

Soundings Soundings Soundings

Vol. 9 No. 3

Elizabeth City, N.C.

March, 1986

Tuesday evening discussions

Humanities lecture series explores mysteries of Great Dismal Swamp

The mysterious, sometimes foreboding, yet always beautiful Great Dismal Swamp will be the subject of this year's Humanities Lecture series that began at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4 in the lecture auditorium, with Thursday afternoon followup discussions at Museum of the Albemarle.

Each segment of the four-part series, "The Great Dismal Swamp: An Historic Legacy," will focus on a specific aspect of the 600-square-mile area that extends 40 miles from Nansemond County, near Suffolk, Va., through Camden and Pasquotank counties in the northeastern corner of North Carolina.

The history, economics, folklore, and future of the swamp and the Intracoastal Waterway canal that was carved through its heart from Great Bridge, Va. to South Mills 158 years ago will be primary topics for the series.

The lectures will take place each Tuesday evening throughout the month, with the fourth and final

session on March 25. Each scholar who is participating in the weekly programs has gained prominence in the topic that he or she will present.

Following each lecture, a discussion group will meet from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Thursday at the museum. The afternoon sessions will be led by local historian J.E.B. Stuart.

This is the sixth year COA, with the N.C. Humanities Committee, has hosted the popular, admission-free humanities series. The museum has joined the college as a co-sponsor for the second year.

Dr. Tom Parramore, associate professor of history at Meredith College, presented the initial lecture on March 4. Parramore discussed the Dismal Swamp Canal that was begun in 1787, and first opened to water traffic in 1828.

On March 11, Dr. Lindley Butler, Rockingham Community College historian-in-residence, will explore the economic aspect of the canal. His

topic, "The Dismal Swamp Canal: An Economic Link to River Navigation of the Roanoke System," will examine public and private interests of North Carolinians and Virginians to the development or lack of development of the canal as an economic link.

Folklore will be the subject on March 18, when Dr. Gerald Levy from Old Dominion University brings to life some of the stories associated with the swamp. The Fire Bird, Wicked John, and the Witch Tree are a few of the tales he will relate.

The series' final segment will consist of a panel discussion where the future of the vast storehouse of plant and animal life and its manmade waterway will be scrutinized. Offering views of the topic from their own unique areas of expertise will be: Karl Kuhlman, recreation resource specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers; Mary Keith Garrett, Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge biologist; and local historian Yates Barber.



College center to be new home for Carolina Theatre organ

The Robert Morton pipe organ that entertained hundreds of area residents more than half a century ago at the old Carolina Theatre has been returned to Elizabeth City. For 26 years, it was installed in the basement of a private residence in Washington Grove, Maryland. Hundreds of pipes, chimes, windchests, and other components have been stored in a special room at the college. The instrument will be restored at an estimated cost of \$30,000, and will be installed in the new Community and Small Business Center. The college foundation plans to launch a campaign soon to raise funds to complete the project. At left, three people who will oversee the physical restoration of the irreplaceable instrument examine the relays in its ornate console. They are: Joe Pool, industrial arts teacher at Manteo High School; Rodney Trueblood, First United Methodist Church organist who formerly played the instrument; and Jesse Mercer, COA business instructor.

Practical nursing graduates join associate degree class; 100% pass state examination

Practical Nursing Education graduates helped establish a new record for the college last October. Each of the 17 women who took the state nursing licensure examinations passed.

This in itself is not unusual. Other PNE classes have done as well. However, this is the first time that both practical nursing and associate degree nursing program graduates from the college have achieved a 100 percent passing rate on state nursing exams during the same year.

Before receiving licensure, graduate nurses are required to take a standardized test administered by the State Board of Nursing. The examination is considered a viable tool to measure the effectiveness of individual nurses, as well as a means to generally judge the quality of nursing programs.

Betsy Briscoe, PNE director, commended the class for its achievement. She said nine of the graduates have been hired by Albemarle Hospital, one of the clinical training facilities that is used in the college nursing programs.

The 1985 graduates who recently became licensed practical nurses include: Cathy Edwards, Sandra Hinton, Karen Northcutt, Sue Riddick, Karen Speakman, Rose Spence, Nancy Thomas, and Sandy Tucker of Elizabeth City; Stella Rivers and Debra Poffenbarger of Currituck County; Jacqueline Riddick, Lori Hollowell, and Alta Eure of Gates County; Brenda Hufton of Bertie County; Robin Johnston of Dare County; Janine Revell of Chowan County; and Catherine Jones of Perquimans County.

