FACULTY SCHOLARS RECEPTION
On Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, more than 70 HACC faculty scholars were celebrated on our Harrisburg Campus. You will be able to read more about these scholars in the next edition of Connections magazine. Many of these scholars reviewed articles and books, judged competitions, showed their art work, presented at various conferences, wrote books and juried magazine articles. In my very brief remarks, I thanked the scholars for expanding upon the knowledge in their fields of expertise. Special thanks to Yvonne Milspaw for co-planning and emceeing this event and to Charles Peguese for representing the Board of Trustees.

HARRISBURG CAMPUS VICE PRESIDENT UPDATE
After a review of the information submitted by the interview committee, session attendees and references, I have decided to re-open the search for the Harrisburg Campus vice president. However, this time, we will hire the Pauly Group to conduct a national recruitment process to identify and recruit qualified applicants to this position. Special thanks to the interview committee!

SPONSORING SCHOOL DISTRICT WORKING GROUP UPDATE
As many of you know, over the next 21 months, several board members and I will be working with representatives from our sponsoring school districts to discuss ways to address their proposed withdrawal of district funds in 2013.

Soon, I will facilitate a meeting on the Harrisburg Campus to update interested employees about our recent discussions and listen to ways you believe we can bring this discussion to a positive financial conclusion. The next monthly meeting between college and school district representatives will take place on Oct. 30, 2011 at 7 p.m.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION
On Thursday, Sept. 22, I attended my second Pennsylvania Community College Commission (PACCC) president’s meeting. The half-day meeting focused on the upcoming legislative session, state funding for higher education and sponsoring school district legislation.

Thursday afternoon, board of trustee members from many of the 14 colleges joined the presidents to discuss 2011-12 advocacy activities. Thursday evening, attendees listened to a presentation entitled, Education for What: The Rising Demand for Skill and the Decline of Manual Labor, by Stephen J. Rose from the Center on Education and the Workforce (Georgetown University). A scanned copy of his presentation will be posted to the president’s web page soon.

On Friday, Sept. 23, the presidents and board members met with Jen Branstetter, PA secretary of planning and policy in the state capitol and engaged her in a dialogue about the successes and opportunities of including
community colleges in the Governor’s emerging strategic plan on education. We then returned to Hershey Lodge to listen to a professor from Penn State, who informed us of her research focused on finding effective organization and funding models from states across the country to better inform Pennsylvania higher education policies. We also listened to a presentation from Sharon Ward from the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center entitled, Post-secondary Education in Challenging Times. (A scanned copy of her presentation slides will also be included on the president’s page soon.) We then spent some time listening to the Commission’s chief lobbyist discuss possible upcoming legislation (i.e., sponsoring school district, charter school initiatives, etc.) We concluded our meeting with an overview of the communication strategies the Commission plans to implement during the upcoming legislative session. To learn more about the Commission, click on the following link: [http://www.pacommunitycolleges.org/](http://www.pacommunitycolleges.org/)

Special thanks to the following HACC board of trustees members who attended these sessions: **Deep Gupta, Hector Ortiz, Charles Peguese, Tim Sandoe** (Board of Trustees chairman also representing our Lancaster campus) and Vicki Shannon.

**GRATEFULNESS and SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

In addition to our Harrisburg Campus facilities professionals, **Bob Finley and Gary Gutshall**, the following individuals are also deserving of special recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty during our recent weather experiences:

- **Rick Dullebawn and David Shaffer** for “being on the Harrisburg campus assisting with IT issues in order to keep the operation functional. In fact, Dave and Rick did the bulk of the disaster planning.”
- **John Eberly** for demonstrating “the kind of leadership and decision making that [one] would expect from [a] management team…he was the ground leader…”
- **Tammy Witkowski** for “coordinating the IT efforts to keep the College IT services running. She worked the phones, kept everyone informed and did what was necessary to make sure that we could keep our systems available for the maximum amount of time.”
- **Joe Wojtysiak** for “providing the information necessary to assist John [Eberly] with making his decisions. As caretaker of the Harrisburg facilities, Joe saw to it that whatever he needed to do, he was prepared to deliver.”

