

## President's Corner



Dear Atlantic Cape Alumni,

Thank you to the 400 alumni and friends who attended Morey's Pier Alumni Bash! It was such a great way to start the summer.

As our spring semester drew to a close, an event in which I would like to highlight is our 57th Annual Commencement. I want to express a special congratulations to the Class of 2024 who participated in the ceremony on May 16. It was held in the quad of the Mays Landing Campus, with over 400 students, and was our largest walking group to date. Dr. Brian Bridges, who serves as Secretary of Higher Education for the State of New Jersey (OSHE), delivered the Keynote Address. He advised graduates to use their education as a tool to overcome the challenges they may face, in order to create the change they would like to see for their lives and the world around them. It was a tremendous send off to our graduating class.

Recently, Atlantic Cape celebrated another major milestone in its 60th anniversary as a community college on its Mays Landing campus. Hundreds of attendees, including students, alumni, staff, faculty, and residents, came together to showcase the celebrations with food, live musical entertainment, and much more. Also, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Worthington Atlantic City campus with an open-to-the-public block party.

I am also very pleased to share that this year, the Atlantic Cape Foundations awarded more than \$792,000 in student scholarships to 524 students. This amount was the highest in the history of the Foundation. If you want to give back and be a part of giving to the next generation of students, please contact Chris Mularz at [cmularz@atlanticcape.edu](mailto:cmularz@atlanticcape.edu).

Lastly, I would like to congratulate all of our 2024 President's Distinguished Alumni. Our alumni continue to inspire me with their accomplishments as well as the support in which they have displayed throughout our community and Atlantic Cape. It has truly been an honor to showcase them in this

notable way. Congratulations to Christian Bolf, Chef Michael D'Angelo, Dr. Terri-Lynn Hamby, Chef Deborah Pellegrino, and Dr. Antoinette Wilson. The nominee selected for this year's Young Alumni Achievement Award is Latoya Mcglone.

I kindly invite all Atlantic Cape Alumni to stay involved and in touch with us through our Alumni Association programs and services. We are eager to hear about your accomplishments, to celebrate them with you, and to share them with current and future students who might need some encouragement to help them along their own path. To share your success story, reach out to Kristin Jackson at (609) 463-3621 or [kjackson@atlanticcape.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlanticcape.edu).

Best wishes to all of our alumni for a healthy and safe summer season

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Gaba  
President

## Atlantic Cape Awards \$366,504 in Scholarships to 211 Students During 57th Annual Scholarship Recognition Banquet



The 57th Annual Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation Scholarship Recognition Ceremony acknowledged the unwavering generosity and continued support of the college's sponsors and donors. The Foundation also recognized the tremendous academic achievements of Atlantic Cape's students by awarding 351 individual scholarships worth \$366,504 to 211 students on May 13 in the Jonathan Pitney Hall Gymnasium on the Mays Landing campus.

The evening's festivities were attended by 298 people, including 105 students, 93 guests, 52 scholarship donors, and 48 board members, college faculty and staff. The outpouring of giving from such donors has allowed the Atlantic Cape Foundation to support thousands of Atlantic and Cape May County students over the past 57 years and given them the financial means to pursue their academic dreams.



In Giving Year 2023, the Foundation awarded 567 scholarships worth \$591,117 to Atlantic Cape students. The Foundation received \$789,836 from 596 donors and sponsors. Meanwhile, \$46,000 was raised in direct support for Atlantic Cape, \$12,190 was raised for emergency funds and \$9,290 for the Campus Food Pantry. Since the Foundation's beginning in 1978, it has raised millions of dollars for student scholarships, academic programs and enhancing the campus environment. The Foundation's mission is to provide funding and support to the college, its students and educational endeavors through special event fundraising and community philanthropy.

Visit [atlanticcape.edu/give](http://atlanticcape.edu/give) to help support the Atlantic Cape Foundation.

