

IN THE CHRONICLE



TCC - Their Stepping Stone

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Middle College brings juniors to TCC for academics, and more/page 6

YOUR TCC

Over the top –
TCC brings in a record
\$32,202
for CVC 2004.
Thanks for giving

Behind every graduate . . . TCC's team

As TCC celebrates its 39th commencement program on Dec. 17, honoring approximately 1,000 graduates with associate degrees, certificates or diplomas, a timely opportunity arises. It's time to take a look "behind the curtain," to ask, what makes a student go the distance? Indeed, what brings TCC students through the door day after day, studying everything from geometry to photography, until they graduate or reach their goals? Or, perhaps the question should be, "Who serves as the wind beneath their feet?"

"The TCC faculty and staff provide the environment, but our students bring the drive," says David Steinhauer, professor of occupational safety and drafting at the Portsmouth Campus. TCC supports that drive in many ways, from the classroom experience to well-being through counseling to safety on campus and to "positive thinking" on so many fronts.

"I absolutely love what I do. When students come in, I am very positive; I believe in them, so they can believe in themselves," says Laetitia Priest, associate professor of French at the Virginia Beach Campus. "One of our roles is to help students discover the areas in which they excel and then guide them in those directions."

Guidance follows many paths at TCC. Integral to the learning process, campus counselors help students plan schedules and refer them to specialized services if the need arises. "We try to be what each student needs, when they need it," explains Carolyn Williams, Norfolk Campus counselor. "We have to connect with students. We don't make decisions

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It takes a team effort to encourage, motivate and support successful students who graduate and reach their goals at TCC. Most of the work goes on daily behind the scenes, diligently with a mix of inspiration and perspiration. Here, representing TCC's exemplary service to the college's mission of student access and success, meet (left to right, lower to upper rows) David Steinhauer, Phil Everhart, Gerald Bright; Gary Medlin, Pat Allison, Laetitia Priest, Sue Koopman; Anne Pinkerton, Mary Thomas; Carolyn Williams and Rick Alley.

A TOAST TO TCC AND UVA – A NEW PARTNERSHIP



ON NOV. 4, THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AND TCC publicly unveiled a new baccalaureate program designed specifically for TCC students and recent alumni. The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program - the first baccalaureate delivered by UVA off-campus to a community college - gives TCC students the chance to earn a UVA degree on TCC campuses. "This is an intellectually rich degree with a self-directing population of students," said UVA President John Casteen in his speech, noting the program may become a state model. "This partnership provides means to create a piece of distinctiveness and validation of the TCC experience," stated TCC President Deborah DiCroce in a toast that included the first class of 24 students, UVA faculty and the TCC support team. In its inaugural semester, the program has enrolled Hampton Roads students of diverse ages, backgrounds and walks of life - from a grandmother to a shipyard technician to an IT entrepreneur to a finance assistant. For BIS program information, search www.tcc.edu or call TCC's Information Center at 822-1122.

Countdown to commencement

Commencement. It's a day to remember for students, but for those behind the scenes, it's a well-choreographed flurry of activities. From securing the facility to ordering greenery to booking the caterer to scheduling the color guard to hiring sound specialists, planning for this day begins months in advance.

"Our committee has been working together for so long that we've got it down to a science," says Ocieola Newby, TCC's special events coordinator. "We start by going over our game plan and making modifications if necessary." Committee

members are Ocieola Newby, Fritz Zeisberg, Pat Allison, Liz Blalock, Gerald Bright, Vernon Cramer, Phil Everhart, Sandy Harris, Randy Isaacs, Kevin McCarthy, Gary Medlin, Randy Shannon and Shawnricka Squiers.

Well before the day arrives, Newby and the committee do an on-site review, meeting at the center to iron out all of the details. "When the day comes, we want everything in place, so there are no last-minute surprises," Newby adds.

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Behind every graduate

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for students but, at times, we do redirect them. By earning their trust, they know we have their best interest at heart." Williams and other counselors note the value of campus programs like the Women's Center, the Open Door Project, the Transfer and Career Center, disability services and more.

Attention to student needs pivots on a desire to open minds to new ideas. "Because we spend so much time together in labs, my students, in a way, become mine for life. The trick is to have a hook and get them interested," says Anne Pinkerton, biology professor at the Norfolk Campus. "My work opens the whole world of science to them and transforms their lives."

Campus librarians have a similar stake with a focus on connecting students to tools for learning. "I spend a lot of time walking around the library helping students find materials. Often, new students, or those returning after some time, are surprised by the changes we've made," says Mary Thomas, librarian for the Chesapeake Campus.

The Internet has enhanced what libraries offer. Along with books, magazines, newspapers and videos,

"We're in the business of transforming lives. One of my students dropped out of high school and delivered pizzas for a year. I don't know what he would have done without TCC. He came back to school and from here moved on to Virginia Wesleyan College and American University. He's now embedded with U.S. troops in Iraq, working as a photo-journalist for a major news organization."

— Laetitia Priest

students now have access to a myriad of electronic resources. With TCC a member of the Virtual Library of Virginia, students can get information from most universities and colleges in the Commonwealth. And online librarians smooth the path for distance learners who need access from their homes or offices.

From full-time students with jobs to working single moms, the typical TCC student is anything but typical. Most have extremely busy lives and juggle work, family and school. "We understand the demands they face, and plan programming accordingly," says Pat Allison, college-wide student activities coordinator. "Building that sense of community, bringing the four campuses together is what we're all about. We round out our students' college experiences by providing opportunities for community involvement, connecting them with clubs in their degree areas and simply having fun together."

Keeping up with 21st century demands for today's student moves from activities and programming to making technology serve student goals. TCC's web site gets over 50,000 hits daily and powers the college's online offerings and hybrid courses. "Our web site is our door to the world and it has to work," says Sue Koopman, web services manager. "The online class schedule is the initial reason students come to our site - and we update it daily."

