

Graduates Urged To Overcome Barriers, Build Communities

BY SUSAN USHER

Sandi Johnston of Supply wants to teach math and is now halfway to that goal.

Charlie T. "Tom" Arnold of Ocean Isle Beach earned the equivalent of a high school diploma and completed basic law enforcement training. He is seeking a career as a law officer.

Back in 1976, Lorene Buchanan, Marilyn Hardie, Terri Mercer and Mable McKoy were part of a group of 27 adults enrolled in general education evening courses at North Brunswick High School. Five years later, the four women are the only ones of that original group to earn their associate degrees.

Each of these six students overcame barriers in striving to reach their personal goals. They're the type of student speaker Roscoe E. Hager talked about at Brunswick Community College's 11th commencement exercises last Thursday night at Southport Baptist Church.

Friends, relatives and BCC faculty and staff members overflowed from both the main sanctuary of the church and its adjacent chapel.

It was BCC's largest GED class to date, with 69 men and women receiving the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Another 147 students earned a diploma, certificate or associate degree, while three marked dual achievement in business administration and business computer programming.

Those in the chapel's intimate setting of arched windows, slatted wood walls darkened with age and rose-red carpets had the equivalent of front row seats. They watched proceedings by wide screen video hookup as Hager spoke over the babble of children.

"You didn't give up when it would have been easier to stop," he told the graduates in a reminder of their personal victories.

Hager, coordinator of methods of administration for the N.C. Department of Community Colleges, challenged graduates to continue to dream, to pursue their dreams with persistence and dedication, to be willing to stand for something and

to be builders of stronger communities. "Be willing to roll up your sleeves and make things happen," he said, even when others offer no encouragement. "When people work together, there are no limits to what can be done."

Paraphrasing Methodist pioneer Charles Wesley, the part-time minister urged students to "do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the places you can, for as long as you can."

Seven students earned special recognition for their achievements and service.

Sandra (Sandi) D. Johnston of Supply received the President's Award presented annually to the student who is selected as outstanding in scholastic achievement and leadership qualities. A general education student, she was one of BCC's first ambassadors last year and also served as president of the campus honor society, the National Vocational Technical Honor Society.

Lamara A. Anderson of Ash, a business administration student, received the Citizenship Award. She was selected on the basis of campus leadership, service to fellow students and participation in extracurricular activities. Ms. Anderson was an Student Government Association officer and honor student.

Three graduates received Outstanding Student Awards, on the basis of academic excellence and their contributions of service to the community and to BCC. Business administration honors student Frances L. Gravatt of Ocean Isle Beach, technical Michael Bernard Randolph of Bolivia, general education and William Kevin Shires an air conditioning, heating and refrigeration vocational student.

Two nursing students received special recognition for academic achievement, leadership, professionalism and service. Carol Lynn Young of Holden Beach received the Esther Swann Frazier Nursing Award and Julie J. Brinsfield of Ocean Isle Beach received the Steven Allen White Award.

Students who earned diplomas, degrees and certificates were announced earlier.

Earning high school equivalency diplomas were these students:

Shannon L. Apple, Charlie T. Arnold, Henry Atzberger, Karen L. Barber, Helen Barnhill, Melody Barnhill, Gwendolyn T. Bass, Jamie M. Best, Sherry Carmichael, Edward C. Carter, Virginia B. Comer, Franklin D. Coston Jr., Sally Melissa Crumbley, Amy L. Decker, Nellie L. Dixon, Virginia Ellen Doak, Gregory Eason, Amanda Eaton, Jeffrey Evans, Cynthia A. Farley, Jessica Floyd, Kimberly H. Fultford, John H. Gibson III, Heather L. Goodwin, Cheryl Gore, Mark W. Gore, Phillip M. Gore, Frances M. Hall, Mary Kay Harris, Pamela Hawkins, Howard Helmke, Susan Hewett, Timothy G. Hewett, Patricia E. Hicks, Delores Hogan, James S. Jacobs, Jennifer R. Johnson, Chris Kelly, Georita Annette Lewis.

Also, Eric N. Long, John Love, Fred W. McCain, Denise McCarter, Tracy C. McKeithan, Karen Mock, Lori W. Moulter, Leander Mosley, Robert D. Mullis, Randall DeMark, Nancy Thomas, Matthew Vance, Angel Osborne, Lamine L. Parish, Benjamin K. Powers, Shannon E. Ryan, Connie E. Shepherd, Laurie Skipper, Angela Smith, C. Annette Smith, Loretta S. Smith, Rose Spell, Katie L. Squires, Jonathan L. Stevenson, Cecilia Sullivan, Cindy G. Turner, Tim Vasey, Larry S. Watkins Jr., Jeffrey W. Williams, Robert E. With and Richard Woods.



BCC GRADUATES who received special recognition at commencement last week included (front, from left) Frances Gravatt, Michael Bernard Randolph and Lamara Anderson; and (back, from left) Carol Lynn Young, Julie J. Brinsfield and Sandra D. Johnston.

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