



HCC President William F. Messner

In this 65th anniversary retrospective, Dot Forkey, HCC's switchboard operator emeritus, recalls a time when the college had but a single local phone line, two long distance lines, and every call was routed through the switchboard. Looking back at HCC's history, I am struck not only by the way in which the college has been shaped by the community it serves, but by the effects of national and global forces, including a technology revolution that continues to unfold. The days of a single local phone line as tether to the world seems as remote as the era of horse and buggy. Today, the college website is a primary source of information, and students, faculty and staff are more likely to communicate through email, text messages and Facebook posts than via a phone call.

HCC's approach to delivering education has changed. When the college opened,

classes were held at Holyoke High School from 4-10 p.m., after high school classes had ended. HCC students (primarily WWII veterans) took classes taught by faculty from Smith, Mount Holyoke, and Amherst colleges under what became the college's division of Continuing Education. Today, classes are held morning, afternoon, twilight, evening, Saturday and online to accommodate the diverse needs and schedules of our students. The notion of "Continuing Education" has vanished, along with the distinction between student "types;" a 19-year-old is just as likely to take an evening or online class, and a 40-year-old may well require a class during the day.

Our demographic has also changed; when HCC was founded, Holyoke was a predominately Irish community. Today, 48 percent of the city's population and 20 percent of our student population is Latino. Students in the early years were primarily Holyoke residents; today, students come from Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, Westfield, West Springfield, Easthampton, Northampton, South Hadley, Ludlow, Belchertown and Amherst, as well as other cities and towns throughout the Pioneer Valley.

In addition to credit-bearing college classes, HCC offers free and low-cost computer and software classes in English and Spanish, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), GED preparation and testing, Adult Basic Education (ABE), tutoring and mentoring, career counseling, workforce development classes and transition-to-college programs. Students take classes at our Homestead Avenue location as well as the college's Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center and Gill Community Technology Center in downtown Holyoke and the Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center. There is no longer a single road but a web of pathways to an HCC education.

Looking back invites us also to look ahead and imagine the future. New technologies, innovations, changes in population, economic upticks and downturns—all will shape and reshape the HCC that future alumni will inhabit. What will they see when they look back at us?

Sincerely,

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

William F. Messner

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.

Editor:

JoAnne L. Rome

Contributors:

Joanna Brown, Gloria Lomax '75, JoAnne L. Rome, and Chris Yurko

Design/Art Direction:

William Murphy

Layout:

Peter Hutchins, Litmus Designs

Class Notes:

News from alumni should be addressed to the Alumni Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040 or via email to jbrown@hcc.edu.

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.edu (put "HCC Alumni Connection" in the subject line).

Class Notes/Change of Address:

Please submit the reply form on page 12, or call the Alumni Office (413) 552-2253.

Alumni Council:

President

Gloria G. Lomax, Professor Emeritus '75

First Vice President

Gertrude E. Monson '97

Second Vice President

Geoffrey J. Croteau '99

Secretary

Marsha Ryan '70

Alumni Trustee

Joseph Wright '54

Alumni Council

Angela Morgan Belisle, R.N. '77

Laura L. Brennan '79

Joanna L. Brown, ex officio

Dawn E. Bryden '89

Carrie Buckner '77

Cleveland Burton, Jr. '86

Eddie Corbin '68

Geraldo H. Cotton '06

Margaret Egan DeJesus '90

Diane Lessard '06

Elizabeth A. Murphy '74

Lucy F. Perez '87

James M. Sheehan '74

Nancy A. Spagnoli '83

Karen Thompson Brown '04

Vandelyn T. Wright '83

LISA Club pitches in on theater overhaul

Members of the Latino International Student Association (LISA) at Holyoke Community College joined the community effort to restore one of the region's architectural gems. LISA members spent three days last August as part of a volunteer cleanup crew removing plaster and debris from the Victory Theater in downtown Holyoke. "The students were really excited about being part of the restoration of the theater," said Jossie Valentin, LISA Club advisor. "The students were genuinely happy to be a part of this historic moment, even with temperatures in the 90s and high humidity." In Photo: Jossie Valentin (HCC counselor), Wanda Otero, Myriam Quinones '95 (Coord. of Multicultural Academic Services), Anthony Santiago '10, Maria Gomez-Caraballo '11, Shanelle Castellano '11, Stephanie Jusino, and Yestilly Torres (Holyoke High School student).



HCC professor honored for teaching excellence

HCC Assistant Professor of Anthropology Vanessa Martinez was honored by Governor Deval Patrick Oct. 6. during a "Recognizing Latino Educational Excellence" ceremony at the State House in Boston as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Martinez, who is from Puerto Rico, taught five sections of Cultural Anthropology and Understanding Diversity at HCC during the Fall 2011 semester while also pursuing her doctorate at the University of Massachusetts. She was so humbled and surprised, she first thought the invitation to the State House was a joke. "It's a bit of a cultural thing," she said. "As Latinos, we often do what we think is right without the expectation of grandeur or a thank you. A thank you is nice, but it's not necessary."

Computer center promotes technology literacy

HCC opened a computer center to promote technology literacy at the Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center in downtown Holyoke last September. The Thomas Gill III Community Technology Center is named in memory of Tom Gill, a member of the HCC information technology staff. Created to increase technology literacy in the community and support the education and workforce programming at PAFEC, the technology center offers free or low cost basic computer and software classes in both English and Spanish. It also supports classes for Adult Basic Education and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), GED preparation, college placement prep courses and career readiness programs.

