

# Virtual Learning Focus

## *Happy Spring!*

As spring returns, HACC's Virtual Learning has much to celebrate.

We honor three senior professors who will be retiring after this semester; they share their reflections on a combined 115 years of service to students and the College. We applaud faculty who have been awarded tenure or received promotions for the upcoming 15-16 academic year. We celebrate student leaders who now represent over 6,000 online students at HACC. Also, we share in our students' success as they apply classroom skills and assignments to real-world applications.

Thank you for all you do every day to assist students in achieving their educational and career goals. Enjoy the return of spring!— *Amy Withrow*

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Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is more people who have come alive.

*Howard Thurman*



# Focus on Faculty

## Three Senior Professors Retire at the end of the Academic Year!

### Celebrating Marty Wise, 39 years of service to HACC



"I have....tried to provide students with the skills they will need to be successful in their business careers

and life. It is interesting how these skills for success have changed through the years. This has made my teaching at HACC a dynamic and interesting career."

### Celebrating Judy Dibert, 35 years of service to HACC

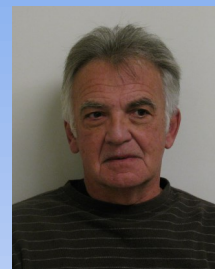


"As I retire, I realize that HACC has been my professional home for more than half of my life. When

I first came on board in the early 1980's, I was immersed in the development of the ESL Program, followed by Spanish in the 1990's. Later I moved to Virtual and taught our first online Spanish course in the spring of 2006, but not without

first having to convince colleagues of the feasibility of teaching foreign language online as a valid alternative. ('Hard to imagine that now!) That first online Spanish offering was the beginning of the expansion of online foreign language learning at HACC, which now includes Spanish, French, and Chinese, with hopefully more to come. Interesting to note that HACC was one of the few places at the time to pioneer something that within less than a decade would be accepted and done virtually everywhere (pun intended). I'll miss HACC, but it's great to have been a part of its academic growth and history. I thank my colleagues and wish them well as they take the College further in the future. Challenges and dynamics always change, but the faculty's dedication and commitment to academic innovation and integrity at HACC will always make us exceptional. I look forward to maintaining old friendships and welcoming new beginnings."

### Celebrating James Hartman, 41 years of service to HACC



"Beginning in 1967 as a student and continuing as a faculty member since 1974, I have been associated with HACC in all or

part of the last six decades. HACC provided me with an affordable education and gave me the foundation I needed that enabled me to transfer and complete a Bachelors and Master's Degree.

I sincerely hope that my method of instruction has added considerable knowledge, skills, and some humor to my student's lives. Moreover, I like to think that the education they received at HACC has enriched their life like it did mine. My advice to all considering and attending HACC is to take full advantage of this wonderful resource and to put forth their maximum effort to succeed."

## New Virtual Learning CITE Coordinator

Virtual Learning and the Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (CITE) enthusiastically welcome **Kari Meck** as the new Virtual Learning CITE Coordinator! Kari was selected from a wealth of talented and worthy individuals who kindly volunteered their expertise for the position - a testament to how highly Virtual Learning prizes teaching excellence! Kari will officially be taking over as the Virtual Learning CITE Coordinator at the start of Fall 2015. Until that time, please feel free to continue addressing Virtual Learning CITE requests, questions, and proposals to Jason Beaudin at [jbeaudin@hacc.edu](mailto:jbeaudin@hacc.edu).

## HACC Faculty Recommended for Tenure in 2015-2016

*Please congratulate them when you see them!*

Jason Beaudin, Assistant Professor (English)  
Justin Bichler, Instructor (Biology)  
Susan Cooper-Nguyen, Assistant Professor (Mathematics)  
James Duran, Assistant Professor (Reading)  
Catherine Frost, Assistant Professor (Mathematics)  
Frederick Gantz, Instructor (Sociology)  
Darrell Kenner, Instructor (HVAC)  
Camelia Maianu, Assistant Professor (Psychology)  
Laura Martin, Instructor (Counseling)  
Ronda Morrison, Instructor (Nursing)  
Mary Kay Mowrer, Assistant Professor (Counseling)  
Cynthia Muth, Associate Professor (Mathematics)  
Mary Richards, Instructor (English)  
Alfred Siha, Assistant Professor (English)  
Hetal Thaker, Instructor (English)  
Carolyn Veit, Instructor (Reading)  
Robert Wagner, Instructor (Physical Science)



### Are you a veteran who now works for HACC Virtual Learning?

If so, and if you are willing to be interviewed as part of HACC's outreach to veteran, reserve, and active military personnel, please contact Amy Withrow at [aswithro@hacc.edu](mailto:aswithro@hacc.edu).

