

Alumni Connection

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

FALL 2016



BIG SHOES TO FILL

HCC President William F. Messner retires

PLUS

A new program helps migrant workers gain Spanish literacy skills

Dear Alumni



Bonnie Zima Dowd
Director of Alumni Relations



Dawn E. Bryden, '89
President, Alumni Council

Talk to us!



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Welcome to fall and another school year!

HCC's "One Campus, One Theme: Food" initiative (the subject of our Spring 2016 *Alumni Connection*) continues into the 2016-2017 academic year. As food lovers, this got us talking about recipes and what makes a good meal, which then led us to ask an intriguing question:

If Holyoke Community College was a spice, what would it be?

Think of those little bottles on your kitchen shelf. Dill, rosemary, thyme, cinnamon, paprika and many more. Would you describe the college as spicy, sweet and savory, or exotic? What spice would you choose? We chose salt.

Salt is a staple. It adds great flavor to all food. Salt has the ability to transform the smell, taste and allure of food. For us, the secret to a great summer barbeque is properly salted food. We can't imagine a world without salt, nor can we imagine a world without HCC.

This academic year marks the college's 70th anniversary. In that time, HCC has become a staple in our public education system, particularly for minority, non-traditional, working, and first-generation students. As we know, HCC has the power to transform lives. Its mission of ensuring access to higher education for all, at a great value, is so important. Beyond its low cost, the college is also key to building a stronger and more competitive workforce, providing employers with highly skilled and well-prepared employees who are ready to make immediate contributions to their fields.

Not a week goes by when we don't hear a story about HCC's importance. A few of those stories are captured here, including a look back at Bill Messner's 12 years of service as the third president of the college (Page 4). We'll introduce you to Raúl Gutiérrez, HCC assistant professor of Spanish and Foreign Languages coordinator. Despite his busy teaching schedule, he oversees a new, award-winning program that helps migrant workers read and write in Spanish (Page 11). And don't miss our story about the late John Sullivan, one of the college's beloved math professors, and how his legacy is impacting a new generation of students (Page 15).

As always, we encourage you to stay connected. Visit us virtually at www.hcc.edu to stay up to date on all the latest news and events. Spice up your fall and take time to engage with HCC! Inspire our students and let them learn from you; host a group of students in your office, or return to campus and sit on a career panel. We welcome your involvement and thank you in advance.

Happy Reading!

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Bonnie Zima Dowd, ex officio

A member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA Division III), HCC offers a variety of men's and women's sports, from soccer to track and field. Whether you played for fun, competition or career, tell us how you benefited from playing a sport while attending HCC! Did you experience a sense of community? A life lesson that could not be learned in the classroom? The persistence of hard work? A transfer option? Email alumni@hcc.edu to have your response published in a future issue of *Alumni Connection*.

HCC expands presence

Business leaders, elected officials and representatives from HCC celebrated the opening of a new education and workforce training center in downtown Ware in June. The center, called "E2E," short for Education to Employment: Quaboag Region Workforce Training and Community College Center, is a collaboration between HCC and the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation. The roughly 3,000 square-foot center includes two classrooms, private study areas, office space and computer workstations for community members interested in enrolling in credit classes at HCC as online students. "This is a great day for Ware and a great day for our region, which has been lacking in sources of education beyond high school for so long," said Sheila Cuddy, executive director of the Quaboag Valley CDC. "We could not be more pleased that HCC has shown the willingness to be our partner in this endeavor."



HCC president Bill Messner and Vincent Maughey, board chairman of the Quaboag Valley CDC, flanked by other local dignitaries, cut the ribbon officially opening the E2E education and employment center in downtown Ware.



Gateway to College wins national award

HCC's Gateway to College program was awarded the national organization's first-ever Gateway Program Excellence Award. The inaugural honor from the Gateway to College National Network recognizes HCC's program for exceeding all four of the network's benchmarks for success in 2014-2015: GPA, one-year persistence, two-year persistence, and graduation rate. Gateway to College is a dual-enrollment program for students who have either left high school or are at risk of dropping out. Students earn their high school diplomas while also collecting college credits. "Holyoke's program is poised to build on its successes and can serve as an example for the rest of our network," Emily Froimson, president of the Gateway national network wrote in a congratulatory letter. "You have not simply made a difference for students in Holyoke, Massachusetts; the work that your school district and college partnership has accomplished is a model for how we solve these persistent problems as a nation."

Gateway to College student and Springfield resident Elmer Rodriguez accepts his graduation certificate from program coordinator Vivian Ostrowski in June.

Report praises HCC-UMass transfer pathway

The relationship between HCC and the University of Massachusetts is highlighted in a national report as a model of a successful transfer partnership other colleges should emulate. HCC and UMass were selected as one of only six pairs of "high performing" community colleges and partner universities in "The Transfer Playbook: Essential Practices for Two- and Four-Year Colleges" from the Aspen Institute and the Community College Research Center at Columbia University's Teachers College. The report praises HCC for its "culture of commitment to transfer" and "the institution's goal of improving transfer rates." "People are steeped in transfer—it's the norm around here," President Messner is quoted as saying in the report. Each year, UMass-Amherst accepts and enrolls more transfer students from HCC than from any other community college in Massachusetts. For the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters, a total of 203 HCC students transferred from HCC to UMass-Amherst.

HCC president Bill Messner and UMass provost Katherine Newman sign an agreement to ease the transfer process for students between HCC and Commonwealth Honors College in October 2014.



Around Campus



HCC, Holyoke, MGM announce partnership

HCC, MGM Resorts and the city of Holyoke announced a new partnership this summer designed to enhance the region's hospitality workforce and prepare students for jobs in the resort casino MGM is building in downtown Springfield. Holyoke will contribute \$400,000 toward HCC's center for hospitality and culinary arts from the surrounding communities' payments the city will receive from MGM over the next 15 years. MGM is investing an additional \$100,000 toward the center, which has been given a name that reflects the new partnership — the MGM Resorts HCC Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts at Holyoke. The \$4.3 million, 19,888-square-foot facility is now being developed on the first two floors of the Cubit Building in Holyoke's Innovation District. Once completed next year, the center will house HCC's degree, certificate and short-term noncredit workforce training programs in hospitality and culinary arts. As part of the partnership, HCC will grant 50 free seats each year to Holyoke residents interested in workforce training.

HCC Culinary Arts students prepare fruit plates for guests at the July 11 announcement of HCC's partnership with MGM Resorts and the city of Holyoke.



Students volunteer for Day of Service

About 70 students participated in HCC's first "Day of Service" last April, volunteering with community agencies in Holyoke that provide food to low-income people. The Day of Service was part of HCC's "One Campus, One Theme: Food" initiative that began last fall. Students sorted cans and organized storage areas at Margaret's Pantry and Kate's Kitchen (both part of Providence Ministries), unloaded food delivery trucks, and painted fences and worked in the greenhouses at the Nuestras Raices farm. Laura Larson, associate professor of human services and the "One Campus, One Theme" coordinator, said it made sense to expand the food initiative off campus: "We started talking about how we could make this an event that really benefits the community outside of HCC and engages our students in the issues of hunger and food justice in the Holyoke community in a way that we haven't done before."

HCC student Tyler Riberdy of Agawam paints a fence at the Nuestras Raices farm in Holyoke as part of HCC's first Day of Service.

ICE Program celebrates 10th year

HCC's Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Program celebrated its 10th anniversary with a gala at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on June 12. Nearly 200 students, alumni, family members and friends turned out to mark the occasion.

