ACC Named Tree Campus USA for Fourth Straight Year

The Arbor Day Foundation has named Alamance Community College a 2012 Tree Campus USA to honor the campus horticulture program for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. This is the fourth year of recognition for ACC.

ACC achieved the designation by meeting the required five core standards for sustainable campus forestry: A tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects. This includes an Arbor Day tree planting on campus each year. Serving as coordinator is Chad Huggins, Grounds Supervisor and an instructor in the Horticulture Technology program.

Says Justin Snyder, Horticulture Technology Department Head: “This is a culmination of the continued efforts of the Grounds department and Horticulture department to improve the tree diversity and population on our campus. Last year that resulted in being awarded an Urban Forestry Grant, which allowed us to inventory a portion of our existing tree population with a goal to understand not only what trees we have on campus but also the condition of those trees.”

Tree Campus USA, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. Tree Campus USA is supported by a grant from Toyota.

“Your entire campus community should be proud of this sustained commitment to environmental stewardship,” wrote Mary Widhelm, Program Manager for the Arbor Day Foundation. “Your diligence in improving the environment and quality of life at Alamance Community College contributes to a healthier, more sustainable world for us all.”

Brain Awareness Week: March 11-15

Tuesday, March 12, 2:30 p.m., auditorium

Guest Speaker:
Dr. John Pearson

Dr. John Pearson from Duke University’s Center for Cognitive Neuroscience on “Giving In: The Neuroscience of Self-Control.”

Each day, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Dept. will have a booth in the student commons with information about the brain and conduct “Test Your Brain” activities.
DOmLINCY ON WOByEN SCmcd AT ACC
WHAT: “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide” is a four-part PBS series shot in 10 countries that depicts women and girls who are living under difficult circumstances. Hosts include America Ferrera, Diane Lane, Eva Mendes, and Gabrielle Union.
WHEN: Part 1 is Wed., March 13, 12:30-1:30 p.m., auditorium.
BEST BET: ACC English instructor Olivia Stogner will introduce each segment (every Wed. in March and April). Part 1 follows actress Eva Mendes to Sierra Leone’s Rainbo Center, which provides refuge to girls subjected to various abuses that are institutional, economic, and historical.
Sponsored by the Diversity Committee as part of Women’s History Month. Student attendance slips for extra credit will be available.

New GED Tests, Costs Coming in 2014
Know someone who’s been putting off earning a GED? Now’s the time because beginning in 2014, test rules will change and costs are expected to rise in North Carolina. The difficulty level of the questions and content is expected to increase significantly, to bring the test more in line with current standards of high school completion, says Claire Dixon, Director of Literacy. 
■ Old GED test scores will expire December 2013; students will be required to start over on a new test series beginning January 2014.
■ The new tests will have four subjects (instead of five): Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.
■ Costs will increase to an estimated $24 per test, for a total of $96 for the complete battery in North Carolina. Currently, the entire battery of tests costs $25.
■ Test content and format will change from paper and pencil, multiple choice, and personal essay question. The new tests will be computer-based with multiple choice, fill in the blank, multiple select (more than one correct), drag-and-drop, short answer questions in all sections, and extended response (45 min. essay) questions in Literacy and Social Studies.
■ For more information, visit www.GEDtestingservice.com or call ACC’s Literacy at 336-506-4376 before old scores expire.

EMPLOYEE NEWS
NEW SECRETARY IN FINANCIAL AID
Jessica Turner has a new position in Financial Aid as Administrative Secretary. She worked in that department as office assistant since 2010. Turner has an associate’s degree in Early Childhood from ACC and served as a student ambassador in 2005-06. Her previous work experience includes teacher assistant at South Graham Elementary.

MARCH IS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
Notable Firsts:
■ 1903: Women’s Trade Union League founded to support working women.
■ 1916: Jeannette Rankin of Montana is first woman elected to Congress.
■ 1920: 19th Amendment (Woman Suffrage) ratified.
■ 1925: Nellie Taylor Ross inaugurated as first woman governor in U.S.
■ 1933: Frances Perkins is sworn in as Secretary of Labor, first woman in U.S. cabinet.
■ 1941-1945: Millions of women enter work force during World War II
Q. Your curriculum and why you chose it?
A. Culinary Arts, because I want to add expertise to my love of cooking.

Q. What you wish people knew about you—but probably don’t?
A. I’m a hard worker and that’s why I’m where I am today.

Q. Your 15 minutes of fame (a time when you received recognition/won a contest/performed, etc.)?
A. I’ve volunteered as a counselor for troubled kids with the Burlington PD.

Q. Something you always wanted to do—but haven’t yet?
A. See California.

Q. Something you can’t live without?
A. God and my wife and kids.

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

Q. TV program you never miss?
A. Banshee.

Q. What person (living or dead) would you most like to have dinner with, and what would you ask him/her?
A. My mom, who passed away two years ago. I’d ask her if she is okay.

Q. Something you always want—and can’t ever seem to have?
A. God and my wife and kids.

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DANCE, DANCE, DANCE! The Music and Dance Club hosted a dance workshop before spring break in the student center. CHRISTINE DOVE, sociology instructor at Durham Tech by day and dance instructor by night, got the ladies who participated partnered and moving to the rhythm of East Coast Swing.

A STUDENT WRITING CENTER, located in this room of the Academic Skills Lab, is scheduled to open in August 2013 so students may receive assistance in writing assignments. The center is a component of ACC’s “Writing Across the Curriculum” (WAC) thrust as outlined by the College’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Faculty members are being trained this spring to develop writing assignments and classroom strategies to implement writing activities this fall.

COOL SEASON FLOWERS, VEGETABLES AND SEEDS were sold recently by students in Horticulture Technology’s Garden Center Management Class. Students and ACC employees perused the offerings and received advice from students on plants that grow best during early spring when temperatures are cooler, such as broccoli, cabbage, and spinach. Hydroponic tomatoes and lettuce were also available.

HISTORY LESSON. The hard life of an African American slave in the 18th and 19th centuries on North Carolina’s Stagville Plantation in Durham County was the topic of guest speaker, BEVERLY McNEILL, a volunteer and board member of the historic site. The Black History Month event was sponsored by ACC’s Diversity Committee.