SPECIAL RECOGNITION
OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GOAL IS TO
INCREASE
SCHOLARSHIPS

LANDSCAPE
CHANGING
AT PSC
CONNECTIONS  
SUMMER 2011

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HACC, CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA’S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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It is the policy of Harrisburg Area Community College, in full accordance with the law, not to discriminate in employment, student admissions, and student services on the basis of race, color, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, place of birth, General Education Development Certification (GED), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other legally protected classification. HACC recognizes its responsibility to promote the principles of equal opportunity for employment, student admissions, and student services taking active steps to recruit minorities and women.

Inquiries should be directed to the Assistant to the President/College Diversity Officer, One HACC Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Telephone (717) 221-1300, x1537.
I want to thank everyone in the HACC community for the very warm welcome I’ve received as HACC’s new president. As I’ve been telling everyone, I’ve been actively “drinking from the HACC fire hose.” I’ve been taking in a great deal of information and I can tell you — without reservation — that I am delighted to be at HACC and proud to represent you within our communities.

The reason HACC is so well regarded within the country, state, region and locally is because of YOU.

But, as you know, HACC never stands still and we do have some exciting opportunities facing us. This year, one of those opportunities will be for us to become more engaged in the National College Completion Agenda. Due to the need for a dramatic increase in the number of Americans with post-secondary degrees and certifications to fulfill critical local, regional, state and national goals to support the “completion agenda” as a national imperative, HACC has an obligation to meet this challenge while holding firmly to its traditional values of access, opportunity, and quality. For more information, please visit www.aacc.nche.edu.

Again, I’m delighted to be here and I look forward to working with all of you in moving the National College Completion Agenda forward while maintaining HACC’s reputation for academic excellence and leadership.

John J. “Ski” Sygielski
HACC President

For more information about the National College Completion Agenda:
Donald B. Freedman, M.D., recognized for commitment to public service

Donald B. Freedman, M.D., distinguished physician, dedicated HACC supporter and community volunteer, received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service during the college’s spring commencement.

Interim HACC President Ronald Young conferred the degree in recognition of Freedman’s lifetime of outstanding professional and volunteer community service, exemplary personal philanthropic generosity and his enormous impact on the quality of life in Central Pennsylvania.

Freedman joined the HACC Foundation Board in March 1997, serving as chairman from 1999-2005. In July 1997 Freedman and his late wife Shirley established the Donald and Shirley Freedman Scholarship in the HACC Foundation, which enables talented, needy students from the Susquehanna Township area to benefit from a HACC education.

Throughout the decade that he served on the board, Freedman was instrumental in helping to establish and fulfill its fundraising goals. In addition to establishing the scholarship fund in the foundation, Freedman has been dedicated to fundraising activities which have increased the scholarship dollars for HACC students. From the time he first came to the foundation board, he was a strong supporter of the Campaign for Scholarships Golf Tournament and contributed to the fundraising success of this event year after year.

During the Select Medical capital campaign in 2003-04, Freedman was an important part of the fundraising team. He reached out to his fellow board members and connected the campaign to philanthropic resources in the local community. Once again, his efforts helped the foundation reach its fundraising goal.

Freedman’s efforts as chairman of the HACC Foundation board of directors continue to pave the way for those who follow in his footsteps, said James Grandon Jr., incoming board chairman. “He was able to attract a lot of community leaders to serve on the board because of what he represented and who he was,” said Grandon. “He was someone who spoke very quietly, but when he made his point, it was a strong point and one you could count on.”

Many of those same community leaders recruited by Freedman maintain their association with the foundation today. “He began a board of community leaders that continue to make our job easier,” Grandon says of efforts to build awareness of the foundation and increase scholarship support for students. “We are better known today because of him.”

A lifelong Harrisburg resident, Freedman attended Gettysburg College on a full basketball scholarship. After graduation in 1944 he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He received his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, followed by a residency in internal medicine at Harrisburg Hospital.

Jim Grandon, left, chairman of the HACC Foundation board of directors, congratulates Donald B. Freedman, M.D., for receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service degree at spring commencement. Freedman served on the foundation’s board of directors from 1997-2007, and was its chairman from 1999-2005.

His long and distinguished medical career in Central Pennsylvania included the practice of internal medicine from 1953-91 and service on the medical staffs of Harrisburg Hospital and Holy Spirit Hospital, the latter of which he served as president in 1970. He is founder and managing partner of Freedman, Kanenson & Lewis Associates and former managing partner of Susquehanna Internal Medicine Associates, P.C.

Combining his professional expertise and his lifelong dedication to community service, Freedman has been associated for nearly half a century with Homeland Center, Central Pennsylvania’s oldest healthcare provider. He has served not only as past chairman of Homeland’s board of trustees, but also as its first medical director. His 1964 appointment as medical director began what he regards as one of the most fulfilling aspects of his long medical career.

Highlights of Freedman’s many decades of volunteer service and leadership in community and statewide activities and institutions include past presidencies of the Pennsylvania Heart Association, the Jewish Community Center of Harrisburg and the Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg.

Serving as a trustee of the Mary Sachs Trust for 26 years and as its chair for 17 years, Freedman was instrumental in cementing the trust’s enduring and generous relationship with HACC. This trust has awarded dozens of major gifts, grants and contributions to the college over the years, and its Mary Sachs Trust Scholarship provides financial assistance to HACC students enrolled in retail, marketing or business curricula.
John Ford, vice president emeritus of instruction and educational services, leads the processional carrying the mace, a ceremonial staff symbolizing the authority of the college.

Daniel M. Ashby, senior director of pharmacy at Johns Hopkins Hospital, awaits his turn at the podium. Ashby, who also was the HACC Alumni Association representative, was the commencement speaker.

Robert C. Hairston, senior professor of biology at the Harrisburg Campus, addresses the graduates as a representative of the college faculty.

A grateful student publicly thanks her parents for their support.

Ronald Young, HACC interim president, congratulates the graduates for their accomplishments.

Carlos Gonzalez, student speaker at commencement, right, gets a little help getting ready from fellow Phi Theta Kappa representative, was the commencement speaker.

The new HACC graduates make it official by switching the tassels on their mortarboards.

The long-awaited moment: Presenting diplomas to the graduates.

Robert C. Hairston, senior professor of biology at the Harrisburg Campus, addresses the graduates as a representative of the college faculty.

Snapshots of graduation
Faculty Recognition 2011

Allen-Gleed, Kim (English) – author of “Bloom’s How to Write about James Joyce,” Chelsea House Publishers

Barnes, Penny (English) – judge for the Scholastic Writing Awards


Berkstresser, Kristie (Nursing) – reviewed chapters, Transcultural Diversity and Health Care, in Transcultural Health Care, 5th edition by Larry Dale Purnell for FA Davis Company

Bernard, Ruth (Art) – shows include Lancaster Art Museum, group show of area Landscape Painters curated by the museum director; show that opened in May at the Bowery Gallery in New York City; group show June 22-July 10, 2010, at the Bowery Gallery that included a catalog; upcoming solo show in October at the Gross McCleaf Gallery in Philadelphia


Bowers-Miller, Gina (Counseling) – presented at the League for Innovation in November 2010 and presented for the Virtual Campus in-service in January 2011; both topics were related to How to Engage Students using Web 2.0 Technology; edits computer technology textbooks on a regular basis


Brown, Mary; Sundrud, Renee; Harris, Mary; Pfaff, Allison; and Rosenberger, Sue (Mathematics) – presentations of “Hands-on Activities in the Pre-Algebra Classroom” at the Pennsylvania State Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges (PSMATYC) in Harrisburg, Oct. 23, 2010, and at the National Association of Developmental Educators (NADE) in Washington, D.C., Feb. 25, 2011

Buckley, Carol (Education) – peer reviewer for “Teaching Children Math,” a publication of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; award from Pennsylvania Council of Supervisors of Math for “Outstanding Contributions to PCKM”; will work with Jay McTighe and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to refine the “Standards Aligned System” on the department’s website

Buckwalter, Linda and Shatto, Ellen L. (Mathematics) – will present “Reaching Online Students Effectively (ROSE), League for Innovation in the Community College, STEMtech conference, Walt Disney World, Oct. 31, 2011; presented “Student Engagement using ROSE,” Virtual Campus in-service, Jan. 6, 2011


Chesettie, Kathleen (English) – review for publication: “Touch Stones” for Bedford St. Martin’s and “Grammar Moves” for Longman; awarded the Betty Martin Staff Development Award for nontraditional education


Continued on page 8
3 honored for excellence in teaching

Three faculty members received Excellence in Teaching awards from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) during the organization’s international conference in May in Austin, Texas.

Honored were Kathleen Doherty, Ph.D., psychology professor at the Harrisburg Campus; Suzanne O’Hop, Ph.D., associate professor in English for the Virtual Campus; and Marian Yoder, Ph.D., assistant professor in reading at the Lancaster Campus. All were selected by a committee of HACC students, faculty and administrators for their commitment to students, teaching and counseling, professional growth and college service.

