

ALUMNI CONNECTION

SPRING 2014

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Futures Inspired



INSIDE

A Tradition of Transfer

HCC's Learning Communities turn 20!

**MISSION:
MARIEB**

ELAINE MARIEB, '80, ISSUES \$1 MILLION CHALLENGE



HCC President William F. Messner

In the previous issue of the Alumni Connection, I announced the first expansion of our campus since its establishment at 303 Homestead Avenue in 1974.

As this issue goes to print, Elaine Marieb, a beloved professor emeritus, alumna and steadfast supporter of HCC, has issued an unprecedented \$1 million/1,000 donor challenge that we have dubbed *Mission: Marieb*. If you're familiar with *Mission: Impossible*, you'll know that it's a mission we hope you'll accept. The challenge: secure 1,000 gifts of any size in support of HCC's Building Healthy Communities Campaign. If we meet that goal, Marieb will contribute \$1 million dollars.

The Building Healthy Communities Campaign will fund the new Center for Health Education at 404 Jarvis Ave. and the Center for Life Sciences in the Marieb building on the main campus. Together these facilities will provide state-of-the-art resources for students in our biology, Foundations of Health, environmental science, sustainability, nursing, radiologic technology and veterinary technician programs, and enable us to double the size of our nursing and radiologic technology programs.

This is a transformative moment for HCC, one made possible through the support of our community, particularly our alumni. You know the value of an HCC education—what it feels like when first-semester jitters give way to the thrill of new friendships, new ideas and new insights. You've experienced finding that professor—the one who ignites your enthusiasm and brings a subject to life—the one whose class becomes *your* transformative moment.

This issue is filled with stories that illustrate how HCC changes lives, as well as the pivotal role played by alumni such as Kay Altoff, '82, who helped HCC grads fulfill their dreams of further education, and Matt Haley, '10, who uses his enthusiasm and creativity to connect underserved youth with student mentors.

I urge you to join me in meeting the *Mission: Marieb* challenge. You'll find details on Page 16. Even the smallest gift will help generate a big reward for our students and our community.

Sincerely,

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

William F. Messner

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Campus Center upgrade on the way

HCC's Campus Center opened in 1981, the last of the original buildings constructed after the college moved to Homestead Avenue. Aside from a 2009 project that turned the third floor into the Electronic Media Arts Center, G Building, as it is also known, has remained largely untouched. But that will soon change. In December, Gov. Deval Patrick announced a plan to provide \$20.3 million for the Campus Center, where upgrades are sorely needed. The building has long been plagued by leaks, and fixing them is a priority. "There is a serious water infiltration issue that needs to be addressed," said Bill Fogarty, vice president of Administration and Finance. "We have plastic bags over expensive equipment over there." Beyond the waterproofing, administrators are considering a number of different ideas for renovations, such as moving the campus bookstore up to the second floor, expanding the cafeteria and relocating the Student Activities office from Donahue.

One idea for the renovated Campus Center is to move the HCC Bookstore up to the second floor, near the cafeteria.



New chief starts campus beat

As a police beat, HCC is a long way from Father Panik Village, the public housing project in Bridgeport, Conn., where William "Ron" Bailey started his career as a uniformed patrol officer in 1983. Bailey spent 30 years with the Bridgeport Police Department, the majority on the street in a city that raged with violence, battling drug dealers and gangs. He capped his career in Bridgeport as a lieutenant, working in police administration. Bailey now has a new beat – the HCC campus – as director of Public Safety. "I wanted to be a police chief," said Bailey, who goes by "Ron." He started preparing for such a job by returning to school several years ago and earning his bachelor's degree in human services at Springfield College. He's now working on his master's in public administration. "This is a perfect fit," he said of HCC.

William "Ron" Bailey (right), HCC's new director of Public Safety, shakes hands with President William Messner while Bill Fogarty, vice president of Administration and Finance, looks on.

HCC entrepreneurs open market

The pecan pies sold out early. Later, they sold everything. For a business owner trying to establish a market niche before the winter holidays, that's a good sign. "We were up baking til the wee hours of the morning so everything would be fresh," said Alyssa Delude, co-owner with Kayla Langevin of A's of K-ake's Baked Goods. Delude and Langevin were two of the 16 HCC students participating in a Student Market held at HCC. All were either members of the Entrepreneurs Club or students in Professor Ellen Majka's Entrepreneurship class. The budding businessmen and women sold T-shirts, jewelry, hair accessories, fuzzy socks, scarves and other items at the pre-Thanksgiving showcase. "Some are crafters, some are bakers, and some of them aren't quite sure they want to own their own businesses," said Majka, the club advisor. "They're all at different stages." The students analyzed potential markets and invested their own money in hopes of turning a profit, which they kept, minus a 10 percent donation to Dakin Animal Shelter.

HCC students Kayla Langevin and Alyssa Delude, co-owners of A's of K-ake's Baked Goods, display their home baked goodies at the Student Market last November.





New Directions coordinator returns to roots

To get to her new office at HCC, Karen Rock merely moved across the hall. After two decades in Financial Aid, Rock took over in December as coordinator of the New Directions program. Though the walk was short, the journey has been a long one. It was also a homecoming – Rock is a 1997 graduate of HCC and went through New Directions herself. The HCC program – once called “Women in Transition” – offers counseling, support and guidance to nontraditional age students (24 and older), single parents, veterans and those currently serving in the U.S. military. Rock entered the program as a single mom in 1993. She started in Financial Aid as a work-study student and has been at HCC ever since. Meanwhile, she has earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Massachusetts. “It means a lot to me to come full circle and give back to a program that gave so much to me,” says Rock. “I think sharing my experience with New Directions students now will help them do what I did when I didn’t have the confidence that I could do it.”

New Directions coordinator Karen Rock, '97, talks to a student.

Public health chief visits HCC

Community colleges have an important role to play in the education of public health workers who understand the language and culture of the communities they serve, state Public Health commissioner Cheryl Bartlett said during a visit to HCC in November. Bartlett told a conference room full of area health professionals that the Department of Public Health plans to create credentials for “front-line” community health workers. “I think community college is an ideal way to help provide that core curriculum,” she said. Rebecca Lewis, coordinator of HCC’s Foundations of Health program, said Bartlett’s visit was timely. This spring, HCC is offering its first course focused on public health. According to Lewis, the goal is to facilitate student interest in public health and ease transfer to public health programs at four-year schools. “We can do a better job on campus to raise awareness among students about career pathways related to public health,” she said.

Cheryl Bartlett, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, talks to Holyoke mayor Alex Morse at HCC last November.



ESL students celebrate achievement

Little more than a year ago, Sergei and Tatiana Bondarenko immigrated to the United States from Kyrgyzstan. Neither spoke a word of English. Last fall, the Bondarenkos enrolled in HCC’s free, entry-level English-as-a-Second Language classes. In December, the couple, who now live in Chicopee, were recognized with their classmates at an informal campus graduation ceremony. “So passes four months of study, remembering what we were in September,” said Tatiana, reading from a hand-written statement. “Then we could talk a little ... Now we know something. We understand ourselves.” Last fall was the second semester HCC has offered ESL Level 1 as a free, non-credit course, paid for by a U.S. Dept. of Labor grant. Graduates are eligible to move on to Level 2, for which they can earn academic credit. “Today, you are taking a big step,” HCC President William Messner told the students. “We’d like to see you advance and come across the stage at graduation with a college degree. Wherever you go, you can feel proud that you’ve come this far.”

