

## President's Corner



Here at Atlantic Cape, the Fall semester always starts with a sense of new opportunity and moving forward and we are excited to welcome our students back for the 2021-22

academic year, both in person and virtually. While we continue to work through the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our focus remains supporting the success of our students. I would like to share a few updates with you about some exciting initiatives we have implemented for the Fall semester to expand access to education and provide our students with the tools they need to succeed.

First, every student registered for the Fall semester, both new and returning, is receiving three free credits in the form of a tuition waiver. We feel that offering a free course is a great way to encourage students to begin or continue their college education, as well as reducing the financial burden.

Additionally, we are offering a new loaner laptop to all students who have enrolled in at least six (6) credits. Students will be able to keep the laptop after graduation. The college purchased 3,000 laptops and distribution is underway. Our aim for this program is to set our students up for academic success by ensuring that they have the technology they need to successfully complete their coursework regardless of the course modality.

These are just a few of the innovative opportunities that we have been able to offer, thanks to federal HEERF funds, that will help support our students as they pursue their academic and career goals.

I would also like to take a moment to congratulate our Class of 2021 graduates, who persevered to reach their educational goals in spite of the obstacles they encountered. While graduating with a college degree is always a commendable achievement, this is an especially noteworthy accomplishment given the unprecedented challenges our students have faced due to the pandemic, and I could not be prouder of them.

I invite all of our graduates to stay involved and stay in touch with us by joining our Alumni Association. Our alumni are the leaders of the future and are equipped with the tools to make a real impact on our community and our world. We are eager to hear about your accomplishments, to celebrate them with you, and to share them with others who might need some encouragement to help them along their own path. To join our Alumni Association or share your success story, reach out to Maria Kellett at (609) 463-3670 or [mkellett@atlantic.edu](mailto:mkellett@atlantic.edu).

As always, I thank you for your continued interest in Atlantic Cape.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Gaba  
President

The Atlantic Cape Alumni Association would like to congratulate the 700+ students that recently graduated from Atlantic Cape Community College in May! Class of 2021 graduates had two opportunities to celebrate their achievements. A drive-through Commencement ceremony was held on May 20 on the Mays Landing Campus where nearly 200 graduates paraded through the campus quad to collect their diploma, take photos with family members, President Dr. Barbara Gaba, and college faculty and staff, and receive a swag bag from the Alumni Association.

Additionally, a unique and personalized virtual commencement ceremony was held on June 9. The online graduation event included remarks from Atlantic Cape President Dr. Barbara Gaba, Student Government Association President Joelle Motley, high honors student Charlene Acevedo, and former Atlantic Cape student Dr. Natasha Corbitt. Dr. Corbitt is the country's first African-American female pediatric surgeon with a double doctorate, both an M.D. and Ph.D, and only the 16th Black woman to become a pediatric surgeon in the United States.

# Congratulations

## CLASS OF 2021

Stay connected by joining the  
**Atlantic Cape Alumni Association**  
for free today!



Visit [atlantic.edu/alumni](http://atlantic.edu/alumni)  
to learn about membership benefits and join!

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 graduates! The Alumni Association is excited to welcome this latest graduating class to its growing network of accomplished alumni!

# CONGRATULATIONS, 2021 PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS!

## Overall Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



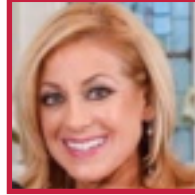
**Madeline Quinn Seidenstricker | Class of 1971**  
Liberal Arts – Education Option, A.A.

After graduating from Oakcrest High School, Madeline earned her associate's from Atlantic Cape before transferring to Montclair State University for her bachelor's degree. She earned a master's in teaching from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). While enrolled in a doctoral program at Temple University, Madeline served as an adjunct instructor of English at Atlantic Cape.

Madeline began her career in international teaching and public service, taking teaching assignments in Australia, Liberia, and Kenya, before joining the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer.

During her 25-year career, Madeline rose to a senior rank in the State Department as a political and military affairs analyst in U.S. Embassies in Serbia, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, South Africa, and the African Bureau in Washington, D.C. Her career was focused on human rights, political and military issues, and African affairs. Upon retirement, Madeline returned to South Jersey and to teaching at Atlantic Cape.

She spends her free time volunteering with HEARTS Therapeutic Riding Center in Egg Harbor Township.



**Donna Vassallo | Class of 1985**  
Hospitality Management, A.A.S.

In addition to being an alumnae, Donna is a former longtime Atlantic Cape Foundation board member (1998-2004), a full-time instructor retiring in June 2021, and a 2009 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Excellence Award winner.

