The Oracles
Alamance Community College Weekly Newsletter

February 11, 2013

LOOKING AHEAD

February 14
Valentine’s Day

February 19
Faculty/Staff Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Auditorium

March 4-9
Spring Break—No Classes

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ACC Instructor Contributes to History Textbook, His Second

As ACC history instructor David Crane teaches students this semester in his African American history course, he is apt to be more familiar with much of the text than usual. That’s because the book, Freedom on My Mind, Combined Volume: A History of African Americans with Documents, includes quite a bit of data contributed by Crane himself.

The recently published work is Crane’s second publication, following 2011’s Become As One People: Colonial Identifications for Native Americans in the Carolinas, 1540-1790.

This time, Crane was invited by the senior history editor at Bedford St. Martin’s publishing house in Boston to research and write all the supplemental online material, which includes quizzes, short answer questions, essay questions with examples, and 50 multiple choice questions for each of the 15 chapters in the book.

Crane got the job on the recommendation of a colleague with whom he had worked at Cape Fear Community College who wasn’t able to take the assignment.

Once he got the green light from the editor last July, Crane commenced working, thinking he could finish by summer’s end, but it took six months to complete.

Says Crane: “To say that my work on this book took hundreds of hours is not an exaggeration.”

Crane is certain that his authorship of the earlier history book last year (available on Amazon.com) was significant in landing this job.

PTK International Top 25 Award Winner: ACC’s John Evans

John “JJ” Evans, Academic Support Specialist, has been named by the international Phi Theta Kappa organization as one of 25 recipients of the Distinguished College Administrator Award.

Award recipients need to have been in their position for at least two years, and demonstrated a strong level of support for Phi Theta Kappa. Evans was nominated by the ACC campus chapter (Alpha Omicron Delta), of which Chelsea Greenhaw is president and Laura Kassler and Melinda Holland are faculty advisors.

As a winner of the PTK award, Evans is invited to attend Phi Theta Kappa’s 95th Annual Convention in early April in San Jose, California, where he and his fellow recipients will be honored with a luncheon, an awards presentation before an estimated audience of 3,600 students, chapter advisors, and college presidents, and a photo op with guest speaker, Shaquille O’Neal.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in higher education, with 1,285 chapters around the world.

Evans, who joined ACC in September 2008, is advisor to SGA and coordinates student activities. A graduate of Clemson University, Evans earned a bachelor’s in Elementary Education and a Master’s

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The Oracles is a publication of the Public Information and Marketing Office. Read it in full color each week—visit www.alamancecc.edu, then click Oracles under the News heading.
**VALENTINE ROSES, CARNATIONS FOR SALE**
Horticulture’s Flora Club is selling roses and carnations this week for Valentine’s Day.
**WHAT:** Carnations—$1 per stem; Roses—$2.50 per stem
**WHEN:** Thursday, February 14 in student commons.

**BUY CANTEEN COMBO, HELP ROTARACT CLUB**
Help support the ACC Rotaract Club February 11-14 when you purchase a specially priced combo at the Canteen. Combo meal options will vary each day of the week. A percentage of sales will be donated to the Rotaract Club in its fundraising efforts for the Patsy Tingen Scholarship.

**PTK WANTS STUDENTS**
Phi Theta Kappa’s next meeting is Monday, Feb. 11, 12:30 p.m., Room 230, Student Activities Center.
Phi Theta Kappa is an international honors society that focuses on scholarship, leadership, and fellowship. Students are eligible for Phi Theta Kappa if they have completed more than 12 credit hours and have a GPA of at least 3.5. Potential members will receive an email invitation via their Access email or can see Ms. Kassler (Laura.Kassler@alamanceccc.edu) or Ms. Holland (Melinda.Holland@alamanceccc.edu) for more information.

**SIGMA PSI MEETINGS**
Interested in sociology or psychology? Join Sigma Psi (ACC’s psychology/society club) on the first and third Wednesday of each month, 12:15 p.m. in Room 230 of Student Activities Center.
**Next Meeting:** Wed., Feb. 20

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contacted by the editor, he sent her a link to that book. Within hours, he had the job.

Although he never worked directly with the authors of the text, Crane was in constant communication with the senior editor, who often asked him to create or change the supplemental material based on what the authors were writing.

“The thing that took the most time was creating plausible incorrect answers to multiple choice questions, because even the wrong answers can’t be too obvious. They have to seem like they might be correct to test the students,” says Crane.

Writing about history has become almost second nature to Crane. Growing up an ‘army brat’, Crane spent his formative years in Germany and Washington D.C. before settling as a teen in North Carolina. Helping him look at history and current events through a unique lens was Crane’s father, David M. Crane, who teaches law at Syracuse University.

