

THE

CONNECTION

FALL 2021

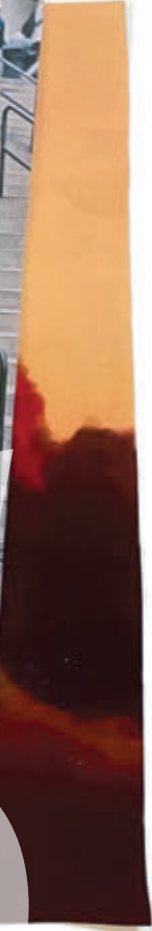
EXPERIENCE

experience characterized by:

An affordable, relevant education provided by talented faculty and resulting in career and

An approach to educating the whole person that continuously meets students where they are

HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS SHAPING THE FUTURE

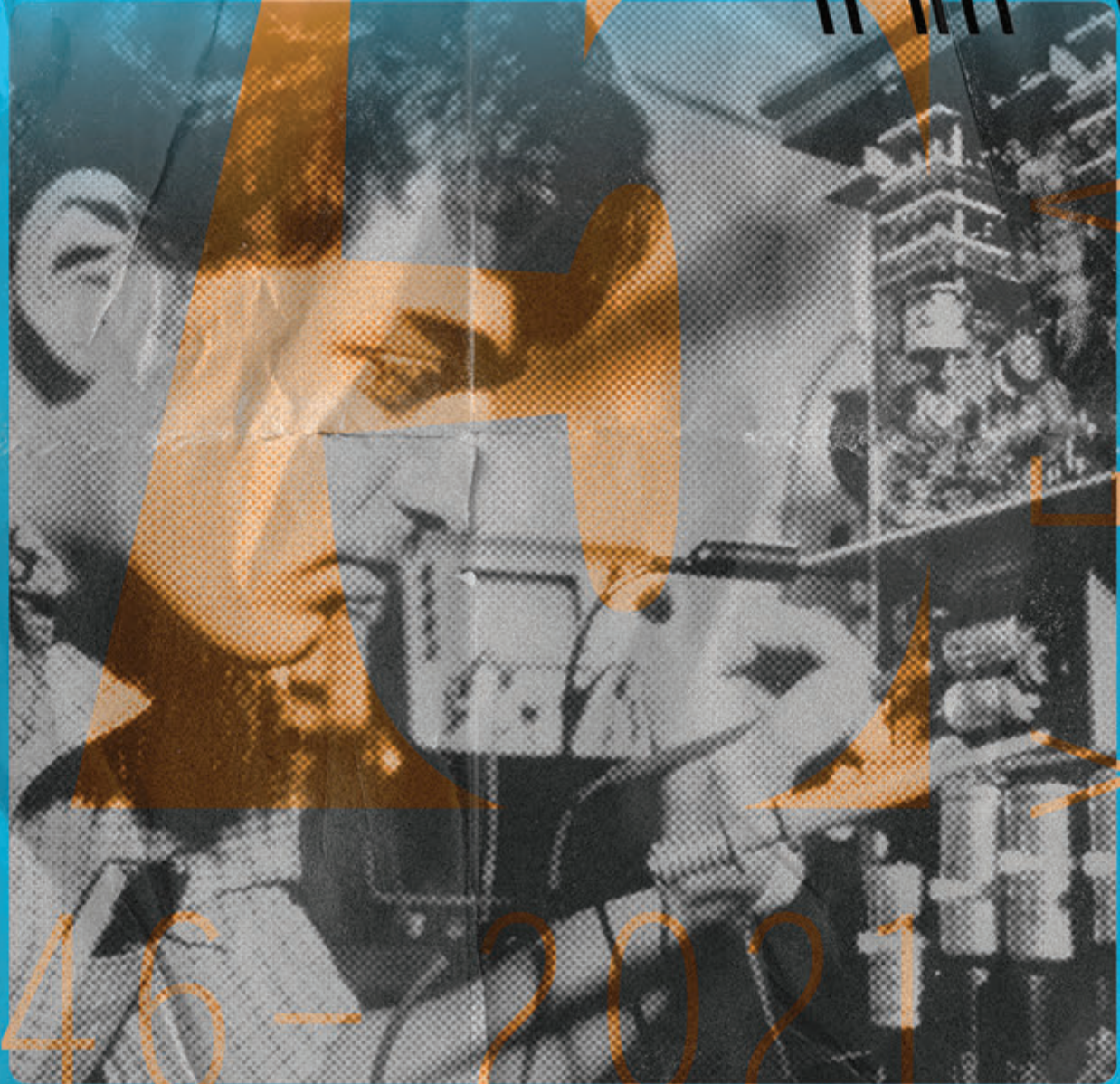
faculty and staff, and opportunities for students to achieve more than they ever dreamed possible.

For 75 years, the story of Holyoke Community College has been one of exceptional academics, relentless encouragement delivered by incredible faculty and staff, and opportunities for students to achieve more than they ever dreamed possible.

HCC began in 1946 as the city-sponsored Holyoke Junior College, a fledgling institution that lacked many of the resources traditionally associated with colleges. Nevertheless, the school flourished thanks to the perseverance of its small but dedicated staff. Dr. George Frost, the school's founder, and Ellen Lynch, his secretary, were the only full-time employees until 1958, sharing a tiny office in a former cloak room in the Holyoke High School building.

WE REALLY STARTED SOMETHING

FIRST TWO YEAR COLLEGE IN MASSACHUSETTS



46-2021 75 YEARS // 1946 & BEYOND

For 75 years, the story of Holyoke Community College has been one of exceptional academics, relentless encouragement delivered by incredible faculty and staff, and opportunities for students to achieve more than they

Celebrating 75



President Christina Royal

Holyoke Community College means many things to alumni, students, faculty, staff, board members, donors and friends. But one thing we can all agree on is that HCC represents opportunity and has always strived for excellence.

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary throughout this 2021-2022 academic year, we honor the generations who came before us as we build on that foundation for all those who come after.

HCC was born on Sept. 9, 1946. On that day, 75 years ago, the Holyoke School Committee voted to establish the Holyoke Graduate School, which became Holyoke Junior College a year later and finally Holyoke Community College in the fall of 1967.

And then, on Jan. 4, 1968, HCC's main campus building, the former Holyoke High School on Sargeant Street, famously went up in flames.

That was a pivotal moment in the history of HCC as city officials and Holyoke residents worked tirelessly to ensure the college was rebuilt in Holyoke.

That passion and pride for HCC is why we are here today. Our roots, history and mission engendered a fierce loyalty in the community then, and still does today.

HCC is a transformative place. We meet students where they are, determine what they need, empower them to see their own potential, guide them along their educational journey, and stand proudly with them at graduation. Engaging deeply with their academic subjects and forging meaningful connections with faculty and staff, our students come to believe in themselves and what they can do. An HCC education opens doors – to jobs, new careers, and educational opportunities at prestigious four-year colleges and universities – but the most profound doors HCC opens for students are the ones in their minds.

During my inauguration address in 2017, I shared my belief that the next decade would bring significant change to higher education – some disruptive. Of course, none of us could have foreseen the challenges 2020 would bring and the dramatic ways we would need to shift in response to a global pandemic. However, as I said then and still believe today: innovation is the thread that binds our past and future.

Like those who were part of our founding in 1946, we aspire to excellence and are committed to providing educational opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds so they can create better lives for themselves and their families. What you will read in this and future editions of this reimagined and renamed magazine are inspirational stories of the impact that HCC has not just on individuals but on our entire region.

As we launch the 2021-2022 academic year and celebrate this moment in our college's history, let us renew our commitment to serving new generations of students. Let us celebrate our willingness to innovate, learn, and take risks as we remember the past and imagine the endless possibilities we can create and achieve during the next 75 years.

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**HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

hcc.edu

4 campus roundup



together raises

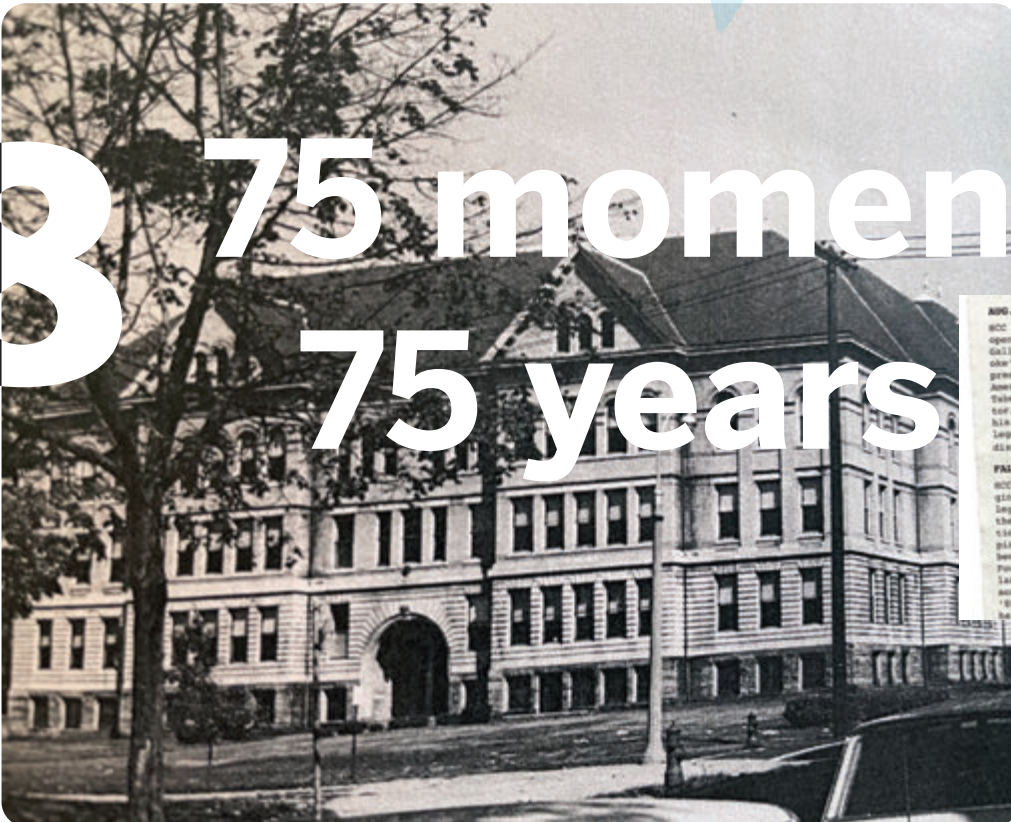
by auto dealer Gary Rome, trustees, dedicated staff and friends, HCC raised \$126,824 for scholarship and student support programs during its one-day "HCC: Drive to Change Lives" campaign. Drivers had set a goal of 150 donors for the 24-hour, 27 fund drive. The final tally was 295. Rome, an Foundation board member, had issued a donation pledge of \$10,000 if the campaign met its goals. He presented a check to HCC officials at his Holyoke trip on May 4. The money raised will go toward merit scholarships, the Thrive Student Resource Center and Food Pantry, and the President's Student Emergency Fund. "The reason we got involved in this campaign is because we wanted to shine a spotlight on this wonderful institution right here in our backyard, and dispel the misconception that community colleges are just a stopgap before you go to a four-year college. We're all their funding from the state, and highlight the importance of it to raise funds to help support our community college."

CONTENTS

6 dear HCC,

When I was in the middle of an expensive four-year degree and started picking up a second job, I started taking night classes at HCC. Let me tell you, it was a great idea. I saved me over \$18K in loans at the end of my degree! Once I hit the workforce, my more experience in business, and the skills I gained are paying off. I was thinking I would take some classes for fun and keep my mind sharp and boosting my career.

8 75 moments 75 years



AUG. 25, 2009: ON DISPLAY
HCC celebrates the grand opening of the Taber Art Gallery, named after Holyoke's Donald Taber, retired president and chairman of American Fed and Paper. Taber, an avid art collector, donated 41 pieces from his collection to the college, many that are still displayed around campus.

