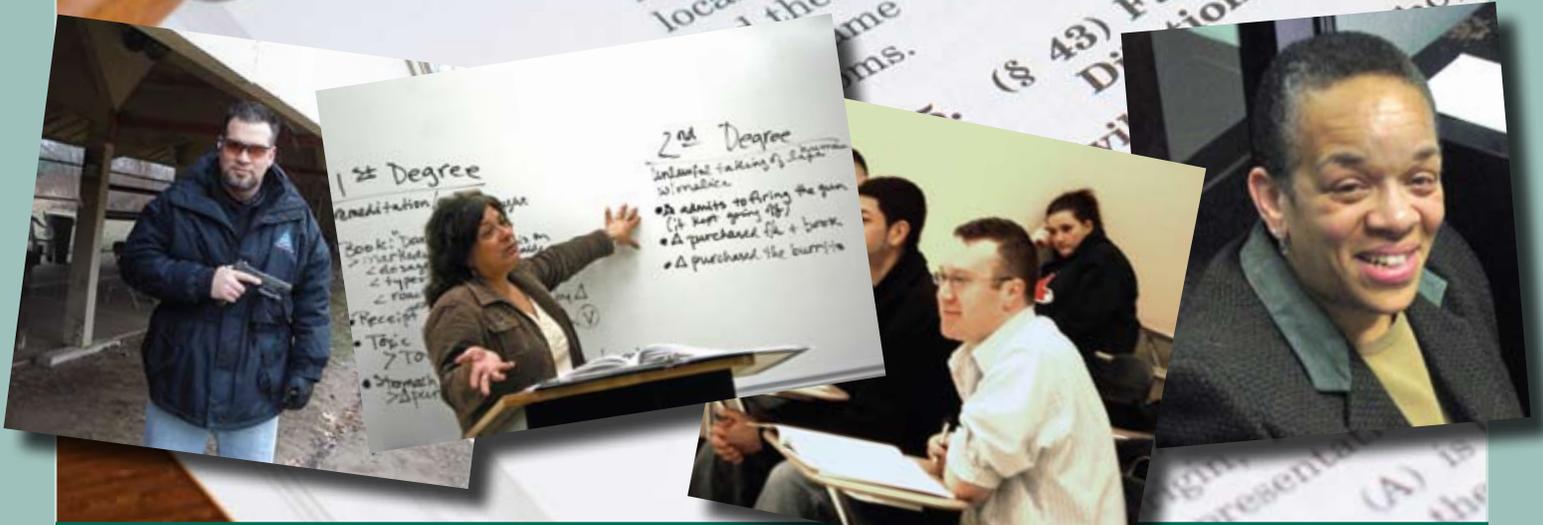


ALUMNI CONNECTION

It's the
law



SPRING 2008

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Futures Inspired

Bill's bulletin

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

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Kathleen E. Moore '98

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Class Notes:

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

Letters:

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

Class Notes/Change of Address:

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

2007-2008 Alumni Council:

President

Gloria G. Lomax '75

First Vice President

Gertrude E. Monson '97

Second Vice President

Stephen F. Bryda '03

Secretary

Marsha Ryan '70

Alumni Council Members:

Joanna Brown, ex officio

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Laura L. Brennan '79

Carol Bright '75

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Carrie Buckner '77

Eddie Corbin '68

Judy A. Cote '86

Geraldo Cotton '06

Patsy J. Dailey '99

Margaret DeJesus '90

Elizabeth A. Murphy '74

Pamela Murray '95

James Sheehan '74

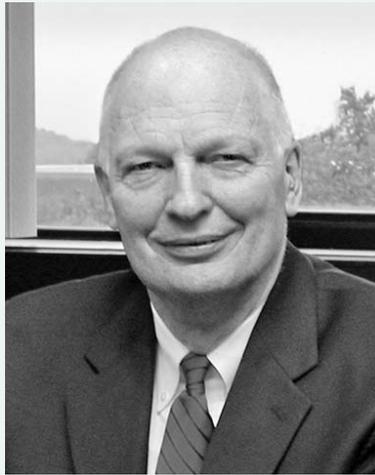
Rhonda Soto '97

Nancy Spagnoli '83

Karen Thompson-Brown '04

Vandelyn T. Wright '83

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



HCC President William F. Messner

Some of you graduated just months ago, while others left the HCC campus five, ten, fifteen years ago or longer. To all of you, I want to extend an invitation: come back and visit.

When you do return to HCC, you'll see that the campus continues to grow and change to meet the evolving needs of our students. Aside from the occasional clutter of construction material or the din of jack hammers, we welcome changes that include a new media center in the C Building, a renovated Student Activities Office in between the Frost and Donahue buildings, and, of course, the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, which opened in spring 2006.

I would particularly like to thank you, the college's alumni, for generously supporting HCC with your pledge to raise \$500,000 for *The Gift of Opportunity* campaign. Miraculously, you have attained that goal a year-and-a-half ahead of schedule. As a result, we are now ready to make one other change in the HCC landscape: on July 9, we will officially name the Kittredge Center clock tower the Alumni Clock Tower at a 5 p.m. dedication ceremony.

I commend you for making this lasting contribution to your alma mater and hope you will join us for the dedication.

Bill Messner
—William F. Messner



Join us on July 9 when we officially thank our generous alumni by naming this clock tower the Alumni Clock Tower. For more details, contact Joyce Desorcy at (413) 552-2704.

Letter from the director of Alumni Relations

Dear Alumni,

Welcome to the spring 2008 edition of the *Alumni Connection*, where we are happy to showcase the diversity of the college's Criminal Justice program and alumni. Over the last 20 years, this program has awarded more than 1,000 degrees and certificates, launching the careers of police officers, lawyers, corrections officers, and countless others in law enforcement.

