

# Halifacts

Fall 2008

*A publication of current events at Halifax Community College*

## HCC Founders Day Celebration Held



*Senator Ed Jones*



*Senator Michael Wray*

Halifax Community College held a Founders Day Ceremony Sept. 9 in The Centre. Senator Ed Jones and Representative Michael H. Wray were the keynote speakers. The event was a celebration of HCC's 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

Jones (Dem.) is a member of the North Carolina General Assembly and represents the state's 4<sup>th</sup> Senate district including the counties of Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, and Perquimans. He described growing up in a single parent household and deciding to attend a technical school, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institution. "If it was not for the Tech, I probably wouldn't be standing here today. It's not about the four-year colleges that you go to or all these degrees in front of your name. It's about getting an education...and you can have a better quality of life," said Jones. "You who have children, don't be afraid to send them to a community college because one day, they could be a senator.

Wray (Dem.) is also a member of the North Carolina General Assembly and represents the state's 27<sup>th</sup> House district including the counties of Northampton, Vance and Warren. He talked about some of the developments from the General Assembly's last session. "Community colleges are the workhorse of the state economically," said Wray, who reported that in the past two years, the General Assembly has made many investments in these institutions. For the fiscal year, the state spent about one billion dollars on community colleges. "I think that we get great value for our monies," he added.

HCC President Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr. acknowledged the area's legislators and referred to them as "stalwart supporters." He also highlighted enrollment numbers for the fall 2008 semester. Among these figures, HCC experienced an increase in full-time, overall enrollment of more than four percent.

## HCC Goes Wireless



The HCC campus now offers a wireless student network. Students with a wireless (Wi-Fi) device such as a laptop, smart phone, and iPod Touch, among others, can access the network.

The wireless area covers the Quiet Room in the 300 Building, the cafeteria, and the student pavilion. Faculty and staff can also connect to the wireless student network.

According to Information Systems Manager Jerry Thompson, this is an important benefit to students. "Instead of driving home, they can work in the designated areas, individually or in study groups," he said.

## Message from the President



Our fall semester has gotten off to a great start. We welcomed a large number of students during orientation and student forum events.

This year, our Enrollment Management goal was to increase our numbers. Our faculty and staff went into schools, communities and businesses to share information about HCC. Last year's fall enrollment was 1,325. This fall, enrollment was 1,377 overall, representing a four percent increase. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who worked diligently to meet these goals.

We also celebrated our 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary during our Founders Day event. It was a wonderful time for all and gave our students a chance to see our state legislators in person. Many thanks to Senator Jones and Rep. Wray for taking time out of their busy schedules to join us on campus.

As HCC prepares for reaccreditation in 2011 with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, it is important for us to review our mission, vision and values statements to see if updates are needed. Utilizing a committee spearheaded by Dr. Joy Cooley, we studied our existing statements and decided to draft new ones for consideration. We are currently soliciting input from our many constituents in the Roanoke Valley and plan to complete that process very soon.

As you can see, we have been quite busy on campus and will continue to be so for the remainder of the year. Feel free to stop by campus, call us at (252) 536-HCC1 (4221) or visit us online at [www.halifaxcc.edu](http://www.halifaxcc.edu). Remember, HCC is where "Learning Comes to Life in Pursuit of Excellence."

## HCC student awarded Coca-Cola Scholarship



HCC student Rebecca Simmons has been awarded a Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship. It is a \$1,000 award and only 350 are available nationally. Selection was based on academic record and ongoing commitment to community service. Currently, Simmons has an overall 3.94 GPA. The scholarship was made possible through a grant to the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation.

An Associate in Arts major, Simmons plans to become an elementary school teacher, either teaching second-graders or possibly leading a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade science class. After graduating in May 2009, she plans to transfer to Elizabeth City State University to finish her education degree.

A peer tutor at HCC, Simmons is also a toddler teacher assistant at her church and a member of the women's auxiliary group. She is a volunteer fire fighter with Gaston Fire Department and is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa, where she is currently serving as president.

Along with giving service to her community, Simmons has also served her country. At age 18, she joined the National Guard and has traveled across the country and the world. In fact, in 2003 and 2004, she served in the U.S. Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Simmons said she was naturally excited to receive notification of the scholarship. She is a wife and mother of three children ages 1, 2 and 5.

## Whitaker plans to make a difference



HCC student Carol Whitaker really wants to make a difference. The Associate in Arts (Teacher Prep) student plans to transfer to Elizabeth City State University after graduation in 2009 to become a teacher—ultimately for first graders. To help her on her way, Whitaker was recently named the recipient of the *Daily Herald* Women in Business annual scholarship and had the opportunity to address a crowd gathered for the Women in Business luncheon in June.

The Enfield native chose to attend HCC because it was close to home. She would like to be able to stay in Halifax County and teach in one of the area schools. "My dream is to make a difference in some child's life, and some day it will become true."

