

# April 2020

# ATLANTIC CAPE REVIEW

The student newspaper of Atlantic Cape Community College, established 1964.

## CORONAVIRUS EDITION

### Timeline of Events

By JOEL VAZQUEZ-JUARBE

**Dec. 31, 2019:** Chinese authorities treat dozens of cases of pneumonia of an unknown cause.

**Jan. 11, 2020:** China reports its first death.

**Jan. 20, 2020:** Other countries report cases, including the United States.

**Jan. 23, 2020:** Wuhan closes off from the rest of China.

**Jan. 30, 2020:** The World Health Organization declares a global health emergency.

**Jan. 31, 2020:** The Trump Administration restricts travel to and from China.

**Feb. 2, 2020:** A 44-year-old man dies in the Philippines. First coronavirus death reported outside of China.

**Feb. 7, 2020:** Dr. Li Wenliang, the doctor who warned the Chinese government about the virus, dies of coronavirus.

**Feb. 11, 2020:** The disease that the coronavirus causes is officially named COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019).

**Feb. 14, 2020:** France announces the first COVID-19 death in Europe.

**Feb. 21, 2020:** The virus emerges in Iran from an unknown source.

**Feb. 23, 2020:** Italy sees a spike in coronavirus cases and officials shut down towns.

**Feb. 24, 2020:** Iran becomes the second country to be extremely affected by the virus.

**Feb. 26, 2020:** Latin America reports its first case of coronavirus in Brazil.

**Feb. 28, 2020:** President Trump calls the coronavirus the Democrats' "new hoax."

**Feb. 29, 2020:** The U.S. reports its first coronavirus death and announces travel restrictions.

**March 3, 2020:** U.S. officials approve widespread coronavirus testing.

**March 11, 2020:** President Trump puts a travel ban on Europe for 30 days.

**March 13, 2020:** President Trump declares a national emergency.

Atlantic Cape President Dr. Barbara Gaba announces that spring break is extended until March 30 and classes will move online until further notice.

**March 16, 2020:** New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy orders Atlantic City casinos to shut down to lessen the spread.

Dr. Gaba announces that she has established the "Coronavirus Task Force" to ensure the college is taking the appropriate steps to keep the college community healthy.

**March 17, 2020:** France goes into a national lockdown.

Governor Murphy announces all NJ schools are closed indefinitely.

**March 19, 2020:** For the first time, China reports zero new cases of the virus.

**March 23, 2020:** Dr. Gaba officially announces the rest of the spring semester will continue online.

**March 24, 2020:** The Tokyo Olympics are pushed back until 2021.

India announces 21-day lockdown.

**March 26, 2020:** The United States has most confirmed cases in the world.

**March 27, 2020:** President Trump signs a \$2 trillion stimulus bill.

**March 30, 2020:** Atlantic Cape classes begin online.

**April 2, 2020:** Number of confirmed cases passes 1 million across the globe.

**April 8, 2020:** Medical companies begin vaccine trials to end the pandemic.

**April 10, 2020:** Global coronavirus deaths surpass 101,000.

Coronavirus cases spike in Russia, pushing medical systems to the limit before the anticipated peak.

## Students become essential workers



PHOTOS BY JOEL VAZQUEZ-JUARBE. LEFT TO RIGHT: AQUIA SMITH, 19, A STOCKTON STUDENT AND JORDAN HAWKES, 19, A STOCKTON STUDENT, STOCK THE COSMETIC AISLE. EMPTY SHELVES IN THE SOMERS POINT SHOPRITE. KATIE COMPTON, 17, A OAKCREST STUDENT, ASSISTS WITH SELF CHECKOUT.

By BRIANNA HOANG

Some students are putting down their pencils and putting on a face mask.

With the pandemic spreading, customers are clearing out the grocery aisles and going into quarantine. Employees at grocery stores and supermarkets are risking their health, so that consumers can stock up their pantries.

Some Atlantic Cape students are on the frontlines while working as stockers and cashiers at the local food markets.

