

# VAN GRAN

VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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You're Invited to VGCC's

## Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration

Thursday, Jan. 20  
11 a.m.

VGCC Civic Center

Featuring a choir of  
VGCC Students,  
Faculty & Staff,  
And Students  
speaking on the legacy  
of Dr. King.

**FREE ADMISSION**

Please bring a non-perishable food item which will be donated to area seniors. Every attendee who brings a food item will be entered into a drawing for a door prize.

# Welcome to the New Year at VGCC!

## VGCC Board Meets, Accepts Donations from Faculty and Staff

The Vance-Granville Community College Board of Trustees held its regular bimonthly meeting on Monday, November 15, at the college's Henderson campus. At that meeting, Curtis Tyndall and Blondelle Edgerton, co-chairs of the annual VGCC Endowment Fund Faculty and Staff Drive, presented a check to the Board for \$24,708. Steve McGrady was the third co-chair of the Drive, but was unable to attend the meeting. The money was donated by VGCC faculty and staff to fund scholarships for VGCC students. Board Chairman Donald C. Seifert thanked the faculty and staff for their generosity and continuing support of the Endowment Program. Trustee Emeritus John K. Nelms was so impressed with the generosity of the faculty and staff that he made a personal donation to the Endowment Fund to make the drive total \$25,000. Jo Anna Finch Jones,



**CHECK PRESENTATION:** The Board of Trustees received a check for \$24,708 from VGCC faculty and staff at the November Board meeting. Pictured from left: Randy Parker, VGCC President; Donald C. Seifert, chairman of the VGCC Board of Trustees; Blondelle Edgerton and Curtis Tyndall, co-chairs of the annual VGCC Endowment Fund Faculty and Staff Drive. Steve McGrady was the third co-chair of the Drive.

VGCC's Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Director of the Endowment Program, also expressed her gratitude to the faculty and staff and to Nelms.

Special guests at the meeting were Joseph Tyler, Program Head of Bioprocess Technology at VGCC, and Dr. Tara Hamilton, BioWork and Bioprocess instructor at the

Franklin County Campus. They gave the Board a detailed report on the biotechnology programs at VGCC, including the labs, local employers and plans to grow the programs in the future.

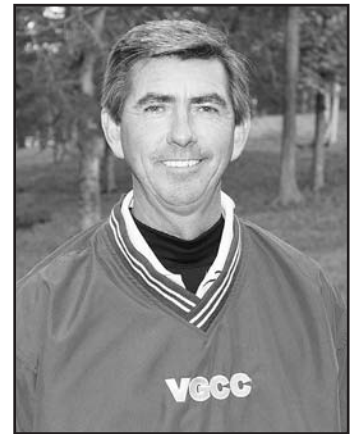
The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Warren County Campus.

# SGA Officers Elected

**OFFICERS NAMED:** VGCC's Student Government Association has elected a slate of officers to serve during the 2010-2011 year. They include, pictured from left, seated, Vice President Shinita Terry of Henderson (Criminal Justice major) and President Randal Chandler of Granville County (College Transfer); from left, standing, Secretary Tarsha Terry-Davis of Henderson (Culinary Technology), Treasurer Skott Daeke of Henderson (College Transfer) and Parliamentarian Joy Burnside of southern Granville County (School-Age Education). Not pictured: Public Information Officer Goldie Davis of Henderson (School-Age Education). The Student Government Association is



designed to promote the general welfare of the college in a democratic fashion and to facilitate communication among the student body, the faculty, and the administration. SGA also provides a means through which students can promote interest in student activities.



