

President's Corner



As we begin a new year, I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. Reflecting back on the past year, I think we can all agree that 2020 was a very challenging time to endure. However, in spite of the hardships that the College and the community have faced, I am proud of all of our students' accomplishments and our work in the community to make these difficult times less burdensome, and I am hopeful for the future.

A new year brings new beginnings; our Spring semester has started and students have returned to the classroom, whether virtually or in person. Although we continue to limit the population density on our campuses for the safety of our entire college community, I am very pleased to report that we have increased the number of in-person course sections this semester to give students more options that meet their academic needs. At the same time, our academics, student support services

and student activities are more accessible than ever, thanks to the expanded virtual platforms we have adopted.

Additionally, we have been busy making improvements to our campuses to enhance the student experience and to elevate our image to reflect the high quality of services we provide. To this end, our Foundation has recently kicked off the "Bring It Home" capital campaign to renovate the baseball field on the Mays Landing Campus and provide our Buccaneers baseball team with the home it needs to practice, train, and play. The plans include a redesign of the field, landscaping, fencing, lighting, a field house, and a concession stand.

This investment will benefit our entire college community because team sports play a major role in building college spirit, teaching sportsmanship, and boosting enrollment. Our baseball program has already proven that it can transform our student athletes' lives by placing a strong emphasis on academic excellence (this year so far, the team has a 3.4 GPA average) while simultaneously empowering players to develop a sense of teamwork, improve their study habits, and learn how to give back to their communities. Now, through

the efforts of our enthusiastic baseball coaches and our fundraising co-captains, Mr. Stephen Nehmad, a proud alumnus and a buccaneer baseball player from 1968-1969, and Mr. Thomas H. Heist IV, President of Thomas Heist Insurance Agency, the new field and facilities will elevate our program to the next level and will give our team the resources they need to truly be at the top of their game.

The official fundraising campaign will kick off in early March. In the meantime, if you are interested in making a contribution to the Foundation for the "Bring It Home" campaign or to support student scholarships and emergency student aid, please visit atlantic.edu/bringithome or reach out to **Kristin Jackson** at (609) 463-3621 or kjackson@atlantic.edu.

I thank you for your continued support, especially during these challenging times, and I look forward to brighter days ahead.

Sincerely,


Dr. Barbara Gaba
President

Atlantic Cape Exceeds 2020 GivingTuesday Goal with Surprise Donation \$10,000 Donation Nearly Doubles This Year's Goal

Atlantic Cape Community College's 2020 GivingTuesday campaign got a big boost on December 14 when an anonymous donor contributed \$10,000 to the Atlantic Cape Foundation – the same amount the college was hoping to raise overall. The generous donor asked that the money go toward supporting the area of greatest need. The funds will be used to provide emergency support for students with significant financial needs.

Atlantic Cape's 2020 Giving Tuesday campaign ran through the end of December and offered donors the opportunity to fund three different programs: renovations to the baseball field, general scholarships, and the areas of greatest need. Prior to the \$10,000 donation, community members along with alumni and friends of Atlantic Cape had already donated close to \$8,000. This now brings the total amount raised to just under \$18,000, which is more than double what the college raised last year.

"I'm incredibly grateful for all of the donations we received in support of our annual GivingTuesday campaign, especially during a time when so many are struggling," said Atlantic Cape Community College President Dr. Barbara Gaba. "Every dollar makes a difference, and this year we are especially thankful and appreciative for the generosity of our donors so we can continue to help our students at a time when they need it most."

To learn more about the **Atlantic Cape Foundation** and its fundraising efforts, please visit atlantic.edu/foundation.



Greetings from the Alumni Association Executive Council President!

Welcome, current and future Atlantic Cape alumni! My name is **Harrison Furman**, class of 2013, and I am writing to you as President of the recently formed Atlantic Cape Alumni Association Executive Council. Other dedicated members of the Executive Council include: First Vice-President, **Ahmet Sahingoz '19**, Second Vice-President, **Bud Hanlin '75**, Treasurer, **Roseann Kobialka '76** and Members-at-Large, **Erin DeLong** (Alumni Nursing Council) '13, **Karen Brundage-Johnson '15**, and **Briar Gibbons** (Communication Council) '14.

I wanted to share with you that we are excited to establish the first-ever formal Executive Council of Atlantic Cape's Alumni Association which will serve to strengthen relationships between alumni, the community, and Atlantic Cape as well as to maintain among its alumni a spirit of fellowship and service in an effort to support the mission and educational goals of Atlantic Cape Community College. The Executive Council will also assist the college to create a welcoming community for all students after they graduate, complete a credential or finish their coursework at Atlantic Cape.

The goal for the Alumni Association is to provide opportunities to network for career opportunities, meet and engage with new colleagues and friends, and support the mission of the Atlantic Cape's Foundation which raises money for scholarships and other resources needed for students to succeed.

