

Alumni Connection

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

FALL 2015



ALL IN THE FAMILY

PLUS

HCC Honors One of Its Own



HCC President William F. Messner

Families, in all their brilliant forms, are the foundation of every strong community. It's no different here at HCC.

We know from experience, and studies have shown, that students do better in school when they have support and encouragement from their families. That's why we include information sessions specifically for family members during our New Student Orientation and Open House programs every Fall and Spring.

At those sessions, we often see the familiar faces of alumni whose children –

or grandchildren, as the case may be – are newly enrolled at HCC.

In this issue of Alumni Connection, we celebrate our legacy families – those where multiple generations have attended HCC.

Inside, for instance, you'll read about the Trudell/Florek family, which has 13 family members from two generations who have attended HCC, among them husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins, and children.

Indeed, we often find legacy families in unlikely places. The family of HCC police sergeant Brian Burns, '85, is the focus of a debut Alumni Connection column called "Why I Give" (Page 15). Brian's wife, Cynthia, '84, is also an alum. As it turns out, their daughter Emily, 19, is entering her second year at HCC this Fall, a path her younger siblings, Erin, 17, and Brian Jr., 7, are likely to follow, according to their parents.

It speaks volumes about this college that we have alumni who are so devoted to HCC that they would recommend it to their loved ones. We are fortunate to have so many families among our alumni; it certainly makes for a much stronger campus community.

William F. Messner

Tell us your story about a great HCC teacher!

Great teachers often change lives forever. They recognize our potential and inspire us to follow our dreams. Is there an HCC educator, past or present, who made a difference in your life, or in the life of someone you know? Email alumni@hcc.edu to have your story considered for future publication.



On the cover: HCC professor Patricia Sandoval, '84, center, pictured with her son, Darren Couture, '96, top, daughter Candice Couture, '00, right, and grand-daughter Nicole Couture, who is enrolled for Fall 2015

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Grant to enhance Latino Studies

HCC received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will enable the college to incorporate Latino Studies material into humanities classes, a step faculty and administrators hope will lay the foundation for a full-fledged Latino Studies program. The \$120,000 "Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges" grant was the largest awarded this year by the NEH to any college or university in Massachusetts, putting HCC on a prestigious list of recipients that also included Mount Holyoke, Northeastern, Amherst, UMass, and Brandeis. The grant's managers, HCC professors of Spanish, Mónica Torregrosa and Raúl Gutierrez, led a series of summer workshops for HCC faculty where they explored ways to add Latino Studies content to existing courses. The three-year grant will also pay for Latino-themed presentations during the Fall and Spring semesters that will be open to the entire campus community and general public.



HCC Spanish professors Raúl Gutierrez and Mónica Torregrosa are leading the effort to incorporate Latino Studies material into humanities classes.



STEM trek reveals dinosaur track

Students find all kinds of things when they come to HCC. Stimulating class discussions. Inspiring professors. Lifelong friends. Interesting clubs. Self-confidence. Reynaldo Espada found a fossil. A dinosaur footprint, to be exact. Espada, who lives in Chicopee, found it near Q Lot on a geology trek about campus lead by HCC environmental science professor Steven Winters for a STEM Foundations class. Espada said the rock was just lying on the ground, in plain sight. He saw something that looked like a footprint. Winters agreed it looked like a "Grallator," a generic term used to describe a small, three-toed fossilized footprint that could have been made by a variety of small dinosaurs. "They were quite common in our area," said Winters, "200 million years ago."

HCC professor Steven Winters points out the "Grallator," a term that means "stilt walker," referring to dinosaurs that walked on two legs.



HCC freshman takes pitch title

For the second time in three years, an HCC student took first place in the annual Elevator Pitch Competition sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Laura Whiteley, an HCC freshman from Southamptn, Mass., convinced a panel of judges that her business idea for a smart wallet called "The Scorpion" was the best, beating out juniors, seniors and graduate students from 13 other public and private colleges and universities in western Massachusetts. Whiteley's product is described as a fashionable, self-protecting wallet that opens based on thumb print recognition and can be tracked through a cell phone app. In 2013, HCC business major Taylor Kachinski, '13, won the competition for "The Wheelin' Chef," her idea for a mobile food service targeting time-starved working parents.

Laura Whiteley wins over the Elevator Pitch judges at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Around Campus



Students perform an experiment in thermodynamics during a "Cli-Fi" laboratory class last spring.

'Cli-Fi' class earns international nods

When HCC English professor Elizabeth Trobaugh heard a piece on National Public Radio about an emerging genre of science fiction dealing with climate change — "cli-fi" for short — she knew it was a perfect fit for a Learning Community class like one she and environmental science professor Steven Winters have co-taught before called "Alternate Worlds" that looks at the real-life foundations for science fiction. The result was last semester's "Cli-Fi: Stories and Science of the Coming Climate Apocalypse." The HCC course combined Introduction to Literature and Topics in Science and consisted of classroom discussions plus a weekly science lab. A London-based reporter working for the Thomson Reuters news service interviewed Trobaugh and Winters for a story about the class that ran in the *The New York Times* and other newspapers around the world.

HCC hosts first TEDx event



HCC's first TEDx event in April drew hundreds to the Leslie Phillips Theater throughout the day to hear speakers talk about a variety of topics from race and technology to poetry, happiness and death, all touching on a common theme: "Connecting Education and Personal Growth." The event was organized by then-student Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, '15, outgoing Student Senate president (and now a junior at Commonwealth Honors College at the University of Massachusetts). TEDx talks are independently organized, community-based versions of the global TED talks designed to spread ideas and spark conversations about thought-provoking subjects. All 11 talks were recorded and will become

part of the TED organization's free online archive after the videos are edited.

Alum Ruben Sepulveda, '11, (Amherst College, '13), talked about his journey in and out of homelessness at HCC's inaugural TEDx event.



Focus on Food

Food is about to become even more present on the minds of those at HCC. A committee of faculty and staff is organizing a campus-wide initiative that expands the philosophy of HCC's popular and highly regarded Learning Community courses, which take a single subject and examine it from multiple academic angles. The result is "One Campus, One Theme," an initiative that will begin in September and run through the entire academic year. The topic: Food. "The idea is for the theme – food – to become the connective tissue between classes, erasing the imaginary borders between academic disciplines," said HCC Spanish professor Raúl Gutierrez, a member of the planning committee. "One Campus One Theme" doesn't mean every class at HCC will focus on food. Participation is not mandatory, but committee members hope that teachers will look for existing and natural ways to incorporate the theme in some way into their lesson plans as well as collaborate with each other on food-related projects.

An HCC Culinary Arts student prepares dessert for a campus luncheon.



Bonnie Zima Dowd
Director of Alumni Relations

Dear HCC Alumni and Friends,

You know firsthand that HCC has always had a reputation for helping first-generation college students further their education, earn degrees or gain new job skills. While in school, our students get to experience a close-knit community. There's something special about the small classes and personal attention from faculty and staff. But for some students and alumni the connection is even closer. You could even say it's in their DNA.

HCC legacy families are families who have a multi-generational connection to the college. This includes parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews who attended or currently attend HCC. This is one of HCC's unique strengths and we are proud to highlight some of those strong family ties in this issue.



Dawn E. Bryden, '89 Interim
President, Alumni Council

It's great that so many women and men discover HCC for the first time each year, but it's through our alumni legacy families that the heritage of the college passes from one generation to the next. That so many graduates continue to encourage family members to enroll attests to the value and quality of an HCC education.