HCC's was one of five such pilot programs launched by a state grant in 2007. Since then, under the direction of coordinator Ty Hanson, the ICE Program has become a national model for programs that enable students with intellectual disabilities to attend college. HCC "took the lead in this work and shaped what it could look like across the state



and nation," said Maria Paiewonsky of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass-Boston. Over the past 10 years, HCC's ICE Program has provided more than 100 young people with intellectual disabilities or on the autism spectrum with the opportunity to attend classes and participate in campus activities. "It was important to open the door to this group of students who had been historically excluded from higher education," Hanson said. "All students should have access to college."

Coordinator Ty Hanson and student Morgan Smith share a moment at the ICE Program's 10th anniversary celebration June 12.

HCC ‘one of the best decisions I’ve made’

I am a proud graduate of the HCC nursing class of 2015 and the University of Massachusetts nursing class of 2016. While the road to my associate degree and bachelor’s degree (at age 34) was circuitous, I wouldn’t change it for the world.

The first time I went to college was right out of high school, when I attended a small private liberal arts school. While I did well academically, I left after three semesters because I felt something was missing, that I hadn’t lived enough to know what I wanted out of my higher education experience. I was stressed about accruing lots of student loan debt without a clear purpose. And, I felt claustrophobic from being in a relatively homogenous group of peers. So, I “rose out” of college and bought a one-way train ticket to Oregon. I spent the next decade doing important, deeply rewarding community organizing and advocacy work with farmworkers in the Mexican immigrant community.

After witnessing troubling health disparities there, I decided I wanted to become a nurse. And this time I was determined to get a degree.

When my partner and I moved back East to be closer to family, I applied to all the nursing programs in the area, public and private. I was accepted into every program, but I chose Holyoke Community College. This was one of the best decisions I’ve made. For me, HCC was the perfect combination of high-quality education, rigorous nursing preparation, exceptional value and affordability, geographic convenience, and a diverse student body. I loved my time at HCC.

My appreciation for the nursing program in particular has only grown since graduation. I feel so fortunate to have had professors who truly love their jobs and cared about my success, and to have had classmates who shared my sense of purpose and

came from diverse life experiences. Additionally, generous scholarships from the HCC Foundation made it possible for me to focus on my studies.

I enrolled at HCC knowing that UMass has an online program for RNs to earn a bachelor of science degree in nursing. I am so grateful this type of public education is available to working nurses, since it is fast becoming the expected entry-level degree among healthcare employers. I started the UMass RN-BSN program two days after graduating from HCC. Working full time as a new registered nurse while earning my bachelor’s degree was challenging, but HCC left me well prepared to succeed at both.

After I passed my boards, I worked on the cardiac floor of a local hospital. It was an important learning experience, but it didn’t take me long to realize my true passion is community health. Last spring, I started a community health nursing position at Holyoke Health Center. I work on a fantastic team that supports patients living with opioid dependence, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. It is truly my dream job, and I could not be happier. It is rewarding, challenging and the reason I wanted to become a nurse.

Thanks to the education I received at a community college and a state university, I feel well positioned to make a meaningful contribution to my community.

Sincerely,

Aeryca Steinbauer, '15

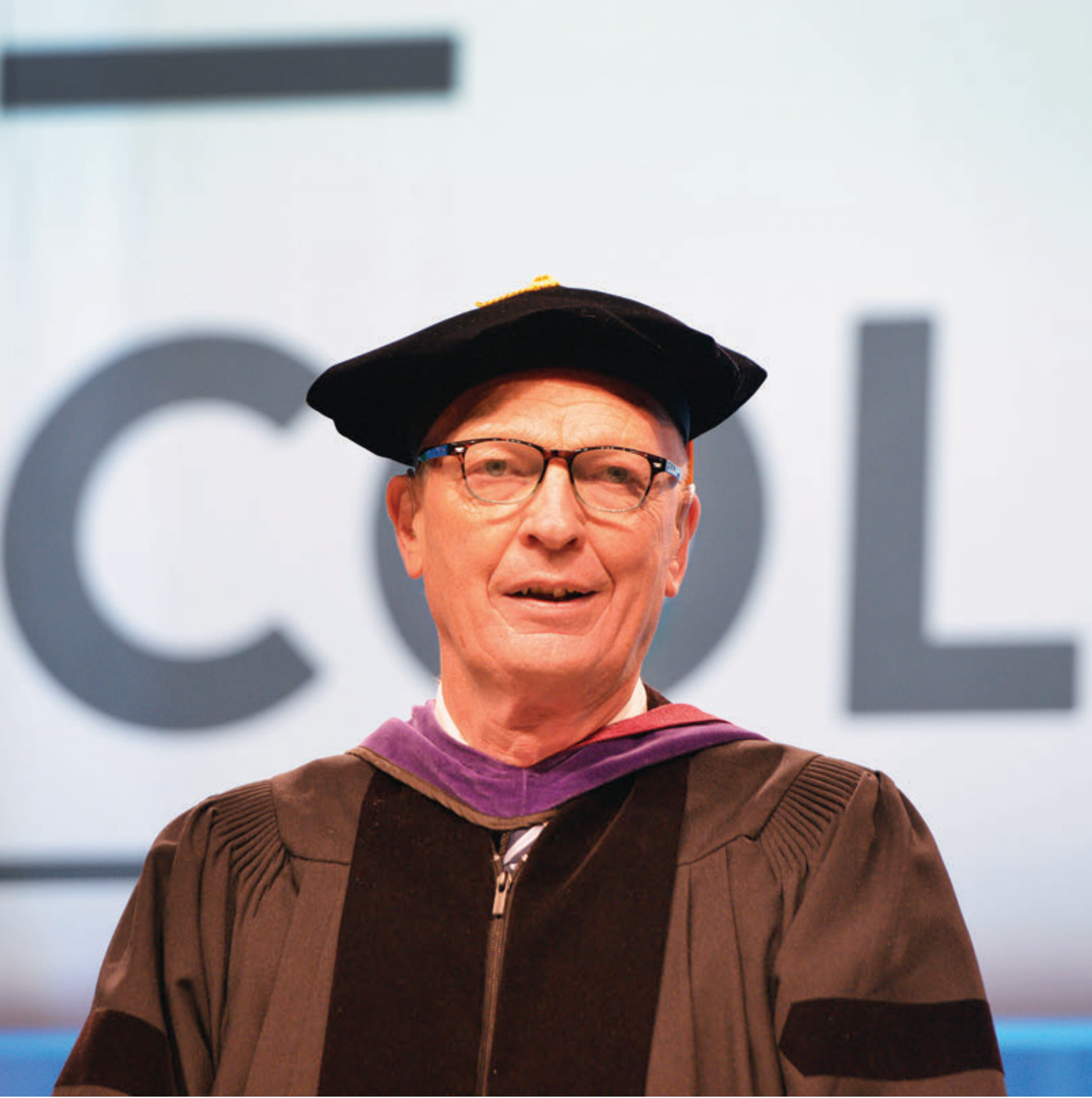


Aeryca Steinbauer, '15

“For me, HCC was the perfect combination of high-quality education, rigorous nursing preparation, exceptional value and affordability, geographic convenience, and a diverse student body.”

Alumni Viewpoint

Tell us what you think about what you read in each issue. Send your letters to alumni@hcc.edu. Please include your name, class year, home address and telephone number. Letters reflect the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Alumni Connection or HCC.



Read the full interview with President Messner on our website at www.hcc.edu/messner

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS



George Frost
1946-1975



David Bartley
1975-2003



William Messner
2004-2016

THE MESSNER YEARS, AT A GLANCE

2004-
2016

HCC's third president bids farewell

By CHRIS YURKO

So there he was again, HCC president Bill Messner, the big tall guy with the big bold voice, striding toward center stage in the Leslie Phillips Theater, in typical fashion, eschewing the microphone in favor of his own, unamplified baritone.