Unity Club's persistence pays off

After nearly seven years of bake sales, candle sales, plant sales, raffles and other fundraisers, the HCC Unity Club (originally the Waiting to Excel Club) has finally reached its goal of \$15,000 to endow a scholarship in memory of Ralph Johnson, '05, one of the club's early members and treasurer. The Ralph Johnson Humanitarian Scholarship will be awarded to an HCC student with a disability who has demonstrated a commitment to community service. He struggled with health and personal issues before and during his time as a student at HCC, including quadruple bypass surgery, the amputation of both legs and a stroke. He died on April 5, 2005. Pictured here are, from left to right, Unity Club president Elizabeth Hernandez, past president Jim Sliski, '10, who continues to support the Unity Club, and club advisor Dorothy Blair.





Community partnership leads to Career Closet

HCC has partnered with Providence Ministries for the Needy Inc. to provide business attire to students who have scheduled interviews for jobs and internships. The Holyoke Career Closet opened in December on the second floor of the Kittredge Center. Previously a storage room, the Career Closet so far has about 5,000 items in stock, a collection of suits, shirts, slacks, sweaters and shoes for both men and women. Two Americorps volunteers collected the clothing donations and organized the displays. Students need a referral from an advisor or the Career Center before they can make appointments for fittings.

HCC unveils campus expansion plan

HCC's plan to turn a 22,000-square-foot photography studio into a state-of-the-art health science building took a giant leap forward after the state legislature passed a bill to allow the college to borrow \$7 million for the project. The plan calls for the purchase and renovation of Grynn & Barrett Studios on nearby Jarvis Avenue and the relocation to that site of HCC's nursing and radiologic technology programs, now housed in the school's Marieb building. The move will allow HCC's popular RN (registered nursing) and PN (practical nursing) programs to take more students. The move will also open up space in the Marieb building for the addition and renovation of science classrooms and laboratories.



HCC announces smoke-free campus

Smoking will no longer be permitted anywhere on the HCC campus beginning Aug. 13, 2012. President William Messner announced at the beginning of the spring semester. "The decision to establish a smoke-free campus reflects HCC's commitment to provide an accessible, safe and healthy environment in which to learn and work," Messner said in a message to the HCC community and outside media. Complaints about smoking on campus led to the creation of a committee of students, faculty and staff who met over the course of a year and recommended the smoking ban after consulting with many of the hundreds of other colleges and universities around the country that have also gone smokefree. HCC plans to provide a variety of resources for students and staff who want to quit or manage their cravings on campus. The full text of the president's statement is available on the HCC Web site at www.hcc.edu/smokefree.



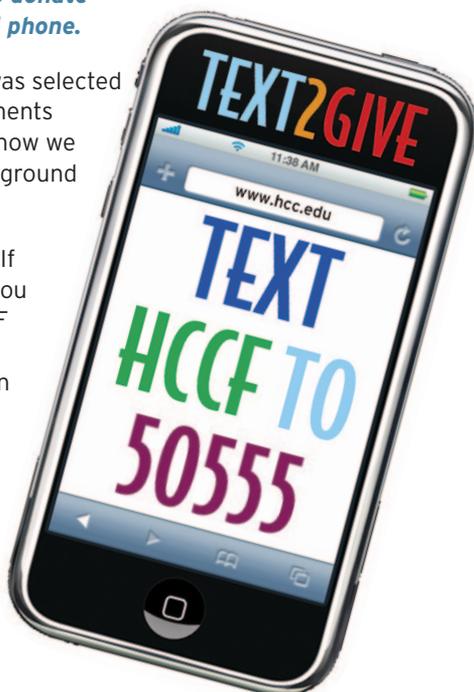
Dear alumni,

In this issue of the Alumni Connection, we celebrate the 65th anniversary of Holyoke Community College, with a focus on the last 35 years, "the new campus" era. When I look back on the past three decades, I am struck by the technological change that has taken place—cell phones and smart phones, wi-fi, laptop computers and tablets, and the Internet were unknown by the public in 1976 but are now a part of our daily lives, here and around the world. At HCC, we are staying on the leading edge. Technology is used in almost every class, from Forensic Science to Graphic Design, and more than 2,000 students take completely online or "brick and click" blended classroom/online courses.

Today, I share with you some very exciting news. The Holyoke Community College Alumni Association has been selected by MGIVE, a leading "text to give" software provider, as the first community college in the United States to use their cell phone donation software. This will allow HCC alumni, students, faculty and staff to donate with a few clicks on their cell phone.

The HCC Alumni Association was selected because of our many achievements as an alumni association, and now we have the chance to break new ground nationally, once again.

What does this mean for you? If you own a cell phone, I invite you to send the text message HCCF to telephone number 50555, and then reply with "Yes" when the text message asks you to verify your donation. This will immediately send a donation of \$10 to the HCC Foundation, and the \$10 cost will show up on your next phone bill! There is no credit card needed, no check writing, or reply slips.



Giving a contribution over the phone might sound like "sci-fi" to some of us over the age of 50, but to the younger generation that is used to banking and paying bills online, "text to give" is the best thing since sliced bread.

I invite you to be on the leading edge of this "text to donate" movement by picking up your cell phone, and texting HCCF to 50555. If you wish your contribution to be anonymous (we won't know who gave it) simply reply YES to the confirming message. If you wish us to log your gift in your alumni record and include you in our giving report, fill in the name and other fields on the second reply message.

