

# Virtual Learning Focus



## Welcome to the Fall 2016 Semester

Thank you for all the work you have done to prepare your online classes for the fall 2016 semester. As of today, HACC-Virtual Learning has 6,344 students enrolled in our online courses. Each student is taking an average of 5.13 online credits with us. Both figures are the largest numbers we have had to date.

In this newsletter, we continue to celebrate those who have retired and welcome new faculty to the Virtual Learning team. Next newsletter, we will formally introduce Ayisha Sereni, our new associate dean of Lebanon and Virtual Learning.

Please also note the “Upcoming Events” dates on the last page and my open office hours through Real Presence this semester. Have a great semester. — *Amy Withrow*

“Education is all a matter of building bridges” — Ralph Ellison

# Focus on Faculty



Above: "Bridges to the Yucatan" teacher professional development tour sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. HACC faculty pictured: Valerie Gray (left, front), Nicole Ernst (center), and Brian Gurian (right, back).

Right: Valerie Gray, with Dr. Ski and Thomas B. Richey, HACC Board of Trustees chair, receives the Betty Martin Faculty Award to help support this professional development opportunity.

## Faculty Participate in Bridges of Yucatan Study Tour

**Nicole Ernst, Valerie Gray, Brian Gurian, and Yolanda Hively** spent eight days in the Yucatan Mayan area of Mexico with the Bridges of Yucatan study tour program. This was organized by the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies. Each faculty member was responsible for conducting research on an area of interest. As a result of their time spent there, they created curriculum surrounding Mayan history and culture for their

respective disciplines (and likely some cross-discipline collaboration — more on page 3). They visited several Mayan sites including Valladolid, Chichen Itza, Coba and Tihosuco. Among other things, they learned about the Caste War and how one community is using their history as a means of community development. Educators from K-12 and community colleges participated. The following article appeared in the *Diario de Yucatan* about their visit: <http://yucatan.com.mx/yucatan/valladolid/se-empapan-cultura-maya>.



Yolanda Hively's project, entitled "Mayan Astronomy and Mythology," will serve as an introduction to her Spanish course. Her students will then do research and prepare a presentation in Spanish that will be shared among their peers. They will examine the basic, social, cultural, economic, political, religious, and scientific aspects of the Maya people.

*Continued on page 7*

## Reflections from Retirees

*In our last newsletter we featured an article about Pauline Chow, who retired in May after 32 years of service to HACC. This issue we are celebrating the retirement of two more colleagues, Linda Buckwalter (28 years) and Dave Wartell (33 years). We wish them happiness, good health, and much success in their new life!*

### David Wartell

In the words of the Grateful Dead, “What a long strange trip this has been.” Little did I realize when I accepted a one-year grant funded contract to develop computer-aided instruction for the nursing program starting in October of 1982 that I would still be working at HACC almost 34 years later.

Actually, my career at HACC started ten months earlier, when after taking a couple of data processing courses for enrichment and entertainment, Jim Gardner asked me if I wanted to teach a course for him. So started my adjunct career, teaching Introduction to IBM 370 Assembly Language. That was in January of 1982 and I have been teaching as an adjunct ever since.

Over the years, I have been lucky to be part of several innovative projects besides working with the nursing program: being the original PC support for the college, becoming the college’s first web-master, developing the first live online course schedule on the HACC website, and helping to develop our online course program. I have seen the college grow from a single campus to the multi-campus college it is today.



*Above: Dave Wartell with Dr. Ski and Thomas B. Richey*

As my position has evolved over the years, I have been fortunate to be in a position to constantly enhance my knowledge and skills. I have had the good fortune to work with a lot of great people. I’m afraid if I started to list all of them I would— 1) accidentally leave someone out and 2) probably take over this entire newsletter. I would just like to thank all of you for helping me enjoy my career here at HACC.

While I’m retiring from my “day job” at the college, I will be continuing to teach as an adjunct in biology. I look forward to continuing my many relationships here at HACC.

## Virtual Learning Campus Day—Fall 2016 Recordings

Thank you to the nearly 100 hundred faculty who attended the Virtual Learning Campus Day event on Monday, Aug. 22. If you missed the event or want to review the sessions, please see the recordings, below:

[Faculty Primer](#) – Kelley Engle

[Setting Yourself Up for Online Productivity](#) - David Feller

[Setting the Stage for Students to Start Strong, Persevere, and Succeed](#) – Karen Woodring