We extend sincere appreciation to all our alumni and friends for making the HCC experience part of your family tradition and supporting the college in this meaningful way. We are so thankful to all of you.

With HCC pride and kindest regards,

Bonnie Zima Dowd
Dawn E. Bryden

A CELEBRATION OF GIVING



JOE WRIGHT, '54, LEFT, AND ANGELA WRIGHT, '54, WITH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT DEBORAH O'BRIEN

BECAUSE
YOU GIVE
**A RECORD
209**
SCHOLARSHIPS
WERE AWARDED
TO HCC
STUDENTS
THIS YEAR



ELAINE ROSAZZA, RECIPIENT OF A CONNORS SCHOLARSHIP



ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR HAROLD SANTIAGO AND FRANCIS KANE, '56, FAR RIGHT, AWARD AVANZA SCHOLARSHIPS TO SABRINA SAMPSON, LEFT, AND WHITNEY MARIE WASHINGTON.



JOANNA BROWN, NANCY FIELDS, '74, AND GLORIA LOMAX, AWARD THE SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP TO ISABELLA GITANA.

Dedicated in Style

By Chris Yurko

Jack Doyle, '51, was, by all accounts, a numbers man. For many years, he crunched numbers as treasurer of the HCC Foundation and as president of O'Connell Development in Holyoke.

"Nobody knew numbers like Jack knew numbers," said HCC president Bill Messner. "He could sit there and tell you exactly how the investments in the foundation were doing."

"Numbers spoke to him," said Mimi Doyle, wife of the late Jack Doyle, who died in 2011.

Despite his affinity for numbers, there was no way to measure in numbers the contribution Jack Doyle made to HCC or the respect, good will and love of those who gathered May 22 to honor Jack Doyle by dedicating HCC's new access road in his memory.

"He was a great advisor," said former HCC president David Bartley, '54, "so I think it's about time the college paid tribute to someone who was as good to this college and as good to the community as Jack Doyle was."

On hand for the dedication were Mimi Doyle, his widow, and a dozen other members of his family, who rode up and down Doyle Drive in two antique cars — a 1958 Bentley and 1954 Buick Special — followed by a bus filled with faculty and staff.

The procession drove south on Doyle Drive to Route 202, where the three vehicles turned around and passengers returned for the dedication ceremony behind the Kids' Place child care center. After some remarks from presidents Bartley and Messner, Mimi Doyle stepped forward to unveil a new "Doyle Drive" street sign.

"We're really thrilled to be here," said Messner. "We're particularly pleased we can have three generations of the Doyle family here to be with us to honor Jack this way. I want to underline the fact that this road is really a very important contribution to this college and reflects the contribution that Jack himself made." 🍀

TOP: A 1958 BENTLEY ON LOAN FROM HCC ALUM AND YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY FOUNDER MICHAEL KITTREDGE, '73, ROUNDS A TURN ON THE NEWLY OPENED DOYLE DRIVE. BOTTOM: MIMI DOYLE UNVEILS THE SIGN DEDICATING THE NEW ROAD.





ABOVE: THE FAMILY OF THE LATE JACK DOYLE GATHERS UNDER THE NEW SIGN. MIDDLE LEFT: HCC PRESIDENT BILL MESSNER, RIGHT, TALKS ABOUT THE LATE JACK DOYLE, '51, WHILE FORMER PRESIDENT DAVID BARTLEY, '54, AND ERICA BROMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, LOOK ON. MIDDLE RIGHT: A 1954 BUICK SPECIAL ON LOAN FOR THE OCCASSION FROM EDWARD KELLY OF HADLEY. BOTTOM LEFT: A 1958 BENTLEY LED THE PROCESSION. BOTTOM RIGHT: EMILY SCOTT WAVES FROM THE BUICK.





All in the Family



By JANICE BEETLE

Zachary Florek, '15, experienced Holyoke Community College through a much richer, more colorful lens than his own. He saw it through the eyes of 12 other family members – from two generations – who have either attended or graduated from the college and had many stories to share, with views of the campus dating back to the 1970s.

Zach appreciated that he could access the David M. Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation for his workouts because he knew from his father, Robert “Bob” Florek, '85, of Westfield, that the center was once a parking lot. He also learned a good deal of trivia and history from his aunt and uncle Deborah and Richard Trudell, of Agawam, both from the class of 1978. And

he got to experience HCC side by side with his cousin Blake Rossen, '15, swapping notes on things such as how to get a parking pass.

“At HCC, I could use my family as a resource,” Zach says. “We could talk about how the campus has grown. I liked having that perspective.”

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT, RICHARD TRUDELL, '78; DEBORAH FLOREK TRUDELL, '78; MEGHAN TRUDELL, '13; ALLISON FLOREK ROSSEN, '86; CARRIE FLOREK, '83; BLAKE ROSSEN, '15; JENNIFER TRUDELL-MAROSITS, '95. INSET: RICHARD AND DEBORAH TRUDELL, CLASS OF 1978.

HCC Legacy Families

Where it began

The genealogy for this HCC legacy family traces directly back to Deborah, 60, the first family member to earn an HCC degree.

The oldest of five siblings, Deborah earned a degree in veterinary and animal science and quickly became an HCC proponent as her brothers and sisters – and many of their spouses – considered college. Deborah unwittingly kicked off the tradition that found husbands and wives and pairs of cousins attending HCC together.

William Florek of Pittsfield came next after Deborah; then Bob and his wife, Carrie, '83; and then Allison Rossen, '86, of West Springfield. Many of their children have also followed suit; Zach's sister, Olivia Florek, is next in the family line, already enrolled for the fall 2015 semester.

Bob Florek, 54, Zach's father, says what drew him to HCC was the simple fact that it was close by and offered a wide selection of courses.

At the time, Bob was focused on becoming a police officer, so he earned a degree in criminal justice and then transferred to Westfield State.

"I wasn't a scholar in high school, but when I went to HCC, I was on the Dean's List, and it just came so easy," he says. "I was young and immature. I went there, and I said, 'There's something here.' I was learning something I wanted to learn. It was like, 'Here it is.' I studied, and I put the effort into it, and I got something out of it."

Eventually, Bob left Westfield State and joined forces with his brother William, who had attended HCC for a year and then transferred to the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass. The two founded Cobble Mountain Landscape; William eventually left the business to earn an education degree, and he now teaches horticulture at Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington. Bob continued on with the business.

Cynthia Rees, of West Springfield, is the only one of Deborah's siblings who didn't enroll, but her husband, Hubert Rees, '98, and their daughter Cassandra Rees, '07,

both earned associate degrees at HCC and then transferred to the University of Massachusetts; daughter Alexandria Rees attended HCC and is now completing her degree at Springfield Technical Community College.

"I am proud of my family and our commitment to obtaining a college education," Deborah says. "I know we made our parents proud. Three of us went on to become teachers; one is a nurse, and the fifth owns a successful business."

All in this young family

Deborah and her husband Richard enrolled together several years after he returned from his service with the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam. She says the college was affordable, convenient, friendly, and the education she and Richard received was top quality.

"I was definitely committed to getting that degree, finishing school, proving to myself that I could do it, along with everything else," she says. "It was a personal accomplishment. It was something that my parents had instilled upon us."

After earning her degree, she worked in veterinary management until her daughter Meghan was born in 1983. In 1990, she enrolled at Westfield State, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology and her teaching certificate in 1993. Up until a year and a half ago, she was a teacher in the Wilbraham-Hamden Regional School district.

