Weekly Newsletter of Alamance Community College

This is a publication of the Alamance Community College Public Information and Marketing Office. Read it on the web—www.alamancecc.edu, then click Campus ACCess under the News heading.

Inside this issue:

2 Club Events—Clubs Seeking New Members
3 Student Writers’ Contest Call for Entries
3 Student Activities Calendar
3 University Reps On Campus for Transfer Questions
4 Campus Life

Calendar of Events

SEP. 15-OCT. 15
Hispanic Heritage Month

SEP. 17
Constitution Day

SEP. 18 & 19
Study Skills Workshop, 11:15 a.m., Room 230

SEP. 22
First Day of Autumn

SEP. 24
Social Media Etiquette Workshop, 12:30 p.m., Room G119

SEP. 27
Last Day to Drop (1st 8-week course) with WP

Constitution Day Activities 09.17.13 11:30-1:30 p.m. Student Center

ACC will celebrate the 226th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in September 1787, when 39 men changed the course of American history by adopting the basic laws that govern this nation.

Activities

FREE FOOD: SNACKS AND DRINKS
DEMOCRACY PLAZA: Students can express their thoughts about the Constitution by writing responses to open-ended questions posted every 45 minutes. Sponsored by WAC (Writing Across the Curriculum).

CONSTITUTION CLUB CHALLENGE: Clubs will sponsor displays that illustrate an aspect of the U.S. Constitution that relates to club functions. One club will win $200 in additional budget money for the best display.

MULTIMEDIA CONSTITUTION QUIZ-OFF: Students will compete against each other to test their knowledge of the Constitution. Prizes awarded.

See CONSTITUTION on page 3

GED Exams Are A-Changing—But Still Transforming Students’ Lives

It’s a fact that 20 percent of adults in Alamance County have not finished high school. But each summer, graduates of ACC’s Adult High School and GED programs make up the largest class earning high school diplomas in the county.

What is GED? GED (General Educational Development) offers students a group of five subject tests which, when passed, certifies them with a high school equivalency diploma.

Alamance Community College offers a slate of classes, exams, and instructional help for both Adult High School and GED. However, current GED students face a different battery of exams and fees beginning in January 2014 than those who participated in the past.

Current GED students who have passed one or more of the current 5 tests—but not the entire battery—will see their scores expire. They must start again on the new version.

GED alumna Sherry Hopkins spoke at this summer’s GED and Adult High School graduation ceremony.

Class space for new GED students taking exams this fall is not guaranteed after October because test sessions are anticipated to be booked until January, when the new rules take effect.

See GED on page 3
GED from page 1

Claire Dixon, Director of Literacy, says: “ACC’s staff is working to prepare for the new test now, by converting the GED testing room to a computer lab and training teachers on the new content so the transition for students will be as seamless as possible.”

Dixon says ACC’s Adult High School program is another option for students wishing to earn their high school equivalency. It is now offered day, evening, and online, with no testing fees required. [Look for a profile of ACC’s Adult High School Online program in this newsletter later this month.]

How will the GED exams differ beginning in January?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• $35 one-time exam fee</td>
<td>• $120 for test battery ($30 per re-test, if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 5 subjects (Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies)*</td>
<td>• 4 subjects (Reasoning Through Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Format: pencil &amp; paper, multiple choice, one personal essay</td>
<td>• Format: computerized, various question types (multiple choice, short answer, drag and drop), two essays (Language Arts &amp; Social Studies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GED class sessions in 2014 will remain free. Only testing will have higher costs.

ACC expects to offer a new program in January called Basic Skills Plus, in which qualified students can enroll in Certified Nursing Assistant classes free of charge while they work towards completing their high school credential.

For more information, go to www.GEDtestingservice.com. Call ACC’s Literacy division at 336-506-4376 for more information about GED classes and testing, or visit www.alamancecc.edu/ged-adult-high-school-esl-site/.

Innovation: GED Alumna Now Has Bachelor’s Degree

Sherry Hopkins, a divorced single mom who graduated in October 2010 after studying through ACC’s GED in the Community program and traditional seated classes, received her bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from ECPI this summer. Here are highlights from Sherry’s address to graduates of ACC’s GED and Adult High School program:

“I had wanted my GED for a long time but I never pursued it because I didn’t think I was smart enough. I saw a GED in the Community lesson book and picked it up. [GED in the Community allows people to submit lessons for grading through the mail].

“I went partway through the lessons in GED in the Community, but I needed classroom work. I was a little scared, being older and going back to school in a classroom full of people… The main thing I saw was that most of the students were my age or older. My instructor took her time with each one of us.

“I couldn't believe that I was going to go on and get my bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice... Just like my family, [ACC instructor] Carolyn Crean encouraged me and believed in me. Your GED is just the key that opens the door to the rest of your life.”
CONSTITUTION from page 1

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER’S INTERACTIVE TIMELINE: “The Centuries of Citizenship: A Constitutional Timeline” is an online experience highlighting key dates and events that mark more than 200 years of our Constitutional history.

