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SAVE THE DATE - September 13, 2010

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10:00 A.M. REGISTRATION & SILENT AUCTION (CHIPPING & PUTTING GREENS OPEN)
11:00 A.M. BUFFET LUNCH
12:00 P.M. SHOTGUN START
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Scholarship is more than just a word

It comes as no surprise that scholarship is near and dear to the hearts of those who comprise the HACC community. But have you stopped to think about the various forms this simple word – scholarship – can take and how all of those forms translate into our mission of providing opportunity for a better life for the residents of Central Pennsylvania?

We can think of scholarship as in “donation,” such as a grant-in-aid to a student by the HACC Foundation, or we can think of it in terms of “writing/publications” from faculty and staff.

Scholarship also can refer to the act of study, such as the efforts put forth by the more than 22,000 degree students and 50,000 continuing education and workforce training students who come to HACC from all walks of life to pursue their goals.

It can refer to specific types of study, such as the focus on international education through the new Center for Global Education; or green technology, such as the ever-growing focus on providing programs to equip today’s students for the jobs of today and tomorrow; or the development of trade and technology programs tailored to meet the needs of the individual communities that HACC serves.

All of these variations of “scholarship,” and the many partnerships formed to accomplish scholarship, can be found in this edition of HACC Connections. In it, we celebrate scholarship at many levels and hope that you will too.

For those of you who have asked to read the magazine online, you can find all issues of HACC Connections by going to www.hacc.edu, click on “Online Newsroom” and you’ll find the link.

Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D.,
HACC president
Celebrating Scholarship

Honors program offers unique learning experience

As a child, Rachel Jones Williams read the encyclopedia for fun. “I am inordinately curious,” said Jones Williams. “I have always loved history. There was always more to know.”

As a HACC student, Jones Williams’ thirst for knowledge was heightened when she learned about the college’s honors program.

“Recently, when I got to HACC there was so much going on, so much being offered to me academically. I had professors who were top-of-the-line,” she said. “I realized that I could not only get my degree, but I could get the very best out of life in this whole academic experience.”

It is this kind of enthusiasm that Yvonne Milspaw, Ph.D., director of the honors program and professor of English and humanities, wishes all students who are eligible for the honors program.

“Often times it is a hard sell for students who worry their grade point average may suffer or the workload will be difficult. But, in reality, the program offers a unique learning experience.

“The honors program offers a smaller class size, more individual attention and more opportunity to follow your own ideas and interests,” said Milspaw. “We expect not more work, but better work — more thoughtful, more analytical work.”

HACC invites participation in the program to newly enrolled students based on high school records, SAT scores or the results of placement testing. Involvement is also open to any student who completes 12 college level classes with a 3.25 grade point average.

“If a student scores very high on their placement exams, then they automatically get a letter inviting them to take honors classes,” said Milspaw. “Faculty can recommend students as well.”

David Neagley describes the way he enrolled in the honors program as a “happy accident” because of his SAT scores.

“I thought the advantage to the program was that the classes would be smaller,” he said. “It turned out it was the best thing I ever did.”

Neagley, who spent two semesters in the honors program before transferring to earn a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, credits his professors with preparing him for the work ahead.

“I went to Gettysburg College, and I hit the ground running,” he said. “I got a lot of interesting opportunities because I was already quite skilled at the writing process and how that works, which really gave me a huge edge competitively.”

For about the last five years, one element of the honors program that has grown increasingly popular is the Honors Lecture Series. Several times throughout each semester, high-end scholars make lunchtime presentations to the college community that provide outside intellectual ideas.

“I want the students to see accessibility of ideas, people with ideas and how these ideas can affect what else they know, how they know things and how they think about things,” Milspaw said.

When Jones Williams returned to the area after graduate school, her first thoughts were to wonder about the topic of the current lecture series.

“In 2006, I was honored to actually present at an honors lecture,” said Jones Williams, who earned a bachelor’s degree in history and recently completed her master’s degree in history and museum studies. She is writing a book, “Trailblazers: Notable African Americans in Pennsylvania’s History.”

“I thought, ‘Does it get better than this?’ The program you came out of actually finds your work worth supporting and calls you back. What greater honor is there?”

Rachel Jones Williams

“Yvonne Milspaw, Ph.D., director of the honors program and professor of English and humanities, wishes all students who are eligible for the honors program.

David Neagley

Since February 2009, an online Honors Student Education has allowed students and faculty to share ideas, stories, goals and accomplishments.

The network, created by Virtual Campus history professor Caroline Mellinger, fostered a HACC Honors Facebook Group established in fall 2009.

New information and resources are added regularly. Current features include:

• Access to segments of Honors Program and Faculty Showcase lectures
• Access to digital library resources, including an “Ask a Librarian” discussion board
• Meeting of the Minds with Web links and articles of special interest; includes World of Books
• Colleges and Universities page, including “Ask a Counselor” discussion board
• Get to Know HACC Faculty, including interviews, photos, blogs and published items

Honors program offers unique learning experience
State Senator Jeffrey Piccola, R-15, and chairman of the Senate Education Committee, recently was at the Wildwood Conference Center to meet this year’s recipients of the Anthony J. Piccola Memorial Award.

This endowed award was set up in memory of the senator’s father to celebrate his lifelong commitment to learning and to assist students at the Harrisburg Campus.

Karen Lawson and Victor Paredes, this year’s recipients of the Anthony J. Piccola Memorial Award, offered their heartfelt thank-you to the senator for this scholarship and talked about the impact it has had on their educational experience and their lives.

Also at the breakfast, Sen. Piccola met a group of seniors from Harrisburg High School who are enrolled in HACC’s HealthCare Academy. This program offers high school seniors an opportunity to gain a solid background in the healthcare field before entering college or the workforce.

These students were recipients of funding from HACC’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). This funding helped to offset the cost incurred by Harrisburg High School. Sen. Piccola was an advocate for the original law that created the tax credit program.


This group of Harrisburg High School seniors is enrolled in HACC’s HealthCare Academy, which is partially funded through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC). Sen. Jeffrey Piccola, R-15, was an advocate for the law that created the tax credit program.
Phi Theta Kappa builds community scholarship

“From those who have been given much, more is expected.”

With those words, Thaddeus Sampson, founding Alpha Nu Omega Chapter advisor, impresses upon students attending a Phi Theta Kappa orientation session what is expected of them should they choose to join the international honor society.

Sampson, dean of academic affairs in the Communications, Humanities and the Arts division at the Harrisburg Campus and senior professor of communications, wants them to understand that Phi Theta Kappa believes in service in action.

“From our charter in 1988, we have progressed to, I believe, provide not only outstanding community service, but also service to the college, service to the chapter, as well as service to the community,” he said. “Our chapter has established a very strong reputation of doing what it says. Our chapter strives for excellence in all that it does.”

HACC’s chapter counts approximately 700 students among its membership. Each one was invited to join the organization after completing 12 college level credits and achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. To remain members, they must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 for all college level classes.

Susan Lyddy, a business education major who joined the society in 2006, has served two terms as chapter president.

“We want to affect change in the world,” she said of the chapter’s commitment to service. “This spring we will teach our members and the college community about domestic violence and Lyme disease.”

Their educational efforts start with monthly chapter meetings and branch out to chapter and campus fund-raisers, as well as service projects meant to enhance understanding of the honor study topic. Selected by Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, the 2008-10 topic is “Paradox of Affluence: Choices, Challenges and Consequences.” Recent fund-raisers have increased awareness about African children contracting AIDS and helped to support local charities, such as Survivors, Inc. and the Water Street Mission.

Members also serve as ushers for campus events, including graduation and Honors Program activities. “The main point is that whenever the college wants students to do something and wants it to be done well, the college always turns to Phi Theta Kappa,” Sampson said.

Recognition of members’ hard work can be found in the display case outside of the theatre in the Rose Lehrman Arts Center. Among the many awards on display is a Scholarship Hallmark presented last year at the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society convention. One of only 30 chapters recognized from among nearly 1,300, the award represents the Alpha Nu Omega’s accomplishments.

“We told International about the different projects we did to teach our chapter, college and community what we’ve done from a scholarship standpoint,” Lyddy said, describing the financial assistance the HACC chapter offers its members. “The fact that we’ve been able to not only teach people, but also offset the financial burden of students at HACC is something we absolutely support and maintain.”

A strong Phi Theta Kappa chapter not only brings prestige to the college, but it also illustrates the college’s commitment to academic excellence. “Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society presents a vehicle for the college to support its finest students,” Sampson said.
New Center for Global Education embarks in new territories

Kazim Dharsi, senior professor of architecture and architectural technology, strongly believes that when students leave higher education, they should leave with an understanding of the interconnections of the world’s cultures.

Just ask him and he’ll tell you about the unforgettable sight of traveling with his class to the pyramids in Egypt, where they observed work crews lifting a two-ton stone to replace one that had deteriorated. No cranes or heavy construction equipment are permitted at the historical site, so the stone was lifted into place pretty much the way the original stones were moved more than 4,000 years ago — by human labor. After 30 minutes and the stone had barely moved a yard forward, the students found new appreciation for the tremendous effort to build several pyramids over 400 feet high, with cut stone pieces weighing anywhere between two and 20 tons. Such an experience “transforms you,” said Dharsi.

