



December 2003

A publication of current events at Halifax Community College



HALIFACTS

*Prestigious
Excellence
in
Teaching Award
2003
presented
to
Dr. Pocahontas S.
Jones*

The Excellence in Teaching (EIT) Award was established in 1985 by the State Board of Community Colleges to provide recognition for full-time teachers who exemplify the highest standards of instruction and professionalism in the classroom and who consistently demonstrate excellent service to their colleges and communities.

The 2003 Excellence in Teaching (EIT) Award recipient is Dr. Pocahontas S. Jones, the head of the science department and a science instructor at HCC.

Born in Roanoke Rapids, Pocahontas Jones grew up with eight siblings on a farm. Jones is the first generation of her family to attend college. She was a biology major at North Carolina Central University, received a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a doctorate in microbiology from Howard University. Along the way, Jones has worked as a research fellow and instructor for various institutions in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Illinois.



Shown from left are Tommy Payne, Chairman James O. Woody, Jr. Dr. Pocahontas Jones, Dr. Ted H. Gasper, Jr. Dr. Jeannette Council

Jones has served as a faculty research fellow at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, the U.S.A. Research Institute of Infectious Disease in Fort Derick, Maryland, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park and on several occasions at the Argonne National Laboratory in Argone, Illinois. Hypertension in minorities and cancer are two of the subjects she has investigated as a research fellow.

At Halifax Community College, Jones teaches in the college transfer, nursing, dental hygiene and medical laboratory technology programs. She supervises the faculty of the science department and since 1994, has served as an advisor to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Jones has published numerous articles including several in *Cancer Research* magazine.

Jones does not limit her public service to the college environment. A Sunday School teacher, Jones has volunteered for Relay for Life and Girl Scouts. She has been a judge for the Halifax County Library's Quiz Bowl for six years. Jones and her husband, Randolph, live in Henrico. They have a son, a daughter, a daughter-in-law, and a cat.

*Season's
Greetings
from
Halifax
Community
College*

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Delores (Dee) Amason retiring after 30 years of service



Dee Amason grew up in Halifax county. Her parents instilled in her the value of education and wanted her to be a teacher. Even though they didn't get to finish high school they told her early on that she was going to college someday, somehow. After graduating from high school she went on to attend North Carolina College which is North Carolina Central University today where she received both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees.

Upon graduating, her image of teachers were little old ladies with sweaters draped neatly around their shoulders sitting behind a desk.

She didn't want to be like what the image portrayed. Instead she chose a career with the federal government US Department of Agriculture where she was employed for ten years. She enjoyed working for the Department of Agriculture where she had access to so many things by living in the Washington, DC area.

Dee moved back to Halifax and immediately started looking for a job with the county school system. A friend who worked for the school system referred her to Halifax County Technical Institute which is today Halifax Community College. She was hired in the business department where she worked prior to being

promoted to Dean of Student Services & Enrollment Management. "At first I didn't want to teach, I came full circle and realized that teaching was the love of my heart. I'll never forget the early days at HCC when the college was located in an old motel on Hwy 301, which currently house the Department of Social Services.

We had unisex facilities long before they were in vogue. There was a real family atmosphere among college faculty and staff. I've seen a lot of things change on the farm and change here. I've seen the emphasis in textbooks change with the times. I taught through quite a few significant events. In other words, the creation of black/white televisions, microwave ovens, man on the moon, Sputnik, first automatic transmission automobile etc. I feel very fortunate to have great memories of my time spent here at Halifax Community College. Memories that will last a lifetime." stated Amason.

Amason plan to spend time with her daddy who just turned 88 years old. She would also like to plant a garden and assist her elderly neighbors in anyway that she can. She also intends to continue to offer her services to Halifax Community College on a part-time basis whenever she may be needed.

The CENTER

at

**HALIFAX
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



The Center is one of Halifax Community College's fondest and longest deferred dreams.

It is a Center for people to come to inspire , to be inspired, to study, create, and perform. To see and hear, to learn and enjoy, to be enriched within the great academic tradition of this college.

This building will help reinforce not only the development of the mind, but of the creative heart and the limitless expression of the human spirit.

Ribbon Cutting at THE CENTER



Shown from left are, Halifax Community College Board of Trustees, Jack L. Moore, Helen B. Brown, Frederick Webb, Jr., Frankie F. Young, Bernella W. DelaMora, Kenneth E. Brantley, Chairman; Roger Dalton; Lillie J. Soloman, Vice-Chairman, Rachel Hux; and Dr. Ted H. Gasper, Jr., HCC President.

Halifax Community College recently hosted a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony to show case the newly constructed Allied Health Multi-Purpose Building. More than 500 people attended the ceremony and ribbon cutting.

The 80,886 square foot state-of-the-art two-story building is home to the allied health programs, which include nursing, nursing assistant, licensed practical nursing and dental hygiene. The building also houses a 1500-seat theatre/auditorium space complete with dressing rooms, a scene shop and ticket office. One thousand of the 1,500 seats are retractable.

The lobby or Gallery will serve as a reception area. This new center will be a venue for educational

programming, community outreach activities, conferences, receptions and banquets as well as be available for public and private rentals.

Construction began on this project in July 2002. Dove, Knight, Whitehurst of Rocky Mount was the architectural firm, and R. L. Casey, Inc. of Greensboro was the general contractor. During the ceremony several citizens spoke about the new building as well as the bond referendum that made the building project possible.

Noted speakers and dignitaries included Dr. Ted H. Gasper, Jr. Halifax Community College President, Kenneth B. Brantley, Chairman, Halifax Community College Board of Trustees,

Brenda Blackburn, President, Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce, Bill Dove Architect, Dove, Knight & Whitehurst P.A., Commy Johnson, General Contractor, R. L. Casey, Carl Curnutte, III, Executive Director for the Center at Halifax Community College and Nikki Johnson, Director of the Center at Halifax Community College.

