President’s Message

Plans for the 2009 Alabama Community College Association’s Annual Conference are being finalized. By now, I hope you have decided to join us as we celebrate our System’s commitment to its stars. As each conference detail is completed, this commitment is strengthened. The stars who make up our System deserve the opportunity to shine and the conference is the perfect venue for it.

In this edition of the ACCA Journal, you will find the latest information about the conference. You will learn about the excellent speakers we have secured; receive directions for the registration process and hotel accommodations; plus you have the opportunity to review a tentative agenda of all the activities designed to provide relevant and valuable professional development to all our System’s stars. The only thing needed to form a perfect constellation is you. I look forward to seeing you in Montgomery November 23 and 24.

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Ms. Vickie Williams
Entertainment Coordinator
Mr. Kevin Windham
Historian

Dr. Cynthia Anthony
Executive Assistant to the President
Pulitzer Prize Winner Rick Bragg to be Keynote Speaker at ACCA Conference

Rick Bragg will be the Keynote Speaker at the Alabama Community College Association’s annual conference scheduled for November 23 and 24 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Convention Center.

Bragg won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing in 1996 for his work at The New York Times. Born in Piedmont, Alabama, Bragg is the author of two best-selling memoirs, All Over But the Shoutin’ and Ava’s Man, as well as his newest release The Prince of Frogtown.


Bragg attended Harvard University as a Nieman Fellow from 1992 to 1993 as well as Jacksonville State University. In addition to his Pulitzer Prize, he is the recipient of the American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award and 31 other national, regional and state writing awards. He has had stories included in Best Newspaper Writing 1991, Best of the Press 1988, and two journalism textbooks on good writing and foreign reporting.

Bragg has taught writing at Harvard University, the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, Boston University, the University of South Florida, and other colleges. He now works as a writing professor at The University of Alabama’s journalism program in its College of Communications and Information Sciences.

2009 Conference Information

Information about the 2009 ACCA Conference, including hotel and conference registration directions, as well as conference speakers, can be found in this edition of the Journal. A tentative conference agenda is also included on page 20.

For additional conference information and updates, please visit ACCA’s website at www.alabamacca.org

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Elections for the position of Second Vice-President and Treasurer will be held this fall. Ballots for both positions will be distributed to ACCA member institutions soon. Information about the candidates appears below and on page 5.

Candidate Information - Second Vice-President

Tomesa Smith, Ed.D. -
Vice President for Students, Wallace State Community College

Dr. Tomesa Smith currently serves as Vice President for Students at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville and has transitioned through several roles at the college during her past 20 years ranging from adjunct mathematics faculty, full-time faculty member, Mathematics Department Head, Adult Education Coordinator, and Dean of Students. Through the years she has served not only in various roles, but has also served on campus committees as well as state committees to improve education, students’ lives, and the community. A native Alabamian, Dr. Smith received her Associate degree from Wallace State-Hanceville and then her Secondary Math Education degree from Athens State University. Following this, she completed her Masters in Secondary Math Education from UAB and in 2001, her Doctorate of Education from Auburn University.

Always a student advocate, Dr. Smith has been instrumental in helping students from WSCC achieve national recognition, has worked with student services offices to streamline processes for students, has chaired statewide leadership events for students, and has contributed to state policy groups to promote equality and excellence in student affairs.

She is a graduate of the Alabama Community College Leadership Academy, has been a Chancellor’s Award nominee for Instruction; is a member of Alabama Deans of Student Affairs Association, and will serve as Treasurer of the association in the coming year; serves as an Alabama NASPA Executive Board Member; and has been a member of many state committees such as the State Joint Policy Review Committee and Mandatory Placement and Assessment Committee. She is currently serving as ACCA Commission on Students Chair. Dr. Smith also participates in community associations, such as the HOPE Committee for Cullman County Schools and has spent over 10 years as a Girl Scout Leader and Sunday School teacher for youth and children. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her family.

Barbara Anne Spears, Ph.D. -
Dean of Academic Services, Trenholm State Technical College

Barbara Anne Spears serves as Dean of Academic Services at Trenholm State Technical College. She previously served as Director of Academic Programs at the Department of Postsecondary Education, and in various roles at Central Alabama Community College, including Assistant to the President, Accreditation Liaison, QEP Director, Speech Instructor, Coordinator of Institutional Effectiveness, Foundation Executive Secretary, and Public Information Officer.

She has served on numerous statewide committees, including the Transitional Education Committee, which she chairs, Attendance Policy Committee, the Joint Policy Review Committee, and the Distance Education Committee. She also serves as Treasurer of the Instructional Officers’ Association. Spears has served as President of the Council for Alabama Resource Development and as Regional Co-Chair for the Council for Resource Development. In that role, she coordinated a conference in Orlando for members from an eight-state region.