# Atlantic Cape Awards More Than 900 Associate's Degrees and Certificates at 57th Annual Commencement Ceremony



Despite rainy and windy conditions, hundreds of boisterous families, friends and loved ones gathered together to watch nearly 400 students receive their degrees and certificates at Atlantic Cape's 57th Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 16 at the Mays Landing campus Quad.

A total of 904 associate's degrees, including 47 to high school students from Atlantic and Cape May counties who took part in the Early College Program, and 23 certificates were awarded this year to 919 students ranging in age from 17 to 68.



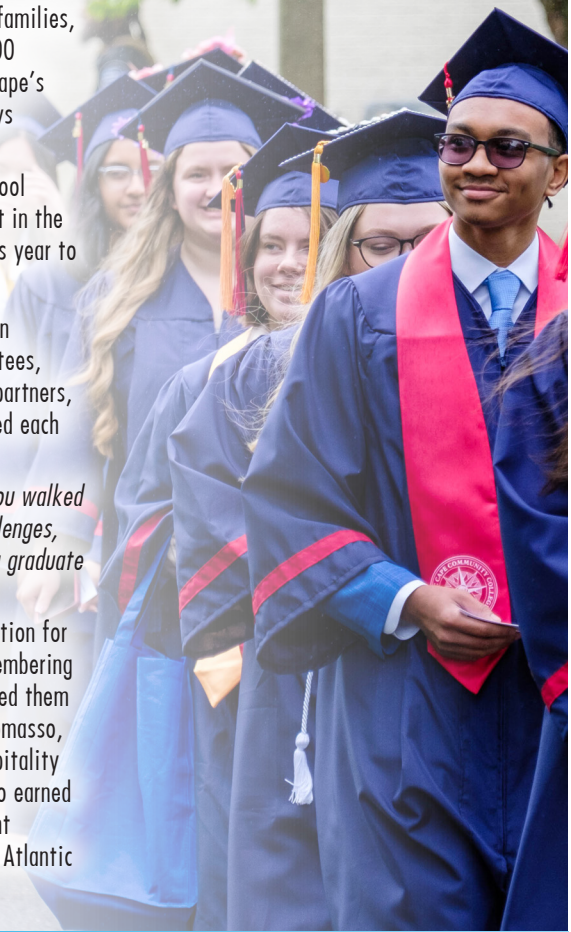
Atlantic Cape President Dr. Barbara Gaba, proudly standing on stage surrounded by members of the college's Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, President's cabinet, staff and university partners, welcomed all in attendance to the festivities and commended each graduate on their tremendous accomplishments.

*"You have shown incredible resilience from the first time you walked through the doors of your first class, through all of the challenges, to where you are today, here celebrating a milestone as you graduate with an associate's degree or certificate,"* said Dr. Gaba.



Keynote speaker Dr. Brian Bridges, secretary of higher education for the State of New Jersey, spoke to the graduates about remembering the struggles they have overcome and the mentors who helped them along the way. 4.0 Honors Student representative Abigail Tomasso, who received an Associate in Applied Science degree in Hospitality Management, spoke on behalf of the 24 other graduates who earned a perfect grade point average. Outgoing Student Government Association (SGA) President Sultana Zakia spoke about how Atlantic Cape helped teach her leadership.

Visit [atlanticcape.edu/graduation](http://atlanticcape.edu/graduation) for more info, to read graduate spotlights and view photo galleries.



## Annual President's Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Awards Dinner Recognizes Six New Honorees



Latoya Mcglone '17, Chef Michael D'Angelo '84, Dr. Antoinette Wilson '84, Dr. Barbara Gaba, Dr. Terri-Lynn Hamby '94 & '98, Chef Deborah Pellegrino '92 and Christian Bolf '93.

The Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation recognized six members of the college's alumni during the Annual President's Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Awards Dinner on Wednesday, April 10 at Carême's, student-run gourmet restaurant on the Mays Landing campus.

Honored this year were Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Christian Bolf '93, Chef Michael D'Angelo '84, Dr. Terri-Lynn Hamby '94 & '98, Chef Deborah Pellegrino '92 and Dr. Antoinette Wilson '84, as well as Young Alumni Award recipient Latoya Mcglone '17.

