



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2019-2020  
EMERITUS AND  
RETIREE  
RECOGNITION

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

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## **WELCOME/INTRODUCTION**

**Beth Lunde**

*Associate Vice President for Human Resources*

## **RECOGNITION OF EMERITUS APPOINTEES**

**Dr. Marcia Conston**

*President, Tidewater Community College*

## **RECOGNITION OF RETIREES**

**President's Cabinet**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Dr. Conston**

*View a recording of this event on TCC's YouTube Channel*

## PATSY H. ALEXANDER

**Whereas**, Patsy H. Alexander joined the classified staff of Tidewater Community College as an office services specialist for the Norfolk Campus in 1992; and,

**Whereas**, Patsy H. Alexander, as the first full-time employee of the Norfolk Campus, was, in the words of one of her colleagues, “our records, admission, enrollment, placement test, and financial aid person. She did it all”; and,

**Whereas**, Patsy H. Alexander, working with a number of other professionals in the Virginia Community College System, was instrumental in the overhaul of the college’s Student Information System and the eventual change to the Peoplesoft system, a variation of which is still in use by the college today; and,

**Whereas**, Patsy H. Alexander, as a critical player in the introduction of and use of the Peoplesoft system, was, in the words of another colleague, “the person to run interference or mediate between the end users and the technical subject matter expert. If someone needed training, Patsy would schedule and provide the training, whether the training was for a group or a single person. She was always 100% committed to the success of the college”; and,

**Whereas**, Patsy H. Alexander’s service and contributions to Tidewater Community College have been particularly meritorious and significant; and

**Whereas**, Patsy H. Alexander retired from college service on January 1, 2018:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board and the President of the College, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, express their gratitude and appreciation to Patsy H. Alexander for her more than twenty-five years of commitment and dedication; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the State Board for Community Colleges, hereby confers upon Patsy H. Alexander the status of Classified Emeritus with all the attendant rights and privileges per the college’s policy for such appointments; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be given to Patsy H. Alexander with our warmest wishes, on this, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, and that the resolution be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Tidewater Community College Board.



## REYNE D. BUCHHOLZ

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz joined the classified staff of Tidewater Community College as a Business Manager in 1993; and,

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz was an inspiring leader in the Finance Department of Tidewater Community College in the above role and in her subsequent positions of Controller and Associate Vice President for Finance-Designated Funds; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz, as Controller, oversaw payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, student financials, grants and contracts, local funds, and workforce accounting; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz, also as Controller, led the area of foundation accounting, which includes the Tidewater Community College Educational Foundation and Real Estate Foundation; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz, was responsible for many years of on-time employee/ payroll and vendor payments, millions of dollars in student refunds, and excellent federal and state audits, as well as the hiring of many qualified finance staff; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz was instrumental in the writing of numerous policies and procedures that are in use at Tidewater Community College today and have been modeled by other Virginia Community College System institutions; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz was deeply involved in the financial planning and tracking of all four Tidewater Community College student centers, the Advanced Technology Center, the Joint Use Library, and the new Portsmouth Campus; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz was deeply involved in the establishment and accounting for the financial aid back office to support eight other Virginia Community College System schools; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz's work on the Indirect Cost Rate (IDC) final report consisted of over ten detailed and summarized reports that contained years of financial data, resulting in an increase in the IDC rate to be charged on all state and federal grants – an increase that will be used to continue support of the college's operations for many years; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz demonstrated concern and compassion for the well-being of the staff she supervised while holding them and herself to a standard of performance that ensured excellence in budgeting, account management, and other critical areas;

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz's service and contributions to Tidewater Community College have been particularly meritorious and significant; and

**Whereas**, Reyne D. Buchholz retired from college service on March 1, 2019:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board and the President of the College, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, express their gratitude and appreciation to Reyne D. Buchholz for her more than twenty-five years of commitment and dedication; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the State Board for Community Colleges, hereby confers upon Reyne D. Buchholz the status of Classified Emeritus with all the attendant rights and privileges per the college's policy for such appointments; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be given to Reyne D. Buchholz with our warmest wishes, on this, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, and that the resolution be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Tidewater Community College Board.



## SUSAN N. DOZIER

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier joined the faculty of Tidewater Community College as an assistant professor of information systems technology at the Virginia Beach Campus in 2000 after having served the college as an adjunct instructor of that same discipline for sixteen years; and

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier brought a considerable and impressive background in teaching and coordinating/scheduling of classes to the college from her many years of teaching and administrative work in Newport News and Virginia Beach public schools; and

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier developed and taught eight distinct courses in information technology –classroom, online and hybrid – helping ensure that students had multiple access points for the study of information systems technology; and

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier maintained critical professional certifications, including Industry Certifications in Microsoft Oracle and Oracle Instruction as well as continuing her active membership in Phi Kappa Phi, the United States’ oldest and most selective multidisciplinary collegiate honor society; and

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier raised the profile of the college and greatly assisted the teaching of Information Systems Technology by co-authoring the textbook, Microsoft Office Go!, published in 2007 by Pearson Publishing; and

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier made numerous contributions in service to the college by actively participating in discipline and division meetings; by serving as a test administrator for Microsoft Office User Specialist certifications; by reviewing, administering, and grading Computer Competency Tests and Challenge Tests for Information Technology; and through other activities that greatly enhanced and enriched the Information Systems Technology program; and

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier has given back to the larger community through her volunteer efforts for the Leukemia Society, the American Cancer Society, the March of Dimes, and the American Diabetes Association, as well as similar organizations; and

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier’s service and contributions to Tidewater Community College have been particularly meritorious and significant; and

**Whereas**, Susan N. Dozier retired from college service on June 1, 2019:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board and the President of the College, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, express their gratitude and appreciation to Susan N. Dozier for her nineteen years of commitment and dedication; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the State Board for Community Colleges, hereby confers upon Susan N. Dozier the status of Professor Emeritus with all the attendant rights and privileges per the college's policy for such appointments; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be given to Susan N. Dozier with our warmest wishes, on this, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, and that the resolution be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Tidewater Community College Board.



## ALBERT V. KOON

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon joined the faculty of Tidewater Community College as an instructor of electricity and electronics in 1978, and was subsequently promoted to assistant professor in 1980 and associate professor in 1986; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon has worked diligently for Tidewater Community College, beginning as a student worker and an instructional assistant while completing his Associate of Applied Science in Electrical and Electronics Technology, and continuing through his academic teaching assignments at Tidewater Community College; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon leveraged his considerable abilities to upgrade the college's Electronics Technology lab facilities by working to secure grants with assistance from leaders from Penn State, the Educational Testing Service, the Center for Occupational Research, and the Concord Consortium, among others; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon directed a program that has created a pipeline for electronics technology students to seamlessly transfer to Old Dominion University's Electrical Engineering Technology program for completion of their bachelor of science degrees; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon has been noted by colleagues and students to have an empowering in-class teaching style that enables student success with clear, concise instruction of highly technical concepts, and in a laboratory setting, he has fostered an accepting and warm culture that serves a diverse student population; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon has helped to make Tidewater Community College a respected national leader in the field of electronics technology education, with over thirty states and thirteen countries using software developed at Tidewater Community College; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon has served on numerous advisory boards, including those with Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, Norfolk Public Schools, Thomas Nelson Community College, and Paul D. Camp Community College, thereby elevating the profile and influence of Tidewater Community College; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon was selected by the students and faculty of Tidewater Community College to be the inaugural Professor of the Year for the 2000 to 2001 school year; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon's service and contributions to Tidewater Community College have been particularly meritorious and significant; and

**Whereas**, Albert V. Koon retired from college service on August 1, 2018:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board and the President of the College, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, express their gratitude and appreciation to Albert V. Koon for his forty years of commitment and dedication; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the State Board for Community Colleges, hereby confers upon Albert V. Koon the status of Professor Emeritus with all the attendant rights and privileges per the college's policy for such appointments; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be given to Albert V. Koon with our warmest wishes, on this, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, and that the resolution be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Tidewater Community College Board.



