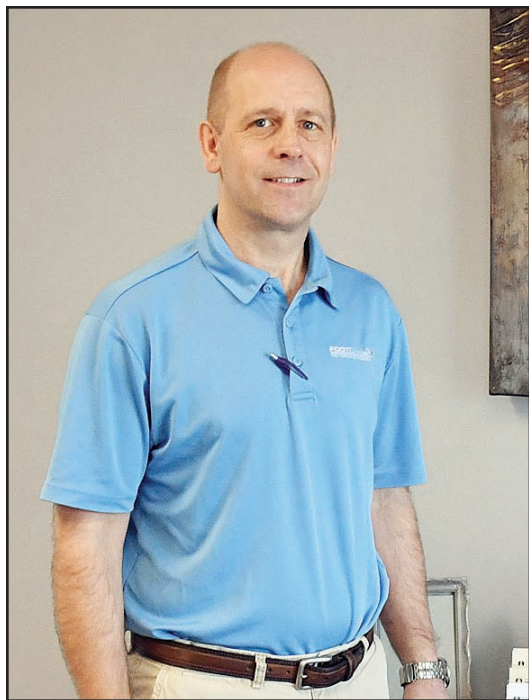
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# Foot Clinic

## Helping aching feet



Dr. Brad Lindstrom

By Vic MacDonald

Editor

So, if there's a "newer" doctor at the Foot Clinic of S.C., there must be an "older" doctor there, too, right? Well, he's not Marcus Welby, but Dr. Brad Lindstrom has seen a lot of feet since founding the practice in 2002. He remembers when "it was just me, (wife) Elsa and our daughter," embarking on the challenges of establishing a specialized medical practice.

If you go to the Clinton office and ask for Elsa, the helpful staff will tell you. "She's in Mauldin." For Lindstrom, it's all about locations in high-traffic, high-need areas without the big-city hassles. He did not feel led to feet by seeing an injury or personal experience – a friend mentioned it to him, and it sounded neat. The business side of things hit the physician when his office lost its

lease – and they moved across the street. A building beside Piedmont Pediatric was open, but there was a problem – it's too big.

"This building was available and it's a bigger size, and now we own the property," Lindstrom said. Their practice takes up about half – anyone in the market for a pretty quiet medical-park setting might want to keep the Foot Clinic of S.C. (864-938-6984) in mind. They will expand into, or lease the additional 2,500 sq ft.

Lindstrom said he sees a lot of heel pain. Physicians in his specialty work on the foot and ankle – "anything from the ankle down."

They work with diabetics, wound care and patients needing surgery, anything from elective to emergency. "In-grown toenails, we have a permanent solution for that," Lindstrom said. Digital X-ray capability is on-site.

That friend who mentioned being

a foot doctor was a hockey-playing chum in high school. "I knew I wanted to practice medicine somewhere," Lindstrom said. "We do a lot for the community. It is a calling for me; we don't plan to go anywhere."

They were 17 years in the other building before losing their lease.

He and Dr. Carlisle are in the Clinton-Laurens office two to three days a week – Lindstrom wants to make it four to four-and-a-half if the patient volume grows.

Lindstrom traces his medical lineage back to 1997. Then, he worked with the Northeast Florida Center for Wound Care, 1997-99, in Orange Park, Fla. He was in Pensacola, 1999-2002, in Mauldin from 2002 to present, and at the Clinton Upstate Wound Healing Center, 2005-17. His residency was at the Minneapolis VAMC, podiatric orthopedic residency, with clinical rotations at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio; and Togus

VAMC, in Togus, ME. He studied at the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa, graduating in 1996; and at North Dakota State University in Fargo, Zoology, 1992.

His hospital affiliations are Greenville Hospital and St. Francis Hospital. Lindstrom is board certified, ABPOPPM. His publications: "Resistance of Staphylococcus Aureus Via Enzymatic Degradation." His executive positions: South Carolina Board of Podiatry Examiners, 2016-present; South Carolina Podiatric Medical Association, President 2012-14, Executive Committee 2008-16; and Our Lady of The Rosary Catholic School, board member, 2012-14.

