

2014 ESCC Commencement Ceremony Held

ESCC's 43rd commencement ceremony was held on May 16th. Commencement Marshall **Ann W. Handy**, a recently retired Associate Professor of Administrative Support Technology, led the graduates to the ceremony.

The Invocation was given by ESCC student **Mary Taylor**, and the National Anthem was sung by ESCC graduate **Florence Bendix**. ESCC College Board Chairman **Lloyd Kellam, Jr.** welcomed those in attendance, and **Lieutenant Governor Ralph S. Northam** present-



ed the commencement address. The Valedictorian was **Andrew Muender**.

Diplomas and certificates were presented to graduates by **Dr. Linda Thomas -Glover**, ESCC President, **Dr. Melody Moore**, Interim Vice President of Academic

and Student Affairs, **Robin Rich-Coates**, Assistant to the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, and **P. Bryan Smith**, Dean of Student Services. Congratulations to all 2014 ESCC graduates!

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Long Term Care Assistant Students Receive Pins

ESCC Long Term Care Assistant students received their pins on May 15th. **Ramona Capers Kellam**, RN, was the guest speaker. Clinical Instructor **Ginny Mueller**, RN, presented pins to the graduates. Nursing Professor **Linda Pruitt**, RN, MS, presented the special awards, including Highest Academic Average to **Krystal Archuleta** and Best Clinical Bedside Nurse to **Stephanie Gray**.

The Practical Nursing class includes, front row, **Stepha-**



nie Gray, **Krystal Archuleta**, **Lyndia Young**, **Valestine Northam**, and **Valerie Payton**. In the back row are **Amanda**

Pruitt, **Tina Oakley**, **Heaven Kellam**, **Brenda Lyons**, **Nikia Kellam**, and **Toni Ward**. **Erica Obando** is not pictured.

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

Andrew Muender, 2014 ESCC Valedictorian



Andrew Muender

Andrew Muender, ESCC's 2014 Valedictorian, challenged his fellow graduates to combat the ignorance in their lives by focusing on common ground, and using hard thinking and goodwill to follow the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." In considering the benefits of following the Golden Rule, Andrew suggested that, "Your existence will be celebrated by the less fortunate who you help. You can, to

a large extent, outsmart the limitations that ignorance straps on you."

As an ESCC student, Andrew's most transformative class was the Honors Seminar, where he gave a speech on how economic scarcity and incentives relate to competition. Andrew enjoyed getting to know ESCC faculty members, and thanked them and his family for making his graduation possible.

An Exmore resident, Andrew was homeschooled before attending ESCC. He graduated with dual degrees in Liberal Arts and Electronics Technology. While an ESCC student, Andrew completed an electronics internship at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) and was a Phi Theta Kappa member. Andrew is now interviewing for jobs at WFF and plans to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

2014 ESCC Distinguished Alumni Honored

Eastern Shore Community College inducted three individuals into the Distinguished Alumni Program at a luncheon held March 21st at ESCC. The program, in its third year, recognizes ESCC graduates for their successes and exemplary service to their profession and/or their community. The individuals were nominated by college faculty and staff and then supplied additional information regarding their professional and community activities as well as their experiences at ESCC.

Berran Rodgers, Sr., received an Associate's Degree in Education and General Studies from the college in May 1971. As a soldier returning from Vietnam, he decided to further his education at ESCC. He also attended Norfolk State and UMES. Mr. Rodgers was a U.S.D.A. supervisor in Accomack for many years and also served on the Accomack County School Board for sixteen years. Mr. Rodgers says that the personal contact and guidance he received from the faculty and staff at ESCC prepared him professionally, and served as the impetus to propel

him into a rewarding and successful career working for the federal government.

Robin Sexauer graduated from the college in May 1991 with an associate's degree in Business. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree from ODU and a master's degree from VCU. She is currently employed at the Virginia Division of Rehabilitative Services as a Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Ms. Sexauer is very active in the community, especially with the Eastern Shore Alzheimer's Leadership Council, and received a Northampton County Citizen of the Year Award in 2013. She feels ESCC was a stepping stone that encouraged her to pursue her bachelor's and master's degrees.

