Horticulture Team Excels in National Competition; Student Wins 2nd Place Overall

Competing against more than 800 students and 64 colleges and universities, ACC Horticulture students bested their peers from across the nation, finishing ninth overall and second among 22 community colleges at the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Student Career Days at Auburn University.

ACC’s Alex Nisbet excelled in the competition, averaging 89.75 points per event. He finished in second place overall behind a student from Brigham Young University, missing first place by less than two points out of a possible 500. Nesbit won one event and came in third in another, scoring higher than more than 80 fellow students in each event.

This was the tenth consecutive year that ACC’s students have attended PLANET. Each year, students spend a day in workshops led by industry professionals, attend a career fair featuring more than 50 top landscape companies from across the U.S., and pit their horticulture skills in numerous competitions.

ACC’s Horticulture students conducted several fundraisers last fall to pay for the annual trip. It was in those horticulture and landscaping-based competitions that ACC’s team of 18 students proved their mettle. With their ninth place finish, ACC’s team was just behind NC State University (8th place) and far ahead of Sandhills Community College (26th place) from North Carolina.

Said Justin Snyder, Department Head: “We knew the students had done well and were confident we would finally make the top 15, but when our name was called out for ninth place it caught us completely off guard. It was a moment of pure joy for all of us. This was one of our proudest moments as instructors…This placed us higher than schools such as the University of Georgia, Virginia Tech, Auburn University, Clemson, and many others.”

ACC’s Heather Page finished in 36th place overall but had the distinction of being the highest placing female in the entire competition.

ACC’s 18-member team won the Team Career Development Series. Overall, ACC had nine top-ten event finishes and 15 top-15 event finishes.

Two students received job offers and another two were offered internships from companies attending the event’s career fair.

Said Snyder: “Instructor Carol Kawula and I could not be prouder of the accomplishments the students achieved. It allows them to see the value of their education and proves that what they get here at ACC is comparable to students from much larger well known universities. Our goal each year is for them to be able to validate their knowledge and hopefully land jobs and internships. This year we accomplished and surpassed all of our goals.”

Here are ACC’s competition results:

- Alex Nisbet placed 1st in Construction Cost Estimating.
- Alex Nisbet placed 3rd in Woody Ornamental Plant Identification.

See HORTICULTURE on page 2
PTK WANTS STUDENTS
PTK’S NEXT MEETING: Monday,
March 25, 12:30 p.m., Room 230,
Student Activities Center
Phi Theta Kappa is an international
honors society that focuses on schol-
arship, leadership, and fellowship.
Students are eligible for PTK if they
have completed more than 12 credit
hours and have a GPA of at least 3.5.
Potential members will receive an
invitation via their Access e-mail or
can see Ms. Kassler (Laura.Kassler@alamancecccc.edu) or Ms. Holland (Melinda.Holland@alamancecccc.edu) for more information.

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

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP
CLUB WANTS MEMBERS
ACC’s International Friendship
Club invites all students who enjoy
making new friends and enjoying
world cultures to join. The group has
enjoyed college soccer games, mu-
seum exhibits, dining out at Greek
and Mediterranean restaurants, and
bowling. Members are planning
spring events.
English instructor Julie Trotter is
county advisor (Office B211).

MARCH IS WOMEN’S
HISTORY MONTH
Notable Firsts: Part 2
1966: National Organization for
Women (NOW) organized.
1981: Sandra Day O’Connor first
woman seated on the U.S. Su-
preme Court.
1983: Sally Ride is first American
woman to ride into space.
1984: Geraldine Ferraro is first
woman nominated for vice presi-
dent by a major party.
1993: Janet Reno is first woman
to hold office of Attorney Gen-
eral of the United States.
1993: Supreme Court rules that
sexual harassment in the work-
place is illegal.
2009: Kathryn Bigelow becomes
first woman to win Oscar for Di-
recting (“The Hurt Locker”).

