Constitution Day Essay Contest, sponsored by ABAC’s Student Government Association in partnership with the Department of History and Political Science

Write an original 700 word essay answering one (1) of the questions below. Submit your essay with name and email contact information to www.turnitin.com. Class ID: 10555964. Password: constitution. Any plagiarized papers will be disqualified.

History and Political Science faculty will read the essays with names removed and will determine a winner. The winner will be announced by The Honorable John Ellington at the 1:30pm event at the ABAC chapel, 9/17/2015. Winner will be notified in advance of the event.

Prize: Over $100 in gift cards from local restaurants.

QUESTION 1: The previous year has been one of great disagreement on the issues of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: the expansion of marriage equality, gun rights in light of repeated mass shootings, protests in response to police brutality, warrantless NSA surveillance, and others. According to the Constitution, what political institution should be used to resolve these conflicts - the federal government, state and local governments, or individual citizens themselves? Explain

QUESTION 2: The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees citizenship to anyone born on American soil. Should this be a right extended only to the children of parents who are here legally? What would be required if Congress is serious about changing this law?

QUESTION 3: Should the text of any of the 1791 Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments) be changed to clarify disputed meanings in 21st century America?