Through an interview on Snapchat, Jasmin Galarza, 20, a psychology major and cashier at ShopRite in Somers Point said, "I enjoy helping people. I could always be selfish and call out, but I chose not to because workers like myself are needed and this isn't a time to be selfish."

The pandemic has affected the

way businesses function. Unlike the Atlantic City casinos, grocery stores are essential and still open for business.

For \$10.75 an hour, Galarza scans items ensuring families have food and essentials. She is now working longer shifts in order to stock the shelves and get customers in and out quickly.

"Working at a grocery store at this time is crazy," said Javier Rivas, 20, a customer service associate at Shoprite in Absecon. "Products sell out quickly."

Certain items such as meat, water, and paper towels now have a quantity limit per customer. ShopRite employees can't help customers bag their items if they bring their own reusable bags. Employees also can't accept any money from customers who lick their fingers prior to handing the cashier their change.

"If I come in contact with some-

one I'll use hand sanitizer or wash my hands whenever available," said Galarza. "It is never a bad thing to be too cautious because you never know who can have it."

As schools and nonessential businesses have been closed, the economy has felt the effects.

Governor Murphy ordered Atlantic City's nine casinos to shut down on Monday, March 16 to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This made paying the bills for many students and parents difficult, especially with the backed-up unemployment website.

During a FaceTime interview, David Vathanavong, a table games assistant shift manager at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino said, "There's no customers. There's no employees."

Only essential employees are allowed in the building. All other employees will be notified when

the casino reopens for business.

Amy Vathanavong, David Vathanavong's niece, is a restaurant server at two different casinos, Souzai in Caesars and at Kuro in The Hard Rock.

Due to the shut down, Amy Vathanavong is struggling to pay off her credit card bills and college tuition. "The coronavirus has put me out of work with no date of return," said Vathanavong. This will make it take longer to get her associates degree in health science from Atlantic Cape.

By staying up to date with the latest news, civilians can educate themselves and others about social distancing. After all, the bills and student loans are not going to pay for themselves.

# CORONAVIRUS

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BY GIANNA MALGIERI

Hi everyone. I wanted to check in with you personally because I've been thinking of all of you for the past month and a half.

I know that some of us are having difficulties with transitioning online and not seeing our professors, friends, and classmates in person.

I also understand that massive amounts of time at home during quarantine can start to take a toll on your mental health.

So, here are a few words of encouragement and some ideas on how to keep your mind busy and free of your demons.

Have you been struggling with being productive? I know I

## Letter from the Editor

have, but writing a list of the things you want to accomplish each day can help with that. It'll feel rewarding when you cross off each task.

Clean out your room of anything you don't use or need anymore. Go through your closet and donate the clothes that you haven't worn. Free yourself from clutter. A minimalist life is a stress-free life.

Do some yoga, even if it's something you haven't tried before. There are free videos on YouTube to help.

Get in the kitchen and cook or bake your favorite plate or treat. Write yourself encouraging,

positive Post-it notes and stick them to your mirror or wall.

Take a walk outside. Take deep breaths of the fresh air.

Start a new series. Rewatch your favorite movie.

Although these are just a few ideas, these are what are helping me stay sane during the pandemic. I hope they will work for you as well. I would like to remind you that you can feel free to reach out to me with any questions or if you just want to talk. Email me anytime at gianna-malgieri@gmail.com.

I'll check again with you in May for our final ACR edition of this semester.

## COVID-19 affects transfer process

BY JULIA TRAIN

Transfer students sit at their computers to take virtual tours of their future schools because they can't drive to visit in person.

Students now have to pick their four-year schools and attend admissions events and open houses online. The option for students to choose their transfer institution based on another campus tour has been taken away because of COVID-19.

"I'm worried because I don't know what I want to do. I wanted to go back to the schools physically and walk around and I can't now," said Elizabeth Dephilippis, 19, a general studies major, in a Zoom call, "I've been to Bentley three times and Duquesne only once."

Dephilippis applied to Bentley University and hasn't heard back yet. However, she was accepted to Duquesne University in February and has until May 1 to put her deposit down.