[Student Success Survey](#) – Jazmin Simpson

[Virtual Learning Priorities and Adjunct Faculty Support](#) – Amy Withrow

## Linda Buckwalter

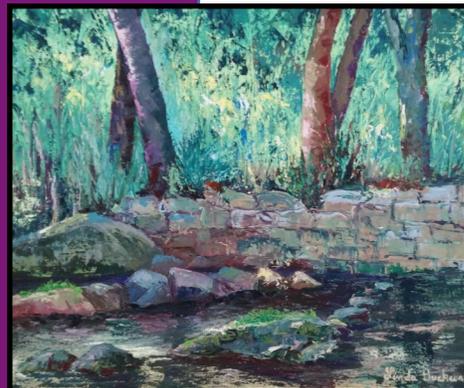
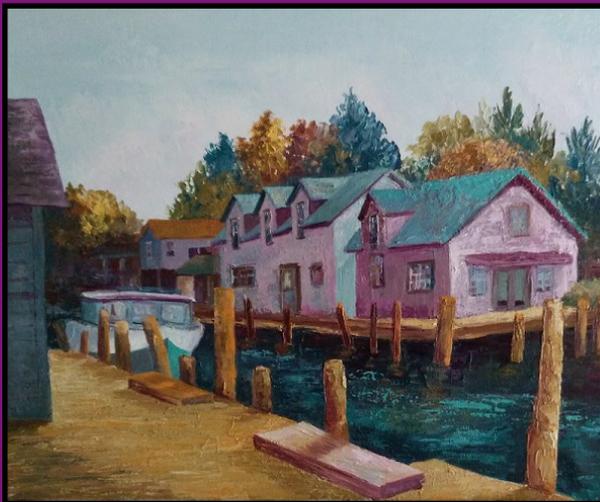
So much has happened during my career. To share some of the “firsts,” I was...

- the *first* chair of the committee to begin a math contest. The year I was hired, Ron Young asked me to do this and this lasted approximately 15 years.
- the *first* to teach a college math class that required a graphing calculator.
- part of the *first* group that taught faculty how to use the Internet.
- part of the *first* group that taught a modeling math class.
- the *first* and only to teach VBScript, and the *first* at HACC to teach Visual Basic.
- the *first* faculty to volunteer to teach at Penn Center.
- the *first* faculty to teach at Midtown.
- part of the *first* group of faculty to put classes on iTunes U.
- part of the early group of non-traditional students returning to school in the 80's.
- *first* to ask for and teach a 7am class. NOTE—It filled before the 8am classes!
- on the *first* committee with Ellen Shatto to develop online learning at HACC, and the *first* to teach the classes with Ellen.
- ...one of the *first* to use software to create the equations for my master's paper.



*Above: Linda pictured in front of one of her paintings. Below: More beautiful art by Linda.*

- Linda



## Welcome New Full-time Faculty

*In our last newsletter, we featured an article about Jennifer Myers, our new education Virtual Learning faculty member. This issue we are celebrating Holly Cieri, Lisa Hill, and Annamarie Fazzolari. We wish them a successful career with us at HACC!*

**Holly Cieri** was recently hired as a full-time communication instructor (60% HACC-Gettysburg and 40% HACC-Virtual Learning). Holly brings ten years of experience as the director of public relations and marketing at Penn State Mont Alto, seven years of experience researching and writing grant proposals for Penn State-Mont Alto, and three years of experience teaching communication courses for both HACC-Gettysburg and Shippensburg University. Additionally, Holly completed HACC's eVolution Academy and Studio in 2015 and has been teaching online communication courses for Virtual Learning. She has a bachelor's degree in speech communication from Millersville University, a master's degree in communication studies from Shippensburg University, and a college teaching certificate from Penn State's Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence. Holly lives in Waynesboro with her husband Steve and their two daughters. Her hobbies include photography, reading (listening to books on CD while driving to work), yoga, and baking (mostly so she can eat the baked goods)!



**Lisa Katrina Hill** began teaching for HACC-Gettysburg in the fall of 1999 as an adjunct in the communications department and then became full-time in 2002. She joined Virtual Learning full-time this fall and will teach various communications courses. Prior to teaching for HACC, she worked in the health care and educational industries in the field of public relations and marketing and also served as a part-time instructor for Penn State-Mont Alto. Her educational background includes an undergraduate degree in communications from Mansfield University and a Master's of Science degree in communications studies from Shippensburg University.



Lisa has served on various college committees throughout the years for HACC and has been the co-advisor for the Ski/Board club since 2006. She is currently serving as chair of assessment for Communications 101 and is the ombudsperson for Virtual Learning. Lisa lives with her husband, Jeff, and their golden retriever, Ruca, in the borough of Gettysburg where she can bike and walk almost anywhere. She has two grown children and loves to travel, hike and play golf.

**A**nnamarie Fazzolari is a Harrisburg native and received her undergraduate degree in English and political science from Villanova University. She received her graduate degree in health administration with a long-term care certificate from Penn State University.

Annamarie has held various positions in continuing care retirement centers and hospice care and has been an adjunct in the gerontology program since Spring 2006. Her involvement in coordinating and developing the program has played a vital role in HACC launching a fully online gerontology associate degree that debuted in fall 2015.

