



## President's Reflection

### Greetings!

As I write this note, the year is coming to an end, and with it, so does our 75th Anniversary year.

What a year it has been! We were able to look back on the fabulous history that created and made Hagerstown Community College what it is today. This past year, we brought together many of the people who played vital roles over the past 75 years. Our Alumni came together on several occasions, as well as our retirees. It is always fun to have these groups on campus because I learn so much from them!

This newsletter highlights the major events going on at HCC. Additionally, I can attest that the campus feels alive this semester. We had over 500 youth come out to learn about the arts and sciences at our annual STEAM Fest in October. Students have returned to the classroom, and faculty report that students are engaged and ready to learn. Our campus clubs are busy planning all sorts of activities. It is an exciting time!

Looking forward, we will start work on the D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center in the early spring of 2023. We are working closely with Washington County Public Schools to ensure smooth enactment of legislative changes enabling more students to seek early college credit while still in high school. We are developing new internship opportunities with students to help them become engaged in a career choice while learning at the same time. Finally, we have new programs in the active planning stage.

Thanks to the firm bedrock of our past, HCC is actively planning its future. While many things have changed, one thing has not. Every day, we serve each student with the individual attention they deserve, in order to have every chance of success. That will never change!

**Dr. James S. Klauber, President**



*STEAMFest Welcomed Families From Across the Region*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

*HCC Alumni Board welcomes new president, Joan Bowers; Veterans at HCC; Groundbreaking at the D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center; Donor Recognition; and much more.*



**Your gift can make a difference for a student! Scan now to see the ways you can support HCC.**

*"In this life, it is what we give to others that matters most."*

*—Dr. Margaret Harrison, HCC Donor*

# DONOR RECOGNITION CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS AND DONORS

Nearly 400 people gathered at the Kepler Theater on Thursday, November 10, 2022, to recognize the generosity and compassion of HCC's donor community. HCC's annual Donor Recognition Event honors the contributions of donors who create and support endowed student scholarships at the college. The evening event features a program of speakers representing donors, students, and staff. This year's featured speakers included: Dr. James S. Klauber, President, HCC; Dr. Ashley Whaley, Senior Director, College Advancement; Dave Abeles, President, HCC Foundation Board; Brenda Hassinger, Scholarship Committee Chair, HCC Foundation Board; Dr. Margaret Harrison; Dr. George and Mrs. Carol Engstrom; Lindsay Crouse; Nathan Aklilu, and Katy Smith.

Margaret Harrison is the daughter of HCC's first registrar, Lois Smith. Margaret shared how important HCC has been to her family's legacy, and the continued value of the college to the community. According to Margaret, HCC provides opportunities and creates leaders.

Margaret explained why she gives to HCC. "In this life, it is what we give to others that matters most ~ we as individuals, we, as a community, and yes, we as a college. Past, present and future HCC is evolving and continuing to give."



**Dr. Margaret Harrison & Abigail Sprecher**

## Veterans Find a Home at HCC

Hagerstown Junior College first opened its doors in September 1946, as the first community college in Maryland. The story begins in the wake of World War II. Following their return home, veterans sought to make new lives for themselves and their families: the "baby boom" created a need for increased housing and economic opportunity, so the government subsidized such growth with the GI Bill of Rights. The GI Bill created many opportunities for change, but one affected HCC more than the others: the government subsidized education costs such as tuition, living expenses, and materials. Local veterans now had the support for higher education, but nowhere to go. Hence, the development and creation of Hagerstown Junior College. At the time, HJC was a temporary fix to a new problem, but the community college held on as an idea and developed into what we celebrate today.

Nowadays, Hagerstown Community College still proudly supports its veteran stu-

dents. Benjamin Ebertowski is the college's Veterans & Military Specialist and can be reached at [baebertowski@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:baebertowski@hagerstowncc.edu) regarding student life, supports available, as well as questions regarding benefits and federal certifications.

Thanks to a generous gift made in memory of Edith and Leroy Uber from members of the community, veteran students have an on-campus haven in the Veterans Connection Center (STC-169), a private space for students who are veterans, active duty military, and military dependents. The space is dedicated for their use as a multipurpose room: a study space, an area to be social and play any of the available board games, a private space on campus, and the room holds computers and printers for student use.

The newly renovated Veterans Connection Center opened on Veterans Day 2021, and has served students since.

As we look into the legacies of the past and towards the future of Hagerstown Community College, we can't forget from where we started: an institution of



*The Veteran's Center in the AC&T Student Center*

higher education to support our local population. That is how we started and how we continue to serve Hagerstown and Western Maryland.

**Help us impact more students -- including veterans -- by donating.**





# ALUMNI AND VOLUNTEERS TURN OUT FOR HCC!

## UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

Eighty-six volunteers from Washington County public works, the HCC volunteer corp, and current students worked to beautify the campus and plant needed foliage in the retention pond in front of the Student Center on October 15 during the annual United Way Day of Caring at Hagerstown Community College. With both a morning and afternoon session, the day was filled with much work, but also a great sense of accomplishment as those taking part saw the new garden emerge.



