

THE ADVISOR

News from the Hagerstown Community College Advancement Office

Fall 2024

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION



I write this to you on our first day of fall classes, which is always an exciting time! Last week, we held our day-long Freshmen Orientation, for the second year. It was a tremen-

dous success, with more than 900 students and their parents/guests in attendance. The goal of the orientation is to have fewer students wandering around, looking for their buildings, and generally lost on Day One! Hopefully we have them prepared for a great future at HCC and beyond!

This issue of The Advisor has some great highlights on all that we are doing to meet the needs of our students. You will get to meet our new President of the HCC Foundation, Jim Pierne, who also is one of our stellar faculty members at HCC. Jim and his wife, Georgia, are deeply committed to HCC, our students, and our community. We are beyond excited that he agreed to lead our Foundation.

This year's Annual Fund campaign

is taking a new twist and you might think we have gone to the dogs! Our theme for the year is your pet! To make giving more fun, we ask donors to share pictures of their furry friends at home and why they are special in your life.

In this edition, you will also hear from one of our student scholarship recipients, one of our recent retirees, and read all about the recent cruise to Hawaii. As always, there is a lot going on at HCC!

Yours truly,

Dr. Jim Klauber



“Support HCC Foundation scholarships so that the students can discover their greatness.”

– Mike Harsh, HCC Professor Emeritus

IN THIS ISSUE:

TRIO: Upward Bound Highlight, President's Circle Overview, Alumni Cruise, and more!

Would you like to make a difference in our community? Donate towards your preferred scholarship fund today at hagerstowncc.edu/giving.

What do you want to see in our newsletters? Email us at collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu to let us know!

HCC Faculty Spotlight: Celebrating Professor Mike Harsh's Legacy



After more than 40 remarkable years with Hagerstown Community College, Professor Mike Harsh has retired, leaving behind a lasting impact on our community. He began his career teaching speech and English, Mike transitioned to lead the theater department in the late 1980s. He helped shape the lives of countless students under the guidance of all four college presidents, witnessing the evolution of the institution and the incredible impact on its students and faculty.

Mike's favorite aspect of teaching at a community college is the opportunity to engage directly with students, something he finds immensely rewarding. He appreciated the freedom of teaching a variety of classes each semester, a reflection of his rich background in



arts and humanities. He says, "The nice thing about community college is that you get paid to teach. You aren't hired to be a researcher or a publisher like at four-year colleges."

Mike's dedication extends beyond the classroom. He and his wife, Linda, are proud parents of three HCC graduates and have four grandchildren. His commitment to HCC's values is evident in his support for both the employee giving campaign and the United Way, emphasizing the importance of donating to both of these worthy causes.



Mike believes that HCC is a beacon of safety and support for all students, a sentiment that fuels his ongoing support for scholarships and the Foundation's efforts.

"So many students live demanding lives; they have family obligations, multiple jobs and support children or parents" he says, "and the assistance they receive from the Foundation is incredible. It's wonderful to see how it helps offset their costs while they are in school, bettering themselves."

As we celebrate Mike's incredible career, we honor his unwavering dedication to making HCC a nurturing and supportive environment for all.



Join the HCC Family

2024 Annual Fund and Employee Giving Campaign

This year's HCC Foundation Annual Fund and HCC Employee Giving Campaign will raise money for HCC Foundation student scholarships. With over 300 endowed scholarships, HCC Foundation donors can support the scholarship fund that resonates with them the most. A list of all HCC Foundation scholarships and their eligibility criteria can be found at hagerstowncc.academicworks.com/opportunities.

The Annual Fund will feature a student scholarship recipient whose motivation to complete her degree is her family. To her, HCC faculty and staff make her feel like a family on campus as well. The Annual Fund will conclude on December 31, 2024.

hagerstowncc.edu/advancement/annual-giving

Donate here to contribute to the 2024 Annual Fund Campaign!



The Employee Giving Campaign, held August 19 through September 27, highlights HCC staff and faculty's FURRY FAMILY! Partnering with local business Hearty Pet, the Employee Giving Campaign will provide any employee who donates and uploads a photo of their pet a chance to win a gift from Hearty Pet, among several other prizes!



The 2023 Annual Fund and Employee Giving Campaign gifted nearly 200 HCC Foundation donors, including both HCC employees and community supporters, with the exclusive HCC Hawk Hawaiian shirt.



HCC Foundation Board Member Spotlight: Jim Pierne

How did you become affiliated with HCC?

