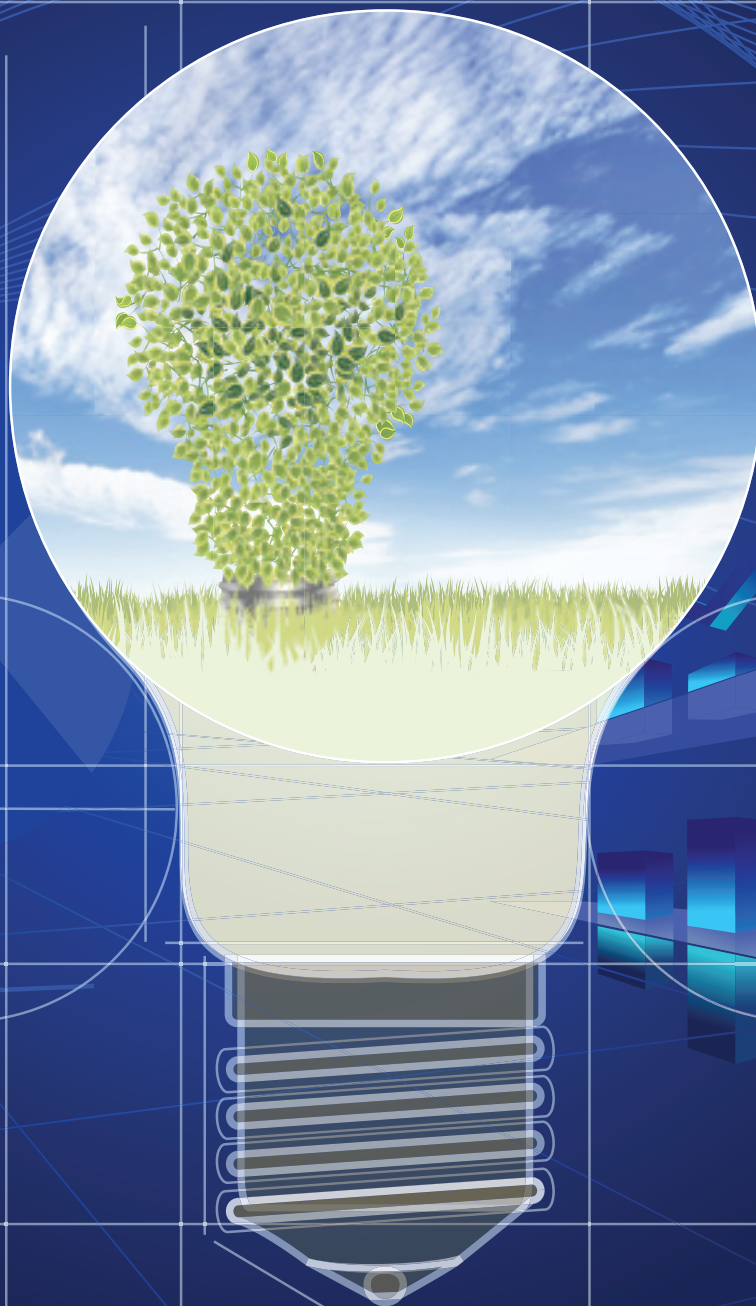


# CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2009



**TURNING A DREAM  
INTO A BUSINESS REALITY**

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### CONTACT

HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College  
 One HACC Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2999  
 (717) 780-2300 • (800) ABC-HACC  
[connections@hacc.edu](mailto:connections@hacc.edu)  
[www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu)

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## HACC CONNECTIONS SUMMER 09

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Dream of owning your own business?

## HACC's Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies can help.

**HACC's Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies helps you turn your desire for business ownership into a reality.**

Our focus is one-on-one counseling and educational programs that serve entrepreneurs, from the initial idea stage through the first three years of operation. We help you find the right fit with your skills, experiences and goals.

**Find out about our many resources at [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu) or call us at 717.221.1311.**



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### Welcome to the summer 2009 issue of HACC Connections,

which focuses on entrepreneurship. Despite the tough economic climate – and often, because of it – many folks are looking at their current job situation and deciding now is the time to venture into business ownership.

In this issue read about the excellent services provided by HACC's Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies (IES) to benefit would-be and current business owners, and how to take advantage of what the IES offers. Thousands of enterprising HACC alumni are business owners, including those who own successful photography businesses, an agri-business grad who came back to a HACC marketing class for help, and a grad who established his own consulting civil and site engineering firm. Their stories are inside.

At HACC, we continue to focus on our partnerships with business and industry, as well as those with our administration and faculty to provide students with a quality education at affordable prices. Through collaboration with our regional partners, HACC developed programs aimed at retraining the jobless to develop necessary skills to become employable in the current economic climate. In the two weeks that HACC rolled out the program, more than 400 inquiries were received. This fall, several short-term and long-term courses targeting community workforce needs will be offered at each campus.

In addition to news about The HACC Foundation, catch up on former classmates who responded to the "Share Your News" request and find news from throughout the college.

**Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D.**  
**HACC president**

## HACC Alumni Exhibit 2009



Lisa Wight, 9 Options

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# Turning a dream into a business reality

Genevieve (Gen) Perez had a dream of turning her knack for numbers into a business, but she didn't know how.

So she turned to the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies (IES), an outreach arm of HACC's Workforce and Economic Development division. The institute helps people translate their dream of business ownership into a reality, with a focus on one-on-one counseling and educational programs that serve entrepreneurs from the initial idea stage through the first three years of operation.



*Underwater photographer Bob Gay of Dillsburg, left, and fiber artisan Rebecca Zeigler of Harrisburg talk during a reception at the Artisan Marketplace at the Perry County Council of the Arts Gallery in Newport.*

Today, Perez's dream has a real name and address: G. Perez Financial LLC in Mt. Wolf. She provides bookkeeping and accounting services to small businesses located in and around York.

"Opening my own business could have been an intimidating step for me if it was not for HACC's Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies in York," Perez said. "I will always be grateful for the services (they) offered."

Executive Director Fran Verotsky says the IES is "a huge outreach component for HACC. And we are unique."

Part of what makes the institute unique is that it offers ongoing relationships with people as they try to start up their businesses; it isn't just a once-and-done consultation. For just \$25, clients receive 20 hours of counseling, including step-by-step aid in writing the important business plan.

"A feasibility study is also part of what we do with them," Verotsky said. "Is there a need for this in the community? That's an important question to think about."



*Amma Johnson, co-owner of Johnson Marketing Group, center, talks to an audience at the York Campus in May during a Talkabouts session.*

## HACC, American Subcontractors Association team up to offer program

Help for the small contractor is coming this fall with Subcontracting 101, an emerging business/diversity education program for commercial and residential subcontractors who want to better market their company and prepare responses to a request for proposal (RFP) from commercial general contractors.

"Don't let the bad economy get in the way of taking advantage of this opportunity," said ASA board member Jim Novinger of Novinger Inc.

The emphasis will be on providing skills necessary to successfully bid, service and complete a contract on time. Legal considerations and "green building" standards also will be addressed.

The pilot program was developed at the request of ASA membership but is open to all commercial and residential subcontractors. Early bird registration (\$600) ends Sept. 1. Regular registration (\$700) closes Sept. 29.

For more information, contact the IES at 717-221-1311.

The IES began in 1999 out of an earlier partnership among HACC, the Capital Region Economic Development Corp. and the City of Harrisburg to offer business counseling to entrepreneurs in FastTrac, a national business training program sponsored by the Kauffman Foundation.

Since January 2004 when data collection began, IES has helped 942 people pursue their dream of turning an idea into a business, said David McNaughton, business counselor at the IES, headquartered at Penn Center, 349 Wiconisco St., Harrisburg.

Most IES clients are not HACC students but are people from the surrounding communities who are interested in starting a business or who have begun a business but need help with marketing or financing ideas, Verotsky said.

Some have an idea for a new product that they think will be useful and others are artisans who make fine products but need help with business structure and marketing, McNaughton said.

## FAST FACTS

HACC's Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies offers several special events and ongoing programs to support and enhance efforts of local entrepreneurs.

**Women on the Move** is HACC's annual day-long conference aimed at giving women entrepreneurs resources and information about starting or growing a business from other successful women entrepreneurs. The conference rotates annually and will be held at the Lancaster Campus on Oct. 16 this year. Eighty to 100 people usually attend.

**Talkabouts** are informal networking sessions facilitated by successful entrepreneurs and focused on a variety of business-related topics. Talkabouts are held monthly at the Harrisburg and York campuses (except in the summer) and three times a year in Lancaster and Lebanon.

**First Mondays and First Fridays** are monthly two-hour, free seminars open to the public and held at all the campuses (including Gettysburg starting in the fall). They cover the rules and regulations of starting a business in Pennsylvania. Currently, sessions take place on Mondays in Harrisburg and York and on Fridays in Gettysburg, Lancaster and Lebanon.

**Artisan Marketplaces** offer a venue for artists to sell their work. The Institute collaborates with the Perry County Council of the Arts and the York Art Association to hold holiday marketplaces. These are juried shows that draw local artisans and HACC crafts marketing students. For the first time, a summer marketplace was hosted by Radius, HACC's gallery and gift shop at the State Museum.

**Kids' College Camp** is held each July for youths ages 15 through 17. Entrepreneurs guide the youths through the process of turning an idea into a business.

For more information on any of these programs, contact HACC's Institute for Entrepreneurial Services at 717-221-1311.

HACC's Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies will celebrate its 10th anniversary Sept. 23 at the Wildwood Conference Center on the Harrisburg Campus with a trade show for clients, dinner and a keynote speaker. For more information on this special event, contact the IES at 717-221-1311.

With the country's recent economic woes, the IES has seen an increase in the number of people interested in putting their own business ideas to work for them.

When a client calls for assistance, a business counselor, working through the Fulton Bank Small Business Center at the IES, sets up a one-on-one session to advise the client on what is needed to succeed, including how to market and sell the product or services. The IES also utilizes Fulton Bank's services to help evaluate options for funding business ventures.

While many people have an idea for a business or a product, they are often intimidated by the thought of starting their own business. "What we do is try to nurture that entrepreneurial spirit while helping them be realistic about what they want to do," Verotsky said.

IES offers credit courses to HACC students through its Entrepreneurial Leadership program in the Business, Hospitality, Engineering and Technology Division. Students may earn an associate in arts degree, a certificate or a diploma.