"Welcome to Holyoke Community College," he said for the who-knows-how-many-ith time, throwing out his long arms and letting his big hands fly. "It's wonderful to see you all here today."

He went on.

"We are Holyoke ... *Community* ... College." (Emphasis his.) "And the most important word of those three is the middle one. *Community* College. We're here to serve the community, and YOU are the community," he said, pointing both index fingers at the audience like visual exclamation points, "and we're here to serve ... YOU."

On this particular day last March, he was speaking to a crowd of some 200 prospective students attending HCC's annual College for a Day event. They were adults of all ages enrolled in high school equivalency, English as a Second Language and other basic education programs throughout western Massachusetts.

He'd said similar things before about community, of course, many, many times, in fact, during the past 12 years. He'd relate the same message in various forms at least two more times before he walked out of his office for the last time on Friday, August 5: to a group of business leaders at the grand opening of a new education and workforce training center in downtown Ware and to newly minted graduates of HCC's Gateway to College program.

And he'd been saying more or less the same thing since he first arrived in August 2004. In real estate, it's all about location, location, location. If there was a theme to Bill Messner's term as HCC's third president, it was community, community, community.

From Day One, emphasizing service to the community, particularly with regard to the city of Holyoke, was not just a mantra for Messner but a

OPPOSITE, PRESIDENT BILL MESSNER PRESIDES OVER COMMENCEMENT 2016. TOP RIGHT, IN 2015 AT THE CUBIT BUILDING, FUTURE HOME OF HCC'S CENTER FOR HOSPITALITY AND CULINARY ARTS IN THE DOWNTOWN HOLYOKE INNOVATION DISTRICT. BOTTOM RIGHT, AT A CAMPUS FOOD DRIVE IN 2004 WITH VIVIAN OSTROWSKI, THEN COORDINATOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES.



NEW FACILITIES
ON CAMPUS:

2006

Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development

2010

The Bunker Veterans Center

2008

Elaine Marieb New Pathways Center

2009

Media Arts Center

2011

HCC Advising Center



mandate. During his 12 years as president, he made it a priority to expand access to education, on campus and off, especially to underserved groups; to create new pathways into the college and transfer pathways out; to build new facilities to support education; to strengthen workforce training, adult basic education programs, and online learning; and to forge partnerships with area businesses, community groups and colleges.

“The sense I got of the place,” he recalled during an interview in which he reflected on his years at HCC and his life as an educator, “it was a great place with great academics that had been somewhat divorced from the things that were going on outside of it.”

He almost didn’t get the job. After candidate Ira Rubenzahl withdrew to accept the president’s position at Springfield Technical Community College, there were two finalists: HCC executive vice president Paul E. Raverta, a former faculty member; and William F. Messner, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges system, former vice provost at the State University of New York at Albany, and a former president of SUNY Orange in Middletown, N.Y.

The choice was stark but by no means certain. Up-and-coming insider or seasoned outsider? It took three ballots before the HCC Board of Trustees finally chose Messner by a slim 6-4 margin.

Why HCC? His decision to leave the chancellor’s post at Wisconsin, his alma mater, where he’d earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. in American History, had as much to do with geography as opportunity. A native of the Bronx, N.Y., he and his wife Eleanor wanted to return to the Northeast to be closer to their



FROM THE TOP, IN ONE OF HIS CLASSIC POSES, DONNING A CHEF’S HAT DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN 2014. 2. WITH THE HCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OTHER ADMINISTRATORS BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON THE NEW CENTER FOR HEALTH EDUCATION; 3. WITH STATE SEN. DON HUMASON, DURING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CENTER FOR HEALTH EDUCATION; OPPOSITE, PRESIDENT MESSNER SHARES A MOMENT WITH GRADUATING STUDENT TRUSTEE LUCIEN DALTON, ’16, AT COMMENCEMENT.



ON CAMPUS

2011– Renovation of First Floor Donahue and Frost, including new spaces for Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services, Student Activities, Institutional Development, Marketing & Communications, Alumni Relations, Student Health Services, Information Technology and IT Help Desk

–2014

2015 Thrive@HCC Financial Success Center, 2015 (Collaboration with United Way of Pioneer Valley and PeoplesBank)

2015 Doyle Drive campus access road



OFF
CAMPUS

2010

Picknelly Adult and Family Education
Center (Maple Street, Holyoke)

2011

Gill Technology Center (at PAFEC)

2015

Center for Health Education
(Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke)

2015

Thrive@PAFEC Financial Success Center

2016

Education to Employment:
Quaboag Region Workforce
Training and Community College
Center (Main Street, Ware)



ABOVE, WITH PROFESSOR EMERITA ELAINE MARIEB, AT A 2014 CAMPUS BARBECUE THANKING HER FOR A \$1 MILLION DONATION TO HCC'S BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN; BELOW LEFT, AT THE CEREMONIAL RIBBON-CUTTING FOR THE RENOVATED OFFICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND DEAF SERVICES IN 2012; BELOW RIGHT, NEXT TO A CARICATURE OF HIMSELF JOGGING AROUND CAMPUS, CREATED FOR HCC'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2006.



children, who were starting their own families.

Secondly, he said, "it was an interesting fit."

"It was a lot like the place I had done my first presidency over in New York," he said. "Transfer focus, liberal arts, general education. It wasn't STCC. I didn't want a technical school."

It was clear, Messner said, that HCC was not at the time serving the community as well as he and others thought it should. For one thing, it didn't look like the community. Latino enrollment languished at 14 percent in a city in which 41 percent of the population was Hispanic.

"There were other things," he said, "in terms of just connecting to community organizations and community groups and making ourselves more visible to people who are in need of higher ed. There were just more needs out there than we were addressing."

Like most people who met him, Erica Broman, former vice president of Institutional Development, said her first impression of the president was . . . "tall." (For the record, Messner is 6-foot-7.) She followed that, though, with another one-word description: "Fearless." He always had a strong opinion about what ought to be done, she said.

"He isn't afraid to take chances," she said in June. "Once he commits to doing something it's like, full-speed ahead, all guns a-blazing."

He set the tone from the start. In the Spring of 2005, at his behest, HCC's professional development committee organized "Into Holyoke," a day-long field trip into the city for faculty and staff. They boarded yellow school buses, listened to guides versed in the city's

IN DEVELOPMENT (ON CAMPUS)

2017

Center for Life Sciences (first floor Marieb Building)

2018

Campus Center Renovation

IN DEVELOPMENT (OFF CAMPUS)

2017

MGM Resort HCC Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts at Holyoke (Race Street, Holyoke)

history and culture, and met with public officials and representatives from the school department, art organizations, and community groups, such as Nuestras Raices. They visited the fish ladder at the Holyoke dam, walked along the canals, ate lunch at the Warehouse, and capped the day with a visit to Paper City Brewery to drink beer and watch a performance of the Holyoke-based dance group Wire Monkey.

“I think that experience really shaped the college for quite a few years in terms of understanding the place called Holyoke and how they needed to interact with it,” said Jeffery Hayden, who, as the city’s executive director of economic development back then, served as one of the day’s narrators and guides.

“I think that particular professional day impressed me that he was serious about community engagement,” said Hayden, now HCC’s vice president of Business and Community Services.

“Into Holyoke” also made a big impression on Vivian Ostrowski, coordinator of Gateway to College, then coordinator of Student Activities. “It was powerful,” she said. “I felt much more at home in Holyoke after that experience. Now HCC was connected to Holyoke in my mind in a way that it hadn’t been before.”