In terms of daily "access for success" at TCC, it starts with facilities. "When students arrive each day, we want them to feel welcome and not distracted by their surroundings," says Phil Everhart, construction supervisor for the district office of facilities management. From setting thermostats to performing equipment checks, facilities staff open and run the campuses each day.

The department also responds to building emergencies and works to make classrooms more efficient, redesigning

spaces as needed. "Most of the time you don't see us at work. We're behind the scenes, but we're the first called if something isn't working right," explains Everhart.

On duty 24/7, TCC's security force builds upon the operational flow of the college. "If we see that a bulb is out or a door doesn't lock, we work with facilities personnel to ensure that all areas are well lit and doors secured," adds Gerald Bright, security director.

Bright and his officers are the first line of defense handling any disruptions to learning. "We want students to be unconcerned about their surroundings, so they can learn in a safe environment," Bright says. "We're there as a support system - sometimes simply answering questions or giving directions and, sometimes, helping students in trouble by referring them to campus counselors or places like the Women's Center."

Helping guide students appears as a common thread in the TCC community. "Students come for real practical reasons, but they're all hungry for knowledge and the chance to better themselves," adds Rick Alley, English professor at the Chesapeake Campus. "Showing students that they have some real writing skills that are valuable in school and out - giving them a way to tell their own life story is so rewarding."

In some cases, against stiff challenges, students persevere with faculty recognizing their efforts and cheering them on. "I see a lot of personal complications and many students working very, very hard to get through. It's quite rewarding to see. In my 25 years with TCC, the college has made great strides in providing support programs and opportunities to help students be successful," notes Steinhauer.

Students with learning disabilities or physical challenges succeed at TCC with help from disabilities services counselors on all campuses. "We see the faculty as the first line of defense. They motivate and accommodate students," says Gary Medlin, disability services coordinator at the Virginia Beach Campus. TCC is the only college in the commonwealth offering testing services for students with learning disabilities. "Once diagnosed, we are able to provide accommodations and tools

"I had one student who hadn't found himself and was lacking direction. His family convinced him to take the business route, so he applied himself and was doing very well. Then he was required to take a literature course, and that one course turned into three courses. I'd see him carrying major literary works around that were not assigned for class. He's now at George Mason University studying with a Pulitzer prize-winning poet."

— Rick Alley

to help them in the classroom," Medlin explains.

Believing that TCC's motivated students each deserve a future with doors opened to success, faculty and staff serve as underwriters invested in their lives. "As students leave us and move on to bright futures, we want them to have a sense that they've achieved their goals," says Alley. "We play so many roles," adds Pinkerton, "From cheerleader to mentor to guide - all while getting the facts across. But ultimately it's up to them."

"America is the only place where you get this second chance. In Europe, if students do poorly in high school, they're finished - the chance for a good career has passed them by," explains Priest. "But here, through the gates of the community college anyone can start over and succeed."



Ocieola Newby and a TCC team make ready for graduation twice a year.

Countdown to commencement

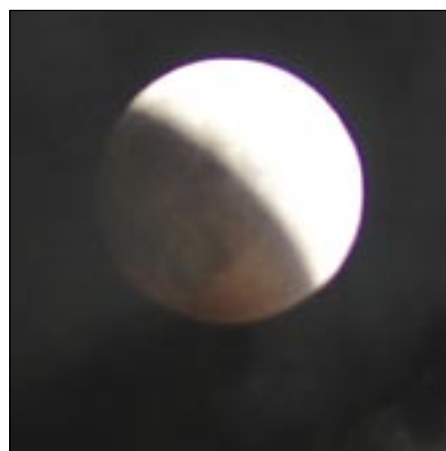
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They check the facility again the day before the event, ensuring that the stage and backdrop are set, chairs are in place, and that various "green" rooms are ready - they will serve as gathering places for the platform party, graduates, faculty, band and color guard.

It's commencement day and the ceremony is set for 7 p.m. Newby arrives at noon and performs a final check of the facility. Zeisberg comes next. He works with Newby to handle event details; working together they put out "fires" in every area from seating to security.

A short while later, committee members arrive, each with a job to do to ensure the day runs smoothly. From lining up graduates to rehearsing with the student speaker to welcoming the platform party, members work quickly and quietly to make the day a success.

It's a flawless finish. "We run these events on the button, synchronizing our watches and working closely together," Newby adds. "It looks effortless out front. That's because we've got a great team working tirelessly to keep it all going." And, she adds, it's not too soon to start preparing for May . . .



A BELLA LUNA . . . Moonbeams and shadows in shades of red made up the rare, full lunar eclipse documented by Astronomy Club members who gathered at the Portsmouth Campus on Oct 27. The spectacular show began near 9 p.m. and continued for several hours, clearly visible in Hampton Roads. *TCC Chronicle* photographer and instructor Sam Hughes captured the process in moonlit color.

A closer look – TCC graduation-speaker candidates

Every TCC commencement features a student speaker who represents the graduating class, who will share his or her view of life and the TCC experience with the thousands in attendance. Speaker candidates represent TCC's diverse student body and are chosen for their scholarly achievements, as well as their community and campus involvement.

Graduation speaker – Jerry Ortiz

Midway through a 21-year Navy career Jerry Ortiz found his true calling - teaching. After retiring from the Navy, Ortiz enrolled at TCC to begin the journey that will take him to the head of the classroom. "TCC has given me the opportunity to learn in one of the finest collegiate institutions and to take that knowledge to the place of my success - which could be anywhere," Ortiz says.

Active on the Norfolk Campus, Ortiz serves as the Student Government Association president, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) member and secretary, founding member of the Debate Club, Student Federation member and Student Success Committee member. He's an honor student graduating with a liberal arts degree.

Planning a career as a history professor, Ortiz has already begun taking courses at Old Dominion University. Ortiz and his wife Kathleen have seven children and call Hampton Roads home.

Lorraine Perez – student speaker runner-up

Getting married and having two babies put Lorraine Perez's college education on the back burner. "I wasn't sure when



Jerry Ortiz

I started at TCC where this would lead me. What I've found is that being able to specialize in international business helps me expand my cultural knowledge and prepare for a good job, too," Perez says.