The class returned to the U.S. with a much higher level of understanding for a culture unlike their own. “The people, the climate, the food — are all so different. And they also see people apparently so different, yet also have the same desires. It’s a remarkable experience. I am so impressed that we, the college, have so many opportunities for our students to study the world and gain such value from it,” said Dharsi.

HACC’s new Center for Global Education offers these kinds of learning opportunities and more. The center, which formally opened Jan. 26, is responsible for the college’s international plans and collaborations through the curriculum, on- and off-campus programs, service opportunities, language institutes, and international partnerships. The new Center for Global Education renews HACC’s focus on international education and the critical effort to prepare today’s students for the new reality of a global community.

“It’s a must that our students understand other cultures, economies, and languages,” said HACC President Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D. at the opening of the center. “That’s why there are language institutes at our campuses that offer immersion programs with plans for further development. It’s up to us to go out and engage the world — I’m very excited about this day. It’s a long time coming.”

The Language Institutes are customized specifically to each campus and the local residents. For example, Workplace Success English is offered at the Harrisburg Campus. Basic Everyday English and Medical Workplace English are offered at the Gettysburg Campus, and Conversational English helps Spanish-speaking residents who come to the Lebanon Campus. Students in York can attend General Education Diploma (GED) classes in Spanish at the York Campus.

After completing initial coursework a number of Language Institute students have expressed interest in pursuing a college degree. The “Pathways to College Workshops” were developed to help achieve that goal. Students are given information on international admissions procedures, the transfer of international credentials, GED classes and testing, and how to transition from the noncredit ESL program to the credit ESL program.

Another focus of the center is international partnerships. HACC already has growing partnerships with organizations abroad. Michael Sandy, director of the Center for Global Education, and art professors Bob Troxell and Jim Lard helped establish an exchange with the (Jingdezhen) Ceramic Institute in China.

The Business, Hospitality, and Tourism Division and the work of Linda Lefevre brings students and faculty to HACC from the Minerva College (Business department) in Denmark.

New partnerships being explored include George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, led by David Liu, sociology professor, and the Philippines, where Joy Tien, associate professor, counselor, is on sabbatical exploring opportunities.

“We are the hub for all things international at the college,” said Sandy. “The center is here to support current programs that are in motion and to expand into unchartered waters - all for the higher learning for our students and the people of our region.”

Sean Fortney, president of the Student Government Association at the Harrisburg Campus, shared this observation after his journey to New Mexico’s Navajo Nation for a service-learning study:

“Being involved in a community, to help, to learn, was fantastic,” said Fortney. “You bring that social responsibility back and get involved in your own community. I would love to see in 20 years what students who have gone on these study trips will be doing in their communities.”
Professor discovers new appreciation for work of Native American artists

Geraldine Gutwein, Ph.D., a HACC professor of English and reading, recently completed a five-month, $21,000 teaching development fellowship in which she examined Native American art to enhance students’ understanding of this genre of literature beyond the stereotypical, romanticized, historical view. Her project, “Toward an Understanding of Teaching Native American Literature from a Multidisciplinary Approach,” was funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

“I was concerned with giving my students a broader perspective and broader understanding of Native American literature,” she said. “Looking at Native American fine art would allow them to see beyond preconceived notions of Native American people.”

Gutwein, who was one of only 10 applicants selected nationally for the fellowship, spent the fall semester traveling to places like South Dakota; the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona; and to New Mexico to visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque and the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in Santa Fe.

“I felt it was necessary for me to experience some of the art and look at the art,” she said. “I wanted to look at not only certain artifacts and traditional art forms, but also to look at contemporary artists and contemporary artists’ work.”

Among the art she studied was “Mothers and Daughters: Stories in contemporary artists’ work,” at the art,” she said. “I wanted to look at not only certain artifacts and traditional art forms, but also to look at contemporary artists and contemporary artists’ work.”

“Toward an Understanding of Teaching Native American Literature from a Multidisciplinary Approach,” was funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Gutwein will discuss that in more detail when she presents “Beyond Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show: Narrative Discourse and the Reading of Native American Literature and Art” on April 19 as part of the college’s Honors Lecture Series.

“I had no idea that I was going to learn as much as I did about art,” she said of her project. “By doing this research, I was able to gain a new appreciation for the work of Native American artists and the struggles they encounter.”

Faculty, staff engage in scholarly pursuits

Albright, Richard (English) – author, “Writing the Past, Writing the Future: Time and Narrative in Gothic and Sensation Fiction,” (Lehigh University Press)

Arroyo, Cesar (IT) - IEC 2008 DesignCon Paper Award Winner/High-Speed and RF Design Category; U.S. Patent# 7351083 (Electrical connector having terminating device)

Bailey, Nicole (English) – presentation: “The role of graphic novels in teacher education and the classroom” at College English Association Conference, Pittsburgh, March 2009


Banister, Kim (art) - solo exhibits: “Vessels of Life” at Elizabethtown College and at Madigan Gallery, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport; three-person exhibits: “Drawn by Inspiration” at Haverstick Gallery and “Together Again” at Goodyear Gallery at Dickinson College, both Carlisle


Bernard, Ruth (art) – awarded a residency at the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation, Cranberry Island, Maine, from June 15-July 10, to work on a series of drawings and paintings; group shows, including Bowery Gallery in New York City and Lynden Gallery in Elizabethtown and a solo gallery at the Arts Hotel in Lancaster


Borrell, Melinda (communications) – selected from among 100 applicants as one of seven chosen members of the Copyright & Academic Integrity Ad-Hoc Working Group at the University’s Center for Intellectual Property; chosen in a competitive process to attend the University of Maryland University College’s Center for Teaching and Learning’s 2009 Summer Faculty Leadership Institute in College Park, Md.

Continued on page 8
Continued from page 7


**Buerk, Kathy** with **Jolie McHenry** (education) – National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) professional journal, January 2008 issue (http://journal.naeyc.org); Penn State Better Kid Care: Training Video: Science for Young Thinkers; numerous presentations: Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC), including national conference in New Orleans 2008: Technology with Infants; national in Dallas 2008: Science and Nature with Infants: state chapters: Capital Area: Communication with Infants; York Area: Cultural Diversity with Infants; Pittsburgh Area: Math and Science with Infants; Lancaster Area: Infants and Toddlers meet the Natural World; Delaware Valley-Philadelphia; Fairfax (VA) Futures: Facilitating Play with Infants through Science and Technology

**Chessttie, Kate** with **Mary Jo Keiter** and **Deborah Lynch** (English) – “Strengthening the Connection between the Writing Center and Development Writers: Creating a Parallel Universe;” presented at Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association conference, March 2009

**Chia, Felipe** (business management/marketing) – Three professional presentations and four textbook reviews


**Dibert, Judy** (English/Spanish/ESL) – Camtasia production, a login instructional video on HACC’s Virtual Campus login gateway page that links new students to a step-by-step guide for online Spanish classes and shows them how to set up their student work stations in Quia, the course management system for online Spanish.

**Drumm, Heather** (education) – book reviews of adolescent literature for the Bloomsbury Review

**Eichenberger, Debra** (horticulture) – presented A Garden for Learning: The Impact of Landscaping on Student Recruitment and Retention” at Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers conference


**Epley, Brenda** (theatre) – performed in four community theatre productions this year

**Farmer, David** (English) – The Learning Book: The Best Homeschool Study Tips, Tricks, and Skills,” published by Strategic Book Publishers, August 2009; “The Cancer Diaries, A Journey Through the Crucible” (Elloquent Books), a multiple point-of-view autobiographical account of his and his wife’s experiences with cancer, August 2009


**Gould, Marie** (accounting) – completed and published dissertation, “Transforming Accounting Education: Addressing the Accounting Education Change Commission Mandate in Practice

**Grandia, Barbara** (counseling) – developed and coordinated Gerontology program at HACC, 2000-08


**Martin, Carol** (CIS) – co-author with Shelley Gaskin of “GO! With Microsoft Outlook 2007 Comprehensive,” Saddle River, N.J., Pearson, 2009; reviewed textbooks and wrote auxiliary materials for Pearson/Prentice Hall over the last four years

**Mauro, Diane** (marketing) – speaker Pennsylvania Auctioneers Association on “Advertising methods”

**McGlinney, Ruth** (hospitality) – interviewed by Central PA magazine on health benefits of locally grown foods, June 2008; presentation and food sampling with Autumn Miles (hospitality) of colorful foods and their health benefits for Healthy/Strong Women’s conference for teens of color supported by Highmark, June 2008 and June 2009; program review committee/Dietary Managers Association; treasurer/Pennsylvania Consultant Dietitians in healthcare facilities practice group; former president/Pennsylvania Dietetic Association and Foundation

**Mead, Suzanne** (photography) – photograph from new series was accepted in the Art of the State Exhibit; eight students in fall 2008 class were chosen as finalists in the annual Best of College Photography Contest, 2009 edition

**Milspaw, Yvonne** (humanities) – “Variations on Vampires” accepted for publication in Western Folklife; “Three Mile Island: Elements in the Discourse on Disaster” submitted for consideration in Contemporary Legend; review of Gerald Milnes “Signs, Cures Witchery” in Journal of Folklore Research, online February 2009


**Morrison, David** (administration) – presentation, “Using Appreciative Inquiry in Strategic Planning


**Peters, Ernie** (horticulture) – presented at an Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers conference

**Prickett-White, Sylvia** (nursing) – selected by Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Program to present a concept I created and implemented for retention

**Purcell, Christine** (music) – winner of Jazz category for the tune, “I Remember You,” USA International Songwriting Competition, 2007


**Rhoades, Randy** (music) – performances on banjo, guitar and electric bass include “The Boyfriend,” HACC and Theatre Harrisburg collaboration, July 2008; local high school pit orchestras including Camp Hill - “Thoroughly Modern Millie,”
FOCUS

Celebrating Scholarship • HACC Connections

Professor co-authors national article

**TOPIC REVEALS CLASSROOM SECRET**

After spending nearly 40 years as a HACC biology professor, R. Bruce Sundrud has learned a thing or two about holding his students’ interest.

