ACC Students Nominated for Statewide Awards

Two high-achieving students are the College’s nominees for two different state awards.

2014 Dallas Herring Achievement Award

Established by the NC Community College System to honor the late Dr. Dallas Herring, whose philosophy of “taking people where they are and carrying them as far as they can go” is the guiding principle of the community college system.

MEET ACC’S NOMINEE: JENNIFER JEFFRIES of Mebane is a single mom of two children who says going to college was never a goal because difficult life circumstances kept her from believing she could ever be successful. Following a divorce and moving to a new city, she made the decision to enroll at ACC. Working toward earning an associate’s degree in accounting, Jennifer worked part-time as a bank teller until the job was eliminated. ACC stepped in to provide her with a work-study job in the Accounting and Business Administration departments, which allowed her to complete her degree with High Honors in July 2010.

Seeking employment as a certified payroll professional, Jennifer discovered she needed a bachelor’s degree or 3-5 years of experience. She applied to Elon University but learned more college transfer classes were required. A return to ACC in spring of 2013 took priority on her agenda. A 4.0 GPA student, Jennifer will take her final transfer class at ACC this summer and enroll at Elon in fall 2014.

“This has been a challenge as a single mom, a full-time student, working a part-time job in Durham, and being a work-study student for the Criminal Justice department this semester,” she says. “I have reset my goals in life: giving back more than I have received; being a role model to

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Students: Apply for Federal College Aid Feb. 22

Alamance Community College financial aid officers will be available on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. until 12:00 noon to help high school seniors and current ACC students complete and submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms.

The FAFSA is required to be considered for all federal and most state financial aid, including scholarships and grants.

High school seniors need to register for the event through the College Foundation of North Carolina (www.cfnc.org/event/afsa/afsa_nc_map.jsp). High school students do not need to be planning to attend the college hosting the event.

Here’s the 411 on FAFSA Day:

- The application process takes about 30 minutes.
- Although not required, it’s best if parents and students come together.
- Parents and students need to bring all tax documents (federal 1040 tax forms) and income statements they have.
- Each participating student and one parent are encouraged to obtain Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) from the U.S. Department of Education website, www.pin.ed.gov, prior to FAFSA Day.

Says Jessica Turner, Financial Aid Office: “FAFSA is for everyone, regardless of your age, your income level or where you want to go to school. It’s your first step in finding the money to pay for college. Our professionals will be on site to help students and parents complete the application and answer any basic financial aid questions they may have.”

For more information about the February 22 application day at Alamance Community College, contact the Financial Aid Office at the campus, 336-506-4340.

Jennifer Jeffries
STUDENT CLUB EVENTS

VALENTINES FOR TROOPS
The History Club is collecting items for care packages for U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan for Valentine’s Day. Help “Fill a Heart” boxes on campus by donating hygiene items, hot hands, batteries, snacks, hard candy, and small games; or bring items to B113 and B309 offices. Items will be collected now through Feb. 14.

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
MEETINGS: 2nd Monday of each month, 12:15 p.m. & 4th Thursday, 2 p.m. in B200.
Meetings are informal. Interested students should bring an original piece of writing to share and receive feedback from the group—or just come and listen, no pressure to share work. All genres are welcomed: fiction, fantasy, poetry, drama, song lyrics, etc.

PTK WANTS STUDENTS
PHI THETA KAPPA’S NEXT MEETING: Friday, Feb. 21, 1:45 p.m.; come at 12 noon if interested in learning more about the organization.
WHERE: Room 230, Student Center
WHO: Students are eligible if they have completed more than 12 credit hours and have a GPA of at least 3.5.
CONTACT FACULTY ADVISORS: Laura, Kassler@alamanceccc.edu or Melinda.Holland@alamanceccc.edu for more information.

SIGMA PSI MEETINGS
Interested in sociology or psychology? Join Sigma Psi (ACC’s psychology/sociology club).
WHEN: First and third Wednesday each month, 12:15 p.m.
WHERE: Room 230, Student Activities Center

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others who fear they cannot lift themselves up; and showing my children that hard work really does pay off. This is all possible thanks to my steadfast faith, a lot of hard work and a great institution like ACC that’s filled with caring people.”

