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Jessica Knouse
Faculty Speaker

Jessica Knouse has been at HACC since 2008 and is currently the director of student development and multicultural programs at HACC’s Gettysburg Campus. In addition, she is an adjunct faculty for foundational studies, English and humanities at HACC’s Harrisburg and Gettysburg campuses. Jessica has a diverse professional background, as she is the former mayor of Arendtsville, Pennsylvania, statewide board member for Equality Pennsylvania and vice chair of the Adams County Heroin Awareness Task Force. She lives in Hanover, Pennsylvania, with her two dogs. She wishes the graduating class of 2017 the best as they embark on this new chapter of their lives!

Verley Valerius
Student Speaker

Originally from Haiti, Verley Valerius proudly graduates from HACC’s Engineering Program and as a member of the Alpha Nu Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. During his time at HACC’s Harrisburg Campus, he was a student worker for accounts payable and a peer tutor in math, physics, and chemistry. As an international student, Verley joined the global leadership program to facilitate a smoother transition for new international students on campus, and he served as vice president of the International Awareness Club. He even earned a certificate of recognition for his leadership. Verley is the only one in his family living in the United States as he pursues his education. He aspires to continue his studies and earn advanced degrees in engineering. Verley’s dream is to eventually contribute to infrastructure development in his homeland, Haiti.

Tuan N. Bui
Mace Bearer

For over 15 years, Tuan Bui has been an integral member of the International Service Center (ISC), an organization based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that serves disadvantaged and underprivileged people of the world. Beginning with the most basic tasks, Tuan has since become program manager and is responsible for the day-to-day operations at ISC, including fiscal management, coordination of the Language Bank, on-site Vietnamese interpretation and grant writing, among others. Originally from Vietnam, Tuan came to the United States as a refugee in 1987. Years of first-hand experience in culture shock and acculturation have formed Tuan’s passion in life to assist and empower refugees and immigrants to achieve a meaningful and self-sustaining life in the U.S.