‘Celebrating Excellence’ Honors Alumni, Employees, Students

Alamance Community College alumni, faculty, staff, and students were honored by the College Thursday evening at the 2013 Celebrating Excellence Awards, hosted by the ACC Board of Trustees and the ACC Foundation Board of Directors. The annual event, held at Alamance Country Club, honors those who have achieved distinction through hard work and dedication.

Said Carolyn Rhode, Executive Director of the ACC Foundation: “We are particularly proud of ACC’s alumni, who take their education and share their talents with our community and the world. Many alumni, ACC employees and community members support the ACC Foundation, which remains a strong organization and which is on track to help more than 700 students attend ACC this year.”

Among those who spoke at the event were Dr. Martin H. Nadelman, ACC president; Dr. Gene Couch, Executive Vice President; Charles R. Harris, President-Elect of the ACC Foundation Board of Directors and retired President of Twin Lakes Community; Carolyn Rhode, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the ACC Foundation; and John G. Currin Jr., Member of ACC Foundation Board of Directors and President and CEO of ARMC.

ACC Puts Graham High Graduate on Fast Track to ASU

What graduating high school senior wouldn’t love to enter a university as a sophomore with all freshman-year credits completed, tuition-free?

This August, Graham High School graduate Rebecca McVey will enroll at Appalachian State University as a second-semester sophomore thanks to Alamance Community College and its Career and College Promise (CCP) program.

As a participant in this program, Rebecca’s typical school day last fall began with her first block of classes at Graham High School. Then she drove to ACC for two back-to-back late morning classes. In the afternoon, she headed to South Graham Elementary School for her student internship, working in the technology room with kindergarteners. Back to Graham High she went for a two consecutive cheerleading practices.

See REBECCA on page 2
Employee News

Two employees received service pins at the May faculty/staff meeting for their years of service to the College.

Sheila Street—25 years
Director, Library

Ann Allen—5 years
Administrative Secretary, Arts and Sciences and Health and Public Services

Employees Begin New Duties

Donna Rice has joined the Business Technologies division as Administrative Secretary, after previously working in that capacity in the President's Office. She joined ACC in 2011 as office assistant in the Admissions and Records division. Rice has an A.A.S. degree from ACC in Executive Secretarial Technology. Her work experience prior to ACC includes 30 years in the legal profession.

Michelle Taylor has joined Financial Aid as an Office Assistant. She has a B.A. in Intermediate Education from UNC Chapel Hill and taught elementary school with the Alamance-Burlington School System. Her recent employment includes stints as a Human Resource Specialist and Parks and Recreation Office Assistant with the City of Burlington. She currently volunteers and has served as a board member on the Friends of the Alamance County Public Libraries and volunteers with the Women's Resource Center.

Rebecca from page 1

She ended her day with a three-hour evening class at the College.

Rebecca quickly came to love the rigor of higher learning classes: “College is challenging, but I liked the structure at ACC. I really felt like I was accomplishing something. I learned how far I could push myself and I just took more courses because they sounded so interesting.”

The state-funded Career and College Promise program replaced dual enrollment and Huskins classes at North Carolina community colleges in early 2012. The program combined statewide efforts to allow high school students to take community college courses for free. But the program added some new requirements, mainly that students must choose a specific pathway. Students are responsible only for textbook costs.

At Alamance Community College, three options are available: Core 44 College Transfer Pathways (Humanities and Social Science, Business and Economics, or Engineering and Math); Cooperative Innovative High School Pathway (for students attending Alamance-Burlington Middle College); and Career and Technical Education Pathways (leading to a certificate in a technical area).

Rebecca chose the 34-credit Humanities and Social Sciences pathway because her career plans include majoring in special education at Appalachian. Once she completed those 34 hours, she was eligible to take additional courses the College offered.

A year and a half after she began Career and College Promise during the spring of her junior year, Rebecca will earn her high school diploma and a Core 44 College Transfer diploma from ACC with a total of 49 credit hours, all of which will transfer to Appalachian.

Cathy Johnson—Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and one of the coordinators of ACC's Career and College Promise—advised Rebecca this spring: “I met with her as she chose her courses. But it was only in the last few weeks that Rebecca realized she could possibly complete the Core 44 after she talked with Appalachian. She used some AP credit from high school to get credit for two courses in the pathway, so that helped her complete the diploma more quickly.”

Rebecca is taking three courses in ACC's summer term to complete her Core 44 diploma: Introduction to Sociology, American History I, and a mathematics course.

Johnson says transition to a four-year university or college is much easier if high school students have already completed the Core 44 diploma because all general education work is credited and students can begin classes in their major.

Rebecca’s journey in the program began in her junior year of high school, when she realized she was going to have enough credits to graduate early.

“I had doubled up on some science courses as a freshman and sophomore,” she says. “I wasn’t satisfied to take teen living kind of classes, so instead I took Anatomy of Physiology. I just found classes like that more interesting.”

When Rebecca decided to participate in Career and College Promise, she found a support system at Graham High School, and especially from principal Charlotte Holmes.

