ACC Instructor Awarded State’s Top Honor

The NC Community College System (NCCCS) has given John Neathery, Alamance Community College instructor, its highest award as the top community college instructor in North Carolina.

This is the first time that an instructor from Alamance Community College has been honored with the North Carolina Excellence in Teaching Award. North Carolina has 58 community colleges and each nominates an instructor for consideration. ACC has had a few instructors in the past who reached the regional level of competition.

Neathery earned the state’s top honor following an interview process at the regional and later state level. Neathery will receive a cash award from the NCCCS and additional state recognition.

Neathery has taught at ACC since 2003. An instructor since 1997, he graduated with honors from Appalachian State University (ASU) where he earned both a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in sociology. He also earned an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) post-graduate degree in Higher Education Teaching, with a concentration in Criminal Justice.

“For me, there is nothing more professionally rewarding and gratifying than helping my students achieve their goals--whatever their academic, career, and life goals may be,” says Neathery, who uses a variety of activities to stimulate the learning environment that may include donning an Ironman mask to illustrate social deviance, or analyzing musical lyrics to introduce concepts such as crime, poverty, and family.

See NEATHERY on page 2

ACC Crafts Contingency Plan to Continue Automotive Tech Instruction

Alamance Community College administration is in talks with community partners to provide continued and seamless instruction for Automotive Technology program students this spring semester following the January 15 fire that damaged the Automotive Technology building.

Classroom instruction for automotive students has resumed temporarily at ACC’s Dillingham Center.

No injuries occurred during the fire, partly thanks to the quick reactions of instructor Bill Crabtree, maintenance/ARAMARK employee Tim Hawkins, and ACC security officer Harold Overby, who all used fire extinguishers to fight the blaze until local fire personnel from Graham and Haw River could arrive.

See AUTOMOTIVE on page 3
College Names Academic Excellence Recipient

Daniel Stickel, a CSTEP student working toward an Associate in Science degree this spring, is ACC's recipient of the 2015 Academic Excellence Award.

Stickel, a Chapel Hill resident, will be recognized at the ACC Foundation’s “Celebrating Excellence” event on May 28. He carries a 4.0 GPA this semester.

“ Alamance Community College has had a tremendous impact upon my life,” he says. “After taking classes at ACC during high school, I was inspired to develop my specific types of intelligences here as a full-time student. The camaraderie of serious students motivated me to not only achieve my academic goals, but to seek to inspire others as well.”

As a member of the College's CSTEP program, Daniel has guaranteed admission to UNC Chapel Hill next fall as long as he fulfills his commitments of earning his associate’s degree and participates in the CSTEP activities. His goal is to study pre-med at UNC as a biology major.

Says Perry Hardison, University Transfer coordinator: “Daniel is among the best and brightest of the students I have worked with in my 14 years at ACC. I think he is only beginning to tap into the potential he has for greater scholarly work.”

Other instructors agree about Daniel's work ethic in the classroom, which includes courses such as Anatomy and Physiology and Abnormal Psychology. “Daniel regularly demonstrates a high level of critical thinking during class,” said Dr. Nancy Honyecutt, psychology instructor.

Daniel said he was surprised when he arrived at ACC to see how instructors go out of their way to help individual students to learn. This inspired him to unofficially tutor other students in his classes. Then he was asked to tutor in the Academic Skills Lab, which moved him to investigate other avenues to help others.

Spanish classes helped Daniel discover his love of languages, which led to his nomination and induction into the College's Spanish Honor Society. He now represents that organization in the Student Government Association.

“I hope to double-major in Spanish and Biology at UNC, anticipating that I will be able to communicate with Spanish-speakers in my future as a physician,” said Daniel. “I will always appreciate all I have learned at Alamance Community College.”

The Academic Excellence Award is sponsored by the NC Community College System (NCCCS). One student is selected from each community college and must demonstrate exceptional academic performance.
“Our entire security staff along with [Security Supervisor] Ryan Hendrick’s guidance all made an impact on this scenario,” said Erik Conti, Director of Administrative Services and Chief of Security. “From crowd control to extra fire watch duties, each officer, over every shift the past couple of days, have made huge contributions towards positive outcomes in a gloomy situation. Biff Hulsey and his entire Aramark staff contributed in one way or another to assist us with this event, from the maintenance staff to the custodial, they have all been a great help. Many behind the scenes details and efforts that often go unnoticed were very important to the overall effort. It was a wonderful collaborative effort by everyone involved.”

The cause of the blaze is still under investigation. Several automotive bays were damaged in the fire, but students in a classroom at the rear of the building were safely evacuated. As a precaution, other night classes across the campus were evacuated as well.

