

President's Corner



The Fall semester is always a busy time of year here at Atlantic Cape Community College. While our students are hard at work studying, participating in clubs and on athletic teams, and attending

campus events, our employees are, as always, dedicating their time and effort to ensure that our students are getting the high quality education they deserve. In the midst of all of this hustle and bustle, however, it is important to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate all that we have accomplished together.

With that in mind, I wanted to highlight a momentous milestone for Atlantic Cape: 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of Nursing!

In 1969, there were 18 nurses in the first graduating class. In 2019, we graduated 66 nurses. In total, there have been 2,824 nurses who have graduated from our program since 1969. The Nursing program has expanded this Fall to include an evening cohort with 30 new

students. In fact, this fall semester, we enrolled the largest, most diverse number of nurses in our history with 225 nursing students.

Our Nursing graduates have made a tremendous impact in our community. They are at regional hospitals, many of whom are leaders in their field. They are also in long term health care facilities, urgent care centers, and so many other locations in South Jersey and beyond. The need for Registered Nurses (RNs) has intensified in our communities as the Baby Boomers age and the demand for healthcare grows, and I am proud that Atlantic Cape's excellent nursing program is helping to meet this need.

We will commence our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the nursing program with an alumni networking event on October 30 at AtlantiCare in Atlantic City, and there will be more events to come in the months ahead! It is evident that we have so much to be thankful for at Atlantic Cape, and as the Thanksgiving holiday draws near, it presents us all with an occasion to express our gratitude and give back. To this end, Atlantic Cape participates annually in the National Day of Giving, which takes place this year on Tuesday, December 3.

This is an excellent opportunity for faculty, staff, and friends of the College to make a charitable contribution to the Atlantic Cape Foundation.

I would also encourage alumni to participate in the Day of Giving by making a donation to the Atlantic Cape Foundation. Leave your legacy, and pay it forward! Donations to the Foundation enable us to annually award hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships and other aid to students in need, so that they can stay in school and reach their goals. No donation is too small.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the Foundation for the Day of Giving (or any time of year!) please reach out to Kristin Jackson at (609) 463-3621 or kjackson@atlantic.edu.

I thank you for your support of Atlantic Cape and I look forward to sharing more milestones and successes with you in the future!

Dr. Barbara Gaba
President

2020

Distinguished Alumni Award

Visit atlantic.edu/alumniaward to nominate an Atlantic Cape Graduate!

NOMINATION DEADLINE: January 31, 2020



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, April 16th

6:30pm

Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center
Atlantic City, New Jersey

As an Alumni Association Member you are eligible for **two tickets** at a discounted price of **\$150 each**—a savings of \$75 on each ticket!



Proceeds fund scholarships for students at The Academy of Culinary Arts and help support Atlantic Cape Foundation operations.
Tax deductible as allowed by law.

www.atlantic.edu/about/foundation/gala/index.php

Atlantic Cape Community College Nursing Program Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence

About the Nursing Program

The Atlantic Cape Nursing program has continually evolved since its inception in 1967, from an off-site classroom setting with approximately 20 students in Atlantic City Hospital to the current college campus setting that houses classrooms and a fully equipped state-of-the-art simulation and skills laboratory used for practice and evaluation. The program was approved by the New Jersey Board of Nursing in 1967 and, since 1969, has maintained National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) and currently Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) accreditation without exception during its history. The program is offered on two of the three campuses: Mays Landing, the primary site, and Cape May Court House, which houses a small laboratory for practice and study.

The key goal of the program is to make nursing education accessible to those who have aspired to nursing careers. The graduates, many of whom have obtained advanced degrees, staff health facilities both locally and throughout the country. The proud heritage of the Nursing program continues to contribute to health care and to inspire those who seek nursing as a career.