(Also, Dr. Brad Lindstrom, DPM, 211 E. Butler Rd., Suite A-2, Mauldin, SC 29662, (864) 281-9171; e-mail: drlindstrom@footclinicsc.com; www.footclinicsc.com)

### New addition to the Foot Clinic

Getting his foot in the door, so to speak, Dr. Dylan Carlisle is the newest medical addition to a long-standing Clinton-Laurens business, the Foot Clinic of S.C. He started with the business in July coming from Atlanta.

The Foot Clinic can manage all kinds of foot care needs – surgery, preventive medicine, foot and ankle problems. The ankle-addition is a fairly recent development authorized by the South Carolina Legislature. For Carlisle, it was a friend breaking his foot – and seeing it put back together with plates and screws – that led him to the medical specialty. There's more to it than just surgery – the preventive aspect covers diabetes, foot ulcers, foot pain and calluses, foot wounds that won't heal, and in-grown toenails. "There is more available here (than just surgery)," Carlisle said. "We want to stop problems before they get out of control;" foot doctors can prescribe antibiotics.

Carlisle says they see foot pain from all kinds

of causes – shoe fit, running, walking. "We can advise on foot gear based on a patient's foot type," including high arches, flat arches and hammertoe.

The local clinic also has a Mauldin office, so the doctors are in Clinton-Laurens two times a week. "I'm here every other Monday," Carlisle said. "We will look to more time here as we get busier."

People should be aware that sprains are common but can become more serious if they cause a limp. Too often, patients will put off an office visit until the limp severely limits their mobility. These can be ever more serious if there is not the proper treatment after the first recurrence. Especially middle-aged athletes and children, "they don't see a doctor right away and they keep spraining the same ankle," Carlisle said. "We can get them seen by a physical therapist."

Foot doctors will examine "their foot type and why they sprained their ankle," Carlisle said.

The common misconception is that someone can "walk it off," and that football is the number one sport for foot problems – actually, soccer is closing in rapidly. "If it (a sprain) happens to you a lot, we can work on orthotics and set up therapy if needed," Carlisle said.

The doctor did his residency at Emory University and studied at Miami Podiatry School, and with his wife moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, before deciding they want to get back to the East Coast. The brought a love of the mountains with them. "We love the outdoors," Carlisle said. "These are smaller mountain with waterfalls – very family-friendly."

The Foot Clinic of S.C., 998 Medical Ridge Rd., Clinton (beside Piedmont Pediatrics in the Professional Park, behind the Laurens County Hospital; 864-938-6984. Most insurance accepted, on-site X-ray, no referral is necessary, specializing in medicine and surgery of the foot and ankle.)



Dr. Dylan Carlisle

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# Piedmont Technical College

## Scholarship trip full of firsts for PTC horticulture student

Last month, Piedmont Technical College (PTC) horticulture student Kellan Hamrick flew on an airplane for the first time in his life. To Las Vegas, Nevada. But he was even more excited about what he considered a much bigger thrill — rubbing elbows with irrigation experts from around the country.

Hamrick, a Greenwood native, was among 33 college students nationwide selected to receive an all-expenses-paid travel scholarship to attend the National Irrigation Association Conference held recently in Sin City.

“I was so pleased for Kellan to have this opportunity to attend high-caliber technical irrigation workshops, walk the tradeshow floor, learn about the latest in irrigation technologies and even attend backstage networking events with top industry professionals,” said Daniel Greenwell, director of the PTC Horticulture and Agriculture Program. “Kellan came to our program after taking a ‘Test Drive’ course at PTC, and he has been an outstanding student.”

The 23-year-old, who will graduate this spring, is confident in his choice of major. “In every course I have taken in this program, I have found something new that I enjoyed,” Hamrick said, adding that when he applied for the conference scholarship, “I tried to be sure to let them know that I want to learn. I tried to emphasize that I would try to network while there.”

Hamrick made good use of his time in the Nevada desert. He passed on tourist or gambling distractions and instead packed his schedule with classes and demonstrations.

“This past semester, I have been doing my first and only irrigation course,” he explained. “A lot of classes I could take at the trade show were at the intermediate level.”

Now that he’s back on Greenwood soil, Hamrick reflected on what he learned.

