Summer 2017

Terra State Community College honored the 48th graduating class at commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 5. Terra State President Dr. Jerome Webster announced that 266 degrees in thirty-nine fields were awarded.

The age range of graduates was 18 years old to 80 years old, two graduates were in high school as part of the College Credit Plus initiative, five graduated with a 4.0 GPA and sixty-nine graduated with a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Dr. Webster reminded graduates of their contribution to Terra State’s 91% Course Success Rate and the groundwork they have laid to the College’s goal of a 100% Course Success Rate.

Kari Steele, an Executive Office Administration graduate from Tiffin, Ohio, delivered the student speaker address. Steele reflected on her time at Terra State and how the song “Unwritten” by Natasha Bedingfield influenced her. She encouraged fellow graduates to not wait and create your own opportunity.

Melinda Huntley, Executive Director of the Ohio Travel Association, provided the commencement address. Huntley told graduates how “Life is a Day at the Amusement Park” and to be ready for the “ride of your life.” She went on to compare parts of life to various amusement rides. Huntley encouraged graduates to choose adventure and to appreciate those who are with you.

Arthur Adams, a graduate of the Digital Arts and Media/Web Design program from Fremont, Ohio, said this about the ceremony. “Awesome. An amazing ceremony. The best day of my life. Never did I expect to receive such a quality education at a community college. Because of my class in film editing, I am now going to pursue a degree in Film Production at Bowling Green State University all thanks to Terra State.”
On Saturday, March 25, patrons of a tasty fundraiser were treated to a wide variety of delicious food offerings ranging from ribs and jambalaya to Lucy Hayes’ White Wedding Cake to lobster bisque.

The 5th Cookin’ Men took place in the Ronald L. Neeley Conference and Hospitality Center and featured dishes created by 23 chefs who gathered to raise money for the Terra College Foundation and ProMedica Memorial Hospital Foundation. Croghan Colonial Bank served as the presenting sponsor.

Thirty volunteers from Terra State and ProMedica, including hospitality program students Frieda Fought and Emily Michael, served about 150 guests. In addition to the first-class dining experience, attendees also took part in silent and live auctions.

Up for bid were great items like a party at the Neeley Center, a real southern BBQ and a behind the scenes tour of the Rutherford B. Hayes House and Museum. Special thanks are extended to chefs Matthew Reiter, Greg French, Michael Fong, and John Bermudez.

Terra State Community College President Dr. Jerome Webster commented, “We are grateful for the opportunity to come together with the hospital and celebrate the partnership between these two anchor institutions in the greater Fremont community.”

The event will take place biennially. Plans are now underway for the 6th Cookin’ Men on March 30, 2019.

Chefs for the evening included:
- Tom Anway, Fremont City Schools
- Victor Avila, El Rancho II
- Tom Bowlus, The Bowlus Law Firm
- Gerry Gonya, Harvey Oaks Jewelers
- Otto Gonzalez, Fremont City Schools
- Coery Leber, ProMedica Memorial Hospital
- Dustin McLochlin, Hayes Presidential Library and Museums
- Chuck Miller, Bauman Auto Group
- Scott Miller, Sandusky County Commissioner
- Steve Polter, Polter Berry Farms/Polter Real Estate
- Dale Reiter, Vanguard Career Center
- Kendall Rieman, Croghan Colonial Bank
- Tim Schratt, HMS Host
- Jeremy Smith, PT Services Rehabilitations, Inc.
- Ralph Smothers, Ralph’s Joy of Living
- Bill Steinberger, Whirlpool
- Bill Taylor, Terra State Community College
- Dr. Ty Tracy, D.C., Fremont Chiropractic
- Ed Urban, Otto & Urban
- Mike Wing, Papa Murphy Pizza
- Brad Woleslagel, First Solar
- Colin Wolf, Green Bay Packaging
- Dr. Ryan Zimmerman, DVM, Westview Veterinary Hospital
Terra State Community College’s hospitality program students invited everyone to be their guest at a recent fundraiser at the Catawba Island Club. The benefit, aptly named “Be Our Guest,” took place Saturday, April 29.

Not only did the event raise funds for scholarships and programming needs, it also gave an opportunity for hospitality students to work and participate in the setting of their future careers.

Four Terra State students worked with Chef Susan of the Catawba Island Club in preparing and serving samples of delicious morsels. Patrons enjoyed fried perch, sliders, grilled cheese with tomato soup, salmon, different wraps, kimchi and chocolate chip candy cookies.

Kerry McFadden of the Firelands Winery was on hand providing samples of their wine offerings. Attendees also took part in a silent auction featuring baskets donated by area businesses.

Meghan Knieriem of Terra State’s Hospitality faculty was thrilled with the night. “It was a great event where the program had support from the community and area hospitality leaders. It is important to have our students involved in an event to raise funds for scholarships and the program.”

