Jim Hisghman enrolled at Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) in 1973, no thanks to the high school guidance counselor who told him that he was not college material. Fortunately, Hisghman did not listen and instead came to LFCC with the idea of becoming a teacher. That dream solidified in Hisghman’s mind as he took classes at LFCC and graduated in 1975 with an associate degree in general studies. Hisghman then transferred to Virginia Tech, where he obtained bachelor’s (1977) and master’s degrees (1983) in agricultural education.

After completing his bachelor’s degree, Hisghman began teaching at Strasburg High School and then transferred to Signal Knob Middle School, where he taught for 15 years. After 30 years of teaching, Hisghman retired in May 2007. His impact in the classroom and his leadership of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter at Signal Knob were evident in the success of the chapter. Hisghman said that during 12 out of the 15 years he taught at Signal Knob, the FFA chapter placed as a finalist for the best in the state. Hisghman was also honored as one of four finalists for the National Agricultural Science Teacher of the Year award.

Hisghman credits his time at LFCC as shaping his career aspirations. Now that he is retired, Hisghman is pursuing another love—working on his farm in West Virginia.

Q: How did LFCC impact your educational career and your life?
A: By attending LFCC, I was able to work full time, stay close to home and save money for my continued education.

Q: What did you enjoy most about teaching?
A: It had to be the kids. I loved working with the kids and seeing them succeed.

Q: What does it mean to you to receive the Outstanding Alumni Award?
A: The award was quite a surprise. It means a lot to me and is greatly appreciated. I could not have gone on to college without LFCC. The College was relatively new to the area, but if LFCC had not been there, I doubt if my career would have turned out so well. LFCC put me in a position to succeed.

Student Success

In September, LFCC student Margie Clark spoke at LFCC’s Women’s Luncheon and met the legendary journalist Helen Thomas. One week later, Clark met U.S. President George W. Bush when she represented the Virginia Community College System at the signing of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act in Washington, D.C. Before Bush signed the bill, he asked Clark (the young woman to the left of the president on the newsletter cover) to step forward. “My first thought was, ‘Is he really talking to me?’ That’s why I have such a stunned look on my face,” Clark said. Through hard work and determination, this high school dropout and single parent is achieving her dreams and experiencing things she never imagined.

During the months of June, July and August, the New Student Orientation (NSO) team served more than 1,000 new students at all three College locations. During these sessions, the NSO team presented 102 information sessions, facilitated 136 academic advising sessions and offered 17 parent/student support sessions. The NSO team engaged students and paved the way for their success. In the process, 3,562 slices of pizza were consumed.

In 2006-07, the Financial Aid Office awarded more than $2.5 million, an increase of 3.26 percent compared to the previous year’s awards. This additional funding asisted 7 percent more students than the previous year.

During the 2007-08 academic year, the Student Activities Office is focusing on student leadership development. To help accomplish this goal, a leadership retreat was held for students in October; a group of students traveled to Norfolk to attend the annual Virginia Community College System Student Leadership Conference in November; and additional leadership and civic activities are being planned for the spring 2008 semester.

For information about the Office of Student Success, please contact Cynthia Barbera at clmarbera@lfcc.edu or 540-351-1316.

Partnerships and Outreach

The Office of Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education was awarded two Institutes of Excellence grants through the Virginia Community College System’s Workforce Development Services unit. The office received $15,000 for the two projects, which focus on developing curriculum to (1) assist local licensed health care professionals in maintaining their professional licenses and (2) better serve the expressed needs of area businesses by creating a fast-track industrial maintenance program.

Jeannian Clark was recently named assistant vice president for workforce solutions and continuing education. In this capacity, she will oversee the professional development, open enrollment and employer customized training for the office. Over the past several years, Clark has received numerous human resource and training awards, including Human Resource Professional of the Year from the Winchester chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management.

For information about the Office of Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education, please contact Jeannian Clark at jsclark@lfcc.edu or 540-384-7122.

Resource Development and Public Relations

On Sept. 19, 2007, more than 100 women from across the College’s service region celebrated the first LFCC Women’s Luncheon.

Thanks to the Lewis M. Costello Endowed Forensics Scholarship, LFCC’s Forensics Team is able to participate in drama and public speaking competitions throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Five members of the team recently benefited from the fund, which paid for travel and competition fees for a tournament at Shepherd University. From left to right, LFCC representatives included: Daniel Jones, Eliza Kutrieb, Brittany Jenkins, Assistant Coach Andrea Ludwick, Iris Chavez and Michael Waugh.