Lisa Stewart, Alumni and Volunteer Coordinator, greets Day of Caring volunteers.



County and college volunteers successfully upgraded college retention ponds.

## ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual Alumni Golf Tournament, held September 9, 2022, at Black Rock raised \$18,491.



Dr. Klauber inspects the course with Jake Klauber.



More than a hundred turned out to enjoy the day on the course.

## VOLUNTEER FIESTA

Volunteers are "tacoing" about the fabulous volunteer fiesta held September 23, 2022, at the college to celebrate all of the volunteers who give their time and service to the college.



Volunteers enjoyed games, great food, and each other's company.



Advancement staff greet volunteers.



# HAWKTOBERFEST HOMECOMING WEEKEND CELEBRATES ATHLETES AND ALUMNI

## 21st Hall of Fame Induction

Hagerstown Community College Athletics hosted its 21st Hall of Fame induction on October 1, 2022. Six athletes were chosen for induction: Sharon Webb Allen (Cross Country/Track); John Barrett (Baseball); Ryan Crabtree (Golf); Arnold Kelly (Cross Country/Track, Basketball, Football); Mary Beth Kennell (Softball); and Lindsey Plotner (Volleyball/Basketball). The Hall of Fame celebrated the accomplishments of student athletes that excelled during their time at HCC. Dr. Klauber heralded the athletes by sharing, "Tonight we get the opportunity to recognize these student athletes that excelled at their passion while pursuing a rigorous academic path. For them, it was challenge that they made appear easy."

In addition to honoring the six inductees, the college also paid tribute to former coach and athletic director, Jim Brown, who passed away earlier this year. Brown started his career at HCC in 1979 as a part-time men's basketball coach and was named athletic director in 1983. During his 23-year career at HCC, he achieved a Maryland JUCO and NCAA Region XX record of 517 wins as the men's head basketball coach. He originated the

Hawk Booster Club, which was instrumental in raising funds in support of HCC athletics. In 2002, he retired and was given the title of Emeritus Director of Athletics and the ARCC. In recognition of these many significant contributions, the HCC Board of Trustees approved the naming of the Coach Jim Brown Court and Basketball Arena in his honor. Brown is a Hall of Fame Class of 1997 inductee.



Top, left to right: Ryan Crabtree and Arnie Kelly  
Bottom, left to right: Lindsey Plotner, Sharon Webb Allen, and Mary Beth Kennell

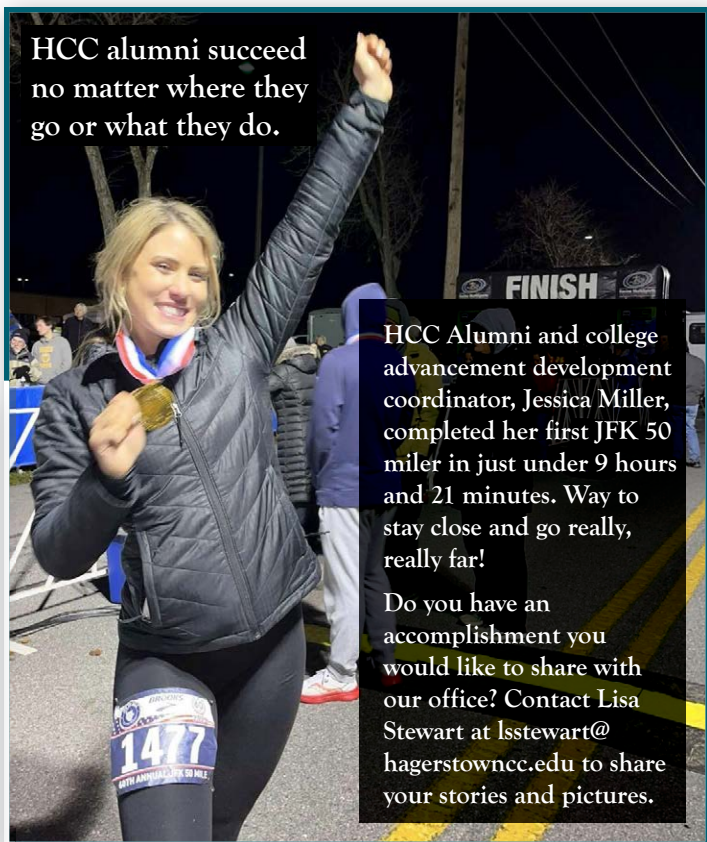
## Hawktoberfest 5k Walk and Run

A wet and windy morning greeted runners participating in the first annual Hawktoberfest 5k, held October 1, 2022. Despite the weather, nearly 100 runners braved the elements to compete on the challenging 5k course. Ryan Rasco blazed through the 3.1 mile course in a blistering 15:39, claiming the men's and overall title for the competition. Julien Webster, who placed fourth overall, won the women's division in 17:13. Not everyone was out to set a personal best – though several employees and board members took up Dr. Klauber's challenge to beat his time in the 5k and win a donation in their name to the Foundation. Nathan Heil (21:29), David Abeles (26:13), Julie James (29:57), and Matthew Vich (30:12) managed to beat Dr. Klauber's (30:40), earning \$220 for the HCC Foundation.