Our goal is to receive at least 1,000 donations of \$10 by June 30, 2012. With your help, we will!

Sincerely,

Joanna Brown

Joanna Brown
Director of Alumni Relations

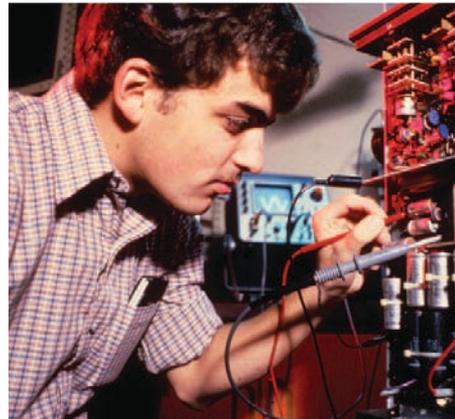


Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

If you have a cell phone and have never sent a text message, and you want to be a part of this leading edge experiment, call me at (413)552-2253 and I will explain how to send a text message. If you would rather write a check to the HCC Foundation, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040, or give online at www.hcc.edu, or call me with a credit card number, or hand deliver a cash donation, I will be glad to accept your donation in any form.

P.S. As we go to press, Governor Patrick has announced plans to restructure the governance of Mass. community colleges as part of his 2013 budget proposal. I encourage alumni to stay informed about these possible changes. Alumni may read about the response to this at <http://bit.ly/ccresponse>.

1974



2012

65 years ago, HCC opened its doors with a mission of community, cooperation and education. Through fires, changing locations, shifting economic tides and social upheaval, the college has steadfastly served the residents of the Pioneer Valley. In 1974, HCC moved into a new home on what was once farmland. This issue of Alumni Connection looks back at the college's years on Homestead Avenue. Careers, communities, faces, fashion, (and, yes, hair) have all changed, but HCC's mission has endured. On these pages, we pause to glance back at all that has been.

Stories by Chris Yurko

A Place to Grow Into

George Ashley began teaching at HCC in the fall of 1968, some nine months after the great January fire consumed what was then the school's main building on Sargeant Street, changing the course of HCC's history forever. The next six years, before the new campus opened on Homestead Avenue, were, according to Ashley, the most tumultuous in the school's history.

"When I started, we were teaching in church basements, the abandoned Holyoke Armory, abandoned elementary schools," recalls the retired anthropology and history professor. "Students drove from class to class... It was a nightmare. So, coming to this campus was like coming to Disneyland."

When it opened in the spring of 1974, the new campus, carved out of the rock underneath an old dairy farm, had a much smaller imprint than it does now. Designed with expansion in mind, just three academic buildings, A (later Donahue), B (Frost) and D (Marieb) were ready for immediate occupancy, with the C building (Fine Arts) still a year from completion.

"The three buildings we moved into were actually larger than we needed," says Ashley, author of a history of HCC's early years published in 2005. "We sort of rattled around in these large buildings. It was a place to grow into, and that's largely been the story of the school ever since."

The Campus Center (G building) opened in 1981. Construction remained largely static until then-President David Bartley's long struggle to build a gymnasium was finally realized in 2001 with the opening of the fitness facility that bears his name. The construction of the Kittredge Center in 2007 consolidated the school's business programs into a central location and established HCC as a leader in workforce development in Western Massachusetts.

Buildings, of course, tell only part of the story. Other parts are best told by looking at the people—students, faculty and staff—and the programs and services HCC provides,

which really define the school and show how it has evolved over the past 38 years.

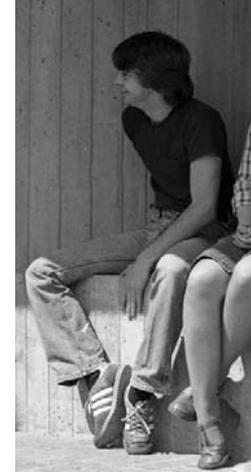
BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers tell a story too. The school's original master plan called for a campus that would initially serve 2,500 students, accommodate more than 3,000, but could expand to serve 4,500. Who could have imagined that by the fall of 2011, HCC would be serving more than 12,500 students in credit and non-credit courses?

Women have outnumbered men at HCC as far back as fall 1981. That year, the gender gap was 57-43 percent; today it is 62-38. The biggest change in demographics has been in racial diversity. In 1981, 98 percent of the students were identified as white while less than 1 percent each were listed as either black or Hispanic American. In fall 2011, 69 percent of students identified themselves as white while 20 percent identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino and 7 percent as black or African American.

THE NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT

Ashley, who officially retired in 2003 but continued teaching part time for another seven years, notes the beginning of other demographic changes in the mid- to late-seventies—an influx of older, nontraditional students; soldiers who had served in Vietnam, retirees and displaced workers looking for second careers as the economy changed, and particularly women. HCC created a "displaced homemakers program" targeting divorced women and married



women reentering the workforce. It was a free, 15-week program that offered courses in typing, transcription, shorthand, business communications, secretarial accounting and administrative support. In 1979, the “Women in Business” program offered support services to women who wanted to pursue degrees in accounting and business administration. Five years later, the program was modified to include liberal arts and became the Women in Transition (WIT) program.