Perez has been active on the Portsmouth Campus serving as PTK vice president and a tutor of Spanish, English, math and other subjects in the tutoring lab. Actively involved in student government she also participates in college-wide activities like United Way Day of Caring and the Race for the Cure. "The leadership skills I've developed through PTK have been wonderful and the support of the faculty has kept me going," she adds.

Graduating with honors with a business administration degree, Perez will continue at TCC one more year to pursue a second degree in acquisitions and procurement. From there, she plans to transfer to



Lorraine Perez

Old Dominion University to study international business. "I needed college to fit into my life and it has," Perez says. "I've enjoyed this learning environment more than any other in my life."

Keywi Terry – student speaker runner-up

A native of Hampton Roads, Keywi Terry moved to South Carolina for his high school years. He started college at the College of Charleston, but returned to Hampton Roads to care for his grandmother. "I was working full time, going to school and taking care of my grandmother. Life was hectic, trying to do it all, but my spirit was not broken," says Terry.

A self-proclaimed people person, Terry has been active on the Virginia Beach Campus. "For me it's been more about the



Keywi Terry

people and the positive influence you can have on them."

Terry serves as Student Government senator and former president, Student Federation member and former acting president, a certified peer educator and PTK member. He's also active in the community, participating in events like United Way Day of Caring, American Heart Walk and the Higher Ed build with Habitat for Humanity.

Graduating with a liberal arts degree, Terry plans to continue at TCC to get a second degree in science and from there attend the University of Virginia to study medicine. "I've been successful because I have the motivation from within to achieve, and I've built a support group behind me," Terry adds. "Once the professors here see that you are motivated, they build on that and go out of their way to help you." 🌟

A three-hour trip nets lessons in sea chemistry, creatures



Students pack the deck of TCC's research boat, the Maury, as they head out for labs at sea.

TCC research vessel has shared the sea with over 4,000 people

Transparent baby squid, small fish and angry blue crabs squirmed and scuttled in a pan on the deck of the R/V Matthew F. Maury one recent crisp Sunday morning. Crouched down or leaning over the catch, 16 earth-science students showed no fear, touching and observing without a squeal or nervous giggle.

Their three-hour trip had begun with instructions the likes of, "If you're feeling sick, hang out by the back railing; the fish have to eat, too." Determined to complete their labs in navigation and weather, sediments, and water chemistry, the group planted their feet as the throttle yanked the former Navy patrol boat forward.

Brave souls, tough outdoor types? Not necessarily - but many of these TCC



"The salinity is on the right, in parts per 1,000," yells Roger Harrington over the engine noise. He takes turns with lab-cruise instructor Johnny Waugh, teaching use of a hand refractometer to measure water chemistry and to operate the soil sampler that drags the sea bottom.

students represent a future generation of K-12 teachers, undaunted by ocean swells, mucky test soil and sea creatures. They come aboard the Maury to fulfill required labs - more importantly, to grasp a scientific hands-on foundation to impart to kids someday in their charge.

"The Maury puts our students out in the elements, where their class subjects become real," says Michael Lyle, instructor in the geophysical sciences department that offers geology, oceanography and earth-science classes. An Army National Guardsman, Lyle and his crew manage to spend dozens of weekends at sea with students.

"We get majors from across the college in our classes, not just the sciences," adds Lyle, noting they range from criminal justice to humanities. When oceanography and earth-science courses started years ago, most of the students were already teachers pursuing earth-science certifications. "Now most are transfer students, with a number of those planning to become teachers," he says. The R/V Maury has taken about 2,900 TCC students to sea, hosted 63 non-TCC researchers, served 1,160 participants of community-service projects, and opened the eyes of 140 youngsters on local school trips.

"This is part of what I need to know (to be a teacher); and it's pretty cool," says Cristina Hood, joined by Melissa Bunch who unreservedly held and examined tiny squid from the Maury's catch. Eager to share her natural curiosity, Bunch says, "I always knew I wanted to be a teacher." Matt Rille, however, aims for a career in conservation science after a transfer to Old Dominion University - "I've always loved nature and the environment; being out on the Maury is great." 🌟

Thanks to the Navy and efforts of U.S. Congressman Owen Pickett, in 1996 TCC acquired and named the R/V Matthew F. Maury - one of the first Seacraft Swift boats created for Vietnam service, but one that saw only stateside training duty. Michael Lyle, who oversaw the transition from a Navy patrol boat to research vessel, earned his captain's license to make the Maury a functioning part of TCC's curriculum service. The Maury takes classes to sea during semester lab trips.

Sometimes accompanied by dolphins, the Maury can best 20 knots and range 500 miles, powered by twin 12v71 Detroit diesels. A winch and boom on the stern deck can lift 500 lbs. and has, indeed, harvested some interesting sea finds, notably a bedspring, a boulder, huge sea rays and eels, says Lyle. On a serious side, he notes the sea labs provoke constant awareness of environmental issues in the Chesapeake Bay.



New and old veterans of TCC's research boat, the Maury, all say the experience relieves stress. From left to right are earth-science teacher and deckhand RoseAnn Behson, instructor and equipment rigger Johnny Waugh, captain/instructor Michael Lyle, instructor Roger Harrington and pharmacy technician and equipment rigger/deckhand Michelle Tanner.

Helping those who help others

TCC and The Norfolk Foundation have launched the Academy for Nonprofit Excellence, announced by their presidents to a packed room on Nov. 4. The Academy will offer an array of continuing education courses to help nonprofit organizations excel in their work.

Funded through a \$72,000 grant from The Norfolk Foundation, the Academy is administered by TCC's Workforce Development Division. The program will provide ongoing, in-depth training for both newcomers and seasoned professionals and board members of area nonprofits.

Addressing the purpose of the Academy, TCC President Deborah DiCroce said, "We as nonprofits must be able to act like businesses; we must benchmark to the very best. That includes partnerships . . . Our collective success is going to be driven in part by our individual successes, collectively."

