

# VAN GRAN

VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## A Message from President Randy Parker

A new academic year at Vance-Granville has just started, and I've recently had the chance to say "welcome" to new and returning students. At the same time, I've been saying "goodbye," since by the time you read this, I will have started my new position as president of Guilford Technical Community College. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the kindness, support and warm wishes I have received in the past few months. It has been my great privilege to serve as president of VGCC and to have known and worked with so many wonderful trustees, students, faculty and staff. We



**DR. RANDY PARKER**

recently received more evidence of your dedication and excellent work in the latest Critical Success Factors Report

from the N.C. Community College System office. In the report, VGCC's scores equaled or surpassed seven out of the eight state standards. The data show that whether we are helping an adult get a high school diploma, preparing a student to transfer to a four-year university, or developing skilled employees for local businesses, VGCC is meeting the needs of our communities. Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do to reach ever higher levels of excellence in preparing a globally competitive workforce. Best wishes for a terrific school year and for continued success!

## Early College Students Return to Four VGCC Campuses

In August, students returned to the four Early College High Schools that VGCC operates in partnership with four local school systems. Granville Early College High School and Franklin County Early College High School added their third freshman classes, while Vance County Early College High School and Warren Early College High School welcomed their fourth group of new students. For GECHS, this is the first year when students will use the school's new permanent facility, located across the street from VGCC's South Campus. Likewise, FCECHS will begin using a 12-room modular unit built specifically for the school on county prop-



**PARKER'S WELCOME:** Outgoing VGCC President Randy Parker talks with incoming Granville Early College High School students and their parents at the college's South Campus during the students' July 29 orientation. The president noted that the students are making quite a transition — "from middle school one year to college the next!"

erty, adjacent to the Franklin County Campus. The four schools will enroll approximately 600 students during the 2011-2012 year. When fully enrolled several years from now, the four high schools will serve between 800 and

1,000 students. Students in all four early college programs simultaneously complete both a high school diploma and a two-year college degree (or up to two years of college-transferable credit) over a five-year period.

## VGCC Practical Nursing Graduates Receive Pins

VGCC honored 29 students who have completed its one-year Practical Nursing program during a pinning ceremony in VGCC's Civic Center on August 4. The ceremony also served as an opportunity to mark a milestone, as VGCC celebrated 40 years of producing quality nurses. Class of 2011 president Lauren Markovics introduced the special guest speaker, Vivian Paynter, RN, the nursing director for the Granville-Vance District Health Department. Paynter was one of the first Nursing instructors at the college, then known as Vance County Technical Institute. As Paynter recalled, the Practical Nursing program graduated its first class 40 years earlier, on Aug. 22, 1971. Instructor Gail Medlin presented academic awards and honors to members of the class. Ohlandt was recognized for having the highest grade point average. Harris and Lawhorne were also honored for overall grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses Honor Society awards went to Akpede, Buyna, Collier, Fischetti, Green, Harris, Jones, Lawhorne, Morton, Ohlandt, Tanner and Williams.



**PRACTICAL NURSING GRADS:** Graduates honored at the VGCC Practical Nursing pinning ceremony included, first row, from left: Mindy Shaw, Cindy Atkins, Denise Fischetti, Lauren Markovics, Julie Morton, Megan Smith, Winnet Tanner; second row, from left: Hope Tharrington, Tammy Rockwell, Laura Ohlandt, Bridget Buyna, Nan Pennell, Debbie Minor; third row, from left: Tega Akpede, Jessica Green, Anita Brame, Lucretia Rogers, Elizabeth Williams, Erica Thorpe; fourth row, from left: Kelly Jones, Lisa Collier, Blair Garrett, Pamela Parham, Charlette Wilson, Marquise Bennett; fifth row, from left: Charletta Blacknall, Diane Lawhorne, Leslie Harris. Not pictured: Joan Currin.