The day was eye-opening on many levels for Messner as well as others, he recalled. He remembers being particularly affected by an invitation to tour residents’ apartments in a less-than-glamorous section of the city known as the Flats.

“They were lovely apartments. Modest, but lovely. This ain’t the ghetto,” he said, employing the kind of colloquial speech he was known for at HCC. “People live here and even though they may not speak English very well they seemingly are people



ABOVE, IN MAY, WITH HIS DAUGHTER KERIN AND WIFE ELEANOR; RIGHT, AT A STATE HOUSE EVENT IN 2015 HONORING JEFFERY ANDERSON-BURGOS, '15, AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR ELIZABETH GOLEN. BELOW, BEFORE COMMENCEMENT 2016, WITH STUDENT SPEAKER MARTHA KING-DEVINE, CENTER; STUDENT SINGER BRITTANY BOUSQUET, RIGHT; AND LUCIEN DALTON, LEFT, WHO PRESENTED THE CLASS GIFT.



NEW PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES:

- 2005** Avanza2College
- 2007** Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (ICE)
- 2007** La Guagua free downtown shuttle
- 2008** Gateway to College
- 2008** Pathways
- 2011** Training & Workforce Options (Collaboration with STCC)
- 2011** Holyoke Career Closet
- 2012** Mandatory New Student Orientation
- 2012** Smoke Free Campus
- 2015** HCC-Westfield \$30,000 Degree Program




like us. Who woulda thunk it?"

Those community connections paved the way for many changes, on campus and off, which are highlighted in the timeline that spans the bottom of these pages.

Here's a few numbers to consider as well that define Messner's presidency: The number of students enrolled in online courses has risen from 12 percent to 38 percent. Latino enrollment now stands at 25 percent. That puts HCC on the cusp of earning federal status as a Hispanic Serving Institution.

As a historian, Messner understands that he doesn't get to decide his historical legacy. When asked, though, how he would like to be remembered at Holyoke Community College, the big tall guy with the big bold voice got a little misty and choked up trying to squeeze his words out. The idea of leaving HCC was too raw, it seemed, to talk about. So he reached back to recall his departure as president of SUNY Orange, then called Orange County Community College. During a farewell event, the head of the local chamber of commerce said Bill Messner put the community in community college.

The big guy paused for a moment, clenched his big hands and bounced them on the arms of his chair. He said, in almost a whisper, "That's pretty good." 

ABOVE, WITH GOOD FRIEND IRA RUBENZAHL, RETIRING PRESIDENT OF SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WHO WAS AWARDED AN HCC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD AT COMMENCEMENT 2016; OUTSIDE THE CAMPUS BUILDING NAMED FOR HCC'S FIRST PRESIDENT, GEORGE E. FROST; ACCEPTING A GIFT FROM HCC'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL FACULTY SCHOLAR, ZHU YAN, IN 2014.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

2004-2006

Gift of Opportunity Campaign for Holyoke Community College, (\$5.3 million)

2014-2015

Building Healthy Communities Campaign, (\$5.8 million)

PERSONAL

Through the HCC Foundation, President Messner and his wife Eleanor endowed the President's Grant-in-Aid Fund Scholarship, now called the Bill and Eleanor Messner Scholarship, awarded annually to a student who earned a high school equivalency degree before enrolling at HCC.



Planting Literacy

New program helps migrant workers read and write, in Spanish

Story by LAURIE LOISEL
Photos by DON TREEGER

Springfield resident Angelina Pascual hunches over a computer, concentrating intently. One by one, pictures pop up on the screen: a flower, shirt, trophy, house, bed.

She zeros in on the scramble of letters underneath and then clicks on them one by one or in pairs to form words — in Spanish: amapola, camisa, copa, casa, cama.

There are 11 other students at computer stations around the room, each working at their own pace. They range in age from 19 to 50, all women — and mothers — from Latin American countries. For most, Spanish is their native language, but they are only now learning to read and write.

The instructor, Raúl Gutiérrez, makes his way around the room, checking in occasionally with Pascual and her classmates.

“Que pasa?” he says — *What’s happening?*

He leans in, points at the screen.

“Muy bien,” he says — *Very good* — and moves on.

Though Gutiérrez is assistant professor of Spanish and Foreign Languages coordinator at Holyoke Community College, and his assistants are HCC students, this is not an HCC class. It is a pilot program called Planting Literacy, a collaboration between HCC and Holyoke-Chicopee-Springfield Head Start Inc., funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

The students here in a third-floor classroom of the Head Start headquarters in the Six Corners neighborhood in Springfield are farmworkers from Guatemala and Mexico whose children are in Head Start or attend local public schools. Some speak indigenous languages. Because they cannot read and write, understanding notes that come home with their children, whether in English or Spanish, is difficult if not impossible.

HCC STUDENT ANGELICA MERINO MONGE, LEFT, WHO IS ORIGINALLY FROM EL SALVADOR, HELPS A MIGRANT FARM WORKER IN THE PLANTING LITERACY CLASS.



TOP, JAZZYNETT ROSARIO, '15, LEFT, NOW A STUDENT AT UMASS-AMHERST, IS ONE OF SEVERAL ALUMNI VOLUNTEER TUTORS; BOTTOM, RETIRED ESL TEACHER AND CURRENT HCC STUDENT DOROTHY ALTWARG (RIGHT) WORKS WITH A STUDENT IN THE PLANTING LITERACY CLASS; RIGHT, HCC PROFESSOR RAÚL GUTIÉRREZ PUT TOGETHER THE CLASS IN COLLABORATION WITH HOLYOKE-CHICOPEE-SPRINGFIELD HEAD START. OPPOSITE, VOLUNTEER DOROTHY ALTWARG, LEFT, WORKS WITH A STUDENT.

Planting Literacy aims to teach them to read and write in Spanish so they are better equipped to communicate with their children's teachers and, down the road, help their children with their schoolwork.

Planting Literacy also aims to help these women integrate more fully into their communities. Because learning to read and write in English is a much easier task if people can read and write in their native language first, Planting Literacy starts at that basic level, says Gutiérrez.

The program has already drawn attention, receiving an innovation

award in January at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Head Start Association. In February, Gutiérrez and regional Head Start personnel gave a presentation about the program in Washington, D.C., at a conference of the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association.

Classes meet each Tuesday evening and start with students and teachers sitting down together for a meal. Many of these women have been working, so making sure they are nourished before diving into the lesson makes sense. It also provides a casual, family-style opportunity to chat about their lives.



Gutiérrez says helping the students feel comfortable took effort. When the program began last fall, he said, many of them were shy and reluctant to speak up. But now, they are more at ease, cracking jokes, laughing with each other and joining in the conversations about what they did on the weekends or how difficult it is to pick asparagus.

Pascual, 28, works at a local potato farm, getting rides with other migrant workers who head to Valley farms north of Springfield. With Gloria Penagos, migrant coordinator for Head Start's migrant program, translating, Pascual explained that she signed up for the Planting Literacy for the simple reason that she wanted to help her children Julian, 10, and Damaris, 5, with their schoolwork. She said the language lessons were very difficult in the beginning, but, six months later, she finds she is able to put the letters together to spell words.

While the impetus to join the class was to help her children, she said she feels what she is learning here will help her elsewhere as well.

"When she has a form, she wants to be able to read it," said Penagos, translating for Pascual. "It is important. It is helping her a lot — with everything."

Sometimes there can be up to 20 students each Tuesday night,

but Gutiérrez has help. His volunteer tutors are HCC students and alumni, all fluent in Spanish, that he recruited from the HCC Latino International Students Association, known on campus as the LISA Club, which he serves as adviser.

