

ISC Renovations Completed

VHCC cut the ribbon this month on new science and allied health laboratories that are part of the \$1.2 million renovation of the 39-year-old ISC building.

New flooring was installed, rest rooms were remodeled, and lighting was upgraded throughout the facility. The most significant features of the remodeled facility, however, are the new biology, chemistry, physics, geology, and anatomy/physiology laboratories serving the science department, and a new laboratory to provide hands-on training for students enrolled in the physical therapy assistant and occupational therapy assistant programs.

Funding for the renovations was provided through a capital outlay allocation from the Virginia Community College System.

"Faculty members helped design the new science laboratories and we worked really hard to create a modern environment that would allow every student to see the instructor while they are working at their laboratory station," said Kevin Hamed, VHCC Associate Professor of Biology. "We also created a large prep area and enhanced the storage space for cultures and chemicals that are used in our student research projects."

The physics and anatomy/physiology labs received new laboratory tables, cabinetry, and other minor upgrades.

A separate wing of the building now houses a new laboratory for hands-on training of students enrolled in the physical therapy assistant (PTA) and occupational therapy assistant (OTA) programs. Capital outlay funds provided new flooring and paint for the lab, while equipment was purchased through a \$2 million grant from the Department of Labor.

Students enrolled in these programs at VHCC and Mountain Empire Community College will use the VHCC lab for hands-on training, said Heather Musick, project director for the Southwest Virginia Healthcare Workforce Development Consortium. The lab was needed, she said, to teach students fundamental skills like how to transfer a patient from a bed to a wheelchair, how to operate ultrasound equipment and other diagnostic devices, and how to help patients regain day-to-day survival skills.

The ISC is one of three building constructed in 1969 as part of the original VHCC campus. As part of the renovation project, restrooms throughout the building were remodeled in accordance with Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine's energy saving initiatives.

Planning for the renovation project began more than two years ago. Spectrum Design of Marion completed all design work and Chapman Construction Co. of Gate City began construction last spring.



ROCK THE VOTE

Musical talents and campaign supporters gathered on the VHCC campus on Sept. 23 to generate excitement for the November election and encourage young people to participate in the political process.

Rock the Vote, a national effort that uses music, popular culture and the latest technology to encourage young people to take an active interest in politics, has registered more than 1.6 million voters this election season. VHCC organizers used the national organization as a model for its own event, which included performances by a handful of local artists, opportunities to register to vote and a mock election.

"This event is designed to get students excited about the opportunity to participate in the political process," said Kim Morton, event organizer. "We're not promoting any of the candidates, but we are encouraging students to learn more about the issues and decide for themselves."

While on campus, students had an opportunity to learn more about Presidential Candidates Barack Obama and John McCain, as well as U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher; U.S. Rep. Jim Moran; Jon Bowerbank and Bill Bolling, both of whom are candidates for lieutenant governor; James Gilmore, candidate for U.S. Senate; and Bob McDonnell, gubernatorial candidate. Local musicians who performed included Burning Strings, Airen Terra Almost There, Ryan Ward and Smash 13.

All VHCC students and employees also were invited to participate in a mock presidential election. In that race, Obama received 55 percent of the vote to McCain's 45 percent.

VHCC Student Ryan Ward played a number of original tunes, including one called "Dew," which he dedicated to his grandfather.



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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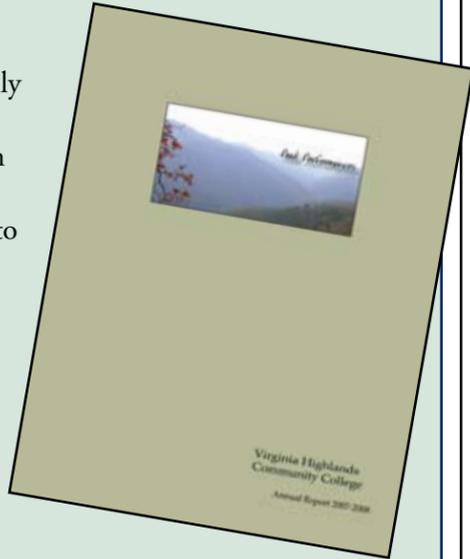
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Annual Report Outlines Peak Performances

VHCC's in 2007-2008 successfully completed an accreditation review, implemented a Peer Ambassador program to welcome new students to campus, and distributed a record level of financial aid to students from throughout the region.

Each of the achievements is outlined in the VHCC Annual Report that was approved by the College Board at its Sept. 11 meeting. The theme of the report, Peak Performances, represents the students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members who shared the spotlight throughout the year.



Among the highlights:

- VHCC received an overwhelming vote of confidence this year from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools when the regional accrediting body reaffirmed accreditation through 2018. Accreditation assures the community that VHCC meets established standards of academic excellence and is continually working to improve its programs and services.
- VHCC remained the college of choice throughout the service region in 2007-2008, boosting enrollment to 3,532 full- and part-time students.
- Federal grants, veterans programs, tobacco funds, and private sponsorships combined provided about \$4.5 million in financial aid for VHCC students in 2007-2008.
- The VHCC campus will soon be the home of Heartwood: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Gateway, a \$17 million project that will introduce visitors to the rich talents of local artisans and entice them to visit the surrounding communities.
- Community members and corporate friends provided generous support for the VHCC Educational Foundation during 2007-2008, contributing toward a textbook endowment, an emergency fund, student sponsorships, and a variety of other projects that support the College's programs and services. Foundation assets grew by 14 percent during the year.
- As the workforce development arm of the College, the Center for Business & Industry served 2,866 students through a variety of programs delivered on campus and in the workplace. Customized training programs were provided for employees of 25 companies throughout the region, and 120 businesses sent their workers to open-enrollment courses on campus. CBI also awarded 50 Career Readiness Certificates (CRCs) throughout the year.
- The full report is available online at www.vhcc.edu/aboutus/annualreport/0708.pdf.