Each North Carolina community college may nominate one student or alumnus for the Dallas Herring Achievement Award. A committee of community college system staff and State Board of Community Colleges members will select one state-wide winner, to be announced in early March.

2014 Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award
This award was created by the NC Association of Community College Presidents to highlight outstanding curriculum student leadership and service.

MEET ACC’S NOMINEE: MAKENZIE BOLLINGER
of Efland served as SGA secretary at Alamance Community College for two years, a role that ignited her ambition to branch out. She was appointed as a representative to the state SGA board’s central division, and then was elected as vice president in 2013. As if that weren’t enough, Makenzie serves as public information officer for the state SGA board, a role that demands she put her marketing skills into action.

Last fall, Makenzie spent much of her fall break in event-planning mode, charged with putting together a state conference that was held in Charlotte. Close to 400 student leaders from all 58 community colleges in the state attended. This semester she’ll be coordinating the spring conference in Durham, which also serves as an award banquet to announce all award and scholarship winners from throughout the state.

Back at ACC, Makenzie continues to study via the C-STEP program, in which selected students are guaranteed admission to UNC by adhering to certain criteria. At Carolina next fall, she’ll be coordinating the spring conference in Durham, which also serves as an award banquet to announce all award and scholarship winners from throughout the state.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIRSTS
In celebration of February as Black History Month, here is a selected timeline of the role of African Americans’ role in the history of the United States:
- Philosopher Alain Locke became the first African-American Rhodes scholar in 1907.
- Edward Brooke (R-Mass.) became the first African-American senator since Reconstruction, serving from 1966–1979. He was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bush in 2004.
- In 1909, explorer Matthew A. Henson accompanied Robert E. Peary on the first successful U.S. expedition to the North Pole.
- Ralph J. Bunche received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950 for mediating the Arab-Israeli truce. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became the second African-American Peace Prize winner in 1964.
- Inventor of the blood bank: Dr. Charles Drew, 1940.
- In 1908, Jack Johnson defeated Tommy Burns to become the world’s first African-American heavyweight champion.
Susan Lee enrolled at ACC in the fall 2012 semester. A native of New York, she tried for several years to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) but a variety of academic and life obstacles prevented her from finishing. By the time she relocated to North Carolina, Susan had all but given up on the idea of earning her nursing degree, despite the number of prerequisites she had already accumulated. Then she found Alamance Community College.

“What a wonderful experience I had,” says Susan. “From registration to finals and everywhere in-between, every instructor I spoke to assisted me whether I was in their class or not.”

Susan didn’t focus only on her nursing studies at ACC. She found diversion in Dr. Roger Lane’s chorus and jazz classes, calling him her “dose of caffeine in the morning…Talk about a ton of energy, passion, enthusiasm for life and teaching.”

Susan spent a majority of her time in the Academic Skills Lab, which she credits with helping her succeed while at ACC: “[The Skills Lab] was always filled with a group of people who are knowledgeable, eager and just bursting at the gills to help each and every student in all subject matters.”

Now working at UNC Hospital Health Care System, Susan Lee is currently enrolled in Winston-Salem State University’s BSN program and expects to graduate in May 2014. She plans to continue her education either at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center or East Carolina University to pursue a degree in the Certified Nurse Anesthesia program.

### ACC Students Win Scholarships

Two ACC students have been awarded scholarships.

**KARLA ALLEN**, 19, of Burlington is the recipient of the AT&T Aspire Scholarship. She is in her second year at ACC and transferred from Elon University. Interested in pursuing a career in finance, Karla has been on the President’s List for the 2013 spring and fall semesters and plans to attend either UNC-Charlotte or UNCG upon completion of her associate in science degree. She works off campus as a teller for a local bank. Karla volunteers with a program called “Caring Kitchen” where once a month she delivers food to Burlington residents and local retirement homes. Last summer she received a “People Helping People” scholarship from the State Employees Credit Union.

This scholarship was endowed by The North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation for technical education students and students participating in a college transfer program. Funds were contributed by AT&T Foundation in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the NC Community College System.