FALL 2006: TRANSFER PATH
HCC's Pathways program begins when Mount Holyoke College receives a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Since the grant expired in 2010, Pathways has been supported by the HCC Foundation and in particular donations from professor emerita Elaine Harlow '60. Each year, Pathways helps dozens of HCC students transfer to other colleges.

JUNE 7, 2007: HAPPY 60TH
HCC celebrates its 60th anniversary with a gala event in the Herley Center that was attended by 300 people, many of them alumni. A 60-foot cake featured six candles, each marking one of HCC's decades, lit by the daughter and granddaughter of HCC's first president, George Frost.

JANUARY
Vivian Ostrowski, the first of 40 HCC students, helped their first all-women basketball team.

24 Jim Izatt '59 Giving



26 alumni out & about



29 Class Notes

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32 hcc album: they called him soup



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Showing Pride



^ President Christina Royal and assorted HCC staff members hold up the Pride flag before it was hoisted up the flag pole in recognition of Pride Month in June.

HCC celebrated Pride Month in June by raising the rainbow flag over the campus for the first time in its 75-year history. Dressed in a black, Pride Month shirt, HCC President Christina Royal presided over the flag-raising ceremony, which was held by the bus loop at the main campus entrance to the Frost and Donahue buildings. "I'm very excited that at Holyoke Community College we have a very active group of faculty, staff and students who are engaged and interested in continuing to further the progress that we made to ensure that HCC is an LGBTQ-plus friendly campus and institution," said Royal. "We very much feel that diversity is a huge asset to this institution and this region, and we believe very deeply in being able to ensure that we have a wide variety of representation, and that everyone can be seen and heard as they come to HCC."

'Together' Tallies

led by auto dealer Gary Rome, the HCC Alumni Council, and HCC Foundation board trustees, HCC raised \$126,824 for scholarships and student support programs during its one-day "Together HCC: Drive to Change Lives" campaign. Organizers had set a goal of 150 donors for the 24-hour, April 27 fund drive. The final tally was 295. Rome, an HCC Foundation board member, had issued a donation challenge of \$10,000 if the campaign met its goals. He presented a check to HCC officials at his Holyoke dealership on May 4. The money raised will go toward student scholarships, the Thrive Student Resource Center and Food Pantry, and the President's Student Emergency Fund. "The reason we got involved in this campaign is because we wanted to shine a spotlight on this wonderful institution right here in our backyard, dispel the misconception that community colleges receive all their funding from the state, and highlight how important it is to raise funds to help support our community college."



^ HCC Foundation board chair Corey Murphy, left, auto dealer Gary Rome, HCC student Carolina Peña, and President Christina Royal hold a ceremonial check from Gary Rome at his Hyundai dealership in Holyoke on May 4.

This Beer's for Us

Four Black-owned breweries in Massachusetts joined forces this spring to craft a special beer whose proceeds will go toward the creation of a new scholarship for students of color who enroll in HCC's beer, cider and wine-making program. The effort was led by Ray Berry, owner and founder of White Lion Brewery in Springfield, and C.J. Eldridge, co-owner of Arcpoint Brewing in Belchertown, along with the owners of Crue Brew Brewing in Raynham, and 67 Degrees Brewing in Franklin. The limited-release beer, a juicy New England IPA called "As One," was introduced to the public at White Lion March 29. The beer – and the idea for a scholarship – was inspired by news



articles about the experiences of Black brewery owners in a historically white-dominated industry. "We want to attempt to spread brewing out to more people of color, and get them into the business," said Eldridge. "Let them see what it's about."

^ Ray Berry, owner of White Lion Brewery, left; Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of professional education and corporate learning; Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement; and HCC president Christina Royal, proudly display "As One."



Now Introducing ...

Every spring, Campus Cleanup Day offers HCC faculty, staff and students the opportunity to help beautify the campus before Commencement. Most of their time is spent picking up trash, weeding garden planters, and spreading mulch. This year, however, students in Professor Elizabeth Trobaugh's English composition classes were looking for an environment-based volunteer project and decided to spend their April 29 class time ridding the campus of invasive plants – in keeping with the Cli-Fi (climate fiction) stories they were reading. "We regularly talk about nature, and we talk about invasives," Trobaugh said, "and so right now they're doing work that could help our world not become as overrun and degraded." During this pandemic year, Campus Cleanup Day also offered Trobaugh the opportunity to meet her students for the first time in person. "Of course, everyone's wearing masks, and I had to try to recognize people by their eyes," she said. "Is that you, Sharon? Is that you, Joey? And they all thought I was taller. On Zoom, I look taller."

<< Prof. Elizabeth Trobaugh with her students on Campus Cleanup Day.



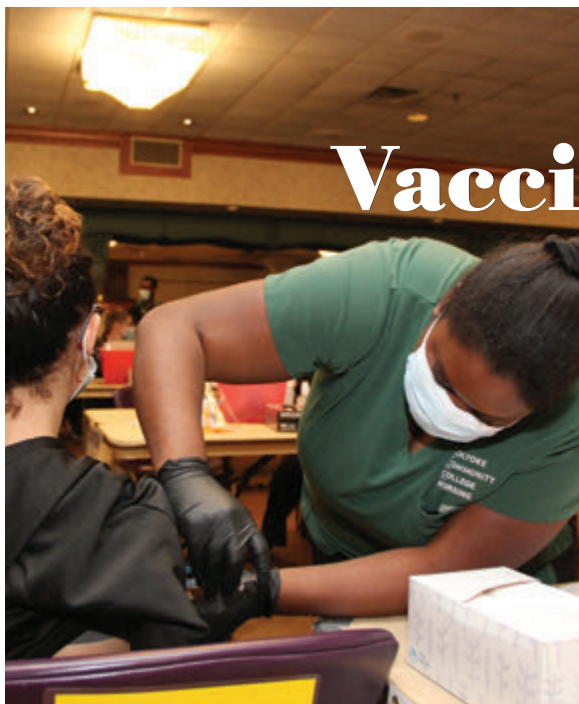
Comm- unity Comm- itment



HCC student Miren Neyra Alcántara was one of 212 U.S. college students selected for a Newman Civic Fellowship, which recognizes college leaders who demonstrate a commitment to addressing challenges in their communities. The fellowship is a year-long program administered by Campus Compact, a Boston-based nonprofit working to advance the public purposes of higher education. Alcántara is a Latinx Studies major at HCC and president of the college's Latinx Empowerment Association. Early last spring, the LEA Club organized a book drive to stock a "Little Free Library" its members put

together in the Holyoke Flats, one of the city's poorest neighborhoods. As part of the fellowship, students participate in a civic engagement project of their own design. "I plan to continue working on the 'Little Free Library' project," said Alcántara, who was also named a finalist earlier this year for *Business West* magazine's "Young Woman of Impact" award. "We are hoping to expand on it, add some workshops with the children and adapt it in a way it becomes sustainable through the years as more students join and continue the club."


^ Miren Alcántara



Vaccination Volunteers

HCC student-nurses collectively volunteered for hundreds of hours during their spring 2021 semester to assist with COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Holyoke and Chicopee. From early April through early June, 125 students from HCC's Associate of

Science
in Nurs-
ing and
Practical
Nursing

programs worked at 18 COVID-19 vaccination clinics at multiple sites, including the Holyoke Senior Center, the Holyoke Health Center, the Holyoke Mall, the Chicopee Castle of Knights, and the Chicopee River Mills Senior Center. At the clinics, the HCC students were often the principal health care workers on site, performing the full gamut of tasks, from setup to breakdown: welcome consultations, data entry, health assessments, vaccination administration, and post-vaccination observation. Some days they administered as many as 400 vaccines. "It's empowering to know we are vaccinating so many people and keeping the community safe," said nursing student Melissa Perry. Many of the students volunteered at multiple sites. For the most part, this was all done outside their HCC coursework. "Our students really impressed me with their dedication and service," said nursing professor Tara Kavanaugh, who organized the volunteer effort. "They impressed me with their commitment to public health, their selflessness, their devotion to their communities, improving the lives of others and their passion for wellness." 

FRIENDS on social media

I was in the middle of an expensive four-year degree and started picking up summer and night classes at HCC. That let me graduate a year early and saved me over \$18K in loans at the end of my degree! Once I hit the workforce, I wanted more experience in business, and the skills I gained are paying off. I went into it thinking I would take some classes to have fun and keep my mind sharp and ended up boosting my career.

Lauryn Winiarski of Northampton, Mass., studied entrepreneurship at HCC and works as a mechanical design engineer

I was a pretty poor student in high school – rarely put in the effort to get grades that could be considered even remotely decent. My first semester at HCC, I had to give a speech in my Intro to Psych class. My professor pulled me aside after to let me know how well I conducted myself and that I was a “sleeper” with “hidden potential.” I’ve never had an instructor praise me in that way before and it began to change how I thought about myself academically. It was a small comment but it truthfully put me on a path to academic success. It’s a reminder to me of 1. How impactful a teacher’s comments can be, and 2. How HCC changes people’s life trajectories.

Joseph P. Courchesne '06, English teacher, Granby Jr. Sr. High School, Chicopee, Mass.



HCC was one of the best experiences I’ve had. It prepared me for transfer, and I made friends there that I’m still close to and work with now. HCC’s music program is excellent. By the time I got to UMass I was able to just take the courses I wanted because I had already knocked out all of my prerequisites.

Caitlin Simpson '13, Performance artist and musician, Florence, Mass.

Being a single mom, I was finally able to attend college after my three kids were all finally in school. I chose HCC because they helped me work things out. As a non-traditional student it was challenging, and it took me three years, but I completed my associate degree in pharmacy technology. HCC was a great experience.

Joyce Dolat '98 lives in Westfield, Mass.

I received graduate-level training at HCC, and it was the most amazingly supportive family! I transferred to UMass, and had a great experience overall there. I was well prepared for the academics, but felt lost and alone much of the time on campus. I NEVER felt that way at HCC! It still feels like home to me.

Incidentally, I was pregnant and my daughter was born while I was still in school. She attended classes with me at HCC as an infant and toddler. She was the Psych Club mascot from 2011-2014, as I was the president at the time. I couldn’t have had that opportunity anywhere else. My professors accommodated my needs every step of the way, which allowed me to continue to the finish line with a near 4.0 GPA. I remain incredibly grateful. I’m still in touch with many of them. They are some of the greatest humans I know!

Jennifer M. Taylor '14, integrative health coach, Shutesbury, Mass.

VIA LINKED IN

Six years ago, I had the opportunity to take part in the first year of HCC’s STEM Scholars program as a peer mentor. The following year I acted in the same capacity. I’m happy to have had the opportunity to do so. I was fortunate to have met some extremely bright young minds. Additionally, I was able to collaborate with my professors on teaching, and I can say without a doubt it has led me to where I am today. I’m so happy to see that the STEM Scholars program is still going.

Joshua Plouffe '16, business intelligence analyst, Holyoke Medical Center, Longmeadow, Mass.