## VGCC Recognizes 21 Medical Assisting Students at Pinning

VGCC held a pinning ceremony for its 2011 Medical Assisting program graduates on Aug. 5 at the college's Franklin County Campus in Louisburg, where the program is conducted. Julie Henry, public information officer for the N.C. Division of Public Health, was the guest speaker. Addressing the graduates, Henry welcomed them to a profession that she said would be increasingly dependent on technology. "Whether you are just beginning your career or retooling to relaunch your career, you are a critical piece of this new health-care environment," Henry said. Leach expressed her pride in the entire class and presented certificates of excellence to several in particular who were already employed in their field:



**MEDICAL ASSISTING PINNING:** The Medical Assisting Class of 2011 included, seated, from left: Peggy Forsythe, Lisa Ramsey, Debbie Satterwhite, Katie Mitchell, Sonya Newell, Mary Lane, Brooke Amorosa, Maureen Cole and Josefina Aguilar; Standing, from left: program head Tammy Johnson Leach, students Maria Glover, Shannon Williams, Derrick Crudup, Lova Stelly, Jerri Wilson, Amber Jones, Leroy Wilson, Jr., Lynn Gaskins, Teresa Weathers, Lisa Holmes, Donna Tyler and Ebonee Langford and instructor Patrice Allen.

Aguilar, Weathers, Satterwhite, Tyler, Holmes, Cole and Glover. VGCC President Randy Parker rounded out the ceremony with concluding remarks.

He congratulated the students, adding, "I challenge you to move from success to significance. Make a significant difference in people's lives."

### TEAS:

Attention:  
Pre-Health Students

TEAS Tests will be offered on: **Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in Building 8, Room 8239.** The cancellation deadline is Friday, Sept. 16. Payment of fees can be made beginning Tuesday, Sept. 20. Contact your advisor/counselor for an appointment.

## VGCC Honors Retired College Personnel



**2011 RETIREES:** VGCC held its annual reception to recognize loyal employees who had retired from the college and particularly the eight who had retired in the last twelve months — on July 26 in the Civic Center on the college's main campus. Pictured above: VGCC President Dr. Randy Parker (standing) poses with retirees (seated, from left) Rebecca Fuller (Office Administration Technical Assistant), Shelia McCall (Lead Accounting Technician), Donna Dodson (Administrative Assistant for Adult Basic Skills) and Tony Person (Custodian). Not pictured: retirees Kathy Laspina (Computer Information Technology instructor), Ellen Wilkinson (Child Care Specialist, Day Care Center on Main Campus), Irma Brodie (receptionist/switchboard operator on Main Campus) and Edward Morgan (Head Groundskeeper). This year's group of retirees represented a combined 194 years of service to the college.

## VGCC English Instructor Publishes Book on Growing Up a Boomer

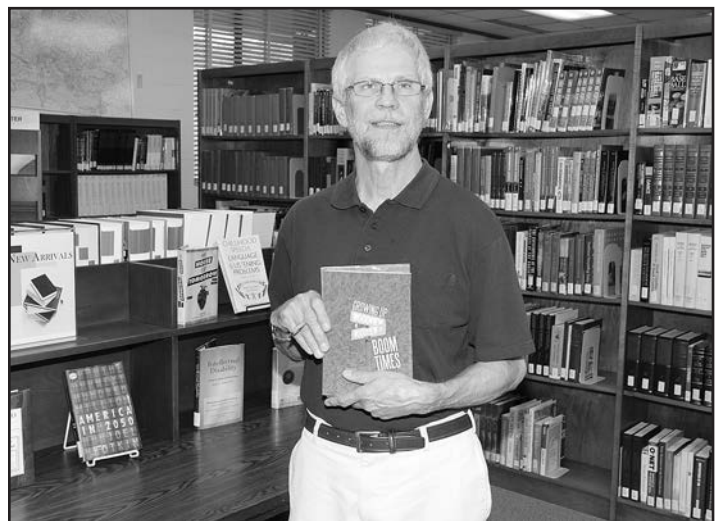
Memories of his childhood have inspired Chris Brockman, an instructor of English at VGCC, to write his first book. Brockman's memoir, entitled "Growing Up in Boom Times," was recently published by AuthorHouse. He focuses on his life growing up in Oakland County, Michigan, but Brockman says the book calls up experiences that were typical of the times and shared by nearly all Baby Boomers — the generation referenced in the "Boom" of the title. A resident of Wilton, Brockman has taught for VGCC since 2005. Although this is his first book, Brockman has written and published scores of articles, essays, reviews, poems, and creative non-fiction pieces in magazines, newspapers, journals and anthologies, most recently in "Looking Out, Seeing In: Brief Personal Essays on Real Life," edited by former UNC Press editor Sandra Eisdorfer.

