

Inservice To Introduce iPods in the Classroom

Dr. Michael Evans of Virginia Tech will share ideas for incorporating the iPod Touch into classroom instruction when he serves as guest speaker during VHCC's January inservice.

Dr. Evans currently is assisting with a collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Education, Radford University and Virginia Tech. He has been asked to serve as guest speaker for the inservice in the hopes that his project can provide valuable information to help VHCC as it implements its new CEED grant program, which is entitled "Touching Students through Technology: Using iPods in the Classroom."

The inservice is set for Jan. 8 at 9 a.m. All full-time faculty are required to attend and faculty from Southwest Virginia, Mountain Empire and Wytheville community colleges have also been invited.

The \$18,000 CEED grant will be used to investigate ways the iPod Touch can be used to increase problem-solving skills using a range of emerging technologies for communication and computing. Dr. Evans will demonstrate ways the iPod touch can be used in the classroom.

Those attending the inservice will be given an opportunity to think of ways the iPod could be used in their classroom and then apply as a grant participant. Those chosen will be given an iPod touch, additional training, and a small stipend.

"The inservice is intended to be fun and, hopefully, spark some interest in using technology in the classroom," said faculty member Debbie Rasnick, who is helping to organize the inservice.

Lunch will be provided for those who attend the inservice and Dr. Evans will be available to answer questions.

Staff members interested in attending the inservice should reserve a space by contacting Joyce Lindsey at jlindsey@vhcc.edu by Monday, Dec. 21.



Student, Faculty Rock Band Wins Campus Talent Show

Impeach Dixon, a rock band consisting of students James Bowman, Justin Moore, and Tony Dixon, plus English faculty member Phillip Ferguson took home the first-place trophy for VHCC's Got Talent, a fun-filled event sponsored by the Student Government Association and Educational Foundation.

Second place went to a musical act consisting of Daniel Eastridge and Richard Pasco, and Tony Dixon captured third place for his drum solo. Sara Easterling was named the best soloist and Amber Sword, who performed a dance and rifle routine, was named the winner for the most creative act.

Trophies were given to the winners.

You can view videos of the performances by following the links available on the VHCC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VirginiaHighlands

David Matlock, vice president of Institutional Advancement, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Students, faculty, and staff were eligible to participate.



VHCC's
got TALENT!

Thursday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. • Keyser-Aday Theatre, LRC-605
Admission is \$2 for the VHCC Foundation's Emergency Fund or 2 cans of food, which will be donated to a local Food Pantry

Students and employees of Virginia Highlands Community College are invited to showcase their talents as they compete for trophies in this entertaining event sponsored by the Student Government Association and the VHCC Educational Foundation. To enter, contact the Student Success Center prior to 6 p.m. on Dec. 3.

No nudity, profanity or dangerous stunts will be permitted.



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

www.vhcc.edu

or call

276-739-2400

Para la ayuda en español, llama por favor

(276) 739-2436

VHCC Wins Phi Theta Kappa Pinnacle Award

VHCC has won a Pinnacle Award from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society and been awarded the funds to pay the international dues for five deserving students.

The College received the award for successfully increasing its enrollment by 25 percent over the previous year. This achievement netted the College the maximum scholarship of \$225 - enough to cover the international dues of \$45 for

five new members.

Faculty advisors for VHCC's PTK Chapter are Charles Justice and Sara Combs.

PTK is the official honor society for students of two-year institutions.



Winter Weather Safety Tips

One way to be prepared for the ice, sleet and snow is to review a few tips for walking safely in wintry conditions:



- Use small steps.
- Use handrails when available.
- Use smooth walking motions.
- Stretch daily to improve flexibility and reduce stiffness associated with cold weather.
- Wear shoes appropriate for the weather.
- Always stay aware and alert. Avoid doing other tasks such as texting or talking on the phone when walking.
- Scan the path ahead for obstructions or hazards.
- Always look forward and establish sure footing with each step. Try to choose a path that is level and stable.
- Be especially careful while walking in wet conditions, at night, or on a sloping surface.
- Be sure that your view is not obstructed by objects being carried.
- Be aware that walking-related injuries often occur when rushing or taking shortcuts.