Accessing the GI Bill, Richard earned a liberal arts degree from HCC and became the first in his family to graduate from college. He joined the U.S. Postal Service, where he worked throughout his career in Springfield.

"My experience, and my husband's, were so good," Deborah says. "I think that's why I didn't hesitate to say to my younger siblings, 'Go to Holyoke. It has everything that you want. It was affordable. It was a great experience.'"

A new generation

When Deborah and Richard's children

were grown, they heard a similar message about HCC, but their parents were more temperate in delivering it, not wanting to pressure their children to attend their alma mater.

Jennifer Trudell-Marosits, '95, of Springfield, the couple's oldest daughter, originally wanted to go away from home to attend college, but with Deborah headed back to Westfield State around the same time, they were worried about the double tuition payments.

Jennifer also worried that community college would be too much like high school. "We said, 'Why don't you take a semester off and think about it?'" Deborah says. "When the semester was up, Jennifer said, 'I want to go to HCC.'"

"She loved it," Deborah adds, noting her daughter earned a degree in retail merchandising and management and is now the manager of a shoe store in Springfield.

Meghan Trudell, '13, of Agawam, the Trudell's younger daughter has Crohn's disease and persevered at HCC for roughly seven years to earn her degree in liberal arts; for a time, she and cousin Cassandra Rees, '07, carpoled there and even took a class together. "Earning a degree was quite an accomplishment for Meghan," Deborah says.

The newest alums

Although he was accepted to the UMass horticulture school, Zach decided to enroll at HCC for a degree in criminal justice. "I was paying for this on my own, so the cost was a huge factor," he says, adding that he also had decided he didn't want to stray too far from home.

Zach is now on the waitlist to serve on the police force in the city of Westfield, and he's working in his father's landscape business in the meantime.

Having HCC professors who were either retired police officers or current officers added to the quality of Zach's education, he says, and he particularly enjoyed playing on the college baseball team.

"I thought HCC was a great experience," Zach says. "I'd rate it an A."

A Family Tradition



TOP: THE FISH FAMILY, FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: MEGAN HOY, '01, AND NIK MOISAN. BACK ROW FROM LEFT, ERIN FISH, '98, LINDA FISH, '83, AND COLLEEN FISH, '02. INSET: LINDA FISH, '83. BOTTOM: COLLEEN FISH AND HER SON, NIK MOISAN, AFTER COLLEEN'S GRADUATION FROM HCC IN 2002.

"The confidence building that I received made it a joy for me to go back to school," she said.

She did so well that when the program evolved into Women in Business, Joyce Agnoli, the program's founder, encouraged her to stay on to pursue a degree in accounting. (It is now called New Directions.)

After graduating in 1983, the Granby resident started taking accounting classes at the University of Massachusetts. For the past 20 years, she has worked in the UMass library's Information Resources Management department, cataloguing materials and working on special projects.

"Without the boost in confidence I had at HCC, I would never have done it," she said. "It was a great school for figuring out a path to the career of my choice."

Her enthusiasm for HCC inspired her children, who all went there, and her grandson, who is entering his second year.

"Seeing her raise five children on her own and seeing her passion for finishing made us want to go there too," said daughter Megan Hoy, who graduated in 2001 with an associate degree in theater. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in theater from UMass and currently is an administrative assistant in UMass's French and Italian Studies department.

Also, each sister said, HCC was a good next step for them coming from a small school in Granby.

"You felt like a person and not like a number," Hoy said.

Erin Fish graduated in 1998 with an associate degree in liberal arts. She then received a bachelor's degree in English from UMass and currently works for the Valley

By RONNI GORDON

Faced with an impending divorce, no child support, and five children under 11 (including a newborn), Linda Fish, '83, had no choice but to go on welfare after depleting her savings.

She hoped she would not have to stay on public assistance for long, and, as luck would have it, she read about the Displaced Homemaker program at Holyoke Community College, applied and got in.

At age 31, the 1967 graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School returned to school, taking classes at night while her mother babysat. The 15-week program offered classes in typing, transcription, shorthand, accounting and other administrative skills – and plenty of support.

Transporter airport van service in Amherst.

Daughter Colleen Fish graduated in 2002 with a liberal arts degree, then got married and had a family. She manages the Palmer Dunkin Donuts. Her son, Nik Moisan, just completed his first year at HCC as a sports management major.

"It's a family tradition," she said. "We saw what it did for our mother."

Fish's sons, Sean and Derek, also went to HCC; Sean attended for a year and left to work full time as a certified locksmith, while Derek also went for a year and is studying for state certification in the optical field.

"As with my other children, cost and proximity were a factor in choosing HCC, along with my promoting it as a college where they will get a good education from professors who care about their students and will take the time to help them with their studies," Fish said.

A Mentor Connection

By JUDITH KELLIHER

This is a different kind of legacy story, one that transcends traditional familial bonds.

Twenty-five years ago, Janine Iacolo, '99, was volunteering as a mentor for teen mothers when she met then 17-year-old Barbara Montmeny.

A mother of two young children at the time, Iacolo knew what it was like to deal with the challenges of parenting. Through Brightside for Families and Children in Holyoke, Iacolo taught Montmeny about the basics, like grocery shopping and cleaning. The goal was to educate participants on how to be a mom without feeling overwhelmed.

"She was a street-smart kid," said Iacolo, now 46, and a resident of Feeding Hills. "She had a lot more understanding of the world than I thought she would. At the same time, she had a lot less understanding of how to do mom things."

For Montmeny, Iacolo was exactly the kind of guiding force she needed to help start her daughter Elizabeth's life the right way.

"She was patient and I didn't have any patience at all," said Montmeny, now 43 and a resident of Holyoke. "She taught me how to be able to do things and not feel rushed. She is a wonderful woman in general and was already a mom, so she knew what I was facing."

That mentor-mentee connection grew into a friendship that still exists today.

Over the years, as their daughters became friends too, they would go to the movies, share stories or have dinner at each other's homes.

As a graduate of Holyoke Community College with an associate degree in liberal arts and a focus on education, Iacolo encouraged Montmeny and her daughter to pursue an education beyond high school. HCC was a natural choice with its location in Holyoke and affordability, among other benefits. Barbara and Elizabeth Montmeny are both currently students at HCC, a fact that makes Iacolo proud.



JANINE IACOLO, '99, CENTER, WITH BARBARA MONTMENY AND HER DAUGHTER ELIZABETH MONTMENY, WHO BOTH HOPE TO GRADUATE FROM HCC IN 2016.

"They both have had a lot of issues to deal with but have made getting their education an important part of their lives," Iacolo said. "They both have goals they want to achieve."

Barbara Montmeny began taking liberal arts classes at HCC in 2010 but has only been able to take one or two per semester because of health issues, including seizures, and because she was caring for her then-ailing mother, who has since passed away. While she pursues her education, she works part time at a frozen yogurt shop at the Holyoke Mall. She also spends some of her free time volunteering at the Mount Saint Vincent Care Center in Holyoke, helping residents with activities and keeping them company.

Iacolo was always ready to lend support when Barbara Montmeny needed it most.

"When I was having problems struggling to stay at HCC because of my mom, she would say 'hang in there, it will be okay. I am here if you need help with anything,'" said Barbara Montmeny, who wants to be a social worker.

Elizabeth Montmeny, 25, is pursuing an associate degree in liberal arts with the goal of one day working as an activities director at a nursing home. Like her mother, she was also a caretaker for her grandmother and only able to take a couple of classes a year starting in 2008.