“It can be a little daunting the first time you start to try networking in such a large setting,” he said. “Overall, it was a great experience. I enjoyed it and learned a lot. Probably my biggest takeaway was how much the irrigation industry is regional in nature. It’s different in different parts of the country.”

While in Las Vegas, Hamrick did take a little time to see some local sites. “I did walk the entire strip, about four miles. I saw lots of casinos, but it’s not my thing,” he said. “But at the conference, I got to talk to a lot of people. I came away with good advice, references and leads.”

“Being able to design, install, and troubleshoot irrigation systems is a critical skill that many horticulturists lack,” Greenwell said. “Through our Commercial Irrigation Course at the college, Kellan has learned many of these fundamental skills. By attending the irrigation conference in Las Vegas, he was able to receive even more advanced training from a multitude of industry professionals with decades of experience under their belts.”



Kellan Hamrick in Las Vegas convention seminar and digging a trench.



A scene from the convention floor.

## PTC Benefactor

# Heath: Giving an easy decision

Retired businessman and philanthropist Bil Heath prides himself on making good decisions, and so far, they’ve served him well. Take his wife, Susan, for example.

“In 15 minutes, I knew I was going to marry her,” he said. “It took me three years to wear her down, but we’ve been married for 30 years. She is my best friend.”

The couple are longtime supporters of Piedmont Technical College (PTC) and members of the PTC Foundation Cornerstone Society, whose benefactors make significant pledges to the college through estate planning. Their enduring decisions to donate to PTC have been as steadfast as their marriage.

“The beauty of it is that, if you really want to give, you will figure out how to do it,” Bil explained. “It doesn’t take a lot of money, and the Foundation staff made it easy.”

“Bil and Susan Heath are among our most exemplary patrons. Their commitment and generosity to Piedmont Tech know no bounds,” said Fran Wiley, associate vice president for development at the PTC Foundation. “Our students love Bil. When I see them out in the community, they still ask how he’s doing.”

Bil was raised in a military family based in Columbia. After high school, he enlisted in the Navy and was honorably discharged after six years. Once back home, he worked in construction for a while but decided to go back to school, starting with industrial safety and health classes at Midlands Technical College in the evenings. When MTC dropped that program, Bil found a way to finish through a cooperative program at Newberry College. After going on to earn a bachelor’s in business administration/industrial safety and health, Bil went to work at Milliken & Company. He spent 19 years with Milliken, 15 of them in human resources.

In 2002, he left Milliken but found himself restless and a bit unfulfilled.

“I didn’t want to just sit around, so I came to Piedmont Tech and met with Associate Dean of Students David Rosenbaum,” Bil explained. “He shared information with me, and I decided to study radiologic technology. I was probably the oldest student in my class. I was elected class president, and I am very proud of that.”

Even before earning his associate degree, Lakelands Orthopedics hired Bil.

“I loved it. I worked there for two years,” he said. “I really enjoyed the fast pace and everyone there.”

When an opportunity presented itself to apply for the position of clinical coordinator of PTC’s Radiologic Technology Program, Bil

seized it. “You are never going to know unless you go for it,” he said. He got the job and taught at PTC for more than nine years.

“For me, it’s all about the students. I realized very quickly that one size does not fit all,” he said. “But I aim to reach every student. When you do, it’s like hitting a home run. ... I always tell my students, hopefully this is just the beginning. Keep moving forward.”

Indeed, Bil is quite busy moving forward every day of his “retirement.” He retired from PTC in 2018. Since then, he still occasionally teaches cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes in the PTC Continuing Education Program and management principles through the SC Technical College System. In addition to his philanthropic activities, he has kept his radiologic technology certifications up to date so he can still teach and/or take X-rays if the opportunity comes up.

“There will always be a ‘honey-do’ list,” he quipped. “The good thing about being retired is that I can say ‘no’ whenever I want. I keep my CPR, Rad Tech and forklift certifications so I can teach when I want. It’s all stuff I enjoy.”

Bil is pleased to see an increasingly diverse student body at PTC and believes everybody should have access to higher education opportunities.

“We have all kinds of people. They are trying to make their life better,” he said. “The thought that Susan and I could help someone over a rough patch, it’s very gratifying. It’s our way of giving back.”