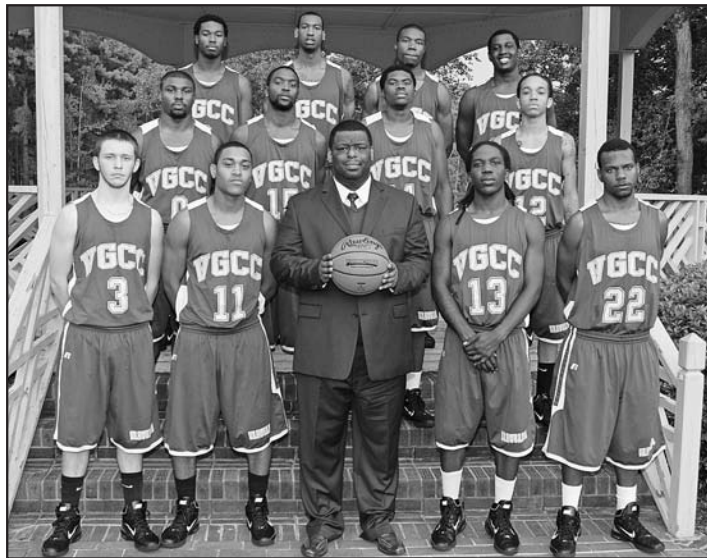
**COACH JIM SCHWAB**

## VGCC Names New Golf Coach

Jim Schwab of Durham has been named the coach for the intercollegiate golf program at VGCC. Schwab takes the reins of the program as it prepares for its third season, and its second season of official National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)-level competition. Schwab has been playing golf since he was 25 years old. After he retired as a Duke University police officer, he became a professional golf instructor in 2003, earning his master's certification from the United States Golf Teachers Federation in 2005. Schwab said he has taught "everyone from beginners to pros" in North and South Carolina, in addition to competing as an amateur and professionally himself over the years. Schwab is currently recruiting players, including both men and women, for the spring 2011 season. For more information about participating in the VGCC Vanguard's golf program, contact Coach Schwab at (919) 475-1542 or [schwabj007@aol.com](mailto:schwabj007@aol.com).

## VGCC Vanguard's Back in Action in January

**BASKETBALL TEAM:** The 2010-2011 VGCC men's basketball team includes, front row, from left: Zach Beale, Trentin Cozart, head coach Avery L. Wilson, Mychal Williams and Derrick Knight; second row, from left: Dante Walker, Sam Hilton, Josh Coles and Traimaine Bagby; back row, from left: Ryan Branch, Ryan Belton, Clarence Garner, and Moise (Mo) Somadagbi. VGCC fans have numerous opportunities to see the Vanguard's in action at home (Aycock Recreation Center in Henderson) this month. See the schedule below.



### Upcoming Home Men's Basketball Games

- Jan. 5: VGCC vs. Southside Virginia CC (7 p.m.)
- Jan. 8: VGCC vs. Louisburg College (3 p.m.)
- Jan. 12: VGCC vs. Guilford Tech CC (7 p.m.)
- Jan. 22: VGCC vs. Pitt CC (3 p.m.)
- Jan. 26: VGCC vs. Patrick Henry CC (7 p.m.)
- Jan. 29: VGCC vs. Davidson County CC (3 p.m.)

# VGCC Students Recognized at State Phi Beta Lambda Conference

Members of the VGCC "Chi Beta Chi" chapter of the Phi Beta Lambda business student organization attended the state PBL Fall Leadership Development Conference at the Clarion Hotel in Greensboro, on Nov. 12-13. The VGCC chapter brought home several recognitions and awards. The chapter was recognized for having the largest total membership of any chapter in the state, as well as the largest Professional Division membership. Professional Division members are established business professionals and educators. VGCC also won the first-



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:** From left, VGCC Phi Beta Lambda chapter secretary Sheri Moss of Henderson, chapter advisor LaTonya Steele, and chapter historian John Pendergrass of Henderson. Moss and Pendergrass received NCPBL Foundation, Inc. Scholarships.

place trophy for the "Best Display of Member Recruitment Materials" and was recognized for having the second-largest chapter delegation in attendance at the conference.

Two VGCC Phi Beta Lambda officers, chapter secretary Sheri Moss and chapter historian John Pendergrass, both of Henderson, received NCPBL Foundation, Inc. Scholarships. Another VGCC member, Ruthie Davis of Warrenton, won the honor of designing the new 2010-2011 State Conference Commemorative Pin, employing the theme of the conference, "Breaking Barriers."