"Growing Up in Boom Times" is available from Amazon.com, from the publisher ([www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com)), or directly from the author at (252) 738-3255.

## VGCC Culinary Students' Summer Tour Included Angus Barn



**ANGUS BARN TOUR:** Students in VGCC's Culinary Arts program have been busy this summer getting an up-close view of their chosen profession by visiting three area institutions. Chef Ross Ragonese, who heads the college's Culinary program, accompanied a group of his students to the Angus Barn Restaurant in Raleigh in late June. The VGCC group included (pictured above, from left) Culinary students Kevin Fabretti of Creedmoor, Thomas Henderson of Warrenton, Shannon Hayes of Creedmoor, Kevin Hartman of Oxford, Leticia Mendez of Durham, Natalie Baily of Henderson, Kevin Zeher of Raleigh, Diminique Liles of Henderson, Amber Williams of Oxford, Rodney Yancey of Henderson, Brandon Brown of Henderson, Tracey Washburn of Oxford, Ragonese and student Esther Chavis of Oxford. In addition to the Angus Barn, students also made trips to Maria Parham Medical Center in Henderson and to the Magnolia Manor in Warrenton, a historic home that caters and hosts weddings and other special events.



Chris Brockman, an instructor of English at VGCC, holds a copy of his first book, "Growing Up in Boom Times."

## New VGCC Scholarship Established to Honor Longtime Trustee

A new VGCC scholarship will pay tribute to a longtime trustee and advocate for the college. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees in July, VGCC Endowment Fund board vice-chairman Robert L. Hubbard announced that John K. Nelms of Oxford, who serves on the Endowment board and served on the Board of Trustees for many years before being named "trustee emeritus," would be honored by the creation of an endowed scholarship, named the John K. Nelms Presidential Scholar Award. Nelms was honored for his years of service to the college and his steadfast support of the college's Endowment Fund and Scholarship Program. Among his numerous contributions to the fund, he created the Mary Ruth Nelms Presidential Scholar Award in 2009 in memory of his late wife of 61 years. Nelms served in an advisory capacity to the Board of Trustees from 1971 until 1973, when he was named a trustee. Nelms was vice-chairman of the board for many years, and served as its chairman from 1983 through 1984 and from 1999 until 2003. Nelms retired from the Board in 2005 and was named VGCC's first (and to date, only) Trustee Emeritus.



**NELMS SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED:** VGCC Endowment Fund board vice-chairman Robert Hubbard shakes hands with John K. Nelms as VGCC President Randy Parker (second from left) and John K. "Johnny" Nelms, Jr. (right) look on.

Want to make a difference in a student's life? Start a scholarship today. For more information, please contact the Endowment Fund office at (252) 738-3409.

## Vance-Granville Community College Trustees Take Oaths, Elect Officers

The VGCC Board of Trustees held its regular bi-monthly meeting on Monday, July 18 at the college's Henderson campus.

Chief District Court Judge Daniel F. Finch administered oaths of office to three members. Ronald R. Alligood was sworn in as the newest member of the Board. Alligood is a retired Director of Butner Public Safety. He recently completed 18 years of service on the Granville County Board of Commissioners, and was appointed by the county commissioners to replace real estate appraiser J. David Brooks of Oxford, who retired after 16 years as a trustee. Stan H. Fox, a former state legislator from

Granville County, reappointed by the Governor of North Carolina; and Abdul Sm Rasheed of Vance County, President/ CEO of N.C. Community Development Initiative Inc., reappointed by the Vance County Board of Education, were also sworn in. The terms of Alligood, Fox and Rasheed will expire in 2015.

Meanwhile, retired educator Henrietta H. Clark of Henderson announced that she would resign from the Board after 18 years of faithful service. During the meeting, Board of Trustees Chairman Donald C. Seifert, Sr. recognized several trustees for their service with plaques and resolutions. In addition to retiring trustees

J. David Brooks and Henrietta H. Clark, the Board honored retired educator Grace W. Vickery of Henderson, who served on the Board from 1996 until her death in August 2010. Michael Stephenson, Vickery's nephew, accepted the honor on behalf of the family.

Later in the evening, the Board voted to approve a recommendation from the nominating committee to re-elect retired businessman Donald C. Seifert, Sr. of Henderson as chairman of the Board. The Board also elected Stan Fox as the new vice-chairman and Dr. Doris Terry Williams of Henderson, Executive Director of the Rural School and Community Trust, as

the new secretary.

