

# Roanoke Electric FLASHES



## Coming home to serve community

Often times when you send your kids off to college in a big city, you send them off knowing that they'll find new opportunities and establish a new life in a new area. However, Roanoke Electric has four recent hires that, having traveled as far as Greensboro to pursue college degrees, found their way back home to pursue career opportunities. After living in cities such as Greensboro and Chapel Hill – with populations peaking at around 273,000 – their return had many wondering, “what made them come back home?”

### **Seville Sandford, information systems assistant for Roanoke Electric Cooperative:**

Seville, originally from Chicago, moved to Northampton County at age 10. He always had a passion of electronics, technology and basketball. Seville attended Northampton County



*Seville Sandford*

schools. In June 2004, he graduated from Northampton County East. That fall, he began his college career and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics Technology from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (December 2009). Shortly after, he began working at Dell. In fall

2010, he began to pursue his Master's degree in Information Technology. Seville recently graduated in December 2012. While attending A&T for his Master's degree he worked for Lenovo as a computer repair technician and fixed computers from home for local customers. Now Seville is returning to begin working for Roanoke Electric Cooperative (in 2004 he was a seasonal meter technician for Roanoke Electric). Upon his return, he became an information systems assistant.

When asked what led him back home, Seville replied:

“Opportunity. I've always been willing to learn more in my field of study and I was looking for an opportunity for growth- something I no longer saw in the big city. The Roanoke Electric staff made me feel comfortable and I believe there are still opportunities for growth at home.”

### **Brittany Tann, communications specialist for Roanoke Electric Cooperative:**

Brittany is originally from Winton. She attended REC's neighboring Hertford County High School and graduated in June 2009. That fall, Brittany began her freshman year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she was accepted into the top 10-ranked Kenan-Flagler Business School. Brittany graduated in May 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree

with an emphasis in Finance and Marketing. In summer 2012, Brittany worked in the Administration Department assisting Curtis Wynn, Roanoke EC's president and CEO, with special projects. Upon her return in May 2013, Brittany was named the cooperative's communications specialist.

When asked how she felt about coming back to work less than a mile from the high school she graduated from four short years ago, Brittany expressed this:

“I can never forget where my journey all started – right here in Hertford County. Going to a school with more students than the population in my hometown opened my eyes to new experiences. The potential for progress and advancement in HC is no less than the opportunity I saw those four years at UNC. I hope to uncover some of those opportunities here. During my summer internship here I immediately fell in love with the culture and core values of Roanoke. There's no better work environment from Hertford County to Chapel Hill.”



*Brittany Tann*

*...continued on page 31*

# Safety first at Roanoke EC

Roanoke Electric Cooperative employees recently received the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition (SHARP) Award from the NC Department of Labor (NCDOL).

The SHARP program is a special recognition from NCDOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Division for companies leading in the following: safe and healthful working conditions, reduced absenteeism and turnover, more efficient operations, and lower insurance rates. 00005479002

Accepting the award are members of the company's safety committee. Pictured, front row, left to right: Eric Smith (OSHA safety consultant) and Roanoke Electric Cooperative Safety Team members Sherwynn Best, Rebecca Alston, Billy Joe Yates and David Lane. Back row left to right: Allen Enrico, Tim Bowser, Charles Bryant and Clifton Neathery.



# Sports camp scholarship deadline approaching

The deadline to apply for Touchstone Energy's Sports Camp scholarships is Monday, March 31. The camps are open to middle school students interested in an



## Sports Camp Scholarships

all-expense-paid scholarship to attend basketball camps this summer at two of the state's leading colleges.

Female students in sixth-eighth grades can apply to attend the

Wes Moore Wolfpack Women's Basketball Academy

on June 23-26 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Male students in sixth-eighth grades can apply to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp on June 21-25 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Chapel Hill. Young men and women who will be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2014-15 school year are also eligible to apply.

Additional information and applications can be found at [www.roanokeelectric.com](http://www.roanokeelectric.com), by emailing [bball@roanokeelectric.com](mailto:bball@roanokeelectric.com) or by contacting Brittany Tann at (252) 209-2278.

# Co-op Connections Spotlight

## It's tax season!

It's that time of the year again. Tax season can be overwhelming for some. Filing a return takes time and requires patience looking for the right forms and ways to save money. Lots of individuals are searching online sources for help with tax returns while others are obtaining professional advice. Regardless, we have to file; therefore, put your Co-op Connections card to good use this tax season! Janet's Bookkeeping Service of Gates and EPV &

Associates of Murfreesboro are two of REC's participating businesses in the Co-op Connections Card program that can help take the stress out of the tax season.

Welcome Purnell Vaughan of EPV & Associates to the Co-op Connections program! EPV & Associates have been working hard to prepare for the 2014 tax season. It is a full-service tax preparation company with more than 60 years of experience. They work year-round and provide assistance that focus on your financial and business needs. For tax and financial advice, visit the office at 701 East Main Street in Murfreesboro, NC or call (252) 396-0035 to schedule an appointment. The office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays as needed.

