2014 Excellence in Teaching, Staff Recipients

ACC has announced its 2014 recipients for Faculty Member, Adjunct Instructor, Continuing Education Instructor, and Staff Member of the Year. The full-time teaching honoree serves as ACC’s nominee for the state’s Excellence in Teaching Award and the Alamance County area Gold Star awards this fall.

W. RONALD McCARTER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD
JOHN NEATHERY, Sociology Instructor
- Holds an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) post-graduate degree in Higher Education Teaching
- Innovative teaching style that incorporates music, costumes, and props to help explain difficult concepts in his sociology classes.
- Advises his students on life issues that go beyond class schedules.
- Serves as faculty advisor to Sigma Psi, coordinates student life survey, has endowed a scholarship, and sits on the advisory board at Appalachian State University.
- Previously named 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award

ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR
TABITHE FISHER, Nursing Instructor
- Has taught as adjunct instructor for 14 years
- Coordinator of Nursing Simulation Lab
- Uses social media in teaching
- Mentors students with career guidance
- Serves as Board member for Alamance County Friends of the Library

STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR
ERIN FLOWERS, Coordinator of Placement Testing
- Member of the Student Development advising/counseling team.
- Serves on many committees, including two that are part of ACC’s new strategic plan: ad-hoc Service Learning Committee and chairs the ad-hoc Orientation Committee.
- Implemented a new NC Community College System diagnostic placement testing for math and a new “multiple measures” approach to course placement on the ACC campus.
- Actively involved in student services programming this year: co-created a “student success” series of workshops centered on careers and job search; and organized ACC’s first Safe Zone training for faculty and staff this year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR
MARIE ALSTON, Academic & Career Readiness Instructor
- Works full-time as Pre-K teacher at Newlin Elementary School in Burlington.
- Teaches four nights a week and Saturday mornings at the Dillingham Center for the Academic and Career Readiness department at ACC. This includes two nights teaching a citizenship and language class for English as a Second Language (ESL) students; two nights as a GED instructor; and Saturday mornings teaching a GED class at the Literacy Building on the Carrington-Scott campus.
- After volunteering as a tutor for school-aged children in Elon’s Village Project, she now teaches English to the parents of those children in an ESL class at ACC.
ACC Math Team participants were (l-r): Lilith Hart, Charles Langley, Tristan Burnette, Vijay Kailash, Ryan Spruill, David Restrepo, and Seyedsamim Mirhosseini Ghamsari. Not pictured: Avery Harper and Marvin Newlin.

Math team excels in national competition

ACC's Math Club placed in the top ten of the Student Math League competition for the South East region of the American Mathematics Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC) recently.

The team came in eighth overall and fifth among North Carolina schools competing. This is the highest ACC's Math Club has placed since it began competing under the guidance of faculty advisors Bob Davis and Mariel Conlon, math instructors at ACC.

The League has grown to more than 165 colleges in more than 35 states involving over 8,000 community college math students.

The Student Math League competition is a paper-based test held once a semester. Davis said test-takers are given one hour to complete 20 questions that involve various math skills and feature out-of-the-box thinking. For every correct answer a student is awarded two points, for every incorrect answer the student loses half a point, and blank responses receive zero points. The five highest scores become the team's score.

The club plans to participate in both fall and spring rounds next year. Any student may participate by contacting the advisors.

The ACC Culinary Knowledge Bowl Team made a strong showing in the American Culinary Federation Regional Competition held in Charleston, SC on April 28. The five-member team earned sufficient points in a fast Jeopardy-style competition to earn a bronze medal and place third overall in a field of five teams representing culinary schools in Tennessee, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. Congratulations to (pictured, l-r) Jennifer Pannos, faculty advisor Doris Schomberg, Jana Rudd, Kelsey Dillion (captain), Lydia Greene and Kevin Lee on their many hours studying the six required texts that covered Culinary Math, Baking, Cooking, Sanitation, Nutrition and Escoffier's 5,000 recipes. The team was coached by Doris Schomberg and assistant coach was Todd Wanless.