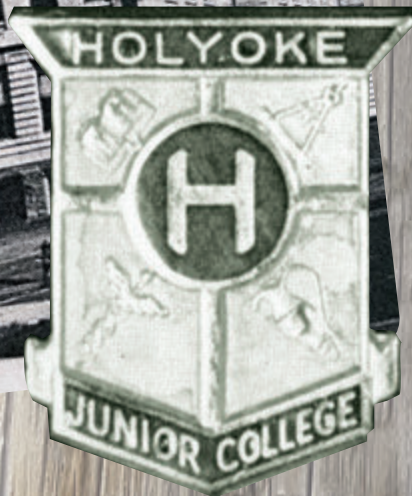
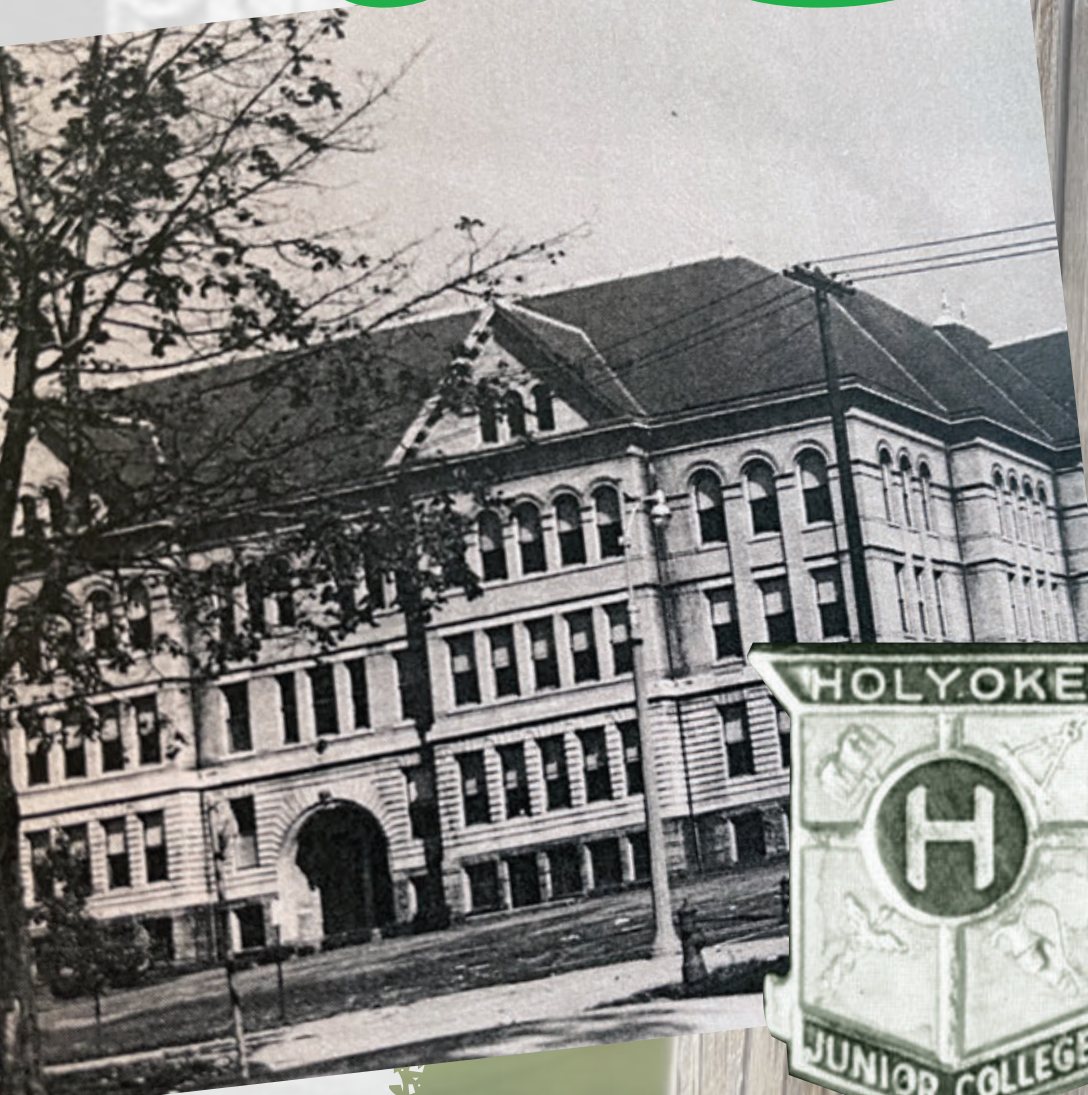
75

moments from *years*

Compiled by
Chris Yurko

Sept. 9, 1946: We Are Born

Holyoke School Committee votes to establish the Holyoke Graduate School, a night program offering classes from 3 to 10 p.m. at what was then Holyoke High School on Sargeant Street. On **Monday, Sept. 30**, HGS, the first incarnation of HCC, held inaugural chapel exercises in the high school auditorium. Classes began the next evening, with 85 students and 15 part-time faculty members drawn from area colleges, including Smith, Mount Holyoke, Amherst, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst (then the Mass. State College of Agriculture).





Dec. 9, 1946: Founding Father

The city school committee appoints George E. Frost Jr. as director of Holyoke Graduate School. Frost, a city native and graduate of Holyoke High, was a math teacher by trade, educated at Holy Cross and Columbia University. He had been serving as principal of the Holyoke Evening School, HGS's forerunner, when tapped for the director's job. In those early years, Frost performed nearly every administrative role, functioning as de facto dean of faculty, dean of students, admissions director, registrar, bursar, business manager, clerk, and, sometimes, if the reports are true, janitor.



April 7, 1947: A New Name

After the Massachusetts General Court passes legislation permitting municipal higher education programs to call themselves junior colleges, the Holyoke School Committee votes to change the name of the Holyoke Graduate School to Holyoke Junior College.



June 8, 1948: Commencement

Holyoke Junior College confers its first degrees to 14 students, among them Thomas E. Zebrowski, who would be one of the last surviving members of the college's first graduating class until his death

in 2018 at the age of 99. Zebrowski, like many students at the young college, was a veteran of World War II and had spent five years on the battlefields of Europe before returning home and enrolling at HJC on the GI Bill. In 2007, HCC recognized Zebrowski with its Distinguished Alumni Award.

July 1, 1964: Community College



Holyoke Junior College joins the fledgling Massachusetts community college system. The school's name is changed accordingly to Holyoke Community College with George Frost installed as its first president. Meanwhile, the city of Holyoke completes construction of a new high school and turns over the old high school building and high school gymnasium across the street (known as "the annex") to HCC.

September 1967: Making Music

Sidney B. Smith, HCC assistant professor of music, starts the Holyoke Community College Orchestra. The orchestra would become the Holyoke Civic Symphony in the late 1980s when it was incorporated as an

independent nonprofit, but the connection to the college remains. During non-pandemic times, the symphony practices every Monday night in HCC's Fine & Performing Arts Building and holds its regular fall, winter and spring

concerts in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater, under the direction of conductor David Kidwell, a member of the HCC adjunct music faculty. Many HCC alumni and some current students regularly perform with the symphony.

After a \$300,000 renovation, funded by the state, the former Holyoke High School Annex (the gymnasium) is rededicated as the HCC Science Building, complete with lecture halls, laboratories, and faculty offices. It opens for classes during the fall 1966 semester. Meanwhile, construction begins on a \$1.5 million renovation of the main HCC building, the former Holyoke High School on Sargeant Street.



May 1966: The Annex



September 1967



20th

After being temporarily relocated due to construction, HCC faculty and staff move back into the renovated Holyoke High School building. Classes are first held in the new campus building in September. As the 1967-1968 school year begins, and in celebration of the college's 20th anniversary, President George Frost reflects on HCC's growth, at the time 1,561 students, more than 60 full-time teachers, an expanding array of liberal arts and career programs, and a growing reputation as it an institution that prepares students well for transfer to four-year schools.

Anniversary

HORROR & DE- SPAIR



Jan. 4, 1968

Just a few months after moving back into the renovated high school, an afternoon fire destroys the building. "Almost everyone who witnessed the event was overcome by a combination of horror and despair," author and retired HCC history professor George Ashley wrote in his 2005 book, "History of Holyoke Community College." With a week to go in the semester and finals yet to come, the Holyoke community rallies to find space and equipment so classes could continue to operate. The city arranges for the former Elmwood School building to be reopened and offers of space and equipment pour in.



1968-1974: C

Despite being unsettled after the fire of 1968 and scattered about the city in makeshift offices and classrooms, HCC grew faster between 1968 and 1974 than in any previous time in its history. Enrollment during those tumultuous years swelled to 2,606 day students by September 1974. As the college grew, so did the number of academic programs it offered. During those in-between years, HCC established what are still some of its most popular and respected courses of study: Business, Criminal Justice, Veterinary and Animal Science, Hospitality Management, Early Childhood Education, and Nursing.



Jan. 8, 1968: The Assembly

The college organizes an assembly at Mountain Park to tell students where their classes and exams will be held. About 1,500 students show up. President George Frost vows that the school will be rebuilt: "We will have to start from scratch ... and we will start now." For the next six years, HCC would operate out of a disparate collection of city buildings, including the old Elmwood School, the First Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church, and the Armory, as well as rooms above the former Emily and Jenny's restaurant on the corner of Sargeant Street and Elm.

Jan. 9, 1968: Local Impact

Holyoke mayor William Taupier and the Holyoke Board of Alderman take out an advertisement in the *Holyoke Daily Transcript Telegram*, asking residents to write to Gov. John Volpe and other state officials, urging them to approve rebuilding the college in

Holyoke. Three days later, following a presentation by President George Frost, Rep. David Bartley, and delivery of numerous bags of mail, the State Board of Regional Community College votes to keep the college in Holyoke, and bells ring out across the city.

Aug. 1, 1968: The HCC Foundation

President George Frost enlists alumnus Joseph Wright '54 for help starting a nonprofit to raise money to help rebuild the college on its new campus. Thus, the Friends of Holyoke Community College is incorporated. In 1985, the name was changed to the Holyoke Community College Foundation, the first community college foundation in Massachusetts. Over the years, the foundation has provided more than \$3 million in direct aid to students in the form of scholarships, while also investing in classroom equipment

Jan. 5, 1968: Community Commitment

President George Frost and Holyoke mayor William Taupier launch a campaign to keep the college in Holyoke with support from local educators, business leaders and politicians, including state House majority leader and (later HCC president) David Bartley '54, and Maurice Donahue, president of the Mass. Senate. Taupier immediately pursues an option to purchase land on Homestead Avenue for a new campus.

Growth Spurt



and technology for select academic and student support programs. With total assets of more than \$14 million, the HCC Foundation maintains a larger endowment than any other community college foundation in Massachusetts.

June 6, 1971: Groundbreaking

State officials hold a groundbreaking ceremony on the site of the former Sheehan dairy farm on Homestead Avenue, land the city of Holyoke had purchased for the new HCC campus just months after the 1968 fire. On hand for the event were alumnus, state House speaker (and future HCC president) David Bartley '54; former state Senate President Maurice Donahue; and Holyoke city mayor William S. Taupier, who had led the initial campaign to keep the college in Holyoke. Phase I of the project included construction of three main campus buildings, A (now Donahue), B (now Frost), and D (now Marieb), along with a power plant and athletic fields.

September 1971: No YCC Without HCC

As a teenage entrepreneur, **Michael Kittredge '73** was already running a fledgling candle business out of his parents' South Hadley home when he started taking

classes at HCC. In subsequent years, though, as his start-up grew, he often credited the college for providing the lessons that helped him turn that one-man operation into the Yankee Candle Company, the global retailing giant, New England tourist attraction, and one of the region's largest employers. "Without HCC," he would later say, "there would be no YCC."

Feb. 19, 1974: A New Home

On the first day of the spring 1974 semester, with construction completed on the college's three main academic buildings - those now known as Frost, Donahue and Marieb - HCC officially welcomes students to its new 135-acre campus on Homestead Avenue. After the "nightmare" of the previous six years, professor George Ashle



April 27, 1975

Open House

With construction of C building (Fine & Performing Arts) now complete, HCC welcomes the entire community to a day-long, campus-wide open house. Visitors stream through HCC's 59 classrooms, 47 labs, half-dozen seminar rooms, art studios and auditorium. Outside they find 20 acres of parking lots, playing fields, tennis courts, running track, and walkways. The 135-acre wooded campus soon became a popular spot for hikers, joggers, and dog walkers. It still is.

July 1975

Changing of the Guard

George Frost retires after nearly 30 years as HCC's first and, to this day, its longest-serving leader (first as director, then as president). He is succeeded by former state House speaker and HCC alumnus **David Bartley '54**, who becomes the college's second president. In one of his first official acts, President Bartley asks Frost to return as founding director of a new alumni association, and Frost agrees.