She currently resides in Harrisburg with her husband and five children. In her spare time, she enjoys being involved in the activities of her children, cooking/baking, and reading.

“I applaud HACC's investment in educating and preparing those who work with our increasingly aging population and have thoroughly enjoyed the interesting and rewarding journey I've been on at HACC. I am looking forward to increased involvement in the HACC community.”



## Announcements

- Joanne McPherson and Elaine Holland have relocated to W126 on the Harrisburg Campus. Joanne is now handling faculty assignment letters, payroll/tier changes, and cross-link requests. Elaine still manages purchasing for Virtual Learning. Amanda Carpenter processes syllabi and book orders.
- The fall access code **reimbursement list** is now available for online students. If students need to purchase any items on the list for any of the online classes on the list, they can get reimbursed for it! Check it out at <http://goo.gl/y1xfs2>. Discounts on printers, ink, laptops and more are available at the bookstore for Virtual students.

## HACC- Virtual Learning Students Did You Know?

- 69.21% are female.
- 22.63% are minorities
- 41% only take online classes
- 42% use Smarthinking online tutoring between the hours of 6pm-8am.
- 202 are CHS/dual enrollment students
- 70% use a portable laptop to complete schoolwork
- 89.2% would recommend HACC's online courses to another person

—based on spring 2016 surveys and data

## Yucatan Study Tour (cont.)

Valerie Gray's project, "Tracing Creolized Liberty through Cultural Discourse: From New Spain Blacks to Yucatec Mayas," introduces students to documents of liberty and justice written by marginalized groups. One important outcome of this project is to empower students to write social justice documents to improve their communities.

Nicole Ernst's project, "Unearthing the Mayan Civilization: Using Remote Sensing to Examine Mayan Geography," will become the final project in her GIS 161-Data Acquisition & Remote Sensing course. Students will learn how to find, process, and manipulate satellite imagery. In this case, they will be looking for the digital signature of vegetation covering limestone (Mayan ruins constructed out of limestone) so that all ruins in the area around Coba that have yet to be unearthed can be found.

The Betty Martin Award financed the portion of the trip that was not covered by the University of Pittsburgh.



*Above: This photo was taken at the Mayan village, Sahcab Mucay. While there, the team spent time with elementary children and even played a game of soccer with them.*

## THE 2016 CONVOCATION OF HACC, CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE "A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE"

### HARRISBURG CAMPUS

Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016

3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Rose Lehrman Arts Center

R.S.V.P. to [jmmiller@hacc.edu](mailto:jmmiller@hacc.edu)

### YORK CAMPUS

Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016

1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Glatfelter Community Room (Cytec 101)

R.S.V.P. to [jkmitzel@hacc.edu](mailto:jkmitzel@hacc.edu)

### LEBANON CAMPUS

Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016

1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Room (Rm. 105)

R.S.V.P. to [mjlenton@hacc.edu](mailto:mjlenton@hacc.edu)

### GETTYSBURG CAMPUS

Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Robert C. Hoffman Community Room (Rm. 130)

R.S.V.P. to [vvlarson@hacc.edu](mailto:vvlarson@hacc.edu)

### LANCASTER CAMPUS

Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016, from

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

East 203

R.S.V.P. to [calucare@hacc.edu](mailto:calucare@hacc.edu)

**Note:** Virtual Learning faculty and staff are encouraged to attend at the campus location of their choice.

# Focus on Innovation

## Announcing Brightspace 24/7 Live Chat!

We know that student and faculty work habits do not always follow a traditional workday schedule. To this end, Virtual Learning has worked with Brightspace to offer a new live chat support feature that will allow HACC faculty and students to directly contact support via a chat button whenever they might encounter an issue or have a question. For an overview of how this works, watch this video (and feel free to share it with your students as well): <https://youtu.be/Yc8ZGdX7XHQ>

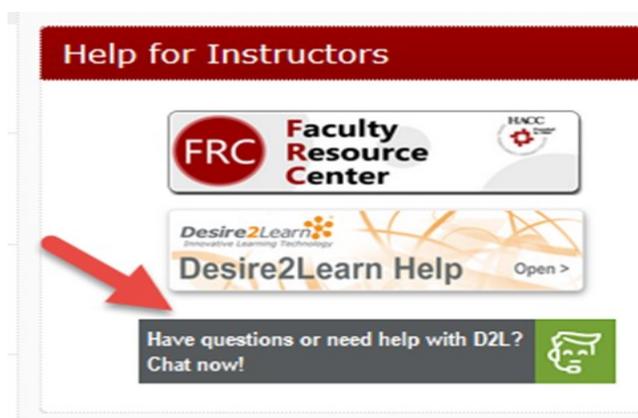
See the screenshot to the right. Students will find this under “Help for Students” on their homepage.

