

VHCC newsletter

Bowdens Receive DSA



James and Jimmie Lou Bowden have been honored with VHCC's highest non-academic award for their long-standing commitment to the arts on campus and throughout the community.

"They became acquainted with the College while it was still under construction and, when the Theatre Arts Program was established in 1970, they became avid supporters and frequent patrons of college productions," VHCC Board Member Blue Gotham said while presenting the VHCC Distinguished Service Award. "They have seldom missed a campus theater production and have been regulars, too, at concerts of the VHCC choir and madrigal singers, Arts Array events, and other performances that showcase the talents of the VHCC community."

Throughout the years, the Bowdens also participated in a number of VHCC-sponsored trips to New York to see the latest Broadway productions and served as members of the VHCC Arts Advisory Committee. They recently were named to the Keyser-Aday Theatre Committee, which is working to establish an endowment to provide student scholarships and support for the arts on campus.

The Bowdens' love for live theater was instilled in their five children, particularly their son, John, who earned a degree in Theatre Arts in 1986. Following John's untimely death in 1999, the couple established a memorial fund that paid to frame the posters and playbills that decorate the corridor leading to the VHCC Theatre.

In addition to their work at VHCC, the Bowdens have been actively involved with Barter Theatre, the Virginia Highlands Festival, and Abingdon United Methodist Church.



(Top, left to right) Mike Spiegler, a 1982 VHCC grad, and graduating student Becky Shuttle served as guest speakers for the 2008 Commencement Ceremony on May 15. Spiegler, who is now a partner in the certified public accounting firm of Spiegler, Blevins & Co., encouraged graduates to accept life's challenges as they pursue their goals. Shuttle, who earned an associate's degree in education, credited her strong circle of support for allowing her to become the first member of her family to earn a college degree. About 250 certificates, diplomas and degrees were awarded to VHCC students, including Elizabeth Bobo and Stacy Bobo (pictured above).

Family of Moose Creates Scholarship Program

A \$20,000 scholarship has been established by the Washington County Family Fraternity of Moose to benefit four first-year students at Virginia Highlands Community College during the 2008-09 academic year.

The gift has enabled VHCC to provide a one-year scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 for the first time in the history of the College. The scholarship will cover funding for a full year of tuition and related expenses for one student from Washington County's Abingdon, John Battle, Holston, and Patrick Henry high schools.

"This very generous gift will provide a \$5,000 scholarship to four students – enough to cover tuition, books and some living expenses for an entire year," said VHCC Vice President of Institutional Advancement David Matlock. "Not only is this currently the largest scholarship awarded at VHCC, but

the Family Fraternity of Moose has made a multi-year commitment to continue the program."

To be considered for the scholarship, graduating students from Washington County's high schools must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher; a proven record of service to their school, community and/or church that reflects the mission of the Family Fraternity of Moose; and be enrolled at VHCC on a full-time basis. Preference will be given to dependents of Washington County lodge members if all other criteria are met.

Recipients for the 2008-09 academic year are Tiffany Harmon of John Battle High School, Brittany Barbrow of Patrick Henry High School, Michael Doss of Holston High School, and Tiffany Spears of Abingdon High School. Each will be a first-year student at VHCC in Fall 2008.



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.

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Dr. Smith Honored for Philanthropic Contributions to VHCC

Dr. Catherine Smith, a retired Abingdon physician and Virginia Highlands Community College benefactor, has been recognized by the Virginia Community College System with the Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy.

The award was presented to Dan Smith on behalf of his mother during a recent conference in Richmond.

Dr. Smith became Abingdon's first female physician in 1951 when she opened a private OB/GYN practice in her home. She delivered 10 babies during her first week and hundreds more during the course of her distinguished career. She returned to medical school in 1968 to specialize in psychiatry and, a decade later, became a founding member of the American Holistic

Medical Association. Dr. Smith continued her holistic healing approach until she closed her medical practice in 1993.

In addition to her contributions to the Abingdon community, Dr. Smith served on a statewide committee for the preservation of public schools when integration went into effect in the 1960s. She also served on a state advisory board for the prevention of child abuse and neglect in the 1970s and, in 1985, was honored by Virginia's first lady, Linda Robb, for her



contributions to medicine in small town America.

On the VHCC campus, Dr. Smith each year supports student scholarship efforts and provided funding toward the campus labyrinth that now bears her name. A tribute to her healing philosophy and countless contributions to professional excellence, the Dr. Catherine Smith Labyrinth at VHCC is engraved with the words: "Loving, caring service to those in need is its own reward."

The Leadership in Philanthropy award was founded by VCCS Chancellor Glenn DuBois to recognize the vital role of community college benefactors. The annual program honors an outstanding benefactor from each of Virginia's 23 community colleges.

Employee Suggestion Program Outlined

Virginia's Employee Suggestion Program provides employees with an opportunity to be rewarded for innovative and creative ideas for improving state government.

All employees of the Commonwealth of Virginia may submit suggestions that propose practical improvements. Rewards range from cash to days of paid leave. All winners receive a certificate signed by the Governor.

For detailed information and instructions, please go to <http://esp.dhrm.virginia.gov> or you may access the ESP web link on the VHCC Human Resources web page under the FYI – Policies & Programs section. ESP is a program of the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management.



Visitors to the VHCC Greenhouse had an opportunity this spring to purchase a variety of tomato plants including Mr. Stripy, Green Sausage, German Pink and Black from Tula during the Horticulture Club's spring plant sale. Guests came from near and far to snag the plants at bargain prices and help the club build a nest egg for future projects.



Emeritus Status Awarded to Retirees

Retired faculty members William Van Keyser and Clark Fleming each were honored with Professor Emeritus status recently for their many years of exemplary service to VHCC.

And Linda Carty, longtime executive assistant to the VHCC president, was named Classified Staff Emeritus for her meritorious service as a member of the College's support staff.

The awards were presented during the 2008 Commencement Ceremony on May 15.

Van came to VHCC in 1970 as Assistant Professor of Speech and Drama and was instrumental in establishing the College's successful Theatre Arts program. He also taught courses for the Governor's School for many years, leading a student trip to New York to see the latest Broadway productions.

He retired in 2007 as an Associate Professor of English, Speech and Drama.

The VHCC Educational Foundation currently is engaged in an effort to name the campus theater for Van and his longtime associate, Gary Aday.

Clark came to VHCC in Fall 1972 as an Instructor of Mathematics. He continued in that role until December 2003, when he was named Dean of the Division of Science and Engineering Technologies.

Clark retired in January 2007 but continues to teach math classes each semester as an adjunct instructor.

Linda began her career at VHCC in 1981. In addition to her work in the president's office, she was instrumental in organizing the Classified Support Staff Association at VHCC and served as its first president. She also served as an active member of the Virginia Community College Association for many years.

Linda retired in September 2007.



FROM THE ARCHIVES



VHCC's 1971 Commencement Ceremony was held in ISC-220 and neither the graduating students nor administrators donned a cap and gown. The young graduate in this photo looks awfully familiar - like someone who might hang out in the drafting lab.... Oh how time flies!