“Being a good teacher requires being a ham,” said Sundrud, who teaches environmental science, human anatomy and physiology. “You target your audience. You have to be appropriate. But you have to enjoy being on the stage.”

Being on the stage is something that comes easily to Sundrud, who regularly delivers presentations to fellow professors during the annual conference of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). He likes to share his secrets for success in the classroom, such as tips for creating a syllabus and using humor in teaching biology.

It was one such discussion on the use of analogies in the classroom that caught the attention of Kris Hueftle of Florence-Darlington Technical College in South Carolina. Hueftle approached Sundrud and suggested they develop an article on the topic for publication in the NABT magazine. Their combined work, “How to do it: Essential Analogies in Human Anatomy & Physiology,” appeared in the November/December issue of The American Biology Teacher magazine.

“We thought this would be a handy tool, especially for new instructors,” said Sundrud. “Every time you relate a difficult topic to something students know, it gives them a handle on things they can’t see.”

Looking for ways to keep his teaching fresh are what keep Sundrud’s approach in the classroom current.

“Every year I go back in the classroom the science has progressed, and I have to update a bit,” said Sundrud, who went to college before PowerPoint presentations and cell phones existed. “I really never get tired of it. Besides that, the human body is infinitely interesting.”


Schiotti, Phil (mathematics) – “Appreciate Our Solar System,” AuthorHouse, Bloomington, Ind.


Simmons, Trumbull – English numerous publications on teaching, including “Changes and Challenges,” a piece on advising challenges in today’s changing media environment, College Media Review, Winter 2009; “After 40 Years, Has the Grand Experiment Failed?”, a column in The Chronicle of Higher Education’s supplement on community colleges, March 2009


Terry, James (political science) – reviewer for a new edition of “We The People,” an American government textbook by Thomas Patterson of Harvard, spring 2009, (author also used suggested changes)

Tien, Joy (counseling) – presented “The Impact of Cognitive Monitoring Learning Logs on College Students’ Course Success,” PA Association of Developmental Educators conference; “Diversity in the Curriculum” panelist, faculty in-service at the Lancaster Campus, January 2009; college wide Faculty Advising Training Team presenter for faculty advising/refresher training, September 2008 and February 2009; presented sessions on “Culture Awareness and Culture Shock” to HACC international students, August 2008 and January 2009

Waltman, Bradley (English) – “Words on Paper,” Pearson/Longman


Woodring, Karen (English) – reviewed “The Writer’s Portfolio,” a new Pearson writing textbook


Youngblood, Suzanne (criminal justice) – reviewed criminology textbook for Burston House publishing, due 2010; consultant to Millersville University Police Department as part of their five-year program review

Zhu, Xiaoqing (humanities) – completed doctoral dissertation, “Pang Xunqin (1906-1985) and the Chinese Avant-garde: Authenticity, Hybridity and Identity (1920-1946),” art history, University of Maryland
Green more than concept

Being green is more than just a concept at HACC – it’s a mission.

From the Workforce and Economic Development division and Community Education division to the development of an associate degree in green technology, the college is meeting head-on the challenges, not only of being green but training students for the in-demand green jobs of today and the future.

Through partnerships with business and industry leaders, HACC is providing state-of-the-art trainers for solar photovoltaic systems, energy analyst, wind energy, and geothermal programs. Faculty are incorporating green components into technical and environmental programs where appropriate, such as heating, air conditioning and ventilation (HVAC), electronics, civil technology, architecture, and geospatial technology.

A $15,000 grant from the Sustainable Energy Fund’s Solar Scholars program enabled Midtown students in the Technology division to design, build, and install a 3kW grid-tied solar PV system to supplement pedestrian lighting in the Urban Meadow, a former brownfield site that links Midtown 1 and Midtown 2.

As a college, HACC committed to becoming greener with a college-wide Green Initiative launched in summer 2008 by President Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D. She is a member of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment task force, and the college has joined the American Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.
HACC is one of four community colleges collaborating with Dickinson College in Carlisle, which was awarded a $486,919 grant from NASA for its “Cooling the Liberal Arts Curriculum.” Collectively, the colleges will implement a multifaceted campaign to build teacher competency for interdisciplinary teaching about climate change.

HACC is the education partner in the new Green Center of Central Pennsylvania at Campus Square. In addition to the workforce training programs offered at Midtown 2, the college now also has classrooms in the Green Center. In January, HACC became a site for certification through the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners, the national certification organization for professional installers in the field of renewable energy.

Instructor Jen Briggs shows a student how to keep track of kilowatt usage. In the background, a house was constructed in this Midtown 2 classroom to give students hands on experience in the energy auditor/building analyst class.

This device keeps track of kilowatt usage.

Students in Mike Barnes’ solar photovoltaic (PV) class take a look inside the control board for the solar panels designed, built and installed by Midtown students.

HACC students designed, built and erected solar panels in the Urban Meadow.

A reporter and videographer from the Norwegian Broadcasting Company, right, interviewed students in Mike Barnes’ solar photovoltaic (PV) class for a segment on renewable energy that was shown at the international conference in Oslo in December.
Five new members have joined the HACC Foundation board of directors, including Daniel Ashby, MS, FASHP; Niles S. Benn, Esq.; H. Edward Black, RLA, ASLA; Zander Gambill, MBA; and Steven Rasmussen, CPA, MBA.

In addition to serving as the eyes and ears in the communities that HACC serves, board members are stewards of the foundation’s endowments, said Jayne Abrams, executive director of institutional advancement and the HACC Foundation. The new members are:

**Daniel Ashby, MS, FASHP**, a 1968 HACC alumnus, represents the HACC Alumni Council on the board. He is senior director of pharmacy for The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and a clinical professor with the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Ashby has held numerous offices in professional organizations, including past president of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists. His professional recognition includes Michigan Pharmacist of the Year, Wayne State University Distinguished Alumni Award, Maryland Society of Health System Pharmacists Board of Directors Award and the President’s Award from the Association of Black Health System Pharmacists.

A graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit, Ashby also has a master’s degree in hospital pharmacy administration from the institution. He is a Fellow in the American Society of Health System Pharmacists.

**Niles S. Benn, Esq.**, founder of Benn Law Firm in York, is a community activist who has served on the boards of many local healthcare and arts-related organizations. The recipient of several commendations for his volunteer efforts, he was named 2008 Healthcare Hero Volunteer of the Year by Central Penn Parent magazine.

Benn recently was elected to a 10th term as chair of the Board of Holy Spirit Health System and was chair of its predecessor, the Board of Holy Spirit Hospital, for five years. He is a member of the Opportunity & Access Leadership Team at the HACC-York Campus.

Benn serves in a professional capacity as co-chairman of the Fee Dispute Committee for York County Bar Association, mediator for the Realtors Association of York and Adams Counties, Inc., and solicitor for The Art Center School and Galleries in Mechanicsburg.

A graduate of Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, Benn is a member of the American, Pennsylvania and York County Bar Associations.

**H. Edward Black, RLA, ASLA**, is the president of H. Edward Black and Associates, Ltd., an engineering and landscape architectural firm that has earned recognition for many projects, including a commendation from the American Society of Landscape Architects for the Wildwood Lake Sanctuary adjacent to HACC’s Harrisburg Campus.

A Lower Allen Township commissioner since 2002, Black also serves as a member of the township’s Development Authority, Hershey Garden Board of Advisors, and the Pinnacle Health Foundation Board.

Black, a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, is a licensed landscape architect and is certified by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board. He is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, SCARAB Professional Design Honor Society and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society.


He is a graduate of Dickinson College, Carlisle, and earned a master’s degree in business administration and marketing from the University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

**Steven R. Rasmussen, CPA, MBA**, is the CEO and general manager of Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc., an electric distribution cooperative based in Gettysburg that he joined in 1999. He is the fifth person to manage the cooperative.

An active member of the community, Rasmussen currently serves as board chairman for the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce and vice chair of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation. In 2006, the chamber recognized him with its Volunteer of the Year Award. He also served on the Major Gifts Campaign Leadership Team for HACC Gettysburg in 2008.

Rasmussen completed his undergraduate studies at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., and earned a master’s degree in business administration from Mount Saint Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md.
Even heroes need their champions. Take the approximately 30,000 first responders trained at the John J. Shumaker Public Safety Center (PSC) on HACC’s Harrisburg Campus, for example. They are society’s true heroes, putting themselves at risk on the front lines of our communities every day to save lives. Their champions are the individuals, businesses, foundations, and others that support this training through gifts to the Public Safety Center Partners Program and PSC endowments.