## VGCC Holds College Day for Transferring Students



**COLLEGE DAY:** Vance-Granville hosted admissions representatives from four-year colleges and universities on Nov. 19 in Building 6 on its main campus. The event was VGCC's annual College Day, in which students obtain important information about transfer requirements, financial aid and scholarships. VGCC students browsed through displays and talked with representatives from 18 four-year schools, while picking up college applications and catalogs. Most of the colleges and universities were from North Carolina. College Day is organized by the VGCC Counseling Services department. Pictured above, from left, Sandra White and Joyce Long of St. Augustine's University give information to Vance County Early College High School student Eriekca Crosby. Joyce Long is a VGCC graduate herself.

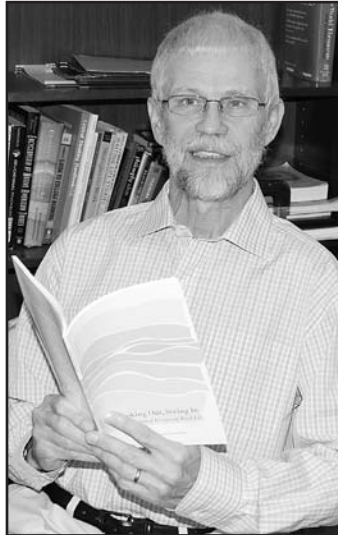
## VGCC Celebrates International Education Week

VGCC joined colleges across the United States in celebrating International Education Week (Nov. 15-19, 2010). The VGCC Global Awareness Committee took stock of how truly internationalized the college has become.

According to VGCC Dean of Business and Applied Technologies Bobby Van Brunt, who chairs that committee, at least 68 students enrolled in curriculum programs during the Fall 2010 semester were natives of a country other than the U.S., from Brazil to Zimbabwe. Several of the students were highlighted on the VGCC web site ([www.vgcc.edu/internationaleducation](http://www.vgcc.edu/internationaleducation)) in conjunction with International Education Week. Van Brunt added that the college's faculty and staff members are also worldly. In a recent survey, he found that 107 VGCC employees had either visited or lived in a total of 97 different countries. The most widely-traveled employee is Bioprocess Technology program head Joseph Tyler, who has visited 31 different countries. "I suspect there is more international flavor at VGCC than in any other organization in our four-county area," Van Brunt said. VGCC also sends instructors on trips abroad through the World View organization, and holds a Cultural Fair each spring that exposes the college to different cultures from around the globe.

## VGCC Faculty Member's Essay Published in book

Work by a VGCC English instructor is included in a newly published book. Instructor Chris Brockman's essay, entitled "Out of Tune, But Not Out of Mind," in "Looking Out, Seeing In: Brief Personal Essays on Real Life," is part of a new anthology of short personal essays edited and published by Sandra Eisdorfer. She chose what she considers the twenty best essays for "Looking Out, Seeing In" from those written by participants in workshops she conducted at the Duke University chapter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) over a five-year period. Brockman, who teaches students how to write such expository essays in English 111, joined one of Eisdorfer's personal essay workshops to polish his essay writing and teach-



**CHRIS BROCKMAN**

ing techniques. According to Brockman, "'Looking Out, Seeing In' contains both enjoyable reading and a good deal of collected wisdom." A resident of Wilton, Brockman has taught for VGCC since 2005.

## VGCC Open House Shines Spotlight on Franklin Campus

VGCC's Franklin County Campus held an open house, called the "Pre-Registration Premiere," on Nov. 10. The open house employed a movie "premiere" theme, complete with popcorn and presentations throughout the afternoon called "screenings." The screenings offered visitors information on the various programs and courses available at the campus. Among the opportunities in the

