

CCCC team shines in stock market game competition

BY R.V. HIGHT
CCCC DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS

SANFORD — A team from Central Carolina Community College won a collegiate division in recent competition of the Stock Market Game.

The SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association) Foundation is responsible for the program. Amber Thomas, CCCC Business Technologies Instructor, worked through the nonprofit North Carolina Council on Economic Education, which administered the project.

Members of the winning CCCC team were Shannon Eason, Amanda Holt and Jennifer M. Womble, all of Harnett County. The team received a scholarship award from First Bank.

The game allows students to manage and invest a portfolio of \$100,000 virtual dollars. Their investments are linked to the actual stock market. There are certain rules they must follow regarding how purchases are made, but they have lots of freedom to be creative and formulate their own beliefs and ideas to invest their money. The CCCC team showed a 5.71 percent return with a net equity gain



Submitted photo

First Bank presented a scholarship award to the winning Central Carolina Community College team that participated in the Stock Market Game. Pictured are (left to right) Travis Bailey, Hunter Young and Allen Smith of First Bank; students Shannon Eason, Amanda Holt and Jennifer Womble; and Stewart Forbes of First Bank.

of \$5,706.82 in the nine-week session, held during the fall semester.

The team's portfolio included Apple, Cisco, Walt Disney, Facebook, Google, Nike and Exxon Mobil.

The three participants said of the experience:

• Shannon Eason: "I

think our team, 3 Times a Lady, did a wonderful job working together on this project. Our choice to make safe stock purchases with Google and Apple was a sure thing, but I think the best choice we made was with the Facebook purchase. Facebook stock volume closed

at \$62,300,000 on Sept. 18, 2015, and was the star of our game. I feel the Facebook stock purchase is what pushed our team into first place. As a personal stockholder of Facebook, I am pleased to see Facebook doing so well. Looking back, I would not make any changes to

our team's strategy. I am proud of our team for a first-place victory!"

• Jennifer M. Womble: "Being that the three of us had little knowledge of how the stock market worked, I feel that we made good decisions on our investments. It was a clever idea to invest in well-known or popular companies. Popular companies that are well known for their products and services continue to increase their revenue because satisfied customers continue to purchase their products. Our team's strategy was beneficial and successful. Even though we had a not-so-good start, we had a very successful finish. I have invested with my 401K at times, but I would like to be able to invest a large quantity; possibly in one of our SMG companies. The only change that I would have made would be investing some of the cash we had remaining as well. This experience has increased my interest in investing again. I give

the team an A!"

• Amanda Holt: "Choosing popular and successful companies paid off well, considering we placed first against the competing teams. Since we were so successful, I would not have changed anything about our investment strategy, other than maybe spending the remaining two grand we never used. I would give our team's strategy an A+! Our stocks were all successful, popular businesses that do well on a regular basis and continue to grow, so we expected their success. I learned that it is worth it to save up a decent amount of money to spend on your investment to increase the possibility of investing in a successful stock. In the past, I have considered investing a little here and there, but I think it is best to wait until I have a larger value to place in a profitable stock."

"I like utilizing the Stock Market Game because it brings the facts and theories we teach to life," Thomas said. "Students are more engaged, aware of current economic conditions, and are eager to learn about the market. The game not only presents a great simulation, but it also provides a platform for class discussion and an ideal opportunity for collaboration in a team environment."

"The team environment is something I am passionate about, in both face-to-face and distance education courses, because I think it teaches them a key skill they will need in the workforce. After listening to countless students' feedback, most agree that once they have played the game, they are more interested and curious about the market — as well as the key role it plays or will play in their financial futures."

For more information on CCCC, visit www.cccc.edu.

The Candy Cane Story

Jesus

is the reason
for the season

History of everyone's
favorite Christmas
Candy

This is one version of the Christian candy cane story:

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy to symbolize the virgin birth and the purity of Jesus. He then shaped it in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus and the staff of the "Good Shepherd." Finally, he added red stripes to symbolize Jesus' blood and suffering on the cross. The candymaker hoped that each time someone ate his creation, they would be reminded of Jesus and the great love God gave us at Christmas.

The story of the Indiana candymaker has been widely circulated and retold, while other stories suggest the candy can was created long ago as a secret symbol that would allow persecuted Christians to identify one another. Neither version fits the timeline of historical records. The German choirmaster who is credited with turning the usual straight candy sticks into staff-shaped sweets lived in the late 17th century, long after most of Europe had become Christian, and well before Indiana became a state or candy canes came to America. Also, historical records from various parts of the world show the canes were all-white until the early 1900s.

But for those who believe, candy canes are still a wonderful Christian symbol of Christmas.

It's amazing that the year 2014 is coming to a close. Time flies! It seems like yesterday that we were setting up our practice here in Sanford, but that was over 30 years ago. We are so thankful that our Lord brought us to North Carolina for our family and our business. It is such a pleasure and honor to serve you and your pets. We truly consider your pet as family. Thank you for the many years that we have shared. We are looking forward to always providing you with professional & caring service to promote a long, healthy life for your pet. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Love,
Dr. & Mrs. Ron Myres
Amanda Myres Sullivan
& The Myres Animal Hospital Team



Voted Best of Lee Co.
For 11 Years!



1710 Westover Drive
919-775-2258
www.myresanimalhospital.com



**HOLIDAY
LOANS
AVAILABLE NOW**

\$850 to \$2,500!

**Come and visit our
friendly staff today...
or you may also apply online @
www.nfcmoney.com**

National Finance Company
1500 South Horner Blvd. Sanford N.C. 27330
(919)775-2207

**Thank You For A Great 2015.
Merry Christmas to All!**



Serving the Community for More Than 46 Years
MATTRESS STORE
1803 Hawkins Ave. • Sanford, NC 27330 • 919-775-1357
M-F 10 am-5 pm • Sat. 10 am-2 pm • www.mattressstorenc.com
MARTY "Mattress Man" GUNTER