"Bentley starts sending out their acceptances on April first. So I have one month to hear if I'm accepted and commit to a school," said Dephilippis, "If none of [Bentley's] deadlines get pushed back, I'll probably be going to Duquesne. It's kind of pushing me into a corner."

Many other students are experiencing the same thoughts and feelings as Elizabeth Dephilippis. Some are even worried because the reopening of universities is still unclear. While some are still trying to decide where they are trying to go, some don't know if their school of choice will be open in the Fall of 2020 semester.

Dephilippis sent all the needed forms to both schools. Now, she just has to wait. Also worried about the waiting process is her brother, Daniel Dephilippis, a 22 year-old general studies major.

He applied to four schools, one of which is SUNY Canton, located in New York-the state with the most COVID-19 cases. According to SUNY Canton's website, all admissions events are being held virtually.

SUNY Canton isn't the only institution changing their in-person admissions events. Stockton and Rowan University are making the same changes.



PHOTO IS PROVIDED BY ELIZABETH DEPHILIPPIS WHO IS PICTURED HERE.

**"I'M WORRIED BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO. I WANTED TO GO BACK TO THE SCHOOLS PHYSICALLY AND WALK AROUND AND I CAN'T NOW."**



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DANIEL DEPHILIPPIS WHO IS PICTURED HERE.

"We've removed as many barriers as possible for the students in this unprecedented time," said James Rodia, the assistant director of admissions and transfer coordination at Stockton University, in a phone interview.

Advising appointments and housing tours are now held virtually. The housing tours can be found on the Residential Life pages for both Rowan and Stockton Universities.

Open houses have also been postponed at Stockton. The transfer-only open house that was originally on June 9 is now scheduled for July 21. Students who have registered for the original date have been automatically moved to the new one.

Both universities have free transfer applications. Students applying to Stockton can use the promo code FINISH-STRONG2020 to get their \$50 application fee waived for the rest of the semester.

Rowan University's transfer application is free on its website: rowan.edu/transfer. No essays or letters of recommendation are needed.

"The deadline for transfer applications is April 15 as of right now, but probably will be extending it to some time in June," said Lucia Nurkowski, the associate director of admissions at Rowan University, in a phone interview.

Admissions advisors are viewing applications and making acceptance decisions from home. Students can even text them with questions.

Students that are worried about their grades dropping and affecting their acceptances during their last semester at Atlantic Cape don't have to panic. Rowan University looks at the GPA of the last semester that students have fully completed. The minimum GPA to get accepted into the university is 2.0 for most programs.

Rowan is also reworking its system so that transfer students can send their unofficial transcripts.

"Nobody's ever had to deal with a pandemic and there's so many different aspects of it that the universities can't think of every single one," said Elizabeth Dephilippis.

## Nursing student adapts to curriculum changes

### Motley shares her experience of being a nursing student during the rapid changes of the curriculum of Atlantic Cape

BY BRIANNA YOUNG

“The fear powers us to action,” said Joelle Motley, 27, a nursing student.

The nursing program is adjusting their curriculum due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Since starting this program, I have doubted myself. I’ve been exhausted, I have even hidden in a closet, and cried because of some of the problems I’ve seen others endure,” said Motley. “But somehow, I know when you hit that floor it’s game time and you just go.”

On March 30, all classes at Atlantic Cape were required to be completed online. Like all students at Atlantic Cape, nursing students are forced to adjust to online classes.

“However, much like the medical field, the professors and the students are adapting and grateful for the opportunity to continue pursuing their degrees,” said Motley.

Motley works about four hours a day on her schoolwork from home. “I feel the need to be thorough in my reading of all the content in my classes in order to utilize my time with the professors as much as possible,” said Motley.

**“HOWEVER, MUCH LIKE THE MEDICAL FIELD, THE PROFESSORS AND THE STUDENTS ARE ADAPTING AND GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE PURSUING THEIR DEGREES.”**

She is confident in her professors to teach and provide all the information she and her classmates need to learn for the National Council Licensure Examination. The NCLEX is the examination for the licensing of nurses in the United States since 1982. They are still on track to complete their degrees in a timely fashion.