**ROBERTA POWELL**, 40, of Snow Camp is ACC’s recipient of The Glaxo Smith Kline TEACH Prep Scholarship. She is a teacher’s assistant at E.M. Yoder Elementary in the Pre-K classroom with EC inclusion (exceptional children—special needs children). After volunteering and substituting with the Alamance-Burlington School System for many years, she enrolled at ACC to pursue a degree in Office Administration but soon realized she missed the interaction with the children she had been helping. She switched to education and chose ACC because she says “the programs here are challenging and tailored to help each individual student succeed in their goals, academically and professionally.” After earning her degree from ACC, Roberta plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree to become a science teacher—eventually with EC credentials—hoping to teach in Alamance County.

This scholarship was established as an endowment within the North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation to support an expanded role for North Carolina’s community colleges in teacher preparation. It was jointly established by The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Foundation, Inc., the General Assembly of North Carolina and Bank of America.
Those words come from Joan Nelson, an instructor of English as a Second Language (ESL) at ACC’s Dillingham Center. But Nelson’s class is filled with students who have matriculated to a higher level than many other similar classes where English is taught. The men and women in this class are being prepared for the next step in their education and career goals.

“The advanced ESL class I teach is a ‘graduate’ course of sorts,” says instructor Nelson. “Once a student scores out of the regular classes they can come to my class. We are a transitional course designed to help get them into college or a career. There is a big difference between tourist English or surviving in the U.S. and being able to read, write, go to school or work at a high level in English. And that is what we work on in this class.”

The concept of this class is so innovative that educators from Guilford Technical Community College have sat in to observe.

Nelson says some of her students lack the self-confidence or direction to determine what to do next. Others know exactly what they want. For both groups, Nelson brings in speakers, helps students research careers, and guides them in the direction they desire.

Says Nelson: “In the class, we research careers to make sure the students’ goals are realistic and still pertinent from what they were when they began in the class. It’s important that they approach career goals with their eyes open.”

Nelson says a command of the English language is very important for these students as they research academic and career goals. Everyone in her class can read and write in English, but that doesn’t mean they can write an essay in English or read and comprehend a chapter in a book at the same rate as the person next to them. Nelson works on those skills with her students, correcting the mistakes to the accompanying grammar lesson and reviewing extensively.

“We tend to get students who are very motivated and focused, people who work hard,” she says. “As a teacher, it’s a pleasure to teach this group. Some ESL students never seem to think their English is good enough to ‘do the job’ in English. I try to help them build their self-confidence to see that there are a lot of hard-working and successful people who don’t speak as well as they do. It’s my job to nudge them out of the nest.”

The students do a lot of work with Nelson, including taking aptitude tests, to help them decide what they want to do with their life. The research can be intensive as they look into future prospects for their chosen field, salaries, small business options, and scholarship options. For some that means prepping for a placement test or the TOEFL test—a professional level English test for non-native speakers.

“To that goal, we do lots of reading and writing exercises,” says Nelson. The class has been growing since the fall 2013 semester with at least a dozen adults coming regularly. Their nationalities include: Mexican, German, Colombian, and Ivory Coast (Africa).

Some of these students are steps ahead of their classmates when it comes to the pathway to citizenship. A handful of students in this class were selected to receive a U.S. Permanent Resident Card through the congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa program. Enacted in 1990, the program awards 55,000 permanent resident visas annually to natives of countries deemed to have low rates of immigration to the United States.

Several students in the Advanced ESL class have qualified for this program and are closer to their goals of permanently working and living in the U.S. One such student who “won the lottery” is Franck Bognon, an African Ivory Coast native whose first language is French. No longer in the class, he has moved on to ACC’s main campus to study nursing in the Powell Building this semester. He hopes to continue into the field of medicine once he earns his degree from ACC. He makes ends meet by working in the catering department at Elon University, a job he obtained through the friendship of another former ESL classmate who now is deeply involved in ACC’s Culinary Arts program: Zakhar Vorsulev.

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An Advanced ESL Class Success Story

Zakhar Vorsulev, a graduate of Nelson’s Advanced ESL class, not only is studying Culinary Arts at ACC but he recently won a silver medal as a member of the Hot Foods Team that competed against other community college teams in Charlotte.