Sergei and Tatiana Bondarenko, immigrants from Kyrgyzstan, graduated from HCC’s ESL Level 1 program in December.



Dear HCC alumni,

Two common themes emerge in stories from Holyoke Community College alumni about their experiences transferring to other colleges:

HCC alumni are very well prepared to participate in the academic life of the college or university to which they transferred, and the quality of teaching at HCC and the personalized attention that they received here from faculty and staff were equal to—or even better than—those at other undergraduate programs.

You can help to sustain HCC's excellent reputation by sharing your stories about HCC with students who are deciding which college to attend, just as Keith Rogers Wright '87 is doing. (See Page 20.)

You can also help HCC meet a donor challenge by contributing at this time. Elanie Marieb, professor emeritus, has generously pledged \$1 million to the

Building Healthy Communities Campaign if we receive contributions from 1,000 donors. Your donation will do double-duty during this donor gift challenge.

Please take out your checkbook or go online to www.hcc.edu/donate and contribute today.

With thanks, and wishing you good health,



Joanna Brown
jbrown@hcc.edu
(413) 552-2253

Director of Alumni Relations

P.S. Our donor gift to you will be an HCC pedometer so that you can improve your own health through walking. Gloria G. Lomax and I are using our pedometers and are posting on our Facebook page: HolyokeCommunityCollegeAlumni. Please "like" our page and join us at the Cougar Crawl on May 4, 2014. (See Back Cover.)



Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown



**MISSION:
MARBIEB**

A \$1 Million Challenge has been issued by Alumna Elaine Marieb, '80.



Mission Accepted, I want to be one of the 1,000 donors!

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ to the Building Healthy Communities Campaign.
AM/DISC/MC/VISA: #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

If the name on the card or billing address is different than listed below, please write the card name and address here: _____

If paying by check, please make payable to HCC Foundation and mail to: HCC Foundation, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040 (Please mail by June 30, 2014).

- Please send me information about how to include the HCC Foundation in my estate plans.
- I wish to contribute anonymously. (Your name will not be printed in future Annual Reports).

Making Connections

HCC's Tradition of Transfer

By CHRIS YURKO

Twice a month, each semester, Dawn Bryden visits HCC. She usually sits at a table outside the cafeteria, a prime location from which to capture the attention of students heading back to class.

She unfurls a pink and black table banner. On top she neatly places several stacks of handouts and a stand-up display that lists all the academic programs offered by her employer, Bay Path College.

Then, she waits.



Most students walk by. Others pause, pick up brochures, write down their contact information, ask questions. Some of them, Bryden knows – and hopes – will eventually transfer to Bay Path.

“They come to me with so many different things on their plates, they don’t really know what they want to do sometimes,” says Bryden. “I get to show them the different options.”

Part academic advisor, part career counselor, Bryden is one of the many recruiters from four-year colleges and universities who regularly visit HCC. On any given day, HCC may host representatives from a number of different schools, such as Bay Path, Elms, Springfield, American International, Western New England, Westfield State, and the University of Massachusetts, the colleges and universities where the overwhelming majority of transfer students go after they leave HCC. Also, each fall, HCC holds its annual Transfer Fair, which draws representatives from more than 50 schools throughout the Northeast.

As such, Bryden and the other recruiters are contributing partners toward HCC’s long tradition of transfer.

“We’ve always been very fortunate that transfer is really ingrained in what we do here,” says Mark Broadbent, HCC’s coordinator of Transfer Affairs, “from the faculty right on down to the students. We’re always asking, ‘Where are you going next?’ They come here and most of them know they want to transfer.”

Bryden’s official title is assistant dean for Academic Partnerships and Transfer Enrollment. She’s been working in the transfer office at Bay Path for more than 10 years. Over time she’s forged a strong bond with HCC that aids in recruitment, although her relationship with HCC is perhaps stronger than most.

She graduated from HCC in 1989, transferred to Bay Path, and now sits on HCC’s Alumni Council.



HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUM DAWN BRYDEN, '89, NOW THE ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND TRANSFER ENROLLMENT AT BAY PATH COLLEGE, VISITS HCC A COUPLE OF TIMES EVERY MONTH. OPPOSITE: STUDENTS TALK TO COLLEGE RECRUITERS AT HCC'S ANNUAL TRANSFER FAIR.

That personal connection no doubt accounts in part for the large number of HCC students who transfer to Bay Path every year, about 40. In fact, a third of all Bay Path’s transfer students come from HCC, more than from any other college. (Westfield State and UMass-Amherst lead the HCC transfer pack every year.)

While HCC can’t expect to have alumni working in every transfer department, close connections are critical in helping students successfully move on to four-year schools.

“It’s huge,” says Broadbent. “Transfer is all about connections.”

Those connections take multiple forms.

Articulation agreements are contracts that spell out exactly what courses students need to take at HCC to be accepted into a specific bachelor’s degree program at a particular four-year school. The college website lists 24 schools with which HCC holds such agreements.

For example, HCC has articulation agreements with Westfield State for nearly 20 degree programs from biology and criminal justice to music and visual art. “These agreements are great roadmaps for students who know exactly what they want to do,” says Broadbent. “Let’s say they want to go to Bryant University and major in business. It maps out everything they need to do so they know exactly what courses are going to transfer. And it’s a great tool for advisors when they sit down with students.”

Joint admissions agreements are more general and not necessarily program-to-program based. HCC holds joint admissions agreements with many local private colleges, including Bay Path, Elms, AIC, Western New England and Springfield.

“Basically, if you get your degree here, you’re guaranteed acceptance there,” says Broadbent.

Finally, there is Mass Transfer, for



MARK BROADBENT, COORDINATOR OF TRANSFER AFFAIRS, MEETS WITH STUDENT STEPHANIE MCKENNA, FROM CHICOPEE, WHO WILL TRANSFER TO UMASS-BOSTON AFTER GRADUATING FROM HCC THIS SPRING WITH A DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

students who want to continue their education at a public college or university in Massachusetts. Students in programs pre-approved for Mass Transfer are automatically accepted as long as they achieve a minimum GPA, usually 2.5. They also could receive a tuition discount.

"It used to be Mass Transfer was the only program we had," says Broadbent. "Then we added a few articulation agreements. We've really grown that over the last 20 years and much more over the last five to 10."

While community colleges are often perceived merely as career and workforce development schools, transfer at HCC has been part of the school's make-up since its earliest days.

In the 1950s, when it was still called Holyoke Junior College and located in downtown Holyoke, the school had no full-time faculty. Then President George Frost hired professors from Mount Holyoke, Smith and other four-year colleges to teach classes at HCC. Those connections paved the way for transferring students.

"The faculty at those colleges, who were also HJC faculty, could attest that Holyoke graduates received an excellent education," wrote former HCC history professor George Ashley in his 2005 book, *History of Holyoke Community College*. "Each year, dozens of students who were 'not supposed to go to college' graduated from HJC and transferred to senior colleges, where they did quite well."

