

Spring 2007

Greetings alumni and friends! The spring semester is nearing its end, but lots of exciting events have taken place. Keep reading for the latest news and updates!

## Dobyns Honored by NRCC and Virginia Community Colleges

The Honorable J. Robert Dobyns, of Blacksburg, has been honored by New River Community College and the Virginia Community College System as a recipient of the 2007 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. At a special luncheon in Richmond, former Governor Gerald Baliles saluted Dobyns and other recipients for "their matchless passion for the mission of community colleges and their outstanding service in education on behalf of all Virginians."

Dobyns is a long-time supporter of New River Community College as well as a distinguished leader in the business, civic and governmental arenas. He has served on the New River Community College

Educational Foundation Board since 1982 and has been a passionate supporter of the Foundation's endowed scholarship program, both through his leadership and his own philanthropy. The NRCC Foundation bestowed upon him the prestigious amicus fidelis award in recognition of his outstanding service.



**Bob Dobyns**

"During my life, I have been blessed with a caring and loving family, a multitude of supportive friends and co-workers. Each in their own way have had an influence in accomplishing my dreams and goals," says Dobyns.

In 1983, Dobyns was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates representing the counties of Montgomery, Pulaski, and the city of Radford. He

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### NRCC Remembers Virginia Tech



About 150 students, faculty, and staff members at New River Community College gathered around the flagpole on Friday, April 20 in memory of the victims at Virginia Tech. The brief ceremony included a student playing the bagpipes, 32 chimes and a moment of silence in honor of the victims, as well as a short message and prayer.

### Calendar of Events

5/7	Exams begin
5/9	Pinning Ceremony for Associate Degree Nursing Students
5/10	Exams end
5/11	Graduation -6:30 p.m. in Edwards 117 -Delegate Anne B. Crockett-Stark, speaker
5/21	Summer classes begin

Fall class registration is under way. Payment for fall semester begins on or after July 2.

## News and Notes from Around Campus

### Huber named vice president

Dr. Pat Huber was appointed as Vice President for Instruction and Student Services at NRCC beginning in January. Huber, who received her Ph.D. in community college leadership from Old Dominion University in December, previously served as the interim vice president of instruction and student services. She began with NRCC as an English faculty member before moving on to serve as the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Huber earned an associate degree in liberal arts from Wytheville Community College, a bachelor's degree in English from Emory and Henry, and a master's degree in English education from West Virginia University.



**Pat Huber**

### Chalmeta earns Ph.D.



**Pablo Chalmeta**

Pablo Chalmeta, assistant professor of mathematics, received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Virginia Tech in December. Chalmeta, who has been teaching at NRCC since 2002, also has his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and master's degrees in mathematics from Virginia Tech. Prior to coming to NRCC full-time, Chalmeta served as a graduate teaching assistant at Virginia Tech and an adjunct faculty member at Radford University.

### College announces hires and promotions

The following individuals have joined NRCC recently as full-time faculty or staff members. Some previously worked as part-time employees and others are new to the college.

**Deborah Kennedy**- College Recruitment Coordinator

**Rhonda Sutphin**- Human Resources

**Lynn Taylor**- Administrative Assistant, Business and Technologies

**David Rathbone**- SkillsUSA Specialist

## NRCC Supporter Odell Mayberry Passes Away

Odell Mayberry, a great friend to New River Community College, passed away on December 28, 2006 at the age of 93. Mayberry served for many years on NRCC's Educational Foundation Board where as a founding member he helped fund scholarships for deserving students, both through his own generosity and by encouraging the philanthropy of others. Among other honors, he was a recipient of the prestigious Americus Fidelis award which honors faithful friends of NRCC.

Active in community affairs, Mayberry served as one of the first members of the Pulaski County Industrial Development Authority, spent ten years on the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors, and was board chairman for the local American Red Cross. In 1996, the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce named Mayberry Business Executive of the Year.

"Odell Mayberry was a wonderful supporter of the students of New River Community College," said Mark Rowh, executive director of the NRCC Educational Foundation. "He was fond of recalling that he personally solicited the very first endowed scholarship donation we ever received. He will certainly be missed."

Mayberry leaves behind his wife of 69 years, Novella.

### The Ann Huff Book Fund Needs Your Support

With the rising costs of textbooks, more and more students need financial help in obtaining their books.

If you'd like information on how you can help support the Ann Huff Book Fund, contact Mark Rowh at [nrowhm@nr.edu](mailto:nrowhm@nr.edu) or by phone at 674-3617.

## Linzey Named to Who's Who

Juanita B. Linzey, associate professor of biology at NRCC, has been elected to Who's Who of American Women 2007. Linzey received her bachelor's degree from Marymount College and earned master's degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Virginia Tech.