In 2011, after my retirement from Susquehanna Bancshares, Inc., there was a position advertised in the Business Department at Hagerstown Community College. I applied and was accepted for the position and began teaching in the January 2012 term. I have been teaching BUS 101: Introduction to Business Organization and Management, BUS: 104 The Legal Environment of Business, and MGT 103: Principles of Management both as in-person and online classes. I have also had the privilege to serve as the Club Advisor for the HCC Business Club and to work with the student internship program. Recently, I was asked to serve as the President of the HCC Foundation for the 2024-2025 academic year.

What do you like most about being an HCC Foundation Board member?

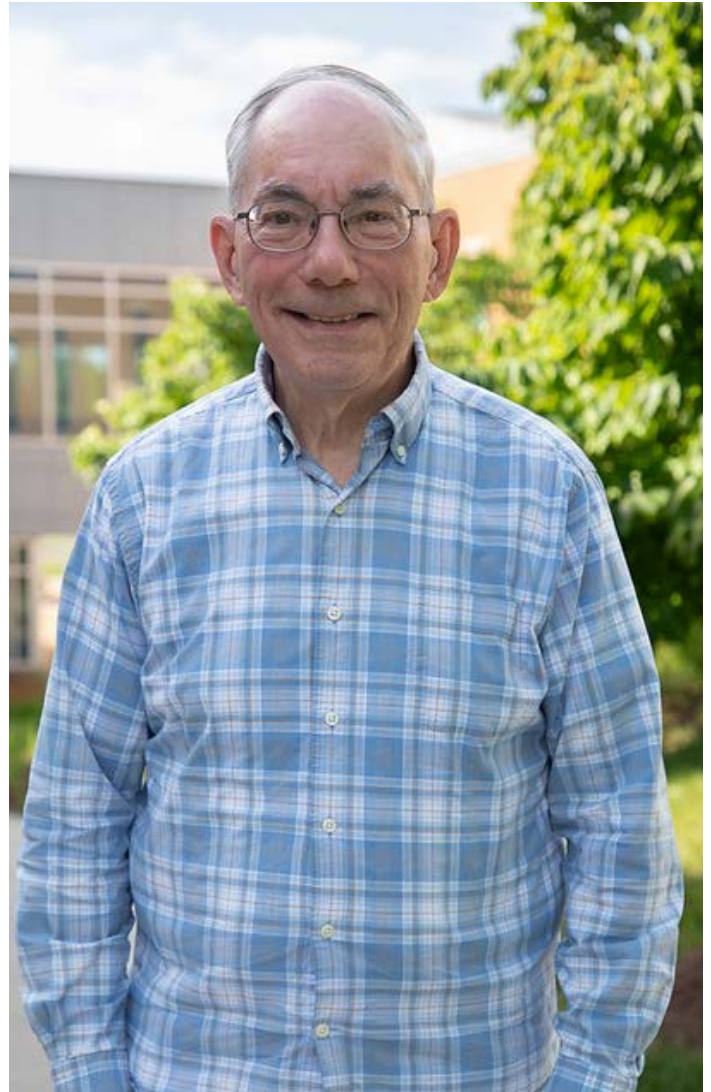
Serving on the Board of the HCC Foundation offers the opportunity to see first-hand how impactful the activities of the Foundation are for both the college and its students. My wife and I have sponsored several scholarships, and it is most gratifying to know the help that this provides as students pursue their academic goals. Most gratifying is receiving the letters from students who have benefited from the scholarship awards and how it has changed their lives.

What project or program at HCC are you most passionate about?

I truly love the teaching aspect of HCC and the ability to work with students as they start their academic careers. It is exciting and challenging at the same time, but also very satisfying when you watch the students grow and succeed. HCC can truly change lives and has done so since its founding. The work of the HCC Foundation helps students to achieve their career goals and dreams. I have also enjoyed exposing students to the leaders in our local community, state, and national level through the activities of the HCC Business Club. All of these activities have offered me the opportunity to continue my career and hopefully help students achieve what they expect from their time at HCC.

What impact do you hope HCC will have on the future of the community?

HCC has been impacting our community since 1946. When you mention HCC anywhere in our community, it has touched the lives of so many of its members. The leadership of HCC has a great vision on how the college can help the community in the future and I know the impact



and influence of HCC will only continue to grow. We need the young people in our community to realize that there is a great opportunity right here and HCC is well positioned to help make that come true.



THE HCC PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



The President's Circle is HCC's new annual giving leadership society. With cumulative annual giving of \$1,000 or more during the college's fiscal year (July 1 through June 30), members will make a powerful statement about the value of community college education. Membership in the President's Circle sends a positive message to the community and inspires others to follow the lead of its members.

