



Impact: PVCC

Living the vision for opportunity and excellence

Spring 2010

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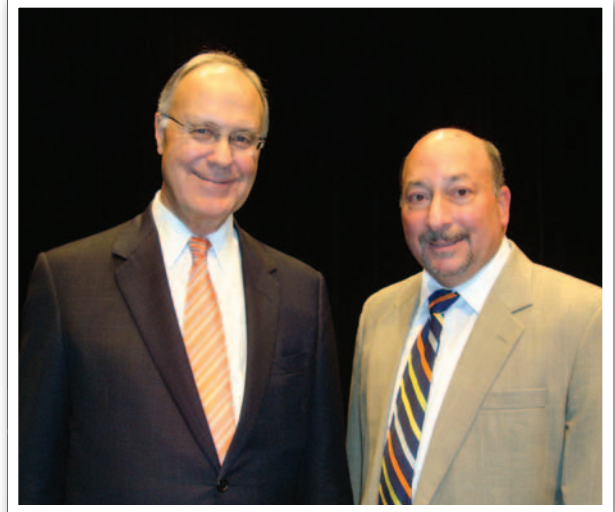
Tribute to a Good Friend

"Open access to learning...is simply fundamental to what we are as communities and what we are as a state," retiring University of Virginia President John T. Casteen III told a PVCC audience this spring.

Community colleges are the embodiment of Thomas Jefferson's belief in "an aristocracy of talent" rather than one based on wealth and privilege, Casteen continued. And although it took nearly 200 years, the passage of legislation creating the community college system in Virginia in 1966 did make Jefferson's vision a reality.

Casteen attended PVCC's annual academic and leadership awards ceremony to receive

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John Casteen and Frank Friedman

Honoring a Legacy

Professor Pryor Hale, who retired this spring, leaves an impressive legacy of teaching, College leadership and service to the PVCC Educational Foundation.

A founding faculty member, she has taught thousands of psychology students in the 38 years since PVCC opened in 1972. By her own admission, she cannot go anywhere in Charlottesville without running into a former student. "It keeps you honest," she once said.



In recognition of her rank and seniority, she followed Ray Bratton and Evelyn Edson to become the third faculty marshal in the College's history, carrying the PVCC mace and opening graduation ceremonies since 2007.

Hale also was the first executive director of the PVCC Educational Foundation and then served for more than three decades as a faculty advisor to its board. One of the highlights for her in this role was the 83 percent participation rate by faculty and staff in the recent *Campaign for Opportunity and Excellence*—a rate about twice the national average for community colleges.

The Foundation Board honored Hale and all PVCC retirees with a reception just before her final graduation ceremony. Later that evening, she became the fourth retiring faculty member to receive the President's Award for Career Excellence from President Friedman.



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A Dream Come True

Joshua Mlcoch, speaker for the PVCC class of 2010, received degrees in liberal arts and computer science, both with highest academic honors. He will study computer science and mathematics at the University of Virginia. Mlcoch ended his remarks with this story:

Some time ago a young man had a dream of studying the things he loved at one of the nation's best universities. At the time when he first had this dream, the road in front of him to accomplish this dream seemed impossible. However, encouraged by the people around him he decided to set out on this road. Before he did, however, he took a permanent marker and wrote on the inside of his left shoe, "U.Va. or bust" after which he put his shoe back on and started walking. Two and half years later this young man wrote once more on the inside of his now worn out left shoe only this time it said, "Accepted to U.Va." I am happy to say I was that young man and that thanks to this community the story I just told you is a true one.

Tribute to a Good Friend

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an award of his own—the PVCC Medallion. The College's highest nonacademic honor, the Medallion is given in recognition of extraordinary service to PVCC.

President Friedman recognized Casteen for his unfailing support of PVCC which has been expressed in diverse ways. U.Va. includes the PVCC Educational Foundation's endowment in its investments; it has opened the U.Va. marching band to PVCC students and has provided financial support for PVCC nursing and other health-care programs, to name a few.

But perhaps the most significant connection is the transfer to U.Va. of thousands of students who over the years have begun their baccalaureate study at PVCC. Casteen recalled a study he had done while serving as the University's dean of admissions from 1975 to 1982. With an eye toward exploding the myth that community college students could not compete, he tracked PVCC students in some of U.Va.'s most difficult courses. The former community college students earned slightly higher grade point averages than the "native" students. "I like success," Casteen added.

He also recognized the role PVCC played in the guaranteed admission agreements now in place between community colleges and all public four-year schools in the state. "PVCC led the state in building these agreements," he said.

This is the second time PVCC has recognized Casteen. In 1992 he received the honorary associate of humane letters degree for "exceptional support for education and exemplary service for the public good."

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