The younger Crane’s love of history developed while in college, leading to bachelor degrees in political science and history and a master’s in history at UNC Wilmington.

Crane admits that working on the book helped him prepare for teaching his African American history course this semester. After all, he had to read and reread the complete text of the book in order to come up with questions and essays that linked directly to each chapter.

“Writing the supplemental material gave me a different perspective on civil rights,” he says. “It allowed me to delve deeper in some areas that I hadn’t before. So it definitely has helped me be a better teacher.”

He also sees another benefit: His students can perhaps better appreciate writing assignments he gives them, knowing their teacher has spent countless hours as a writer.

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**FREE HIV TESTING**
Wednesday, Feb. 13, Room 228, Student Activities Center. Representatives from Alamance Cares will provide free and confidential HIV testing. No needles; results in 20 minutes.

**SOCIAL MEDIA PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE WORKSHOP**
Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 20-21, 12:30-1:30 p.m., G119 (computer lab on the first floor). Sponsored by the Advising Center, this workshop demonstrates how students may be perceived by online activity. Refreshments and attendance verification will be provided.

**FACEBOOK USERS:** “Like” Alamance Community College Student Government Association.

**Have an idea for SGA events you’d like to see?** Send an email to: SGA@alamanceccc.edu.

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**EVANS from page 1**
in Education Counseling and Guidance with a Concentration in Student Affairs Administration. Prior to his employment at ACC, he was Assistant Director of Residential Life and Fraternity and Sorority Affairs at Stetson University in Florida. He also worked as Assistant Director of Residence Life at Queens University in Charlotte.

Evans assisted ACC’s Phi Theta Kappa in a transition between advisors and the change in SGA club budgets, says PTK faculty advisor Laura Kassler. “The transition was a challenge. Phi Theta Kappa has many working parts and is involved in many activities on campus. Its budget was cut 70%. JJ has helped the club meet our goals and continue to grow. I firmly believe our club would not be as strong as it is today without his support.”

Says Chelsea Greenhaw, PTK President: “While looking over the requirements for the award, it was clear that JJ Evans met every single one of them. He exceeded them. He is an enthusiastic, friendly, helpful employee at ACC who is supportive of students and the college in every possible aspect.”

Greenhaw says that Evans never hesitates to offer advice to the countless students asking for help in his office each day, greeting each person “with a smile on his face and a good sense of humor to lighten the mood. It’s clear that JJ wants to make every student’s stay at ACC as enjoyable and beneficial as possible…It’s quite apparent that JJ loves what he does and he’s amazing at it. No one deserves this award more.”

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**Happy Valentine’s Day**
Q. What person (living or dead) A. Big Bang Theory.

Q. TV program you never miss? A.

Q. If you could visit any place in the world for free, where? A. Coffee.

Q. What you wish people knew about you–but probably don’t? A. I love Duke basketball.

Q. Your 15 minutes of fame (a time when you received recognition/won a contest/performed, etc.)? A. At age 11, I won the Treading Water contest at Hickham AFB in Hawaii.

Q. Something you always wanted to do—but haven’t yet? A. Pay off my mortgage.

Q. Something you can’t live without? A. Coffee.

Q. If you could visit any place in the world for free, where? A. Edinburgh, Scotland to visit my sister.

Q. TV program you never miss? A. Big Bang Theory.

Q. What person (living or dead) would you most like to have dinner with, and what would you ask him/her? A. Neal Bortz, radio talk host. I’d ask him about his greatest accomplishment.

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**2013 STUDENT WRITERS’ CONTEST**

- All ACC students are eligible.
- **DEADLINE** to submit manuscripts: March 19
- **CATEGORIES** (500-1800 words): Short Fiction, Personal Essay, Research Essays, and Poetry (under 800 words).
- Pick up rules & entry forms in the Academic Skills Lab or B206.
- Submit entries to the Academic Skills Lab by Monday, March 19. The awards ceremony is Tuesday, April 13.
- Winners (1st place through honorable mention) receive cash prizes courtesy of SGA; first place winners are published in the college literary magazine, *The Explorer.*

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**FACULTY/STAFF WRITERS’ CONTEST**

- All full-time and part-time ACC employees are eligible.
- **DEADLINE** to submit manuscripts: March 19
- **CATEGORIES**: Narrative/Story (500-2000 words), Personal Essay (500-2000 words), and Poetry (up to 1000 words).
- Up to four entries per person. Official rules/entry forms previously e-mailed to employees (or contact Elizabeth Williams, English instructor, 506-4272).
- All first place winners will be published in *The Explorer*, ACC’s literary magazine, this fall.
- Submit writing and entry form via email only to Elizabeth Williams@alamancecc.edu.