It is also interesting to note that some of the successful alumni in this field—such as Christopher Provost, profiled on page 5, and Karen Thompson Brown on page 6—jumped into criminal justice careers without ever having taken a Criminal Justice course at HCC. What Provost and Brown share with our current criminal justice majors is the solid footing they received from our dedicated faculty and staff. Get a good education and the world truly is your oyster.

I hope you will consider reserving a space for the first-ever Theater, Electronic Media, and Communication Alumni Reunion, to be held on Sunday, April 13, 2:30 - 9 p.m. The event will feature talks by emeriti theater faculty Jeanne Hatch and Roy Faudree, a presentation of former students' electronic media work, and a slide presentation of past theater productions. We are also looking forward to seeing Melissa Hruska '92, daughter of the late Leslie Phillips, another beloved

member of our theater faculty. Flying in from Florida will be Donna DeFant '77, and, from California, Jon Roe '76. Tickets are \$15 per person, which covers dinner and the theater performance. We ask you reserve a seat by April 5. For more information, see page 16.



Joyce Desorcy '88

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to welcome Joyce Desorcy '88, our new annual fund coordinator. Many of you may have already spoken to her on the phone, but if you haven't, feel free to drop into her office in Donahue 164 to say hello. Her phone number is (413) 552-2704; email: jdesorcy@hcc.mass.edu.

Holyoke Community College alumni are the most generous community college alumni in New England. That support provides faculty with the best equipment and our students with scholarships they need to succeed. I hope you will continue to support HCC as we go forward.

Sincerely,

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



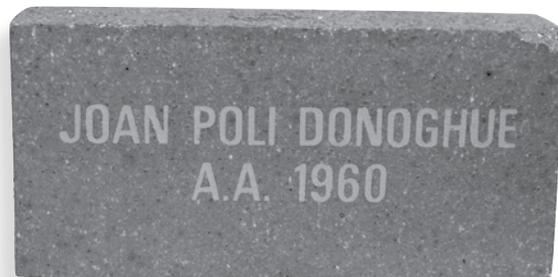
Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown

P.S. Applications for the Anthony Eugenio Scholarship are available from Joyce Desorcy and are due on April 16. This scholarship is open to alumni from the class of 2007 (or earlier) who are seeking bachelor or graduate degrees. For more information, contact Joyce Desorcy at (413) 552-2704; email: jdesorcy@hcc.mass.edu.

Order Your Alumni Donor Brick Now!

The Alumni Donor Brick campaign is drawing to a close on June 1. If you haven't already contributed \$300 to qualify for a donor brick, now is the last time to do so, and to have your gift count toward our Alumni Association 2008 Annual Fund goal.

This summer, all existing donor bricks, as well as the newly-ordered bricks, will be moved to a permanent installation next to the Kittredge Center. Once the new brick garden is complete, all alumni with donor bricks will be invited to a special dedication ceremony. Order your donor brick today by calling Joyce Desorcy '88 at (413) 552-2704.



CSI Miami meets CSI HCC



Above, HCC Criminal Justice Department Chair Monica H. Pérez explains the difference between first and second degree murder. At right, Criminal Justice major Dan LaBonte pokes holes in DNA evidence.

Monica Pérez has ruined *CSI Miami* for Criminal Justice major Daniel LaBonte. The popular TV suspense drama lost its luster when this 'professor of *prove it*' began pushing something decidedly un-sexy: the facts.

"It's just not realistic," moans LaBonte, of South Hadley. "On those shows, you go in and solve a crime in an hour. In real life, it takes longer than that to get the evidence collected and analyzed. It would never be that easy."

And neither is Pérez's class. Pérez is a former administrator for the State Department of Youth Services who holds a juris doctorate. As chair of the Criminal Justice program at HCC, Pérez has crafted the criminal evidence class to dovetail with classes in criminal investigations and forensic science. Students study everything from the correct way to advise suspects of their Miranda rights to determining the time of death by studying the size of the maggots in a gunshot wound. Prosecuting an actual case takes painstaking work in all three sections.

"The idea is to get students following the evidence, not their hunches," says Pérez, whose rapid-fire questions and no-nonsense demeanor stimulate some rigorous debates. "If they tell me a suspect is psycho, I ask them what they mean by that, and, more importantly, what the law has to say about that."

That's great training for LaBonte, who is already eyeing law school, but it also excites the ambitions of Ed Vera, an Iraq veteran who wants to become a detective, and Julia González, who wants to enter the police academy. During the fall 2007 semester, the three Criminal Justice majors got to try out some of their newfound forensic and legal training by investigating the fictional death of Alex Temple. The victim was reported dead by his wife, Suzanne, when she returned home from bowling. He had several gunshot wounds.

Much of the evidence—including a questionable confession—would lead a neophyte investigator to conclude that Suzanne shot her husband. But the case—nicknamed "Bullets or Burrito?" by

Pérez—has an interesting twist: arsenic was found in the burrito that Alex Temple ingested prior to the shooting.

Did he die from arsenic poisoning or a gunshot wound? Studying credit card slips, the students find that Suzanne Temple bought the burrito. They also know she purchased the murder weapon. She even told police that she shot Alex. And her DNA was found at the scene of the crime, so...

"DNA may tell you who was there, but it won't tell you who did it," says Pérez. "What about the 'Who's your daddy syndrome?'"

Vera takes the challenge. "That's something they've just discovered. Some people have two different sets of DNA on them that don't match," he says. "The DNA is good, but it can't be the basis for your case."

LaBonte jumps in:

"DNA is like the whipped cream and the cherry. A bonus. You need more to get a conviction," he says.

