

ROGER HALL – SUCCESS AGAINST ALL ODDS!

Roger Hall came to Alice Lloyd College in the Fall of 2002 as a freshman from Whitetop, Virginia, on Mount Rogers – the highest peak in Virginia. His high school teachers had seen the potential in him, and steered him our way – because they knew Alice Lloyd College was a small, personal college, and very affordable.

There had never been much support for Roger at home – he had practically raised himself. He often told how he got himself up – whether it was 7 am, 10 am or 1 pm – and went to school – there on “the mountain.”



President Stepp presents diploma to Roger.

Roger was the first in his family to finish high school!

But that wasn't enough for Roger. He wanted more education. His teachers from home knew he would struggle, but they were confident that Roger would have the support he needed at Alice Lloyd College. And they checked up on him often – sending him care packages and letters of encouragement.

Roger came to college with a dream. He wanted to earn a degree that would help him get into the technology field. You see, Roger loved computers – and he still does!

During his first year, Roger's student work assignment was on grounds – cutting grass, weed-eating, leaf-blowing, and applying salt to winter walkways. It was a tough job, but Roger was up to the task. He even worked summers to earn extra money for personal expenses – since he didn't get any money from home.

In his spare time, Roger learned everything he could about computers. Other students coached him; he researched the Internet; and he finally built his own computer from spare parts that the College's technology department had discarded. Word reached the technology director, who invited Roger to join the student work team responsible for maintaining computers all over campus – student labs, computer classrooms, faculty and staff offices, and even students' personal computers in the dormitories.

He was good! At the end of his very first year in technology, Roger's supervisor gave him the “Outstanding Student Award” in the computer technician category. Roger was so proud of himself – and he deserved to be proud.

(over)

There was one problem, however – a BIG PROBLEM. Roger was not excelling in his academics. His study habits were poor, and he often missed deadlines. He had the ability – no one doubted that – but he needed extra pushing. The faculty came through for Roger, even though at times they felt like giving up on him. Thank God they didn't give up!

Roger made us all proud as he walked up on that platform on May 12, 2007, and received his diploma in Business Administration. He set another record in his family – now, he's the first to finish college!

I wish you could have seen the smile on his face – and the tears in the eyes of his many mentors. This is what it's all about . . . another dream come true . . . another Miracle on Caney Creek!

But that's only part of the story . . .

Roger already has a job – in technology! Now, his other dream has come true. He is maintaining the computer servers and networking at a large call center near his home. And, the skills he learned as a student worker at Alice Lloyd College gave him the experience he needed for this position.

Roger Hall is a success – against all odds!