They both hope to complete their remaining classes so they can graduate together in spring 2016.

Iacolo so enjoyed her experiences at HCC that she took more classes than were required to earn her degree.

"I really liked my time there," she said. "I felt comfortable and secure. I was very nervous about being in higher education but there is a lot of support on campus."

For the past 13 years, Iacolo has been working as a special education teacher, most recently at Sumner Avenue Elementary School in Springfield. Her son, Steven, is now 30, while her daughter, Katelyn, is 26.

For the Montmenys, Iacolo will always be their friend – and supporter.

"She has always been there for us," Elizabeth Montmeny said. "It's hard to imagine what life would have been without her."

A Natural Progression



By JUDITH KELLIHER

There was never a question that Sarah L. Monson, '03, and her sister, Kim E. Monson, '01, would attend college. Earning a college degree had been instilled in them from their grandfather and mother.

And with two older generations of their family as alumni, the choice to get an associate degree at Holyoke Community College was a natural one.

The sisters had any number of role models to learn from, including their late grandfather, Robert E. Evans, Jr., '50, who left a rich legacy at HCC as a student, counselor, one of the first African-American professors and the college's first

affirmative action officer.

Evans' daughter, Gertrude "Trudy" Monson, '97, also served as an inspiration for her daughters as she graduated later in life from HCC with an associate degree in business administration.

"It was a natural progression to go to HCC. It was an obvious choice for us," Sarah Monson said. "It was a good platform to start my education."

Although their grandfather's legacy at HCC was widely known on campus and in the community, to the young women, he was their grandfather first and foremost. Evans, who retired from HCC in 1984, passed away in 2002. A year before, HCC

recognized him for his dedicated service with the Distinguished Service Award at Commencement.

"To me he was just our grandfather. I don't think I realized all the stuff he did at HCC and in the community until I went there," said Kim Monson, 34. "It was really cool to hear about all of his accomplishments."

"He was incredibly humble," added Sarah Monson. "I am not sure if I knew my first day at HCC that there was a legacy. Not until all of us as a family got to adulthood did we understand the huge impact he had on people."

Trudy Monson was working full time in the engineering department at Verizon when

she decided to pursue her associate degree at night at HCC in the mid-1990s.

“My father always told me and my siblings that we needed to either attend school or get a job and go to school at the same time,” said Trudy, noting that two of her sisters and both of her brothers also attended HCC.

As an older, nontraditional student with teenage daughters, she was pleasantly surprised at the support she received from fellow HCC students, who helped her with homework and studying. In her retirement, Trudy Monson works a number of jobs, including teaching jewelry-making classes at Jo-Ann Fabric and Crafts Store and AC Moore. She also serves as a vice president of HCC’s Alumni Council.

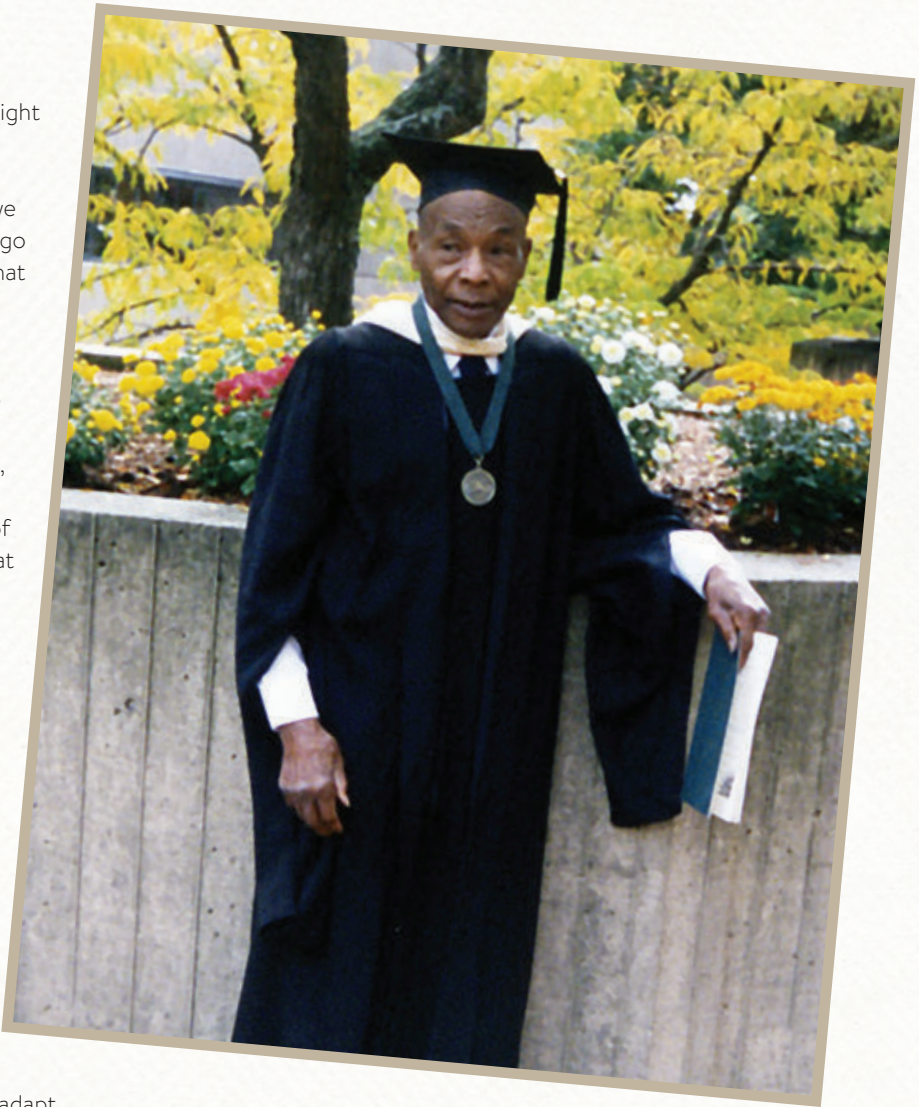
HCC served as a launching pad for Sarah and Kim Monson’s careers.

While earning an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences at HCC, Sarah Monson, now 36, was working for Verizon’s customer service department. She left that job in 2013 and is now a recruiter at Management Search, Inc. in East Hartford. She also earned a bachelor’s degree in healthcare administration online from the University of Phoenix.

“HCC is incredibly flexible and has the ability to adapt as you adapt,” she said. “Mine was an encouraging and positive experience. HCC has a great community.”

Besides attending HCC, Kim Monson worked part time from 1998 to 2006 in the college’s Upward Bound program as a assistant. She later earned a teaching degree at the University of Hartford and a master’s in social work at Smith College. Most of Kim Monson’s career has been in clinical social work, including working with women with post-partum depression at the Behavioral Health Network and her new job counseling adolescent boys in a residential setting.

“HCC ended up being one of best experiences for me. The professors were amazing. They were really concerned about you and pushed you,” said Kim Monson, who is following in her mother’s footsteps as a new member of the HCC Alumni Council. “The whole experience was something special.” ^A



“My father always told me and my siblings that we needed to either attend school or get a job and go to school at the same time.”

— Trudy Monson, '97

OPPOSITE: KIM MONSON, '01, AND HER SISTER SARAH MONSON, '03, WITH THEIR MOTHER, GERTRUDE MONSON, '97; ABOVE, ROBERT EVANS, JR., '50, AFTER RECEIVING A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM HCC IN 2001.