Now, first responders have a new champion in someone whose lasting legacy will support education. With a recent bequest to the HACC Foundation of almost $25,000 from the Marie Elias Graupner estate, students enrolled in both credit and noncredit programs at the PSC will receive much-needed funds to pursue their dreams of a career in law enforcement, firefighting, or emergency medicine.

“The impact of this bequest on individuals in our communities is immeasurable,” said HACC Foundation Executive Director Jayne B. Abrams.

Bequests and other planned gifts open the doors to opportunity, change lives, and enhance our communities. In keeping with HACC’s mission to serve both individuals and communities, the HACC Foundation provides donors with an opportunity to create a lasting legacy through the Carillon Society, aptly named for the Helen Y. Swope Carillon. Through their planned gifts, donors help HACC to serve as a beacon for all who desire a brighter future.

“Keeping the doors to education open for all is at the heart of what HACC does,” Abrams said.

In addition, charitable gifts allow donors to support issues and causes that matter most long into the future, and by so doing, realize substantial tax, estate planning, and other financial benefits.

**Bequests**

Bequests are the simplest of all planned gifts. Donors can choose to leave specific named assets, or a stated amount to the HACC Foundation, or determine the residual or a certain percentage of the estate to benefit the college.

**Gifts of Retained Life Estate**

A gift of retained life estate – a vacation home, second home, or family home – allows a donor to use the house for his/her entire life. Donors receive an immediate income tax deduction for the market value of their house, avoid capital gains taxes, and remove the asset from their taxable estate.

**Life Insurance**

Life insurance policies that are no longer needed make excellent gifts. Donors simply change the beneficiary and the ownership of a paid-up policy to the HACC Foundation, or purchase a new life insurance policy naming the HACC Foundation as beneficiary and owner and pay the premium directly to the foundation. Premium payments are tax deductible.

**Gift Annuities**

The Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract between the donor and the HACC Foundation. In exchange for specified assets, the foundation guarantees a certain payout for life. This gift provides an immediate income tax deduction and highly favorable capital gains tax results. It also removes assets from taxable estate.

**Securities**

When donors give highly appreciated securities to the HACC Foundation, they receive an immediate income tax deduction and avoid having to pay the appreciation tax.

Whether you desire to have an impact on the training of first responders in the community or are looking for an unrestricted opportunity to change individual lives, the Carillon Society will meet your needs to make a difference in the future.

For more details about leaving a legacy through the Carillon Society, please contact Jayne B. Abrams, executive director, at 717-780-2583.
Scholarships have the power to change lives

We are most grateful to the generous donors who have endowed scholarship funds within the HACC Foundation. With college tuitions rising and unemployed workers reaching record numbers, more and more students are turning to the community college for education and training. More than 70 percent of our students rely on financial assistance to complete their studies.

Recently two new scholarship funds were added to the foundation. Here are the stories of individuals who have found HACC to be the place where they can achieve their personal or family goals while making a real difference for students now and in the future.

Jane and Felix Kadel married in 1942 and were together until they died, in 2003 and 2007, respectively. They brought their family of five from Pottsville to Harrisburg in 1958. Both college graduates, they placed a high value on education and strived to impress the importance of continuing education on their children.

“They made certain to provide support for our education and were known to help family friends and employees as well,” said their daughter, Carolyn. “They were very generous with both their time and money whenever possible.”

Active and loyal members of St. Francis Church in the Allison Hill area of Harrisburg, long after many families had left the area, the Kadels believed in supporting the people of the city. “The urban student is our primary focus here, and the Allison Hill connection is important for some of my siblings,” Carolyn said. The family established a scholarship endowment at HACC “to remember and honor our parents, encourage and assist deserving students, and support education in Harrisburg.”

The Jane and Felix Kadel Memorial Scholarship Endowment provides financial assistance for graduates of Harrisburg High School or Bishop McDevitt High School. Jane Kadel graduated from John Harris High School in 1936, and each of the Kadel children graduated from these two schools – two from McDevitt and three from Harrisburg High School.

“We thought it was appropriate to contribute to students in and of Harrisburg. We are aware of the important role that HACC plays in this community and the increasing need for student support.”

Like the Kadels, longtime financial adviser and member of the HACC Foundation Board of Directors, Ernest P. Davis, of New York Life Insurance Co., established a scholarship endowment “for the sole purpose of providing availability for a person within the urban area of Harrisburg to further their education.” Without this support, he recognizes that continuing education may not be otherwise possible.

His personal experiences motivate him to give and provide for others. “I was not able to continue my education after graduating from high school, due to financial reasons,” he said. “Now being in a position to pay it forward, my greatest desire is to see that a person who deserves this scholarship will succeed and, at some time in their lifetime, will also be able to provide for another and continue paying it forward.”

For his generous philanthropic giving to local nonprofit agencies, Davis recently was named the 2010 Marty Sacks Award recipient by the Martin M. Sacks Memorial Fund and the Foundation for Enhancing Communities.
Long-time HACC volunteer joins board of trustees

Deep C. Gupta, a long-time advocate for higher education and HACC volunteer since coming to Central Pennsylvania from his native India in 1970, has joined the college’s board of trustees.

Gupta brings his conviction for accessible education and expertise in workforce development to the board. He serves on the college’s multicultural advisory committee, and was instrumental in developing multicultural events and celebrations at HACC.

Gupta was director of the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis when he retired last year after an accomplished 38-year career with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. He also was a member of the National Workforce Information Council and various other councils of the United States Department of Labor. At the time of his retirement he received numerous commendations for his exemplary service.

A community activist, Gupta served on Attorney General Tom Corbett’s Asian American and Pacific advisory committee, orchestrated an annual nonviolence event for area high school students and founded the Gandhi-King Peace Coalition. He is vice president of the Tri County Youth Alliance (America’s Promise), a member of Holy Spirit Hospital’s Community Affairs Committee and an advocate in raising funds to help victims of disasters worldwide, including the earthquake in Haiti, and, locally, Bethesda Mission, the Tri-County Blind Association and the American Red Cross.

Gupta helped establish the India Association of Harrisburg; is founder of the Hindu American Religious Institute, serving as chairman, president and trustee; and is on the board of the Asian Indian Americans of Central Pennsylvania, a secular organization he established.

Gupta has master’s degrees in social work, and business and economics, and a bachelor’s degree in business and accounting from Agra and Lucknow universities in India.

Gupta, his wife of 38 years, son and daughter live in Hampden Township.
Alumni in the news

Business, Hospitality, and Tourism

Shannon G. Bender (Lancaster, Business Administration '05) is a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Lancaster. He is currently completing a bachelor's degree at Millersville University.

Bridget G. Casher (Harrisburg, Business Administration '05) is manager, private banking, at BNY Mellon in Harrisburg. Casher earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Penn State University.

Jessica Cupoles (Lebanon, Business Studies '06) is a receptionist with Drayer Physical Therapy in Lebanon.

Calvin J. Gates (Harrisburg, Business Education '69) won the National Amateur Bodybuilders Association's national competition on Nov. 7 for Masters-Men Over 50 and Masters-Men Over 60. Gates is a retired teacher living in Hummelstown.

Amanda M. Hickman (Gettysburg, Business Management '06) is a process improvement coordinator at Kenco Logistics in Hanover.

Valerie L. Malesic (Harrisburg, Business Studies '07) is a secretary with the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Peggy McCready (Harrisburg, Word Processing Technology '91, Business Studies '92) is director of media services at Yale University. She is scheduled to receive her doctorate from Harvard University in May. McCready lives in Hamden, Conn.

Bradley W. McIntire (Harrisburg, Business Management '06) earned an MBA in management from Eastern University, St. Davids, in December 2009.

John Simmons (Lebanon, Business Studies '07) is a veteran employment representative with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

Robert C. Thomson (Harrisburg, Business Administration '73) recently retired as director of business operations for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. Thomson also holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Penn State University.

Dawna Weihbrecht (Harrisburg, General Studies '98) is pursuing a bachelor's degree in healthcare management from Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa. She is a nuclear pharmacy technician at G.E. Healthcare in Wilkes-Barre. Weihbrecht will marry Brian Sileo this May.

Communications, Humanities, and the Arts

Six HACC alumni were honored Nov. 15 at a Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Awards Ceremony at the Holiday Inn West in Mechanicsburg. The awards recognize people who have reached out to those in need. The ceremony was sponsored by the Chi Gamma Iota (XGI) Alumni Association, an organization of Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans.

Barry Kramer (Harrisburg, 30+ credits, General Studies), Fred Nesmith (Harrisburg, Liberal Studies '78) and Terry Smith (Harrisburg, Elementary Education '72) all of Mechanicsburg, and John Zink (Harrisburg, Engineering '68) of Camp Hill were inducted into the Legion of Honor, which is awarded for volunteer service to one's community. Humanitarian Awards were given to Joseph Grosso (Harrisburg, Business Administration '69) of Harrisburg and Rowland Hoke (Harrisburg, Elementary Education '72) of Bowie, Md., for their lifetime service that affected the quality of life in the community.

Elliot Adler (Lancaster, Humanities '07) is continuing his education at Temple University where he serves on the executive board of Temple's student chapter of the American Marketing Association.

Naeya “Berna” Dutson (Harrisburg, Liberal Arts '94) continued her studies after HACC, earning a bachelor’s degree in cognitive science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. She spent several years working as a systems analyst for Tyco Electronics and Hewlett-Packard. She accepted a commission in the U.S. Army and is participating in the Health Professions Scholarship Program. Lt. Dutson is a first-year medical student at Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tenn.