Doherty of Mechanicsburg has been a member of HACC’s psychology faculty for 11 years. Her primary goals in teaching are to “challenge students, require them to understand the material rather than memorizing it and help them develop a passion for learning.” Student evaluations rate Doherty consistently high while class observation reports from various deans note her challenging, engaging, active and dynamic classroom environment.

Doherty, faculty chair of the psychology department, developed course materials for the psychology curriculum that are delivered online and blended (a combination of both classroom and online learning) formats. She also piloted a course delivered via video conference to meet student needs across HACC’s regional campuses. She was president of the Faculty Organization for two terms and now is its vice president.

O’Hop of Ephrata has taught classroom, blended and online English for five years. Her students give O’Hop high marks for her teaching abilities. “Dr. O’Hop is a master teacher, balancing academic rigor and development of critical thought on the part of the students with a supportive and engaging, comfortable learning environment enhanced and enriched with seamless integration of technology resources,” said Diane Thompson, dean of academic affairs at the Harrisburg Campus.

O’Hop is active in developing curriculum and assessing programs including department chair for the education department and assisting with development of 23 new courses that articulate and transfer to four-year colleges. She was assistant chair for the Lebanon Campus English department for four years; co-chair of a college-wide General Education Assessment Committee; member of the college’s Strategic Planning Committee; newly elected officer in the Faculty Organization; and member of the Honors Program Revision Committee.

At the Lancaster Campus, Yoder of Leola was an adjunct instructor for five years before becoming a full-time faculty member in 2006. Student assessments say Yoder has an excellent rapport with students, has enthusiasm for the material and energy in the classroom. Her students value her breadth of coverage and benefit from her exams and assignments.

Yoder developed an English course that offers students in developmental reading the opportunity to complete the sequence more quickly. She piloted a paired course offering of English and psychology where she adapted her English course to support her students’ work in a psychology class. Now Yoder continues to bring college course content into her reading classes to boost student interest and retention.

Meanwhile Yoder shares her time working on HACC’s Developmental Education Advisory Committee, which develops new curricula, assesses programs and plans long-range strategy to better serve HACC students.

Kathleen Doherty, Ph.D., is a psychology professor at the Harrisburg Campus.

Suzanne O’Hop, Ph.D., is an associate professor in English for the Virtual Campus.

Marian Yoder, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in reading at the Lancaster Campus.
Success inspired by professor

Tina Anthony entered the Community College Week-NISOD student essay contest “on a whim” right on deadline. “I entered not because I had any interest in winning but because I wanted a wider circle of people to know about this fantastic professor at HACC who very quietly does her job. She is now my best friend.” Tina Anthony wrote this article; below is her essay.

When I graduated from Dover Area High School in 1985, I had no idea what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I wondered how anyone could expect an 18-year-old who has never really been out in the world to know this.

I enrolled at Penn State as a chemical engineering major then discovered a fascination for computer programming. Because of finances, I had to drop out my sophomore year. I worked retail, fast food, temp agencies, banking, factories, data entry, customer service support, and finally, for 10 years as a data processing programmer. With each job I struggled and fought to gain new skills to work my way up to a better position with enough pay to survive. I had no time or energy to dream or reach for a goal. Survival – food, clothing, and shelter – was paramount.

My job was downsized in February 2009. No one would hire me without a post-secondary degree, so I decided to go to HACC to finish the degree I had started 25 years earlier. I studied database analyst and earned an associate degree in May.

My goal was simple: learn a skill, get a degree, get a job. However, the atmosphere and philosophy at HACC is different from any I have encountered. The college’s faculty and staff encourage students to dream big, set goals, and reach for them all the while helping us to succeed in any way they can. After meeting people like Dr. Iva Balic and other professors on campus, I began to realize that I don’t need to just get a job to survive. She and the others have expanded my vision of the possibilities the future can hold, and so I am now aiming for a much different goal.

I plan to transfer to Penn State Harrisburg to earn a master’s degree in information systems. My goal is to return to HACC in four years as a professor to help others understand that they, too, can dare to dream big and succeed despite the fact that life happens.

Fighting the Good Fight

It was 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. I sat in the front row of English class with a look of panic on my face and a black hole of despair in my stomach. I knew that I was in a dire situation with little hope in sight, and I felt like Don Quixote chasing an impossible dream I should never have started in the first place…

I’m what Harrisburg Area Community College considers a non-traditional student. When I was 20, I was financially forced to drop out of college. Recently at 42, I had returned to college to complete my degree, all the while wondering if I could still do this at my age. However, I still believed that with hard work anything can be accomplished.

So there I sat in English class feeling hopeless. It was only the night before when I realized that most of my painstakingly gathered research for a formal analytical report was more fluff than substance. Our final project was due a week from Thursday, and instead of writing the report, I needed to start over from square one. As I listened to Professor Iva Balic explain all of the requirements for the project, I sank into a grave-like pit where each additional requirement seemed to be another rock piled on top of me. I didn’t have enough time to restart the research let alone do everything else. Why had I thought that at 42 I could go back to college? I was about to be a complete failure, and I thought, “I might as well let go of the stress and not bother with the paper at all.”

Noticing the look on my face as I was leaving class, Professor Balic stopped me and asked what was wrong. Frustrated and defeated, tears welled in my eyes as I explained my predicament. She immediately began encouraging me with a list of reasons why this project was still doable, but to no avail. In self preservation, my overwhelmed mind was giving up and shutting down. Seeing that I wasn’t convinced, she squared her shoulders, fiercely looked me in the eye and said, “I will not let you fail!”

Seeing that I wasn’t convinced, she squared her shoulders, fiercely looked me in the eye and said, “I will not let you fail!”

A small glimmer of hope appeared in the darkness. Her willingness to fight for me when I was too overwhelmed to fight for myself convinced me to try again. If she could believe in me that strongly, perhaps I could believe in myself as well. After I put in several very late nights, she scheduled an office appointment to give me her feedback. I got a 96 on that paper and an A in the class, proving to me that I was not too old for college. Professor Balic displayed the mark of a true teacher that day when she was willing to fight the good fight to help her student succeed, and in doing so, she gave me the infinitely precious gift of believing in myself once more.
Continued from page 5

of Community College Entrepreneurship; “Teaching Contingency Planning to Managers: A Contemporary Need” presented March 15, 2011, at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association for Adult and Continuing Education in State College; “The Impact of the New Fiscal Reality Upon Business School And Programs: Twelve More Strategies to Do More with Less” presented June 25, 2011, at the annual conference of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) in Indianapolis; recipient of the 2011 ACBSP Teaching Excellence Award for associate degree program at the annual conference

Comer, Charles (Philosophy) – wrote entry to “The Dictionary of Early American Philosophers” about a Pennsylvania scholar, Joseph Alden, to be published perhaps next year by Continuum Press; working on an article on the aesthetics of Alphonso Lingis, a contemporary American phenomenologist for Singularum, a new journal

DeYoung, Jonathan (English) – wrote “Writing Made Simple,” a textbook that will be published by Kendall/Hunt this fall

DiModugno, Brenda (Counseling) – presented “Success is Accessible; How to Support Students with Disabilities” at the 2010 Middle Atlantic Career Counseling Association’s annual conference

DiQuattro, Jen (Speech) – review of “The Basics of Speech Communication” by Scott McLean; panelist/moderator for “Topics in Organizational Communication: An Exploration of Domestic and International Business Communication Patterns,” at a Celebration of Student Research Conference at Shippensburg University


Eppley, Brenda (Theatre) – performed as Barbara in “August: Osage County;” Open Stage of Harrisburg, April/May 2011; as Julia in “The Bishop’s Wife,” Theatre Harrisburg, December 2010; as The Narrator in “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” Stage on Herr, October 2010; as The Red Death in “An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe,” Gamut Theatre Group, September 2010; as Mrs. Gabrielson in “Mr. Hobb’s Vacation,” Mt. Greta Playhouse, July 2010

Finch, Michael (Culinary Arts) – current president of the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Harrisburg Chapter Pa 181, named ACF Northeast Regional Chapter of the Year and is competing for Chapter of the Year at the national convention in Dallas this summer; was an official judge at the 2011 ACF Northeast Regional Conference in Columbus, Ohio, for the 25th anniversary of the Baron H. Galland Culinary Knowledge Bowl for student teams; 2010 chair of the ACF Northeast Regional Conference in Hershey, oversaw implementation of a student track that was attended by more than 100 students with a day of presenters dedicated to students and the culinary profession; recipient of the ACF National Presidential Cutting Edge Award presented at the 2010 national convention in Anaheim, Calif., for efforts dedicated to the student track which set a precedent for conferences at the national level; 2010 recipient of the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Culinary Arts; currently one of 16 chefs in Pennsylvania certified as an approved certification evaluator for professional chefs seeking certification


Gantzt, Frederick (Sociology) – developed a program on the Civil Rights Movement by conducting oral interviews, analyzing historical documents and photographing numerous lesser known sites; this work was used to develop a presentation, “The Tracks of Our Tears,” initially publicly presented at the Harrisburg Campus, March 30, 2011, and subsequently on other HACC campuses