For now, Pérez is satisfied. They haven't been easily swayed by this red herring. Her students have learned some important lessons about evidence gathering—and the logic of the legal system. Now, they need to go deeper. What about that confession? The class erupts into a debate about the exclusionary rule.

The class discovers that Suzanne Temple revealed the location of the murder weapon when she confessed to the shooting. The problem is, she was not properly informed of her right to a lawyer prior to giving that confession.

continues on page 14

A picture perfect career in law enforcement

When adults asked Christopher Provost what he wanted to do when he grew up, the Holyoke native probably never dreamed of the life he has now. That would be asking too much of The Fates.

The 42-year-old HCC alumnus boasts a shooting range as his primary office, and two bullmastiffs as his “kids.” In addition to police work in a small Massachusetts town, the Simsbury resident runs Provost Photography, Provost’s Precision Pistols, LLC (P3LLC), and the Directed Operations Group (DOG).

“I’ve been into guns since I was a kid,” says Provost. “I remember the smell of the Hoppes #9 (gun solvent). It probably had a whole load of chemicals that got outlawed, but, to me, it was the best smelling stuff in the world.”

That scent has certainly perfumed Provost’s ambitions, but it wasn’t his only influence.

“My father was a front line commander in Vietnam and I was born on November 11 (Veterans Day) so I figured the military was my destiny,” he says. “There wasn’t any other option, really.”

He attended HCC for a year following high school so he could improve his math comprehension before enrolling in military school. A serious leg injury during his first year at Norwich University forced Provost to reconsider. Once again, he turned to HCC for direction.

This time, however, he followed his heart.

“I’d always liked taking pictures, so I took a photography course with Bob Aller and I was hooked,” he said. “I was the first person to apply to the University of Hartford as a transfer photography student in their fine arts program. Because of all the preparation I received at HCC, I got in.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts, Provost began a photography career that continues to this day. He also became a gun dealer, selling guns to individuals and law enforcement agencies. Provost recognizes that some people find this career path a little disjointed, but he is quick to point out the continuity.

“I’ve always appreciated the functional as well as the aesthetic aspects of firearms,” he said. “The workmanship, the engraving, the artistic seams.”

It was that love of guns that prompted him to venture further—into gun design.

“I got tired of getting guns that were basically pieces of junk,” he says. “If your definition of a gun is something that goes ‘bang!’ then a Glock is probably okay with you. It’s all plastic and stamped sheet metal. But we wanted something we weren’t afraid to beat up on when we were training, and we needed something with accuracy.”

As the president of Provost’s Precision Pistols, Provost designed and manufactured Big DOG, a pistol that is used by the Connecticut State Police Tactical Unit and other law enforcement entities. He also travels around the Northeast as an instructor for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and Cerberus Tactical, the training division of P3LLC.

“In Greek mythology, Cerberus is a three-headed mastiff that protects the living from the realm of the dead,” he says. “And that’s what we do.”

Along with a related entity, the Directed Operations Group (DOG), Provost also does threat assessments for individuals and corporations who are concerned about security and safety breaches. Staffed by a team of trained professionals, the DOG can simulate everything from a kidnapping to an assassination to show clients where they are vulnerable. Once the stuff of spy movies, threat assessments are very real in the post 9-11 world.

And they are just the type of challenge that gets Provost’s blood pumping.

-Kathleen E. Moore '98



Christopher Provost '86 on the practice range with the Big DOG pistol that he designed.

I wanted to give back to the community



Karen Thompson Brown '04

For Karen Thompson Brown, the road between “then” and “now” sometimes appears circular.

Currently a teacher at Springfield’s Robert F. Kennedy Children Action Corps, Brown has spent the better part of her adult life working and living in Amherst, where she raised three sons. She still lives in that suburb, but it is her experiences growing up in Boston’s South End that she now uses in her work, helping youth who are involved in the court system.

With a master's degree in counseling and an enviable resume of achievement over her 30-plus year career, Brown may have chosen to work almost anywhere.

“I wanted to give back to the community,” she says of her decision to take on the long commute to Springfield each day. “I know what it is not to have opportunity, and I just feel it’s important to spread opportunity around when you can.”

Before she began her current job, she took a break for herself.

“I decided to do something I’d always wanted to do,” says Brown of her decision to earn a Graphic Design certificate at HCC. “I came here (HCC) to study graphic design. I’d always been interested, and I’d even taught it, but I never had the opportunity to study it.”

Brown says concentrating on her artistic side and indulging in her passion for design helped her relieve the stress of daily life. It also gave her options for later on.

“I do projects here and there for family and friends - posters, brochures, or booklets.

But my dream is to go into graphic design when I retire,” she said. “I have a family member who has a graphic design business in Boston, so she keeps me in the loop on what’s happening in the field.”

Brown smiles when she talks about her far-off dreams, but she’s not about to retire just yet. These days, she’d like to spread some of the same opportunity that allowed her to dream.

For the last three years, Brown has been teaching male youths in the RFK residential treatment program to connect with the written word. Some of these youths have just slipped behind a couple of grade levels, while others do not speak English and have never known success in an English class.

There’s nothing formulaic about Brown’s approach to the task.

“I tailor my teaching to their needs so that they can accomplish something in the time

they are with me,” she says. “I know literacy is important. It’s a way out for them. So if a student tells me he’s into a certain subject, then I’m going to look for that type of book for him to read. If I can get them to nibble, eventually I can get them to bite.”

Brown says she combs through the students’ reading material ahead of time to find problematic vocabulary words. The class studies those words so that they will not trip up on them later on. She deliberately chooses books that will depict realities that her students find relevant.

Recently, she has begun a special reading program to help the young fathers in her classroom. Brown tape-records the fathers as they read children’s books. The fathers then send the tapes to their children. Eventually, she’d like to have the children visit their dads for a live story time.