Two ACC Educators Named to UNC Academic Review Teams

Two ACC instructors in the
Arts and Sciences division
have been selected to serve
on academic teams that will
meet with faculty from the
UNC system to review cours-
es that are included in the
Comprehensive Articulation
Agreement between North
Carolina community colleges
and the 16 institutions of the
UNC system.
Sherri Singer, history in-
structor and Department
Head of Social and Behavioral
Sciences, was one of four com-

munity college educators in
the state named to the History
Discipline Team. John Neath-
ery, sociology instructor, was
one of four community col-
lege instructors named to the
Sociology Discipline Team.
The work of the discipline
teams is a key component in
the review and revision pro-
cess of the Comprehensive
Articulation Agreement (CAA).
As many program require-
ments at both the community
college and university level
change over the years, major
review and revision is un-
tertaken to ensure that CAA
provides the greatest benefit
to students and allows them
to flow seamlessly through
North Carolina’s public higher
education system.
The discipline teams will
be comprised of eight faculty
members—four from com-
munity colleges and four
from the universities. The
teams will begin their work as
soon as the discipline teams
from the UNC institutions are
identified.

Horticulture from page 1
- Team of Barbara White and Heather Page placed 6th in Personnel Management.
- Team of Dayne Overman, Alex Nisbet and Matt Case placed 6th in Landscape Plant Installation.
- Matt Case placed 6th in Small Engine Repair.
- Team of David Limer and Jeff Webster placed 7th in Wood Construction.
- Sara Gallis placed 7th in Annual & Perennial Identification.
- Team of Alex Nesbit and Ben Saconn placed 7th in Landscape Maintenance Operations.
- Barbara White placed 9th in Sales Presentation.
- Team of Renae Wilson and Jeff Webster placed 13th in Hardscape Installation.
- Heather Page placed 14th in Interior Landscape Design.
- Alex Nisbet placed 14th in Leadership Skills.
- Heather Page placed 15th in Business Management.
- Ryan Winkler placed 15th in 3D Exterior Landscape Design.
- Ben Saconn placed 15th in Exterior Landscape Design.
- ACC students who competed were Barbara White, Ben Saconn, Patrick Powell, Dayne Overman, Miles Graves, Hannah Andrews, Ryan Winkler, Jason Boswell, David Limer, Jeff Webster, Jeremy Kistler, Heather Page, Renae Wilson, Alex Nisbet, Jeffery Binkley, Alex Millager, Sara Gallis, Kyle Larson, and Cameron Palmer.
Instructors attending were Justin Snyder (Dept. Head), Carol Kawula, Michelle Doyle, and Chad Huggins.
A. My late grandma. I’d ask: Q. What person (living or dead) NCIS. A. Q. TV program you never miss? A. Africa, to see its agriculture and how they live. Q. If you could visit any place in the world for free, where? A. My family. Q. Something you can’t live without? A. My family. Q. If you could visit any place in the world for free, where? A. Africa, to see its agriculture and how they live. Q. TV program you never miss? A. NCIS. Q. What person (living or dead) would you most like to have dinner with, and what would you ask him/her? A. My late grandma. I’d ask: What was the last thing you were trying to say to me before you passed?

ACC PRESENTS WOMEN’S DOCUMENTARY PART 2
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 2 is Wed., March 20, 12:30-1:30 p.m., auditorium.

BEST BET: ACC English instructor Olivia Stogner will introduce each segment (every Wed. in March and April 3). Part 2 follows actress Gabrielle Union on a visit to Vietnam where she meets with a 14-year-old girl who struggles to do homework while also serving as the family’s primary breadwinner in an abusive home. Sponsored by the Diversity Committee as part of Women’s History Month. Student attendance slips for extra credit will be available.

ACC’s Presidential Search Committee Considers 29 Applicants
A 15-member committee has begun winnowing a list of applicants for Alamance Community College President. ACC President Dr. Martin H. Nadelman, who has served the College since 1999, announced his retirement, effective Oct. 1 this year. The College’s Board of Trustees hopes to approve a finalist and tender an offer in July.

Dr. Donny Hunter, a consultant with the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees, is guiding the selection process. Last week, he announced that 53 applicants submitted resumes for the position. Hunter said that applicant pool represented 19 states and one foreign country.

Last week, he culled the list and turned over 29 applicants to the screening committee, composed of College trustees, staff, faculty, and representatives from the business community and local government.

The screening committee includes Chelsea Greenhaw, SGA President and student trustee; Ben Shirley, Faculty Affairs Committee chairman; and Scott Queen, Associate Dean of Business Technologies.