The ACC Culinary Knowledge Bowl Team placed in the top ten of the Student Math League competition for the South East region of the American Mathematics Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC) recently.

The team came in eighth overall and fifth among North Carolina schools competing. This is the highest ACC's Math Club has placed since it began competing under the guidance of faculty advisors Bob Davis and Mariel Conlon, math instructors at ACC.

The League has grown to more than 165 colleges in more than 35 states involving over 8,000 community college math students.

The Student Math League competition is a paper-based test held once a semester. Davis said test-takers are given one hour to complete 20 questions that involve various math skills and feature out-of-the-box thinking. For every correct answer a student is awarded two points, for every incorrect answer the student loses half a point, and blank responses receive zero points. The five highest scores become the team's score.

The club plans to participate in both fall and spring rounds next year. Any student may participate by contacting the advisors.
A Life Turned Around: Student Finds New Start at ACC

“Getting up to come to ACC is like waking up early on Christmas morning as a kid, I love it so much,” says Allen Gainey, a student completing his first year in the College’s Welding Technology program. For the 50-year-old Allen, this is not an overstatement because he has endured a life that has seen its share of difficulty and personal challenges. But his ready smile bears witness to a new lease on life for which he gives Alamance Community College much of the credit.

Allen Gainey began life as the son of a single mother who had moved from her native North Carolina to Los Angeles, hoping to make a better life for her children. But in 1973, tragic circumstances befell the family. Allen’s mother died when he was just seven years old and the surviving children were brought back to North Carolina—split up among his mother’s family. Some were taken in by financially stable relatives; Allen was raised by an aunt in Guilford County who lived below the poverty level.

By his own admission, Allen was surrounded by bad situations as he grew older that included petty crime and drugs. He dropped out of high school his junior year. Health problems plagued him as he matured, including kidney failure that required more than 20 years on dialysis.

“It was this environment of drugs and crime and kidney problems that made me leave school,” he says. “I took to the streets more and more, and that led to petty crimes like breaking into cars.”

Allen’s bond with his separated siblings held tight, especially with his sister Teresa, despite very different lifestyles. Teresa often reminded Allen that education could change people’s lives and eventually he acquired his GED diploma.

“I had children by this time and Teresa told me I should be an example for them,” says Allen. “She kept saying, ‘You can’t be a leader to your children if you’re on the streets.’”

Then last year a friend told Allen to look into Alamance Community College. Allen had an interest in welding and when he discovered that ACC had a very good program, he nervously came to campus to talk with Department Head Mike Holt.

“They opened the doors wide open for me, I couldn’t believe it,” says Allen. “I met with Mike Holt and Mr. Covington and they made me believe I could do this. In financial aid, I was helped by Sabrina DeGain [Director of Financial Aid] and Becky Smith [Assistant Director] who refused to give up on me until I got the paperwork done so I could start classes. And Iona Owens has been a friend about arranging a job interview for me. I owe them a lot.”

These days Allen and his grandchildren compare their grades in school. “They’ll ask me what I did in college today and want to know how my grades are doing,” he says with a wide smile.

Allen says the county vocational rehabilitation agency has also helped him with financial assistance to stay in school.

“It’s amazing what the people at this school have done for me. They won’t let me give up even when it gets tough. People in the main building I don’t even know will help me and welding students will come over to give me a hand when I’m learning something new that’s not coming to me. Honestly, my life has changed so much. I wouldn’t go anywhere except ACC.”

Welding student Allen Gainey.

GET THE 411

TEST PREP CLASSES IN MATH AND ENGLISH

Brush-up classes in math and English are FREE for students preparing to take the college placement tests.