The Norfolk Foundation President Angelica Light pointed to TCC's enthusiasm for the project as a harbinger of success. "When Dr. DiCroce said, 'yes, of course, this is something we can and would want to do,' I knew we were headed in the right direction."

Initial course offerings run the gamut from strategic planning and management to marketing and communications to program evaluation and development and fundraising. "Our courses are packed with practical applications that can be taken back to the workplace and used immediately," says Lillian Bailey, Academy program coordinator.



Dozens of representatives of nonprofit Hampton Roads organizations gathered Nov. 4 to hear about the new Academy for Nonprofit Excellence. Left, Angelica Light, president of The Norfolk Foundation, discusses the news with guest speaker Russell Cargo, executive director of the Nonprofit Enterprise Institute, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Theresa Bryant, TCC vice president for workforce development.

TCC will offer 10 courses annually, each running two full days at the Norfolk or Virginia Beach campuses. "We've been talking with community leaders and nonprofit executives about their training needs for several years," explains Leigh Evans Davis, vice president of community philanthropy for The Norfolk Foundation. "It became clear that there's a need for concentrated training in key areas."

Expert instructors will lead the courses, providing a real-world view on each topic.

Students who complete 10 courses over time will be awarded a certificate of nonprofit management.

"There's a real demand for training and continuing education to improve staff efficiency and effectiveness and aid in retention," adds Mike Hughes, president of United Way of South Hampton Roads. "Once the demand is met locally, and quality improvements are made, this could well become a national model."

Courses run \$65 for each two-day session and begin in January. For more information call 822-1170 or visit www.tcc.edu/wd/academy.

Atrium flight – engineers in training



Enthralled - Virginia Beach High School and TCC students drew crowds to watch them race model cable cars in the ATC atrium.

The Advanced Technology Center atrium became a hot spot on Nov. 16, filled with the hubbub and chatter of dozens of TCC and Virginia Beach High School students excitedly in pursuit of a common goal: to race a kit cable car down and back a 40-foot wire. TCC's Engineering Club held the model cable-car competition with 12 teams of high school students from the ATC along with 18 teams or individual entries from the TCC engineering program.

The entrants each built a vehicle using a motor from Radio Shack, a 9V battery, and any other materials they desired. The cable car needed to travel the length, crash into a wooden barrier at the end, and return. A photo gate recorded starting and stopping times, similar to sensors that stop a garage door from closing on a car.

The competition proved challenging - only 12 of the 30 cable cars finished the course, but nearly all made it at least half way through. Many failed when they slammed into the board at the end of the track, scattering parts on the first floor below. TCC engineering students captured first and second place while ATC high school students took third and fourth place.

Paul Gordy, TCC engineering professor, notes, "It was great to see ATC high school



Salvija Hofheimer fine tunes her cable car.

students and TCC engineering students participating together. This is our second year sponsoring a joint competition and we hope to keep it as an annual event." To see pictures or video highlights compiled by TCC's Tom Lee, visit Gordy's web site, <http://onlinelearning.tcc.edu/faculty/tcgordp>.



HOLIDAY CHEER ON WHEELS . . .

Sharmon Jones, Arvie Larsen and Pam Crossland deliver 300 treat-filled stockings to the Salvation Army's stuff-a-socking headquarters. TCC staffers filled each one with treats. The Salvation Army hopes to collect 13,000 stockings in Southside Hampton Roads, each designed to bring Christmas joy to a needy child.



A STORM BREWS AT TCC . . .

TCC's new mascot, The Storm, came to life during the Grand Illumination Parade in downtown Norfolk last month. The student-inspired character plays on a mix of super-hero strength and the power of the weather known only too well in Hampton Roads. The Storm - with his silver-blue costume, "charged hair" and lightning bolt in hand - will appear at TCC sports events and other student activities throughout the year, across the four campuses.

SEASONAL FLOWER POWER



STAR-SHAPED BOTANICAL WONDERS PRIME THE SPIRIT FOR HOLIDAY GATHERINGS. The horticulture program on TCC's Chesapeake Campus grows poinsettias each year to fund raise through community sales while applying skills.

From cruise ships to aircraft carriers

TCC develops innovative workforce training

An industry that pits mind and hands-on skill against steel and technology now faces an aging, shrinking workforce - ship repair seeks a future through training across today's spectrum of technology, innovation and management.

Stepping into the breach a few years ago, TCC connected with the South Tidewater Association of Ship Repairers (STASR) to address unmet challenges of an industry that employs 37,000 people earning \$940 million in wages. The resulting three-year U.S. Department of Labor-funded program saw 300 ship-repair employees participate in training. Among them, 150 underwent industrial supervision curriculum, half of whom are now pursuing an associate's degree at TCC. The results have impressed everyone involved, leading TCC to new efforts with maritime education.

"The collaboration among TCC, the U.S. Department of Labor, Virginia's Department of Labor and Industry, and the captains of this critical industry is clearly a model for future endeavors," says President Deborah DiCroce. "This bears directly on our workforce development mission, in this case, to feed the pipeline-starved ship-repair industry with targeted training."

Outreach to the ship-repair industry began with collaborative engagement of two key state legislators - Sen. Leo Wardrup and Sen. Frank Wagner, industry representatives and TCC staff in workforce development, academic and grants areas. Sen. Wardrup authored a bill last year, pending in the General Assembly, which would allow for annual funding of shipyard worker scholarships at TCC.

"One of the most notable results we've seen already is that nearly half of the Career Studies Certificate graduates have enrolled at TCC to complete a degree," says Barbara

Partnership programs resonate at TCC, especially a recent program with the maritime industry in Hampton Roads that faces an aging workforce and a lack of supervisory employees.

Murray, TCC Maritime and Ship Repair Center director. "They're fired-up on education, some of them for the first time in their lives." Many of them are pursuing the industrial supervision A.A.S. degree developed by TCC in close cooperation with STASR.