In its continuing education classes, IES offers classes in bookkeeping for home business, branding your image in the marketplace and developing a marketing plan, among others.

Business counseling services are offered at Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon and York campuses, with plans to add the Gettysburg campus in the fall. A three-year, \$150,000 grant from Harley-Davidson assisted with bringing the Institute to the York campus, Verotsky noted. The IES also collaborates with Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) for consulting services and with other community partners.

Helping people turn their passion for something into a viable business is what makes their jobs fun and very rewarding, both Verotsky and McNaughton said.

"I get really excited about my students," McNaughton added. "HACC has some bright entrepreneurs who see outside the box and are tackling some big projects because they have that passion and vision."



HACC CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# Sowing seeds in marketing students:

## HACC grad comes back to share farm business

Alex Masser looked out over the rows of students in a Principles of Marketing class at the Harrisburg Campus and saw himself not so long ago.

"I was one of the first students in HACC's agribusiness program," said the 22-year-old Schuylkill County native who graduated with an associate degree in agribusiness in 2007.

"I started raising sheep at age 14 and already had a lot to do with the farm business at home when I came to college," Masser said. "Obviously I didn't learn how to grow vegetables at HACC, but everything is changing so fast in terms of business and marketing strategies; that's what you come to college to learn."

It was that drive that impressed Al Wenger, adjunct professor in marketing who became Masser's advisor. In his last advisory meeting, Wenger pointed out that Masser was taking more credits than required to graduate. "But he noted those were additional courses he felt he needed to better prepare himself for the business challenges he faced," Wenger said.

"What you do after college says a lot about what you learned in college," Masser said. For him, that meant joining his grandfather and father in running the family farm, and overseeing field planting — some 950 acres of it — and their farm market stand at Farmstead Market in Palmyra.

"I'm very busy; keep that in mind," he told the 22 students who were assigned to use Masser's overview to develop marketing plans for his business. The assignment was better than imagining a pretend plan, said Maureen Holt, a business management major. "The chance to visit his business and analyze it puts a lot more value into the project."



*Alex Masser gives an overview of his Farmstead Market in Palmyra during a Principles of Marketing class at the Harrisburg Campus.*

Masser admits that it helps to have a ready-made family business to step into, but on the other hand, that could lead to complacency. "You've got to continually be willing to learn," he said. "You've also got to be flexible and have goals that can be changed if the business climate demands it."

In the next five years, "I see the farmer's market growing and I don't even know how much," he said. Masser already rents half of the Farmstead building and sees growing consumer interest in buying produce that is Pennsylvania Preferred and Simply Delicious — campaigns by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to promote locally produced products. The poor economy also encourages consumers to look more carefully "about what they spend and what they get for it," Masser said.

Masser and his wife Kayla (who has a dental assistant certificate from HACC) also raise Suffolk breeding sheep. Masser also trained at HACC to become an auctioneer.

## HACC's Agribusiness and Management of Food Systems program set to grow

From the farm to the fork, there are many businesses and industries that are part of the system that processes our food. HACC's Agribusiness and Management of Food Systems program addresses the whole range.

"These career paths range from logistics, Internet technology, sales and marketing, supervisory management, accounting and the full range of disciplines that are needed by integrated systems everywhere," said HACC Professor Al Wenger, who coordinated the introduction of this program in 2004.

The program was the brainchild of John Ford, Dean of HACC's Business, Hospitality, Engineering and Technology Division, now retired.

The program provides a solid foundation for students who are planning for or already in an agribusiness career. Students study topics such as economics, food marketing, supervision and finance and learn how to apply these to create, manage and sustain the processes that move agricultural products from the field to the consumer.

Students can earn a certificate or an associate degree.

Many of the adjunct professors who teach the courses bring first-hand industry experience, such as John Howard, an attorney for the Milk Marketing Board, who instructs the Agricultural Law class at the Lancaster Campus, and Art Bandy, Weis regional supervisor, who has instructed the Management of Food Systems course. Students, such as Alex Masser, who are already involved in agribusiness have also given input into the program.

"HACC will be offering Introduction to Agribusiness at Lancaster and Harrisburg campuses (this fall)," Wenger said. In addition, an agreement with Delaware Valley College will make it possible for HACC students to earn a bachelor's degree at the Harrisburg Campus. "We are looking for increased interest as the food industry is a career path that remains excitingly innovative and continues to grow, even in this difficult economic climate."

# Photography grads translate education into entrepreneurial success

Most people would relish making the decision that faces HACC photography students at graduation: transfer to one of the country's top photography programs or begin an entrepreneurial journey well prepared in a highly competitive field.

The rigors of the program are known far and wide and make access to programs at the country's top photography schools a reality for many students.

"We offer a much better program in two years than most schools offer in four years," said Ron Talbott, MFA, senior professor of art and coordinator of HACC's photography programs. Our students look to transfer to outstanding four-year institutions or it is like they are taking a step back from what they learned at HACC, he added.

Successfully completing HACC's photography program also increase the odds of success for graduates who decide to venture out on their own.

HACC students have won national honors, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination and highest honors in the Best of College Photography Competition. After graduation, they have worked for The Patriot-News, flourished as assistants to top photographers in New York City and San Francisco, and even headed up Reuters Photography in Los Angeles. Still others have chosen to build their own businesses near and far from the college where they learned their trade.

Donna Gentile Wierzbowski, 49, graduated from HACC's photography program in 2008, but she has been working as a photographer since 1998 when she first walked into a dark room and smelled the chemicals.

"I fell in love with it!" she said. "I loved it so much I put a dark room in my basement."

Wierzbowski, who is working on her third associate degree at HACC, has specialized in commercial photography, specifically food, to build



*Donna Gentile Wierzbowski ('08), owner of DG Design and Photography in Middletown, specializes in food. Her work has been featured in cookbooks and national publications.*

her business. Although her photos have been featured in cookbooks and national publications, she understands the ups and downs associated with running a business and has diversified her offering.

"Photography is so competitive, and, in this economy, it is a luxury item for the public," she said. "About half of my business now is photography. The other half is writing, editing and design."

Wendy Palmer, 53, took her first HACC photography course as a way to do something for herself after her children were born. Although trained as



*Commercial photographer Wendy Palmer ('02) took this photo of Mt. Fitzroy in Argentina. She owns Wendy Palmer Photography Inc. in Hershey.*



a physical therapist, it didn't take long for her love of photography to propel her in a new direction.

"As I went from one course to the next, I loved everything and thrived on (learning more)," she said, adding that Talbott was inspirational and led her growth in the program. "Once I finished my associate degree, I decided to work as a photographer."

Inspirational professors are a recurring theme with HACC photography graduates. Joseph Antonetti worked with a top photographer in California for 10 years before branching out on his own. But, Antonetti, who turns 40 this summer, remembers Dan Eisenhart, an adjunct photo professor and alumnus, as someone who exemplified the ability to actually make a living at photography.

"Dan was a successful businessman making images for a living," he said. "He was the one who really showed me how it's done."

Kathy Martin's turning point came in the spring of 2005, just after graduation, when she had the opportunity to assist a local photographer at a wedding.

"It truly was an 'a-ha' moment," she said, adding it was all she needed to dive right in and start her own wedding photography business from home.

"I met my prospective clients in Starbucks, wherever was convenient for them," she said. Two years later, her photojournalistic approach to wedding photography would support the rent on a small office where she could meet clients and shoot indoors.

"I've worked pretty hard, combined with a splash of luck and lots of ambition. It's not easy," said Martin, 42. "You have to be motivated. You have to have the professionalism and business sense, if you want to make it a (success)."



Kathy Martin ('05) owns a wedding photography business in Duncannon.

## Controlling your destiny



J. Michael Brill

J. Michael Brill knew from a young age that he wanted to control his destiny. In 1987, he founded J. Michael Brill & Associates, a consulting civil and site engineering company in Mechanicsburg. Since then, the firm has worked on 2,100 projects for more than 700 clients and now has 21 people on its payroll. Brill shares his insights on starting a business.

### What made you go out on your own?

After graduation from HACC in May 1978, I began working for a small civil engineering and surveying firm in Camp Hill, thanks to Dave McNeilly, a HACC professor who recommended me. I also completed an engineering degree at Penn State Harrisburg. Quickly, I determined the owner was sitting on a "gold mine," but never mined the business properly. Over time, I learned a lot about the business by working from the bottom up. After nine years, I was the owner's right-hand man. However, I knew I could run a more successful business. When I received notice in July 1987 that I passed my professional engineer's exam, I began planning to launch my own business and opened it that November.

### What makes a successful entrepreneur?

A successful entrepreneur is a risk taker. Starting a business is a huge risk, but it reaps big rewards. You must also possess a healthy dose of self-confidence and be committed to making the business work. Never give up, no matter what obstacles get in your way. Successful entrepreneurs are forward thinkers. Know where you want to be and have a plan on how to get there. Most entrepreneurs are also life-long learners and open to new ideas. Every day is a learning experience for me. Finally, you must be willing to work hard and sacrifice because owning a business is not a 9-to-5 job five days a week. During the early years of my business, I worked from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. seven days a week.

### Advice for would-be entrepreneurs

Choose something you like to do and are good at doing. Work for somebody else (preferably a small business) for a while and learn all aspects of the business. Get that "real world" work education. It's important to maintain a good reputation and be credit worthy. Acknowledge from the start that you will make mistakes, because we all do. Learn from mistakes and do not make the same mistake again. Finally, realize that you will never know everything and bring people into your organization who are strong in areas where you may be weak. You need to give up some control to grow your business and your employees. No matter how big or small your firm starts out or becomes, be a good L.E.A.D.E.R., which I say is to Listen, Educate, Assist, Develop, Empower, and Respect.

## Golf outing to raise funds for HACC scholarships



*HACC President Edna V. Baehre, left, and Frank J. Dixon, long-time member of the HACC Foundation board of directors, unveil the new name of the annual golf tournament at the 2008 fund raiser.*

The Frank J. Dixon Tournament for Scholarships at HACC will be held Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, at The Hershey Links, 101 Hanshue Road, Hummelstown. The HACC Foundation Tournament was renamed to honor Dr. Dixon, benefactor and long-time HACC Foundation board member who chaired the tournament for many years and was instrumental in its success.

"With the continued downturn in the economy, more and more HACC students are reaching out for help to further their educational goals. Each week I speak with more and more students who are struggling to pay for their education while facing the ever-rising cost of food, rent, child care and travel," said HACC President Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D.