Some parts of the program, such as clinical hours, are still unresolved. Clinical hours are the required time spent hands-on with patients. Nursing students learn new techniques to apply to their patients. Clinical hours are required to take the NCLEX.

Nursing students are not actively completing their clinical hours at Atlantic Cape and no one is sure when it will be up and running.

“There is no firm answer to that question, yet.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOELLE MOTLEY. LEFT TO RIGHT: JOELLE MOTLEY AND A FELLOW NURSING MAJOR.

I’m assuming that has a lot to do with the shortage of personal protective equipment in the clinical settings and the safety of the students,” said Motley.

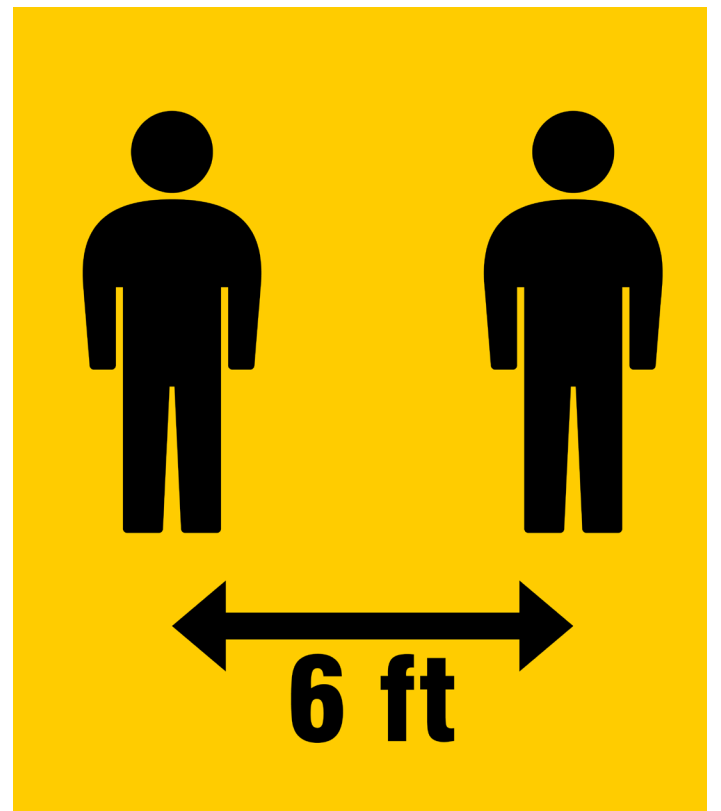
The first time Motley was hospitalized in the second grade, she connected with a nurse that inspired her. “The nurse there made me feel at home when I was so far away from my family,” said Motley. “She made me ice cream cookie sandwiches, brought movies for me to watch, and even bought me a toy that I kept until adulthood.” Motley wants to do the same for others.

“I guess it is a calling, but it’s instinctive and

natural... and everyone that I’ve seen come through those classroom doors in H building has it in their eye,” said Motley.

“There is some concern about the iconic pinning ceremony and NCLEX,” said Motley. “Mostly everyone in this program wants to get out in the world and help.”

Details of graduation or the pinning ceremony for nurses is still unknown. The pinning ceremony is a nursing school tradition. It signifies their official initiation into the brotherhood and sisterhood of nurses.



# Annual Communication Awards postponed



PHOTO OF THE 12TH ANNUAL (2019) COMMUNICATION AWARDS PROVIDED BY THE COMMUNICATION AWARDS CLUB.

BY RACHEL DOUGHERTY

For the first time, the Communication Awards ceremony isn't being held this spring. The awards show is in its 13th year of recognizing student achievements in communication courses. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Atlantic Cape has indefinitely closed its doors to faculty, staff, and students.

"My department plans and organizes all of the events on campus. We're dealing with cancellations and reschedulings everywhere," said Briar Gibbons, 29, the program assistant for conferencing and events. A 2014 graduate of Atlantic Cape, Gibbons is no stranger to the Communication Awards.