Spears has worked with the Alabama Master Teacher Seminar since 2001 in various roles – state coordinator, facilitator, director, presenter, and project coordinator. She has also served on the Governor’s Commission on Quality Teaching since 2005. Her previous involvement in ACCA has included several roles: Commission on Faculty Vice Chair & Chair; Teaching & Learning Vice Chair & Chair; Publicity Chair; Postsecondary Representative; and currently, Commission on Administration Vice-Chair.

Spears holds a B.A. degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and an M.A. degree from Auburn University. She is a graduate of the Mississippi Community College Fellowship Program.
Elections for the position of Second Vice-President and Treasurer will be held this fall. Ballots for both positions will be distributed to ACCA member institutions soon. Information about the candidates appears below and on page 4.

Candidate Information - Treasurer

Mark D. Ellard
Vice President of Finance, Bevill State Community College

Mark D. Ellard is the Vice President of Finance for Bevill State Community College, a position he has held for 11 years. Prior to his employment with the college, he worked with the State of Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, auditing colleges and universities for seven years. Ellard’s educational background includes a Bachelor’s of Science in Commerce and Business Administration from The University of Alabama, and a Master’s of Business Administration from The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Ellard is a Certified Public Accountant and is licensed to practice in the State of Alabama. He has served as the President and Vice-President of the Alabama Community College System Financial Management Association; a member of the All-Alabama Academic Team Planning Committee; and a SACS on-site review committee member. He is a graduate Alabama Community College Leadership Academy, and a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Citizens’ Academy. In 2008, he was selected by the Alabama Community College System Financial Management Association as the “Financial Manager of the Year.”

Ellard is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is active in many community groups and has served in various capacities within his church, such as Treasurer and drummer for the praise and worship band.

Alesia Stuart, Ed.D.
Associate Dean, Reid State Technical College

Dr. Alesia Stuart serves as Associate Dean of Technical Programs and Community Development at Reid State Technical College. Dr. Stuart’s responsibilities include supervision of technical programs, workforce development, TEBI, Ready to Work, recruitment, public relations and marketing. During her 23 years at Reid State, prior positions have included admissions clerk, financial aid assistant, and business office clerk.

In addition to completing degrees at two Alabama community colleges - Reid State and Jefferson Davis Community College - Dr. Stuart has earned a Bachelor’s in Business from Faulkner University in Montgomery and a Master’s in Education Leadership from Auburn University at Montgomery. Dr. Stuart is a graduate of the Higher Education Administration Ed.D. Program at The University of Alabama. Continuing Education includes the Economic Development Course Training at Auburn University and Basic Economic Development Training at Georgia Tech.

Dr. Stuart has served as Treasurer of the Alabama Association of College Admissions & Registrars Officers (ALACRAO) and the Alabama College System Public Relations Association (ACSPRA).
When Lurleen B. Wallace Community College’s President Dr. Herbert H. J. Riedel arrived earlier this year, he brought a wealth of international experiences, as well as a strong academic background. The son of German immigrants, Dr. Riedel was born in Canada, lived in Egypt, Germany, Colombia, and South Africa, then settled in the United States. He became a naturalized citizen in 1993.

After completing a Ph.D. in Pure Mathematics from the University of Waterloo, Canada, Riedel completed a postdoctoral year of research at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. This was followed by a tenure-track faculty appointment in the mathematics department of The Citadel. In 1990, Dr. Riedel left the world of academia to pursue an interest in international business. He established an office in Berlin and traveled extensively in Western and Eastern Europe representing the interests of his American corporate clients. He eventually returned to settle for good in the U.S. and joined the faculty at Trident Technical College, a two-year college in South Carolina. He spent twelve years in the system, progressing to department head and division chair positions.

After marrying his wife, they both took positions at a newly formed research center for nanotechnology at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Riedel served as Deputy Director there for a year. “I missed working at a community college and having the close contact with students. At the community college, we change the world every day for our students and our communities,” he explained.

Dr. Riedel’s next move was Northeast Texas Community College as Vice President for Instruction and Student Development where he prepared for his challenges as president of LBWCCC. Currently, he is focusing on completing the college’s five-year strategic plan and looks forward to the many exciting things happening in the state’s community college system. “People have asked me why I chose to live in Andalusia, after having lived in so many other places,” Riedel says: “I tell them that this is exactly the kind of community that my wife, Lisa, and I were hoping to find to raise our two sons, Willie and Matthew.”

In the short time that he has been at the College, he has been able to introduce one of his passions: the Japanese martial art of Aikido. A third degree black belt, he teaches two evening classes a week for both credit and non-credit.

WCC - Dothan Introduces Charles E. Coggins Leadership Scholarship

The Wallace Community College Foundation recently established the Charles E. Coggins Leadership Scholarship in honor of the Dothan businessman who served three years as Chairman of the Foundation.