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**NOMINATE 2012-13 STAFF MEMBER OF YEAR**

**WHAT:** ACC’s Staff Member of the Year, sponsored by the Benefits Screening Committee.

**CRITERIA:** Any full-time staff member whose contributions and daily effort exceed job expectations. Nominators should consider the individual’s initiative and enthusiasm, expertise, leadership, professionalism, creativity, involvement, and dedication. If you nominated a staff member last year but would like to nominate that same person this year, please contact Natalie Miles to update that person’s nomination form.

**BEST BET:** Nomination forms have been e-mailed to all employees or may be obtained from Sarah Bergmann (B313, 506-4107).

**DEADLINE:** Return completed nomination forms to Sarah Bergmann by Monday, March 4 via email, campus mailbox, or office B313.

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**FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS NEWS**

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Next Big Thing $1500 Scholarship**—Deadline: Feb. 28
  Apply at: www.scholarshipexperts.com/apply.htm

- **United Realty Students $10,000 Scholarship**—Deadline: March 1
  Apply at: www.scholarshipexperts.com/notes/urp.jsp

- **Crumley Roberts Founder’s Scholarship**—Applicants: North Carolina high school seniors attending a four-year college or university in the fall.

- **Crumley Roberts Next-Step Scholarship**—Applicants: North Carolina community college students who are transferring to a four-year college or university in the fall.

- **Superpower $2,500 Scholarship**—Deadline: March 31
  Apply at: www.scholarshipexperts.com/apply.htm

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**BRUSH-UP CLASSES IN MATH AND ENGLISH**

Getting ready to take the Compass exam? BSP 2000 classes are free brush-ups in math and English for students preparing to take the college placement tests.

Here’s the upcoming schedule for BSP 2000 classes:

- **Feb. 18-March 15, 1-4 p.m. (math)**
- **March 18-April 11, 1-4 p.m. (English)**

Students can email Assessment.Center@alamancecc.edu or call 506-4376 to register for these free classes. Indicate name, phone number, session time and subject(s) needed.

- **The last day to sign up for any Placement Test Prep (BSP 2000) class is Wednesday, one week before the scheduled class time.**

- **Mandatory orientation is held the first day of class.**

- **Classes meet Monday-Thursday.**

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**UNIVERSITY REPS TO VISIT**

- **Monday, Feb. 11**
  Guilford College
  9 a.m.-12 noon (outside bookstore)

- **Wednesday, Feb. 13**
  NC A&T School of Technology
  10 a.m.-1 p.m. (outside bookstore)

- **NC State University**
  10 a.m.-1 p.m. (Advising Center)

- **Monday, Feb. 18**
  NC A&T School of Technology
  10 a.m.-1 p.m. (outside bookstore)

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**SKILLS LAB OFFERS TUTORING**

The Academic Skills Lab has skilled tutors available in a variety of subjects. Peer tutoring is also available.

For subjects/days/times, contact Bill Fonville at 506-4167.
JUST ANOTHER DAY IN BIOTECH: GROWING E. COLI. Students in Dr. Tom Lucier’s “Bioprocess Techniques” class recently used bioreactors to grow Escherichia coli (E. coli) that had been genetically modified to produce green fluorescent protein—normally made by a certain type of jellyfish that results in a green glow. The genetically modified E. coli samples were constructed by these students in their genetics class last fall. After growing the E. coli in bioreactors, students will separate the green fluorescent protein from all of the other proteins normally produced by the bacterium. Pictured are (l-r) Kimberly Cervantes, Micah Auler, and instructor Dr. Tom Lucier.

VALENTINES FOR SOLDIERS. The History Club is collecting hard candy and cards for our troops in Afghanistan for Valentine’s Day. Help “Fill a Heart” by donating items at the Information Desks in the main building and Gee Building, or contact Dave Crane (506-4295) or Sherri Singer (506-4396) for pick up. This project ends on Feb. 14.

UNDERSTANDING MODERN BUDDHISM. Ordained Buddhist Monk, Gen Tilopa, taught a workshop on the book, Modern Buddhism, a handbook for daily practice designed for those seeking solutions within Buddhism to the problems of everyday life. The workshop also encouraged people of all faiths to deepen their understanding and enjoyment of their own spiritual paths.

BOOKS GALORE. The 8th Annual Jean Slaughter Scholarship Book Sale was held last week to bolster the scholarship fund for university transfer students, bringing in $1,427. Slaughter, who taught English for many years at ACC, was instrumental in the development and growth of the University Transfer program. This year’s recipient is Victoria Hagopian. Six students have benefited from this scholarship since its inception.