ABG Members Serve Campus and Community

Twice a year, a ceremony takes place on campus that inducts new members into Alpha Beta Gamma, an international business honor society for students who attend two-year colleges. ABG is also a service organization that organizes events throughout the year to support worthy causes in the community.

Currently, the chapter has two presidents: Goldie Medick and Nick Lynn. "ABG is a really fun group. We have a lot of good people, and we all bring a little different something to the table," Goldie says.

As co-president, Nick strives to "make sure everything goes smoothly so we can raise enough money to give to smaller organizations that help hundreds of people if not more."

Luckily, students don’t have to wait until the induction ceremony to decide if ABG is right for them. New students, such as Cheryl Goewey, are welcome to participate: “I am not a member yet but I do hope to

Continuing Registration Begins Next Week

Believe it or not, it’s already time for continuing students to register for the Fall 2018 Semester. The Student Services team will be stationed in the student lounge from Monday, July 9, to Thursday, July 12. Official registration hours will be from 8:30 am to 6 pm on all four days.

Make sure you’ve been cleared by Financial Aid before proceeding. After that, you can just stop by the student lounge, where you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointment is necessary.

And there’s an added bonus: students who register next week will get their very own Bryant & Stratton T-shirt!
Sherry Pearsall Helps Students Succeed

Thirteen years ago, a friend suggested to Sherry Pearsall that she become an adjunct in the medical program at Bryant & Stratton College. That friend happened to be Sue Schilling, the dean of student services at the James Street campus. “I continued to teach and was offered a promotion to the position of program director for medical,” Sherry recalls. “We then opened medical classes at the North campus and I became the geographic area program director.”

Originally, the medical program at North consisted of two majors: medical assisting and medical administrative assistant. The medical assisting program consists of theory-based classes, such as medical terminology, and clinical-based classes, such as clinical procedures. The clinical classes include numerous competencies that students must master. “You need to have a very open style of communication,” Sherry advises future medical assistants. “You need to truly be a people person.”

The medical administrative assistant program was designed for students who wanted to work in a medical setting, but not in direct patient care. Last year, a new medical reimbursement and coding program was launched. This option is similar to the medical administrative assistant program, but allows students to learn about billing and coding in greater depth. It also utilizes a blended-learning instructional model.

Health services administration, at both the associate and bachelor’s levels, is available for “students who want to be in the medical field but are more interested in the management end.” Sherry’s own interests led her to graduate from St. Joseph’s Nursing School as an RN, then received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from SUNY Utica Rome. Two master’s degrees followed: in nursing administration from Syracuse University, and in educational administration from SUNY Oswego. Currently she is completing a doctorate in teaching and leadership from Syracuse University.

In terms of her career, she has been an RN at hospitals and in nursing homes; has served as director of education at the Jewish Home, as director of Crouse Nursing School, and as a medical supervisor at The Hartford; and has taught at St. Joseph’s Nursing School, Crouse Nursing School, OCC, and Syracuse University.

“I have always enjoyed working in healthcare and providing a comprehensive approach to achieving patient wellness,” Sherry says. “Establishing a good rapport with each patient allows me to see them as individuals with individual needs. This helps me to create a plan for their current healthcare needs and their future ones. I use the same approach with my students.”

One of the biggest challenges for anyone in the field, whether they are working directly with patients or not, is the fact that “the complexity of healthcare now is unbelievable.” According to Sherry, this complexity is due to advances in treatment and technology, as well as the increasing number of patients with multiple diagnoses. This complexity is one of the reasons RNs are now expected to earn bachelor’s degrees.

For medical assistants, proficiency is demonstrated through the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) exam. This exam is challenging enough that the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) considers a 60 percent passing rate among graduates an acceptable threshold. Our campus recently exceeded this expectation with a 63% passing rate.

Ultimately, working with students is what Sherry enjoys the most. “I teach classes each term so that I can stay in contact with students and learn what they need to become successful in my programs,” she says. “I like the fact that the school is small enough that we can truly work on individual student success.”
ABG Members Serve Campus and Community

be soon! I am joining because I love service. I was excited to hear that there was a service oriented group on campus and I knew I wanted to be a part of it!”

