Great Bay Community College

Dedication Ceremony
Friday, October 9, 2009
Reception
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Remarks
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Welcome
Wildolfo Arvelo
President
Great Bay Community College

Invocation
Sr. Helen Burke
Professor, Department of Nursing
Great Bay Community College

Featured Speakers
The Honorable John H. Lynch
Governor
State of New Hampshire

Paul J. Holloway
Chair, Board of Trustees
Community College System of New Hampshire

Emily Zoulias
Student Senate President
Great Bay Community College

Dr. Richard A. Gustafson
Chancellor
Community College System of New Hampshire

Ribbon Cutting
5:30 pm – 5:45 pm

Self-Guided Tours
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm
State of NH Chapter 204 establishes “State Trade Schools” with the passage of House Bill 279.

State Trade School of Portsmouth was founded within state college system to provide “trade and vocational training and retraining for the occupational adjustment of youths and adults and particularly to provide trade school facilities for veterans demobilized from the armed services…”

“It is recognized that no such facilities are available within the state at the present time, that the need is sufficiently urgent to create an emergency and that prompt action is necessary.”

On July 17, the City of Portsmouth makes space available for rent within the Morley Button Factory. Classes started in the fall - making this the first operating school in the system. The first class consisted of 130 veterans of war. Tuition was $450 a year, and students could get scholarships for half that amount from the state. Emerson A. McCourt is appointed the first Principal.

1949

The college becomes the New Hampshire Technical Institute – Portsmouth.

The college had 9 instructors and 5 fields of study: Machine Tool, Sheet Metal, Auto Mechanics, Electronics and Refrigeration.

The school operated 40-50 hours per week. Classes were three hours long and had a “smoking break” half way through.

Portsmouth had 120 male students and graduated 45.
1961
Exeter School of Practical Nursing Started at Exeter Hospital. In 1966, upon completion of the Portsmouth Campus, the Nursing Program became a college offering.

1966
The college moves from the Button Factory to a new building at 150 Greenleaf Avenue in Portsmouth.
Dedication Ceremonies and Open House are held Wednesday, October 26, 1966.
The college has an increase in enrollment and staff. Evening classes are offered. The Nursing and Drafting Programs move into the building as the Refrigeration and Sheet Metal programs are moved out.

1967
Emerson A. McCourt is appointed the first Director of the College.
The Board of Education authorized the institutes to grant the Associate Degree in Applied Science. Prior to this, graduates earned a diploma from their program.

1969
The college becomes New Hampshire Vocational Technical Institute – Portsmouth.
1975
Robert E. Lloyd is appointed Director.

The college becomes accredited by NEASC. This leads to an agreement between the Division of Post-Secondary Education and the University System of New Hampshire to allow transfer of credit.

1977
George M. Strout is appointed as Acting Director.

Daniel F. Forte is appointed as Director.

1979
Daniel F. Forte is named President.

1981
The college’s LPN Nursing Program is tops in the Nation.

The Helmsmen Basketball team becomes the 1981 Northern New England Small Conference Champions.

1982
December- First classes offered in the new Stratham building.

Charles H. Green is named President.

1983

1989
The college becomes New Hampshire Technical College – Stratham.
1992

Jane Power Kilcoyne is named President.

1993

President William Clinton is Commencement Speaker for the college.

1995

The college becomes New Hampshire Community Technical College-Manchester/Stratham.

1999

John O’Donnell is appointed as Regional President.

2001

Pease campus moves to 320 Corporate Drive and is named Pease Emerging Technology Center.
2002 College becomes accredited by NEAS&C – CIHE.

2003 Thomas Wisbey is named Regional President.

2005 The Manchester and Stratham Campuses separate. The College is now New Hampshire Community Technical College – Stratham.

2006 William S. Bartlett Jr. is named Acting President.

2007 Wildolfo Arvelo is named President.

2008 The College becomes Great Bay Community College.

2009 The College renovates the Portsmouth campus and moves everyone there – closing the Stratham campus.
Governor of New Hampshire

The Honorable John Lynch

The Executive Council

District 1 Raymond S. Burton  
District 2 John D. Shea  
District 3 Beverly A. Hollingworth  
District 4 Raymond J. Wieczorek  
District 5 Deborah Pignatelli

Board of Trustees

Paul Holloway, Chair  
Jacob Cote  
Ned Densmore  
Robert Duhaime  
Ryan Erisman  
Sally Galvin  
Stephen Guyer  
Nicholas Halias  
Richard Heath  
Harvey Hill  
Jeremy Hitchcock  
Lori Hitchcock  
Esteban Lopez  
Claudette Mahar  
Robert L. Mallat, Jr.  
William Marcello  
Kristie Palestino  
David C. Paquette  
Amy Rice  
Ronald Rioux  
Connie Roy-Czyzowski  
Ann Torr  
Kim Trisciani

Chancellor

Dr. Richard Gustafson

College President

Wildolfo Arvelo

Building History

In the early 1900's the land that the Pease International Tradeport sits on was the Portsmouth Fairgrounds. In the 1930's it became the Portsmouth Municipal Airport and in the 1940's it was a WWII US Navy Air Station. The US Air Force took control of it in 1951 and on July 3, 1954 there was a ground breaking for the USAF Base. The formal opening occurred on June 30, 1956. On September 7, 1957 it was formally renamed as Pease US Air Force Base after Harl Pease who was born in Plymouth, NH, graduated from UNH, died in 1942 in combat over New Guinea, and won the Medal of Honor. The base closed on March 31, 1991 and in October of that year was taken over by Portsmouth Development Authority.

The building that the college occupies was originally Building 93, the 509th Strategic Hospital. The ground breaking ceremony was held on September 20, 1972 and it first opened on September 3, 1974. It cost $7,200,000 to build the hospital and had 70 beds and 20 doctors. A full range of medical services were offered including surgery, emergency rooms, maternity, pharmacy, dental, inpatient and outpatient care. The hospital closed on March 31, 1991. In 1996, Cabletron Training Center renovated the first floor and had sales, technical support and customer training rooms. In the spring of 2000, Cabletron split into four separate companies and Aprisma remained in the building.

Summer 2001, saw the college moving into the building. The college shared the first floor with Aprisma for the first six months. Biotechnology labs were built in 2002 and the Green Bean opened the cafeteria in February of 2004. Renovations to the upper floors began in 2008 and in the summer of 2009 the Stratham campus relocated to the building.

Dedication Planning Committee

Bruce Baker, Natalie Chin, Rebecca Clerkin, Mike Fischer, Monique Graf, Allison Marcotte, Mike McNeil, Laura Mitchell, Lisa Proulx, Lin Tamulonis, Mary Williams