She has authored numerous scientific publications and has served as co-director of the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair in Dublin since 1991. Prior to her work at NRCC, Linzey worked as a research associate at Florida State University and a laboratory specialist at Virginia Tech. She also served as a writer for the National League of Nursing's standardized human anatomy and physiology examination.

Linzey is a member of the Virginia Association of Biological Education, the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society, and Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society. She enjoys bicycling, scuba diving, and photography. Linzey has four grown sons and lives with her husband, Donald, in Blacksburg.



**Juanita Linzey**

## NRCC Students Win State Competition

Five NRCC students swept the post-secondary division of the Skills USA State Championships for Computer Aided Design/Drafting and 3D Animation this past weekend in Richmond.

In Architectural CAD/Drafting, Kristy Sloan, of Newport, took the gold medal. In Technical CAD/Drafting, Lauren Ratcliff, of Pembroke, won first place. In 3D Animation, the team of Joe Hudson of Snowville and Eddie Akers of Pulaski earned the gold medal. In Technical CAD/ Drafting, Kevin Puckett, of Laurel Fork, placed second earning the silver medal.

The gold medal students qualified to compete at the national championships in Kansas City at the end of June.

## Hunter Andrews Honored in Library

The section of NRCC's library that holds non-fiction works about Virginia and by Virginians has been named for the late state Senator Hunter B. Andrews.

Andrews served the Virginia state Senate from 1964 to 1995. During that time he served as both member and chairman of numerous committees, including the committee on education. The Virginia Community College System was created during the early years of his service and grew substantially during his decades in the Senate. A graduate of William and Mary, he studied law at the University of Virginia and was a partner in the law firm of Downing and Andrews in Hampton.



*Jeanne Whitman (left) and Cynthia Andrews (right) stand beside the plaque dedicating a section of NRCC's library in honor of Hunter Andrews.*

His wife, Cynthia Andrews of Hampton, was present for the April 19 dedication ceremony at NRCC. She was accompanied by NRCC board member Jeanne Whitman, whose late husband Robert was a cousin of Mrs. Andrews, and by John Whitman, Jeanne's grandson.

Dr. Mark Rowh, vice president for planning and advancement, announced that a plaque has been placed in the library and he unveiled a biographical display featuring the life and work of Hunter B. Andrews. It will be hung among the shelves of the Virginia collection.

The ceremony took place during National Library Week festivities at the college.

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served on the Education, Transportation, Finance, and Agriculture committees during his three terms prior to retirement from the General Assembly in 1989.

Dobyns is a director and officer of the Pulaski County Livestock Market, a past director of Radford Community Hospital Foundation, and has been active in the community as a member of the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce, New Dublin Presbyterian Church and other organizations.

Dobyns, who attended college under the G. I. Bill, finds great satisfaction in helping students attend college. "I know how important it is to get a good education, and the community college is the perfect place for students to further their dreams and goals," he says. "And I've always been impressed with how well our community colleges are managed. What a great investment!"

He also states, "I am truly honored to have been selected to receive this year's Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The scholarship program is one link in giving individuals a desire to meaningfully contribute to our society and to enhance their self-esteem."

Dobyns and his wife, Cornelia, have two daughters. He attended Virginia Tech where he received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He served in the United States Army from 1944 to 1946 and USAR 1946 to 1956, receiving a Bronze Star in the infantry during WW II in the Pacific Theater. In civilian life he headed up a construction company based in Dublin and also was an active farmer.

Dobyns and other philanthropy leaders will become the namesake for one of 23 Commonwealth Legacy Scholarships to be awarded to a student attending the community college in their region.

## Students, Faculty and Staff Participate in March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2007



Over 50 students, faculty and staff members represented NRCC recently in the New River Valley WalkAmerica 2007 for the March of Dimes. Pictured above are students from NRCC business classes who gathered before the 5-mile walk began in downtown Christiansburg. NRCC nursing students also put together a team that walked and raised over \$3,000 for the March of Dimes, an organization dedicated to improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

## NRCC Will Soon Offer Classes at NRV Mall Site

In August, NRCC's Christiansburg site will move into the space formerly occupied by Regal Cinemas inside the New River Valley Mall. The new location will have four times the amount of space available at the college's current off-campus site on Roanoke Street. At the mall, there will be seven classrooms, four computer labs, one science lab, two auditoriums, testing and conference rooms, office spaces, and plenty of free parking.

At this site, students will be able to take General Education courses that transfer to four-year colleges and universities, sign up for Computer Aided Drafting and Design courses, or learn to create computer games and simulations in the college's new Game Technology Programs. Enrollment in non-credit Workforce Development courses will also be available.

Plans for a grand opening are currently under way. Classes are set to begin on August 22 at the mall site. More information can be obtained by going to NRCC's mall website at <http://www2.nr.edu/mall>.