After earning an associate's degree from Atlantic Cape, Donna transferred to Widener University for her bachelor's degree. She attained a master's in 2006 from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Over the years, Donna has served as an adjunct faculty member for the Hospitality Management and Business divisions at Atlantic Cape, worked for Claridge Casino Hotel as the director of recruitment and staffing, and served as the corporate human resources manager for Spencer's Gifts. She also established her own consulting firm, Donna Vassallo Associates, LLC.

Donna's senior positions at the college include dean of Career Education and Workforce Development, dean of the Worthington Atlantic City Campus, and dean of Professional Studies, High School Initiatives, and Internships. She continues to support the college's mission and Foundation's fundraising efforts, including establishing a scholarship in memory of her late father, Dominic.

## Young Alumni Achievement Award Recipients



**Pamela Shute | Class of 2006**  
Liberal Arts – Education Option, A.A.

Pam began her studies at Atlantic Cape in September 2001, just before her first son was born. In 2006, she graduated from Atlantic Cape and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Drexel University in 2010. She also earned a master's in special education in 2012.

Pam received the Capstone Achievement Award in 2010 for Excellence in Student Teaching from Drexel. Following her graduation from Drexel, Pam began working at Middle Township Elementary #1 as a special education teacher. After completing the supervisor certification program at Rowan University in March 2017, and earning her second graduate degree in school administration from Rowan in May 2019, Pam now serves as the Instructional Supervisor at Middle Township Elementary #1.

She recently started a doctoral degree program at Drexel. Pam is involved in volunteer opportunities in her community including the Middle Township PTO, Homework Club at the Whitesboro Recreation Center, and Matt's Stocking each Christmas.



**Harry Walk | Class of 2009**  
General Studies, A.S.

Harry attended Atlantic Cape through the NJ STARS Program, graduating in 2009. In 2012, he transferred to Rutgers University and earned a bachelor's in psychology. Harry graduated from Ocean County College's nursing program in 2015. He went on to

Walden University where he earned a bachelor's in nursing in 2016 and a master's in 2018.

Harry joined AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in 2007 as a patient care associate. In 2015, he took the position of professional practice and development coordinator and two years later, Harry was promoted to clinical nurse manager of the Medical Surgical Unit at the Atlantic City campus. In September 2020, Harry was again promoted to corporate director of customer experience.

Since July 2018, Harry has served as an adjunct faculty member at Atlantic Cape and Rutgers. He is also the co-chairman of the Environment of Care (EOC) Quality and Safety and Restraint steering committees, as well as the committee secretary for the PRIDE Employee Resource Group.

## 2021 RESTAURANT GALA - GALA GOES AL FRESCO

The 38th Atlantic Cape Community College Restaurant Gala was held on June 23, 2021 on the grounds of Harrah's AC. This year's theme was the Gala Goes Al Fresco! The weather was perfect mix of sunshine, mild temperatures, and a soft breeze. This successful first time outdoor event raised \$191,800, and was attended by 653 guests. The proceeds of the gala will support scholarships for aspiring chefs attending the Academy of Culinary Arts and emergency funds for students in need.

Twenty-three restaurants, including our own Academy of Culinary Arts, served up delicious and varied cuisine ranging from grilled steaks to lobster cheesecake. Five dessert providers offered amazing sweets with everything from Cannoli to Chocolate Mousse cake. Tito's Handmade Vodka stocked a specialty drink bar, while several wineries, distilleries, and breweries gave guests a taste of their products. Live music was provided by the Dirty Dozen Band putting everyone in the mood to dance the night away. A very special thanks goes out to Harrah's Resort Atlantic City for their sponsorship and their hard working staff. We are also grateful to all the sponsors that helped to make the evening wonderful.

Please visit our web page at [atlantic.edu/gala](http://atlantic.edu/gala) for a complete list of sponsors. We encourage everyone to patronize the people that support the college and its students.

Please mark March 31, 2022 on your calendars and join us for the 39th Annual Restaurant Gala!

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS!

**Colonel Diana M. Brown '93**, Vice Commander of the 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard in Atlantic City, delivered the keynote speech during the 36th annual Veterans Memorial Program at the Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery on May 28. After graduating from Atlantic Cape with honors in 1993, Colonel Brown earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Stockton University and a master's degree in military operation art and science from the Air University followed by her graduation from the United States Air Force War College.

**Congratulations to Michael '84 and Kim D'Angelo '06** for receiving the first ever Humanitarian Award from the South Jersey Chapter of the American Culinary Federation Professional Chef's Association! The couple received the award for their outstanding service and contribution to the community in May 2021. Michael, Executive Pastry Chef for Classic Cakes in Philadelphia, received his Culinary Certificate from the Academy of Culinary Arts in February 1984 with a bronze medal. Kim, who works for Atlantis Bahamas, was a 2017 Atlantic Cape President's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

Rutgers University highlighted the educational journey of **Lisa Diodoardo '17 and Gianna Powell '17** in the April graduate profile story called, Sisters Overcome Family Challenges to Graduate with Honors. The sisters graduated from Atlantic Cape in 2017 and transferred to Rutgers University through the institutions' partnership program, where they both completed the B.S. in Health Administration program with summa cum laude honors.