Glindeman, Pamela (English) – had poems published in the 2009 and 2010 editions of the Gunpowder Review, a women’s literary magazine sponsored by the Gunpowder Branch of the National League of American Pen Women in Hartford County, Md.; a submission for the 2011 edition is under review; participated in reading of materials from the two editions at Barnes & Noble in Bel Air, Md., June 12, 2011


Hunter, Linda (English) – presented “The Gifts and Challenges of Asperger’s Syndrome: Developing Understanding Through Literature” at the April 2011 Pennsylvania Association of Developmental Educators (PADE) Conference in Lancaster


Ileto, Anna (Education) – has presented annually for five years at the Capital Area Association for the Education of Young Children (a local chapter of PennAEYC and NAECY) held at Messiah College; presented at Lancaster Area Association for the Education of Young Children last year and will present September 2011 at Lancaster Mennonite High School; is a Pennsylvania Quality Assurance System (PQAS) Certified Instructor and gives workshops to educators, center directors, home care providers; participant to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Board of Examiners Review Poster Session at Penn State University Harrisburg 2008 with her research and project documentation panels presented during the exhibit

Keiter, Mary Jo (English) – presented “Blended & Online Innovations for Remedial Writing Students” with Karen Woodring at the National Council of Teachers English Two Year College Association (TYCA) regional conference; presented “Using Web 2.0 tools (blogs, wikis, & eportfolios) with Developmental Writers” at the Pennsylvania Association of Developmental Educators

King, Robert (Mathematics) – reviewed manuscripts for “Beginning
6 students earn full scholarship to Bucknell University

HACC students Lydia Aviles of York, Carla Fotopoulos of York Springs, Jordan Finkenbinder of Shermans Dale, Alexander Head of Hummelstown, Jacqueline Rivera of Harrisburg and Bryell St Clair of Thomasville are attending Bucknell University this summer with scholarships earned through the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

Aviles is studying business management and St Clair is studying social science, both are students at the York Campus. Fotopoulos, a biology major, is a student at the Gettysburg Campus. Finkenbinder is in general studies and preparing for transfer, Head is studying business administration and Rivera is studying biology, all at the Harrisburg Campus.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s Community College Transfer Initiative was developed to increase access to designated colleges and universities for high-achieving, academically prepared community college students with low to moderate incomes.

Bucknell scholars first attend an all-expenses paid summer orientation and return to HACC to complete an associate degree. They can apply to transfer to Bucknell to earn a bachelor’s degree.

If accepted, Bucknell provides $42,000 to $52,000 in a financial aid package to each student a year depending on financial needs.
Professor teaches life skills along with math

Chuck Fahnestock, professor emeritus and former professor, mathematics/counseling, has changed the lives of thousands of students over his 42-year career. Few will ever look back at their math classes as “just math.”

“Math is a life changer,” says Fahnestock, who continues to teach part-time. “Math is a careful, methodical way of thinking which we all need in our lives – thinking, planning, organizing, persevering and overcoming obstacles. Problem solving in math enables people to problem solve in life,” he said.

“I help students develop a strategy for getting through something that is difficult. Later, they can look back on math and understand why they did well. They followed through, did the steps necessary and got the rewards at the end.”

Fahnestock’s love for math, teaching and HACC is obvious. His students’ appreciation is evident by the stack of thank-you letters and notes he has. Many detail how the one-credit class he developed, Building Self Confidence in Mathematics, not only gave them self confidence in math but opened career doors they thought were closed to them.

“Fearful and failing” before taking the class and “Thank you for believing in me even when I didn’t believe in myself” are familiar themes from students “Fearful and failing” before taking the class and “Thank you for believing in me even when I didn’t believe in myself” are familiar themes from students “Fearful and failing” before taking the class and “Thank you for believing in me even when I didn’t believe in myself” are familiar themes from students “Fearful and failing” before taking the class and “Thank you for believing in me even when I didn’t believe in myself” are familiar themes from students “Fearful and failing” before taking the class and “Thank you for believing in me even when I didn’t believe in myself” are familiar themes from students “Fearful and failing” before taking the class and “Thank you for believing in me even when I didn’t believe in myself” are familiar themes from students who never liked math when they were younger. “You make a tough subject more interesting and even fun,” one student wrote. Many were inspired to become teachers themselves, such as the student who wrote, “I hope when I become a teacher, I can be as enthusiastic as you.” Some even went on to major in and teach math.

Fahnestock’s positive attitude is contagious as he cites books and quotes from the positive thinking gurus. His students look forward to the quote of the day he writes on the board, and they eagerly write them in the notebook of homework he requires so they can review it and learn organization skills.

A self-admitted “math nerd,” Fahnestock still has the tools of the trade from his early years – the slide rule that all the math and engineering majors had attached to their belts and his “Standard Mathematical Tables” book. “When I finished college, calculators where just coming into use,” he said. “Now it’s iPhones and iPads.”

As a Central Dauphin High School student taking the first advanced math class offered with two good friends, Bill Nordai and Roy Fry singer, he never dreamed it would lead to “a wonderful career” that included the three of them teaching math together at HACC. Nordai and Fry singer also are professors emeriti.

Fahnestock attended Hershey Junior College which offered two years of tuition-free education to all Derry Township residents and employees of the
During his 42-year career as a professor, Chuck Fahnestock helped thousands of students overcome their fear of math.

Hershey corporations. His father worked for Hershey, so he just had to pay for books. He graduated in 1963 with an associate degree in engineering. HACC opened in 1964, attracting much of the faculty from the junior college which closed in 1965.

He joined Brethren Volunteer Service, an organization similar to the Peace Corps. During his personal growth training in New Windsor, Md., he learned outreach skills and how to connect with people and work with different ethnic groups.

He also had the opportunity to attend the 1963 civil rights march in Washington, D.C., where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his historic “I Have a Dream” speech. That further fueled Fahnestock’s desire to work with people from different cultures and backgrounds.

Soon he was teaching and counseling Indian students at a federal Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school in Brigham City, Utah. Students were bused from their New Mexico and Arizona reservations for nine months of the year for total education and social skills to help them integrate into society. He became scout master for a troop of Indian boys.

Fahnestock took some courses at Utah State and then transferred to Elizabethtown College where he earned a bachelor’s degree in math and science. He taught high school in Wellsboro for two years and laughs now at his starting salary of $4,800.

While he was working on his master’s degree in counseling at Shippensburg State College (now Shippensburg University), HACC was looking for a professor with a math background and master’s degree in counseling. Nordai, who was teaching at HACC, referred the math department chairman to Fahnestock, and he was invited to interview for the position.

The circle became even more complete when he was hired by Jack Lanz, dean of instruction, who had taught five different calculus courses to student Fahnestock at Hershey Junior College. He credits Lanz as the “master teacher” who got him excited about teaching.

“For a job I never applied to, I’ve spent 42 years here,” he said. He did his Shippensburg practicum at HACC and was hired before he finished his master’s degree. He started as a division counselor/instructor in mathematics, physical science and engineering. He later served in positions including management assistant to the dean of instruction, administrative assistant to the vice president for educational affairs and coordinator for vocational education.

“You have to care about people to work and teach at a college like HACC,” said Fahnestock, who summarizes his philosophy with the quote, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” He continued, “I never wanted to have just a job and show up and collect a paycheck. All of my experiences influenced me. I knew people were struggling with math. Because I was a counselor, others would refer students to me that couldn’t get through math.”

In 1988, he was determined to find a way to help more students and took a six-month sabbatical to research math anxiety and avoidance. He surveyed more than 100 colleges and visited 12 different sites. Georgetown University had a book, “Math Without Fear,” and a course that hundreds of students signed up for each year. University of Maryland had a course in building self confidence, and he sat in on the class.

Fahnestock developed Building Self Confidence in Mathematics, designed for those who have difficulty learning math, helping them develop self confidence in math and increasing awareness of past attitudes and behaviors. At first, it had just two sections on a temporary basis. The class later merged with an arithmetic class, and today it’s a three-credit course, Human Development 107: Develop Confidence and Skills in Math.

“Math blocks a lot of people from doing what they really want to do. They will look at a catalog and pick the programs with the least math. After taking this course, they realize they can do what they really want to do,” said Fahnestock. “They find this a way of changing their lives to use their full potential. For many at the end of the course, they say, ‘I didn’t want to take math. I struggled. I got an A or a B. What else in life must I conquer to get where I want to be?’”

He gives the example of a student who was a veteran, had been in the medical corps and wanted to be a nurse but was bad at math. He had enrolled in one math class five times and finally got a B grade. Fahnestock met him when he was in the next math course for the seventh time, and the college wasn’t going to allow him to go on. The student appealed to the dean, because by then the college had imposed a rule that a student could only take a class four times.

The dean said he’d have to take Building Self Confidence in Mathematics. After a few weeks, the student started getting A’s. After a semester, he was getting the highest A’s in the class.

“It gives them hope to see they can succeed,” Fahnestock said. “It gives them the skills. I have watched wonderful things happen to some of the worst students. They move from the back of the room to the front, start asking questions and get their homework done.”
Alumni Association awards five scholarships

Your HACC Alumni Association is proud of the financial support it offers students. To date, alumni have donated more than $600,000 to endowed scholarships and other funds to assist HACC students.

