

ALUMNI CONNECTION

SPRING 2009



Focus on Healthcare

HCC alumni have pursued diverse careers in this essential and perennially in-demand field

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Futures Inspired

Bill's bulletin

The *Alumni Connection* is published two times per year by the Holyoke Community College Alumni Office, Holyoke, Massachusetts, and is distributed without charge to alumni and friends of HCC. Third-class postage is paid at Springfield, Massachusetts.

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Gloria Lomax '75, JoAnne Rome

Design:

Peter Hutchins, Litmus Designs

Class Notes:

News and photographs from alumni should be addressed to the Alumni Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040.

Letters:

Readers are invited to submit letters and stories concerning HCC and its alumni. Contact the alumni director by phone (413) 552-2253 or email: jbrown@hcc.mass.edu (put "HCC Alumni Connection" in the subject line).

Class Notes/Change of Address:

Please submit the reply form on page 10, or call the Alumni Office (413) 552-2253.

2008-2009 Alumni Council:

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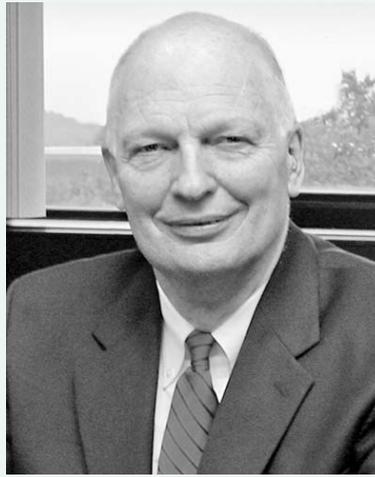
Rhonda Soto '97

Nancy Spagnoli '83

Karen Thompson-Brown '04

Vandelyn T. Wright '83

The Alumni Council, a group of key alumni volunteers, oversees alumni initiatives. To learn about joining, please call Joanna Brown, (413) 552-2253.



HCC President William F. Messner

There is particular irony in the fact that, during economic downturns, enrollments at community colleges increase while budgets decrease. Indeed, HCC has seen a 5% increase in enrollment this spring, and, as I write this, applications for next fall are up over 129%. But the economic crisis facing our state and nation is no ordinary downturn. HCC has experienced three rounds of cuts in FY09, totaling almost \$2 million. The news for FY 2010 is worse: the Governor's budget proposal reduces by another 11.6% the total appropriation for community colleges. We hope that federal stimulus funds will have a mitigating effect, but must prepare for the possibility that HCC may have to contend with a budget gap of almost \$3.5 million.

In response, HCC has instituted a hiring freeze and severe cost cutting measures. As we search for ways to do more with less, we will be guided by the college mission, the priorities we have developed for the coming year, and our commitment to providing a quality education for HCC students.

Alumni support of HCC is more critical than ever. I encourage you to read Gloria Lomax's letter on page 11 and make a contribution to HCC if you are able. For those who have already contributed, I extend my sincere thanks. With your support, HCC will emerge from this crisis stronger and better equipped to meet the needs of its students in the years ahead.

This issue of *Alumni Connection* has a special focus on healthcare. HCC's Health Division has done an outstanding job educating Massachusetts healthcare professionals and providing graduates with jobs that pay well and are vital to the health of our community. I know you will take pride in reading these stories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Messner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

-William F. Messner

HCC Alumni Directory On Sale Now

Our 2008 HCC Alumni Directory, published by Harris Connect, the premier publisher of college and university alumni directories, has now been shipped to alumni who ordered them last fall.

If you did not purchase a copy when you were contacted by Harris Connect,

you still have a chance to do so, by sending a check for \$90 payable to HCC Foundation Inc., with a memo line of "ALUMNI DIRECTORY," to

HCC Foundation, Inc.

303 Homestead Ave.

Holyoke, MA 01040,

or you may charge your directory purchase by calling (413) 552-2546.

Letter from the Alumni Relations director

Dear alumni,

Holyoke Community College is rallying in support of two themes that are emerging in our country after this historic election: **"going green"** and **"volunteerism."**

"Going green" means conserving natural resources. **One action that the HCC Alumni Association can take immediately is to communicate with our alumni via "e-publications," thereby eliminating the need to print and deliver 27,000 copies of the Alumni Connection twice each year!**

Please join our "e-publication campaign" by sending an email to sdoyle@hcc.mass.edu (with "HCC-your full name" in the subject line) and we will notify you by email when the next issue of the *Alumni Connection* is ready to be viewed online. You will be very pleased to see that the entire web version of the Alumni Connection is in full color. Alumni who enroll in our e-publication program will also receive special invitations to campus and alumni events via email.

Alumni Volunteers have always been an important part of the Holyoke Community

College community. This year, the intersecting trends of increasing student enrollment and decreasing state support are delivering a "double whammy" to the college tutoring center, as more students seek academic tutoring from a staff that is not able to grow proportionally.

Gail Hilyard, the coordinator of the Math Center, is now recruiting local alumni volunteers in all subject areas to join our new "Alumni Volunteer Tutor Corps" in the Center for Academic Program Support (CAPS). She would welcome receiving your expression of interest via email at ghilyard@hcc.mass.edu (with a subject of "HCC Alumni Volunteer") or at (413) 552-2552.

The success of the HCC Alumni Association has been highlighted in two national publications, in the American Association of Community College (AACC) *Community College Times* and in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) *Currents* magazine. Let's continue to chart new territory as a leading community college alumni association as we build our "e-publication" and "Alumni Volunteer Tutor Corps" programs.



Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanna Brown".

Joanna Brown,
Director of Alumni Relations
jbrown@hcc.mass.edu
413-552-2253

HCC ALUMNI BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT HCC REPLY FORM

If you have earned your associate degree and would consider earning your bachelor's degree by taking courses on the HCC campus, please check the bachelor's degree program(s) that would be of interest to you:

- Liberal Arts
- Healthcare Management
- Non-licensure Early Education with Optional Licensure Component
- Other: _____

I would be interested in attending during: Evening Saturday

Name and email/mailling address (optional if you wish to receive further information about these programs):

Please return to: HCC Alumni Office, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040 by June 30, 2009

Focus on Healthcare

Steven Richter '75



Steven Richter Ph.D. is president and chief scientific officer at Microtest Laboratories in Agawam, MA. A graduate of

Agawam High School, he enrolled in the Medical Technology program at HCC to pursue his interest in lab sciences. He later transferred to UMass Amherst, where he earned a BS in microbiology, and went on to receive an MS in biological sciences from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, and a Ph.D. in sterilization sciences from Columbia Pacific University.