“If they can feel confident enough to read to their kids, they’ll continue reading,” she says.

“When they come here (RFK) they have to go to school. I expect them to work and do well. The hardest thing I face is that my students do not think they can do well. They’ve never seen it. But I’ve seen it

continues on page 14

HCC Giving Levels

Benefits are accrued in a given fund year. The 2008 fund year runs from July 1, 2007–June 30, 2008.

President’s Circle—\$5,000 or more (Gold) or \$2,500–\$4,999 (Silver)
Benefits: Invitation to the annual President’s Dinner prepared by culinary students and benefits listed below.

Summit Society—\$1,000–\$2,499
Benefits: Invitation to Chef’s Table Luncheons at the college and benefits listed below.

Sheehan Society—\$500–\$999
Benefits: Invitation to exclusive viewing of city fireworks when hosted by HCC and benefits listed below.

Phoenix Society—\$250–\$499
Benefits: Special invitations to all art gallery

receptions at Taber Art Gallery and benefits listed below. Alumni who contribute \$300 or more will also have a brick engraved with their name placed in the alumni donor brick display.

Homestead Society—\$100–\$249
Benefits: HCC Alumni Association lanyard and key ring and benefits listed below.

Emerald Club—\$50–\$99
Benefits: Name published in HCC Foundation annual report and in alumni giving report.

Cougar Club—Up to \$49
Benefits: Name published in HCC Foundation annual report and in alumni giving report.

Letter from the president of the Alumni Council

Dear Alumni,

In 2005, when the HCC Alumni Council committed to raising \$500,000 for the college within five years, many people thought we were, well, a *little misguided*. No community college alumni organization had ever raised that kind of money for their alma mater. It was unprecedented. And even a little scary.

Well, we did it—18 months ahead of time!

As this edition of the *Alumni Connection* goes to press, we have commitments and gifts that put us at our goal. In case you haven't seen me lately, I'm smiling ear-to-ear. And, if you can't feel the gratitude pouring forth in this letter, let me sing it out: Thanks to every one of you who helped us make this historic goal.

If you are in the area on July 9, I want to invite you to a special event that will commemorate our achievement: the clock tower of HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development will be officially named the Alumni Clock Tower. The ceremony will be a part of the

annual alumni summer celebration. For details, contact Joyce Desorcy at (413) 552-2704; email: jdesorcy@hcc.mass.edu.

Alumni gifts have been most instrumental in furnishing the Kittredge Center, purchasing state-of-the-art equipment for computer laboratories and seminar rooms. This year, alumni also established four endowed scholarships, a new milestone for a community college in Massachusetts.

We are now looking to the future. Our goal for the 2008 Annual Fund is to raise \$150,000, primarily to improve classrooms throughout the campus and to furnish new student lounges and study areas.

Can we do this? Are we being too ambitious?

We'll consider this: only five percent of our 25,000 alumni participated in our last campaign—the most successful ever. Imagine if everyone reading this chose, right now, to donate?

The possibilities are endless, but that goal is definitely within our reach.



**Alumni Association President
Gloria G. Lomax '75**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria G. Lomax '75".

Gloria G. Lomax '75
President, HCC Alumni Association
Retired Professor of Early Childhood
Education
(413) 552-2073

2008 HCC Alumni Fund (closes on June 30, 2008)

Enclosed is my 2008 contribution of:

\$ _____ \$25 \$35 \$61* \$100 \$300** \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$ _____

**Donations of \$61 or more receive an HCC lanyard and keyring **Donations of \$300 or more qualify for an alumni donor brick*

I/we wish to contribute to the following fund:

Alumni Unrestricted (where the need is greatest)

Alumni Scholarship Fund

Murray/Root Radiography Scholarship

Gloria G. Lomax Scholarship Fund

Miriam "Mim" Sajkovic Scholarship Fund

Other: _____

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

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

Home/Cell telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Position/Title: _____

My/our check is enclosed, payable to HCC Foundation, Inc. (2008 fund drive ends June 30, 2008)

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 do not want my name included in the 2008 Annual Giving Report

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

Around campus



Vivian Leskes

HCC launches another Fulbright

In January HCC Professor Vivian Leskes took off for Siberia, commencing a semester-long Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence fellowship during which she will teach English at a Russian university. The longtime HCC English as a Second Language (ESL) professor will work on her Russian language skills, which she has been building by taking classes at Smith, Amherst, and Mount Holyoke colleges. A resident of Ashfield, Leskes made the original journey with her husband, HCC Photography Professor Frank Ward, who joined her on a 3,500-mile train trip to Irkutsk in January. Ward returned stateside while Leskes remained on the icy shores of Lake Baikal.

Nettler Scholarship to help mathematics majors

Former HCC Mathematics Professor Jan Nettler may have left campus, but she is hardly forgotten. Before she retired in 2007, the 28-year teaching veteran made arrangements with the HCC Foundation, Inc., to endow a scholarship for a deserving female student or a student from an under-represented group who is interested in pursuing a degree in mathematics.

"This scholarship will cover tuition. If I could have done more, I would have," says Nettler, who began her college career at a community college in California. "I was lucky enough to get a full scholarship at the University of Southern California. It paid for everything, which really helped."



Jan Nettler



From left, Red Sox legend Rico Petrocelli, Ned Barowsky, and HCC President Bill Messner

Rico Petrocelli headlines HCC Golf Tournament

The HCC Foundation, Inc. hosted its 20th Annual Golf Invitational on September 10, at the Springfield Country Club in West Springfield.

Red Sox legend Rico Petrocelli made a special guest appearance at this event, where he shook hands with Red Sox and Yankee fans alike.