Each year the HACC Alumni Association awards the Clyde E. Blocker and the Maurice C. Overolt Scholarships to deserving HACC students. Dr. Blocker was HACC’s first president, serving from 1964–75. Overolt was the college’s first vice president.

The scholarships are awarded in the amount of a year’s tuition based on the sponsoring district rate, fees, and a $100 book allowance to students who have financial need, good academic records, and are involved in community and/or HACC programs.

For the 2011–12 school year, full scholarships were awarded to:

Victoria Buchanan of Thomasville, biology education, York Campus;
Gabriela Agnese Grezina of McSherrystown, police science, Gettysburg Campus;
Michael Shoemaker of New Holland, global studies, Lancaster Campus;
Lauren Stahl of New Cumberland, psychology, and Kayla Washington of Hershey, elementary education, both attend the Harrisburg Campus.

Help us welcome new graduates

The HACC Alumni Association would like to provide personal notes to our new HACC graduates at the commencement ceremony in December. If you are willing to help, send an email to alumniassociation@hacc.edu. Include a brief message to a new HACC graduate, your name, and graduation year (last year you attended HACC if you transferred).

We will handwrite your message on a HACC Alumni Association note card and place the cards at the graduates’ seats before commencement. Please help us give a warm welcome to our newest alumni.

Discounted tickets

Hersheypark is offering admission tickets to HACC alumni at a discount. To obtain the discounts, you must purchase the tickets online. They are not available at Hersheypark’s admission gates. Discounts include:

- Regular $41.95 (normally $53.95)
- Jr/Sr $29.95 (normally $32.95)
- 70+ $20.95 (normally $21.95)
- Meal tickets $13
- Game voucher booklets $15

To purchase your tickets, visit http://tinyurl.com/HACCtKts. HACC’s password is 11182.
Alumni Snapshots: Richard and Thomas Flowers

It’s all about family

“A family in harmony will prosper in everything.” Chinese proverb

Family has always come first for Richard Flowers, founding partner of Flowers and Flowers Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) in Harrisburg. That is why he hired his son Thomas as his first full-time employee in 1993. Since then, they have built their successful accounting firm together.

“My dad is my hero,” said Tom Flowers, the firm’s managing partner who oversees the day-to-day operations. “He always tries to do the right thing. You know you can depend on him. Those qualities demand respect.” The elder Flowers quickly acknowledges that he is proud of his son. “We have worked together for 18 years. Even when we disagree, we have a healthy respect for each other.”

Career detours

Both father and son believe their accounting skills and entrepreneurial spirit were inherited. Rick’s father was a CPA who opened his own accounting office in the early 1960s. However, neither Rick nor Tom set out to be accountants. Both earned bachelor’s degrees from Penn State University; Rick in forest management; Tom in real estate. After graduation, Rick worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters until he joined his father’s accounting firm in 1968. In the early 1970s, he enrolled at HACC and completed the accounting courses necessary to sit for the CPA licensing exam. In 1982, Rick’s entrepreneurial spirit kicked in. For the next eight years, Rick was a partner in a local company that owned mobile home parks, a well drilling business and a mobile home distribution company. He gained valuable experience in private industry related to real estate, wholesale and retail sales, construction and service businesses. In 1991, his partner’s goals changed after open heart surgery, and they sold their business. “I rented an office and opened an accounting firm with zero clients,” Rick said. “By the end of my first day, I had two clients, and we’ve grown from there.”

Flowers and Flowers now has nine employees; five are CPAs.

Tom too did not plan to be an accountant. “My impression of accounting was cranking out tax returns. I did not want to do that for a career,” he explained. After graduating from Penn State in 1991, Tom moved to Pittsburgh where he entered an executive training program for May Company, a national department store chain. “Like my dad, I got into something entirely different than accounting, but soon realized that it is in my blood. The big corporate atmosphere just wasn’t for me. I most enjoyed the entrepreneurial side of business. In 1993, my father called and offered me a job. I moved to Harrisburg, enrolled in HACC, and began taking accounting courses.”

The HACC factor

Father and son give HACC credit for jump starting their accounting careers. “When I went to HACC, I was prepared to be totally lost, which I was when I previously took an accounting class,” Tom explained. “At HACC, my instructors worked in public accounting. Because of the way they presented the material and how they provided real-life examples, it clicked. I found the classes interesting, and this time I understood the accounting principles. My experience at HACC was tremendous.”

Because both were working full time while taking classes, Rick said they appreciated the flexibility HACC offered. “To be able to take classes in the evening and have that quality of instruction was great,” he said. “We wouldn’t be CPAs if it wasn’t for HACC.”

The CPAs have also taken advantage of HACC’s continuing education courses. A few years ago, Rick earned a certificate in brick and block laying from the college when he decided to build a porch on the back of his house. “What I learned is that I will never earn a living as a mason,” Rick laughed. “However, we have a masonry contractor as a client and understanding that trade has been beneficial.” Both agree that continuing education is vital in their profession and for most careers. “Even after you have chosen your profession and graduate from college, it’s important to continue growing and improving yourself. In most professions, you have to stay up to date,” Tom explained.

Tom Flowers, left, and his father, Rick Flowers, with a Corvette they restored together. Although neither intended to become CPAs, they now are Flowers and Flowers CPAs of Harrisburg.

Treating clients like family

After starting work for his father, Tom Flowers quickly learned that running an accounting business is not about “cranking out tax returns.” Flowers and Flowers CPAs focuses on helping small to mid-sized businesses survive and grow. “We help business owners understand the importance of accounting and put systems and controls in place so they can run their businesses better,” Rick explained. “Our clients are like family. We get a lot of satisfaction from helping them succeed. We have a feeling of ownership in our clients’ businesses, and that’s what makes it fun,” Tom added.

When asked what they would like their legacies to be, Tom quickly responded, “I want to improve the lives of people around me. If I’ve been able to make life better for those people I’ve touched, then I’d be satisfied.” His father’s wishes are more simple: “I want all my kids to be more successful than I am, and I want to live to see it.” It’s all about family.
Alumni in the news

Business, Hospitality, and Tourism

Shaquena Hope (Harrisburg, Business Administration ’07) continued her education at Central Pennsylvania College and is now a fiscal support specialist at HACC’s Harrisburg Campus.

Michael Leppla (Harrisburg, Business Management-CIS ’10) is a printer technician supervisor at PC Parts, Inc. in Harrisburg. He is also taking classes at Penn State’s World Campus.

Ryan Myers (Gettysburg, Business Studies ’07) is a chemical process operator for Bimax, Inc., in Glen Rock.

Melanie Kramer (Lebanon, Business Studies ’10) is working toward a bachelor’s degree at Alvernia University. She is a team leader in the Food and Beverage Department at Hersheypark.

Amy Nicholson (Harrisburg, Marketing Management-Real Estate ’09) is an administrator for Oak Grove Farms, Inc., in Mechanicsburg.

Caitlin Palmer (Gettysburg, Business Administration ’09) is working toward a bachelor’s degree in health care administration at Shippensburg University.

Tabatha Perego (Gettysburg, Business Studies ’07) is a food service supervisor at Hanover Hospital.

Scott Pierce (Harrisburg, Business Administration ’10) is an unemployment compensation tax technician for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry in Harrisburg.

Communications, Humanities, and the Arts

Gabriel Bellotti (Harrisburg, Performing Arts-Theatre ’10) is featured in an independent film, “Clash in the College,” which was shot in State College. The DVD was released July 1 and is available at amazon.com.

Sarah Kramer (Harrisburg, Media Studies ’08) recently joined the staff of Advance Publications, which publishes three newspapers in Perry County. Kramer earned a bachelor’s degree in communications and media studies from Penn State University in 2010.

General Studies

Matthew Diehl (Gettysburg, General Studies ’08) continued his education at York College of Pennsylvania, earning a bachelor’s degree in political science. He is a financial services professional with New York Life in Harrisburg.

Sean Fortney (Harrisburg, General Studies ’10) is earning a bachelor’s degree at Bucknell University. He is manager and a disc jockey for the Mad Hatter Production Company.

Heather Tressler Quick (Harrisburg, Business Studies ’08) earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Eastern University in May 2010 and was recently accepted into Lebanon Valley College’s MBA program. In October 2010, she married Jason V. Quick. She is a fiscal officer for Dauphin County.

Melissa Wagner (Gettysburg, Business Management ’08) is an assistant guest service manager at the 1863 Inn of Gettysburg. She writes a blog on Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia Awareness and is the administrator of chiasupport.org. She is also an admissions manager for Horrorfind Weekend Convention.

Joni E. Osterhout (Harrisburg, General Studies ’08) recently earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Penn State University.

Eric D. Yost (Harrisburg, General Studies ’95) recently joined Rettie’s Mechanicsburg office as a survey project manager where he will assist with implementing the company’s new Global Positioning System (GPS) and sonar mapping technology.

Health Careers

Mary Alice Bogert (Lancaster, CVT-Cardiac Sonography ’09) is an echocardiography technologist II at Chambersburg Hospital.