Architect's plans submitted for state office approval

Working drawings for COA Community and Small Business Center have been completed by architect Noel Coltrane. The documents were submitted to the Office of State Construction on February 11 for its review and final approval, which should be received in early March. The building, including equipment and site work, is expected to cost about \$3,231,000.

A copy of the building plans has been placed in the college board room and is available for examination by anyone who is interested in taking a look.

Dare County appoints two as trustees



As a result of recent legislation affecting the structure of community college boards of trustees, two new trustees have been appointed by the Dare County Board of Commissioners to serve the college. Above, magistrate Richard Venters administers the oath of office to Louise Dollard of Southern Shores. Dollard, a Dare commissioner, will serve a four-year term. Below, President Parker Chesson and trustees' chairman J. Wilson Jones, Jr. flank Robert G. Williams as they welcome the Manteo businessman to the college governing board.



Helping college through service

Several changes and additions have occurred in recent months in the membership of the college board of trustees, trustees' advisory committee, and college foundation directors. Listed below are the individuals who provide leadership for COA through their service:

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Two begin new employment before Christmas holidays

The college gained two new employees who got an early start on the new year by beginning their work in December.

Sandra Strickland was named executive secretary to President Parker Chesson. Before being hired by the college, she was employed by First Union National Bank for 16 years.



Strickland

Strickland began working in the bookkeeping department at the bank in 1969. When she accepted the job at the college, she was administrative secretary/investment assistant to FUNB senior vice president and city executive.

She is the wife of Ed Strickland. The couple are parents of two daughters, Sheila, a COA freshman, and Karin, a second-grader. They reside on Brickhouse Road in Elizabeth City.

James V. Timmerman has replaced Lindsey E. "Red" Barber as director of physical facilities at the college. Barber



Timmerman

retired on December 31, and currently is pursuing other business interests.

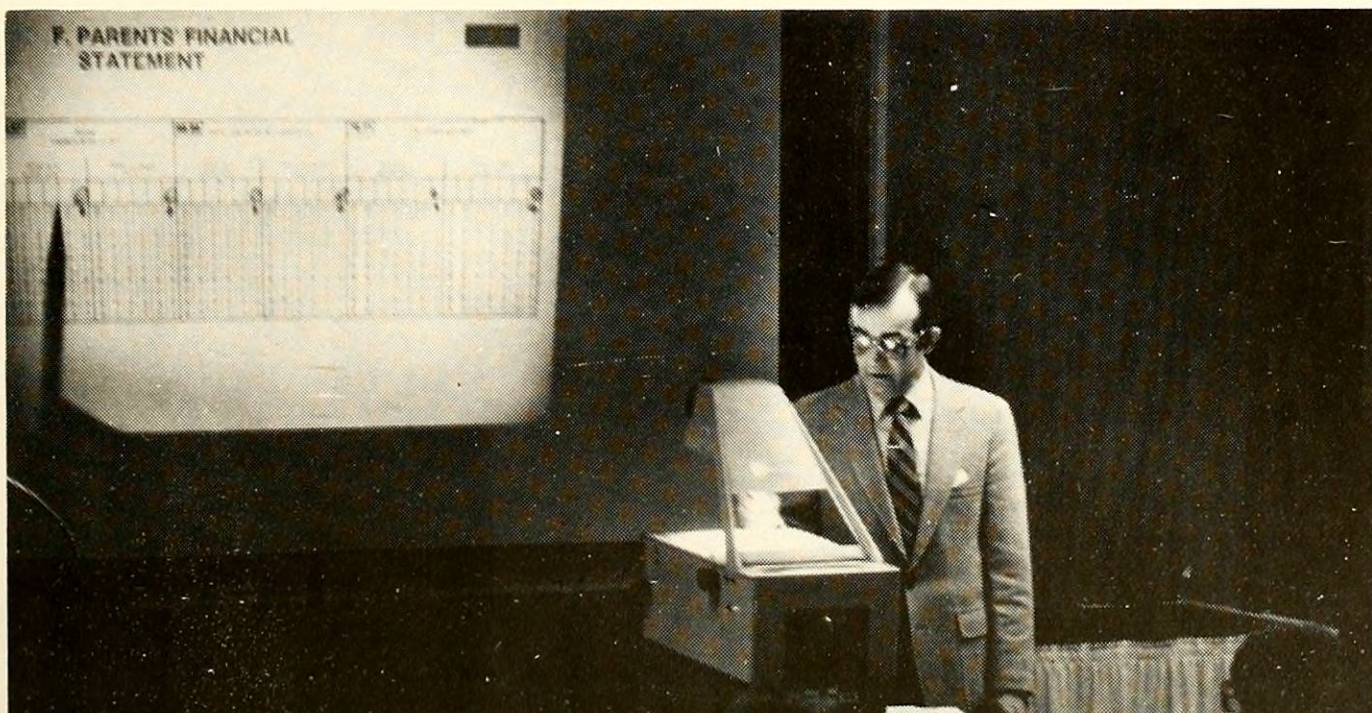
Timmerman is well-known among college employees and students. The retired U.S. Coast lieutenant commander has graduated from three COA programs, including business administration technology, computer technology, and light construction. As Student Senate president, he served as ex-officio member of the college board of trustees for one year.