What does Microtest do?

We provide testing services and development and manufacturing for the medical device, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries. For instance, we test medical devices for toxicity and sterility before they are distributed to hospitals; we also manufacture pharmaceuticals and vaccines. After 9/11, we approached the government and were awarded a contract to manufacture botulism vaccine. Since then we have received contracts with Boston-area companies in need of clinical trial material, and are also manufacturing cancer therapeutics for Pfizer. Boston Scientific and Johnson & Johnson are our main medical device clients.

How did you get into this?

After graduating from UMass, I worked in Boston for five years as a microbiologist for the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. But I missed Western Mass—my folks are here—and commuting in the Boston area can get tiring. So I returned and began working for a medical device company in Enfield, CT. I wanted to work in lab science, but there is a paucity of that sort of work here. So in 1984, I decided to start my own business. I began in my home office—really, a second floor spare bedroom—testing medical

devices. That was the start of Microtest. There were no labs or lab science jobs here; in fact, we were the first sterile injectable manufacturer in Western Massachusetts.

What are the challenges you face?

The biggest challenge is raising capital; this is a very capital-intensive industry. We have a good, robust lab, employing 90 people, but it's harder to get funding when you're outside the Boston area. There isn't a nexus of pharmaceutical manufacturing here. People think we're all a bunch of farmers (he laughs). But we hope to continue to grow; we're applying for grant monies from the Massachusetts Life Science Initiative.

What is most fulfilling for you?

I'm most proud of the work we are doing with cancer therapeutics, knowing we are helping to save and prolong lives. We protect lives, employ people, and improve the quality of life in the Pioneer Valley. That matters.

Judith Johnson '95



Judith Johnson '95 has a thirst for learning. The Westfield native and mother of three has earned LPN, RN, and legal nurse-

consultant certification; an AS and BS in Nursing; and is currently working on a master's in Healthcare Management and master's in Nursing through two different educational institutions.

How did you get to HCC?

After high school, I enrolled in a twelve-month LPN program at Western Massachusetts Hospital. In my first job at Wesson Women's Maternity Hospital—now Baystate Medical Center—I used to see nursing students from area schools on their clinical rotations. The HCC students always seemed to shine. HCC professor Patricia Triggs, RN, MSN, would accompany

her students and always encouraged me to become an RN. Finally, a friend who was an LPN said, "Let's do it together!"

How did you do?

I took LOTS of classes. Our instructors set a high bar for achievement but always supported us. I was the first HCC student to receive the Western MA Nurse Executives Marguerite Tristany award. HCC was the right fit for me, and it has opened many doors of opportunity.

But you didn't stop with your RN!

During my final semester at HCC, my daughter was home from college on break with information on grad school. I looked it over and ended up enrolling at UMass for a BS in Nursing. Out of a class of 100, I was one of only two accepted prior to taking my state boards. I also participated in a four-week international nursing internship in London. It was an experience of a lifetime, and truly opened my eyes to the pros and cons of socialized medicine.

Tell me about your work

I've worked in so many settings, from acute care, long term care and home care, as a staff nurse, staff developer, director of nursing, and case manager. It's a wonderful field with diverse opportunities, for men or women. You can go into direct clinical care, research, quality, infection control, management, specialty areas or education. In fact, I have had the opportunity to teach a few classes at HCC! Nursing has been a nice career for me.

You really have to be a people person to do this.

When I was in nursing school, I would play a game called "role reversal." I'd think "I am the patient, the patient is me." I would ask myself, "How would I want to be treated? Bathed? Medicated? Fed? Touched? Spoken to?" The patient care I implemented was always with that thought process. The tough part of nursing, that I struggle with, is that it can be very technical, with less time for actual bedside care. Nurses who have been in the field for many years remember when we gave bed

baths, backrubs, and "PM care." We had the time to sit and talk with our patients. Nursing has evolved a different approach, which holds pros and cons.

Where are you working now?

I'm at Mercy Medical Center. It's a good fit for me at this time in my career. I'm part of a great team and truly believe in Mercy's mission and philosophy. It's a great hospital with a warm, family atmosphere that provides quality care and a nice place to work.

Phil Straub '06



Phil Straub had the quintessential music lover's life: by day he sold vinyl at a record store in Northampton, MA, and by night

he was a DJ at WRSI. Enjoyable, yes; stable and lucrative: not so much. Though he can still be heard nights at FM 93.5 The River, he has a day gig that reliably pays the mortgage, thanks to the Radiologic Technology program at HCC.

What made you consider rad tech?

I knew I needed something more solid. A friend did some research and came up with radiologic technology as a good paying, recession-proof job. And he said 'It sure would be easier to do it with someone else...' So, we both enrolled at HCC.

Why HCC?

It's close to home, and we were intrigued by what it had to offer. HCC students don't just intern at one place: they go to Mercy, Franklin, and Holyoke Medical Centers—lots of different environments. That seemed to offer a more well-rounded experience.

What was it like going through the program?

Even though I had a degree in communications from UMass, I still had lots of prerequisites in Anatomy and Physiology I needed to fulfill. But the A&P

[Anatomy and Physiology] program at HCC is great. The professors did really well conveying difficult information in a way that was understandable. It was a privilege to work with [former director of the Radiologic Technology program, Biology professor] Kathy Root—I was so lucky to take classes with her! She really laid the foundation for what was to come next.

What happened after graduation?

I sweated for five months until I got a job! I graduated in June, temped at Noble Hospital in September and October, and then in November I was hired by Baystate Franklin Medical Center, where I am today.

That's not too bad!