Beth Cate (Harrisburg, Nursing ’08), a flight nurse with Penn State’s Milton S. Hershey Medical Center’s Life Lion helicopter service, recently was featured in an article in the Patriot-News, Harrisburg.

Alison Clark (Harrisburg, Practical Nursing ’10) is a graduate practical nurse with Colonial Park Care Center in Harrisburg.

Melissa Fornwald (Harrisburg, Dental Hygiene ’08) is a dental hygienist with Klein Family Dentistry in Harrisburg.

Matthew Lauris (Lancaster, Human Services ’09) is a personal care assistant for Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13. He and his wife welcomed their first child in June.

Sharon Lynn Redcay (Lancaster, Radiologic Technology ’09) is a radiology technologist with Mount Nittany Physicians Group in Karthaus. She is studying to be an emergency medical technician (EMT).

Robyn A. Ross (Gettysburg, Human Services ’10) is working toward a bachelor’s degree in social work at Shippensburg University.

Lori Whitaker (Lancaster, Cardiovascular Technology ’09) is a cardiac telemetry technician at Seton Specialty Hospital in Indianapolis.

Krystal Wine (Gettysburg, Phlebotomy Technician ’09) is a sales associate with Payless Shoes in York.
**Social Sciences**

**Melissa Branch** (Harrisburg, Paralegal Studies ’09) is attending Shippensburg University and pursuing a writing career.

**Tracy Brown** (Harrisburg, Early Childhood Education ’07) was named Preschool Teacher of the Year by the Lebanon Valley Association for the Education of Young Children.

**Abigail Caballero** (Lancaster, Social Science ’08) earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Millersville University. She is a substitute teacher and a member of the Latino Vision Association’s board of directors.

**Jacqueline Eisenhauer** (Lebanon, Elementary Education ’10) is attending Millersville University. She is a bookkeeper with KIT Network Cabling in Lebanon.

**Jacqueline Eschbach** (Lancaster, Criminal Justice ’03) graduated from the University of Phoenix on July 16, earning a master’s degree in administration of justice and security. She is an assignment administrator for Verizon.

**Cory Frey** (Harrisburg, Criminal Justice ’07) earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Shippensburg University and is a records specialist with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

**Leonard Garfield** (Harrisburg, Criminal Justice ’94) is an intervention specialist with Abraxas Geo Group, Inc., in Harrisburg.

**Holly Elaine Jackson** (Lancaster, Criminal Justice 30+ Credits) joined the Southwestern Regional Police Department on June 28 as an officer. Jackson graduated from HACC’s Police Academy in December 2010.

**Connie Kopp** (Harrisburg, Criminal Justice ’09) is an insurance coordinator for Masonic Villages in Elizabethtown.

**Michele Miller** (Lebanon, Early Childhood Education ’96) has been owner and director of Noah and Company, a day care center in Fredericksburg, for nine years. She has 10 employees.

**Evelyn Quinteros** (York, Early Childhood Education ’09) is continuing her education at Eastern University. She is a teacher with the Pre-K Counts Program in York.

**Amanda Reichert** (Harrisburg, Psychology ’10) is a self-employed child care provider and attends Penn State University.

**Sharon Roda** (Lancaster, Social Science ’09) is studying health administration at Immaculata University. She is a recreational therapist at Willow Valley Retirement Center.

**Technology**

**Christy Gibson** (Harrisburg, Computer Information Systems ’09) is an enrollment specialist for HACC.

**Elizabeth Russell** (Harrisburg, Computer Network Technology ’10) is an application specialist for Holy Spirit Health System in Camp Hill.

**Mary Morrow** (Harrisburg, Computer Information Systems ’10) works in technology support for the Capital Area Intermediate Unit in Enola.

**In Memoriam**

**Leslie Anne Torresson**, a professor of business administration at HACC, died July 1 at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Memorial contributions can be made to the Leslie Anne Torresson Scholarship Fund at the HACC Foundation.

# PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Alumni are invited to share news items for publication in future issues of *HACC Connections*. “Newsy” items may include (but are not limited to) promotions, advanced degrees, weddings, births, new jobs, name and address changes.

- I understand that the information I submit will be published, unless otherwise indicated
- Please do not publish

Please check as appropriate

- This is a new address, please update my file.
- I’ve attached photos and/or an article for publication.
- I’m interested in learning about making a gift to the HACC Foundation. Please have a HACC Foundation Officer contact me.
- I’m interested in volunteering with the Alumni Association, please contact me.

**Return this form to:**
HACC, Alumni Affairs Office
One HACC Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2999

**Thank You!**

If you’d like to call the Alumni Affairs Office, the phone number is 717-780-2474
New chairman aims for more scholarships

James Grandon stresses partnerships as way to success

As a successful businessman and community leader, James Grandon Jr. understands the importance of education to a thriving workforce.

"People need to continue their education to keep current with workforce changes," Grandon said. "Too many people stop education at the 12th grade or four years later and don’t keep up with the educational needs of today’s workplace."

That doesn’t need to happen with a community resource like HACC, said Grandon, who as newly elected chairman of the HACC Foundation board of directors has set his sights on making a college education a reality for more people by increasing awareness of the foundation and building support for the college’s students and programs.

“What I would like to see is for the HACC Foundation to become more visible throughout the community," he said. “We need to educate the community about what HACC is and what it has become.” This is more important than ever as HACC faces decreased funding from traditional sources. By turning to the business community and sharing the college’s success stories, Grandon is confident the response will be positive.

“The business community has never let good causes like HACC down. They know how important HACC is to our community," he said. “They have always reached out (to meet the need) and always help.” Grandon is counting on that support to help the HACC Foundation meet a goal of increasing scholarships by 25 percent during the next three years.

“The scholarship program is so important to the average HACC student who is looking for an affordable education," said Grandon. “We will continue to raise more money to provide scholarships to the students who need it most.” The foundation’s fundraising efforts also will focus on raising funds to provide the resources for additional bricks and mortar and enhanced curriculum at each of the college’s five campuses.

“We’re not just a foundation for HACC’s Harrisburg Campus. We’re a foundation for all the campuses," said Grandon, who brings a wealth of fundraising experience to his role as chairman.

“I think I bring a level of volunteerism that is needed for HACC to continue to grow," he said. “I have always been able to raise money. People will take my phone calls, listen, understand and, many times, help with the cause.”

The fact that 85 percent of HACC graduates stay in the community is an added incentive for local business to support the foundation. “Many of the corporations in central Pennsylvania come to HACC when they are looking to hire, especially from our vocational programs," he said.

At the same time, Grandon realizes he and the members of the foundation’s board have their work cut out for them in an era of decreased funding.

“It will require a greater effort on our part and it will require a greater effort on HACC itself. We will have to work as a team to continue to meet the needs of the public," he said, adding that it is a goal they can meet. “I’m a 72-year-old guy who has had a lot of success, and I think I can do it one more time.”

Lanza named to board of directors

Edward G. Lanza, Esq., has been appointed to a three-year term on foundation’s board of directors.

“Ed brings to the board his wealth of legal expertise and a deep commitment to serving the needs of the Hispanic community in our region,” said Jayne Abrams, executive director of institutional advancement and the HACC Foundation.

Lanza of Lower Paxton Township is an associate in the Harrisburg office of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, and practices in the area of utilities and telecommunications law, energy regulation, civil litigation and administrative law. He previously was a judicial clerk to the Honorable William H. Kaye for the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas, Franklin County.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Hispanic National Bar Association, president of the group’s Region IV of Pennsylvania and Delaware, vice president of the Keystone Bar Association, and a member of the Dauphin County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations and the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania.

He is founding member and director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central Pennsylvania and member of the President’s Leadership Council and Latino Partnership, both at Messiah College, and is counsel and advisory board member of Estamos Unidos of Pennsylvania.

Lanza received the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award for Distinguished Achievement in Advocacy and was selected for inclusion in Pennsylvania SuperLawyers - Rising Stars.

He earned a J.D. in 1997 from The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University in Carlisle and a bachelor’s degree in 1989 from Messiah College in Grantham.
Consider benefits of charitable remainder trusts

Lori J. McElroy, partner in the federal, state and local taxation practice group of Rhoads & Sinon, LLP, Harrisburg, wrote this article.

Donating cash or other assets to a charity can be accomplished in a way that benefits both the charity and the donor. Instead of making contributions directly to the charity, a donor can establish a charitable remainder trust (CRT) and make the contribution to it.

CRTs are irrevocable trusts established to provide benefits to both the donor (and/or other individuals such as the donor’s children or spouse) and the donor’s favorite charity. The individual beneficiary will receive a set percentage of the CRT’s assets during the individual’s life (or a term of years) and the charity will receive the assets remaining in the CRT on the death of the individual (or the expiration of the term of years).

Because CRTs do not pay capital gains taxes on the sale of assets, a CRT is a great vehicle to use for donating property that has a low cost basis but has greatly appreciated in value.

Annual payments received by the individual beneficiary may be subject to income tax. The donor will, however, be eligible to take a charitable dedication on his/her income tax return in an amount equal to the present value of the remainder interest in the CRT.