“We started getting a large number of women in their 30s and 40s who had graduated from high school, gotten married and had children, and started coming back to college,” says Ashley. “The Women in Transition program made those women feel welcome. A lot of them came in feeling a bit out of their element, they never thought they would go to college, they never thought of themselves as college material, and they found they were as prepared and in many cases better prepared than a lot of the students coming in right out of high school. They quickly became the best students we had here. They totally dominated classes because they’d run households, they’d taken care of children, they knew how to make a budget, they knew how to budget their time, and they were an absolute wonder.”

The legacy of the Women in Transition program continues at HCC today as New Directions and Pathways, which target nontraditional students, particularly women, and have a long track record of transferring HCC graduates to elite, private colleges such as Smith and Mount Holyoke.

DAY VERSUS NIGHT

Once upon a time, HCC had two divisions as different as day and night—Day and Evening. Day division students were historically younger, traditional college age; the evening students were older and most took night classes out of necessity because they were working full-time jobs during the day. “It used to be, I’d have students in their early 20s during the day and I’d have students in their 30s, 40s and 50s at night” says Ashley. “That isn’t the case anymore.”

HCC eliminated the Division of Continuing Education in 2005, a move that illustrates how much today’s students differ from those in the past and the need for more flexible scheduling that appeals broadly to a wide range of students, who can now choose from day, twilight, evening, Saturday and online classes.

SUPPORT SERVICES

As enrollment has increased, so has the number of administrators and support staff. “When I was first hired, I would say 90 percent of the people who worked at the college were classroom teachers,” says Ashley. “There were a very small number of people who were administrators, a couple of deans. There were a few counselors, a few librarians and maintenance people. In the last 25 or 30 years, the number of people who have worked here who are not classroom teachers at all has grown spectacularly. The vast majority of them are providing support services for students.”

One example of that kind of support service is CAPS, the Center for Academic Program Support, which includes HCC’s Math, Writing and Tutoring centers. Founded in 1976 as the

Learning Assistance Center, to provide tutoring services to struggling students, from 1976-1986, LAC was run part time by a faculty member with tutoring provided by a part-time staff assistant. Today, CAPS has three full-time coordinators, one full-time support staff person and 80 part-time tutors, including current students and professionals. In the fall semester of 2011 alone, CAPS saw 1,411 different students for a total of 10,629 visits.

In addition to CAPS, HCC provides an Advising Center and Career Center, and offers support and counseling services and programs for students whose first language is not English (ESL Support, Multicultural Academic Services); academically disadvantaged students (STRIVE—Students Together Reach Individual Visions of Excellence); as well as veterans, adult learners, first-year students, and students with disabilities. The college has entire programs devoted to students who may not be ready for college-level work, such as the Adult Basic Education Transition to College and Careers (ABE TCC) program,

Who knows what HCC would have been like today if it hadn’t been for the fire of January 1968? It’s likely the school would have eventually outgrown its downtown Holyoke campus and had to relocate anyway, perhaps to Homestead Avenue or to some other spot. The school’s demographics would have certainly changed along with those of the surrounding communities. What’s also certain is that, today and in the future, whatever the conditions or demands, HCC will continue to evolve to meet changing needs as new chapters of its story are written.





A Place to Find Yourself

Cleveland Burton was raising a family and had a full-time job when he decided to take his first night class at HCC in 1976. At the time, he had a well-paying job as a machinist at American Saw in East Longmeadow. But that wasn't enough for him. "I wanted to find out what was out there for me," says Burton. "I wanted more, but I wasn't sure what that was."

The first class he took was psychology. The next semester he took another class and then another; he was getting A's and realized a degree was within reach. Soon his advisor suggested he take more classes to speed up the process. "At first, I was going just to be going," says Burton. "Then I was getting my associate degree in liberal arts."

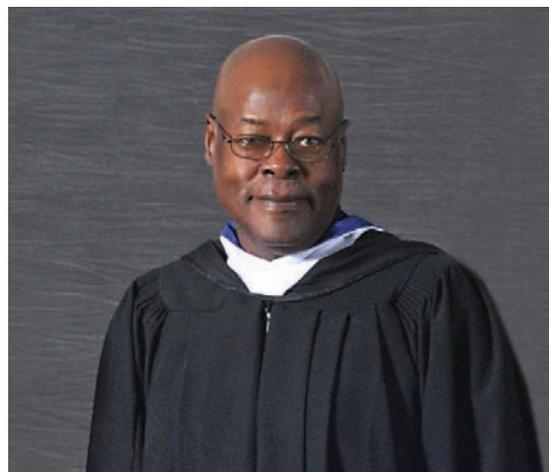
After that, he continued his education at Westfield State, where he finished with a bachelor's degree in psychology. "HCC was a good place to find yourself," says Burton. "They would help you navigate, even though you didn't know where you were going. They were always there to help you."

Burton was a Continuing Ed student when there still was such a thing. That division of the college was eliminated in 2005. Going to school at night had its advantages, he says. "Everybody knew everybody. I liked it because I met people on the same search I was on—working full time, raising a family. HCC was a good place to bond with other people doing the same thing I was doing."

The school also encouraged night students to get involved with student activities. Burton joined the Green Key Society, serving over the years as both vice president and president.

"Clubs and organizations kept you in the mix. You really felt you were a part of the college. I got to meet a lot of different people. The school knew what it was doing. They were just trying to bring us together, and they did it quite well."

