

## President's Corner



Happy New Year! As we ring in 2020, we are provided with an occasion to reflect on our purpose and chart our course for the future. At Atlantic Cape, our mission is to create opportunity

by providing access to excellent programs and services that successfully meet students' educational goals. I am proud to say that the work we do each and every day of the year is in service of this mission, and we are constantly seeking ways to expand access and deepen our impact on the communities we serve.

One of the most meaningful indicators of our success in fulfilling our mission is the success of our graduates. It is an immensely gratifying experience to hear from our alumni about the paths that they forge for themselves after graduating from Atlantic Cape.

Just last month, at the President's Donor Appreciation Holiday Reception, our Foundation donors had the pleasure of hearing from Atlantic Cape alumna and current

nursing faculty member, Erin DeLong. Erin shared her personal story of attending Atlantic Cape as a working mother. Although the path was not easy, Erin received support through scholarships and was able to successfully complete and graduate from the Nursing program, which changed the course of her life for the better.

After entering the workforce and gaining important experience in hands-on clinical care, Erin returned to Atlantic Cape a few years later as a nursing adjunct instructor. When a faculty position opened up, one of Erin's former professors encouraged her to apply, and she got the job! Now, Erin proudly works to educate the next generation of nurses and she teaches her students the importance of treating "patients as people." Erin emphasizes the influence of her Atlantic Cape education and the Foundation scholarships she received in enabling her to develop and pass on this empathetic approach to patient care to her students, who will go on to make a positive impact in their communities.

It is success stories like this that serve as an example and encouragement to current and future students, and that validate the work

we do every day at Atlantic Cape to provide opportunity through education. With that being said, I encourage you, as alumni, to share your stories with us! We are eager to hear about your accomplishments, to celebrate them with you, and to share them with others who might need some encouragement to help them along their own path.

If you have a story to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kristin Jackson at **(609) 463-3621** or [kjackson@atlantic.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlantic.edu). We are always looking for alumni to highlight in our Alumni Newsletter, on our website and social media, and in our community.

Thank you for your continued involvement and interest in Atlantic Cape Community College. Best wishes for a happy and successful 2020!

Dr. Barbara Gaba  
President



Erin DeLong '13, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Health Sciences, poses for a photo after speaking to attendees of Dr. Gaba's Second Annual Donor Appreciation Holiday Reception.

Reconnect with fellow Nursing program graduates, serve as a mentor for current students, and raise money for scholarships.

## Join the Nursing Alumni Council today!

For additional information, contact:  
Erin DeLong, Assistant Professor  
[edelong@atlantic.edu](mailto:edelong@atlantic.edu)  
(609) 625-1111, ext. 5411

## Alumni Spotlight - Harry Walk '09



*Harry Walk, 31, graduated from Atlantic Cape in May 2009, earning an associate in science degree in General Studies and then took advantage of the Atlantic Cape-Rutgers University partnership, earning a bachelor of arts degree in Psychology in 2012. Harry is a 2007 graduate of Atlantic County Institute of Technology.*

Greetings fellow Atlantic Cape graduates! My name is Harry Walk and I was born and raised in South Jersey. I attended Atlantic Cape Community College through the NJ Stars Program, earning a General Studies, A.S. degree in 2009. I transferred to Rutgers University and earned my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2012. During my last semester at Rutgers University, I began taking pre-requisites for nursing school. I attended Ocean County College's nursing program and graduated in 2015. Recently, I obtained my nurse executive board certification and psychiatric mental health nurse board certification.

I started my nursing career in the Progressive Care Unit at the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Campus. I have held many positions within AtlantiCare— patient care associate, staff nurse, Nursing Professional Practice and Development Coordinator, and most recently, a Clinical Nurse Manager of a Medical Surgical Unit. I'm happy to maintain my undergraduate roots by teaching in the Allied Health Program at Atlantic Cape and nursing clinical for Rutgers University. I have also presented evidence-based practice initiatives at local and national nursing conferences.

What I loved most about attending Atlantic Cape was how it afforded me the opportunity to work full-time while attending school full-time. Thanks to amazing professors like Professor Donna Marie McElroy, I continually felt challenged, making me a better student and person. Through my personal and professional experiences, resiliency and dedication have been integral to my success. With supportive leadership and mentoring through AtlantiCare and Atlantic Cape Community College, I have achieved many successes and look forward to influencing care at the bedside.

# YOU'RE INVITED!

[atlantic.edu/gala](http://atlantic.edu/gala)

# The Passionate PALETTE

Sponsorship opportunities available!

37th Annual

Atlantic Cape  
Community College  
**RESTAURANT**  
**gala**  
2020  
*Celebrating*

**Community Honorees**  
Stephen '72 and Dianne Nehmed '70  
**Academy of Culinary Arts Honoree**  
Chef William McGinnity '85

**Thursday, April 16th at 6:30pm**

Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center - Atlantic City

As an Alumni Association Member you are eligible for **two tickets** at a discounted price of \$150 each—a **savings of \$75** on each ticket!

