ACC Goes Green

The Horticulture Technology program at Alamance Community College, under the direction of Department Head Justin Snyder, underwent a step-by-step transformation from traditional agricultural methods to sustainable and renewable energy practices since the summer of 2011. Opened in January 2012 was a new solar greenhouse, allowing students to grow vegetation in the winter. Not only are Horticulture students learning cutting-edge technology for the industry, but these new tools will save the College money in energy costs over the coming years.

(Above) Students in the Greenhouse Operations class, working inside the solar greenhouse, transplanted vegetables from seed flats to final product plots.

(Above) A "Live Roof", composed of different varieties of sedum (a large genus of flowering plants) was installed on the roof of the outdoor classroom building in Horticulture as part of the program's ongoing sustainability program. The low maintenance Live Roof will reduce energy costs by insulating the building better, thereby lowering heating and coolings bills. It also extends the life of the roof.

Other curriculums partnered with Horticulture to create eye-catching signage that explains ACC's renewable energy initiative. Advertising and Graphic Design student teams brainstormed ideas for directional signs, a kiosk, and brochures, and the designs of five students were selected. Mechanical Drafting converted the files to provide full scale dimensions to the Welding program, which created the three-dimensional pieces that serve as informative signage on the Horticulture property.

Graphic design student Marissa Armstrong (above right) eyes one of her sculpture designs with welding student Kelly DuRee; (below) another of the metal sculptures.

The Sustainability Club sponsored ACC's 2nd Annual Sustainability Week to promote "green" practices to the ACC community. Campus events included an open house and plant sale at the Horticulture solar greenhouse; local guest speakers on recycling and renewable energy; and a PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Day of Service to clean up and plant in a campus herb garden.

See **Green** on page 3

TECH Knowledge

The Alamance Community College Newsletter

Spring 2012

Green (continued from front)

(Below left) Welding students put the final touches on the cistern sculpture, a piece designed by graphic design student Chad Wilkinson. The actual cistern is a container that recycles storm water. Alamance County artisan, Wendy Gellert, donated the glass and use of her kiln to fuse it. (Below right) Jason Horner of Duncan Parnell created and installed the text labels for the signs that offer information about each renewable energy site on campus.

(Above) Welding Dept. Head Mike Holt shows student Kaeli Murphy how her design for directional signs will be created through welding; (right) Murphy poses with her dogwood flower design, selected by Horticulture Dept. Head Justin Snyder and ACC President Dr. Martin Nadelman; (below) another sculpture depicting recycling.

Girl Scout Troop 2178 from Caswell County received the inaugural "Growing Green" campus tour to learn about sustainability and various plant life to help earn several merit badges. Horticulture instructor Carol Kawula (below right) was the tour guide. Each girl also chose their own plants to design a take-home project.

College, Public Schools, Commissioners Meet to Discuss Issues

Representatives from Alamance Community College, Alamance-Burlington School System and the Alamance County Board of Commissioners attended a joint dinner meeting recently to discuss collaborative efforts between ACC and the public school system.

Presentations and a question-and-answer session allowed county commissioners and other key community leaders to learn more about specific partnerships between the two school systems.

Members from the ABSS Board of Education and the ACC Board of Trustees were seated with public officials to facilitate conversations.

Collaborative efforts aimed at serving high school students while facilitating workforce training and economic development included: Career & College Promise, Stem Cell Pipeline classes, Business & Industry's Yellow Belt Six Sigma program, and the ABSS Middle College.

ACC President Dr. Martin H. Nadelman and ABSS Superintendent Dr. Lillie Cox emphasized that these efforts are collaborative—not independent or duplicative—in serving 40,000 local citizens.

Attending the ACC-ABSS dinner included (l-r) ACC President Dr. Martin Nadelman, ACC Trustee Carl Steinbicker; ABSS Superintendent Dr. Lillie Cox; and ABSS School Board Chair Jackie Cole.