And the Award Goes to ...

HCC honors one of its own



By **CHRIS YURKO**

The name of the recipient of the Marieb Chair for Teaching Excellence is perhaps the most closely guarded secret on the HCC campus. Known in advance by a select few, it is traditionally announced in late May at the final meeting of the HCC professional association before a packed house of eager faculty and staff in the Leslie Phillips Theater.

Founded in 1991 by professor emeritus Elaine Marieb, '80, the award is presented to a full-time faculty member who exemplifies outstanding classroom teaching. The winner receives a small stipend and also leads the procession at Commencement and addresses the graduating class. It is HCC's highest honor.

This year, for the first time, the Marieb award winner was also an alum – Patricia Sandoval, professor of communications and theater, class of 1984.

Her immediate reaction was, naturally, surprise, as she realized the video of testimonials from colleagues being shown on stage was about her. But Sandoval also admits to feeling some anxiety.

"Obviously, I was pleased," she said, recalling the moment. "Then I thought, Oh, dear. Now I have to prepare a speech."

The pressure was perhaps a tad greater on Sandoval than for



TOP: HCC PROFESSOR PATRICIA SANDOVAL SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT. ABOVE, SANDOVAL, '84, CENTER, WITH HER SON, DARREN COUTURE, '96, RIGHT, DAUGHTER, CANDICE COUTURE, '00, LEFT, AND GRAND-DAUGHTER NICOLE, FRONT. RIGHT, SANDOVAL IN ONE OF HER ACTING CLASSES.

past Marieb awardees, given that she primarily teaches public speaking and acting.

"I wanted to do my students proud," she said. "I wanted to do the faculty proud."

Like all good Commencement speeches, Sandoval's mixed advice and quotes and personal anecdotes. (See the sidebar, this page.) It may have resonated more, though, because she could speak from her own experiences as an HCC student and graduate.

"This is where I first began," Sandoval said during an interview in her office this summer. "I love this place. Always have."

Sandoval traveled a long way to get to here. She was born in Albuquerque and working in the University of New Mexico campus bookstore when she met a graduate student who became her husband. They lived in New Mexico for a year before moving to western Massachusetts.

Sandoval was 33 years old and the mother of three young children when, in 1982, she decided to go to college.

"One day I woke up and just realized I was watching the world," she said. "I was watching it on TV. I was not participating."

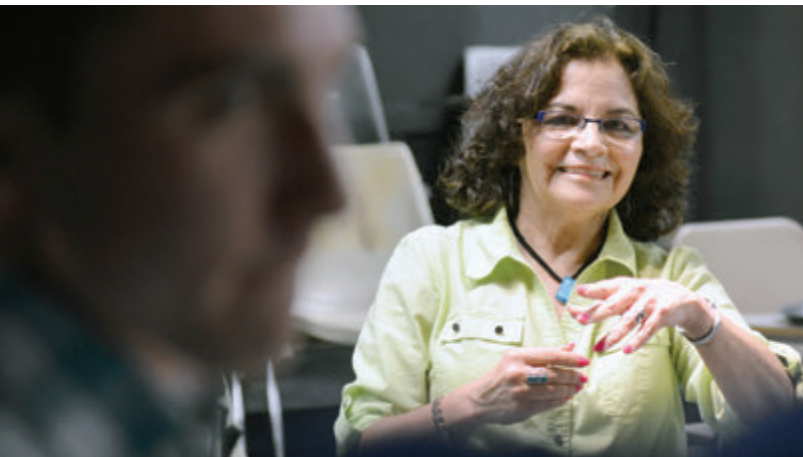
At HCC, she majored in American Studies. The moment that changed her life came in a theater class she was taking her final year. Her teacher, the late Leslie Phillips herself, asked Sandoval if she wanted to work on the play she was directing, "Buried Child," by Sam Shepard.

"I worked on publicity," Sandoval said. "The seed was planted. Her asking me was the one thing that got me into theater."

After transferring to Mount Holyoke College, Sandoval immersed herself in theater. She continued in graduate school at the University of Massachusetts, where she earned a master's degree in education.

"I had excellent teachers at HCC," said Sandoval, "and they

continues on page 14



Commencement address delivered by Patricia Sandoval '84, May 30, 2015

President Messner, board of trustees, esteemed faculty and staff, and the glorious graduates of 2015, good morning. I stand here in unison with you today as I, too, am a graduate of HCC. I, too, overcame obstacles as I persevered day to day and semester to semester to get to class, to get the research done, and take the classes I feared the most – like Public Speaking. And I, too, did this while tending to . . . work, family, home, and on and on. But, I, like you, found a way to get it done.

I, like many of you, did not go to college immediately after high school. At age 18, I knew everything. So, I married, and we began to raise a wonderful family. But, I realized one day I wanted to participate in the world – not just watch it. So, I, like you, enrolled in classes at HCC. There began my journey of discovery (academic, intellectual, and personal). So, today I'm going to share with you the three truths I learned along the way. The first truth is that of:

Commitment, or by definition, the act of pledging or engaging oneself fully.

I am a theater person. And commitment is essential in the theater world, so essential that Stanislavski, the Russian actor and director, wrote: "Without commitment, an actor is incapable of transmitting the universal hopes and tribulations of man." The purpose of theater.

In theater, commitment is giving 100 percent to the work, although we in theater know it takes more. Can you imagine a young Meryl Streep saying, "I can make some of the rehearsals" or "I have half my lines memorized."

Commitment in theater extends beyond the stage to all endeavors.

When my English 101 professor suggested that I should consider transferring to Mount Holyoke College, I looked around to see whom she was talking to. And from that day forward, I never let my foot off the gas.

Commitment needs a purpose. Respected actor and teacher Uta Hagen writes: "Once we begin to learn about some of the world's problems and come to an understanding of our country's relationship to them, we can tackle the problems. The struggle to make changes for the better, to be of service in this quest, is the obligation of responsible citizenship."

We must all commit to responsible citizenship.

Accept this responsibility not to please someone else, not to earn a grade or even a job, but because you choose to become all that you can be.

I call this striving for a personal best.

If you find commitment begin to slip, here's a little public speaking technique:

Visualize yourself succeeding.

Visualize those letters after your name.

Visualize that title before your name.

continues on page 14

continued from page 14

Visualize your art in a frame or on a pedestal or on a stage.

Visualize that life.

While your first commitment is to yourself, we must always work toward:

Creating community – my second truth.

I am fortunate that in my disciplines of theater and communication, it's all about discoveries. How does this happen?

Hagen writes further:

"The process of discovery always occurs within a group context. Teamwork is best achieved when everyone is committed, supportive, trustful and respectful, open and aligned with the common purpose. When these conditions are met, the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts."

What does this mean for you? Today?

Well, today you party. And I hope you party hardy and in a group context.

Tomorrow continue your journey of discovery with commitment, discipline, and in collaboration with others.

Besides, you have already shown that you can create community.

You worked in groups on class projects, joined clubs, participated in sports. You took Learning Communities. You sang in chorale, gave group presentations, performed in plays, played in music ensembles, created art together, partnered in science labs, built sustainable gardens, and spoke new languages together. You did this in collaboration with students, faculty, and staff and with all the support programs that helped you get here today.

With commitment and collaboration, are you ready to go further in creating a better, safer, cleaner, more equitable world? Are you up for the challenge?

I believe – we believe – you are. We believe in you so much that by your working together – you give us hope.