That legacy continues today. A survey of HCC graduates from the Class of 2012 found that nearly half, 49 percent out of 501 respondents, went on to continue their education. And many more HCC students transfer before earning their degrees.

HCC has recently started "reverse transfer" programs with a few area schools, Westfield State, Western New England and Springfield. In this, students who transfer to a four-year school without graduating from HCC can send credits back, essentially earning a retroactive associate degree.

"Studies show students who complete their associate degrees are much more likely to complete their bachelor's degrees," says Broadbent.

In the 1950s, when it was still called Holyoke Junior College and located in downtown Holyoke, the school didn't have a full-time faculty. Then President George Frost hired professors from local four-year colleges to teach classes at HCC. Those connections paved the way for transfers.

Other HCC programs also contribute to the culture of transfer. Pathways has helped build connections with many elite private schools, such as Smith and Mount Holyoke (See story on Page 13.) while HCC's highly regarded Learning Communities expose students to the kind of rigorous academic standards they will see at many private liberal art colleges and help them make that transition. (See story on Page 8.)

In terms of connections, though, personal

ones are hard to beat and perhaps the most important.

For several years, Kim Hicks, former coordinator of HCC's Honors program and now dean of the Arts and Humanities Division, has organized an annual bus trip to Cornell University for a dozen or more students every fall.

That relationship has been more productive than she ever imagined. Since 2007, 17 HCC students have transferred

to the Ivy League school in Ithaca, New York. Now, if she knows a particular student she believes would be a good fit for Cornell, she won't hesitate to pick up the phone.

"It's a really cordial inter-institutional relationship that benefits our students," Hicks says. "When they see a student coming from Holyoke Community College, it's a name that is familiar to them. We have a track record of success." *A*

TRANSFER SNAPSHOT



PHOTO BY NIAHLAH HOPE, COURTESY OF AMHERST COLLEGE

Ruben Sepulveda, '11: Coming full circle

He was once homeless and supported himself playing pool and gambling. Now, Ruben Sepulveda, '11, helps homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless.

At The Partnership for the Homeless, Sepulveda, 39, is a family advocate who assists people with short-term and long-term solutions to prevent homelessness and help them gain independence. He works out of the Manhattan-based organization's office in Brooklyn, N.Y., in one of the poorest neighborhoods of the city.

"My job as a family advocate is to help them through the process so they don't get evicted or to work with them to get entitlement benefits so they can find housing," said Sepulveda, who lives in Queens. "We aren't just providing a Band-Aid type solution. We want to make it more lasting so they never find themselves in that situation again."

Sepulveda credits his own turnaround in part to the associate degree he received at HCC, which enabled him to transfer to Amherst College. Just a few months after earning his bachelor's degree in sociology in May 2013, he landed his current job.

After being homeless for a few years in the mid-2000s in New York City, Sepulveda moved back in with his parents in Holyoke at age 32. He ended up at HCC after a chance encounter at a gas station in 2008 with Aliza Ansell, program coordinator for HCC's Adult Learning Center. In line for coffee, the two began talking about parenting and philosophy and other topics,

and ultimately struck up a friendship. After many meetings, Sepulveda took her advice and enrolled at HCC.

Although anxious about returning to school after so many years, Sepulveda quickly adjusted. He challenged himself with Honors courses—a move he believes prepared him for transfer to Amherst College, his dream school.

"The fact that the Honors classes were particularly rigorous and that I was able to do the work made me feel like I could meet the same degree of rigor at Amherst College," he said. "My professors at HCC were phenomenal. They gave me the confidence to do the work. Overall, it was a learning experience, not just from the subject matter they taught us but how we approach learning."

At Amherst College, Sepulveda bonded with other transfer students, many of them older, like himself, who went back to college for a variety of reasons. They shared stories about their educational journeys and what they hoped to achieve.

These days, Sepulveda doesn't take sole credit for pulling himself out of that downward spiral that at one point found him sleeping in parks in New York City. Instead, he said "an army of people" ultimately helped him to earn his degrees and find full-time, benefited work.

"You need help and sometimes you have to seek it," he says. "I was very fortunate that I had people in my corner."

— Judith Kelliher

LC^s Turn 20

HCC's Learning Communities are Interdisciplinary,
Inter-institutional, and now ... International

By CHRIS YURKO

What do you get when you cross subjects like psychology and English?

Answer: LC 200: "Darkness Visible: The Idea of 'Madness' in Culture and Literature."

How about philosophy and sustainable agriculture?

LC 203: "The Politics of Food."

College composition and history?

LC 103: "Bon Appetit! Cannibalism Through History, Literature and Film."

People familiar with the Holyoke Community College catalog will immediately recognize the courses above by their prefix, if not also from their often playful and provocative titles.

In the HCC vernacular, "LC" stands for Learning Communities, a special genre of courses that combine two academic disciplines focused on a singular theme or topic.

"The purpose of Learning Communities is to prepare you to understand the inter-relatedness of knowledge and to develop literacy and competence in diverse fields of learning," reads the description in the HCC registration booklet.

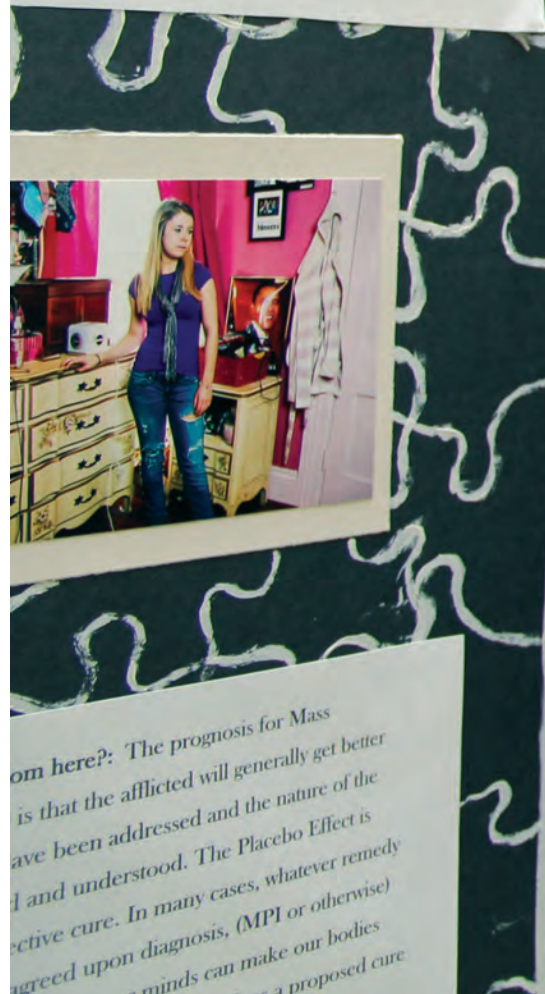
HCC is not unique in offering Learning Communities, but it is one of only a handful of Massachusetts colleges that do – public or private. It is one of the few schools – and may very well be the only one – in the country that offers LC courses in collaboration with other colleges.

There is no doubt, however, that HCC has become a national leader in LC education. The program marked its 20th anniversary in 2013. That makes it the oldest LC program in Massachusetts, according to the Washington Center – the national resource center for Learning Communities, based at Evergreen State College. Every semester LC classes are among the most sought after by HCC's best students.