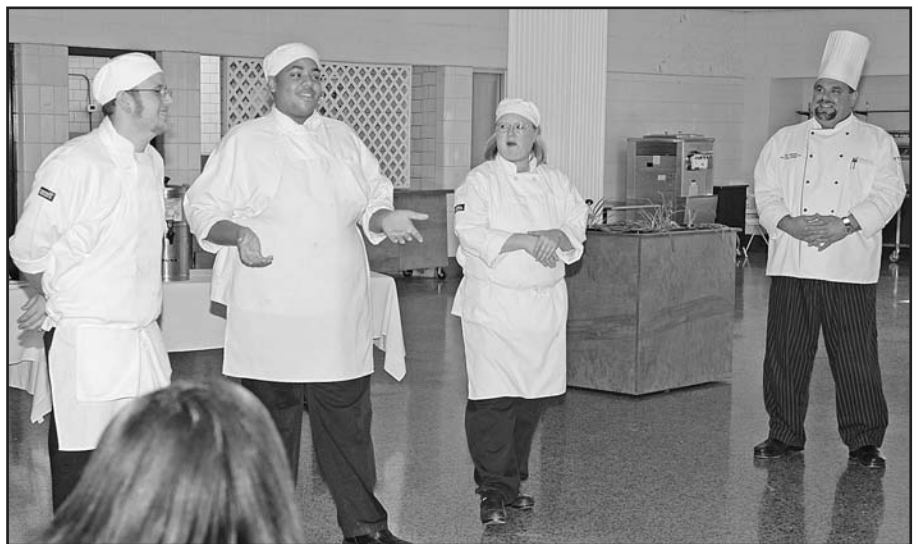


**FRANKLIN OPEN HOUSE:** From left, Franklin County Campus dean Bobbie Jo May hands out movie theater-style popcorn and beverages to a Medical Assisting student at the open house.

spotlight were VGCC's Medical Assisting, Occupational Extension, Cosmetology, Business Technologies, Biotechnology, and Early Childhood Education programs, in addition to the Child Care Center and Franklin County Early College High School.

## High School Students Learn about Culinary Opportunities at VGCC

Students in the Culinary Arts program at Northern Vance High School learned about where they could take their skills in the future when they visited VGCC's Culinary Technology program on Nov. 12. The group of high school juniors and seniors was accompanied by their culinary instructor, Julie Sokol, and Jane Hicks, the career development coordinator for NVHS. Chef Ross Ragonese, head of the VGCC Culinary program, told the students that Hospitality is currently the number-two industry for job growth in the United States. He emphasized that "there is an endless amount of opportunities, both locally and everywhere around the world, for people with culinary and hospitality training." The NVHS students took a tour of the kitchen, where they observed students in the Baking I class and then sampled puff-pastry desserts that the VGCC students had produced.



**CULINARY VISIT:** From left, VGCC Culinary Technology students Kevin Hartman, Thomas Henderson and Tonya Pendergrass talk with students from Northern Vance High School who were visiting the college's Culinary facility at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford. Standing at right is Chef Ross Ragonese, head of VGCC's Culinary program.

# VGCC Recognizes 12 Graduates of EMT-Paramedic Training

**EMT-PARAMEDIC GRADS:** VGCC honored 12 people who completed the college's year-long Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic program on Nov. 9. Pictured, from left, seated, are graduates Charmin Medlin, Jennifer Bollinger, Kim Nalevaiko, Allison Branch, Nicole Davis and Ricky Fortner; From left, standing: EMS coordinator Randy Owen, with graduates Brandon Stewart, Aaron Elliott, Brian S. Hogan, Pam Aiken, Cynthia Ayscue, Michael Smith and instructor Vivian Loyd, RN. EMT-P instruction includes 696 hours of didactic (classroom) training and 500 hours of clinical education, or field internship. VGCC offers Emergency Medical Services training from the basic to the paramedic level, in addition to continuing education.



## Job Fair Held at VGCC Seeks to Help Veterans

**VETERANS' JOB FAIR:** The Civic Center on VGCC's main campus was the site for the "Employ-A-Veteran Week" Job Fair on Nov. 10, one day before the Veterans Day holiday. The fourth annual event, organized by the Vance County and Granville County offices of the N.C. Employment Security Commission with the help of VGCC and other JobLink partners, is designed to help veterans of the U.S. Armed Services find jobs and resources. Several businesses were on hand to receive resumes and talk with potential future employees. VGCC Human Resources Development coordinator Kyle Burwell (pictured above, right, giving a pamphlet to an attendee at the job fair) was there to offer information on the college's various job training programs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides educational assistance to numerous VGCC students, including both veterans and certain eligible dependents of veterans. For more information, call the VGCC Financial Aid Office at (252) 738-3421.