Membership benefits include:

- Special invitations to events that offer opportunities to meet with President Jim Klauber, college leadership, members of the HCC Foundation board of directors, faculty and staff, and, most importantly, HCC students
- Exclusive Annual President's Circle Dinner with HCC President Jim Klauber
- Recognition in HCC's Annual Report and on the official President's Circle webpage
- Personalized communications exclusively for President's Circle members

“The President's Circle represents a core group of leaders who value the impact that Hagerstown Community College has within our region. I greatly value their commitment and input.”

– Dr. Jim Klauber, HCC President



Interested in learning more about HCC's President's Circle?
Visit: www.hagerstowncc.edu/advancement/presidents-circle

HCC Alumni Association: Interview with the new President and President-Elect

Meet Cathy Grantham, the new president of the HCC Alumni Association, and Rick Lowman, president-elect.

What was your favorite memory as an HJC/HCC student? Did you have any classes/professors that made a lasting impact on you?

Cathy: Back in the day (1969-71 HJC) HCC was a much smaller campus with only five buildings.

Some of my favorite memories at HCC were outdoor concerts on campus and studying in the library. It was fun to go to our student center and meet new people, especially the veterans, who were taking advantage of the GI Bill.

All of my professors and the staff at HCC contributed to a fantastic experience for me. I especially enjoyed learning literature from Mr. Ron Ballard, who had just arrived from California, because he was young and progressive in his teaching style. Another favorite professor was Mr. Lee, my psychology professor, because he was gentle, kind and encouraging. Probably the most exciting and intimidating professor was Mr. Harold Boyer because he challenged us in geography and was never boring. Dr. Carl Galligan and Kathy Lee were always there for all students when we needed guidance to take classes and for so much more.

Rick: Playing on the basketball team and being a member of Coach Cokey's first team at HJC. The teachers I most enjoyed were Bob Glass and John Osborne.

What did you do after HCC graduation? (schooling, career)

Cathy: After earning my A.A. degree, I went to Towson University to earn my B.S. in elementary education. Then I earned my master's degree in Special Education at Western MD College, which is now called McDaniel College.

Rick: I went to WVU and graduated with a B.S. in business administration. Upon graduating I took over Spitzer Chemical and Pool Co. in Funkstown, MD, eventually moving it to Martinsburg. After 25 years, I changed careers to become the office manager at Stonebridge Golf Club. I also began working for OfficeMax when they opened



Cathy Grantham (HJC '71) and Rick Lowman (HJC '69)

a store in Martinsburg. I served a short period as assistant manager before moving to the sales manager of the copy center. I had been a founding member of Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Panhandle and left the golf club to become their first Executive Director while also continuing to work at OfficeMax. After retiring from OfficeMax, I then began my second career as a volunteer. I spent 8 years as a volunteer food manager at Loaves & Fishes. In 2012, along with my wife, Melanie, I became a Master Composter. We regularly teach composting and gardening classes. In 2017, I became a WV Master Naturalist and, in 2018, a WV Extension Master Gardener. I served as president of the Berkeley-Jefferson Extension Master Gardeners for four years.

What do you like most about the HCC Alumni Association?

Cathy: When I first became an alumnus, I loved working at the Flower and Garden Show every spring! That was my introduction to the alumni association and to so many faithful members. Since then, I have enjoyed volunteering for many other activities, such as graduation, sport events, the radiography program, College for Kids, and working in the concession stand for the amphitheater's free summer concerts. Recently, I have enjoyed the cruises that the Alumni Association sponsored to help the HCC Alumni Association scholarship fund.

My husband Bob and I were able to cruise through the Caribbean in 2023 and Hawaii in 2024, which was a dream come true for me.

Rick: I'm impressed with all the association does for the school and its students by raising funds for scholarships and to support students' success. The fund raisers are very well run and provide an opportunity for alumni to meet and work together.

What student need speaks the most to you?

Cathy: Mental health might be the greatest area of need for students. Today's students are juggling stressors of our society, the speed at which things are changing, the myriads of career opportunities and everyday life with family and friends. I hope that HCC provides a safe haven for students who want to pursue their dreams and change their lives. I hope it remains a place for students who just want to learn for the sake of learning something new. Finally, I hope HCC continues to be a place of pride for our community.

Rick: Supporting students' ability to get an education, not just with financial aid but by providing the best facility, talented teachers and staff, a safe learning environment and access to any needs to facilitate their learning experience. I am particularly supportive of the food pantry, the Angel Fund for student emergency needs, and the clothing closet.

