Welcome Back!

This spring, HACC’s Virtual Learning will help 6,200 students pursue their educational and career goals in 175 unique online courses and over 550 total online sections. Thank you for all your efforts in creating and updating your online courses in order to provide excellent educational experiences for our students.

This will be an exciting semester for our unit as we discuss and draft a new strategic plan for the next three years. Be on the lookout for the Virtual Learning strategic planning survey responses completed last fall; I will email them within the next two weeks. Also, student affairs is working in good partnership with Virtual Learning to improve online services for students at a distance. Many of those tasks are scheduled to be completed by fall 2015. Have a wonderful semester. — Amy Withrow

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There is no more noble occupation in the world than to assist another human being

- to help someone succeed.

Alan Loy McGinnis
Sabbatical Celebration—Geremea Fioravanti, Assistant Professor of Biology

January 10, 2015

Dear Fellow HACC Hawks:

I am writing to summarize the progress of my Fall 2014 sabbatical. During this sabbatical, I have been serving in a volunteer capacity as a Vice-President for the Delaware County Institute of Science (DCIS). The combination of both my volunteerism and sabbatical has led me to engage in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) research and historical preservation in the Greater Philadelphia Metropolitan Area. My proposed sabbatical covered three different efforts: 1) research and preserve relevant articles of national importance, 2) organize a scholarly lecture series, & 3) research the involvement of historically notable female STEM contributions to the DCIS.

I have made substantial progress involving unique artifacts. The first was the discovery of currency printing blocks relating to Benjamin Franklin. These have been preserved and put on display at the Library Company of Philadelphia. This effort was written up in a New York Times article on Dec 12th, 2014. A second item for preservation has also been identified. It is called the "Light Horse Flag" and depicts President George Washington on a white horse. The painting (pictured, right) by John A. Woodside, a notable Philadelphia...

...continued on page 3
painter from the 1800s, is on a silk flag. The flag has been analyzed scientifically using x-ray analysis by Mendel Fellow Dr. Amanda Norbutus, and the paint pigments are consistent with the period of the flag’s production. In addition, I have been in touch with experts from Winterthur Museum and Preservation Assoc., Inc. in West Virginia to develop a restoration plan for the flag. This will likely lead to a fund- raising campaign and a multi-year restoration process, followed by a loan to a Philadelphia landmark such as the Philadelphia Art Museum, Union League of Philadelphia, or the yet to be constructed Museum of the American Revolution. I am very excited to be involved in the preservation of historical artifacts, which will be made available to a global audience. Conservation of these nationally significant artifacts is being accomplished with HACC’s help!

Our scholarly lecture series, which has been ongoing in the same format since 1930s, is progressing well. To date, we have hosted four speakers from The Delaware Astronomical Society, Neumann U., Villanova U., and Swarthmore College. The lecture topics have covered the science of observing meteor showers, mural conservation, Coast Rican cloud forests, and discoveries involving missing links in the evolutionary processes from fins to limbs. I’m looking forward to hosting further lectures on diverse subjects such as cannabis research, oceanography research at sea, and a summary of historically notable women of science. The lecture series will conclude in May with Ms. Lindsay Gaskins, Duke U. Biology student, who will report on her research at Mote Marine Laboratory involving nurse sharks. As I share HACC’s story with these presenters, the release time that HACC has provided through the award of this sabbatical has increased the profile of the college.

My research into Kaye Barr (1922-1999) is constructing her biography as a notable female conchologist and member of the DCIS. I feel a kinship with Kaye because we both share a lifelong passion for marine science. Her talent for science started early, as she was awarded the Bausch + Lomb Honorary Science Award at Olney High school. She donated a world class shell collection to the DCIS that included 5,342 shells (marine & freshwater), 223 marine artifacts, and 22 wooden cabinets and cases. My detective work so far has led me to contact Bausch & Lomb, U. of Rochester, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. My investigation of Kaye's work is leading me back to Graceanna Lewis, a natural historian from the 1800s, because of their shared interests involving sea shells. We have Graceanna Lewis’s manuscripts at the DCIS, and they are currently the focus of a manuscript survey by the Historical Society of Philadelphia. The next step of this project is to conduct further research into Kaye's biographical information and scientific endeavors, with a summary produced near the end of February. This will support both Dr. Kathy Hornberger and Jessica Linker’s research with Weidner U. and U. of Connecticut. The ultimate goal of these research efforts is a publication that highlights the DCIS’s...
D2L Course Naming

During a software upgrade for Brightspace by D2L, a configuration change affected the way course names were displayed. On June 25, 2014, the configuration was corrected to allow for proper display of the course names.