Hosted by our Platinum Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



Proceeds fund scholarships for students at The Academy of Culinary Arts and help support Atlantic Cape Foundation operations. *Tax deductible as allowed by law.*

# Communication Alumni Council Hosts First Fundraiser

On December 14th, 2019, the Communication Alumni Council held their first Applebee's Pancake Fundraiser. In total, we successfully raised over \$1,000 thanks to our generous donors. Funds raised are benefiting the Communication Alumni Scholarship and this year, we are proud to announce we are offering two scholarships. The council hopes to be able to provide two scholarships in the future as well, but we need your help! Please visit [atlantic.edu/alumni](http://atlantic.edu/alumni) and click the "Communication Alumni Council" link for details on how to donate! Thank you again to all of our donors, we look forward to seeing you at the next fundraiser!



Members of the Communication Alumni Council, students, volunteers and Professor Keith Forrest pose for a group photo after the event.

## Congratulations

Cape May County Freeholder E. Marie Hayes '79!



Freeholder E. Marie Hayes '79 poses for a photo with Atlantic Cape Board of Trustee Daniel Money '71, after being sworn in as the new president of the New Jersey Association of Counties in Trenton on Friday, January 24, 2020.

## SAVE THE DATE!

2020 President's Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner



Wednesday, April 1, 2020 | 6:30 p.m.  
 Careme's Restaurant, M-Building  
 5100 Black Horse Pike | Mays Landing, NJ



Celebrate fellow Atlantic Cape graduates at this annual event. Tickets to the dinner cost \$25 and include a three-course meal prepared and served by students from the Academy of Culinary Arts. Tickets are limited so RSVP early!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 18 to Kristin Jackson at [kjackson@atlantic.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlantic.edu) or (609) 463-3621.

ATLANTIC CAPE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# RUTGERS CORNER

## SAVE THE DATE!

### An Inter-Professional Day of Learning:

Strengthening collaborations to improve health, mental health and well-being in South Jersey

**Friday, March 6, 2020**

**8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Reception to follow

CE hours for NJ and NY social workers

\$25 registration fee



Atlantic Cape Mays Landing Campus  
5100 Black Horse Pike, Bldg. Q  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

### SPONSORS

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey,  
Division of Continuing Studies  
Atlantic Cape Community College

### PARTICIPANTS

School of Social Work  
School of Nursing-Camden  
Camden College of Arts and Sciences

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS!

**Anthony Della Vecchia '15**, Academy of Culinary Arts graduate and owner of the Galloway restaurant Tony Beef, appeared on The Cooking Channel's January 27 episode of "The Best Thing I Ever Ate."

**Cape May County Freeholder E. Marie Hayes '79**, who was re-elected in November for another three-year term, recently became president of both the New Jersey Association of Counties and the Southern New Jersey Freeholders' Association.

Former Atlantic Cape student **Sarai Rivera-Huertas** was featured in the December 25, 2019 Press of Atlantic City article 26 Years Later, Student Finds Former Teacher Who Inspired Her Success. After decades of searching for Michele Emery, her seventh grade English as a Second Language teacher at Rieck Avenue School in Millville, Sarai finally found her and was able to reconnect, thanking her for the support she gave her all those years ago. After attending Atlantic Cape, Sarai earned her bachelor's and master's degrees and is now a social worker.

Absegami High School recently named **Theresa Sartorio '89** their Educational Services Professional of the Year. Theresa is Absegami's School Nurse and graduated from Atlantic Cape in 1989 with an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing.

Academy of Culinary Arts graduate **Brad Wise '06** was named the San Diego Union Tribune's 2019 Chef of the Year. Brad, a Cape May native, is co-owner and Executive Chef of San Diego restaurants Trust, Fort Oak, and Rare Society.

## IN MEMORIAM

**David Martinelli, Jr. '72** of Winslow Township, N.J., passed away in December 2019. After graduating from St. Augustine's Prep School, David attended Atlantic Cape Community College and went on to attend the Spartan School of Aeronautics, earning his pilot's license in 1980. David was a member of the New Jersey Air National Guard and a long-time member of the UA Local 322 as a master plumber.

# OPEN HOUSE DATES

### Atlantic City Campus

Information Session

Wednesday, March 4 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### Cape May County Campus

Information Session

Thursday, March 5 • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

### Mays Landing Campus

Campus Wide

Saturday, April 4 • 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## BE INVOLVED. STAY CONNECTED.

And Continue the Buccaneer Tradition of Excellence!

### There are many opportunities for Alumni to Volunteer:

- Mentor Students
- Classroom Guest Speaker
- Volunteer at Alumni or College Events
- Serve on the Advisory Committee
- Assist at College Open Houses and Recruitment events.



Tell us how you want to volunteer.

Please contact Kristin Jackson at [kjackson@atlantic.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlantic.edu) or (609) 463-3621.