## ROBIN S. MOORE

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore originally joined the classified staff of Tidewater Community College as a Clerk Typist B at the Portsmouth Campus of Tidewater Community College in 1974; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore lent her considerable abilities to the procurement office of the college and, as a result, eventually attained the position of Director of Materiel Management and Procurement Services; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore was instrumental in the acquisition of the Peoplesoft system, which streamlined numerous accounting systems within the college; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore's financial acumen was crucial to the development of the college as it undertook numerous projects including the Regional Health Professions Center, the Joint Use Library, the campus student centers, the new Portsmouth Campus, and other capital projects; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore's outstanding leadership ensured that the college won several purchasing awards granted by the Department of General Services; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore's consistent attention to financial detail resulted in the achievement of Tier II purchasing authority for the college; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore's efforts resulted in consistent achievement of Small Business and Women and Minority Owned Business quotas for the college; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore was a key player in the placement of the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in MacArthur Center, the first time that such an arrangement had been made with that company; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore worked diligently to secure funding for the berthing of the research vessel Maury, an accomplishment that required numerous contacts with the U.S. Navy in order to maintain rent on its berth; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore's service and contributions to Tidewater Community College have been particularly meritorious and significant; and

**Whereas**, Robin S. Moore retired from college service on January 1, 2019:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board and the President of the College, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, express their gratitude and appreciation to Robin S. Moore for her more than forty-two years of commitment and dedication; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the State Board for Community Colleges, hereby confers upon Robin S. Moore the status of Classified Emeritus with all the attendant rights and privileges per the college's policy for such appointments; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be given to Robin S. Moore with our warmest wishes, on this, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, and that the resolution be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Tidewater Community College Board.



## LORRAINE L. "LORI" WHEELER

**Whereas**, Lorraine L. "Lori" Wheeler joined the classified staff of Tidewater Community College as a programmer in the Office of Information Systems in 1988; and

**Whereas**, Lori Wheeler was a key player in the implementation of two crucial college initiatives: the revision of the college financial aid system and the creation of the college identification system; and

**Whereas**, Lori Wheeler worked closely with the college financial aid office, as well as the Virginia Community College System, subsequently writing several complex programs that helped resolve financial aid processing issues; and

**Whereas**, Lori Wheeler was instrumental in the setup of the PeopleSoft Student Information System Financial Aid module; and

**Whereas**, Lori Wheeler was the primary administrator of the college identification system's initial setup, working with the office of Safety and Security to set up building access through the use of keyless locks, and with the office of Auxiliary Services to ensure that students had access to their funds through the use of student identification cards; and

**Whereas**, Lori Wheeler's service and contributions to Tidewater Community College have been particularly meritorious and significant; and

**Whereas**, Lori Wheeler retired from college service on September 1, 2018:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board and the President of the College, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, express their gratitude and appreciation to Lori Wheeler for her thirty years of commitment and dedication; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the State Board for Community Colleges, hereby confers upon Lori Wheeler the status of Classified Emeritus with all the attendant rights and privileges per the college's policy for such appointments; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be given to Lori Wheeler with our warmest wishes, on this, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, and that the resolution be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Tidewater Community College Board.

## NITA B. WOOD

**Whereas**, Nita B. Wood joined the faculty of Tidewater Community College as an instructor of English at the Portsmouth Campus in 1999; and

**Whereas**, Nita B. Wood was a devoted and diligent instructor of English who inculcated in her students an appreciation for both the study of literature, as well as an understanding of the importance of precise and graceful written expression; and

**Whereas**, Nita B. Wood helped run the campus Writing Center for many years, greatly assisting students in both the basic and fine points of written expression; and

**Whereas**, Nita B. Wood developed and taught two survey classes of African-American literature in the early 2000's which are still taught at the college today; and

**Whereas**, Nita B. Wood demonstrated a love for literature through her service on the Tidewater Community College Literary Festival committee for over ten years, greatly assisting with the scheduling and hosting of authors, including poet Nikki Giovanni, and building interest in the Festival through her enthusiastic promotion of the event; and

**Whereas**, Nita B. Wood's service and contributions to Tidewater Community College have been particularly meritorious and significant; and

**Whereas**, Nita B. Wood departed this life on September 3, 2019:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board and the President of the College, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, express their gratitude and appreciation to Nita B. Wood for her twenty years of commitment and dedication; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the State Board for Community Colleges, hereby confers upon Nita B. Wood the status of Professor Emeritus with all the attendant rights and privileges per the college's policy for such appointments; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be given to Nita B. Wood's family with our warmest wishes, on this, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, and that the resolution be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Tidewater Community College Board.



## DR. DAVID S. WRIGHT

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright joined the faculty of Tidewater Community College as a professor of physics at the Virginia Beach Campus in 1974; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright was instrumental in setting up and equipping the physics labs at the Virginia Beach Campus, as well as writing the lab exercises that utilized lab equipment; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright has been tireless in his efforts to supervise adjunct faculty, handle Equipment Trust Fund purchases, keep lab manuals current, and to address countless other issues that may arise in the teaching of physics and the use of the physics laboratories; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright also began an astronomy program that ran parallel to the physics program, helping in the planning, design, and operation of the Tidewater Community College Observatory and Planetarium; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright was invaluable in creating the current two-semester astronomy lab course sequence, which has served large numbers of students over the past thirty years; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright has greatly assisted the college, chairing the Virginia Beach Campus Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Professional Development Committee, and Faculty Professional Development Committee; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright has been active with the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), serving in various offices for the Chesapeake section of the AAPT, and has run the Teachers of Physics Society for the benefit of high school physics teachers in Hampton Roads for many years; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright has been recognized for his exemplary teaching efforts by his winning of numerous awards including the Tidewater Community College Professor of the Year Award in 2017, the Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award in 2002, the Dr. George B. Pass Distinguished Service Award in 1992 and 1998, and the Tidewater Community College Virginia Beach Campus Teacher of the Year Award in 1996; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright has for years shared his passion for the sciences with his "Physics in Motion" interactive shows at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia, and Tampa, Florida; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright has elevated the global stature of the college through recent world-wide social media reporting of his unconventional classroom physics demonstrations; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright, as a result of his media exposure, warmly and effectively spoke with numerous media outlets about his teaching methods and the physics and astronomy programs at Tidewater Community College; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright's service and contributions to Tidewater Community College have been particularly meritorious and significant; and

**Whereas**, Dr. David S. Wright will retire from college service on June 1, 2020:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board and the President of the College, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, express their gratitude and appreciation to Dr. David S. Wright for his more than forty-five years of commitment and dedication; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Tidewater Community College Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the State Board for Community Colleges, hereby confers upon Dr. David S. Wright the status of Professor Emeritus with all the attendant rights and privileges per the college's policy for such appointments; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be given to Dr. David S. Wright with our warmest wishes, on this, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, and that the resolution be recorded in the meeting minutes of the Tidewater Community College Board.



## JAMES E. BENSON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPEECH

After completing his Bachelor of Arts in Social Science at Vanguard University of Southern California in 1972, James Benson worked at a number of jobs, including a stint as a carpenter, before beginning his career in education as a high school history teacher at Norfolk Christian Schools in 1994. In 1997, he completed his master's degree in communication at Regent University and, in 1998, began working at Tidewater Community College as an adjunct instructor of public speaking, going full-time in 1999.

Known for his no-nonsense approach to the teaching of public speaking, Professor Benson was well-regarded among his students. "I learned a lot in his class. I feel more confident speaking in public and my writing skills improved," one student recalls. Another states, "James Benson has taught me a lot! I didn't think I would learn as much as I did! I am truly grateful. I have grown as a public speaker." And another student affirms, "He is pretty straightforward and funny. What he expects from you is clear and he gives extra credit! Public speaking is hard for most people, but he's understanding and patient."

Retirement will find Professor Benson spending more time with his two children, Christy and Jimmy, as well possibly moving to Colorado to attend Charis Bible College in Colorado Springs. A wanderer all his adult life—he has lived in California, Guatemala, Indonesia, Hawaii, and Ohio—Professor Benson says his possible move out west is all part of the plan: "That's the great thing about retirement—nothing needs to be about anything except you just wanting to learn, but now I can do anything I want any time I want just for the pure purpose of learning. And growing in God, of course."

