

Halifacts

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A publication of current events at Halifax Community College

HCC GRADUATES RECEIVE DEGREES

Over 300 Halifax Community College students celebrated their achievements on graduation day, Saturday, May 14th, at the 36th Annual Commencement Ceremony, held on the campus in The Centre. The event, drawing a large crowd of well-wishers to the campus, ended the 2004/2005 session, when degrees, diplomas, and certificates were awarded to the happy graduates.



Graduate Teresa Corwin receives her degree from Dr. Ted Gasper as her daughter, Zoey, hoods her. Background left, The Honorable G.K. Butterfield, U.S. Congressman.

The Honorable G. K. Butterfield, U. S. Congressman was the speaker for the event. Butterfield offered the graduates words of encouragement. He also praised the diversity in age and race of the graduates.

HCC Board of Trustees Chairman Lillie Solomon and Vice Chairman Dr. Stanley Edwards opened the ceremony. Dr. Laura Buffaloe, Vice President of Instructional Services Joy Cooley, Dean of Curriculum Programs and Dr. Pocahontas Jones, Dean of the Evening & Weekend Programs presented the graduates while HCC President Dr. Ted Gasper and Lillie Solomon conferred the certificates, diplomas and degrees.

Students who completed the two-year college transfer programs received Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, or Associate in General Education Degrees. Other program categories included Vocational/Industrial Technologies, Public Service Technologies, Business/Commercial Occupations and the Health Sciences Division. Students who achieved the high school equivalency diploma (GED) also marched and received degrees in the ceremonies.

The 2nd year nursing and dental hygiene students held a combined impressive, symbolic pinning ceremony later in the day to honor the accomplishments of the class of 2005. Fifteen students in nursing class completed the course and are now prepared to sit for the licensure exams as registered nurses and 12 dental students received degrees to become licensed preventive oral care professionals.

Cathy Sykes, an instructor in the HCC Dental Hygiene program was the speaker for the dental pinning ceremony, and Sheree Jenkins, RN, OCN, Nurse Manager of the 5th floor at Halifax Regional Medical Center was the speaker for the nursing pinning ceremony.

Graduates, with their families and friends, joined HCC faculty and staff for a reception following the graduation ceremony in the Centre's lobby.



Message from the President

As we come to the close of our fiscal year, I want to thank each member of the HCC family for the dedication and hard work you have given our students. I also am sincerely appreciative of everyone on campus and in the community who contributed to the Foundation and other areas of the college.

While we brace for budget cuts and uncertainty, we forge ahead. We recognize that although we are at the mercy of the state and the dollars that it can provide, we must continue to do our best to address the needs of this community. Our goal and mission remain to help prepare a qualified workforce.

Some of those who completed coursework in preparation for the workforce participated in this year's Commencement Ceremony. Over 200 graduates donned cap and gown to receive certificates, diplomas and degrees. Graduate Bernard Zdancewitz gave an amazing speech recounting his HCC experience and received a standing ovation. The atmosphere was one of exhilaration and pride, and one that we hope everyone in attendance, especially the graduates and their families, will always remember. A special thank you to Dean Barbara Hasty who coordinated the graduation program, the graduation committee, faculty and staff for a job well done.

As we prepare for the next fiscal year, we are encouraged to move forward with optimism and great hope – optimistic that the legislature will come back with a budget that will significantly decrease or diminish the previously projected cuts, and with the hope that if previous projections come to fruition, Halifax Community College, with the solid and continuous support of this great community, will rise to the occasion.

Past challenges strengthened us. Those we face today will do the same.

Dr. Ted H. Gasper, Jr.

Faculty Profiles

Faculty & Staff Recognized at Halifax Community College



*First row: Dr. Laura Buffaloe, Sandra Hammack, Edris Daughtry
Second Row: Dr. Ted Gasper, Shawn Rudd, Joy Cooley, Nina Swink*

Halifax Community College recently recognized the dedication and efforts of faculty and staff during the past year at the Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony held at the Centre. Special recognition was given to HCC employees for their distinguished service to the college. Certificates were presented to the employees for five, ten and fifteen years of service.

Dr. Ted Gasper, HCC President, presented the following awards: HCC Spirit Award, to Dr. Laura Buffaloe, Vice President of Instructional Services; HCC Staff Person of the Year Award to Sandra Hammack, Administrative Assistant, Continuing Education Department; HCC Part-Time Teacher of the Year Award to Edris Daughtry, Art Instructor; HCC Innovator Award to Shawn Rudd, Computer Network Specialist; HCC President's Leadership Award to Joy Cooley, Dean of Curriculum; and HCC Teacher of the Year Award to Nina Swink, Mathematics Instructor.

Special recognition was also given to HCC retirees for their years of service to the College. Romie Haskins, Maintenance Supervisor with 11 years of service; Dr. Laura Buffaloe, Vice President of Instructional Services with 34 years of service; Rita Tromans, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Curriculum with 4 years of service and Ralph Reynolds, HCC Vice President of Administrative Services with 28 years of service. Not Shown: Loyd Wayne Dickens, Welding Instructor with 12 years of service; Velinda Hardy, HCC English Instructor with 28 years of service and Kathryn Barlowe, Administrative Assistant – Continuing Education Division with 27 years of service.