January Wilson Payne (Harrisburg, Communications '01) is an associate editor of U.S. News & World Report's health section. She previously was a health care reporter for The Washington Post. Payne also is an adjunct instructor of journalism at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 2003.

Rebecca A. Swab-Hudson Major (Harrisburg, Communications '00) earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from Penn State Harrisburg in 2002. She has been employed by the Pennsylvania State Police as a police communications operator since 2003. On Oct. 6, she married Keith Patrick Major in Aiea, Hawaii.

Monica S. Willett (Harrisburg, Liberal Arts '96) continued her education at Penn State Harrisburg where she earned a bachelor’s degree in communications in 1998. In June, she began work as an administrative assistant for PA Key, an early childhood education agency sponsored by the Berks County Intermediate Unit and the Pennsylvania Departments of Welfare and Education’s Office of Child Development and Early Learning. Previously, Willett was employed with the Sierra Club, the Pennsylvania League of Conservation Voters, and Penn Ridge Farms.

Health Careers

R. Curtis Aumiller (Harrisburg, Respiratory Care Technology '96) completed a master’s degree in business administration from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill. He is an assistant professor and director of clinical education for HACC’s respiratory therapist program.
Stephanie Godwin-Lane (Harrisburg, Nursing ’08) is a registered nurse in Harrisburg Hospital’s Emergency Department. She recently received board certification in emergency nursing.

Monique Holzer (Gettysburg, Nursing ’06) is a nurse administrator at an ambulatory surgical center. She is working on her bachelor’s degree in nursing and expects to graduate in the spring 2010. She lives in Hanover with her daughter.

Lori Samples Kreider (Harrisburg, General Studies ’98, Nursing ’09) is a registered nurse in the medical intermediate care unit at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Jeffrey Lindsey (Harrisburg, Paramedic ’90) is an assistant professor of emergency health services at George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and is director of the university’s emergency health services graduate programs. He obtained his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of San Francisco. Previously, he was fire chief for Estero (Fla.) Fire Rescue.

Diane Crawford Perry (Lancaster, Radiologic Technology ’08) recently passed the radiology boards and is a registered radiologic technologist for the Lancaster Orthopedic Group. She married on Oct. 3 and lives in Lititz with her new husband.

Lisa M. Randow (Lancaster, Radiologic Technology ’06) is a staff technologist with St. Joseph’s Hospital in Reading. She is working on a bachelor’s degree in radiologic sciences and expects to graduate in April 2010.

Mathematics and Science

HACC students Mitch Davis and Amanda Harris and alumni Jeremy Arvelo (York, 30+ credits, Life Science) and Isaac Patterson (Gettysburg, 30+ credits, Nursing) received an award on Oct. 1 from the American Fishery Society, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, for work they completed during a Study Abroad trip to San Salvador Island in the Bahamas. Their poster, “A pilot study of the importance of discarded conch shell orientation of fishes in seagrass beds,” received the award for the best undergraduate student poster presentation.

Daniel M. Ashby (Harrisburg, Life Sciences ’88) is senior director of pharmacy at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and a clinical professor at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Ashby earned a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy and a master’s degree in hospital pharmacy administration from Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

David McNear (Harrisburg, Life Sciences ’96) received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers for his research, the highest award the U.S. government bestows on young scientists and engineers, from President Obama at the White House in January. McNear is an assistant professor of rhizosphere science at the University of Kentucky. He received his bachelor’s degree in environmental resource management and a master’s degree in environmental pollution control from Penn State University and a doctorate, specializing in metals in soils, from the University of Delaware.

Social Science

Linda Crenshaw (Harrisburg, Social Science ’05) is employed as an administrative officer with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in Harrisburg.

Ryan S. Evans (Harrisburg, Education ’06) earned a bachelor’s degree in special and elementary education from Millersville University. He is a teacher at the Janus School in Mount Joy.

Mackenzie Lynch (Lebanon, Criminal Justice ’06) continued her education at Lebanon Valley College where she received a bachelor’s degree in sociology in 2003. She is working on her master’s of social work degree at Temple University and will be graduating in 2010.

Nicole L. Marcello (Lancaster, Elementary Education ’06) earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Millersville University. She is a substitute teacher with Substitute Teacher Service of Lancaster.

Tiffany Molt (Lebanon, Social Science ’05, Criminal Justice ’07) is a human resource professional with Community Service Group in Lebanon. She earned a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science from Alvernia University.


Aurtherine Shaw (Lancaster, Social Services ’06) is a community facilitator with Father’s Workshop of York County. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Albright College.

Carol V. Shay (Harrisburg, Paralegal Studies ’07) was recently named Cambridge Who’s Who for excellence in legal services. Shay is a paralegal for Kodak and Imblum, P.C., in Harrisburg.

Diana Vereen (Harrisburg, Liberal Arts ’76) is the director of New Life Computer Learning Center in Harrisburg and is an adjunct instructor in transitional studies at HACC’s Harrisburg campus. She recently received her doctorate in education.

Caryn L. Watson (Harrisburg, Pre-teaching ’06) continued her education at Wilson College, earning a bachelor’s degree in English in May 2007. On Dec. 3, 2009, she received the Wally Amos Community Service Award by the American Literacy Corporation.

Technology

Frisel A. Benavides (Harrisburg, Computer Networking Technology ’01) is a network administrator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Kim Grondon (Harrisburg, Computer Support Specialist ’02, Business Management ’03) was sworn in as a school board director for the East Pennsboro Area School District on Dec. 3, 2009. She also was selected the board’s treasurer and representative to HACC. Grondon is a systems analyst with the Central Dauphin School District and an adjunct instructor of computer information systems at HACC’s Harrisburg Campus. She is a past president of the HACC Alumni Association.

Nigel Ohrum (Harrisburg, Web Development and Design ’07, Social Science ’08) is a systems analyst with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Healthplan’s Insurance Division in Pittsburgh.

Jason R. Lloyd (Harrisburg, Fire Science Technology ’00, Emergency Health Services Management ’07) is a firefighter and paramedic for the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire. He is also an adjunct instructor of fire services with HACC’s John H. Shumaker Public Safety Center.

In Memoriam

The following HACC alumni and faculty member recently passed away and will be sadly missed:

Ermiyas W. Atafu (Harrisburg, Engineering 30+credits) died Oct. 16 in a vehicle accident in Middletown. He was a student at Penn State Harrisburg.

Jamar Dennis (Harrisburg, Visual Arts, 30+credits) died suddenly on Oct. 30. He was president of HACC’s Student Government Association from 2007-08.

Cliff Dillmann, senior professor of psychology, HACC-Harrisburg Campus, died unexpectedly in his sleep on Nov. 1.

Amedeo John (AJ) Sallusti (Harrisburg, ’76 Business Administration) passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 7. At his death, he was employed by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Office of Budget and was an elected member of the Central Dauphin School District Board. He continued his education after HACC, earning a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University.

Cody Wert (Harrisburg, General Studies, 30+ credits) died Dec. 14 in an automobile accident. Wert continued his education, earning a bachelor’s degree from Millersville University. At his death, he was working for his family’s business, Back to Basics Western Wear in Dillsburg.
“I always want to do more,” said HACC alumnus Gary Laabs, who started his third career after graduating in December 2008 from the associate degree nursing program at HACC’s Gettysburg Campus. He is a registered nurse (RN) on a medical-surgical floor at Hanover Hospital.

Laabs did not set out to be a nurse. In fact, his first college experience at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh was only to make his parents happy. When he graduated in January 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in economics, he was drafted into the United States Army because of the Vietnam War.

That was the beginning of his first career — military officer.

“The Army gave me the opportunity to attend graduate school for an MBA,” said Laabs, who earned that degree in 1975 from Babson College in Wellesley, Mass. In 1986, he retired as a lieutenant colonel, moved to the Hanover area to be near his wife’s family and started his second career as the director of human resources at Utz Quality Foods, Inc. He subsequently was named vice president of human resources.

A physician friend talked Laabs into participating in a medical mission and during the next 15 years, he joined six trips, traveling to the Dominican Republic, Fiji, and Peru.

“On these trips, I was primarily a helper or someone who did crowd control. But I did have the opportunity to assist with patient care and on several occasions assist with surgery,” he recalled. “That’s where I really got the bug.”

Laabs became a contingent registrar and unit clerk in the emergency department at Hanover Hospital in June 2005. “I took this position to further my medical exposure and experience.”

Utz often contracts with HACC to conduct workforce training. “Through this relationship, I learned I could earn a nursing degree from HACC-Gettysburg within two years,” Laabs said. At the time, Utz’s senior management team also began a succession planning process. “I was able to tie my ambitions to become a nurse into when I would retire from Utz. I retired in December 2006 and in January 2007 I was in the classroom. That worked out pretty well.”

His college experience was not much different from the mid-1960s except for technology, Laabs recalled, citing the Internet, SMART classrooms, online classes, and simulated patients as tools that enhance today’s learning environment and make college more convenient.

Laabs enjoys the camaraderie of his third career: “There is a different kind of teamwork there than you have in an office. You are working with peers, and we cover for each other. In an office, many times people are working in their own cubicles doing their own things.”

He added, “For me, the greatest part of being an RN is the opportunity to serve my patients on a very meaningful level. I feel like I make a difference for them.”