"It's one of the things that HCC does very well," says Kim Hicks, dean of HCC's Arts and Humanities Division. "This program has a reputation outside this institution. Jack Mino" – the coordinator – "is a nationally recognized leader in Learning Communities."

JACK MINO, HCC PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AND COORDINATOR OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM, LOOKS FOR THE DEVIL INSIDE A STUDENT DISPLAY CREATED FOR THE CLASS, "DARKNESS VISIBLE: THE IDEA OF 'MADNESS' IN CULTURE AND LITERATURE" FOR THE LC POSTER CONFERENCE HELD IN DECEMBER.

... into the mysterious "Tourettes
... more than 18 people, mostly teenage girls,
... ng, worry, and panic that spread through the community as
... and more girls became ill, falling into the twitching and jerking
... king symptoms of their classmates.
... exhaustive medical testing, environmental investigations,
... tations with a stunning array of "experts", widely circulating
... ions of malingering and or foul play, and frantic town
... gs eventually a diagnosis of Mass Psychogenic Illness was the
... planation available.
... edia Circus" as constant witness and harbinger to every
... of the developing story exacerbated the problem
... lously. When an illness is spread and intensified by "Ideas,"
... d of today with its news, social media and 24/7
... nication capability across vast distances, it means a powerful
... tagion vector has arisen. And one not to be taken lightly, as
... ue to try to understand CD and MPI.







DON HANOVER, CENTER, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, JOINS STUDENTS IN THE PERMACULTURE GARDEN CREATED LAST FALL AS PART OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY CLASS "THE POLITICS OF FOOD."

TRANSFER SNAPSHOT

Matt Haley, '10: Creative Connections



Matt Haley, '10, harnesses people and creativity.

As the coordinator of the Youth Connect program at Hampshire College, Haley gets students excited about their education as he trains them to support underserved youth at community-based organizations around the region.

One January day, Haley was training a Hampshire College student to co-facilitate a modern dance program for teenage mothers from The Care Center in Holyoke.

"It's about coordination," Haley says, "the juggling of many different priorities."

Haley's education was also a juggling game. At HCC, he had to balance academics with a job, a work-study position and extracurricular theater activities.

He enrolled at HCC after working full-time in a restaurant kitchen for a year following high school in Springfield. While he knew he was ready for college, his area of study was not clear until he took theater classes in his first semester.

Theater, to him, was a tool for education, for passing on social and political messages and a means to bring creativity to life. He immersed himself, as an actor and then as a stage manager with the HCC Players, the college's theater club. He continued stage managing after transferring to Hampshire College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 2012 with a concentration in theater and education.

"I loved the way it was collaborative as well as creative," he says. "Knowing we were working as a collective entity toward a creative goal is something I found very inspiring. I learned more working on productions than I learned inside the space of a classroom."

In his work now (which he secured after spending almost a year serving area youth through an AmeriCorps assignment), the 25-year-old continues to be a facilitator for multiple participants. Understanding the needs of the underserved is a significant part of his work.

"I am concerned about equality in the larger realm," Haley says.

— Janice Beetle

Integrative Learning

The LC program at HCC is one of a related trio known collectively as the Integrative Learning Programs. The others are Honors and Service Learning, the latter which adds a component of community service to LCs and other HCC courses.

Integration is the guiding principle. To understand LCs, says Mino, you have to look at them in the context of a continuum.

At one end are traditional, stand-alone courses, those taught by professors with expertise in one field, say anthropology. A professor might choose to add an inter-disciplinary component to the curriculum by introducing topical material or inviting a guest speaker from another academic area.

Next are Linked Courses, known by the "LX" prefix in the HCC course catalog. These take two stand-alone courses and bind them with a common cohort of students, for example, LX 102, "Just Food," which links College Composition and Introduction to Nutrition. In these classes, the students stay put as the teachers change shifts.

"They may have common learning activities, like going on a field trip," says Mino. "There's common reading and common writing and they have some integrative assignments, but the teachers don't team teach and the students still have a stand-alone course experience. This is the most common model nationally, particularly at the university level."

The LC model takes this a step further – and beyond – by completely integrating classes from two different academic areas, for instance composition and statistics in "Won't Get Fooled Again," a course that explores the way both mathematics and literature contribute to our understanding of the world.

"The classes are thematically integrated," Mino explains. "The material is integrated and all the assignments are integrated, and the teachers team teach."

Further still on the continuum are the Honors Colloquia. These are elevated LCs, team taught courses that combine not just two but sometimes as many as five or six different academic disciplines. In the case of "The Immortality of the Revolution," HCC professors Monica Torregrosa (Spanish) and James Dutcher (English) examine resistance movements in Latin America by drawing on source material from history, anthropology, Spanish culture, English literature, art and theater.

Rather than using a traditional lecture format, most LC classes are run as seminars, where instructors moderate discussions based on course material but the students do most of the talking.

"It's different," says HCC student Kevin Kelly, a

Sustainability Studies major from Wilbraham. "It's more critical thinking. It's more interactive. We get everybody's perspective."

The beginning

Mino, a professor of psychology, taught one portion of the first LC at HCC in 1991. That pilot linked developmental reading, developmental writing and psychology.

"It was a total failure," Mino recalls. "On paper, it looked really good, but in reality we got the students who were the last enrolled, so they were the most unprepared."

Trying to link three courses together also greatly limited the pool of students eligible to sign up.

Over the next two years, Mino and English professor David Ram worked out the kinks and developed the two-course model used today. In 1993, HCC received a grant that allowed the LC program to expand to include 15 faculty members Mino calls the "LC Piloteers."

"We started building momentum," says Mino. "Students were digging it. They were doing well. Then we started to get affirmation from transfer institutions. They said, we like these students who are taking Learning Communities because they are better prepared."

Now, HCC offers about a dozen Learning Communities every semester, from "Keep the Devil Way Down in the Hole," a course that explores the social, political and economic causes of crime by studying episodes of the acclaimed HBO series "The Wire," to "The Philosophy of Biology," where students study Darwin's *Origin of Species* to better understand the relationships between living organisms.

LC students often find themselves engaged in work outside the classroom. "Young, Pregnant and Literate" adds a Service Learning component to the course that allows students a hands-on experience in the human service field through a semester-long partnership with The Care Center in Holyoke, a nonprofit that helps teenage mothers continue their educations. Students taking "The Politics of Food" are frequently outside, digging and planting vegetables in HCC's sustainability and permaculture gardens alongside their professors, Kate Maiolatesi (sustainability) and Don Hanover (philosophy).

LC classes seem to attract some of HCC's highest academic achievers. Or perhaps the LC classes inspire students to achieve greater academic success.

"HCC has a strong transfer culture and the Learning Communities are a big part of that," says Irma Medina, coordinator of HCC's Pathways program (See story on Page 13). "That's the biggest thing

students say they miss when they leave here. I just wish we could make all students take them. It just transforms students. It opens up their minds."

Students say they get something from LCs they don't from other courses. Some become so enamored by the LC concept they sign up over and over. Hicks playfully calls them "recidivists."

Kelly, the Sustainability Studies major from Wilbraham, is one of them. He'd already taken five before his final semester. He says LCs have prepared him well for transfer. He plans to study sustainability at the University of Massachusetts

after he graduates in May.

