



# Impact: PVCC

Living the vision for opportunity and excellence

Spring 2008

## PVCC Transfers Shine at McIntire

The McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia, one of the highest ranking business schools in the country, received more than 300 applications from transfer students for the 2008-2009 academic year. The school accepted 30 of those students.

Six students applied from PVCC and all were accepted. They are:

- Elisee Bimenyande
- James Cavanaugh
- John Hacheson
- Martin Hohoff
- Kyle Rudman
- Ann Sledd

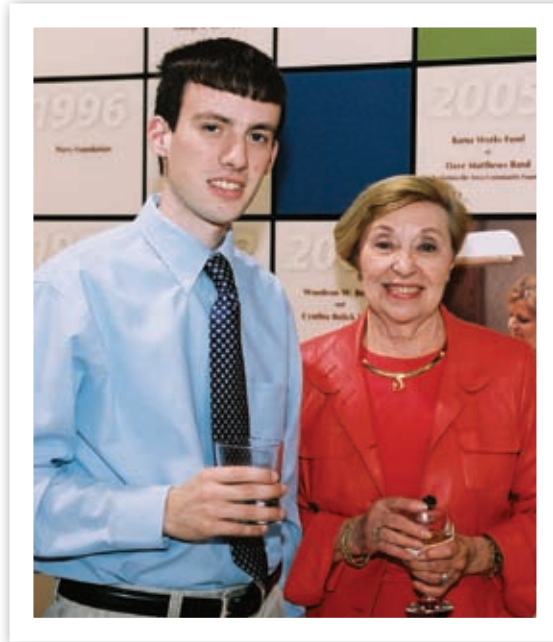
Congratulations to these students and to the PVCC faculty who prepared them so well!

## Thank You, PVCC

After having my first child at age 15 and dropping out of high school, I was destined for a life of low-level jobs and lack of understanding of the world around me. Before I attended PVCC I struggled in many jobs because of my lack of confidence in myself and my abilities. After attending PVCC I have become more confident than ever before in my life. I am now six classes away from receiving my undergraduate degree in psychology and am applying to graduate school to study counseling. Thank you so much for being a blessing in my life. My awesome professors and academic counselors at PVCC went the extra mile to make sure I achieved in life and for that I am grateful.

—Janet Williams  
2007 PVCC graduate

## PVCC: “It’s My Baby!”



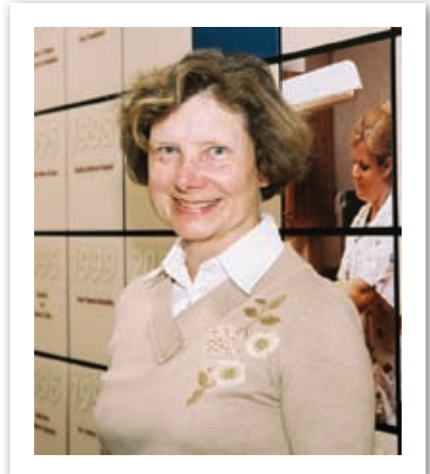
Grace Carpenter poses with PVCC alumnus and current UVA engineering student Ben Sargeant following a recent ceremony unveiling the College’s new donor wall. The wall recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations whose cumulative gifts total \$50,000 and above. Among those attending the ceremony were donor Pam Batchellor (below right) and representatives from two long-time corporate supporters: Danny Sheppard from State Farm Insurance Companies (below left) and Jim Harlow from Embarq.

In the 20 years since Grace Carpenter first became involved with PVCC, she has been a board member (chair of the College Board and president of the Educational Foundation Board), a fund and friend raiser, a presidential advisor, and a friend in so many ways. In 1996, PVCC recognized her extraordinary contribution by awarding her the PVCC Medallion, its highest non-academic honor.

The vice president of Davenport & Company LLC, whose many community service accolades include the Paul Goodloe McIntire Award in 2006, added another citation to the list in April when she received the Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. She was one of 23 honorees recognized for the roles they play in support of community colleges across the Commonwealth.

Carpenter’s connection to PVCC is personal. Her two nephews chose to attend PVCC and “it was a most wonderful experience for them.” And it is clear that she has a great deal of fondness for the PVCC students and faculty she has come to know over the years. But there is more. The benefits of PVCC to the community are enormous and can only be sustained with gifts from individuals, businesses and organizations, she says.

As a long-time investment advisor, she has a special message for PVCC alumni as they undertake their estate planning. “Remember what PVCC did for you and how important private dollars are for its future.”





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# PVCC's Neal Makes 1st Team



## Graduation '08

Jacob Neal (above) adds "speaker for the graduates" to his list of accomplishments as the 2008 commencement ceremony draws to a close. Neal urged his classmates to take "full advantage of every opportunity that presents itself, no matter how small and insignificant it may seem at the time." Governor Timothy M. Kaine (below, congratulating a graduate) delivered the commencement address, encouraging graduates to choose optimism because it "has the ability to bend events your way. If you're optimistic, you'll be amazed at how much you can affect the outcome of whatever you're attempting to do."



On April 7, 2008, USA TODAY featured the top 20 community college students in the country. Prominently featured was a photograph of Jacob Neal, perched in a tree at PVCC, sharing the expertise he learned from his family's tree care company.

It was an eye-catching photograph, but perfectly appropriate for this 2008 PVCC honor graduate who has balanced work, study, soccer practice, community volunteer projects, and a wide range of extracurricular activities.

Neal began looking at colleges as he was nearing the end of his home schooling. He came to PVCC because he felt a community college would be a good stepping stone for success at a four-year school. "I have been completely satisfied with my community college experience," he wrote. "I have had absolutely outstanding professors who motivated, guided and encouraged me."

Outside the classroom, Neal helped to establish a Student Government Association and has served as an SGA member as well as a student representative to the College Senate. He was president of the PVCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

The son of Ellen and Michael Neal, he is the last of three brothers to graduate from PVCC. He plans to study biology at the University of Virginia on his way to becoming a teacher of biology at a community college.

It is the third time in four years that a PVCC student has been named to the All-USA Community College Academic First Team. Previous recipients are Ben Sargeant in 2007 and Micah Crowsey in 2004.

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