"Participation in this fund raiser makes it possible for HACC to give scholarships to these most financially needy of our students to allow them to concentrate on their studies," she said.

"Last year, the generosity of our sponsors provided \$125,000 in new scholarship funds," Baehre said. She thanked the many individuals and businesses, including 2009 corporate sponsors GreenWorks Development LLC and Tyco Electronics, for their ongoing generous support to The HACC Foundation.

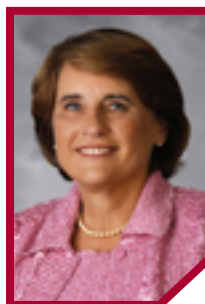
Over the past 12 years, the golf tournament has raised more than \$760,000 in new scholarship dollars for students studying at any of the HACC campuses in Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon and York.

The tournament opens at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 14, with registration and a silent auction. The chipping and putting greens also will open at this time.

After a buffet lunch at 11 a.m., a shotgun start at noon will begin the golfing. A reception and awards ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m.

The cost is \$500 for an individual golfer or \$2,000 for a foursome. For more information, call 717-780-2583 or e-mail [brellis@hacc.edu](mailto:brellis@hacc.edu) or go to [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu) and enter "golf tournament" in the search button.

## HACC names new foundation director



*Jayne Baker Abrams*

Jayne Baker Abrams of Camp Hill has been named executive director of Institutional Advancement and The HACC Foundation.

Abrams has 30 years of professional and volunteer experience in the Greater Harrisburg community, including chief development officer of Family & Children Services of Central Pennsylvania and executive director of its subsidiary, ParentWorks. She also founded and implemented VolunTEEN and Children's Play Room/ParentWorks.

Her community involvement includes the board of trustees at Harrisburg Academy and Fredricksen Library, citizen advisory board of Cumberland County Social Services for Children and Youth, Harrisburg Exchange Club, Harrisburg Regional Chamber, Camp Hill Community Foundation, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral.

## Whipple named director of corporate and foundation development



*Linda Whipple*

Linda Whipple of Elizabethtown recently was named director of corporate and foundation development in The HACC Foundation.

She will be responsible for increasing the visibility of the college in its eight-county service region, and will represent the college and The HACC Foundation in the community to enhance and build relationships and encourage new support for the college.

Whipple reports to Jayne Baker Abrams, executive director of Institutional Advancement and The HACC Foundation.

Whipple previously was director of communications and external relations at Harrisburg Academy. She served in several capacities at Franklin & Marshall College, including director of marketing management, associate director of college relations, periodicals editor, features editor and managing editor. She also was a staff writer, copy writer and wire editor for Lancaster Newspapers.

Whipple graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Lafayette College, Easton, and earned a master's degree from The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

# HACC Foundation receives \$3.5 million in gifts

Three recent donations to The HACC Foundation totaling \$3.5 million underscore the importance of HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College to the region. The donations also show the expanding role that community colleges are playing in educating the nation, says one of the donors.

"Community colleges no longer are the stepchild in the educational family," said Dr. Frank J. Dixon, long-time HACC benefactor whose most recent \$1 million donation benefits Lebanon County students attending HACC's Lebanon Campus. Since 1990, Dixon has been a member of the board of directors of The HACC Foundation and served as chairman for many of those years.

Dixon noted the gifts include:

- His own gift, which supplements his family foundation's tuition assistance grant program established through The HACC Foundation. More than 2,000 students already have been helped through the program.
- Alex Grass, retired Rite Aid CEO and well-known philanthropist, gave \$1.5 million to HACC to establish the Alex Grass School of Business Leadership. The school was established in January on the Harrisburg Campus and is in the process of developing programs. The endowment will make it possible for the school to draw not only on Grass' business acumen to inspire future leaders but bring other national and international business leaders to HACC.
- The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation gave \$1 million to establish a scholarship endowment for financially needy students. To be eligible, a student must demonstrate motivation and achievements indicative of their eagerness for a college education.

"(These donations) prove to me that society has changed its thinking about the position that community colleges have in the education field," continued Dixon, who helped to found and endow the Lebanon Campus which opened in 1990.

When the campus burned a year later, Dixon recalled: "We had a story to tell about a tragic incident, and we couldn't raise nearly that amount in the whole community. Here we are 20 years later, and we have three gifts" of \$1 million or more.

"This is unprecedented," continued Dixon, a community philanthropist, who owned Brandywine Recyclers before retiring last year. "I cannot remember any other individual gifts of this magnitude" to The HACC Foundation within the same time frame.

HACC President Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D., said the gifts represent the "vision" and "forward-thinking" of benefactors who are "pacesetters in the world of philanthropy."

"These gifts to The HACC Foundation, coupled with the many other supporting donors, have made The HACC Foundation one of the largest community college foundations in the nation," she said. "Our donors value HACC's mission to help students from all walks of life realize their dreams for a better life through education and the community college's educational partnership with business and industry in Central Pennsylvania."

The partnerships that HACC and other community colleges form with business and industry are critical, said Bob LePage, a consultant with The Clements Group, a Utah-based resource development and institutional advancement consulting firm that specializes in helping community colleges, technical institutes and K-12s. HACC is among the group's clients.

"When you look at these particular gifts, they almost always involve an investment into the region's workforce. The quality of the workforce is one of the top three concerns of business and industry (which are) faced with an aging workforce and the need for retraining," he said.

President Barack Obama has called for a national dialogue on workforce issues and new research, noting during his remarks on job creation and job training at a White House press conference in May that this country needs "a fundamental rethinking of our job training, vocational education, and community college programs."

In the same speech, the President called community colleges "one of America's underappreciated assets." He added, "These schools offer practical education and technical training, and they're increasingly important centers of learning where Americans can prepare for the jobs of the future."

Increased giving to community colleges is "definitely" a trend, said Polly Binns, executive director of the Council for Resource Development, an education and networking affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges based in Washington, D.C.

"Because community colleges are doing what they say they're going to do, philanthropists are looking closer to home," she said. "Donors see that their gifts (to community colleges) have a direct impact on the quality of life in the region. Because 80 percent of alumni live within a 25-mile radius of the campus where they graduated, donors see a direct impact of their gifts."





# Sales team named to promote HACC

Four Central Pennsylvania marketing professionals have been named campus sales coordinators at HACC.

Scott Charney of Lancaster is assigned to the Lancaster Campus, Katherine Lucas of York is assigned to the York Campus, and Liza Page Steele of Lancaster and Otis A. Thomas III of Harrisburg are both located at the Harrisburg Campus and also will serve the Gettysburg and Lebanon campuses.

The campus sales coordinators were hired to find opportunities in which HACC can better serve the needs of business and industry, said Cindy Reiner, Dean of Workforce Development, Public Safety, & Community Education.

"They also will be liaisons between the campuses and the community to establish better relationships," Reiner said.



Scott Charney

Charney has more than 15 years of sales and marketing experience in diversified industries, including director of new business development for dio strategic marketing in York. A former intelligence analyst with the United States Army, he has a bachelor's degree in recreation administration from York College of Pennsylvania.



Katherine Lucas

Lucas has nearly 20 years experience as an account executive, including former account executive of international and express freight for FedEx, and Roadway Express. A HACC alumna, she has an associate degree in liberal arts and a bachelor's degree in business/marketing from Penn State University.



Liza Page Steele

Steele has 20 years of professional sales and management experience, including territory sales manager in Lancaster County for The Phillips Group and director of key account development nationwide and director of sales and marketing for ArchivesOne. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Millersville University.



Otis A. Thomas III

Thomas has more than 20 years of sales and management experience, including United Refrigeration in Mechanicsburg; owner and operator of a landscaping business for five years, and assistant manager at an area Wendy's. He has an associate degree in specialized technology in computer and electronics engineering technology from ITT Technical Institute, and has a CDL license with airbrake and hazmat endorsements.

## How to reach the sales team

If you would like to reach any of the campus sales coordinators to set up a meeting and discuss how HACC can help you, the best way to make contact is via e-mail or cell phone since they are frequently out in the community. Here's their contact info:

**Scott Charney:** [dscharne@hacc.edu](mailto:dscharne@hacc.edu); 717-405-9550

**Katherine Lucas:** [kmlucas@hacc.edu](mailto:kmlucas@hacc.edu); 717-793-7393

**Liza Page Steele:** [epsteele@hacc.edu](mailto:epsteele@hacc.edu); 717-587-7529

**Otis A. Thomas III:** [oathomas@hacc.edu](mailto:oathomas@hacc.edu); 717-612-2197

# New member named to board of trustees



Hector Richard Ortiz, Ph.D.

Hector Richard Ortiz, Ph.D., of Steelton recently joined HACC's board of trustees.

Ortiz, a HACC alumnus, works with Dauphin County Human Services as community liaison and contract manager, and is a consultant for leadership development, cultural competence and translation and interpretation.

Before coming to Harrisburg, he was an adviser in Ecuador's House of Representatives and a civil engineer independent contractor.

Ortiz is president of the Harrisburg Keystone Rotary Club, co-founder and current treasurer of the Latino/Hispanic Professional Association of Central Pennsylvania, chair of the Dauphin County Diversity Advisory Panel, Cultural Competence Committee, and a member of Harrisburg Young

Professionals, United Way Latino Services Task Force and Capital Region Chamber of Commerce Diversity Council.

He was charter president of Estamos Unidos de Pennsylvania, a local organization created in 2003 to advance, enrich and better the lives of Harrisburg area residents of Hispanic backgrounds through education, leadership, and social skills.

Ortiz also is an alumnus of Leadership Harrisburg Area, receiving a 20 Leaders/20 Years award during the organization's recognition anniversary in 2006.

In addition to an associate degree from HACC, Ortiz earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, master's degree in diplomacy, and doctorate in international relations, all from Guayaquil State University of Ecuador.

# Alumni gather around the Greenbelt



*Cyclists and volunteers gather on the lawn in front of the Cooper Student Center.*

**QUESTION:** What do many of the bicyclists and walkers who enjoy the Capital Area Greenbelt have in common, other than love of recreation?

**ANSWER:** HACC

Many HACC alumni are involved with – and helped to found – the Capital Area Greenbelt Association (CAGA), a non-profit group that works to improve and maintain the 20-mile path that snakes around Harrisburg.

