

# *The Bark of the Bulldog*

December 2019

Edition III

## **Bailey named NC Charter Schools Teacher of the Year**



From left, Darkarai Bryant, RCS High School Principal, joins Mariah Morris, 2019 NC TOY, Ashley Bailey, 2020 NC Charter TOY & RCS Biology Teacher, Claire Jenkins, Office of Charter Schools, and Douglas Price, 2019 NC Charter TOY, in a selfie after Bailey is named TOY.

By: Ariel Fryczynski  
RCS reporter

Roxboro Community School (RCS) high school biology teacher Ashley Bailey has been named North Carolina Charter Schools Teacher of the Year 2020.

Bailey said she was honored to have been selected RCS' Teacher of the Year for 2019. She said of the statewide honor, "I was so surprised to find out that I had reached the finals! I am honored to be able to represent RCS."

RCS high school Principal Darkarai Bryant said, "It is wonderful that Mrs. Bailey is being recognized for the exceptional job she does. She has the amazing ability to reach all kids and give them the knowledge and confidence to achieve. Any organization's strength lies with its personnel. I'm glad Mrs. Bailey is on the RCS team."

Bryant explained the process of becoming NC Charter Schools Teacher of the Year. He said Bailey was chosen the RCS Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019. After this, she created and turned in a portfolio to represent RCS at the state level.

He said, "Of all the teachers in the NC Charter School Teacher of the Year process, she was one of 29 selected for the second round. Of that 29, two were selected as finalists for NC Charter School Teacher of the Year."

Bailey and the other selected finalists were interviewed as well as other teachers, administrators, students, and parents.

"I am humbled and honored to be selected as North Carolina's Charter School Teacher of the Year," said Bailey.

"I am so excited for the opportunity to represent RCS at the state level and I look forward to all I will learn and can bring back to our school. I want to thank my students, colleagues, parents, and administration for the overwhelming support they have provided during this process. Through this process, I have had the opportunity to hear many stories shared by students (and parents) about how being in my class impacted them. That is such a gift. Teachers don't teach to receive accolades but I was truly blown away by the support shown to me by my colleagues, students, and parents," said Bailey.

Bailey went to North Carolina State University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in biological sciences and a bachelor of science in secondary science education. She has been teaching at RCS for six years after beginning to teach in 2000.

For each of the past three years, Bailey has received a Bright Ideas grant from Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation. These grants have allowed her to buy items that are needed to enhance her classroom.

Bailey is the second RCS teacher to be named NC Charter Schools TOY. Wanda Ball, retired English teacher, won the honor in 2007-2008.

## RCS alumna on Averett's cross country, equine teams

By: Mackenzie Clayton  
RCS Reporter

Sydney Fryman, who graduated from Roxboro Community School (RCS) last year and is currently a freshman at Averett University, is a part of the USA South Conference All-Sportsmanship Team for cross country.



Sydney Fryman

"Running in college is great, it is a completely new experience. Since we are in college we practice about six days a week, with longer runs, and have two days of [weight] lifting," stated Fryman.

She mentioned that cross country is a new sport at Averett, and that their team did pretty well this season considering herself and three of her teammates were able to compete at regionals in Memphis, Tenn.

"Almost everyone hit their PR [personal record] times at our last conference race, which is such a great accomplishment," said Fryman.

Fryman was on the cross country team in high school too, and she said it is very different than cross country in college.

"High school was different because there were so many more of us," said Fryman. "But with Coach Kerry [McKenzie] we all became really close and he showed us how to love the sport as well as succeed in it, so I will always have to prefer my high school team based on how they made me want to continue running in college."

Like in high school, Fryman mentioned that she is now very close with her new teammates. "We study together and sometimes go out together; our team is very small, so we have all become super close from these activities and I have truly grown to love my teammates in just a short amount of time," said Fryman.

Along with cross country, Fryman is on the IDA [Intercollegiate Dressage Association] equestrian team as well, which makes her a dual athlete.

Fryman also mentioned that her schedule is usually packed because of her practices, workouts, meetings, and classes.

"But I don't mind the extra work because I have made such close friends on both teams and my coaches work awesome with each other," added Fryman.

She is planning to major in biomedical sciences, equine dressage concentration, and equine science.

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## Sophomores visit NC State on field trip



Photo by Carrie Hawkins

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, 88 10th graders from Roxboro Community School (RCS) went on a field trip to North Carolina State University (NCSU). Carrie Hawkins, the registrar and guidance assistant at RCS, said that the kids had lots of fun while touring the NCSU campus. Each year, RCS provides four field trip opportunities for grades nine through 11. In ninth grade, students are able to go to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Eleventh graders are given a choice between East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina in Wilmington for their field trip. Hawkins said the group enjoyed their trip to Raleigh.

# RCS English teacher earns doctorate

By: Grace Pryor  
RCS Reporter

Recently, Kristin Davis, Roxboro Community School (RCS) English teacher, received her doctorate in education.

Davis has been teaching for 17 years, and seven of those years have been at RCS.

She said she had always wanted to be a teacher but was truly inspired by her fourth grade teacher, Kathryn Cates. Davis was motivated and inspired by Cates.