Proceeds from the invitational went to the HCC Foundation, Inc., which supports the students and educational programs of Holyoke Community College. Sponsors of the 2007 event included Fontaine Brothers, Inc., the First American Insurance Agency, and TD Banknorth.



Rick and Deb '71 Golas

Golas caps 37-year career

After more than 37 years of state service, Rick Golas retired from his position as HCC's director of Athletics and Recreation in January. The college feted Golas with a party at the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

Golas built the college's athletic program to one of the most robust in the junior college system, featuring 13 sports. While building the program, Golas also took part in the coaching duties, most notably for men's soccer and men's basketball teams, where he coached for 13 and 21 years respectively. But for Rick, probably his most memorable achievement while at HCC was meeting his future wife, Deb '71, who still works with the college in the Theater Department.

In 2007, Golas was honored by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) with the "Founding Fathers" award for his groundbreaking role in the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA).

Marieb contribution to help non-traditional age students

The college received a very generous commitment from Professor Emeritus Elaine Marieb to assist non-traditional women in their pursuit of a college education. Her gift will be used to refurbish a small lounge/work area for non-traditional women students, hire a part-time individual to work with them in the late afternoon and evenings, and facilitate technology tutoring for women students. The newly refurbished room will be called the Elaine Marieb New Pathways Center.



Dr. Elaine Marieb '80



Bill Messner

Messner appointed chair of MCO

HCC President Bill Messner was recently appointed chair of the executive committee of Massachusetts Colleges Online (MCO), a consortium of the 24 state and community colleges in Massachusetts designed to deliver online education. As chair, Messner will play a leadership role in expanding MCO, which just celebrated its three-year anniversary. MCO now features more than 1,000 online courses and 38 certificates and associate degree programs offered by Massachusetts state and community colleges.

HCC joins the Gateway to College network

Educators and political leaders from Holyoke and Springfield convened at HCC on November 30 to announce the replication of a nationally-recognized Early College High School Initiative: *Gateway to College*.

Funded through Portland Community College (PCC) in Portland, Oregon, the Gateway to College initiative at HCC will address the needs of up to 350 Springfield and Holyoke youth who have dropped out of high school or who are at risk for dropping out. HCC is one of five institutions across the nation chosen by PCC to replicate the Gateway to College program this year.

Among those attending the November 30 ceremonies were Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Vice Chairman G.L. Peter Alcock, Jr., Springfield School Superintendent Joseph Burke, Holyoke Mayor Michael Sullivan '77, Holyoke School Superintendent Eduardo Carballo, and Gateway to College's National Network Director Laurel Dukehart.

The Early College High School Initiative is coordinated by Jobs for the Future and supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its partners, Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Ford Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Locally, the initiative is supported by HCC and the Springfield and Holyoke public schools.

Class notes

1956

Organist **Arthur G. LaMirande** will give a recital at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, at the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and will also play for the 8 p.m. Mass.

1969



Bill Harris

Former Holyoke resident **Bill Harris** was recently awarded two Emmy Awards from the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of TV Arts & Sciences. Now a resident of Grand Blanc, Michigan, Harris received

the Societal Concerns award for his multi-part news series "Meth in the Community." He also received a "Best News Anchor" Emmy for anchoring the 5, 6, and 11 p.m. news at the ABC-Disney owned WJRT TV in Flint. For more information about Harris, please visit www.abc12.com.

1970

Carla Katz relocated to western Massachusetts after 25 years of teaching, curriculum administration, and staff

development in Rochester, NY schools. Katz spent five years in staff development at the Rochester Institute of Technology. In September 2007, she joined the HCC staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services.

1974

James G. Berrelli, Jr., director of Veterans Services in West Springfield, was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council in June 2007.

1976

Marine Corps Colonel **James J. Tabak** lives in Germany, where he is the Commandant of NATO School, NATO's biggest educational institution, serving almost 11,000 students from approximately 60 different nations. "It is a very exciting assignment," Tabak wrote. "Thinking back on my HCC days, I received a rock-solid foundation that made all of this possible."

1978

Edward Mazur, owner of Ludlow's Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home, and his wife, Maxine, are volunteers with Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization that coordinates volunteers who lay wreaths on veterans' graves. The project has been embraced by the National



Edward Mazur

Funeral Directors Association. In December 2007, the couple traveled to Washington, D.C., where they laid wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

1982

Phyllis Smigiel is a personal banking officer at United Bank's Holyoke office and has been with United for nearly 22 years. As a personal banking officer, Smigiel's primary responsibilities are customer care; promotion of bank products and services; and representing the bank in the community. Smigiel is the president of the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium, a board member and past president of the Holyoke Lions Club and an advisory council member for the WestMass



Phyllis Smigiel

Class Notes/Change of Information/Comments

Name: _____ Class year: _____

Former name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Email address: _____

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

Please return this form to: Alumni Office, HCC, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040, fax to (413) 552-2479, or email to jbrown@hcc.mass.edu with subject line of "HCC Notes" by June 1, 2008.

HCC Families

Please list the other members of your family who have attended HCC.

Name	Class year	Relation
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

ElderCare money management program. She and her husband, Ron, have two children. In her spare time, Smigiel enjoys gardening, camping, and traveling.

1983

Lillian Krause-Ely,

owner of Brighter Beginnings Child Care Center at 411 Granby Road in South Hadley, has just marked her twentieth year in business. A graduate of HCC's Early Childhood Development



Lillian Krause-Ely

program, Krause-Ely credited her professor and advisor Gloria Lomax, for her encouragement, support, and wisdom. She has recently finished a \$200,000 renovation of the center, which takes care of infants, toddlers, and pre-school and after-school children up to age nine. The center employs a total of eight full-time teachers, six of whom earned their associate's degree at HCC. One part-time teacher, who is enrolled at HCC, also graduated from Brighter Beginnings Child Care as a child. "I feel we have come full circle with past students bringing their children to us and also past students teaching alongside." You may contact her at (413) 532-5303.