Part of the Greenbelt winds through HACC's Harrisburg Campus. A new section of the trail, extending from the northern end of the developed campus to Wildwood Park, was dedicated last September. Many HACC alumni, including Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed, participated in the ceremony.

"Maybe because HACC touches so many people around here, we have between 20 and 30 members who happen to have gone to HACC or work at HACC," said Tim Poole, a founding member of CAGA and a 1984 HACC graduate. "I think the Greenbelt's presence here is beneficial for HACC students and faculty. It's a place where people can come to exercise and recreate between classes and on breaks."

When Poole was a student, there were pieces of the Greenbelt on Riverfront Parkway and Paxtang Parkway, but not at HACC. "We started CAGA to reassemble the whole loop," said Poole, who, as a member of the Harrisburg Bike Club, was asked to be on the Greenbelt Steering Committee (which later became CAGA). Poole was the first president and has held every office since then, currently serving as secretary.

"I love to bike and walk, and I like the environmental and historical aspects of the Greenbelt," said Poole, who often rides the loop with his wife and 10-year-old son.

Lewis Bowman, a 1970 HACC graduate, rides in CAGA's Tour de Belt, the association's fundraiser. This June's event drew an all-time high of 580

cyclists from several states and raised \$1,200 toward maintenance and promotion of the Greenbelt, Poole said.

HACC was the starting point for the ride this year. "So many Tour de Belt riders are familiar with HACC that it seemed like a perfect fit," said Lois Lippert, a HACC alumna and CAGA's assistant treasurer. "I have been serving on the Tour de Belt planning committee for five or six years now and we have never had as much positive feedback as we did this year. Many riders expressed that they would very much like us to have the ride at HACC again next year."

Riders enjoy the trail all year long. "I ride the complete 20 miles at least 10 to 15 times a year for the beauty and history contained within the Greenbelt," Bowman said. "The summer rides are great, but the fall rides are breath taking, with the various fall colors and cooler temperatures."

The route is rich in history, dotted with the old Harrisburg State Hospital grounds, the John Harris Museum and gravesite, and the old Lochiel Tavern once used to house traveling railroad workers overnight, Bowman noted.

"Each year, the trail and HACC expose people to things that they had never realized where there," said Jill Rondeau, a HACC alumna and teacher. "It's very much a privilege to be a part of the organization that protects and maintains the trail and to introduce it to others who might be stewards and users of this great community resource."

The Greenbelt is actually a linear park connecting and passing through Riverfront Park, Cameron Parkway, Paxtang Park, Paxtang Parkway, and Reservoir Park, the grounds of the State Hospital, HACC's Harrisburg Campus and Wildwood Lake. It was developed using state and federal grants applied for by municipalities through which the Greenbelt extends, with municipalities often matching the funds, Poole said.

If you're interested in joining fellow alumni in CAGA, you can call 921-GREEN (717-921-4733).



*Cyclists pass the Rose Lehrman Arts Center on the final stage of the Tour de Belt.*

## College Central Network helps alumni search for jobs

HACC provides a no-cost online service that allows alumni to use a local employment database. Through HACC's College Central Network (CCN), you can search for full-time, part-time, or seasonal positions or post your resume for employers to review.

To use HACC's CCN services, go to [www.collegecentral.com/hacc](http://www.collegecentral.com/hacc). Once registered, you may:

- Search for available job opportunities
- Search for jobs by degree, major, job location, or type of job
- Upload your resume for review by employers
- Use online resources for information on creating concise and effective resumes, marketing yourself with professional cover letters, and preparing for interviews
- Sign up to receive e-mails about job-related events and services

The professional staff in Career Services on all HACC campuses also offers an array of other career-related services and workshops, most are free to alumni. For more information, visit [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu). Click on Student Services and then Career Services. Or, call the Career Services office at your local campus and make an appointment.

<b>Harrisburg</b>	<b>(717) 780-2522</b>	<b>Gettysburg</b>	<b>(717) 337-3855</b>
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>(717) 358-2290</b>	<b>York</b>	<b>(717) 718-0328, ext. 3513</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>(717) 270-6308</b>		

## Hoepfer named director of alumni affairs



Maureen Hoepfer

Maureen Hoepfer of Lower Paxton Township has been named director of alumni affairs in the office of Institutional Advancement.

Hoepfer will administer the alumni program, oversee and manage the Alumni Council and coordinate special activities for alumni participation in college programs and events in conjunction with the council.

Hoepfer previously was associate director of alumni relations at Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey. She formerly was press secretary for the Pennsylvania Medical Society and board manager of its foundation. She owned "Writing Depot," which provided writing and editorial services to businesses and nonprofits, and was a reporter.

She has a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in public administration with a concentration in marketing, both from Penn State.

Alumni can reach Hoepfer at 717-780-1157 or via e-mail at [mghoepfe@hacc.edu](mailto:mghoepfe@hacc.edu).

## Bookstore discounts added to Alumni College Card



Bookstore on the  
HACC-Gettysburg Campus

HACC bookstores on all campuses will now give a 10 percent discount on clothing and gift items to HACC alumni who show their Alumni College Card, also known as the Campus User Card. These bookstores and the online Web site are the only places you can go to purchase official HACC alumni merchandise.

The Alumni College Card also enables you to use HACC services and facilities, including library privileges, access to career services programs

and events, discounts on events held at various HACC campuses, and use of the

gym, tennis courts and swimming pool at the Harrisburg Campus. Cards are \$25 for an annual membership or \$100 to become a lifetime member.

For more information on the Alumni College Card, visit the HACC Web site, [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu), and click on Alumni and Friends and then HACC Alumni Association. For bookstore hours or to shop for HACC alumni merchandise, click on the HACC Bookstore's link, located on the front page of the HACC Web site.

## HACC seeks alumni feedback

HACC strives to keep alumni connected to the college by sponsoring alumni events on HACC campuses and sharing news about the college and its graduates. HACC wants to do more, but needs feedback from you.

In the coming year, HACC's Office of Alumni Affairs, in conjunction with the HACC Alumni Association, will focus on developing alumni programs that meet your needs and keep you engaged with your alma mater. To do this, we need to hear from you. Please share your thoughts with us by taking five minutes to complete the alumni survey on the following page. When completed, simply fold the survey as indicated, tape it shut, and drop it in the mail. The postage is free.

Your opinions are important. Alumni feedback will help determine how to improve HACC's alumni programs and services to keep you better connected to the college.



**1. Please indicate your level of interest in the following programs that may be offered to HACC alumni.**

	Very Interested	Some Interest	Little Interest	No Interest
Discount tickets to campus events				
Career/job services and counseling				
Promotional merchandise				
Travel tours with HACC alumni				
Discounts at HACC bookstores				
Career-focused networking events for alumni				
Regional (by campus) alumni clubs				
Fun, low-cost educational events for alumni/family				
Group auto and life insurance				
Free or reduced cost for credit or non-credit courses				
Online alumni directory				
Program-focused (e.g., nursing, theatre) alumni clubs/events				
HACC credit card				

**2. Please indicate your level of interest in the volunteer opportunities that may be available to HACC alumni.**

	Very Interested	Some Interest	Little Interest	No Interest
Serve on a College advisory board				
Serve as a career contact for students or alumni				
Volunteer to help with Career Services programs (e.g., job shadowing)				
Serve on the Alumni Council				
Serve on committees for campus/program alumni clubs				
Help to recruit HACC students				
Organize alumni outings or events				
Volunteer for HACC community service projects				
Participate in fundraising efforts for scholarships				

**3. What is your preferred way of receiving news about HACC and its alumni? (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Mailed materials (alumni publications)	<input type="checkbox"/> Online to my e-mail account
<input type="checkbox"/> Mass media (Patriot-News, TV, local publications)	<input type="checkbox"/> HACC Web site
<input type="checkbox"/> Social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter)	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal on-campus visit
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	

**4. If you gave a contribution to HACC, where would you want your donation designated? (Check only one)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Programs that benefit the College (scholarships, building projects)	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs that benefit HACC alumni (alumni trips/events)
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs that benefit the community (workforce development)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)

**5. Please make one suggestion on how we could make the HACC alumni program better in the future.**

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**HACC strives to keep you connected, but we need accurate information. Please provide your contact information.**

Name:		
Address:		
Telephone:	Cell:	E-mail:
Employer:		Job Title:
Bus. Address:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please check if you want information about volunteer opportunities with the HACC Alumni Association.		



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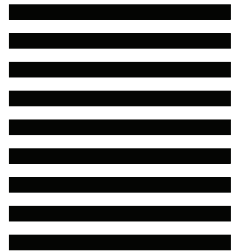
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**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 7775 HARRISBURG PA

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HACC ALUMNI AFFAIRS  
ONE HACC DRIVE  
HARRISBURG PA 17110-9989



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SECURE THE TOP EDGE WITH TAPE

# Alumni News

## Business, Hospitality, Engineering and Technology

**Jeremiah D. Akers** (Lancaster, business administration '06) recently received Temple University's Dean's Leadership Award. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Temple. He is a staff accountant for Amper, Politziner and Mattia in Philadelphia.

**Robert C. Carraher II** (Harrisburg, music industry '05) is living in Pittsburgh where he earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently employed by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

**Eileen T. Culp** (Lancaster, business studies '08) is continuing her education at Millersville University.

**Ann M. DeAngelis-Refford** (Harrisburg, culinary arts '06) is a culinary arts program specialist at the Dauphin County Technical School. She married Dr. Brian Refford, a history professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, on May 10, 2008.

**Johnathan Ditlow** (Harrisburg, business studies '08) is living in Boiling Springs where he works as a customer service assistant for Karns Quality Foods.

**Jonathan A. Hetrick** (Harrisburg, computer networking technology '06) is a network specialist for Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Company. He became a Cisco-Certified Network Associate in 2008.

**Kelly A. Ritsick Hockenberry** (Harrisburg, entrepreneurial leadership '08) married Douglas Hockenberry in October 2008. They are expecting their first child in September 2009.

**Rachel Ralls** (Harrisburg, geospatial technology certification '08) earned a bachelor's degree in Geography from Millersville University and is currently working on a master's degree in Geoenvironmental Studies at

Shippensburg University. She is employed by the Nature Conservancy as a conservation information assistant.

**Richard E. Randall** (Lebanon, computer information support specialist '08) is living in Lebanon.

**Maximiliano Zampatti** (Harrisburg, computer networking technology '07) is continuing his education at Florida International University while working as an IT technician at Doctor Diabetic Supply. He and his wife, attorney Isadora Velazquez, live in Miami.