Summer Schedule

All classes meet Monday-Thursday according to schedule:

- June 2-26: 1-4 p.m. (English); 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Math)
- July 7-17: 1-4 p.m. (Math); 5:30-8:30 p.m. (English)
- July 21-31: 1-4 p.m. (English); 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Math)

- Students can email Assessment.Center@alamancecc.edu or call 506-4376 to register. Indicate name, phone number, session time and subject(s) needed.
- The last day to sign up for any Placement Test Prep (BSP 2000) class is Wednesday, one week before the scheduled class time.
- Mandatory orientation is the first day of class.

GED TEST PRICE DROPS

Effective May 1, the price for the new GED dropped from $30 to $20 per test, making it $80 instead of $120 for the full battery.

For more information, contact Academic and Career Readiness in the Literacy Building at 336-506-4376.

FREE ESL CLASSES

Is English your second language? ACC Academic and Career Readiness offers FREE classes to help fine tune your English skills to prepare for success in college and careers.

Skills taught include: grammar, pronunciation, writing, resume’ and interviewing skills.

There are several Advanced ESL classes to meet your schedule. Call 506-4380 or 506-4407 for more information or to enroll.
Becoming ‘Matlock’: ACC Paved the Way for Alum’s Law Career

Roy Dawson’s first interest in a law career? Watching episodes of “Matlock” with his mom when he was just a kid. But when his family ran into financial difficulties, he dropped out of Eastern Alamance High School at age 16 to help with whatever jobs he could get. His dream of one day making a living like the lawyers he saw on TV seemed to have fizzled.

But sometimes dreams become reality if you work hard enough. Today, Roy Dawson is on that golden path. Thanks to the start he got at Alamance Community College, he is graduating from UNC School of Law this May and starting the career he’s always wanted.

Roy’s journey to his current success began when he realized the part-time jobs he was working to help his family’s finances were limited because he was a dropout. The Burlington resident enrolled in ACC’s Adult High School program, where he earned his high school diploma.

After working low-wage jobs for a few years, Dawson returned to ACC and began taking courses toward an associate’s degree in computer science. But then he wrote an essay in English instructor Maria Baskin’s class titled “Waiting is the Hardest Part” that prompted his teacher to see great potential in him. She told him about C-STEP, the College’s transfer program that guarantees qualified low- and moderate-income students admission to UNC if they successfully complete the associate degree program.

Roy was accepted into C-STEP and changed his major to university transfer. His good grades also made him a member of Phi Theta Kappa. But he had higher goals.

“C-STEP meant everything,” says Roy. “I wouldn’t be where I am now without it. Among other things, it served to keep my eye on the ball and as motivation. So I switched my major and researched the law. There are a lot of injustices in the judicial system, the system is flawed, and the only way to remedy that is to be inside it.”

But studying at ACC still had its bumps. As the oldest sibling, he took responsibility to care for his ailing mother, leaving campus to feed her lunch and take her to doctor’s appointments.

Says Roy: “My mom getting sick and me having to grow up and take responsibility left me no choice but to work hard and be better. Education is important, something you realize when you’re working at low wage jobs and knowing things could be better if you have the opportunity.”

After he graduated with his associate’s degree and transferred to UNC Chapel Hill, Roy found it a huge transition but he credits ACC for helping prepare him: “You really have to treat the work you do every week at UNC the way you would study for finals at ACC…There’s lots of reading and writing at UNC and it was at ACC that I learned to write well.”

Completing his B.S. degree in Political Science was only the beginning of his continuing journey to become an attorney. Accepted into UNC’s School of Law, Roy found the first semester that fall of 2011 the most arduous time he’d ever experienced—studying and working from 7 a.m. until midnight each day for four months.

“It was much like going from ACC to UNC the first time, a big step up in academic rigor,” says Roy. “After that first semester of law school, you get a learning curve and you begin to catch on. The first thing I noticed in law school was how brilliant my classmates were. They’re coming from all around the country to UNC and I found that I could learn as much just listening to and talking to them as I could from the professors. In fact, I asked myself at first, ‘Do I belong here with them, am I on a par with these brilliant minds?’ But by the second year, I realized I did belong there and you tell yourself, Yes, I am capable of doing this work.”