HCS Counselors Available on Campus

Certified counselors from Highlands Community Services are now working two days a week on the campus of Virginia Highlands Community College to provide one-on-one, confidential support for VHCC students.

Counselors Quintina Yates and Michael Hayter will be on the VHCC campus each Tuesday and Wednesday. Students may visit the counselors in their campus office on these days or arrange for an off campus counseling session.

"We're pleased to be able to bring this level of on-site service to our students," said Dr. Deborah C. Clear, vice president of Instruction and Student Services. "Highlands Community Services has an excellent reputation in our community and we're confident their presence on our campus will provide a valuable service to the entire campus community."



Center for Behavioral Health
HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES

Established in 1972, Highlands Community Services provides a full range of mental health, substance abuse, and mental retardation services for residents of Bristol Virginia and Washington County. Each service is aimed at helping clients reach their highest intellectual and emotional potential.

To serve the VHCC community, an office and a confidential counseling area have been established in the Learning Lab of the Learning Resources Center on the VHCC campus. Yates is available on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Hayter is available on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The initial visit is provided at no cost to students and a sliding fee scale is used when off-campus referrals are made.

"College can be a very stressful time," Dr. Clear said. "We want our students to know there are professional counselors available when they need someone to talk to or when they need more specialized care to deal with life's struggles. We've worked very closely with Highlands Community Services to make the service affordable and convenient so all of our students will have access to professional counseling services."

Students may visit the counselors in their office or email them at mhayter1@vhcc.edu or qyates@vhcc.edu. The Project EXCEL office, available at (276) 739- 2479, can provide additional information or help students contact counselors at other times.

Mark Your Calendars

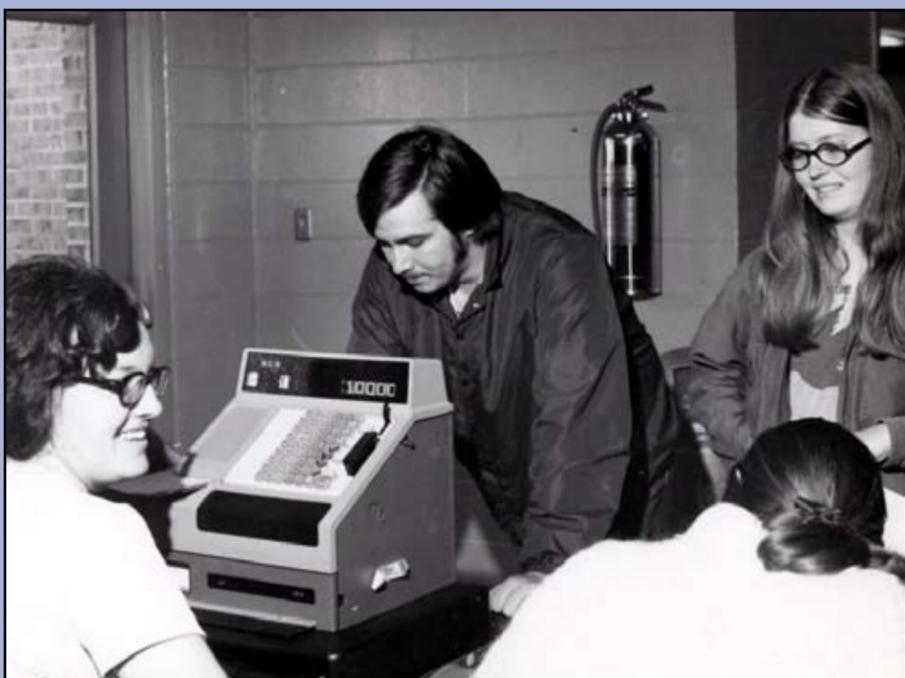
- Fall In-Service at 9 a.m. on **Friday, Oct. 3**, in LRC-605. The session will focus on strategic planning, but also will include a SACS Celebration in the Snack Bar at 10:45 a.m.
- College-wide Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings on **Thursday, Nov. 13**. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dessert in the Library, then move to LRC-605 for a presentation about the strategic planning process. Individual meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- Second Annual College Night in Virginia at 6 p.m. on **Monday, Nov. 17**. The event will allow high schoolers and their parents to enjoy pizza, learn about their college choices, and enter to win one of four \$500 scholarships that will be awarded through a random drawing. This is a chance to showcase your programs!

College, State Prohibit Harassment

VHCC and the Commonwealth strictly prohibit harassment of any employee, applicant for employment, vendor, contractor or volunteer, on the basis of an individual's race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. VHCC and the Commonwealth will not tolerate any form of retaliation directed against an employee or third party who either complains about harassment or who participates in any investigation concerning harassment.

Workplace harassment is defined as any unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct that either denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards a person on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, political affiliation or disability that: (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance; or (3) affects an employee's employment opportunities or compensation.

Employees and third parties are encouraged to report incidents of workplace harassment as soon as possible after the incident occurs. Complaints may be filed with Human Resources, the President, the Vice-Presidents or the employee's supervisor. Individuals alleging harassment are never required to file a complaint with the alleged harasser. If you have questions or concerns or would like more information, please contact the Human Resource Office.



The VHCC Business Office has come a long way since the early days of the College, when staff members would drag out their trusty cash register and collect tuition. This picture is undated, but obviously was taken in the days when \$100.00 would buy more than the gas needed to get to campus.



FROM THE
ARCHIVES