

TCC CHRONICLE

From here, go anywhere.

Vol. 1, No. 4

TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

September 23, 2004

IN THE CHRONICLE



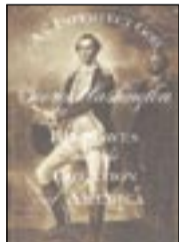
Networking Women

TCC students benefit and learn from professional women as mentors/page 2



W&M Talent on Tap at TCC

William & Mary faculty artists show their work at the VAC/page 3



A Look at Slavery in America

Famed historians offer insights on founding fathers and slavery/page 3



TCC Welcomes 1st Fulbright Scholar

Scholar in residence to teach African women's literature /page 3



Robotics Meets Astronomy

Robotic telescope brings the stars to students – online and at home/page 3



Creating Excellence

TCC partners bring home the "gold" for inventive programs/page 4

YOUR TCC



TCC ranked among top 25 best places to work – *Inside Business*



NSF grants TCC \$600K to bring over 100 women into science and tech fields

First-year student Tiffany Walker plans to become an architect. Her timing couldn't be better: she's a perfect fit for a grant that pinpoints women for success in science, technology, engineering and math programs, says Women's Center Coordinator Mary Pat Liggio, background.

TCC to create national model for community-college women

A new grant won by TCC will help women like Tiffany Walker make their way into careers that sorely lack females in the United States. The National Science Foundation just awarded more than \$600,000 to the Women's Center to create a national model for female academic and career success.

The NSF grant powers an initiative to show how bright community-college

women - who are at risk for dropping out of college - can earn associate degrees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); continue at four-year institutions to complete bachelor's of science programs; and move into the workplace.

"This presents a golden opportunity to contribute to a national need and to train more women to reach decision-making roles in these important fields," explains Mary Pat Liggio, coordinator

of the college-wide Women's Center. "We're thrilled to have the opportunity to empower women to achieve in these areas where there's a continuing gender gap."

Generally, women make up much less than 25 percent of the labor force of STEM occupations, particularly in management and where higher earnings are possible, according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Census 2000 Equal Employment

Please see page 2

Taking retention to task: TCC chosen for national pilot

This fall, TCC joins 27 community colleges selected in five states to launch Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a new initiative to enhance the academic success of low-income and minority students.

TCC received a \$50,000 investment grant to develop plans for addressing this challenge, and will be eligible for additional funding for implementation. Quintin Bullock, Norfolk Campus provost, and Terry Jones, Portsmouth Campus acting provost, head the initiative for the college.

"Community colleges are central to the success of this population; our charge is to offer students the means to reach their dreams, whether that's securing good-paying employment or furthering their education," says President Deborah DiCroce. "The

Please see page 2



President DiCroce relates TCC goals.

State of the College

To a combined crowd of more than 600 TCC faculty and staff, President Deborah DiCroce delivered her annual state-of-the-college address at convocation on Aug. 16 and 27.

The president, who followed a videotaped welcome by new College Board Chair Admiral Jack Kavanaugh and a video introduction of many new faces at TCC, hit on highlights of the past year and laid out goals for 2004-05.

Noting the challenges of TCC's success outstripping resources to support it, President DiCroce cited the seventh consecutive year of record enrollment with 34,940 credit students and FTES of 15,001 - nearly 3 percent more than last year.

Addressing growth arenas for TCC on the teaching and learning front, the college adopted a comprehensive five-year curriculum plan that has already launched new degree programs, from Studio Arts to

Please see page 2

Brown vs. Board of Education

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the civil rights benchmark with free public talks, forums and a re-enactment of the 1960s sit-ins at the former Woolworths, a part of TCC's Norfolk Campus. Tune to www.tcc.edu for announcements.



National model

Continued from page 1

Opportunity data. For example, the female workforce of all architecture and engineering occupations is only 13.51 percent; astronomers and physicists, 13.88 percent; network and computer systems administrators, 23.32 percent; and geological and petroleum technicians, 21.93 percent.