Roy more than proved he deserved to be in law school. During his second year, he obtained an internship with the Orange County District Attorney’s office as a prosecutor that lasted for a year. He says his ambition to become a defense attorney was enhanced by working on the other side as a prosecutor. It also allowed him to meet numerous defense attorneys in Orange County.

Says Roy: “In law school you are taught how to make arguments for both sides of a case, so I knew it would be invaluable for me to spend time working in the D.A.’s office.”

While working as an intern prosecutor in District Court, Roy won all 17 of the DWI prosecutions he was assigned. The remaining 18 cases he tried involved everything from assaults to drivers passing stopped school buses, many of which he won. His drive and expertise were soon realized by the D.A.’s office when they made Roy the first intern in 15 years to try a case in Superior Court in Orange County.

Says Roy: “My internship confirmed to me that I truly loved being in the courtroom, that I loved to argue in front of a judge and jury.”

As Roy prepares to accept his law degree in May, he already knows how he’ll be earning his living for the foreseeable future: He has been hired by the Gerrans Foster & Sargeant law firm in Morehead City, NC where he will be a defense attorney practicing criminal law and family law.

That dream of becoming a defense attorney—just like Matlock—has finally become a reality for Roy Dawson. And it all began at Alamance Community College for this one-time high school dropout who is now beginning what looks to be a very long and successful career.
Make Reservations now for Celebration of Excellence

Reservations are now being accepted for the 2014 Celebration of Excellence on Thursday, May 29, at Alamance Country Club. The annual event honors the College’s Student Academic Excellence Award Winner and the Continuing Education Instructor of the Year, the Staff Person of the Year, the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year and the Faculty Member of the Year.

The 2014 Distinguished Alumni will also be revealed from among these nominees: Sonya DeLong Lynn, owner of Sonya’s Kid Depot Child Care Center; Marti Asher, manager of Gilliam Coble & Moser, LLP; Sam Hargrave, Hollywood stuntman; Sarah “Blythe” Jackson, patrol officer for City of Mebane; Barry Joyce, Somers Pardue Agency (retired); and Mark D. McIntyre Sr., UNC Chapel Hill (retired).

Social is 5:30 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6:00 p.m. ACC faculty and staff reservations are $30.00, all others are $40.00. Contact the Foundation Office to make reservations.

New Venue for July Graduation Ceremonies

Alamance Community College has selected a new location to hold both GED/Adult High School and curriculum graduation exercises in July: The Lamb’s Chapel in Haw River.

The College’s graduation committee sought another venue to accommodate a number of issues after using Williams High School for many years. A representative group from the committee met with President Dr. Algie Gatewood and Executive Vice President Dr. Gene Couch to formalize the change in venue.

Among the favorable logistics that The Lamb’s Chapel offers are:

- The total number of seats in the auditorium (Worship Center) is comparable to Williams High School; one area is designated for handicapped seating.
- Large projection screens inside the auditorium and balcony will allow for better viewing of the proceedings.
- All activities will be on one level.
- An elevator is available to the stage.
- Parking lots surround the building, providing ample regular and handicapped spaces.
- All graduating students will be located in one room (Family Life Center) and holds 700 people.
- The Fellowship Hall will be used by faculty and staff.
- A video of each ceremony will be made.

Graduating students will receive more detailed information about the ceremonies soon.

ARMC Honors College’s Service Learning Project

The College’s “Pillows with a Purpose” project, in which ABLE students made pillows for hospital patients, was honored by Alamance Regional Medical Center (ARMC) at its annual appreciation luncheon in April.