Kudos for Kevin

Dr. Tom Laughlin of ETSU (left) was among those who attended a Dec. 8 reception for VHCC faculty member Kevin Hamed (right), who was named the 2009 Virginia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Laughlin wrote a letter supporting Hamed's nomination for the prestigious national award.

FEMA Provides Tips and Asks Americans to Resolve to Be Ready

For many, the New Year is a time for making resolutions and goals for the year to come. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign is asking Americans to Resolve to be Ready in 2010 by putting emergency preparedness at the top of their list of resolutions.

Floods, winter storms, wildfires and earthquakes - no matter what Mother Nature has in store, preparing ahead of time can mitigate her nastier surprises, speed recovery, and reduce losses. By following the Ready Campaign's three steps, preparing for an emergency can be a simple and realistic resolution you can keep all year long:

1. Get an emergency supply kit;
2. Make a family emergency plan; and
3. Be informed about the types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses. Prepare, Prevent and Respond!

Emergencies will happen, but taking action now can help us minimize the impact they will have on our lives. Preparedness is contagious, what starts with one family can spread throughout a neighborhood, and every prepared neighborhood frees up emergency responders to take care of those who are in dire need. Remember, Resolve to be Ready in 2010! For more information, visit www.ready.gov or the Spanish-language web site www.listo.gov or call 1-800-BE-Ready or 1-888-SE-LISTO. The Web site includes free information, checklists and guidelines about the two other key components of preparedness - developing a family emergency plan and being informed.

Tuesday, January 12 – Thursday, January 14



Winter Carnival ◊ Jan. 12 ◊ 11am-1pm, Snack Bar
New to VHCC and wondering where to go for help? Learn about the services offered here on campus and meet the folks who make it happen during this fun-filled adventure that is reminiscent of a winter wonderland.

Back-to-School Bash ◊ Jan. 13 ◊ 11am-2pm, Snack Bar
Celebrate the start of a new semester... reconnect with old friends, make new friends. Music by Old Oak Revival. Food & Fun!

Pool Tournament ◊ Jan. 13 ◊ Finals 2-3 pm, Pool Room
Students will battle against faculty/staff for the title of VHCC Pool Shark. Sign up to participate in ISC 101.

Movie Night ◊ Jan. 14 ◊ 9 pm, Keyser-Aday Theatre
Where the Wild Things Are, a classic tale about figuring out your place in the world, will be shown FREE for everyone. Friends and family welcome—popcorn provided

Vote for a VHCC Mascot ◊ Monday, Jan. 11th-Friday, Jan. 15th, Student Success Center
One vote per person! Voting open 8:30am-6pm, M-Th and 8:30am-2pm, F
Help us choose a mascot!

VHCC Ravens • VHCC Hellbenders • VHCC Wolves



Holiday Hours

Virginia Highlands Community College will be closed for the holidays beginning Thursday, Dec. 24. The campus will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.

Spring Semester classes will begin Jan. 11.

New Tools Available for Job Seekers

Job seekers will soon have access to some new online tools thanks to a collaboration between Virginia's Community Colleges, The Library of Virginia, and LYRASIS, a regional membership organization for libraries and information professionals.

The partnership is creating a customized collection of more than 250 electronic books and reference materials for online career and job seekers. The collection includes information on careers, business, test-taking strategies, résumé writing, and other tools. The resources will be available to public library and community college library users across Virginia through a link on the libraries' online catalogs.

These new resources supplement existing offerings at libraries across the state. Initial access to these free resources can be gained at any community college or public library. Users will be prompted to establish a free account that will allow them to access the resources from any computer with internet access.

"Through technology, we are able to supplement the traditional 'hands on' assistance that is provided on our campuses," said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. "In these economic times we want people who are job hunting to have as many resources as possible."

Virginia's Community Colleges Workforce Development Services used federal stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support this effort as a way to provide valuable information for students and job seekers.

"Virginia's public libraries increasingly are seen as the place to find the resources needed to learn about a new or better career," said Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway.

VHCC students may receive help accessing these resources and receiving help on career preparedness topics by contacting Michael McBride in the Office of Career Planning mmcbride@vhcc.edu or Joel Rudy in the VHCC Library at jrudy@vhcc.edu.