TCC's pioneer project, which will ultimately reach more than 100 women over five years, will employ diverse techniques and strategies to ensure student success. Beginning this October, 30 women will start the process with intensive academic advising and intervention counseling. The group will meet regularly to learn more about their chosen professions and transfer options.

Mentoring will play a key role through TCC's Networks for Women program, which has enlisted the help of professional women in leadership roles at firms such as AutoTrader.com and Severn Trent Laboratories. Students will get an insider's look at various nontraditional careers through job-shadowing opportunities. The grant also covers faculty training to assure female-friendly classrooms with materials that women find intrinsically interesting.

The project aims to increase retention rates for women in these courses of study from 74 percent to 85 percent; increase recruitment from its current 40 percent to 59 percent; and to track, long term, the success rate of students who persist at their transfer colleges and enter their profession.

"This project flows from a vision we set down in 2001," Liggio says. "It really represents what we're all about - educating women and eliminating barriers." ☺

State of the College

Continued from page 1

Diagnostic Medical Sonography, as well as program upgrades and restructuring. From new transfer agreements and K-12 collaborations to a 69 percent increase in online enrollments and a marked growth in service to military students, TCC strove to meet its community's learning and workforce needs, with record success.

"We've grown some 30 percent over the past six years, which, in terms of FTES, is more than the total FTES of 17 of the other 22 community colleges in the VCCS."

— President Deborah DiCroce

To help support the college's mission, a capital campaign has raised more than \$1 million in its first year, adding to \$4.7 million from grant funding, an area TCC will focus on nearly doubling in the new year, noted the president. She added that the launch of TCC's comprehensive marketing plan, marked with the tagline, "From here, go anywhere," has roundly drawn stakeholder kudos.

Along the budget line, TCC managed last year's challenges to allow key expenditures such as filling 14 faculty and several classified positions as well as enhancing network security and emergency management. In 2004-05, with the new \$22 million in state funding to the VCCS, TCC will see some \$3 million of new General Fund appropriation and \$1.5 million in new tuition dollars.

TCC will apply the increased funding in primarily three key areas:

> **Instruction** - add six new full-time teaching faculty positions to include nursing and related sciences to address shortages in health professions; phase in comprehensive testing centers at two campuses, with the other two campuses to follow; implement the results of the faculty

salary equity study; and provide 4 percent increases in all full-time faculty salaries.

> **Services to Students** - increase Student Information Center hours to meet higher demand for services; enhance campus services to include Learning Assistance, Financial Aid, and Campus Welcome Centers; and increase library material investment by 37 percent.

> **College Infrastructure** - invest in a second academic dean on the Norfolk Campus (the Norfolk Campus has grown to be larger than 11 of the 23 colleges); invest in support staff infrastructure with 15 new classified and four new professional faculty positions to meet the growing demands on services after a growth rate of 47 percent over seven years; and direct an additional \$800,000 to support TCC's technology infrastructure.

All that is in addition to advancing the largest number of new building plans and facilities updates ever undertaken by the college, including development of the new Portsmouth Campus, the Regional Automotive Technology Center and student centers at Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

Among the president's resolves for 2004-05, big-picture objectives include creating a comprehensive retention program that puts TCC in the top 10 percent nationally for student persistence; developing an honors program with links to the Commonwealth's most selective four-year institutions; expanding secondary-school collaboration for dual enrollment, industry certification and alternative interventions; expanding TCC's reach to business, industry and government by 25 percent; and developing a comprehensive advocacy program that includes launch of an alumni association.

"Tis our moment," said President DiCroce. "For the taking or not. On a road at once so familiar and so uncharted. Tis the path that so many of our students travel as they hang their individual and collective hats of hope on us and our doorstep - to begin again." ☺

NOTE: The president's entire State of the College Address can be found online at www.tcc.edu



Hundreds of TCC community members attended the 2004 August convocations.

Retention

Continued from page 1

selection of TCC for this important initiative points to our leadership in this arena, while giving us the opportunity to research and re-think how to raise the bar on student persistence rates."

Achieving the Dream is a multi-year initiative funded by Lumina Foundation for Education and involves several national partner organizations. The first phase of the initiative will directly involve the chosen colleges in Florida, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia. In future years, the initiative will expand to involve eligible community colleges in additional states.