He has been previously employed as a county building inspector and has worked in the automotive service field.

The director is married to the former Phyllis Dozier of Camden. The couple are parents of two sons, Patrick and Michael, and the entire Timmerman family are graduates from COA. They reside at Whitehall Shores in Camden.

Enrollment Up

The Spring Quarter enrollment picture looks encouraging. A total of 863 students have registered for credit courses, including 162 at the Dare County Center. Last year at the same time, 765 students had registered.



Lloyd Armstrong, assistant dean of student financial aid, gave parents and students line-for-line instructions for completing financial aid applications during nine workshops he conducted within the college's service area. January 26 through February 1 was proclaimed Student Financial Aid Awareness Week in North Carolina.

State insurance commissioner answers liability questions at Nags Head workshop Mar. 20

With the cost of liability insurance escalating at a seemingly mercurial rate, many businesses, medical practitioners, and owners of mobile homes in coastal areas no longer know where to turn to find affordable protection.

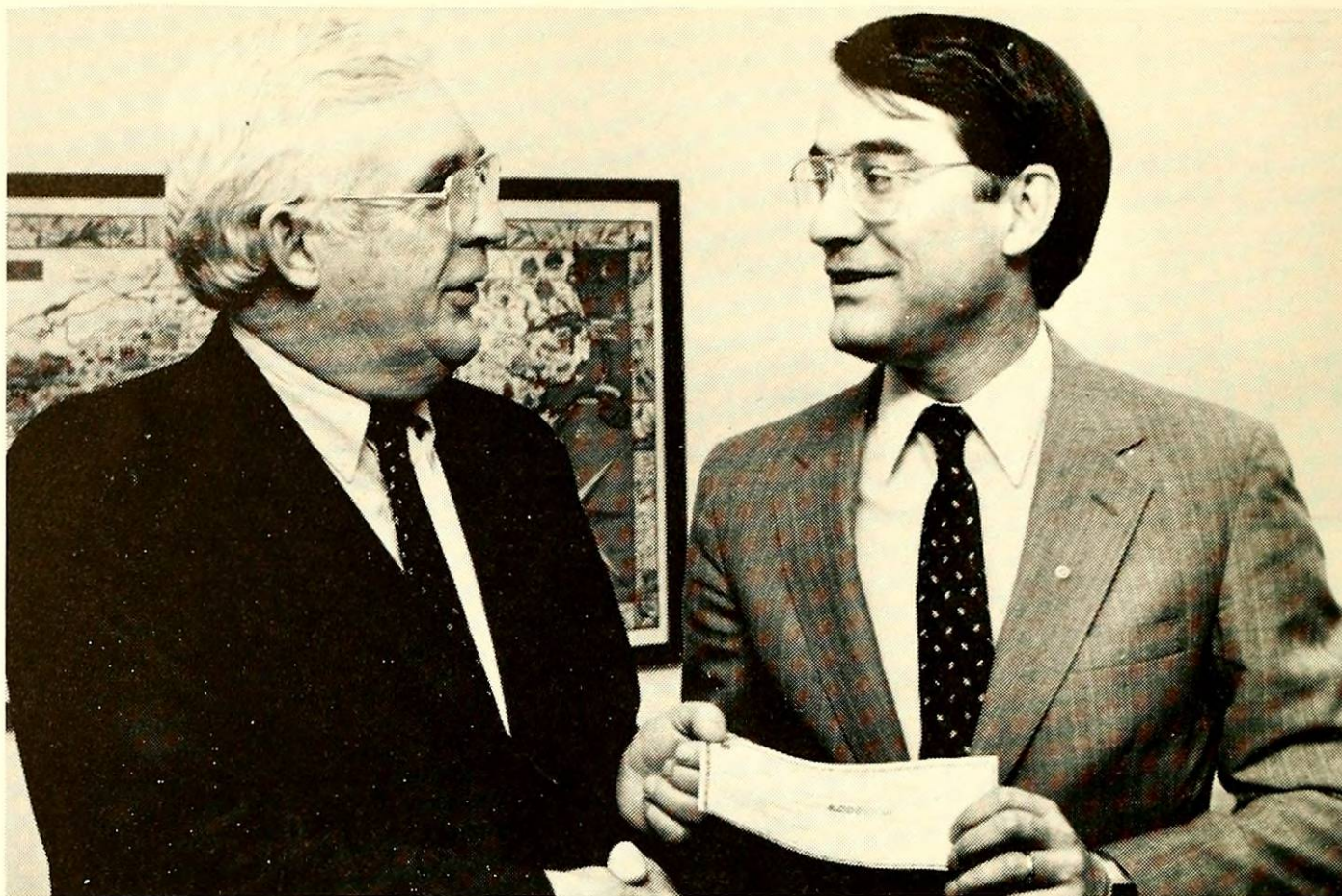
In an effort to explain how his department proposes to help alleviate the concern of rapidly rising liability premiums, state insurance commissioner Jim Long will conduct a special workshop this month in Dare County.