"Most Learning Community classes I've taken have really been at a higher level," he says. "In Learning Communities, you write a little more, you learn to read a little deeper. I think it's a really good stepping stone."

In Fall 2012, HCC offered its first inter-institutional LC, "Urban Political Economy," an Honors course co-taught by HCC professor of economics Mary Orisich and Preston Smith, a professor of political science at Mount Holyoke College. The course met on both campuses and included students from

BELOW, DESIREE TOCCI EXPLAINS HER POSTER PROJECT FOR THE LC CLASS "DARKNESS VISIBLE," CO-TAUGHT BY PROFESSORS JANE VECCHIO (PSYCHOLOGY) AND JAMES DUTCHER (ENGLISH). BOTTOM LEFT: STUDENT ELI BERKOWITZ DISCUSSED THE TAO TE CHING WITH STUDENTS IN CHINA FOR HIS LC COURSE "WHEN GAIA MEETS PSYCHE," AN EXAMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE AND ECOPSYCHOLOGY. BOTTOM RIGHT: "POLITICS OF FOOD" STUDENT GIVAN CARRERO WORKS IN THE HCC PERMACULTURE GARDEN.



both HCC and Mount Holyoke. The students worked together on several research projects, including recommending new uses for an abandoned factory, and presented their findings to town officials as well as professors and deans from both schools.

"The idea there was that we wanted to provide students a kind of inside track for transfer," says Mino. "We were transferring a lot of students. We wanted to get more students in that pipeline and get them attuned to the kind of requirements and expectations they would see."

HCC offered a second inter-institutional LC Honors course in Spring 2013. "The Immigrant City" paired students from HCC and Amherst College in a study of Holyoke from both historical and political perspectives.

Mino, who regularly attends national conferences

on Learning Communities, says he's not aware of any other college that offers LC courses jointly with other schools. "As far as I know – and I've checked it out all over the country," he says.


This spring, HCC is offering its first linked course with the University of Massachusetts. In "Equity, Health & Justice for All," HCC anthropology students will work with graduate students from the UMass School of Public Health on a Service Learning project with Holyoke community groups.

Going global

Last Fall, HCC's LC classes went intercontinental. Students in "When Gaia Meets Psyche" engaged with their counterparts at Hebei Normal University in China in a study – via email – of the *Tao Te Ching* and what the text has to say about humankind's relationship with nature.

"They were ESL students and we're in this Learning Community on psychology and environmental literature, so we had very different academic focuses," says Eli Berkowitz, an HCC student from Florence, "but because we were studying something that was very culturally relevant to them, really quickly there was this great conversation that formed."

Those conversations are the real strength of Learning Communities, says Mino. The student-led discussions are where the real learning and insights occur. To capture those moments, Mino records his LC classes and puts the videos online for students to review.

"The students collectively construct new knowledge together," says Mino. "They find intersections in the disciplines you didn't plan for. It's like magic." 

TRANSFER SNAPSHOT

Kay Althoff, '82: Supportive instincts



Kay Althoff, '82, was checking out at the pharmacy not long ago when the young clerk happened to mention feeling harried about her work-life balance now that she was in college.

Althoff couldn't help but offer reassurance: "I know it's hard to do it," she told the clerk. "I did it. But it's so worth your effort."

Three decades ago, Althoff was a 40-something college student with three children in high school, so she understands the need for a mental boost. Plus, for 25 years she directed the Frances Perkins Program, which serves nontraditional students at Mount Holyoke College. Offering support is instinctive behavior.

It was her favorite part of her work there.

"I loved interviewing students, hearing their stories and encouraging them to continue to keep their goals in mind," says Althoff, who retired in 2013. "It was very rewarding to see people catch fire and really soar. There aren't always supportive people in students' lives who see the value in education."

Althoff, 72, grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and spent one year at Ohio State. Instead of earning a degree, she got married, had three children, and moved to Southampton. A neighbor was a dean at HCC and suggested Althoff check it out.

"We drove over, and I signed up on the spot," Althoff says. "I just wanted to test the water and

see if my brain still worked."

It worked so well that Althoff, then 39, focused on English studies and set her sights on teaching. That meant transferring to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree.

Once again, an HCC professor became her mentor. "He asked me about Mount Holyoke. He encouraged me to look at it. He marched me right into his office, got out the phone book and dialed the number," she says.

That was 1982. The Frances Perkins Program Althoff would eventually lead was in its infancy, graduating its first students the year she applied. She was accepted, one of 24 students, compared to the 150 she would oversee as the program matured.

Althoff worked in Admissions and Development at Mount Holyoke after graduating from HCC and spent a brief time apart from the college before taking the job as director of the Frances Perkins Program in 1988. She notes that HCC provided an excellent foundation for Mount Holyoke, and that, at Mount Holyoke, she also had important mentors.

"That's one of the things that's really important in this whole process is having a mentor or advisor," she says, "so when you have second thoughts about what you're doing, there's someone who believes in you and knows that you can do it."

– Janice Beetle

Creating New Pathways

By CHRIS YURKO

It's the second day of New Student Orientation for the Spring 2014 semester, and Irma Medina is doing what she often does.

She's fishing. That's the word she uses to describe her process for finding students for her program, Pathways.

A little while ago, she was in the Leslie Phillips Theater, where new students from the division of Health & Natural Sciences were listening to a series of speakers from different HCC departments. Right now, she is at her desk, staring at a computer screen, combing through one of many lists she receives that highlight different student demographics.

"I try to cast as wide a net as possible," she says.

She sorts the names by major – she's on biology at the moment – examines transcripts, notes the number of credits, GPA, and so on. By the time the semester starts, she will have looked through hundreds if not thousands of student records.

If she likes what she sees – a combination of intuition and experience – she'll send the student a letter:

Congratulations. I see you're doing well. Have you thought about transfer?

"The letters basically tell them who I am, what I do – let's talk," says Medina, the Pathways coordinator. "At the bottom I say something like, 'Don't freak out. Don't get scared. There's help for you, every step of the way.'"

Since 2006, Medina and Pathways have been helping HCC students transfer from Holyoke Community College to some of the most selective four-year schools in the country. While the program initially targeted nontraditional age women (24 and older), the scope has since expanded to include traditional age women as well as men, mainly students from historically underrepresented groups – low to moderate income and first-generation college.

The success rate is impressive. In the past seven years, Mount Holyoke College has accepted 113 Pathways students, Smith College 95 and



IRMA MEDINA HAS BEEN THE COORDINATOR OF THE PATHWAYS PROGRAM SINCE IT STARTED IN 2006.

Amherst College 13. Last year alone, Hampshire College accepted a record high 16 transfer students from HCC. Other Pathways students have gone to Cornell, Brandeis, as well as the Commonwealth Honors College at the University of Massachusetts. And the list goes on.

"Pathways is the reason I'm at Smith. There's no doubt about it," says Julissa Colon, '13, a single mother who went back to college at the age of 30. "If programs like that didn't exist, I don't know how people like me would get to schools like that. I didn't have the belief in myself that I could. I didn't even know how to."