It sure felt bad at the time.

Tell me about what you do.

I take x-rays of people who come in one of three ways: from the ER, as admitted patients, or outpatients who've been referred by their doctors. I also assist radiologists performing interventional radiology, like PIC lines or nephrostomy tubes—I've been training in that area for about a year. And I do quality control—basically regular assessments of the computer image processor to make sure the image quality hasn't degraded.

What do you enjoy most?

The interactions with staff and patients, and the way the work changes day to day. Every case and patient is different. It doesn't matter what they come in for, even the most common procedure. I approach each situation on its own merits. It's very creative, and it forces me to look at things differently.

Rhonda Dean '76



Rhonda Dean works in the emergency department at Baystate Medical Center. One of the lucky ones who always knew

what field she wanted to work in, she

graduated with honors from Granby High and went to LPN school at Holyoke Trade, now Dean Technical School. After working for a year, she set her sights on becoming an RN. Her dad worked in a factory that offered a scholarship to HCC; Rhonda applied and won. After graduation she worked as a medical surgical nurse for five years, an intensive care nurse for nine years, and has been an ER nurse for 22 years. In that time she also managed to raise three children (now ages 19, 22, and 25) and earn a BSN. I caught up with her on the phone at 8:30 p.m. one night: she had just returned home from a long day at work, and was getting ready to work out before dinner. She has the energy of a teenager.

What made you want to be a nurse?

When I was in high school I saw General Hospital on TV, and thought, "that would be cool!" Neither of my parents went past high school, but I knew I was smart and could do the work. Of course, I discovered that the reality is long hours and hard work—but I wouldn't want to do anything else.

You got your associate degree in Nursing at HCC. What was that like?

HCC was wonderful. The program gave me good clinical skills, and my teachers really inspired me. Elaine Marieb already had her doctoral degree, but put herself through the Nursing program so she would understand what her students needed. Sr. Marita and my other teachers were so supportive; I was working 24 hours a week as an LPN, but they always accommodated my work schedule.

Every person I talk to says the same thing about the Nursing program.

But you know what? It wasn't just the nursing education that is still with me. I took a photography class for one of my electives. Later, I set up my own darkroom at home, and, as my kids have grown, I've taken and developed my own photos. HCC introduced me to classical music. I

continues on page 6

Focus on Healthcare

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had never listened to it before; now I do. I learned to appreciate art. So many things that are still part of my life.

When did you get your BSN?

I got married and we moved to Boston. I decided I wanted my degree, so I enrolled at Boston University. It was hard to go to BU after HCC! I got so much personal attention at HCC; at BU, there were 300 people in a lecture hall. When we moved back to Western Mass, I transferred to UMass, and got my BS in Nursing.

You've been doing this for 37 years! Do you still feel satisfied by your work?

I am never bored—I learn something new everyday. Baystate is an excellent place to work; they offer incentives to further education, and I'm constantly keeping up with certifications and new techniques. I give presentations and lectures to new nurses (in fact, I took a public speaking course at HCC that still helps today when I speak to groups). Some of what I see in the ER is hard: pediatric trauma, elder abuse. But I've also gotten so much appreciation from patients. I know why I get up in the morning.

Betty Thayer '91



Left to right: Shynia Bennett, Marlene Brunelle '70, George Clark, Sharon Boyer, and Betty Thayer '91

HCC alumna Betty Thayer '91, RN, is the owner of Thayercare, an adult day care center located in a rambling white clapboard house in the center of Hadley, MA. On the day of my

visit, sun poured into the great room, decorated like a 50s diner with booths, checkerboard floor, and colorful pieces of 50s memorabilia. Clients socialized in comfortable groups, greeting staff and newcomers. In the TV room, the large flat screen and comfy couches and chairs attracted a group of news watchers, as HCC alumna Marlene Brunelle '70, prepared to lead a group activity. In a light-filled reading room at the front of the house, we pause for conversation.

What made you choose this career?

I always wanted to be a nurse. In my late 30s, with three kids in school, I enrolled at HCC. It was tough, but the Nursing faculty was great, and I made wonderful friends—we cried and struggled and helped each other out. I loved school, and part of me still misses it. HCC gave me a great education.

How did you decide on geriatrics?

I did a rotation in a nursing home as a student, and loved it. After graduation I worked in pediatrics, at a rest home, and on-call for hospice. At one point I was working three part-time jobs! But geriatrics was what I wanted to focus on. I began working at Northampton Adult Daycare, and within my first year I became the full-time director. I stayed there nine years, until I was able to buy a house and open my own adult day care.

What moved you to start a day care facility?

I wanted to create a place that was a home away from home, not an institution. People go into nursing homes and they deteriorate, they don't come out. But in the right environment they can improve, or at least maintain their level of health. I've had great progress with a client who has Alzheimer's. The people who come here may ultimately end up in nursing homes, but hopefully being here enhances their quality of life.

How many people do you serve?

I have more than 60 people enrolled, with usually 45-50 here each day. They include veterans from the VA, elders who live with their families, and older clients referred through the Department of Mental Retardation. It's an unusual mix of people! Groups tend to form around compatible personalities who enjoy socializing.

What about their medical needs?

We do a lot in the dispensary - tube feeding and wound care, along with monitoring blood sugar and dispensing medications and insulin. Whatever is needed, we do!

What do you enjoy about this work?

The elderly have so much to offer; they are fountains of information and life experience. I could listen to their stories all day. I know I am making a difference in their lives, and that gets me through long hours and not enough sleep. I also have great staff - thirteen people who care as much as I do. It can be challenging at times, but it is so worth it!

Kathy Hankel



Kathy Hankel, HCC's new Health Division dean, was raised in North Dakota and spent the majority of her 30-year career on the

cutting edge of curriculum development at the University of South Dakota, one of the nation's top ranked schools, and a perennial National League of Nursing Center of Excellence. She's bringing that edge, and a strong belief in responsibility to community, to HCC's Health education.

You started out as a nurse, then moved to education. Why?

My mother is a teacher, so I grew up with papers being graded at the dining room table. Education was so familiar to me.