Sept. 1976

Going Remote, Baby Steps

Long before COVID-19, HCC takes its first steps into the new field of remote education with "Degree Via TV" as it was called in the Sept. 21, 1976, issue of the HCC Journal. The Journal broke the news of two new HCC-sponsored, three-credit courses, "Introduction to Business" and "Introduction to Psychology," to be broadcast over WGBY-TV, the local public television station. "We shall one day soon be granting degrees to folks unable to attend regular class-

Feb. 2, 1976 *Calling All Alumni*

HCC opens an alumni office with retired president George Frost as the volunteer director of the college's new Alumni Association. The association's purpose: promote the interests of HCC and show its 6,000 alumni what Holyoke Community College can do for them. Forty-five years later, HCC's Alumni Association is still going strong, with HCC graduates now numbering more than 30,000.

Spring 1977 *Here to Assist*

HCC establishes the Learning Assistance Center to provide tutoring services to students. In November 2000, the center, really an assortment of tutoring areas around campus, moved to consolidated spaces on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, where it was renamed the Center for Academic Program Support, better known as CAPS. CAPS consists of three separate but adjoining areas, the Writing Center, the Math Center and the Tutoring Center, that together employ some 70 part-time tutors, about 25 percent of them alumni.

Spring 1980

Professor Marieb

Elaine Nicpon Marieb, an HCC professor of biology, graduates from the college's registered nursing program. She had enrolled to get a better understanding of the course material from a student's point of view. Marieb would go on to become a best-selling author of the world's most popular textbooks on Anatomy & Physiology as well as HCC's most generous patron. Her donations during her lifetime totaled nearly \$1.5 million. Today, her name can be found in more places on the HCC campus than anyone else's, most prominently on the main science building, a student lounge and study center, an A&P lab, and dozens of placards marking the offices of HCC professors honored over the years with the Elaine Marieb Chair for Teaching Excellence Award.



es, but still eager for education," President David Bartley said at the time. Prophetic.

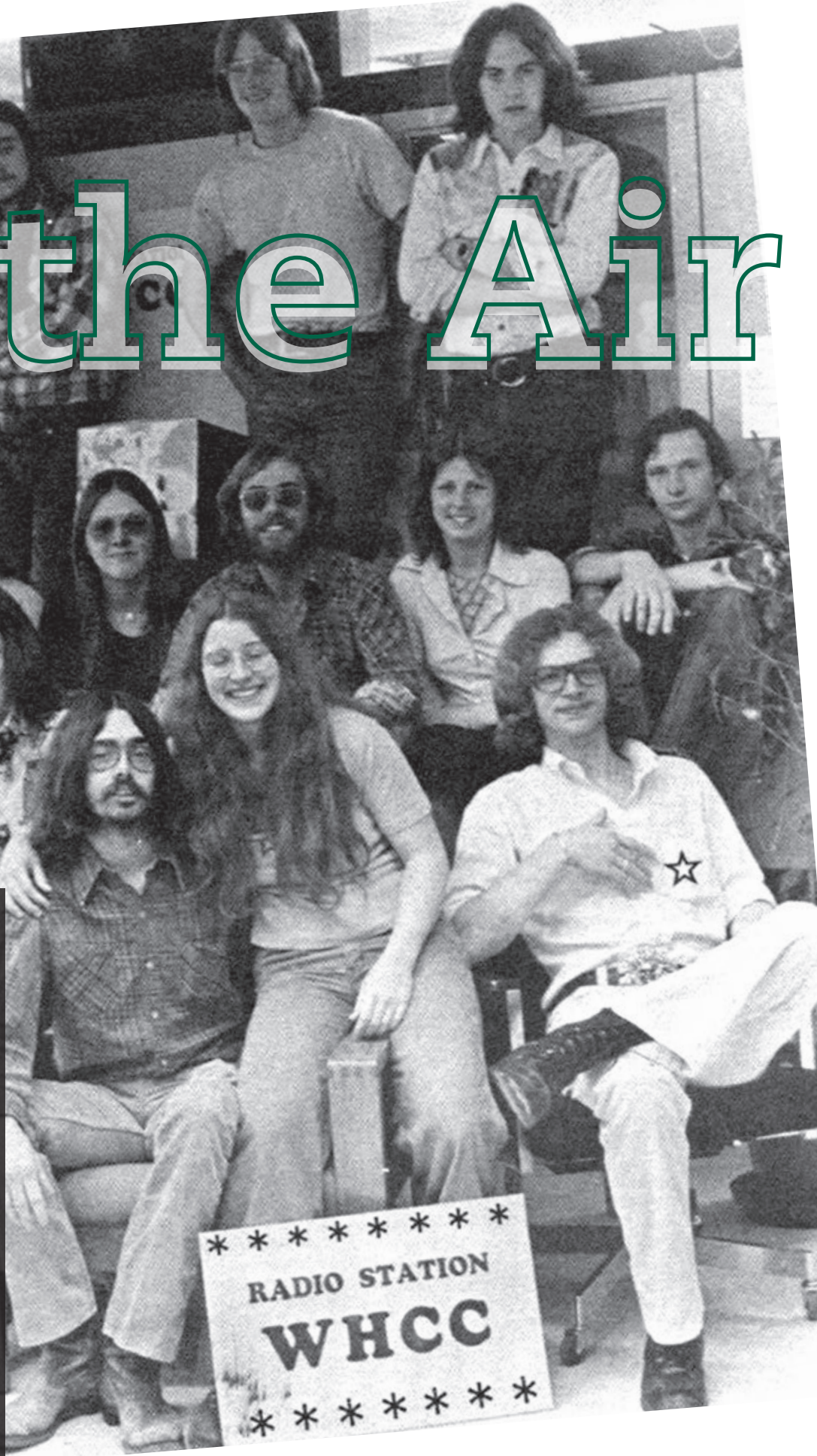


On the Air

Nov. 14, 1977:

On the Air

WCCH begins broadcasting as an FCC-licensed FM radio station. The late HCC professor Everett Clegg, director of HCC's Audio Visual Center, had established a limited college radio station the year before called, more logically, "WHCC," but it could only be heard on campus. Holy Cross College had already claimed WHCC for its own FM station, so HCC reversed its call letters to WCCH. Staffed by student DJs, the progressive music station soon became popular as "The New Voice in the Valley." Today, managed by students in the HCC Radio Club, WCCH broadcasts its 10 watts of power on 103.5 FM, 24 hours a day.



Spring 1980: Student Central

HCC opens the Campus Center (then G building). The original design of the three-story, 60,000 square-foot structure matched the other campus buildings, with the exception of the sloping façade that would prove problematic in later years. At the time, the first floor housed the college bookstore and three game rooms; the second, four dining areas, a cafeteria and kitchen run by students in HCC's Hotel and Food Management program; the third, offices for student government, clubs and publications. For the next four decades, the Campus Center would be plagued by water leaks until a complete overhaul in recent years.



Fall 1999: Now on the Tee

Electronic media professor **Jay Ducharme '78** forms the HCC Disc Golf Club and begins construction of HCC's Disc Golf Course. Ducharme would complete the 5,167-foot, par 56 course in 2007, and continue to make updates and repairs right up through his retirement from HCC in 2020. The HCC disc golf course is today one of the few 18-hole layouts in the Pioneer Valley. When he started, Ducharme designed the front 9 with families in mind, the holes open and inviting. The back 9, though, is more challenging, as it winds through the woods. "It's a beast," Ducharme once warned, "like Jekyll and Hyde."

Spring 1986 ESL Spoken Here

HCC offers English as a Second Language classes for the first time. It started as a non-credit, grant-funded program with two levels of ESL and three part-time instructors. Today, HCC's English as a Second

Language studies program is the largest and most comprehensive in western Massachusetts. The goal after all these years remains the same: helping non-native speakers prepare to do college-level academic work, in English.

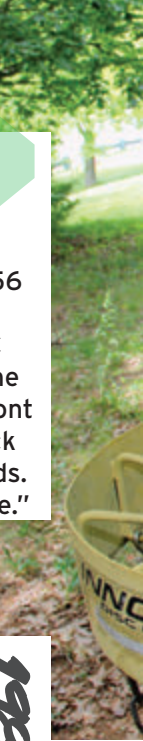
Spring 2000: A Legacy of Educational Excellence



George Frost retires as director of the Alumni Association after 34 years with the college, first as director of Holyoke Junior College, then president of HCC, and finally director of the Alumni Association. "The stability and greatness of an institution depends on its foundation. George E. Frost has given HCC a legacy of educational excellence," president David Bartley '54 wrote in the Spring 2000 edition of the Alumni Bulletin. "I was one of thousands who experienced his special presence during the important formative years, and it made me realize what a great teacher can mean in the life of a college student."

1984: Women in Transition

HCC establishes a "Women in Transition" program for those seeking education and job training after years being out of the workforce. It had evolved from a previous incarnation as "Women in Business," itself descended from an even earlier version specifically for "displaced homemakers." The legacy of those programs continues at HCC today as New Directions and Pathways - support and transfer programs for non-traditional age students, the latter primarily women.



Fall 1999: LAALC

HCC opens an adult learning center in Ludlow, Mass., in response to a report that showed lower high school attainment rates in the city due primarily to the large population of older Portuguese immigrants. The Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center serves 150-175 students every year. In 2020, LAALC students spoke 35 languages and originated from 38 different countries.



Nov. 1, 1999: The Sound of Music

In recognition of the high quality of its music curriculum, HCC becomes an accredited member of the prestigious National Association of Schools of Music. It is still the only community college in Massachusetts that holds this distinction. HCC offers an associate degree in music and a certificate in musical performance. Its faculty consists of practicing musical professionals. Beyond instruction, the department offers a series of free public concerts each semester, hosts guest performers and speakers, and sponsors the annual HCC Jazz Festival.

FALL 1993: LEARNING COMMUNITIES

HCC psychology professor Jack Mino and English professor David Ram develop a model for an integrated teaching program called a Learning Community. Learning Communities, or LC's, are a special genre of team-taught courses that combine classes from two academic disciplines focused on a singular theme or topic. Since then, HCC has become a national leader in LC education. Today, HCC offers about a dozen Learning Communities every semester, many in collaboration with other colleges, including Amherst and Smith.

March 28, 1998

Under the direction of music professor and jazz guitarist Robert Ferrier '77, HCC debuts its annual Jazz Festival with trombonist Scott Reeves and trumpeter Claudio Roditi as guest artists. In the years since, the regional festival, typically held in March, has welcomed a long succession of top-notch artists for two days of musical performances and jazz workshops with area college and high school musicians.



Spring 1993

DISABILITY AND DEAF SERVICES

HCC establishes a stand-alone office for students with disabilities following the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1992 and the subsequent rise in the numbers of students identifying as disabled. A few years later, HCC added Deaf Services (to support one of the largest Deaf and hard of hearing populations in the state) and set up an Assistive Technology Center. HCC's Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services (OSDDS) now serves more than 800 students every year.

Fall 1988: Playing Through

Spearheaded by President David Bartley and Dr. Frances Baker, a Holyoke podiatrist and college trustee, HCC launches an annual golf tournament to raise money for the college through its nonprofit foundation. Since that first HCC Foundation Golf Classic, the annual benefit has raised more than \$500,000. The tournament is traditionally played on the second Monday of September at Springfield Country Club.

Oct. 27, 1994: The Great Debate

HCC hosts an election-year debate between sitting Democratic U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy and Republican challenger John Dingell. Afterward, they signed the debate banner that still hangs on the wall in the Student Center. Kennedy wrote: "I am glad the real debate was here in Holy-



TAKE A HIKE

President David Bartley '54 formally dedicates the HCC Natural Refuge and Trail System, a series of marked trails through the woods behind the campus. Winston Lavalley, (now retired) HCC professor of biology and environmental science, had originally bushwhacked those trails in the 1970s. "We're very lucky," Lavalley said on a visit to HCC in 2013. "Many schools don't have places to study nature right next door. Here you step out, and you're right there."

