

## President's Corner



Summer is in full swing, and here at Atlantic Cape we are as busy as ever working to expand access to a high quality and affordable education! I am pleased to report that during the Spring

2019 semester, over 300 Atlantic Cape students received nearly \$410,000 in last-dollar financial aid through the State of New Jersey's Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) program. This is great news, and it is a big "win" for college affordability and for the students that may not have been able to afford to attend college without it.

Therefore, I am thrilled to share that the state budget recently signed by Governor Murphy renewed and expanded funding for CCOG for the 2019-2020 academic year! Better yet, our legislators took affordability advocates' recommendations and feedback to heart, and as a result, the household income eligibility threshold has been raised from \$45,000 adjusted gross income (AGI) up to \$65,000. The financial barrier to higher education is

now smaller than ever before.

As we prepare for the fall semester to begin, I would greatly appreciate your help in getting the word out to your communities about this amazing opportunity. I would also like to note that while removing the financial barrier of the cost of college tuition is a major victory, it is not enough. There are many costs associated with higher education that fall outside of the scope of financial aid programs such as the CCOG. For example, books and supplies, transportation, and childcare can often account for a large percentage of a student's expenses, but are not covered by most financial aid programs.

This is one of the reasons why the scholarships that the Atlantic Cape Foundation awards to our students are so critical. These scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of local business owners, philanthropists, and other friends of the college—especially alumni—and they typically have fewer restrictions than state and federal financial aid awards. As such, they play a key role in closing these gaps to expand access to higher education.

The College has also been working diligently to address these hidden costs in a variety of ways. Notably, we received a \$10,000 "Special Projects"

grant from the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education to combat food insecurity on campus. We were able to use a portion of these funds to distribute free food to our students during Finals Week in May, and I am proud to announce that we will be using the remainder of these funds to open food pantries on all 3 Atlantic Cape campuses for the upcoming fall semester. It is our hope that these pantries will help to ensure that no student goes to class hungry.

We are currently in the process of recruiting volunteers to help staff the pantries, and we will also be soliciting donations of food and other supplies (such as toiletries and personal care items) to keep our pantries well-stocked throughout the academic year. If you would like to get involved and/or make a contribution, please contact [foodpantry@atlantic.edu](mailto:foodpantry@atlantic.edu). I thank you for your support of Atlantic Cape and I look forward to sharing more of our successes with you in the future!

Dr. Barbara Gaba  
President

## Alumni in the News!

Academy of Culinary Arts Chef Educator, **Annmarie Chelius, '82, '84**, was honored as the 2019 Idaho Potato Commission Post-Secondary Innovation Award winner during the Center for the Advancement of Foodservice Education's (CAFÉ) 15th Annual Leadership Conference hosted by Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte, NC on June 20.

U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman **Gaige L. Bobbitt, '18** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, TX.

Cape May County Freeholder **E. Marie Hayes, '79** served as the college's keynote speaker at the 2019 Commencement Ceremony held on May 23. Additionally, she was one of three women honored at the annual Power of the Purse luncheon sponsored by the United Way held on June 6 at the Linwood Country Club.

**Drew Huggard, '11** was featured in the May 25 article, "Romanelli's Owner at Home in the Kitchen" in The Press of Atlantic City. The Academy of Culinary Arts graduate and owner of Romanelli's Garden Café in Galloway, gave a tour of his home for the weekly series "My Happy Place."

Senior vice president and chief enrollment officer at Wilmington College (Ohio), **Dennis Kelly, '78**, spoke about being selected as

one of six finalists for the Hobson's 2019 Education Advances Award (higher education category). Finalists of this award are recognized for their achievements in three categories: College, Career, and Life Readiness, Match and Fit Admission, and Student Success and Advising. The three winners will be announced on July 30 at the Hobsons Summer Institute 2019 in Marco Island, Florida. Additionally, Dennis returned to Atlantic Cape on May 10 to deliver the keynote speech to attendees of the inaugural "Breakfast of Champions" hosted by the Athletics Department. Dennis shared his story about being an Atlantic Cape student-athlete and the lasting impression the college has made on him both personally and professionally.

MADE Atlantic City Chocolate Bar was noted as one of the "5 Things I'm Loving Right Now" in the June edition of Rachael Ray's Everyday magazine. The bean-to-bar chocolate shop on Tennessee Avenue is owned by husband-and-wife-team **Mark and Deb Pellegrino, '92**, graduates of the Academy of Culinary Arts.

**Lt. Douglas Whitten, '91** of the Lower Township Police Department was recently promoted. He is a past recipient of the Lower Township Police Department Outstanding Achievement and Commitment Award. In 2019, he graduated from the NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy.

## Atlantic Cape Community College Students Receive Over \$300,000 in Scholarships

Atlantic Cape Community College awarded 245 scholarships totaling over \$300,000 at its 52nd Annual Scholarship Recognition Ceremony on May 21. This amount represents only a portion of the scholarships to be distributed throughout the year. Atlantic Cape receives generous donations and raises funds through our Foundation so that a wide range of scholarships are available for both new students and current students.