There are two types of CRTs, a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT) and a charitable remainder annuity trust (CRAT). Both calculate the annual payments as a set percentage of the assets of the CRT.

The annual payments from a CRUT are a set percentage of the value of the assets of the trust recalculated on an annual basis. The payments from a CRUT will change annually, increasing and decreasing as the value of the trust changes.

If a donor would prefer to receive annual payments that will remain constant throughout the duration of the CRT, the donor should create a CRAT. The annual payments from a CRAT are calculated when the assets are originally contributed and will never change.

If the donor likes the idea of a CRT but wants to reverse the income interest and the charitable interest, the donor can set up a charitable lead trust (CLT) that essentially will provide the same tax benefits but will provide a stream of income to the charity during the donor’s lifetime. Upon the donor’s death, the remaining assets in the CLT will be distributed to the donor’s beneficiary.

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Call 717-780-3220 or visit us at www.wildwoodconference.com

Located on the Harrisburg Campus of HACC, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College

Book before September 30 and receive a complimentary tray of cookies personally delivered to your office!
Daughter’s success testament to mother’s determination

Editor’s note: Gettysburg Campus student Carla Lucia Fotopoulos and Marizol Jimenez, campus bilingual support specialist, have a special bond shared by daughters and mothers. The following is an excerpt from a recent column they wrote.

My name is Carla Lucia Fotopoulos. I was born in Silver Spring, Md., and moved to Pennsylvania in 2004. I am fluent in Greek from my father’s side and Spanish from my mother’s side, which has given me the ability to experience diverse cultures and be open-minded.

I have always wanted to be a physician. However, financially I knew this would be a struggle. As a student at the Gettysburg Campus, I’ve had tremendous support in pursuing my dream. This spring I received scholarship support from the campus for my upcoming fall semester. Even more significant, I was honored to be chosen as a HACC student for the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program. Coming from a middle-low income family with a single parent, this scholars program will greatly help me to achieve my goal of becoming a doctor.

This summer, I took classes at Bucknell before returning to HACC to complete my associate degree. Then I have the opportunity of returning to Bucknell to earn my bachelor’s degree.

I know in my heart that I could not have achieved my goal without my mom’s perseverance. Her thirst for wanting to further her education encouraged me to follow her path to continue even when negative circumstances got in my way.

My mother began at HACC as a student, going on to become a student worker and receiving many scholarships and awards along the way. I hear her often saying “never stop learning.” Her philosophy is if you do not like the outcome of things that life throws at you, you need to change what you are doing to better your outcome.

My name is Marizol Jimenez, the proud mom of this extraordinary young lady. I told myself I would not cry when I presented her with the Bucknell Scholarship at the spring student celebration, so all I could do is reminisce as to where this educational journey began for me.

In 2004, I started taking classes at the Gettysburg Campus. I became involved in the campus and started a Bilingual Club to make others aware of the differences between us. Jennifer Weaver, campus vice president, asked me to assist her on a special project that led me to a student worker position. This opportunity confirmed that I was on track working toward my degree to assist others in overcoming the challenges when entering higher education.

In 2007, I was offered a position in Student Affairs as the Bilingual Support Technician, and then promoted to Bilingual Support Specialist in 2010. I completed my associate degree in 2009 and am now enrolled at Elizabethtown College pursuing a degree in human services with a concentration in behavioral and addictions counseling.

Because I allowed myself to take the opportunity that higher education gave me, many rewarding things began happening. I am now able to do the same for HACC students.

Watching my own daughter work hard and earn scholarships proves to me that education is the key to professional and personal growth. Please, consider supporting HACC students through scholarship support. For information, contact Judy Cole Alder, campus development officer, at 337-3855, ext. 3056, or jaalder@hacc.edu.

Carla Lucia Fotopoulos, left, and her mother, Marizol Jimenez, share a love of education and the Gettysburg Campus.
Mother, daughter share graduation’s emotional high

When Gail Johnson traveled with her daughter to various schools in search of the right nursing program, she never dreamed that one day they would share the graduation stage. But, that is exactly what happened.

Johnson, 55, had worked nearly 25 years in the printing industry before she was laid off in 2007. It turned out, the timing couldn’t have been better.

“It gave me the opportunity to change my life, and that is what I did,” said Johnson, who joined her daughter, Sara Main, at the Gettysburg Campus. “I started in the surgical tech program, but I switched when I realized I only needed two more classes to qualify for nursing.”

Main, who is one of her mother’s biggest supporters, says she talked her mother into joining her in the nursing program.

“I don’t remember life too well before nursing school with Mom,” said the 24-year-old with a laugh. Main says the years she spent in the program were a whirlwind thanks to work, marriage and the arrival of a baby, Madelyn, just before graduation in May. “Since January, (Mom and I) have almost been inseparable. Almost every weekend we got together and studied. She would call; I would call with questions. It would be odd if we didn’t talk once a day.”

Having your mother as your study partner can definitely be a motivating factor, according to Main.

Having your mother as your study partner can definitely be a motivating factor, said Sara Main. “There were some days where I wouldn’t have studied. Knowing that Mom needed to study too, it pushed me further.”

“We were both looking out for each other. I would think, ’I can’t pass this and have my mother fail.’ We both had to have continued success,” she said, confessing she often fought the urge to leave the books behind. “There were some days where I wouldn’t have studied. Knowing that Mom needed to study too, it pushed me further.”

Although they both acknowledge some competitiveness when comparing test scores, they pushed each other to be on top of their game and to graduate together. Even delivering her baby did not slow Main down.

“She actually had the baby the Saturday before Easter, got out (of the hospital) on Easter Sunday, went to school on Monday and took an exam,” Johnson said with pride.

Brought together by school and the baby, the mother-daughter pair also worked together as nursing assistants. While they sometimes needed a break from the togetherness, it had the effect of bringing Main’s father and husband closer together.

“When we got together, Mom and I would do what we needed to do for school, and my husband and dad would do what they wanted to do,” she said, explaining one unintended effect. “My husband and I were supposed to go to a dinner to benefit the local firefighters, but he took my dad instead!”

While Johnson laughs along with that story, she is quick to point out that her husband has stood by them since those first college visits. “He’s had a stake in this for quite a while,” she said. “To see it all come together, and as a bonus, see his wife in the same program, was kind of neat.”

It wasn’t lost on Johnson and Main either who crossed the graduation stage one after the other in May. “We were both in tears during the pinning ceremony,” Johnson remembers. “It was an emotional night to go through that together.”

Both mother and daughter recently took the exam to become licensed as registered nurses in Pennsylvania. They passed and can now put RN after their names.
Students taking geospatial technology classes get more than book learning from Nicole Ernst, assistant professor, geospatial technology. They get real-world, on-the-street experience that helps neighboring communities.

In the spring, Ernst’s two remote sensing classes did a project for Palmyra. Roger Powl, borough manager, wanted to digitally map the sewer lines and manholes as a data layer on the county’s geographic information systems (GIS) mapping. But the $36,000 cost to collect data on about 450 manholes was more than the borough could afford. Ernst jumped at the chance to give her students the experience.

“The borough is divided into 16 sectors. Everyone had a partner and a hand-held GPS unit that’s more sophisticated than most people have in their cars or homes,” said Ernst. “Armed with the borough’s old paper maps – the only record of the borough’s manholes and connecting sewer lines – students stood over each sewer manhole to get the GPS latitude and longitude coordinates.”

The location was pinpointed from three or four satellites, and averaged into one set of coordinates, with an error rate of only a few feet.

“That project had value for a number of reasons,” said Ernst. “It was a real client with a real project with a real deliverable outcome, and the students had to make sure that the data was good data. After we were finished collecting, we went back and checked to be sure we didn’t miss anything. That’s quality assurance – clean the data set up to make sure it was really good.”

Ernst’s students also mapped and assessed the condition of Penbrook’s signs so the borough knows which need to be replaced for visibility or might have been knocked down. Students traveled with laptops, reviewing maps showing sign locations. The project was done through local engineering firm Skelly & Loy which has a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. “That was a cool project, because I had two of my best students on it, wearing safety vests, taking pictures, and with their laptops clicking on the signs on the map,” said Ernst.

Ernst also teaches introduction to geospatial technology and a professional issues class. There are day and night classes, with about 20 students in the whole program. “Once students get into the intro class, they stick around. They love it. Small classes are fun,” she said. “Students often have some kind of experience with GIS, a career change or want this as an ‘add-on’ to an existing career. More students are coming from high school now, and I encourage them to go on for their four-year degree.”

Jason Lentz of Dillsburg spent seven years in the Navy in navigation and mapping. “This was the closest thing to what I was doing in the Navy and my interests,” said Lentz, who will graduate with an associate degree in geospatial technology in fall 2012 and hopes to work for the federal government or the National Geospatial Agency.

“Everyone now is starting to use the technology, like the smart phones with positioning telling you what’s close to you,” said Lentz. “More local governments are starting to use GIS and a lot more are jobs opening up.”