1984

Diana Wigham is a diabetes nurse educator for Innovex. Her territory covers all of Vermont and most of Massachusetts.

1988

Joanne E. Ollson is the new director of human resources for the Holyoke Public School system. Ollson's major responsibilities are: recruitment of personnel, union contract negotiations, management of the grievance process, employee relations, and policy development and administration.

1994

Robert R. Baran,

assistive technology specialist at HCC, served as a mentor for Youth Slam, a four-day conference held at Maryland's Johns Hopkins University in July, 2007. The week-long conference introduced 200 vision-impaired high school students to science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines. Baran earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts. He has worked at HCC for more than a decade. He also consults to the Carroll Center for the Blind, serves on the board of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, and is now in his fourth term as president of the Springfield Chapter of the Massachusetts Federation for the Blind.



Robert R. Baran

1997



Rhonda Soto

Rhonda Soto recently accepted a job with Class Action, a national non-profit organization working to end classism. She will work closely with communities of color and nationally recognized

classism experts to create a new understanding of the intersections between race and class. Soto invites you to check out Class Action's website at www.classism.org or call her at (413) 585-9709, ext. 206.

1998

Susan M. Miller, owner of Canine Counselor in Northampton, is a certified dog trainer. She travels to private homes

to work with people who are having behavior problems with their pets or for basic obedience training. Miller estimates she has helped thousands of dogs and their companions throughout New England during her career. You may reach her at (413) 587-8986.

2000

Helen Brezinski transferred to Smith College after graduating from HCC. She taught at the Smith College pre-school, and then received her master's degree in deaf studies from Smith College. She currently teaches preschoolers at Northampton's Clarke School for the Deaf.

2003

Sarah J. Cabezudo directs a pre- and after-school program, along with a full-day summer camp for elementary school-age children, at the New England Preschool Academy in Enfield, CT. Her three-year old son, Eric, also attends the academy. Cabezudo can be reached at work at (860) 741-6261 or via the web: www.newenglandpreschoolacademy.com.

Sabina Gadecki is completing a year-long stint as the host of the fifth season of the World Poker Tour. She has just signed a contract with the Ford Modeling Agency and will be working in Los Angeles and New York. Gadecki hopes to attend the HCC Theater/Communication/Electronic Media reunion on April 13.

2006

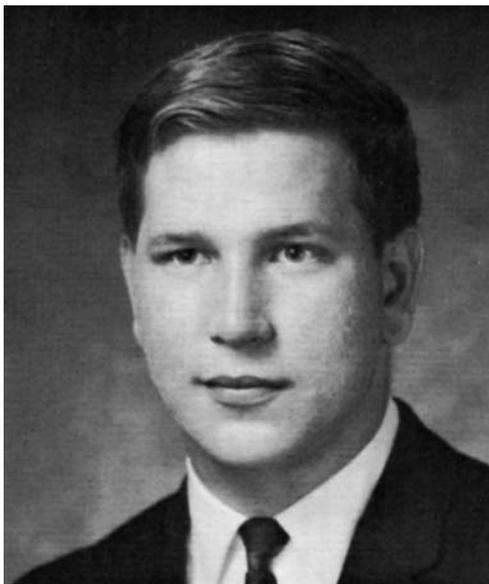
Nicole Darden has been hired as HCC's new veterans representative. Formerly employed at HCC's Upward Bound Program, Nicole is a veteran of the United States Army. Her office hours are: Tuesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Wednesday 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.



Nicole Darden

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Letters



Frank Czarniecki '67

Although I did not know it in 1965, I would go through life as a "Boomer." We were the leading edge of the wave of kids conceived after our parents got together following WWII. Most of our parents were fully involved in the Great Depression and were happy to have jobs after the war. Higher education was not a priority in their youth—simply surviving was their driving force. One of the hopes for most of them was that their kids should have more opportunities than they did, and many recognized higher education was the key.

In my case, I felt I was pretty typical, living in a block on Worcester Place in Holyoke, right across from the old A&P. I played sports, went to school every day, but pretty much lollygagged my way through the process. I believe the phrase on my report cards went something like this: "Frank needs to apply himself more." My parents pushed, but I pushed back.

There were two major impediments to going on to college. One was my grades (not brutal, but just average) and the other was the magic word, "money." I had some money saved, but not nearly enough to go to a four-year school.

Enter HCC. Had several friends of the family who were a little older, and were going to HCC at night to better themselves. They gave some pretty decent reviews of the place, so I decided to give it a try. Applied, was tested, then accepted, and started in fall 1965.

Forty years later, as I write this, I am struck by the quality of the academics available to us at the time. The professors were amazing, including Mr. Boynton, Dean Butler, Dr. Guimond, Mr. Victor Thomas, and Mr. Michaels. Before Bill Nye became the "Science Guy," HCC had its own versions, including Mr. Tutas, Mr. Buschner, Mr. Hosford, and Mr. Stickel. These names rolled off. I finished my education at UMass, but I can only think of two professors there that made the difference that these folks did at HCC.

There is always one that made a bigger difference than the others. In my case, it was Mr. John Tyler. In my second year, I decided to push the envelope a little, and took CHEM 201 and 202: semi-micro qualitative and quantitative analysis. Classes met twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m. There were 11 of us in the class. It met for 50 minutes, and was followed by a two-and-a-half hour lab, each and every time we met.