"It was like 'SNL' in the past with dances and skits. One year we took mics into the audience like 'Billy on the Street' style," said Gibbons.

She served as Communication Major of the Year in 2013. Also she's the current president of the Communication Alumni Council, and the co-advisor for the Communication Awards Club with professors Keith Forrest and Jenna DeLuca.

"As an alumni, an employee, and an advisor, it's weird to me. We've always had Communication Awards and it's called 'homecoming' for alumni," said Gibbons. "I was really upset because the students worked really hard."

Atlantic Cape alumna Jes-

sica Mounce ('16), 24, was supposed to co-MC with fellow alumnus Kyle Schachner ('16), 26.

"We were excited to be the hosts, not being able to do it is unfortunate, to not be able to meet the new generation coming through," said Mounce.

Award winners receive trophies up on stage for their achievements. This year, no decision has been made yet about how the trophies will be given out, but the Communication Awards Club continues to hold meetings through Zoom. Contingency plans are being discussed.

"If I was in [a communication student's] shoes, my takeaway would be 'Okay, I need to keep up these con-

nections.' Be more involved," said Schachner.

Because of social distancing, the process for choosing the 2020-2021 Communication Major of the Year has turned into an online election. "It's the only right way and fair way to do it," said Gibbons.

Voting can be accessed on the Atlantic Cape Communication Club's Facebook.

For Sophie Cohen, 18, a communication major, this would've been her first time at the Communication Awards. "I love how it's a family. I never felt excluded. I love the competition. I keep pushing myself," said Cohen, a candidate for Communication Major of the Year. Cohen hoped to showcase her videography skills as a contestant for Communication Major of the Year.

"People would say 'it's bigger than the Oscars' and I thought 'what's this hype about?'" said Cohen. "Now I'm kind of disappointed."

"Communication Awards was a place where we got to show off who we were, what we do, and get recognition for our work," said Mounce, a member of the Communication Alumni Council and former assistant editor of the Atlantic Cape Review.

Despite the disappointment felt by both communication students and alumni, there shouldn't be any changes in the future communication awards.

"I think that in the world we'll see a lot of program changes, companies and employees going online, but the one thing that won't change will be Communication Awards. It'll be weird, but we'll keep going," said Gibbons.

Alumni and students believe that the communication program is still strong. "The culture will live on," said Schachner.

## High schools move classes online: ACIT

BY KAYLA CORSON

COVID-19 has changed how high school students are learning.

All 38 high schools in Atlantic and Cape May counties have switched from teaching in classrooms to online learning due to the pandemic. The Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT) is one of them.

ACIT has different challenges and advantages than most high schools during this change. One challenge teachers are facing is changing hands-on academy classes, such as engineering and video production, into an online format.

The Academy of Math, Engineering, and Science (AMES) classes involve interactive labs, building prototypes, and learning to program robots. AMES teacher, Robin Heggan, has been converting the active class online by moving lesson plans around.

"It was kind of difficult, but I had to take a step back and look at my classes and say, 'What can we do right now that when we go back to school we can finish it up?'" said Heggan, 52, via FaceTime.

Heggan has kept her classroom as interactive as possible. She holds Google Meet sessions every day in order to keep students engaged and to answer any questions. She also searches for online labs that they can watch together as a class to avoid only doing lectures.

Tom Piotrowski's video production classes take a different ap-

proach. His classes connect once a week using Google Meet to discuss the weekly agenda. Piotrowski then assigns work that will be due by the end of the week. This allows students to complete work on their own time.

He realized not every student will have access to the equipment needed to film videos. Piotrowski has these students study media by conducting their own research and writing reports.

"The hardest thing is not for me. It's for the learner because we have a variety of learners, learning abilities, and concentrations of diligence that are in this one classroom," said Piotrowski, 50, the media arts and production teacher via FaceTime.

One of the advantages that ACIT has over other high schools is the students have access to Chromebooks. The school has been providing students with laptops since 2015.