## Communications, Arts, and Social Sciences

**Rachel K. Bitler** (Harrisburg, media studies '08) is continuing her education at Millersville University. She is completing an internship at CBS-TV 21 in Harrisburg.

**Abigail Caballero** (Lancaster, social sciences '08) graduated cum laude in May 2009 from Millersville University, where she was a member of the historical honor society, Phi Alpha Theta.

**Michael A. Campbell** (Harrisburg, elementary education '95) is a teacher at the Milton Hershey School and also serves as a professor of psychology at Harrisburg University. He was named to Penn State University's "People to Watch" in 1999, and became a National Board Certified teacher in 2004. Also in 2004, he became "Year Round Experience" coordinator for at-risk students at Milton Hershey School, providing enrichment programming in summer and at holiday breaks.

**Brian Civitts** (Harrisburg, elementary education '08) is continuing his education at Bloomsburg University, where he is majoring in special education and elementary education with a minor in deaf education.

**Brooke Courtney** (Harrisburg, visual arts/photography '08) is owner of Brooke Courtney Photography in Manheim.

**Laurence D. Ellsperman** (Harrisburg, social science '07) is employed by Valenti Mid-Atlantic Management LLC in Enola as general manager.

**Jennifer Joy Fox** (Harrisburg, visual arts/photography '92) earned a National Board Certification and Advanced Professional Certification for teaching in Maryland. She teaches photography in the newly renovated Elkton High School in Cecil County, Md.

**Debbie Gardner** (Harrisburg, legal assistant '03) earned a bachelor's degree from Albright College. She is employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an administrative officer.

**Patrick Guyer** (Harrisburg, elementary education '08) is continuing his education at Millersville University.

**Vickie Marie Hodgson** (Lancaster, early childhood education certification '06) lives in Quarryville. Her brother Brian "Huddy" Hodgson passed away Sept. 1, 2008, at 23 years old.

**Anna Iletto** (Harrisburg, early childhood education '05) continued her education at Penn State Harrisburg where she recently received a master's degree in teaching and curriculum. She is employed as child care specialist at HACC's Grace Milliman Pollock Childcare and Early Childhood Education Center.

**Craig King** (Harrisburg, social sciences '86) is living in Ephrata and is employed by High Hotels as a guest services attendant.

**Linda Yarnell Klitch** (Harrisburg, elementary education '69) retired after teaching in the Harrisburg School District for 35 years. She has been actively involved in her local chapter of the Pennsylvania State Education Association for 25 years.

**Cherry J. Knobloch** (Harrisburg, visual arts/fine arts and design '06) is a ceramic artist for Earthechos Studio in Chesapeake, Va.

**Bradley R. Lentz** (Harrisburg, social sciences '04) continued his education at Shippensburg University where he received a bachelor's degree in education. He is a teacher for the Kinder Care Learning Center in Harrisburg.

**Ashley Mellot** (Harrisburg, criminal justice '07) continued her education at Shippensburg University where she received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She is a youth counselor for the United Methodist Home for Children in Mechanicsburg.

**Kim S. Myer** (Lancaster, social sciences '06) graduated magna cum laude in 2008 from Albright College, earning a bachelor's degree in organizational psychology. She currently works for the American Red Cross in Lancaster.

**Rachel O'Connor** (Harrisburg, visual arts-fine arts '08) is working on a bachelor's degree in art history at Messiah College.

**Bernard Tarlecki** (Harrisburg, graphic design '06) is employed as a graphic designer at Displays and Graphics, Inc., in Harrisburg.

**Mary Ann Worley** (Harrisburg, legal assistant '02) earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in January and began her master's degree in public administration at Penn State Harrisburg in May.

**Holly R. Zaring** (Harrisburg, graphic design '08) is a customer service representative with Highmark Blue Shield and is expecting her first child in September.

**Connie Ann Zimmerman** (Harrisburg, elementary education '78) was recently appointed to the board of directors of The Program for Female Offenders, Inc. The program helps women make the transition from incarceration to productive, crime-free lives. She received her bachelor's degree in public policy from Penn State Harrisburg.



## Alumni News Continued

### Mathematics, Science, and Allied Health

**Matthew L. Coffroth** (Lancaster, radiologic technology '07) recently received certification in both radiology and computed tomography (CT) from the American Registry for Radiologic Technologists. He lives in Paradise.

**Carmen A. Gomez Ferber** (Harrisburg, surgical technology '06) is employed as a surgical technologist at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill.

**Michael T. Ferguson** (Lebanon, nursing '98) is the evening manager at Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute in Harrisburg.

**Deborah S. Lee** (Harrisburg, liberal arts—life science/chemistry '00) is a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve. During 2007, she, her husband Jerry, and daughter Alexandria spent seven months in Naples, Italy, where she worked for the Navy Europe Command and directed the Navy's interactions (ship port visits, admiral summits, officer exchanges, traveling training teams, and military equipment upgrades) with Russia, Ukraine, Georgia and Poland. Their son, Nathan, 21, was unable to join them in Italy because he was deployed to Balad, Iraq, with the Air Force's security force.

**Karen Lindsey Middleton** (Harrisburg, nursing '77) lives in Tocca, Ga. She works at Stephens County Hospital in the pre-operation nursing office where she performs physical assessments, teaching, and patient education on surgical routines.

**Kathleen L. O'Hara** (Harrisburg, liberal arts—life science '05) has continued her education at Delaware Valley College and Slippery Rock University. She earned a bachelor's degree in dairy science and is currently working on her master's degree in sustainable systems.

**Jacquelyn Commella Werts** (Lancaster, invasive cardiovascular technology '05) currently works at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center as a cardiovascular technologist. She is also an adjunct instructor with the invasive cardiovascular technology program at HACC's Lancaster Campus. She is married to Matthew Werts, owner of Elite Baseball of Lancaster. The couple celebrated the birth of their first child on April 20, 2008.

**Dr. Charles R. Wolfe III** (Harrisburg, liberal arts—life science '02) has been appointed the new clinical director of First Choice Rehabilitation Specialists' Mechanicsburg facility. He recently completed his doctoral degree in physical therapy at Chatham College, Pittsburgh.

### Student Services

**Eric A. Ashberry** (Harrisburg, general studies '08) is a systems technician with Verizon Wireless in Harrisburg.

**Erin Tieman** (Harrisburg, general studies '07) is continuing her education at California University of Pennsylvania. She received the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PSSHE) scholarship.

**Thomas R Wiltsey** (Lancaster, general studies '08) is continuing his education at Alvernia University, working on his bachelor's degree in communications.

# HACC grads earn through Bucknell

Bucknell University graduates Heather Ingram, Elena Mihaylova and Kevin Schneck shared a unique experience in May when they became the first HACC students to earn bachelor's degrees through a partnership between the two institutions.

All three began their education at HACC without a clear idea what the future held after receiving their associate degrees.

As an international student from Bulgaria looking for a scholarship opportunity, Mihaylova says the program had immediate appeal. An accounting major, she was offered a full-time, paid auditor internship with Deloitte & Touche in New Jersey.

"I feel so lucky to have had this opportunity, and a wonderful job offer before graduation," said Mihaylova. She credits the scholarship program and support she received from the HACC / Bucknell partnership.

"I knew I wanted to get my bachelor's degree but wasn't sure how I could make that happen," said Schneck of Camp Hill, a nontraditional student who enrolled in HACC after a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps. "Even though this application sounded like a long shot, I decided to go for it."

Ingram remembers receiving a letter about the program as a student, but admits she didn't think much about it. Later, she felt lucky that her HACC academic advisor approached her about applying.

"The Bucknell Community Scholars Program, funded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, offers some of our brightest and most deserving students the chance to experience a highly selective institution like Bucknell that they would not have been able to access without this opportunity," said Dory Leahey, HACC dean of retention services.

"This program is targeting a new population for us," said Mark Davies, Bucknell's assistant vice president for enrollment management. "Transfers who present us so much diversity in life experiences and background have not been present in our traditional student population."

"The faculty here at Bucknell really enjoys these folks for their seriousness of purpose, focus and maturity," Davies added. "They can change discussions and alter perspectives in the classroom in such a positive way. We'll miss the graduates for so many different reasons but we are confident that the group we just interviewed will bring similar skill sets to us in the near future."

# bachelor's degrees

## Community Scholars Program

### THE GRADUATES



#### Heather Ingram

Heather Ingram, a 2005 Gettysburg Area High School graduate, applied to several area colleges before deciding HACC's Gettysburg Campus was a perfect fit for her needs, allowing her to take classes while continuing to work at an antique boutique in Hanover.

She liked that she could continue established friendships, and appreciated staying close to family.

During the scholarship application process, Ingram visited Bucknell and talked to staff before deciding she liked the school's location, size and friendly atmosphere. "I was very impressed with the small student to professor ratios – although classes could sometimes be as large as 30 students, more often they were around 11 or 12 students to one professor," she explained.

At Bucknell, Ingram lived on campus, making the dean's list each semester as she earned her bachelor's degree in philosophy and art history. She now works in the financial aid office at HACC's York Campus. Future plans are to study for a master's degree and teach at HACC.

Ingram's advice to future scholar recipients: "Get to know as many people as you can before the fall semester begins. Knowing the staff and professors, and immersing yourself in the Bucknell culture by joining clubs, organizations or sports makes the transition more fun."



#### Elena Mihaylova

Elena Mihaylova moved to the United States from Bulgaria as part of a work exchange program, working for a year as a Days Inn front desk representative. After taking some business courses, she enrolled at HACC.

"I met such a variety of people – many HACC students were commuters of different nationalities, with diverse interests," said Mihaylova. "I really appreciate the benefits of studying with people from different age groups with different life experiences."

Mihaylova began searching for scholarship opportunities for international students, applied and was accepted to the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program. She enrolled in the School of Management, specializing in accounting, and feels fortunate because the program, usually closed to transfer students, made an exception for scholarship recipients.

Before graduation, Mihaylova received a paid internship as an auditor at the prestigious firm of Deloitte & Touche in New Jersey. She credits the

college staff with her career search preparation, allowing her to apply for the internship through the Bucknell Career Development database.