We were on the third floor of the old Holyoke High Annex. Had it all to ourselves during that period. What a class. We were involved with titration, centrifuge, flame testing, spectrometers, litmus papers, all of which aided in the overall analysis of the solids and solutions we had been given. Key word is analysis. Mr. Tyler was very low-key, but he taught us to analyze, budget our time, and pay attention to detail. He also taught us to not overlook the obvious. At the time, I did not realize that these were lifelong lessons, many of which I have tried to pass on to my own kids. He made a difference.

After graduation from UMass, I ended up going in the Army for two years, went to work for GE Credit afterwards, and lived

in the Washington, D.C., area for 25 years. In late 1980, I answered an ad for MCI (the long distance people), and have been with them ever since, although I have gone through four different employers during that period.

The one key asset that has helped me through the years is the analytical skill that was honed in Mr. Tyler's class many years ago. For the past 17 years, I have been considered a mainframe computer geek, and a "go-to" guy whenever problems occur. That one skill has helped feed myself and my family and allowed for a pretty decent lifestyle.

Right now, my daughter is in her second year at Pikes Peak Community College, taking general studies. Hopefully her overall experience will be as good as mine was at HCC. My son is a sophomore in high school; he is already looking at community college out here in Colorado. Hope to make it a family experience.



We Love Letters!

We welcome hearing from our alumni and enjoy reading the letters we receive, which we like to publish in the Alumni Connection whenever possible. If you would like your current photo published along with your letter, please send it to us electronically. A nice addition, that we are also happy include if you send one along, is a photo of you during the era you attended HCC. We reserve the right to edit letters to conform with space and editorial requirements.

Please direct letters to Director of Alumni Relations Joanna Brown
Holyoke Community College
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke MA 01040
FAX: (413) 552-2479
Email: jbrown@hcc.mass.edu



Attending HCC's 60th anniversary gala on June 7, 2007, were five members of HCC's first graduating class (1948). From left: Edward J. Murphy, Marcel P. Godin, Helen A. Lemiech, Thomas E. Zebrowski, Richard W. Adams.



On May 17, 2007, more than 60 radiologic technology graduates and colleagues gathered to honor Kathryn Root's 20-year tenure as director of HCC's Radiologic Technology program. From left (first row), Holly Dybas Martin '97 (now the director of HCC's Radiologic Technology program); Karen M. Smith '95, Roland Dion; (second row): James R. Suprenant '83, Cindy Jez Crosby '78.



Seen here are Dennis '50 and Elizabeth '74 Murphy who were honored as the 2007 Alumni Volunteers of the Year for their 30 years of dedicated service to the HCC Alumni Association. The presentation of their award was made at the June 2007 Alumni Council meeting.



Here are some of the people who make our Alumni Council special. From left (first row): Gloria G. Lomax '75, Laura Brennan '79, Angela M. Belisle, R.N. '77, Karen Thompson Brown '04, Dawn R. Bryden '89, (second row): Joanna Brown, Eddie Corbin '68, Nancy Spagnoli '83, Trudy Monson '97, James Sheehan '74, Elizabeth A. Murphy '74, Margaret DeJesus '90, (third row) Geraldo Cotton '06, Stephen F. Bryda '03, and Marsha Ryan '70.

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"If your primary evidence here—Suzanne Temple's confession—is 'the tree' then the information you've gained from it is 'poisoned fruit,'" says Pérez. "If she wasn't read her Miranda rights, that confession will be suppressed. And then you have to prove that you would have found that murder weapon without the confession."

As much as these students are loath to see that confession thrown out, they readily acknowledge that the chain of evidence has been broken. Seemingly undaunted, they take another tact: attacking the defense claim that Suzanne Temple suffered from battered wife's syndrome.

"A good DA should be able to poke a hole in that argument with three questions," says LaBonte, who then proceeds to question the psychiatrist's credentials, the reliability of Suzanne Temple, and the validity of the diagnosis.

This is not the Criminal Justice program of old, says longtime HCC Criminal Justice Professor Bob F. Riedl.

"In the 60s and 70s when the community colleges began offering degrees in law enforcement, a lot of the courses were taught by police chiefs, lieutenants, and other people in the field. It didn't have as much of an emphasis on humanities," says Riedl, himself a former a police officer.

"Over the last 15 years, we're finding a lot of police are getting their degrees before going into the field and we (HCC) have been getting younger students right out of high school and older people who are looking for a career change. Now, it's a much more academic program."

The increased emphasis on analytical and writing skills has made HCC's Criminal Justice certificates and associates degrees much more attractive to the next generation of corrections officers, police officers, court officers, and private security officers, Riedl says.

"You need those skills to pass the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council test and succeed in the Police Training Academy," he says. "You need them to succeed in a lot of fields."

And, it turns out, those analytical skills do not have to destroy a good night of television. You just need to know what to watch, says LaBonte.

"I like to watch 'The First 48,'" he says, referring to the reality-based show that chronicles the first 48 hours of a crime scene investigation. "You're following around the investigators to see how they collect evidence before it gets cold."

- Kathleen E. Moore '98

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Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Darden can be reached at (413) 552-2265; email: ndarden@hcc.mass.edu

In April 2007, **Aubrey Malanowski** won a \$1,000 first prize in the "elevator pitch" competition, sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. She also participated in the "pitch challenge" sponsored by the Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization (CEO). In a "pitch challenge," aspiring entrepreneurs succinctly describe their business idea before a panel of judges. In the first round of judging, Malanowski was one of 120 semi-finalists chosen from a pool of thousands of contestants. She was then chosen as one of the top five during the final stages of the competition in Chicago. Now a marketing major at Bay Path College, Malanowski serves as the president of Bay Path's CEO chapter, and is secretary of the college's Phi Beta Lambda chapter.