With commitment and in community we must all work toward finding compassion – my third truth.

Compassion and love go hand in hand.

And my first lesson in compassion came from my grandmother: Paulita Candelaria Sandoval. She lived in an adobe house my grandfather had built in New Mexico

along the Rio Grande river – complete with a chicken coop. My sister and I were blessed to spend summers with her.

A whine about my mother turned into: "Mijita (a Spanish term of endearment), she is your mother. Treat her with respect."

A whine about a friend, who I was upset with, for who knows what, became, "Mijita, she might have a tough life. Just be kind."

I was always respectful to my mother, and I learned to be a better friend.

But this loving compassionate, Mexican-American abuelita could go into the chicken coop with an ax . . . yeah . . . and I loved her dearly.

In Michael Shurtleff's book, *Audition*, which I use in my class, he writes:

"The desire for love, to give it or receive it, is the chief propellant in human beings."

When working on scenes, I ask my students to look for the love. I ask you the same.

So find love not only in all the relationships you form – and love comes in many forms – but in the work you do as well.

And do what you love. I do.

When I stood in line waiting for my name to be announced at my graduation at Mount Holyoke College, I panicked. I thought: Wait, I have a lot more to learn. I was right. I did. I still do. I know now that life is a never-ending journey of discovery.

I offer you the truths of that journey.

So bask in your glory, graduates. You have earned it, and everyone here joyously celebrates you and your accomplishments.

Tomorrow your work begins.

So, make a powerful commitment in whatever you do. Build community with others for a common purpose. And live with compassion on all of your journeys.

Always the teacher, are you ready to repeat after me the three truths?

Commitment. Community. Compassion.

I believe you are ready to graduate.

With these truths – you will commit to come together with love. ♪

inspired me. They were my first role models on how to teach, on how to be kind and generous, and that resonated with me. I always wanted to come back."

She did, first as a tutor while still at UMass. A good friend, retired professor Jeanne Hatch, was directing a play at HCC and asked Sandoval to cover rehearsals one day and then to teach an acting workshop. The acting workshop turned into a one-credit acting class, then a three-credit class. "Acting was not here until I brought it," said Sandoval, "so that was kinda cool."

One of the themes of Sandoval's tenure at HCC has been exposing students to Hispanic playwrights. She made her directorial debut at HCC with "Botanica," by Latina playwright Dolores Prida, and in recent years has directed "The House of Bernarda Alba," by Spanish writer Federico Garcia Lorca, and "Living Out," by Lisa Loomer, a play about Latin-American immigrants working as nannies in Los Angeles.

Sandoval's family has lived in the Albuquerque area for generations, when it was still just part of the New Mexico Territory, and she strongly identifies with her Mexican-American heritage.

"I am Latina through and through," said Sandoval, who has lived in Southampton for many years. "I bring my Latina-ness to work and teaching is my passion."

On the day the Marieb award was announced, Sandoval's entire family was waiting – secretly – in the wings to offer their congratulations. Among them were her son and daughter, Darren and Candice Couture, both HCC graduates as well ('96 and '00), and grand-daughter, Nicole Couture, who will be starting full time at HCC this fall.

"HCC is not only an excellent institution, it's the best deal in town," said Sandoval. "You can start here and go wherever you want to go. I've done that. My kids have done that, and it's served us well." ♪

Keeping a Mother's Memory Alive

By JUDITH KELLIHER

For 23 years, Eleanor (Conner) Burns was a well-known and popular fixture in the Holyoke Community College Registrar's Office, helping students going on to four-year colleges obtain their transcripts.

Burns, who passed away in 2000, was well liked by students, faculty and staff and took her job seriously — and passionately. She was hired by George Frost, the school's first president, in 1968 and retired at age 76 in 1993. A Holyoke native and parent of nine children, Eleanor Burns easily adjusted to the responsibilities of her job as secretary to the registrar.

Her son, Brian Burns, '85 an alumnus of the college, and an HCC police officer for the past 30 years, wanted to honor her memory by establishing a scholarship in her name to help HCC students.

"She was so popular with kids," said Burns, 51, who lives in Belchertown with his wife and three children. "She was a wonderful woman and I wanted to keep her memory alive and have her name stay associated with the college. I knew she would be proud of the scholarship."

He began donating to the HCC Foundation in 1989. When his mother passed away, he specified that his donations be designated for a scholarship fund in her name. It continued to grow, especially once Brian Burns requested that a portion of his HCC paycheck be earmarked for the Eleanor V. Burns Scholarship fund.

"Before I knew it the years went by and we have already awarded scholarships for two recipients," he said. "My mother loved working at HCC and being around the students. Having nine children of her own I guess she wanted to continue to help kids."

The generous donations made by the Burns family came not only as a way to honor Eleanor Burns but to acknowledge the strong connection the family has to HCC.



THE BURNS FAMILY, EMILY, ERIN, BRIAN, CYNTHIA AND BRIAN JR., STAND BESIDE THE KITTREDGE CENTER FACULTY OFFICE DEDICATED IN THE NAME OF BRIAN AND CYNTHIA'S PARENTS. INSET" BRIAN BURNS AND HIS MOTHER, ELEANOR BURNS, WHO DIED IN 2000.

Besides Brian Burns earning an associate degree in law enforcement in 1985, his wife, Cynthia (Sabourin) Burns earned an associate degree in accounting from HCC in 1984. She currently works as an audit supervisor for the state.

The couple's eldest daughter, Emily Burns, 19, is entering her second year at HCC this fall as a liberal arts and science major. Last spring she received the Alan Taupier Alumni Achievement Scholarship for earning a 3.967 GPA and was selected as a New Student Orientation leader.


Erin Burns, 17, just completed her junior year at Belchertown High School. Brian Burns called her a "future student of HCC," and noted that they have already begun encouraging her to attend the college.

Brian Burns Jr., 7, will be a second grader this fall at Swift River Elementary School in Belchertown. "If he attends HCC, it will be in the year 2026," Brian Burns said.

While Brian Burns initially chose to attend HCC because his mother worked there, he quickly realized it was a smart decision overall.

"You can get a quality education at HCC. It's a good start for kids who don't yet know what they want to do after high school," he said. "I have benefitted so much from the college. My parents instilled in me that if you are given something you should give something back."

The kindness of the Burns family was not limited to just the Eleanor V. Burns Scholarship Fund. Brian and Cynthia Burns also donated money for the construction of the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development. A faculty office in that building is named in honor of their parents: William H. and Eleanor Burns and Albert and Irene Sabourin. In addition, the couple donated money toward construction of the new Center for Health Education on Jarvis Avenue, which will open his fall as the new home for HCC's nursing and radiologic technology students.

"We believe in investing in the future of people as individuals at a point in time when they are defining who they are," Cynthia Burns said. "At HCC, we can hopefully provide a sense of enrichment." 

ALUMNI IN ACTION



Aboard the Ballard

Frank Czarniecki, '67, of Colorado Springs, Colo., recently traveled to Alaska and spent time on the 100-foot Aleutian Ballard out of Ketchikan. The crab boat is famous from the Discovery Channel's popular reality show "Deadliest Catch." Now retired from the D.C. fleet, the Ballard takes tourists on a three-hour interactive fishing tour, pulling up crabs, starfish and other sea creatures. "Everything is catch and release," says Czarniecki, who has done the tour three times. "The bald eagle viewing off this boat is absolutely phenomenal. Best I've seen in Alaska."