One of those tutors is Angelica Merino Monge, 21, who lives in Northampton and is president of the LISA Club. She met Gutiérrez in a Learning Community course he co-taught called "Give me Your Tired and Your Poor," about U.S. immigration history, policy and law.

Monge says she volunteered for Planting Literacy because she knows how the women feel. She is from El Salvador and came to the United States when she was 10. In her first U.S. school, in Maryland, there were no ESL classes, and she spoke no English.

"I didn't understand anything at all," says Monge.

She recalls many nights crying and wishing she would not have to go to school. After she graduates from HCC this winter, Monge wants to attend a private college, possibly Mount Holyoke or Amherst, and eventually go to law school to become an immigration lawyer.

Also helping out are HCC alumni Jazzynett Rosario, '15, of Springfield, now at UMass-Amherst, and Chesley Mattis, '16, of Springfield, now at Hampshire College; HCC students Gabriel



Nieves Ramos, of Holyoke, and Dorothy Altwarg, of South Hadley, a retired ESL teacher; and Esmeralda Mérida, a Head Start volunteer.

“I am a Latina and I am a native speaker, but I am Puerto Rican,” Rosario says, “so I do have the privilege of being a U.S. citizen. The reason I chose to help is because I am a mother and my son is three, and I don’t want my social class or my gender or my economic status to deprive me of an education, so my purpose is to provide these women with an education so they can continue the cycle with their children.”

Gutiérrez looks younger than his 39 years. He has spiked-up hair, black, blocky glasses, and is dressed in khaki pants, a shirt and tie and black down vest he keeps on, even inside.

He teaches on Tuesday nights following a full day at HCC, and after zipping home to Northampton to have dinner with his wife, Idoia Martinez, and children, Adrian, 7, and Zoe, 2, before driving back to Springfield for the two-hour class.

“I’m not going to lie to you. I’m exhausted physically,” he said. “When I get there somehow, I’m energized. It is actually a worthwhile project in my view, and it enriches my life.”

The class holds a similar appeal to Monge, who has what is known as DACA status. DACA, which means Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, is a U.S. immigration policy started by President Barack Obama that allows young people who came into the country before they were 16, and before 2007, to obtain two-year work permits and be exempt from deportation.

It is not, however, a path to citizenship, leaving people like Monge

in a kind of legal limbo. This precarious situation makes her deeply empathic to the women she tutors.

She concedes that she is indeed busy with two jobs and full-time course load, but says she volunteers mainly because she wants to spend time with other Latin American immigrants.

“I know what they are going through,” she said. “I just like helping them. A lot of their stories are similar to mine. I can relate to them so I can help them with trusting me.”

Originally from Mexico, Gutiérrez, too, has great sympathy for the struggles his students face. He sees education as their pathway to a better life in this country.

“Once you start educating people, which I think is a human right, you open up their understanding of the world beyond their daily needs,” he says.

Planting Literacy will be offered again this fall, at a more advanced level, with the hope that the women in the first year’s class will return. Their challenges are great, he acknowledges, but he believes the right education can open doors for them.

As class draws to a close, Penagos calls the students to attention one last time.

“Muchachas,” she says cheerfully before asking who might be interested in a math class next semester. Most hands go up.

There is a lot to learn.

A Lasting Impact

By JUDITH KELLIHER

The late John E. Sullivan, a beloved and respected Holyoke Community College mathematics professor for 49 years, continues to make an impact.

Since his passing in 2015, colleagues, faculty, staff and others have generously donated to an HCC scholarship fund in his name.

And it's easy to see why, as people who knew Sullivan describe him as a "model teacher," "selfless," "fair," "thoughtful," "conscientious" and "accessible."

"The scholarship honors the memory of someone who did so much, so selflessly and for so long. It shows that we, at HCC, are a community and that our lives and work matter beyond the payroll," said Ileana Vasu, math professor, chair of the engineering program, and contributor to the John E. Sullivan Scholarship Fund.

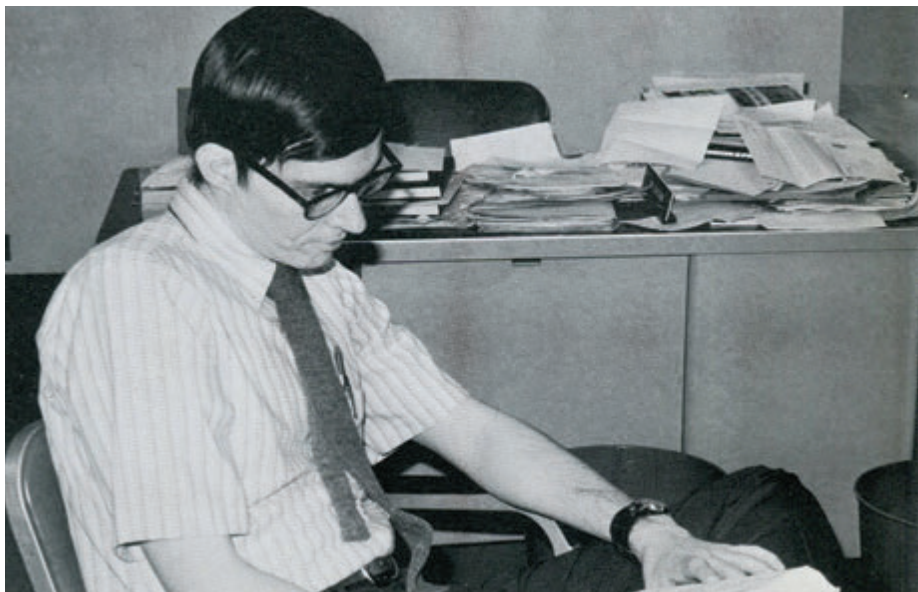
HCC assistant math professor Garret Cahill, '03, who is also a former calculus and differential equations student of Sullivan, was more than happy to donate to the fund.

"John had a way of finding an elegant solution to a complex situation and explaining it with such ease, both in the classroom and outside of it," Cahill said. "His brilliance in coming up with these solutions was complemented by his kindness and willingness to help everyone with a question. Hopefully, the scholarship will retain his piece of the school's community."

A humble person, Sullivan probably would not have wanted a scholarship in his name, but would favor the concept of helping students financially so they could attend college, said physics professor Robert Greeney, who also donated to the fund.

"He would certainly have supported the idea of providing another option for financial assistance to mathematics, science and engineering students," Greeney said. "Donating to the HCC Foundation, and specifically scholarships, affirms and honors our commitment to our work and our community. It provides another form of commitment and community building."

Vasu, Greeney and HCC math professor Tom McChesney donated more than just money; all three of them volunteered their time to serve



ABOVE, THE LATE HCC MATH PROFESSOR JOHN SULLIVAN. BELOW, HCC PROFESSORS ROBERT GREENEY, LEFT, AND ILEANA VASU, CENTER, CONGRATULATE ENGINEERING STUDENT NOAH PARADIS-BURNETT, THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN E. SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIP.

on the scholarship committee. And they were all friends with Sullivan, who had long served as chair of the Math Department and whom they credit with helping build an impressive reputation for the math and physics programs at HCC.


The scholarship will be awarded annually to an HCC student who is studying math, physics or engineering and earns a GPA of 3.0 or higher. To date, 83 individuals and one business have donated anywhere from \$25 to \$5,000 toward the scholarship through the HCC Foundation. Contributors included current and retired faculty and staff, including President Bill Messner, demonstrating the widespread respect and admiration the campus community felt for Sullivan.

Last spring, the scholarship committee selected engineering studies student Noah Paradis-Burnett, '17, as the first-ever recipient.

