ACM TO GRADUATE LARGE CLASS AT 50TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Allegany College of Maryland, which recently celebrated its achievements over the past half-century, will celebrate the achievements of a large graduating class when it holds 50th commencement exercises Saturday, May 19, on the Cumberland campus.

ACM will award associate degrees and certificates to members of the 2012 class at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Physical Education Building. Students in allied health care programs attend the afternoon ceremony while those in and other academic areas take part in the morning exercises.

Dr. Cynthia S. Bambara, the college’s president, opens the program at both commencement exercises with a welcome to the graduation candidates and their guests. Kim B. Leonard, chair of the ACM Board of Trustees, offers greetings.

Five students of high academic achievement will give the commencement address on behalf of their classmates.

Kelly Baker of Corriganville, Natalya Turner of Cumberland and Colleen Watson of Frostburg will offer comments in the morning ceremony, while Danica Trovinger of Hagerstown and Travis Wilson of Westernport will provide the student perspective in the afternoon.

The five, whose academic interests reflect the diversity of programs at the college, shared a common desire for education and the opportunity to make a contribution in their careers.

They will celebrate the achievements and friendship of their classmates, thank faculty and staff for their guidance and praise family for support, inspiration and sacrifice as they reflect on lessons learned and journeys taken as students.

Baker, an early childhood education major; Turner, a candidate for accounting, economics and business administration degrees; and Watson, an elementary education major, all plan to continue their education at Frostburg State University and then to embark on careers.

Baker, a 2010 Allegany High School graduate, played basketball for the college while she furthered her plans to become a teacher. The profession is in her family: Kelly’s mother and sister are both elementary school teachers; her father, Mike, is associate professor of physical education and head men’s basketball coach at the college.
Turner’s active role on campus includes Phi Theta Kappa honor society president, Student Government Association member and Curriculum Committee student representative. Her achievements were amid the challenge of learning in a foreign language. A native of Russia, Natalya enrolled at ACM after marrying Tim Turner, associate professor of biology, in 2007. She plans to become an accountant.

Natalya Turner

Watson became interested in the education of young children while working as a teacher’s aide in Southern California. She had moved there after her 2004 graduation from Southern Garrett High. The Oakland native returned to Maryland to further her own education.

Colleen Watson

Trovinger will graduate with an associate degree in dental hygiene. The 22-year-old has chosen to continue her education, thus expanding her options in the profession. She is transferring to the University of Maryland School of Dentistry in Baltimore, where she will pursue a bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene.

Danica Trovinger

Wilson will complete an associate degree in respiratory therapy. He and his wife, Madison, are the parents of a son and daughter. The 21-year-old Lonaconing native, whose mother, Michelle, graduated from ACM a year ago, is currently pursuing employment opportunities in his field.
Introducing the five students are Jenna Gallion, assistant professor of English, speech and reading (Baker); Dr. Ron Jenkins, associate professor of English (Watson); Ron Krug, associate professor of business administration (Turner); Tom Striplin, associate professor of respiratory therapy (Wilson); and Cathy Wakefield, assistant professor of dental hygiene (Trovinger).

Faculty members will announce the names of the graduates as they walk to receive their associate degrees and certificates. Fran Leibfreid, ACM interim vice president of instructional affairs, will present the candidates for graduation to Leonard, who will award them their diplomas.

Gallion and Lynn Bowman, assistant professor of English and speech, will announce the graduates at morning exercises, while Cherie Snyder, professor of human service associate, and Georgia Kreiger, associate professor of English and speech, will have that role in the afternoon ceremony.

Serving as grand marshal of commencement exercises is Rick Cooper, professor of nursing. Dr. Mark Shore, professor of mathematics, is the assistant grand marshal.

Coronation Brass, under the direction of Brian Plitnik, will perform a prelude to the exercises and the national anthem as well as a processional and recessional of graduates and college faculty and staff.

A reception for the new graduates, their guests and others involved in commencement follows each ceremony. These activities will be held in the College Center on the Cumberland campus.