Coggins, who retired in 2004 as Vice-President of Administration and Finance of AAA Cooper Transportation, was instrumental in helping raise more than $4 million dollars in the college’s first major gifts campaign in 2006.

The scholarship will pay up to $1100 per semester for a student who demonstrates high ethical standards, responsible citizenship, leadership and service to the community. Preference will be given to students from Houston County.

According to WCC President Dr. Linda C. Young, the criteria for the scholarship was intended to mirror Coggins’ strive for excellence and community service. “Charles Coggins is a true leader,” says Young. “He is one of the most generous, hard-working men I have ever known, and it is an honor to recognize him for his service to this college and to this community.”
Vision 2020 to Map the Direction of Athens State’s Future

As Athens State enters a new era of administration, its leadership realized the importance of physical and academic direction and began the compilation of a comprehensive Master Plan entitled VISION 2020 to be completed by the end of 2010.

This planning initiative commenced with an initial meeting of the VISION 2020 Committee in April. Athens State President Dr. Bob Glenn indicated that he expects the plan to guide major University decisions during the next decade. He also indicated that the plan should be comprehensive, visionary and feasible.

Dr. Glenn stated, “We have asked campus representatives, community leaders, and institutional experts to assist us in identifying the major components of our future vision for Athens State. We have assembled a top-notch team and are confident that their report will encompass areas of needed attention and areas of most potential.”

Dr. Jess Brown, professor of Government and Public Affairs, has been tapped to chair the VISION 2020 Committee, consisting of 25 voting members. President Glenn and Vice Presidents Rick Mould, Denver Betts, and Doug Clark will serve on the committee as ex-officio members. College Deans Linda Shonesy and Debra Baird will also be ex-officio members.


The community representatives include Robin Carter Clem, Mary Pat Martin, Bill Hunt, Judge Mike Davis and Professor Emeritus Tom Jandebeur.

Chairman Brown states, “VISION 2020 is a collaborative effort by a cross section of departmental, administrative, and community representatives. This project is essential to prepare Athens State for the increasingly dynamic arena of higher education, while keeping Athens State what it has always been – an institution that remains focused on students’ needs.”

Trenholm’s Patton Named in Book of Leaders

Dr. Gwen Patton, archivist, at Trenholm State Technical College has been a civil rights activist most of her life and has received numerous honors during her lifetime. The latest honor is having her credentials appear in a book along with many notable Alabamians.

“I was elated to learn I’ve been included with so many civil rights leaders,” said Dr. Patton. The book, African American National Biography, Volume 6, was compiled by two Harvard University professors. References to Patton comprise more than two pages in the book and resulted from interviews with her.

Patton never imagined herself as an archivist until her grandparents began giving her their memorabilia from the civil rights movement. She then realized the need for a grassroots archive for local students and community members. At Trenholm, Dr. Patton helped establish the only archive at an American two-year community college.

Dr. Patton’s involvement in the civil rights movement includes associations with a "Who's Who" of that era, including the Revs. Martin Luther King Jr., U.S. Rep. John Lewis, Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael and many more. She helped organize or support such groups as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Association of Black Students, Alabama New South Coalition, and many others.
CVCC Faculty Member Releases Book


In the book, Dr. McClanahan profiles founding fathers Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin and other important figures; traces the key issues of the day and shows how these individuals dealt with them; and details the Founders' deep faith, commitment to the cause of independence, impeccable character and visionary political ideals. McClanahan joins a wealth of other renowned history writers in this series.

McClanahan explained, “The Politically Incorrect Guide series is a hard-hitting, popular, and fast paced approach to both contemporary and historical subjects, and I was happy to be given the opportunity to add to the catalog.”

JDCC Accreditation Reaffirmed

Jefferson Davis Community College received reaffirmation for accreditation from the Commission on Colleges at its recent meeting. The reaffirmation comes after a committee from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools visited the campus in October and determined JDCC was in compliance with core requirements and comprehensive standards. The College’s Quality Enhancement Plan was also approved.

The On-Site Committee applauded Jefferson Davis Community College for a college culture that embraces continuous improvement, a committed and dedicated faculty and staff, and clean and well-maintained facilities.

President Dr. Susan McBride was pleased with the visit and thanked the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the process. Dr. McBride credited Dean of Instruction Kathleen Hall, Accreditation Liaison Sherry Martin, QEP Director Dr. Beth Billy and Math Coach Loletta Redmon with the strong results, but she said all the faculty and staff share in the high marks.

FSCC’s Daughdrill Selected for Fulbright

Faulkner State Community College Anthropology and Sociology Instructor Dr. Martha Daughdrill will have a first-hand experience of the cultures and wildlife in Africa this summer. Daughdrill was selected as a Fulbright scholar for the 2009 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program.

“I was thrilled and terrified at the same time. I have never been to Africa, which is one of the reasons I qualified for this particular seminar. The purpose of the program is to provide funds to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through improvements in teaching, research in other cultures and languages and the training of specialists,” Daughdrill said.