**Theresa Evans '13** was named one of ten recipients of The Press of Atlantic City's inaugural Heart of Health Care Awards in May 2021. Theresa graduated from Atlantic Cape's Nursing program in May 2013 and has worked as a registered nurse at Cape Regional Medical Center ever since. She also earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Grand Canyon University. Congratulations, Theresa!

**Maria Mento '77** was featured in the March 30 Press of Atlantic City article, Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame Members Encourage Oakcrest Students. Maria, a current Atlantic Cape Board of Trustees member and 2018 President's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, spoke to Oakcrest High School students during the annual Women's History Month panel hosted this year by Google Meet instead of its typical in-person breakfast format due to COVID-19. Maria spoke to the students about the importance of asking questions and having a positive attitude.

Congratulations to **Carley Schell '19** of Margate who was named Shore Medical Center's Guardian of the Month for July! Carley was recognized for providing compassionate and exceptional care to Shore's patients. She joined the Emergency Department in August 2019 after graduating from Atlantic Cape's Nursing program and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Walden University.

**Chef Douglass Williams '05** was featured in "Best New Chef of 2020" Sets to Expand Restaurant to Newton in Boston College's newspaper, The Heights. The Academy of Culinary Arts alumnus, owner of MIDA in Boston, MA, spoke about his journey into the food industry and discussed the opening of a second MIDA location in Newton in June. Douglass was one of Food & Wine Magazine's 2020 Best New Chefs award recipients and was named a James Beard Award semifinalist in spring 2021.

## IN MEMORIAM

David B. Rihl '96 | Rudolph W. Williams, Sr. '75

## RUTGERS CORNER

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15 Years  
in Mays Landing!**

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for more information  
visit: [acc.rutgers.edu](http://acc.rutgers.edu)

Partners In Education  
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See Where  
Atlantic Cape  
Can Take You.

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

Support Atlantic Cape Students and Join Us  
at Cape May National Golf Club

**Friday, October 15, 2021**

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

Presenting Sponsor

For sponsorship or player information, visit [atlantic.edu/golf](http://atlantic.edu/golf) or contact Maria Kellett at 609-463-3670 or [mkellett@atlantic.edu](mailto:mkellett@atlantic.edu)

## Tasty Travels with Chef Karen Miller

The Fall is still a great time to get creative with outdoor cooking! This time of year is your grill's time to shine! Change of your hot dog and hamburger grilling routine by making something different and healthy, like the recipe below, for a dish that is sure to impress your guests at your next gathering, big or small.



### Recipe

### Whipped Feta Dip with Grilled Eggplant

#### Ingredients:

- 12 oz. crumbled feta cheese (pull from refrigerator one hour before preparing dish)
- ¾ cup sour cream
- 2 tsp. fresh ground pepper, divided
- 2 Tbsp. fresh dill plus 1 tsp.
- Sprinkle of salt
- 1 medium eggplant, cut into half-moons, skin on
- ½ cup olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. fresh oregano, chopped
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### Directions:

In a small bowl, toss the Eggplant slices with the ½ cup of olive oil and season with salt and pepper. After all pieces are coated in oil, place carefully onto a hot grill. Flip once after eggplant is seared and has gotten nice grill marks. Cook until tender, remove and allow to cool. In a food processor, combine feta cheese, sour cream, 1 tsp. black pepper, 2 Tbsp. fresh dill and a sprinkle of salt. Process until mixture is smooth and all ingredients are combined.

Spoon feta mixture in a shallow bowl and spread to create small canals in cheese. Arrange eggplant on the feta and sprinkle with oregano, remaining dill and pepper. Drizzle extra virgin olive oil on the entire dish. Serve with warm pita, crostini or additional vegetables such as cucumbers, cherry tomatoes or carrots.

*Enjoy!*

**COMING  
SOON!**

## CAREER CORNER

We are excited to announce the addition of a new feature section in the Alumni Newsletter. Career Corner will be launched in the next issue.

Employers contact us frequently seeking skilled and well prepared employees and we could not imagine a more qualified group to choose from than our alumni. Stay tuned for job postings.

We also welcome job announcements from you. Please let us know if you or your place of employment are looking for new employees. We want to help you find the people you need as we help our alumni find great jobs. *Please email your job announcements to [alumni@atlantic.edu](mailto:alumni@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 Maria Kellett at [mkellett@atlantic.edu](mailto:mkellett@atlantic.edu) or (609) 463-3670