"It was a great experience," Mihaylova said of her time at Bucknell. "I needed a little time to adjust but quickly felt a part of the community." She advises others to apply for scholarships, no matter what the odds are. "Believe in yourself and see how it turns out."



#### Kevin Schneck

Kevin Schneck's story is one of overcoming obstacles, realizing ambitions, and learning to focus on the steps to achieve success.

Schneck, a 1995 Camp Hill High School graduate, enrolled at Susquehanna University, but quickly realized he wasn't ready for college. After a year off, he tried again at HACC but knew he was wasting time and money. In spring of 1997, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He traveled the world for four years, and then was an instructor in California for three years before being deployed to Iraq.

During his military career, Schneck married his high school sweetheart. They now have a one-year old son born during finals last year.

When he returned from Iraq, he re-enrolled at HACC. This time he was ready for school. When Dory Leahey spoke to his Honors Psychology class about the Bucknell Scholarship opportunity, he applied.

A nontraditional student living off campus, Schneck wasn't closely connected to the college culture, but enjoyed learning, choosing classes around his interests and the professors who inspired him. With a bachelor's degree in International Relations, he has applied for the "Teach for Kentucky" program as an affordable way to earn a graduate degree while teaching.

Schneck has no hesitations recommending the scholars program. "I didn't think I'd get in when I applied," he admitted, "but I went for it and here I am."

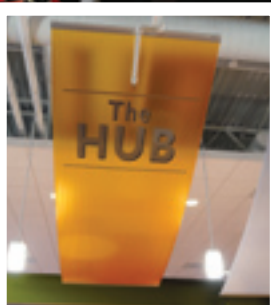
### FAST FACTS

Students in the Bucknell Community Scholars Program are recruited from HACC, Community College of Philadelphia, Montgomery County Community College and Lehigh-Carbon Community College in Pennsylvania and Garrett College in Maryland.

In addition to Bucknell, other four-year institutions chosen to participate in the program are Amherst College, Cornell University, Mount Holyoke College, University of California/Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill and University of Southern California.

# Gettysburg

## Grand opening celebration







## Share the Vision campaign under way

In conjunction with the campus expansion, HACC-Gettysburg Campus kicked off the Share the Vision, Shape the Future campaign in spring 2008 to raise \$2 million in support of scholarships, technology and equipment, and workforce advancement. To date, gifts and pledges have reached nearly \$610,000.



Staff and faculty of HACC-Gettysburg Campus set the pace for the campaign by raising nearly \$50,000 with an overwhelming 66 percent participation. There has also been generous support from members of the HACC board of trustees, HACC Foundation board of directors, and HACC leadership.

Since that time, campus leaders and business and community volunteers have shared the impact that HACC-Gettysburg Campus' commitment to educational excellence and quality workforce training programs has had in the community. They have taken that message to local foundations and business and industry leaders in the Adams/Hanover area.

HACC-Gettysburg Campus has a rich history of collaborative partnerships, contributed resources and financial support from the community — which has grown since the Share the Vision, Shape the Future campaign was launched.

Special appreciation goes to a growing number of major gift donors, including the Thomas L. Cline Foundation, Loving Friends and Family of the late Samuel Boltansky, Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust, Margaret Trew Cline Foundation, Adams County National Bank, Adams Electric Cooperative Inc., Helicopter Applicators Inc., Times & News Publishing, JMZ Architects & Planners, Kennie's Markets, Stambaugh Metal, Eastern PCM, Snyder's of Hanover, Aero Energy, Jeff, Pam & Lauren Shaffer, Arlene Utz Hollinger Foundation and Leadership Adams/Hanover.

### Volunteer leadership team

**Ron Hankey,**  
*Adams County National Bank*

**Alex Kessel,** *Gettysburg High School Class of 1950*

**Gary Laabs,** *Hanover Hospital*

**Gary Laird,** *Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce*

**Steve Rasmussen,**  
*Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

**Steve Renner,** *retired former president of the Adams County Economic Development Corp.*

**Jeff Shaffer,** *RE/MAX of Gettysburg*

**Bernie Yannetti,**  
*Hartman & Yannetti*

**Mary Bottorf,**  
*HACC-Gettysburg Campus*

## FAST FACTS

HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College, is committed to a continued transformation of the Gettysburg Campus to meet the growing needs of the Adams County/Hanover community.

The Share the Vision, Shape the Future campaign is an investment in meeting the diverse needs of the student population, providing state-of-the-art technology and equipment, strengthening workforce development programs, and expanding scholarship opportunities.

The campaign provides an opportunity for the community to partner with the HACC-Gettysburg Campus to support these needs and bring the very best in education and workforce training to the Adams/Hanover region.

For more information on how a gift to the Share the Vision, Shape the Future campaign can make a difference for students and strengthen the community, contact Judy Alder, Campus Development Officer, HACC-Gettysburg, 717-337-3855, ext. 3056 or e-mail her at [jaalder@hacc.edu](mailto:jaalder@hacc.edu).

## HACC professor writes fourth book; earns reputation as espionage authority



In the 1960s, espionage was the star of novels, television and film. Whether it was “James Bond,” “The Avengers” or “Get Smart,” spies dominated popular culture, and they became Wes Britton’s hobby.

Years later, that hobby would be the motivation for four books by the HACC professor that would establish him as an internationally recognized expert on spies in the media, film and literature.

Britton had spent two decades writing primarily for academic books and periodicals and “was looking for a book to write that would be fun.”

“It flashed on me that I had this house full of spy stuff, and I could do a book on the spy stuff of television. From that point on, it was a hobby that got seriously out of control,” he said.

Britton’s latest book, “The Encyclopedia of TV Spies” (BearManor Media, 2009) hit book shelves earlier this year and is earning accolades from readers. It lists for \$29.95 and is available online from Amazon, BearManor Media and Barnes & Noble.

“There are lots of blogs devoted to espionage and some of them were posting things about my book before I knew anyone knew about it,” he said. “My favorite response is that a lot of people find it fun, enjoyable reading. The readers like the enthusiasm of a fan along with the depth of the research involved.”

When Britton is not teaching English composition as a member of HACC’s adjunct faculty, he is fine tuning his extensive knowledge and reinforcing his reputation as an espionage authority.

“I spend a lot of time doing research and reading books,” he said. “I’m doing my level best to be the go-to-guy when you think of entertainment and espionage.”

The fact that Britton has been legally blind since he was an undergraduate has not slowed him down. Using a speech software program that reads aloud what is on his computer screen, he writes and edits his books, surfs the Web, and grades his students’ papers.

“It is a process of constantly adapting to what is available,” said Britton, who remembers a time when he had to hire someone to grade papers for him. “Modern technology has made things a lot more accessible.”

An avid Internet user, Britton maintains a blog, <http://thespyreport.livejournal.com>, which is dedicated to everything espionage. Through it and through radio interviews, convention appearances and book signings, he has promoted his books and built a following of “spy fiends” from all over the world.

“I have a writer friend in Norway, contacts in France and Russia and friends in Israel,” he said. “Thank goodness for modern technology.”

Britton’s other books include “Onscreen and Undercover: The Ultimate Book of Movie Espionage” (Praeger Publishers, 2006), “Beyond Bond: Spies in Fiction and Film” (Praeger Publishers, 2005) and “Spy Television” (Praeger Publishers, 2004). For more information, visit his website at [www.spywise.net](http://www.spywise.net).

# OH BABY, you've never seen nature like this before!

## HACC child care specialists draw national recognition

One baby explores the veins in a leaf or the texture of some bark. Another baby fingers the hairy outer shell of a coconut. Two other babies lie on their stomachs, captivated by the colorful fish in a floor-level aquarium.

The babies are just six weeks to one year old, but they're seeing, hearing and learning about things that we as adults may be surprised they even care about. After all, don't babies just want to bat at plastic purple cows suspended above their heads or teethe on polka-dotted rattles shaped like a star?

No! Babies are born true scientists and are captivated by the things that we as adults see or use or eat everyday, but would never think to give to a baby to explore, say Kathy Buerk and Jolie D. McHenry, child care specialists at HACC's infant classroom in the Grace M. Pollock Early Childhood Education and Child Care Center on the Harrisburg Campus.

Their idea of bringing nature into the classroom and allowing the babies to show them what they are interested in learning about – instead of the other way around – is drawing national interest. "We've been flabbergasted at the response," Buerk said. "When we speak at conferences, others in our field tell that they're always looking for ways to incorporate new materials for children to explore, but since most child



*Kathy Buerk encourages an infant to feel squash.*

care centers do not have unlimited budgets, they're forced to reuse the same artifacts time after time."

The National Association for the Education of Young Children invited Buerk and McHenry to speak at national conferences in New Orleans and Dallas, and they've spoken at many state and local chapters. They also speak at day care centers, workshops and trainings. In addition to working with HACC's early childhood education students, they give classroom tours to child care facilitators and parents.

So where did they get the idea to fill plastic jars with lotus pods, use gourds as rattles, and give babies a plastic vegetable to play with? The question draws laughter from Buerk and McHenry, who started working together in 2005 when the center opened to care for babies of HACC students and staff.

They asked themselves, "What do babies like to explore using their five senses?" and agreed this would be a basis for the infant room curriculum. The problem was that when they looked for training on this approach, they found none.

So they let the babies take the lead. "We took them out on nature walks, saw what interested them, and brought it back to the classroom to further investigate," said McHenry, who also is an adjunct professor. "We observed right away how fascinated they were."

To save money, McHenry and Buerk went to the grocery store. "We started picking up things – like a yam, a ginger root, a coconut, and brought them back to explore with the babies," Buerk said. They bought cushy dog beds for furniture and framed inexpensive pieces of fabric for murals. To create a natural and soothing atmosphere, they dyed crib sheets and burp cloths an earthy green, hung pinecones from the ceiling and scattered baskets of textured vegetables and interesting objects from home.

Buerk and McHenry regularly take the babies on walks around campus, stopping to watch the gardeners, recyclers, letter carriers or anyone who is doing anything – and the babies are interested in it all.



*An infant gazes at fish in an aquarium placed at eye-level.*



## Healthcare careers popular among HACC students



*Two students practice their skills in the nursing lab on Sim Woman, a simulation mannequin.*

Thanks to strong clinical experiences and dedicated faculty who are professionals in their field, healthcare programs available at HACC's Lancaster Campus draw a growing number of applicants.

The first regional campus to offer an associate degree in **nursing**, Lancaster also offers the licensed practical nurse (LPN) certificate and part-time evening registered nurse (RN) programs.