The Atlantic Cape Nursing program consists of 36 nursing course credits, ten program course credits, and 20 general education course

credits. Currently, there are 226 students enrolled in the professional phase of the program with 18 percent males and 43 percent self-identifying as members of a minority group. Interest in the program remains high with 211 qualified applications received for the 110 available seats for the 2019 academic year. In May 1969, the program's first graduating class consisted of just 18 students. The 50th graduating class saw 64 students completing the program in May 2019. Over the 50 year history of the program, 2,824 students have earned an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing from Atlantic Cape Community College.



Pat Connelly '69 (née Herbein), standing in the center row between the first two seated students, poses with fellow members of the first graduating class from the Nursing program.

Pat Connelly '69, started her college career at Atlantic Community College* as an Education major. A writer for the college newspaper, Pat had the opportunity to interview Dr. Ruth Lee for a story she was assigned. Dr. Lee was in the process of developing a two-year Associate degree Nursing program. Pat recalls the interview shifting and her becoming the interviewee. Her interest in the program grew and she became one of the first students accepted into the brand new program. Pat contributes her success in the difficult and rigorous program to her dedicated professors, particularly Dr. Lee, Ms. DeGeorge, and Ms. Coe.

Dr. Lee encouraged students to continue learning and earning new credentials and Pat did just that. She graduated from the Nursing program in 1969 and went on to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Florida International University in Miami while working full-time. She additionally completed graduate level courses and many certifications in the specialty areas she worked in. Pat's robust 43 year career included working as a staff nurse; nurse educator in a hospital setting in both critical care units and the emergency room; emergency department nurse and Director in the second busiest emergency room in Denver, Colorado; flight nurse; quality/risk manager and pre-op nurse in a same day surgery center; and CPR instructor. The Atlantic Cape nursing tradition runs deep in Pat's family. Her sister, JoAnna Johns '95, is also a graduate of the program and an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Atlantic Cape!

*Atlantic Cape Community College was called Atlantic Community College until 1999.

Coming Full Circle

DID YOU KNOW? -- Five of Atlantic Cape's eight full-time Nursing faculty members are graduates of the college's Associate in Applied Science Nursing program! They have all gone on to complete graduate degree programs. Additionally, two Nursing and Health Sciences Department staff members and six part-time faculty members have earned degrees at Atlantic Cape.



Nursing Program Alumnae and Now Full-Time Nursing Faculty Members Pose for a Photo

Top row from left: Erin DeLong '13 and Lorraine Monzo '95
Bottom row from left: Deborah DaGrosa '01, JoAnna Johns '95, and Polly Thielier '87

Alumni Association Celebrates Graduates Working at AtlantiCare

Atlantic Cape Community College and Rutgers University staff visited AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City on Wednesday, October 30 for a meet-and-greet with Atlantic Cape alumni working for the local healthcare provider. Approximately 30 graduates as well as current Atlantic Cape Nursing students taking part in clinical training at the location stopped in learn more about and join the Atlantic Cape Alumni Association and discuss further educational opportunities available at Atlantic Cape and Rutgers University. This event also served to celebrate Atlantic Cape's 50th class to graduate from the Nursing program, which was developed in 1967 by Professor Ruth M. Lee, and has successfully produced 2,824 graduates.



Left to right: Maria Kellett, Dean, Cape May County Campus and Associate Dean, Resource Development and Kristin Jackson '09, Senior Manager, Resource Development, Alumni and Foundation events

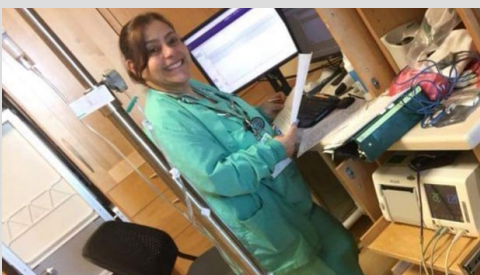


Left to right: Antoinette Ortiz '10, AtlantiCare Clinical Manager; Myrna Morales-Keklak, Assistant Dean, Nursing & Health Sciences; Amy Bromhead '10, AtlantiCare Clinical Manager; Katherine Birkenstock '98, AtlantiCare Vice-President and Chief Nursing Officer; and Leslie DiLuigi, Atlantic Cape Foundation member and Republic Bank Senior Vice-President