Zakhar is a 31-year-old Russian from Siberia who also earned his residence visa through the immigration lottery. His longtime dream was always to come to America. Married to a fellow Russian in 2009 whose sister had lived in the U.S. for 15 years, the couple honeymooned in Florida and Washington D.C. 

“The visit made me like this country even more,” says Zakhar. “We went back to Russia and began searching for ways to move to the United States permanently.”

Zakhar and his wife began the arduous application process for the immigration lottery and found their names among those selected in 2012. They moved to central North Carolina because Zakhar’s Russian sister-in-law attended Greensboro College. Skilled in food service in Russia, Zakhar obtained a job with Elon University catering.

“Most Russians begin learning English in school when they’re about eleven or twelve,” he says. “So I knew English fairly well by the time we emigrated. But I wanted to be better.”

In Alamance County, Zakhar enrolled in Alamance Community College’s basic ESL class for more than half a year before moving on to instructor Joan Nelson’s Advanced ESL class for several more months. Working hard with his classmates in the conversational and writing exercises Nelson offers, Zakhar upgraded his English proficiency enough that he passed ACC’s curriculum placement test without the need for one of the college’s free math and English review classes.

By the time Zakhar took that placement test, he already knew which curriculum program he wanted to study. One of the instructors who talked to the Advanced ESL class while Zakhar was enrolled was Brian Bailey, Culinary Arts Department Head. Bailey’s pitch for the culinary program appealed to Zakhar, who had food service experience in Russia and a job with Elon University catering. He enrolled at ACC in the fall 2013 semester. In fact, he became the only first-year culinary student to make the Hot Foods Competition Team this year.

ESL Students: “Here in America we want to be somebody.”

All the adult students in Nelson’s class—German, Ivory Coast, Colombia, Mexican, Sudanese—have one thing in common: They want to make a life working and raising a family in the United States. For them, that means raising their English skills as high as they can; at the same time they are committed to learning how to “be” an American. Here are some of their thoughts:

BRIGITTE ANTON, GERMANY: “In Germany, I was a nurse and then ran a family business [a family tourist site which included a petting zoo where she gained restaurant skills]...I want to work at a hospital in the U.S., but my English needs to be much better to do that.”

NADA EL SAIED, SUDAN: “It took my husband and me seven years to win the immigration lottery and now we have our green cards...I went to high school in Dubai but I want to make my [English] grammar better because I can’t pass the placement test yet to enter ACC...I really hope to get a physical therapy career so I can help my son [who has physical limitations].”

CLAUDIA J. GIL, COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA [The former flight attendant hopes to enroll at ACC, possibly in medical assisting, within the next few years after her four children have graduated high school]. “To many people down here in the south, they just see a Latino person [when they see me]. They look at me funny, even before I open my mouth. Speaking better English opens doors for you. I came to the U.S. with no English skills. If you come to this country, you must take every opportunity to learn English and get better. When I lived in Pennsylvania, I took ESL classes every chance I could. If you don’t give one hundred percent you won’t see results. We in this class left our own countries because it’s hard to make a life there. Here in America, we want to be somebody.”
Valentine Roses, Carnations for Sale
Horticulture’s Flora Club is selling roses and carnations this week for Valentine’s Day.
WHAT: Carnations - $1 per stem, $10 per dozen; Roses - $2.50 per stem, $25 per dozen
WHEN: To pre-order by the Feb. 11 noon deadline, send your order information to: justin.snyder@alamancecc.edu. Pre-orders will be ready to pick up starting Thursday, Feb. 13 at 12 noon in the Horticulture office.
GOOD TO KNOW: The club will sell single stems on Friday, Feb. 14 in the commons area.