In college, I was always the leader of our study groups—I loved to teach! I realized that as a teacher, I could really have the best of both worlds, particularly in clinical, when you interact with patients and families as well as students.

Tell me about your career before HCC.

I taught medical surgical nursing, critical care, and leadership. Eventually, I became focused on curriculum development, and became the curriculum chairperson at USD, which was quite a job; several hundred students across multiple campuses! I've done extensive consulting with associate degree nursing programs across the country. For 20 years I've been a National League for Nursing accrediting evaluator, and I serve on their review panel as well. I'm on the editorial board for the official journal of the National Organization for the Association of Degree Nursing, *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*. But teaching is still a joy—I love working with students and now in my new position, faculty.

What have been some of the challenges that stand out?

When I was at USD, we received a Kellogg Foundation Grant to support Native American students seeking associate degrees in nursing. Our goals were to improve access to advanced nursing education and increase enrollment and graduation rates of Native American students. This proved to be quite a challenge since the grant was focused on serving the people of the most economically depressed area in the nation. Sometimes it meant driving across rutted dirt roads to pick up students who had no other way to get to college. It really drove home the question of access: who has it, who gets it, and how to provide it.

Access is certainly relevant at a community college

I believe a community college is the *community's* college. We have an obligation to meet and address the needs of the community. It will be important for us to carefully assess the healthcare needs

of the region in order to provide sufficient, qualified health care professionals to meet these needs. I'd like to see programs that engage families and build relationships earlier, rather than later, in life so all students have the best opportunity to succeed.

Sounds like you've been working on your to-do list. What other goals do you have for HCC?

I want to infuse technology throughout all our programs, from Radiologic Technology to Pre-health to Nursing. We have terrific faculty and staff—they're all here because they want HCC students to succeed. I want to create opportunities for faculty to nurture their own creativity and be exposed to new ideas. I'd also like to engage HCC alumni. It would be wonderful if they could serve as mentors for HCC students, answering questions, tutoring, or helping out during multicultural study group sessions. In this difficult economy with limited resources, our alumni could really make a difference.

Diane Plante '82



From school nurse to post-anesthesia caregiver at the Pioneer Valley Surgicenter, the AS she earned at HCC has given Diane Plante

'82, RN, challenging and flexible career options. A 1975 graduate of Granby High School, Diane received her LPN certificate at Putnam and worked four years until "I was ready for another challenge!" she said, smiling. She graduated from HCC in 1982, and began working on the medical-surgical unit at what was then Wesson Hospital.

She left Wesson to raise her two children, occasionally picking up per diem work when time allowed. When her youngest entered kindergarten, she took a job as a school nurse two mornings a week. A year

later she became a full time school nurse, a career she stayed with for 13 years.

"Kids show up with everything imaginable: colds, cuts, serious illnesses, and fake ailments," Diane recalled. "It's not for everyone— it's hectic, you're the only one there making decisions, and dealing with children and parents can be challenging."

In 2005, both children had graduated from high school, and Diane wanted a job with flexibility; her husband travels on business a great deal, and she wanted to be able to go with him. A friend told her about a position at a surgery center.

"At first, I wondered if I could make the switch to acute care. I needed to refresh my skills inserting IVs and assessing patients coming out of anesthesia," she reflected. "Working one on one with doctors would also be a real change from [the years of] being independent."

Despite her concerns, Diane applied and was hired. The new environment turned out to be a change she relished. "I realized that I missed talking to adults!" she laughed. "Especially the older patients, I enjoy talking to them." At the same time, her years of experience as a school nurse are an advantage when caring for children coming in for surgery. "Children need adults who can speak their language," she said. "When they are afraid, they can get a little out of control. They need someone who can calm them."

When she isn't working or traveling with her husband, Diane makes time to work in her garden and serve on the school board of the Springfield Catholic Diocese. "My dad was a volunteer, and like him, I can't say no!" she laughed.

Around campus

Awards, Recognition Helps Student's Business Grow

A talented photographer who has been building a portfolio since she was twelve, Christine Costigan knew she needed more than aesthetic sense to grow her business. "I'm artistic—I'm not a natural when it comes to business" she said. "But I knew I needed both for my business to succeed." In fall 2008, she enrolled at HCC and began working on an associate in Marketing. Encouraged by business professor Anne Potter, Costigan applied for the Harold Grinspoon Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, established to recognize entrepreneurial spirit and encourage pursuit of entrepreneurial dreams. In October, she was awarded \$1,000 by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation. Three weeks later, she won the first Kittredge Center Mini-Grant, a \$500 award established by HCC alumnus Michael Kittredge '73, to enable recipients to attend conferences, obtain further skills in their chosen field, or purchase something to enhance their business. Costigan is using the Grinspoon award to relocate her studio to Holyoke. "Right now I share studio space with a pastel artist," she explained. "This will finally give me a place of my own." The Kittredge Center Mini-Grant will be used to purchase photographic equipment to expand her business. What does Costigan think about her double dose of good fortune? "This is the most amazing, exciting time in my life," she remarked.

Check out Costigan's photography and design work at www.chrissykostigan.com.



Business Division Dean Sue Mackler presented Costigan with the first Kittredge Center Mini Grant

Cougar Sports



The Holyoke Community College Women's Soccer team had its most successful season ever. Not only did they win their second New England Championship in the last three years, they earned their first-ever invitation to the NJCAA Division III National Final Four Tournament in Dallas, TX. Sophomore Becky Dee was named to the NJCAA All American team, and was one of five Cougars named to the All New England Team along with Alicia Dimino, Sarah Jaskula, Jenee King and Valeria Cuesta-Ortiz.

The HCC Men's Soccer team, guided by first-year coach Dan Lawrence, finished their season with an 8-7-1 record, compiling more wins than the past two seasons combined. The Cougars made an impressive late-season run winning four straight regional games against very stiff competition. HCC advanced to the Massachusetts Community College Athletic Conference (MCCAC) Tournament Final,

and defeated Bristol CC on penalty kicks to capture the crown.