Receiving the scholarship was a bonus to the already wonderful experiences Paradis-Burnett has had at HCC. Although he did not know Sullivan, Paradis-Burnett was impressed with his reputation on campus.

"When people began telling me about John Sullivan and how much of an impact he had on



the STEM community at HCC, I felt even more blessed to receive this award," said Paradis-Burnett, who lives in Russell and is carrying an impressive 3.91 GPA. After graduation, he hopes to transfer to the Commonwealth Honors College at the University of Massachusetts to study mechanical engineering. 

ALUMNI IN ACTION



Dawn Bryden, '89, left, president of the HCC Alumni Council, stands with 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award winners Gail Smith, '74, Ted Hebert, '71, and Ruth Amador, '05, at The Log Cabin June 7.

HCC Honors Distinguished Alumni

Entrepreneur **Ted Hebert, '71**, retail specialist **Gayle Smith, '74**, and registered nurse **Ruth Amador, '05**, were honored June 7 at the 39th Annual Holyoke Community College Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner and Scholarship Benefit at The Log Cabin. Hebert, of West Springfield, is founder and president of Teddy Bear Pools and Spas and a member of the HCC Board of Trustees. Smith, of Granby, is president of Middlebridge Marketing, Inc., in Lincoln, Rhode Island. Amador, of Springfield, is a registered nurse at Baystate Wing and Hartford hospitals and founder of the western Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses. Amador was recognized with the inaugural Rising Star Award, which celebrates alumni who have received their undergraduate degrees within the last 12 years.



Behind the Lens

Joseph Hodgins, '11, returned to the HCC campus March 20 to interview guest speaker Sonia Nieto for WWLP–Channel 22 News. Hodgins, who majored in computer information systems at HCC, works part time as a cameraman for WWLP and also runs his own video production company, Joseph Hodgins Productions. For the last couple of years, he has been working on his first feature film, “Rise Above,” which he wrote, directed and filmed largely on the HCC campus with help from two other HCC alumni: **Eloyd Molina, '13**, of Holyoke, (lighting and cinematography); and actor **Jeff Leclerc, '13**, who plays a scientific genius.

Joseph Hodgins, '11, a filmmaker and part-time cameraman for WWLP–Channel 22 News stands with Latina scholar Sonia Nieto after her talk at HCC last spring.

Welcome Message

Every spring, students in HCC’s Pathways program gather in the Marieb Center to celebrate with admissions representatives from Mount Holyoke College and Smith College after receiving their acceptance letters. This

April, one of the visitors was **Nicole Reynolds, '08**, who is now the associate director of Admissions and the Frances Perkins Program at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley. Reynolds, who lives in Hadley, studied liberal arts at HCC and then transferred to Mount Holyoke, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in English in 2011. She’s been working at Mount Holyoke since 2013. Mount Holyoke College accepted 12 HCC students for this fall, nine into the Frances Perkins Program.



Nicole Reynolds, '08, left, congratulates HCC student Martha King-Devine, '16, on her acceptance to Mount Holyoke College as a Frances Perkins scholar.



Excellence in Education Celebration

HCC's Education Department hosted the inaugural Excellence in Education Celebration dinner last May and recognized members of the education community for their investment in excellence. Guests included local alumni, teacher mentors, advisory board members, faculty, staff and education majors from the Class of 2016. The event paid tribute to two alumni for their exemplary contributions to the education field. **Chrissy Lafortune, '87**, a preschool teacher at Joseph Metcalf School in Holyoke, was presented with the Mentorship Excellence Award.

Karen Moreno, '15, a teacher at First Step Nursery School in East Longmeadow, was presented with the Education Department Alumna for 2016 award. The award recognizes a dedicated individual who in an inspiration, innovator, and role model and who demonstrates a commitment to the college and the students it serves.

Bonnie Zima Dowd, director of Alumni Relations, guest Karen Hatch, award winner Karen Moreno, '15, and adjunct professor Deb Ecker attend the first Excellence in Education Celebration dinner.



Three for 40 Under Forty

HCC alumni **Beth (Albert) DeGray, '99**, **William Reichelt, '07**, and **Elizabeth (Powers) Staples, '05**, were named three of *Business West* magazine's "40 Under Forty" for 2016. The annual awards, presented June 16 at a banquet at The Log Cabin in Holyoke, recognize emerging young business and civic leaders in western Massachusetts. DeGray is managing partner and director of sales at The Log Cabin and Delaney House in Holyoke, Mass. Reichelt is mayor of West Springfield, Mass. Staples is director of operations at Good Dog Spot in Chicopee, Mass.

Beth DeGray, '99, receives her "40 Under Forty" award from *Business West* editor George O'Brien at The Log Cabin.

CLASS NOTEBOOK

1970

Naomi Karolinski is an associate professor of business administration and economics at Monroe Community College in Rochester, N.Y. "I am forever grateful for the opportunity given to me by Holyoke Community College," she writes. "It has afforded me the ability to be who I am, live where I do, be a professor, wife, mother and community servant. This is all from a girl whose parents arrived to the United States 20 years before I attended HCC and who had no guidance in choosing her life's path, not to mention the less than stellar academic achievements in high school. Thanks HCC."

1971

Stanley G. Waletkus enrolled in HCC in 1969 after returning from Vietnam. He writes: "I am very grateful that I was able to start my career there. It was my stepping-stone to UMass-Amherst and then to Western New England University for my MBA. Been retired now for 12 years and loving every minute of it in South Carolina. Thank you HCC! Without you I'd still be working, if I'd even have a job rather than a career."

1975

Janet Picht is a consultant dietitian and treasurer with Chas & Co Inc., North Grafton, Mass. She has over 35 years of experience in nutrition and dietetics, particularly in short-term rehabilitation, long-term care and Alzheimer's disease. Picht received her bachelor's degree from Framingham State and a master's degree in science from the University of Connecticut.

1976

John Bathelt lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., and is a technology consultant specialist with Kaiser Permanente. Before moving out West, he was a ski instructor at Mount Tom in Holyoke for 13 years.

1982

Tim Lord made a return visit to his alma mater this past spring after being away from the college for 34 years. He is employed as creative sales director with Boston Impressions, an award-winning design and inbound marketing firm in Nashua, N.H.

1985

Vinnie Daboul, a resident of Longmeadow, Mass., is president and co-founder of Sage Benefit Advisers, a privately held employee benefits consulting firm. After HCC, he graduated from the UMass Isenberg School of Management, where he now serves as chairman of the Isenberg Parents Organization. Daboul is also passionate about coaching and mentoring HCC business students who transfer to UMass.

Sean Hogan, president of Hogan Technology in Easthampton, Mass., has launched a ransomware awareness campaign. Ransomware is a specific variation of malware, used for data kidnapping, which is growing in popularity among hackers. Under his direction, Hogan Technology is doing its best to alert business owners of this malicious threat.

1989

Kim (Lech) Bush teaches sophomore English at Hampshire Regional High School in Westhampton, Mass., and was recognized as a 2016 Grinspoon Teacher of the Year by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation. The award recognizes excellence in teaching, professional development, enthusiasm for teaching and working with children and good attendance. Bush credits retired HCC English professor Phyllis Barrett for steering her toward a career in education. After finishing her associate degree, Bush earned her bachelor's degree from Westfield State University and a master's from Lesley University.

1993

Granby resident **Christopher Pronovost** was named chief of police in Belchertown, Mass. Pronovost earned his associate degree from HCC, followed by a bachelor of science in law enforcement and a master's degree in criminal justice from Western New England University.



Donna Wiley has been promoted to vice president, regional manager at PeoplesBank in Holyoke. She first joined the bank in 1979 and previously served as assistant vice president, regional manager.