*Happy trails, Professor Benson!*

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of James E. Benson as a member of the College faculty.

## RANDALL W. BETZ

### EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR II

Randall “Randy” Betz started his Tidewater Community College career in 2017 as the program director for the eleVAte research grant, but in short order he moved on as the first program director for TCC’s Skilled Trades Academy in Portsmouth.

As vice president for Workforce Development at Paul D. Camp Community College in Suffolk for twelve years, Randy had amassed a wealth of experience by the time he got to TCC—and was recognized for his efforts in 2010 when he was awarded the Expanding Workforce Opportunities Award. But Randy’s career was also rooted in his prior work for Suffolk Public Schools as a social studies teacher and tennis coach, as well as his work as a mechanical estimator for Smith and Keene, a local HVAC contractor.

“No task was too small or too great for him,” one TCC colleague recalls. “He approached every item on his to-do list with the same attention to detail and completion, including ordering equipment for the new facility; working with businesses, associations, and instructors; setting up classes; establishing credentials for programs; managing the facility and all that went with that, and much more. He is a great communicator. All interactions with Randy were pleasant because of his great attitude and easy-going personality.”

Retirement will see Randy devoting more time to long-standing interests and activities. As an exchange parent during the 1980’s and 1990’s, Randy and his wife, Barbara (who was herself an exchange student to Holland), plan to visit the exchange students from Sweden and Germany who lived with them. Randy will also continue to be an active booster of his grandsons’ athletic endeavors in football and soccer—as well as taking them for an extensive road trip this summer, with Asheville, North Carolina, for whitewater rafting as the starting point and Houston as the final destination. Randy is himself conditioning for competitive racquetball at Bayside Recreation in Virginia Beach. He’ll also continue his support of his alma mater, Brown University, as an undergraduate interviewer. Any time that is left over will find Randy supporting local environmental causes and working on his house in the Chic’s Beach area of Virginia Beach.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Randall W. Betz as a member of the College staff.



## KENNETH O. BROUN, JR.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

When we say someone is “starry eyed,” we usually mean that he or she is swept up in romantic feelings—but in Ken Broun’s case, his romance is with the stars themselves. His outstanding work on the Tidewater Community College Planetarium at the Virginia Beach Campus is the result of that romance. Together with Professor David Wright, Ken has helped ensure that the TCC Planetarium has been useful not only as a teaching tool, but also as an integral part of the college and larger community—and that the Planetarium could supplement the teaching of physics and mathematics.

As the Planetarium was being developed, Ken helped install software, build equipment platforms and projector covers, repair electronics, perform system backups, write scripts for planetarium shows and educational demonstrations, and host public planetarium and laser light shows. He also assisted with the TCC Observatory, repairing telescopes and performing lens alignments.

But the test of a first-rate professor is the ability to connect with students—to make them truly interested and motivated to learn more about a subject. As one of Ken’s students observes: “Mr. Broun is a knowledgeable, enthusiastic professor. It’s clear he really enjoys the course content and his job which makes class enjoyable.” Another says, “Mr. Broun is a very intelligent man. He definitely knows his stuff when it comes to Physics and Astronomy. You get to go see planetarium shows and museums to learn more about space!”

Ken’s enthusiasm and dedication were recognized by his colleagues in 2015 with a Certificate of Congratulations for Professional Excellence for Exceeding Performance Expectations in Institutional Responsibilities.

Retirement will find Ken doing some traveling and camping; possibly some surfing and fishing, and reading all the books he bought but never got around to reading. He’ll also be able to spend more time with his two daughters, who have both finished college and begun their own careers.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Kenneth O. Broun, Jr. as a member of the College faculty.

## ROBYN S. BROWDER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

The daughter of a Navy pilot— who would eventually be appointed second in command at Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach— Robyn Browder went to numerous schools in Rhode Island, California, Japan, and Florida before graduating from Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach. College-bound, she settled on a small, liberal arts school in Portsmouth called Frederick College, graduated in 1966 with her bachelor's degree in English, and began pursuing her master's degree at the College of William & Mary, which she would later finish at Old Dominion University. Little did she know that she would be hired as an instructor of reading for a newly-opened community college — Tidewater Community College — on the site of the former Frederick College campus.

As one of TCC's first English teachers, Robyn was assigned developmental and composition classes—ones she has preferred to teach over the years. Her focus on clear and well-researched presentation of information has been a foundational experience for her students. As a colleague has noted: "Her focus has always been on students and helping them to write at an acceptable level so they could succeed in the world. She was heavily involved in the development and improvement of developmental education in all its iterations—especially over the past 5 to 6 years." Robyn was formally recognized for exemplary instruction twice in recent years.

Robyn has also contributed greatly to the life of TCC. She was one of the first chairs of the Faculty Forum (now called the Faculty Senate) and she also served on the College Council, and Hiring and Curriculum Committees. But she is probably best known for her service as Faculty Marshal at TCC commencements and Phi Theta Kappa events. As the most senior TCC professor, she carried the TCC mace for these events for more than fifteen years.

While Robyn was an expert marksman and swimmer when she was younger, her focus in more recent years has been on horsemanship. She is the proud owner of three horses and she rides regularly on a ranch in Chesapeake. Retirement will find Robyn spending more time with her horses and her friends, doing yard work and house repairs, and listening to books on tape.

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Robyn S. Browder as a member of the College faculty.



## ESTELLE E. BUSSEY

### EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR II

After beginning her career as a therapeutic research associate at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Estelle Bussey relocated to San Diego for twenty-nine years and worked as a cancer research specialist at the University of California and a re-entry specialist for the State of California prison system. Along the way, she completed her Master of Science in vocational rehabilitation at San Diego State University. Estelle taught substance and drug abuse courses as an adjunct instructor at Thomas Nelson Community College in the early 2000's, then came to Tidewater Community's Chesapeake Campus, where she has been a trusted academic advisor for students and a dedicated cheerleader for TCC's mission for nearly two decades.

As one colleague notes, "Ms. Bussey has a special way of connecting with individuals, building rapport, and establishing long-standing relations. She is well connected in and outside of the TCC community." Another states, "Ms. Bussey embodies the mission of Tidewater Community College as it relates to guiding students in the pursuit and achievement of their educational goals while encouraging them to 'contribute as citizens and workers to the vitality of an increasingly global community.' Ms. Bussey leads by example by modeling the most positive attributes humanly possible for students, faculty, and staff.

Always one to be involved and helping, Estelle has actively participated in TCC Open Houses, Commencements, Community College Legislative Days, Faculty Senate, Student Success Committee, and Curriculum Committee, to name a few. She also facilitated substance abuse and drug information seminars and information tables at college events, as well as raising funds for non-profits such as ForKids, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and the American Heart Association.

Estelle's outreach to the Hampton Roads community has also been extensive. She has delivered career presentations for local public schools, as well as student development courses for students with disabilities in Chesapeake. She has given presentations to the Chesapeake Department of Social Services, advised Norfolk State University's PassPort Program, and been a presenter for the Chesapeake Juvenile Center. For all her initiatives and service to TCC and the Hampton Roads Community, Estelle received the 2016 Support Staff of the Year award.

Retirement will find Estelle continuing her volunteer efforts for her church, Calvary Baptist in Norfolk. She will also finally have time to complete a cookbook she has been working on for a while, *A Recipe Cookbook from the Soul of Estelle*.

*Sounds tasty, Estelle!*

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Estelle E. Bussey as a member of the College staff.

## CATHERINE B. CRAWFORD

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST III

**B**eginning her career at Tidewater Community College in 1978 as a clerk typist, Catherine Crawford has put her technical office skills to great use at TCC, working in various offices at Virginia Beach and Chesapeake.

A specialist in grade entry, Catherine began troubleshooting the system in 1980, acting as a technical liaison for both faculty and students. At that time, grades were still entered into the college's data base by clerk typists after the grades were delivered by faculty. The 1980's saw a move to punch cards for grade entry and then scanning of grades, but it was not until 2003 that the Peoplesoft program was put into place, making faculty responsible for grade entry themselves. Catherine was an integral employee in that transition and, thanks to her abilities and experience, she was recognized as a Peoplesoft Core Person and was awarded a bonus.