"Straight Answers to Tough Questions" will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 20 at the Nags Head Holiday Inn. The two-hour, free workshop is jointly sponsored by the Small Business Center at College of The Albemarle and the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce.

Long met in a joint session of the House and Senate committees on insurance in mid-February to recommend legislation to help ease mounting insurance problems. This legislation was approved by a special session of the General Assembly. During the morning workshop, the commissioner will explain how the insurance crisis came to be.

He also will address topics that include: recent legislation that resulted from last month's special legislative session; the prognosis for future problems and solutions; and steps business owners can take to soften the impact of high liability costs.

Persons who are interested in attending the workshop are encouraged to call the chamber office at 261-3801 to reserve seats.



William C. Meekins, Jr., Carolina Telephone and Telegraph community relations director, presents Dr. Chesson with a \$5,000 check as the company's contribution to the Community and Small Business Center. The telephone company also has matched a number of gifts to the center from its employees. Construction of the building should begin by late spring.

New talk show

Local radio station 'Spotlights' college programs and activities

News about the people, activities, and events at the college is now being heard each week through the cooperation of Hunt Thomas, a COA alumnus who manages Elizabeth City radio station WCNC.

"COA Spotlight" is aired at 6 o'clock each Monday evening by the local station. Pam Whitley, dean of college advancement, is the host of the 15-minute talk show that features college personalities and programs.

Each segment is taped in advance in

the soundproof booth in the college media services office. Since its inception last November, college personnel have discussed such topics as admission procedures, student counseling services, upcoming cultural events, the learning lab, student financial aid, vocational programs, Halley's Comet, and others.

Many other subjects are scheduled for the ongoing series. Be sure to listen at 6 p.m. each Monday at 1240 AM on your dial.



David Pritchard stands on the firing line during weapons practice. Pritchard is one of 21 men and women who are enrolled in the Basic Law Enforcement Training program that is being conducted under the auspices of the Continuing Education Division. Those who complete the 17-week course will earn 24 hours of college credit and will have met minimum requirements to become law enforcement officers.