A student emailed me saluting **Fred Gantz** (sociology) and **John Swan** (criminology). She wrote the following:

- Professor **John Swan**, who taught criminology. “He was an amazing teacher and mentor. I also worked as his student aide for a few months. He is a very compassionate man who would and did go to extraordinary lengths to help anyone (mostly any student).
- Sociology instructor **Fred Gantz**. “He is not your typical monotone boring teacher! He teaches with such energy and enthusiasm. Which makes a dull subject fun to not only learn but he gets exciting teaching. Mr. Gantz doesn't use notes he teaches from memory, without skipping a beat! On his syllabus he not only gave us his office hours but he included his home phone number!”

“Please commend [them] for [their] ability to care and make learning fun. Any of [their] students would share my perspective.”

**Deanne Gerber** (business office/accounts payable) was selected for muscular dystrophy’s highest achievement award in Pennsylvania for her persistence and dedication in overcoming her disability and for her extensive civic and community involvement on behalf of others facing neuromuscular disease. Thank you, Deanne, for inspiring us!
Over the past several weeks, administrators have been celebrating and thanking our classified staff (at all of our campuses) for their exceptional service and dedication to our learning community and student success. In this photo, you will find several of our Gettysburg colleagues singing to many of us, including Board of Trustee, Jeff Shaffer, after lunch.

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNERS**
The annual President's Award recognizes exceptional services and contributions to the College above and beyond those expected in the performance of regular duties.

In the photo to the right, the high-performing nominees included (from left): Crystal Schieb (Harrisburg), Lise Levin (York), Linda Barr (Harrisburg), Sharon Wansley (Harrisburg) and Melissa Farr (Lancaster). The two winners of $500 were Linda and Melissa. Please join me in congratulating them!

**PODCASTS**

Twice a month, I will be recording a podcast with College employees on a wide variety of topics. If you are interested in featuring your programs or services, please submit to Nancy Wennberg your name and three to five specific reasons why you believe you should be interviewed. To listen to these podcasts, visit:

http://pr.athacc.com/podcasts/SkiPodcast1.mp3

**OBAMA ADMINISTRATION VISITOR**

Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, got a bird's-eye view last week of successful green jobs training programs during a visit to our Midtown location.

Graduates of HACC’s alternative energy programs joined me and a variety of other college employees and business leaders to learn more about our alternative energy courses and programs. The last half of the meeting found faculty and staff engaging Ms. Sutley in a roundtable discussion on the College's partnership with Central Pennsylvania business and industry to meet the demands of 21st century jobs.

**Public Safety Center (PSC)**

Three weeks ago, the PSC exceeded its target of raising $5 million in cash and pledges by Sept. 11, 2011. To raise the remaining $2.5 million for this center, Gretchen Ramsey will be focusing her efforts on this activity while assisting me with local and state legislative issues. BRAVO to many individuals whose commitment to this project has accomplished so much in so little time!
HARRISBURG CAMPUS “SIGNAGE” QUESTION
Since my arrival two months ago, I’ve wondered why the digital sign at the entrance to the Harrisburg Campus displayed the same message – Welcome to HACC! I learned that the sign:
- Was purchased more than 10 years ago and has been problematic ever since it was installed.
- Was manufactured and installed by a company that has since gone out of business
- Has parts that are increasingly scarce and that acquiring replacement parts has become extremely difficult
- Was uploading messages via radio -- a system which has become increasingly unreliable and antiquated.

Over the past year, this issue has been reviewed and it was determined that replacing and/or updating the sign, at this time, would be too costly. Therefore, it was decided to leave a simple message (Welcome to HACC!) on the sign until it completely fails.