Frank Czarniecki, '67, center, aboard the Aleutian Ballard with Captain Derrick Ray, right.



2015 Distinguished Alumni

Gina M. Barry, '94, Aaron M. Vega, '90, and Henry P. Monaghan, '53, were honored at the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner on May 19 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke, Mass. Barry is a partner at the law firm of Bacon & Wilson and founder and president of The Joy of Jasper Horse Sanctuary. Monaghan is the Harlan Fiske Stone Professor of Constitutional Law at Columbia University. Vega is a Massachusetts state representative for the 5th Hampden District and owner of Vega Yoga and Movement Arts with his wife Debra. The annual event raises funds for scholarships for HCC students.

Holyoke mayor Alex Morse, second from left, presented proclamations to HCC's Distinguished Alumni Award winners Gina Barry, '94, Aaron Vega, '90, and Henry Monaghan, '53.

Honored for Excellence

Elizabeth Róman, '04, a reporter for the *Springfield Republican* and the Spanish language newspaper *El Pueblo Latino*, won a first and second place award this year for Racial or Ethnic



Issue Coverage from the New England Newspaper & Press Association. The first-place award was for a story about the Borinqueneers, a segregated regiment of Puerto Rican soldiers who served in the U.S. Army. The second place award was for a story about a Guatemalan family fighting to save their father from deportation. Róman, a Springfield native, was a liberal arts major at HCC but inspired to pursue journalism after taking a class with former adjunct Tom Shea, the longtime *Republican* newspaper columnist. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from UMass-Amherst and is a member of HCC's Alumni Council.

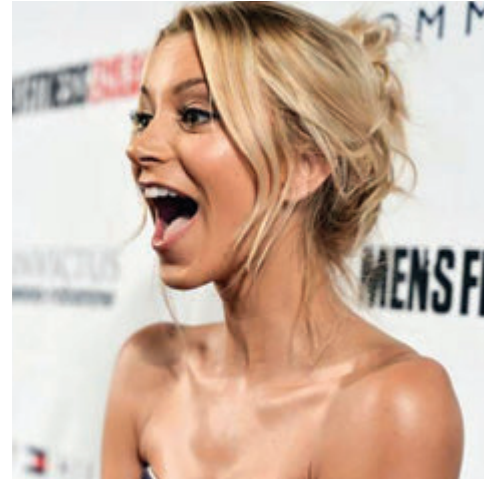
Award-winning reporter Elizabeth Róman, '04, at her desk in the newsroom of the *Springfield Republican*.



Talking Business

Mariovy Gonzalez, '12, a junior buyer at LEGO Systems, in Enfield, Conn., shared the story of her academic and career journey with students, guests and other alumni at the annual President's Dinner May 7 at HCC. Gonzalez, who transferred to Bay Path University after HCC, where she majored in business administration, was one of four HCC alumni who participated in professor Ellen Majka's "Topics in Business Class: Living Case Studies" last spring. Through a series of on-site visits, the class gives students exposure to successful alumni who share advice and guidance about careers in business. Also participating in the class were **Ted Hebert, '71**, president of Teddy Bear Pools in Chicopee, Mass., and a member of HCC's Board of Trustees; **Gayle Smith, '74**, president of Middlebridge Marketing, Inc.; and **Greg Schneider, '81**, president and co-founder of 3BL Media in Northampton, Mass.

Mariovy Gonzalez, '12, of Springfield, speaks at the annual President's Dinner about what it's like to be a junior buyer for LEGO.



Now in Theaters

Chicopee, Mass., native **Sabina H. Gadecki, '03**, stars in "Entourage," a feature film based on the popular HBO comedy-drama series of the same name. Gadecki, 31, plays Melanie, the love interest of Kevin Connolly's character Eric Murphy, manager to the show's superstar actor Vincent Chase (Adrien Grenier). Gadecki studied theater and communications at HCC and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Fordham University in international business. The former hostess on the World Poker Tour now lives in Los Angeles and has a growing number of film and TV acting credits to her name, including NBC's "Law and Order" and Comedy Central's "Inside Amy Schumer."

Sabina Gadecki, '03, arrives at the Men's Fitness Celebration for its 2014 Game Changers Issue in 2014, in West Hollywood, Calif. (Photo by Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP)



Outstanding Recognition

The American Association of Community Colleges recognized **Elaine Nicpon Marieb, '80**, with an "Outstanding Alumni" award at its annual convention in San Antonio, Texas, April 21. Marieb taught Anatomy & Physiology at HCC for many years and enrolled in HCC's registered nursing program to inform her teaching. She went on to write a series of anatomy and physiology textbooks that have gone on to become international best sellers and has been a generous benefactor to HCC through the years. In 2014, she donated \$1 million toward the HCC Foundation's Building Healthy Communities fund drive. The AACC award recognizes community college alumni for their career achievements, philanthropic contributions and inspirational impact. Marieb grew up in Northampton and now lives in Sarasota, Florida.

Elaine Marieb, '80, attends a thank-you barbecue at HCC in June 2014.

CLASS NOTEBOOK

1974

Darlene T. Bliznak Plaza and her husband Stanley celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this spring with a family trip to Costa Rica. Prior to her retirement, she was employed as a purchasing agent at Western Mass. Hospital in Westfield. During her retirement, she enjoys traveling, taking tap dancing lessons and playing the accordion with her husband.

1975

Bruce A. Boissonnault is the CEO of Niagara Health Quality Coalition and is also on the faculty at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. He is president of the Alliance for Quality Health Care. Boissonnault has also won many awards, including the national Eye on Quality Award and the National Quality Improvement Award. "HCC was a good place to start my higher education," he writes.

1978

Catherine Belden Olson is the senior director of Finance & Budgets at Springfield Technical Community College where she has worked for 22 years. After graduating from HCC, she earned her bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting from Western New England University. She has served as chair and is currently treasurer of the Massachusetts Community College Comptrollers & Assistant Deans Council. She has also been an adjunct instructor in accounting at STCC over the years and a volunteer in the Springfield school system.

Jan Say retired from the Holyoke Police Department in January 2015 after serving the city for 32 years. Jan now enjoys raising honeybees and farming his 10 acres of land in the Pioneer Valley. He fondly remembers the positive impact Professor Carl Satterfield's forensic science class had on him. In 2001, 33 years after his father's commencement, his son **Jan R. Say, Jr.** graduated from HCC and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from UMass-Amherst in 2013.

1981

Kevin E. Lynn has been named executive director of FutureWorks Career Center in Springfield, Mass. After HCC, he earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Western New England University and a master's in public administration from American International College.

1987

The Reverend **Charles Wilson** began his new position as rector of St. Philip Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio, in January 2015. He is the first non-African-American priest to serve as rector there. Wilson received his masters of divinity in 2005 from Baxley Seabury. He has also held many leadership positions in the diocese of Southern Ohio.

1987



Patricia A. O'Brien was promoted to underwriter officer at PeoplesBank in Holyoke, Mass. Prior to her promotion, she worked as an underwriter. She received her associate degree in business

administration from HCC. O'Brien has 20 years of banking experience and began working for PeoplesBank in 2008. She is also the director of the Holyoke Kiwanis Club.

1992

Michael William-Russell founded Heart Beats Music Therapy in Greenfield, Mass., in 1998. He earned an associate degree in music at HCC and his bachelor's degree in music therapy from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass. William-Russell is a board certified music therapist. He is also the clinical internship supervisor for music therapy students at Anna Maria College.