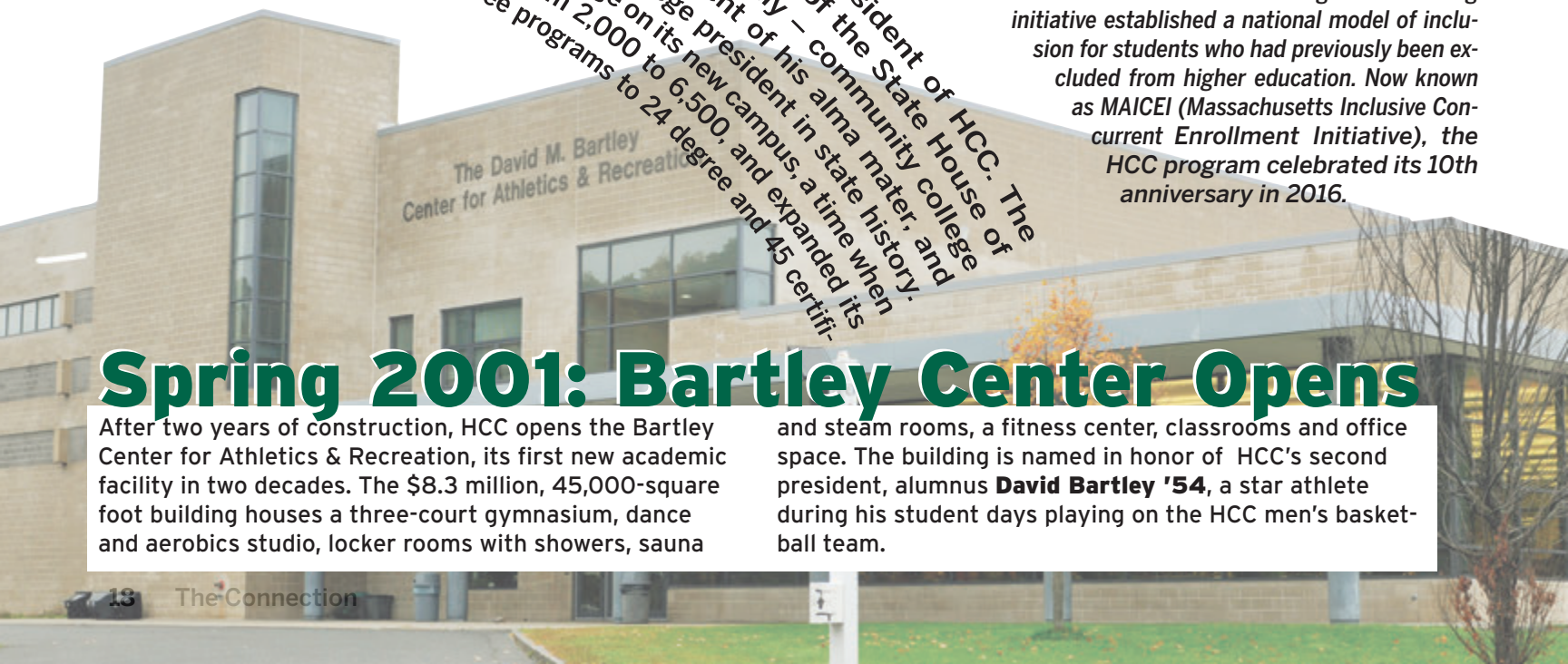
HCC welcomes **William F. Messner** as the college's third president. A Bronx, N.Y., native and former professor of American history, Messner had been chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges system, his own alma mater, before coming to HCC for a term that would prioritize HCC's service to the community.



JAN. 1, 2004: RECORD REIGN
David M. Bartley '54 retires after 28 years as president of HCC. The Holyoke native, HCC alumnus, and former Speaker of the State House of Representatives, was the first – and is still the only – community college graduate in Massachusetts to serve as president of his alma mater, and he did that longer than any community college president in state history. Bartley led the college into the modern age on its new campus, a time when the college tripled its enrollment from 2,000 to 6,500, and expanded its academic offerings from 11 degree programs to 24 degree and 45 certificate programs.

SPRING 2006 FULL INCLUSION

The Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education selects HCC as the site for the state's first dual enrollment program for high school students with intellectual disabilities. Originally called Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment – ICE – the program enables students to participate fully in college classes and college life with assistance from educational coaches. This ground-breaking initiative established a national model of inclusion for students who had previously been excluded from higher education. Now known as MAICEI (Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative), the HCC program celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016.



Spring 2001: Bartley Center Opens

After two years of construction, HCC opens the Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation, its first new academic facility in two decades. The \$8.3 million, 45,000-square foot building houses a three-court gymnasium, dance and aerobics studio, locker rooms with showers, sauna

and steam rooms, a fitness center, classrooms and office space. The building is named in honor of HCC's second president, alumnus **David Bartley '54**, a star athlete during his student days playing on the HCC men's basketball team.

Senator Edward Kennedy and his Republican challenger, Mitt Romney the wall outside the theater in HCC's Fine & Performing Arts building!" Romney: "What a great experience! Thank you all!"

AUG. 25, 2000: ON DISPLAY

HCC celebrates the grand opening of the Taber Art Gallery, named after Holyoke's Donald Taber, retired president and chairman of American Pad and Paper. Taber, an avid art collector, donated 45 pieces from his collection to the college, many that are still displayed around campus.

FALL 2006: TRANSFER PATH

HCC's Pathways program begins when Mount Holyoke College receives a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Since the grant expired in 2010, Pathways has been supported by the HCC Foundation and in particular donations from professor emerita Elaine Marieb '80. Each year, Pathways helps dozens of HCC students transfer to some of the most competitive four-year colleges in the U.S, such as Mount Holyoke, Smith, Amherst, Hampshire, Brandeis, Cornell, and Yale.

SPRING 2007: HCC SHUTTLE

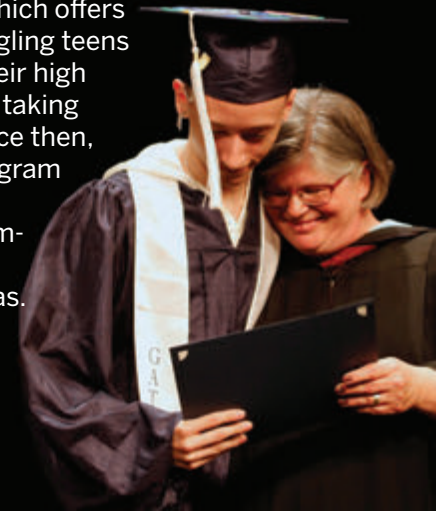
Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, HCC begins running a free shuttle bus from its Homestead Avenue campus to downtown Holyoke, so students living in the city can get home safely after public bus service has ended for the day. The shuttle, part of the college's efforts to increase community outreach, is called La Guagua Pa'l College ("the bus to college").

JUNE 7, 2007: HAPPY 60TH

HCC celebrates its 60th anniversary with a gala event in the Bartley Center that was attended by 300 people, many of them alumni. A 60-foot cake featured sixty candles, each marking one of HCC's decades, lit by the daughter and granddaughter of HCC's first president, George Frost.

NOV. 30. 2007: A NEW GATEWAY

HCC is one of five community colleges across the nation selected by Portland Community College to replicate their Gateway College program, which offers dropouts and struggling teens a chance to earn their high school diplomas by taking college classes. Since then, HCC's Gateway program has helped 451 students from area communities earn their high school diplomas.



JANUARY 2007: KATRINA RELIEF

Vivian Ostrowski, then the HCC Student Activities coordinator, leads a team of 40 HCC students, faculty, and staff to New Orleans to help residents there rebuild their lives after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. For a week, they hauled trash, built shelters, distributed water, and offered moral support to residents whose lives were upended by the storm. Among the HCC relief workers were President Bill Messner and HCC alumnus Steve Bailey '77, technical director of the Leslie Phillips Theater. A second team went in 2008.



September 2010: In the Community

HCC opens a satellite facility in downtown Holyoke. Known by its acronym PAFEC, the Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center is a joint project between the college, a network of community groups and the Picknelly family. The four-story complex on

Maple Street, above the Holyoke bus terminal, occupies an old fire station that was renovated from top to bottom. At PAFEC, HCC offers a series of literacy programs through its Adult Learning Center, including GED preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages classes, tutoring and mentoring, career counseling, workforce development

classes, and transition to college programs, as well as credit classes taught by HCC instructors. "With the Picknelly Center," President Bill Messner said at the time, "we're putting our classrooms where our heart is - in the community."

Sept. 21, 2011: Computer Literacy
HCC dedicates the Gill Technology

Center on the first floor of the year-old Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center in downtown Holyoke. The facility, named in memory of Thomas Gill III, a member of HCC's IT Department, offers free and low cost basic computer classes in English and Spanish and open computer sessions for the general public.

Dec. 7, 2011: Good Impressions

In partnership with Providence Ministries, HCC opens the Career Closet on the first floor of the Kittredge Center. Its purpose: Provide free business attire to HCC students who have job interviews and internships but might not have the resources to buy proper clothes. Previously a storage room, the Career Closet maintains a collection of about 5,000 items, including suits, shirts, slacks, dresses, sweaters and shoes for both men and women.

Aug. 13, 2012: Butts Out

HCC initiates a campus-wide ban on smoking. "The decision to establish a smoke-free campus reflects HCC's commitment to provide an accessible, safe and healthy environment in which to learn and work," HCC President William Messner said in a message explaining the new policy. "It is also a result of the efforts of HCC students and the staff members of the HCC Smoke-Free Committee, who urged us to join the hundreds of other colleges and universities that have already made 'smoke-free' a reality."

April 10, 2015: International Nods

A London-based wire-service reporter interviews English professor Elizabeth Trobaugh and environmental science professor Steve Winters for a story about a Learning Community class they teach on "Cli-Fi," an emerging genre of science fiction that focuses on climate change. "Cli-Fi: Stories and Science of the Coming Climate Apocalypse" combines Introduction to Literature and Topics in Science and consists of classroom discussions plus a weekly science lab. The news report was picked up by The New York Times and other newspapers around the world.



FEB. 4, 2015: BASIC NEEDS

In collaboration with the United Way Pioneer Valley and PeoplesBank, HCC opens its Thrive Financial Success Center to help students and community members learn money management, budgeting and other financial literacy skills. As the Thrive Student Resource Center and Food Pantry, it is now a place where students can find help with more basic needs that can interfere with their studies, chiefly hunger, housing insecurity, and healthcare.

May 19, 2006 Taking Care of Business

HCC opens the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, named for alumnus **Michael Kittredge '73**, who donated \$1 million to build it. The five-floor, 55,000-square-foot facility houses an array of instructional facilities, including a spacious conference center and 20 classrooms fully outfitted with the latest technology - "precisely the tools needed to help faculty, staff and students achieve their goals," noted President Messner.



Jan. 10, 2013: Dying Lesson

In her last days, **Martha Keochareon '93** offered nursing students at HCC an extraordinary gift – the experience of visiting with her as she lay dying of pancreatic cancer. Unselfishly, Keochareon, a nurse and a graduate of HCC's nursing program, decided to let her end-of-life experience become a teachable moment. A Page One story in The New York Times chronicled those final lessons in a moving tribute. Keochareon died on Dec. 29, 2012, but her spirit lives on in the lessons she provided in her final days and an HCC Foundation scholarship her family created in her memory, the Martha E. Keochareon '93 Nursing Scholarship.



April 13, 2008: Theater Life

HCC hosts a reunion for theater alumni and rededicates the college auditorium – previously known as “The Forum” – as the “Leslie Phillips Theater,” in honor of the college’s drama matriarch, the late, great professor Leslie Phillips, who laid the foundation for HCC’s modern theater program. On hand for the festivities was alumnus **Tim McKenna '82**, who gave members of Phillips’ family cuttings from the original geranium he had bought for the stage set of the last play Phillips directed more than 20 years before. Among her many idiosyncrasies, Phillips, who died in 1988, made a habit of lying down on the stage flat on her back before every show she directed, right before the audience came in. “I just love his moment,” she would say. “It’s like dawn on Christmas morning. Wonderful.”