Coach Andy Calisewski's 50+ years of experience have served HCC Women's Volleyball well. The Cougars posted their best record in school history (9-4) and Cougar Jessica Sears set a school record with 15 consecutive serve points, only to see it broken by Rachel McCutchen's 17 in the very next match.

Women's Basketball Coach Al Wolejko is in the midst of his eighth season at Holyoke Community College. During his tenure the program has made great strides. In 2001-02 the team finished 2nd in the Massachusetts Community College Athletic Conference (MCCAC). In 2002-03 and 2003-04 the team won the MCCAC State crown and finished 2nd in the New England Region. The team lost the New England Title game in 2004-05. The team has advanced to the National Final Eight Tournament each of the last two seasons. Since Coach Wolejko's arrival at HCC, 14 players have earned All New England honors and two have earned All American honors.

Theatre Arts students, faculty, win awards, accolades at Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

HCC's fifth year of participation in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival was a big one! Theater Arts students and faculty joined peers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine at the Region I Festival January 27-February 1, at Fitchburg State College. The festival enabled participants to experience outstanding productions; participate in workshops; compete in theatrical performance, design, and production; and celebrate the excitement of theater.

- HCC's associate production of *Anna in the Tropics*, directed by Professor Patricia Sandoval '87, won a merit award for overall production value.
- Student Chelsea Wynegar was the first HCC student to go to the semi-finals, one of just 36 among 192 competitors. Michael Pray served as Chelsea's performance partner at the semi-finals.
- Five HCC student actors were selected among 200 students who auditioned for parts in the festival's *Six by Ten* short play productions. Trine Boode-Petersen, Dan Krystan (who is now at Salem State College), Michael Lewis, Brittany Masse, and L.K. Oday's acting skills earned them roles in six 10-minute works performed for the festival audience.

Congratulations to all who participated!



Putnam Scholarship now at HCC



A family with deep roots in Springfield has chosen to redirect its national scholarship fund for African-American and Latino students exclusively to graduates of Springfield public and charter high schools—and has selected the HCC Foundation, Inc. as administrator.

The Putnam Scholarship Fund, valued at approximately \$135,000, was previously awarded through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. "This will be one of our larger funds and certainly the largest that specifically targets Springfield high school graduates," said Foundation Executive Director Erica Broman. Springfield is HCC's largest feeder community, with more than 15% of the HCC student body coming from Springfield.

"Narrowing the fund's focus to Springfield residents expresses our desire to reward student effort and emphasize our longstanding commitment to the Springfield community," said fund trustee Lowell Putnam. "Our decision to transfer it to HCC reflects our confidence in HCC's outstanding record in preparing students for study at a four-year institution."

Transit Center to offer access to adult education, day care

HCC President Bill Messner joined Holyoke Mayor Michael Sullivan '77, Congressman John Olver, Senator Michael Knapik, Representative Michael Kane '90, Federal Transit Administrator Richard Doyle, Mary MacInnes of PVRTA, and Peter Picknelly, Peter Pan/Picknelly family representative, for a groundbreaking ceremony on January 26, for the Holyoke Multimodal Transportation Center and Picknelly Family and Adult Education Center on Maple Street in Holyoke. To be housed in a restored, historic fire station, the transit center will feature a PVRTA information and ticket booth and passenger waiting area on its first floor, a day care center and pre-school on the second floor, and HCC's adult literacy programs on the third and fourth floors.



Class notes

Leading a Double Life?



Erin Doyle-Gallerani



Barbara Paulo

No, but Erin Doyle-Gallerani's friends did a double take when they saw Barbara Paulo's photo accompanying Erin's class note in the Fall 2008 Alumni Connection. Our apologies! The real Erin and Barbara are pictured above, and in their class notes on pages 12 and 14.

1957

Alice Rychlik Askew invites all who remember when HCC was HJC to check out her April 14, 2008, post, "A blast from my past," at <http://myweeklyscreeder.blogspot.com>. The post is an homage to her Korean War vet classmates and an appreciation of the GI Bill that enabled them to attend college. Of that era's veteran-students, she writes, "Most importantly, they showed us youngsters how to grow up and what real maturity looks like."

1963

Bruce William McLean married Mark Steven McMillan on June 18, 2008, in California. The couple resides in Palm Springs, CA. McLean retired in 2004, after being a teacher and administrator for 36 years, including teaching for two years on an Indian reservation in South Dakota. Alumni can reach him at ecurbna@aol.com

1973

Eva C. Thomas is doing her part to save the environment. She found a heat-pump that extracts heat from ambient air, cutting her radiant floor heating costs by 40-60%, and she also found a recirculating water pump to save on water usage. Alumni may write to her c/o the HCC Alumni Office.

1975

Paula Burgielewicz has worked in the State 4-H Office at UMass/Amherst as the head secretary for over 25 years, and she still loves it. Burgielewicz, who belonged to a 4-H club as a child, says that there are 14,000 4-H'ers in Massachusetts. The clubs now focus on leadership, community service, environmental issues, and technology, as well as other topics. Alumni may learn more at www.mass4h.org.

1978

Kent Hakanson is managing director in private banking at Silicon Valley Bank, where he has worked for fifteen years. The bank provides diversified financial services to companies at all stages of development in the technology, life sciences, and private equity markets. He can be reached at: khakanson@svb.com.

Alex Sajkovic was featured in a recent article in BusinessWest called "Rock Star." ASN Stone, his stone, slab, and tile business, has showrooms in Chicopee and Northampton. Sajkovic, who has traveled the world to find the most beautiful stone and tile, says that natural and non-toxic stone is a "green product." He invites HCC alumni to visit, call (413) 552-0070, or see his stone at www.asnstone.com

1979

Elizabeth M. Carr has been elected vice president of operations at Florence Savings Bank in the Florence section of Northampton. Carr received her first degree from HCC in Early Childhood Education, and her associate in Business Administration in 2002. Carr received a certificate from the Massachusetts Bankers School for Financial Studies at Babson College. Carr also received an operations certificate from the American Institute of Banking

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Class Notes/Change of Information/Email

Name: _____ Class year: _____

Former name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Email Address: _____

Class note to be published in the **Alumni Connection**. Comments to the director of alumni relations (will not be published).