In 2013, the Heaths established the Frank Wardlaw Memorial Scholarship at PTC to honor Susan’s father, a PTC graduate in HVAC. The Wardlaw scholarship is available to a student majoring in HVAC technology. They also have a scholarship for deserving radiologic technology students.

“The endowed scholarship grows itself,” Bil said. “It will continue long after Susan and I have become a memory. That is the cool thing. I am very proud of that. It’s not going anywhere.”



Bil Heath

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# PC Assistant Chaplain The Rev. Racquel Gill

PC's New Assistant Chaplain Comes to Clinton from Brooklyn  
The Rev. Racquel Gill answered the call to ministry when she was 15 years old. She was ordained at the St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church as a high schooler, in her hometown of Winnsboro, South Carolina.

Last summer, Gill joined PC's staff as the assistant chaplain for Multicultural Community Engagement. She works with Multicultural Communities and service organizations in the Religious Life and Community Engagement office.

Her role includes work with the Multicultural Student Union, Spectrum, Student Volunteer Services as well as the support of interfaith students.

"I like for people to feel like they belong," Gill said. "Belonging matters to me. Inclusion matters to me. Community matters to me."

Gill says that all students should feel like they belong, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

"Students should know that they have space here, that they have a place of belonging here, that they know that they're not just tolerated, but they're celebrated for who they are and that they should live in the fullness of who they are," she said.

Gill attended Columbia College in Columbia, S.C., and was planning to teach English. While in college, she says she was still "wrestling with the call" when she was introduced to a friend and mentor who exposed her to women pastoring and leading churches.

This mentorship eventually inspired her to go to seminary instead of the classroom. Her mentor attended Duke Divinity School. Sadly, he would later fall ill and passed away. After his death, Gill decided to follow in his footsteps and apply to Duke.

Looking back, she said she believes she may have been trying to "make meaning out of grief," but he was her reason for going to seminary.

Gill earned a Bachelor of Arts in English education from Columbia College in 2012 before enrolling at Duke, where she earned a Master of Divinity in 2015.

After seminary, she served as a pastor in residence at St. Paul Community Baptist Church, in Brooklyn, New York.

She enjoys working with PC students and often references how pastoring in New York, as well as her college experience, was formative for her.

"I can largely identify with a lot of the students," Gill said. "The majority of them are from South Carolina, from very small towns like myself, and sometimes college is really your first experience with difference."

"It's really your first experience with something other than the narrative that you came up with, so I think it's a great opportunity to journey with students who may come to a college campus with the same thoughts that I had, the same ideas that I had, and through the journey will leave with very different questions, with very different concerns, and with very different thoughts."

Gill has programmed several events since she's been at PC. She organized "Paint & Sip with A Latin Twist" during Latinx Heritage Month last fall. The paint-and-sip activity with a Colombian artist included a community conversation "From Emmanuel to El Paso" around the mass shooting in El Paso, Texas.

Gill programmed six Black History Month events for February. One included an exhibit about black hair, one was an interactive cooking class about the impact of Gumbo across the African Diaspora, as well as a worship experience celebrating the Black Church tradition.

Gill is currently working on "Soul Care for Sisters," a dinner and conversation about the importance of self care and mental health for women of color, to take place during Women's History Month.



When she was 15, The Rev. Racquel Gill answered the call to become a pastor, and was ordained in her hometown - Winnsboro, SC.



## Dr. Chris Baur – Community Faculty Teacher of the Year

Dr. Chris Baur, Laurens Family Medicine, received top honors from Prisma Health last week when named Community Faculty Teacher of the Year by the Department of Family Medicine. The award is presented annually to a physician receiving the highest scores and best comments from medical students in the Upstate amongst the 87 family physician faculty that were evaluated. Laurens Family Medicine serves as a preceptor for medical students at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville.

One comment from a student said, "This is the best outpatient experi-

ence that a medical student could have."

Another comment read, "Working with Dr. Baur is how I imagined the perfect clinical teaching environment would be. He allowed me to see patients on my own, stretched my clinical knowledge, challenged me with new procedures and taught me about more than just clinical medicine. He exemplified being the family physician by being personable and honest with patients as well as being a professional at all times."

