

President's Corner



Dear Atlantic Cape Alumni,
Summer is finally here! I hope you are remaining safe and healthy during this unprecedented pandemic.

Although many of our summer activities may look different now, our dedicated faculty and staff are busy working remotely, educating and serving our students, and preparing for the Fall semester.

The entire Atlantic Cape team is working toward gradually reopening the campuses in phases. We recently submitted our Phase I Reopening Plan to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), and it includes the protocols necessary to bring staff back safely to campus to support students who would like to meet staff in-person to register for classes. While we have been working to ensure academic and business continuity by providing instruction and services to students remotely, we plan to reopen our campuses for limited face-to-face admissions, registration, financial aid, counseling, and payments in time for the Fall semester.

Our campuses will look very different this year, with a limited number of students on campus. Fall classes will be available

online, remotely, and in a hybrid modality. We anticipate many science, culinary, and nursing labs, for example, to follow this hybrid model. In addition, we still plan to have student clubs and other activities, which will be engaging but done a little differently. Unfortunately, it is not business as usual, but we are doing the very best we can in light of the challenges we are facing to keep everyone safe.

I also wanted to share some good news with you. Through the federal CARES Act legislation, Atlantic Cape received \$1.98M in emergency student relief funds. These grant funds are for students' costs associated with the disruption of campus operations, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, and childcare. To date, we have awarded over \$1.3M in aid to 1,364 students.

While the CARES Act student relief funds have provided much-needed financial assistance to many of our students, there remains a great deal of unmet need. Atlantic and Cape May counties have been particularly hard hit by the economic effects of the public health crisis, with many of our residents facing unemployment and other financial challenges. The Foundation continues to play a critical role in supporting the College and its students.

The Annual Restaurant Gala is the Foundation's largest scholarship

fundraising event, having generated well over \$3.5M in scholarship funding for students attending the Academy of Culinary Arts. Although the event was cancelled this year, through the unwavering generosity of our supporters, including our alumni, business sponsors, and community at large, we were able to raise nearly \$160,000 through donations and raffle sales. We also raised more than \$15,000 in emergency funds through our **GivingTuesdayNOW** event on May 5.

If you are able to do so, please consider donating to the Atlantic Cape Foundation to help provide critical assistance to our students who have been adversely affected financially by this crisis. To donate, please visit atlantic.edu/foundation or reach out to Kristin Jackson at (609) 463-3621 or kjackson@atlantic.edu.

I thank you for your continued support and I know that we will get through this together as one Atlantic Cape family. Stay safe and be well!

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Gaba
President

Former Public School Teacher Names Atlantic Cape Foundation as Beneficiary in Will



Margaret Lawton, 94, of South Dennis, NJ, passed away on March 22. Margaret was a public school teacher for 35 years, spending 30 of those years at Princeton Regional Schools. She graduated from the Art School of Pratt Institute, Rutgers University, and Columbia University. Margaret also took courses at Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) and Atlantic Cape Community College. She was a

resident of Cape May County for 30+ years and a life member of the National Education Association and New Jersey Education Association. Margaret's legacy as an avid supporter of lifelong learning will carry on at Atlantic Cape, as the Foundation is a beneficiary of her pension. Her generous contribution will provide many students the opportunity to pursue their educational goals.



Atlantic Cape Honors Class of 2020 with Virtual Graduation

Atlantic Cape Community College celebrated the achievements and perseverance of the Class of 2020 during a virtual Commencement Ceremony held on Thursday, June 11 through YouTube, Facebook, and on Atlantic Cape’s website. Over 700 graduates received their degree in a unique ceremony that included keynote speakers, graduate name announcements, and a dedicated slide for each graduate.

Atlantic Cape students held remote viewing parties with their family and friends to celebrate and graduates shared their photos and videos on social media by using the hashtag #AtlanticCape2020. Friends, family members, and members of the Atlantic Cape community including faculty, staff, and alumni participated live by congratulating graduates on their degrees.