"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

- Edith Lovejoy Pierce

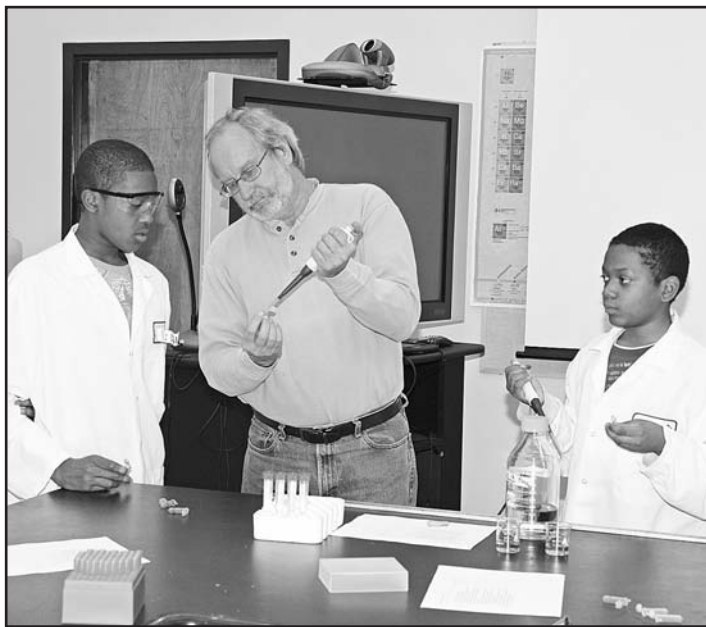
## From VGCC Education Student to Children's Book Author

Laura A. Alston of Henderson, a graduate of the VGCC Early Childhood Associate program, recently published her first book. Alston's children's book, "My Pet Rocky Renee," was released several months ago by Timberlake-based Righter Publishing Company. Her own pet cat of the same name served as Alston's inspiration for the book, which tells the story of "a young girl who learns lessons from her cat about empathy, compassion and how to care for another living being," the author said. Alston started writing the book before the real-life Rocky Renee died in 2009. Alston spent many years desiring to write a book, and in the meantime, she has seen several of her poems published in the Righter Monthly Review. When Alston became a VGCC student in the early childhood education program, she completed her co-op experience working at the Day Care Center on the college's main campus. There, she met Denise Gill, the manager of the center, and learned that Gill was a talented artist. Alston asked Gill if she would illustrate her book, and the resulting combination of words and images was published as "My Pet Rocky Renee."



**CHILDREN'S AUTHOR:** From left, illustrator Denise Gill and author Laura Alston, holding a copy of her book, "My Pet Rocky Renee."

## Middle School Students Experiment in VGCC Biotech Lab



**MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIMENT:** Henderson Middle School students recently returned to VGCC's main campus as part of an ongoing partnership between the college's Bioprocess Technology program and the Citizen Schools after-school program at HMS. Students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades donned lab coats to perform another scientific procedure in the state-of-the-art VGCC Biotech lab on Nov. 2. Citizen Schools team leader Akin Owopetu accompanied the students. Citizen Schools is a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing students with access to educational and economic opportunity. VGCC Bioprocess Technology program head/instructor Joseph Tyler is one of the "citizen teachers" in the local community who lead apprenticeships for the program. Under Tyler's direction, HMS students have been getting hands-on experience and learning about science and technology-related careers. On Nov. 2, the students studied the breakdown of cellulose (an organic compound found in plants and trees) into sugars that can then be used to produce the biofuel, bioethanol. Pictured at left, Tyler (center) demonstrates the preparation of samples for measuring the amount of glucose enzymatically produced from cellulose.

### NEED TUTORING?

STOP BY THE ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTER, ROOM 7335, MAIN CAMPUS.