Daughdrill will be traveling to Senegal for almost four weeks. There are approximately 14 people listed as Fellows for the Senegal Seminar. The fellowship will cover overall costs including transportation, housing and meals.

Daughdrill, who has been an instructor at Faulkner State for eight years, is the first instructor at Faulkner State to receive the Fulbright fellowship.

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LSCC Granted
HVACR Accreditation
The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program at Lawson State Community College has been granted a six year accreditation, the highest that can be awarded, by HVAC Excellence.

“This is of significant importance to Lawson State and its community, because overall the HVAC industry has 60,000 jobs that will go unfilled this year. While other industries are downsizing and exporting jobs overseas, the HVAC industry is growing,” said Jeff Sweatmon, HVACR instructor.

HVAC Excellence commended the college and department on its presentation of information. Howard Weiss of HVACR Excellence commented that the self-study was superior in quality and unique in its presentation.

Sweatmon, along with other HVACR Instructors Brian Moore and Clay Harbour, were also commended for offering the contractors examination to graduates and for the high passing rate.

The HVAC Excellence evaluation team reviewed the qualifications of the instructors, the mission of the program, administrative responsibilities, finance and funds, student services, industry design and program elements, physical facilities, equipment and tools and cooperative training. After the review of the self study and onsite report, HVAC Excellence said that both the program and staff at Lawson State had met or exceeded all of the required standards and awarded accreditation.

Snead Instructor Studies in England
Snead State Community College Instructor Dr. Jonathan Watts will spend six days this summer in Oxford, England, to complete a religious education program.

Watts, who teaches Religion, Philosophy, and Speech, will take part in a residential program designed for clergy, theologians, teachers of religious education, and lay people with an interest in theological study at the university level. The program will explore the theme, “Creation and Creativity,” and the seminars will be taught by members of Oxford’s Theology faculty, prominent church figures, and distinguished theologians.

Dr. Watts will complete two courses as part of his post-doctorate studies, “Religion, Architecture and the Environment” and “Biblical Images of Creation.”

“I consider myself a life-long learner. I am always seeking to learn new ideas and historical connections. It is exciting to return to Oxford to do post-graduate work,” Dr. Watts said.

GSCC’s Smith-Foster Earns Award
Kay Smith-Foster, coordinator of Public Relations at Gadsden State Community College, was awarded the Alabama Community College System Public Relations Association (ACCSPRA) “Communicator of the Year” award at the association’s recent summer conference.

“This has been an incredible year for Gadsden State and I am both honored and humbled by this award,” said Smith-Foster. An employee of Gadsden State since 1991, Smith-Foster has led the Public Relations Department for eight years.
Alabama Community College Association
2009 Conference Information
November 23 and 24 - Montgomery

Conference Registration
Registration Fee - $75 per person
$100 per person if registered after October 23, 2009

Conference Fee includes:
- Lunch (Monday)
- Breakfast (Tuesday)
- Tour of Alabama Archives and Refreshments (Monday)

Registration forms will be sent soon. Please use one institutional purchase order with your registration form.

For additional information, contact ACCA Registration Coordinator, Necedah Henderson at (256) 233 - 8217, or by email at Necedah.Henderson@athens.edu

Hotel Information
Contact the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel directly to make your reservations - 334.481.5000 or 877.545.0311, or Click Here for online reservations.

To receive the special conference rate of $89 (plus tax), be sure to mention Group Code - acaacaa

Committed to our Stars
ACCA Conference
Commission Speakers

Commission on Administration
Dr. Laurel Blackwell, President, Chattahoochee Valley Community College; Dr. Robert Exley, President, Snead State Community College; and Dr. Perry Ward, President, Lawson State Community College

Planning for the Future - With the continual struggle to manage diverse student needs, workforce development demands, and pressing financial constraints of today, how are our colleges planning for tomorrow? Our expert panel of presidents will discuss vital components of successful college planning, including planning for programmatic relevance, financial stability, and for leadership succession. Their experiences will provide innovative ideas and practical lessons necessary for charting a course for tomorrow.

Commission on Students
Rick Bragg, Author and Professor, The University of Alabama

Telling the Story - As a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and celebrated storyteller, Rick Bragg understands the importance of telling a story. He credits his abilities to the oral storytelling of family and friends of his childhood in the Appalachian foothills of Alabama. In his presentation, he will share his perspective for effective storytelling and how it can help tell the story of student success.

Commission on Support
John S. Riley, Motivational Speaker & Humorist

The Attitude of a Servant - Attitude is the most important thing in service. A good attitude is a must in today’s socioeconomic environment. This presentation will focus on this perspective and offer insight to gaining a better understanding of how service is affected by one’s attitude.