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July 1, 1985 - February, 1986

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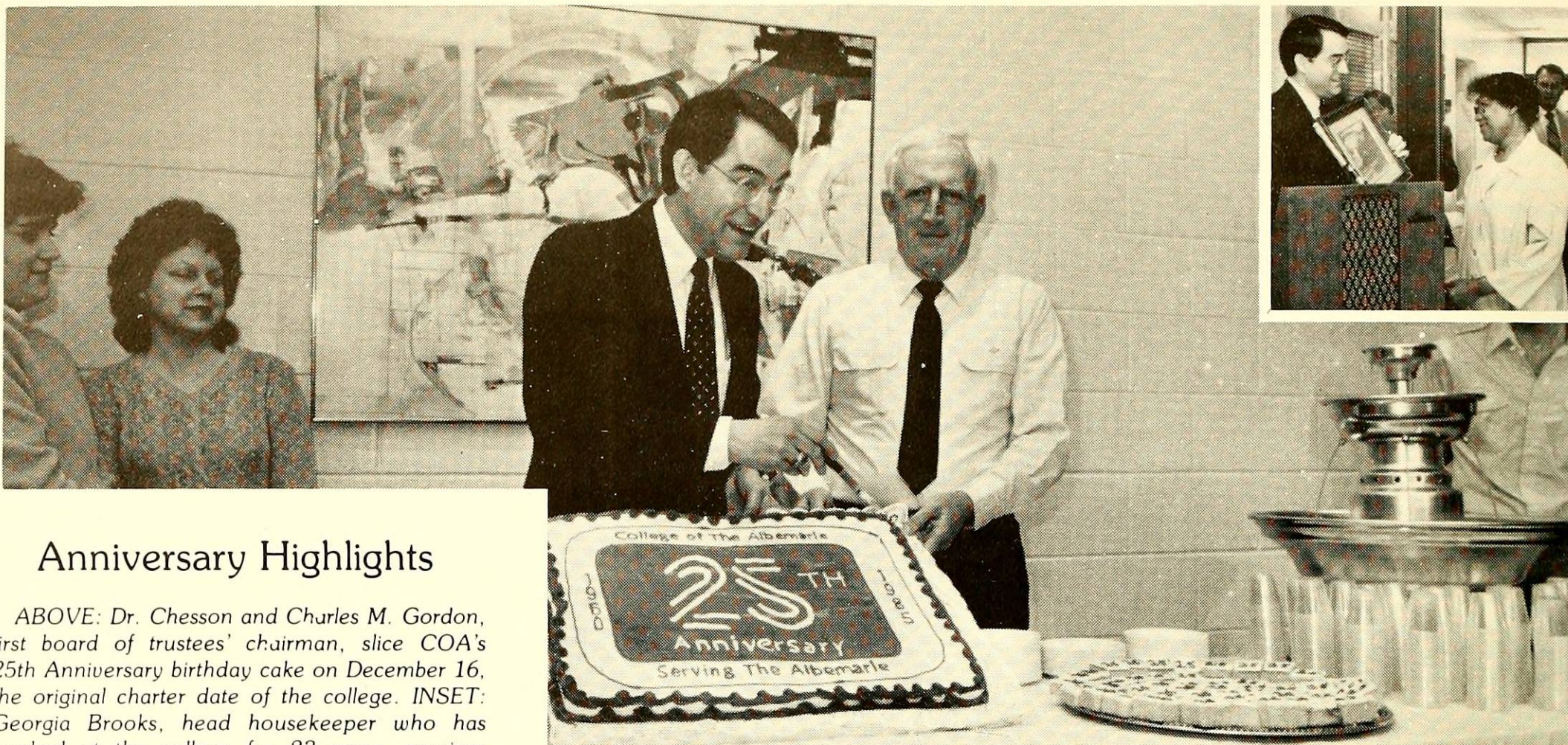
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Anniversary Highlights

ABOVE: Dr. Chesson and Charles M. Gordon, first board of trustees' chairman, slice COA's 25th Anniversary birthday cake on December 16, the original charter date of the college. INSET: Georgia Brooks, head housekeeper who has worked at the college for 23 years, receives special recognition at the cake cutting.