Dr. Gaba welcomed the Class of 2020 in the virtual ceremony and Mr. Dennis Kelly '78, an Atlantic Cape graduate and Vietnam-era veteran, delivered the commencement speech. Mr. Kelly currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief Enrollment Officer at Wilmington College. He was recently named one of Atlantic Cape’s 2020 President’s Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Mr. Kelly remarked, “every day is a journey for you. You share it with your family. You share it with your friends. Dream big, set goals, but don’t sell the journey short because you’ll spend most of your life living the journey. You are bright, well-educated (and) marketable. With all that going for you, where will your Buccaneer roots in education carry you?”

During her speech, Atlantic Cape president Dr. Barbara Gaba spoke about how inspired she was by the graduates. “The way our students have handled their personal, financial, and academic challenges this summer was nothing short of admirable. The Class of 2020 rose to the challenge and ultimately persevered.” She concluded by stating, “I truly believe that you can change the world. You are the leaders of the future and have in your hands the tools to make a real impact in our community and the world.” There were also speeches by Student Government Association President Joelle Motley and remarks by the High Honors student Madison Conway.

Additionally, local community activists and freeholders participated in this special ceremony by recording video messages to share with the graduating class. Middle Township native and author, Stedman Graham encouraged students to become lifelong learners. Atlantic and Cape May County Freeholders Amy Gatto and Gerald Thornton congratulated students on their accomplishments and wished them future success.

Atlantic Cape plans to host a traditional graduation ceremony open to spring and fall graduates on December 5, 2020, at Harrah’s Resort in Atlantic City. Nursing program graduates will also be recognized with a formal pinning ceremony this fall.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS!

Academy of Culinary Arts graduate **Brad Wise '06** and one of his San Diego restaurants, Trust, were featured on a May 3 episode of *Food Paradise!* on the Cooking Channel. Brad, a Cape May native, is co-owner and executive chef of San Diego restaurants Trust, Fort Oak, and Rare Society.

Ahmet Sahingoz '19 was awarded the Mathematical Sciences Distinguished Service Award by the Rutgers University Faculty of Arts and Sciences in May. This award is presented to a student who has provided outstanding services in the advancement of mathematics education. Ahmet graduated from Atlantic Cape in 2019 earning two associate in science degrees in engineering and mathematics.

Mark Emmer '76 was recently named Public Safety Director by Egg Harbor City's City Council. He previously served in this role from 2002-2008. Mark earned an associate in science in criminal justice at Atlantic Cape and served with the New Jersey State Police for more than 35 years. He also holds a bachelor degree in criminal justice from the former Richard Stockton College of NJ and a law degree from Widener University.

Food & Wine Magazine named **Douglass Williams '04** one of their Top 10 Best New Chefs in America 2020. Douglass has worked in the kitchens of many prestigious East Coast restaurants including Boston's Coppa, and Corton in New York City, as well as foreign restaurants such as Akrame in Paris. Douglass opened MIDA, an Italian influenced restaurant in Boston's South End neighborhood.

Dennis Kelly '78 was featured in the Wilmington News Journal in Ohio for his recent accolades including serving as Atlantic Cape's 2020 Commencement Ceremony speaker and being named one of the college's 2020 President's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Dennis left Atlantic Cape after attending for one year to join the military during the Vietnam War but returned to earn an associate in arts in liberal arts. Dennis has had a lengthy career in higher education and currently serves as the chief enrollment officer/senior vice president at Wilmington College in Ohio.

IN MEMORIAM

John M. Ryan '74

Harry W. Carrelli '78

Albert P. Schlemo '78

Cynthia "Cindy" Erickson '93

Brian S. Lewis, Sr. '01

What's on your horizon?



We are still accepting applications for **fall 2020**



Support Atlantic Cape Students and Join Us

Friday, October 16, 2020
at Cape May National Golf Club

10:00 a.m.	Registration
11:30 a.m.	Shot-Gun Start
5:00 p.m.	Dinner



For sponsorship or player information, visit atlantic.edu/golf or contact Kristin Jackson at 609-463-3621 or kjackson@atlantic.edu

Despite 37th Annual Atlantic Cape Restaurant Gala Cancellation, Fundraising Efforts are Still a Success!