The I.T. department is prepared for any Chromebook issues. The students can contact the school and I.T. will connect to the computer to fix the problem. If that fails, the student can either pick up a new Chromebook or ACIT will bring a new laptop to them.

While students have adapted to learning online, some students have discovered that online learning can't replace socialization.

"When you're online, everyone's microphones and cameras are off. Everyone is also kind of tired and don't

want to be on their computers at home. And people just aren't participating as much as they would in a normal classroom," said Aaliyah Banasiak, 17, an ACIT senior via FaceTime.

Banasiak also feels like she is losing time to see her classmates before graduation. While the senior trip, prom, and graduation have not been canceled or postponed, they are up in the air.

"I've cried almost every day. I know that sounds dramatic, but these are the last couple of months that I would've had to spend with my friends and the underclassmen, but now it's been ripped away from us," said Banasiak.

The sports teams have been forced to cancel their seasons. Senior athletes, some putting four years of dedication into the team, are unable to play their last game as ACIT Redhawks.

"The seniors definitely have it rough right now, with not only the senior events but senior athletes who are missing their last sports season. My heart just breaks for them," said Victoria Ragone, 33, a school counselor and the senior class advisor, via email.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, high schools will go back to teaching in classrooms. Tom Piotrowski doesn't believe that education will be exactly the same though.

"I do think, especially after the coronavirus, you are going to see monumental changes in the way we educate," said Piotrowski.



