

## Alumni Profiles Featured in New VHCC Report

What do a police officer, songwriter, museum manager, college professor and a group of nurses have in common?

They all earned degrees at Virginia Highlands Community College before establishing successful careers that earned them a spot in VHCC's newest publication – "Finding the Key: Profiles of Success at Virginia Highlands Community College."

The report was developed to celebrate the career of Richard Leigh, who recently received a national alumni award from the American Association of Community Colleges, and others who have gained success in their chosen fields. In addition to Leigh, a Grammy Award winning songwriter who graduated from VHCC in 1973, those featured include:

- Al Dunkleman, a professor of sociology at North Carolina's Cleveland Community College;
- David Lee, collection manager at United Southeast Federal Credit Union;
- Ember Reed, a flight nurse in the U.S. Air Force.
- Beverly Bolling, Martha Bryan, and Sadie Surber, nurses at Johnston Memorial Hospital;
- Tony Wilson, plant manager for Honeywell's Suzhou, China operation;
- Barbara Manuel, a member of the English faculty at VHCC;
- Eric Lucy, a police officer in Lakewood, Colorado;
- Jamie Morgan, Treatment Foster Care Supervisor for DePaul Community Resources;
- Harry Haynes, store and site manager for the Museum of the Middle Appalachians;
- Jack and Eva Phelps, local bank executives who met during their first week of orientation at VHCC;
- Diana Blackburn, executive director of 'Round the Mountain;

You may view the report at [www.vhcc.edu/thekey](http://www.vhcc.edu/thekey) or by contacting Anne Dunham at [adunham@vhcc.edu](mailto:adunham@vhcc.edu) or (276) 739-2456.



Bluefield College President David Olive (left) and VHCC President Ron Proffitt have signed an agreement that will bring a BSN program to the VHCC campus in Fall 2012.

## VHCC, Bluefield College Sign BSN Agreement

Virginia Highlands Community College leaders have signed an agreement with Bluefield College to offer a bachelor's degree program in nursing on the VHCC campus.

The agreement came about as part of an initiative to improve healthcare services in rural settings, said VHCC President Ron Proffitt, adding that it also will help to achieve a national goal of increasing the number of registered nurses with four-year degree.

"We're excited that Bluefield College will offer the bachelor's program, which will supplement the excellent nursing program that VHCC has offered for nearly four decades," he said. "We're confident that student nurses and those who receive healthcare services throughout our region will benefit from the expanded educational opportunities that will be available through this partnership."

VHCC has offered a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing since 1972. The program includes both classroom lectures and clinical assignments completed in hospitals and other healthcare settings. Graduates are eligible to take the national exam that leads to licensure as a registered nurse (RN).

The partnership with Bluefield College will allow those with two-year nursing degrees to continue working toward a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN). The classes will be offered on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, beginning in the fall of 2012. A faculty member from Bluefield College will teach the classes on the VHCC campus.

"The additional two years of study will focus

heavily on liberal arts courses, leadership development, and community and public health," said Kathy Mitchell, dean of Nursing and Allied Health at VHCC. "As a result, students who complete the BSN program will be better prepared to take leadership roles in healthcare settings and make critical decisions related to patient care."

And, she added, the BSN is a valuable stepping stone toward advanced degrees for those interested in pursuing careers as nurse practitioners, as nurse anesthetists, or in other specialized nursing fields that require master's degrees.

"This RN-to-BSN program has the potential to significantly improve the quality of health care in southwest Virginia," said Bluefield College President David Olive. "Not only does it provide an opportunity for nursing education at the baccalaureate level, but also gives students and health care professionals of southwest Virginia who value rural health care delivery the opportunity to stay in our region. We couldn't do this without the help of our community colleges, like Virginia Highlands. We are grateful for their part in making this transformational degree accessible to even more students."

