HACC Class of ’66 Reunion

Spring 2016 Commencement began with a special reunion celebration for HACC’s first graduating class at the Giant Center in Hershey. Nine original classmates joined together to share memories and reflect on HACC’s first years. Fifty years after their own graduation, these alumni recounted stories of many caring professors, a swimming pool converted into a student lounge and a world in the midst of change.

Zenoria McMorris-Owens, president of the HACC Alumni Council, and Council member Adam Walters greeted attendees and expressed appreciation for their pioneering efforts. They were later joined by Dr. Ski, HACC’s president, who was delighted to meet the alumni and learn of their experiences in the early days of the College.

Following the reception, the classmates joined the graduation festivities, where they were recognized in Dr. Ski’s remarks to the Class of 2016. The attendance of these original classmates imparted an extra-special welcome for new graduates to the HACC alumni family.

Members of the Class of 1966
(from left to right) Dr. Richard Moses, Theodore Keiter, Terry Moser, Nicholas Horvath, Charlotte James, HACC President John J. “Ski” Sygielski, Diane Wiegard, Matthew Weir and Catherine Zemba
PTK Chapter: National Fundraising Leader

As participants in HACC’s international honors society, members of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) are used to being recognized for their performance in the classroom. However, members of the Alpha Nu Omega chapter (the HACC alumni chapter of PTK) were acknowledged by their peers for their extraordinary dedication to support the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

While attending NerdNation (PTK’s annual three-day conference) in National Harbor, MD, the chapter was recognized as the country’s leading fundraising chapter. Raising $7,776 to support the cause, and outpacing the closest contender by nearly $3,000!

Additionally, three members were presented with the International Alumni Award of Appreciation for their contributions to their chapter and the local, Middle States Region and international chapters. These include Michael Shoemaker, Shanna Boley and Jennifer Knee.

The service and dedication of these alumni not only advance the fight against cancer but also HACC’s commitment to the community.

Congratulations to the Alpha Nu Omega members for this national recognition!

Cooper Student Center Renovation

April marked the beginning of the much needed renovations to the Bruce E. Cooper Student Center, with a completion date set for summer 2017. Built in 1968, this is the first major renovation to the building which will include 5,122 square feet of additional space to increase the usage of the building.

Serving more than 7,500 students, 400 full-time faculty and staff and thousands of visitors annually, Cooper welcomes members of the HACC family and the community alike.

When complete, the building will house the following: admissions, financial aid, counseling and advising, veterans’ affairs, disability services, student government offices, student club space and lounge and study areas.

The Culinary Arts Program will also gain additional teaching space in conjunction with The Chef’s Apprentice dining venue. Subway® has also undergone renovations at the site.
New Programs Offered

In accordance with HACC’s ongoing commitment to its mission to be the first choice for a quality and accessible higher education opportunity, new programs are now available to establish accessible pipelines for all students into high demand fields.

Building Construction Management
According to the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), construction employment has steadily increased to its highest level since 2009 and is projected to continue to rise. Payscale.com data for 2015-16 indicates that an associate degree in construction management is one of the highest earning two-year degrees.

This new online Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Building Construction Management program gives students the tools to succeed in this growing field by learning how to manage the construction process from start to finish, estimate quantities and costs for a project, interpret construction documents and building codes, apply principles of construction accounting and more. A background in construction is helpful, but not necessary.

The program is designed to be flexible enough that students can transfer credits to a wide variety of colleges and universities with no loss of credit. Students may also pursue a bachelor’s degree in technical leadership through HACC’s articulation agreement with Bloomsburg University. HACC is the only community college in Pa. to offer a program of this kind completely online.

Wellness and Health Promotion
Another new online degree allows students to turn their passion for a healthy lifestyle into a career through the Wellness and Health Promotion program.

Students in the program will be offered the opportunity to pursue workplace health as an educational track to prepare for professional health coaching certification upon graduation and learn the skills needed to work and excel in healthcare, nonprofit, corporate and government organizations.