## GoReact Video Assessment Software is Now Available



If you have presentations, speeches, or video recordings as assignments or activities in your class, you may be interested in GoReact! GoReact is an easy way to collect video assignments and give feedback that synchs right to the video itself - and you can provide that feedback as text, audio, or even video! This also

integrates into Brightspace, making it easy to set up an assignment that will allow students to record their presentations right in the Brightspace dropbox. Tammy Gingras-Moore kindly created some short videos showing how to add a GoReact assignment to your Brightspace dropbox, which you can find here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY5Ntyl-oAM614ZFkd-qYfRKE2U3bDeoj>. You can also learn more about GoReact by clicking this link: <https://goreact.com>. HACC will be providing access to GoReact for ALL faculty and students.



# Focus on Student Success

## Jump Start YOUR Success

Preparation is key to student success. Virtual Learning's "Jump Start YOUR Success" welcome events seek to lay the groundwork and establish a strong foundation for helping new students transition to the online course platform. While this program has high student participation, we also attract students to join by awarding educational prizes.

We have transformed our old Jump Start YOUR Success recorded program. The latest creation has developed into the **Jump Start Online Success Video Series**, located at [www.hacc.edu/jumpstart](http://www.hacc.edu/jumpstart):



*This summer's iPad winner was Jacquelyn Niebergall (pictured above).*

- *What an Online Course Looks Like* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Logging into Brightspace by D2L* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Navigating Brightspace by D2L* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Locating Your Class in Brightspace by D2L* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Verifying Start Date, Course Description Page and Registration Status* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Purchasing A Textbook* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Where to Find Help and Recommended Internet Browsers* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Testing and Proctoring Information* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Student and Academic Resources* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Adding Classes* - [Video](#) and [Text](#)
- *Dropping Classes* - [Text](#)

The series drives at the original intent of the program. The distinct difference lies in the immediate references to commonly experienced questions and student situations. Many of these topics cover how to log-in, the Brightspace (D2L) Tour for Students, and where to get help. We will be adding more videos as we progress throughout the semester. The Jump Start YOUR Success program plays a vital role in student preparation directly tied to their online course achievement.

## Student Technology Ambassadors

Virtual Learning will hire Student Technology Ambassadors to assist virtual and blended students at the college. This is a direct result of the Virtual Learning Master planning sessions that occurred in the 2015-2016 academic year. These positions will provide assistance with the navigation of Brightspace (D2L) and support technologies. They will also help with basic IT tickets. Several of the positions will be based in the Learning Centers where we typically receive students who are seeking assistance. More details will be forthcoming!

# Focus on Upcoming Events

## **#haccvirtual Twitter Chats**

For more information about Twitter chats or to view past chats, visit: <http://www.hacc.edu/NewStudents/Connect/Twitter.cfm>

## **Webinars:**

For more information about webinars or to view past webinar recordings, visit: <http://www.hacc.edu/NewStudents/Connect/Webinars.cfm>

## **Virtual Learning Retreat:**

**Fri., Oct. 14,** 9am-2:30pm

Location: TBD

Details to come via email

## **Staff Meeting** (everyone welcome)

**Fri., Sept. 16,** 9-10:30am

W-226D or VoicePlus, 221-1305

Conference ID 211303#

## **Amy Withrow Open Office Hours** (remote option)

**Fri., Sept. 9,** 2-3pm

**Fri., Sept. 23,** 2-3pm

**Fri., Oct. 7,** 2-3pm

**Fri., Oct. 21,** 2-3pm

**Fri., Nov. 11,** 2-3pm

**Fri., Dec. 9,** 2-3pm

Real Presence - Conference ID 211303#

## *Virtual Learning Team*

### *Faculty Leadership:*

#### *Full-time:*

Caroline Mellinger, VLFA Chair;  
Virtual Learning Faculty Assembly  
Karen Woodring, VLFA Vice Chair  
Suzanne O'Hop, Operations House  
Rosalina Beard, Operations House  
Megan MacIntire, Operations House

#### *Adjunct:*

Christina Houston, Operations House

#### *Non-Voting:*

Kari Meck, Collegewide CITE Coordinator  
Tamara Girardi, VL Cite Coordinator

#### *Leadership:*

Kelley Engle  
Dwayne Hunt  
Ayisha Sereni  
Amy Withrow

#### *Admin. Support:*

Elaine Holland  
Joanne McPherson

#### *Student Support:*

John Conforti  
Gina Bowers  
Emily Fox  
Jazmin Simpson

#### *Center for Design and Instruction:*

Carmen "Rocky" Allinger  
Melissa Dietrich  
Melany McNew  
Joe Mendrzycki  
Josh Rumpff  
Qiquan Wang