RIGHT: Although many deserve thanks for their help, three men received special awards for their dedicated service and support in the creation of the college. From left are: award recipient, Charles M. Gordon, Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce director when the idea of a college was born, and its charter trustees' chairman; Dr. Chesson; former state Sen. N. Elton Aydtlett, award recipient who chaired the community college committee of the state board of higher education when COA was chartered and later became a charter member of the state board of community colleges; award recipient state Rep. Vernon G. James, a charter member of the board of trustees who still serves in that position; and current trustees' chairman J. Wilson Jones, Jr. BOTTOM: Three former presidents who helped shape the future of the college returned for the anniversary celebration. From left are: current president Dr. Parker Chesson; Dr. S. Bruce Petteway, 1968-1975; Dr. Robert I. Hislop, 1963-1966; state president of community colleges Bob Scott; and Dr. C. Robert Benson who was the college's first president from 1961-1963.



State President Speaks

Bob Scott, state community colleges president, will visit Elizabeth City on March 17. The former governor will be guest speaker at the Elizabeth City Rotary Club.

It is expected that Scott will express his views on vocational education in relation to a growing shortage of trained workers in a number of traditional occupations in the state. The official is a strong advocate of the "2 plus 2" plan to provide more effective coordination of vocational training between public schools and community colleges.



Six area counties represented by '86 'Who's Who' nominees

Eleven College of The Albemarle students will be included in the 1986 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges."

John Simmons, Jr., COA dean of student development, explained that the group will join the ranks of the country's most outstanding campus leaders. They were selected by a campus nominating committee and editors of the annual directory on the basis of academic achievement, community service, and leadership potential, Simmons said.

The publication has honored outstanding students since 1934, when the first edition was printed. More than 1,400 institutions of higher education in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign countries are represented.

Those named this year include: Catherine Annie F. Butts, Stephanie Ryan Cate, Medina D. Jones, James R. Knowles, and Sandra Webb Meads of Elizabeth City; Denise Lilly Bunch of Tyner; Debra Lynn Garrett of Moyock; Georgia Miller Phelps of Manteo; Dawn Woodroof Tillett of Colington; Frankie Lora Rountree of Sunbury; and Patricia Tillery Lewis of Hertford.

State Award Candidate

Associate professor of English Robert Stephens has been named as a candidate for the State Board of Community Colleges/First Union Awards for Excellence in Teaching. The winner will receive \$1,500 in cash with \$250 for each of four finalists.



Cynthia Williams, under the watchful eye of tutor supervisor Kathy Tant, uses a microcomputer to work basic math problems at the ABLE Center located at Edgewood Shopping Center in Elizabeth City. Combining the use of computers, VCR, audio tapes, and individual tutoring, ABLE students progress seven times faster than with ordinary teaching methods.

Spring Arts Festival

The Spring Arts Festival will give the community a concinnity of seven cultural events over a period of more than a week next month. Music is the mainstay of this year's annual program by the college Fine Arts Department, with drama and visual arts playing strong supporting roles.

The work of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will raise the curtain on the month's admission-free concerts and recitals. Pianist Lilly Chou will play the famed Austrian's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Major" during a concert at 4 p.m. on April 6 at First United Methodist Church. The second portion of the Sunday afternoon program will be a performance of "Requiem" with

the combined voices of the COA Chorale and Albemarle Community Chorus conducted by Dr. Leland Chou.