July 9, 2008: Time Check

HCC dedicates the Alumni Association Clock Tower in recognition of \$500,000 in donations alumni made toward the construction of the Kittredge Center for

Business and Workforce Development. The tower actually includes two custom-made clocks, each seven feet across, one facing east, the other west, both run by built-in computers.

Oct. 28, 2009: Media Arts

The college holds a grand opening for its Media Arts Center. The 10,500-square-foot facility on the third floor of the Campus Center is dedicated to instruction in photography and multimedia arts, featuring specialized studios and classrooms for animation, game design, sound

and video production, digital imaging, and photography labs for both wet and digital processing. A lounge area with two large flat screen monitors displays student work, while a 60-seat black box performance space equipped with lighting, video projection, and state-of-the-art sound system is available for film screenings and multimedia productions.

Feb. 24, 2010: Safe Zone

The Bunker, a combination meeting space, study area, lounge, and resource center for HCC student-veter-

ans, opens, the name coined by Marine veteran **Robert S. McRobbie '14**. “As all vets know, the bunker is a safe zone,” he said.

Fall 2010: Elms@HCC

HCC begins a new partnership with Elms College that will for the first time allow HCC graduates to earn a bachelor’s degree right on the HCC campus. To date, 245 HCC graduates have earned bachelor’s degrees through the Elms@HCC program in psychology, accounting, business management, marketing and healthcare management.

MARCH 25, 2014 \ \ MISSION: MARIEB

HCC professor emerita **Elaine Marieb '80** issues a generous challenge to spark support for the HCC Foundation’s “Building Healthy Communities” campaign: She pledges \$1 million if 1,000 other donors make contributions before Dec. 31, 2014. The challenge, called “Mission: Marieb,” was met by early June. The campaign raised a total of \$5.5 million, exceeding its goal, “more money than we have ever raised at the college,” President William Messner said at a June 2014 barbecue held in Marieb’s honor.



OCT. 16, 2015

'An Extraordinary Legacy'

HCC celebrates the grand opening of the Center for Health Education & Simulation, the new home of the school's nursing and radiologic technology programs. After touring the building, U.S. Congressman and alumnus **Richard Neal '70** calls it an "extraordinary legacy."

JUNE 3, 2016:

Branching Out

Further expanding its community outreach, HCC opens a satellite office in downtown Ware called "E2E," short for Education to Employment: Quaboag Region Workforce Training and Community College Center, a collaboration with the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation. "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.

JULY 31, 2016

Messner Retires

William F. Messner, 70, retires, ending his 12-year run as HCC's third president, one marked by an increased emphasis on community service and outreach. "It's been an honor to serve as HCC's president," he said. "This is a fine institution with a proud history, a deeply committed faculty and staff and a critical mission."

Hispanic Serving Institution

HCC marks a major milestone: For the first time, Hispanic student enrollment at the college surpasses 25 percent. With that, HCC joins a growing national club of colleges and universities that are recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education as "Hispanic Serving Institutions," or HSI's. The designation makes HCC eligible for grants to expand educational opportunities and enhance services and supports for Hispanic students.

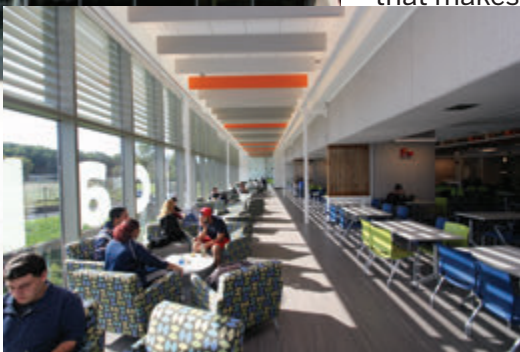
FALL 2016:

HSI

FEB. 28, 2020: GRAND REOPENING



"This is breathtaking."



Gov. Charlie Baker helps HCC celebrate the grand reopening of the Campus Center after a two-year, \$43.5 million renovation. Baker toured the 66,000-square-foot building, which now includes Admissions and Advising on the first floor; and a Student Engagement area on the second. "One of the things that makes space like this so important and precious is it gives young people a place to call their own," he said. "This is breathtaking. It speaks volumes about how important a space like this can be on a college campus."



May 22, 2015: The Open Road

After more than a decade of planning and development, HCC opens a new campus access road and dedicates it in the name of alumnus **Jack Doyle '51**, the late president of O'Connell Development in Holyoke and the long-time treasurer of the HCC Foundation. Doyle's expertise and financial acumen helped the foundation steadily grow its assets in support of the college and its students. Doyle Drive, now one of three main entrances to the campus, runs from the Campus Road behind the Kid's Place to Route 202 (Westfield Road). "He was a great advisor," former HCC president **David Bartley '54** said at the dedication ceremony, "so I think it's about time the college paid tribute."

April 13, 2018

HCC celebrates the grand opening of the **HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute**, a 20,000 square-foot teaching and training facility on the first two floors of The Cubit Building, a former factory on Race Street in Holyoke's Innovation District – a fitting new home for HCC's Culinary Arts program, the only one in the Massachusetts state college system accredited by the American Culinary Federation. The \$6.53 million project received the Boston Foundation's 2018 Deval Patrick Prize, which recognizes community colleges for building effective career pathways.



**May 30, 2017:
Transfer Success**

A national report names HCC one of top six transfer schools in the United States. In particular, the report highlights the relationship between HCC and the University of Massachusetts, as a model of a successful transfer partnership.

**Sept. 4, 2018:
Center for Life Sciences**

Classes begin in HCC's \$4.55 million Center for Life Sciences. The 13,000-square-foot facility on the first floor of HCC's Marieb Building features a suite of new biotechnology classrooms and the only ISO-certified instructional cleanroom at any Massachusetts community college.

**Jan. 23, 2018:
Economic Powerhouse**

A report calculates HCC's economic value to the Pioneer Valley at nearly \$215 million a year and notes that HCC represents a wise investment for both students and taxpayers. The largest economic impact comes from alumni: \$155.1 million a year.

Madam President

Nov. 3, 2017:



Christina Royal is inaugurated as HCC's fourth president and the first woman to hold that position. In her inauguration address, delivered from the stage of the Leslie Phillips Theater, before more than 200 faculty, staff, students, and guests, Royal affirmed her commitment to the community college concept – that everyone deserves an affordable and high-quality college education.

MAY 28, 2019: LEGACY GIFT

HCC receives a \$1 million legacy gift from former faculty member and alumna **Elaine Marieb '80**. Before her death in December 2018, Marieb had set up the donation as part of her estate plan, with the money earmarked for HCC programs that support nontraditional-age students, particularly women. This was Marieb's second million-dollar gift to HCC; the first she made during her lifetime to support construction of HCC's Center for Health Education and Simulation, and Center for Life Sciences. In March 2020, HCC received another posthumous donation in Marieb's name – \$7.5 million from the Elaine Marieb Foundation, to renovate the entire Marieb science building and expand the Center for Life Sciences into the upper floors.

Oct. 21, 2019 Cannabis Education HCC announces the creation of the Cannabis Education Center to provide training, workshops, and business resources to individuals who want to work in the state's newly legalized cannabis industry. Based in the HCC Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, the CEC is the first center of its kind in Massachusetts.

Get Cooking



MARCH 23, 2020: GOING REMOTE

In response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic and in keeping with Gov. Charlie Baker's stay-at-home advisory, HCC suspends in-person instruction for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester. Remote instruction and work become the norm, the campus is closed to all but a handful of essential staff. For the next 17 months, through summer and fall 2020, and winter, spring and summer 2021, the college would continue to operate almost entirely at a distance.



Jim Izatt '59 Knowledge Champion

As a student at what was then called Holyoke Junior College in the late 1950s, Jim Izatt '59 served as a volunteer monitor in the college library, fielding questions, helping patrons find research materials, and checking out books.

That work, and a previous job as a page and book shelver at the Mount Holyoke College library, fueled Izatt's passion for libraries and a five-decade career in the field.

"The search for information, seeking answers to all kinds of questions, and discovering and learning new things has always intrigued, motivated and satisfied me," said Izatt.

Before his retirement in 2018, Izatt worked as

an assistant librarian at the Worcester Public Library. He has endowed an annual scholarship through the HCC Foundation in memory of his parents and funds the HCC Library's annual BUILD Research Competition. (BUILD stands for "Better Use of Information and Library Databases.") He also recently created an estate plan that will one day establish a series of new scholarships for HCC students.

"These days a college education is more important and valuable than ever," said Izatt, "particularly a liberal arts education, which affords exploration of a wide variety of subjects and opens a vast horizon of learning experiences, given the many complex societal, economic, political, and scientific challenges this and future generations are and will be facing."

Izatt said he was inspired to support the college after reading the "Spotlight" stories

"These students are working so hard, and I learned a lot about their backgrounds and the hardships and difficulties and challenges they faced," said Izatt, who lives in Worcester. "These stories very profoundly brought home the need to do something about supporting educational efforts."

Patrick Carpenter, director of Institutional Advancement, praised Izatt for his generosity to the Holyoke Community College Foundation.

"His support of both programmatic initiatives and scholarships is inspirational, and we hope the example he has set will motivate others to make a similar impact at the college," Carpenter said.

Izatt's planned gift will establish a series of scholarships – half for students with demonstrated financial need and half based on academic achievement – that will help change the lives of HCC students for generations to come, Carpenter said.

"These scholarships, which have a preference for students of color, will help the college advance its equity work while providing students access to an exceptional education," Carpenter said.

In establishing the planned gift, Izatt said he felt it was important to support underserved populations, especially students from low-income families and marginalized groups who might not otherwise be able to afford the costs of college.

The annual BUILD Research Competition he supports also resonates with Izatt since his entire professional career was centered on libraries. The competition rewards students who show exceptional skill and creativity applying library resources to a research project. The first-place winner receives \$250 each year; the runner-up \$150.

In 2018, Izatt established the Helen M. and James E. Izatt Scholarship in memory of his



These days a college education is more important and valuable than ever, particularly a liberal arts education

a librarian for 50 years at the Worcester Public Library, his last 27 as head of the sub-regional Worcester Talking Book Library, which provides audio, braille and large print materials to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