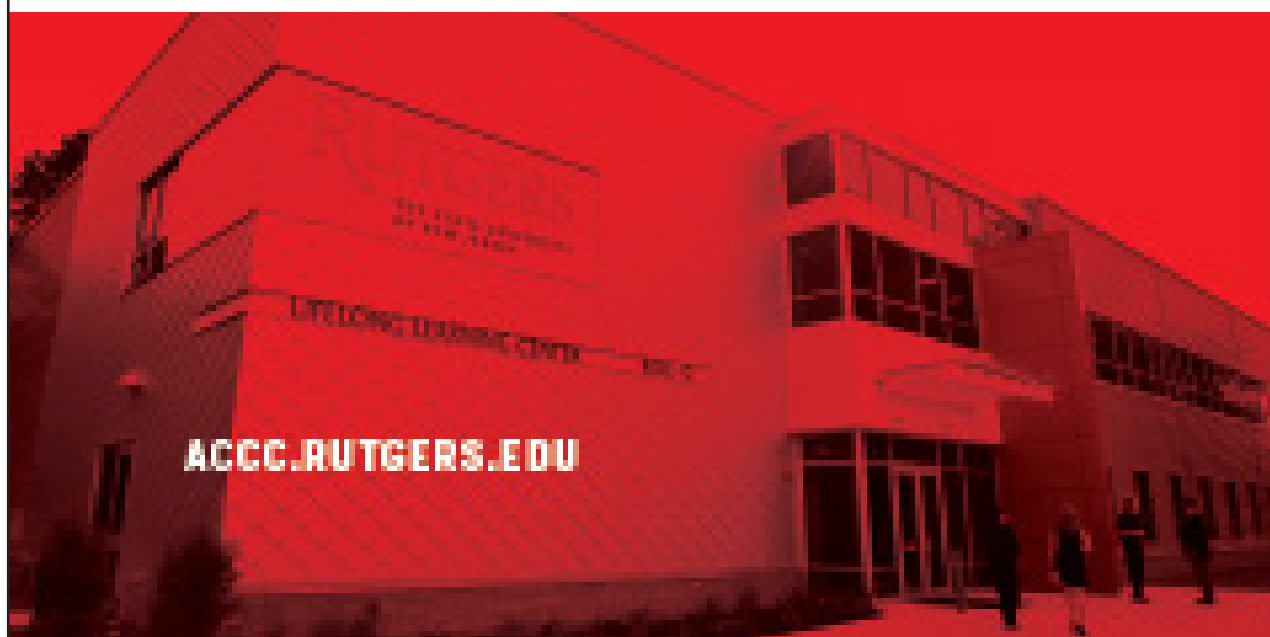
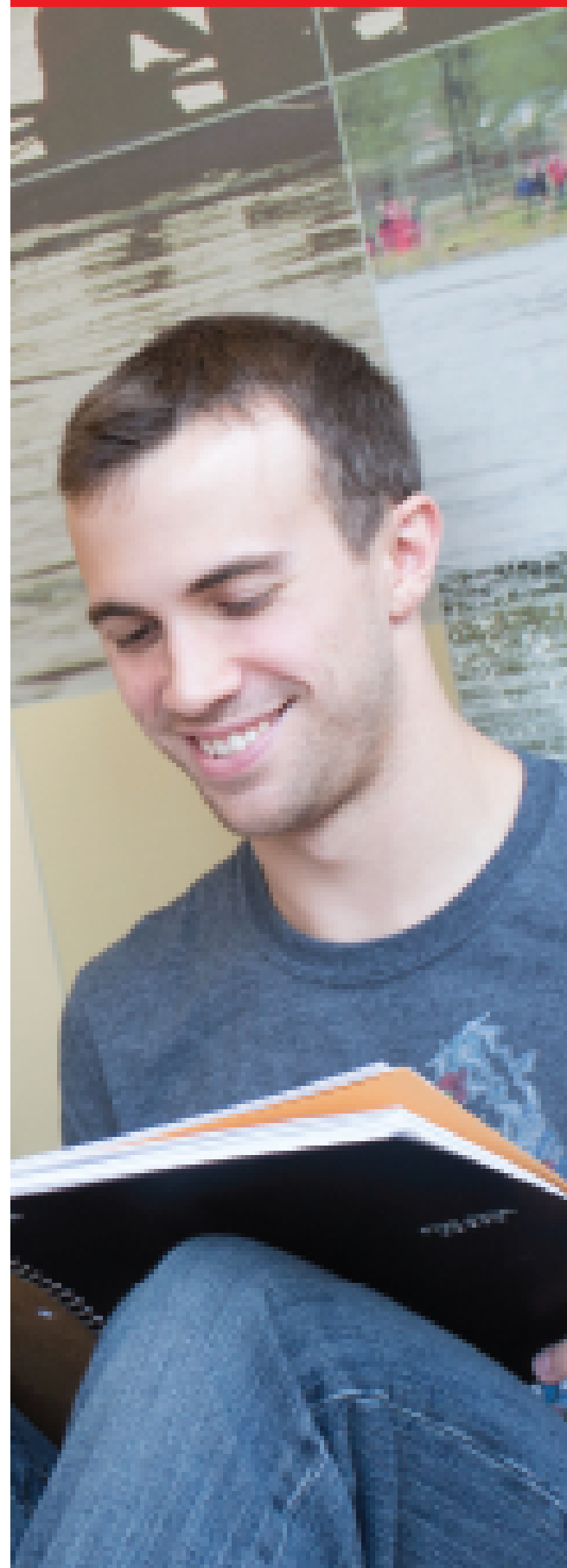
PHOTO BY NICK PENSA. TOM PIOTROWSKI HELPS STUDENTS EDIT VIDEOS.

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**TODAY**

## COMMUNICATION MAJOR OF THE YEAR

UPDATE:

The 13th annual Communication Major of the Year ceremony was originally planned for Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m. Because of the coronavirus, the ceremony cannot take place. Instead, voting will be available via Google Form and voting will begin on Friday, April 24 and end on Friday, May 1. The ballot will be made available via the Atlantic Cape Communication Facebook page. All who would typically attend the show are welcome to vote: students, family, friends, professors, alumni, etc. It is not yet decided how the winner will be announced.

### SOPHIE COHEN

"I am studying communication specializing in radio, TV, and film. My interest in communication began in the Media Club during high school.

Before I began my track with communication, I was extremely shy and had little confidence in myself. Communication has drastically changed my life for the better. Now I have more self-confidence and I immerse myself in activities that I normally wouldn't have in the past. I was a member of 11 clubs in high school and President of the Media Club. I want my fellow peers to have this confidence and urge to be involved like I did.