1960s Civil Rights Veteran to Speak for Black History Month
ACC’s Diversity Committee welcomes a veteran of North Carolina’s early civil rights movement as a guest speaker for Black History Month.
WHO: Guest Speaker—Lewis A. Brandon III.
An educator and NC A&T State University graduate, Mr. Brandon worked as a student organizer during the early 1960s Greensboro “sit-in” movement. Still actively involved in community activism today, he is a recipient of the Human Rights Medal from NC A&T State University and Sit-In Participant Award from the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.
WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
WHERE: ACC’s Patterson Auditorium

Writing Across the Curriculum Workshop For Faculty
WHAT: MLA and APA Documentation Refresher—workshop for faculty
WHEN: Monday, Feb. 17, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
WHERE: Room B200.
FOR MORE INFO: Contact Courtney Doi, Writing Center Coordinator, ext. 4294.

Spring 2014 Career Clinics
WHAT: Resume 101
WHERE: Student Center, Room 230
WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 11:15 a.m.-12 noon; or 5:15-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 26, 11:15 a.m.-12 noon

WHAT: Women in the Workplace: Salary Negotiations & Knowing Your Worth
WHERE: Student Center, Room 230
WHEN: Wednesday, March 19, 11:15a.m.-12:15 p.m.

WHAT: Speed Interviewing
WHERE: Academic Advising Center
WHEN: Thursday, March 20, by appointment 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Student Financial Planning Workshops
- Students must contact ACC’s Financial Aid Office at 336-506-4340 or financialaid@alamancecc.edu to reserve a spot at any of these FREE workshops.
- Participating students are eligible to win a $25 gas card at each session and will be registered to win a grand prize $100 ACC Bookstore gift card. Extra Credit passes will be available.
- Sponsored by the Office of Financial Aid at Alamance Community College.

Finding Scholarships—Tips and tricks to find and apply for scholarships
- Tuesday, Feb. 11-3:30-4:30 p.m., G312
- Wednesday, Feb. 12-2:30-3:30 p.m., G312; 5-6 p.m., G119

Extreme Couponing—How to save money using coupons
- Wednesday, Feb. 26-12:30-2:30 p.m., G233; 5-7 p.m., G234

FREE STUFF
Admission Tickets for Old Salem
Free admission tickets are available for students to visit historic Old Salem. Students must present a valid ID for use.
FREE TICKETS: Just pick up a voucher from JJ Evans in the Student Center (office 229) or Sherri Singer’s office door, B309.
BEST BET: Tickets are good for any day.
Academic and Career Readiness Celebrates National Literacy Awareness Week

The January 27 event included appearances by ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood and N.C. Senator Rick Gunn, who spoke to ESL students. Adult students representing Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE), English as a Second Language (ESL), General Educational Development (GED) and Adult High School (AHS) gave personal testimonies about their personal journeys. Sponsors were Chick-Fil-A, Jimmy John’s, Edible Arrangements, Fifth Street Book Store, and Bojangles.

Pictured top to bottom:
- Dr. Algie Gatewood spoke to the ESL class at the Dillingham Center. Their remarks were interpreted into Spanish by Elon student intern Eliot Browarsky. They spoke to the ESL students about the importance of literacy, to recognize their efforts in that direction and to encourage them to continue their education.
- MARY BOSWELL: “My goal is to help young kids. Right now I’m enrolled at a bible college but to continue I needed to get my GED. ACC has helped me do that and now I hope to keep going and eventually earn my B.A. so I can teach children.”
- DEBBIE JAMESON: “Coming to ACC has meant a great deal. I’m earning my GED this spring and expect to walk across the Williams High stage to get my diploma in the summer.”
- ALONZO BENNETT: “ACC helped me improve my reading skills. I enjoy life better because I can read now. My goal is to continue in my education and get my GED diploma.”
The ACC Foundation welcomes new board members...
(from left) Sam Eberts, Chief Legal Officer, LabCorp; Doug Hargrove, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones; and Suzanne Lucier, ACC Retiree. Also pictured are Dr. Algie Gatewood, ACC President; Carolyn Rhode, ACC Foundation Executive Director; and Mr. Charlie Harris, ACC Foundation Board President.

Books, books, books!
The latest edition of the Jean Slaughter Memorial Book Sale netted $1,522.72 toward the annual scholarship fund that is awarded to a university transfer student. Jean Slaughter, an English instructor who helped initiate the University Transfer program at ACC, died from cancer in 2004. The English department wishes to thank all students, faculty and staff who supported the book sale with their purchases.