Bluefield College will hold informational sessions on the VHCC campus in Spring 2012 to provide details about the program and the enrollment process. Those interested may also contact the Bluefield College Admissions Office at 800-872-0175 (x4233) or 276-326-4233, or visit the BC web site at [www.bluefield.edu/nursing](http://www.bluefield.edu/nursing).



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](mailto: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  
[www.vhcc.edu](http://www.vhcc.edu)

or call  
276-739-2400

Para la ayuda en español, llama por favor  
(276) 739-2436

### SGA Officers 2011-2012

President - Jodad Rodriguez  
Vice President - Dexter Minton  
Secretary - Kaitlynn Clark  
Historian - Nathan Roark  
Publicity Officer - Ava Wallace

### Faculty Senate Officers 2011-2012

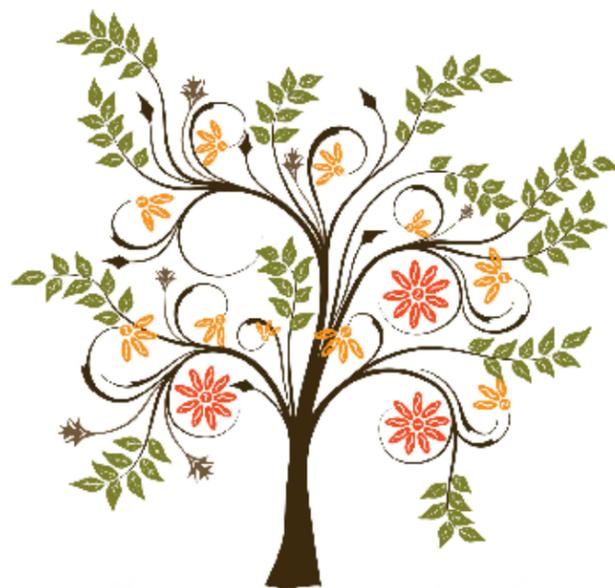
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President - Anne Dunham  
Vice President - Rachel Law  
Secretary - Jessie O'Quinn  
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Summer is a great time for student to leave the classroom and participate in a variety of activities sponsored by VHCC. (Top) WIA camp students toured the new Nursing Simulation Lab and got an opportunity to see how the mannequins operate. (Middle) Educational Talent Search took a trip to Philadelphia, where they had an opportunity to take a Duck River Cruise along the Delaware River. (Bottom) Members of the VHCC Great Expectations Program joined Coach Criss Golden and Admissions Director Karen Cheers for a trip to Orlando.



Friday, September 9, 2011  
to attend the  
Inauguration of  
Virginia Highlands Community College  
President Ron Proffitt  
at 11 o'clock

The ceremony will be held at the  
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center  
Abingdon, Virginia

A lunch reception will follow.



### UPHILL CLIMB

Students Luis Quirarte (left) and Heather Smith showed remarkable stamina by completing an uphill climb from Damascus to White Top and back again as part of a bicycling course led by Joel Keebler. The round-trip is about 37 miles and was an optional final exam for class participants.

## VHCC NIGHT WITH THE BRISTOL WHITE SOX

Wednesday, July 13, 2011 @ 7 p.m.  
Boyce Cox Field at Devault Stadium  
1501 Euclid Avenue, Bristol Virginia

VHCC Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff are invited to enjoy a game between the Appalachian League's White Sox of Bristol and the Bluefield Bluejays.

- Free tickets available at the gate for VHCC Community
- Coupons will be distributed for the concession stand
- First pitch of the game by SGA President Jodad Rodriguez
- VHCC door prizes given away between each inning

Bring your family and enjoy this American pastime with your friends from VHCC.

For additional information, please contact:  
Anne Dunham  
[adunham@vhcc.edu](mailto:adunham@vhcc.edu) or (276) 739-2456



## SALTVILLE WAVE POOL ADVENTURE

Friday, July 22  
6-8 p.m.

Free to all alumni, students, faculty, and staff of VHCC, as well as their friends and family. Hotdogs and soft drinks will be served.

The wave pool is located at  
416 Panther Lane in Saltville.

No tickets necessary.

