



## *E-News From Averett - July 2015*



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### Averett Honored as a College of Distinction

Averett University has been selected as a 2015-2016 College of Distinction by [CollegesofDistinction.com](http://CollegesofDistinction.com).

Averett was chosen based on its continued commitment to student engagement, great teaching, vibrant community and successful outcomes. This is the third consecutive year that Averett has been honored as a College of Distinction.

"This acknowledgement confirms to the college-bound community that Averett excels at what matters: providing a teaching-centered undergraduate education that combines innovative learning programs with experiential educational opportunities," said Wes Creel, Founder of Colleges of Distinction.

To learn more about Colleges of Distinction, please [click here](#).

### University Ranked Among Best Online Colleges in Virginia

Affordable Colleges Online, a leading resource dedicated to online learning and college affordability, has ranked Averett University among the Best Online Colleges in Virginia for 2015. Colleges and universities were selected based on the superiority of their academic programs, affordability, flexibility and accreditation.

This is the second time Averett University has been recognized by Affordable Colleges Online for excellence



### AU Calendar

**August 16**  
Returning Students Move In & International Student Orientation

**August 18**  
Opening Convocation

**August 19**  
Classes Begin

**September 7**  
Labor Day (University Holiday)

[Full Calendar](#)

in online learning. Earlier this year, the organization ranked Averett 12th in the U.S. among the Best Online Christian Colleges for 2015. To read the full press release, please [click here](#).



## Nicole Barringer '15 Named USA South Woman of the Year

Averett volleyball player Nicole Barringer '15 has been named the 2015 USA South Conference Woman of the Year.

Barringer, who was also selected as the female recipient of the USA South's prestigious Don Scaf Award, became the third conference student-athlete to earn Woman of the Year and Scaf Award honors in the same season.

The NCAA Woman of the Year award honors student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, service and leadership. Barringer's name and accolades will now be forwarded to the NCAA Woman of the Year selection committee as the USA South's nominee. The committee will choose the top 10 nominees in each division (I, II and III). From among those 30 honorees, the selection committee will determine the top three in each division. From those nine, the 2015 NCAA Woman of the Year will be chosen.

Learn more about Barringer's most recent accomplishments by [clicking here](#) and [here](#).

## Taylor Dix '16 and Samantha Hall '17 Named Academic All-Americans



Softball players Taylor Dix '16 and Samantha Hall '17 have made school history. They were named to the 2015 Capital One Academic All-America Division III Team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Both were also honored as All-Americans by the National Fastpitch Coaches

Association. Dix and Hall are the first Averett student-athletes in any sport to earn All-America and Academic All-America honors in the same season. To read more, please [click here](#).



## History and Honors Program Students Study in London

Dr. Andrew Canady, Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Honors Program, recently

led a group of Averett Honors Program and History students on a Study Abroad trip to London.

For the students, the trip served as the culmination of a History course they took in the spring: "Topics in British History."

Read about the students' experience by [clicking here](#).

## Averett Welcomes Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant



This fall, Averett will welcome Jawad Essakri of Lyon, France, as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA). Essakri is the second FLTA to teach at Averett. (Last year, the University welcomed Itayetzi Zafra Mendez, who served as our Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Spanish.) During the 2015-16 academic year, Essarkri will tutor French students, teach and take classes, and conduct regular conversation groups open to all members of the Averett community with at least a basic knowledge of French. In addition to his work with Averett students, he will offer two presentations (topics TBD) to the University and local community.

Essakri holds an M.A. in Political Science from Paris 1 Sorbonne and from Moscow State University. He has taught French as a second language in Australia and looks forward to living in the U.S.



## Averett to Host Autism Transition Planning Town Hall

Autism Speaks, the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, will be at Averett University in the Violet T. Frith Fine Arts Center for a Transition Planning Town Hall on Tuesday, July 28 at 6 p.m. The Town Hall will focus on the

transition of young adults on the autism spectrum from adolescence into adulthood. Several panelists will provide attendees with options to consider and explore so families can help their child begin to plan for adulthood. Dr. Jill Hamlin, Averett's Director of Autism Studies, will serve as the moderator for the panel discussion and lead the Q&A session afterwards. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information or to register email [virginia@autismspeaks.org](mailto:virginia@autismspeaks.org), call 202-955-3111 or visit Autism Speaks' website by [clicking here](#).

## Alumni & Friends Tour France



In June, Averett's Alumni & Friends touring group cruised the Saone and Rhone rivers in France aboard the MS River Discovery II, stopping in cities along the way. Paul Lash, one of the members of the group, wrote about their experience. Read the full story by [clicking here](#).

Averett University | (434) 791-5600 | 1-800-AVERETT | <http://www.averett.edu/>  
420 West Main Street, Danville, VA 24541

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