Dr. Pocahontas Jones Chosen to Participate in National Institute for Leadership Development



Dr. Pocahontas Shearin Jones, Dean of Evening and Weekend Programs at Halifax Community College was chosen to participate in the National Institute for Leadership Development LEADERS program. This international year-long program is designed for administrators and faculty in higher education to enhance skills needed to assume major decision making roles in their institutions, including practice in supervisory and human relations skills, planning and budgeting, as well as discussions with national experts on issues confronting higher education.

LEADERS participants were chosen for their professional abilities, their interests in advancement in higher education, and the quality of their proposed projects. During the program, Jones was mentored by Dr. Laura Buffaloe, HCC Vice President of Instructional Services.

She has been employed with HCC since 1990, as an Instructor in the Science department. Currently, she is the Dean of the Evening and Weekend Programs. Jones has received the following recognition during her tenure - Teacher of the Year (1994 - 1995 and 2003);- Excellence in Teaching (2003-NCCCS);- Teacher of the Year for NC State Chapter on Black American Affairs (2003); and - Graduate of 13th Roanoke Valley Leadership Program (2003). For 10 years, she has served as an advisor for the HCC Phi Theta Kappa, an International Honor Society.

In 1973, she graduated from North Carolina Central University in Durham with a BS degree in Biology. In 1976, she graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Masters in Science in Parasitology and Laboratory Practices (Public Health), and in 1987, graduated from Howard University with a Doctorate in Philosophy in Microbiology/Immunology.

She and her husband Randolph have two children, Aaron and Shearina.

Student Profiles

A New Career - A New Life



Making a career choice is one of life's greatest challenges, but making a career change after 34 years in the textile industry was life altering for Billy Robertson. When

he left his WestPoint Stevens job in January of 2001, he had given little thought about what to do. As a displaced worker he had the opportunity to participate in a retraining program of his choice; however, he enrolled in the Associate in Arts College Transfer Program at HCC.

Scheduling, planning, and studying paid off as he was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor fraternity in 2001. He was also named to the All-USA Community and Junior College Academic Team.

When asked about what he considers the reasons for his academic success, he immediately points to the instructors at HCC. Dr. Pocahontas Jones earned one of Billy's famous personalized descriptions: "At HCC, learning is a discipline; biology is a course; Dr. Jones is the experience." Finally, Billy states, "Dr. Ted Gasper was a tremendous asset to my experience at HCC."

When Billy participated in HCC's commencement exercises May 2003, he proudly wore the honor cords and PTK key that represented his 3.9259 GPA. He enrolled in the history education program at North Carolina Wesleyan College where he has been on the President's List each semester. Additionally, he has received several scholarships based on his academic standing, including a scholarship from MENSA, the Transfer Scholarship, the 2005 Student Teaching Scholarship from the N. C. Council of the Social Studies, and the Dr. Allen Johnson Scholarship.

Robertson's final semester at NCWC will include a student teaching practicum at Roanoke Rapids High School. His first stepping-stone to a new career began at Halifax Community College January 2001, and ends at North Carolina Wesleyan College December 2005.

Two Top Students Represent HCC for State Academic Award

Bernard Zdancewicz and Jeanne LaChance, two Halifax Community College honor students represented HCC along with 116 others from across the state at the 8th annual North Carolina Community College System Academic Excellence Awards banquet, held in Raleigh, April 27th. The two were selected by a faculty committee following reviews based upon their current grade point averages to vie for the top state honors.



Left to Right: Mr. Kenneth Brantley, HCC Board of Trustees Vice Chairman, Bernard Zdancewicz, Jeanne LaChance, Dr. Ted Gasper

Zdancewicz, and LaChance are both currently enrolled in the Teacher Preparatory Program, which is in partnership through HCC and Elizabeth City State University. Both students will graduate from HCC in May of 2005 with an Associate Degree, and then will complete their studies through Elizabeth City State University on the HCC campus. Zdancewicz was chosen to speak at the awards luncheon on "What It Means To Him To Be a Community College student".

"I am extremely excited to have been asked to speak at this event. Being a

part of the community college system means a great deal to me. I am very grateful for the experiences and opportunities that I have received from HCC. I had been out of school for 20 years, experienced some hard times and yet with the assistance of administrators, teachers and fellow students, I have been able to successfully complete my degree. I feel that if I can do it, it is possible for others to do the same", said Zdancewicz.

Zdancewicz is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), a tutor in math and English, and a volunteer representative for evening students through the Student Government Association (SGA). He currently is a substitute teacher and tutor at Weldon Middle School. He resides in Weldon with his wife, Virgie and one stepdaughter.

LaChance resides in Halifax with her two children. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa, and the Association for Education for Young Children (AEYC). Outside of college, she is active in the Relay for Life fundraising event. Both have maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

Giving makes a difference!

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