Please return this form to: Alumni Office, HCC, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040, fax to (413) 552-2479, or email to jbrown@hcc.mass.edu with subject line of "HCC Notes" by June 20, 2009.

Go green!

Help us make the switch to electronic communications by entering your email address on this form, or send your address to sdoyle@hcc.mass.edu with "HCC" and your full name in the subject line.

Volunteering is the theme of the next issue of Alumni Connection. Tell us about your volunteer activities in a class note (see below).

Letter from the Alumni Association president

Dear alumni,

In January, we witnessed an historic event, the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Here at HCC, staff and faculty gathered together in the PeoplesBank conference room to observe this amazing occasion.

President Obama called upon each of us to become more involved—in our families, our communities, and in the world. Each one of us has a significant role to play in defining the future of this generation and generations to follow.

Our Alumni Association has distinguished itself by its commitment to maintaining the high quality of education at HCC, and it is incumbent upon us to continue to work at our highest potential.

We are grateful for your continued support. In the last year alone, alumni contributions purchased a new electric convection oven (\$2,975), a char broiler (\$1,500), and a dough divider (\$1,200) for the culinary arts program; oto/ophthalmoscopes (\$3,300) and a hospital bed (\$3,400) for the nursing program; two microscopes (\$1,584) for the science labs; four heat mantles and heat controllers for

the chemistry labs (\$1,288); a Vortex mixer (\$200) for the forensic science laboratory; a pH meter (\$600) and water deionizer (\$750) for the environmental science laboratory; several pieces of assistive technology and other equipment to assist students with disabilities (\$8,000); a generator (\$600) and transformer (\$200) for the engineering laboratory; and a recumbent bicycle for the Bartley Center (\$1,100). In addition to purchasing these needed items for classrooms and laboratories, the alumni funds also replaced an essential bar-code reader for the library (\$1,000) and purchased two large LCD screens for highly trafficked areas on campus (\$3,000), to post important announcements and improve campus-wide communication for students.

This is a year in which some of you have given above what you have given in years past. We especially appreciate this, for we know that some of you cannot give as you would like to. But, everyone can give a gift that is meaningful for them, because every *gift makes a difference here*.

Since the college is relying on us as the sole source and means to provide equipment for classrooms for the coming year, I am calling on you to join our ranks



Alumni Association President
Gloria G. Lomax '75

of alumni donors and take a stand for excellence at HCC, by sending your check today or contributing online at www.hcc.edu/donate.

Sincerely,

Gloria G. Lomax '75
President, Holyoke Community College
Alumni Association

2009 HCC Alumni Fund (closes June 30, 2009)

Enclosed is my 2009 contribution of:

\$_____ \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100* \$300 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$_____

*Donors of \$100 and above receive an HCC lanyard and keyring

I/we wish to contribute to the following fund:

Where the need is greatest

Equipment for classrooms & labs

Alumni scholarship fund

Other: _____

Name(s): _____ Graduation year or years attended: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home/Cell telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Position/Title: _____

My/our check is enclosed, payable to HCC Foundation, Inc. (2009 fund drive ends June 30, 2009)

My/our gift will be matched by: _____ (please submit matching gift form)

To charge a gift, please call (413) 552-2546 or visit our secure donation page at hcc.edu/donate

I wish to give anonymously. Please do not publish my name in the 2009 Annual Giving Report

Please mail to: HCC Foundation, Inc., 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040. For more information please call (413) 552-2253.

Class notes

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1980

Sergeant Michael E. Sheedy retired from the Holyoke Police force in April 2009, after serving for 37 years. He was a supervisor for the last 25 years.

1982

John E. Lane was appointed captain of the West Springfield police. An Air Force veteran, he joined the West Springfield Police Department in 1982, and has been a sergeant for 20 years. He has served in the community policing division, the narcotics task force, the detective bureau, and on uniform patrol. Lane earned his BS and MS degrees from Westfield State College.

1984



Elizabeth Grzeszczyk

Elizabeth Grzeszczyk, was among those featured in an August 2008 *USA Today* feature on the state of community colleges. A senior clinical research associate for Quintiles in

California, she received a BS in chemistry from Mount Holyoke College and a master's degree from UMass. She had this to say: "As a 27-year-old recently divorced mother of a 4-year-old son, I decided to enter HCC. I never would have made it this far without the outstanding teachers, academic program, support, and encouragement at Holyoke Community College."

1985

Carol Constant, director of development at The Loomis Communities, has been awarded the Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) designation. Constant is responsible for raising funds to support the programs of Loomis Communities, consisting of Applewood at Amherst, Loomis House in Holyoke, and Loomis Village in South Hadley.

1987

Dennis P. Hohenberger is a reporter/writer based in Western Massachusetts, who considers Los Angeles his second home. Hohenberger studied journalism at UMass, then lived in Boston and Washington, D.C., where he studied method acting at the acclaimed Studio Theater Conservatory. Alumni may see his work at papercitybuzz.com.

1988

Joanne Ollson is Vice President of Human Resources at Noble Hospital in Westfield, MA. She welcomes inquiries from HCC Nursing graduates who may want to explore career opportunities at Noble Hospital and Noble Visiting Nurse and Hospice Services, Inc. Ollson can be reached at (413) 568-2811, ext. 5537 or jollson@noblehealth.org.

1990



Erin Doyle-Gallerani

Erin Doyle-Gallerani is the chief financial officer/office manager/co-owner of Gallerani Electric Co., Inc. The company offers residential, commercial, and industrial electrical services. She has

volunteered for the Greater Springfield Senior Services since 2004, assisting low-income older adults, and she has been a volunteer with STAVROS Center for Independent Living since 1998. Gallerani and her husband, Michael, have a son, Zachary, who recently left for training with the Air National Guard.

1991

Petra M. Smith is now director of the 24 North nursing unit at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester. The unit provides care to cardiac, stroke, and peritoneal dialysis patients who require telemetry monitoring. Prior to that she was the telemetry manager at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, CT.