Students in the ABLE (Adult Basic and Literacy Education) program, under the tutelage of instructors Emily Kirkley and Kathy Goodlett, cut and helped sew more than 60 pillows to be used by patients recovering from surgery on their arms, shoulders, and bellies in the “Same Day Surgery” unit. Kirkley said projects like this give the students a chance to immerse within the community and perform a public service, as well as learn math and coordination skills.

Marlene Harden, President of the Auxiliary of ARMC, explained that budget cuts curtailed the purchase of new pillows to give to recovering patients after surgery. ACC’s “Pillows with a Purpose” filled that need.

The pillows were made as part of a math instruction lesson and to help students reach their goal of increased community involvement.

Said Jennifer Mock, Coordinator of Academic and Career Readiness: “The class would like to thank Steve Glahn, Special Olympics Director, and the City of Burlington Parks and Recreation for their continuing support of this program. It takes collaboration within our community to engage learners, lift them up by providing opportunities, and at the same time providing a valuable service to others.”

The Lamb’s Chapel in Haw River is ACC’s new location for graduation this July.
Events:

Registration Calendar—Summer, Fall 2014

Students: Don’t forget to see your faculty advisor **before** registration. Your advisor’s name and contact information can be found in WebAdvisor under “My Profile.”

**Ongoing now**
- Summer & Fall registration opened for new, returning and non-degree seeking students.

**May 12**
- Payment deadline for early summer registrations.

**May 13**
- No registration (campus or WebAdvisor)

**May 14**
- Summer Term new student ‘Information Session’, 4 p.m., Auditorium
- Open advising/registration for students, 9-11 a.m. & 5-6 p.m.

**NOTE:** New students *beginning in summer who will be ACC degree-seeking students are advised to attend the June 18 New Student Orientation.*

**May 15**
- Final Registration (for Summer), 11 a.m.-12 noon & 5-6 p.m.
  - WebAdvisor registration closes (final) for 2014 Summer at 3 p.m.

**May 16**
- Summer classes begin

**June 18**
- New Student Orientation for Fall Semester (time TBA)

**August 8**
- Payment deadline for early fall registrations, 12 noon
  - WebAdvisor registration closes at 12 noon

**August 11-12**
- No registration (campus or WebAdvisor)

**August 13**
- Fall Orientation (Times TBA)
  - WebAdvisor registration reopens at 8 a.m.

**August 14**
- Final registration
  - WebAdvisor registration closes (final) for 2014 Fall at 3 p.m.

**August 15**
- All unpaid fall registrations purged

**August 18**
- Fall classes begin. Drop/add for enrolled students only

**Dollars & Sense:**

**Student Financial Planning Workshops**

**WHAT:** Managing Credit

**WHEN/WHERE:** Wednesday, May 14, 12:30-1:30 p.m., G234

**BEST BET:** $25 gas card give away at this session; participants will be registered to win a grand prize $100 ACC Bookstore gift card. Extra Credit passes will be available.

**Sponsored by Student Development, Financial Aid, and Career Services**

**Writing Center**

**Summer Hours**

Mon-Thur 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri nearest noon

**To make an appointment:**

- Register at alamance.mywconline.com
- Visit the Writing Center

Walk-ins are acceptable when appointments are not full.

**Sexual Assault Counselor on Campus**

CrossRoads Sexual Assault Response and Resource Center has an Advocate on campus providing confidential support services to anyone having experienced rape, sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse or other significant trauma around the issue of sexual violence. The Advocate is on campus Tuesdays from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Academic Advising Center for the remainder of the semester.

**Apply for Scholarships**

**UNCG Community College Presidents Scholars Program.** Eligibility criteria for 2014-15 academic year: Minimum 30 semester hours of study completed at community college with preference to Associate Degree recipients; cumulative 3.0 GPA for associate degree students, 3.5 cumulative GPA for students with less than associate degree. Fee waiver forms are available in ACC’s Financial Aid Office. Deadline is May 10 for nominations.