Retirement will find Catherine spending as much time as she can with her German shepherd puppy, Foxy. She also walks a mile every morning, and is devoting a lot more of her time to baking homemade dog cookies, chocolate chip cookies, and breads. Travel plans include San Antonio, Texas and eventually the West Coast. She and her husband, Bruce, will rent an RV and take as long as they want to travel the country.

*Happy trails, Catherine!*

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Catherine B. Crawford as a member of the College staff.



## MARTHA K. CROSS

### LIBRARY SPECIALIST II

**A**fter seven years' service with Paul D. Camp Community College's audiovisual department starting in 1978, Martha Cross earned a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Arts at Old Dominion University and came to Tidewater Community College's Portsmouth Campus in 1987 as an audiovisual specialist. Responsible for a wide variety of graphic arts production including flyers, posters and signage, Martha also delivered audio-visual equipment to classrooms and assisted in the library and learning lab. Following positions at Germanna Community College and the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg and Stafford, Martha returned to TCC in 2005 as the library specialist at the Visual Arts Center (VAC) in Old Towne Portsmouth. At the VAC, Martha was responsible for all library services, including reference, circulation, collecting, and culling of a five-thousand volume collection—as well as planning and overseeing the 2013 renovation of the library itself.

As one colleague recalls: "Martha has a great sense of humor and is a pleasure to work with. She has unique knowledge of the information needs of Visual Arts staff and faculty and ensures that they have consistent access to library resources as well as courteous, expert service." Another colleague recalls, "Martha enrolled in art history, pottery, and photography courses at the VAC to increase her knowledge and understanding of course content and assignments. This enabled her to guide students to library materials in support of recurring assignments."

A true bibliophile, Martha was well known for her love of books and libraries. "I always loved how excited she was about the last book she was reading. She liked to tell me all about it and made me want to read it, too!" says one colleague. Another recalls that "Martha liked nothing more than a good mystery—either a book or movie. Martha was the perfect fit for the VAC library and, over time, helped it move from a storage space for lecture slides to a comfortable, welcoming space for students and staff."

Martha's love of books and art was rewarded at the 39th Annual Student Art Show at the VAC in 2010 when she won an Award of Excellence for her "Book of Life," a ceramics piece in the shape of a book.

Although Martha is a long-time resident of Virginia, spring of 2020 will find her and her two cats—Quinn and Bentley—moving south to Montgomery, Alabama, where she plans to get into the catering business with a friend.

*Bon appétit, Martha!*

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Martha K. Cross as a member of the College staff.

## JEFFREY A. DECASTILLIA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ELECTROMECHANICAL CONTROLS TECHNOLOGY

While serving in the United States Coast Guard Reserve as an electrician's mate and concurrently working full time as a master electrician with the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Jeff DeCastillia completed his associate degree in electromechanical controls technology at Tidewater Community College in 1994. For fifteen years, he put his skills to work as a part-time electrical instructor at Norfolk Technical Center.

After completing a bachelor's degree in sociology in 2007, Jeff finished his education with a master's degree in education in 2011 at Regent University and was hired by TCC that same year to assist in the burgeoning mechatronics program at the Chesapeake Campus.

Appreciated by students for his hands-on approach to all things electrical, Jeff designed the Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Technology, which was approved and adapted by the Virginia Community College System in 2015. Geared to practical application, Jeff's approach to teaching included engaging lab activities that simulated real-world situations students would face in the field. As one student notes: Professor DeCastillia is a "master electrician and is very educated in the electrical career field. He helps students network and get hired. Very hands on with troubleshooting and maintenance opposed to theory and lecturing. Definitely a great instructor." His popular and effective instruction resulted in his being recognized by his colleagues with the Professional Excellence Award for four consecutive years.

Retirement will find Jeff and his wife, Janet (who retired in 2019 after 30 years with Dominion Power), giving more time to disaster relief work, as well as traveling. They recently completed a cross-country trip, stopping in Texas to work with Samaritan's Purse North American Ministries in rebuilding houses after devastating floods. In the past, they have assisted with home rebuilding with Hope Force International in Atlantic City, New Jersey, after Hurricane Sandy.

Other future plans for Jeff include boating, swimming, bowling and playing the guitar. Electric, you can be sure!

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Jeffrey A. DeCastillia as a member of the College faculty.



## SUSAN N. DOZIER

### PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

In 1969, Susan Dozier completed high school in Canton, Ohio, and took a job as a draftsman at a local roller bearings manufacturing plant. She may have never come to Tidewater Community College at all if not for a co-operative education offer from her employer that sent her to Virginia Tech for half a year. But, soon enough, she met her future husband, Richard, at Tech and decided that roller bearings were not going to be in her future any more.

Completing her bachelor's degree at Tech in 1973, Susan joined Richard in relocating to Norfolk, where he had a job waiting. After seven years of teaching in Newport News and Virginia Beach public schools, Susan dedicated the next twelve years to raising the couple's six children, four girls and two boys. During her "stay-at-home" time, Susan worked as a part-time coordinator of business and computer classes for the Adult Learning Center for Virginia Beach Public Schools, and taught information technology classes as an adjunct for TCC. Susan again took the full-time plunge back into the workplace in 1995, teaching mathematics in Virginia Beach Public Schools. When the turn of the century came, though, Susan was ready to move on to higher education and in January 2000, she began nearly two decades of information systems technology teaching at TCC's Virginia Beach Campus.

As one colleague recalls: "Susan taught eight different courses in information technology via a variety of methods—online, face to face, and even hybrid versions. She was always willing to share her knowledge in her areas of expertise and would often research students' questions to provide extra information. She was kind and generous with her time and was always eager to lend a helping hand to students and colleagues. She was first to volunteer to cover a colleague's classes when necessary and first to volunteer to host social gatherings for the division faculty and staff.

"Susan gave a high priority to providing service to the college. In addition to attending Discipline and Division meetings, she chaired several committees and served on the Grade Appeal, Curriculum, and Bookstore Advisory committees. She also served on the Campus Senate, was a Pilot Lead for Pathways, and participated in dozens of additional search committees, reviews, coordination and advisement."

A member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Susan holds industry certifications in Microsoft Office and Oracle Instruction, and is co-author of *Microsoft Office Go!*, published in 2007 by Pearson Publishing.

Retirement will find Susan traveling, with plans to go to England and the Greek islands as soon as possible. Here in Hampton Roads, Susan will continue her support of her church, as well as neighborhood collection efforts for charities

and financial contributions to Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Susan will also volunteer for clinical studies at the Strelitz Diabetes Center in Norfolk.

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Susan N. Dozier as a member of the College faculty.



## JEANETTE L. EAST

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST I

When Jeanette East first came to the Chesapeake Campus of Tidewater Community College in 1973, the campus had just opened, and she was one of its first students, earning an associate degree in education in 1976. Fast forward to 2020, and Jeanette can look back on a career that has seen her work in various positions on all four campuses.

Starting as a clerk-typist at the Chesapeake Campus library, Jeanette eventually became an assistant in the English department and spent five years assisting the developmental reading teachers until she moved to an instructional assistant position in the computer lab. Interested in and handy with computer systems, Jeanette had found her calling. As the digital revolution gained momentum in the 1980's, Jeanette moved on to an installation and repair position at the Virginia Beach Campus and then to network administrator at the Beach. She would then become an assistant to the network director at the Portsmouth Campus, after which she came to the Norfolk Campus and District Administration as a network analyst and telephone support specialist.

Along the way, Jeanette would earn her Novell Network Administrator Certification and her Commonwealth of Virginia Contracting Officer Certification. Given her prior experience as an English assistant at TCC and her computer certifications, Jeanette was hired to teach Introduction to Microcomputer Systems at TCC, as well as instruct staff in the use of computers and software. She also was responsible for identifying and ordering computer systems and peripherals.

Jeanette gave back to the college through her memberships in the Student Government Association and the Classified Association and her role as Secretary for the Virginia Community College Association.