Commission on Teaching and Learning
Dr. Rudolph S. Jackson, Vice-President, Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

The Faculty’s Role in Regional Accreditation - Accreditation and reaffirmation practices in the Southern Region have placed increasing emphasis on assessing outcomes, particularly student learning outcomes. To take full advantage of this perspective, the role and commitment of faculty cannot be minimized. This presentation targets important changes in terms of how institutions are evaluated, including areas where faculty involvement can be critical to successfully completing the reaffirmation process.

Commission on Workforce Development
Dr. Jerry Ingram, Professor Emeritus, Auburn University Montgomery and President of Southeast Research

Employment Training Needs in Alabama: Perspectives of Workers and Employers - Almost 40 percent of Alabama workers feel they can advance in their careers with additional job training. Yet, just over ten percent are currently participating in a job training program. Four out of ten Alabama employers rate the quality of recent job applicants as either fair or poor citing deficiencies in basic education, experience, and soft employment skills. Among their current workers, Alabama companies feel that one out of three need further training.
Sophie Repolt, a part-time student at Northwest-Shoals Community College, is taking courses to be transferred to the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University where she is working toward a degree in Professional Aeronautics. She has three classes remaining to complete her degree.

As a native of New York City and having lived in Virginia and Delaware, Repolt now finds herself in Muscle Shoals. In addition to being a student, she maintains her own 30-acre pine tree farm, and still has time to take to the skies as a corporate pilot and flight instructor. She is based at the Northwest Alabama Regional Airport in Muscle Shoals.

At NW-SCC, Repolt has taken three on-line math courses and has a 4.0 GPA. She chose the on-line program at the college for its convenience, flexibility, and cost. According to Repolt, the courses were very convenient. “Being able to work on your assignments anytime of day is so convenient,” she stated. “It does require self-discipline to keep on track with the assignments. I have to set goals and make a schedule of the things that need to be done. I also like the fact I am working on my own and can finish my work early if I need to,” Repolt added.

Repolt was able to schedule exams on the Shoals campus around her flights. “With a pilot’s schedule, a typical classroom environment would not work. If it was not for the on-line course at Northwest-Shoals, going back to school would have been impossible,” she stated.

WCCS Student Wins National Title

Bradley Wright, a student at Wallace Community College Selma, took home top honors in masonry work in the Postsecondary/College Division at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference competition recently held in Kansas City, MO.

Wright said that he first became interested in masonry in high school. After graduating from high school, Wright wanted to continue his education, but since there were no masonry programs in the area, he decided to move to Selma to attend Wallace Community College. “I looked into the other programs and WCCS clearly had the best in the state,” said Wright.

Every week he drives from northeast Alabama to Selma to attend school and he lives in his RV. “The fact that this young man moved 175 miles away from home and lives in his RV just to further his education and his craft is a testimony in itself,” said Kenny Allen, WCCS masonry instructor. “He is by far the best student I’ve ever had.”

When asked about his future goals Wright responded, “I want to eventually return to my hometown and teach masonry someday. But, for right now I want to continue to get better and defend my title at next year’s competition.”
Bishop State Community College Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) placed second in a regional competition hosted by CHEP Equipment Pooling Systems. SIFE students Donnie Jones of Eight Mile, Justin Holloway of Mobile, Nehemiah Cole of Mobile and Kenya Wright of Prichard attended the annual competition held in Orlando along with their adviser Betty Adams, instructor of Business and Economics.

SIFE is a non-profit student organization educating others on concepts of market economics, entrepreneurship, and business ethics through educational outreach projects. SIFE members’ objectives and goals include to train students in the concepts of credit counseling, thereby empowering them to deliver that knowledge to other students through peer counseling; to hold credit counseling workshops for college students, and to educate college administrators about the importance of credit counseling education.

From left to right: Donnie Jones, Justin Holloway, Nehemiah Cole, Kenya Wright and Advisor Betty Adams

Marion Military Institute Students Receive Record Appointments

The 2008-09 Service Academy Prep class, the largest in MMI’s program since World War II, achieved 78 appointments to U.S. Service Academies this spring. The number was a school record. Appointments included 37 to USMA at West Point; 20 to the Air Force Academy; 16 to the Coast Guard Academy; four to the Naval Academy; and one to the Merchant Marine Academy.

Wallace State’s Foster a National Champion

Wallace State Community College has another national championship. Joey Foster earned the gold medal in welding at the national SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City, MO.

As a two-time state champion, this was Foster’s second trip to the national stage. “I worked and worked as hard as I could for this,” Foster said. “Ever since the national competition in 2008 when I came in fifth, I had been practicing and told myself I was going to finish first the next time around.”

At the event, Foster and the nation’s top career and technical students in welding were judged on both written and performance-based tests. In his division, Foster competed against winners from 38 states who qualified for nationals in welding.