The building in which Automotive Technology is housed also hosts the Welding and Horticulture programs. Instruction was unaffected by the fire.

Automotive, Welding, Heating & Air, and Computer-Assisted Machinery programs are slated to be consolidated and expanded in the Advanced Applied Technology Center, which is expected to open in 2017.

Said Ed Williams, ACC Public Information Officer: “The current building housing Automotive opened in 1988, so obviously there’s some age on it. We are grateful that the Alamance County Board of Commissioners had the vision and foresight to fund the $15 million project that will allow the College’s Advanced Applied Technology Center to expand and enhance instruction in those legacy programs.”

Automotive instructors Bill Crabtree and Jerry Yeatts have temporarily relocated their office to room A309.

“At age 40, I finally made the decision to pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a police officer. Years ago, I started in ACC’s Criminal Justice program but resigned to take a series of higher-paying jobs that ultimately left me bored and still thinking that my purpose in life was to help people through a law enforcement career. My wife urged me last year to do what makes me happy. Friends at the Mebane Police Department directed me to ACC’s Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program, where we learned everything--driving, firing range, and subject control and arrest techniques. Four months later I graduated and was hired by the Mebane Police Department where today I work as a patrol officer. I encourage anyone passionate for a career in law enforcement to apply to ACC’s BLET program. It has some of the best instructors around.”

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**GET THE 411**

**PLACEMENT TEST PREP CLASSES IN MATH, ENGLISH**

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

- Admission is rolling.
- Students may study math or English, or a combination of both. To sign up, email Assessment.Center@alamancecc.edu or call 506-4376. Leave your name, phone number, session time and subject(s) needed.
- All classes meet Monday through Thursday.
- The last day to sign up for any Placement Test Prep class is Wednesday, one week before the scheduled start date.

**Orientation Dates for Spring**

Each session meets 1 - 4 p.m. and is for Math and English

- Monday, Feb. 2
- Monday, March 2
- Monday, April 6
- Tuesday, May 5
- Monday, June 1

**CAMPUS RECYCLING**

Here’s a reminder of ACC’s recycling policy: the large blue “trash” cans are for recyclable items ONLY, which include:

- plastic bottles (all types)
- plastic containers
- aluminum cans
- metal cans
- glass (unbroken)
- paper

Cardboard is to be placed in the cardboard recycling dumpsters, NOT in the blue recycling containers.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER**

The Academic Advising Center is located near the lower commons in the main building. Hours are:

- Mon., 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Tues.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Fri., 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Appointments preferred; call Virginia Jeffries at 506-4362.

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Welcome New Employees

Valerie Hilliard has joined the Nursing department as an instructor. From 2005-2014, she worked as a R.N. at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro, and taught nursing at GTCC. After earning her Associate’s Degree in Nursing from Cuyahoga Community College, she attended UNCG where she earned her bachelor’s and Master of Science in Nursing.

Rebekah Scott has joined the Learning Resources Center as a part-time Public Services Librarian. She comes from Alamance County Public Libraries where she has worked as a reference librarian for the past six years. She earned her Masters of Library and Information Science degree from UNC Greensboro. She also has a B.S. in English Education from Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, TN.

College Approves New Tuition Payment Options

Alamance Community College is moving forward on two new payment options for students who risk losing their place in classes because they cannot pay tuition costs on time.

The College will use $25,000 in campus bookstore profits to establish a revolving “bridge” fund that will provide aid for up to 150 students per semester who face being dropped because their financial aid packages often are not dispersed until after the tuition payment deadline. This scenario often results in forcing students to re-register for classes and not getting the classes they need.

Students will be required to apply for the interest-free bridge fund, and agree in writing to repay it once they receive their financial aid package. Because state law allows community colleges to use bookstore profits for student aid, the College would move $25,000 per semester as needed for this purpose from the bookstore’s $1.3 million in unrestricted funds.

ACC will begin offering the bridge funding to students in fall 2015. Eligible students would be allowed to obtain bridge funding for one semester of their studies at ACC.

A second payment option approved will permit students who do not qualify for financial aid to pay their tuition in installments over the course of several months. The College will use NelNet Business Solutions (NBS)—which has a default rate under 2 percent—to manage tuition payment plans for ACC students. ACC will incur no expenses for using the payment system, though students will pay $25 for each payment plan. Payment plans will be available beginning with the summer session that begins on May 21, 2015.

College trustees approved the measures for these new payments plans at their January 12 board meeting.

Dr. King Celebration: 1960s Civil Rights Veteran Speaks

ACC’s Diversity Committee welcomed a veteran of North Carolina’s early civil rights movement as a guest speaker for the College’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on January 22.