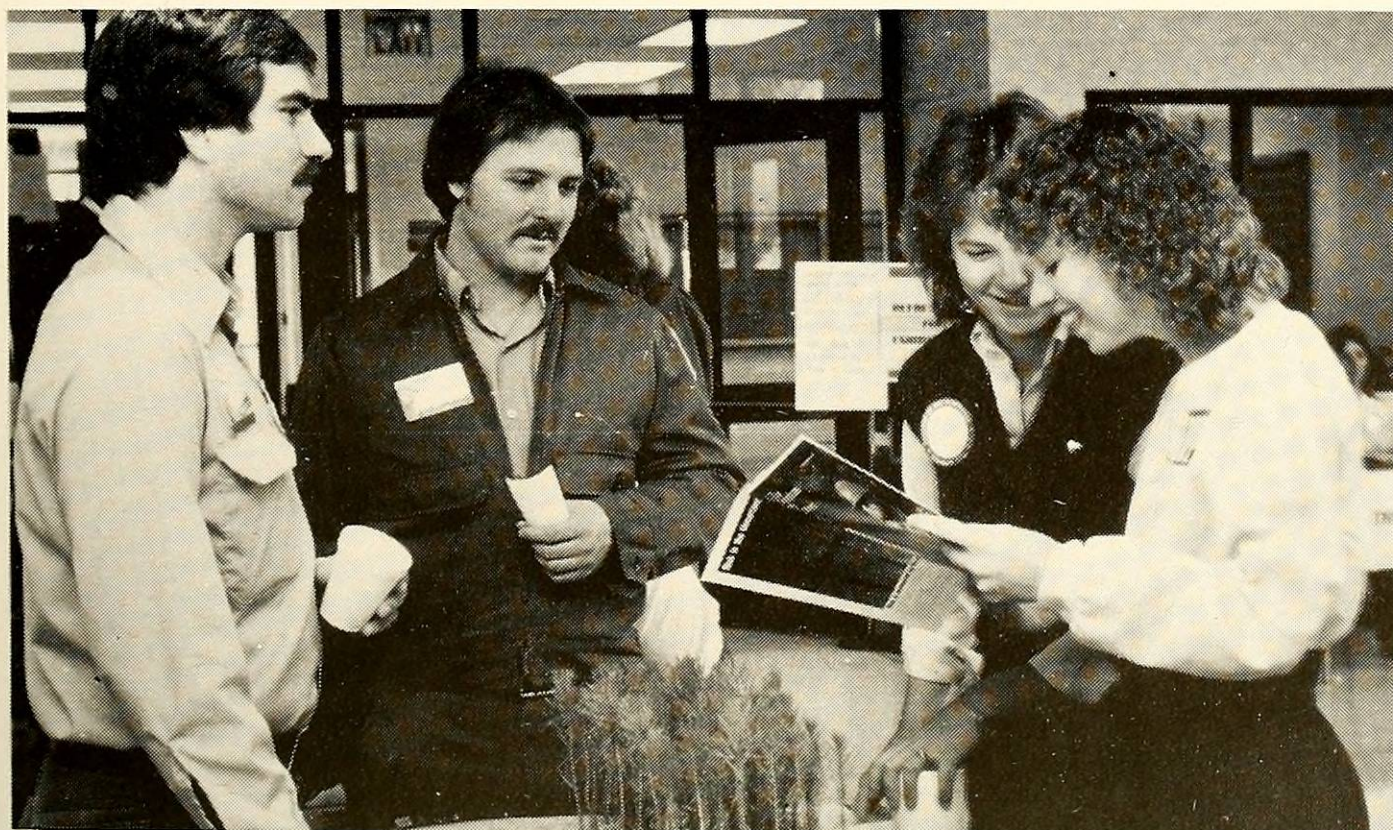
Cellist Carl Shugart will continue the musical theme with a 10 a.m. performance on April 16 in the lecture auditorium at the college. The Randolph Technical College visiting artist, a former music teacher, has gained a varied list of credits playing in Broadway productions and with philharmonic orchestras and chamber ensembles.

On April 17, the festival turns toward visual art. Former Elizabeth City mathematics teacher Tom Grubb, now an artist/sculptor, will present a program on his work at 11 a.m. in the lecture auditorium. He currently is visiting artist at Robeson Technical College.

Strings will prevail again on April 18. Violinist Amy Mugavero, considered to be one of the most talented young musicians on the East Coast, will perform at 10 a.m. with her 1862 Vuillaume instrument. Currently, the visiting artist at Fayetteville Technical Institute, Mugavero is a seasoned virtuoso.

At 12 noon on April 18, the COA Band will perform in the Student Center. Composed of COA students, employees, and musicians from the community, the band is directed by Andy Humphries.

The only event requiring paid admission during the festival is the COA Satyrs' spring production, "Death of A Salesman." The drama will be presented at 8:15 p.m. for five performances on April 17, 18, 19, 20, and 22 at the Black Box Theatre located at the extension center on Riverside Avenue.



The college hosted 27 area businesses and public agencies during a Career Day event in January. Potential future employers and employees had an opportunity to become better acquainted at the morning session.