Alumni Association Hawaii Cruise

In May 2024, a local business, Travel Leaders, organized a trip for 115 HCC alumni and friends to cruise around the islands of Hawaii! Cruisers began their journey in Ohau, traveling to Maui, Hilo, Kona, and Kauai. Over \$23,000 was raised from the trip for the HCC Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, which supports students who are children or grandchildren of a person who completed a course of study at HCC.



Brethren Mutual Insurance Grows Scholarship



Brethren Mutual Insurance Company donated \$25,000 last year to create the Brethren Mutual Endowment Scholarship. This year, Brethren Mutual's 25th Charity Golf Tournament held in May raised an additional \$9,000 for the scholarship fund.

Brethren Mutual Insurance has a long history of community involvement through financial support and participation in local charitable organizations activities. The decision to establish the Brethren Mutual Scholarship stems from a desire to support individuals pursuing a post-secondary education in business and/or finance. Establishing and nurturing relationships with students helps develop a pipeline of candidates for future opportunities at Brethren Mutual. According to CEO Bob Glass, "investing in our community makes our community stronger."

Brethren Mutual Insurance Company was founded in 1897 by members of several Brethren churches in Washington and Frederick counties. They established the German Baptist Brethren's Protective Association protecting local farm dwellings, crops, and personal belongings. Today, Brethren Mutual writes personal, commercial, and farm insurance in five states for more than 65,000 customers.

The first scholarship will be awarded for the Fall 2024 semester.



The HCC Foundation Halo Fund: Emergency Support for Students

Last year, the HCC Foundation finally reached the endowment level of \$25,000 for the Halo Fund. This fund was created by the HCC Foundation to provide perpetual funds for students facing emergencies that prevent them from graduating, such as transportation, food, housing, and child care insecurity.

Gifts to the Halo Fund ensure students are able to remain on their path to graduation, despite the barriers they face. To learn more about how you can support the Halo Fund, email collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu.

“Having electricity is doing more for our family, every member, than words can express. Without the help of you, we may not have been able to complete our studies and stay on the path to excellence.”

– HCC student who received emergency assistance to pay their electric bill



TRIO Upward Bound

Before embarking on their official college journey, students at Hagerstown Community College (HCC) benefit from early support through a dedicated program aimed at ensuring they are college-ready. Thanks to a substantial five-year, \$1,250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, HCC’s TRIO Upward Bound program plays a crucial role in preparing local high school students for higher education.

The Upward Bound program focuses on assisting high school students from low-income families and those whose parents do not hold a bachelor’s degree. Its primary objective is to enhance the likelihood that these students will complete their secondary education, enroll in postsecondary institutions, and graduate.

Under the guidance of Program Manager Jim

Mankins and Academic Advisor Alex Goveo, Upward Bound offers a range of services, including exposure to college coursework, tutoring, and opportunities to visit local colleges and engage in cultural experiences. Currently, the program supports up to 72 students from four Washington County high schools: Williamsport, Hancock, North High, and South High.

John Sauer, a junior at Williamsport High School and an HCC Early College scholar, credits Upward Bound for significantly aiding his college preparation:

“Upward Bound is a fantastic college readiness program that has helped me in so many ways, like providing insight into financial aid and showing me how available scholarship opportunities actually are. Before Upward Bound, I thought scholarships

were some rare thing that not many people could get, and now I know that there are so many just waiting for people to take. Upward Bound has also allowed me to discover so many colleges that I never knew existed, and some of those colleges are among my top picks for applications, but I would have never heard of them without Upward Bound. An example would be Drexel University.... The people in Upward Bound are also amazing people to know. The program has even helped me with career choices; for example, now I am majoring in administration of justice with the goal of becoming an attorney, which is something Mr. Goveo helped me with; they have truly been there every step of the way through my high school and now college experience, which I truly appreciate.”

To learn more about the college’s Upward Bound program, visit the TRIO Upward Bound website at www.hagerstowncc.edu/upwardbound.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 12, 2024

3rd Annual Hawktoberfest 5k Run/Walk

October 12, 2024

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction & Reception

October 18, 2024

Fever Candlelight Concerts

November 2, 2024

STEAM Fest

November 6, 2024

Donor Recognition

December 5, 2024

Volunteer Holiday Luncheon

December 6, 2024

Fall Dance Recital

December 13, 2024

Fever Candlelight Concerts

Questions? Email collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu or Call 240-500-2232