BUCKS Graduates Class of 2007 While Celebrating Its Past

On May 17, BUCKS conferred associate degrees and certificates on 860 students, and nearly two dozen alumni and founding faculty members (pictured) were recognized during the College’s 41st annual commencement. They had gathered with founding President Dr. Charles E. Rollins earlier that day for their 40th reunion, poring over yellowed yearbooks and reminiscing at a reception in historic Tyler Hall.

“Members of this inaugural class were the pioneers who started at Bucks in 1965 and set the standard for all who were to follow,” said current President Dr. James J. Linksz.

New Scholarship Opportunity to Help Lower Bucks Students Realize Dreams

‘Bridge to Higher Education’ awards will help low-income residents get a college education at BUCKS

BUCKS, which recently opened its new state-of-the-art campus in Bristol Township to better serve residents of Lower Bucks County, will soon offer scholarships to help low-income students from that area turn their dreams of higher education into reality.

The Bridge to Higher Education Scholarship Fund will offer a minimum of ten $1,500 scholarships annually to low-income public and technical high school students as well as GED recipients who reside in Lower Bucks County and want to attend BUCKS. Created through a partnership between the Gene and Marlene Epstein Humanitarian Fund and the Bucks County Community College Foundation, the scholarship fund will support students who would not necessarily consider pursuing a higher education degree. “We are looking for individuals who are passionate about education and have a strong desire to learn and succeed, but don’t necessarily have the means to do so,” said Gene Epstein, the program’s founder.

For more than 40 years, BUCKS has provided open access to higher education and played an important role in educating and re-educating today’s workforce. Nearly one in five Bucks County high school graduates chooses to attend BCCC. “Fifty percent of our total student population comes from Lower Bucks County, and this scholarship will allow even more residents to pursue their dream of a college education,” said Tobi Bruhn, Executive Director of the College’s Foundation. “Once enrolled, students will be able to take advantage of additional opportunities to continue their pursuit of a two-year associate degree.”

Although applicants do not need a minimum grade-point-average to apply for this scholarship, they must meet the eligibility criteria for the Federal Pell Grant Program which provides need-based grants to low-income students to promote access to postsecondary education. For more information on eligibility requirements or to obtain an application, visit the Foundation’s web site. In addition, assistance in completing the application can be obtained by scheduling an appointment with the College’s Financial Aid Office at 215-968-8200. For a complete listing of available scholarship at BUCKS, visit www.bucks.edu/foundation.

Rohm and Haas Supports New Lower Bucks Campus

Rohm and Haas Company is the signature sponsor of two state-of-the-art community centers on the College’s newly constructed Lower Bucks Campus in Bristol Township. The $100,000 donation for the Rohm and Haas Community Centers will provide a much-needed central meeting location for students as well as the community.

Each room will feature state-of-the-art technology including a Smartboard, projector and electronic instructor station. In addition, the centers, located on the first and second floors of the new building, can be divided into two separate classrooms or opened up to accommodate seating for up to 60 people each.

“The new campus in Bristol will provide affordable education, expanded courses and programs as well as multicultural events and other opportunities for our community,” said Jim Sell, Executive Director of the Lower Bucks Campus. “We plan to have something for everyone. Rohm and Haas’ support of this project has given us a wonderful opportunity to build a beautiful center that will provide a much needed sense of community both for campus students and local residents.”

Sign up for the Foundation Listserve – e-mail foundation@bucks.edu
Join the Tyler Legacy Society
A planned gift is an attractive giving strategy and one you arrange during your lifetime with the benefit to BUCKS deferred to a future date. It also serves as a crucial element to one’s estate planning and tax savings strategies.

Other advantages planned gifts offer you:
- Ability to make larger gifts during your lifetime than otherwise possible.
- Ability to make a gift while assuring income for yourself, a spouse, a child or to others for whom you wish to make provisions.
- Ability to create a memorial in your name or that of others close to you.
- Ability to take advantage of tax benefits.

In addition planned gifts are a vital source for assuring the financial strength and growth of the College. For more information, visit the Foundation’s web site.

Grant from PNC Foundation Helps Youngsters ‘Grow Up Great’
Young children at Bucks County Community College’s Early Learning Center now have more chances to sing, dance, paint, and see live animals up close and personal, thanks to a grant from the PNC Foundation. A $16,450 grant, funded through PNC’s “Grow Up Great” initiative to promote early childhood education and school readiness, will allow the ELC to expand creative arts and science programs over the next two years.

Funds will be used to:
- Utilize storytellers and puppeteers to enrich children’s experiences with make-believe and drama, while developing listening and comprehension skills.
- Establish an ongoing music enrichment program with a professional preschool music educator.
- Recruit a part-time art teacher to work on projects requiring one-on-one interaction with children.

Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the ELC cares for children ages two to five years old. Located on the Newtown campus, it has also earned a four-star rating, the highest possible, from the Keystone STARS child-care quality initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Original Painting Returns Thanks to Tyler Family
A piece of history returned to Tyler Hall thanks to Sidney F. Tyler, grandson of Stella Elkins and George F. Tyler, and his wife Betsey, who recently donated an oil painting on behalf of the Tyler family. The painting, by an unknown artist, once hung above the fireplace in the mansion’s Music Room and features a scene of Venice. It was modeled after The Bucintoro Returning to the Molo on Ascension Day by Caneletto, an 18th century Venetian artist. Joining Sidney Tyler, center, for this occasion (from left to right) are Michael E. Tyler, Carol Tyler, Ann Tyler, and Bob Tyler.

Annual Fund Increases by 40 Percent
Net profits for the Bucks County Community College Foundation’s and Alumni Association’s Annual Fund increased 40 percent compared to last year. More than 110 alumni, business partners, and friends contributed to the College’s scholarship programs, endowment funds, and facility improvement campaigns.