She holds an associate degree in business administration from HCC and graduated with honors from the Massachusetts Bankers Assoc. School for Financial Studies.

1997

HCC valedictorian and top organic chemistry student **Christopher Provost** is a product manager in the Chemical Biology Division of New England Biolabs. After HCC, he earned his bachelor of science degree from UMass-Amherst.

1998

Gregory R. Sheehan has been working at Pension & Benefits Association in West Springfield, Mass., as a registered investment adviser for approximately eight years. Before working at Pension & Benefits, Sheehan was the assistant vice president of investments and insurance at PeoplesBank in Holyoke. He also has a certification as an accredited investment fiduciary. After graduating from HCC, Sheehan earned his bachelor's degree from the UMass Isenberg School of Management.

2000

First-generation college graduate **Melanie (Corbeil) Cosgrove** is senior associate director for Student & Alumni Programs at UMass-Amherst, where she oversees a team that organizes campus events, such as Homecoming, Alumni Weekend and the Commencement Ball. She received her bachelor's degree from UMass-Amherst and writes that she is "always a strong advocate for HCC when talking to perspective students. HCC is where I got my start and I'll always be grateful." Her husband, **Christopher Cosgrove, '94**, was a theater major at HCC.

Former Chicopee resident **Christina DiLisio** graduated from Simmons College in Boston and has lived in the Boston area since 2000. Prior to becoming executive director of Roslindale Village Main Street, she served the city of Boston as the Mobile Food Truck coordinator, where she made policy recommendations, streamlined administrative and permit processes, lead a cross-departmental working group, served as liaison with food truck operators, and identified opportunities for food truck vending and food truck industry development throughout Boston.

Connect with your classmates. Everyone has an update to their life story. What's yours? New job, grandchild, retirement, relocation, whatever? Share what is happening in your life with us. Send your news and photos to alumni@hcc.edu or mail us at the Alumni Connection, c/o Alumni Relations, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040. The deadline for receiving copy or photos for our spring publication is January 6, 2017.

2002

Robert LaFlamme, franchise and brand manager at the Walt Disney Company, received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Florida Metropolitan University in 2005. He has been with Disney for more than 15 years.

2003



After completing his master's degree in project management at Northeastern University, **Gary F. Perez** became part of Akamai Technologies in Cambridge, Mass. He

joined as a program manager overseeing the corporate system's portfolio of development projects. In addition, he is working to build out the newly formed Project Management office for Akamai as the head of technology adaption. He also works as the webmaster for the Boston alumni chapter of Delta Sigma Pi and is the current district director for the Northeastern University chapter he founded two years ago.

2004

Patricia (Morrissette) Gamble, formerly of Chicopee, is a medical assistant at The Villages in Florida, an upscale fun-filled community for adults ages 55 and older. Her position primarily focuses on preventative care.



Lynn Gray was named general manager of the Hampshire Mall in Hadley, Mass., last spring. She has extensive knowledge of the shopping-center industry and returns

to Hampshire after holding the positions of marketing assistant, assistant marketing director and marketing director within the Pyramid Management Group from 1995 to 2005.

Andrea (Samson) Luttrell began her career with an associate degree in business administration from HCC and followed with a bachelor's degree in human nutrition from UMass-Amherst. She has worked with Big Y's nutrition program since 2006 and became the second full-time corporate registered dietitian for the supermarket chain's Living Well Eating Smart program in 2009. Andrea has a love for all food and believes moderation and variety is the key to a healthy meal plan.

2007

Former HCC computer information systems major **Chris Nault** received his bachelor's degree from the UMass Isenberg School of Management. Since 2012 he has worked for the accounting firm of Ernst & Young as a IT Risk and Assurance Professional. As a technology support specialist, Nault started his own business called TECH by NAULTY and received a Harold Grinspoon Entrepreneurial Spirit Award in 2011.

2009

Days away from dropping out of high school and abandoning hope of completing her diploma, **Abby Howard** enrolled in HCC's Early Admit program, which allowed her to receive both her high school diploma and an associate degree from HCC. She went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University and is now a research coordinator in the Department of Psychology at Stanford University. Her team partners with schools, colleges and other organizations to improve student motivation and achievement on a large scale. Howard writes that she is "forever grateful to HCC for the role it played in my education trajectory."

2010

Matthew Haley received his bachelor's degree from Hampshire College in 2012 and now works in the school's Alumni Relations office as assistant director of Alumni and Family Relations. Haley also serves as coordinator of Youth Connect,



a program that trains students to aid in supporting underserved youth at community-based organizations around the region.

Maggie Ryan is a general surgery physician assistant at the Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Mass. After graduating from HCC, she earned her master's degree from Springfield College. In her spare time, Ryan enjoys biking and cross-country skiing.

2012

Chengyan (Vanessa) Hu started her college career at HCC and credits the college as opening the door to her current success as staff accountant at Aaron Smith, P.C. in Springfield, Mass. "I am proud to be an alumna! This school provided me with an opportunity to transfer to UMass and complete my undergraduate degree. I then went on to receive my master's degree in accounting from UMass's Isenberg School of Management."

2014

Yaritza "Big Mama" Garcia is a cook and hostess at Felix's Family Ristorante in Springfield's Forest Park neighborhood. She is a graduate of HCC's Culinary Arts program and an integral part of new owner Sefer "Sam" Dika's operation.

2015

Adam Lueb works as dining room coordinator at Smith College's Lamont House, where he oversees two dining rooms that seat approximately 240 students. He is responsible for stocking all condiments, drinks and food, keeping the serving area clean and running smoothly, training student workers, and ensuring that cleaning agents and linens are always available. Lueb is also known for his awesome chalk drawings on the menu board, which make students smile when they arrive for meals.