Medina sends out about 80 letters each semester to students she believes will make good candidates for transfer to these highly competitive schools. During her first meeting with students – just a conversation, she says – they'll talk about academics, what brought them to HCC and what motivates them, and then they'll work

Since 2006, Medina and Pathways have been helping HCC students transfer from Holyoke Community College to some of the most selective four-year schools in the country.



together to identify obstacles to success.

At first, some students appear confused, especially when, right from the get-go, Medina drops college names like Mount Holyoke and Amherst as potential targets.

“Some students have never heard of these schools,” she says. “Other students are aware but they get put off by the fear of the tuition costs. Some are like, ‘Are you sure? Is this a mistake?’”

What many students don’t realize is that the large endowments of private schools and the financial aid packages they offer frequently make them more affordable options than many public four-year colleges and universities.

The HCC Foundation has also been very generous in supporting students who transfer with

TRANSFER SNAPSHOT

Joyce Desorcy, '88: Back on campus



After working for 27 years as a dental assistant, Joyce Desorcy, '88, got tired of looking in people's mouths, so she decided to go back to school.

“Ironically enough, I got my degree in culinary, which is still about mouths, but in a different way,” said Desorcy, who was 45 when she attended HCC.

With her Hospitality Food Management degree in hand, Desorcy started working at Mount Holyoke College as the school’s catering manager. But after four years, the college combined her job with another and tacked on a requirement for a four-year degree.

That prompted her to pursue a bachelor’s degree at Elms College in Chicopee, based on

the recommendation of friends who described the school as small with attentive and compassionate students and faculty, words that also described her experience at HCC.

Desorcy said she is grateful to HCC for helping her make a successful transition to Elms. In order to re-enter education later in life, she first took classes such as math and English through the former Women in Transition program, now known as New Directions.

“I had been out of school for 25 years,” said Desorcy, who is now 70 and lives in Holyoke. “The program got you prepared to go on to full time. It taught you how to take notes, manage your time, how to study and to prep for papers. It was just wonderful.”

At Elms, Desorcy, who was married and working full time, took classes part time on her way to a degree in business administration and sociology.

Over the years, Desorcy’s connection to both HCC and Elms has remained strong. She worked several jobs at HCC, including one as phonathon coordinator in Alumni Relations, before being hired by Elms as the first coordinator of a new accelerated bachelor’s degree program based on the HCC campus. This 20-month program offers degrees in accounting and information systems, psychology, business management, early childhood leadership and health service administration.

Many of the students who enroll in the program are transfer students from HCC.

Desorcy now works two days a week at Elms and three days at HCC. She has an office on the fourth floor of the Kittredge Center, where Elms classes are held. She recruits students, offers counseling and works with academic advisors. The majority of classes are held on Saturdays, with accounting on Friday nights, and Desorcy is always there, helping students with whatever they may need.

“I tell the students that I have candy, Kleenex, a door that closes, broad shoulders and what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas,” she said.

– Judith Kelliher

scholarships of up to \$5,000.

Moving on to an elite private college is indeed a foreign concept to many community college students, especially those who plan to get their degrees or certificates and immediately enter the workforce.

“A lot of students come here, say, ‘I just need a job. I need to put food on the table,’” says Medina. “The concept of a liberal arts education is not something tangible to someone low income, first-generation college. It seems like a luxury. You just want a job and a paycheck and to pay your bills.”

She knows the feeling.

Medina, the daughter of a seamstress, was a single mom herself and working full time as a secretary when she enrolled in night classes at HCC in 1997. She took a bus to school every day from the North End of Springfield. She had graduated from Springfield’s High School of Commerce, where her best class was typing. Her ambition then was to get a better paying secretarial job.

“That was all I knew,” she says.

Then she met a woman who invited her to an open house at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley.

“I had never heard of Mount Holyoke,” Medina recalls. “It was very different from where I came from. It scared me. It just looked intimidating, very prestigious. It was out of my comfort zone.”

With the help of the woman she now calls her mentor – and Gail Hilyard, coordinator of the HCC Math Center – Medina applied and was accepted into the school’s Frances Perkins Program. She graduated from Mount Holyoke in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in urban politics and a minor in history. She came back to work at HCC as the financial aid counselor for the STRIVE program.

Medina would have been a perfect Pathways student, had there been a Pathways program when she enrolled at HCC.

Pathways started in 2006 when Mount Holyoke College received a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation through its Community College Transfer Initiative, designed to expand transfer opportunities for high-achieving, low-to-moderate income community college students.

“What the foundation saw was that there were a lot of smart students at community colleges that had the potential to go to these schools but weren’t,” she says. “The grant was a challenge to



ABOVE, MEDINA LEADS A WORKSHOP ON TRANSFER FOR STUDENTS IN THE MARIEB CENTER. OPPOSITE, ELAINE DUNLAP, RIGHT, PATHWAYS PROGRAM ASSISTANT, CONDUCTS FREQUENT ONE-ON-ONE COMPUTER TUTORIALS FOR STUDENTS IN THE MARIEB CENTER.

colleges and universities to do more for community college students, to recognize talent, build resources and access.”

Mount Holyoke was one of eight colleges nationwide to receive this grant (Amherst and Cornell were two others), and HCC was the only community college written into one of the grant proposals.

“The idea,” says Medina, “was to build on the transfer culture HCC was known for and get more intentional about it.”

Though the grant established Pathways at HCC, it was never an exclusive transfer agreement with Mount Holyoke. The spirit of the grant allowed Medina, its first and only coordinator, to work with other colleges too.

Since the grant expired in 2010, Pathways has been supported by the HCC Foundation, in particular donations from retired HCC professor Elaine Marieb, ’80, for whom the Pathways lounge and study area is named.

On one side of the Marieb Center is Medina’s office; on the other is the office of Elaine Dunlap, the Pathways program assistant.

The center is a place where Pathways students frequently gather to study, relax, use one of several computer workstations, or just talk.

Beyond individual advising sessions, Medina and Dunlap organize a busy schedule of activities for Pathways students, including transfer counseling, career counseling, alumni networking and financial aid workshops, guest lectures and stress-reduction exercises, such as weekly tea time. They organize college visits and hold

brown bag lunches with professors, which helps to “demystify the faculty,” Medina says.

Each year, Medina moderates a peer panel of Pathways alumni, who answer questions from anxious students and talk about their transfer experiences. In her advising meetings, Medina helps students choose classes that will make them better candidates for transfer, such as Learning Communities (See story on Page 8). As best she can, she tries to coordinate schedules so Pathways students take classes together.

“There’s nothing more powerful than the peer aspect,” says Medina.

The application process, says Colon, was one of the most stressful times of her life. As promised, however, Medina was there to help, every step of the way, to remind Colon and her Pathways peers about deadlines, help them prepare for interviews, and answer questions about everything – the process, the paperwork, the people.

One of the most important messages Medina impressed upon Colon and her classmates was that the transfer process is about more than just being accepted by a school.

“Irma reminded us that it’s not just about them gifting you this opportunity of getting a great education at this incredible place,” says Colon. “She said, ‘You have something to offer; you have something to contribute to this place and to this group of people, and she does that with humor, with grace and with fierceness.’” *At*

MISSION: MARIEB

A \$1 MILLION CHALLENGE HAS BEEN ISSUED BY ALUMNA ELAINE MARIEB, '80.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Futures Secured

Elaine Marieb, '80, has always understood the value of education – for herself and others.