The Terra College Foundation extends special thanks to Mike Schenk, Catawba Island Club General Manager, and his staff for their leadership in this inaugural event.
Ceildgh Belavich received scholarships that made it easier for her to enroll in the nursing program at Terra State Community College. The recognition also gave her a boost in confidence that has carried her through. Belavich graduated this May with an Associate in Nursing degree but she and many of her classmates are looking to pay it forward with a new scholarship fund for current and future students in the program.

“Getting scholarships was a huge deal to me,” the Sandusky resident said. “You were chosen from a whole group of people and you’re a top student if you do get a scholarship so it means a lot.”

Last fall, Belavich and the other officers of the Terra State Student Nurse’s Association (SNA) decided they wanted to find a way to give back to the program and the profession.

“We wanted to give back to student nurses,” she said. “There are a lot of scholarships but we wanted to have one specifically for students at Terra State.”

Anne Libben, Velora Justice, Jessica Salisbury and Belavich sat down with officials from the Terra College Foundation to set up the qualifications for the scholarship. To apply, a student must be a nursing student, an active member of the SNA, complete community service and submit an essay.

Three new officers – Ashlea Harper, Stephanie Stevens and Morgan Beck – have joined Belavich in the process and will be reviewing the applications. They hope to award at least two scholarships for Fall 2017. “We’ve all been there and we know what it’s like,” Harper, of Fremont, said. “Giving back is the biggest part of nursing; giving to each other and helping your community.”

SNA members will use a variety of fundraisers to support the scholarship fund.

Law Enforcement receives reinforcements

Terra State Community College’s Law Enforcement program received some needed reinforcements courtesy of the Terra College Foundation. A total of $18,600 was used for two purchases to benefit the program.

The first was for a 2010 Ford Taurus. The new vehicle will replace the Police Academy’s current vehicles that do not provide a realistic learning experience for cadets.

The Taurus better meets the specifications of police cars used by police forces nationwide. The new car is being used for training in defensive driving, traffic stops and other training activities.

The second purchase was for service handguns. Twenty semi-automatic Glock 17 9mm handguns are being used for cadet training at the firing range. Older guns were traded in to assist in the purchase of the new weapons.

Larry Cunningham, an Assistant Professor in Law Enforcement, assisted in making the purchases.

“The funds provided by the Terra College Foundation have allowed the Law Enforcement program to make the necessary purchases to continue to offer an outstanding education experience for our students,” Cunningham commented.

“It’s the great individuals, families and corporations who make contributions to the Foundation that build all of the outstanding Terra State programs.”
Returning to college - a hospitable decision

Contributed by Pete Landino

After meeting Jen Lasko at Firelands Winery in Sandusky, Ohio for the first time, it was clear she enjoys her career and holds in the highest regard the time she spent in the Terra State Community College Hospitality Program.

Even though she had been in the hospitality management business for fifteen years and held some respectable positions in the area, Lasko decided to enroll at Terra State in the fall of 2014 to start on her degree, emphasizing it was a wise decision for her.

As she attended classes, she applied aspects learned in them directly to her work experience. She found the subjects on the lodging part of the business particularly helpful, as well as the planning/budget courses, the leadership class and the culinary classes.

In particular, she earned a Level I certification in culinary, as well as, a ServSafe certification, which is food and beverage safety training required by the State of Ohio. She also recalled an “honored” experience where she and other Terra State students prepared and served a dinner at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums in Fremont under the direction of the former White House chef John Moeller.

Lasko considers these experiences and her degree as “priceless” in regards to the doors it opened for her in the hospitality field.

Presently, she is the Events Manager at the Osteria Gusto Exposition Kitchen that is part of Firelands Winery. This is an exposition and demonstration type kitchen, where national and international chefs put on cooking demonstrations with a theatrical aspect for customers.

The kitchen has televisions, cameras and microphones to capture the chefs at work as they prepare the meals directly in front of the guests. These exposition events range in themes from Jazz and Jambalaya to Murder Mysteries to private events.

Especially for private events, Lasko sees these as monumental events for her clients, making sure these make lasting impressions and memories for them. She caters to every one of the client’s wishes, creating the ambience a client is looking for in an “authentic and traditional Italian celebration style,” and always following the motto of owner Claudio Salvador, “where wine and fine foods meet” to inspire her creations.

For her time at Terra State, Lasko speaks distinctly about her experience. She said John Bermudez, Manager of Dining Services and Culinary Arts, leads you in a “wonderful direction” and is “very responsive” to his students’ wishes. While Meghan Knieriem, Lecturer in Hospitality Management, taught her all the essentials in managing the everyday activities that go along with the business side of her work.