In Memoriam

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

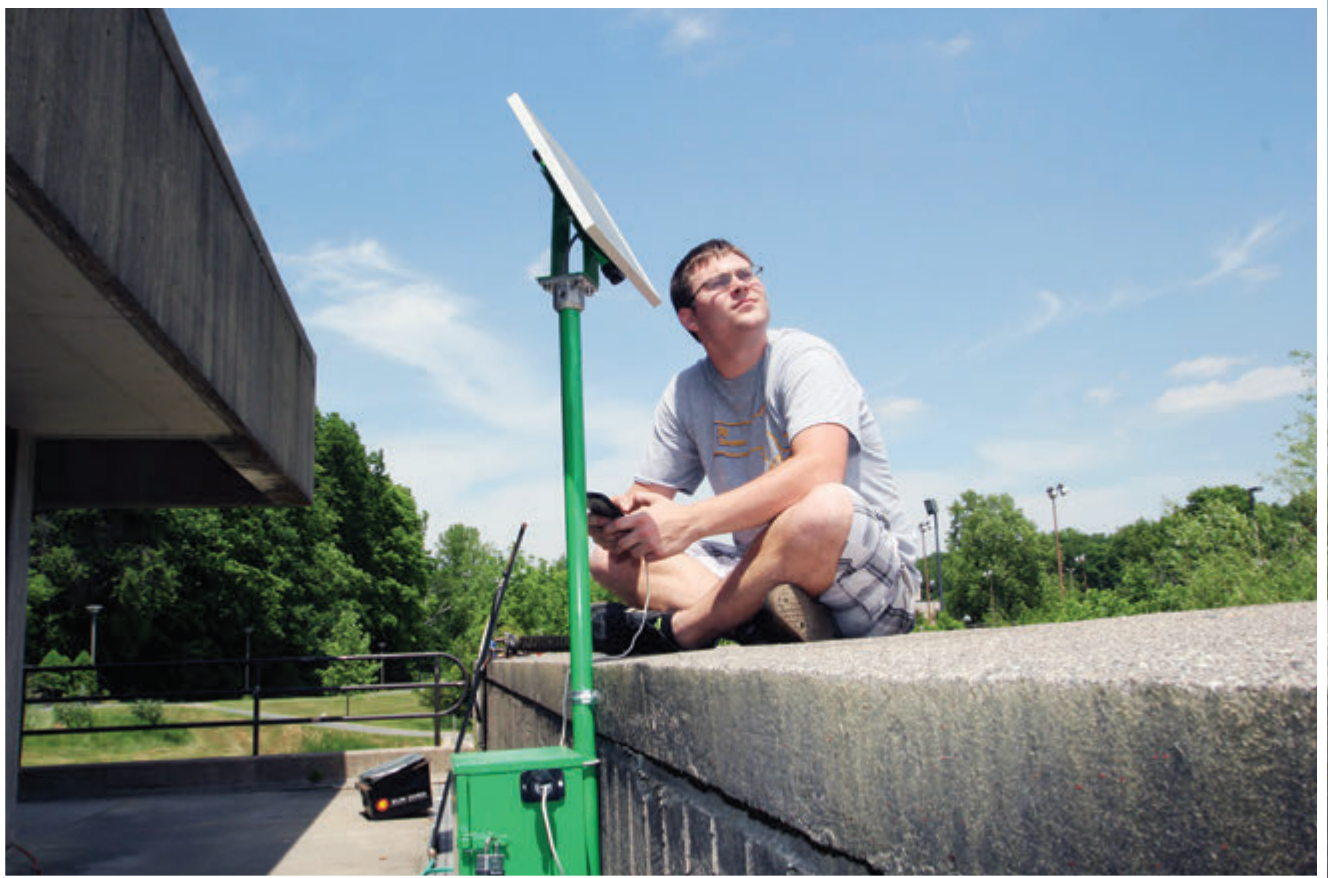
James M. Vachon, 1954
William I. Booth, 1973
Steven W. Sherman, 1973
Richard C. Haluck, 1974
Michael W. Hennessey, 1980
Maria (Cosentini) Florian, 1985
Kelly Ann Crawford, 1987
Douglas L. Macmillan, 1990

Faculty and Staff
Edmund E. Lucas,
Advising

In Memory of . . .

If you would like to make a contribution in memory of a classmate, friend, or relative, make your check payable to the HCC Foundation and mail it to Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040, or call Bonnie Zima Dowd at (413) 552-2253. You may also go online to www.hcc.edu/donate.

HCC Album



Alex Ziter, '16, enjoys some early summer sun as he charges his cell phone at one of the new solar charging stations that he helped design and build on the HCC campus. Ziter, 23, graduated last May with his associate degree in Sustainability Studies and is now studying Sustainable Farming and Food Systems at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. This summer, he took Clean Energy and Sustainable Agriculture, a six-week collaborative course funded by a National Science Foundation grant. The class met for two weeks each at HCC, UMass and Hampshire College. During the HCC portion, which focused on clean energy, Ziter and his classmates built seven solar charging stations for the HCC campus just like the one above, which is on the Campus Center walkway outside G216, near the clean energy lab. “By making them, the students learned how to set up an off-grid electrical system,” said HCC professor Kate Maiolatesi. “With the designs and the experience, students can now set up a system at their homes, if they want to.” Each station includes four USB ports and a rechargeable 12-volt battery that can hold enough juice to power four cell phones for a week, at no cost to the college. ♻️

Fall 2016 Events

Saturday, September 24, 2016

24-Hour Theater Festival

7:30 p.m., Leslie Phillips Theater, Fine and Performing Arts Building

Special guest performance by HCC alumni players

Presented by Lisa Poehler, '84, Denise Boutin, '77, and Linda Eger-Fitzel, '84, in collaboration with the HCC Theater Department.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to HCC's Leslie Phillips Memorial Award for Excellence in the Performing Arts, established after her the death in 1988, to help students continue their theater education.

Advance tickets: \$18 general public / \$12 students, seniors & HCC faculty-staff

Day of show tickets: \$20 general public / \$15 students, seniors & HCC faculty-staff. For more information or to reserve a seat, call the HCC Box Office at 413.552.2528.

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Fall Mid-semester Music Department Ensemble Concert

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Leslie Phillips Theater, Fine and Performing Arts Building

Thursday – Saturday, November 17 – 19, 2016

An American Daughter

7:30 p.m. (and 2 p.m., November 19)

Leslie Phillips Theater, Fine and Performing Arts Building

Special alumni guest director, Denise Boutin, '77

A play written by Wendy Wasserstein and set in Washington D.C., this story focuses on Dr. Lyssa Dent Hughes, a health care expert and 40-something daughter of a long-time senator. When the president nominates Lyssa to a cabinet post, an indiscretion from her past is discovered. The media turns it into a scandal that imperils her confirmation and divides her family and friends. Lyssa is forced to make a decision: continue to pursue the post and face an ugly Senate hearing; or decline the nomination, becoming a sacrificial lamb for the President. Partisan politics in our nation's capital, however, are nothing compared to the personal politics in Lyssa's living room, where complicated relationships unravel with her father, husband and her best girlfriend—not to mention the awkward encounters she has with an exuberant neo-feminist author and a relentless TV journalist.

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).

Holyoke Civic Symphony Orchestra

- Sunday, October 23, 2016
- Sunday, December 11, 2016
- Sunday, March 5, 2017
- Sunday, May 7, 2017

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

Free admission; donations gratefully accepted. For more information visit www.holyokecivicsymphony.org or call 413.256.1760



Alumna Alexandra Burkott, '15, returned to campus last spring at the invitation of her former astronomy professor Juan Burwell to talk about her research at UMass-Amherst.

Alumni Enrich Student Experience

Throughout the academic year, HCC alumni enrich the student experience by returning to campus and speaking to students or hosting students at their business. We are especially grateful to the following alumni and friends who met with HCC students this past spring. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. Thank you!

Alexandra Burkott, '15, graduate student in astrophysics, UMass-Amherst; David Condon, '06, president, Northeast Security Solutions; Vinnie Daboul, '85, president, Sage Benefits; Armina-Lyn M. Frederick, '14, graduate student in nutrition, UMass-Amherst; Beth DeGray, '99, managing partner and director of Sales, Log Cabin and Delaney House; David Piangerelli, '74, president, Lubrication Technologies; Alysha Sutton Putnam, '09, graduate student in marine biology, Smith College; Emily and Oliver Rich, co-founders, Tea Guys; Gayle Smith, '74, president Middlebridge Marketing.

If you are willing to be a role model and share information about your professional experience with HCC students, we would love to make a connection with you. By helping students explore a specific career field or by sharing your real-world wisdom, you can help give them what they need to find jobs or move on to bachelor's degrees. To learn how you can be a guest speaker, mentor or host, contact Bonnie Zima Dowd at bmzmadowd@hcc.edu or 413.552.2253.

Alumni Connection

Holyoke Community College Alumni Office
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040

www.hcc.edu



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President Messner hangs up his hat(s)

Although his preferred headgear is a flat cap, the recently retired third president of HCC has at times donned others, depending on his mood or the occasion. At his last Professional Association meeting in May, he put on a few that illustrated different aspects of his life and career, above, from left to right:

the academic scholar's hat; the cheese block (a nod to his prior job as university chancellor in Wisconsin); a N.Y. Giants baseball cap (an homage to his childhood heroes), and a Red Sox hat (a bow to his adopted Massachusetts' home). Inside, we explore his legacy at HCC, beginning on Page 4.