Ernst agrees. “The career outlook for students is wide open. There are so many different ways they can go with the technology. They can go into a private company or engineering company like Geo Decisions, Gannett Fleming and Skelly & Loy locally. Many state agencies such as the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection and Liquor Control Board heavily use GIS.”

Prior to joining HACC in 2005 when the geospatial technology program started, Ernst did GIS work for the National Park Service at Big Horn in Montana, where she mapped everything from noxious weeds to archaeological sites. She also worked for the state’s agricultural preservation board, using GIS to help rank farmland quality. She has bachelor’s degrees in political science from Slippery Rock University and in environmental studies from Montana State, as well as a master’s degree in geography from East Carolina University.
New partnerships added

Community colleges provide partnership opportunities for many segments of the local community. The Lancaster Campus has been active in our community, and has gained much from those experiences. Most recently developed partnerships have been with Long’s Park 2011 Summer Music Series and Keys for the City during the summer.

Long’s Park Summer Music Series and the Lancaster Campus worked together to support summer music performances and fireworks displays on Sunday evenings. The partnership provided the campus the opportunity to showcase HACC in Long’s Park during a variety of concert performances, reaching out to as many as 100,000 people. Long’s Park Summer Music Series exposes Lancaster and surrounding communities to diversified musical entertainment.

The campus sponsored and created a custom-painted piano for the “Keys for the City” project sponsored by Music for Everyone, a nonprofit charitable organization. Tracy Nagy and Scott Miller, two students from Ruth Bernard’s drawing class, designed and painted the back of the piano and our HACC community contributed signatures. The project fosters creativity and a sense of community among the general public and raises awareness for local music and visual arts education initiatives. The piano artwork has been at the corner of Prince and Chestnut downtown all summer. It will be auctioned at the end of the season to benefit local music education programming.

Campus team raises nearly $2,700 for Relay for Life

The HACC-Alpha Nu Omega Relay for Life team set a goal of raising $2,500 for the annual event that benefits the local American Cancer Society. The team raised $2,689.49, nearly $200 over goal, through donations and funds from a percentage of sales of custom made jewelry made by Mata Stroup, specialist in enrollment services.

“It was wonderful to see HACC faculty, staff, students, members of the Alpha Nu Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and HACC alumni come together for such a great cause,” said Heather McAndrews, a team captain with Michael Shoemaker and Amanda P. Sura. The relay was held June 10 and 11 at Conestoga Valley High School. “I am proud to represent HACC and the Alpha Nu Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa national honor society during this event,” said Shoemaker.
Lebanon Campus student Kimberly Hughes has a new job and outlook on life, thanks to HACC’s Targeted Retraining for Dislocated Workers (TRDW) program.

Developed in 2009 to provide job-training programs for the unemployed, the program provides targeted short- and long-term training for jobs that are needed by employers in Central Pennsylvania.

Hughes, 34, moved to Fredericksburg with her husband because of her job with a Denver, Pa., manufacturing company, but was laid off in June 2009.

“I tried to find employment in Lebanon County but was told I had great experience but no degree,” said Hughes. “The pay difference between Lancaster and Lebanon counties was extreme. I decided to go back to school, but I couldn’t afford it because I was unemployed.”

Hughes found out about HACC’s TRDW when she went to Pennsylvania CareerLink in Lebanon for counseling and resources to get back into the job market. “They told me if I really wanted to go back to school I should take this program because it pays for tuition,” said Hughes. Her only expenses were registration and books.

She enrolled in business, taking all classes at the Lebanon Campus, and plans to graduate in spring 2012.

She was a full-time student until the spring semester when she got a full-time job as accounting manager for a construction company in Reading. That made her ineligible for the training program, but she continued to take classes at her own expense.

“If it wasn’t for the program, I wouldn’t have gone to college,” said Hughes. “It was too much to take out a loan while I was unemployed.

Thank God HACC was offering the program, and the professors there are unbelievable. And once you were in the program, which requires you be unemployed or working part-time, then you are guaranteed to be covered for at least two years so you can obtain an associate degree.”

Hughes plans to take two classes this fall, take a year off from school then return for a bachelor’s degree.

TRDW was created by a college task force convened former HACC President Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D., to address the growing joblessness in the region. HACC has outlined several short- and long-term programs that can lead to jobs for successful graduates. Successful completion of a program does not guarantee employment but does give graduates specific training to qualify for high-demand jobs in the region.
Reaching out to their community

Lebanon Campus students, faculty and staff often volunteer their time to help out with community projects. During the spring semester, their efforts included a bake sale to benefit the Lebanon County Humane Society, working during the United Way’s annual Day of Caring, and joining in on cleaning up the downtown on Earth Day.

Dixon Foundation expands scholarships

The Dixon Foundation’s recent major expansion of its scholarship program for Lebanon Campus students doubles the number of available scholarships to 180 per year.

“We’re very excited that more students will be able to start or continue their education at HACC thanks to the Dixon Foundation,” said Kathleen Kramer, Ed.D., campus vice president. “These scholarships have already helped more than 2,000 students get started on a college education right here in Lebanon.”

Originally available only to recent Lebanon County high school graduates, the program now help first-year students who attend full time or part time as well as second-year and returning students.

“The new guidelines permit any Lebanon County resident – regardless of age and when they graduated from high school – to apply,” Kramer said. “The only restriction is that family income may not exceed $90,000.”

The Dixon Foundation will offer 60 scholarships of $1,000 to first-year, full-time students – those students taking at least 12 credits. In addition, another 60 scholarships for $500 apiece will be available to part-time students who take at least six credits – normally two courses. Finally, 60 grants of $500 will be available for second-year and returning students taking at least six credits.

In order to apply, students need to fill out a scholarship application available at the campus or online at www.hacc.edu/Lebanon. In addition, each applicant must write an essay of at least 150 words explaining why the grant is needed. Applications will be processed on a rolling basis in the order in which they are received.

“The Dixon Foundation and its founder Frank Dixon believe very strongly in Lebanon and that higher education plays a vital role in the future of the city and of Lebanon County,” said Richard Scott, foundation chairman. “We are absolutely sure that raising the level of education enhances the quality of life and our sole reason for existence is improving life in Lebanon County.”
When Jason Murrow left Red Lion High School, he didn’t think he’d ever go back to the classroom. “Hate” is a strong word and that’s why I used it,” said Murrow as he described his view of going to school. He entered the carpentry apprentice program at Kinsley Construction Co. and discovered one important thing: “I love the construction industry but didn’t want to spend the rest of my life in a ditch.”

When Kinsley Construction and HACC-York Campus paired up in 2006 to offer a way to earn an associate degree in technology studies, Murrow jumped at the chance. He and eight of his fellow workers recently became the first group of Kinsley employees to complete the program, with a combined 3.62 grade point average. They were recognized at a reception at the campus in May.

“Congratulations, you now are among the 29 percent of York residents who have earned a degree beyond high school,” Jean Treuthart, campus vice president, told the graduates.

“A great deal of the credit goes to Bob Kinsley, the company founder, for his vision of employing a well trained and well educated workforce,” she continued. “We had no model but we were enthusiastic to work with Dave Herman of the Kinsley Education Center and other Kinsley representatives to make this work.”

Marjorie Mattis, D.Ed., campus executive dean, worked with Kinsley to articulate the company’s carpentry courses into HACC credits. The next step was to provide the remaining 40 hours of credits for the degree. “We knew it would be a long haul for the students and a challenge but Kinsley never waivered in support of the program,” Treuthart said.

“HACC made it easy for us to help our employees get to the next supervisory level,” said Herman. HACC instructors taught the required courses, one course per semester on a Wednesday at the Kinsley Education Center.

Murrow credited HACC’s Shelley Hobbs, campus manager of business services, and Janet Rich, counselor/instructor, as well as Deborah Rohrbaugh, administrative assistant at Kinsley Education Center, for making it easier for the students to succeed. “We also got a great incentive from Kinsley to get an A for reimbursement.”
Grant allows Spanish GED program to expand

Spanish GED classes are being offered this fall at York YMCA, thanks to a $14,700 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

Barbara Seasholtz, York Campus coordinator of English as a Second Language (ESL) and Spanish General Education Development (GED), worked with Linda Whipple, college director of grant development, to successfully apply for the grant.

“Our campus GED preparation classes offer an opportunity to those in our community who speak Spanish to study for the high school diploma equivalency test at no cost,” said Seasholtz.

Those classes are like a one-room school house, with students of many levels being taught in one group. “This grant allows us to add a separate Adult Basic Education (ABE) class for those who test at a low skill level in math and/or reading and are not yet ready for GED preparation classes.”

The partnership with the YMCA also includes low-cost child care to the participants.

The York Campus began offering Spanish GED classes in January 2009 and expanded the program soon after in partnership with the York City School District.

Barbara Seasholtz, left, campus coordinator of ESL and Spanish GED, answers questions from a Spanish GED graduate about enrolling in college classes.
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Lewistown mom goes online to earn math degree

Melissa Schomaker used to sit in her kitchen and help her three children with their mathematics homework, never thinking that some day she’d pursue a career as a teacher.

The Lewistown resident graduated from high school in 1987 but didn’t think seriously about higher education after getting married and having three kids to raise. She always put her family’s needs first.

