Student Designs Logo for ACC’s PTK Chapter

Alpha Omicron Delta, the Alamance Community College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, has unveiled its new logo as designed by Dedric Hopkins, a second year student in Advertising and Graphic Design. The winning design was one of 12 submitted to the chapter by students in Dr. Laila Moustafa’s class. “The decision was not an easy one,” said ACC chapter president Chelsea Greenhaw, who helped to select the winning logo. “We were highly impressed with the level of talent and creativity shown in the work that was submitted.”

Said Dedric Hopkins: “I've always loved all forms of art and drawing. When I was given the opportunity to design the logo for the ACC chapter, I was excited. I'm honored to have my design chosen and to be recognized for something that I love doing.”

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the national honor society for two year colleges.

Ken Schlegel, Vice President of Scholarship for ACC's chapter, led the effort to rebrand the organization to raise awareness of Alpha Omicron Delta at ACC. Said Schlegel: “Alpha Omicron Delta has been involved in activities not only on campus through the Middle College Mentoring Program, but in the community as well. We have played active roles in the Relay for Life campaign, which is one of our annual projects of fielding a team at UNC Chapel Hill. We also help organize the annual Haw River Cleanup project and have had volunteers representing the chapter help build a house with Habitat for Humanity.”

The Phi Theta Kappa website provides links to all campus chapters and their individual logos.
If you love science fiction, you’re not alone. English instructor Dr. Al Miller is such a sci-fi fanatic that he’s published an academic study of the literary genre.

That’s right, an academic study titled *Exploring the Limits of the Human Through Science Fiction*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Miller says his book delves into how reading science fiction can help with an understanding of philosophy and how authors’ works address social criticism.

While Miller admits his book may be a difficult read for those not accustomed to academic studies, he says the ideas presented are his take on how analyzing some of his favorite science fiction novels and films can open up new avenues of thought.

“Ambiguity is a central tract of most science fiction that I like,” says Miller. He explains that when authors leave questions unanswerd in their fiction, it makes readers participants, allowing for deeper thinking and exploration of personal ideas and explanations.

Before joining ACC, Dr. Miller taught English at Rockingham Community College, and served as a lecturer in English at UNCG and UNC Chapel Hill.

The book evolved out of his doctoral dissertation at UNC Chapel Hill, the first part of which he wrote eight years ago. After an academic advisor there suggested that he expand it into a full length book, he made the revisions whenever he could find time between his teaching responsibilities.

“It took several hundred hours of work altogether last year to transform it from a dissertation into a book,” says Miller.

Upon completion, he sent a book proposal to the publisher. Following acceptance, Miller performed more editing in response to his editor’s suggestions and feedback from a peer review group of readers.

Miller selected a handful of favorite sci-fi authors, books, and films on which to focus each chapter. The first chapter discusses the book “Trouble on Triton” by Samuel R. Delany, a black gay author. Says Miller: “That novel deals with reprogramming one’s gender [the main male character transforms into a woman]. So my chapter on this talks about rethinking gender norms.”

Another chapter examines Japanese animation called Anime to discuss psychoanalysis and what drives human desires.

One of Miller’s favorite authors, William Gibson, is the focus of another chapter. Says Miller: “I look at Gibson’s recent work and his take on how power structures change through globalization.”

Gibson, who is the subject of Miller’s next book, is the speculative sci-fi author who coined the term, “cyberspace.”

Miller ends his study with a chapter on the classic 1968 Stanley Kubrick film, “2001: A Space Odyssey,” which he first saw at age 12. He says the novel version of 2001, written at the same time as the screenplay by author Arthur C. Clarke, was more specific about the meanings of the story. But anyone who has ever seen the movie knows many parts can be confusing and are open to interpretation.

Miller’s interest in science fiction evolved after his father introduced him to the genre during his childhood. “We watched movies like Blade Runner on video, and Dune. My dad passed away in December and the last thing we watched together was the film Prometheus.” For the uninformed, an Internet film site says the movie deals with “a human expedition’s intent to find God and receive knowledge about belief, immortality and death.”

Says Miller: “The best science fiction requires us to come up with our own meaning. It transcends what we are at present. Its ambiguity lets us think about what it means to be human.”
THE ORACLES IS IN TRANSITION—AND WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

ACC’s two flagship newsletters—The Oracles and TechKnowledges (our quarterly community newsletter)—will soon be undergoing makeovers. That includes NEW NAMES for each publication so that we may better define Alamance Community College in the 21st century.

Put on your thinking caps, be creative, and submit your best names that are concise to fit on a masthead, but which are good fits for the content we provide to our readers.

The best submission for each will receive a prize.

To help you, here’s a brief description of what each newsletter generally includes and its target audience:

**The Oracles**—Readership: students, faculty and staff; Content: human-interest stories, club news, scholarship information, special campus events.