*"This year's President's Distinguished Alumni Award honorees all represent our mission and serve as exemplary role models for our current and future students,"* said Jean McAlister, chief advancement officer, Atlantic Cape and executive director, Atlantic Cape Foundation.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to Atlantic Cape graduates who have made significant contributions in their professional field, community and/or through humanitarian service. The Young Alumni Achievement Award is bestowed upon a graduate who is 40 years or younger and has excelled in his/her profession, made positive contributions to his/her community and remained connected to the college while supporting its mission and values.

Visit [atlanticcape.edu/alumniaward](http://atlanticcape.edu/alumniaward) for full Distinguished Alumni Award recipient bios and a list of previous awardees, as well.





# Seventh Annual Atlantic Cape Alumni Bash at Morey's Piers



The Atlantic Cape Alumni Association hosted the Seventh Annual Alumni Bash on Sunday, June 16 at Morey's Piers in Wildwood after a five-year hiatus from the venue. On a picture-perfect summer day, 400 Atlantic Cape alumni, family, and friends, traveled from as far as New York to enjoy the rides on the iconic Wildwood boardwalk's three amusement piers, two water parks, as well as a delicious all-you-can-eat barbecue lunch at the Rendezvous Beach Picnic Pavilion.

The Alumni Bash is the Alumni Association's largest annual event which has served as a celebratory kick-off to summer for thousands of Atlantic Cape graduates and their guests over the years. Atlantic Cape is grateful for the long-standing partnership with Morey's Piers and the Morey family, who support ongoing fundraising efforts and scholarships for students attending Atlantic Cape Community College.

The Atlantic Cape Alumni Association would also like to thank the friendly and attentive staff at Morey's Piers for their hospitality throughout the day as well as the event's attendees for their support.

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



## Alumni in the News

The Atlantic City Free Public Library's Board of Trustees appointed Assistant Director **Melissa McGeary '04**, as the new director, effective June 1. McGeary began her career at the library in 2017 as a part-time library associate and climbed the ladder, earning new job titles and increasing responsibilities before becoming the assistant director in May 2023. Good luck as you take on your new role, Melissa!

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father before him, **Cole Perfetti, ACA '23**, is keeping the family's entrepreneurial spirit alive by

opening his own new business, Surf Road Coffee Bar & Beach Bowls, in Historic Smithville. A ribbon cutting ceremony on June 8 officially welcomed Perfetti's coffee shop to the area. Congratulations and good luck, Cole!

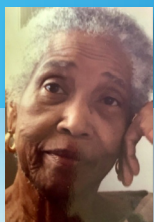
Ocean Casino Resort announced the promotion of former ACA student, **Brian Perry**, to the role of Executive Chef in June 2024. Brian has been in the restaurant for 30 years, serving in various roles at other Atlantic City properties including Borgata Hotel, Casino & Spa and the Pier at Caesars. Brian has been

with Ocean for nearly three years. Congratulations, Brian!

HCA Florida St. Petersburg Hospital and HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital welcomed **Rocky Ricapito '98** as the new Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) at both Pinellas County locations in May 2024. Rocky also serves as a Senior Chief Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard Reserve, a rank achieved by only 2.5% of all enlisted members, with several years of combined active and reserve military service. Congratulations, Rocky!

## In Memoriam

**Ruth Tunnell '75 (1940-2024)**



Ruth Tunnell '75 passed away on June 24, 2024 at the age of 84. After graduating from Atlantic Cape with Liberal Arts A.A. degree, she went on to earn a degree in Sociology and Social Work from Rutgers University. She was a devoted volunteer, advocate for the

less fortunate, and actively engaged in community service. Ms. Tunnell retired from Atlantic County Department of Family & Community Development as an Assistant Administrative Supervisor for Family Services.