Ted Shockley is well known as the editor of the Eastern Shore News and the Chincoteague Beacon. He attended ESCC from 1991 to 1993, before transferring to Salisbury University where he earned a bachelor's degree in English with a



Ted Shockley, Robin Sexauer, Berran Rogers, Sr., Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover

concentration in Secondary Education. In his professional career, he has won more than thirty writing awards from in the Virginia Press Association.

Mr. Shockley was the lead editor at the Eastern Shore News when the publication won the Newspaper of the Year Award five times in the past ten years.

He has also been active in the community, working with the Eastern Shore Public Library and the Northampton County

Education Foundation. He says ESCC combined two great environments: a challenging place of academic rigor and familiar neighborhood feeling approachability.

Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover commented, "The college is pleased to once again recognize our Distinguished Alumni. These three individuals exemplify success in their professional and community activities and we are honored to say they got their start at ESCC."

ESCC PTK Members Attend Annual Convention in Orlando

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) faculty advisor **Robin Rich-Coates** accompanied eight students to the PTK Annual Convention in Orlando, FL April 23-27. Keynote speakers on this year's Honors Study Topic, "Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration," included Dr. Bob Ballard, the oceanographer who found and explored the Titanic shipwreck, and Alison Levine, one of the first women to climb Mt. Everest. The students and advisor also attended Educational Forums, participated in the election of International Officers for 2014-15, and networked with approximately 4,100 PTK students and advisors from around the world. Ms. Rich-Coates presented an Educational Forum on doing an Honors in Action Project. In their free time, students opted to visit the Magic Kingdom, Universal Studios, and SeaWorld. The trip was supported, in part, by the ESCC Foundation.



Left to Right: **Raul Gildovaca, Megin van der Spuy, Kirstin Gray, Robin Rich-Coates, Brooke LeCato, Javona Bibbins, Katelyn Ellis, Josh Hall, Josh Taylor**

ESCC Retirements



Ann Handy

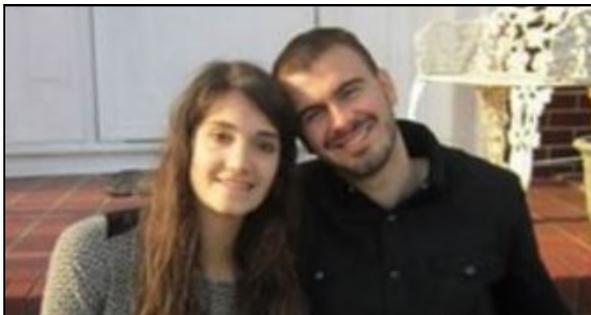
Ann Handy: ESCC Associate Professor of Administrative Support Technology, will retire after 25 full-time years at ESCC. Ms. Handy, who started teaching at ESCC as an adjunct instructor on 1972, will devote her retirement to community service endeavors.

Bryan Smith: ESCC Dean of Student Services Bryan Smith will retire at the end of June. Mr. Smith has worked at ESCC for 27 years and, "Has loved the opportunity to help students navigate college." During retirement, Mr. Smith will enjoy more family time and boating.



Bryan Smith

ESCC Transitions



Bradley Spence and Stephanie Kraft

Bradley Spence, ESCC 2011: Bradley Spence and Stephanie Kraft became engaged in April and plan to be married in July 2015. A General Studies major at ESCC, Bradley earned a B.A. in Psychology from Regent University and is now working on an M.A. in Mental Health Counseling. Stephanie plans to be a drama teacher.

Bill Nicholson: Retired ESCC English professor Bill Nicholson passed away on April 13th. Bill taught English at ESCC for 25 years, and wrote a book and two plays about Virginia's Eastern Shore. Bill is survived by his wife of 50 years, Anne Phillips Nicholson, sons William and Robert and their wives, and four grandchildren.

ESCC Success Story: Lakishia Banister



Lakishia Bannister

As a young girl, Lakishia Bannister always dreamed of going to college, and applied to several institutions while in the 11th grade. But when she graduated from Nandua High School in 2001, she was seven months pregnant. With college dreams on hold, Lakishia married and spent the next eight years raising three children.

In January 2009 she took her first ESCC classes, began studying at Salisbury University in 2010, and graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in

English. Lakishia then earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in January 2012, and now teaches English for Speakers of Other Languages for Accomack County.

Her current goals are to become a secondary school English teacher and pursue a doctorate in Education or Reading. Lakishia says, "If I can do this, anyone can do this. Just dream big, have persistence, and never quit."

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



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