“Rebecca was a self-starter, so she would come to me and her teachers about how to work with her ACC schedule,” says Holmes. “There were times when she had to miss a portion of a high school class due to her ACC schedule. But the high school faculty is committed to college prep and we are going to work with these students all we can to make this work for them.”

To keep her high school and ACC schedules organized, Rebecca purchased an hour-by-hour planner.

“My planner is so ridiculously OCD,” she says with a smile. “You must keep yourself super-organized. It’s true I didn’t have time in front of the TV during the week, but I still had my weekends.”

Rebecca admits math has never been her strong subject, so she took advantage of ACC’s Academic Skills Lab for tutoring in Pre-Calculus. Alternatively, Rebecca, a Spanish III Honors student in high school, tutored two forty-something female students in Spanish.

“The older students respected me,” she says. “They didn’t treat me like I was just a teenager. I’d talk to them sometimes about the realities of life from their perspective.”

Rebecca says the only drawback for her was not seeing her high school friends on a regular basis. “It was hard to step away from high school and transition to real life,” she says.

Rebecca is on the fast-track toward real life when she enrolls at Appalachian in August. There, she will live in a learning community called Appalachian Community of Education Scholars. She plans to major in Special Education, and possibly double-major in Child Development.

Rebecca says Career and College Promise may not be for every student, but it’s more possible than many believe: “I would say to other students it’s worthwhile. It’s a great way to save money on college and get ahead. But you have to have some maturity to survive at college when you’re still in high school. You just have to be willing to do the work.”
Your curriculum and why you chose it?
A. Dental Assisting, because it’s a fun career.
Q. What you wish people knew about you—but probably don’t?
A. I’m more shy than people realize.
Q. Your 15 minutes of fame (a time when you received recognition/won a contest/ performed, etc.)?
A. I had a major role in a high school play about baseball.
Q. Something you always wanted to do—but haven’t yet?
A. Skydive.
Q. Something you can’t live without?
A. My hairbrush.
Q. If you could visit any place in the world for free, where?
A. Australia.
Q. TV program you never miss?
A. Scandal.
Q. What person (living or dead) would you most like to have dinner with, and what would you ask him/her?
A. My late grandfather, whom I never met. I’d ask him about his life.

EXCELLENCE from page 1

Inspiration Award winner Roy Dawson (left) with Dr. Perry Hardison, ACC Humanities instructor.

INSPIRATION AWARD RECIPIENT

Roy Dawson earned his GED at ACC in night classes while financially supporting his family. While earning his associate’s degree at ACC, he took care of a family member with a critical health issue, served as an officer in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and was accepted into the Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program (C-STEP). Transferring to UNC Chapel Hill, he served as a peer mentor and graduated with a B.A. in Political Science. This year Roy completed his first year in the UNC School of Law.

Other nominees for the Distinguished Alumni Award were:
- Roy Dawson, UNC School of Law student
- Sonya DeLong Lynn, Owner, Sonya’s Kid Depot and Child Care Center
- William Wilson, National Director of Operations, Inventory Solution Logistics, Inc.

Also recognized were:
- Alma Thompson, Department Head of the Associate Degree in Nursing program, as the College’s Excellence in Teaching winner
- Judie Loeb, Nursing Assistant instructor, as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year
- Beth Brehler, Director of Enrollment Management, as Staff Member of the Year
- Hettie Moore, Stained Glass instructor, as Continuing Education Instructor of the Year
- Kaitlyn Raitano, Student Academic Excellence Award Recipient. The Chapel Hill resident is graduating this spring with an Associate in Arts degree. As a C-STEP (Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program) student, she transfers this fall to UNC Chapel Hill. “Attending ACC has made my life goal dreams come true,” she says.

SKILLS LAB OFFERS TUTORING

The Academic Skills Lab has skilled tutors available in a variety of subjects. Peer tutoring is also available. Tutoring is available throughout the week, day and evening. Contact Bill Fonville at 506-4167 for more information.

ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER

Located near the lower commons in the main building, the Academic Advising Center offers:
- Academic planning
- Course selection
- Career planning
- University transfer assistance
- ACCcess account setup
- WebAdvisor navigation & registration
- Facilitation of selected workshops throughout the academic year
- Access to Add/Drop and Change of Information forms

SUMMER HOURS
Mon., 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Tue-Thu, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fri., 8 a.m.-12 noon

Appointments are preferred.
Call Virginia Jeffries at 336-506-4362.

NEWS/EVENTS
CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

KAITLYN RAITANO, Academic Excellece Award recipient, with her parents.

Inspiration Award winner Roy Dawson enjoys the evening with wife, Dayla, an ACC alumna.

FACULTY/STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS. (Left to right) ALMA THOMPSON, Faculty Member of the Year; BETH BREHLER, Staff Member of the Year; JUDIE LOEBS, Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year; HETTIE MOORE, Continuing Education Instructor of the Year.

Celebrating Excellence 2013

2013 Distinguished Alumnus Jesse Long (left) joins past winners Dan Danieley (2008), Kristen Thompson (2012), and Tim Bradley (2009).

SONYA LONG (left), Distinguished Alumni Nominee, with her family.

KAITLYN RAITANO, Academic Excellece Award Recipient, with her parents.

ACC President DR. MARTIN NADELMAN with his wife, SUSAN.