**$1,500 Fifth Month Scholarship.** Applicants must compose 250-word essay on: “May is the fifth month of the year. Write a serious or funny letter to the number five explaining why five is important.” Deadline is May 31. Apply online: www.scholarshipexperts.com/our-scholarships/all-about-education-scholarship

**+U: Picture Your Success $10K Scholarship.** Applicants must respond with 50-word essay on: “How do you picture your success after college?” Deadline is June 30. Apply online: scholarshipexperts.clickmeter.com/plus-u/

**Campus Discovery $5,000 “Advice to Your High School Self” Scholarship.** Applicants must be recent graduate of 2- or 4-year college. Complete survey and respond with 200-word essay on: “Assume you could go back in time and talk to yourself as a high school senior. Knowing what you know now about college life and making the transition, what advice would you give to yourself?” Deadline is June 30. Apply online: campusdiscovery.com/start

**News from Financial Aid**

**Writing Center Summer Hours**

Mon-Thur 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

To make an appointment:
- Register at alamance.mywconline.com
- Visit the Writing Center

Walk-ins are acceptable when appointments are not full.
Adjunct Instructors Honored for Years of Service

ACC’s part-time (or adjunct) instructors were honored recently with a luncheon by the Office of Educational Programs and Services. Executive Vice President Dr. Gene Couch paid tribute to their contributions for many years of service. The 100-plus citizens teach in a variety of curricula, including Business and Industry, Arts and Sciences, Continuing Education, and Health and Public Services. Overall, adjuncts logged 100 hours of professional development on their own time this academic year.

Speaking to the attendees, ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood said, “There is no way we could run this college without the adjunct faculty. It takes all of us.” Adjuncts posed for photos with Dr. Gatewood.

Kathleen Gwinnett (Continuing Education) is one of the longest serving of any current adjunct instructor with 30 years.


Six adjunct instructors earned the Adjunct Institute Certificate for the 2013-14 academic year, completing a minimum of 6 hours of professional development. They are (l-r) Steve Zimmerman, Holly Muniz, Rebecca Fecher, advisor Sherri Singer, Terry Farmer, advisor Clara Vega, and Lee Carter (in absentia: Marcia Livesay).

Donations
Students in Sigma Psi, the college's sociology club, collected more than 100 pounds of goods for distribution to Our Sister's House, an Alamance County women's domestic shelter. Seen here are the club members with a few of the donations. (Photo submitted)

Phi Theta Kappa Induction
ACC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa held its annual induction ceremony last month. PTK is an international honors society. To join, students must have a GPA of at least 3.5 and have completed at least 12 hours of college credits. Pictured here are this spring's new inductees: Kwanetta Blackwell, Nicole Bean, Ella Brewer Jensen, Richard Cheek, Bowman Davis, Rahsheeda Deandrade, Mairit Dunn, Alexandrea Fitton, Kathy Getkin, James Gregory, Rocky Hawks, Austin Hutchins, Kory Isley, Ruth Ann Kennedy, Rebecca Landon, Dee Littles, Ruth Morgan, Carrie Parker, Jennifer Rowe, Brenda Salas, Ashley Shackelford, Kristen Summey, Dorthy Wallace-Alexander, Jeff Webster, and Alfred Williamson.

New Exhibit
“The Kronbergs: A Journey from Latvia to America” is the newest exhibit at ACC's Scott Family Library, which depicts the story of an immigrant family sponsored by Alamance County’s Ralph Scott family on their relocation to America in the 1940s. A reception held in April to kick off the exhibit included members of the Kronbergs family and other local Latvian families who discussed their journey to freedom. (Seen in front are Henderson Scott and curator Peggy Boswell.)

Retirement
Mary Davis, ACC's Technical Services Librarian (seen right with library director Sheila Street), was treated to a retirement reception prior to her final day at the college on April 30. Davis had worked at ACC since 1999.