Burton, who is 58 now and lives in Westfield, never left American Saw, but his job there changed to reflect his new skills and education. He went from machinist to classroom



Cleveland Burton at HCC's 2011 Commencement Distinguished Service Award Ceremony

quality trainer, retiring after 36 years as Manager of Employee Relations. "The things I learned in Holyoke I easily applied at work," he says. "It gave me the discipline and knowledge to do things effectively."

After all these years, Burton has stayed involved with the school as a member of HCC's Alumni Council and in 2011 received the school's Distinguished Service Award.





Universal strategies, universal benefits

In 1990, when HCC hired Maureen Conroy, she spent the majority of her time trying to convince faculty of the need to make classrooms accessible for people with disabilities.

A lot has changed since then.

"Today, I work collaboratively," says Conroy, director of HCC's Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services. "Today, some faculty work so inclusively, they hardly need to make additional accommodations."

Conroy's office, on the first floor of Donahue, represents one of the best examples of the growth in support services at HCC over the past few decades. Retired anthropology teacher

George Ashley remembers those early days well. "Maureen was an absolute wonder," says Ashley. "She gave us clues about what these students needed, what we could do to make life better for them and be more successful."

Conroy remembers asking Ashley to trim his mustache to make it easier on a

hard of hearing student who was a lip-reader.

When she began, Conroy worked with people with disabilities through the STRIVE program (Students Together Reach Individual Visions of Excellence). In the early '90s, she became the first coordinator of a separate Disability Services office. This coincided with the signing into law in 1992 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which increased awareness about accessibility issues and gave her office a legal mandate.

Soon after, the college created an ADA committee that conducted a study to look at communication, architecture and instruction and began to make the campus more accessible.

"When the ADA went through, it was so well publicized," Conroy says. "The thing that changed more than anything was exposure. At first, people were afraid of the law. That was the motivator. But some teachers said, 'How do I change my instruction to include a group of people I've never taught before?'"

The program itself has changed drastically. In 1990, the college listed 35 students with disabilities, about 70 percent of whom were diagnosed with learning disabilities, according to Conroy. Her office now serves more than 800 students a year with a much wider variety of disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum and others with neurological disabilities, orthopedic disabilities and mental health-related disabilities.

In the mid-1990s, HCC added Deaf Services to support what has become one of the largest Deaf and hard of hearing populations in the state. "When I started, we had one student who was Deaf," Conroy recalls. "Now, we have about 30 who are Deaf or hard of hearing and they have really created a cultural presence on campus."

As time has gone on, people have come to accept the idea that universal teaching and universal design are beneficial to everyone and make for better, more inclusive environments in general. Automatic door openers, for example, are just as important for maintenance workers, building crews and moms pushing strollers as they are for people in wheelchairs.

Most accommodations are simple things, like extra time for tests or a quiet place to study, others more complex. For instance, Conroy called the donation of \$10,000 to biological sciences to buy a high-powered microscope "a very universal thing."

What's nice, she said, is that the microscope comes with a projector screen, which is great for students with visual impairments and tracking issues, but also allows everyone in the class to see what's on the slide at the same time. "For everyone in class," she says, "it will mean better instruction."



Conroy, director of HCC's Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services, 1990-present

Library remains vital resource in Internet age



Judy Campbell, assistant librarian/
dean of library services, 1970-2009

Though it's in the same location (between the Donahue and Frost buildings) where it has been since the campus opened in the spring of 1974, the Holyoke Community College library is certainly not the same place it used to be.

Approximately 60,000 print books sit on its shelves, but the library now holds some 35,000 electronic books as well. The 180 print journals

the library maintains are just a small fraction of the 32,000 online journals accessible to HCC students and staff.

"It has changed a lot," says Judy Campbell, who worked in HCC library services for 39 years, retiring as director in 2009. "The Internet has been one of the biggest changes. When I first started all we had was the card catalog and the Readers Guide. We weren't linked to any of the other colleges."

Before computers, interlibrary loan involved the librarian calling other libraries, trying to find books students wanted. If one library didn't have it, the librarian would call another. "At that time, we were only doing 200 interlibrary loans a year," Campbell recalls.

Now, thanks to an online database, the HCC library conducts over 4,000 interlibrary loans a year. "Now, patrons can order their own books," says Campbell. "They can request things and have them sent to the library, but when we started it was all done by librarians."

These days, the library's instructional program sees about 170 classes every year, from introductory English classes to other subjects, such as speech, geology, nursing and psychology. The focus of the instruction program remains the same—efficient research strategies. Of course, research methods have changed along with technology.

Students in the '70s and '80s will remember the giant, green, hardbound volumes of the Readers Guide to Periodical Literature and the annual paper supplements that were once the hallmark of library research. "The trick was not only to find something on your topic, but to find something the library had on your topic," recalls Campbell. "Now, with the click of a mouse, you have hundreds of things to choose from. It's just the opposite problem. The students come in here, very familiar with the Internet, but they don't necessarily know the most efficient way to search for the material they need. That's what we teach."

Before voice mail, there was the "voice" of HCC

From 1984 to 2002, Dorothy "Dot" Forkey operated the HCC switchboard. When she started, the college had a single local phone line and only two long distance lines and every call came through the switchboard.

"There were very few direct dial numbers, so everything had to come through the main line," recalls Forkey, who, upon her retirement, was given the unique distinction of "switchboard operator emeritus." "So that's why they used to say that job was the voice of Holyoke Community College."