Enlisted man first to attend college through Naval education program

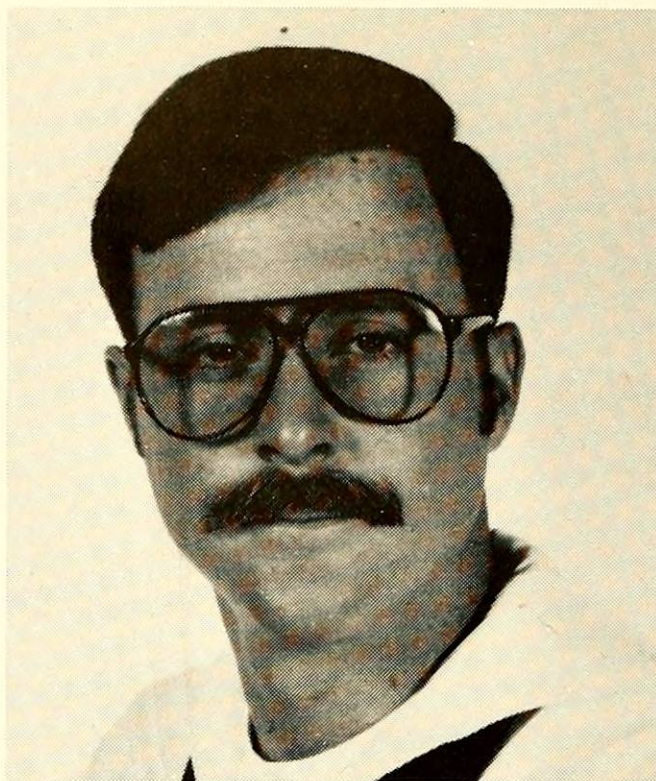
The U.S. Navy is using COA as a port for higher education this year. Although the college has had many veterans enrolled on the G.I. Bill through the years, this is the first time it has had an active duty serviceman attending as a full-time student on an educational duty assignment.

Communications specialist Mike Myers, who will complete his fifth year in the Navy on June 10, enrolled in the pre-computer science curriculum as a freshman last fall. When he re-enlisted for six years last June, he applied for acceptance in the navy's Enlisted Educational Advancement Program (EEAP).

The program allows enlisted personnel without college credentials to attend an area community or junior college as full-time students for two years. Applicants select two possible fields of study and choose three institutions to attend.

The 1979 graduate from Washington High School in Massillon, Ohio listed computer science or electrical engineering as his choice of studies. He requested COA, Tidewater Community College, and Thomas Nelson Community College as his preference of institutions.

Myers initially was assigned to TCC because COA was not on EEAP's list of colleges. After he resubmitted his request, pointing out that COA was more convenient to his duty station in Chesapeake, Virginia, and offers an excellent course of study in his chosen curricula, EEAP determined that the college does meet its program criteria, and he was reassigned.



Michael G. Myers

"The college offers everything I need," he says. "I feel that my education here will be beneficial to both myself and to the service."

Before enlisting in the Navy in 1981, Meyers attended Capital University in his home state for two semesters. After enlisting, he received basic training at Great Lakes, then attended communications school in Pensacola, Florida.

His first duty assignment was an 18-month tour of duty in northern Japan. Unlike most 21-year-olds who might be sent overseas, the country and its people were not strangers to the young man.

During his junior year in high school, Myers was selected as an exchange student. For a year, he lived with a Japanese family in the Yamanashi Pre-

fecture on Honshu, the country's largest island.

"It was an experience of a lifetime," he says. "I attended school, learned to speak the language well, and came to know and appreciate Oriental culture. In essence, I was a real member of my Japanese 'family.'"

Being stationed in Japan provided another rare opportunity. Myers' parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Myers, Jr. of Millersburg, Ohio traveled overseas to visit their son. During the trip, he took them to Yamanashi, where they met and stayed in the home of his Japanese "parents."

In 1984, he was transferred to Chesapeake. Before his independent duty assignment to COA last fall, he carried out his mission as a member of a communications support team for the Second Fleet on a number of the Navy's modern warships, including several aircraft carriers.

Since he began classes at the college last September, Myers has demonstrated his natural gregariousness and leadership qualities in many ways. He has served as a yearbook staff photographer, helped construct the Student Senate Christmas parade float, and serves as vice president of the Computer-Oriented Programming and Design (COPAD) Club.

He says he made the right choice when he requested "duty" at COA. "The level of teaching here is on a high plane," says Myers. "When you go to a university, you're going to lose some of that quality, especially in the lower level courses that are taught mainly by graduate assistants."

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