1994

Kimberly L. Baker has been named assistant vice president, commercial loan administration officer at Florence Savings Bank. Baker holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Westfield State College and a master's degree in business administration from UMass.

1995

Mark J. West is the director of personal trainers at Snap Fitness gym on Westfield Road in Holyoke.

1998

Michael C. Barrett is a sound artist, painter, and photographer living in Easthampton. Barrett recently exhibited his work at HCC's Taber Art Gallery. He is presently working on an interrelated series of intuitive action paintings and improvisational sound collages. HCC artists may contact him at: mike-barrett@hotmail.com.

2000

Marcia Wise studied at L'Ecole Superieure Des Beaux-Arts in Paris, the Art Institute of Boston, and The Cape Cod School of Art in Provincetown. She received her art education certificate from Boston University, after which she taught for more than twenty years. She now paints full time, as well as performing in her band, The Hot Flashes. She invites alumni to see her work at www.marciarwise.com.

2001



Jessica Bodon

Jessica J. Bodon has been promoted to branch manager of the Village Commons office of PeoplesBank in South Hadley. Bodon completed the PeoplesBank Management Development

Program, earned a BS from Westfield State College, and is working on her MBA

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Alumni Events



GRAND MARSHALL SANTIAGO

Alumni employee Harold Santiago '95 was the Grand Marshall of the 2008 Holyoke Puerto Rican Day Parade, part of the annual Hispanic Family Festival held by La Familia Hispana. This year's events will take place July 16-19 in Springdale Park in Holyoke. Join us!



A FRIEND RETIRES

Staff Assistant Cheryl Freitag '82 and former Vice President of Administration and Finance Mike Giampietro, at Freitag's retirement party. Freitag retired after serving HCC for more than 25 years.



SUSAN WELCH '73

CEO of Trade Stone Software, Inc., spoke to a capacity audience in the Kittredge Center PeoplesBank conference room about having founded three successful companies.



SOLAR POWERED

More than thirty HCC alumni and their guests came to hear Mike Kocsmiersky, general manager of Alteris Renewables in Springfield, speak about solar applications for homes in New England on October 29, 2008. The discussion was lively and didn't end until 9:30 p.m.!



HCC IN FLORIDA

Professor emeritus Victor Thomas organized a gathering of emerti faculty and staff this January in Florida. Clearly enjoying the warmth and relaxation of the Sunshine State (seated from left to right) are: Lois Donohue, former secretary to President David Bartley; Elaine Ironfield, retired vice president for Institutional Development; Toby Tamarkin, retired vice president for Academic Affairs; and Toby's husband, Thomas Dowd. Standing from left to right are: Bette Bartley; Dr. David Bartley '54, president emeritus; Victor Thomas, professor emeritus; William Sullivan, retired academic counselor; John Sokol, retired professor; and Eve Thomas.



ALUMNI EMPLOYEE LUNCHEON

Alumni Association President Gloria G. Lomax '75 and John Cipora '83 (her former student and now adjunct psychology professor at HCC) attended the annual HCC Alumni Employee Appreciation Luncheon, sponsored by the HCC Alumni Office each November.

Class notes

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at Western New England College. She is a graduate of the Leadership Holyoke Program, sponsored by the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce and HCC.

Mary Ann Carrasquillo completed her BA at UMass and is an instructional technology specialist for Roger L. Putnam Vocational High School. She is currently enrolled in a master's degree program at American International College.

Joseph R. Zazzaro has been promoted to first vice president, information technology, at PeoplesBank. He is currently completing a bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix. Zazzaro also holds a diploma in computer operations from the Computer Processing Institute and is a Novell certified network engineer. He serves on the board of directors of the Greater Westfield Boys & Girls Club.

2002

Jill M. Crosler has been the store manager for Starbucks on Rte-20 in Westfield, MA, since July 2007. She invites alumni to come by and visit.

2003

Melissa Perez transferred to Bay Path College and received her bachelor's degree in 2005. She has been working at Holyoke Community College in the Welcome Center since 2005.

2004

Karin Bean graduated cum laude in May 2008, from Westfield State College, with a BS in computer science. Bean received the Professor John P. Stadnicki Memorial Computer Science Award for attainment of academic excellence in the undergraduate major.

2005

Abigail S. Baines graduated from UMass Amherst in May 2008 with a BA in communication and psychology. While at UMass, Baines held internships with Special Collections and University Archives at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library

and with the Northampton Independent Film Festival as volunteer coordinator. Now studying to be an archivist in the Simmons College master in library and information science program, she is also working at Goodwin Memorial Library in Hadley.

2006



Barbara Paulo

Barbara Paulo is Salon Owner and Artistic Director of Shear Xtreme in Northampton, MA. Paulo is certified in the Chi Transformation System and Advanced Color Design by Farouk Systems, U.S.A. She brings 27

years of experience and a love of her craft to each client. For five years, Paulo has volunteered to cut hair and collect ponytails for "Wigs for Kids" through the HCC Unity Club. HCC alumni are invited to visit her salon or website, www.shearxtreme.com.

Amy Wickland Pytko was recently married and now resides in Williamsburg. She is employed as an operations coordinator at Disney.

Lynne Wanamaker enrolled at HCC after the birth of her daughter, and earned a certificate in personal fitness training. She has special certification to work with people with arthritis, and also works with mid-life, prenatal, and post-natal women. Visit www.mindbodymama.com or call her at 413-527-8317.

2007

Matthew R. Frydryk, a graduate of the HCC Criminal Justice program, graduated from the Western Mass. Police Academy in April 2008. The youngest of 34 graduates in this year's Police Academy class, he was recognized for having the highest academic average in the 21-week training program. He is now a patrol officer in the Amherst Police Department.

Krystal Garini has been busy! The artist and photographer's work is now available through her new online store. Check out her work at www.krystalwallaccents.blogspot.com or www.krystalwallaccents.etsy.com, and don't forget to enter her monthly give-away for a free photograph!

Kimberly Gelinas graduated Cum Laude from Westfield State College in 2008, with a BA in Art. She was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society and received an Academic Excellence Award from the Art Department.