"Getting into nursing remains very competitive, as has been the case in the last 10 years for all nursing programs," said Joan Clites, EdD, RN, C, director of nursing.

HACC collaborates with hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and community centers to provide clinical sites. "I would not hesitate to say we offer among the finest clinical facilities and the most diverse in number, size, shape, and what they have to offer, of any place I have worked," added Clites.

### Degree-completer programs

Earn a bachelor's degree in healthcare management from Immaculata University without ever leaving HACC's Lancaster Campus. This accelerated degree program is one of three bachelor's degrees available starting this fall. Elizabethtown College will offer an accelerated bachelor's degree in business administration and Penn State will offer a bachelor's degree in human development and family studies. For more information, call the Lancaster Campus admissions office at 358-2262.

Nursing students also work at the HACC Nursing Care Center, an inner city clinic in collaboration with SouthEast Lancaster Health Services, to provide health information to vulnerable populations in the community.

"Patients (at the clinic) are getting more exercise, eating healthier foods and smaller portions, quitting smoking, and losing weight," said Julia Sensenig, MSN, RN, CRRN, faculty member and clinic founder. "The community benefits as the patients take home their health information and share it with family members."

**Radiologic technology**, another popular healthcare program, "is one career that is very open-ended," said George Heiser, MEd, RT(R) (QM), program director.

Graduates become staff technologists or radiographers in hospitals or imaging centers, and also pursue opportunities in computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, mammography, special procedures and quality management – and eventually administration or teaching.

Many graduates are hired by clinical sites affiliated with HACC's Lancaster Campus, usually starting at \$18-\$20 per hour. "We have been very successful in terms of our employment rate," said Heiser. "People tend to want HACC grads."

The first hurdle, however, is getting in. "Radiologic technology is a highly competitive program," Heiser said. "We typically have 100 students apply and we take 25 (in each class)."



*A student scrubs up in preparation for a lesson in the nursing lab.*

## Healthcare careers at the Lancaster Campus

### Credit

- Cardiovascular Technology - Cardiac Sonography – associate degree
- Cardiovascular Technology - Invasive – associate degree
- Gerontology – certificate, diploma
- Health Science – associate degree
- Social Services – associate degree, certificate
- Nuclear Medicine Technology – associate degree
- Nursing – associate degree
- Phlebotomy Technician – diploma
- Practical Nursing - certificate
- Radiologic Technology – associate degree
- Senior Healthcare – workplace assistant - diploma

### Non-credit

- Cardiology Technician - certificate
- Medical Coding Specialist - certificate
- Medical Insurance Billing Technician - certificate
- Nurse Aide - certificate
- Pharmacy Technician - certificate
- Senior Healthcare – certificate

Once accepted, the students move together through the clinical phase that includes access to 18 clinical education settings in the community and campus labs with film and digital imaging capabilities. “They can go into a lab setting and see how we make alterations to the X-ray beam and see how that turns out,” said Heiser. “We also have a non-energized lab which is for practicing positioning techniques.”

**Cardiovascular technology** also attracts a high number of applicants. Cardiovascular technologists (sonography and invasive) work with the physician on diagnosis and treatment of patients with cardiovascular diseases. Sonographers perform ultrasound images of the heart, great vessels and surrounding anatomy. Invasive cardiovascular technologists assist with procedures in the catheterization lab, such as angioplasty and stenting.

“Not many programs in the country offer both,” said Lois Schaffer, MEd, RT(R), RCIS, program director. “(Our programs are) fully accredited and students are able to sit for the credentialing examination immediately following graduation.”

Like other HACC healthcare programs, cardiovascular technology offers selective admission to students who have successfully completed prerequisites. “Math and science provide a strong foundation and are good predictors of how the students will perform in our programs,” said Schaffer.

Employment prospects are good. “Our graduates can make about \$24 to \$25-an hour when they come out and take their boards, depending on where they work,” Schaffer said.

An associate degree in allied health is not only a stepping stone to a four-year degree but is a prerequisite entry level in many occupations, and can lead to long term employment.

While many students seek degrees associated with HACC’s credit healthcare programs, a growing number of students are turning to **noncredit options**.

“We’ve noticed a jump in (noncredit program) enrollment over the last year,” said Deanna Swope, coordinator, noncredit healthcare. “It is a convenient and reasonably priced education. All classes are held in the evening and occasionally on the weekends, except for nurse aide training, which offers both day and evening courses.”

Among the more popular healthcare noncredit options are **medical insurance billing technician** and **medical coding specialist**. These programs are self-paced and can take from 12 to 24 months to complete. The **cardiology technician** certificate is a five-class program that prepares students to perform various tests, such as EKGs, Holter monitors and stress tests. If students want to pursue cardiology further, there is an articulation pathway into either of the two CVT programs that HACC offers, Swope added.

The shortest program offered is the 104-hour **nurse aide training** program offered at the HACC-Lancaster Campus, as well as at several long-term care facilities across the state.

Enrollment for noncredit programs is easy: Students simply enroll by phone, fax, mail or online.

## 20th Anniversary

The HACC community will celebrate a milestone this fall when the Lancaster Campus turns 20.

The Lancaster Campus, the first of the college’s regional campuses to be established, has grown to 5,000 students and is the second-largest of all five campuses.

To mark this achievement, the Lancaster Campus will host HACC’s Convocation 2009 starting at 4 p.m. Oct. 1. The community is invited to attend this annual college-wide ceremony that gathers faculty and staff to recognize special achievements. Convocation 2009 will be video cast at each of the campuses, with community celebrations to follow at 5 p.m.

# Lebanon

## Two degrees, one campus:

### HACC's cohort program with Alvernia University offers convenience and expertise

David Eggert was unsure if his job in technical services at The Hershey Company would exist in the future so he decided to pursue his other interest – criminal justice.



David Eggert

The South Lebanon Township resident earned an associate degree in criminal justice from HACC in 2006 and immediately enrolled in Alvernia University's bachelor's degree program offered at the Lebanon Campus. He graduated in August 2008 and began working for the City of Lebanon in March 2009.

"I'm sure my degree had a lot to do with me getting my job," said Eggert, who is Lebanon's deputy fire commissioner as well as housing and sanitation inspector in the department of public safety. "When they told us at Hershey that they might outsource our jobs in the future, I figured I'd rather come out of school with a fresh degree at age 50 than wait any longer."

Through an arrangement between the two institutions, students like Eggert, who are studying criminal justice or behavioral health, can earn their associate degree from HACC and go on to earn their bachelor's degree from Alvernia – without ever leaving the building at HACC's Lebanon Campus.

"We knew this would be a recipe for success," said Cheryl Batdorf, executive dean, Lebanon Campus. "Students looking for a four-year school only have a handful of choices for a four-year degree in criminal justice in Lebanon County, and Alvernia is one of the few schools that offer behavioral health in our region."

Eggert, who has also worked part time for the past 29 years as a school police officer in the Cornwall-Lebanon School District, said he appreciated the fact that his professors were working in the criminal justice field themselves. "They gave us great practical advice and they have been great in giving me any help I've needed," he said.

The cohort program began with the criminal justice major in 2005, followed by behavioral health studies in 2007, said Gale Riegel, director of operations in the graduate and continuing studies division of Alvernia University. The Criminal Justice Program has had 17 graduates, including those graduating this August, and the Behavioral Health Studies Program will graduate its first 11 students by year's end, Riegel said.

"This partnership allows us to recruit the two-year student and the four-year student and allows our local students to stay close to home," Batdorf said. "Many of our students are balancing work, family and in many cases, more than one job. Adding travel time to that can be a big challenge. You never get that time back."

Convenience was a big draw for Lebanon resident Charlene Lamoreax, a busy mother of two children, ages 10 and 12, who holds down two jobs. "The fact that I could get my bachelor's degree right in Lebanon was the No. 1 seller right there for me," said the 32-year-old HACC graduate. She works part time at Philhaven as a psychiatric assistant and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in behavioral health studies from Alvernia.

"Having the bachelor's degree opens up so many more doors in this field. I may even go on for my master's degree," she said.

Jennifer Downey, adjunct professor and practicum instructor for Alvernia's behavioral health studies cohort, said the students have gotten a warm



response from community institutions where they do their practicums, such as the Lebanon VA Medical Center and Philhaven.

"Some of our students have gotten jobs where they did their practicums. Some are already working at these places, but with a degree, they'll be able to move up to a professional position," said Downey, who brings knowledge as a licensed psychologist working in the community to her students.

After each class in the cohort program graduates, Riegel contacts them to see what they do with their degree, and she has found it has earned some of them immediate promotions. Most of the students in this cohort program are nontraditional, older students who are already working.

Students who graduate from HACC with an associate degree in criminal justice go on to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Alvernia. These students are pursuing careers in the juvenile probation system, the prison system or a police department, Riegel said.

HACC students who earn an associate degree in human services transfer to Alvernia to earn a bachelor's degree in behavioral health studies. These students would be working in mental health institutions, rehab centers or as drug and alcohol counselors, Riegel said.

"In the Lebanon area, there is a lot of opportunity for jobs in behavioral health," she said. Two of the graduating behavioral health students are going straight into Alvernia's master's degree in community counseling, she added.

In the cohort program, HACC's Lebanon campus provides the meeting place and promotes the program through its website. Alvernia does student recruitment and provides academic counselors and faculty, some of whom include HACC faculty hired by Alvernia to teach these classes.

For more information on the cohort program, contact Gale Riegel at Alvernia University at 610-796-8384 or Gale.Riegel@alvernia.edu or Cheryl Batdorf at the Lebanon Campus at 717-270-6313.

## First class of nurses graduate from Lebanon Campus of HACC

### Graduates recognized with achievement awards

The first graduates to complete HACC's associate degree nursing program at the Lebanon Campus received their nursing pins this spring at a ceremony held at the campus.

The graduates are now qualified to take licensure exams to become registered nurses. Two graduate nurses were recognized during the ceremony:

Katie A. Roof of Lebanon received the Nursing Faculty Award for Academic Excellence. Roof was selected for her outstanding academic achievement in the classroom.

Emma R. Verna of Lebanon received the Nursing Faculty Award for Clinical Experience for her exemplary behavior in the clinical areas of the nursing program.