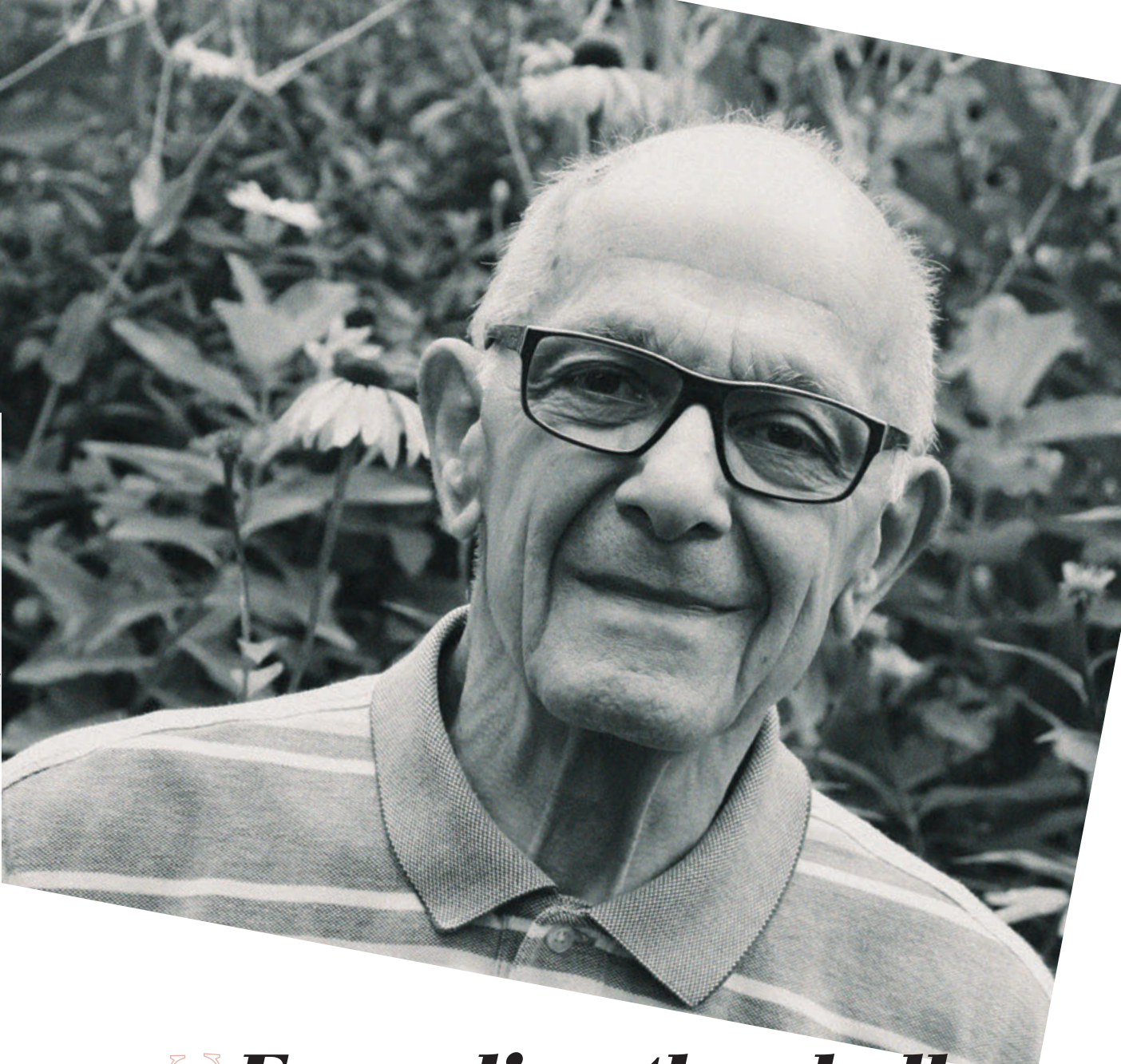
Izatt knows firsthand how important libraries are to students in their quest for knowledge and a college education, and he wants to make sure others have the same opportunities he did to use them.

To that end, Izatt has been a faithful supporter of Holyoke Community College and its mis-

sion on the HCC website featuring students who have furthered their educations after graduating from HCC.

parents. He notes that neither of them completed high school, though they firmly believed in the importance and value of education and demonstrated an impressive work ethic throughout their lives. After graduating from HCC with his associate degree in liberal arts, Izatt earned his bachelor's degree in Spanish language and literature from the University of Massachusetts and a master's degree in library science from the University of Denver.

"Through their hard work, economic sacrifices and encouragement I was able to go to college and earn the degrees I received," Izatt said. "Establishing these scholarships in their memory and honor is a small way of saying, 'thank you' to them and making it possible for an HCC student to become a nurse, which was one of my mom's hopes, or a chemical engineer, which was one of my dad's ambitions." **C**



#togetherHCC

Exceeding the challenge

There are 295 reasons to celebrate the success of "Together HCC." Over a 24-hour period in April, nearly 300 alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students joined together with gifts of all sizes that demonstrated the passion and commitment of our HCC community.

Our community's participation in "Together HCC" translates to four words that can change a student's future forever: I believe in you. There is no greater message for individuals trying to make their way in the world. As we look ahead to our next 75 years, we are inspired to think bigger and go further in support of the next generation of HCC students.

Gifts from alumni	133
Gifts from HCC employees and retirees	90
Gifts from HCC trustees, friends, and community members	72
Number of states where donors reside	20
First-time donors	148
Average gift	\$144
Total raised	\$126,824
DONATIONS DIRECTED TO:	
Thrive Center & Food Pantry	\$12,645
President's Student Emergency Fund	\$44,130
Scholarships	\$70,050



SAUCY SOLUTION

When she first arrived in the U.S. to attend college, Kahn-tapaht (Nan) Wilson '06 used to help her aunt and uncle work in the kitchen of her family's Amherst restaurant, Thai Corner. Wilson's late uncle, Chet Satienpoch (a.k.a. Mr. C), was the creator of the family's signature recipes, including their flagship line of sauces and marinades with a Thai twist – "Mr. C's." In 2020, after 25 years in business and facing new challenges from the pandemic, her aunt decided to retire and close the restaurant. But Wilson saw an opportunity to keep the family business alive. Using her marketing and business background, Wilson now produces the Mr. C's family of sauces and distributes them to grocery stores and eateries from Westfield to Boston. "As the new owner of Mr. C's, I wear so many hats," she says, "no two days are the same." Wilson, who lives in eastern Mass. with her husband and two young children, credits HCC for providing her with the support she needed to build her life in America. "I was an ESL student and I remember Myriam Quinoñes and Rubaba Matin helping me navigate college when I spoke very little English," says Wilson. "I also had a job at the Taber Art Gallery working with director Amy Johnquest." After getting her start at HCC, Wilson attended Westfield State University and Bay Path University, earning her MBA.



^ Nan Wilson, with a couple of bottles of Mr. C's sauces



STANDING OUT IN A CROWD

Among the many alumni who stepped up to offer their support during HCC's April 27 "Together HCC: Drive to Change Lives" campaign, no one stood out more than Mychal Connolly '04. During the one day, 24-hour fundraiser, Connolly donated the use of his mobile billboard business – Stand Out Truck – and literally drove around the Springfield-Holyoke area to advertise the campaign and solicit donations. "The reason I had to get involved with this is because HCC has done a lot for me," Connolly said during a pitstop that day at HCC. "When I first moved to this country from the Bahamas, HCC was one of the first places that embraced me. I literally felt like I was back home. It was the same kind of welcoming vibe, like everyone loves on you, and that's how HCC was. That's the beauty of this place. It's a genuine place where people want to see you succeed, like if someone is looking to get a start or start over, this is where you begin."

>> Myke Connolly stands up beside his Stand Out Truck in front of the HCC Campus Center.





^ Meghan Murray

Excited as a Nerd

LGBTQ activist Meghan Murray '04 works for the Biden Administration as a senior advisor at the U.S. Census Bureau. As such, Maury functions as a liaison to nonprofits, members of Congress and other stakeholders, providing education about the work of the bureau to make what is complex and technical accessible to people who are not necessarily data experts. After graduating from HCC, Maury went on to UMass for bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting and then to Georgetown University for a law degree before landing a job as policy director for the National LGBTQ Task Force. At the Task Force, Maury led a campaign to "queer the census" to counter the deficit

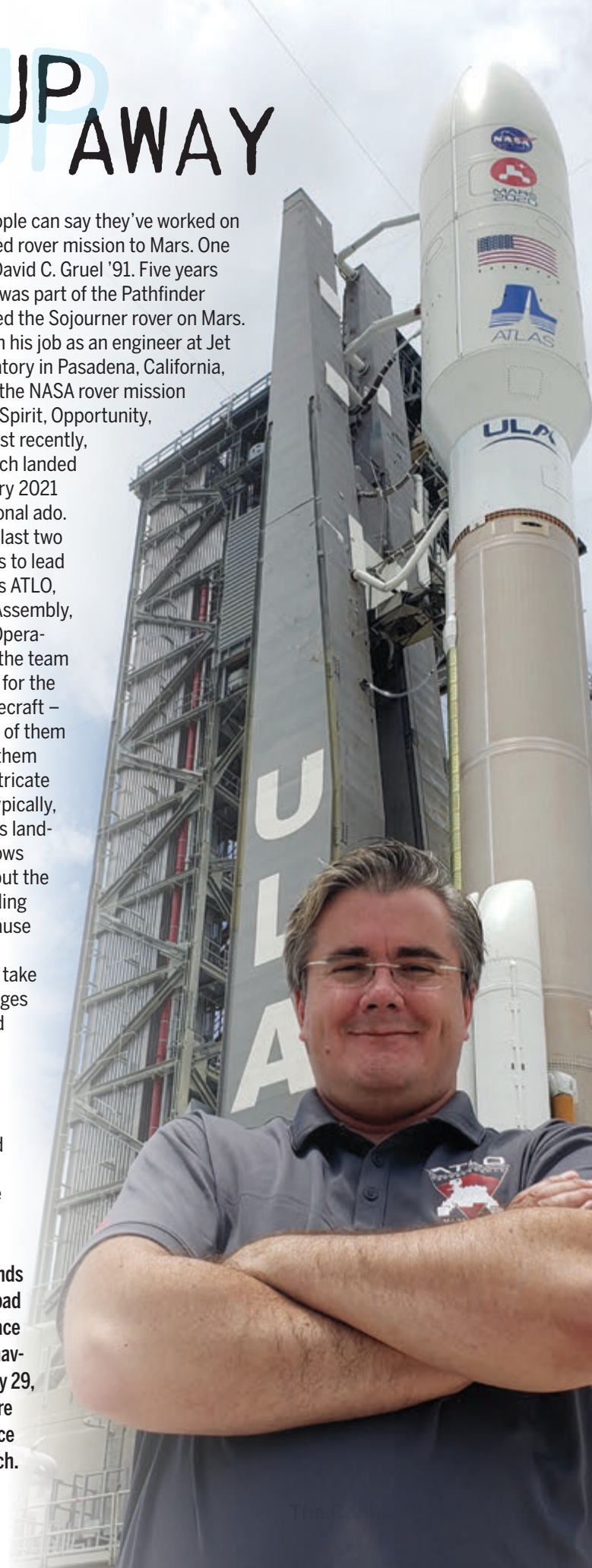
of data about the LGBTQ community. The last few months have been busy for Maury as the bureau has been crunching numbers and releasing new data from the 2020 Census. "I'm excited as a nerd, but I'm also excited as a big fan of democracy," Maury said.



UP & AWAY

Not many people can say they've worked on every U.S.-led rover mission to Mars. One who can is David C. Gruel '91. Five years out of HCC, Gruel was part of the Pathfinder mission that landed the Sojourner rover on Mars. After that, through his job as an engineer at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, Gruel was among the NASA rover mission crews working on Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity, and, most recently, Perseverance, which landed on Mars in February 2021 to much international ado. Gruel's role in the last two Mars missions was to lead the team known as ATLO, which stands for Assembly, Test and Launch Operations. Essentially, the team takes all the parts for the rover and its spacecraft – tens of thousands of them – and assembles them like a "bunch of intricate Legos," he says. Typically, once a mission has landed, Gruel's role slows down quite a bit, but the Perseverance landing was different because he had installed a camera system to take video and still images of the descent and landing, including video of the rover setting down on Mars and kicking up dust. "We joked it was kind of like our selfie cam," he said.

>> David Gruel stands next to the launchpad at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on July 29, 2020, the day before NASA's Perseverance rover mission launch.





^ Julissa Colón

RISING

ROLE

MODEL


later, earning her associate degree from HCC in 2013 and then a bachelor's degree in Latin American studies and history from Smith. She now advises students in Gateway, HCC's alternative high school program. "These are students who have already left high school or are on the verge of leaving," Colón, 39, told *Business West*. "What they all have in common, though, is that they don't want to give up — they do want their high-school diploma, they do want to be successful, they do have dreams."