After earning a bachelor of science, a master's in biology and a PhD in zoology, she joined the faculty of Holyoke Community College, where she became, arguably, one of the best known teachers of A&P—Anatomy and Physiology—in the world.

Even as a professor, she wasn't done being a student. To inform her work—teaching and writing textbooks—she entered the HCC nursing program and earned an associate degree, then went on to earn an additional degree in nursing and a master's in gerontology.

If that wasn't enough, she worked weekends as a nurse at Holyoke Hospital.

All that education paid off.

Marieb the teacher is the author of more than a dozen textbooks and lab manuals on Anatomy and Physiology, many international best-sellers. Her books are read in undergraduate and graduate school classrooms and in medical offices by medical secretaries, medical transcriptionists, dental assistants and many, many others.

She retired from teaching in 1995 after more than 25 years, but her influence as an educator endures. Over the years, she has been one of

HCC's most significant benefactors.

Her financial support led to the creation of HCC's Marieb Chair for Teaching Excellence—awarded annually to one member of the HCC faculty. Through the HCC Foundation, she has endowed numerous scholarships for students in HCC's nursing and New Directions programs.

The study lounge used by the HCC Pathways program was named the Marieb Center in recognition of her support. Her full name, Elaine Nicpon Marieb, also graces the outside of the building that houses the majority of HCC's health and natural science courses.

Now, through Mission Marieb and the Building Healthy Communities Campaign, she is ready to support HCC's new Center for Health Education and Center for Life Sciences.

"The students of today will be the leaders of tomorrow," says Marieb. "I loved working with the students at HCC and want to give them the best possible tools to be those leaders of tomorrow. I thought this gift would help encourage the broadest possible participation by HCC's family and friends and equip the up-and-coming students with what they need to succeed."

— Chris Yurko

ALUMNI IN ACTION



Working for racial equality

Kaolin, '94, author of *Talking about Race: a Workbook about White People Fostering Racial Equality in Their Lives*, gave a talk at HCC in October titled "Working the Racial Equality Muscle." Kaolin has spoken at colleges, schools, community organizations and conferences locally and nationally. She received a mayoral citation from the city of Springfield, Mass., in 2013 and was the recipient of the 2013 Common Ground Award from Unity First Publishing. She also serves on the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) Task Force to End Racism.

Kaolin, above gives a talk at HCC about racial equality.



Alumna Elected Mayor

Karen Cadieux, '74, newly elected mayor of Easthampton, Mass., began serving as the city's chief executive following a swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 2, 2014. Though new to the position, she knows nearly every aspect of the job, having served for 17 years as administrative assistant to outgoing mayor, Michael Tautznik, who endorsed her for office.

Mayor Karen Cadieux, in her office in the Easthampton Municipal Building.



40 Under 40

Geoffrey J. Croteau, '99, was selected as a member of the "40 Under 40" class of 2013 by Business West magazine. He was honored at the "40 Under 40" awards dinner on June 20, 2013, at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Croteau is managing associate at MassMutual Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services.

Geoffrey Croteau was at the Log Cabin in Holyoke to receive his "40 Under 40" award from *Business West*.



Dramatic Donation

Suzan M. April, '09, decided to show her appreciation for the HCC Theater program by donating money to purchase a new sound board and related equipment for the Leslie Phillips Theater. She returned to campus on Nov. 23, 2013, to attend the fall performance of *The Foreigner* by the HCC Players.

Suzan April, second from left, with HCC theater professors Tim Cochran and Patricia Sandoval, '84, and Technical Assistant Steve Bailey, '77 – and the new equipment.



Bio-Tech Talk

Steven G. Richter, '75, president and scientific director of Microtest Laboratories in Agawam, Mass., came to the HCC campus in November to speak to students from Professor Diane Stengle's chemistry classes. Richter explained the cutting edge biotechnology research being done by his company, which he started in his own home. The business now employs more than 100 scientists and technicians.

Steve Richter shakes hands with a student after his November talk at HCC.

Milestone Celebrated



Thomas E. Zebrowski '48, celebrated his 95th birthday Sept. 6 with HCC director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown who presented him with a bouquet of flowers. He shared stories with Brown about his experiences as a young soldier in World War II in the National Guard Company F104th, Yankee Division. Zebrowski worked as an architectural draftsman for Phillips Manufacturing for many years and received an award for his work on the restoration of the Ford Theater in Washington D.C. He was honored in 2007 with HCC's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Thomas Zebrowski celebrates his 95th birthday last September.

CLASS NOTEBOOK

1979

Rosemary Dreger Carey completed a three-day climate leader training session in Chicago with former vice president Al Gore through the Climate Reality Leadership Corps, the educational arm of the Climate Reality Project. She is founder of Pascack Sustainability Group, a nonprofit organization that raises environmental awareness and sustainable practices in the Pascack Valley of Northern New Jersey. She is also the principal of Copyrose.com, a marketing and communications resource for green and sustainable companies.



Elaine Darr-Morton has shown her photographs at several venues in the past year: Valley Photo Center in Tower Square in Springfield, Baystate Medical Center,

Amherst Town Hall, Northampton Senior Center, Northampton Cooperative Bank, and Franklin Medical Center. Her work can be viewed at the Les Campbell Sky Meadow Gallery on Ballou Street in Belchertown or online at www.lescampbellphotography.com.

1987



Hugh Adams is vice president of Information Technology at Easthampton Savings Bank, where he has worked for seven years. Adams serves on the board of Lilly

Library in Florence, Mass. He also works with Dollars for Scholars in Northampton, which gives annual scholarships to graduating students from Northampton High School and Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School.

1993

Lois "Tripper" Pare started a support group called "Kick the Tick, Lyme Disease Awareness." The group will host its

second Lyme Disease walk on May 17 in South Hadley, Mass., to raise funds for the Tickborne Disease Alliance, a national non-profit organization that funds Lyme disease research. For more information about the group or the walk, email kickthetick@yahoo.com or call (413) 467-9254.

1996

Mary Mogé has been appointed chief of staff for Chicopee, Mass., mayor Richard Kos. She had previously worked at MassMutual for more than 24 years as director of global operations and in the accounting and trading divisions. Most recently, she served as an office manager and tax professional at H & R Block.

Briana Taylor creates quilts, kimono quilts, table runners, wall hangings, quilted iPad cases, quilted jewelry bowls, pillow shams, coasters, pot holders and other items. Her work can be viewed at btaylorquilts.etsy.com.

1997

Trudy Monson is the owner of Gem's Creations, an online store for her unique, hand-made jewelry. Monson teaches jewelry making at Jo-Ann's Fabrics in Holyoke and at A.C. Moore at the Holyoke Mall as well as at private parties. Alumni are invited to visit her website (www.gemscreations.com) or call her at (413) 335-1002.

1999

Nicole M. Fiorentino is the bass player and vocalist with bands Smashing Pumpkins and The Cold and The Lovely.

2003

Rennie Silva recently completed a two-year appointment as a presidential management fellow at the State Department and the Department of Defense. Following the fellowship, Silva accepted a position with the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the State Department, where he works in the Office of Policy, Plans, and Analysis. Silva earned a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and a master's

degree from University of Maryland, College Park.