The Lebanon Campus associate degree nursing graduates who received their pins during the ceremony were:

- Jonestown – Nicole L. Brandt
- Lebanon - Katie A. Roof, Yvonne A. Ross, Emma R. Verna
- Pine Grove - Tammy L. Hower
- Myerstown - Cherie N. Mohr



*The Lebanon Campus of HACC graduated its first group of students from the nursing program. Among the class of six were two individuals who were recognized with nursing achievement awards at the recent graduation ceremony held at the local campus. Left to right are Yvonne Ross, Lebanon; Tammy Hower, Pine Grove; Cherie Mohr, of Myerstown; Emma Verna, Lebanon; Katie Roof, Lebanon; and Nicole Brandt, Jonestown.*

## Demand calls for new programs, new space

Goodling Center and CyTec Center are among the newest names associated with the George M. Leader Building – essential ingredients in the expansion of the fast-growing HACC-York Campus.

The Goodling Center is home to a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) program that begins this fall – the first of many trades-related programs that are being planned for the campus, said Margie Mattis, executive dean of academic affairs at the York Campus and HACC's curriculum dean for technologies and trades.

"We added HVAC because employers in the area came to us requesting the program," Mattis said. In addition, a local advisory board is being put together to provide guidance for the program.

"We are looking at adding some noncredit courses, such as plumbing, that will benefit the community, as well as expanding the trades by starting with one of the electrical programs," she said.

"The focus will be on high-demand jobs in the York area," Mattis said.

The Goodling Center is across the street from the George M. Leader Building, the main building of the York Campus at 2010 Pennsylvania

Ave. The Goodling Center and CyTec complex are part of a \$7.5 million purchase of 11 acres in the York City Business and Industrial Park – a purchase aimed at accommodating demands due to growing enrollment. With the purchase, HACC acquired 20,000 square feet of unoccupied space for immediate expansion. A master plan is being developed to determine future use of the additional buildings and property.

In addition to setting up a lab for HVAC at the Goodling Center, two classrooms were created to house the English as a Second Language (ESL) laboratories this summer. "There is a growing demand for ESL courses since the program was first offered in January 2008, and this space dedicates room for a language lab and a computer lab," Mattis said.

"We offer all four levels of ESL, with day and evening classes, in addition to Spanish GED. Registration for fall classes is almost already filled," she said.

Also new this fall is the addition of a multicultural affairs coordinator to work with the growing numbers of minority students. Of the 2,406 students who attended the York Campus in spring 2009, 24.1 percent were minority students, including 7.9 percent Hispanic students, 13.8 percent African-American and 1.7 percent Asian.



*The Goodling Center is across the street from the George M. Leader Building, both on the York Campus.*

# HVAC equipment arrives



*HACC faculty member Dennis King adjusts a piece of equipment, one of several pieces of machinery delivered to the Goodling Center.*

HACC's accelerated diploma in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) begins Aug. 24 at the newest addition to the York Campus: the nearby 11-acre site on Pennsylvania Avenue that includes the Goodling Center and Cytec complex.

Prospective students and the public toured the Goodling Center and learned more about the program during an open house in June.

The program provides hands-on, practical skills needed for an entry-level position in a high-demand occupation in just one semester. Students

will learn to install, repair and maintain heating, air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

Graduates work as service technicians, equipment installers or HVAC maintenance technicians. Graduates also can continue their studies for a certificate and/or an associate degree in HVAC.

In preparation for the new program, HACC faculty member Dennis King organized the delivery of equipment that included heat pumps, boilers, coils, condensing units, oil and gas furnaces, ventilation, air conditioning units, water heaters, compressors, ice machines and more.

For more information contact Jeff Newhard at the York Campus at 718-0328 ext. 3560.

The new HVAC accelerated program also qualifies under HACC's targeted retraining program for dislocated workers. Individuals interested in targeted retraining should contact York County's CareerLink, down the street from HACC's York Campus at 841 Vogel song Road.



*King checks a basic electrical trainer for the new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) lab installed this summer at the York Campus.*

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

## Technology and the Trades



# SAFETY FIRST: Firefighters get valuable training at HACC



The scene: Hot, steamy day. Not even a breeze to relieve the heat. Smoke, fire pouring out of a three-story brick building. Men suited up in layers of fire protective gear.

In moments, the last Saturday in June got even hotter for the dozen Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company members and four East Pennsboro Township firefighters gathered at the John J. Shumaker Public Safety Center (PSC).

As the smoke roiled out of the windows and the flames licked the walls, the men methodically began rolling out the hose, and then took aim at the building as the water began to flow. Just before some of the men entered the hot, smoky structure, they checked their gear – new self-containing breathing apparatus (SCBA) with wireless communications systems inside the face mask. The gear allows the firefighter to breathe air in toxic environments, explained Jerry Ozog, Hampden's deputy fire chief.

In minutes the fire was doused and the hoses drained, rolled and tidily stored back on the fire truck. The firefighters gratefully unhooked their air packs and loosened the bindings on their thick outer garments.



*Frank Conte, a senior member of the fire company, was among the dozen men who participated in the exercise. Conte also is a member of the HACC board of trustees.*

The exercise would be repeated several times again during the day-long structural fire refresher staged, directed and critiqued by Glenn Dressler of Enola, a paid firefighter in Fairfax, Va., working with fellow HACC instructors Todd Heliman, Rick Brocius and Will Shaver of York County, Bill Yeagley of the City of Lebanon and Tom Rigling of the New Cumberland Army Depot. The men on duty that day are among the fire training experts from a variety of fire departments associated with HACC's fire training



*Members of the Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company tried out their new self-containing breathing apparatus (SCBA) at HACC's John J. Shumaker Public Safety Center.*

program. They, like Ozog who is HACC's director of fire and EMS training, are all volunteer firefighters in their communities.

In addition to Ozog, the Hampden crew included Fire Chief John Rousch III and Frank Conte, who has been a volunteer firefighter for 40 years. They know first-hand the role HACC plays in training the region's firefighters. Conte, managing partner of The Conte-Browne Group in Camp Hill, also volunteers his time to the community as a member of HACC's Board of Trustees and is on the PSC's advisory board.

The PSC is open seven days a week and has rarely seen a break in activity over the last 40 years. To continue to accommodate the over 30,000 first responders trained by the PSC, HACC has begun the master planning process with the Mechanicsburg-based architectural firm Crabtree, Rohrbach & Associates. Crabtree's final master plan will set forth a series of recommendations for expansion and repairs to upgrade the facility. These recommendations will empower the PSC to continue to compete with other national training facilities.

To aid in the facilitation of the master plan, the HACC Foundation established the Public Safety Partner Program. The PSC Partner is the program on which the Foundation will build its larger public fund-raising campaign. PSC Partners are those individuals in the Central Pennsylvania community and beyond who have invested in the safety and security of their future.

For more information on the PSC Partner program and to become a Partner, call Gretchen Ramsey at 717-780-2439 or e-mail [gramsey@hacc.edu](mailto:gramsey@hacc.edu).

# Frank Haas most proud of HACC involvement

Of all the public activities he's been involved with, Francis B. Haas Esq. Jr. says he's most proud of his contribution to the founding and development of HACC.

"HACC gives an educational opportunity to thousands of people who otherwise would not have had one," said Haas, HACC's first solicitor and the person who laid much of the legal framework that the college operates under today.

Now solicitor emeritus, Haas received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service at HACC's graduation in May.

Haas caught the vision for what a community college could mean to our area at a time when some naysayers weren't so sure. Working with Harrisburg School Board members Bruce Cooper and Jim Evans, Haas helped spearhead the movement for HACC's establishment – several years before it became a reality.

"Pennsylvania was behind the times when it came to the creation of a community college. Other states already had community colleges," Haas said. "When Gov. Bill Scranton promoted the Community College Act of 1963, those of us who had been working on the idea immediately jumped on the bandwagon and were able to form the first community college in Pennsylvania."

When the college opened in the fall of 1964, Haas was the solicitor and remained that until he retired in 1995.

Haas' list of volunteer and professional contributions is long, so when he cites HACC as the one of which he's most proud, that's saying something.

"HACC is the pre-eminent regional institution from a public policy standpoint in all of south-central Pennsylvania," he said. "It touches more lives than any other public institution in south-central Pennsylvania. Most everyone has a connection to HACC – a relative, a friend, or they themselves, who have been a student here."

Haas cited "extraordinary leadership" and a board that was very active in soliciting funds to grow the campus into what it is today as reasons for its success.

Always one to encourage others to donate to the college, Haas has a scholarship named after him that he is proud to have benefiting HACC students.



*Frank Haas addresses the crowd during HACC's 44th commencement.*

Haas spent his legal career at McNees, Wallace and Nurick, joining the firm in 1951 after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and being admitted to the bar. He retired in 1995 but remains "of counsel" at the firm.

His public life extended well beyond HACC. He was a special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General, serving as a hearing officer for conscientious objector cases during the Korean War, and he was a member of the Governor's Judicial Reform Commission. He served as a member and president of the Harrisburg School Board, he was part of the Harrisburg City Charter Commission and he later served as city solicitor under Mayor Harold Swenson. Haas was also the solicitor of the Harrisburg Area Industrial Development Corporation which developed into CREDC - Capital Region Economic Development Corporation - and was a board member and solicitor of Harrisburg Development Corporation.

Haas was also a director of the Harrisburg Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, a director of the Boys Club of Harrisburg, chairman of the board of directors of the Harrisburg Central Branch YMCA, president of the Dauphin County Bar Association, chairman of the Section of Corporation, Banking and Business Law of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, chairman of the Committee on Merit Selection of Judges of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, chairman of its Judiciary Committee, and chairman of its Special Committee on Judicial Evaluation and Selection.

Haas also represented cities, boroughs, townships, school districts and municipal authorities. His experience working with local governments led him to believe that local government is too fractured in Pennsylvania and he became a leading voice of regional cooperation. He has long cited HACC as one of the shining examples of that philosophy.

Haas, 83, lives with his wife Joan in Harrisburg. The couple has two grown sons.

## Spring 2009 Commencement

Nearly 850 students from all five HACC campuses and the Virtual Campus graduated in May during the 44th annual commencement held at the historic Hersheypark Arena.

**LeRoy S. Zimmerman**, Pennsylvania's first elected Attorney General and chairman of the Hershey Trust, was commencement speaker.

**Francis Haas**, HACC's solicitor emeritus, received the honorary doctor of public service.

Class speaker was **Laura Summy**, SGA president at the Lebanon Campus.



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