Being a communication major means setting yourself apart from others and pushing yourself beyond your goals. If I am selected Communication Major of the Year, I will give my all and more to better the Communication Club and its members. I want to raise funds to give the members a chance to have hands-on experiences in the communication field. I want others to experience the day in the life of being on a real movie set or as an intern in a communication work office. I will push every member to participate in activities they normally wouldn't. I will guide every member to be their best and coach them to become their best self. I want to give communication majors a memorable and profitable college experience. I will set an example of astonishing work ethic and diligence as Communication Major of the Year.

If I am selected as Communication Major of the Year, not only will the communication club strive but its members will. I will strive to give my peers the same opportunities I was given no matter what. However, if I am selected I will make the ability of reaching my goals realistic."



### RACHEL DOUGHERTY

"Atlantic Cape's communication program means the world to me. The people I've met are my greatest source of comfort when the tides of life seem unbearable.

Anyone that knows me knows I can be described as strong-willed, sarcastic, and fiery. I've been judged and excluded for these qualities, but my peers and professors in the communication program have never made me feel this way. I feel seen and heard more than I've ever felt in my entire life.

I've furthered my leadership skills as Communication Major of the Year Runner-Up, Student Government Secretary, and a mentor for the mass media class. I have never worked as hard as I work in Professor Forrest's classes. I study for his quizzes and I used to never study.

The communication program has shown me the potential I have as a student and leader. I want to give back in any way I can, which is why I've decided to run for Communication Major of the Year again. The lessons I've learned in the communication program are ones I will carry for the rest of my life.

As a communication major, I find any opportunity I can to help my fellow classmates to succeed. I'm driven by a force to want the best for myself and everyone around me.

Although it's bittersweet to imagine transferring one day, with my time as a student here I have and still can accomplish great things."



### DEVAN FREAS

"When I first enrolled into Atlantic Cape I was fresh off the worst few years of my life. I questioned my worth and direction, or lack thereof, constantly. Starting as a general studies major my first semester, I was taking classes just to take classes. I didn't have a goal to move towards. It wasn't until I gave my pipe dream of a film career a real chance that I realized my love of movies was an outline for an attainable career.

With my newfound determination, I pushed myself out of my bubble to try and spark some joy in my life. Turns out, I wasn't half bad at understanding the Communication courses in my second semester. With a more optimistic look into my future, I gained some confidence to do what I wanted to do -- which was, undoubtedly, a new feeling. I've achieved A averages in communication classes including Pop Music and Radio History, Public Speaking, and Journalism II. The purpose behind me running however, doesn't come from my confident, eager present day persona but from the lonely, depressed self who didn't know where to go. I feel it's an obligation amongst any and all communication majors to spread the word of our incredible department to aimless students in desperate need of a community.

I should be chosen as Communication Major of the Year because I've achieved an incredible amount of growth and confidence while in this department. As a student leader my sole objective is for fellow Comm majors to realize what they are capable of if they just push themselves a little harder outside their comfort zone."



### JOHN MAGGIO

"One of the most important lessons I grew up learning was that volunteering in the community is the best thing that you can do for yourself.

As a 19 year-old young man who has been volunteering in his community for 13 years, I can honestly say it's brought me nothing but happy memories and times I will cherish for the rest of my life. These experiences shaped me into the loving, energetic, and goofy person I am today.

It's because of these traits that I believe I'll be the best candidate for Communication Major of the Year. Volunteering is a part of who I am so even after I graduate Atlantic Cape Community College I'll still be back for all the big events to show my support to the current student body. I'll bring my energetic and goofy personality everywhere I go, hoping to relieve students and staff of their midterm or finals stress, or liven up a club activity.

Some people like to say 'I'm here for a good time' and others say 'I'm here for a long time.' I like to say I'm here for both. I'm here to have a good time for a long time and spread positivity not only through the Communication program, but throughout all of Atlantic Cape Community College."

