“Oscar Night,” for Communication Majors

by Corinthea Harris

It’s American Idol meets the Oscars and you have a front row seat to the show. Atlantic Cape Community College will host its fifth annual Communication and Art Awards Show at the Walter E. Edge Theater on the Mays Landing Campus, starting at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 4.

“I had no idea running for Communication Major of the Year would make me such a campus celebrity,” communication major Glen Ford said. “But, I have to say I am enjoying the attention.”

Five communication majors will compete for the 2012-2013 title of Communication Major of the Year. Ford, 26, of Mullica Township, will confront student bias.

Ford will explain, in an entertaining manner, what it means to be a gamer while confronting misleading stereotypes.

According to Aris Theoanopoulos, 19, of Galloway Township, his video comedy is going to shock the audience and push the conservative envelope toward the risqué.

Ryan Martin, 19, of Galloway, will also try to arouse the crowd with a stand-up comedy routine.

While Theoanopoulos and Martin are

continued on page 5

Restaurant Gala Steering Committee Co-Chair Justine Coyle explains the tremendous amount of work that goes into planning such star-studded event. “After tonight,” said Coyle, “We’ll start to plan for next year.”

Coyle, who has been on the committee for nine years and co-chair for over a year, explains that tickets were sold out entirely by last Friday.

“It’s a great cause,” said Coyle.

continued on page 2
FROM THE EDITOR

As a picky eater, attending Atlantic Cape’s Restaurant Gala made me nervous. “What if I don’t like the food?” I asked myself, “How could I offend everyone’s hard work?” But after a few hours, I may have been converted to a “foodies.” I ate so many exotic foods that I was bulging out of my ball gown. Nicole (co-editor) and I had the rare opportunity to meet some of the gala’s honored guests who were warm, humble and deeply dedicated to the cause of the gala. Not to mention, I was amazed by the level of student participation and talent that exists in our school. It was clear after a few minutes speaking to members of The Atlantic Cape Foundation, as well as Dr. Mora, how passionately they feel about what the gala seeks to achieve. When I left, I felt like Cinderella being whisked away from the ball at midnight. It was truly an unforgettable experience.

Madison Russ, Editor.
All extravagance and celebrity appearances aside, the gala has a greater purpose in aiding Atlantic Cape students towards their goals.

“We’re very grateful for their work,” said Dr. Peter Mora of Atlantic Cape Foundation. The foundation has raised 2.5 million dollars in scholarships since its inception and continues to annually create more opportunities for students.

From Left: Atlantic Cape Alumnus Deb Pelligrino, was the honoree of the evening. Toni Watson who appeared on “Cake Boss,” and a “Royal Swan,” cake created by Watson.

From Top left: Lasaha Hayes, baking and parties major from Ocean City helped with the desert extravaganza. Jose Cuadros, hot foods major, from Atlantic City helped serve guests.

Bottom left: Tiffany’s and Co. sold mystery blue boxes to benefit Atlantic Cape Foundation. Salmon Rillette, Pickled Cucumber and Salmon Caviar on a Crostini is served by students during cocktail hour. Cape May Salt Oysters on the Half Shell in a Raspberry Veil and Chambord Mignonette from The Ebbit Room restaurant. Smoked Tuna with Cucumber and Oven-roasted Tomato Salad, Wasabi Tobiko and Micro Cilantro from Linwood Country Club.

Shawn Lockyear and friends show off their royal hats at the gala.
**Here’s Your Exclusive Invitation**

*by Corinthea Harris*

*Business Manager*

You are invited to the 5th annual Communication and Art Award Show, 7 p.m., May 5, Walter Edge Theater, reception at 6 p.m.

Radio personalities Mike Richman and Diane Mitchell of 95.1 WAYV’s “Mike and Diane in the Morning” will host the event, which honors communication students, alumni and industry professionals.

This year’s special guests include Michelle Dawn Mooney, news anchor at NBC 40-TV, and P.J. Rebovich, public relations and social media specialist at Revel Casino and Resorts.

More than 100 golden Oscar replica statues will be awarded in categories that include creative writing, theater, public speaking and art awards.

In addition to the performances by Communication Arts Major of the Year nominees, the program includes student-produced videos and dances.

The event is free and open to the public. A reception featuring treats prepared by students at the college’s Academy of Culinary Arts begins at 6:15 p.m.

---

**Cape May Campus Bomb Threat**

*by Madison Russ*

*Editor*

Ryan Ladd, 22 of Marmora, was charged with a third degree crime for false public alarm for a bomb threat made against Atlantic Cape on March 7th.

Ladd posted on his twitter account, “I’m going to blow up ACCC.” Classes were cancelled the Cape May Campus building evacuated while police investigated the situation.

Ladd was still in the classroom when police arrested him. He was not detained and released on summons.

Atlantic Cape’s Facebook page announced the bomb scare with many controversial responses. Joel Griffith posted, “People really need to grow up with these childish acts. Cause like me and everyone else we are losing the money we paid to be in class. Thanks to the A-hole [sic] that decided that this was a good idea”

However, other students didn’t appear concerned. Sarah Ann Harvey had posted, “Duh it’s midterms I wouldn't take it seriously.”