“So far it seems like a great group of diverse people,” says Iyone Manley. Iyone decided to attend meetings after reading an email about it, but others learn about ABG through instructors or classmates. During her first semester, Natasha Roof was approached by her instructor, Deb Lum, who is also the ABG advisor. “She told me she thought I would be a great fit for ABG. I was startled, but decided to go to the next meeting anyway,” recalls Natasha. Currently, Natasha a co-vice president, along with Rita Best.

Deb Lum took over the role in 2015 when the former advisor, Learning Center Coordinator Tricia Abbott, retired. At that point, Deb had been teaching at Syracuse North for five years, the first three as an adjunct, and, beginning in 2013, as a full-time faculty member.

She has a bachelor’s degree in English and elementary education, as well as a master’s degree in English, but she wasn’t always sure that she’d become an English teacher. As she tells her students: “You never know where you’re going to end up.”

After college, Deb worked as a kindergarten teacher and a newspaper editor, among a number of other positions. Once she started teaching at Bryant & Stratton, Deb incorporated community service projects into her courses, and it was that initiative that led Tricia to consider Deb an ideal choice for the new advisor.

Although Tricia’s suggestion was unexpected, it wasn’t long before leading ABG became a favorite aspect of Deb’s job. In addition to her interest in community service, the role allows Deb to see students in a different context. “I get to interact with them more as individuals.”

It is this combination of service and camaraderie that also appeals to the students themselves. “We all build on each other’s ideas,” Goldie says. “Everyone has the causes they believe in most, and we work as a group to raise money and donate our time to these organizations. We have fun doing it, too.”

Kim Murphy explains that a commitment to ABG includes attending meetings, providing feedback, and participating in events both on and off campus. “I think joining has to be something you really want to do and commit to,” she says.

With its emphasis on scholarship, leadership, and cooperation, the mission of ABG is a meaningful one for students who are genuinely willing to serve. “I enjoy giving back,” Natasha says. “It is part of who I am. This group allows me to do that and more.”
The online application is now the preferred method to apply for employment opportunities for a large percentage of employers. Below are tips and strategies to guide you in this process.

- Most importantly, be sure your application is error free (no spelling, grammar or punctuation mistakes as this could be the difference whether or not you are selected for an interview).
- Wherever possible, indicate skills you possess that are mentioned in the job description as employers can search in their database by these key words.
- Allow approximately 30-45 minutes for each application. Avoid outside distractions when applying. You may be asked to take an assessment as part of the prescreening process.
- Be sure to have your resume accessible, not only to upload it, but when putting in names of current and past employers you have worked for, job titles and dates, you want to ensure those are consistent with what is listed on your resume.
- When asked for salary requirements, provide a range (i.e. $14-$16/hr., $29K-$31K per year).
- Be sure to respond to all questions that contain an asterisk (*) or you will be not be able to continue with the next page of the application.
- Have references accessible to insert spelling of names and companies in which your references are employed, address, phone, and email. (Be sure to keep references updated of your activity and share positions with them so they can speak to your skills and how they relate to the position when they called by the prospective employer.)
- Always provide a cover letter with the application as it shows why you feel you are a good candidate for the position and demonstrates your writing abilities.
- Write down a goal for yourself (i.e. will apply to 10 positions each week or 2 a day).
- Follow up with employers if the listing does not mention “no phone calls please,” to see if your information was received, if they have any initial questions, and to inquire about next steps.

As always, stop by Career Services to speak with Chris or Kristine with any questions!

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Recently, Rebecca Bettinger's students did some artwork in class depicting the organs of the digestive system. Above, students in her Anatomy and Physiology II class are, in front, from left: Tessa Mann, Kassandra Dalton, Natasha Roof, Hope Yerdon, and Maryssa Wallace. In back are Giani Iozzia, Alexis Ladd, and Michelle Kiselstein. In the picture at left, students from her Human Disease and Drug Pharmacology class focused on how the digestive system relates to pharmacology. From left are Michelle Stanard, Julie Weaver, Danielle Cyriacks, and Keisi Shoop.
Outstanding students from the Winter 2018 Semester were honored at an award ceremony on June 5. Clockwise from top left are Program Director Rachelle Hansen with Verneone Reid; Program Director Sherry Pearsall with Rebecca Jones; and Academic Advisor Taylor Beige with Joe Alvarez.
Students in line at BBQ on June 26

Natasha Roof and Kassandra Dalton

Chris Godleski and Bill Rava