The event included scholarship recipient and donor presentations, a donor reception and the opportunity for scholarship recipients to meet their respective donors. President Dr. Barbara Gaba; Jean McAlister, Chief of Staff and Atlantic Cape Foundation Executive Director; and **Kelly McClay, '98**, Dean of the Academy of Culinary Arts greeted nearly 325 guests which included scholarship recipients and their family, faculty, staff, and members of the college board of trustees and Atlantic Cape Foundation board.



Several Atlantic Cape graduates gave remarks about their time at the college and the significance of staying connected and involved. **Christopher Mularz, '01**, Atlantic Cape Foundation board member, alumnus, adjunct professor, and scholarship donor, spoke about the importance of remaining engaged with Atlantic Cape Community College in an effort to pay it forward to current students pursuing their educational goals, in the classroom, through fundraising efforts with the Foundation, and by establishing the Victoria Evelyn Mularz Memorial Scholarship with his wife Cate in memory of their daughter. Christopher graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. in Political Science and Master of Public Administration. Since 2007, he has worked for the Atlantic County Department of Planning & Development as a Senior Administrative Analyst.

Atlantic Cape Assistant Professor of English, **Richard Russell, Jr., '99**, spoke to the audience about his own experience with the college, starting as a child attending the daycare located in the J-Building on the Mays Landing Campus, later as a Kids College attendee, and then after high school, obtaining an A.A. in Liberal Arts and an A.S. in General Studies. He would later go on to graduate magna cum laude from New York University with a B.A. in English, from the New School University with a M.S. in Teaching, and from the University of London with a M.A. in English. Professor Russell also supports several Atlantic Cape scholarships and is the advisor for Rewrites, the literary magazine of Atlantic Cape Community College.

**Nathan Evans, Jr., '15**, one of the 2019 recipients of the President's Distinguished Alumni "Top Four Under 40" Award, discussed his educational journey which did not initially begin at Atlantic Cape. The Communication major emphasized the importance of staying the course, working hard, and seeking guidance from Atlantic Cape faculty and staff in order to be successful. Nathan graduated from Rowan University in May 2019 with a B.A. in Liberal Studies, works in the fitness/wellness industry and additionally holds motivational speaking engagements. The event concluded with remarks from two 2019 scholarship recipients, Jalen Hudgins (A.A. Communication) and Karen Moylen (A.A.S. Nursing).



For information about ways to give to Atlantic Cape to support student scholarships, visit [atlantic.edu/foundation](http://atlantic.edu/foundation) or contact Maria Kellett, Associate Dean, Resource Development and Associate Director, Atlantic Cape Foundation, by phone at (609) 463-3670 or email to [mkellett@atlantic.edu](mailto:mkellett@atlantic.edu).

## Meet the Communication Alumni Council Executive Board



**Name:** Briar Gibbons **Title:** President **Graduation Year:** 2014

**How Atlantic Cape helped my career:** Atlantic Cape is where I was able to really figure out what my passion was and how to make a career out of it. Between the vast course offerings, clubs and internship opportunities, I was able to figure out my strengths and what I wanted to pursue in the future.

**What Atlantic Cape meant to me:** Atlantic Cape has been my home away from home since the day I joined the Communication Club. I always felt welcomed in the Communication program, and now as an alumna, I am proud to give back. I will always be thankful for my experiences as a student at Atlantic Cape and hope to inspire future generations of Atlantic Cape students through the Communication Alumni Council.



**Name:** Chris Devine **Title:** Vice President **Graduation Year:** 2016

**How Atlantic Cape helped my career:** The Atlantic Cape Communication program, as well as Atlantic Cape as a whole, helped me learn a variety of valuable lessons to strengthen my academics, as well as myself as a person. The rigorous journalism courses taught me so much about the industry and helped me land a variety of internships while at Atlantic Cape and Rowan University and was essential in helping me land a position as a staff writer at The Press of Atlantic City.

**What Atlantic Cape meant to me:** Whenever I think of Atlantic Cape, I always think of one word: family. I did not have many friends when I was transitioning from high school to community college, but it was on campus where I met the people that I now consider my closest friends and still spend time with today. Atlantic Cape introduced me to a community of people that have helped shape my life and will undoubtedly continue to do so.



**Name:** Nicole Mingo **Title:** Secretary **Graduation Year:** 2016

**How Atlantic Cape helped my career:** Atlantic Cape gave me the immediate skills to begin freelancing in college, allowing for me to get clips, galleries, and my by-line in local publications all before I graduated from Rowan later on. The portfolio I began to cultivate at Atlantic Cape gave me leg-up at my four-year school and created the perfect foundation for my professional portfolio as well.