Caitlin O'Neill was named a finalist in the Grand Colleen contest for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. She completed her final two years of high school at HCC, concurrently earning her associate degree, and is now a student at UMass, where she is studying to become a licensed art teacher.

In memoriam:

We are saddened to learn of the passing of the following members of the HCC community:

- Donald T. Chivas '53
- Edward M. Dunn '57
- Gregory E. Apostle '65
- John C. Lukawiewicz '66
- Chip (Leo V.) Barsalou '68
- Michael D. Niziolek '68
- Karen Hodak Morgan '69
- Leon J. Kopacz '71
- Demetria Frangenes '73
- Linda E. Grinnell '73
- Karol B. Aylward '74
- Michael Albert Ouellette '76
- Richard E. Bergeron '77
- Steven J. Koziara '77
- Gary Loncrini '77
- Gail L. Dean Swiercz '83
- Nancy B. (Raymond) Daly-Arona '89
- Alice M. Woods '89
- Richard A. Schoolcraft '95

Richard A. Augusti, CPA,
former employee
John E. Tyler,
retired chemistry professor



Andrew Giza '96 with Jeanne Hatch, retired HCC professor and Young @ Heart performer

I have been with the Tonight Show as Jay Leno's Music Coordinator for almost nine years. My position involves working with several producers on a varying array of performances. I worked with Jolie Ancel (guest producer) for the Young @ Heart appearance. When The Tonight Show began discussing the possibility of booking Young @ Heart, I was asked for my opinion as to how it would work for our stage. I researched the internet links provided to me and upon recognizing Jeanne on one of them, I immediately agreed to make it work for them. The Young @ Heart group was too large for our dressing rooms, so I set up our rehearsal hall for them, bringing in comfortable couches and chairs. I really wanted to make sure their accommodations, both on- and off-stage, were as best as we could make them.

Usually, I work with popular musical guests, who occupy the production stage most of the time. I also advance production of performances you see on our production stage (musicals like *Wicked*, performance art like *Cirque du Soleil* or *La Rev*) for the Tonight Show. Some of the details that I am responsible for in these productions include coordinating with the sound department, working with lighting and staging, transportation, security clearance, guest lists, visa, and payment information.

I especially enjoy the artistic aspect of my job that calls for the creation or re-creation of live concerts or Broadway shows. Once our musical guests have been booked by one of our producers, I am responsible for the logistics and advance work while keeping producers informed of necessary changes or creative decisions.

I would love to visit HCC again. Holyoke community College provided me a strong foundation for my career advancement.

– Andrew Giza '96

CITIZENS BANK HELPS LEARNERS TAKE “NEXT STEPS”

Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Citizens Bank Foundation, Ludlow area residents seeking to advance their English skills can turn to "Next Steps," an advanced English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class, now offered at HCC's Ludlow Area Learning Center (LALC). Cheryl Shattuck '94, HCC alumna and branch manager of the downtown Ludlow office of Citizens Bank, helped secure the grant, and was on hand October 7, at a reception honoring Citizens Bank Foundation. Shattuck was joined by alumnus Edward Mazur '78, owner of the Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home in Ludlow, who spoke about the importance

of HCC in his own life. Pictured (left to right, first row, then last row): Joanna Brown (HCC director of alumni relations), Anna Jasinska (Poland), Barbara Sosnowska (Poland), Serpil Durdu (Turkey), Nancy Valentin (Puerto Rico), Andy Kaillola (Indonesia). Back row: Theresa Kane (superintendent, Ludlow Public Schools), Marlene Connor (regional manager of the Turnpike West region), Cheryl Shattuck '94, Edward Mazur '78, Monica Ceccatto (class instructor), Kenden White (HCC dean of Community Services), Teresa Lucek-Kopka (Poland), Marcin Kupidura (Poland), Marine Kirakosyan (Russia), Peter Selin (Russia), Kermit Dunkelberg (program coordinator, LAALC). The Citizens Bank Foundation is the principal charitable arm of Citizens Financial Group, Citizens Bank and Charter One Bank, N.A. For information about ESOL classes in Ludlow, contact Kermit Dunkelberg at (413) 583-0320.



ALUMNI CONNECTION

Holyoke Community College Alumni Office
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040
www.hcc.edu

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**New! Find Holyoke Community
College alumni on Facebook Groups!**

2009 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

To see a complete listing of musical performances and campus events, please go to www.hcc.edu. A voice mail listing of alumni events is also available at (413) 533-7188. To register for events, call (413) 552-2704.

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.
62nd Commencement Exercises, Bartley Center

Thursday, June 4, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
32nd Alumni Award Dinner to benefit the Alumni Scholarship Fund

HCC Alumni Association will honor our 2009 Distinguished Alumni Steven M. Mitus '80, Moira E. Mitus '93, and Gregory R. Dubreuil '88.

Social hour: 5-6 p.m. (wine, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and hot and cold hors d'oeuvre).

Dinner: 6 p.m.; Presentations and awards: 7- 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Sponsor tickets and tables are available. Register by calling Joyce Desorcy at (413) 552-2704 or by going to www.hcc.edu and clicking on the "Alumni and Friends" link.

Wednesday, June 17, 5:30-8 p.m.
Alumni Summer Celebration-Register Now!

Our alumni summer celebration is a family-friendly gathering with traditional summer food (American and Latin), and live music by the HCC Jazz Trio and Mark Normantowicz '95.

At 7 p.m., we will present Annette Davis-Harris '04 with the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award. Free, but registration is required by June 10. Call Joyce D. Desorcy at (413) 552-2704 or register online at www.hcc.edu (click on the "Alumni and Friends" link).

Monday, September 14
22nd Annual Charity Golf Invitational

Holyoke Community College Foundation's annual fundraiser underwrites scholarships for HCC students. In a tough economy, this is fun you can feel good about. Join us at the Springfield Country Club in West Springfield, and help HCC students succeed! To register, contact Kim Gifford, Institutional Development, at (413) 552-2308 or kgifford@hcc.mass.edu.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Futures Inspired