SAVE THE BILL OF RIGHTS: An interactive game that asks students to identify certain rights contained in the Bill of Rights.

VOTER REGISTRATION: Sigma Psi will distribute voter registration information.

FILMS–TV ROOM: Starting at 10 a.m. and running throughout the day:
- Constitution Hall Pass–A live Celebration of Constitution Day
- National Treasure–Nicholas Cage
- Sum of All Fears–Ben Affleck, Morgan Freeman

Win NFL Tickets, Gift Cards to Support Troops

NFL FOOTBALL TICKET RAFFLE: Enter a chance to win a pair of tickets to an NFL game: Carolina Panthers vs. Atlanta Falcons in Charlotte on Sunday, Nov. 3.
- History Club members are selling raffle tickets: $1 for one ticket, $5 for arm’s length of tickets (15 ticket minimum).
- First name drawn wins for NFL game tickets; second name drawn wins $50 Best Buy gift card; third name drawn wins a $25 Bonefish Grill gift card.

WHERE TO BUY? Purchase tickets from History Club table (outside bookstore) Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-noon, or from faculty advisors Sherri Singer (B309) and Dave Crane B113. Raffle drawing is October 25.

GOOD TO KNOW: Proceeds go toward postage for care packages to U.S. troops overseas.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP Wed., Sept. 18 & Thurs., Sept. 19: 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Room 230, Student Center. This workshop offers helpful hints in getting the most of your study time. Attendance verification and snacks are provided.

FREE HIV TESTING. Wed., Sept. 18: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Room 229, Student Center. Alamance Cares representatives will conduct free and confidential HIV testing. No needles. Results in 20 minutes. Free condoms are available.

PAINTBALL/AIRSOFT. Sat., Sept. 21. Ready to play paintball or airsoft? SGA is sponsoring an outing to a local venue, but require a headcount. If interested, email John.Evans@alamancecc.edu with PAINTBALL in the subject line. More details about the event are forthcoming.

SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE WORKSHOP. Tues., Sept. 24: 12:30-1:30 p.m., Room G119 (1st floor computer lab). Did you know employers utilize Facebook and Twitter to find out more about their applicants? Learn how to ensure your online profiles help you instead of hinder you. Refreshments and attendance verification slips are provided.

ACC PANTRY FOOD DRIVE. Through end of August. Donations of canned goods and nonperishables can be brought to Room 228 or 229 in the Student Activities Center.

CHEAP MOVIE TICKETS. Movie tickets for Carousel Theatre (Alamance Crossing & Greensboro) available for $6 each at cashier’s window, Student Development.

COLLEGE/NFL PICK’EM GROUPS. Go to ESPN.com for a chance to win gift certificates. Group Name: AlamanceCommunityCollege & Password: ACC2013.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA) IS LOOKING FOR FOUR STUDENT SENATORS to assist this year. Senators will help plan upcoming events, discuss student issues, and assist with programs and events throughout the year. Interested students should email John.Evans@alamancecc.edu.

CONTEST–Cash Prizes to Winners
- All ACC students are eligible.
- Deadline to submit entries: Wednesday, Oct. 23.
- Pick up rules and entry forms in the Academic Skills Lab or English office (B206).
- All entries must be submitted in hard copy form to the Academic Skills Lab or e-mailed to ACCwriterscontest@gmail.com as an attachment. All entries should be aimed at a college audience.
- Winners (1st place through honorable mention) receive cash prizes courtesy of SGA; first place winners are published in the college literary magazine, The Explorer.
Your Student Government Association (SGA) officers for 2013-14
(l-r) Chris Seip, president (University Transfer); Jeff Webster, vice president (Horticulture Technology); Jodie Thompson, secretary (Nursing); and Cynthia Thompson, treasurer (Nursing). The SGA usually meets the first Monday of each month (2nd Monday if a holiday), 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 230 of the Student Center. Meetings are open to all students.

Reading ‘Green’
Irma Tejada, author of “The Green Ladybug,” performed a reading of the story to pre-schoolers in ACC’s Childcare Center. Along with Tejada, the book was a joint effort of Horticulture Technology, Advertising and Graphic Design, and the Print Center to help promote the College’s “Grow Green” initiatives to young and old.

Remembering the Victims of 9/11
The Dillingham Center parking lot was the site last week for a Remembrance ceremony honoring those who died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Students in ESL (English as a Second Language) and Basic Skills participated, along with Basic Skills instructor Cathy Knight (below right with firefighters). Guests included Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall, Burlington Fire Chief Jay Smith and local firefighters, Alamance County EMS Crew Chief Billy Jenkins, District Court Judge Brad Allen and YMCA Financial Development Director Dominique Ireland. Amy Nakhle, owner of Smitty’s Ice Cream, donated ice cream for participants after the ceremony. Coordinating the event was Kristine Gamblin (below center), Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator with NC LiteracyCorps.