

Vera Hackman

Vera Hackman was born on 27 February 1903 in Lancaster County.¹ Before teaching at Elizabethtown College, she attends the school and graduates with the class of 1925.² Hackman is one of the select students to represent Elizabethtown College at the World Student Volunteer Convention in Indianapolis.³ Hackman holds the secretary position for her class.⁴ During her senior year, she is a member of the debate team.⁵ After obtaining an undergrad degree in literature, she attends Columbia University to get her masters.⁶ At Colerain High School, she is a teacher and later becomes the principal.⁷ She teaches at other high schools in Lykens Valley and Mechanicsburg.⁸ At Pine Mountain Settlement School, located in Harlan County Kentucky, Hackman is a teacher.⁹ In 1944, she returns to Elizabethtown College as the Dean of Women.¹⁰ Also, she is a History professor and teaches the first Journalism class at the college.¹¹ She is present on the Campus Council, the organization the president of the college looks towards for alternate opinions on various matters.¹² Hackman's major involvement with campus activities leads to new events. She advises the Sock and Buskin club, *The Etownian*, *The Etonian*, *The Conestogan*, and the Women's Honor Society.¹³ In February of 1991, Hackman became the first president of the Young Women's Welfare Association.¹⁴ At the dedication of Myer Hall, she presents the scripture lesson.¹⁵ Hackman's responsibilities include administrating public relations and special events with the college.¹⁶ Hackman establishes school dances; even though, most Brethren are against the idea of them because they are sexually suggestive.¹⁷ One of the most notable events she organizes is May Day.¹⁸

When the enrollment of Elizabethtown College rises after the World War II, she develops housing specifically for the honors women students.¹⁹ Hackman's personality initially scared students, but after getting to know they realize she has a big heart.²⁰ Hackman's obituary describes her "eyes [being] filled with purpose and determination."²¹ In 1968, she retires as the Dean of Women; however, she continues to be an English professor until 1973.²² The women students honor her retirement as Dean in the Myer Dining Hall.²³ In 1978, Hackman specifically retires with the title of Dean of Women, Emerita.²⁴ Vera Hackman is a much decorated educator. She receives an honorary doctorate of human letters at Elizabethtown College.²⁵ Numerous associations, including the Pennsylvania Association of Women and Dean Counselors, American Association of University Women, and the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, because of her work as a mentor to women.²⁶ Other organization include the

¹ Ann M. Carper, *Nominee for Jefferson Award Application*, 2.

² Judy Shank, *Vera Hackman is Still Teaching* (article clipping), 1.

³ *The Etonian* (The Class of Nineteen Twenty-four, 1924), 112.

⁴ *The Etonian* (The Class of Nineteen Twenty-five, 1925), 35.

⁵ *Ibid*, 96.

⁶ Carper, 2.

⁷ Ralph W. Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899-1970* (Elizabethtown College, 1971), 335.

⁸ *Ibid*, 335.

⁹ *Ibid*, 335.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, 2.

¹¹ Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 165.

¹² Schlosser, (1971), 301.

¹³ Williamson (2001) 165.

¹⁴ Schlosser (1971), 110.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, 198.

¹⁶ *Vera R. Hackman, 97, was E-Town College Dean* (obituary), 1.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, 1.

¹⁸ Schlosser (1971), 336.

¹⁹ *Vera R. Hackman, 97, was E-Town College Dean* (obituary), 1.

²⁰ Schlosser (1971), 165.

²¹ Schlosser (1971), 109.

²² Jean-Paul Benowitz and Peter J. Depuydt, *Elizabethtown College* (Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 62.

²³ Schlosser (1971), 336.

²⁴ President Morley J. Mays, "Vera J. Hackman" (lecture, Ocean Grove, New Jersey, June 29 1978, 1.

²⁵ Benowitz and Depuydt, (Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 62.

²⁶ *Ibid*, 62.

Modern Language Association and the Business of Professional Women.²⁷ Hackman receives a beautiful “Alumni Chair” at one of the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association.²⁸

Following her retirement Hackman received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Elizabethtown College in 1978.²⁹ She remained active in teaching by teaching immigrants English.³⁰ For this she received the Jefferson Award.³¹ In 2000, Hackman was one of thirteen recipients of a Centennial Medal from the college.³² Vera Hackman died on 8 September 2000 in the Brethren Village.³³ Hackman is buried at Heidelberg Church of the Brethren Cemetery.³⁴ Today, Hackman’s presence is still felt at Elizabethtown College. The Hackman apartments are named after her, and they house upper classmen.³⁵ Also her residence while she taught at Elizabethtown at 530 South Mount Joy Street is used today as student housing for Student Directed Learning Communities.³⁶

²⁷ Schlosser (1971), 336.

²⁸ Schlosser (1971), 202-203.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 265.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 266.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 266.

³² *Ibid.*, 266.

³³ Glenn Koons, “Vera R Hackman,” Find A Grave, accessed 19 November 2017, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/35181087/vera-r-hackman>.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ Williamson, 328.

³⁶ Jennifer Lloyd and Ramon Rios III, “Historical Walking Tour of Elizabethtown College: Vera Hackman Residence,” Elizabethtown College, accessed 19 November 2017, <https://etown.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=4edfbfc9333a4b9bb68806a3948e9c03>.