Retirement will find Jeanette spending more time with her family, especially her grandson, Ashton. She will also have more time to study Egyptian art—a passion of hers for many years — as well as other topics in art history. Volunteer work will include the Virginia Beach Central Library, local food banks, and Toys for Tots at Christmas. And every day will see Jeanette walking her dog, Jackson.

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Jeanette L. East as a member of the College staff.

## CARRIE L. GORDON

INSTRUCTOR OF BIOLOGY

**B**eginning her career at Tidewater Community College as an adjunct instructor of biology in 1988, Carrie Gordon brought a wide-ranging background that included study of bird and plant populations on the North Carolina coast, as well as plant breeding and genetics for her master's degree in agronomy.

Known for her hands-on approach to her subject matter, Carrie expanded her own research background for her TCC students, involving them in number of out-of-class experiences that enriched their basic studies. She took students to First Landing State Park in Virginia Beach to study bald cypress and beach ecosystems. She took students on numerous whitewater canoeing trips down the Shenandoah River, as well as taking students to Douthat State Park in western Virginia for a cold weather weekend camping trip.

But certainly one of her most memorable studies involved giving vision tests to rhinos at the Virginia Zoo and King's Dominion Animal Park in Doswell, Virginia. As she recalls, this was "an experiment to check the distance rhinos can see by exposing them to a life-size photo replica (with movable head and tail). The replica was placed at a specific distance and uncovered. We then monitored the physical responses of the rhinos to gauge their ability to see the replica. If there was no response, we then covered the replica and moved it closer, repeating this until a response was noted. It was a little scary when the large male rhino at King's Dominion actually charged at us and the replica. Thank heavens for electrified spring-loaded fencing!"

Dedicated to all facets of biology, Carrie took care of the campus lab animals for most of her time at the college, as well as running a "Build a Terrarium" workshop. She also set up the campus greenhouse, bought some of the equipment and many of the plants to fill it, and oversaw it for a number of years. Carrie was also involved in the program for gifted sixth-grade students from Virginia Beach Public Schools, who came to TCC for exposure to a mix of different sciences, such as biology and geology. As a colleague recalls, "Carrie is a very straight, to the point and soft-spoken individual who is very thorough at what she has done here with her classes. Carrie was always willing to help anyone and offer her suggestions to the students here. She also cared for a fish tank in the biology labs and was helping out with caring for the greenhouse."

Retirement will find Carrie continuing with her longstanding interests in bird watching, gardening, and landscape and portrait painting. She also plans to return to volunteering at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, as well as the Virginia Beach SPCA. Additionally, she'll continue participating in



fund-raising charity walks and Clean the Bay Day. Long-term travel plans include Yellowstone National Park and the eight remaining U.S. states that she has not visited thus far. But immediate plans include a trip to the Palm Coast of northern Florida to visit family.

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Carrie L. Gordon as a member of the College faculty.

## MARK D. GREER

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

As a graduate teaching assistant in the late 1970's at Old Dominion University—where he completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in physics— Mark Greer taught undergraduate physics, physical science, and astronomy labs, courses he would later teach at Tidewater Community College. Initially hired to instruct apprentices in technical physics at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard Apprentice School, Mark would eventually put in ten years of teaching at the original Frederick campus before landing at the Virginia Beach Campus in 1990.

Besides his teaching duties, Mark gave back to the college through his involvement with TCC's public planetarium shows and his multiple terms as chair of the Faculty Senate. He also was chair of the faculty search committee that selected TCC's fourth president, Dr. Deborah DiCroce, and he was honored to introduce Dr. DiCroce to the college and the Hampton Roads community at commencement exercises.

In 2007, after the passing of his mother, Genevieve Greer, Mark established the Genevieve Greer Memorial Scholarship for Returning Students, an endowed scholarship founded to support female students “who are pursuing higher education for the first time at a later point in life, or who are returning to school after an absence.”

In retirement, Mark will continue to help with the judging of the Tidewater Regional Science Fair, but his first chore will be cleaning out his garage— so he can get back to some serious woodworking. Travel plans are also afoot. He and his girlfriend, Janet, should be spending some time in the Caribbean soaking up the sun and taking road trips to southeast Virginia to visit friends.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Mark D. Greer as a member of the College faculty.



## WAYNE F. HAYMAKER, JR.

### TRADES TECHNICIAN IV

**A**lthough Wayne Haymaker began his career at Tidewater Community College as an electrical foreman at the college's first location in Suffolk in the late 1980's, it was after his transfer to the Chesapeake Campus in 1994 that Wayne truly "spread his wings."

As manager of all facilities at the Chesapeake Campus, Wayne was responsible for every physical aspect of the campus—from building and electrical repair to snow removal, to name a few— and he enjoyed every challenge that came his way. As one colleague recalls: "One Christmas Eve late at night while putting together a present for his daughter, he received a call from security that the heat was off and it was getting extremely cold. He could have called any of his staff, but instead dropped what he was doing and came in. This is just one of many examples." Another recalls, "I always felt Wayne would never ask anyone to do anything he wouldn't do himself. His general nature was kind, compassionate...and caring." And another co-worker says, "Whatever came up, whenever it came up, Wayne was always at the ready to do what needed to be done to work the problem. Wayne is someone I could always count on."

Besides keeping the Chesapeake Campus in great shape, Wayne also gave his time to hiring committees and contract committees for HVAC, electrical, and landscaping. He also helped with all campus events at Chesapeake, including presidential hopeful Mitt Romney's stopover on October 17, 2012, when Wayne had to work closely with the Secret Service to ensure security was airtight.

Wayne's dedicated service to TCC also saw him attain an Associate of Science in General Studies, with honors, in the spring of 2007. Meanwhile, Wayne has continued a lifelong interest in aviation that has seen him fly private planes and helicopters, skydive, hang-glide and, most recently, work on attaining a federal drone operator license. Wayne is also a continuing member of the Aircraft Owner and Pilot Association and the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Retirement will find Wayne, well, not really retired. He will continue his career post-TCC as a supervisor of the heating and cooling plant of Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, a facility of over two million square feet. But when he does get a chance for a vacation, Wayne and his wife, Abbe, plan to take their new grandson— Oliver Miles aka "Bobcat"—to Disney World.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Wayne F. Haymaker, Jr. as a member of the College staff.

## DR. CHARLES G. HOOD

PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

After completing his doctorate in physics at Boston University in 1971, Dr. Charles Hood taught physics and science at a number of colleges and high schools in Massachusetts before accepting a position with Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach Campus, in 1987. The author of numerous articles on physics and other scientific subjects, Dr. Hood also authored a high school textbook, *Basic Physics*, for use in the Newton, Massachusetts, public schools, as well as a college textbook with his colleague Ken Broun, *Physics Inside Out*, which was used at TCC for a number of years. His students considered Dr. Hood a tough grader, but with clear grading criteria so they knew where they stood.

A self-proclaimed “seeker of going beyond what is currently known or done,” Dr. Hood plans to continue his studies in theoretical physics, as well as finish a paper related to cosmology and a science fiction novel, *The Saradans*. If there is time to spare, he’ll also help his wife in her activities with WHRO, the Virginia Symphony, the Virginia Opera, and the Muse Writing Center. Some travel plans are in the offing, as well as “pulling a few weeds now and then.”

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Dr. Charles G. Hood as a member of the College faculty.



## JOSEPH JOYNER, JR.

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

**A**fter serving in the United States Navy for nearly two decades—a service that would see him deployed to South America, the Mediterranean, and the Persian Gulf—Joe Joyner retired with the rank of lieutenant commander and took on a new ten-year “deployment”: mathematics teacher at Norview High School in Norfolk. Joe had kept his math teaching skills honed while in the Navy, working as a mathematics department adjunct for the University of South Carolina aboard the USS Mahan, so he was ready for his new “command.” In 2004, Joe accepted a position with Tidewater Community College’s Norfolk Campus as a math professor, after having taught at TCC as an adjunct.