"We look forward to finding and implementing new and innovative ways to connect our students to the college community, to open more paths to graduation, good jobs and careers," says Bullock. "We're taking up the challenge to create a 'culture of evidence' as we examine statistics and devise data-collection systems." Recent retention-based initiatives at TCC include the college's Title III grant, Creating the Conditions for Successful Student Achievement: Improving and Linking Developmental Programs and Student Services; Student Support TRIO program; the college's Women's Center; Bridges Learning Systems project; and "Beating the Odds," a mentoring program

for male students.

A team of national reviewers selected the 27 participating institutions from among 60 community colleges that submitted proposals. Eligible colleges are regionally accredited, public, associate degree-granting institutions. Each college is required to have an enrollment of at least 33 percent minority students or 50 percent students who receive government-supported financial aid. ☺



Faculty Orientation

Mark Wheaton, Stacey Deputy and Michelle Barnes joined a number of new faculty members who plunged into TCC orientation at the Aug. 13 program in the Advanced Technology Center Theater. The sessions were infused with insights from fellow professors, lessons from administrators and a welcome from the president. Topics ranged from Groupwise and Blackboard use to TCC governance and grant preparation.



AutoTrader.com leaders play a key mentoring role for TCC women. Recruitment Manager Monica Vollmer (left) and Senior Desktop Support Analyst Clarissa Lynch (right) make extra time to advise TCC students like Melissa Moses, who's studying information technology.

Connections: Networks for Women

When the going gets tough for students in non-traditional courses of study, there's a place to turn for help and encouragement - the Networks for Women program. "There's a real demand for professionals in the fields of math, science, engineering and technology, yet women fill less than 25 percent of the positions in these fields," explains Cindy Shipp, NFW program coordinator and a counselor at the Virginia Beach Campus. "It's a lot easier for a woman to speak to another woman - to get an insider's look at these non-traditional professions," adds Roberta Cool, TCC's dean of information technology and business for the Virginia Beach Campus. "I encourage my faculty to refer women to the program, especially those that seem intimidated by their male classmates."

Networks for Women began in 2001 and connects female students with professional women from non-traditional fields. Mentoring pairs work together for at least a semester, often keeping in touch by e-mail, as well as meeting one on one. Mentors help students write resumes, hone interviewing skills and make contacts.

"Having a polished resume that highlights technical skills is so important in the non-traditional fields," adds mentor Clarissa Lynch, senior desktop support analyst, AutoTrader.com. "Being able to

highlight your soft skills is essential, too, and we cover all of that."

More than 260 women have benefited from the NFW program including Jackolyn Carter, the information technology student paired with Lynch.

"Women wear so many hats and sometimes just doing something for yourself can be an issue," Carter explains. "This program is a great support and a real encouragement for me. Clarissa has inspired me to apply for jobs and she believes in me."

Often, NFW participants work alongside their mentors - job shadowing and getting a good look at the profession. Other program benefits include mock interview sessions and career development seminars that cover topics like proper business etiquette and overcoming obstacles usually unique to women. NFW will play a key role in the new National Science Foundation grant, including making mentor connections and measuring success.

"When I was in college I was one of two women who completed the IT program," says Lynch. "Just getting those little pointers and having someone to talk with would have been beneficial. At least I'm no longer the only woman in the department. We're finally making some strides." ☺



TCC faculty and Virginia Beach public high-school teachers meet in small groups to review classroom activities and write a national publication, *Capturing the Teachable Moment*.

Getting it Write: successful FIPSE grant

In the age of e-mail, instant messaging and chat rooms, the skill to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard often gets overlooked by today's high school student. "Writing composition is such an important life skill," says Chris Jennings, associate professor of English and director of the FIPSE (Fund for Post Secondary Education) Writing Coalition Project. "We're working hard to make sure high school seniors are prepared to do college-level work."

The Writing Coalition Project, recently refunded through 2005, brings together secondary and post-secondary educators to create new learning opportunities for students, before they leave high school. The program began in 1998 when TCC established a relationship with Salem High School.