Davis said, "She was an intelligent and personable teacher, who knew her content and encouraged her students to never give up on learning new things. She challenged me to break out of my shell of shyness and to pursue a path of perpetual learning that has led to this doctorate degree."

For her undergraduate degree, Davis attended Meredith College from 1996-2000 as a Teaching Fellow. Then she received her bachelor of arts in English and a certification that allowed her to teach English to grades nine through 12.

Davis has two master's degrees. She said, "One is a masters of education (M.Ed.) in reading from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va, and the other is a master of arts (M.A.) in English from East Carolina University. I received the M.Ed. in 2008 and the M.A. in 2013." She also has an educational specialist degree (Ed.S.) in educational leadership.

For five years now, Davis has been working on her doctorate. She decided to get it because she has always wanted to teach older students on a college level, but without a doctorate degree, she would have a difficult time finding a job as a college or university professor.

She also said, "I've always loved learning, and I believe if you stop learning, you stop growing as a human being.

"So many things interested me -- from literature to historical events to teaching practices -- that I just kept on learning about those topics, but I think I've finally hit the pinnacle of my education with my doctorate degree."

Davis said, "It is a doctor of education (Ed.D.) in curriculum and instruction. I will graduate and receive the degree on Dec. 16, from the University of South Carolina.



Kristin Davis

I successfully defended my dissertation on Nov. 11, and was conferred by my dissertation committee as Dr. Kristin Davis."

Getting the doctorate degree was not easy for Davis. It was quite difficult for her to manage her job teaching and her work for school.

She said, "I felt like I was letting my students down when I had to write some nights instead of grade or plan; then, I would feel like I wasn't doing my best work when I graded or planned instead of working on my studies. Then there were those times when everything was due -- grades, papers, doctorate stuff -- all at once. Deadlines, late nights, and lots of coffee became second nature to me over the last few years."

Davis said that the hardest part of the doctoral program were the classes that did not interest her; one of which was statistics. For her to get through it she learned to look at the classes as a "necessary evil" for her to get her doctorate degree. It taught her that sometimes in life you have to do something you do not want to or do not enjoy to get what you want or where you want to go.

She said, "I try to let my students see that reflected through my life, and I try to make sure that they know that they can accomplish whatever they put their minds to if they work hard and don't give up."

Davis said someone who is thinking of pursuing doctoral studies should be sure they have a desire for change. They should also have "the time to think (and read and write and read some more), and the personal opportunity to pursue doctoral work."

The reward of getting the degree is quite personal to Davis. She said, "Perhaps, some of my students will be inspired that I never gave up on my dream of earning my doctorate and will continue on despite the obstacles they face in their lives. I know I have had my obstacles, but I never gave up. This is the greatest reward."

This experience has changed Davis and motivated her, along with her students, she said.

Davis added, "I also want to thank my family and friends who have stood by me along the way, and the faculty, staff, and administration of RCS, who have encouraged me to complete this degree. My achieving this degree would not have been possible without my faith in God, who allowed me to see the positives in the dark times and who helped me overcome the many obstacles that made me a better person and a more compassionate educator."



# Friendly competition encourages students to read

By: Jackson Solomon  
RCS Reporter

Roxboro Community School (RCS) is implementing its own version of Battle of The Books. It will be known as Battle of The Bulldogs. Battle of the Books is a "Quiz Bowl" style competition sponsored by the North Carolina School Library Media Association (NCSLMA).

"I knew students enjoyed doing Battle of the Books in elementary school," said Heather Lewis, RCS seventh grade math teacher, when asked what prompted her to start Battle of the Bulldogs. However, Lewis is not the only teacher here at RCS who was inspired to start a battle of the books type program here. She was also joined by seventh grade English teacher Charis Shattuck and sixth grade Academic Success teacher Beth Stultz.

The three teachers started the competition on Nov. 12 and opened it to all middle school students. The competition currently only has 25 students in the sixth and seventh grades;

however, Shattuck said that any one in middle school next year is welcome to sign up.

Shattuck said that she was excited to bring the program to RCS, because she has seen students in the past who just needed a little encouragement to read.

Books to be read this year include Serafina and the Black Cloak by Robert Beatty, A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen, The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by JK Rowling, among others.

The students in this year's competition will be working in teams of three to read the books and come up with questions based on the books that they will be reading throughout the year. The students will be rewarded at the end of the year with a trip to celebrate their hard work.

## Middle School Dance



Middle school students clown around at the dance on Nov. 22. The dance is sponsored by Middle School Student Council.

Photo by Caroline Cates

## Middle school soccer team brings home title



The Roxboro Community School (RCS) middle school soccer team made history when the boys defeated arch rival Voyager Academy, 1-0 in the Central Carolina Middle School Conference championship game on Nov. 6. Members of the team are Elias Alcaraz, Braxton Allen, Mason Clark, JD Clayton, Cam Dallas, Brayden Gentry, Carter Hodgins, Mathew Holeman, Collin Horner, Jaxon Lawson, Anderson Long, Bubba Martin, Carson Partridge, Carver Pleasant, Samuel Alcaraz-Perez, Nate Stovall, Blake Vernon and Ben Wheeler.

Photo courtesy of Strawbridge Studios