Although Atlantic Cape’s Annual Restaurant Gala was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our sponsors, ticket and table purchasers, and raffle participants really came through in a BIG way! Due to the generosity of our Restaurant Gala supporters, the Atlantic Cape Foundation has raised nearly \$160,000 (and counting)! These contributions will be allocated to support scholarships for students attending the Academy of Culinary Arts, a student emergency fund, and the general fund to support areas of greatest need.

The Atlantic Cape Foundation is grateful for its countless sponsors and supporters, especially Community Honorees, Stephen and Dianne Nehmad, and Academy of Culinary Arts Honoree, Bill McGinnity, all graduates and steadfast advocates of Atlantic Cape. Please save the date for the 38th Annual Atlantic Cape Restaurant Gala, scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2021 at the Harrah’s Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City!



2020 RESTAURANT GALA COMMUNITY HONOREES



Stephen '72 and Dianne Nehmad '70

Stephen and Dianne Nehmad met at the former Atlantic Community College (now Atlantic Cape Community College) in 1968 and are both graduates of the College. They have remained supportive of the College’s mission ever since. While in attendance at ACC, Steve played for the baseball team as a third baseman and Dianne shot archery. Steve was recently the keynote speaker at the baseball

commitment ceremony and he also threw out the first pitch at a Buccaneer’s game during the 2019 season.

After attending Atlantic Cape, Steve went on to attend Temple University. Steve and Dianne married during Steve’s first year in attendance at Temple University School of Law. After Steve graduated from law school, they reestablished their roots in the community, raising two sons. They have resided in Egg Harbor Township continuously since 1978.

Steve is an executive board member of the Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation, serving as the non-profit’s secretary. Steve also serves on the board for the HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers and was actively involved in establishing the Egg Harbor Township Nature Reserve.

Steve is a member of the law firm of Nehmad Perillo Davis & Goldstein with offices in Egg Harbor Township and Avalon. He is widely recognized throughout New Jersey as one of the leading attorneys in land use and real estate development law.

Steve and Dianne have awarded scholarships in memory of Dianne’s mother, Catherine F. McGowan, every year to current students at Atlantic Cape Community College.

ACADEMY OF CULINARY ARTS HONOREE



Bill McGinnity '85

Chef Bill McGinnity graduated from the Academy of Culinary Arts in 1985. Ten years later, Bill co-founded Nobil Food Services with Norm Imber and the culinary duo has been serving up delicious food and fantastic service in Atlantic and Cape May counties ever since. A short list

of Nobil Catering’s corporate clients has included Atlantic Cape Community College, the William J. Hughes FAA Technical Center, the Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce, Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, Capaldi, Reynolds & Pelosi, Atlantic Electric and Conectiv Energy, AtlantiCare, the Chelsea Hotel, Caesars Hotel and Casino, and the Atlantic City Race Course.

In addition to their corporate clients, Nobil specializes in providing “soup to nuts” catering services for events of all types and sizes. Nobil Food Services also owns and operates Cousin’s Restaurant, located in Ocean City. Most recently, Nobil has taken on a new challenge in operating three restaurants within Atlantic City’s Showboat Hotel -- Atlantic City Eatery, Worship Surf Bar, and, 12 Bar Lounge.

Bill maintains a strong connection to Atlantic Cape and the Academy of Culinary Arts, his alma mater. Nobil provides the cafeteria and catering services on Atlantic Cape’s main campus in Mays Landing. He is also an active member of the Academy of Culinary Art’s Advisory Board.



BE INVOLVED. STAY CONNECTED. And continue the Buccaneer tradition of excellence!

Opportunities for alumni to volunteer

- Mentor students
- Volunteer at alumni or college events
- Be a guest speaker
- Serve as a college ambassador
- Assist at college open houses and recruitment events

Tell us how you want to volunteer.

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