“Wallace State has helped me so much,” Foster said. “It’s given me great opportunities, helped me get my name out there and given me some great career advancement possibilities.”

Foster’s goals include using his welding career as a way to travel the world. If he is successful at the SkillsUSA pre-world competition in Chicago in November 2010, he’ll advance to the international competition in London in 2011.
Some three hundred more students are attending Northeast Alabama Community College this summer than last summer, representing a 21 percent increase in student enrollment. Records show that this summer’s enrollment is the largest summer enrollment at the college in thirty-nine years.

College officials noted that community colleges are increasing enrollment throughout Alabama and the nation. Most attribute this to economic conditions as people facing uncertain times turn to community colleges for new careers or retraining. “That is certainly a factor in our increase this summer,” stated Dr. David Campbell, president. “However, our enrollment here at Northeast has increased about seventy percent over the past seven years.”

NACC officials attribute the enrollment increase to new programs of study that have been added; an expanded curriculum; emphasis on financial aid and student loan programs; dual enrollment; new services in Admissions; as well as working closely with local school systems.

“We’ve attempted to do some new and specific things to help people through these trying times,” Campbell added. “Our Adult Education program has established some very well received special needs programs for those who have lost jobs. Our Workforce Development Division has begun some excellent job training programs, including those in industrial maintenance, welding technology and machining technology.”

Many students attending four-year colleges are enrolled at Northeast this summer as well. Dean of Students Tonie Niblett noted that students home for the summer can make progress toward their baccalaureate degrees at four-year institutions. NACC students consistently have ranked at the top among Alabama community colleges in their academic success when they transfer to a four-year college or university.

During the recent Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society International Convention in Grapevine, Texas, Jefferson State Community College’s Shelby-Hoover Campus Chapter was named “2009 Most Distinguished Chapter” out of the more than 1,250 chapters worldwide. This is the second consecutive year the chapter has earned this honor. They are the first repeat winners in more than 20 years.

During the Convention, top chapters from around the world compete in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service for this most prestigious award. The competition examines projects and work done throughout the year by each chapter.

“This is an incredible achievement,” said Jefferson State Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Dr. Leisl Ward. “I am so proud of the students for their hard work and tireless efforts. It would have been very easy for the students to relax a bit after winning last year, but they continued to work hard and have added another exciting chapter to the tradition of excellence here at Jefferson State.”
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**EOCC Student Excee in Program**

Avionics Technology Graduate **Cindy Flowers** of Ozark took on a tough career program at EOCC and met the challenge with excellence. She was recently named to the All-Alabama Academic Team. As a part of her participation, she was one of 50 national recipients of the U.S.A. Today--Coca Cola Scholarships---bronze level. The scholarships are offered at three levels of 50 each---gold, silver, and bronze.

A displaced shirt factory worker, Flowers was faced with either finding another job or going to college, Flowers chose college. "I knew EOCC was in my area, and I chose it, and I fell in love with it," she explained.

"In a class of 24, there were only seven women," she explained. "I had family members who were doubtful as to whether I really wanted to do this in a male-dominated field. But, if we put our minds to it we can do anything."

"Many people my age would not have stuck to this," said Flowers, "and I was pregnant and had a sick baby, and still stayed focused. Then I had another baby and still finished the program. I started fall semester 2006 and finished last December. If I can do this in my 30’s and go from working in a shirt factory, then others can too."

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**Calhoun’s PTK Chapter Honored at State Convention**

During the recent Alabama regional convention for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Calhoun Community College’s Sigma Lambda chapter was recognized for its outstanding work with several major awards.

The chapter was recognized as a 5-Star chapter for the second consecutive year, which is the highest honor awarded by PTK, and was presented with the Pinnacle Award for the second year in a row for increasing their overall membership by at least 10% over the previous year. Additionally, chapter members won the Spirit Stick during the convention and were honored with the Silver Award for donating the second highest number of books in the state to PTK’s international book project.

**Karen Bright**, Decatur campus PTK sponsor and coordinator of Calhoun’s Pre-Engineering program, was honored as the state’s most outstanding PTK sponsor by receiving the Distinguished Advisor Award and student members **Jesse Carpenter** and **Irene Georgiou** were recognized as 2009 Coca-Cola Scholars. Calhoun Biology instructor **Felecia Ewing** serves as sponsor for the college’s Huntsville campus PTK program.

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**From left to right: Karen Bright, Calhoun PTK sponsor and PTK members Marie Pridmore, Jesse Carpenter and Miranda Mitchell.**

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**During the recent Alabama regional convention for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Calhoun Community College’s Sigma Lambda chapter was recognized for its outstanding work with several major awards.**
Southern Union Integrates Technology to Strengthen Instruction

Southern Union State Community College’s Health Science programs will be enhanced by incorporating Apple’s iPod Touch technology into its curriculum this fall. The college will become the first two-year program in the state to use the technology in their health sciences programs.