Today, the partnership is a showcase for collaboration, offering professional workshops, innovative instructional strategies for student accountability for their own progress, high school writing centers and multiple measures for college placement.

The program has gone national with Jennings and her staff providing support to seven colleges and universities in seven states to adapt objectives and activities. The program also continues to serve Virginia by reaching more schools including Green Run, Landstown and Kellam high schools and two Virginia community colleges -

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and John Tyler Community College.

"In the beginning, one of the questions we dealt with was how to assess student readiness in a different way. We developed portfolios - a collection of writing assignments and student reflections on the writing process to get a better idea about where each student should be placed," explains Jennings. Formerly, the computerized test, COMPASS, was the sole resource for assessment.

"With the advent of portfolios, students are more successful right from the start," she adds. "In fact, students who were placed in freshman composition using portfolios achieved a success rate of 76 percent, up from 70 percent for those using traditional measures. Also, retention improved from a college-wide average of 64 percent to 76 percent from the fall to spring."

To document the program success, FIPSE staff and grant partners will complete the project overview for publication and dissemination this year. "Seeing how well this model is working here and around the nation proves the need and value of high school and collegiate partnerships," Jennings says.

Next month, the project, under the direction of Jennings, will be awarded the Leon F. Williams Award for Significant Contributions to English Language Arts by the Virginia Association of Teachers of English. 📖

Fulbright scholar from Africa joins TCC faculty

TCC welcomes its first Fulbright Scholar in Residence, Andrew Mwenda Mbatiah, who joins the faculty for the 2004-5 academic year. Mbatiah brings a wealth of knowledge to students and faculty of TCC and its scholarship partner, Norfolk State University.

Mbatiah comes from the University of Nairobi, where he is a senior lecturer in the linguistics and African languages department. His specialties of Swahili and African literature will serve well as subjects of classes he'll teach at both TCC and NSU, with an emphasis on African women's writing. He will also guest lecture in humanities classes.

"This is such an important opportunity for TCC and our students," says Jeanne B. Natali, TCC coordinator of international programs. "His presence offers our students an opportunity to explore the world outside the borders of the United States without leaving TCC. At the same time, we're excited to launch this partnership with NSU, and hope to expand on it over time."

Success in winning the shared Fulbright Scholar in Residence is thought to be the first of its kind between a community college and university.

An expert in Swahili, Mbatiah completed his Ph.D. thesis on "The Origin and Development of the Swahili Thesis Novel in Tanzania." His master's degree also focused on Swahili studies, linguistics and literature. Mbatiah has authored a variety of articles, short stories,



Fulbright Scholar in Residence Andrew Mwenda Mbatiah just arrived the week classes began, but has already "discovered Ghent" and notes how traffic here appears to be less than in Nairobi.

a dictionary of Swahili literary terminology and even a Swahili novel, *Upotevu*.

"My work here is about showing students a global context for life, to enrich their educational experience through language and literature," says Mbatiah, who notes his culture's roots in oral tradition and the beauty of oral poetry. "While I'm in the United States, I am very interested in studying African American literature to compare it to African writing," he adds.

To find out more about Mbatiah and what he will teach, call TCC's Department of International Programs at 822-7296. 📖

W & M Art Invitational

TCC's Visual Arts Center welcomes four studio faculty members of The College of William and Mary's art and art history department, as they present recent work in paintings, prints, drawings, ceramics and mixed media. The Virginia artists are William Barnes, Suzanne Wheeler Demeo, Elizabeth J. Peak and Marlene Jack.

Visitors can see the exhibition Sept. 18 to Nov. 4 during gallery hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and at the reception, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. Visual Art Center shows are free and open to the public; for more information, call 822-6999.



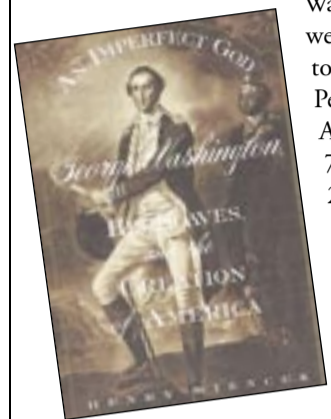
In the Junkyard, watercolor, 2002, 14" x 18," by Suzanne Wheeler Demeo

"Capturing" TCC

A college-wide project to document TCC launched this month - a project that aims to tell the "TCC story" in pictures. A photojournalism class of 22 students will spend fall semester documenting TCC. Please welcome the photographers into your classes, offices, labs, meeting places and campus spaces.