Besides teaching the full range of mathematics— from developmental courses to applied calculus— Joe was also tapped as interim dean of the Norfolk Campus’ Languages, Mathematics and Science division in 2008 and 2012. In 2011, he was one of two TCC representatives on the Virginia Community College System Task Force on Developmental Education. Joe also gave freely of his time to the Hiring, Classroom Learning and Technology, and Professional Development committees. Additionally, Joe served as chair of the Norfolk Faculty Senate.

Retirement will find Joe continuing his twenty-year association with the American Meteorological Society, as a mentor/facilitator for K-12 teachers in the online graduate course program, DataStreme. He’ll also continue as a volunteer for WHRO Voice, the on-air reading service for those who cannot read due to visual impairment or disability. The extra time retirement provides will also find Joe utilizing a new computer to create computer graphics for his three grandchildren. And, although Joe’s Navy career took him to far-flung places, he wants to travel to more exotic locales in the future, especially in Africa and Asia.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Joseph Joyner, Jr. as a member of the College faculty.

## KATHLEEN A. MASCIANGELO

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Following a nine-year career in the United States Navy after completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Kathleen (“Kathy”) Masciangelo worked as a staff/relief charge nurse in the Intensive Care Unit of DePaul Hospital in Norfolk while she completed her Master of Science in Community Health Education at Old Dominion University in 1985. She was soon on the move again, becoming vice president of nursing and clinical services for the New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland, Maine, a state where she also worked as an ambulatory clinic nurse. Married to a Navy pilot assigned to the Sixth Fleet, Kathy would take two more nursing/health education positions in Naples, Italy, before she and her husband, Peter, came to Virginia Beach, and that’s when Kathy started work at Tidewater Community College as adjunct faculty/part-time clinical coordinator for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program. In 1998, she would take on the full-time challenge of Clinical Coordinator.

Responsible for placing students in more than eighteen hospitals and over sixty specialty units, Kathy also oriented, prepared, monitored and evaluated students’ clinical internships, acting as a liaison with the greater clinical community. Prior to the introduction of sophisticated monitoring software, Kathy tracked students’ progress by hand, an enormous but necessary task to ensure clinical compliance.

Kathy also expanded the EMS program to include assistant coordinators, and she created and developed the Student Clinical Handbook, an essential touchstone for the EMS program at TCC. She also developed a hospital preceptor training program. Maintaining an active Registered Nurse licensure for more than forty-seven years, Kathy reports, “I am most proud of the positive relationship I developed with all our clinical sites and the discussions with doctors, nurses, educators, and hospital staff” that are essential to the EMS program. She also enjoyed the challenge of preparing her students for their internships in the hospital and field settings.

Not one to be idle, retirement will find Kathy active in the Broad Bay Island Garden Club, of which she is a member. She also plans to spend more time volunteering for her church, an extension of Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church at Fort Story. Volunteer work in the health industry is definitely in the works eventually, but the first order of business is spending more time with her five grandchildren—and one more due in August! When things settle down a bit, Kathy and Peter hope to see more of the USA, including the wine country of Napa Valley, California. A trip back to Italy is definitely a possibility as well as a return trip to the British Virgin Islands.

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Kathleen A. Masciangelo as a member of the College faculty.



## ARTHUR A. MENDONSA

PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

After completing a bachelor's degree in physics at the United States Naval Academy, Arthur "Don" Mendonsa spent the last half of the 1970's as an officer on nuclear submarines that operated in the North Atlantic during the latter days of the Cold War. After he left the Navy, Don came to Tidewater Community College's Chesapeake Campus, first as a student, and then as an adjunct instructor, putting his education and naval experience to work teaching information technology (IT).

Don was hired full-time after a year as an adjunct and, in addition to his teaching duties, helped to plan, install, and manage the first academic local area network (LAN) at the campus. Throughout his time at TCC, he has been instrumental in the teaching and advancement of information technology at both the Chesapeake Campus and at the college as a whole.

Besides his teaching duties, Don sponsored a student chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery for two years; he initiated and assisted in sponsoring programming competitions at TCC; and he took teams of TCC students to programming competitions across Virginia. Certified by Cisco and Novell in networking technologies, Don was also responsible for administering the Cisco Regional Network Academy. Such involvement and dedication to IT was evident to Don's colleagues and students. As one co-worker recalls, "Don is one of the most patient and methodical persons teaching at TCC. He will be missed by both his colleagues and his students." Another states, "Don was a great sounding board for ideas, a great listener, and his experience, wisdom and advice will be missed." And another colleague, when asked to define Don as a person, states: "Thoughtful, thorough, forward-looking."

Retirement will find Don with a lot more time to spend with his wife, Jill, and their family of five adult children—one girl, four boys—as well as their four grandchildren, with another expected soon. Don is a dedicated member of Tidewater Baptist Church, where he seeks to learn and teach others about faith, helps with church bookkeeping, and sings and plays guitar for church services. Don's interests in IT will likely continue as he now has more time to pursue research in computational complexity as well as developing other skills in IT. He is also interested in learning to speak other languages and in expanding his abilities on the guitar.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Arthur A. Mendonsa as a member of the College faculty.

## PHYLLIS F. MILLOY

### VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE

Certainly one of the most crucial aspects of an organization is its financial stability. Bills must be paid on time, contracts honored, and employees paid. Reputation is critical. Since 1982, when she joined the staff of Danville Community College as an accountant, Phyllis Milloy has served the Virginia Community College System (VCCS)—not only at Danville but also at Rappahannock as well as Tidewater community colleges—with financial acumen, sensitivity, and vision.

After attending Danville Community College (DCC), Phyllis completed her Bachelor of Business Management and Accounting and her Master of Business Administration at Averett College in Danville. After positions as Business Manager at DCC and Dean of Financial and Administrative Services at Rappahannock, she made the move to TCC in 1993. Responsible for all aspects of the college's finances, Phyllis built a team that would help TCC meet the challenges of accelerated growth—not only of the physical plant but more importantly, of the student body. Critical to that growth were the financial/informational systems that needed updating. As a co-chair of the VCCS Student Information System (SIS) implementation in the early 2000's, Phyllis was instrumental in the start-up of the system which still serves the VCCS today. As the decade progressed, Phyllis also negotiated numerous contracts and agreements, among them the TCC Barnes and Noble Bookstore location in MacArthur Center, the TCC child care facilities, Hampton Roads Regional Transit passes for students, and many others. As a reaffirmation reviewer for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for almost 30 years, Phyllis traveled to all states but one to assist in the financial reviews of other colleges.

"TCC has been fortunate to have someone as savvy and knowledgeable about the institution as Phyllis," says a colleague. "Thanks to her, TCC has sailed through numerous audits over the years, and we've been able to weather downturns in enrollment and revenue better than some of our sister schools. She has always upheld the highest professional standards and supported the mission of the college."

The mother of two daughters—Rachel and Kathleen—Phyllis will be celebrating the arrival of Rachel's daughter, Phyllis' first grandchild was born in July. Besides spending as much time as she can with her grandchild, Phyllis will also have more time for her hobbies—hiking, kayaking, cooking, and reading.

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Phyllis F. Milloy as a member of the College staff.



## CRAIG A. NILSEN

PROFESSOR OF ART

In 1979, when Craig Nilsen was hired to teach a curriculum of basic art classes at Tidewater Community College, the art department was still located at Camp Pendleton on the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Eventually, classes were moved to the Virginia Beach Campus before the department found a permanent home—the Visual Arts Center (VAC)—in 1995 in a former The Famous department store building in Olde Towne Portsmouth. A lot can change in forty years, especially the methods for creating art, and Craig Nilsen has been instrumental in bringing the digital revolution to TCC's art program.

Coming to TCC after a number of years in West Virginia, where he completed his Master of Fine Arts with a specialty in printmaking at West Virginia University, Craig had extensive experience as a working artist, curriculum designer, and for three years, a general contractor. Additionally, with a partner, he had formed the Kanawha Print Workshop, Inc., a subscription workshop established for the advancement and support of printmaking in the Kanawha Valley. This background was exactly what the TCC art program needed and Craig was soon tasked with starting up the graphic design program for the college. But, as the 1980's dawned, Craig knew the future of graphic design would be computer-based, and he worked quickly to bring the art department up to speed.