Forkey, who still lives steps away from the school and walks her dog Penny on campus every day, was not only the voice of HCC for 18 years but also the first face many people saw when they arrived on campus. "I got to talk to all the folks first and meet them when they came through the door. At the time, my son was going to school here and I made it my business to treat every student as if it was my son asking me a question. No question was ever too stupid. I would always answer the question and give them a little bit more information to help them along."

Forkey quickly developed a reputation as the go-to source for information about the daily campus activities. She had to know the bus schedules and kept a calendar everyone referred to as "the bible." Every week, Forkey would compile lists of upcoming events from the President's office, the Leslie Phillips Theater, the library, the college bookstore, wherever. "I had all the data in one area," she says. "If someone asked the campus police a question about what was going on, they'd say, 'Let me call the switchboard and have her look at the bible.'"

On snow days, when the college was closed or classes were delayed, Forkey still had to go to work to answer the phone. On those days, the grounds crew made sure the sidewalks leading from Homestead Avenue all the way to Frost were clear. "President Bartley wanted students to be informed," she says. "Now they've got it all online."

It was also Forkey's responsibility to record faculty absences. After getting a call, she'd notify Office Services, which kept a sign board outside their office noting cancelled classes. Back



in the day, there was also a ride-share book students could write in or peruse for car pooling to and from campus.

"More than one student waiting for the bus on cold winter days would stop inside the lobby and say to me, 'I wish Holyoke Community College was a four-year school,' because they felt so comfortable there. The classes were small; the professors were wonderful. There was an opportunity for them to talk to their professors and not feel put off by anything. I think they all felt as though they were in a setting that enjoyed having them. That was always something that was of great pride to us."

CLASS NOTEBOOK

1969



William A. Harris received seven nominations at the 33rd annual Michigan Emmy awards gala in Detroit and took

home four in the categories of Health/Science News Feature ("Bill's Journey 2010," an update to his Prostate Cancer diagnosis/procedures); Religion; Special Event Coverage ("Holiday Pops with the Flint Symphony Orchestra") and, for the third time in four years, "Michigan's Best News Anchor." Harris' son, Christopher, twice joined him at the podium. Harris, formerly of WJRT, just began a new job with WEYI NBC25 as anchor and special projects producer/reporter and is happy to be back behind the anchor desk.

1974

Barbara A. Arrighi is deputy chief of the Mount Holyoke College Campus Police Department. She graduated from the Massachusetts state police academy in 1980 and earned her B.S. at UMass in 1986 in police administration. Arrighi has worked in the police department at Mount Holyoke College since 1974 when she became the first female officer there. In 1994, Barbara began teaching Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) as part of her self-defense curriculum and is also head instructor of the Karate Club. She is a seventh-degree black belt in the Shito Ryu International Karate Do Kai, the highest ranking woman in her style in the world.

James G. Berrelli Jr. was honored as the Italian Knight of the Year at the Knights of Columbus in West Springfield, Mass., on Nov. 18, 2011. He is director/service officer at the Department of Veterans' Services, West Springfield. His son, James G. Berrelli III, is currently studying computer security at HCC.

Tim Somers is a 30-year veteran of the banking industry with experience in both capital markets and a wide range of operational services. Somers joined U.S. Bank in 2010 as a managing director within the Government and Non Profits

Group. He maintains overall responsibility for relationship management and new business development with government entities in key markets on the East Coast. Prior to joining U.S. Bank, Somers held management positions at both Bank of New York and Mellon Bank. Somers earned a B.S. and an M.B.A from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst after graduating from HCC.

1976



David Fallardo attended HCC twice, in 1972-1973 and again in 1976. He received his bachelor of arts degree in music from St. Leo University and master of arts in teaching in music education at East Carolina University. He has performed on trumpet for the Crystal Coast Jamboree in Morehead City, N.C. He is the bass player for a blues group Mighty Lester, which performs all over the U.S. and in 2007 won third place in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis and Best Self-Produced CD of the Year. He also teaches band at Pamlico County Middle School.

1978

David Fitzgerald has worked as the horticulturist at Williams College for 23 years. His work now encompasses all landscapes and hardscapes of the college campus as well as care of the athletic playing fields. Fitzgerald graduated with an associate degree in bioscience from HCC then earned his B.S. from the University of Massachusetts in plant and soil science and his M.S. in horticulture from Washington State University.

1983

Elaine Darr-Morton's photography was exhibited at the Burnett Gallery in the Jones Library in Amherst, Mass., in December 2011. Burnett is a member of the Pioneer Valley Photo Artists and the Quabbin Photo Group. Her work can be seen and purchased at the Les Campbell Sky Meadow Gallery in Belchertown, Mass.



Denise Devine owns a business, Devine Overhead Doors, in Hadley, Mass., with her husband Gerry Devine. They do residential and commercial garage door installation and

service as well as repairs to automated garage door openers. They can be reached at (413) 586-3161 (in Franklin County: (413) 773-9497) or www.devineoverheaddoors.com

1988



Rexene Picard is the executive director of FutureWorks One Stop Career Center in Springfield, Mass. Picard holds a master of science in counseling psychology with a minor

in industrial organizational psychology from Springfield College and did undergraduate work in human resource development. She is an advisory board member for the High School of Science and Technology NAF Academy, board member of the Valley Radio Reading and a Springfield School volunteer.