**TechKnowledges**—Readership: business and industry leaders, local government, benefactors, alumni; Content: feature and news stories that have community impact (i.e. new ACC programs, construction, achieving student success).

Submit your title ideas (and your contact information) by April 19 to Jon Young at: Jonathan.Young@alamancecc.edu

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS NEWS

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- **MassMutual 2013-2014 Scholars Program** is for students interested in the insurance and financial services industry. **Deadline**: May 3, by 5 p.m. Central Time.
  
  Apply at: [www.act.org/massmutual](http://www.act.org/massmutual)

- **NC Council of the Blind Scholarship for Visually Impaired Students** (local chapter of American Council for the Blind): Four $1,500 scholarships for blind and/or visually impaired high school seniors, college, professional and vocational school students. Applications available in the ACC Financial Aid Office. American Council of the Blind also has national scholarships available at [www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org).

- **UNC-Greensboro Scholarship for Adult Learners.** Deadline is June 1. To qualify, students must be age 24 or over and be pursuing an undergraduate degree on at least a half-time basis. Awards vary from $500-$3,200 and may be renewable. Application forms (requiring an essay) are available in the ACC Financial Aid Office. American Council of the Blind also has national scholarships available at [www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org).

- **Fifth Month $1,500 Scholarship**—Deadline: May 31. 250-word essay required. Apply at [www.scholarshipexperts.com/apply.htm](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com/apply.htm)

- **Campus Discovery $2,500 “Advice to Your High School Self” Scholarship**—Deadline: July 31. 200-word essay required. Apply online now at: [www.campusdiscovery.com/start](http://www.campusdiscovery.com/start)

GET THE 411

**ACC PRESENTS WOMEN’S DOCUMENTARY—PART 4**

**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:** 4th and final part is Wed., April 3, 12:30-1:30 p.m., auditorium.

**BEST BET:** ACC English instructor Olivia Stogner will introduce the segment. Part 4 follows actress America Ferrera during a trip to India, where the cycle that determines the fates of children of prostitutes is depicted.

Sponsored by the Diversity Committee as part of Women’s History Month. Student attendance slips for extra credit are available.

**ACC WEB: ADVISING RESOURCES FOR SUMMER/FALL REGISTRATION**

The ACC website is now updated with a section titled “Advising Resources” (go to Services For Students, then Advising and Transfer). This section contains three documents: Semester Planning Worksheet, Advising vs Registration Info Sheet and an Academic Advising Action Sheet. These documents may be helpful to students and advisors in upcoming advising meetings.

**DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS FOR CAROUSEL**

SGA is providing discounted movie tickets for Carousel Cinemas (Burlington and Greensboro locations). Tickets are not valid for special attractions (see website for restricted titles: carouselalamancecrossing.com). Tickets are $6 (limit of five) and sold at ACC’s Business Office (Student Development, G Building) during normal business hours.

**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.
Campus Life

ACC HELPS SCOUTS. The annual Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge College for Alamance County was held at ACC on two Saturdays in March. Coordinated by ACC automotive instructor Jerry Yeatts, 326 Boy Scouts attended the events to earn merit badges through the auspices of classes taught by 22 volunteer ACC faculty. Among the badges earned were welding, electronics, plant science, and traffic safety. Seen here, a scout contemplates a career in graphic design after earning his Graphic Arts Merit Badge.

Horticulture Students at Work. Instructor Carol Kawula’s design class is getting some real-work experience at Green Level Memorial Park this spring. The public works director invited Kawula’s class to use their skills to help improve the park’s landscape with a rain garden to battle a water problem. While the park has equipment to do the work, they don’t have a staff designer. The ACC students hope to install one of the designs they devise later this spring. Seen here l-r are: RODNEY GUNN, Green Level Public Works Director; ACC students RENAE WILSON and CALEB HUNT; BERNARD JOHNSON, Park Director; and ACC student PATRICK POWELL. (Photo contributed)

Having Fun to Promote Literacy. Above, ACC administrators DR. MARTIN NADELMAN and DR. GENE COUCH and faculty member SHERRI SINGER acted as judges for the Times-News’ Current Events Challenge fundraiser for Literacy on March 26. Eleven local high school teams competed, including two teams from the Middle College (below) which is housed on the ACC campus. Questions were based on news stories that appeared in the Times-News. Judges ensured fairness with scoring and weighed in on the costume and spirit awards. All proceeds benefitted Alamance Community College’s Adult Literacy Programs and the Newspaper in Education Program. (Photos contributed)

Supporting Student Aid. ACC President DR. MARTIN H. NADELMAN made the first donation to this spring’s ACC Foundation Giving Campaign. The presentation was made to CAROLYN RHODE during the March faculty-staff meeting.