---

**Earn summer credits at Stockton College**

- Eight different summer sessions with starting dates in May, June and July
- Discounted tuition and housing
- Convenient class times, online and distance learning courses available

www.stockton.edu/summer
Budget cuts almost shattered a student-organized award show that stands out among South Jersey Colleges.

The student-run Communication and Art awards makes Atlantic Cape’s Communication Department unique in comparison to other schools.

“Four-year schools don’t have anything like this,” Assistant Professor of Communication Keith Forrest said. “Professors from Rowan have been blown away by Atlantic Cape’s Communication and Arts Award Show.”

According to Forrest, at four-year universities, the typical award ceremonies give students a paper certificate, which does not compare to being awarded miniature golden trophies.

Despite the hard work of students and staff, this year’s event almost went dark.

The normal $3,000 budget for the show was cut nearly in half.

However, Dean of Instruction Ron McArthur generously donated $1,000 from his budget to help keep the production alive.

“The communication awards ceremony is an important part of rewarding students for high achievement,” McArthur said. “I knew that Professor Forrest had worked hard on the preliminary process and I didn’t want the students to be disappointed.”

McArthur and Forrest have taken “the show must go on” approach despite the challenges this year’s event has faced.

“The show would have happened no matter what, even if it meant soliciting donations,” Forrest said. “There’s no way we’d cancel the event. It means so much to the students who look forward to it every year.”

Forrest explained why the students feel strongly about the ceremony. “It’s Oscar night for the communication majors. It’s a night for them to showcase their talent and get honored for their hard work in communication and art classes.”

Audience members will have the opportunity to cast their ballots American Idol-style, voting for the Communication Major of the Year during the show’s intermission.

The winner will become a Communication Department Student Ambassador and mentor future honorees.

Shannon Hartey, currently a junior public relations major at Rowan University, remembers the surreal moment of being named the college’s first ever Communication of Major of the Year.

“When they called my name it took a split second for my ears to comprehend,” she said. “I felt like I laid the ground for future nominees and winners and that felt really rewarding.”

The award show is free and open to the public. A reception will be held in the theater lobby starting at 6:15 p.m.
In today’s technology-dependent society, college students across the United States expect free and reliable access to information via the internet any time and any place. The addition and expansion of WiFi networks on college campuses make these expectations possible to satisfy.

A 2008 survey conducted by Wakefield Research, in conjunction with the WiFi Alliance, surveyed 501 college students in the United States about WiFi access in colleges. Ninety percent of the students surveyed said that WiFi access is as essential to education as classrooms and computers, and 79 percent of students surveyed said that without WiFi access, college would be a lot harder (Dian Schaffhauser, “College Students Find WiFi Essential to Education, Survey Reports,” Campus Technology, 10/7/2008.)

Atlantic Cape Community College offers free WiFi access in select locations on its Mays Landing, Cape May County, and Atlantic City campuses. According to Atlantic Cape’s website, the following are the current available hotspots: Mays Landing – Cafeteria, Library, K Lounge. Cape May County - Cafeteria Atlantic City – Learning Assistance Center (LAC), Library, Cafeteria

When asked whether or not the college has plans to expand the WiFi network on any of the three campuses, Dean of Information Technology Services, Douglas Hedges, said that the increase of WiFi spots or the introduction of campus-wide WiFi services would require a significant financial investment by the college in terms of equipment, network redesign, and internet bandwidth. “Right now that is simply not in the immediate offing,” said Dean Hedges. He further explained that even if the above requirements were met, there are still legal and regulatory requirements that must be met, including those set by the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). These requirements make “open-access” to WiFi difficult to implement.

“WiFi turns limited physical access by students into potential public access by anyone on or even near the campuses,” he explained. “These potential security issues would require network access controls (NAC) and, as a consequence, mandatory login registration anytime a student wished to access the campus network.”

The college, however, does have plans for the immediate future to expand hot-spots in the three campus libraries. “The CALEA provisions are somewhat less stringent when it comes to library access and concomitant access by the general public,” said Dean Hedges. Still, a number of former and current students as well as faculty members at Atlantic Cape are demanding more than they were or are currently being offered. A 2012 survey concerning the availability and reliability of the WiFi networks on all three campuses was administered to a total of sixteen current and alumni students and faculty members. The results of the survey are shown below.
The survey revealed more than just a rating of the availability and the reliability of WiFi hotspots the college’s campuses. Respondents were also given the option of sharing their comments, which the majority of them (14 out of 16) opted to do. Many used this outlet to provide detailed opinions regarding the range of the college’s network and their experiences connecting to the networks.

“IT really is unacceptable that any academic institution would not have free and accessible WiFi throughout the entire campus,” said one current student. “As both a research and educational tool, this is something that should not be overlooked or provided intermittently.” Tuition costs more than enough, can’t they use a little of that money to make our experience just a little bit more comfortable?”

One unsatisfied faculty member provided a suggestion for reducing some of the costs associated with reception issues with WiFi service. “It’s a college campus. We should have better reception. Maybe the

School smoking policy under scrutiny

by Bobby Speirs
Student Government

The Atlantic Cape smoking policy was questioned at a Mar. 1 senate meeting. The current policy prohibits smoking in school buildings and was last updated in 1996.