2008

Patricia Budd is enrolled in a master's degree program in mental health at Capella University and is also studying spiritual psychology and formation at Avila Institute. She operates a part-time business as a personal organizer. Alumni may contact her at patriciamdhc@yahoo.com

Christian Dancy teaches at Westfield School of Music in Westfield. He specializes in classical jazz, pop, ukulele, mandolin, and music therapy.

2009



Onawa LaBelle is a first-year doctoral student at the University of Michigan. After graduating from Smith College in 2012,

she explored attachment processes, marital relationships and stress as a post-baccalaureate intern with Paula Pietromonaco at the University of Massachusetts. Her current research broadly encompass close relationship processes, neuroendocrine responses, and their implications for physical health outcomes. Under the guidance of Robin Edelstein, she examines the stress-buffering effects of gratitude for insecurely attached people in relationships. After earning her degree, Onawa plans to obtain a faculty position and continue to conduct research while teaching at a university.

Have some news to share?

Send it to the Alumni Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040 or via email to alumni@hcc.edu.

In Memoriam

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

Joseph Laframboise '52
William C. Leclerc '61
Patricia Carroll Powers '64
Dennis M. Burnett '70
Gary A. Beluzo '75, *professor of Environmental Science*
Katherine R. Duquette '79
Mark D. Shea '81
Jennifer J. Switzer '89
Carol E. Mosher '92
Jean R. Stebenne '94
John M. Petersante '95
Eileen P. Rose '00
Meridith B. Grammaticas '05
Elia Dreyfuss, *ABE Transition to College & Careers coordinator*
William A. Hutchinson, *professor and dean of Science, Engineering and Math, 1966-1996*



Congratulations to our iPad and iPod Shuffle winners!

(clockwise from top left)

Taryn K. Denette, '04
David Flores, '13
Leah M. Ferro, '13, with Joanna Brown, director of Alumni Relations

Alumni Letter

I owe some of the treasures of my adult life to HCC.

As a high school drop-out, I was going to have few options in 1984. HCC helped me get back in the game, and through the help of great professors like Miriam Sajkovic, Wilson C. Boynton, and Doris Knight, I was able to find a calling in public service. Those professors taught me the importance of thinking. I have crossed many miles since, but I always think fondly of those formative days. The treasures I trace back to HCC are a very active and enabled mind, an enriched life, and a fulfilling career.

Today, I find myself in my eighth year as a loved and respected science teacher at the Springfield Renaissance School. The mission of this public 6-12 school is to provide a rigorous academic program for college-bound students in a small, personalized setting that impels and supports students to use their minds well, to care for themselves and others,

and to rise to the challenges and duties of citizenship.

I have the highest respect for the HCC mission, and the effect that my HCC education had on me as a human being. While we just had our first Ivy League acceptance, and while many of our students go on to attend four-year institutions of higher learning, we also have a number of students who would be well served to get the momentum that I got from doing my first two years at a community college.

I want to help my students make smart choices about their futures. The community college system in my opinion is one of the greatest institutions a fair and just society could offer its citizens – a vital first step on the path toward fulfillment of the American dream. As I told one of our college-bound counselors last week, next year I want to be the face of HCC at Renaissance.



Sincerely,

Keith Rogers Wright,
*M.S., M.Ed.; Class of 1987; class president;
11th Grade Chemistry Teacher & Science
Department Chair, The Springfield
Renaissance School*

**Dear Alumni,
Our HCC Alumni Association is doing exciting and important work in many ways.**

In keeping with our intention to lead the way among community college alumni programs, we will be surveying a cross-section of HCC alumni to ask them to reflect on their experiences at HCC. If you received a mailing about the survey or an email inviting you to participate, please take a moment to reply. Your response will provide vital information that will help to shape long-range planning at the college. In the fall issue of this magazine will share a summary of what we learn.

I am glad to be participating in the Building Healthy Communities Campaign with my own pledge of support. Our gift to every alumni donor, an HCC pedometer, is a daily reminder to me about how important it is to extend my effort for the greatest good of all,

starting with maintaining my health. My pedometer is enabling me to track how many steps I take in a day so that I can increase my activity over time. Please join me in becoming an alumni donor, and then share your stories of how you are improving your health, which we will post to our HCC Alumni Facebook page.

Finally, our call to alumni to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter has attracted thousands to our online community. I am happy to let you know that four alumni have won prizes in our random drawing, and we still have a few more iPod Shuffles to give away. Go to <https://foundationalumni.hcc.edu> by May 31, 2014, and click on the "New User Registration" link to create a user name and password. You will receive our monthly e-newsletter and also be able to update your alumni information and view your giving history online. We will announce the winners of iPod Shuffles in the fall magazine.



With thanks for all that you do and good wishes for the best of health,

Gloria G. Lomax

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

Have some news to share?

Send it to the Alumni Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040 or via email to alumni@hcc.edu.

Can we have a few minutes of your time?



Holyoke Community College is blessed with one of the strongest and most committed alumni programs in the country. Among the nation's community colleges, our level of alumni involvement is unmatched.

You, our alumni, have always been responsive when called upon, as volunteers and donors.

What we need from you now is just a little bit of your time.

In the next few weeks, select alumni (previous donors and others at random) will receive an email message or postcard directing them to a web link for our first-ever alumni survey.

This will be your opportunity to tell us – anonymously – how HCC has impacted your life.

The survey should take just a few minutes to complete, but the project is very important and will help us better serve you, our current students and HCC.

We'll be sure to share the results in an upcoming edition of the Alumni Connection.

ALUMNI CONNECTION

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

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2014 EVENTS

Thursday, May 1, 2014

37th Annual Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner

6-8:30 p.m., Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House, 500 Easthampton Road, Holyoke

Distinguished Alumni Awardees for 2014: Patricia Grenier, '77, CFP, president and co-founder of BRP Grenier Financial Services, and Anna Bozena Bowen, '90, author of HATTIE, a novel. This is a benefit to raise funds for HCC Alumni Association scholarships. Open to the general public, the cost is \$50 per person. To register, call (413) 552-2253.

Sunday, May 4, 2014

HCC Cougar Crawl 5K Run/Walk

10 a.m., HCC campus

This year, proceeds from this popular run/walk around the HCC campus will go to the Building Healthy Communities Campaign. For more information, go to www.hcc/crawl or call Keith McKittrick, director of Development, at kmckittrick@hcc.edu or (413) 552-2746.

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Electronic Media Festival

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Electronic media awards, panel discussions, and professional presentations celebrating the 20th anniversary of HCC's Electronic Media program.

Go to www.hcc-cmta.org/emfestival for details.

Monday, May 12, 2014

2014 Alumni/Student Nursing Supper

5-7 p.m. PeoplesBank Conference Room, Kittredge Center

Free to all HCC nursing alumni, current nursing students, faculty, staff and retirees. Register at <https://foundationalumni.hcc.edu> and click on "upcoming events" in the left menu, call (413) 552-2253 or email alumni@hcc.edu.

The above is a partial list of events. To receive our monthly alumni e-newsletter listing additional events and news, go to <https://foundationalumni.hcc.edu> and register as a new user.



ASL interpretation is available for most HCC events upon request. For information about Silent Pizza events or ASL interpretations, email: csmalley@hcc.edu.