Unfortunately, the change only corrects future courses that are added to Banner or updated by Banner after June 25, 2014. Courses that were added/modified by Banner prior to June 25, 2014, are still displaying the inconsistent course name.

Roger Garber (ragarber@hacc.edu) can correct these on an individual and manual basis. However, since the process is manual, please be patient with any request for correction to your course names.

Sabbatical Celebration, continued

notable women who were involved in scientific exploration. Hopefully, the publication of this research will serve as an inspiration to future generations of women considering entry into STEM fields.

In addition to the primary goals of my sabbatical, the fall semester 2014 release time has allowed me to assist with miscellaneous activities at the DCIS (e.g., hosting school groups, science programs for youth, installing a new boiler, and managing day-to-day finances).

Therefore, this sabbatical is providing me a multitude of professional networking opportunities and has strengthened my managerial skills.

The sum total of all of the research, as well as public outreach, has been an opportunity which has further educated me in the diverse history of PA.

I am eager to share stories and lessons learned with my colleagues at HACC, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College, and my students in the classroom next academic year. In addition, I’m appreciative of this sabbatical opportunity provided by HACC. It will continue to provide intellectual dividends beyond this year of research, and will move our institution and nation forward into a brighter future TOGETHER.

Sincerely,

Geremea Fioravanti, MS

New Virtual Learning Faculty

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of the Virtual Learning faculty team! Below is a list of the new Virtual Learning faculty for the Spring 2015 term! — Caroline Mellinger

New 100% Full-Time Faculty:
Nathan Hulsey--Communications

New to Virtual Learning but not HACC:
Sari Bailey--GTEC
Robert Bomboy--Humanities
Laura Lebo--Business/Management
Karen Martin--English

New to HACC and Virtual Learning:
Tracey Larson--Communications
Sara Sutter--English
Thanks to the hard work of Cindy Schanke, Virtual Learning’s Instructional Technology Analyst, the Faculty Resource Center (FRC) has a new look and improved interface, including a search tool! Focused on providing 24/7 access to professional development and training resources for HACC faculty, the FRC contains a variety of new and previously existing resources. New resources include information about video creation, accessibility, instructional design, and copyright, alongside continued access to existing FRC resources like CITE presentations, D2L tutorials, assessment materials, and much, much more! Links to commonly used websites, downloads, and tools are also included. Don't forget the discussions, where faculty can share information on a variety of topics. To access this resource, go to http://ehacc.hacc.edu, sign in to D2L, and click this icon:

Students Can Apply for HACC Foundation Scholarships! More than 200 HACC Foundation scholarships are available to HACC students. Students can receive scholarships for tuition and books for the 2015-16 academic year by simply completing one online application through HACC’s online scholarship management system, AcademicWorks by April 3, 2015. The system will automatically match students to scholarships, and most scholarships awarded are $1,000 for the academic year.

A video tutorial of the application process is also available on HACC’s YouTube site. Seven flyers featuring HACC’s “Scholarship Spotlights” are available online.

For additional assistance, view the HACC Foundation Scholarships help page.
Involvement Opportunities

The Student Success and Engagement Committee (SSEC) consists of dedicated faculty and the student success manager who work to ensure synergy between the online student and faculty experience. The mission of the group is to establish, review, and/or implement strategies to improve student achievement and engagement with the goal of improving student satisfaction, learning, and completion within the online educational environment.

Students have conveyed an interest in forming a Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) group specifically for online students. In order to move forward, students are in need of a faculty advisor.

