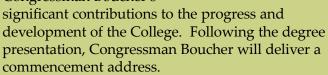
Volume 13, Issue 4 APRIL 2010

Boucher to Receive Honorary Degree

U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher of Virginia's 9th District will be awarded the first honorary degree ever presented by Virginia Highlands Community College during the 2010 Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 14.

The Associate of Humane Letters Degree will be presented by VHCC President David Wilkin to recognize Congressman Boucher's



In recommending Congressman Boucher for the honorary degree, VHCC Board Member Ron Morgan noted his continuing support of legislation that has enhanced education, job opportunities, and technology throughout Southwest Virginia. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the VHCC Board, the honorary degree was approved by Virginia's State Board for Community Colleges.

Other highlights of this year's ceremony will include a commencement address by graduating student Michael Doss and the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award, the highest non-academic award presented by the College, to Tom Hicok.

Doss is a graduate of Holston High School who received the Presidential Scholarship and the Washington County Family of Moose Scholarship while attending VHCC. He has been actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa, the national honorary society for two-year colleges, and Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) at VHCC. He also serves as a senator within the VHCC Student Government Association. He will receive an Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree in Liberal Arts.

Hicok, a certified public accountant with the firm of Hicok, Fern, Brown & Garcia, was a founding member of the VHCC Educational Foundation in 1982. He has remained an active member of the Foundation Board since that time, serving more than two decades as the Board's treasurer. In addition, he has served the College as a member of the VHCC Business Curriculum Advisory Committee, the VHCC Arts Advisory Committee, and an adjunct instructor of accounting.

About 250 students will receive certificates, diplomas and degrees during this year's ceremony, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center on the VHCC campus.



VHCC News is produced each month by Anne Dunham of the Office of Institutional Advancement. If you would like to suggest information for the newsletter, please send your ideas to adunham@vhcc.edu or contact her by phone at 276-739-2456. VHCC is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

Virginia Highlands Community College <u>www.vhcc.edu</u> or call 276-739-2400 Para la ayuda en español, llama por favor

(276) 739-2436

Campus Retirees, Award Winners Honored

Dr. David Wilkin was recognized for 15 years of distinguished service as VHCC President on April 29 and received a standing ovation from faculty, staff and board members who gathered in the Keyser-Aday Theatre for the College's annual end-of-year meeting.

"In addition to two decades of experience as an educator and a doctorate degree from Harvard University, Dr. David Wilkin brought with him a vision for making VHCC the community's college," said Laura Lee, chair of the VHCC Board. "FTE increased from 1270 when Dr. Wilkin arrived to 1750 this year. And, following this year's commencement exercises, Dr. Wilkin will have conferred more than 4,500 credentials for almost 4,000 VHCC graduates."

"Even as he was planning his retirement, Dr. Wilkin once again demonstrated his commitment to VHCC students by asking that, in lieu of a gift, contributions be made to the Foundation. To honor him, the F. David Wilkin Scholarship has been established to assist students enrolled in engineering and other technical fields."

Dr. Wilkin came to VHCC in 1995 as the College's fourth president following the resignation of Dr. DeWitt Moore. Dr. Ron Proffitt of Wytheville has been chosen to succeed him and will assume the presidency on July 1.

A community-wide retirement reception is planned for Dr. Wilkin on Thursday, June 17, from 4:30-6 p.m. in the VHCC Library.

Other retirees recognized at the meeting included Jim Tilley, who has served as Director of the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center, since its creation in 1993, and Associate Professor of Nursing Cathy Canody. Canody will serve as the Faculty Marshall during the 2010 Commencement Ceremony on May 14.

And in other business, students awarded the VHCC Faculty Teaching Award to Associate Professor of Biology Jean



Dr. Wilkin and Laura Lee, chair of the VHCC Board, following comments regarding Dr. Wilkin's pending retirement on June 30.

Murray and the VHCC Faculty Advising Award to Phillip Ferguson of the English faculty. The awards were created last year as part of the College's quality enhancement plan to recognize faculty members who provide outstanding service to students.

Staff Emeritus designation was presented to Dottie Adams, who retired from the Business Office after 24 years of service, and Patty Fullen, who retired last year after 32 years as the College's Financial Aid Officer. Staff Emeritus recognizes retired classified staff members who have made outstanding contributions to the College and the community.

And faculty members recognized Karen Copenhaver, academic services coordinator for Educational Talent Search, with the Service to Faculty Award. In presenting the award, Faculty Senate President Sandy Davis commented on Karen's friendly demeanor and willingness to assist with a variety of projects on campus. Borrowing a phrase from Vice President Debbie Clear, she dubbed Karen "the Martha Stewart of VHCC."