Paralegal Studies major Elaine Navarro, who mentioned the issue at the senate meeting, believes the policy needs to change.

“People are forced to walk through clouds of smoke when entering buildings,” Navarro said. “I can’t understand why the school isn’t smoke-free.”

Smoking receptacles are placed at building entrances across campus. One nursing student, who chose to remain anonymous, doesn’t believe the school should go smoke-free.

“A no-smoking policy would only stir up controversy with little effect,” she said. “People would still smoke, but wouldn’t have a place for their cigarette butts.”

Stockton College found a compromise to this issue. Stockton policy prohibits smoking except in eight designated smoking gazebos around campus. Atlantic Cape might benefit from a similar compromise.

Ryan Speller, President of Black Student Alliance, doesn’t want to see his freedom to smoke taken away.

“I understand non-smokers’ concerns, but we have a right to smoke,” Speller said. “Designated smoking areas should be in convenient places and shouldn’t be enclosed.” Speller expressed concern that an enclosed smoking area would suffocate smokers.

Amanda Gulig, President of Student Government Association, told Navarro that SGA will look into the issue.

‘Personal touch’ aids in scholarship campaign growth

by Madison Russ & Nicole Schoenstein
Editor and Co-Editor

Dr. Peter Mora, president of Atlantic Cape, discussed at Atlantic Cape’s Restaurant Gala the first-ever greater gift campaign, “Create Opportunity: The Capital & Scholarship Campaign,” that he has been working on with the Atlantic Cape Foundation.

The Atlantic Cape Foundation, which also hosts the Gala and the Golf tournament for scholarships, agreed to help Mora in his proposal and has aided substantially.

The campaign, planned to span over three years, hopes to raise $2.5 million towards scholarships by asking companies for gifts.

“It’s a large amount, but I believe we can do it,” said Mora. “These donors will be creating opportunities for students.”

To date the campaign has raised $1.8 million with 12 months left to meet the goal.

Atlantic Cape Foundation organized a separate committee for the gifts campaign which is being spearheaded by two prominent business leaders, Bill Morey and Doug Fraser.

Fraser, who owns Mays Landing Country Club which hosts the golf tournament for Atlantic Cape scholarships, explains donors come from all walks of life.

“We speak to various businesses, obviously many donors like to remain anonymous.” said Fraser. “But donors range from businesses, philanthropists around the area, students, mothers and grandmothers.”

Fraser also said the casinos have been generous as well. “One person leads to another,” said Fraser.

Although technology has aided in some of their marketing strategies, Fraser feels the best way to reach people is to get personal.

“The most important marketing tool is one to one, face to face,” said Fraser. “It allows for a softer sell, and we have a wonderful president.”

The committee for the campaign as well as Atlantic Cape Foundation is comprised solely of volunteers working towards the goal of relieving college students of financial pressures.
The end of the semester is right around the corner and its crunch time. Plan your Summer and Fall semesters with Atlantic Cape’s own Douglass Mills and Aline Milligan—your go-to duo, especially if you plan to play a sport next semester.

Student-athletes have to have more than ball handling skills in order to be eligible to play any sport at Atlantic Cape. Specifically, student must be enrolled full-time at Atlantic Cape, and attain at least a 2.0 grade point average.

“It’s going to be a struggle,” said Jerilyn Co, nursing major. “But I’ll do whatever I have to do to play volleyball. Practices, games, and homework, bring it on.”

When choosing classes and making time for sports gets rough, Douglass Mills (pictured) is there to help ease the journey along.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management and Community Health from Liberty University, he puts his degree to good use. Mills is a Recreation Specialist, Site Manager for sports games, and the Academic Advisor for male athletes.

His job consists of making sure everything is set into place on game day.

He also helps student-athletes by advising them with picking classes that don’t cross over games, practices, and makes sure they keep a grade point average of 2.0 to be eligible to play.

“I try my best to keep them on their toes,” said Mills. “My goal, along with their goal, is to help them graduate.”

His B.S. in Sports Management doesn’t stop there. Mills scored a marketing job with the Philadelphia Eagles helping with contracts, clients and sales. Even grabbing a few autograph pictures for a few clients was in the job description, but it was all part of the experience.

“One of my first assignments was to walk a little boy out for the coin toss,” said Mills. “I’m pretty sure we had the same amount of excitement walking on the field.”

Next to a picture of the Eagles on his office wall, is a picture of the Philadelphia Phillies and a tribal turtle carved out of wood with Hawaiian leis hanging next to them.

“These are from Hawaii when I used to live there,” said Mills.

In the five years he spent in Hawaii, he spent time teaching as a Physical Education teacher as well as a head coach in baseball, basketball, and soccer at Haili Christian School in Hilo, Hawaii. Why say “Aloha” to the Aloha State? He moved back in 2008 to be with family. But he wouldn’t only do anything for just his family, he makes a connection with students that keeps them knocking on his door.

“Doug is really helpful,” said Michelle Tran, general studies major. “If I never got help from him, it would have taken me a lot longer to graduate, rather than finishing next Fall.”

