A&T Prepares for New SACS Requirement
Quality Enhancement Plan requires input from broader campus community

Next spring, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) will come to North Carolina A&T State University for an on-site reaffirmation of accreditation visit.

N.C. A&T is up for reaccreditation every 10 years. The University has been preparing for this spring 2010 visit since 2006, when the provost appointed the SACS Steering Committee—more than two dozen individuals (see list for membership) representing a wide range of expertise to ensure that all segments of the University have a voice in the SACS process.

Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, and other health care settings, working under the supervision of a pharmacist. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

The medical billing and coding program is a 70-hour course that provides training in solving insurance billing problems, manually filing claims using the CPT and ICD-9 manual, completing common insurance forms, tracking delinquent claims, appealing denied claims and using generic forms to streamline billing procedures. The class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, March 9-May 27, 6-9:30 p.m.

The coursework covers CPT introduction, guidelines, evaluation and management; specialty fields such as surgery, radiology and laboratory; ICD-9 introduction and guidelines, and basic claims processes for medical insurance and third party payers.

After gaining practical work experience (six months to two years), students who complete this course could be qualified to sit for the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC)—Certified Professional Coder Exam (CPC) or CPC-H Apprentice, the American Health Information Association (AHIMA)—Certified Coding Associate (CCA) exam, and other national certification exams.

The 90-hour phlebotomy technician program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Students will become familiar with all aspects related to blood collection and develop comprehensive skills to completely and safely perform venipunctures. Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection techniques, specimen handling, practice on actual phlebotomy patients, and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. Additionally, this program will prepare students to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT) - Phlebotomy Technician national certification exam. Classes will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, March 9-May 18, and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The 90-hour echocardiography program is a comprehensive 50-hour certification program that prepares students to function as EKG technicians and to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technician (ASPT) - Echocardiograph (SKE) Technician exam and other National Certification Exams. The class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, March 9-May 4, 6-9:30 p.m.

This course will include important practice and background information on anatomy of the heart and physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics, legal aspects of patient contact, laboratory assist, electrocardiography and echocardiography. Additionally, students will practice with equipment and perform hands-on labs including introduction to the function and proper use of the EKG machine, the normal anatomy of the heart, the search for proper lead placement, 12-lead placement and other clinical practices.

For other details, call Pat White, associate director of the Office of Evening Weekend and Continuing Education, at (336) 334-7749.
“the poet,” a poem by Anjel Rashidah Ahmed, director of the Creative Writing Program, has been selected for inclusion in the second installment of the North Carolina Art Council’s three volume series, The Literary Trail Guide. The volume will be available online (www.ncarts.org) and in print.

Kacie Black, assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling in the department of human development and services, co-authored a peer-reviewed article, “Unifying and Elevating Rehabilitation Counseling Through Model-Driven, Diversity-Sensitive Evidence-Based Practice,” that has been published in the Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling (Volume 39, Winter 2009).

Fuaduah Fonse, associate professor of history, recently attended the Celebrating the Legacy of Pan-Africanism: A 21st Century Dialogue conference at Johnson C. Smith University where she also presented a paper, “Queen Nzinga Mbandu: The Unconquerable Amazon Queen of Ndongo and Matamba.”

Emmanuel Bogues, associate professor of French and Francophone literature in the department of foreign languages, has reviewed, edited and enhanced a book titled Invitation au Monde Francophone, Bonjour Tout le Monde. The book’s intent is to give students a better and accurate understanding of grammatical and conceptual rules that govern the mastering of the French language. Efforts were also made to enhance students’ oral near native fluency.

Lizette Sanchez-Lugo has been named interim director of the Institute for Public Health. She is a faculty member in the department of family and consumer sciences and director of the undergraduate program in nutrition and dietetics for the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Sanchez-Lugo is a board member of the Minority Health Advisory Council for the state of North Carolina. She has taught at UNGC and the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, and she also served as a clinical dietitian for the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Sanchez-Lugo received her B.S. and M.P.H. degrees from the University of Puerto Rico and Ph.D. from UNGC. She has an M.S.P.H. degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

On Friday, March 20, a 9 a.m.-noon, Robert Schwartz and Greg Sipress will present information on TraderEx trading and market simulation software. This highly engaging product enables users to learn how to quickly make decisions based on activities that are influencing trading behavior.

Schwartz is the Marvin M. Speiser Professor of Finance and University Distinguished Professor in the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, CUNY. He is the co-founder and developer of TraderEx. Sipress is head of software development for TraderEx.

The School of Business and Economics is hosting the TraderEx presentation. For more details and information about the faculty, visit wanda lengert, associate dean, intern@ncat.edu or (336) 334-7650 x3005.

The Division of Academic Affairs wants suggestions for the 2009-2010 “Text in Community.” Send your ideas to Beverly Greer, chair of the Text in Community Committee, bgreer@ncat.edu, by Friday, March 27.

Effective Wednesday, March 25, the Accounting Office will implement a new process to reconcile procurement card transactions. If you missed the training sessions, send an email to Helen Buck, huck@ncat.edu, for the training materials.

Permanent employees who are not returning for the academic year 2009-2010 should be separated as soon as possible. It is the employee’s responsibility to submit the necessary forms to the Office of Personnel Administration by the end of the current academic year. The reason for separation should be “end of contract period.” In addition, Form PD-105 must be prepared for these employees if they are returning next semester.

The Physical Plant Employment Organization (PPEO) will host the Douglas M. Boone 20th Anniversary Invitational Golf Tournament Saturday, April 18, at Bryan Park Players Course. Proceeds will benefit educational scholarships from its endowment fund. For more information, contact Douglas Boone at (336) 917-8932, or Chuck Dixon, (336) 392-6423 or cdixon@ncat.edu.

Not enough golf? Alumnus of the School of Technology will host their second annual golf tournament Saturday, April 25, at Bryan Park and Enrichment Center. Proceeds will support scholarships for students pursuing degrees in the School of Technology. For details, contact Gwen Sanders or Earnest Walker at gsanders@ncat.edu, vsanders@ncat.edu or (336) 334-7767.

New SACS Requirement, continued from front

“The data collected with this assessment are analyzed, the QEP Committee will return to the faculty and departments, share pertinent data, teach the faculty the criteria for what makes an acceptable QEP, and have them conceptualize scenarios of what the final idea for the QEP should be. Once the committee collects that final ‘scenario’ input, it will make a recommendation on behalf of the University community as to what the final QEP should be.”

By the end of the spring 2009 semester, the topics for the QEP will be identified, and the actual plan will be written during the summer.

“In the fall, we will begin aggressive marketing to encourage everyone on campus to be aware of and understands the QEP.”

Childress said, “When the SACS on-site team visits the campus next spring, it will expect the University community to be well informed about the QEP.”

SACS Steering Committee members chair various subcommittees that are responsible for (1) writing the Certification of Compliance, which provides proof that N.C. A&T is in compliance with the SACS Principles of Accreditation, (2) relying information about SACS to the schools, colleges and service units, and (3) helping to implement the QEP.

Two other groups that have critical roles in the SACS process are the SACS Document Review Committee and the SACS Policies Task Group. The former is comprised of senior faculty members assigned to critique drafts of the narrative report and provide written feedback. The latter is collecting all of the University’s major policies, procedures and regulations. Once updated, these documents will be accessible online.

To learn more about SACS, go to the A&T SACS website at: http://sacs.ncat.edu.