From left to right: Kendal Apalucci '17, AtlantiCare Progressive Care Unit Nurse; Myrna Morales-Keklak, Assistant Dean, Nursing & Health Sciences; and Shonna Corrales, AtlantiCare Progressive Care Unit Nurse

Alumni Spotlight - Olgas Vargas '05, '10



Olga Vargas graduated from Atlantic Cape in 2005, earning a General Studies Associate in Science degree. In 2010, she earned an Association in Applied Science in Nursing and is now a part-time Nursing program faculty member.

My name is Olga Vargas and I was born in Colombia. Before moving to the United States, I earned a degree in Hospitality and Tourism, however when I came to this country in 1995, I was unable to work in my area of expertise

due to the language barrier. My knowledge of English was very weak. Fortunately, I understood the importance of being able to communicate with the locals, as the saying goes, "When in Rome, Do as The Romans Do." Quickly, I signed up for ESL classes at Atlantic Cape where I felt very welcomed. There, I met people from different countries. I loved going to Atlantic Cape because it offered me many benefits including in-classroom vs. online classes, academic flexibility, school-work-life balance, personalized attention, affordability, and transfer agreements nationwide. I belonged to Student Support Services, which coached me through my schooling.

In 1996, I started working at AtlantiCare in housekeeping. I was inspired and motivated

Interested in staying connected with fellow Nursing program graduates, serving as a mentor for current students, and raising money for scholarships?

Join the Nursing Alumni Council today!

For additional information, contact:
Erin DeLong, Assistant Professor
edelong@atlantic.edu
 (609) 625-1111, ext. 5411

Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Annual Day of Giving Tuesday, December 3rd

Support the Atlantic Cape Foundation and your fellow Buccaneers by making a donation on December 3rd!

To learn about giving opportunities, make a donation, and help us get the word out on social media, visit:

atlantic.edu/foundation

by the nurses to pursue a career in nursing. Two years later, I moved up in the organization as an obstetric technician. Meanwhile, I kept taking classes at Atlantic Cape and eventually was accepted into the Nursing program in 2008. Although it was not easy, I survived and graduated in 2010, with the help and guidance of the faculty, my classmates, AtlantiCare, and of course, my family. In 2012, I earned my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Jefferson University, again with a full scholarship from AtlantiCare. Today, I work as a Registered Nurse in the Labor and Delivery Department at AtlantiCare and also at Atlantic Cape as a faculty member for the Nursing program.

"I attribute my success to this; I never gave nor took any excuse." – Florence Nightingale.

RUTGERS CORNER

Fall 2019

The Rutgers School of Social Work welcomed five Atlantic Cape Alumni and Rutgers Mays Landing BA graduates to the Master Social Work Intensive Weekend program offered in Mays Landing:

Ivory Hargrove '17

BA in Social Work '19 (Cum Laude)

Kai Martin '14

BA in Psychology '17

Tracey Johnson '13

BA in Social Work '19 (Magna Cum Laude)

Daysi Sanz '17

BA in Social Work '19 (Summa Cum Laude)

Nicole White '17

BA in Social Work '19

If you are a Bachelor degree holder interested in pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work, please attend the Information Session on December 14 from 11:00 to 1:00pm at Rutgers - Mays Landing

Start Here, Succeed Anywhere

accu.rutgers.edu

See Where
Atlantic Cape
Can Take You.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS!

Amy Osborn '91 was appointed to the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers University-Camden in August 2019. Osborn is a vice president at Republic Bank, where she manages and provides banking concierge services for high net-worth customers and works to grow the private banking portfolio through traditional banking products. She is also a graduate of Rutgers University-Camden.

Congratulations to **Ahmet Sahingoz '19** on his recent appointment to Atlantic Cape Community College's Board of Trustees. Ahmet Sahingoz graduated from Atlantic Cape in May 2019 with Associate in Science degrees in both Engineering and Mathematics. Mr. Sahingoz currently attends Rutgers University, majoring in Applied and Computational Mathematics. His term on the Atlantic Cape Board of Trustees will expire on June 30, 2020.