Aline Milligan is also available to assist student-athletes, as the Academic Advisor for female student-athletes. Her job entails the same duties as Mills, but mainly for women athletes. She makes sure that the athletes are content with their studies and makes sure she keeps the connection with her co-workers and students. Being an Atlantic Cape alumni, Milligan is very passionate about her job that she has kept for 10 years. Doug Mills and Aline Milligan always try to be available and put the students first.

“We have to concentrate on being positive,” said Miligan. “I love my job and what I do, and I have the students to thank for that.”

Interested in joining a sport? Attend one of Atlantic Cape’s informational sessions

**July 19th**- Men’s Soccer Meeting, for prospective and returning players. The meeting begins at 2:30 PM in the Mays Landing gymnasium (E Building).

**July 19th**-Women’s Volleyball Meeting, for prospective and returning players. The meeting begins at 3:00 PM in the Mays Landing gymnasium (E Building).

**August 11th**-New Student Day, Mays Landing Campus. Meet the coaches from our athletic teams, beginning at 11:00 AM in the gymnasium.

More information can be found at atlantic.edu under student services tab.
Articulation Agreement Reached with Rutgers

by Jamie Forand
Psychology

It’s finally official.

For about three years now, Atlantic Cape psychology majors have been transferring to Rutgers as juniors to earn their bachelor’s degrees in psychology without an official articulation agreement. That agreement has now been signed.

On November 14, the last signature was placed in ink on the Psychology Major Articulation Agreement with Rutgers University. Psychology majors can now officially transfer seamlessly into Rutgers as juniors, leaving students with only two years left to earn their bachelor’s degrees.

This means that Atlantic Cape’s classes are on par with a four-year-college’s classes, such as Rutgers, and students are getting the same quality education as they would at a big university.

This articulation is big news for psychology majors at Atlantic Cape.

Dr. Martin Marino, psychology professor, and Donna McElroy, department chair of social sciences at Atlantic Cape, are excited that this agreement is final.

“The agreement is a huge deal,” said McElroy. “It is a big opportunity for students.”

Psychology majors, such as Aileen Frazier, are also excited to go to Rutgers close to home.

“I am very excited to get a Rutgers degree here on Atlantic Cape’s campus,” said Frazier. “It is close to home.”

Creating an articulation agreement can take anywhere from a couple months to about a year.

Because of New Jersey Transfer, which allows most community college students in New Jersey to transfer to universities easily, articulation agreements are becoming more scarce.

According to Wendy Gray, program officer at Atlantic Cape, the articulation agreement puts what students need to do to transfer in writing, making it clearer.

Even though there wasn’t an official written agreement in the past few years, there was an understanding that Rutgers would take Atlantic Cape students, according to Gray.

“The people at Rutgers help students before they even fill out an application,” said Gray. “Most other colleges don’t do that for students.”

The articulation agreements, such as the new one for psychology, come from student needs.

When students transfer to Rutgers through the articulation agreement, the only time they have to go to the Camden campus, is the day they graduate. Students get an accredited degree from Rutgers and they can do it right in Mays Landing.

The problem is that not many students know this.

Sarah Markman, psychology major at Atlantic Cape, says that Dr. Marino tried to get her to go to Rutgers, but she felt it was too far for her old car to make the weekly trip.

“I was going to go to Rutgers, but Stockton is closer,” said Markman. “I did not know about the agreement, or that it is offered on Atlantic Cape’s campus.”

Elizabeth Moore, research assistant for Rutgers at Atlantic Cape, wishes that the advisors at Atlantic Cape would tell more students that the agreements are available to them.

McElroy says that she, along with Paula Davis and Wendy Gray, are working with the advisors so that they can give students the most up-to-date information regarding the articulation.

According to Dr. Marino, the information about the agreement will be listed in next year’s course catalogue.

Even though the staff is working with advisors on getting the articulation information out there, Gray says that college students are adults and it is up to them to take control of their education.

Gray’s advice also includes talking with an advisor to start planning early. She says that students who do well at Atlantic Cape go on to do well in other schools.

“Students that do well here go on to good schools, do well there, and often get scholarships,” said Gray.

Information about the psychology articulation and the other agreements can also be found on Atlantic Cape’s website, Atlantic.edu, under transfer articulation agreements.
by Courtney Rice
Phi Theta Kappa State President 2011-2012

February 9th through the 12th, the Middle States Region of Phi Theta Kappa, which is comprised of Phi Theta Kappa chapters from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington DC, celebrated their 25th Anniversary. For those who attended, it was truly a convention to remember.

Alpha Delta Mu, the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Atlantic Cape Community College, took home the Five Star and Constellation Chapter Awards – a nice reward for all the hard work the chapter accomplished this past semester. The convention was held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and featured an impressive selection of special guests, such as Past Regional and International Officers, Alumni members, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, Dr. Nancy Rieves, and Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa, Dr. Rod Risley.

On Friday Night, the first keynote speaker, Vince Papale, a former Eagles wide receiver who was recruited in the 1970s in open tryouts by the new head coach at that time, Dick Vermeil, was truly remarkable.

His speech concentrated on knowing what one is capable of, no matter what other people say, and the importance of following instincts. Vince also talked about the 2006 movie Invincible starring Mark Wahlberg, which was made about him. It is easy to say that he was an inspiration to everyone in the audience and made everybody think about becoming “invincible.”