Laabs advises students to be tenacious in completing their education and embarking on a career path. “You have to hang in there and keep trucking. Don’t give up. It keeps getting better.”

Gary Laabs
exploring career options

UPCOMING EVENTS

**View the Capitol through the eyes of Harrisburg’s Michelangelo** Sunday, March 21
Join HACC Associate Dean of Community Education Don Koones on a tour of the state capital with behind-the-scenes stories about artist Violet Oakley’s masterpieces. One lucky participant will receive a collectible book about Harrisburg’s Michelangelo.

**TIME:** 1-4 p.m.
**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Harrisburg
**COST:** $20 each (includes donation to PA Capitol Preservation Committee)
**CONTACT:** Sara Bernier, 717-780-2474, or alumiassociasso@hacc.edu

**Cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C.** Saturday, April 10
Noted photographer Jeff Raymond will offer tips on how to achieve that perfect picture with plenty of time to take photos or visit museums at your leisure.

**TIME:** 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
**LOCATION:** Bus leaves from Lancaster, Harrisburg and Gettysburg campuses
**COST:** $135 each (includes bus, guide and dinner in Georgetown)
**CONTACT:** Lori Coffey, 717-780-2857, or lvcoffey@hacc.edu

**Beyond World War II Books and Films** Saturday, April 17
Tour includes the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, a division of the National Air and Space Museum; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and World War II Memorial.

**TIME:** 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
**LOCATION:** Bus leaves from Lancaster, Harrisburg and Gettysburg campuses
**COST:** $85 each (includes bus, guide and dinner in Georgetown)
**CONTACT:** Lori Coffey, 717-780-2857, or lvcoffey@hacc.edu

**Explore the Big Apple** Saturday, April 24
Chartered buses will take you to the Big Apple to enjoy a day on your own.

**TIME:** 7 a.m. -11 p.m.
**LOCATION:** Buses leave from Harrisburg campus
**COST:** $40 per person
**CONTACT:** Sara Bernier, 717-780-2474, or alumiassociasso@hacc.edu
Learning is a life-long process

Fred Clark readily admits that he is an education “junkie.” From his earliest days in school to now running his own consulting firm, Clark Resources, the 1984 HACC graduate learns something new every day.

“In fact, one never stops learning,” Clark said. “HACC started me on the pathway to understanding the potential for knowledge and the yearning for more information.”

A longtime Harrisburg resident and community leader, Clark’s company is the only certified minority-owned business, government relations, and diversity consulting firm in Central Pennsylvania. The company boasts an impressive client list including Reynolds Construction, Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, Hershey Corporation, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the City of Chester, and Penn State University.

Clark Resources also takes great pride in embracing diversity and collaboration. “It is more than just a business to me,” said Clark. “I like to think we make a difference in people’s lives.”

When he decided to continue his education after high school, Clark thinks he wisely chose HACC. “There is no experience that I can relate to today that was more rewarding professionally than the time I spent on the HACC campus. The staff, the students, and the campus were my first impressions of being on my own and started me writing my own story as to who I am and what I want to do.”

Clark earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Penn State University and has built an impressive resume. He was vice president at Mellon Bank in the Commonwealth Region of Government Banking in Harrisburg; a board member of the Harrisburg School District; president of the African American Chamber of Commerce; chairman of the National African American Cultural Center; and acting CEO and president of the Urban League of Metropolitan Harrisburg. He hosts “One on One with Fred Clark,” a weekly TV talk show on cable Comcast TV20, and writes “Urban Affairs with Fred Clark,” a 5,000-circulation bi-weekly e-mail newsletter.

Today’s minority students face challenges to get an education, Clark said, pointing out that “Poverty, neighborhoods with high crime rates, and single parents are all obstacles; these challenges the students face are real.” He added, “However, knowing this is no excuse for not trying and wanting to improve one’s circumstances.”

Despite the challenges, Clark strongly encourages minority children to stay in school and become life-long learners. “Many years ago, it was about having enough money or being of a certain color, but those barriers have been diminished. With financing opportunities, a student can go to whatever college if one has the right grades and the proper attitude. There is absolutely nothing that any student cannot do,” he said.

Clark also believes that those who succeed as he did should give back to the community and mentor students and young colleagues.

“We all can serve whether we are an alumnus, a friend, a neighbor, or an interested party,” Clark said. “We all are obligated to strive and be aware of improving the lives of others — not because it makes good business sense, even though it does; not because it is the Christian thing to do, even though it is. It is simply just the right thing to do. We need to not only share our possessions and our knowledge, but also care for the conditions of others.”

Travel the world

Alumni can satisfy wanderlust and learn something new on these trips offered by HACC Community Education division:

**Footsteps of the Caesars and Michelangelo: Rome, Florence, Pompeii, and more!**
May 15-22, 2010
Visit St. Peter’s and the Vatican, the Forum, Coliseum, the Catacombs, and Circus Maximus with side trips to Pompeii, Florence, Assisi, and Hadrian’s Villa on this trip led by HACC professors Brian Gurian and Donald Koones.

**Flora and Fauna of South Africa**
Jan. 11-28, 2011
Join renowned horticulturist George Weigel to explore South Africa’s horticultural masterpieces, such as Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens in Capetown. The tour focuses on the plants and wildlife from Capetown to Johannesburg, including Victoria Falls.

**Unforgettable Prague and Vienna**
June 2011
Explore these beautiful European cities with noted photographer Jeff Raymond. Visit Cesky Krumlov and the fascinating Five-Petalled Rose Festival featuring a medieval town with craftsmen, artists, musicians, and locals presented during the summer solstice.

For more information, contact Don Koones, Ed.D., at dgkoones@hacc.edu or call 717-780-2444.
Ryan Conklin didn’t set out to make his life a documentary for the rest of the country, but that’s what happened for this former HACC student who has a TV documentary and an upcoming book to his credit.

“When I returned from my first deployment, as a way to self-vent in the safest way possible, I began writing about my time overseas. It became a therapeutic and fun exercise for me,” said Ryan, 24, who was first deployed with the 101st Airborne Division in September 2005. “Several months, a few key meetings and acquaintances later, I had a book deal.”

“An Angel from Hell: Real Life on the Front Lines” (published through the Caliber line of Berkley Books) is due out in April.

“It should provide an easy-to-read understanding of an average soldier through a deployment when Iraq was more unstable than today,” Ryan said.

On Veteran’s Day 2009, though Ryan was not on American soil to see it, MTV aired “Return to Duty,” a documentary that chronicled the Conklins as they received news that he was again being deployed to Iraq.

The show opens with footage of Ryan jogging through the Gettysburg battlefield – an area that has great significance to the Conklin family, who are Civil War buffs and re-enactors.

A tearful Ryan later reacts to the news that he must go back to Iraq in April 2009. “If they need me again, then I’ll do it,” Ryan tells the camera.

Ryan’s parents, Dave, a music teacher at Gettysburg Area School District, and Pat Conklin, executive director of business affairs at HACC’s Gettysburg Campus, also are in the film.

“When a soldier goes to war, the whole family goes, the whole family changes,” she said. “Just thinking what he might be going through day to day is unimaginable.”

Pat, a self-described “private person,” said it stretched her to share the experience of saying goodbye to her son with a TV audience, but she and the entire family hoped to give viewers an up-close look at how a soldier lives and works.

In a surprise ending to the documentary, Ryan’s older brother, Aaron Conklin, 27, receives orders to go to Iraq. Aaron, a 2008 HACC criminal justice grad, was in the Army Reserves, but was involuntarily transferred by the Army, as is their prerogative.

“Ryan is the very outgoing person, and I am the quiet one. But people can tell we are brothers by the way we act when together,” Aaron said, adding he is very proud of Ryan.

Having returned home from Iraq in January, Ryan said his priority is to finish at HACC where he studied from January 2007 to May 2008. When Aaron returns in August, he plans to pursue a career in firefighting. (He’s already a volunteer firefighter in Gettysburg.)

Ryan downplayed his accomplishments: “I know I didn’t change the world in my antics.” Then, acknowledging his fans, added, “Those who saw the show, they are cool in my book.”

With his mom, it’s a different story. “It’s amazing what Ryan has been able to accomplish, but it’s not totally surprising,” she said, noting that he has already done more than anyone probably expected from the boy voted “class clown” in high school. “When he gets something in his head, he gets it done.”
Another transformation is under way at the Gettysburg Campus. The lobby area at the north end is being transformed into a Welcome Center — a space designed for natural synergy among functional areas allowing students to complete a variety of transactions in one visit.

The center brings admissions, registration, records, cashiering, student accounts, and financial aid together in one convenient location, said Scott Simonds, campus dean of student affairs.

This one-stop philosophy benefits busy HACC students who often are holding down a job and juggling family needs while attending college and don’t have time to visit multiple offices to complete simple transactions.

An important element of the “one-stop” philosophy is the cross-training of staff who serve students on the front lines.

An important element of the “one-stop” philosophy is the cross-training of staff who serve students on the front lines.

The Welcome Center construction is planned to close with an open house in mid-March.

Another exciting feature is a “self-service” area, which will contain several kiosk computers with direct access to HACCweb and www.hacc.edu. Staff members will be available to assist students with instruction on how to complete routine inquiries and transactions via HACCweb. This will empower students to complete basic functions quickly and without waiting.

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Brittany Lodato loves helping people in the community while she’s getting her education.