1992

Nicole Shea and her husband Jim are co-owners of FOE Store and Gallery, 28 Pleasant St, in Northampton, Mass. The shop features subculture art, designer toys, kaiju (strange monsters), and kawaii (cute things). She invites alumni to drop by in person or visit their website www.shopfoe.com.

1996



Michele Crochetiere was named Western Mass. Women's Magazine's Volunteer of the Year in August 2011. She volunteers at the AIDS Foundation of Western

Mass. and Zonta Club of Quabog Valley, is a member of the Rental Housing Association of Greater Springfield, and also serves on the Alumni Council of Bay Path College. She has also served on the board of directors for Dress for Success. She works for YWCA of Western

CLASS NOTEBOOK

Mass., where she is a site director of the supportive housing program in the East Forest Park area of Springfield, a two-year program for women who are survivors of domestic violence.

1997

Jessica Sarfaraz Berger, registered yoga teacher, registered nurse and stress reduction facilitator with more than 25 years experience as a health professional, has published *The RelaxAbility Handbook*, now available on Amazon.com. The book can be used on its own, or as an accompaniment to Jessica's CD, *Sublime Relaxations Volume I*. For more information, visit www.allthingsrelaxation.com or contact Jessica Sarfaraz Berger at (413) 527-1869 or allthingsrelaxation@yahoo.com.

2001

Pamela Patenaude is assistant vice president and mortgage originator at North Brookfield Savings Bank. She specializes in residential mortgages and working with first-time homebuyers. Alumni may call her at (413) 323-7103 or email at ppatenaude@banknbsb.com.

2002

April E. Bowers is a nurse practitioner at Hampden County Physician Associates, working out of the Ludlow office. She practices in the areas of internal medicine, gastroenterology, hospitalist medicine and emergency medicine. She

In memoriam

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

- Edward W. Lamlein '58
- William F. "Luke" Hennessey '59
- Joan Leske Harris '61
- Thomas P. McNamara '71
- Brien E. Laporte '72
- Gary E. Bell '75
- Sgt. Jean Ferguson-West '76
- Richard Giza '77
- Robert P. Lees '78
- James E. Kusekoski '88
- Matthew H. Lee '99
- Sandra Deyo '00
- Rebecca S. Wallace '04
- Tara L. Pagnoni '06

is also affiliated with Wing Hospital in Palmer, Mass.

2004

Annette Davis-Harris is the founder of The Visionary Club, a social support group for people who are visually impaired or who are blind. They do activities together and invite guest speakers to talk about such topics as self-defense for blind

Darryl Cuffie '11

Elizabeth (Bette) Wehner, N.P. retired health counselor

Ellie Lescault '99, founding secretary of the HCC Alumni Association. Ellie's dedication to the Alumni Association, her wonderful personality, and her superb administrative skills will be remembered by her many friends and colleagues. Lescault was honored with the Holyoke Community College Distinguished Service Award in 1991 and with the Alumni Association Volunteer of the Year Award in 1999. An endowed scholarship is being created in her memory. Contributions in memory of Ellie Lescault may be sent to HCC Foundation, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040



people. The club "adopted" a family following the June 1 tornado and as a group presented the family with gifts and gift certificates worth \$500. The club also filled 22 backpacks and gave half to White Street School and Homer Street School. The club has also donated blankets, books and soda tabs to Shriner's Hospital. Alumni wishing to find out more can call her at (413) 783-6612.

Class Notes/Change of Information/E-newsletter sign up



Tell us about your work or other activities in a class note (see below).

Name: _____
 Former name: _____ Class year: _____
 Address: _____
 Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____
 Employer: _____ Position: _____

Yes! Sign me up for the new alumni e-newsletter with additional news and campus events.

Email Address: _____

Class note to be published in the **Alumni Connection**.

ALUMNI IN ACTION



Sonoda family donates historical items

Steven M. Sonoda '83, his brother Allan B. Sonoda, Jr. '85, and sister Laurie Sonoda Dillon '86—children of the late Allan B. Sonoda, Sr. '58, the first president of the HCC Alumni Association—donated the ceremonial shovel used by their father at the groundbreaking of the new campus on June 6, 1974, to the HCC archive. They also donated their father's Holyoke Junior College diploma from 1958, a silver Paul Revere bowl given to him when he received the George Frost Award in 1984 and several historical photographs. Pictured: Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown, Steven Sonoda, HCC Archivist Julie Bartlett and President of the HCC Alumni Association Gloria G. Lomax '75, professor emeritus, with several items donated to the HCC archive on August 17, 2011. The items were displayed in a 65th anniversary exhibit in the HCC Library. We are grateful for the Sonoda family's generosity.

On the front lines protecting financial data

Lynn Starr '95, vice president of Systems and Operations at Easthampton Savings Bank, was a featured presenter at the 2011 Pioneer Valley Information Security Conference on October 20, 2011. The topic of her talk was Financial Information Security. She spoke about bank security policies as well as reminding everyone how to protect their financial information: have complex passwords; use anti-virus and anti-spyware software; review online bank accounts frequently; never allow your computer to save a login or password; be sure to shred hard copies of any financial information; and don't use Internet cafes when traveling abroad. "Security has an inverse relationship to convenience," she said. Starr is seen here with Gene Kingsley '91, the director of the conference, in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.



Walking the walk against cancer

Steve LeFebvre '79 chaired the 2011 Rays of Hope Walk in Springfield, Mass., on Oct. 23, 2011. The event raised more than \$1 million dollars for breast cancer research and treatment in Western Mass. Steve has been involved with the Rays of Hope Walk for 14 years and is the first man to be asked to chair the walk. Steve, pictured second from right, is shown here with family members who joined him at the walk.