Saturday night, the New Jersey State President 2011-2012, Courtney Rice, made her farewell speech. It was bittersweet for her because she had learned so much throughout her term and made many new friends. Her journey as a regional officer would not have been possible without support from Pattie Van Atter, Alumni Advisory Council member and advisor to regional officers, and Dr. Dan Houghtaling, regional coordinator.

Rice’s final words as New Jersey State President for 2011-2012 said, “There is one special person I would like to thank and that’s Nicole Schoenstein,” said Rice. “Nicole, you were the first person I was friends with in Alpha Delta Mu and will never forget the memories we shared throughout our years in Phi Theta Kappa, and you were the reason I wanted to run for NJ State President.”

Future Phi Theta Kappa members are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities that Phi Theta Kappa offers and become a leader, not only in Phi Theta Kappa, but on campus and in your community as well.

Alpha Delta Mu next destination is the International Phi Theta Kappa convention in Nashville, 2012.

SGA voting goes unnoticed
by Bobby Speirs
SGA Rep

Eighty-six students voted in the Student Government Association elections, which took place on Mar. 5 and 6.

Despite attempts to increase participation, voter turnout was lower than the October Freshman Senator elections.

One issue this election cycle was the lack of candidates. No position was contested, which gave voters no choice for whom to vote. Three positions remain open – Program Chair, Secretary and Club Coordinator.

“SGA has advertised heavily at all three campuses,” SGA Advisor Cynthia Correa said. “[The commitment] can be difficult at a commuter school where students have other obligations once they leave campus.”

SGA officer seats require a one year commitment, which is difficult to fill at a two-year college.

The low voter turnout may be worse than the numbers show. Only 51 of the 86 voters participated in the senate elections.

The other 35 votes skipped over the senate elections to vote specifically for faculty of the year. There was a tie between professors Jay Peterson and William Osler.

SGA hopes to find better ways to increase voter turnout.

Offering food at voting stations and holding a raffle for students who vote were two ideas mentioned at the Mar. 8 senate meeting.

Mya Issa, who will take her Sophomore Senator seat next fall, thinks the solution is to build a better connection with the student body.

“A lot of students did not know what SGA is,” Issa said. “I believe this can be resolved ... by planning activities the students would like to participate in.”
Atlantic Cape Works to Ensure “Disabled” Does Not Mean “Disadvantaged”

by Ken Kin  
Staff

They are all around campus, yet go virtually unnoticed-and they like it that way. “They” are the 400-plus disabled students and staff at Atlantic Cape, and they fit right in.

“College is more accessible to people with severe and chronic disabilities than it used to be,” said Lucy McGlynn, a counselor in the Disability Support Services office at Atlantic Cape.

McGlynn started working at the college 11 years ago, and at that time she estimates 85-90 percent of disabled students had learning disabilities. Now, due to advancements in psychotropic drugs and physical treatments, other types of disabilities are just as prevalent on campus, such as wheelchair-bound students, cancer victims, and those with mental health issues.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, a disability is defined as “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of an individual, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment.”

Major life activities include, but are not limited to, “caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, breathing, speaking, learning, thinking, and communicating.”

Atlantic Cape is fully compliant with ADA education guidelines, and has a vast array of accommodations available for students with special needs. However, there are hurdles.

First, it is the student’s responsibility to “self-identify,” that is, to inform the college that they have special needs which must be addressed. Due to confidentiality rules, the college cannot approach the student to inquire if they have special needs. In other words, the college can’t ask a student if they are disabled and require special accommodations.

The second hurdle is that the student must provide documentation from their doctor that verifies their learning or physical disability. This documentation must be current, meaning it cannot be more than four years old.

The doctor must include a veritable laundry-list of information, some of which includes: a clearly defined diagnosis with a summary of the tests, methods, and/or criteria utilized in arriving at the diagnosis, and a description of the present functional level of disability.

Medications, assistive devices and/or treatments needed while on campus, along with medication side effects, if any, must also be included. The credentials of the diagnosing professional must be clearly stated if not on the letterhead.

Ideally, students should make the college aware of their special needs during the admission process. By doing so, everything they need would be in place for them once the semester starts.

“We also may need to train the students on how to use the assistive technology,” said McGlynn. That technology includes software that translates text into Braille displays and screen magnification programs for the visually impaired.

Books, magazines, and articles can be scanned into another machine, which reads the material aloud to the user in one of seven different languages. For the deaf and hard of hearing, there is a program that converts spoken words into text and sign language.

According to McGlynn, Atlantic Cape has a high number of deaf students, so the college can provide interpreters who will attend classes with those students. These interpreters are licensed and certified professionals, who convey the spoken words of the professor and classmates to the deaf student via sign language.

Other accommodations that are available include note-takers, extended time for testing, and readers and scribes to assist, if needed, on the tests.

The note-takers are Atlantic Cape students who get paid for attending a class with, or in place of, a disabled student, creating a win-win situation. Readers and scribes are also available to assist during tests.

Disabled students are allowed time and a half for testing, meaning if their class gets one hour to complete a test, they get one and a half hours. In certain circumstances, they may be allowed unlimited time to complete the test.

The tests are done in the testing center, in a private room, so if readers or scribes are needed they will not disrupt other test-takers.