1993

Laurie Labato-DiTomasso was recognized

as the 2015 teacher of the year by the Meriden Connecticut District School District where she is a special education teacher at the Benjamin Franklin School. "All children can learn," she says. "Connecting and understanding: that's what we do."

1995

Maria Derouin sends greetings from Westhampton, Mass., where she is an empty nester, volunteer and great-grandmother to Benjamin. While at HCC she fed her mind and heart with numerous music classes and loved being in the classroom with experienced instructors. One of her favorite memories was performing a duet with fellow classmate Joseph Green. She's delighted to be one of HCC's many legacy families; sons Anthony and Tad are also graduates, 1988 and 1979 respectively.

1997

Jennifer Allis Provost is a multi-published author who recently re-released her book *Heir to The Sun*, book one of the *Chronicles of Parthalan*. A marketing specialist who offers freelance marketing and editing services, Provost also has an urban fantasy series called *Copper Girl*. She is the proud mother of 5-year-old twins, Ember and Robby.

1999

Janine Iacolo was recently chosen by the General Federation of Women's Clubs for the 2015 Marilyn Perry Leadership Award for her work at the GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club and also for her volunteer work outside of the community. She has served as chair for the Relay for Life of Agawam for the past four years. She volunteers for her school's PTO as treasurer and volunteers on the Springfield Education Association Scholarship Committee.

Mabel Ray, the oldest living graduate of HCC, celebrated her 100th birthday on Feb. 5, 2015. Ray received her associate degree in liberal arts and science. "I enjoyed every minute I spent at HCC," she writes, "and I finally accomplished

Have some news to share? Tell us your story.

Send it to the Alumni Office, Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040 or via email to alumni@hcc.edu. For publication in the spring issue, news must be received by January 21, 2016



what I had been trying to do since I had to leave school in the roaring twenties and Depression thirties." It was more than 70 years before Ray went back to school to get her HCC degree.

2006

Pamela J. Camerlin, gave the keynote speech at HCC's 2015 Nursing Alumni Dinner last spring. Camerlin is a registered nurse with 20 years of medical experience. After receiving her associate degree in nursing from HCC, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing from Kaplan University. She is currently the quality manager at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home. She is also certified as a Nurse Executive and Crisis Intervention Prevention Instructor, and in LEAN Training.

Heather van Werkhoven works in market research with Nielsen in the United Arab Emirates. After graduating from HCC, she earned degrees from Mount Holyoke College, where she was a Frances Perkins Scholar, and from the London School of Economics. She always tells people that of her three diplomas, her associate degree from HCC is her favorite. She said, "HCC gave me an opportunity and the support I needed to get back into school and recognize my abilities."

2010

Manuel Pintado graduated from UMass-Amherst on May 8, 2015. He is still involved with PHENOM (Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts) and was an advocate to save Holyoke Public Schools from receivership.

In Memoriam

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

John M. Wilson, '69
Edward J. Midura, '78
Penny A. Begley, '86
Lesley A. Pisorski, '01
Jolayne Hinckel, *professor of English*
John Sullivan, *professor of Mathematics*

Fall 2015 Events*

Monday, September 21, 2015

28th Annual HCC Foundation Golf Classic

Springfield Country Club, West Springfield, Mass.

Entry fee: \$150 for morning, \$185 for afternoon (8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. shotgun starts) includes green fees, golf cart, light breakfast and luncheon, refreshments on course, sumptuous selection of fabulous food at the end of the day, and \$50,000 hole-in-one competition. Proceeds from this event help support classroom upgrades.

Register or sponsor online at www.hcc.edu/golf. For more information call Kim Gifford at 413.552.2308 or kgifford@hcc.edu.

Sunday, October 25, 2015

Fall Concert, Holyoke Civic Symphony Orchestra

3 p.m., Leslie Phillips Theater, Fine and Performing Arts Building

"*Haunted Holyoke*" Hector Berlioz: March to the Scaffold from *Symphonie Fantastique*, Op. 14; Lauren Bernofsky: *House of Untold Horrors* (Narrator TBA); Camille Saint-Saëns: *Danse Macabre*, Op. 40 (Irina Condon, violin); Jean Sibelius: *Symphony No. 1 in E Minor*, Op. 39.

Special treats will include face-painting for the kids who come in costume. Free will donations gratefully accepted. For more information email manager@holykecivicsymphony.org, call 413.256.1760 or go to www.holykecivicsymphony.org.

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 12-14, Nov. 19-21

American Hero

7:30 p.m. (and 2 p.m., Nov. 14 and 21)

Leslie Phillips Theater, Fine and Performing Arts Building

A play written by Bess Wohl and directed by HCC theater professor Patricia G. Sandoval, '84, this comedy addresses corporate greed, the plight of the service worker, and the difficulty of attaining even the most basic form of the American dream. And it does all that through the slightly surreal prism of three employees of a new toasted-subs franchise.

For more information, or to reserve a seat, call the HCC Box Office at 413.552.2528. Tickets are \$10 (general admission); \$8 (students and senior citizens); \$5 (HCC students, faculty and staff).

Thursday, December 31, 2015

It's the last day of the 2015 tax year, so we wanted to provide a friendly reminder to make your tax-deductible gifts to your preferred philanthropic organizations before midnight! We hope that one of your priorities is Holyoke Community College, and we thank you in advance for including us in your generosity.

* For a complete list of our Fall 2015 events, go to foundationalumni.hcc.edu or contact us directly at alumni@hcc.edu or 413.552.2253 for more information. Watch your email for our periodic electronic newsletter, the HCC eConnection, for the latest news and information on college events.

HCC Album



Domingo 'Dino' Diaz, '12, looks on as Alyxa-Ray Showalter and Ali Vangasbeck prepare sauce for dessert – chocolate soufflé with Chantilly cream and raspberry coulis. The girls were among the hearty dozen pre-teens enrolled in the July 2015 HCC summer youth program, “Cooking with Chef Dino.” Diaz, who lives in Springfield, earned a certificate in Culinary Arts from HCC. Throughout the week, Chef Dino schooled the young cooks in the preparation of Italian, French, Caribbean, Asian and American cuisine. Working in small teams, they made meals including fresh pasta, meatballs, tomato sauce, chicken cordon bleu and French baguettes, which they hungrily consumed. “They did an awesome job,” Diaz said. “The food was fantastic.” ♡

Opening Fall 2015



HCC's STATE-OF-THE-ART

Center for Health Education

Located just steps from the HCC campus at Jarvis Avenue and Cherry Street, the new home of HCC's nursing and radiologic technology programs features cutting-edge technology, state-of-the-art simulation labs and dedicated space for group projects, seminars and immunization and wellness clinics for the community. Funded by both public and private support, the \$5.8 million project will allow HCC to expand enrollment in the college's healthcare programs by 25-30% and promote diversity in the student body through innovative linkages with the region's healthcare providers and community service organizations.

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Alumni Connection

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This is your publication!

As graduates and friends of HCC, you're invited to tell us what you want to read about. What interests you? Is it alumni success stories? Student success stories? Classes and department news? Faculty profiles? Sports and athletic news? More class notes? What the future of HCC looks like?

Would you like to read about ways you can get engaged with the college? Become a volunteer mentor; participate on an alumni panel; be a guest speaker; support students with career advice, internships or placement opportunities. Host an alumni event off campus or come back to campus for a student-alumni networking event.

We want to hear from you! Yes, you. Contact HCC Alumni Relations at 413.552.2252 or email bzimadowd@hcc.edu.