To obtain additional information regarding the *Center* at Halifax Community College visit the college web site at www.halifaxcc.edu or call (252) 536-HCC1.

BEHIND THE SCENES



Shown left are Nikki Johnson,
Director
and
Carl V. Curnutte, III
Executive Director

Carl V. Curnutte, III Executive Director of the Center at Halifax Community College is a native of Ashland, Kentucky. Carl is a graduate of Morehead State University and now resides in Newport News, Virginia where he is freelance costume designer and production manager.

Most recently, he worked on several feature films including *Havana Nights* shot on location in Puerto Rico with Patrick Swayze and Sela Ward, Chris Rock's *Head of State*, Ted Turner's *Gods and Generals* with Robert Duvall, Disney's *Tuck Everlasting* with Sissy Spacek, *The Recruit* with Al Pacino and Colin Farrell, and *Local Knowledge*.

He has designed costumes for such television series as *Ghost Stories* with Rip Torn, *The New De-*

tectives (Telly Award), *The FBI Files*, *The Prosecutors*, *United Stories of the Navy Seals*, *Daring Capers* (Telly Award) and movies of the week *The Killing Fields* and *Take the Money and Run*. He just completed work on the television series *The Wire* for HBO and the television series *Iron Jawed Angels* with Hillary Swank and Angelica Houston.

He has also worked on such television series as *West Wing* and *Georgetown*. His Broadway Credits include *The Producers* (Tony Award), *Crazy for You* (Tony Award), *Guys and Dolls*, *Private Lives*, *The Royal Family*, and the national tour of *A Christmas Carol*. His numerous video designs have won various awards including the prestigious Cindy Award, given for distinction in video production.

His Company CVC III Designs produces and designs special events across the country. He has been with *The Lost Colony* in Manteo, North Carolina for fifteen years serving as Production Supervisor. He is former recipient of the *The Lost Colony's* Evelyn Russell Layton Award, which recognizes theatre talent.

He was named Volunteer Fund Raiser of the Year for Morehead State University in 2002 and serves on the board for the Department of Theatre. He also serves on the board as a trustee for IATSE Local 487 Motion Picture Studio Mechanics. He also serves on many civic and charitable foundations. In his spare time he enjoys collecting antiques.

Nikki Johnson, Director of The Center at Halifax Community College is from Brooklyn, New York. She has a big heart for the South. She is a proud graduate of Hampton University in Hampton Virginia and a graduate of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia where she received her MFA in Arts Administration.

While in graduate school Nikki served as the president of the Graduate Arts Council of Virginia Tech and was awarded the honor of being the highest funded student organization on campus whose mission focused on bringing cultural arts programming to the college community.

Nikki has worked with Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City in many capacities and with Jazz at Lincoln Center under the direction of its Artistic Director, Wynton Marsalis. Nikki has held the position as Assistant Company Manager for the Boys Choir of Harlem and the Girls Choir of Harlem in New York City and was the Company Manager for TOTAL PRAISE MINISTRY of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Brooklyn, New York.

Nikki brings with her a passion and commitment to the arts and children and is very proud to continue her life's work in Halifax County where her maternal family has its roots. Nikki is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Nikki is glad to be home!

Scenes from ribbon cutting and open house



Dr. Laura Buffaloe, VP of Instructional Services, and Mr. Jack Moore, HCC Trustee

the
 CENTER
 AT
 HALIFAX
 COMMUNITY
 COLLEGE



Left to right-Dr. Ted H. Gasper, Jr., Horace Johnson, County Commissioner



Left to right, guest and HCC employee Susan Reynolds, Kathy Dikeman, volunteer



Dr. Ted H. Gasper, President



Musicians



Allied Health Students



Shown from left are, Dr. Ted H. Gasper, HCC President and Brenda Blackburn, President, RV Chamber of Commerce

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Joy Cooley named dean of evening & weekend programs

Joy Cooley has been named dean of evening & weekend programs at Halifax Community College.

Prior to this appointment, Cooley served as Associate Dean of Continuing Education & Community Services Programs.

As dean of evening & weekend programs, Cooley will be responsible for the Teacher Prep Program which is a collaborative program

with Elizabeth City State University, the Tech Prep program, and the coordination and supervision of all evening and week-end programs. Joy will also oversee the Center at HCC.

Until her replacement is hired Joy will continue her duties as Associate Dean of Continuing Education.

Cooley stated, "I am enjoying the new challenge and appreciate the assistance from all in the curriculum side of the college. " This fall I entered the Higher Education Doctoral program through an East Carolina University cohort here on campus. At my age, I am a testament to lifelong learning."



Joy Cooley, Dean of evening and weekend programs

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Sitting left-right
Teresa Corwin-President
Jennifer Kidd-Secretary
Treasurer

Standing left-right
Beatrice L. Pierce-Public
Information Officer
Michelle Edenbeck-Vice-
President

FOUNDATION NEWS

The cost of attending college in North Carolina has risen steadily over the past several years. Although less expensive than four-year universities, community college tuition has become cost prohibitive for many. In fact, a student enrolled full-time at Halifax Community College can expect to pay about \$1,800 per year for tuition, books and fees.

At this time of the year, we hope you will consider making a gift to the HCC Foundation for scholarships.

There is no better time to establish a scholarship or to make a gift to a fund that is already established.

All gifts are tax-deductible. To learn more, contact Pam Ballew at 536-7239



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Halifax Community College...Going Places

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*Halifax Community College welcomes students and
 employees without regard to race, color, national
 origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.*