**What Atlantic Cape meant to me:** When I think of "home" I think of Atlantic Cape. I always look forward to our council meetings, the camaraderie, and the opportunities to mentor the next group of communication students. We're a neat little unit of people who found themselves here and that shared experience continues to keep us together even years after graduation.



**Name:** Kyle Schachner **Title:** Treasurer **Graduation year:** 2016

**How Atlantic Cape helped my career:** In my two jobs since getting a Bachelor's degree, I worked at small companies and wore a lot of hats. No matter what hat I wore, two indispensable skills to my success were: 1) articulating my thoughts, and 2) communicating in a clear, concise, and understandable manner. These are skills I developed at Atlantic Cape in various writing classes with the likes of Professors Forrest, Peterson, Lo Presti, and Russell, and advisors like Peter Brophy and David Pringle. Writing for the Atlantic Cape Review taught me how to collaborate and work with a team.

**What Atlantic Cape meant to me:** I just remarked how skilled I am at communicating in a concise manner, yet this sentiment poses a struggle. It means so, so much. Before I started at Atlantic Cape, I lacked faith in myself. I didn't aspire for much, because I didn't think I could amount to much. Today, just five years and a few months since I finished my first semester, I live a life beyond my wildest dreams — and there's still so much room to grow. I owe Atlantic Cape a debt of gratitude. If I can help just one student get the same experience I did, my debt will be paid. If I can help two, or three, or ten, the Atlantic - Cape May County region will be a better place.

If you would like to learn more about the Communication Alumni Council, e-mail [communicationalumni@gmail.com](mailto:communicationalumni@gmail.com) or attend the upcoming meeting on Thursday, August 15, at 6:30 p.m. in J-Building, Room 202 on the Mays Landing Campus.

### Fifth Annual Alumni Bash at Morey's Piers in Wildwood a Huge Success!

The Atlantic Cape Alumni Association would like to thank the 634 attendees that made this year's Alumni Bash the most successful event to date! Attendees enjoyed a picture perfect day on the Wildwood boardwalk with access to Surfside Pier, Mariner's Landing, Adventure Pier, Raging Waters Water Park, Ocean Oasis Water Park and an all-you-can-eat lunch. As the Alumni Association's primary fundraiser, the support we receive for this annual event

is instrumental in allowing the Foundation to increase and enhance its alumni engagement efforts. Additionally, Atlantic Cape would like to thank the entire staff at Morey's Piers for their incredible hospitality.

We truly appreciate your support and look forward to many more alumni events in the future! Check [atlantic.edu/alumni](http://atlantic.edu/alumni) for upcoming event details.



*Pictured from left:* Barbara Couch, associate, resource development; Kristin Jackson, '09, senior manager of resource development, alumni and foundation events; Michael Kammer, '91, associate professor, ESL; and Maria Kellett, dean, Cape May County Campus and associate dean, resource development.

# Rewrites

*Accepting Submissions Through December 31, 2019*

Rewrites, the literary magazine of Atlantic Cape Community College, is accepting submissions through December 31, 2019, for the Spring 2020 issue. Current students and alumni of Atlantic Cape are invited to submit up to five (5) works of poetry, short fiction, short drama, artwork and photography for consideration by the editors. Contributors will be notified in March if their work has been accepted.

For further instructions and to submit work, visit <https://rebrand.ly/rewrites>

For questions, contact advisor Rich Russell: [russell@atlantic.edu](mailto:russell@atlantic.edu) or (609) 343-4971

To see some past issues of the magazine, visit: <https://issuu.com/rewrites>



ATLANTIC CAPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
SCRAMBLE  
**FORE**  
SCHOLARSHIPS

Support Atlantic Cape Students and Join Us

**Friday, October 4, 2019**  
at Cape May National Golf Club

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

Presenting Sponsor  
ATLANTIC CAPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
CAPE MAY NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

For sponsorship or player information, visit [atlantic.edu/golf](http://atlantic.edu/golf) or contact Kristin Jackson at 609-463-3621 or [kjackson@atlantic.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlantic.edu)

## Atlantic Cape at July 21 Atlantic City Blackjacks Game

Atlantic Cape Alumni Association supporters came out to enjoy the final Atlantic City Blackjacks game of the arena football season on Sunday, July 21 at Boardwalk Hall. The Atlantic City Blackjacks will be donating a portion of every ticket purchased through game's special Atlantic Cape ticket offer to the Atlantic Cape Foundation. These donations will support the on-going alumni outreach efforts at Atlantic Cape Community College.

For more information about the Alumni Association and upcoming events, please contact Kristin Jackson at (609) 463-3621 or [kjackson@atlantic.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlantic.edu).



### BE INVOLVED. STAY CONNECTED.

And Continue the Buccaneer Tradition of Excellence!

There are many opportunities for Alumni to Volunteer:

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



Tell us how you want to volunteer.  
Please contact Kristin Jackson at [kjackson@atlantic.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlantic.edu) or (609) 463-3621.