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# Home grown student

## From Red Devil to Blue Hose: Mary Katherine Kelly's Story

Where Mary Katherine Kelly would end up going to college should be a no-brainer, right?

The neighborhood she grew up in is right across the street from PC. Her parents graduated from PC, and so did her neighbors.

"All these people I knew growing up went to PC," Kelly said. "Growing up, we would all go to the football games every weekend. We had season tickets and all that."

Kelly grew up going to former Blue Hose basketball coach Gregg Nibert's basketball camp. She was close to the players on the women's basketball team, and her parents have been members of the Scotsman Club for as long as she can remember.

"I've just always been surrounded by Blue Hose," Kelly said. "It was always just right across the street. I had this good sense of the school and always had a PC shirt or something."

Her friends at Clinton High School told her she'd go to PC. But when the time came to apply, she applied to more than the one right across the street. Kelly applied to and was accepted at several schools, including the University of Alabama, Wofford College, Clemson University, South Carolina, and Queens University in Charlotte.

"Alabama was my first acceptance," she said. "It was so cool because it's such a big school and so far away."

"I was thinking, 'Oh, this is real. I can get accepted to big schools like Alabama.'"

Kelly heard from the others shortly after hearing from Alabama. She remembers how she felt when she was accepted to PC.

"But then, when I got into PC, it was a different excitement, like this is cool" Kelly said. "This is where everyone I know has gone, and I'm accepted, I could go here. Deep down, it felt good."

So, yes, it was a no-brainer that Kelly would end up at PC.

"I didn't want to admit to my friends that they were right, but, yeah, they called it. But, in the end, I chose for myself. And, sure enough, here I am," Kelly said.

"I'm surrounded by such awesome and different people. It's hard to escape the PC bubble-which is not a bad thing."

Being accepted to a college and being prepared for the college you choose are sometimes two different stories. Kelly, now a junior history and English double major, says that Clinton High School was great preparation for PC.

"I found my love for history in high school," she said. "I've always been good at it and always liked learning about World War I, the Vietnam War, and other topics we covered in high school history classes."

Kelly said that CHS science teacher Michael Mack's biology class prepared her for the biology class she took as part of PC's general education requirements. She learned how to read and think critically in English classes at CHS, especially during her senior year. The college classes she took in high school put her ahead when she got to college.

And, like all CHS seniors, Kelly was required to learn something new, research the subject, and present on it for her Senior Experience Project. Kelly learned to play the guitar during 20 hours of lessons



Although she is not yet a graduate, MK Kelly takes some time off at the Alumni Green on the campus of Presbyterian College. She passes another milestone on her way to a PC degree, participating in the Feb. 16 Ring Ceremony on campus.

before she presented what she learned to teachers and classmates.

"Now, researching and presenting are nothing in college," Kelly said. "But doing the project then was a great way to prepare us for doing similar work in college. It was a good way to branch out and learn skills that carry over to college."

"The Senior Experience Project is like the Capstone at PC, but to a lesser extent."

Since she's been a PC student, Kelly has always felt like she's where she belongs. And not because she grew up right across the street from the college she chose.

"If PC were in Tennessee, I would be in Tennessee," she said. "It's convenient that it's so close, but you can ask my mom, I never go home."

She doesn't have time to: Kelly stays too busy on campus. Outside of class, she spends lots of time with her sorority, leads the intramural sports program, and shows prospective students around campus as a Sirling.

Kelly says the people she's met have made PC worth staying home for as well.

"I get busy and I don't like to leave my friends because we've developed such a cool community," Kelly said. "I have friends at Clemson and friends at USC, but it's so hard to leave here on the weekends because I just love being with the people here."

Kelly says her teachers at CHS inspired her, and her professors at PC have done the same.

"Since it's a small school and the classrooms are obviously small, you just get a really good personal relationship with your professors and all those around you," Kelly said.

"They're excited to teach you what they're teaching you. They're not just doing the class, they want to help you. It's a freeing feeling."

Kelly's experience is different from one she might have had if she chose one of the larger schools farther away from home.

"You're not just a student number in class," Kelly said. "If you're not in class, your professor will notice you're not there. It's the personal feel. Everyone knows you, everyone knows what's going on. You can always find help somewhere."

"The relationships you build, they're special."

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