“You meet the nicest people, and they are so grateful. They give you thank yous and hugs that you don’t normally get,” said Lodato, a second-year student in HACC’s dental hygiene program. Her clinic rotation includes the Water Street Dental Clinic in Lancaster and with Head Start children in Lebanon.

Lodato, 26, of Columbia, is inspired by her community health instructor, Donna Traaen, dental hygiene program director. “She really makes you feel like you just want to get out there and change the world,” Lodato said. “She really encourages you to have a servant’s heart.”

Lodato, who had planned a career in food science, has a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University. When she changed career plans, she came to HACC for its outstanding dental hygiene program.

“I just love to meet people – so being a dental hygienist fits right in with that – and I need instant gratification. At the end of their appointments, their teeth are clean and perfect and I did that! It’s very gratifying to know you helped that person,” she said. “Plus, everybody has a different mouth so it’s always a different experience.”

While they’re learning, students must do clinical rotations where they see both adults and children. The students first practice on each other at the Harrisburg Campus clinic. They also work on family members, friends and anyone from the general public who chooses to take advantage of the reduced cost for preventive dental care.

Students also go to the Lebanon VA Hospital, Sadler Health Center in Carlisle, Hamilton Health Center in Harrisburg and the Water Street Dental Clinic for supervised adult patient experience. Through an arrangement with the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, students are paired with a surgical team and have the opportunity to observe the process of care from infancy through the growing years, Traaen said.

In January, HACC’s dental hygiene program entered into an agreement with Keystone Autism Services to see patients in the Adult Community Autism Program. Staff and students received special training in advance of appointments at the Harrisburg Campus clinic.

For experience working on children, HACC students go to Downey (elementary) School in Harrisburg and also see children from the Gettysburg, Capitol Area and Lebanon Head Start programs. With a $50,000 grant from Highmark, HACC bought two portable dental units and disposable supplies, which students use at the Lebanon IU13 site.

“I just love working with the Head Start kids. Sometimes they are fearful and I’ll see tears well up in their eyes. I’ll shoot water across their chair or introduce them to Mr. Wind, the air, or Mr. Thirsty, the suction straw, and they’ll start to smile,” Lodato said.

Students also volunteer at local community health days and dental hygiene events, such as Sealant Saturday at various sites in February and Literacy Day at Strawberry Square in Harrisburg.

Michelle Gavin, 24, a first-year student who lives in Lititz, said she loves the education part of being a dental hygienist. “We’re not just ‘the cleaning ladies.’ We talk with patients about the importance of flossing and brushing properly and how to prevent periodontal disease,” she said, noting that the first thing she notices when she meets a new person is their smile. “Helping people to have a beautiful smile is wonderful.”
Kudos for facility

Training in state-of-art clinic

HACC’s state-of-the-art dental clinic in the Select Medical Health Education Pavilion is the first thing many dental hygiene students name when asked about the program.

“I’ve visited other clinic areas at other colleges and nothing compares to this,” said Michelle Gavin, 24, of Lititz, a first-year student. She noted the rotational movement of the trays on the dental units that allow ease of use for left-handed users and digital X-rays, which use less radiation.

Gavin went through the dental assistant program, worked a year, then applied to the dental hygiene program. “It’s intense but it’s worth it. You just get so much in these two years; you are constantly working toward your degree.”

Entrance in the dental hygiene program is very competitive, said Donna Traaen, program director. “We accept about 26 students from more than 100 who apply, based on a point-ranking system that takes into account things like grades and courses completed.”

The entire program is available only at the Harrisburg Campus; however, students may take prerequisite courses at any of HACC’s five campuses or another college.

After students graduate with an associate degree, complete licensing examinations and receive their license from the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry, they are ready for hire as dental hygienists.

“The program is very challenging but also rewarding. It’s great having the hands-on experience at the clinic,” said Sara Grove, 21, of East Hopewell Township, a first-year student. “We do such a thorough job because we’re learning. Our instructors explain everything, so if anyone wants to come be a patient, it’s a learning experience for the patient as well as for us.”

Traa is referring to the varied clinical experiences that HACC students can have at sites such as the Water Street Dental Clinic in Lancaster or any of several sites that serve Head Start children.

“IT’s a chance to learn – because our students are learning while they work – and it’s a chance to serve and a chance to see what some people don’t have compared to themselves,” said Traaen, a community college graduate and a dental hygienist for 30 years while she trained in dental hygiene education.

Traa came to HACC in 2005 as a clinical adjunct professor after earning a bachelor’s of science degree in dental hygiene from the University of Maryland at Baltimore and a master’s degree in dental hygiene education from the University of Missouri. She previously taught at the University of Missouri and the Medical University of South Carolina.

She takes pride in growing a servant heart in her students and watching them as they move through the program.

“To see them progress from the first time they pick up an instrument with shaking hands to work on a student partner to becoming a competent professional hygienist is extremely rewarding,” she said.

Approximately 26 students admitted annually through a competitive process

Average of 500 adult patients seen per semester

Approximately 5,500 patients seen at the Harrisburg Campus clinic since 2004

Approximately 800 children from area Head Start programs seen during fall 2009

Two portable units and disposable supplies purchased through $50,000 grant from Highmark; used at Head Start program in Lebanon

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Director with a mission

From day one in her dental hygiene classes, Donna Traaen, director of HACC’s dental hygiene program, talks to her students about access to care.

“It is a critical issue,” said Traaen. “If you don’t serve as a role model and expose students to these experiences and opportunities where they have the chance to make a change, you can’t expect them to leave the program willing to give back to the community.”

Traaen is referring to the varied clinical experiences that HACC students can have at sites such as the Water Street Dental Clinic in Lancaster or any of several sites that serve Head Start children.

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Fast facts: Dental hygiene program

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Gray designated honorary alumnus at Fall 2009 graduation

RN to BSN program to open this fall

Registered nurses (RN) who want to advance their healthcare careers need look no further than the Lancaster Campus.

Beginning this fall, Immaculata University will expand its accelerated bachelor’s degree program offerings at HACC-Lancaster Campus to include a bachelor’s of science degree in nursing.

“RNs and students ready to graduate from an associate degree in nursing program can take advantage of the opportunity for advanced learning while saving in travel costs in a local and familiar environment,” said Brad A. Wolf, executive dean of academic affairs at HACC-Lancaster Campus.

The RN to BSN program, which will be taught by Immaculata University faculty, is in addition to the university’s accelerated degree in health care management. “Last fall, Immaculata University joined Elizabethtown College and Penn State York in offering four-year degree-completer programs here,” Wolf said.

Elizabethtown College offers an accelerated degree in business administration, and Penn State York offers a bachelor’s degree in human development and family studies.

“This is a community effort where four schools have come together in a collegial arrangement to meet a community need – complete a bachelor’s degree all in one place,” said HACC President Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D. “Our goal is to increase the number of bachelor’s degree graduates in Lancaster County.”

Series focuses on community issues

State Reps. Michael Sturla, D-96, right, and Scott Boyd, R-43, left, addressed “Critical issues facing Pennsylvania” in the first session of a speaker series at the Lancaster Campus held in November. Mike Worman, adjunct instructor in political science at the campus, moderated. Students, staff and faculty turned out to hear the view of the two lawmakers, who represent Lancaster County in the state House.
Lebanon SGA joins effort to raise funds for Haiti relief

The Lebanon Campus is participating in a fund-raising effort in response to philanthropist Frank Dixon’s generous offer to match monetary gifts for relief to Haitian citizens.

Members of the campus Student Government Association (SGA) recently prepared packets of information about the drive to be distributed throughout the campus to the nearly 1,200 students, as well as faculty and staff.

“Mr. Dixon has been a generous benefactor at the campus, providing thousands of dollars in scholarship money to help Lebanon County students achieve their goal of a college education,” said Keanan Barbour-March, Student Life Specialist at the campus. “This fund-raising effort is an opportunity for the HACC-Lebanon students, faculty and staff to ‘pay it forward’ by responding to Mr. Dixon’s establishment of a $100,000 matching fund to help with the need of those suffering from the devastation due to the earthquake in Haiti,” said Barbour-March.

Every dollar raised will be matched with funds from the Francis J. Dixon Foundation, up to $100,000, and given to the Mennonite Central Committee, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Lancaster County.

New campus development officer named at Lebanon Campus

Local resident Kenneth Phelps has been named campus development officer at the Lebanon Campus.

“I am pleased to have Ken Phelps as the newest team member at the Lebanon Campus,” said Kathleen Kramer, Ed.D., campus vice president. “Ken has valuable experience in community relations in a variety of leadership roles that will prove beneficial to expanding HACC’s partnerships with local business and industry.”

Phelps was hired as a result of the college’s assessment of Lebanon County business, education and training needs that verified the need for capital and programmatic expansion as the campus prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

“I look forward to working with the HACC Lebanon team, community and business leaders, alumni and volunteers to build on and expand relationships, partnerships and alliances throughout Lebanon County,” Phelps said.

“I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead in my new role to raise awareness and support for HACC’s ongoing mission to foster educational, cultural, workforce and economic growth in the Lebanon community,” he added.

Most recently, Phelps was general manager of the Lebanon Valley Mall. He was nominated for the “Top 40 under 40” award given annually by the Central Penn Business Journal and was instrumental in developing the first Lebanon Young Professionals program.

