STCC
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MICHAEL CAINE

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STCC President John B. Cook

"I loved getting involved. At STCC, it was easy to get involved and it was very rewarding," Caine said. Caine then transferred to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the Commonwealth Honors College. He lived on campus and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in architecture and a minor in history of art and architecture.

At UMass, Caine continued to pursue activities outside of the classroom. He joined the American Institute of Architecture Students, which created an opportunity to get involved and a chance to travel. He served on the UMass chapter's Executive Board and maintained a 3.8 grade point average.

"With that group, we went to conferences in Toronto and Dubai," he said. "We spent two days in Dubai and one in Abu Dhabi. We saw the brand new Louvre Abu Dhabi, which is the world's largest museum. It's brilliant. We also went to the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa. He believes his involvement in extracurricular activities, combined with his excellent grades, helped him get into the University of Pennsylvania's graduate program. He will study architecture for three years and will graduate with a master of architecture, a professional degree.

Caine and one other student from the UMass Amherst architecture program will study at Penn this fall. They will meet students who came from top-ranked programs at colleges and universities throughout the country.

"It's incredible what I was able to do," Caine said. "I never imagined going to an Ivy League after graduating from UMass and STCC."

STCC president John B. Cook said community colleges provide unique opportunities and incredible values for students. They can turn to dedicated faculty for support and advice. When they graduate, they leave knowing they received a high-quality education at a fraction of the cost of most four-year colleges or universities.

"We have many students like Michael Caine who make the smart choice to start at STCC," Cook said. "We're proud of Michael. He worked hard and applied himself at STCC and at UMass and now is enrolled in an Ivy League school and on the path to a rewarding career. We wish him great success in the future."