"This program gives our employees incentive to show they can advance in their field," say Rick and Sharon Williams, owners of Auxiliary Systems. Two of their sons graduated from the program, and nearly 25 percent of their employees participated.

Noting the importance of industry workers learning management skills, Rick Williams explains, "(The program) has been extremely useful and, most importantly, it teaches people to ask 'why'? What we need are more interested, aggressive, thinking-on-the-job employees."

Certificate graduate Willie Lewis of Tecnico Corp., nicknamed "valedictorian" by his class peers, discovered a newfound love of learning and plans to finish his degree at TCC - maybe beyond. "I have two daughters that I want to be a model for - they've started at TCC and I want to show them we can all do it."

Other benefits cited by graduates and employers point to average salary increases of 9.3 percent, job moves into more than 20 new supervisory categories, greater teamwork and increased problem-solving skills.

"Preparing us for supervisory positions

was challenging - but we all clicked," says Jolean Halford of George G. Sharp Inc. "In this program you get to know your team, your job roles; you learn what everybody else does . . . The bond we grew in this group is the bond of ship repair."

The program's success has put TCC on an expertise level that prompted assignment to the new Governor's Taskforce for Maritime Skills Training Initiative with more than 20 maritime leaders in Virginia. The taskforce, charged with identifying workforce training needs, will plan further program development for the maritime and ship-repair industries in the state.

Advancing the mission to a new level, TCC has established the Maritime and Ship Repair Center based at the Portsmouth Campus. "Our industry associates have clearly laid out a pipeline need that focuses on desirability and value of the work, that it should become a viable track in high schools," says Murray. "With that in mind, not only will we focus on expanding TCC's ship-repair degree curriculum, we will investigate development of programs that reach high-school students."



Positive results from the DOL-grant education and training also include Norshipco - which sent 100 employees through the program - contracting with TCC to plan and facilitate a new apprenticeship program at their shipyard. This program will enroll 50 students in TCC each year, leading up to 200 TCC/apprenticeship students by 2008.

"With the constant battle for training funds in any organization, we've benefited greatly from the DOL-grant program," adds Joe Williams, vice president of shipyard operations at Norshipco. "With a total value of over \$176,000, it allowed some of our semi-skilled employees to polish up on core-competencies in the trade and enhanced our supervisors' ability to manage a diverse workforce in today's environment." From welding to integrated software training, TCC proved an able partner, he says, noting the strong collaboration that embraced on-site training.

The program's success fueled Norshipco's decision to collaborate further and restart its apprenticeship program as well as reach out to high schools. "It's important to the industry that we partner to fill the spots vacated by our senior workers as they retire," explains Williams.

TCC adjunct instructor Jon Jorgensen of Lyon Shipyard who specializes in teaching occupational safety enthusiastically applauds the upcoming TCC initiatives and its just-completed program. "A key success point in what we've been doing is to bring technicians over to the human side of management; to give them people skills. And, turning these folks back on to learning - it's a group dynamic that blossoms."

"But we have an ongoing challenge - we've got to develop a pipeline to lower our average workforce age of nearly 50. Hampton Roads is going to continue to be home to the nation's ships for hundreds of years. Are we going to be here to fix them?"

Vice President of Workforce Development Theresa Bryant says such



"We applaud the hard work of the men and women who stayed the course, and commend the many who are continuing on to earn an associate degree," said President DiCroce to recent graduates of the ship-repair grant program. Industry heads feted the last graduates on Nov. 3. Left, Ray Davenport, commissioner, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, President DiCroce and TCC's Barbara Murray congratulate participants.



Ship-repair program graduates share aspirations; left to right, Willie Lewis, Jolean Halford, Seth Walker, Matt Williams and Delaine Johnson. "It's good for the next generation entering ship repair to see they can get ahead," says Williams.

workforce challenges will see resolution through committed partnerships and collaboration like the DOL grant. "The ship-repair initiatives are now a part of our fabric; they're embedded in our mission and our leadership's strategic planning."

Ship-repair industry leadership agrees that workforce development needs can't be met solely in-house. "We recognize that we don't need to be recreating the training - that TCC can do it," says Malcolm Branch, STASR executive director. "This whole program of preparing leaders is vital. I see us working closer and closer over time."

"Our high hopes for TCC's first Ship Repair Initiative have clearly been realized, and we've established a good line of communication between the ship-repair industry and TCC," says Leo Marshall, former head of STASR who led the participation of 19 ship-repair firms in Hampton Roads. "From Norshipco and Northrop Grumman to Earl Industries and Tecnico, we all came onboard this venture. We knew this was key to our growth as an industry. We're grateful to TCC, to the president and Linda Rice (TCC's first vice president for workforce development, now Chesapeake Campus provost) who had the vision to drive the initiative forward . . . with all the momentum we've gained, it will be exciting to see what's next."

"Digital home" training at TCC

Digital" or "intelligent" houses have become increasingly commonplace in today's whirlwind of new home development, where technology plays a lead role.

Homeowners of the 21st century can ratchet up from the earlier "smart homes," now enabling networked and automated entertainment systems, utilities, security, heating and air conditioning, lighting, and sprinkler systems. "With the push of a button, a homeowner can set the stage for an evening at home, turning on gas logs, heating, television and task lighting," explains Joe Mann, TCC's information technology specialist in workforce development.

"People taking these courses are already highly-trained professionals," adds Mann. "By adding this skill set, they can expand their businesses and meet homeowners demands."

But, successfully integrated systems rely on well-trained installers. To help assure standards of quality, TCC is launching training that prepares technicians for national certification to install and network digitally-based home systems. CompTIA, in conjunction with a number of companies such as Best Buy, Sears and CompUSA, has developed a program to qualify such technicians for the Home Technology Integrator (HTI+) certification.

The HTI+ certification serves as the new standard for homeowners and companies, demonstrating that HTI+ certified professionals have mastered the complexities of networking a home's diverse products.