Stephanie Piermattei, a 21-year-old general studies major at Atlantic Cape, uses some of these special services. Piermattei, of Brigantine, has cerebral palsy and crisscrosses the campus in a motorized wheelchair.

“I need the note-takers and scribes because my hands are too weak to write,” said Piermattei. “I also have specialized desks that my wheelchair fits under in class,” she added, referring to another accommodation the school can provide.

Piermattei feels that Atlantic Cape does a great job overall in meeting her needs, however her big concern is that there are no automatic doors to get into the library or testing center once inside the building that houses both.

“Thankfully, there’s usually someone around to help,” she said.

“I wasn’t even aware the college offered these services,” said Hamel Brahmbatt, 19, of Brigantine. Brahmbatt uses arm crutches to trudge around the Atlantic Cape campus due to surgery when he was one year old for clubbed feet.

Brahmbatt used a wheelchair in high school, but switched to crutches for college. “It’s just easier to get around, plus the classrooms are too congested for a wheelchair,” he said.

Slippery floors in the bathrooms and in the hallways near exit doors during inclement weather are Brahmbatt’s main concerns on campus. “Wet floors and crutches are not a good mix,” Brahmbatt said.

In addition, Brahmbatt would like to see more handicapped parking spaces, as he has a driver’s license and could drive himself to classes, but the spots are taken early and quickly.

The Mays Landing campus of Atlantic Cape has 22 handicapped parking spaces. There are two at the security building, three in Lot #1, one in Lot #2, six in Lot #3, and two in Lot #4. There are also eight spots in a designated, handicapped-parking-only lot adjacent to the library.

Jen Hathaway, 37, would also like to see more handicapped parking spots on campus. Hathaway, of Mays Landing, has worked as a tutor in the writing lab at Atlantic Cape since 2005.

Hathaway has spina bifida, a birth defect that has left her paralyzed from
Hathaway added that security no longer provides an escort for disabled individuals who must park far from the buildings once the handicapped spots are full.

“We evaluate golf cart rides on an individual basis,” said Bill Keener, security and public safety administrator for Atlantic Cape, referring to the mode of transportation security utilizes. “However, if we have the manpower available, we will assist,” said Keener.

The fine for students who park in handicapped spots without the proper tag is $250. Keener said they don’t keep records on tickets issued, but average only a handful per year for that offense.

“Enrollment has steadily increased the past few years, so maybe it’s time we re-evaluate the amount of handicapped parking spots we have,” said Carmen Royal, dean of students at Mays Landing campus. “As far as I’m aware, though, my office has received no complaints about it.”

Despite their concerns, Piermattei, Brahmatt, and Hathaway all feel that the college does a satisfactory job in helping them integrate into the campus community. They’re just like everyone else. “We’re here, we’re people too,” said Hathaway.

Poet Kathleen Graber reflects on Atlantic Cape workshop

by Madison Russ

Editor

Award winning poet Kathleen Graber has been teaching two classes at Atlantic Cape this past semester. Graber, is renowned for her publications in The New Yorker and as a finalist for the National Book Award for her book, “The Eternal City.”

Graber didn’t always have ambitions of being a poet. Growing up in Wildwood, she went on to receive her BA in philosophy at Hofstra university.

After teaching high school English, she was inspired after taking the class to a poetry festival.

“I went home and said, ‘I want to learn to write poems, I want to be a poet,’” said Graber. “It’s kind of a dangerous story, I consider it nearly impossible.”

Graber also earned an MA in Creative Writing and had several fellowships. One included allowing her to travel to Europe for a year.

She is presently teaching a poetry workshop for students and a professional development course for faculty titled, “Truth and Beauty: Poetry in the Classroom.”

“I knew there was an opportunity that the English Department only has every 12 years,” said Graber. “I feel so connected to south Jersey that I wanted to do something with the writing community [here].”

“The department was truly fortunate to recruit a poet of Kathy Graber’s stature for the Beacon’s Visiting Scholar,” said Department chair, Denise Coulter. “Most of the credit belongs to Professor Elinor Mattern and her involvement in local poetry circles.”

Graber and Mattern have been writing together for years.

Graber says that her students are eclectic and that, “There’s a terrific mix of age differences and experience.”

Graber said she tries to influence her students to read up on contemporary American poets that are living.

“No rhyming,” said Graber, “I try to encourage them not to rhyme. You have to be a terrific rhymer in order for it to be more helpful than harmful.”

However, Graber doesn’t dispute that succeeding in the writing industry can have its challenges.

“I think you have to find a writing community so you’re not terribly lonely, show your work to others for support, and to grow,” said Graber. “Everyone needs one honest friend, a ‘No’ man.”

She also said reading other poets and not getting too wrapped up in being published helps.

“Most [poets] don’t support themselves on their stories alone,” said Graber, “You’re still going to have to work.”

But teaching alongside of writing poetry has been rewarding for her.

“I’m very inspired by my students, all of them,” said Graber. “I’m always excited for Monday.”

Graber also began a reading series where poets come to campus or local areas to read their work.

“I took advantage of my friends,” said Graber. She hopes the series can continue even after she leaves Atlantic Cape.