Barbara Paulo is the owner and artistic director of Shear Xtreme Salon. For the last five years, Paulo has volunteered her talents as a stylist to HCC's Unity Club's annual "Wigs for Kids" campaign. Paulo is certified in the Chi Transformation System and Advanced Color Design by Farouk Systems, U.S.A. She is dedicated to creating an atmosphere of warmth and

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happen. I know they can succeed. This may be the first time that they've earned an 'A' or a 'B' on a report card. They see that they can succeed. And their faces light up."

-Kathleen E. Moore '98

welcome in her salon by listening and understanding each client's needs. Paulo invites HCC alumni to visit her salon, or call (413) 586-8348, or visit her website at www.shearxtreme.com.

2007

Sabrina Willard, who received an associate's degree in Criminal Justice, was sworn in as a police officer by the town of Williamsburg, MA.

In memoriam:

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

Dr. Henry M. Padden '57
Joseph A. Mastaj '61
Gerald N. Langevin '68
Jeremiah S. Driscoll '70
Teresa Canata '71
Richard T. Gawron '76
William F. McCarthy '76
Perry H. Pappas '76
Maureen C. O'Hare '78
Michael A. Lefebvre '80
Sandra M. Reed '80,
former SEM secretary
Thomas A. White '80
Norma J. Cuzzone '81
Sharon A. Merlo
Gosselin '82
Marykate Sawyer '85
Ann B. Muratore '89
Scott P. Sadoski '89
Ethel O. Desoe '91
Robert R. Mason '91
David H. Smith '91
Eileen C. Lavelle '95
Joshua A. Miller '98
Jason M. Guilbault '00
Jane Gilman, HCC faculty



Steve '80 and Moira '93 Mitus

Frost Society inductees: Steve and Moira Mitus

Steve '80 and Moira '93 Mitus are the newest members of the George Frost Society. While planning for how their assets would be distributed at the end of their lives, they chose to include the HCC Foundation as one of their beneficiaries.

Steve explained their decision to support HCC in this way, "Moira and I are proud to include the Holyoke Community College Foundation in our estate plan. We grew up in the area and both graduated from HCC before attending UMass and the Elms College. Our daughters, Lisa and Sarah, have also enjoyed growing up in Western Mass., and as a family we understand how fortunate we are to have opportunities and choices. We believe we have a responsibility to give back to the community, and by including the foundation in our estate plan, we can meet that responsibility in a permanent way."

To learn more about how you can join the Frost Society, contact Erica Broman, executive director of the Holyoke Community College Foundation, Inc., at (413) 552-2747; email: ebroman@hcc.mass.edu.

The Bartley Center is your wellness center

If you graduated from HCC or accrued at least nine credits before leaving, you can join the David M. Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation for a very affordable fee.

This 45,000-square-foot facility has a three-court gymnasium, full locker rooms, steam baths, saunas, and a fitness/wellness room. It's state of the art. The fitness/wellness room features more than 60 pieces of aerobic and weight-training equipment.

Join today!

You can receive an alumni membership to the Bartley Center for \$200/year, \$80/semester, or \$70/summer. For an application call Mary Shelasky at (413) 552-2161.



ALUMNI CONNECTION

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For an updated list of events,
visit hcc.edu or call
(413) 533-7188

2008 Events

April 10-13

**The HCC Players present
*Anna in the Tropics***

All performances held in the Leslie Phillips Forum, Fine and Performing Arts Building (C Building). Curtain time for April 10-12 is 8 p.m., for April 13, 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for general admission, \$5 for seniors, and free for students with ID. For more information call the HCC box office: (413) 552-2528.



The April 12 performance will be ASL interpreted.

April 13, 2:30-9 p.m.

A Special Theater, Electronic Media, and Communications Alumni Reunion

This event includes dinner, talks by former HCC faculty Jeanne Hatch and Roy Faudree, a presentation of former students' electronic media work, and a slide presentation of past theater productions. The \$15 tickets also include a matinee performance of *Anna in the Tropics*. Register by April 5 by contacting Joyce Desorcy at (413) 552-2704 or by going to the HCC website (hcc.edu) and clicking the "Alumni and Friends" link.

April 24, 5-7 p.m.

Annual Alumni and Student Nursing Supper

Buffet supper featuring meat and vegetarian options. This event will be held in the Kittredge Center and is free to current nursing students, alumni nurses, and current and former nursing faculty. Register by April 17 at hcc.edu (click on Alumni and Friends) or call Joyce Desorcy at (413) 552-2704.

April 25 - 26

The HCC Jazz Festival

Friday performance featuring tenor saxophonist Ernie Watts and the Amherst Jazz Orchestra at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. Saturday workshops are free. For more information, or to register, call the HCC box office (413) 552-2528.

May 16-17

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Join legions of walkers for this 21-hour walk-a-thon to support the American Cancer Society. For information call Marsha Ryan '70 (413) 552-2231.

May 31, 10 a.m.

61st Commencement Exercises

O'Connell Memorial Soccer Field

June 5, 5 p.m.

Alumni Award Dinner

This year, we will honor Distinguished Alumni Sheila Donohue '81 and Jerry Levinsky '73. Tickets are \$40. Sponsorships are available for \$50-\$1,000. Register by contacting Joyce Desorcy at (413) 552-2704 or by going to the HCC website (hcc.edu) and clicking the "Alumni and Friends" link.

July 9, 5 p.m.

Alumni Clock Tower Dedication and Summer Celebration

Come to the Kittredge Center to witness the dedication of the Alumni Clock Tower at 5 p.m. and the Alumni Summer Celebration at 5:30 p.m. Register by July 1 by contacting Joyce Desorcy at (413) 552-2704 or by going to the HCC website (hcc.edu) and clicking the "Alumni and Friends" link.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Futures Inspired