Also during the meeting, Vice-President of Student Affairs Gene Purvis gave board members a review of the third full year of the VGCC Vanguard's athletics program. Purvis reported that overall the athletics program continues to make progress, with athletes performing well both in competition matches and in the classroom. VGCC athletic programs in 2010-2011 included men's basketball and golf, with a women's volleyball team being organized for the fall.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, September 19 at 7 p.m. in the board room on Main Campus.

# VGCC Student Selected for Leadership Program

VGCC student Scott Daeke of Henderson is among just 28 students from across the state who have been selected to participate in the 2011-2012 North Carolina Community College Student Leadership Development Program (SLDP). The SLDP kicked off this summer, when Daeke and his fellow participants met for their main session at Peace College from June 26 through July 1. Students attended workshops on leadership skills during the day, and then put their knowledge into practice by working on a group project at night. Guest speakers during the session included N.C. Community College System president Dr. Scott Ralls, State Board of Community Colleges member and former state legislator Jimmie Ford, as well as presidents and vice presidents from several community colleges. Students will meet again for two-day mini-sessions in October and in March 2012 before graduating.

Daeke is a student in the College Transfer program at VGCC. He has earned Dean's List honors and has served as Treasurer of the VGCC Student Government Association.



**SCOTT DAEKE**

## Trivia & Tidbits

### FRANKLIN OPEN HOUSE:

A recent open house at Franklin County Campus included displays (pictured above, from left) highlighting the Early Childhood Education, Bioprocess Technology and Medical Assisting programs.



### This Month in VGCC History

**Sept. 1991 (20 Years Ago this Month):** VGCC's original Franklin County Campus opened, sharing space in a Franklin County government facility in Louisburg. This was the fulfillment of a longtime college goal to have a campus in each of the four counties VGCC serves. The campus moved to its current location in 1998. Happy 20th anniversary, Franklin Campus!

*"Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."*

— Harry S. Truman

Vance-Granville  
**Going Green**  
 Community College

Test your  
 "Green"  
 knowledge by  
 taking this  
 Eco-Quiz from  
 Dr. Dan Settles!

### QUESTIONS

1. What is the average one-way distance from farm to table (food miles) for produce that we eat in America?
2. The typical American prepared meal contains, on average, ingredients from how many countries outside the United States?
3. How much energy is saved from the use of a compact fluorescent light bulb versus an incandescent lamp?
4. How long does a compact fluorescent bulb last compared to an incandescent bulb?
5. How many pounds of carbon dioxide are prevented by switching from an incandescent bulb to a compact fluorescent?
6. How much on average will you save (\$\$) for one compact fluorescent over an incandescent bulb?

### ANSWERS

1. 1,518 miles
2. 5 countries. An increasing proportion of what Americans eat is produced in other countries, including an estimated 39% of fruits, 12% of vegetables, 40% of lamb, and 78% of fish/shellfish in 2001. (Source: Leopold Foundation)
3. It takes 2/3 less energy to run a compact fluorescent than an incandescent bulb.
4. A compact fluorescent bulb lasts 10 times as long.
5. A compact fluorescent prevents approximately 450 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>, a major greenhouse gas, from being emitted to the atmosphere.
6. \$30. This will depend on the difference between the original wattage and the new wattage.



## Watch "Vance-Granville Today," the monthly video show all about VGCC!

It is broadcast Thursdays at 8 p.m. on Time-Warner Cable Channel 7 in parts of our four-county area, or you can watch online at [www.vgcc.edu](http://www.vgcc.edu) (click on "News/Media").

In September, the topic for the show is VGCC's Community & Economic Development programs.

## Cooperative Education

It is not too late for VGCC students to enroll in Cooperative Education, or "Co-op", for the fall semester. Co-op is an academic program that combines classroom studies with on-the-job, career-related work experience. Eligibility requirements include enrollment in a program offering COE as a major elective, a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0, at least one available major elective credit hour, and a recommendation by their advisor. Applications are available in the Career Center located on Main Campus in Building 8 or online at <http://www.vgcc.edu/CareerServices/coop-application.pdf>. For more information, call (252) 738-3466 or e-mail [careercenter@vgcc.edu](mailto:careercenter@vgcc.edu).