Hear perspectives on Washington, Jefferson and slavery

How did this country's founding president treat and think about his slaves? Did he have similar viewpoints as fellow founding father Thomas Jefferson? An especially timely talk - with this the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision - by esteemed author Henry Wiencek on slavery and George



Washington welcomes all to the Roper Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m., Sept. 23. TCC's role in Teaching American History Scholars - the near \$1 million

grant-funded program to train K-12 Portsmouth and Norfolk teachers through local history - features a series of lectures launching with Wiencek. He'll base his lecture on *An Imperfect God*, his latest book, published in 2003.

The free, public event also features distinguished historian and author Alf Mapp, who will respond to Wiencek's talk. Mapp, a respected Thomas Jefferson scholar well known in Hampton Roads, recently published *The Faiths of Our Fathers*. Wiencek and Mapp will hold a book-signing following the talks. 📖

RESEARCH ZONE

Robotic scope zooms in for closer look

Astronomy students will soon be able to look into the sky and monitor supernovas, near-earth asteroids and gamma bursts - online and from the comfort of their homes. "There's a dramatic revolution taking place in the world of astronomy with computers, large-format digital imaging systems and the Internet changing the way we study the universe," explains George Fowler, TCC information technology specialist and adjunct astronomy instructor.

"Gone are the days when astronomers sit at the eyepiece of a telescope."

Deciding to bring the stars to students through modern technology, the physics department and Office of Information Systems - Network and Telecommunications, Portsmouth Campus, fashioned and installed a robotic telescope last year. The telescope, outfitted with the latest instrumentation, boasts a charge-coupled device (CCD) camera with color filter wheel and auto focuser, weather station, web camera and power controls for the observatory dome. Each application has software that feeds information into a master control program. The robotic dome houses all sensors for the various instruments, which record data in real time.

"With this technology we can record and store data at regular intervals," adds Fowler. "For the weather station application we track specifics like wind speed, humidity, relative temperature and more."

Housed in the Prodome observatory in the center of campus, the newly constructed robotic telescope, a 12-inch Meade LX200 reflector, will operate remotely through the Linux operating system and software soon to be written



A newly constructed robotic telescope at the Portsmouth Campus will operate remotely.

by Fowler and physics professor Aubrey Hartman. "We're almost there. The hardware is operational and we have the operating system up and running," Fowler says. "Now we have to link it all together by writing customized software to bring this technology into the classroom."

Currently, physics faculty members control the telescope and record images requested by students weekly. By mid-semester they hope to integrate the robotic scope into online astronomy labs, and offer it to other disciplines throughout the college. "We're excited about this technology," Fowler adds. "Today it's all digital and we want to give students a real-world feel for the profession."

TCC is one of the few colleges in the Commonwealth and the Virginia Community College System to have an operational robotic telescope on campus. "The physics department should be proud of this complex, forward-thinking project," says John Skrobiszewski, Portsmouth dean of languages, mathematics and sciences. The physics department has a long history of embracing technology, with almost all of its classes now offered online, a practice begun 10 years ago.

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.



James Perkinson

James Perkinson, previously an academic officer with the rank of professor, has been named dean of academics at the Chesapeake Campus. A TCC faculty member since 1972, he twice served as assistant division chair in the Portsmouth Campus's engineering and industrial technology division and served for two years as interim chair of industrial and engineering technologies at the Virginia Beach Campus. He also provided administrative leadership for TCC's program at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and coordinated start-up of the Visual Arts Center's facility infrastructure.

Perkinson's many services to the community include serving as an elected member of the Suffolk School Board since 1996 and on several boards and advisory committees including WHRO's Board of Directors.