A reception sponsored by the Student Government Association and VHCC Educational Foundation followed.

All-Virginia Academic Teams Congratulated

VHCC Students Michael Doss and Elizabeth Rush were recognized in Richmond on April 21 for their academic achievement, leadership and service as members of the Alpha Gamma Rho Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

PTK is the international honor society for two-year colleges and is led on the VHCC campus by advisors Charles Justice and Sara Combs.

Following their return from Richmond, Michael and Beth attended an induction ceremony for new members and incoming officers Teresa Williams and Crystal Wright.





WTCE Leadership Conferences Net Community Participation

The Division of Workforce Training & Continuing Education (WTCE) hosted almost 200 guests for two very different, high energy, high impact conferences the week of April 19.

About 85 guests attended the 5th Annual Administrative Professionals Conference themed The Biggest Winner; a play on the hit TV reality series "The Biggest Loser." Guests were treated to workshops on health and fitness, overcoming obstacles to personal and professional success, and the power of words. They also participated in team building activities and competed for the title of "The Biggest Winner."

The following day, 105 guests from 32 different companies attended Disney's Approach to Leadership Excellence, a leadership conference presented by Disney Institute. This one-day event was presented by WTCE and the VHCC Educational Foundation and is one of five programs Disney Institute offers through educational and community partners across the country each year. The partnership allowed for the two college divisions to share both risk and reward, netting the Foundation over \$6,000 for general campus support.

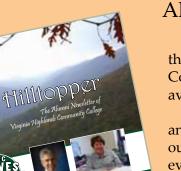
"This is the first time Disney Institute has been in Southwest Virginia in over six years," said Melinda Leland, dean of WTCE. "We were very pleased, despite the economic challenges our service region has been facing, to have such a big turnout. It's obvious from talking to our guests that people are hungry for the type of high-quality professional development that is only available through their local community colleges."

Special Price Available For Weight Watchers

The Commonwealth of Virginia offers Weight Watchers at special pricing to state employees, spouses and adult dependents. Weight Watchers is a pilot program for eligible participants through Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, the medical plan administrator for the state health benefits program.

Employees eligible for the state health benefits program may also be reimbursed for half the cost of services, once they have completed program requirements. Group meeting and online memberships are available.

More information about the program is available online at www.dhrm.virginia.gov/weightwatchers.html.



Alumni Newsletter Now Online

The Spring 2010 edition of *The Hilltopper*, the Alumni Newsletter of Virginia Highlands Community College, is packed with news and available online now at www.vhcc.edu/alumni.

In addition to news about our new president and a new mascot, the newsletter features two outstanding alumni and news about upcoming events.

Take a peek, share it with a friend, and encourage alumni you know to update our Alumni Directory to include a current email address so we can keep in touch.



Members of the Washington County Family of Moose (pictured above from left to right: Ernie Markum, Joe Varney, Tom Necessary, and Jason Delp) took home the championship trophy during the 3rd Annual VHCC Educational Foundation Scholarship Golf Tournament on April 26. Nineteen teams competed in the event, sponsored by Alph Natural Resources, and more than \$28,000 was raised for scholarhip programs. Additional photos from the tournament are available at http://www.flickr.com/photos/vhcc/sets/72157623951911622/

Plant Sale

The public is invited to attend the VHCC Horticulture Club's annual plant sale at the campus greenhouse. All proceeds will benefit the Horticulture Club. Cash and checks will be accepted.

Heirloom Tomatoes • Ornamental Peppers • Hanging Plants • Colorful Flowers • Much More • Just in Time for Mother's Day • Come Early for Best Selection.

Thursday, May 6 • 2-6 p.m. Friday, May 7 • Noon -6 p.m. Saturday, May 8 • 8 a.m. - Noon

For additional information, please contact Joel Keebler, advisor of the Horticulture Club, at <u>ikeebler@vhcc.edu</u> or (276) 739-2442.

VHCC to Take Back the Night

Members of Rotaract and Impact at VHCC are inviting the community to "Take Back the Night" by joining in an informational session and march across campus on Thursday, May 6, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the campus courtyard.

The event is patterned after observances held nationwide each spring to combat sexual violence. In addition to guest speakers who are experts on the subject, the event will include a campus march and survey to identify areas that are potentially unsafe, said Rotaract Advisor Michael McBride.

Information booths will be set up at 5:30 p.m, followed by guest speakers at 7 p.m., and the march at 8:15. p.m. Contact McBride at mmcbride@vhcc.edu or (276) 739-2575 for more information.