## Alumni Accomplishments

HCC alumni succeed no matter where they go or what they do.



HCC Alumni and college advancement development coordinator, Jessica Miller, completed her first JFK 50 miler in just under 9 hours and 21 minutes. Way to stay close and go really, really far!

Do you have an accomplishment you would like to share with our office? Contact Lisa Stewart at [lstewart@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:lstewart@hagerstowncc.edu) to share your stories and pictures.

## Groundbreaking for the DM Bowman Family Workforce Training Center

At the groundbreaking of the D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center on November 3, 2022, Linda Bowman Ebersole spoke eloquently about her family's passion for workforce training and development. Linda is the manager of the Jone L. Bowman Family Foundation, which has generously endowed \$1,000,000 in workforce development scholarships at the college. These scholarships will offset the costs of workforce development programs offered at the new Center, helping remove financial barriers for individuals looking to acquire new skills and employment in the community.

Linda shared these thoughts at the groundbreaking: "It is an opportunity for those of us here today to ensure that the children in Washington County know – as early as possible, and as often as possible – that their future education or workforce training is not limited to their family's ability to pay. Every child in our county needs to know at an early age that HCC is here to provide that

training and that there will be scholarships available to assist, no matter if they choose to attend community college or receive a certificate in a skilled job."

Several local leaders, including William Proctor, HCC Board Chair; Amos McCoy, CEO, Associated Builders and Contractors of Cumberland Valley; Tekesha Martinez, Hagerstown Councilmember; and Jeff Cline, President, Washington County Board of Commissioners joined Linda in celebrating the groundbreaking. The remodeling of the Center is funded in part by \$1,500,000 from Washington County and a \$5,480,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration. When finished, the Center will consolidate HCC's training and workforce development programs, in addition to housing Cumberland Valley Associated Builders and Contractors, which is moving its skilled trades training operations into the Center. The Center is expected to be completed sometime in 2024.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: FATIMAH

Fatimah wasn't born in Hagerstown. In fact, she wasn't even born in Maryland – she came from Saudi Arabia, and moved to the area in 2020. Fatimah first came to HCC to take English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and eventually went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Information Technology. She returned to HCC to learn website design, and is excited to be returning to the campus where she first learned English. Fatimah loves the Learning Support Center, and all of the resources the college provided when she first came to the U.S. Fatimah's family members have also joined her in the U.S. and two of her brothers and a sister both learned English here at the college, all successfully earning associates degrees. Fatimah's siblings have all gone on to earn four-year degrees, and credit their professional success to their initial experiences here at the college. Like her siblings, Fatimah is thankful for the support she received here, and for the financial support she received



from the HCC Foundation to help her with the cost of her studies. With her new skills in website design, Fatimah hopes to build a successful web design business – and plans to donate back to the Foundation so that other students can receive the same benefits she did.

## MEET JOAN BOWERS, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT



Joan Bowers '78

Joan Bowers is the new HCC Alumni Association Board president. Learn more about her in this Q & A.

**What was your experience like at HCC?**  
The HCC experience opened many doors and expanded my horizons and interest. I made lifelong friends and valued educators who had profound influence on life decisions and career direction.

**What role do you think the alumni association provides in supporting the college and its students?**

The Alumni Association has deep roots in the community with the board being diverse in all ways, this provides support for the college in many ways from fundraising, scholarships, education support, community outreach bringing guests to the college for events, for example the Red White and Blue concerts. I see the Alumni as a financial support system for scholarships, a service organization to better the college as a whole and a social organization to make lifelong friendships.

**What is your favorite alumni event/activity at the college?**

My personal favorite is the Red, White and Blue concerts in the Amphitheater.

**Community colleges don't usually have active alumni associations. What makes HCC different?**

HCC is different because of the leadership, Lisa Stewart. She tirelessly gives her heart and soul to this association and has the unique gift of drawing people in and can get them to work effortlessly making it a fun and meaningful contribution. Lisa has the gift of gathering individuals and giving them direction, and freedom to do the task in their own way. Lisa is the backbone of the Alumni organization.

**Did you know HCC offers a variety of classes for adult learners including ESL, basic literacy and GED preparation?**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

27th Annual HCC Alumni Flower & Garden Show –  
March 17 & 18, 2023,  
Saturday - 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday - 10 am to 4 pm,  
Admission is \$5, and children under 12 are free  
2023 theme, “Once upon a time in a garden...!”

A Tribute to HCC and Student Success, hosted by BJ Goetz  
and Jim Holzapfel ~ March 31, 2023 at the ARCC.  
Invitations mailed in January



**Do you have some exciting alumni news to share? We want to hear from you!**  
Email your updates (and pictures) to [lstewart@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:lstewart@hagerstowncc.edu).