But during those sessions around the kitchen table, she discovered that she really liked algebra and trigonometry.

“When my children went through high school, it seemed like they struggled in math,” Schomaker said. “They would always ask for help and I always secretly wanted them to ask for help.”

When her oldest child, Sadie, enrolled at HACC two years ago, Schomaker discovered the Virtual Campus – and the flexibility it offers – and decided to try it out herself.

Her first foray into higher education appears to be going very well. She received the Outstanding Freshman Math and Computer Science Award while carrying a 4.0 grade-point-average.

And she’s on her way toward her new life goal – becoming a middle school math teacher.

“I really didn’t think I had time for anything like that,” Schomaker said of her decision to enroll. “I didn’t think it would happen. I just assumed college was full-time, every day. I was kind of surprised to learn you could do it at your own pace, from home.”

Schomaker discussed her goal with her adviser, Professor Ellen Shatto, who also taught Schomaker’s statistics class.

Shatto said Schomaker is interested in teaching middle school because she believes that’s where students become turned off to mathematics. “She was very encouraging with her classmates,” Shatto said. “You could see the beginnings of a very fine teacher.”

After Sadie enrolled at HACC, Schomaker saw an advertisement for a HACC information meeting in Lewistown and decided to attend. That resulted in her taking her first HACC course at Juniata High School. Following that experience, she decided to enroll as an online student.

Schomaker is on her way toward her new life goal – becoming a middle school math teacher.

She was a little bit nervous about using a computer to go to school, but it has been “pretty easy,” she said.

Even in a philosophy course where “the debate could get pretty hot,” she found contributing to the discussions was a little bit easier than she expected. “I really think you feel more free to talk online,” she said, adding that in a face-to-face situation “maybe I’m a little shy. I think you get to know your classmates better.”

Schomaker also likes the flexibility of the Virtual Campus. She had thought about taking the summer semester off so that she and her husband, Dan, could refinish their kitchen.

They stripped the kitchen down to bare studs and rebuilt cabinets and flooring – all with Schomaker taking the class anyway, so she can finish her studies quicker.

Schomaker plans to continue her studies at Lock Haven University, where her son, Justin, is preparing to begin his college career this fall.

“Three years ago, I never would have said ‘yeah, I’ll be starting college’, ” Schomaker said, sounding a little amazed at what she’s done. “I learned so much.”
Your safety is our mission

Region’s first responders train here

When you call for assistance, an ambulance, the local police or fire department, do you ever give thought to where they were trained? Or where they continue their training to keep up-to-date with their ever-changing roles?

The majority of Central Pennsylvania’s first responders are trained right here at HACC’s Senator John J. Shumaker Public Safety Center (PSC) north of the Harrisburg Campus. The PSC is a working example of the college’s dedication to training those individuals who protect us everyday; those tireless men and women who serve our region – as well as our commonwealth – with care, compassion and heroism in spite of the danger to themselves.

With the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks this year, we can’t help but remember the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost in the tragedy and we ask you to pause and remember them, their surviving family members and friends.

We also remember those first responders who rushed to the World Trade Center in Manhattan, to the Pentagon outside of Washington, D.C., and to the Flight 93 disaster site in Shensville, Somerset County, on that fateful day. Those individuals who responded to assist in the initial hours after the attacks epitomize the compassionate nature of all emergency services personnel who work to protect and serve the public on a daily basis.

One of those specialized teams that responded to the World Trade Center site on 9/11 was PA Task Force 1, one of 28 Federal Urban Search and Rescue teams trained and equipped to respond to large disasters to conduct search and rescue activities. HACC has been an active participating agency with PA Task Force 1 since its inception in the mid-1990s. The PSC has served as one of the primary training sites over the years to train responders in rescue, medical and search techniques.

The majority, if not all, of more than 80 individuals from throughout Pennsylvania who responded with PA Task Force 1 on 9/11 trained at the PSC.

PSC instructors use this pile of rubble to train first responders on urban search and rescue techniques.

PSC at some point in their career to develop and hone their skills. HACC also is proud of the fact that approximately 35 personnel who actively participate with Task Force 1 are part-time instructors for the PSC’s Fire and EMS Units. They have used their experience in responding to numerous disasters to pass on crucial knowledge and skills to students in the programs they regularly instruct.

Shortly after 9/11, HACC’s Alumni Association donated the funds to PSC to purchase a Petrogen cutting torch system which is a unique system that uses gasoline and oxygen to cut and burn steel. Although it had been around for a number of years, the popularity of the Petrogen cutting torch system increased significantly for rescue after 9/11 since it has some significant advantages over other oxygen/fuel systems. Over the years HACC instructors have used the Petrogen to train hundreds of first responders in metal burning techniques used to effect rescue of trapped individuals.

HACC’s PSC has played a major role in training emergency response personnel from throughout the region since its inception, but in the years since 9/11 the center has taken a more active role because of the ever-changing nature of emergency response and the new threats posed from terrorism.

Working with the South Central Task Force, one of nine counter terrorism regions established throughout Pennsylvania, PSC has trained thousands of responders from the Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Management disciplines in the critical knowledge and skills needed to protect against and respond to various natural and manmade disasters. Some of the topic areas encompass the following: Structural collapse/technical rescue, weapons of mass destruction/hazardous materials, response to terrorist threats/bombings, law enforcement strike team/mobile field force operations, continuity of operations planning for businesses, operations security, and incident command and management.

We all hope and pray that we never experience another tragedy as we did on 9/11, but we rest easier knowing our community, our region and our commonwealth are safely protected by PSC graduates. It is our wish at HACC to ensure we continue to do our part to prepare, now and in the future, those who unselfishly put themselves in harm’s way to protect us all.
Help Tomorrow’s First Responders, Today!

Campaign supports much-needed capital improvements

Founded in 1988, HACC’s Senator John J. Shumaker Public Safety Center (PSC) is in need of capital improvements, which are the focus of a current Capital Campaign to expand and improve the facility.

With the 10th anniversary of 9/11 this fall, one may find it ironic that HACC has broken ground on the project this year. However, we could not think of a more appropriate time to pursue this endeavor.

Phase I includes the construction of the Senator Jeffrey Piccola Law Enforcement Complex to train future local police officers. Given the opportunity, drive by Gate 5 entrance of HACC on Industrial Road and you will see the progress being made.

What does all of this mean to you? HACC’s PSC is a much needed resource within our community. The staff is one of the most dedicated teams and their passion for what they do is contagious. We at HACC continue to raise funds to support the PSC and the more than 30,000 first responders in our communities trained there every year. And we need your help.

If you haven’t seen the facility and would like a tour, please don’t hesitate to contact the PSC directly at 717-780-2510 to schedule a time to visit.

In addition, consider becoming a PSC Partner by pledging $200 per year over five years to support the PSC in continuing its training efforts. Return the completed pledge form below to: HACC Foundation, One HACC Drive, M260, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2999.

For more information on becoming a PSC Partner or how you can help further with this project, contact Sheila Fleischer, Campus Development Officer, at 717-780-2439 or via email at sjfleisc@hacc.edu.

Visit the PSC at www.hacc.edu (click on Public Safety Center) and our Facebook page to keep up to date on the expansion project.

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PSC Partners

____ I or __ We wish to pledge $1,000 payable over 5 years ($200 per year) to The HACC Foundation. Pledge reminders will be sent annually beginning in January.

List Donor As

☐ Please list this donation as Anonymous

Contact Name (if different)

Email Address

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Office Phone

Cell Phone

Signature

Date

A copy of this completed pledge intent form will be returned with a letter of acknowledgment. The HACC Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit education trust. All gifts to The HACC Foundation are tax deductible. The HACC Foundation shall have the right to allocate up to 5% of this gift commitment to its Major Gift Campaign budget.

I want to be a PSC Partner

Return to: HACC Foundation, One HACC Drive, M260, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2999
Help Tomorrow’s First Responders, TODAY!

Senator John J. Shumaker
Public Safety Center

Master Plan
HACC broke ground in April on the first of a multi-year project to provide much-needed expansion and renovations to the 12-acre complex.

Phase I (under way):
- Construction of a state-of-the-art law enforcement complex with a 25-lane indoor firing range
- Construction of additional training sites for hazardous materials, driver training range, outdoor running track and expanded parking
- Renovation of original fire training structures
- Upgrades to the storm water management/fire retention pond
- Targeted completion date is spring 2012.

The remaining three phases of the master plan include:

Phase II: Construction of a new fire training tower, new mock fire training station, emergency vehicle operator’s course, and pedestrian bridge and emergency access road to the Harrisburg Campus

Phase III: Construction of a new 90,000-square-foot academic and administration building

Phase IV: Renovation of North Hall into a Transportation Building, with an addition of approximately 30,000 square feet

How you can help
To join PSC Partners, turn the page and fill out the form inside. You can mail it to PSC Partners, Attn: The HACC Foundation, One HACC Drive, M260, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

For more information about the PSC Partners program and other ways to donate to the campaign, contact Sheila Fleischer at 717-780-2439 or sjfleisc@hacc.edu.