Career Bridges
Additionally, HACC is delighted to be launching a certificate program that will provide individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to:

- Learn career-related skills alongside peers without disabilities
- Experience campus life
- Network with peers and employers in an industry of interest
- Prepare for industry-recognized exams
- Gain skills for integrated community employment

Career Bridges offers two career paths, including certificates in Nurse Aide Training and Culinary Specialist.

Students must be 18 to 25 years old at the time of admission with a documented developmental disability and have studied an alternate core curriculum in high school. Additional information regarding the program and criteria for admission can be found here.
Surgical Program Awarded

The HACC Surgical Technology Program received the annual merit award from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting for graduates achieving a 100-percent pass rate on the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination for the cycle of Aug. 1, 2014, through July 31, 2015.

Graduates who obtain national certification as a CST demonstrate their understanding of the basic competencies for safe patient care in the operating room. CST is widely recognized in the healthcare community as the foremost credential for surgical technologists in the nation and is required for employment by many healthcare organizations.

HACC’s Surgical Technology Program prepares students to assist in caring for surgical patients and to function as members of a surgical team. Graduates of the certificate program are eligible to take the CST examination and have an option to complete HACC’s associate degree program.

Congratulations to our graduates on this well-deserved honor!

Ready to Make a Difference?

The HACC Foundation is seeking professional, ethical, knowledgeable and hard-working Board members.

HACC Foundation Board members are fearless leaders who network, fundraise and promote the College - all to change the lives of thousands of students. Click here to find out more about the many benefits.

The application and responsibilities of HACC Foundation Board members can be found here. Some responsibilities include:

- Participating in determining the Foundation's annual and campaign fundraising priorities, including identifying giving sources, developing solicitation strategies and determining accountability for goals
- Attending four out of six regular Board meetings per year
- Providing oversight to the management of investments and disbursements of Foundation accounts
Alumni Spotlight

Congratulations to Francine Childs! Childs was recently promoted to chief financial officer of SouthEast Lancaster Health Services. Her employment began in 2002, and this promotion follows her most recent position as director of finance.

Catherine Grove, who serves as a business development manager with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP in York, has been named by the Central Pennsylvania Business Journal to its list of the 2016 Women of Influence. She is one of 25 women in Central Pennsylvania awarded the honor which recognizes influential female leadership through integrity, experience and strong reputations. Cathy is a graduate of HACC’s Marketing Program.

Congratulations to Jim Morack on the publication of his book “Be a Better Me…For You: Master Your Life and Become Your Ideal Self” published by Motivational Press. He details his notion that lasting change springs from one’s personal resolve to themselves, and that the visualization of your ‘ideal self’ should be serve as your guide to reach your goals. The book can be found through Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

Earlier this year, Lisa Myers, a principal with the Harrisburg CPA and consulting firm of Boyer & Ritter LLC, became a founding member of the Women Presidents’ Organization (WPO), Harrisburg Chapter. She was also named by the American Lung Association as Mid-Atlantic Champion of Change. In May, she was featured in the Central Pennsylvania Business Journal’s Women in Business, and in June, she was named a board member to the United Way of the Capital Region. Myers is an alumnus of HACC’s Accounting Program.

Fran Rodriguez, a program officer at the Lancaster County Community Foundation, was featured in the April 3 edition of the Lancaster Newspaper’s Sunday Spotlight. Fran received her associate degree in Paralegal Studies from HACC before pursuing her master’s degree in human services at Lincoln University. She is the first Latina president of Lancaster County’s League of Women Voters and the proud founder of the local Latino Empowerment Project.

An alumnus in chemistry, Kay Shaffer, has been named a certification, compliance and privacy officer with the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority based in Harrisburg. Shaffer previously served as a system and certification manager with the Pennsylvania Patient & Provider Network certification program and was earlier employed with the Office of Administration for the Commonwealth.

Tricia Watkins, recipient of an associate degree from HACC and a degree in nuclear medicine from Pennsylvania College of Health Science, joins the Camp Hill office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Homesale Realty.

Share your news!

If you have an accomplishment or story to share, we want to hear from you!

Click here to complete the ‘Join the Alumni Association’ form and enter your story under ‘News’.

If you’ve already completed the form before, email us at AlumniAssociation@hacc.edu.