As one colleague recalls: "The graphic design program that TCC has today is in large part due to Craig Nilsen. What started out as commercial design—essentially cut and paste—has grown to include a degree in graphic design and two specializations, advertising design and multi-media.

"Craig understood very early the role computers would play in the field of graphic design and he lobbied hard for the first shared Mac computer (in 1985)," says a colleague. "Today, the Visual Arts Center has seven full Mac labs and a video studio. Thanks to Craig, the graphic design program continues to be cutting edge."

Interested in all aspects of the visual arts produced at TCC, Craig helped supervise the design and publication of both student print publications—*340 High Street* and *ChannelMarker*—as well as designing promotional materials for the VAC galleries' shows, and serving as the emcee for the yearly VAC student art show. He also understood the impact that video would have on the visual arts. As a colleague recalls, "One contribution of Craig's time and talents was for the 2010 Women in Design exhibit held in the VAC galleries. A feature of this historic exhibit was the documentary video that Craig produced from the individual video and audio bios submitted by our nine featured women designers. With a very short deadline, Craig created a cohesive, entertaining compilation that ran continuously in the gallery and became a highlight of the exhibit."

Over the years, Craig designed hundreds of invitations, books and booklets, promotional and informational materials, as well as the official college seal. He also designed the bronze plaque and the 20-foot photo commemorating the 1960's sit-ins on Granby Mall that spans the front of the Walker Building on the Norfolk Campus. A working artist, Craig has paintings exhibited in various buildings at TCC and he continues to work in acrylics, engraved stainless steel, and other media. Retirement will find him continuing to create art, do a little traveling, hopefully to Scotland, Norway, and Iceland, and finally getting to all the little projects he didn't have time for in his forty years of teaching at TCC. Also on the horizon is a move back out west to Wise, Virginia, where he and his wife, Terry Baugh, own an old farmhouse, parts of which were built before the Civil War.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Craig A. Nilsen as a member of the College faculty



## DIANNE R. PARKER

### EDUCATION SUPPORT SPECIALIST II

When Dianne Parker was eighteen years old, she and a group of friends went on a skydiving excursion. However, due to some serious updrafts, Dianne was swept far afield of the landing target and broke her foot— but she loved every minute of the experience and brought that enthusiasm for “the new” to Tidewater Community College in her work as an admissions specialist.

A native of Colorado, Dianne began her career in student services at a student loan servicing center in Englewood. When her husband, Dean, was deployed to Pensacola, Florida, by the Navy, Dianne went to work for the University of West Florida until Dean was transferred to Norfolk—bringing Dianne into the TCC fold in the records department at the Virginia Beach Campus in 1983.

In 1994, Dean was transferred again by the Navy—this time to Maine, where Dianne worked in a clerical position at Bowdoin College, until Dean was transferred back to Hampton Roads in 1996 and Dianne returned to her position at the Beach campus until she transferred to Enrollment Services/Admissions at the Chesapeake Campus in 2007.

As someone who likes to be involved, Dianne served the college in a number of ways. She was a member of the college-wide PeopleSoft Student Information System implementation team when the college shifted to that system in the early 2000's. She also actively served on a number of governance committees including the International Committee, the Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable, the Virginia Beach Faculty and Staff Campus Social Committee, the College Retirement Committee, the Faculty/Staff Picnic Committee as well as several hiring committees. Dianne served on the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign for many years, was the CommonHealth Coordinator at the Chesapeake Campus, and served on the Chesapeake Classified Assembly as well as the TCC Classified Association. Dianne is also a member of the Virginia Community Colleges Association, the Virginia Governmental Employees Association, and the Phi Theta Kappa Society at TCC.

Retirement will find Dianne spending more time with her four grandchildren— watching them participate in various sports and musical activities. As a member of Great Bridge Methodist Church in Chesapeake, she will continue her involvement in outreach activities. Dianne also plans to audit classes at TCC and, in the near future, purchase an RV and travel to all the places in the United States that she and Dean have always wanted to see.

*Bon voyage, Dianne!*

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Dianne R. Parker as a member of the College staff.

## MARY D. PARZYNSKI

### EDUCATION SUPPORT SPECIALIST III

In 1995, after a decorated twenty-year career in the United States Coast Guard that saw her stationed at numerous ports on the East Coast, Mary Parzynski accepted a part-time office-manager position at the Chesapeake Campus of Tidewater Community College. She soon completed an associate degree in Business Management while working as a Veterans Affairs work-study student. She went full-time at the college, and moved to the position of Supervisor of Veterans Affairs: Financial Services in 2000, before switching to purchasing and supply for the Center for Military and Veterans Affairs in 2012.

A go-getter, Mary was well-known for getting the job done. As one colleague recalls, "It was an absolute pleasure working with Ms. Parzynski over the years. I watched her lead the Chesapeake Campus Veterans Affairs office with a great deal of strength, integrity, and confidence. Year after year, Ms. Mary ensured the Chesapeake Campus had flawless audits in VA records. She led by example and mentored a great number of individuals, many ultimately finding their own way in higher education. Ms. Mary is an amazing woman who has served thousands of students at the Chesapeake Campus."

Another colleague says, "I appreciate Mary for demonstrating the qualities a leader should possess. She never had a problem sharing what she knows or has learned. Mary is inspirational, strong, and confident." And another colleague had this to say: "Ms. Parzynski possesses the unique ability to motivate and instill confidence in all who seek her counsel. She has handled her responsibilities with spirit and sophistication, interacting with students, faculty, staff, and the general public in a highly effective, efficient, respectful, and responsible way. Her competence, compassion, and work ethic are exemplary and set the standard for all to follow."

Mary has consistently monitored veterans' issues, not only at TCC, but also through her memberships in the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators, where she has been a board member since 2002, and on the Commission for Veterans Affairs for the City of Chesapeake, a position to which she was appointed in 2004.

Retirement will find Mary continuing her involvement with the Commission, as well as devoting more time to reading, gardening, and bowling. Travel plans include a trip this fall with her husband (also a veteran) to visit their daughter, Phylcia, who works for the United States Civil Service in Japan. They also hope to fit in a trip to Mobile, Alabama, to visit son Richard, and will be able to see more of their son Antonio, who lives in Chesapeake. Mary will also be able to devote more of her time to her evangelism with the Fellowship Deliverance Church in Chesapeake.

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Mary D. Parzynski as a member of the College staff.



## DR. MICHAEL C. PLUMB

PROFESSOR OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

During a two-decade career in the United States Navy, Dr. Michael Plumb completed his bachelor's and master's degrees before retiring in 1988 to work in port operations in Hampton Roads. Luckily for Tidewater Community College, Dr. Plumb picked up some "scuttlebutt" on the waterfront indicating that TCC was looking for Industrial Management teachers for a contract at the Ford plant in Chesapeake. The steamship company that Dr. Plumb worked for in port operations is long gone, as is the Ford plant, but Dr. Plumb's part-time teaching job at the plant led to a twenty-one year career at TCC that would see him bring real-life experiences to students, as well as a wealth of technical know-how in a field that is fundamental to Hampton Roads' industries.

Dr. Plumb's doctorate in Engineering Management and Systems Engineering, which he completed in 2011 at Old Dominion University, encompassed a wide range of technical knowledge including ship design, maintenance and repair, project management of ship operations including hull, mechanical and electrical control systems, and other technical areas vital to streamlined marine service. Making technical information appealing to undergraduates can be difficult, but Dr. Plumb was well-known at TCC as an engaging and technically astute professor. As one student notes, Dr. Plumb is an "excellent teacher! If you are even slightly interested in the Mechanical /Material Engineering field, take this man. He knows his stuff and is a very entertaining lecturer. He is always available, even if it's to talk about careers and not just class. He is very witty and intelligent." Another student notes: "Took him for Orientation to Engineering. Such a nice guy! Super interested in his work and wonderfully helpful. Definitely a great professor to take."

Recognized for his teaching and advising skills, Dr. Plumb was twice awarded the TCC Exemplary Leadership Service Award. Dr. Plumb also chaired the Virginia Campus Faculty Senate for two years, and served on numerous other committees.