That group is being asked to first cut that pool to 12 and then to six. The College’s full Board of Trustees will evaluate the six finalists.

Board Chairman Carl Steinbicker is leading the trustee search committee, comprised of Dwight M. Davidson III, Dr. Richard N. Fisher, Catherine R. Smith, Russell R. Wilson and Dr. G. Reid Dusenberry III.

The College decided to take the unique step of engaging the larger community and inviting broad-based participation in choosing the College’s next president.

MARCH 19 DEADLINE FOR WRITERS’ CONTESTS
Student Writers’ Contest
■ All ACC students are eligible.
■ Submit entries to the Academic Skills Lab by March 19.
■ Pick up rules and entry forms in the Academic Skills Lab or B206.
■ The awards ceremony is Tuesday, April 30.
■ Winners (1st place through honorable mention) receive cash prizes courtesy of SGA; first place winners are published in the college literary magazine, The Explorer.

Faculty/Staff Writers’ Contest
■ All full-time and part-time ACC employees are eligible.
■ Submit writing and entry form via e-mail only to Elizabeth.Williams@alamancecc.edu by 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
■ All first place winners will be published in The Explorer, ACC’s literary magazine this fall.
■ All entries judged anonymously.

NEWS/EVENTS

STUDENT SNAPSHOTS

TAURUS CANNADY

Q. Your curriculum and why you chose it?
A. Medical Assisting. After 14 years in the medical field, I want to improve my skills for a better position.

Q. What you wish people knew about you—but probably don’t?
A. I’m just as smiling and happy inside as I appear.

Q. Your 15 minutes of fame (a time when you received recognition/won a contest/performed, etc.)?
A. In high school, I won first place in a writing contest.

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

Q. Something you can’t live without?
A. My family.

Q. If you could visit any place in the world for free, where?
A. Africa, to see its agriculture and how they live.

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

Q. What person (living or dead) would you most like to have dinner with, and what would you ask him/her?
A. My late grandma. I’d ask: What was the last thing you were trying to say to me before you passed?
CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Campus Life

ACC’S CULINARY KNOWLEDGE BOWL TEAM finished second in a Jeopardy-style competition against four other schools at the Southeast District American Culinary Federation (ACF) meeting in Louisville, KY the first weekend in March. Team members earned gold medals for their superior culinary aptitude and earning a high number of points in the contest. College teams from Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia also competed. Coached by instructor Doris Schomberg, the team was (l-r) KIA BRADSHER, CHEF SCHOMBERG, SARA SMITH (team captain), Dept. Head CHEF BRIAN BAILEY, KELSEY DILLON, and JANA RUDD.

COLLEGE FAIR. Students had an opportunity last week to talk with admissions and transfer representatives from nearly 20 colleges and universities during the spring College Fair. The event was sponsored by ACC’s Advising Center.

BRAIN AWARENESS. Last week the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department sponsored Brain Awareness Week in an effort to educate students on brain function and keeping their brains healthy. Bulletin boards and displays were posted around campus with information on the brain and brain research. Students and faculty conducted various “test your brain” activities in the student commons. Guest speaker Dr. John Pearson, a Senior Scientist at Duke University’s Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, spoke in the auditorium on “Giving In: The Neuroscience of Self-Control.” Here, Dr. Pearson (2nd from right) lunched with some of ACC’s high-achieving students.

GOT BEEF? Culinary Arts CHEF TODD WANLESS gave his students some hands-on experience with retail butchering, thanks to a donation of a pasture/grain-raised side of Angus beef, donated to the department by Doug and Dorinda Gilliam (Dorinda is employed in ACC’s Business and Industry Services Dept.). The Gilliams are members of the Alamance Cattlemen’s Association. The carcass was processed locally at Matkin’s Meats into a side of beef, which is the point where Chef Wanless began his instruction on the proper way to butcher a hind quarter.

¡FELIZ CUMPLEAÑOS! Deans, Department Heads and assorted hangers-on recently celebrated the birthdays of Terry McNeill, Dean of Curriculum Programs, and Scott Queen, Associate Dean of Business Technologies. Well-wishers gathered at a local Mexican restaurant where it is customary for the honored guest to wear a really bad sombrero and endure really bad singing.