

All Hail to L Tri C



Ralph Daubert was a 19-year-old Psychology major at LCCC when he wrote the school's alma mater. Robin Flores sang it at the first graduation.

IT WAS 1969 WHEN DR. JOHN G. BERRIER, FIRST PRESIDENT OF LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (LCCC) WAS CAUGHT COMPLETELY OFF-GUARD BY A YOUNG STUDENT.

Nineteen-year-old Ralph Daubert—usually a quiet and reserved Psychology major—entered the presidential suite charged with excitement. His sweaty palm gripped an audiotape of the first recording of the “LCCC Alma Mater,” his sister singing the lyrics he had written.

Berrier listened—and was so impressed by Daubert’s composition that he immediately played it over the loudspeaker for all students to hear.

That moment is etched in Daubert’s memory. He had never composed a song before and likely never will again. But as one of LCCC’s first students, he wanted to help shape the college during a time when people were still coming to grips with the institution’s role and purpose.

‘Thou shalt be an everlasting memory.’

“Every school should have a song that represents them,” says Daubert, now executive director of Community & Student Services for Allentown School District. “Music is such a common thread through all of the world. It was a contribution I could make.”

Latin for “nourishing mother,” an alma mater fosters a sense of cohesion and identity among members of an academic institution. Played on occasions ranging from graduation to sporting events, alma maters originated more than a century before Daubert’s composition, with Cornell’s “Far Above Cayuga’s Waters” generally regarded as the most popular. (In fact, nearby Moravian College uses the same melody.) However, it is somewhat rare to hear them in community colleges.

Daubert says his personal experience at LCCC inspired the lyrics, especially the first verse:

*As we embarked on our venture,
Selecting a path to pursue,
We felt the need for knowledge,
An aid in seeing us through.*

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do with my life,” Daubert says. “Without LCCC, I probably would have struggled in a four-year college I wasn’t ready for. LCCC prepared me for a successful transfer as a junior.”

Community colleges were—and continue to be—a symbol of hope for students, like Daubert, who wanted to succeed, regardless of their academic experience, economic status or background. LCCC helped Daubert excel. It’s where he met his wife of 33 years; where he learned how to write; and where he discovered a rewarding career path in Educational Psychology that led him to earn a B.A. from Moravian College,

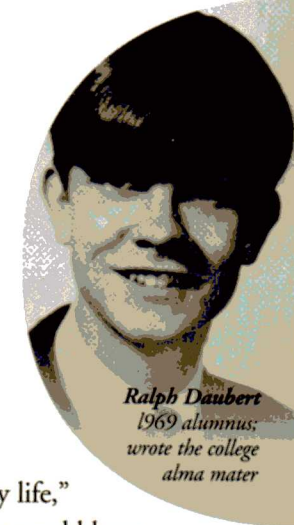
an M.Ed. in counseling and an Ed.S. in School Psychology, both from Lehigh University.

When Daubert’s classmates heard the alma mater over the loudspeaker, they exchanged knowing smiles, as his words rang true.

“It’s a special song,” says Carol Bowen, a member of the first graduating class (1969) and now an administrative assistant in LCCC’s Workforce Development office. She recalls the second verse:

*So this be our endeavor,
These halls shall stand ever more,
For what they were intended,
To all an open door.*

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Ralph Daubert
1969 alumnus,
wrote the college
alma mater



Douglas Yaksh
First class president
(1969)

1968

First LCCC commencement held for 290 graduates.

Student Jean Deutsch wins the first intercollegiate sports trophy for Lehigh County Community College (a tennis trophy won at “Sports Day” for women hosted at Luzerne County Community College).



926 students enroll for fall semester.

1969

18 student organizations are established at LCCC, including a fraternity that provides housing.

New LCCC campus opens in Schnecksville. Classes move from the Old Lehigh County Courthouse to the Administration Building, which houses classes, offices, library, cafeteria and labs.