

ESCC Graduates Over 150 at 2013 Commencement Ceremony



Over 150 degrees and certificates were awarded to Eastern Shore Community College students at ESCC's 42nd annual commencement ceremony held on May 15th. Commencement Marshall Wanda Smith, a recently retired Assistant Professor of English, led the graduates to the ceremony held on the college lawn.

The commencement address was presented by Jeffrey K. Mitchell, a member of the Virginia State Board of Community Colleges. In his address Mr. Mitchell discussed the similarities between the Eastern Shore and his home in Southwest Virginia, including the distinct cultures and the economic challenges.

Diplomas and certificates were presented to graduates by ESCC President Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, College Board Chair Lloyd Kellam, Jr., and Robin Rich-Coates, Assistant to the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. Awards presented include 48 Associate of Arts & Sciences degrees, 43 Associate of Applied Science degrees, 31 Certificates, and 40 Career Studies Certificates.

ESCC's 2013 Valedictorian was Courtney Brittingham. Special guests in attendance included former ESCC President Dr. Richard Jenkins, philanthropists Barbara and Steve Johnsen, and members of the Eastern Shore Community College Board and the Eastern Shore Community College Foundation Board.

ESCC Launches Alumni Association Newsletter

Eastern Shore Community College has launched the *ESCC Alumni News* to keep in touch with alumni, share success stories, and report on ESCC activities and events.

The quarterly *ESCC Alumni*

News is mailed to alumni, and is also available online at www.es.vccs.edu.

The ESCC Alumni Association was established in 2012 by ESCC President Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover. All graduates are inducted

into the ESCC Alumni Association at the annual commencement ceremony.

Share your stories with us and request an email version of the *ESCC Alumni News* by writing to: alumni@es.vccs.edu

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----------|
| 2013 Valedictorian Courtney Brittingham | 2 |
| Distinguished Alumni: Wendy Marshall | 2 |
| Grant Spence Gets SMART Scholarship | 2 |
| NASA Rocket Launches Student Payloads | 3 |
| National Science Foundation Grant Awarded | 3 |
| Faculty Members Deal and Smith Retire | 3 |
| FAQ's for ESCC Alumni Association | 4 |

Tell us your ESCC Alumni News and Stories:

- New Jobs
- Promotions
- Continuing Education
- Scholarships & Awards
- Community Service
- Marriage & Family
- Special Interests
- Send to: alumni@es.vccs.edu



Courtney Brittingham
2013 ESCC Valedictorian
(Photo by Charles Killmon)

Courtney Brittingham, 2013 ESCC Valedictorian

Attendees at ESCC's 42nd Annual Commencement Ceremony weren't expecting a karate demonstration, but 2013 ESCC Valedictorian **Courtney Brittingham** provided one.

In her valedictory address, Courtney spoke about overcoming obstacles in life and how she has learned to keep on fighting when obstacles get in the way. To illustrate her point at the end of the

address, Courtney's karate sensei joined her onstage and assisted her in "breaking a board" to cheers from the audience.

A science student at ESCC, Courtney was also a Phi Theta Kappa member. As a Student Ambassador, she spoke on two occasions at the General Assembly in Richmond on behalf of ESCC.

Courtney will attend the Uni-

versity of Mary Washington to study biology and chemistry, and has received scholarships from the Academy of Lifelong Learning and Phi Theta Kappa.

Of her many fond memories as an ESCC student, Courtney especially appreciates, "Being able to get to know the ESCC faculty and the opportunity to be a member of Phi Theta Kappa."

"I am forever grateful for their passion for learning, their support, and their guidance."

Wendy Marshall

Distinguished Alumni: Wendy Marshall

When **Wendy Marshall** began attending classes at ESCC in 1996, she was working several part-time jobs and her goal was to have one job with a decent salary and good benefits. Two college degrees later and a successful career at Edward Jones Investments, Wendy has more than achieved her original ESCC student goal.

As one of ESCC's outstanding success stories, Wendy was inducted this year into the ESCC Distinguished Alumni Program.

Wendy, a 1999 ESCC graduate, credits many people along the way for helping her achieve success and says, "I'm indebted to the folks at ESCC for showing me that hard work pays off, and

especially for believing in me."

While she had many favorite ESCC faculty and staff members, Wendy singles out Robin Rich-Coates and Pat Phillips and says, "I am forever grateful for their passion for learning, their support, and their guidance."