Alumna's art displayed for Hispanic Heritage month

Stephanie N. Perez '06 had her art chosen to be exhibited in Governor Deval Patrick's Springfield office for Hispanic Heritage Month in October. Perez, a Mexican-American artist who graduated from HCC with a degree in visual art and earned a bachelor's in sociology at American International College, displayed seven paintings. "Hispanic Heritage Month is very significant to me," said Perez, who works as service coordinator for KEY Family Networks in Springfield. "Being able to participate in this event was a major milestone in my life. As a Mexican-American in this area, it was nice to speak about the importance of culture, family, and accomplishments and what the Hispanic community can do to encourage each other to set examples and provide support."

Dear Alumni,

I enrolled in HCC in the 1970s before the new campus was built, attending classes in different sites around the city of Holyoke. I had already earned credits at other community colleges in Texas and California. At HCC, I found that faculty members and staff were more engaged with their students. Victor Thomas, the registrar, carefully evaluated my transcripts and made sure that my credits were applied toward my associate degree. Those credits subsequently enabled me to complete my bachelor's and master's degrees at UMass on an accelerated schedule.

I remember helping to organize materials and supplies and move boxes from the lab school at Elm Street to the new campus on Homestead Avenue. I was so excited to be moving to the new campus! We had so much more space, everything was organized, and we could actually take all of our classes under one roof. This facilitated even more interaction between students and faculty.

Encouraged by Mr. Evans, a counselor, and Dr. Simon, a psychology professor, I became involved in club activities and community service in the public school system and decided "I must be a teacher!" Dean Edith Reinisch observed my student teaching at the lab school and took an interest in my classroom activities. She even took

a photograph of me teaching students and included it and an explanation of the activity in a textbook that she wrote.

When I heard that HCC was looking for an early childhood teacher, I applied. I knew that I had the supervision and research experience to be able to share my skills and experience with community college students.

As a teacher at HCC, I so appreciated the diversity of my students, especially in my evening classes, where working mothers came back to get an education. I watched them come in, unsure of themselves, and did everything possible to encourage them. Many of them went on to get their bachelors and masters degrees, and a few even earned their doctorates!

When I began to contemplate retiring from my teaching, I knew that I hadn't done all that I wanted to do for Holyoke Community College—there must be more! Already a member of the Alumni Council board, I willingly took on the responsibility of leading the Alumni Association in 2001, and for the past 10 years I have given two to three days a week to Alumni Association activities as your association president.

Some people ask why I didn't kick up my heels and simply enjoy retirement, but I know that my involvement with alumni and alumni donors means that more students will be able to attend this college who otherwise wouldn't be able to.



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

Looking back on my life as an HCC student, professor, and Alumni Association president, I can honestly say that I feel very blessed to have dedicated the greater part of my adult life to Holyoke Community College. I hope that you will take time to think about how attending Holyoke Community College has made a difference in your life, and join me in becoming involved in this wonderful college.

Sincerely,

Gloria G. Lomax

Gloria G. Lomax '75

President, Holyoke Community College
Alumni Association
Professor Emeritus

2012 HCC Annual Fund (closes June 30, 2012)

Enclosed is my/our contribution of:

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

I/we wish to contribute to the following fund:

- Where the need is greatest**
- Scholarship fund**
- Equipment for classrooms & labs**
- Other:** _____
- Embrace Education fund to support the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center in downtown Holyoke**

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.**, (2012 fund drive ends June 30, 2012)
- 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 2012 Annual Giving Report

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

ALUMNI CONNECTION

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 820
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101



Find us on:
facebook®

www.facebook.com/HolyokeCommunityCollege

2012 EVENTS

Wednesday, May 9

Silent Pizza Gathering

11 a.m. Campus Center

An ASL event. To register or to request ASL interpretation for any alumni event, please email csmalley@hcc.edu.

Thursday, May 10

40th Anniversary Nursing Program Dinner and Reunion

5-7 p.m. Campus location TBA

HCC nursing alumni and current and retired nursing faculty are cordially invited to attend this event. Leona Florek, RN, BS, MSN, will be keynote speaker. Registration required by May 3, 2011. For more information, call (413) 552-2253.

Sunday, May 20,

HCC Cougar Crawl 5K

10 a.m. HCC Campus

Join us for our second 5K run (3.1 miles) or an invigorating walk around the campus of Holyoke Community College. This year the focus will be on raising funds to support HCC literacy programs. For more information call (413) 552-2308.

Wednesday, June 6

35th Annual Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner

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

This year we will honor Carl Eger '56, retired business owner, and Serena Fuller '77, president of College Highway Insurance in Southwick, Mass. Open to the public. Dinner tickets are \$45 per person, with sponsor tickets available. Call (413) 552-2253.

Monday, September 10

25th Annual HCC Foundation Golf Tournament

Springfield Country Club

For more information, call (413) 552-2308.

For information about these events, please visit the HCC web site at www.hcc.edu, and click on Alumni & Friends

To sign up for our monthly e-newsletter listing all campus and alumni events, please join our alumni community by creating a log in name and password at <https://foundationalumni.hcc.edu>. You may also register for the events above by clicking on "upcoming events" at the same site, without registering for the alumni community.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Futures Inspired