“I have enjoyed working with and learning from Kathy over the last several months. She is a brilliant woman, but she is also humble,” said Coulter. “Students and faculty are mesmerized by her presentations and remark on her accessibility. This is the sign of a truly gifted teacher.”

Read one of Kathy’s poems on pg 13
Most afternoons Margaret Boone’s father threw his crumpled Pabst cans into their cold fireplace, took off all of his clothes & passed out in the living room’s recliner. And when my mother became too ill to bathe herself, she sat on a plastic stool in the tub as I worked my way around her with a sponge. No one is shocked: nearly none of it is too painful or too foul. Routine even, after a time, for all the kids in the neighborhood to grab a towel from the laundry & spread it across her father’s lap. And how common to dream, like Tristan Bernard, that our parents are still with us: to dream them being so cruel that we wake almost happy to find them gone. How very fortunate, he writes.

In Bellini’s oil painting of Noah, drunk & sleeping, the good sons—having already tucked the edge of their rosy cloth from hip to hip—continue to avert their eyes while Ham mocks from above his luminous father’s frail exposure. And so the story goes that for his shameless gaze Ham was cursed & the sons of Ham became the slaves of slaves to the children of their father’s brothers.

When I was twelve, I returned from school to find my mother had been taken to the hospital. I wondered why no one had come to get me out of class. Soon, though, it was clear: it wasn’t the kind of hospital people die in; it was, instead, the kind of place someone very tired goes to rest. Just now, I stopped everything, going to the closet & putting on this worn red wool undershirt, even though it is summer & when I opened the door & pushed the hangers to one side I had actually been looking for something else. Perhaps this is as close as we ever come to stumbling into understanding, if understanding is the familiar weight of a heavy sleeve against the arm inside it & madness is its opposite, a soul caught out in the open not wearing anything at all. My father brought me only once to visit her there & no one spoke of it later, whatever it was that had passed. The truth is I often laugh when I don’t know what else to do. The room was blue & very small & she seemed small & blue inside it. Sometimes we find a way to say what cannot be said.

And sometimes we never speak that for which we could only too easily find the sounds. Noah lived 350 years beyond the flood & became a man of the earth, intoxicated in old age on the vines he’d raised. Even in our silence, we are told, we carry the Word. This morning in the shower, I looked down & saw my mother’s bare body asleep in mine. Noah’s nakedness fills the canvas, making it impossible not to look. As though simply to recall the tale is a sin whose penance is to live knowing you have somehow made it happen again. The memory flickers, almost without detail, shorter than a dream & threatens to go out—illuminated not by an orange flame but by a brutal whiteness. The snowy blast from a television screen. Or a fluorescent light with a faulty ballast which hums & winks all night in an empty hall.


Also check out: “The Magic Kingdom.” (The New Yorker, 2008)

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Attend one of the poetry readings on campus, at the Mays Landing library or at The Noyes Museum. Meet professional poets and fellow writers at one of Kathy’s writers talks:

April 10 at 12:30 PM in A-110 of the Mays Landing campus with poet Anthony Carelli

April 16 in the college library, Mays Landing, with poet Patrick Dugan

Kathy will also be giving a public reading on behalf of the college at the Noyes Museum on April 28 at 1:00 PM.
Grant Wilinski: More than just a librarian

by Erin Martin
Contributing alumna

“Being involved with a library is not a job, it’s a lifestyle. It’s something you want to share with other people,” said Grant Wilinski.

As an associate dean at Atlantic Cape, Grant Wilinski is in charge of academic support services. He also oversees what goes on in the library and tutoring center on a daily basis.

The library was not his first career choice. Grant Wilinski studied music at Rutgers University and was set on his major until he got a part time job at a library. From then on, he studied library science.

“Almost everything Grant is involved in revolves around making the experience at Atlantic Cape better for students,” said Tristan Stoltzfus assistant to Wilinski.

Along with being associate dean, Grant Wilinski teaches a music appreciation course online. He enjoys the connection with students and the convenience of the online classes.

“I like the feeling of being involved in impacting the lives of young people, through the tutoring program and with my online course,” said Grant Wilinski.

According to Stoltzfus, a student who establishes a relationship with someone in administration may benefit via a recommendation.

“He’s very personable, and will go out of his way to help,” said Stoltzfus.

During the work week, Grant Wilinski is committed to his job at the college, but on Sundays his musical talents have been displayed for the last 16 years at St. Joseph’s Church in Camden.

“It’s a beautiful church with tremendous history and it is really a beacon to that city- despite all that is bad,” said Grant Wilinski.

Playing the organ at St. Joseph’s is just one of Grant Wilinski’s hobbies that has carried on from his childhood. His love for reading was sparked by his admiration of his father.

According to Grant Wilinski, when he was a child, his father started a weekly routine of going to the library.

They went Fridays before dinner when his father got home from work.

“It was a beautiful Carnegie library in Camden,” said Grant Wilinski.

Libraries play a part in all aspects of Grant’s life, even his personal life, as his wife Edwina is the assistant library director for Atlantic County.

“There are times he comes to me and says ‘I don’t have a book.’ And I say what do you mean, we both work in libraries,” said Edwina Wilinski.

Grant Wilinski has a few other hobbies besides reading and playing the organ. He is also highly interested in model trains and bonsai trees.