## Full-time Virtual Learning Faculty Recommended for Promotion in 2015-2016

Jason Beaudin, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor  
Ron Dowey, Associate Professor to Professor  
Robert Wagner, Instructor to Assistant Professor



# Focus on Student Success

## Student Success Welcomes a New Face

We are excited to announce and welcome Laurice Anne Garcia (pictured above), our new Student Success student-worker. Laurice will be assisting students in the Student Resource Center and Lounge (SRCL) with the pilot of Subject Matter. In addition, she will be creating initiatives and pathways for students to access on-demand help to aid in their online success.

Since Fall 2010, Laurice has been a nontraditional online student of HACC. Currently pursuing an AA degree in Business Management and having completed 18 online classes, she expects to graduate by May 2015. She is a well-rounded, modest, selfless

and caring person, always juggling her time to keep up with her roles as a student; a nurturing mother of two young, smart and adorable kids; and a supportive and loving sister.

Laurice is also an artisan and partner in a furniture restoration business that provided her hands-on practice of her academic studies by handling bookkeeping, inventory, advertising, marketing and public relations via social media as well as helping with furniture restoration as part of her daily routine. She chose online education to accommodate her family obligations while still pursuing her career goals.

## Online Student Satisfaction

Would you **LIKELY** recommend HACC's online courses to another person?

|                  | Spring 2009 | Spring 2010 | Spring 2011 | Spring 2012 | Spring 2013 | Fall 2013 | Spring 2014 | Fall 2014 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>Yes</b>       | 89.6%       | 86.4%       | 87.2%       | 89.5%       | 85.8%       | 87.5%     | 87.0%       | 88.2%     |
| <b>No</b>        | 4.3%        | 4.3%        | 5.4%        | 3.2%        | 4.7%        | 5.9%      | 7.0%        | 7.3%      |
| <b>Undecided</b> | 6.1%        | 9.3%        | 7.4%        | 7.3%        | 9.5%        | 6.6%      | 6.0%        | 4.5%      |

## Student Success Story: Amber Ramsey

### Submitted by Instructor Dr. Tamara Girardi

Nursing major Amber Ramsey surpassed the challenge in her English Composition II course to identify a local issue and argue for a potential solution by selecting a topic worthy of an awareness campaign that sparked a television news story.

"Tragedy struck our family on April 17th, 2008, one month before my niece, Allison's, second birthday," Amber wrote in her essay. "Allison was playing in the backyard and in the quick moment when my sister looked away, Allison disappeared. After twenty terrifying minutes, Allison was found lying head first in their neighbor's backyard garden

pond. She was not breathing and had a very faint pulse. A police officer performed CPR and was able to resuscitate her.

"She spent the next four months at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. My family and I were told that she would probably not be able to walk or talk again due to the lack of oxygen and the effects it had on her brain. Six years later she is now in third grade, learning alongside her peers, walking, running, talking, playing and making everyone around her smile."

In her essay, Amber cited the World Health Organization, stating that "drowning is the second leading cause of unin-

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Smarthinking's usage has nearly doubled since making the online tutoring option more accessible as a single sign-on option within Brightspace by D2L starting fall 2013. Students typically access online tutoring services in the evenings and weekends, as noted below.

|      | Total Used Hours | Total Sessions | Usage From 6PM-7AM |
|------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| FA12 | 502.22           | 767            | 46%                |
| FA13 | 596.53           | 926            | 41%                |
| FA14 | 1056.72          | 1812           | 42%                |
| SP13 | 525.97           | 785            | 49%                |
| SP14 | 848.12           | 1357           | 46%                |

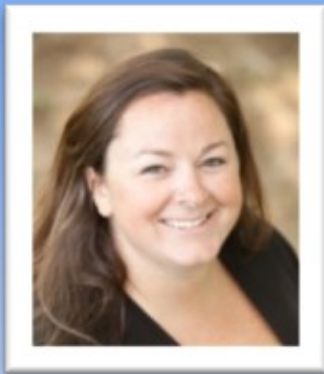
## Fall 2014 HACC Virtual Learning Facts...Did you know?

- 2,177 students only took online courses.
- 36.50% of all online students only took online courses.
- 200 Business Administration majors only took online courses.
- 52 online students were from outside Pennsylvania, including one student from Cairo, Egypt.