Business owners interested in offering valuable discounts or services to thousands of potential customers may email [dmitchell@roanokeelectric.com](mailto:dmitchell@roanokeelectric.com) or call (252) 539-4601.



# Coming home (continued from page 29)...

## **Curtis Freeman, Jr., systems engineer for Roanoke Electric Cooperative:**

Curtis was born and raised in Ahoskie. Like Brittany, Curtis attended Hertford County High School and graduated in June 2006. That fall, Curtis began attending North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering in 2011. In 2012, Curtis enrolled in Cambridge College where he anticipates graduating with a Master of Science in Management in the fall of this year. Curtis has been working as systems engineer for Roanoke Electric for almost two years.

As to why he decided to stay in his hometown after college, Curtis had a pretty interesting answer.

“When I first graduated I had no intentions on coming back home to work simply because I grew up here my whole life and didn’t really see the opportunity as a young engineer. All I knew was that there were plenty of farmers, law enforcement, teaching, and medical workers around, but a lack of engineers. However, when I saw the position open I started thinking about the benefits of working at home. I could help give back to the community, be around family, study for the FE



*Curtis Freeman, Jr.*

(Fundamental of Engineering) exam which would ultimately lead to PE (Professional Engineer) licensure, and go back to school to receive a Master’s in Management degree as well as a Masters in Engineering. In short, I came here because of the opportunity and I decided to stay because of what I can do for both my community and myself.”

## **Justin Francis, apprentice lineman for Roanoke Electric Cooperative:**

Justin graduated from Northeast Academy in Lasker in May 2011, where he played baseball and football. He also completed Nash Community College’s Electric Lineman course in December 2012.

When inquired about why he chose not to travel away from his hometown environment, Justin simply stated:

“It was never in my plans. When I finished high school I had no idea what to do. Then I spoke with one of my best friends and he said he wanted to become a lineman. The idea of becoming a lineman really stuck with me. I’d never wanted to leave from the area and I chose Roanoke because it fit in with my interest to not only stay close to home, but my growing interest in becoming a lineman.”



*Justin Francis*

## Planning to go to college?

# Apply now for REC’s \$1,000 Scholarship

For almost 30 years, Roanoke Electric has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to assist a deserving high school senior whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of Roanoke Electric Cooperative.

To receive the scholarship, a student must demonstrate an understanding of the cooperative way of doing business, exhibit outstanding scholastic and leadership abilities in his/her school and community, and show financial need for the scholarship.

Criteria for selection are 50 percent need, 25 percent scholastic achievement, and 25 percent essay question and extracurricular activities (school, civic and/or community).

Additionally, you must also show proof of acceptance to a four-year college or university to be eligible. The application deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, April 25. For additional information, visit [www.roanokeelectric.com/scholarship](http://www.roanokeelectric.com/scholarship) or go to your guidance counselor.



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# Want to win a weeklong trip to D.C.?

High school juniors in Bertie, Hertford, Halifax, Gates and Northampton counties are invited to apply for an exciting weeklong, all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. The 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is scheduled for June 14-20.

Winners will join more than a thousand students from across the country on an educational tour of the nation's capital where students will see our government in action, and visit historic monuments, museums and so much more.

Renitra Carter, cashier/dispatcher for Roanoke Electric Cooperative, was given the opportunity to attend the Youth Tour 10 years ago. When asked to share her experience as a former Youth Tour winner, Renitra stated:

"I was selected as a youth tourist for REC in 2003, my junior year of high school. Although my parents had always been members of the co-op, I wasn't fully aware of how one operates. Going on the Youth Tour allowed me to gain insight on the differences between cooperatives and other types of business. I was able to share ideas and also create a mock co-op with my peers. I feel that my experience on the Youth Tour has assisted me with my job greatly. I was more familiar with the co-op as a new



Renitra Carter



employee than I would have been without going on the Youth Tour. I am very grateful for my Youth Tour experience and proud to be both a co-op employee and Youth Tour alum."

Additionally, there are two scholarships that will be awarded to Youth Tourists—the \$2,500 Gwyn B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship and the \$2,000 Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship. All Youth Tourists who attend the Tour as high school juniors will be eligible for the awards. They will receive an application form during their senior year 00126859001 and a panel of judges will select the winners. The scholarship must be used to attend an accredited four-year college or university in North Carolina.

If you'd like to create your own experience like Renitra, we encourage you to apply today. The deadline for applications for the 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is 5 p.m. on March 21. Visit [www.roanokeelectric.com/youthtour](http://www.roanokeelectric.com/youthtour) for additional information.

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Roanoke EC 2013 Youth Tourist Shavanda Rountree