SOME HACC FACTS TO KNOW AND TELL
- At the Best of College Photography Contest held in Rochester (N.Y.), HACC was ranked as one of the two or three top two-year photography programs in the nation. One of our students was also nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in Photography!
- Six members of our men’s soccer team graduated from a high school outside of the United States. The Hawks defeated Lehigh Carbon Community College, Saturday, 9-1. (Special thanks to Lisa Cleveland, athletic director, for being present at all of our athletic contests. Her support of our student athletes is commendable!)
- The Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies had 2,999 client appointments last year, including 895 women and 364 minority clients.
- Historically, 12 percent of our students complete their studies with a degree or certificate.
- From 2006-09, one-third of our (39,000) students transferred to a four-year institution. The three most popular four-year institutions the students transferred to were (in rank order) Penn State, Millersville and Shippensburg universities.
- The Health Careers Advising Center saw nearly 4,700 students last year.
- In Pennsylvania, 96 percent of our students are Pennsylvania residents, 60 percent are female, 23 percent are minorities and 40 percent are 25 years of age or older.

PHOTO ANSWER: Cliff Dillman Memorial
Congratulations to Cindy Ciotti, who responded correctly to the photo question at 6:01 a.m. on Sept. 12, 2011. She has been sent a KUDOS bar!

The photo was of the Cliff Dillman Memorial. According to the dozen responses I received, I learned that Cliff Dillman was the senior professor of psychology and club advisor for the outdoor club and died unexpectedly in 2009. He was also an avid outdoorsman and, most importantly, was instrumental in preventing I-81 from being built across the HACC Harrisburg Campus.

Thanks to Deb Eichenberger, Ray Weirsma, students and others who worked hard to create this memorial. A dedication ceremony was held in April 2010, with Dr. Dillman’s daughters in attendance.
PHI THETA KAPPA
Last week, I met for an hour with Phi Theta Kappa leadership and was very impressed with the students and chapter/campus advisors with whom I had the pleasure of interacting. I especially want to salute the following advisors:

- Chapter: Yvonne Milspaw and Thaddeus Sampson
- Gettysburg: Wendy Brubaker and Catherine Frost
- Lancaster: Jennifer St. Pierre*
- Lebanon: Pamela Glindeman and Brett Stumphy
- York: Patricia Collamer

*A dinner with me at a restaurant of your choosing in Lancaster is waiting for a Lancaster faculty member willing to assist Jennifer St. Pierre as an advisor to her Lancaster team. The faculty member, once approved by Jennifer, can bring a guest to dinner!

SELECT MEETINGS AND/OR VISITS

The following list of select meetings and/or visits represents only a fraction of the external meetings I attended. If you have any questions about any of them, please contact me.

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<tr>
<th>Colleges</th>
<th>Discussion/Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth College</td>
<td>I met with the new president and select members of his Cabinet. We discussed transfer agreements, continuing education opportunities and recruiting activities. I also received a tour of the campus.</td>
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<td>Penn State – York</td>
<td>Jean Treuthart, HACC’s York Campus vice president, and I met with the new president of Penn State – York. We discussed ways we may enhance our working relationship and increase the number of HACC students who transfer to this institution.</td>
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<tr>
<td>York College</td>
<td>I met with the president of York College and learned more about the College and the City of York and his perspective on higher education in Pennsylvania and learned more about how higher education is funded within the Commonwealth.</td>
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Elected officials