While use of Personal Digital Assistants has been adopted by numerous schools across the country, using the iPod Touch in education is a relatively new concept. Southern Union is following the lead of prestigious schools such as The Ohio State University School of Medicine and Duke University in incorporating iTouch technology to enhance student learning.

SU’s Registered Nursing, Radiography and Surgical Technology programs will integrate this hand held technology into the curricula to make clinical duties easier and to improve classroom learning. “Students can basically carry what equates to four textbooks, lab manuals and medical reference guides around in their pocket,” commented Chris Reed, a member of the Southern Union nursing faculty whose class tested the program during the spring semester.

Reed said using the iTouch has many advantages, and will be a critical tool for saving time and improving quality of patient care. “If a student is unsure of something, they can find an answer instantly by referring to a number of resources that are available literally at their fingertips,” he said.

By using the iTouch, students are able to access streaming video, look up reference materials, and contact their instructor instantly; components all designed to provide students with a more overall visual learning experience. The iTouch will also serve as an interactive response system in the classroom, allowing instructors to poll their class and instantly gauge how well students are grasping a concept based on the response.

Reid State Receives Grant

Reid State Technical College received a notice of a grant award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant provides scholarships for disadvantaged students that are enrolled full time in the LPN program.

The grants were written by Thomas Sunday, who commented, "The current award marks the fourth grant received from HRSA. The 2009 award of $20,000 brings the total awards to approximately $170,000 received by Reid State to assist LPN students."

Shelton’s Adult Ed Program Awarded

The Adult Education Program at Shelton State Community College has been honored with a 2009 Innovation of the Year Award by the League for Innovation in the Community College.

Dr. Fran Turner, Philip Johnson, Curtis Coleman, Julia Chancey, and Kristen Peoples were principles in the project that led Shelton State Community College to become the first Adult Education (AE) program in Alabama to provide on-line professional development opportunities for its 34 faculty and staff serving students across five counties. Segments included an update on program policies, encouragement and information from college personnel including the president and key administrative staff, and "Best Practices" sessions, which enabled instructors to share and participate in learning about successful instructional activities.

“The quality of the teaching, as well as the preparation and expertise of the instructors, is a focal point of any good Adult Education program,” said Turner. “It is exciting that Shelton State Community College has taken the lead in providing innovative professional development opportunities for the local program faculty and staff and that we served as a model for regional workshops.”

Due to its effectiveness, this program has become a model for the regional professional development workshops by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education.
Three Gadsden State Community College students who expected to enter the nursing field may be making a change in plans after being selected for the Summer Rural Pre-Medical Internship program. GSCC students Christian Beck, Leena Dupre, and Alex Goodman are among an exclusive group of 20 students selected for the prestigious program under the direction of the UAB School of Medicine and the Huntsville Regional Medical Campus.

The internship program is for sophomores and juniors interested in Primary Care/Family Practice Medicine and Rural Practice where Alabama has a serious deficiency. There are many areas of the state where residents are a considerable distance away from medical care. The program provides students with exposure to the health care needs of rural Alabama, giving particular attention to the primary care specialties of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. It will also improve their understanding of medical school, the training of family doctors and the practice of family medicine/primary care in rural areas. In addition to a stipend to assist with their living costs, the participants in the program receive tutorial help in preparing for examinations for medical school admission.

The three students were among those who have taken the Gross Anatomy courses at GSCC’S McClellan Center. This was the first year Gross Anatomy courses were offered at the college. Last fall, Gadsden State became the first Alabama two-year college to have gross anatomy labs where students learn from real cadavers.

Bevill State Receives Grant for Engineering Department

Bevill State Community College has been awarded a grant in the amount of $572,843, for its Engineering department from the National Science Foundation. The five-year grant will fund scholarships for the Math, Chemistry, and Physics Preparation (MCAPP) program. The project will provide funding for 12 scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year, with an anticipated 18 scholarships per year over the next four years of the grant.

The MCAPP program is a pre-Engineering program designed to prepare students for an Engineering career. Students receive personalized attention, tutoring services, and hands-on learning opportunities in the first two years of their Engineering major in preparation for transfer to a four-year university.

"We are delighted to receive such a prestigious grant," said Dr. Anne McNutt, Bevill State President. "It will provide a wonderful opportunity for individuals to pursue higher education without assuming thousands of dollars in debt. With this scholarship opportunity, students have a clear-cut career path to graduate from four-year programs."
**ATN’s Weatherford Receives Certification**

Kristi Weatherford, a Project Engineer with the Alabama Technology Network, has completed all requirements for certification as an Associate Safety Professional. This certification is awarded to individuals who meet academic requirements and have passed the first of two extensive examinations.

Upon passing the first examination individuals receive the interim designation of ASP to indicate their progress toward the Certified Safety Professional (CSP). The first examination covers basic and applied sciences, safety program management and evaluation, equipment and facilities, fire prevention and protection, environmental aspects, system safety and product safety.