Lasko also is positive about the hospitality industry in general and says that people underestimate the industry in north central Ohio. She promotes this career choice by stating, “It’s not just a seasonal business in this area. You can make a career of it. The hospitality industry increases since it is a people-oriented business that can’t be replaced with robots or computers, so it will continue to grow.”

Furthermore, she insists on being humble and to keep learning in order to stay strong and committed – one reason she found herself stating college classes in her late thirties.

She had no problem going to college later in her career and feels Terra State gave her the opportunity for continued success. Lasko has certainly made the most of it and looks forward to see where else her career takes her.
The skilled labor workforce is aging. As those who make up that workforce retire, manufacturers will be in need of workers to replace them. High schools across the country are creating programs and initiatives to introduce students to the endless opportunities that they can take advantage of upon graduation.

Community colleges, like Terra State Community College, are partnering with high schools and corporations to help those students explore the possibilities to enhance their futures. Companies are providing opportunities through apprenticeships and internships to give students hands-on experience in the skilled trades.

One Terra State intern is taking advantage of those opportunities provided by one of Terra State’s partners, Century Die of Fremont.

Harley Davidson, a Terra State intern studying Robotic Mechatronics through the WSOS Community Action Commission Ready to Work Program, is putting his skills to work by creating an entry for Century Die’s annual Green Box Derby. The competition, similar to the Soap Box Derby, requires entrants to build a vehicle out of nothing but recycled materials.

The vehicles are then driven in a gravity race down a hill in Fremont. Davidson is working hard to get the parts needed for the entry. “We are using all recycled parts,” Davidson explains. “The rims we are using are off an old three-wheeled stroller. All of the rest is scrap metal we found around campus. We’re just trying to find whatever we can to build it.”

The construction of the vehicle will also use the assistance of other programs and departments at Terra State. Davidson adds, “For example, the welding department will be doing some work on the project, too.”

The Green Box Derby has turned into a family project for Davidson. His son, Cooper, a seventh grader at Hopewell-Loudon, has become involved. He will be the driver of the vehicle. “My dad was telling me about the derby and he kind of asked me to drive.” The thirteen year old wants to study to become an architect, so his interest in design and building is being put to good use.

Century Die launched the Green Box Derby in 2014. According to Century Die General Manager Tim Myers, the company wanted to build awareness of skilled trades. “About five years ago, we at Century Die began discussing what we could do to bring awareness to young people to jobs in manufacturing. They do not know about the opportunities that exist and the good paying jobs that are out there.”

To Myers knowledge, there is no other initiative like this in Ohio. Participants are given mentors to help assist in building the cars. “We have mentors from Century Die and Vanguard to help the youth out that also creates bonding between the older and younger generations.”

The Green Box Derby was Sunday, June 11, at 1:00p.m. on Haynes Street adjacent to the Sandusky County Fairgrounds. Participants ages 12-19 competed for scholarships to Terra State Community College.

First place received a $2500 scholarship and second place received a $1000 scholarship. All other entrants were placed into a drawing for another $1000 scholarship, Cedar Point season passes and Sandusky County Fair passes. Participants over the age of twenty could enter the trophy-only race.

For those with an artistic flair they set their sights on the People Choice award. So, there was a category for everyone.
Save The Date
Friday, July 28, 2017
Golf Scramble FORE Scholarships

Tuesday, August 29, 2017
Alumni Picnic and Open House

Tuesday, November 7, 2017
Partners in Education Banquet

Mark your calendar for this year’s scholarship event.
It will be Friday, July 28, 2017 at Green Hills Golf Course.

TERRA COLLEGE FOUNDATION
GOLF SCRAMBLE

FORE
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Powered By:
The Power Behind Performance

Enjoy Picnic Food
Tour Campus Labs & Classrooms
Catch Up With Friends
Spin the Prize Wheel

Make plans to attend and help us celebrate Terra State’s vibrant
partnerships, the achievements of our alums, and the positive
impact you have on our communities.

Please RSVP by Monday, August 21st. Visit http://foundation.terra.edu,
email foundation@terra.edu or call 419.559.2261.

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President Webster also has a blog that you can follow.

We hope that you will not only follow us, but interact as well. We post
new and archived photos, videos, motivational thoughts and much more.

You can easily access our social media sites at the bottom of the
homepage at www.terra.edu. Dr. Webster’s blog is at
We want to make sure that we can stay in touch with all of our alumni. This newsletter is just one way to keep you informed about all the great things happening at Terra State.

Please update your information at: www.Terra.edu/alumniupdate/

The Advancement Office also has a LinkedIn group for alumni: Terra State Community College Alumni

We encourage our alumni to share career or family updates on our LinkedIn page.

To support Terra State, please contact us or go online at foundation.terra.edu.