The Atlantic Cape Foundation Board of Trustees is happy to welcome **Terry Budd '78** to the board effective September 2019. The Cape May county resident began working at Atlantic Cape in 1974 as a clerk and rose to Dean of Administration during her tenure until retirement in 2014. She and her family continue to give back to Atlantic Cape in time, talent and treasure. Congratulations, Terry!

Former Academy of Culinary Arts student, **Ashley Earling**, was recently named Pfeiffer University's first female executive chef. Pfeiffer University, located in Misenheimer, North Carolina, is attended by approximately 2,000 students.

Condé Nast Traveler recently named Trust Restaurant and Fort Oak Restaurant, both co-owned by Academy of Culinary Arts graduate **Brad Wise '06**, two of the top restaurants in San Diego. Brad is also the executive chef at both establishments. Chef Wise and GM/co-owner Steve Schwob are working to rebrand Hundred Proof, a restaurant they closed at the end of August, to turn it into an American steakhouse and cocktail bar called Rare Society. Their fourth restaurant, Cardellino, which will feature all-day Italian eats, is expected to open in early 2020.

In August 2019, **Dr. Nancy Bellucci '06**, Ph.D, MSN-Ed, RN, CNOR was named Program Director of the Online RN to BSN Program at Galen College of Nursing in Louisville, Kentucky.

Rick Luderitz '90, Assistant Director, Paramedic and EMT Training at Atlantic Cape, was quoted in the November 9, 2019 Press of Atlantic City article, Atlantic Cape Program Helping to Fill Need for Paramedics. He spoke of the intense nature of the program at Atlantic Cape and the evolving field of paramedic science.

Sarah Krajicek '19 was one of ten students from across the country invited to attend Research for Undergraduates (REU), a ten-week hands-on program hosted by Rowan University this summer. Sarah graduated in May with an Associate's Degree in Biomedical Sciences and is attending Rowan as a biochemistry major.

The South Jersey Beer Scene recently highlighted Gusto Brewing Company and its owner **Zach Pashley '09** in the October 10, 2019 article, 10 Questions with Zach and Dan of Gusto Brewing Company. Zach opened Gusto Brewing Company with wife Adriana in December 2018 in North Cape May, about a mile from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.



Thank You!

To all our donors, supporters, volunteers & participants for making our 2019 golf tournament a huge success!

After tallying all sponsorships, player registrations, and contributions, the 2019 Atlantic Cape Community College Scramble "Fore" Scholarships golf tournament raised over \$42,868 for student aid and Foundation operations. Held Oct. 4 at Cape May National Golf Club in Cape May, the tournament drew nearly 100 players.

Proceeds from the event will be used for scholarships for Cape May County students attending Atlantic Cape and for Foundation operations.

Golf tournament event sponsors included Presenting Sponsor- Cape May National Golf Club; Honors Sponsor- Crest Wealth Management; Scholars Sponsors- Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., McMahon Insurance Agency, and OceanFirst Bank; Tee Gift Sponsors- Borden Perlman and Cooper Levenson; Hospitality Sponsors- Chris Clemans Sotheby's International Realty and UNIVEST Bank & Trust Corporation; and Student Sponsors- Bill's Corner Deli, Burke Motor Group,

Cape May Brewing Co., Calvi Electric Co., Cumberland Insurance Group, FIJI Water, Frank Donio, Inc., La Mer Beachfront Inn, SOSH Architects, and Sturdy Savings Bank. The Media Sponsor for the event was Cape May County Herald - Seawave Corporation. In addition, 33 companies served as Hole Sponsors and over 60 local businesses and organizations donated prizes for the raffle.

Special thanks to the Mullock Family, Cape May National Golf Club, Chalfonte Hotel, Academy of Culinary Arts, and Atlantic Cape volunteers!

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 or (609) 463-3621.