The certification is for those in the information technology field, building trades, electrical work, HVAC installation, audio/video integration, and home security. "People taking these courses are already highly-trained professionals," adds Mann. "By adding this skill set, they can expand their businesses and meet homeowners demands."

TCC is one of two community colleges in Virginia offering this innovative set of classes for the building trades. "We're excited to be among the first to offer this advanced training," Mann adds. "These courses are the first in an intended series, preparing professionals for the 21st century and beyond."



TCC's Joe Mann, right, tinkers with the hub of an "intelligent home" system.

Smithsonian partners with TCC's Teacher-Scholars 3-year program

Art, images will enrich K-12 students, serve as national model

Famous illustrations, photographs and paintings depicting critical moments in American history will soon rock the lesson plans of elementary and high-school teachers, nationwide - starting right here in Hampton Roads.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) and TCC have launched a partnership to further the American History Teacher-Scholars program as a national model. The program outlines a specially designed training program for 4th through 12th grade social studies teachers in Norfolk and Portsmouth public schools - a program that can be customized for schools across the country. Through the partnership, TCC and the schools will use SAAM visual materials to develop lesson plans to teach the teachers and their students.

SAAM will prepare programming featuring its extensive collection of paintings, prints and photographs to create a "meta-narrative" that translates American history through American art. The unique programming will not only serve as a tool to strengthen the content knowledge of teachers in the Norfolk and Portsmouth public schools, but will also serve as a pilot for SAAM's outreach to history teachers and students throughout the United States.

In the process, TCC faculty will

collaborate with SAAM's educational department to develop a classroom resource guide that incorporates Virginia's Standards of Learning for History into a national curriculum authored by the National Council for the Social Studies. The instructional manual will be developed into a template for school districts nationwide.

The two-year program will be offered to 73 teachers through a series of workshops and will be disseminated to all social studies teachers in the Norfolk and Portsmouth public schools, says Daniel C. Lewis, director of the teacher-scholars program.

"This partnership presents a wonderful opportunity for TCC to revitalize the teaching of U.S. history in public schools nationwide," says Lewis.

"The Smithsonian American Art Museum is well known for integration of our collection across the K-12 curriculum. The TCC Teachers-Scholars program is a perfect opportunity to build on our distance learning experience and to develop a template that can be used by other school districts around the country," says Susan Nichols, Lunder Education Chair, SAAM.

The collaborative project with the Smithsonian is made possible through the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Grant awarded to Portsmouth Public Schools in partnership with Norfolk Public Schools and TCC's American History Teacher-Scholars program. 📍



Alonzo Chappel - Lee Surrendering to Grant at Appomattox - about 1870, oil, Smithsonian American Art Museum, donated in memory of Patricia Firestone



TCC REACHES OUT TO STUDY ABROAD . . . TCC's international programs office spends time on each TCC campus to spread the word about study-abroad opportunities. Hundreds of students travel to the far corners of the globe on learning trips, from Panama to Russia. To learn more about international study, call 822-7193.

Prestigious scholarship sends student to Morocco

Jessica Watson is going places. As the recipient of the National Security Education Program's (NSEP) \$10,000 scholarship, Watson plans to complete her associate degree at TCC and then transfer to the College of William and Mary to study international relations. "I developed my love of politics while serving in the US Marine Corps. Now it's my hope to serve in another role - inside the executive branch," Watson says.

One stipulation of the NSEP scholarship requires that all recipients spend three months immersed in an area where the United States is at risk. Watson selected Morocco, an Arabic-speaking African nation with a largely Muslim population. While there Watson will do field work, spend time with indigenous tribes where there is no running water or sanitation, visit historical sites and learn of the Moroccan culture. Fluent in two languages, Watson hopes to add Arabic to that list.



Jessica Watson

Upon completion of her bachelor's degree, Watson has guaranteed employment in an area of her choosing inside the executive branch. "This program is my stepping stone," Watson

adds. "It's my ultimate goal to build better communications between the U.S. and others."

Active on the Virginia Beach Campus, Watson serves as president of Phi Theta Kappa and a member of Student Government Association. She participates in Global Cultures, Justice Walking and recently competed in the Marine Corps Marathon. She graduates from TCC in spring 2005. 📍

WHITE RIBBONS AND A PLEDGE TO END THE VIOLENCE . . .

Antonio Woodson pins a white ribbon on a Norfolk Campus student who pledges not to commit or condone violence against women. As part of the White Ribbon Campaign, volunteers from the Beating the Odds men's group and the Women's Center join together to register men and shed light on this often hidden problem.



High school moves to a new level for Norfolk juniors

Beginning in February 2005, 50 juniors will get the chance to "make doubletime" in their classes.

By attending one of Virginia's first Middle College High School programs, a partnership between TCC and Norfolk Public School (NPS), students will complete requirements for high school graduation while earning college credits toward an associate degree.

"This unique educational experience will offer a new learning environment and an opportunity to participate in college life and enroll in college courses," explains Norfolk Campus Provost Quintin Bullock, who worked in collaboration with NPS to develop the project.

"We're proud of this collaborative and innovative program that seeks to serve the diverse needs of our students, while enhancing the preparedness of our future leaders," notes Bullock.

Students will be based full time at TCC's Norfolk Campus, receiving rigorous academic instruction, academic counseling



Pavell Garner and her daughter, Prettier, can barely wait for January. Prettier hopes to start then in the new Middle College High School Program, earning college credits while satisfying high school requirements. Norfolk Campus Provost Quintin Bullock, right, discusses the program with the Garners and Susan Sigler, program leader who is based in Norfolk Public Schools.

and a variety of support services. Students will also have access to campus resources like the library and computer labs.

"This program is very progressive," says Susan Sigler, program leader. "Once we get the Middle College students on TCC's campus, we'll be a step ahead in motivating them socially and emotionally and encouraging them to be lifelong learners."

In the first year, 50 juniors from five Norfolk high schools will be accepted into the program, which is designed for students who have not yet performed to their full potential. In year two, as these students move on to their senior year, 50 additional students will be accepted into the program.

