

## "Outstanding" faculty member receives honor

By **ROB SPIRES**  
Staff Writer

For the third time since 2000, a Vol State faculty member has won the Tennessee Communication Association (TCA) Outstanding Communication Educator of the Year award.

Len Assante, chair of the communications department, won this year's award.

Virginia Thigpen won the award in 2000 and David Warner was a winner in 2003.

The Communication Educator of the Year award recognizes "an individual who has made a significant contribution to communication education in the state of Tennessee," according to the TCA nomination form.

Assante was formally recognized as the recipient of the award at a TCA luncheon during their annual meeting, which was held Sept. 30 in Murfreesboro.

"I was totally surprised and very happy," said Assante. "I wasn't going to go to the TCA conference, but (communication faculty members) said, 'you have to go, you're winning an award.'"

English and communications professor Shellie Michael nominated Assante, stating, "Len Assante embodies excellence in communication and leadership."

"I admire him most for his ethics

and courage," Michael continued.

The award is held in high esteem, because winning it is not as simple as just being nominated and receiving the award, Assante said.

He first had to pass the vote of his fellow TCA colleagues.

"The current president selects an awards chairperson in the spring, who in turn, appoints at least two other members to the committee," David Warner, assistant professor of communication, explained.

- Len Assante

Chairman of Communication

The committee reviews the nominations and selects the recipient for that year," Warner said.

This committee is made up of professors from colleges around the state, including Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis.

While Assante said he is proud of his individual recognition, he said he is also proud of the communications department at Vol State.

"My goal is to make us the best community college in the state," Assante stated.

In winning the award multiple times, Assante said he feels, "We're getting recognition for a good job teaching."

"Our communication colleagues across the state recognize the excellence and dedication of our faculty," Michael said.

"My goal is to make us the best community college in the state"

## High school credits can now be used in college

By **WILL GREGORY**  
Staff Writer

Volunteer State Community College students are able to receive credits from specific classes that they took in high school though the Tech Prep Program.

Tech Prep Coordinator Sandra Black expressed that many students may be unaware of this.

Students are required to have had a "B" grade or higher in the class in order to receive the credit for the class.

They also have to apply for college admission within two years of graduating from high school and have to have graduated from one of the 12 counties that are included in the program.

The 12 counties are Robertson, Sumner, Wilson, Davidson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, Clay, Jackson, Putnam, Pickett, and Overton.

For example, Black said that one of the most common classes that students had in high school was keyboarding. If a student met all the proper requirements, they could receive credit for BUS 111 due to having keyboarding.

Black mentioned that other common classes that students can receive credit for include CIS 100, COM 100, and CED 100. Other classes are COM 120, MKT 110, HTL 111, HTL 130, AHC 115, and ECED 2010.

Black said that students can pick up an application at her office, located in Annex 100, or from her secretary.

When an application is turned in, transcripts are then verified to make

sure the student meets the requirements in order to receive credit.

Once this is done, the records department sends the student a notification statement in the mail.

She said the student should receive notification in about two to three weeks.

Black expressed that some high school counselors have overlooked or forgotten to tell students in high school about how they could receive these credits.

"Counselors should have been telling them about this but that has not been happening," stated Black.

Jim Hiatt, assistant to the vice president of academic affairs, expressed that it's also hard for Vol State to inform these directly.

"We're a big school and it's hard to have to the system to flag the students who would meet these requirements", Hiatt said.

Hiatt stated that students in high school can learn skills they would learn in college.

"The purpose of the Tech Prep Program is to keep the student from doing something they've already done in high school", he said.

Black mentioned that she has been visiting some of the participating schools to provide information about the program.

She also said that last Wednesday, she had a booth at the Career Fair set up in order to inform students about receiving credit from their high school classes.

Black said she found that many did not know about the program.



Devin Holscher / Staff Photo  
Bill Warfarth examines a table at the Books are Fun event Sept. 27 and 28.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Saturday, October 7, 2006

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at Volunteer State Community College