<p>| Robert Ziobrowski, Franklin County Commissioner | I met with Mr. Ziobrowski and learned more about the culture and business climate in Franklin County. We discussed growing training and education needs of the residents. I also learned how well respected HACC is in this county! |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Mayor C. Kim Bracey, City of York</th>
<th><strong>Jean Treuthart</strong> and I met with the mayor to discuss ways HACC could enhance its presence within the City and provide even more training and education to City residents.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Governor George Leader</td>
<td><strong>Jean Treuthart, Kathy Lucas</strong> and I met with Governor Leader to learn more about his interest in expanding his former inmate education program.</td>
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<td>Keith Sadler, City of Lancaster</td>
<td><strong>Marshall Washington</strong>, HACC’s Lancaster Campus vice president, and I visited with the police chief, currently a HACC adjunct faculty member (criminal justice), to learn more about the City of Lancaster and its training and education needs. Dr. Washington and I also had a brief opportunity to participate in a ride along with two police officers to learn a little more about the City.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor Thompson, City of Harrisburg</td>
<td><strong>Nancy Rockey</strong>, interim Harrisburg campus vice president, several external community leaders, members of a Philadelphia Charter School corporation and I met with Mayor Thompson to learn more about her interest in locating at least three charter schools in the City of Harrisburg, including in the Midtown neighborhood. Unfortunately, the mayor’s media relations office incorrectly informed the media that I was going to be at her formal announcement of this opportunity. The mayor’s office called the next day to apologize for providing misinformation to the press.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Hans, deputy secretary for the Office of postsecondary education (PA)</td>
<td>The Pennsylvania community college presidents met with Ms. Hans for an hour on Thursday to engage her in a discussion about the value of community colleges in the hope that as the Pennsylvania secretary of education develops a strategic plan for K-20, we are included in the discussions and final product.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jen Branstetter, secretary for planning and policy (PA)</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Community College Commission members (including HACC board members <strong>Deep Gupta, Hector Ortiz and Charles Peguese</strong>) and I met with Ms. Branstetter to engage her in a discussion about the governor’s policy on higher education, especially community colleges. She listened carefully, took notes and asked some insightful questions.</td>
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Other Visits

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Letterkenny Army Depot</td>
<td>I met with the base commander and others to learn how we may be able to enhance our educational presence within their organization. I learned they are very satisfied with our partnership and are looking for marketing and public relations students to work with them to develop marketing and public relations materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VOLVO</td>
<td>I met with the vice president of human resources and two of his corporate training personnel at the VOLVO plant in Chambersburg. We discussed their urgent need for employees with experience in assembly, material handling and/or welding. Currently, thanks to Evelyn Weaver, we have a strong training and education partnership with VOLVO and many of the large manufacturing businesses in Franklin county. Thanks to Ms. Weaver and our Gettysburg campus, we are the college of choice in Franklin county which is also being served by Hagerstown Community College (MD)!</td>
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21st CENTURY COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

As a member of this commission, I have been asked to facilitate a session with Fortune 500 business leaders in Washington, D.C. entitled, “Learning for a Living: Connecting Postsecondary Education and the American Economy.” If you have specific questions you would like me to ask these leaders (if possible), please email me the questions by Oct. 15, 2011.

Recently, in a meeting with several private-sector Commission members who discussed course and program review/assessment activities, I was delighted to inform them that our faculty and deans (in a supportive role) regularly evaluate our courses and programs (using applicable student success and graduate data) to ensure those courses and programs remain current/relevant. Needless to say, they were pleased to know we valued this process and would like to possibly visit us as an “assessment best practices institution” over the course of the Commission’s year-long activities.

<This photo finds me with Vince Tinto (right), distinguished university professor at Syracuse University, author and researcher focused on student retention and the impact of learning communities on student growth and attainment. Dr. Tinto is strongly engaged and supportive of assessment activities, too!>
BLOG
To stay in more frequent contact with you, I’ve converted the Ski Gram into a blog and will post brief articles onto it at least once a week. The blog will also give us an opportunity to dialogue openly about what is most important to you.

Here is the link to the blog: http://skigram-blog.blogspot.com/. Please bookmark and visit it often.

“We need a coat with two pockets. In one pocket there is dust, and in the other pocket there is gold. We need a coat with two pockets to remind us who we are.” ~Parker J. Palmer

Written by Ski on Sept. 25, 2011. Please forgive mistakes.