Grant Spence, ESCC 2011

Grant Spence Receives SMART Scholarship

Grant Spence, ESCC 2011, has received a national Science, Mathematics And Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship in recognition of his academic performance at Virginia Tech. In addition to other benefits, the SMART Scholarship provides a \$25,000

cash award for each year he continues his education, pays his full tuition, and includes a paid internship.

The SMART Scholarship for Service Program supports students pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Grant, who is the son of Dr. Terry and Linda Baylis Spence of Exmore, completed his Associate of Arts and Sciences degree in General Studies at ESCC before transferring to Virginia Tech to study computer hardware engineering. Congratulations, Grant!

NASA Sounding Rocket Launches ESCC Student Payloads

Scientific experiments built by two ESCC teams were launched from Wallops Island aboard a NASA sounding rocket on June 20th.

The ESCC teams joined over 75 students and faculty members from colleges and universities across the country in NASA's RockOn and RockSat-C programs.

The sunrise launch carried 18 experiments to an altitude of 73 miles before splashdown and recovery off Wallops Island.

The ESCC RockOn team's payload was assembled from a kit with an array of sensors to measure environmental conditions during flight. Students **Paul Proctor** and **Amanda Thomas**, and faculty advisor **Greg Armstrong**, were on ESCC's RockOn team.

ESCC's RockSat-C payload was designed to test radio transmission of real-time flight data from space to earth using low-cost, off the shelf components. The pro-

ject was custom designed and built by electronics technology students, with guidance from faculty advisor **John Floyd**. Student project leaders **Nygel Meece** and **Chase Riley** were at the launch.

Project funding was provided, in part, by a MentorLinks grant from the American Association of Community Colleges and by the ESCC Foundation.



2013 NASA RockOn Launch
(NASA Photo by Chris Perry)

National Science Foundation Grant Awarded to ESCC

The National Science Foundation has awarded an Advanced Technological Education grant of \$198,248 to ESCC for the "Linking Employers and Academic Needs" (LEAN) Internship Project.

The project will develop internships to prepare students for entry-level science, tech-

nology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers and complete certificates or AAS degrees in STEM-related fields. The project will also increase opportunities for women and under-represented students, develop an internship guidebook, and provide on-site faculty professional development at

the NASA Wallops Flight Facility and the Navy Surface Combat Systems Center.

ESCC President Dr. Linda Glover said, "This grant will help the College address one of our major challenges-meeting the workforce needs of an economically distressed rural area."

"This grant will help the College address one of our major challenges - meeting the workforce needs of an economically distressed rural area."

Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover

Faculty Members Deal and Smith Retire

The close of the 2012-2013 academic year brings the retirement of two ESCC faculty members.

John R. Deal, Jr., Associate Professor of Information Systems Technology, retired after teaching for 10 years at ESCC. While teaching at

ESCC, Mr. Deal worked to improve the Information Systems Technology program. Mr. Deal is now teaching for Johns Hopkins University.

Wanda T. Smith, Assistant Professor of English, first became associated with ESCC in the 1970's as an

adjunct English professor. Ms. Smith began working full-time at ESCC in 1986, and retired in May after 26 years. Ms. Smith is enjoying her retirement, with more time for family and friends, reading at the beach, gardening, and playing with her grandchildren.



Wanda Smith
(Photo by Charles Killmon)



29300 Lankford Highway
Melfa, VA 23410

We're on the Web!
www.es.vccs.edu

Phone: 757.789.1789

Email: alumni@es.vccs.edu



2013 ESCC Graduate
(Photo by Charles Killmon)

FAQ's for ESCC Alumni Association

What is the ESCC Alumni Association?

The ESCC Alumni Association was established in 2012 to create a community for ESCC graduates that helps them keep informed about each other's accomplishments and successes.

How do I tell the ESCC Alumni Association about my professional and personal accomplishments?

To share your professional

and personal accomplishments with the ESCC Alumni Association, send an e-mail to alumni@es.vccs.edu. You can also reach us on Facebook and Twitter.

Will the ESCC Alumni Association be holding special events such as class reunions?

The ESCC Alumni Association is interested in holding special events. Please let us know what type of special events you would like to participate in.

How do I become a member of the ESCC Alumni Association?

All ESCC graduates are inducted as Alumni Association members at the annual commencement ceremony. If you graduated before 2013, please send an email with your contact information to alumni@es.vccs.edu so we can add you to the membership list.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

ESCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Janet Justis, Dean of Learning Resources, 29300 Lankford Highway, Melfa, VA 23410 757-789-1723