Retirement will find Dr. Plumb continuing his membership in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools High Performance Manufacturing Engineering Advisory Board, a position he has held since 2004. He will also continue his long-standing membership in the Bayside Masonic Lodge in Virginia Beach. On the horizon are fishing trips and motorcycling across the United States.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Dr. Michael C. Plumb as a member of the College faculty.

## KATHY D. RICHARDSON

ADMINISTRATIVE AND OFFICE SPECIALIST III

Beginning her career at Tidewater Community College when she was only seventeen years old, Kathy Richardson spent her entire working life at the college—more than forty-two years, in fact. When she began in 1977, the Portsmouth Campus had been in operation for about nine years, but the Virginia Beach and Chesapeake campuses had only been open for four. As an employee at the original Portsmouth Campus—where she remained until moving to the new Portsmouth campus in 2010—Kathy wore a number of hats throughout the years, both there and at the new campus. She started out in the Business Office, moved briefly to the Accounting Office, then the Continuing Education Office, and to division offices that included math, science, nursing, business and public services. She eventually settled in as administrative assistant to the Dean of Business, Public Services, and Technologies at the new Portsmouth Campus.

As a colleague recalls, “Kathy is very dedicated to TCC, having spent her working life on the Portsmouth Campus. She is one of our ‘campus cheerleaders’ and morale boosters, always keeping up with what is going on with her co-workers. Kathy has a pleasant, easygoing demeanor that welcomes those who enter the office. Many times Kathy will find answers to student questions that are not related to her Division or Pathway programs. She will make calls and follow up with students to be sure they have the information they need to succeed at TCC. Kathy will work from home to finish scheduling even when she is out with illness. Kathy is a fount of TCC information.” And, as another colleague notes, “Kathy is a caring person who helps others without hesitation.”

Besides her regular duties at the college, Kathy served on numerous committees, including staff and faculty hiring committees. She also served as an officer for the Classified Assembly at Portsmouth, as well as working at many of the Classified Professional Development Day events. Kathy and her family also were involved in student exchanges that saw them host three foreign students in their home over a span of three years.

After all these busy years at Portsmouth, will Kathy be able to adjust to retirement? Well, her current itinerary includes scrapbooking conventions, wine pairing parties, regular Buncogames, spending more time with her poodle, Gypsy, as well as her two grandchildren, and planning for a trip around the USA.

So, yeah, she’s got it covered!

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Kathy D. Richardson as a member of the College staff.



## CAMERON L. RUSSELL

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Following a decade of service in the United States Air Force, an enlistment that saw her stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Cameron Russell completed the education that she had begun in the 1970's at Tidewater Community College and finished with a master's degree in biology at Old Dominion University in 2000.

Coming to TCC initially as an adjunct professor in 1999, Cameron went full-time at the Norfolk Campus in 2003. And her love of teaching and the college milieu was well-known. Cameron was vice chair of the Faculty Senate twice, as well as serving on the curriculum, hiring, and on-line learning committees.

As one colleague recalls, Cameron was a "totally engaged, student first, faculty advocate. She was constantly involved and constantly engaged. Cameron attended every open meeting that was remotely connected to her job and/or issues that impacted faculty or students or the TCC mission. She did not just attend—she participated and always asked questions and made suggestions." As one of her students recalls, "She is absolutely astounding. An amazing teacher that not only cares about the success of her students in her class but in every class and in life. Also she is very funny, and knows how to keep the material interesting and lively."

Retirement will find Cameron staying as busy as she was at TCC. She will devote substantial time to volunteering for Team Rubicon, a domestic and international disaster relief organization. She is also writing nature articles for River Views, the news magazine for her Suffolk neighborhood, The Riverfront. Last June she took the first of many planned trips—a river cruise in Portugal. She also plans to visit Cape Coral, Florida, to check up on a convalescing acquaintance and to visit New York City, a metropolis that she has never visited before.

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Cameron L. Russell as a member of the College faculty.

## CAROLYN W. WILLIAMS

### COUNSELOR

After beginning her career in counseling at Edgecombe Community College in Tarboro, North Carolina, Carolyn Williams relocated to Virginia Beach and started her career at Tidewater Community College in 1993 as a part-time career counselor at the Virginia Beach Campus' Career Resource Center. Over the next fourteen years, Carolyn provided a number of counseling services at the Beach, the Chesapeake Campus and the Norfolk Campus until she eventually returned to the Beach campus in 2007.

Counselors are often required to wear a number of hats, and Carolyn is no exception. She has provided counseling for educational accessibility, career exploration and the Career Switcher program, and the Upward Bound program, to name a few examples. But central to counseling on the community college level is the specific identification of career paths for individuals—and Carolyn worked diligently to ensure students were educated as to their best options for success at TCC and after graduation. Among Carolyn's many "hats" were Career Counselor, Transfer Counselor, Counselor/Advisor for the University of Virginia Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Program, and Regional Counselor for the Virginia Community College Career Switcher Program, which prepares college graduates to teach in Virginia's public schools.

Carolyn's efforts have been welcomed by students and colleagues. She received the Virginia Community College Association (VCCA) Unsung Hero award in 2016 and the VCCA Showcase award in 2011. For the 2002-2003 school year, she won the Classified Staff of the Year Award for her work with Norfolk Campus Student Services. She has also been recognized by a number of certificates and awards in student services, and she has lent her time to the Faculty Senate both at Virginia Beach and Norfolk, the Internal Relations Committee, the Student Success Committee and the Hiring Committee, as well as numerous other committees.

Retirement will find Carolyn devoting more of her time to faith-based work—she is one of Jehovah's Witnesses—especially involving disaster relief. She is also learning French and hopes to put it to use someday during her travels. So far, she has not been to a French-speaking country, but she has visited Arizona and Peru and plans to do more extensive traveling in the future to all of the United States and, eventually, Mexico.

Bon voyage, Carolyn!

On the occasion of her retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Carolyn W. Williams as a member of the College staff.



## DR. DAVID S. WRIGHT

PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

While it's not unusual for a college professor to be interviewed on the local news, it's a whole other ballgame when that professor and two of his students are flown — all expenses paid — to Hollywood to appear on a national program. But that's exactly what happened for Dr. David Wright after a couple of his students posted a tweet showing his unique physics class demonstrations — lying on a bed of nails and jumping up and down on a pogo stick are just two examples. After making headlines in *People Magazine*, on Yahoo and on programs such as *NPR Education* and *Good Morning America*, Dr. Wright and his two students found themselves in front of America on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*. "Surreal" is how one of the students described the experience. But going beyond the expected is par for the course for Dr. Wright.

Coming to Tidewater Community College in 1974, Dr. Wright has been tireless in his efforts for the physics program, as well as the astronomy program. Building both essentially from the ground up, Dr. Wright was instrumental in setting up and equipping the physics labs at the Virginia Beach Campus, as well as writing the lab exercises. With Professor Ken Broun, Dr. Wright began the astronomy program that ran parallel to the physics program, helping in the planning, design, and operation of the TCC Observatory and Planetarium.

Dr. Wright has greatly assisted the college with his service as chair of the Virginia Beach Campus Faculty Senate and as chair of the Faculty Senate Professional Development Committee and the Faculty Professional Development Committee. Given the breadth of Dr. Wright's interests and accomplishments on behalf of the college, it is not surprising that he has been recognized for his efforts by numerous awards including TCC Professor of the Year in 2017, the Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award in 2002, the George B. Pass Distinguished Service Award in 1992 and 1998, and the TCC Virginia Beach Campus Teacher of the Year Award in 1996.

Eager to bring scientific knowledge and study to the public, Dr. Wright has shared his passion for the sciences with his "Physics in Motion" interactive shows at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia, and Tampa, Florida. He is also active with the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), serving in various offices for the Chesapeake section of the AAPT, and has run the Teachers of Physics Society for the benefit of high school physics teachers in Hampton Roads for many years.

In his retirement, Dr. Wright plans to continue his community involvement in the teaching of physics and astronomy, as well as to devote more time to his leadership role in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

On the occasion of his retirement, Tidewater Community College recognizes the life and work of Dr. David S. Wright as a member of the College faculty.



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