"We were overwhelmed by the possibilities offered by this program," adds Pavell Garner, who has a daughter hoping to participate in the program.

"We know this is not something to be taken lightly. Once accepted, your word is your bond and you must be committed to doing your best. This is not an opportunity to be squandered."

RESEARCH ZONE

From cyberspace to the classroom - new courses aid students with math

For students with hearing impairments, learning disabilities or simple “math phobia,” arithmetic can be like a foreign language - difficult to process and understand.

With that in mind, Marcia Tharp, professor of mathematics at the Norfolk Campus, developed a hybrid Math 2 course, using available technology to get the facts across. “I did a lot of research to determine why math is difficult for the deaf and found that most had trouble with problem solving and study skills, and needed help visually to grasp the concepts,” Tharp says.

Working as part of Project Hear, a three-year collaborative initiative between the Virginia Community College System, Department of Rehabilitative Services and community colleges within the Commonwealth, Tharp developed the course combining the most advanced technologies for “distance learning with the human touch.”

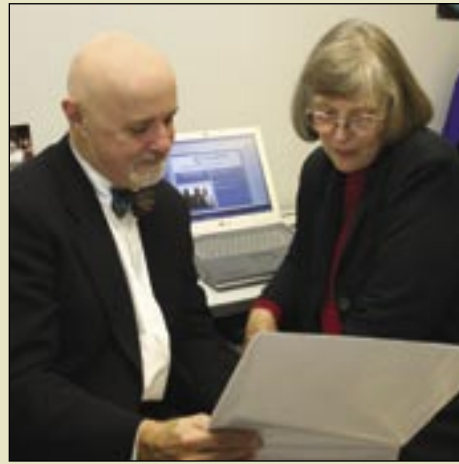
Students receive online lessons in power point with written and verbal

explanations, as well as interactive video programming. During both, an interpreter appears in the left-hand corner of the screen, providing this important service in a cost-effective format.

“By working online, students are able to get more out of each lesson. They can click on words and get definitions, play games and simulations, take tests, while gaining a real-world understanding of the topic.” — Marcia Tharp

Eliminating the time constraints of a regular lecture class allows students to spend more time and get a deeper understanding of the material. Students can also click into a newly developed virtual math lab to get help with key concepts and links to other useful sites.

Tharp also developed an interactive web-based lectures series and power point slide shows on key topics including note taking and getting organized, how to read a math book, how to ask good questions, how to work with a study buddy and smart ways to learn using learning styles.



The human touch comes in through weekly fact-to-face tutorial sessions, where students ask questions and share concerns. All sessions are recorded and video-streamed on the web, making them available to students anytime.

Students also have access to live online tutorials, working with the professor using a web blackboard and special video conferencing software. “Some students need more help than others, and giving

them these options ensures their success,” Tharp notes. “We try to be as accessible as possible, while using this technology.”

While the program was designed with the deaf student in mind, students with learning disabilities and others are benefiting from these advanced technologies, Tharp adds.

Taking things a step further, Bill Sherrill, professor of economics at the Norfolk Campus, has a similar program underway for macro and micro economics. “There’s no doubt that the web enhances learning,” Sherrill asserts. “Using power point lessons with embedded links allows students to experience concepts in real-life applications.” As a partner with Project Hear, Sherrill’s economics classes will also use a remote interpreter and similar advanced technologies.

“By working on the web, we don’t have to gloss over related material,” Sherrill adds, “but can link students directly to answers, whether it be a math question or some related topic.”



Diana Guyton (second from left) talks with teens about safety when working under the hood; from left, Brian Johnson, Joel Armistead, Michael White and Tiffany Adams.

Teens explore auto mechanics at TCC

Crazy about his rebuilt VW bug and learning all there is to know about engines, Michael White, a junior at Ocean Lakes High, revs up for another year with TCC’s Automotive Mechanics Explorer Post, a partnership program with Boy Scouts of America, Tidewater Council. Great Bridge High’s Tiffany Adams just joined the program and, although she can’t drive yet, she’s preparing for the day when she’ll get her wheels by learning how to change a tire and check fluid levels.

More than 40 teens and nine parents are participating in the Explorer Post 468 this term, each for the modest fee of \$12 a year. The program meets on Saturday mornings at the Automotive Technology Center in Chesapeake.

“Those interested in the automotive field will find that there’s been a change in recent years. With modern cars, the grease monkey of yesterday has become a well-trained technician,” says Peter Ziegler, automotive instructor. “The field is high tech, ever changing. The main tool in the box is a laptop, not a screwdriver.”

“Safety is key,” adds Bud Brueggeman, director of transportation technology programs. “We require participants to wear leather shoes, safety glasses and gloves before the training can begin.” Topics range from safety to the operation of the internal combustion engine to general maintenance to engine lubrication to knowledge of the drive train.

“Helping teens prepare for the future is the goal of this life-skills program,” adds Diana Guyton, a recent TCC and ODU graduate, who spends most Saturdays volunteering with the Post. “I love working with these kids and keeping my hands dirty,” Guyton says. “The people at TCC helped me and were instrumental in getting me where I am today.” Guyton serves in the U.S. Coast Guard and hopes to attend officer candidate training.

TCC Automotive Explorer Post attracts youth from all over Hampton Roads. “I’ve been interested in cars all my life, especially Dodge vehicles. It’s my goal to be a Dodge mechanic after high school,” says Brian Johnson, a junior at Kellam High. Bianca Cade can’t decide if she wants to become an auto mechanic or a doctor. The 15-year-old Deep Creek High student attends the Post so she can ultimately outsmart her father, an experienced auto mechanic. “I just want to tell him something he doesn’t know,” Cade says.

“Exploring gives these kids a foot in the door and great experience when they go out to get that first job,” adds Gene Warber, district director of the local Boy Scouts. “We’d love to have an Explorer Post for every field out there and are appreciative of the partnership we have with the people here at TCC.”