# VGCC Recognizes Students for Summer Employment



**WIA STUDENTS HONORED:** VGCC's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) department held a dinner and ceremony on Aug. 18 to recognize local college and high school students who gained valuable work experience this summer. The WIA Summer Youth Employment program placed students in a wide variety of paying jobs, at which they worked up to 32 hours per week. Employers included the City of Henderson, Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Southern Vance High School, VGCC Main Campus Security department, VGCC South Campus; Western Vance High School, the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Franklinton High School, Franklin County Library (Franklinton and Louisburg branches), Franklin County Parks and Recreation and Safe Space Thrift Store. Pictured above, seated, from left: participants Justin Davis, Cynthia Joyner, Tamara Marshall and Janelle Turner; standing, from left, Rabsha-Keh Wilkerson, Quinn Jones, Jaleel Seward and Keith Smith. Not pictured: Valeria Carrasco, S'chele Neal, Kierra Wyatt, Lillieann Lemay, Markeithia Wade, Britney Perry, Erika Bell, Krika Bell, Nicole Griffin, Ruby Rodriguez and Montre Lewis.

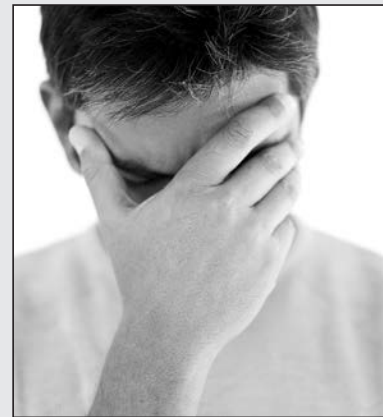
## Tutoring Could Help You Get on the Right Track This Fall!



Stop by the Academic Skills Center for Tutoring in Room 7335, Main Campus, or See Your Campus Dean or Counselor at Franklin, South & Warren Campuses Or go Online to use VGCC's new online tutoring resource: **SMARTHINKING**.

*To participate in SMARTHINKING, VGCC students must request a user name and password from the Academic Skills Center.*

Students can still receive traditional in-person tutoring through the Academic Skills Center. The Center on Main Campus 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. If you're looking for tutoring, come by the Center or visit <http://www.vgcc.edu/Academics/academic-skillcenter.cfm>



## Practicing Safe Stress

Better Managing School/Life Stressors

Wednesday, September 14  
Noon & 1:30 p.m.  
Building 6, Room 6106  
Main Campus

*This workshop is open to all Vance-Granville students, staff and faculty.*

For more information, contact Peter Metzner at (252) 738-3481 or [metzner@vgcc.edu](mailto:metzner@vgcc.edu)

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September 2011

VanGran News

# SEPTEMBER

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!**

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[www.twitter.com/VanceGranville](http://www.twitter.com/VanceGranville)

AUGUST 2011

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<p><b>CreatingSuccess</b> NC Community Colleges Hope • Opportunity • Jobs</p>				<p>1 Lunch &amp; Learn for Faculty &amp; Staff "MODERN AUTOMOTIVE FUEL SOURCES &amp; ECONOMY" With Fred Brewer 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Building 6, Room 6102, Main Campus Lunch provided (BYOB - Bring Your Own Bowl)</p>	<p>2 Women's Volleyball VGCC vs. Wilkes CC 6 p.m. Aycock Recreation Center</p>	<p>3</p>
4	5 LABOR DAY: VGCC CLOSED	6	7	8 REGISTRATION: ALL STUDENTS 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (12-Week Term)	9	10
11	12 12-WEEK MINI-TERM CLASSES BEGIN	13 LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (12-Week Term)	14 Workshop "PRACTICING SAFE STRESS" Noon & 1:30 p.m. Bldg. 6, Room 6106 Women's Volleyball VGCC vs. Johnston CC 6 p.m. Aycock Recreation Center	15	16	17
18	19 LAST DAY FOR PARTIAL TUITION REFUND 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (12-Week Term) LAST DAY TO DROP WITH NO TRANSCRIPT GRADE 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (12-Week Term) BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING	20	21	22	23	24 Women's Volleyball VGCC vs. Brunswick CC Noon Aycock Recreation Center, Henderson
25	26	27	28 TEAS TEST 8:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Building 8, Room 8239	29	30	