The Center is staffed by coordinator Evelyn Hall and assistant coordinator Jason Snelling. Both provide group tutoring, and student tutors provide one-on-one and small-group tutoring, in addition to three new part-time professional tutors, Carolyn Snipes, Kevin Ellenberg, and Amy LaMont. The Center is open Monday - Friday. On Mondays and Thursdays, the Center is open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., while on Fridays, the Center is open 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Center closes for lunch Monday-Thursday from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. If you're looking for tutoring, come by the Center to pick up a referral card or get more information, or visit <http://www.vgcc.edu/Academics/academic-skillscenter.cfm>

# A Night at the Opera for VGCC Students

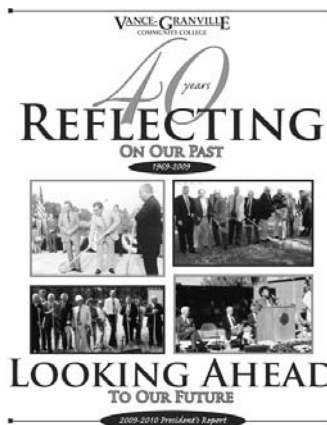
**TOSCA VISIT:** VGCC music instructor Michael Stephenson took a group of students on a unique field trip when they attended a performance by the North Carolina Opera Company of Puccini's "Tosca" on Oct. 15 in Raleigh. Pictured, from left in front, are students Shawn Meadows, Jason Strother, Stephanie Wheless, and instructor Michael Stephenson; from left, in back, students Skott Daeke, Jamaal Jones, Travis Edgerton, Kristen Hight, Lauren Hight and Joseph Hedgepeth. Not pictured: Corey Green and Rachel Westall.



## Free Funny T-shirts a Big Hit With Students

**FUNNY T-SHIRTS:** From left, Vance County Early College High School students Kaelyn Satterwhite and Yemika Hernandez were among the satisfied customers in November, when the Student Activities department brought The Smith Agency's "Funny T-Shirt" service back to Main Campus. The agency takes pictures of students and creates one-of-a-kind t-shirts of the students' choosing.

## Trivia & Tidbits



### VGCC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here are more facts and figures from the just-released VGCC President's Report for 2009-2010.

- The average age of a curriculum student in 2009-10 was 29. The average age of a Community & Economic Development student was 37.
- Most curriculum students (60%) were female last year, but most (61%) Community & Economic Development students were male.
- The most common home counties for our college students were Vance, Granville, Franklin, Warren, Wake and Durham, in that order.

Read the President's Report online at [www.vgcc.edu](http://www.vgcc.edu) under "News & Media."

# JANUARY

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						1
2	3	4 LATE REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2011 PAYMENT OF TUITION & FEES DUE BY 5 P.M.	5 Basketball VGCC vs. SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA CC 7 p.m. Aycock Recreation Center, Henderson SPRING SEMESTER 2011 BEGINS 16-WEEK SEMESTER & 1ST 8-WEEK MINI TERM	6 LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS 1ST 8-WEEK MINI TERM	7 LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS 16-WEEK SEMESTER	8 Basketball VGCC vs. LOUISBURG COLLEGE 3 p.m. Aycock Recreation Center, Henderson
9	10 LAST DAY FOR PARTIAL TUITION REFUND (5 P.M.) LAST DAY TO DROP WITH NO TRANSCRIPT GRADE (5 P.M.) 1ST 8-WEEK MINI TERM	11 SGA MEETING 1 p.m. Bldg. 8, Conference Room Main Campus	12 "THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW" Noon Bldg. 8, Conference Room Main Campus Basketball VGCC vs. GUILFORD TECH CC 7 p.m. Aycock Recreation Center, Henderson	13	14 LAST DAY FOR PARTIAL TUITION REFUND LAST DAY FOR TEXTBOOK REFUND LAST DAY TO DROP WITH NO TRANSCRIPT GRADE 16-WEEK SEMESTER	15
16	17 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY: COLLEGE CLOSED	18	19	20 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION 11 a.m. Civic Center Main Campus	21	22 Basketball VGCC vs. PITT CC 3 p.m. Aycock Recreation Center, Henderson
23	24 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING Warren Campus	25	26 SGA MEETING 1 p.m. Bldg. 8, Conference Room Main Campus Basketball VGCC vs. PATRICK HENRY CC 7 p.m. Aycock Recreation Center, Henderson MONDAY CLASS SCHEDULE	27	28	29 Basketball VGCC vs. DAVIDSON COUNTY CC 3 p.m. Aycock Recreation Center, Henderson
30	31	DECEMBER 2010 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY 2011 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	<p><b>Creating Success</b>                  NC Community Colleges                  Hope • Opportunity • Jobs</p>		