Lifelong learning starts at TCC for Chief Best

Steve Best always planned to study music after graduating from Deep Creek High School. Offered a full scholarship to Shenandoah University, he was well on his way to a musical career.

Things changed for Best when, at age 16, he became a volunteer firefighter for the Chesapeake Fire Department. “I was hooked,” Best recalls. “I developed a love for this kind of work and quickly changed my career goals.”

Best enrolled at TCC to study fire science and completed his associate degree in 1977. “Fire science was a fairly unique curriculum for a community college to offer at the time,” Best says. “TCC made classes available on a rotating basis, allowing working students to get to class in between shifts at the station.”

Hired full time by the Chesapeake Fire Department after completing only one semester of classes, Best juggled higher education and his career for years to come. “Back then, the Chesapeake Campus was very small and I forged many friendships there,” Best adds. “The professors worked tirelessly to ensure that you learned the information.”

Best transferred to Christopher Newport University to study government administration, earning a bachelor’s degree in 1984. “With fire science such a technical degree, I gained valuable critical thinking

skills at TCC, allowing me to get the most from all of my educational experiences in the future.”

While climbing the academic ladder, Best also made his way through the ranks in the fire department. “Education is so important to be competitive in the department and it gave me the skills and confidence to compete successfully,” Best explains. Named Fire Chief in April 1998, Best now serves as the top fire official for the city.

Best later earned an MBA from Regent University and is working towards a law degree. “I’ve always had a quest for knowledge, but my experience at TCC gave me a foundation. It was a tremendous learning experience - and for me it’s the place that all my degrees have been built upon.”



TCC alumnus and Fire Chief Steve Best lives in Chesapeake with his wife and children and notes that it’s especially rewarding to achieve his career goals in his hometown.



IN THE GARDEN – VAC STUDENTS TAKE THREE TOP AWARDS . . . During this fall’s Stockley Gardens Art Show in Norfolk, three students from the Visual Arts Center took top awards in the student art category. They were John Almaguer for glass, James Stryganek for glass and Jessica Sprowel for photography.

PEOPLE AT TCC

People at TCC announces new leadership appointments and pinpoints significant achievements among TCC faculty, staff and administration. Send your award and recognition notices, your successes and accomplishments to lwhite@tcc.edu. These range from published work to exhibits to invited presentations and board or committee appointments.

TCC announces the appointment of **J. Lyle Bagley**, former dean of engineering and industrial technology, to the position of associate vice president for workforce development. Bagley will handle outreach to companies throughout the region to identify training needs and develop customized training programs in response.



J. Lyle Bagley

As dean, Bagley managed several college-wide responsibilities including engineering transfer and six major programs at the Virginia Beach Campus, from computer-aided drafting and design to civil, electronics and industrial engineering technology.

Bagley previously served as assistant director of workforce development for TCC after working in a variety of engineering capacities for more than two decades at the Naval Aviation Depot in Norfolk including director of metrology, avionics plant manager, and director of engineering transition.

He holds a bachelor of science degree from the College of William and Mary and a master's degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University. He serves as vice chairman of ODU's Engineering and Technology Advisory Board, on the board of directors of the National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers, and as TCC's delegate to the National Conference of Standards Laboratories International.

Cynthia B. Horen, director of the Virginia Beach Campus Writing Center, Grammar Hotline and English

Computer Center, gave a presentation on TCC's 1984+20 Project at the 94th Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English on Nov. 20 in Indianapolis. TCC was the sole community college represented on the panel. TCC's project was spearheaded by Donna Reiss, Michele Marits and Nancy Jolemore.

James J. Lidington, adjunct English instructor, was invited to take part in MFA Readings at Prince Books on Nov. 19. Readings by students in Old Dominion University's MFA in creative writing program featured two nonfiction selections read by Lidington, who graduates this month.

Mary Parzynski, veteran's certifying official for the Chesapeake Campus, served as the diversity speaker for the National Association of Veteran's Program Administrators' (NAVPA) annual conference in Chicago Oct. 26-30. As a NAVPA board member and diversity chairperson, she noted her qualifications for the talk, especially as the first African American female chief of the U.S. Coast Guard to retire after 20 years.

Long-awaited fellowship will net a doctorate from George Mason

Betty (Kitty) Perkinson, developmental education professor at the Portsmouth Campus, has won a Chancellor's Fellowship for Faculty from the Virginia Community College System. The award goes to only three VCCS professors enrolled in a doctoral program at one of six select universities.

Perkinson, who will earn a doctorate of arts (D.A.) in higher education

leadership, attends the National Center for Community College Education at George Mason University, where she lives for the duration.

The GMU program includes professors in widely different majors, from music to criminal justice - a singular such program in the nation, she says. "What's really marvelous about this increased emphasis on integrated studies is that it enlarges all the participants' perspectives on educational issues, both administrative and classroom-oriented."

The 25-year TCC veteran adds, "This is something I've always wanted to do. I had to turn down Hofstra's fellowship offer two years in a row due to family. Now the children are grown, grandchildren are born - this is a window I needed to jump through . . . Having the support and encouragement of family, colleagues and the administration makes life much easier."

Faculty works bring TCC permanent art collection to 162

At the 35th Annual Art Faculty Exhibition's reception on Nov. 19, President Deborah DiCroce announced six faculty additions to the Anne S. Iott Permanent Art Collection. Chosen by the exhibiting artists, the works by Rob Hawkes, Nancy Mansfield, Craig Nilsen, T.D. Siegmund and two by Nikki Webb bring the collection to 40 faculty pieces and 162 total items. Under the management of Shelley Brooks, more than 50 items from the collection are exhibited around the college and in the community.



Nikki Webb - Crooked Little House I, Polaroid transfer, 12" x 12," 2004



WHIMSY AND WONDER . . . Visual Arts Center professor Craig Nilsen's whimsical art brings a sense of wonder to the new Virginia Beach Oceanfront library and includes a wall-sized mural, the largest single image he has ever created. The room also boasts two large sculptures - double intersecting oval rings with painting on the inside and outside.



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