Guest Speaker Lewis Brandon III is an educator and NC A&T State University graduate, who worked as a student organizer during the early 1960s Greensboro “sit-in” movement. After showing a short ABC news video that reported on the original sit-in movement—including a photo of Mr. Brandon inside Woolworth’s at the time of the historic events--Brandon talked about more recent civil rights issues and introduced his guest, Ernestine Lewis, former president of the Alamance County chapter of the NAACP and an active participant in the recent Moral Mondays protest movement. Brandon also opened up the floor for questions and discussions with the audience.

Brandon, who met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he spoke at Greensboro's Bennett College in 1958, is still involved in community activism. In 1990, he joined the Beloved Community Center in Greensboro which is dedicated to furthering equality. Still actively involved in community activism today, Brandon is a recipient of the Human Rights Medal from NC A&T State University and a Sit-In Participant Award from the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

Also participating were student Kiara Wiley who presented the invocation and two poetry readings; and the ACC Chorus directed by Roger Lane sang “Deep River.”

Civil rights veteran Lewis Brandon III was the speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at ACC. More photos of the event can be found on the Campus Life page of this issue.
Student Activities Calendar

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE. Wednesday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For appointment, go to: www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: ACC. Or contact John Evans, 336-506-4367 or John.Evans@alamancecc.edu.

Good Things to Know
CROSSROADS: SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE & RESOURCE CENTER. Counselor on campus, Room 228, Student Center, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. every Monday.

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS. SGA is offering discounted movie tickets to Carousel Cinemas for $7 each. Tickets may be purchased from the Cashiers office (first floor Gee Building). Tickets expire Dec. 31, 2016. Tickets are not valid for special attractions; a list of restricted titles and dates are available at carouselalamancecrossing.com, or by calling the box office.

Culinary Serves Meals
Culinary students serve meals in A238 dining room. All meals are $7.00.
- Lunch every Thursday from 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; dinner every Thursday from 5:15-6:30 p.m.
- Meals available on china to eat in A238 or in “to go” boxes.
- Students will post menus around campus each Friday before the next meal.

Early Commitment Scholarship Reaches Out to New Students
Alamance Community College is helping some new students make their decision to attend the school this fall easier by offering scholarships to fully cover a semester of tuition. The Early Commitment Scholarship is an effort to compete with four-year colleges and universities by guaranteeing up to 50 new students a full tuition package earlier in the year.

The Early Commitment Scholarship deadline for fall 2015 is March 15. Scholarship applications are available on the Alamance Community College website at www.alamancecc.edu by going to the “Financial Assistance” icon, then click on “Scholarships” in the yellow box.

“Often new students are conflicted about which school to attend based on their financial aid packages,” says Sabrina DeGain, Director of Financial Aid at ACC. “Most financial aid is not awarded until the summer before the fall semester. So this is to help 50 students each year make the decision to come to ACC because they will already know, months earlier than usual, that their fall semester tuition is taken care of.”

Scholarship recipients must maintain at least the same GPA as in their partial high school or college transcripts. They must complete and sign a Scholarship Award Acceptance Agreement, complete the financial aid process, and register for classes by May.

Questions? Contact the ACC Financial Aid Office at 336-506-4340 or e-mail financialaid@alamancecc.edu

11th Annual
Jean Slaughter Scholarship BOOK SALE
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Main Building, in front of Bookstore

PAPERBACKS & VIDEOS _______ $1
HARDBACKS & DVDs _______ $2
- Fiction, nonfiction, children’s books, classics, audiobooks, assorted videos and DVDs
- The sale is intended for students, faculty and staff to purchase books.
NO BOOKSELLERS BEFORE 1 p.m.
For more information: 336-506-4268
Susan Dalton, English instructor

All proceeds go to the Jean Slaughter Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donations: Bring books now through early February to B206 (office of Anne Helms & Susan Dalton).
More from the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration...

- Above, Ernestine Lewis, former president of the Alamance County NAACP, spoke about her involvement in current civil rights issues.
- Below, Kiara Wiley gave the invocation and read two poems, one by Maya Angelou.
- Bottom, ACC’s Chorus, directed by instructor Roger Lane, performed “Deep River,” an African American spiritual.

High on the Hog
Culinary students in Garde Manger II class received an explicit lesson from Chef-instructor Todd Wanless in the finer art of whole animal butchery. Few culinary school programs utilize an entire carcass for instruction, usually only sides, but due to a partnership with the Alamance County Cattlemen Association, this kind of lesson is possible. Department Head Brian Bailey says the donations to culinary from the association include entire lambs, cows, and goat. “It allows us to provide a good overview that shows all cuts from which we can make other products like sausage.”

Take the Bus
The PART bus transit route that added ACC’s Graham campus as a stop six times a day is helping students who lack other transportation get to their classes.