The Virtual Learning Student Advisory Council (VLSAC) is a student-led council representing thousands of HACC online learners. Students who serve have the potential to be an officer and make a notable difference for themselves and fellow students. The spring 2015 meeting schedule is as follows: Thursday, Feb. 5; Monday, Feb. 16; Thursday, March 5; Monday, March 16; Thursday, April 2; Monday, April 13; Thursday, April 30; Monday, May 11; and Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 PM online at https://hacc.adobeconnect.com/_a836068117/sac/

Faculty are encouraged to share this information with their students.

Contact Jazmin Simpson at jbsimpso@hacc.edu for more information.

Giveaways

Every spring and fall semester, the Student Success Office distributes a Student Satisfaction Survey to all currently enrolled online students. Two students were selected to win items sponsored by the Virtual Learning Student Advisory Council (VLSAC).

This fall’s iPad winner was Stacia Barnhart, Pre-Nursing major (pictured, below left). Her prize arrived just in time for the holidays.

This fall’s sweatshirt winners were Callie Stouffer, Respiratory Therapy and Courtney Sarbaum, Viticulture/Enology major (pictured, above right).

Contact Jazmin Simpson at jbsimpso@hacc.edu for survey results.
Students Prepare for the Spring

The Student Success Office seeks to connect and support students in their transition to the online course environment prior to the semester beginning. Therefore, the Virtual Learning Recruiter, Emily Fox, and Student Success Manager, Jazmin Simpson, have expanded the Jump Start YOUR Success programs to include face-to-face sessions at each campus while also maintaining the webinar option. Students participating in these events have overwhelmingly expressed their appreciation for the program and indicated they feel more prepared as a result. A total of 85 students joined the webinar and 72 participated in the face-to-face program.

A special Thank You to our online faculty David Feller, Claire Knowles-Morris, Patty Hanahoe-Dosch, and Kim Hall for their contributions and engagement with online students participating in these events.

Jump Start YOUR Success, Harrisburg Campus, Jan. 13, 2015
**Upcoming Events**

#haccvirtual Twitter Chats
*Tuesday, February 17, 12pm– Financial Aid Q&A with Leanne French
*Tuesday, March 17, 12pm– Military & Veterans Affairs Q&A with Allen Tischer
For more info about accessing the Twitter Chats or to see past chats, visit: [http://www.hacc.edu/NewStudents/Connect/Twitter.cfm](http://www.hacc.edu/NewStudents/Connect/Twitter.cfm)

‘Get to Know Virtual Learning’ Webinars
*Wednesday, April 1, 2pm or 6pm
To find out more about the 30 minute webinar designed for prospective virtual learning students, check out: [http://www.hacc.edu/NewStudents/Connect/Webinars.cfm](http://www.hacc.edu/NewStudents/Connect/Webinars.cfm)

Student Online Open House
*Wednesday, March 4, 5:30-7:30pm
To see more information and to register, view: [http://www.hacc.edu/Calendar/Event-Details.cfm?customel_dataPageID_14125=285729](http://www.hacc.edu/Calendar/Event-Details.cfm?customel_dataPageID_14125=285729)

Staff Meeting (everyone is welcome):
Friday, February 20, 9-10:30am
W-226D or VoicePlus ext. 211305;
Conference ID 211011#

Spring Retreat
Friday, April 10, 9am—2pm
HACC Lebanon Campus

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**Virtual Learning Team**

**Faculty Leadership:**

**Full-time:**
Karen Woodring, VCFA Chair
Lise-Pauline Barnett, VCFA Vice-Chair
Xiaoqing Zhu

**Shared:**
Mary Jo Keiter

**Adjunct:**
Diane Edmond

**Non-Voting:**
Jason Beaudin, CITE Coordinator
Tamara Girardi, VCFA Secretary

**Leadership:**
Suzanne O’Hop
Caroline Mellinger
Amy Withrow

**Admin. Assistants:**
Elaine Holland
Joanne McPherson

**Student Support:**
Gina Bowers-Miller
Emily Fox
Danielle Martin
Jazmin Simpson

**Technology:**
Melissa Dietrich
Josh Rumpff
Cindy Schanke
Joe Mendrzycki
Qiquan Wang
David Wartell