For more information about the Alumni Association, please visit atlantic.edu/alumni or send an email to <mailto:alumni@atlantic.edu>. You can also reach me directly if you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments, at hfurman@atlantic.edu.

Congratulations, Terry Budd '78

for recently being elected Cape May County Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation President! Terry retired from Atlantic Cape as Dean of Administration after a 40-year career. She remains a dedicated supporter of the college through both philanthropic efforts and as a member of the Atlantic Cape Foundation Board of Trustees.



Update from the Atlantic Cape Communication Alumni Council!

The mantra of Communication majors is simple: Work Hard. Get Involved. Support One Another. The Communication Alumni Council adopted the mantra as well in order to build a successful community. The council, founded in 2018 has built a foundation of members including recent and older alumni, current students, and Atlantic Cape faculty and staff. Through this community, we have been able to hold numerous fundraising campaigns including our inaugural pancake breakfast in 2019 and online campaigns. This year, like many others, we were unable to host our in person fundraiser as we would have wanted to due to the ongoing pandemic. However, our community still rallied around the council to raise over \$1,500 for this years alumni scholarship. Year after year, the council has been able to increase the number and the amount given to students in the Communication program at Atlantic Cape due to the mantra our community follows. We want to thank our donors for their generosity and for supporting the council and the students during this difficult time. We hope for a better 2021 and hope to see everyone soon. If you have any questions about the Communication Alumni Council, please email us at communicationalumni@gmail.com.



RUTGERS CORNER

Fall 2021
Mays Landing
Instant Decision Dates

March 3rd
April 28th
June 16th
July 28th

See Where
the Cape Can
Take You!

For more information visit
acc.rutgers.edu

The Secret of Getting
Ahead is
Getting Started!

(Mark Twain)

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS!

Michelle Berchtold '19 was highlighted in the Dec. 24 Press of Atlantic City story, "Beacon Animal Rescue Reveals New Mural Just in Time for the Holidays." Michelle, a self-taught artist from Mays Landing, volunteered her time to paint the colorful mural depicting a lineup of stylized dogs and cats on the exterior walls of Beacon Animal Rescue in Ocean View, NJ. Michelle obtained an Associate in Science in Business Administration in 2019.

Armin Cane, former Atlantic Cape student and basketball player, was highlighted in the Jan. 17 Press of Atlantic City article, "Armin Cane, in his 3rd Year Playing Basketball Overseas, is Excelling in Romania." The former standout player for Pleasantville High School spent five semesters at Atlantic Cape before transferring to Stockton University. Armin is averaging 14.4 points per game for the CS Dinamo Bucuresti, a team in the Romanian National League.

In January, Hammonton Public Schools announced their Governor's Educators of the Year for the 2020-2021 school year, naming **Teresa Christopher '93** as their Educator of the Year at the Early Childhood Education Center. Teresa serves as the school's nurse and has been with Hammonton Public Schools since 2005. Previous to that, Teresa worked at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center from 1993 to 2005. She is a graduate of Atlantic Cape Community College (General Studies, A.S. in 1993), Camden County College, Helene Fuld School of Nursing, where she earned her registered nurse (RN) licensure, and Rowan University, where she received her B.A. and certifications in school nursing and health education.

Shore Medical Center recognized **Jane Diep '10** as its December 2020 Guardian Angel for providing compassionate and exceptional care to Shore's patients. Jane earned an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing from Atlantic Cape in 2010. She has been a nurse for ten years and according to the nurse manager of the floor where Jane works, she has truly shined during the pandemic, ensuring patients and their families are kept informed and united while providing compassionate care. Congratulations, Jane!

Joe Giraldo '82 recently announced his plans to run for Atlantic County Clerk. Joe has decades of experience within Atlantic County government and has served on the Hammonton Board of Education and City Council over the years. He is also a former member of the Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees. Joe earned an Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts from Atlantic Cape in 1982 and went on to obtain a degree in history from Stockton University. Giraldo is currently employed at the Atlantic County Improvement Authority, where he supports federally funded housing programs that support low income residents of Atlantic County.

Congratulations to **Turik Hamilton '16** for being sworn in as a firefighter for the Atlantic City Fire Department in December! He is one of 16 Atlantic City residents recently sworn in as part of what the mayor has called a strong recruit class of city firefighters. The Atlantic City High School graduate attended Atlantic Cape and graduated with an Associate in Science in Business Administration. After graduation, he took advantage of the Rutgers University-Atlantic Cape partnership and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration in January 2019.