Jimmy Peterson

TCC has named **Jimmy L. Peterson** to the position of Norfolk Campus academic dean for business, social sciences and public services. Peterson most recently was a consultant for Milwaukee Public Schools and the Workforce Development Center at North Milwaukee State Bank. He previously served as interim vice president of academic and student service affairs at North Hennepin Community College and as the chief academic officer for Longview Community College and Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City.

Peterson, who has received numerous awards and acknowledgements, holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Alabama State University, master's degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin, Ph.D. in educational administration and supervision from the University of Michigan, and has completed postdoctoral study in college management at Carnegie Mellon University.



Lonnie Schaffer

Lonnie J. Schaffer, who has more than 30 years' experience in higher education, has been named associate vice president for college transfer education. She will

provide strategic and operational leadership in development and delivery of college transfer education. The associate vice president is the primary point of contact with outside agencies, partners, colleges, universities, school systems and the Virginia

Community College System with respect to programs, policies and procedures for the transfer program.

Schaffer served previously as the interim director of assessment, research and planning at John Tyler Community College and as the senior associate for academic affairs with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia in Richmond. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Iowa; master of arts from Michigan State University; and educational specialist (Ed.S.) and doctor of education (Ed.D.) degrees from The College of William and Mary.

TCC partners win 3 "creating excellence" awards from state

TCC's nomination of three industry, city and community partners for the 2004 Creating Excellence Awards Program, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education, paid off - all three won awards, presented this summer in Richmond.



TCC's Barbara Murray and Malcolm Branch of STASR accepted awards for a successful, progressive partnership in ship repair-employee education.

The South Tidewater Association of Ship Repairers (STASR) won under the category of Business/Industry Partnership Community College Awards. STASR and TCC partnered to design and implement a Career Studies program in supervision in ship repair and to offer specialty courses for the industry. The program focuses on preparing shipyard workers as supervisors and managers.



Left to right, Patrick Konopnicki, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, and David Sullivan, city of Virginia Beach, accepted the award with TCC's Diann Holt and Roberta Cool.

The Advanced Technology Center also won under the category of Business/Industry Partnership Community College Awards. The ATC - a result of a unique partnership among TCC, Virginia Beach City Public Schools and the city of Virginia Beach - educates high school and college students alike, and is the only such center in the country housing three distinct educational and governmental entities.



TCC's Felicia Jones and Kim Utley accepted the awards for the partnership.

TCC's Radiography and Diagnostic Medical Sonography Advisory Committee won under the category of Advisory Council/Committee Community College Awards. This TCC committee is composed of members in key management positions in the radiology community, alumni and technologists in the workforce.



Michael Summers

Michael D. Summers has been appointed vice president for academic and student affairs, effective Oct. 15. With more than 22 years of teaching, administrative and

executive leadership experience at three community colleges, Summers joins TCC from Greenville Technical College where he serves as vice president for education.

His work in executive leadership in academic and student affairs at GTC - a large, complex, multi-campus institution in a growing region of South Carolina - includes extensive accreditation experience. Prior positions include division chair for technology and information systems and director of Correctional Center programs at Danville Area Community College, and associate professor at Black Hawk College.

Among his awards, Summers won the Excellence in Tech Prep from the U.S. Department of Education and the Dale Parnell Tech Prep Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. His experience with grants includes a 2004 \$1.5 million Federal Economic Development Act grant. He holds an Ed.D. in community college leadership and a B.S. from the University of Illinois and an M.S. in education from Western Illinois University.



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
From here, go anywhere.™

Managing Editor Laurie White

Art Director Lisa Finley

COPY

Editor/Writer Laura Sanford

ART

Designer Mary E. Apperson

Photography Sam Hughes

Paul Jeffreys

Bradley Smith

TCC's official "News Publication of Record" - *The TCC Chronicle* - exists to share TCC news and information college wide. Published 10 times a year, it explores and presents research and projects, profiles of faculty, staff and students, viewpoints, major events and important announcements. Send news and story ideas to lwhite@tcc.edu. The Chronicle is online at www.tcc.edu/news.

121 College Place
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
www.tcc.edu

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, VA
Permit No. 2048