

# Galax, VA Hosts 2017 Fellowship Weekend

The 2017 Foundation Fellowship Weekend was held September 8-10, in Galax, VA. Pictured (top right) in line for the picnic food are three of the current Foundation trustees: President Pat Davis, Secretary Corky Camin, and Promotion Chair O. H. Bobbitt III. On Friday night the attendees were treated to “Blue Ridge Backroads Live” at the historic Rex Theater.

There was an optional tour of the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company and a chance to meet John Bassett III, the subject of a 2014 bestselling book **Factory Man: How One Furniture Maker Battled Offshoring, Stayed Local – and Helped Save an American Town**. He’s pictured signing copies of the book and being presented with a Tom Downing Fellowship by 2017 Foundation President Pat Davis (who retired from Vaughan-Bassett herself.) John Bassett III is recognized as a hometown hero for saving hundreds of jobs and an entire Virginia community from foreign competition.

Pictured at the bottom of the page are all the Tom Downing recipients presented during the Saturday night banquet.

*Photos courtesy Foundation VP Jayson Duncan.*