Hamilton Township Police Department Lieutenant **Christopher Prychka '96**, was honored at the annual Veterans Day ceremony held in Memorial Park on Nov. 11. Christopher was presented with the Township of Hamilton Honors and Remembers its Veterans Award for his service in the United States Army from 1992-1995. He is a 1992 graduate of Oakcrest High School. Christopher graduated from Atlantic Cape in 1996 with an Associate in Science in Criminal Justice. He additionally earned a bachelor's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Congratulations to Atlantic City Police Department **Deputy Chief James A. Sarkos '96** for recently being awarded certification status for Accredited Command Executive by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. Only 29% of municipalities have certified command executives. Deputy Chief Sarkos was named Interim Officer in Charge upon the retirement of Police Chief Henry White in October 2020. Deputy Chief Sarkos graduated from Atlantic Cape in 1996 with an Associate in Science in Criminal Justice. He additionally holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Stockton University and a Master of Arts degree from Seton Hall University in Human Resources Training and Development. He is a 2019 President's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and currently serves on the Atlantic Cape Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

IN MEMORIAM

David S. Banholzer '72

Helen "Bobbi" Burns Hanson '84

Darryl B. Crowder, Jr. '16

Dr. Brian "Doc" Kirchner M.D. '78

Helen M. Lincoln '03, '05

Darryl M. Norwood '05

Garrett A. Scarpa '70

The Atlantic Cape Community College family was saddened to hear of the passing of **Dr. Brian Kirchner '78** in February. Born in 1956 in Wheeling, WV, Dr. Kirchner moved to Egg Harbor City when he was 11. He was a graduate of Oakcrest High School, Atlantic Community College, Stockton College and the University of Medicine and Dentistry where he received his medical degree in 1987. After completing his residency in internal medicine at Cooper



Dr. Brian Kirchner '78
1956-2021

University Hospital, he opened his private practice in 1990 on Church Street in Absecon. He and his wife, Carol Jo, formed Absecon Medical in 2001 and in 2014, he joined AtlantiCare Physicians Group, where he worked until July 2020. Dr. Kirchner enjoyed a wide variety of interests and loved traveling with his family to places near and far. He was a boater, hunter, fisherman, karate black belt, trumpet player and collector. He was also an avid remote-control airplane enthusiast and in 2018, he took his first solo flight as a student pilot with Big Sky Aviation. Dr. Kirchner was honored by Atlantic Cape in 2017 as a recipient of the President's Distinguished Alumni Award. He will be missed by his many dear family members, medical team, devoted friends, his Atlantic Cape family, and caring neighbors.



Countdown to Spring and Lighter Fare is On!

The recent weather has most of us setting our sights on warmer temperatures and brighter days. With springtime on its way, it's time to focus our attention on some seasonally lighter fare after months of carb loading with stick to your rib favorites. No better area celebrates that concept year-round than the countries that border the Mediterranean Sea. Greece, Israel and Cyprus are just three of the countries that are known for indulging in calories, but through wholesome, fresh and local ingredients. One of those ingredients is halloumi cheese.

Halloumi is a delicious, semi-soft cheese from the Mediterranean Sea area, specifically the country of Cyprus. This cheese is a wonderful substitute for traditional proteins in salads because you can actually grill it. Unlike most cheeses with a high fat content, halloumi cheese can easily be grilled without it melting. It will soften slightly and then achieve a lovely brownness much like a piece of chicken or even a normal cut of meat. Although it does not melt like a traditional cheese, it offers a large amount of flavor with a balance of salt and almost crisp like texture.

As we enter the time of year where salads, fish, poultry and fresh fruits and vegetables reign supreme, this is a wonderful dish for brunches and light lunches. For your vinaigrette, Za'atar, a Middle Eastern spice blend made usually of dried herbs such as oregano, thyme and marjoram, dried sumac, and sesame seeds, adds a bright and unexpected flavor. This spice combo is popular in countries on the Mediterranean Sea and has become widely available in most grocery stores.

Israeli Couscous Salad with Grilled Halloumi and Lemon Za'atar Vinaigrette

Serves 2 Prep Time: 1 hour Cook Time: 10 minutes

- 1 box of Israeli couscous, cooked to box directions and cooled
- 2 cups of arugula (spinach or frisée work, too)
- 1/2 cup cucumber, diced
- 1/4 cup onion, diced
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/3 cup kalamata olives, sliced in half
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 1/2 tsp za'atar spice
- 3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 12oz halloumi cheese, sliced length wise into 1/4-inch slices
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Lemon juice to taste

In a large mixing bowl, combine the Israeli Couscous, Arugula, Diced Cucumber, Diced Onion, Kalamata Olives and Sunflower Seeds.

In a medium sized mixing bowl, add lemon juice, za'atar spice and black pepper. Start whisking and slowly drizzle in your extra virgin olive oil. Once all combined, add salt to taste.

Drizzle vinaigrette over Couscous salad mixture and toss to combine. Plate up and set aside.

In a large pan over medium heat, spray with a little bit of cooking oil. Once pan is hot, place cheese slices carefully in pan. Allow to brown and carefully flip over. Brown the other side as well and then plate directly on to salad. Serve immediately and enjoy!



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.