He is well known in the Lebanon County community for his volunteer service on the boards of directors of the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon Family Health Services and Leadership Lebanon Valley. His community service also includes serving as an announcer for the Annville Cleona home football and basketball games.

Phelps has a bachelor’s degree in telecommunications from the University of Florida.

He lives with his wife, Mindi, a teacher in the Annville Cleona School District, and their young son, Clay, in Lebanon.
William F. Goodling, a long-time York County educator and former 19th district congressman, was recognized in December when one of the York Campus’ newest buildings was renamed in his honor.

“I appreciate very much having my name associated with HACC and the York Campus of HACC,” Goodling said during the dedication ceremony. “I’m happy to see how it’s progressing and how successful it’s been.”

Goodling began his career in education as a school teacher after he served in the United States Army. Over a 20-year period, Goodling was a school teacher, counselor, coach, principal, superintendent and school board president. Turning toward a life of public service, he was elected to Congress in 1974 where he pledged to put “people before politics.” He became one of the most popular legislators ever to serve in York County and was in Congress for 13 terms.

Goodling retired from public service in 2001, but he and his late wife Hilda Wright Goodling (who was a dedicated educator for 50 years) continued in their commitment to education by encouraging new teachers and were passionate about providing opportunities to educationally disadvantaged families through their advocacy for the Even Start program.

The William F. Goodling Center, at 2101 Pennsylvania Avenue, is the former County of York Business and Entrepreneurial Resource Center (CYBER). The building also is home to the William F. Goodling Regional Advanced Skills Center, established some 20 years ago and not affiliated with the college.

The Goodling Center and the surrounding complex are part of a $7.5 million purchase by HACC of 11 acres in the York City Business and Industrial Park. The additional space is needed because of increasing enrollment that jumped 30 percent last fall to more than 2,700 students, making the York Campus the fastest growing of HACC’s five campuses.

“Congressman Goodling’s life work dovetails nicely with the mission of the community college,” said Jean Treuthart, campus vice president. “HACC provides access and opportunity to all which is evidenced by the growth at the York Campus in just a few short years. We are pleased to have this new building available for our students.”

U.S. Congressman Todd Platts, R-19, recently visited students and staff in the nursing lab at the York Campus, where he met Sim Man, a simulated, remote-control operated patient used to train students. The congressman obtained federal funds that enabled the York Campus to purchase Sim Man and train instructors on how to use him.

PLATTS MEETS SIM MAN
New community room unveiled

On Feb. 18, HACC President Edna Baehre, Ph.D., dedicated the new community room at the York Campus in the name of Arthur J. Glatfelter, an early donor to the campus along with Gov. George Leader. While Mr. Glatfelter was unable to personally attend, Tony Campisi, president and CEO of the Glatfelter Insurance Group, spoke of Art Glatfelter’s commitment to education and the arts and re-enforced the importance of education as a key tool for ending generational poverty. The community room and new communication and the arts building was then opened to the wider York community when HACC hosted a Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours immediately following the dedication.

Members of the team include Louis Appell of Susquehanna Real Estate; Bruce Bartels of WellSpan Health; Niles Benn, Esq., of Benn Law Firm; Tony Campisi of Glatfelter Insurance Group; Sally Dixon of Memorial Hospital; Mike Heine of Fulton Bank; Jim Hogg of Hogg Construction; Jody Keller of Parente-Beard; Loren Kroh, HACC Board of Trustees; Gov. George M. Leader (honorary) of Providence Place Retirement Community; John Luciani of First Capital Engineering; Denny Neiman of Bennett Williams Realty; Chris Reilly of York County Commissioners; Chris Seitz of Bennett Williams Realty; Joe Wagman of Wagman Construction; Ernie Waters of MetEd (retired); and Mort Zifferer of New Standard Corporation.

Opportunity & Access Leadership Team

A key component of the success of the York Campus is the growing support of community leaders and partners.

“In 2003, when HACC started offering evening and Saturday classes, we enrolled 225 students the first semester,” recalled Jean Treuthart, campus vice president. “Today, we have over 2,700 students and are projected to swell to 4,500 within the next five years.”

“Growth like that doesn’t occur without community support,” said Treuthart. “We’ve been so fortunate to attract the caliber of volunteers on our leadership team to help us tell the story about what’s going on here to other York leaders. HACC-York Campus is becoming the point-of-entry for a new generation of highly skilled workers to fuel York County’s economic development.”
Path to graduation takes unexpected turn for cadet

Matthew Lynch could barely hold back the big grin on his face. It had been more than a year since he entered HACC’s 94th Municipal Police Academy and now he was graduating — but as a member of the 96th Academy.

Lynch, a Chambersburg Police Department recruit and a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, had completed about 10 weeks of the 20-week program when he received word he would be deployed to Iraq.

“There are 1,001 questions running through your mind when you find out you are getting deployed,” he said. “I didn’t know at that time whether I’d be able to come right back and get into the academy.”

After an unsuccessful effort to get his deployment deferred, Lynch began pre-deployment training with his unit and eventually arrived in Baghdad in February 2009.

“We lived there until the end of August,” he said. “When we first got there, we were doing a lot, but by the time we left, we had handed all responsibility to the Iraqi government and were there more as support.”

Once back on United States soil, Lynch took a short leave before re-entering the academy with a new class of cadets. Although the 96th Academy was well under way, Lynch’s employer had worked diligently with the Municipal Police Officers’ Education and Training Commission to prevent any further delay.

“I picked up exactly where I left off,” he said of his ability to step right in. “I was very fortunate I made it home when I did.”

The next 10 weeks would be challenging. Most days he was up early to complete two hours of physical training before hitting the books and heading back outside.

HACC’s Sen. John J. Shumaker Public Safety Center: Fast Facts

- Established in 1988 as a partnership with Dauphin County and volunteer firefighters
- Located on 12 acres at the north end of the Harrisburg Campus, includes an administrative building with SMART classrooms, full-service cafeteria and locker rooms, and outdoor facilities that include a firing range, driving course, six-story fire training tower, smoke structure, Class A burn building and a complete fleet of fire apparatus to enable hands-on instruction
- 28,500 students per year, including 70 to 100 cadets in the Police Academy, which is the major supplier of police recruits in Central Pennsylvania, and 17,500 first responders, including firefighters and EMT personnel
- 1,700 classes
- Local/statewide/international programs
- $6 million annual budget
Joe Ulrich was the 2009 GED graduation speaker. Here is the text of his speech.

I would like to start by congratulating the Harrisburg Area Community College GED class of 2009 for its accomplishments. I commend each and every one of you for not only having the courage to pursue your diploma; you also had the strength to see it through.

I left school at the young age of 16 in 1971, and it is a mistake I truly regret. Unfortunately, I did not understand the value of education, nor did I listen to the advice of my parents. I thought I was mature enough to move on, but I was not. I could stand here and give you excuse after excuse as to why I made the choices I did, but that is all they are, just excuses.

I enlisted into the Marine Corps at 17. I was honorably discharged at age 19. This would be the first time in my life I fulfilled my obligations and many valuable lessons were learned. Into the workforce I went with a better work ethic I learned in the Marines. I always was able to make a good living without my high school diploma, but at some point it would stop my advancement. I often thought about getting my GED, but it never transpired into anything more than that.

Until one day in August 2008 in my early 50s, the thought turned into a possibility.

After doing research, I found the phone number of the transitional studies division at HACC. I made the call, and the first step was to go to orientation. The first day of orientation quickly arrived and it was time to make amends. While driving to HACC, my mind was churning with many thoughts, good and bad. Positive and negative thoughts were rotating through my mind like a funnel cloud in an open field.

Also on my mind was the thought: Are they going to give me the dreaded “you should have never dropped out of school” speech? I had heard it so many times. I hated it. However, the people from HACC did not care about my past; their only concern was my future. They put me on the right path out of the maze, and before I knew it, I had earned my GED.

Although earning my GED was a life’s goal, it was not the end. Earning my GED was a proud moment for me, and a lot of people were proud of me. I could have easily stopped there. However, earning my GED is just the beginning of the journey; my final destination will be earning a degree from HACC. We often dream about many things and usually they just remain dreams. I now have a dream that has turned into a reality. Getting an education has become my No. 1 priority, and I believe my investment in knowledge will pay the best dividend. Understanding the value of education is now embedded in my mind.

A lot of people ask me the difference between my life now versus before, and I tell them it is simple: Before it was an obligation and now it is a privilege. The time spent in the Transitional Studies Division at HACC turned into a life-changing experience. Everybody in this division is dedicated and works diligently to prepare people for success; being an ambassador for this division of HACC will be a forever endeavor for me. My time in the transitional studies was a life-changing experience for me along with every other student who earned a seat on this stage tonight.

We no longer look back over our shoulders.

We no longer look up.

We now look straight forward focused directly on the future we now have.

I would like to close by saying to the honorable Dr. (Lori) Fair and her entire talented staff: On behalf of the class of 2009, we not only thank you for your unbiased support, we salute you for your extraordinary efforts.

Joe Ulrich is pursuing an associate degree in computer technology at HACC.

The Ultimate Spin Basketball Camp is unique. Not only do we teach your child the skills and techniques of ball handling, shooting and rebounding, we promote self-esteem, positive life choices and the value of education to our campers. As in the past, the Ultimate Spin Basketball Camp will be run by Chris “Mr. Handles” Franklin.

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