The Atlantic Cape Foundation Board wishes to recognize Ms. Tunnell posthumously for her tireless and exemplary service creating opportunities for Atlantic Cape students while serving on the Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation Board from 2002 until 2022. She was also a member of Atlantic Cape's Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF) Advisory Board for 25 years, including serving as its first female chairperson in 1988.

Additionally, Ms. Tunnell served on Atlantic Cape's Minority Affairs Committee raising funds for scholarships for at-risk minority students attending the college and was the Founder of the Melvin L. Newton Scholarship.

The Atlantic Cape Foundation sends its sincerest condolences to Ms. Ruth Tunnell's family and friends on her passing.

## In Memoriam

Dorothy F. "Dotty" Mitzel '82 Kevin Erin Woolcock '02

# RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

## Rutgers at Atlantic Cape



## Our Story

Rutgers Lifelong Learning Center in Mays Landing, NJ provides the residents of South Jersey an opportunity to earn a Rutgers degree close to home. We are convenient, cost-effective, and committed to your success.

### Atlantic Cape - Rutgers Camden Premier Partnership

Effective Fall 2024, all participating students are eligible for a reduced tuition rate for their junior year at Rutgers Mays Landing. See the list of participating majors by visiting the "Our Story, Your Success" tab via the QR code to the right.

### RU LinkedIn?





# Chris' CORNER

Dear Atlantic Cape Alumni,

I hope this message finds you well and you are enjoying the beginning of the summer season. I would like to welcome the Class of 2024 to the Alumni Association family! You are now a part of a very special group of almost 30,000 graduates! Your journey at Atlantic Cape has equipped you with the knowledge, skills, and experiences that will serve as a strong foundation for your future career and academic endeavors. We can't wait to see where Atlantic Cape can take you!

I am also excited to announce that we are re-establishing our Alumni Association Executive Council. COVID paused this process, but we are now moving forward to re-establish this organization. The Alumni Executive Council will serve as a cornerstone for strengthening the bonds between our graduates and Atlantic Cape Community College. Our goal is to create a vibrant platform for collaboration, networking, and mutual support, ensuring that our alumni network remains a lifelong resource for professional/ personal growth and development.

By re-establishing this Council, we will focus on such areas as:

- Enhance Alumni Engagement
- Foster a strong sense of alumni volunteerism and giving back
- Work collaboratively with the College, College BOT and College Foundation BOT on matters related to Alumni Association
- Organize social events for Alumni, current students, faculty, staff and community partners with the purpose of renewing acquaintances and establishing new relationships

As we move forward with the Alumni Association Executive Council, we invite you to get involved and share your ideas. Your insights and participation are invaluable to the success of the Alumni Executive Council. Together, we can build a vibrant, supportive, and forward-thinking alumni community that upholds the values, mission and traditions of Atlantic Cape. Please reach out to Kristin Jackson, Sr. Manager for Advancement, Alumni and Events at [kjackson@atlanticcape.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlanticcape.edu) to let her know of your interest to join or for any questions.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the return of the Scramble "Fore" Golf Tournament on October 4th at the iconic Cape May National Golf Club in Cape May. This year marks our 20th year at Cape May National and we have raised more than \$800,000 for student scholarships.

*Thank you for your continued support! If you have any questions or just want to chat, please feel free to contact me at 609-463-3651 or [cmularz@atlanticcape.edu](mailto:cmularz@atlanticcape.edu).*



Support Atlantic Cape Students & Join Us!

ATLANTIC CAPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

SCRAMBLE  
**FORE**  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER 4, 2024**  
at Cape May National Golf Club

ATLANTIC CAPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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

TEAM OF FOUR: \$600  
INDIVIDUAL GOLFERS: \$175

FACULTY, STAFF, & ALUMNI: **SAVE \$100** when you register a team of four!

[atlanticcape.edu/go/ff](http://atlanticcape.edu/go/ff)  
For sponsorship or player information contact  
Kristin Jackson  
609.463.3621  
[kjackson@atlanticcape.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlanticcape.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@atlanticcape.edu](mailto:kjackson@atlanticcape.edu) or (609) 463-3621