Julissa Colón '13, special programs coordinator for HCC's Gateway to College program, was named one of the "40 Under Forty" by *Business West* magazine for 2021. The annual awards recognize promising young community leaders from Western Massachusetts. In her "40 Under Forty" profile, published in the magazine's May 12 online edition, Colón recounts how she had dropped out of college at 19 to have her daughter and thought she might never return. She did, though, years

TERENCE MURPHY '68, '77, RETIRED HCC BOOKSTORE MANAGER, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, BASEBALL COACH, and now ACTING MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF HOLYOKE is still

acting in good

Terence Murphy '68, '77, retired HCC bookstore manager, adjunct professor and baseball coach, is the acting mayor for the city of Holyoke. A Ward 2 city councilor, Murphy was appointed by the council to serve until a new mayor is elected in November to succeed the departed Alex Morse. Murphy said he does not intend to run for the permanent seat. "It's been interesting," said Murphy, who has served in Holyoke city politics since 1976. "It's been challenging. I've met a lot of people, and everyone has been very kind to me for the most part, so I appreciate that. I just tell people I'm doing the best I can. I don't have a political agenda. I've got an agenda of trying to figure out how do I make each little part a little bit better, and if I can do that then ultimately Holy-

oke as a community can become better." After graduating from HCC in 1968, Murphy went on to earn his bachelor's degree in political science from Stonehill College and later a master's degree in public administration from American International College. In between, he earned a second associate degree in legal studies from HCC in 1977 and stayed on to manage the bookstore for 28 years while also coaching women's basketball and men's baseball, and teaching government as an adjunct professor. "HCC has, without a question, been the most significant organization in my life," Murphy said. "I appreciate what I got." 

>> Mayor Murphy, at his desk in City Hall



Classes Notes

1980

David E. Pace has been elected to the Board of Directors at the Masonic Health Systems Continuing Care Retirement Community in Charlton, Mass. He worked for 37 years as a registered nurse at western Massachusetts hospitals, including 32 years at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, specializing in dialysis before retiring in 2017. Pace is currently an elected Town Meeting member in Ludlow. He has been active with the Masons in Massachusetts for many years, holding several leadership roles, including senior grand warden of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts in 2011.



PACE

1986

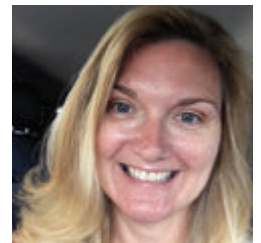
Jon Payson co-owns The Chocolate Room in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his wife Naomi Josepher. Inspired by their love of desserts, the couple created a cafe specializing in high-end chocolate, extraordinary desserts, handmade ice creams, gourmet coffee, dessert wines, and beer from all over the world. They spent 18 months developing the concept, writing a business plan, transforming the space, and creating recipes, culminating with a grand opening in January 2005. Three years later, they opened their second café, The Chocolate Room Cobble Hill, and in October 2014 they opened their new expanded café at 51 Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. The Chocolate Room has been featured in national publications including, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Oprah Magazine*, *Kitchen Daily*, and *The Huffington Post*. They publish a blog called "The Chochoard." Payson earned his associate degree in computer information systems from HCC.



PAYSON

1995

Monson Savings Bank announced the recent hire of **Jason Berry** as vice president and commercial loan officer. Berry graduated from Westfield State University with a bachelor's degree in political science after earning his associate degree in liberal arts at HCC. He most recently held the role of vice president, Business Banking relationship manager, at People's United Bank. Berry is active in the community, offering support to various local charitable organizations and engaging with local chambers to support the local business community. He enjoys volunteering and has given his time to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Susan G. Komen, United Way, and Junior Achievement. Additionally, he is a member of the East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce and West of the River Chamber of Commerce.



WOLOWICZ

2001

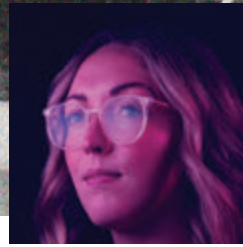
Jennifer Wolowicz was appointed town administrator for Monson by the Board of Selectmen. Wolowicz was previously the deputy town administrator for South Hadley. She holds an associate degree in business management from HCC, a bachelor's degree with a double major in business management and marketing from Elms College, and a master's degree in public administration from Westfield State University.



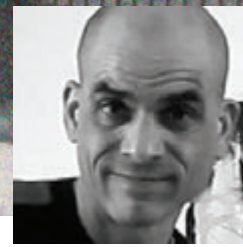
MONSON



STENGLE



HOWARD



FERGUSON

2003

Sarah Monson has joined New England Public Media as a major gifts officer. Prior to working at NEPM, Monson was the assistant director of Annual Giving at American International College. In addition to her associate degree from HCC, Monson earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix and completed the Professional Fundraising Certificate Program at Boston University. Monson also served for six years on the board of Vet Air, a nonprofit organization that ensures veterans have reliable transportation to and from medical appointments.

2008

Anne Stengle, an HCC STEM faculty member and a veterinary technician at the Florence Animal Clinic, was accepted to the Tufts University Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program. Stengle represented HCC at the World Congress of

Herpetology held in Dunedin, New Zealand, in January 2020. She holds an associate degree from HCC in veterinary animal science/technician, and a bachelor's degree and a Ph.D. in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

2009

Susie Howard, a designer, illustrator, and photographer from Westfield, Mass., is the owner and operator of Walton Read, a full-service graphic design shop. Howard has designed packaging for Skyline Beer Co. and Two Weeks Notice Brewing Co., and specializes in illustration, logos, and custom wedding branding. A self-taught designer, Howard earned her associate degree at HCC and continued her studies at Westfield State University, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology.

2011

Mydalis Vera self-published her first book, "Warrior, Guerrera: sayings and affirmations para Las Guerreras," a short collection in Spanglish that is available on Amazon. Her essay, "Salting the Toronjas" is being published in *Multiplicity Magazine*, and another, "A Poor Puerto Rican Girl's Bread," is forthcoming in *Nasiona Magazine*. Vera earned her associate degree in psychology at HCC, a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College in 2014, and is currently in the Nonfiction Creative Writing MFA program at Bay Path University.

2012

Shawn Patric Ferguson earned his bachelor of arts degree in music theory and composition at City College of New York and also studied orchestral arranging and composition there at the graduate level. Ferguson founded and operates GotChops.com and graduated from HCC in 2012 with an associate degree in music.

In Memoriam

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

Daniel C. Price '71

Stella A. Chmura '74

Thomas W. Driscoll '84

David W. Cunliffe '84

Judy Devine, *retired staff*

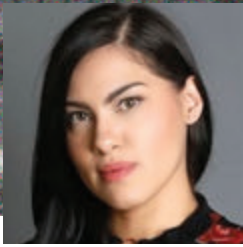
Julie A. Dupuis, *retired faculty*

Donald Hanover, *faculty (philosophy)*

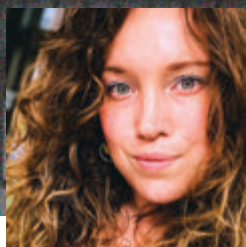
And longtime friend and supporter:

Ann M. Frost

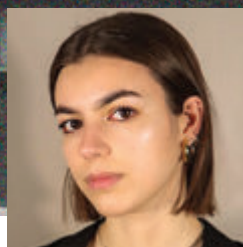
To contribute in memory of a classmate, friend or relative, visit hcc.edu/donate or call Patrick Carpenter at 413.552.2746.



VERA



HART



MATICA

2014

Stephanie Beauchemin is a registered nurse specializing in cardiac nursing and substance abuse treatment. She works at Holyoke Medical Center and the Behavioral Health Network. Beauchemin is a graduate HCC's nursing program and is a member of the American Nurses Association and the Massachusetts Nurses Association. Her son Angelo is her motivation and inspiration to be the nurse she is.

Holyoke resident **Alyssa M. Dansereau** was elected assistant vice president and assistant controller at Greenfield Cooperative Bank. Dansereau joined the bank's accounting department in 2016, having graduated from HCC and Western New England University with degrees in accounting.

2015

The Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce has named **Jordan Hart** its new executive director. Hart has been with the Chamber since 2013 holding positions including executive assistant, programs and services coordinator, membership and marketing coordinator, and, most recently, program coordinator. She is a board member at Enchanted Circle Theater and was a leader of the "Have a Ball in Holyoke" public art effort through Leadership Holyoke. She holds an associate degree in liberal arts from HCC and is currently taking courses at Greenfield Community College.

2018

Stephanie Townsley married Adam Cialek of Hatfield. She graduated from HCC in 2018 with an associate of science degree in nursing degree and in 2019 earned a bachelor's of science degree in nursing from American International College. She is a registered nurse at Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

2019

Ann Matica is attending Emerson College, where she is studying for a bachelor of science degree in journalism and a minor in economics. She is a member of the Emerson Gold Key Honor Society and the Dean's List. In addition, she was the deputy news editor for the Berkeley Beacon for the spring 2021 semester and worked as a summer intern for the *L.A. Business Journal*. 

THEY CALLED HIM SOUP



According to his friends, Ben Campbell '09 was one of the best hitters and defensive first basemen ever to come out of Easthampton Little League – “a stoic presence on the field and as good a ballplayer as he was a teammate and friend.” They called him “Soup.”

After graduating from HCC with an associate degree in criminal justice and earning his bachelor's from Westfield State, Campbell went on to become a state trooper in Maine. On April 3, 2019, Det. Benjamin James Campbell, age 31, was killed in a freak accident on the side of Interstate 95 in Hampden, Maine. On his way to work that morning, he stopped to help a stranded motorist. Two wheels dislodged from a passing logging truck as it changed lanes to avoid the stopped vehicles. One of them struck Campbell.

His friends and former teammates spent two years planning and raising money for a fitting tribute. The Ben Campbell Memorial Walkway and a fountain, featured here, were dedicated on June 26, 2021, at the Little League ballfields in Easthampton's Nonotuck Park. His wife, Hilary, and young son, Everett, took the first drink.

There are two plaques on the fountain's base, which is shaped like home plate. One shows Campbell's likeness wearing his state trooper's hat. The other reads, in part:

“Ben ‘Soup’ Campbell ... was an integral member of the 1999 Little League All Stars state tournament run and the 2001 Junior League All Star State Championship team, including hitting a walk off Grand Slam to defeat Toms River, N.J., then continued his success on the field with American Legion Post 224, Smith Vocational High School, Holyoke Community College and Westfield State College. ... Ben exemplified everything that is great about Easthampton baseball: integrity, teamwork, and a love of the game ... He's sorely missed by his family, teammates, coaches, and friends, and should be an example for every ballplayer looking to make a positive impact on and off the field.”

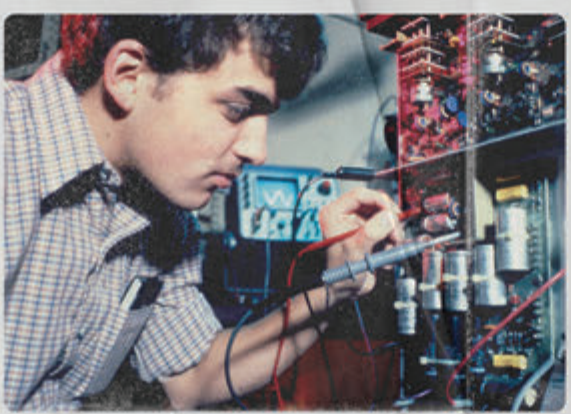


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HCC began in 1946 as the city-sponsored Holyoke Junior College, a fledgling institution that lacked many of the resources traditionally associated with colleges. Nevertheless, the school flourished thanks to the perseverance of its small but dedicated staff. Dr. George Frost, the school's founder, and Ellen Lynch, his secretary, were the only full-time employees until 1958, sharing a tiny office in a former cloak room in the Holyoke High School building.

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Upcoming Music and Theater Events



HOLYOKE CIVIC SYMPHONY

October 24, 2021, 3 p.m., Leslie Phillips Theater

JESUS HOPPED THE 'A' TRAIN

*By Stephen Adly Guirgis, directed by Axel Cruz '11
November 18-20, 2021, Leslie Phillips Theater*

HCC JAZZ FESTIVAL

March 11-12, 2022, Leslie Phillips Theater

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

*By William Shakespeare, directed by Tim Cochran
April 21-23, 2022, Leslie Phillips Theater*