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**Marion Military Institute Dedicates Renovated Hall**

Marion Military Institute alumni, cadets and staff recently gathered to celebrate the dedication of James W. Rane Hall.

Formerly known as New South barracks, constructed in 1959, the building was recently renovated through funding provided by Jimmy Rane, a former MMI Alumnus of the Year (2007), who graduated from Marion Military Institute’s high school in 1964.

Former MMI President Col. Jim Benson, USMC (Ret), introduced Rane as “a great Alabamian, a great American and a national business leader.” Rane is Chairman, President and CEO of Great Southern Wood Preserving, Inc.

Rane said he was humbled to have a campus building named in his honor and reflected on his time as a cadet: “I have always credited the days that I spent here, the lessons that I learned, as turning my whole life around...Marion did a great job at helping me refocus my life and maybe turning out a little better than when I got here.”

The unveiling of a bronze-engraved plaque featuring a bas-relief of Rane concluded the dedication ceremony.

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**Bishop’s Jordan Recognized**

Bishop State Community College Public Relations Director Herb Jordan has been named a senior practitioner in his profession by the Southern Public Relations Federation.

Jordan received the status following his recognition by the Mobile Chapter of the Public Relations Council of Alabama as "a veteran public relations practitioner who has exhibited exemplary ethical standards in the profession, and who has demonstrated a sincere commitment to the development and growth of the public relations profession."

SPRF is a regional organization whose members are public relations professionals in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi.

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Joanie Stephen
(251) 990-2507
joanie@SmartWorkEthics.com
Drake State Partners with Army Garrison Command

The Army Garrison Command at Redstone Arsenal and Drake State Technical College have entered into a partnership for a Cooperative Educational Program. The agreement will become effective for the Fall Semester of 2009.

The agreement provides students studying at Drake State the opportunity to participate in STEP - Student Temporary Employment Program. The program allows participating students to work part time gaining valuable on-the-job experience while completing their educational requirements.

“The Garrison’s immediate need for inspectors is a perfect fit for students participating in the Drafting, Electrical and Heating and Air Conditioning Programs of study at Drake,” adds Dr. Helen McAlpine, president of Drake State. “The partnership with the Army Garrison is just another opportunity for Drake State to deliver on our motto of: Our Graduates Work.”

“In effort to meet our future manpower requirements, we have established Cooperative Education Agreements with several local four year college and universities which will supplement other recruitment and staffing programs,” said Joe W. Winston, director of Human Resources for the Army Garrison. “Drake is the first two year college that we have established an agreement with as we continue to enhance workforce development.”

A student, who participates in STEP or Co-op at the Garrison, will be considered for permanent placement into an authorized position upon completion of the program.

Training Held at Bevill State

A Mine Emergency Command Center Training session was held on the Sumiton Campus of Bevill State Community College recently with Alabama mining officials, Drummond Coal Company’s mine safety team and the safety teams that represent the State. Individuals from MSHA, United Mine Workers and state mine enforcement personnel attended the session to update the training these teams undergo in case of a mine disaster.

The emergency training included setting up a command center, choosing the personnel who will function in specified roles during a disaster and working through possible disaster scenarios inside the simulated mine on the Sumiton Campus.

“This is the first time in the state that we have put mine rescue teams and a command center together, working a disaster scenario,” said Ken Russell, director of Mine Training. “This critical training was made possible due to the Brookwood-Sago Grant received to develop command center training.”

Calhoun Featured in Career Campaign

Calhoun Community College was among eight area two-year colleges featured in the local launch of a national awareness campaign designed to change the image of manufacturing careers in the minds of 16 to 26 year-olds, their parents, teachers and counselors. The campaign conducted its Tennessee Valley launch in May with an event on Calhoun’s Cummings Research Park campus.

“Dream it, Do it” is a program developed by the National Association of Manufacturers in Washington D.C. It was piloted in the Kansas City area and is currently being used in twelve areas across the country.

Current and former Calhoun students, Calhoun faculty, and representatives of area companies employing Calhoun graduates are featured in the campaign.
Alabama Community College Association
2009 Annual Conference
November 23 and 24, 2009
Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center

Tentative Conference Agenda

**Monday, November 23, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Facilitators Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Newcomers’ Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Chancellor’s Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Transitional Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Association Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Vendor Expo</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>First General Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Transitional Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Vendor Expo/Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Commission Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Alabama State Archives Building</td>
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<td>Q &amp; A with Chancellor</td>
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<td>Tour/Refreshments</td>
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*Box Lunch Served in Vendor Area*

**Tuesday, November 24, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Vendor Expo</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Transitional Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Transitional Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Second General Session</td>
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<td>Chancellor’s Address</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACCA Business Meeting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Light Breakfast Served in Vendor Area*

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