# focus on Student Success

## Meet Our VLSAC Chairs

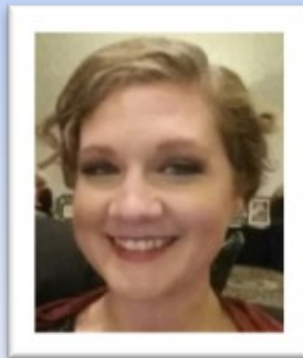


### **Michelle R. Gherardi**

Founding Member and Council Chair, A sophomore completing her AA in International Studies. Graduating May 2015  
[mrg1732@hawkmial.hacc.edu](mailto:mrg1732@hawkmial.hacc.edu)

### **Brianna X. Neil**

Founding Member and Finance Chair, a freshman majoring in Business Management and a Phi Theta Kappa member. Estimated graduation is May 2016.  
[bxn6567@hawkmial.hacc.edu](mailto:bxn6567@hawkmial.hacc.edu)



### **Laurice Anne Garcia**

Founding Member, Communications Chair & student worker, completing her AA in Business Management. Graduating May 2015.  
[Lag5617@hawkmial.hacc.edu](mailto:Lag5617@hawkmial.hacc.edu)



## **HACC Foundation Receives More Than \$620,000 to Create New Scholarship**

A generous contribution from the late Richard J. McLaren recently established the Richard J. McLaren Scholarship Endowment to benefit students at HACC.

McLaren, who passed away in March 2007, was single with no children. The HACC Foundation received the life-changing contribution of more than \$620,000 from his estate.

The Richard J. McLaren Scholarship Endowment will provide assistance to students with unmet financial need who are enrolled in languages, music and/or theatre programs at HACC. Funds may be applied toward tuition, fees and/or books.

*Top Left: the Virtual Learning Student Advisory Council (VLSAC) officially finalized a logo to complement our online student organization. Created by **Rob Kobrzynski**, Enology & Viticulture.*

*...continued from page 5*

tentional injury death in children aged one to fourteen years in the United States,” and with the growing popularity of garden ponds, which are not regulated, the danger for local children is clear.

“Garden ponds are very attractive to children and without proper safety barriers they can be very dangerous,” Amber wrote.

“According to Berks County’s zoning ordinance, the definition of a pond is ‘any body of water used for the purposes of landscaping a property that has a water depth in any part of 24 inches or more.’ That means that the average garden pond, which is usually only eighteen inches deep, requires no safety barriers to be installed.”

In addition to her 15-page persuasive essay, Amber developed a multi-genre project that illustrated her essay claims through diverse media, including a video she made herself, which included images of her niece’s recovery.

“This has been my favorite assignment I have ever done,” Amber wrote in a personal reflection for the multi-genre project. “I showed the video to my whole

family and we all cried together. It was the first time my niece saw any of these visuals of herself. I will be giving her a copy of the video to keep so she can look



*Photo: Amber Ramsey*

back at how far she has come and how strong of a person she is.”

Amber’s family shared the video with WFMZ, and on Christmas Eve 2015, reporters interviewed her sister for a story that aired December 26. Here is a link to the news story: <http://m.wfmz.com/berks-regional-news/Mother-of-near-drowning-victim-fights-to-prevent-future-accidents/30416072>

“I was thrilled to hear a student pursued her research beyond the classroom,” said Amber’s instructor, Dr. Tamara Girardi. “The news story is very touching, but after working with Amber, that doesn’t surprise me. From early in the semester, it was clear Amber was passionate about her work and this issue that has affected her family.

“The outcome is a perfect example of why I believe in challenging students to select topics that affect them and their communities. Amber learned the power of her own voice, and I know she and her family will continue raising awareness and sharing Allison’s story.”

Amber agreed, saying that she and her sister plan to start a web site and a Facebook page to educate the public about the lack of regulations for garden ponds. Ultimately, she would like to see ordinances and laws changed to protect children and small animals.

“This project was a lot of work but very rewarding,” Amber said. “I feel like I learned and accomplished a lot.”

*Focus*  
on

*Upcoming Events*



### **#haccvirtual Twitter Chats**

\*Tuesday, April 21, 12:00pm– Learn about Disability Services

For more info about accessing the Twitter Chats or to see past chats, visit: <http://www.hacc.edu/NewStudents/Connect/Twitter.cfm>

### **'Get to Know Virtual Learning' Webinars**

\*Wednesday, April 1, 2:00pm or 6:00pm

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>

### **Staff Meeting (everyone is welcome):**

Thursday, April 16, 9-10:30am  
W-226D or VoicePlus ext. 211305;  
Conference ID 211011#

### **Spring Retreat**

Friday, April 10, 9am—2:15pm  
HACC Lebanon Campus

### ***Virtual Learning Team***

#### ***Faculty Leadership:***

##### ***Full-time:***

Karen Woodring, VCFA Chair  
Lise-Pauline Barnett, VCFA Vice-Chair  
Xiaoqing Zhu, from Operations House

##### ***Shared:***

Mary Jo Keiter

##### ***Adjunct:***

Diane Edmond, from Operations House

##### ***Non-Voting:***

Jason Beaudin, CITE Coordinator  
Tarama 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