“We have a room downstairs for his model trains and every Christmas it gets in his blood to set them up for display,” said Edwina Wilinski.

According to Edwina Wilinski, the bonsai trees started with one and now there are about fifteen of them. “I tease and say they’re his children because he spends a few hours taking care of them,” said Edwina Wilinski.

Together, Grant and Edwina Wilinski participate in the Literacy Volunteers Association of Cape Atlantic. Grant was appointed a board member and Edwina has been a tutor.

The organization provides tutoring to adults who cannot read and/or speak English. Edwina Wilinski attended a recognition ceremony for the students of the program and was moved by their experiences.

“It can bring you to tears hearing the success of those who have struggled with literacy. I remember one person referred to their tutor as their angel,” said Edwina Wilinski.

With 23 years under his belt at Atlantic Cape, Grant Wilinski is involved in many activities that connect to what he enjoys the most: helping people.

“I live a quiet life, but it’s certainly fulfilling,” said Grant Wilinski.
Atlantic Cape Community College has been open since 1968, but the Cape May Campus didn’t open until 2005. Why the wait?

The state legislature passed the County College Act, which sought to have community colleges in every county throughout New Jersey, in 1962. Six years later Atlantic Community College opened in Mays Landing.

Then Atlantic Community College served Cape May County with six evening courses in 1973. The college rented classrooms from MTHS.

Dr. Patricia Gentile, current Cape May County Campus Dean of Academics, taught a business class at the rented space. “It was challenging,” said Gentile. “To uphold a college atmosphere without college qualities like librarians or a book store.”

Problems arose for teachers and students while using MTHS’s classrooms. “The janitors would lock up all the bathrooms at night,” said Gentile. “My students and I felt trapped physically and educationally.”

High demand for course offerings from the local residents ultimately led to the CMC Extension Center located in Rio Grande in 1980. This was the main provider for the CMC people to gain college credits with daytime and evening classes.

In 1992, CMC officials decided they wanted to create an independent college for the community. “It was the right time for the entire community,” said Ralph Sheets, a CMC freeholder since 1990 and Atlantic Cape graduate, “To make education affordable and convenient.”

Gentile believes the distance between Mays Landing and Cape May was the major reason Cape May County residents didn’t attend. “The bus system was unreliable,” said Gentile, “Students couldn’t trust public transportation to make it to classes on time.”

The N.J. Commission on Higher Education declined the county’s request for an independent college due to low population. The commission urged the CMC officials to become partners with a neighboring community college.

Atlantic Community College and Cumberland County College were on board with the idea and provided proposals to create a jointure with the upcoming campus in 1997. A jointure would expose the Cape May Campus to a larger audience.

After two years of finalizing the proposal, ACC was chosen. “We decided that Atlantic’s curriculum was more extensive,” said Sheets, “We felt we could expand more with them.”

Atlantic Community College became Atlantic Cape Community College in January of 1999. Until this time, Cape May County was the only county in NJ without its own or a shared community college.

The next step was to find a location for the future 65,000 square foot campus. Atlantic Cape’s Site Assessment Task Force narrowed it down to the 29-acre site in Middle Township that locals knew as Goshen Recreation’s backyard. The Superior Court of NJ Appellate Division allowed Cape May County to divert the parkland to build the campus. Local environmental advocacy groups attempted to appeal the county’s decision because of the endangered species inhabiting the site but were rejected.

Despite the environmental groups’ loss, the Department of Environmental Protection provided restrictions mandating future development. The college is allowed to build building or lots on 18 out of 29 acres, must create two ponds, and create a bike path connecting the Goshen’s Recreation Center to the campus.

The college planned to be open in 2002, but “mostly environmental concerns set the process back,” said Gentile. After six years since the official and approved jointure, Atlantic Cape Community College welcomed the Cape May Campus August 25, 2005.

The credit enrollment has increased 40% since opening. Fall term in 2004 had 749 students enrolled in the Cape May County Extension. Fall term in 2010 had 1,409 students at the Cape May Campus.

“The demand is apparent”, said Sheets, “On behalf of the Cape May freeholders, we are impressed and thrilled with the success the Cape May Campus has.”
Atlantic Cape Community College’s Art Gallery is featuring “Life Filled with Light,” an exhibit of paintings by artist Sister Celeste Mokrzycki of Brigantine through April 27. A reception to meet the artist will be held 4:30-7 p.m., Wednesday, April 11. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

Mokrzycki exhibit will display paintings of landscapes, seascapes and figures in watercolor and pastel. She enjoys working with these mediums because she can capture fleeting moments of light and luminosity, which she believes make ordinary moments extraordinary.

Born in Poland, Mokrzycki, a Roman Catholic nun and full-time pastoral associate at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Brigantine, developed a love of art and drama while living in Bayonne. She has studied at Chestnut Hill College, the Fashion Institute of New York and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Most recently, Mokrzycki has studied with Rae Smith, president of the Pastel Society of America. The art gallery is located in C building (C-125), on the Mays Landing Campus, 5100 Black Horse Pike. For more information, contact Buddy Jacobs, art gallery coordinator, at (609) 625-1111, ext. 5346, or bjacobs@atlantic.edu.

Visit the gallery online at http://www.atlantic.edu/artgal/artgal.html.