While at HCC, Whitaker has been a work study student in Student Services and has helped as a volunteer for various events. She is a scholarship recipient, an Ambassador, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society where she serves as its induction officer for the 2008-09 school year and maintains a 3.82 GPA. She is also a mentor, an usher board member, secretary of the Awana Youth program and a Vacation Bible School teacher at her church.

After graduating from high school, Whitaker went to work at Tyco Plastics. "After 17 years, I realized that I no longer wanted a job, I wanted a career." She is also the mother of a 10-year-old daughter and she has a stepson and a grandchild.

## Edwards Selected for Trustee Leadership Award

Dr. Stanley Edwards, chairperson of the HCC Board of Trustees, has been chosen as the recipient of the 2008 Southern Regional Trustee Leadership Award, according to an official notification from Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Southern Regional Chair Greg Schuckman. The Southern Region is made up of trustees representing community colleges in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Bermuda.

Edwards was unanimously nominated by the HCC Board of Trustees at the May 27 meeting. Frank Avent, vice-chair, noted that "During Dr. Edwards' tenure on the board and most recently as chairperson, he has helped HCC and the Board of Trustees to heal and refocus our attention on serving students and the service region of HCC."

"We are elated that Dr. Edwards has been recognized for his stellar leadership and vision our college now enjoys because of his untiring work on behalf of the students and citizens of our service region," said Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr.

After learning that he had received the award, Edwards said, "I am very humbled by this recognition from my colleagues in the southern region and the HCC Board of Trustees. We are a team at HCC and this award is not for me personally, but is for all members of the board of trustees at our college. I could not do my job without the trust and support of the total HCC Board of Trustees."

As a recipient, he will be the sole nominee from the region for the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award that will be presented during the upcoming ACCT Annual Community College Leadership Congress in New York City, Oct. 29-Nov. 1.



Edwards serves many other community organizations including the Weldon City Board of Education (vice-chair), First Baptist Church of Weldon (deacon), Upper Coastal Plains Learning Council (member), and the Weldon-Halifax Community Center (Board of Directors member). He is married to the former Bertha Kornegay and has three children: Mark, Valerie, and DeVaughn.

## The QEP Update



*QEP members: Jason Bone, Verna High, Sherry Agee, Carolyn Stuart, James McCachren, and Julie Dilday. Theresa Raymond, SGA president, has also been added to the team.*

The college is scheduled for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS COC) in 2011. As part of the process, HCC is undergoing a self-assessment procedure in order to improve the quality of its programs and services and meet SACS standards.

One part of the SACS requirement is that a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) be developed. The plan is a focused, succinct record of a broad-based, institutional process of identifying issues in student learning and a well-developed plan for improving student learning. It will focus on the selection of a topic and the plan's

development. To accomplish this, HCC has appointed Dr. Julie P. Dilday as the QEP coordinator and she has created a QEP team.

Initial plans include holding informational meetings, development and implementation of faculty, staff, student and community surveys, participation in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, and focus groups. The team is charged with developing questions for a new student survey, and developing new and creative ideas for data gathering and QEP promotion.

For more information, visit [www.halifaxcc.edu/SACS/QEP/](http://www.halifaxcc.edu/SACS/QEP/).

## HCC Enfield Off-Campus Center Boasts Internet

The HCC—Enfield Off Campus Center now offers high speed Internet access. The public can take advantage of this service from 4-6 p.m., Mondays and 10 a.m.-12 noon, Wednesdays.

There is no cost for using the computers during the public access times. The center previously had Internet access through an E-NC Grant; however, when the grant ended three years ago, the college did not have the funding to continue to provide access.

"Fortunately, this fiscal year, HCC is once again able to provide this valuable service to residents of Enfield and surrounding communities. We hope everyone will take full advantage of public access, as well as other courses that are offered at the Enfield Center," said HCC Dean of Continuing Education & Community Services Vera Palmer.

For more information, contact Martha Carroll, site coordinator, at (252) 445-5684.



Bookstore personnel had these eye-catching T-shirts created to remind students to keep their receipts as classes began for the fall semester. The Student Services team, faculty and Continuing Education staff put a lot of extra effort into increasing enrollment this year. Team members visited schools and businesses to spread the word about HCC and they stayed late during registration to serve every student. The campus reaped the reward for all the hard work: enrollment was up four percent overall.



**Big Smiles on Little Faces**

This children's variety show will include clowns, magicians and a ventriloquist.  
**October 11, 12 pm and 4 pm** Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

**3rd Annual Halloween Trick or Treat Trail**

The Best Trick or Treat Maze in Eastern North Carolina!  
**Friday, October 31, 6pm until 9 pm**  
Tickets are \$1 per trip through the maze

**Dead Legends and Retro DJ Dance**

Join us for an evening of resurrected hits by John Lennon, Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly, Elvis, and Jim Morrison narrated by Rod Serlin.

**Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door (This is a limited seating show)**  
**VIP Tables are available for \$250 for a table of 8. Reserve yours now!**

**Moscow Ballet's**

**Great Russian Nutcracker**

Imaginative storytelling blends with Russian classical dance. A performance not to be missed.  
**Tickets are \$20 - \$55**



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



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